

Final moments in plane crash

Investigators are poring over crucial clues as they seek to unravel cause of city accident after securing black box with eyewitnesses giving accounts of what happened just before the tragedy that killed six people **P.3**

21 die in horror accident at Kisumu black spot. P.8



SATURDAY NATION

Health crisis

Civil servants to pay cash in hospitals



Mr Aden Duale: Cabinet Secretary for Health



Dr Mercy Mwangangi: SHA Chief Executive Officer

Private hospitals across the country say thousands of public officials seeking treatment will have to pay medical bills upfront after the Social Health Authority failed to release money owed to the facilities for the last nine months **Page 4**

POLITICS

Ruto moves to meet Raila's demands

President sets off new plan to compensate victims of protests as he strengthens UDA-ODM pact / **Page 10**



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Women who faced fibroids and won

EDUCATION

New rules for Senior School subject choices **Story on Page 7**

CHAN

McCarthy: Morocco presents toughest test for Harambee Stars **P.32**



National News

Bold Piece on challenges institutions face while participating in the festival was well received by judges, audience Varsities, colleges showcase talent at fete

Gender identity and digital literacy among the themes tackled in performances of the fifth day of national music festival



Mount Kenya University students rehearse their winning choral verse at Kaaga Girls High School yesterday during the ongoing Kenya National music Festival in Meru County. Below: Kitale National Polytechnic present a choral verse on counterfeit phones. PHOTOS | ANTHONY



Mathenge Technical Training Institute students present an English choral verse on fake mobile phones at Kaaga Girls High School yesterday.



Moi Teachers Training College presented a folk song yesterday at Kaaga Girls High School.

BY ANTHONY NJAGI

Mount Kenya University (MKU) emerged victorious in the fiercely contested Kiswahili Choral Verse category with their piece on the sensitive theme of gender identity during the ongoing Kenya National Music Festival.

The festival is being held at Meru School, Kaaga Girls and Meru Teachers Training College, in Meru County.

In their verse, MKU tackled the importance of individuals staying true to their gender orientation, sparking conversation and reflection.

In second place, Kibabii University, dealt with pressing festival issues and the challenges institutions face in participating in such national events. Their performance resonated with both the audience and adjudicators, earning praise for its relevance and bold delivery. St Paul's University were third with a piece urging African girls to be proud of their dark complexion.

Kibabii University won in Communication Authority of Kenya (CA)-sponsored elocution class. MKU claimed second place while Alupe University from Busia secured third position in a tightly contested category.

In the English Own Composition category, MKU's choral verse *Not My Portion*, about missing marks in universities, again stood out for its boldness in exposing lazy lecturers. St Paul's University was second and Multi-Media University third.

Ashley Wairimu of Kabarak University presented *The Artist*, a solo verse in English directed by Michael Kiguta. The winning verse speaks on how artists do a lot and are later forgotten even though their work remains.

The university also won in the French solo category in a performance by Njoroge Lucy Wanjiku on broken love.

Thogoto emerged the top TTC in the CA-sponsored class aimed at raising awareness on digital literacy, online safety, and responsible internet usage. The top performances seam-



Linda Rutto of Little Friends Mogotio rehearses her Indian classical performance at Meru TTC.

ly fused spoken word, choral verse and dramatisation to bring attention to pressing issues such as cyberbullying, fake news and safe internet practices.

In the primary school category, Little Friends Naivasha were the winners with their choral verse *Like a Magnet* by Casmir Obiero. The poem explores the theme of online gaming addiction among children.

Narrated from a child's perspective, it is about how an innocent game download quickly spirals into a consuming obsession, pulling the children away from schoolwork, family, and responsibilities, just like a mag-

net. It creatively illustrates the internal conflict between digital temptations and real-world duties.

National Youth Service emerged winners in the CA category for technical and vocational colleges. Kiambu National Polytechnic were second while Sigalagala were third.

Mathenge Technical Training Institute presented a choral verse, *Our Guardian Angel*, directed by Catherine Gikonyo, which talks about the safety and authenticity of devices. JFC Munene College of Health Sciences Thika presented a choral verse on fake cell phones being sold in the market.



Moi AirBase Primary School pupils play wind instruments at Kaaga Girls High School yesterday.

Other presentations were from North Eastern National Polytechnic, Eldoret National Polytechnic, Kitale National Polytechnic and NIBS College. Dennis Kimathi of Kiambu National Polytechnic was the winner in the solo verse presentation. Eugene Munene of Nyeri National Polytechnic was second while Sigalagala National Polytechnic was third.

Issues of governance and public service also dominated the festival when primary schools presented own composition verses and songs. Alcohol abuse by civil servants, devolution and value-based citizenship were also explored in the category sponsored by Uraia Trust.

Moi Forces Academy and Salvation Army, both from the Nairobi Region, and Katoloni Primary School won in the songs category. Salvation Army had a colourful song, *Pombe Haramu*, about civil servants who neglect their duties due to alcohol abuse. Such workers fail to deliver services to the public and erode people's confidence in the civil service.

In the Kiswahili verse category on the theme of *utu* (humaneness), the pupils presented poems that explored the themes of devolution, the importance of public etiquette and governance. The winners were Moi University Primary School, Marimanti Primary and Jonathan Mala Primary.

Tragedy Plane was heading to Hargeisa when it crashed on buildings shortly after taking off from Wilson Airport

Probe into Mwihoko aircraft crash begins as blackbox found

Among the dead was a boda boda nursing a motorbike accident injury and a 13-year-old girl who was preparing lunch at her mother's rented house

BY SIMON CIURI

At the scene of the Amref plane crash in Mwihoko near Githurai 45, families are mourning their loved ones and curious Kenyans – some from more than 20 kilometres away – are hoping to have a glimpse of the aircraft.

For visitors, there is nothing to see except debris.

Witnesses reported seeing the plane flying unusually low over residential and commercial buildings before going down.

"The plane appeared like it was struggling to make an emergency landing when it hit several houses before crashing," said Ms Njeri Wanjiru, a Githurai 45 resident.

Investigators and police yesterday found the plane's black box – a gadget that records and stores the working of the aircraft.

Blackboxes and cockpit voice recorders play an important role in identifying the cause or causes of air crashes.

They recreate the final moments before the crash and give clues as to what may have gone wrong.

The bereaved families and close relatives of the injured are now homeless. Some could soon begin raising funds to rebuild their livelihoods or bury their loved ones.

One of them is Rahab Wamuyu, whose husband happened to be home at the time of the accident. James Gitau, a boda boda, moved into the rental house with his family barely six months ago. He died on the spot.



Parts of plane's wreckage being carried away from the scene of the crash on Thursday evening. A Cessna plane that belonged to Amref Flying Doctors crashed in Mwihoko, killing six people. EVANS HABIL | NATION

Gitau was at home nursing an injury from a motorcycle accident. Ms Wamuyu had left the house for casual jobs.

Ms Wamuyu told the *Saturday Nation* that she was informed by phone that Gitau was one of the casualties.

She rushed back home and found his mutilated body being pulled from the house to an ambulance.

None of the couple's five children was near the house when the plane came down.

"I have nothing left and don't know where to start. Gitau was hardworking man and life will be difficult without him. We appeal for help to rebuild our lives. Everything in the house, including our clothes, was destroyed in the crash. My children and I have nowhere to sleep," a sobbing Ms Wamuyu said yesterday.

A few metres from where Ms Wamuyu called home, another family was in mourning.

Ms Mercy Nafula's 13-year-old daughter, Yvonne Nasimiyu, was preparing late lunch when the aircraft plunged into their rental house.

Ms Nafula was at work when she was informed of the tragedy.

"I am a single mother and have no other place to go. I have not received any support from the time of the tragedy. I appeal to the government to help rebuild my life," she said.

Amref Kenya issued a statement on Thursday, saying one of its planes – a Cessna Citation XLS – crashed shortly af-

ter taking off from Wilson Airport minutes after 2pm.

The organisation added that the plane was heading to Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, Somalia.

"Amref Flying Doctors confirms that one of its aircraft, registration 5Y-FDM, was involved in a fatal accident today. The aircraft took off from Wilson Airport at 1417 hours en route to Hargeisa, Somalia, and crashed in Mwihoko," Amref Kenya Chief Executive Stephen Gitau said.

Hours later, Amref Flying Doctors issued an updated statement, saying six people – including all the four Amref Flying Doctors crew – and two people on the ground perished in the crash.

Mr Fred Kabunge, the acting Director and Chief Investigator of Aircraft Accidents at the State Department of Transport, told the *Saturday Nation* by phone that the blackbox had been found with the help of security officers and aviation officials who had been at the scene from the time of the accident.

"The blackbox will aid in the investigations. It will later be flown to our colleagues in the United States, Canada or France for more examination and analyses," Mr Kabunge said.

The investigator added that the interim report on the plane crash will be out in the next 12 days, while the entire investigation will take a year.

"Investigations into an accident like this take time, but we are required by law to release a preliminary report, which takes into account the initial factual information," Mr Kabunge said.

"Our main focus is to gather as much information and evidence as we can. The evidence includes radar contact."

sciuri@ke.nationmedia.com

Questions on Naivasha train, KPC bus collision that killed 9

BY JOSEPH OPENDA

Families of the people who died in the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) staff bus and train collision on turned up at Naivasha Sub-County Hospital mortuary to identify the bodies yesterday.

The death toll from the Thursday evening incident rose to nine when one more person succumbed to injuries while being treated in the morning. The other eight died on the spot.

Naivasha Police Commander Anthony Keter said the bus was taking the workers to Naivasha after their shift at Morendat Training and Conference Centre, which is run by KPC.

Hospital Medical Superintendent James Warui said two of the 18 workers taken there died.

From the remaining patients, fourteen were transferred to Nairobi Women's Hospital and one to AIC Kijabe Hospital.

Janet Masai, 42, is still at Naivasha Sub-County Hospital. She regained consciousness yesterday morning.

Ms Masai, a storekeeper who was hired by KPC four years ago, said she was talking to a friend who had just reported to

work from leave when the bus was hit by the train.

She added that she heard the train honk, followed by an unusual sound. The next thing she heard before losing consciousness was a bang.

"Some people were talking while others sat quietly. I don't think anyone thought our bus would be hit by the train since we use the route frequently," she said.

She woke up to find herself in hospital with limbs in plaster. Ms Masai said she did not recall how far the bus was from the railwayline.

She was planning to do laundry as soon as she got home on Thursday evening. Her friend was treated and discharged on Thursday night.

Mr Joseph Musembi and his relatives were at the mortuary to identify the body of his cousin Daniel Mulei yesterday.

They learnt of Mulei's death from KPC management on Thursday evening.

Mr Musembi's cousin had been with KPC for barely a year after being contracted as a cleaner.

He told the *Saturday Nation* that Mulei

had planned to visit his grandmother in Mwea, Kirinyaga County, on Saturday. The goal was to introduce her to his fiancée.

"The girl is devastated as she was to meet Mulei's relatives to share their marriage plans," Mr Musembi said.



Mr Liban at the scene of accident. BONIFACE MWANGI | NATION

The family is waiting for post-mortem to be conducted before transferring the body to Mwea.

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi said 32 people were on the bus at the time of the accident. He added that four were KPC employees at Morendat Training and Conference Centre while five were staff from contracted cleaning service firms.

Mr Wandayi shared his message of condolence with the families of the victims, adding that the government has launched investigations into the accident.

"We are working with other government agencies to determine the cause of the accident and will update the public in due course. We ask the public to steer clear of the accident scene as the emergency crew, alongside Kenya Railways and KPC workers, clear the area," the minister added.

At the same time, Petroleum Principal Secretary Mohamed Liban accompanied by KPC Managing Director Joe Sang to the hospital.

The PS urged motorists to be vigilant while on the road and prevent the loss

of lives.

"For Kenyans using roads, I urge you to be careful. Let's always put safety first. Safety is not one person's responsibility but everyone's. Even as the number of vehicles and those getting driving licences increases, we must always think of safety first," Mr Liban said.

Mr Sang assured the victims' families of the company's support, saying KPC would settle the medical and funeral expenses.

"As a company, we are saddened by this tragedy and promise to stand with the affected families. Investigations are still ongoing because we want to understand what exactly happened. The investigations will also help ensure similar tragedies do not occur," Mr Sang added.

The MD said personnel of the Kenya Defence Forces alongside the British Army were among the first to arrive at the scene.

He said the soldiers helped in the rescue and recovery efforts, while the Kenya Red Cross offered counselling and psychosocial support to the KPC employees and families traumatised by the Thursday events.

Services Government workers have a scheme run by SHA that is different from what other Kenyans enjoy

SHA woes: Private hospitals demand civil servants start paying in cash

Health sector federation says the hospitals' have been forced to make the move to ensure they remain operational

BY ANGELA OKETCH

Private hospitals across the country will no longer treat civil servants unless they pay in cash following the government's failure to release payments over nine months.

All civil servants, except teachers and police officers, will be required to pay in cash to access services at all private health facilities if the Social Health Authority (SHA) and the Health ministry do not intervene.

In a letter dated August 7, the Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) informed SHA Chief Executive Officer Mercy Mwangangi that private healthcare providers can no longer sustain the financial burden of treating public servants without compensation from the government's health insurance scheme.

"Unless the outstanding claims are settled per the contractu-

al terms, providers will have no choice but to request that public servants pay for both past and future medical bills directly, and then seek reimbursement from their employers and/or the SHA," wrote Dr Kanyenje Gakombe, the chairperson of the federation.

KHF said it's unable "to sustain credit to public officers", marking a potential turning point in the relationship between private healthcare providers and the government's health insurance scheme.

The federation, the health sector's board of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance, works with commercial healthcare facilities, professional associations and non-State healthcare firms.

The letter was copied to the leaders of major healthcare associations, including the Christian Hospital Association of Kenya, Rural and Urban Private Hospital Association (Rupha) and Kenya Asso-

ciation of Private Hospitals, and the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops' health services, dental associations and pharmaceutical societies.

"Provider records show that the above-mentioned scheme has not substantially, or at all, settled claims since its inception nine months ago," wrote Dr Gakombe.

The federation explained that the prolonged non-payment has pushed private healthcare facilities to their financial limits.

Own resources

"Providers can no longer fund the scheme using their resources, including savings, bank facilities and supplier credit," the letter states, highlighting how hospitals have been forced to use their own resources to continue serving public servants.

The situation, the federation said, has created an unsustainable burden on private healthcare pro-



Kenya Healthcare Federation Chairperson Kanyenje Gakombe speaks during a past event in Nairobi. The federation says private hospitals will now ask civil servants to pay in cash. FILE | NATION

viders who initially agreed to participate in the scheme based on expectations of timely payments. They say continued participation threatens their operational viability.

Despite the harsh ultimatum, the federation emphasised that the decision was not taken lightly.

"While providers deeply regret having to take this course of action, it remains the only viable option to ensure they remain operational and accessible, not just to public officers, but to all patients," the letter states.

In an email conversation seen by the Nation, Dr Mwangangi responded to the providers on Thursday, saying that the authority is working on the payments.

"Dear Providers, this communication is well noted. SHA is engaging to fast-track all payments for adjudicated and approved

claims," Dr Mwangangi wrote.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale had earlier claimed the ministry did not have the correspondence, but promised to engage with the affected facilities.

During a press conference at Afya House yesterday morning, Mr Duale took issue with the federation's letter being shared with the media.

"Let that person go to the CEO's office and inform them of the problem. We don't conduct our internal communication through press conferences. If the facility has not been paid, let them engage SHA directly.

Not appropriate

"It is not appropriate for them to address us through Nation Media. We have seen you bringing patients to your media house—turn the media house into a health centre, we will register you, give you a portal and deal with your claims," Mr Duale said, while reprimanding the Nation reporter who had asked the question.

Responding to Dr Mwangangi's email, Dr Gakombe indicated that the government needs to fund its share of the universal health coverage (UHC) wallet.

"We are all committed to UHC. We take cognisance of the fact that UHC can only succeed if it's properly funded through different participants. SHA requires funds. We as members and beneficiaries must fund it directly through contributions or indirectly through taxes," he wrote.

He added: "Providers need funding, too, to deliver their mandate. We prefer to be paid from and by SHA or other pooling mecha-

nisms such as private insurance or occupational schemes. We hope that the government and members will enable SHA to purchase services for its millions of members."

Dr Brian Lishenga, the chairperson of Rupha, said that the government has not made any remittances to hospitals since SHA started.

"The government is one of the reasons why SHA is underfunded. They are not paying—this is the irony of life in this country. You just see these people full of lip service," he said.

The Public Officers Medical Fund, managed by SHA, differs slightly from the Social Health Insurance Fund in terms of coverage limits. SHA continued with the limits previously under the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

Own scheme

He explained that despite civil servants having their own negotiated scheme through their unions, the government does not remit their SHA contributions or their scheme payments.

"They are hit twice. The scheme has not paid SHA; therefore, hospitals have not been paid. Hospitals have been treating civil servants for free, and still, we are being called criminals," Dr Lishenga said.

Under NHIF, the annual bill from hospitals used to be between Sh3.5 billion and Sh4 billion.

"The hospitals are owed that amount in under nine months," Dr Lishenga said. "Healthcare has to be funded; if the system fails, then the provider has to revert to individual payments. This is the only way."

Meanwhile, SHA has suspended 40 health facilities from the national health scheme over alleged fraud. The suspended facilities are in Nairobi, Homa Bay, Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, Busia, Kajiado, Wajir, Kisumu, Kilifi, Mandera and Kirinyaga.

Dr Mercy Mwangangi said the facilities would not be entitled to any benefit from SHA during the period of their suspension.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ADDENDUM TO THE ADVERTISEMENT
PUBLISHED ON 4TH AUGUST 2025

BASIC EDUCATION ACT (CAP 211)

CHANGE OF SCHOOL STATUS

The Ministry of Education has received an application to convert the following Primary Schools from public to private status:

NO.	CENTER	SCHOOL	COUNTY	DATE
1.	Lamu Centre	AMA Primary School	LAMU	23/8/25
2.	Kilifi Centre	AMA Primary School	KILIFI	27/8/25

Individuals, institution or organizations with objection(s) or comment(s) to such conversion to submit them in writing within fourteen (14) days of the date of this notice to:

The County Directors of Education:
LAMU
KILIFI

African Muslim Agency (AMA) commits that the schools will not introduce any fees or levies and all other systems will remain the same other than taking responsibility of the management.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA AT MILIMANI CIVIL DIVISION CIVIL CASE NO. E201 OF 2025

HON. FAITH WAIRIMU GITAU..... PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT

—VERSUS—

HON. RIGATHI GACHAGUA DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY SUBSTITUTED MEANS

(Pursuant to Order 5 Rule 17 of the Civil Procedure Rules, 2010)

TO: HON. RIGATHI GACHAGUA

TAKE NOTICE that a suit has been filed in the High Court of Kenya at Nairobi being Civil Case No. HCCC/E201/2025, in which HON. FAITH WAIRIMU GITAU, the Plaintiff herein, seeks declaratory and compensatory relief against you for defamation, arising from statements made on or about 1st July 2025 at a public event in Njabini, Kinangop Constituency.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that by an order issued on 7th August 2025, the Court:

- certified the matter as urgent; and
- Granted leave to the plaintiff/applicant to serve the suit and application to the Defendant/Respondent by way of substituted service through this publication.

You are hereby required to enter appearance within Seven (7) days. Failure to do so will result in the suit/application proceeding for hearing and determination in your absence. Copies of documents in respect to the suit herein can be obtained at the Plaintiff's advocates offices or at the Milimani High Court, Civil Division Registry.

The matter is scheduled for directions on **14th August 2025**, before the duty court at the High Court of Kenya, Milimani Law Courts, Courtroom 2, 3rd Floor, Nairobi.

DATED AT NAIROBI THIS 7TH DAY OF AUGUST 2025
SUDI & ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES FOR THE PLAINTIFF

DRAWN & FILED BY:-
Sudi & Associates,
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Providers can no longer fund the scheme using their resources, including savings, bank facilities and supplier credit

Kenya Healthcare Federation



Intimidations CS Duale and PS Oluga lead efforts to malign media house's stories as 'fictions and falsehood'

Attacks on NMG over healthcare coverage

Sustained campaign appears designed to discourage scrutiny of healthcare at a time when patients are facing numerous challenges



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale (right) and Medical Services PS Ouma Oluga during a press briefing at Afya House in Nairobi on April 17. BILLY OGADA | NATION

BY NATION TEAM

Top Ministry of Health officials, including Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and Principal Secretary for Medical Services Ouma Oluga, are targeting journalists with personal attacks and intimidation instead of confronting the systemic healthcare failures exposed in their reporting.

The pattern of hostility has transformed official press conferences to platforms for attacking journalists from Nation Media Group (NMG), according to multiple documented incidents spanning recent months.

During a press conference yesterday when a Nation journalist attempted to ask Mr Duale questions about SHA's nine-month delay in paying private hospitals—forcing public servants to pay out-of-pocket for services—he aggressively interrupted the reporter. “Nation Media Group should now start a hospital at Nation Centre, then come back to us to grant NMG a SHA portal to operate as a health facility,” Mr Duale said, before the journalist could finish the question.

He then instructed an aide to grab the microphone from the journalist but chose to answer the initial question after our reporter insisted on putting it across.

Social media attacks

The Ministry's response strategy extends beyond press conferences to social media platforms, where officials launch personal attacks on journalists by name.

Following a story about a 70-year-old cancer patient struggling to access medication through SHA—told he had “depleted his cover” and should return in the next financial year—Mr Duale took to X demanding

that NMG employ “more serious journalists” and sent screenshots to the reporter's inbox. The patient insisted, on camera and through documents, that he had been told he had depleted his cover and could not access care.

When the *Nation* published a report about a 10-month-old baby abandoned in India after SHA failed to pay promised overseas treatment funding, leaving the family with a Sh565,000 hospital bill, Mr Duale again used social media to label the journalist “lazy” and accused them of “coaching patients against SHA”.

While Mr Duale insisted that SHA had a long process to authorise medical treatment abroad, the parents of the baby proved they had official authorisation by a senior official in the agency, with a commitment to pay Sh500,000.

Refusing to fix health issues

On Thursday last week during a Health ministry event focused on biometric identification, Mr Duale refused to answer questions

THREATS

Partners dragged over coverage

The intimidation tactics have extended to economic threats. Dr Oluga directly threatened to contact NMG partners to stop funding, besides the Cabinet Secretary's declaration to withdraw any advertising. When the *Nation* published a July 2 story titled “SHA denies critical tumour surgery despite full premium payment, leaving patient in pain.”

about nursing interns or Mpox cases, despite rising infection. When pressed about cancer patients' difficulties accessing care, he dismissed concerns, suggesting patients should simply call the SHA helpline. The pattern has become consistent: deflection of healthcare policy questions in favour of attacking questioners.

Factual reporting

Following a July 1 announcement about medical interns' readiness, CS Duale said their salaries would be Sh206,000. When journalists verified this figure and discovered the basic salary was actually Sh46,120—requiring additional allowances to reach the quoted amount—they published a detailed breakdown.

Despite quoting Mr Duale verbatim, the CS reposted the story claiming journalists had “lied”, even though the analysis was based entirely on his own statements and official documents.

Threats to media funding

The intimidation tactics have extended to economic threats. Dr Oluga threatened to contact NMG partners to stop funding, besides the Cabinet Secretary's declaration to withdraw any advertising. When the *Nation* published a July 2 story titled “SHA denies critical tumour surgery despite full premium payment, leaving patient in pain,” both CS Duale and Dr Oluga dismissed the report as “fictions and falsehood” on social media rather than investigate the allegations.

Dr Oluga, who was previously a vocal unionist fighting for rights, demanded that the media house “produce such a character so that they are punished for harming patients,” claiming no hospital staff would make such statements. When the *Nation* ar-

ranged a televised interview with the patient and caretaker to verify the story, officials went silent but continued their hostility to subsequent questions.

Parliamentary outbursts

The hostility extended to parliamentary proceedings when reports emerged about SHA's decision to abandon its one-time password system and revert to

the old National Hospital Insurance Fund biometric identification system. Rather than provide transparent explanations for this reversal, CS Duale directed his anger at the messenger.

During parliamentary sessions, when journalists sought clarification on the policy change, Mr Duale told them to relay a message to the *Nation* journalist who wrote the story covering SHA's

system changes: “Go to hell.”

Selective response pattern

Ministry officials demonstrate a conspicuous pattern: silence when coverage favours them, but immediate social media attacks when stories expose system failures or question policy decisions. This appears designed to discourage scrutiny of healthcare even as patients face challenges.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE ON CANCELLATION OF ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the advertisement by the Parliamentary Service Commission below for the position of **Security Warden II (PSC 4) PSC/PJS/01/2025**, which was published on 1st July 2025, has been cancelled.

Any inconvenience occasioned is highly regretted.

CLERK OF THE SENATE/SECRETARY
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT

The Parliamentary Service Commission invites applications from energetic and results-oriented individuals interested in serving in the following position:

SECURITY WARDEN PSC 4 - (THIRTY EIGHT (38) VACANCIES) PSC/PJS/01/2025

Purpose of the job

The tasks performed by security wardens will vary from time to time. The officers are responsible for implementing the security policies and procedures that ensure the safety and security of personnel and property within the precincts of Parliament.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Controlling vehicle and pedestrian access at the gates for orderly entry into Parliament;
- Manning of X-ray machines, walk through metal detectors, underbelly cameras, CCTV screens and bomb detectors to detect and apprehend criminals (if any);
- Carrying out searches of vehicles and persons entering and exiting the precincts of Parliament;
- Screening, vetting, directing and clearing visitors to ensure that only authorised visitors gain access to Parliament;
- Maintaining the Occurrence Book and other Security books and records in order that future references can be made in cases of investigations;
- Carrying out foot patrols of the boundary fence line and internal building, to prevent any unauthorized entry into the precincts and ensuring that only authorized persons are in these areas.
- Manning the Control room and monitoring the CCTV surveillance system, answering the telephone and dispatching patrols to all calls for assistance;
- Controlling crowds during demonstrations and during state official functions;
- Manning the ISMS and security equipment as required in the SOP;
- Conducting regular checks on the serviceability of the fire safety equipment; and
- Providing timely first Aid services as may be required.

A detailed job description can be obtained from the website of Parliament at www.parliament.go.ke

REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECT APPOINTMENT

- For appointment to the grade of Security Warden, a candidate must:
- Be in a possession of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) minimum grade D+ (plus);
 - Have completed paramilitary training from any of the uniformed services; and
 - Have served satisfactorily in a uniformed service for a period of not less than three years.

Applications must include a cover letter, a fully completed Parliamentary Service Commission Job Application Form (Form 1J), which can be downloaded from www.parliament.go.ke or obtained from the office of the Head of the Commission Secretariat, 1st Floor, County Hall, Parliament Buildings, copies of academic certification and /or testimonials.

Applications should be addressed to:
Clerk of the Senate/Secretary,
Parliamentary Service Commission,
P. O. Box 41842-00100,
Nairobi.

Or hand delivered to the office of the Head of the Commission Secretariat, 1st Floor, County Hall, during office hours or emailed as a PDF file attachment to applications@parliament.go.ke to be received on or before **15th July, 2025**.

Please note:

Applications from applicants who do not complete the Parliamentary Service Commission Job Application Form (Form 1J) referred to in this advertisement will NOT be considered.

J.M. NYEGENYE, C.B.S
CLERK OF THE SENATE/SECRETARY
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

REPLY TO THE POST BY EMBAKASI DEVELOPMENT LTD.

EMBAKASI JUA KALI HOUSING ASSOCIATION is aware of the misleading advertisement by **Embakasi Developers Ltd.** which ran on Page six (6) of the Daily Nation Newspaper of Tuesday, (August 2025).

We, **EMBAKASI JUA KALI HOUSING ASSOCIATION** wish to inform our members and the General Public that the 516 plots excised from LR No.7109/3, LR No.7109/4, LR No.7109/5 and LR No.7109/7 are not up for sale or regularization as the aforementioned advertisement stated.

Please note the properties excised from the above parcels are the subject matter of an ongoing suit in the High Court, Milimani, ELC No.1002 of 2015 (OS) which is set down for hearing on 30th, September 2025. During the pendency of the suit, the court ordered that the status quo be maintained.

Further and pursuant to a share purchase agreement between **Embakasi developers limited** and **Embakasi Jua Kali housing association** dated 11th July, 2019. We are also involved in a commercial dispute regarding our buy-out of the shareholding of Embakasi developers limited. Thus case is pending determination in high court commission, in HC:COMM:MSC/E460/2025.

The attempt by **Embakasi Developers Ltd.** to deal with the suit properties is therefore sabotage of the ongoing suit and is prejudicial to the interest of members of **EMBAKASI JUA KALI HOUSING ASSOCIATION** who are part shareholders of **Embakasi Developers Ltd.**

Members of **EMBAKASI JUA KALI HOUSING ASSOCIATION** and the general public are advised to disregard the said advertisement ran in the Tuesday, 5th August, 2025 issue of the Daily Nation Newspaper as the same is false and misleading.

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Contempt Surgeon says judgment was unambiguous E-Citizen: Why CSs risk prison terms

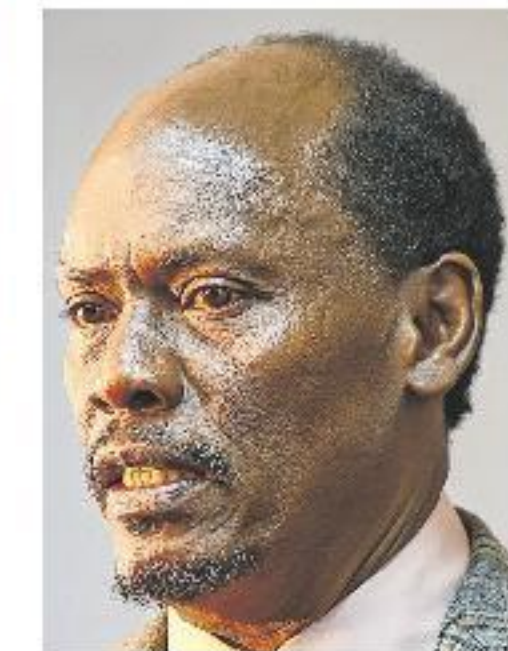
Ministries continue to collect charges declared unlawful



Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen. DENNIS ONSONGO | NATION



Mr Mbadi. FILE | NATION



Mr Kabogo. FILE | NATION

BY SAM KIPLAGAT

Four Cabinet Secretaries could land in trouble over continued collection of the Sh50 convenience fee on Kenyans using the e-Citizen payment platform.

In an application to the High Court, Nakuru-based surgeon Magare-Gikenye wants Cabinet Secretaries John Mbadi (National Treasury), Kipchumba Murkomen (Interior), William Kabogo (ICT and Digital Economy) and Julius Ogamba of Education cited for contempt of court over the collection of the fee despite being directed to stop.

Dr Gikenye also wants Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Commissioner-General Humphrey Wattanga and Attorney-General Dorcas Oduor punished for disobeying the order.

In a judgment delivered on April 1, Justice Chacha Mwita stopped the government from charging and collecting the Sh50 or any amount per transaction paid through the e-citizen platform as convenience, access or transaction fee.

According to Dr Gikenye, the four Cabinet Secretaries should be held liable for any illegal and unconstitutional loss arising from the charging and collection of the fee.

"The petitioner applicant has learnt that despite the judgement, the respondents have continued charging and collecting

the impugned transaction/convenience fee from Kenyans and/or e-citizen platform users, contrary to the law and judgement of this honourable court," Dr Gikenye says in the court papers.

A nominal access fee of Sh50 for Kenyans or \$1 per for foreign designated currency transaction is charged unless waived by the National Treasury.

The surgeon says in his court papers that the judgment was unambiguous and, therefore, Cabinet Secretaries and other government officials should obey it.

He adds that the culture of disobeying court directives with impunity has reached high levels and that courts must exercise their constitutional authority of punishing offenders for contempt.

"Having been delivered, the judgment was meant for obe-



Mr Ogamba. FILE | NATION

dience and nothing else, unless and until it is set aside by a superior court or reviewed by this honourable court," he says.

"No stay orders have ever been granted by the Court of Appeal or any other competent court nor has the judgment been overturned."

Justice Mwita says the Sh50 convenience fee amounts to double charge and that Kenyans and foreigners cannot be forced to use a system they did not ask for and be made to maintain it by paying the extra amount.

No explanation

The judge also quashed the directive requiring school fees and other levies for government learning institutions to be made through the platform.

"This is irrational. There was no explanation regarding who would receive the convenience fee and what it is to be used for, making the charge unlawful," Justice Mwita added.

The order prohibited the National Treasury; ICT and Digital Economy; as well as Education Cabinet Secretaries and their agents from insisting that school fees be paid through the e-citizen platform.

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DAILY NATION



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I'm well and going nowhere, Orengo says after long absence

BY GEORGE ODIWUOR AND RUSHDIE OUDIA

Siaya Governor James Orengo made his first public appearance during the burial of former Karachuonyo MP Phoebe Asiyo at Wikondiek village in Homa Bay County last evening ending weeks of speculation over his whereabouts.

He arrived at the funeral service at 1.30pm, three hours after President William Ruto and ODM party Leader Raila Odinga had arrived.

Mr Orengo landed in Karachuonyo in a helicopter just when the area Governor Gladys Wanga was paying her tribute to Ms Asiyo.

For a while, the mourners cheered him with some even rushing towards him, but were stopped by the security personnel.

This marked the governor's first public appearance since retreating from the limelight, an absence that had

fuelled speculation about his health and alleged treatment abroad.

Early this week, a forged resignation letter purportedly signed by Orengo surfaced online, and which was swiftly dismissed by his party, ODM.

Reports had it that he had been either in India or America for treatment.

Though he did not mention where he has been, the firebrand politician assured his supporters and Kenyans in general that he was in good health.

Speaking in his native Dholuo, Orengo told off critics and said he was going nowhere. The came as rumours made rounds that he had resigned from his seat, claims Siaya county assembly Speaker George Okode had dismissed.

"An Orengo nyatieng angima, an Orengo kidi onge kama adhiye, koro eka aroch marach. (I Orengo the rock, I am well. I am Orengo the stone, there is nowhere I am going. In fact, I have shed off my old skin and I feel newer than ever)," said Mr Orengo.

He paid tribute to Asiyo saying; "This lady here, if we trace back to the movement of human and women rights, Phoebe Asiyo was ahead of our time. She started that struggle before independence and continued afterwards."

Orengo stated that he was privileged to have served with her in parliament saying that during that time, it was difficult for women to be in parliament.

He pointed out that the fact that Homa Bay County leads in the number of elected women leaders is a great testimony to Phoebe Asiyo.

"While in parliament, Phoebe used to take issues very serious. There were male charlatans, chauvinists and misogynists and would not entertain women being leaders in parliament. For that matter, I honour her," said the governor.

According to Mr Orengo, there is a trend in Kenya where people are very shy in rewarding heroes.

They are not given their right place

in history particularly those who have fought hard for independence for this country. Jaramogi contributed a lot to this nation but there is no monument named after him. That is a trend that we must correct," said Mr Orengo.

Mr Orengo's public appearance ends speculation about his health.

He resurfaced, three days after his Deputy William Oduol released a statement on the current leadership situation in Siaya County.

Mr Oduol broke his silence over the leadership issues facing the county, claiming he is not aware where his boss had disappeared to.

His sentiments came as area Speaker Okode also refuted claims that the governor, who has been missing from the public for some time, had resigned.

Mr Oduol, who has not been seeing eye to eye with Mr Orengo said, he is yet to get an official communication from the family or the office of the county boss, on the whereabouts of his Boss

even as the residents continue to question where their governor is.

The Deputy Governor said the absence of the Governor is a big concern not only to him, but the residents, claiming that cartels could take advantage to engage in corrupt deals while he is away.

Mr Oduol extended an olive branch to his boss, even pledging loyalty and asking for calm amidst the anxiety that has risen over this matter.

The prolonged silence from the county leadership had fuelled frustration among residents who have been questioning who is running the affairs of the devolved unit.

A petition has also been filed by a resident of Siaya Julius Oluoch to Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, the senate and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Party to address what he terms a 'leadership vacuum'.

Education Schools warned against forcing students to take part in religious activities against their faith

Grade 10 learners not taking STEM to add maths option

If pupil's career plan needs a subject in each pathway, they should be allowed, says PS

BY WINNIE ATIENO

Grade 10 learners not pursuing the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) pathway but opt to take Core Mathematics, will be allowed depending on their Junior School assessment results.

In a circular to regional, county, and sub-county directors of education, the Ministry of Education outlined the plan for the next phase of Competency-Based Education (CBE) which will mark the fourth level of basic education following Pre-Primary, Primary, and Junior School levels.

But the circular by Basic Education PS Julius Bitok does not specify the kind of performance learners who are not pursuing STEM must attain to be allowed to take the Core Mathematics.

In addition to the compulsory learning areas, the learner will select three more subjects, according to Prof Bitok.

The PS advised learners to take at least two subjects from the chosen pathway.

"This means a learner may take up to three more subjects from the chosen pathway or take two subjects from the chosen path-

way and one subject from another pathway," said Prof Bitok.

The PS said in case a learner's career choice requires they take one subject in each pathway, they should be permitted.

"The choices of subjects shall be guided by the learner's anticipated career, aptitude, interest and personality with guidance by the leadership of the Senior School, Prof Bitok said.

"The list of all the subjects on offer at Senior School under the CBC have been developed by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD)," he said.

The government has begun the preparations for the roll-out of the CBE at Senior School level, with the Ministry of Education issuing guidance on subjects to be undertaken.

The four compulsory subjects are English, Kiswahili, Core Mathematics/ Essential Mathematics and Community Service Learning (CSL). Core Mathematics refers to the compulsory mathematics course taken by all students in senior secondary school (Grades 10-12) as part of the CBE.

"For clarity, all the learners shall take English, Kiswahili and Community Service Learning (CSL). Learners pursuing the STEM

pathway shall take Core Mathematics while those who shall have chosen any of the other two pathways will take Essential Mathematics," said Prof Bitok.

Senior School will span three years, from Grades 10 to 12.

With the first cohort of learners, who are currently in Grade 9, set to join Grade 10 in January next year, the state is racing against time to ensure preparedness.

Learners are expected to choose from three pathways -- STEM, Arts and Sports Science, and Social Sciences.

And the government has also warned schools against forc-

This means a learner may take up to three more subjects from the chosen pathway or take two subjects from the chosen pathway and one subject from another pathway

Prof Julius Bitok, Basic Education Principal Secretary



Basic Education Principal Secretary Julius Bitok addresses the media at Melvin Jones Academy in Nakuru on April 10 during the Kenya Drama and Film Festival. BONIFACE MWANGI | NATION

ing learners to participate in religious rites and activities that are contrary to their beliefs.

The selection will be guided by the learner's interest and demonstrated potential in earlier levels.

According to the Ministry, each learner will be required to take seven subjects, four of which will be compulsory, in line with recommendations from the Presidential Working Party on Educational Reforms (PWPER).

The Ministry said the goal is to nurture ethical, empowered, and engaged citizens capable of contributing meaningfully to national development.

Prof Bitok said the essence of Senior School is to offer learners a pre-tertiary/pre-university/ pre-career experience during which the learners have an opportunity to choose subjects

from the pathways where they shall have demonstrated interest or potential at the earlier levels.

"As you are aware, the first cohort of CBE learners are expected to join Senior School in January 2026. Senior School learners shall take seven subjects as recommended by the Presidential Working Party on Educational Reforms (PWPER)," said the PS.

Physical Education (PE) and Information Communication and Technology (ICT) will be offered to all learners to facilitate learning and acquisition of life skills.

Every school shall offer Pastoral/Religious Programme of Instruction (P/RPI) to enhance moral, spiritual and character development of the learners.

"No school should force learners to participate in religious rites and activities that are contrary to

their beliefs," warned Prof Bitok. Some of the subjects to be offered in senior school includes, Music and Dance.

Others are Theatre, Business Studies, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, General Science, Agriculture, Computer Studies, Home Science, Aviation, Building Construction, Electricity, Metalwork, Power Mechanics, Woodwork, Media Technology, Marine and Fisheries Technology.

CBE is the new education system replacing the previous 8-4-4 system. It was initially known as Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) before changing to CBE. It's a holistic approach focusing on developing learners' skills, knowledge, attitudes, and values, rather than just memorisation.

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Bus crash at blackspot in Kisumu city leaves 21 dead

BY ANGELINE OCHIENG

At least 21 people died when a bus overturned at the Coptic-Mamboleo roundabout on the Kisumu-Kakamega Highway yesterday.

The victims were 10 men, 10 women and an infant. The accident occurred at 5.30pm.

According to witnesses, the 51-seater bus belonging to AIC Naki High School was from Nyahera in Kisumu West Sub-County.

"All we heard was a bang after the bus veered off the road," said Mr Erick Omondi, a resident of Mamboleo estate, adding that the many accidents at the scene could mean the roundabout is badly designed.

Mr Omondi said the accident claimed the highest number of fatalities ever witnessed on that spot.

"From the wreckage, the death toll will likely go up. For how long are we going to lose loved ones to road accidents?" he asked.

Dr Elly Charles, an emergency response health-worker, said the injured were taken to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital and the bodies to the mortuary.

Nyanza Regional Traffic Enforcement Chief, Peter Maina, said 30 people sustained injuries, five of them being serious.

Mr Maina added investigations are on to establish the cause of the accident.

The roundabout has been a cause of concern for years, claiming the lives of dozens of travellers and pedestrians on the Kisumu-Kakamega road.

Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) Nyanza Regional Director, Julius Mak'Odero, said while the Kakamega-Kisumu road was initially meant to be a single carriageway, the move to transform it into a dual carriageway was inspired by safety concerns.

"What the authority realised was that upon completion, motorists using the road became excited about the upgrade and lowered their guard, driving at high speeds while paying little attention to safety. It resulted in many accidents," Mr Mak'Odero said.

He added that after conducting studies, it was discovered that most accidents at the roundabout involved heavy commercial vehicles.

He explained that it has been worsened by the extended distance between the Coptic roundabout and the next roundabout at Kona Mbaya, "which encourages motorists to speed".

In a July 2024 interview, Mr Mak'Odero cautioned that doing away with the roundabout was not an option since drivers would have a longer free flow, "which may be risky to oncoming vehicles and other road users".

He said the roundabout design meets the required standards, which include three lanes granting vehicles a bigger turning radius.

"We have the option of introducing more bumps, but that will reduce the level of service satisfaction for road users while increasing stress on the pavement and road maintenance costs. The worst part of introducing more bumps is that since we are dealing with trucks and buses, the vehicles are likely to lose stability at the roundabout and result in more accidents," Mr Mak'Odero explained.

In an effort to reduce accidents around the roundabout, KeNHA introduced road signs, markings and rumble strips.

"From July 17, we are going to retain the roundabout but will introduce two sets of rumble strips and road markings at different intervals," he said.

Dispute Parliament accused of failing to enact relevant laws to facilitate the process

IEBC given seven days to justify MPs' recall block

Agency is accused of refusing to process petitions seeking removal of legislators

BY JOSEPH WANGUI

The High Court has given the electoral commission seven days to respond to a case where it has been accused of refusing to process petitions seeking recall of all MPs.

Justice Chacha Mwita granted the Attorney General and the National Assembly a similar timeline to file their responses to the case lodged by six voters to pave the way for expedited hearing and determination.

Justice Mwita issued the directions after denying the voters an instant order directing the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to process the petitions seeking the recall of MPs from the House.

The voters wanted the court to issue a conservatory order compelling the IEBC to process the petitions by citizens and have all MPs removed from office.

However, Justice Mwita directed them to furnish the IEBC, AG and National Assembly with the pleadings and that the responses be filed within seven days after service. The parties were also directed to file and exchange their written submissions.

The six voters—Newton Mugambi Boore, Dennis Mwaki Chabari, Morris Mawira, Agnes Mwendu Justus, Seth Mark Kinoti and Christine Kanana Kithinji—want the conservatory order to remain in force pending determination of their case against IEBC.

They are arguing that the electoral commission has breached the Constitution by refusing to handle the petitions for recall of the legislators.

It is their case that the IEBC and National Assembly have continued to refuse to implement express provisions of Article 104 of the Constitution on recall of MPs, both in the National Assembly and the Senate.

The said Article 104 titled "Right of Recall," grants the citizens the power to recall their elected MPs before the end of the electoral term.

"Particularly, the third respondent (National Assembly) has failed to put in place the relevant legislation to provide for the grounds and procedure for recall of MPs by constituency voters 15 years on from the date of promulgation of the Constitution," the petitioners said. The basis of the case is a recent explanation by IEBC that there was no law backing recall of MPs, hence the petitions could not be processed.

The National Assembly has a



total of 349 members, including 290 members directly elected by voters in constituencies, 47 women representatives elected from each county, and 12 members nominated by political parties. The Speaker of the National Assembly is an ex-officio member.

On the other hand, the Senate has a total of 67 members. They include 47 elected senators, 16 nominated women senators, two nominated youth senators, two

nominated senators representing persons with disabilities, and the Speaker who serves as an ex-officio member.

IEBC said the country has no enabling legislation defining the grounds and procedures for recall of an MP or Senator.

But lawyer Muriuki Muriungi, representing the six voters, argued that IEBC is relying on an artificial lacuna in the law created by the National Assembly.

Mr Muriungi claimed there is intentional reluctance by the National Assembly and that non-enforcement of the Constitutional provision amounts to suspension of the Bill of Rights.

"This artificial controversy must be cured by the court urgently intervening as proposed by the petitioners. The petitioners urge the court to unlock this impasse by using the interpretation tools that are at its disposal," argued Mr Muriungi.

He said that IEBC's refusal to process pending petitions had made it impossible for Kenyans to hold errant MPs to account or require their vacation of office.

He also said the National Assembly's refusal to enact the relevant law suspends the provisions of Article 104 of the Constitution.

He said his clients take the considered view that recall is the

most effective tool for over-sighting MPs and that failure to put in place a law to facilitate recall is evidence that the legislators do not want to be over-sighted.

The lawyer believes "MPs have intentionally suspended the Constitution to make it impossible for voters in their constituencies to hold them accountable for gross misconduct, violation of the Constitution or any other breaches of the law".

He said it is interesting that MPS amended the County Governments Act, 2012 in 2020 to provide a workable recall mechanism for MCAs but failed to enact corresponding legislation for MPs, creating a legal vacuum.

The petitioners stated that both MCAs and MPs exercise legislative mandate and oversight at the county and national levels of government and there was no reason why the law should permit the recall of an MCA and spare the MP. This, he said, is the mischief which the petitioners are urging the court to cure.

"Failure by the first and third Respondents (IEBC and National Assembly) creates an unjustified unequal treatment of MCAs who can be recalled but their legislative counterparts cannot be recalled. This is an unacceptable violation of Article 27 of the Constitution," Mr Muriungi said.

According to him, the conduct of the polls body and Parliament violates Article 47 to the extent that there is a violation of the law and an inexplicable delay of realisation of the envisioned fruits of Article 104 of the Constitution.

"In sum, the intentional refusal by MPs to enact/operationalise the necessary legislation makes it difficult for Kenyans to pursue political causes and make political choices they identify with. Instructively, where citizens are unhappy with an MP and would wish for a different MP with their interests at heart, they cannot realise such desired change as the same MPs have declined to implement the Constitution. This impinges on their rights under Article 38," said Mr Muriungi.

Claiming that there was unwillingness on the part of the National Assembly to enact the relevant law, he called on the court to "rectify the wrongs at this point as further delay will make processing of Petitions against MPs of the current parliament impossible".

The case is scheduled for mention on September 17, 2025 for further directions.

The Independence Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) chairperson, Erastus Ethenon during his swearing-in at the Supreme Court in Nairobi on July 11, 2025. BON-FACE BOGITAI/NATION

THE NUMBERS

349

Total number of members in the National Assembly, including 290 MPs directly elected from constituencies.

67

Members in the Senate that include 47 elected senators, 16 nominated women senators, and two nominated youth senators, among others.

For the People, For Prosperity



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The Devolution Conference organised by the Council of Governors (CoG) offers a special opportunity for stakeholders to showcase and brainstorm development progress in Kenya's 47 Counties.

This year's conference will be held in Homa Bay County on August 12-15, under the theme: *"For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice"*.

To help publicise stakeholder participation, the Nation Media Group is offering its rich multimedia platforms for use by county governments and other devolution partners to document latest development achievements and impact, while voicing their reflections on the conference theme.

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National News

Reparations Ruto launches a state-backed framework for compensation, dating back to 2017

Plan to pay protest victims

Head of State has moved to meet one of the key demands pushed by ODM leader, to enhance their cooperation

BY JUSTUS OCHIENG AND NDUBI MOTURI

President William Ruto has launched a state-backed framework to compensate victims of protests dating back to 2017, a concession that ticks off one of ODM leader Raila Odinga's persistent demands and underscores the cooperation between the two politicians.

The plan, announced in a Presidential Proclamation yesterday and affixed with the official state seal, cites a "compelling national interest" in redressing harm suffered by both civilians and security personnel during Kenya's turbulent protest history.

It will be domiciled in the Executive Office of the President and coordinated by Prof Makau Mutua, Dr Ruto's senior adviser on constitutional affairs and human rights. The proclamation commits the government to delivering on reparations for those who lost lives or suffered bodily harm "during public protests and riots since 2017," working alongside the Office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Interior, and the National Treasury.

The coordination framework has 120 days to begin fulfilling its mandate. "The Constitution establishes the dual obligations of the State and its citizens to uphold the delicate balance between civic responsibility and the exercise of constitutionally

guaranteed freedoms," it reads.

For Mr Odinga's ODM, the announcement is more than a human-rights victory, but a tangible signal that Dr Ruto is willing to bend to the 10-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on March 7 between ODM and UDA. That pact, insiders say, could ultimately serve as the launchpad for a 2027 pre-election alliance unprecedented in Kenya's political history.

Although Dr Ruto and Mr Odinga were opponents in the 2022 presidential race, sources in State House and both camps confirm that they are now working from a coordinated script. There is talk that their plan, together with Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, mirrors their 2007 arrangement under what was popularly called the ODM Pentagon.

In the run-up to the 2007 election, Mr Odinga coined the iconic ODM Pentagon, a regional power-sharing engine composed of himself, Dr Ruto, Mr Mudavadi, former Minister Najib Balala, and the late Joseph Nyagah—and later joined by ex-CS Charity Ngilu.

"Ruto, Raila and Mudavadi are key cogs in the Kenyan political space. The three are founder members of both ODM and the Pentagon. While they have pursued different political trajectories with mixed results, the July 30 meeting at State House cannot go unnoticed. It is significant in many ways than one and will



President William Ruto (left) and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga at the funeral of Mama Phoebe Muga Asiyo in Wikondiek, Homa Bay, yesterday. PHOTO | PCS

potentially trigger alignments and realignments ahead of the 2027 General Election," says political analyst Dismas Mokua.

The compensation fund, a top-tier MoU item that could be the springboard for the pre-2027 coalition deal between the leaders, is being packaged as proof of good faith from Dr Ruto's side, even as ODM mobilises internally to ensure its full implementation.

Mr Odinga has ruled out any early exit from the "broad-based government" formed last year, which saw ODM-aligned Cabinet Secretaries and advisers join the Ruto administration. "We are in the broad-based government until 2027. Beyond 2027 are issues we will discuss at the appropriate time, and the decision will be made by party members, not Raila Odinga alone," he told the *Nation* in a recent interview.

ODM's Central Committee re-

cently resolved to form a technical team to work with UDA on the MoU, a missing link that has slowed implementation. The 10-point agenda includes full implementation of the National Dialogue Committee report; inclusivity in budgetary allocations and public appointments; protection and strengthening of devolution; economic investment in the youth; promotion of leadership and integrity; elimination of government opulence; protection of the right to peaceful assembly; and compensation of victims of political violence.

Other pillars are an audit of the national debt and its usage; an intensified war on corruption; ending wastage of public resources; upholding constitutionalism and the rule of law; protecting civil liberties, and ending abductions and enforced disappearances. Compensation sits

near the top of the list. Mr Odinga has repeatedly linked justice for victims to Kenya's democratic health, especially after police crackdowns on the Gen Z protests of June 2024 and 2025 left 61 dead, according to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, and at least 89 others disappeared, according to Amnesty International Kenya.

For Dr Ruto allies, delivering on ODM's demands is as much political calculus as it is policy. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki recently let the cat out of the bag while in Mr Odinga's backyard of Migori County. "If you look at William Ruto, me, and now that we have His Excellency Raila Odinga on our team, do we look like people who can be defeated during campaigns?" he asked, suggesting a looming alliance.

While in Siaya, National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah lauded Mr Odinga for "standing with the President to stabilise the country". ODM lawmakers Sam Atandi and Mark Nyamita have also hinted at a 2027 "Ruto tosha" movement.

Political analyst Prof Gitile Naituli is more cynical. He calls the MoU "elite co-option" disguised as reform. "Raila Odinga is no longer in the opposition. That ended the moment ODM sat at the table with President Ruto. The regime gained legitimacy and breathing space amid growing public dissent," he argues.

The push for victim compensation is not new. In 2023, Azimio sued the government to compensate 75 people allegedly killed by police during anti-government protests between March and July that year. They also asked court to compel investigations into the actions of police units involved and to declare that banning protests was unconstitutional. The case has yet to be concluded.

Additional reporting by Sam Kiplagat.

Raila: I don't regret pact with President

BY GEORGE ODIWUOR

President William Ruto and ODM party leader Raila Odinga have maintained that they will not break their pact, promising to continue working together for the progress of the country.

The Head of State committed to fully implementing the memorandum of understanding his United Democratic Alliance signed with Mr Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement. The leaders sought to assure Kenyans that they will not part ways, at least up to the 2027 polls. This, they said, is to make the country stable and create economic wealth for citizens.

The Head of State and the former prime minister started their collaboration in March after signing an agreement to foster national cohesion. The MoU was also meant to address socioeconomic and political challenges.

Patriotism

During the burial of former Karachuonyo MP Phoebe Asiyo in Wikondiek, Homa Bay, yesterday, Dr Ruto described Mr Odinga as a patriot committed to supporting Kenya's progress.

His speech came after Mr Odinga, who spoke earlier, proposed ways of making Kenyans grow economically. "He has said it all and has put it well. You have a place in the history, progress and future of our nation. Your inspiration to leaders is something we are proud of. I am persuaded that Kenya is a great country and this will be based on your (Kenyans') commitments," Dr Ruto said.

He said Mr Odinga has assisted him to establish the broad-based government, which he described as one that does not discriminate against any leader who focuses on Kenya's stability. "Kenya has a historic opportunity to elevate itself. We can forge unity and deal with unemployment, transform agriculture to eliminate hunger. We are committed to taking the country to the next level. That is why we signed the 10-point agenda," Dr Ruto said.

Earlier, he set up a team to look into compensation of people who were injured and killed during protests. He also appointed a team to implement the National Dialogue Committee report. "The journey has begun. We have paid all money owed to the counties from last year. On Monday, the Treasury will release July allocation to the counties."

PUBLIC NOTICE

PETITION TO SUSPEND AND DISSOLVE THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KERICHO

INVITATION TO REGISTERED VOTERS TO SUPPORT THE PETITION

Fellow Residents of Kericho County,

We, concerned citizens of Kericho, are initiating a lawful and peaceful process to petition for the suspension and dissolution of the County Government of Kericho under Article 192(1)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, due to ongoing internal conflicts that have rendered the county ungovernable. The continued wrangles between the County Assembly and the Executive have:

- ✓ Crippled service delivery
- ✓ Paralyzed county operations
- ✓ Created political instability
- ✓ Eroded public trust in leadership

As residents, we are suffering due to stalled development, lack of basic services, and failed governance. We invite all registered voters of Kericho County to join this cause by signing the petition.

The signature collection begun on **7th August 2025** across the County.

This process will be conducted peacefully, lawfully, and in full compliance with the Constitution. Your voice matters. Let's restore dignity, order, and accountability in Kericho.

Signed: Vincent Sang, Wesley Ngeno, Victor Kipngetchi Siele, Hillary Kimutai Cheruiyot, Robert Korir, Evans Rop, Janeth Chepkoech, Shadrack Kiplangat Mutai

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principles, the Chargees, we shall sell the under mentioned properties by public auction.

1. ON FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST 2025 AT NENKAI PLAZA 1ST FLOOR ROOM 211 AT 10:00 AM

All that piece of land known as **L.R. NO. CIS-MARA/OLELESHWA/21077** Measuring 0.043 HA and in the name of **KENNEDY GITAU IRUNGU**. The property is in Kipangas Area, Narok Town outskirts, Narok County. It is situated approximately 2.3 kms off and to the right of Narok of Narok Bomet tar surfaced road deviating opposite Ola petrol station. It is about 2kms North West of Maasai Mara University and about 6kms North West of Narok town.
Co-ordinates: The property is within GPS Co-ordinates: Latitude 1°05'02.9 South and Longitude 35°50'58.2 East.

2. ON MONDAY 18TH AUGUST 2025 AT NENKAI PLAZA 1ST FLOOR ROOM 211 AT 10:00 AM

All that piece of land known as **L.R. NO. CIS-MARA/OLELESHWA/5667 & 5668** Measuring 0.045HA & 0.045HA and in the name of **JOSEPH MALIT KIBELEKENYA**. The plots are situated at Total area in Narok town, Narok County. They are about 80 meters to the North of Father Ntaiya school.
Co-ordinates: The property is within GPS Co-ordinates: Latitude 1°06'22.6" South and Longitude 35°51'50.2" East.

CONDITION OF SALE

1. All intending purchasers are required to view the said parcel of land and verify details by themselves as these are not warranted by the auctioneers or our client.
2. A 25% deposit **MUST** be paid in cash, bankers cheque at the fall of hammer and the balance within the next 90 days from the date of auction to the chargees.
3. Sale is subject of a reserved price.

Aftermath Looted businesses and burnt installations are spurring rapid revamp through community and state effort

Protest flames fade as rebuilds begin: Unity fuels Kikuyu's court comeback

Traders and officials unite to restore justice infrastructure

BY KEVIN CHERUIYOT AND WAIKWA MAINA

One month after Saba Saba, which came just after the June 25 anniversary of Gen Z demonstrations that rocked the country, the business community and the State are rebuilding key government installations that were vandalised or burnt.

Nine police stations were vandalised, 88 police vehicles damaged, five guns stolen, dozens of officers injured, and three Judiciary premises vandalised.

In Kikuyu, Kiambu, where a court was torched, businesses around the area are still bearing the brunt of protests that turned violent. When demonstrations erupted, no one among the locals imagined that the peaceful co-existence witnessed in the town for decades would be shaken. As they remain in denial, the reality is that they have been affected, and rebuilding their lives back to normal will come at a cost.

The law court that was demolished is being rebuilt quickly, with the two main blocks now 80 per cent done, just a month later.

The business community came together and agreed to support construction of two blocks of the court in consultation with the Judiciary, leaving the rest to the Ju-

diciary and the Constituency Development Fund.

According to James Mwaura Karanja, the community took the initiative as the court serves residents and many businesses.

"The Kikuyu Business Community is funding construction of the court. This is the unity of the business community," he said in an interview with the *Nation*.

He stated that while it is not appropriate at the moment to approximate the sum used, some people brought in cement, iron sheets, doors, and timber, among other items. Mr Karanja says the necessity of the court and its services pushed them to join hands in bringing it back to life within the shortest time possible instead of waiting for the Judiciary.

"The businesspeople, who have hotels, some of which were being used by people who came to the court for services, and other businesses came together and said it is better for us to build the court rather than see it being transferred to another place," he said.

Zipporah Wambui Kamau, a businesswoman who runs a photocopy and M-Pesa shop opposite the court, reveals that her business has never been the same since the court was torched.

"Customers paying their bills were using this shop. Photocopies were being done here. Now that

the court is not operating, I'm affected. Demonstrations affected us badly," Ms Kamau said.

She states that from the Sh2,000 and above she used to collect in sales when the court was operating, she is now struggling to make Sh1,000.

Boda boda riders around the area are also feeling the heat. They are waiting for the court to be completed and resume operations. The facility used to attract customers to them.

"We used to have people asking us to rush them somewhere and sending us to deliver some court papers, but nowadays, there is nothing. As you can see, the gates are closed and only construction workers are allowed," said Evans Muendo, one of the boda boda operators.

John Ngari, a fruit vendor who works near the court, also laments the lack of customers.

When Chief Justice Martha Koome visited the razed court, she condemned the attack, terming it an act of terrorism.

The CJ said the situational report by the Judiciary Police Unit indicated that the protests of June 25 witnessed a deeply troubling trend involving deliberate targeting of court infrastructure.

Besides the Kikuyu Law Courts, Dagoretti Law Courts, which was recently established, was also



Kikuyu Law Courts in Kikuyu town, Kiambu County, under construction on Thursday. The court was set ablaze during the June 25 Gen Z protest anniversary. FRANCIS NDERITU / NATION

vandalised.

Little has been done to restore Dagoretti Law Courts to its former state.

Moreover, the CJ said the old Ol Kalou Law Courts building, which was being used for the storage of exhibits, was broken into and damaged.

Similarly, Dagoretti Police Post was vandalised during the demonstrations, and five firearms were stolen, according to Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen.

The CS, in his recent statement regarding the cost of demonstrations, said Matuu Police and Kikuyu Police Stations were attacked. "At least nine police stations were attacked, five of which were torched, including Dagoretti, Molo and Ol Kalou, to name a few," Mr Murkomen said.

He said about 88 police vehicles were destroyed, a total of 27 national and county government vehicles were destroyed, and 66

civilian vehicles parked in police stations, including a school bus, were burnt.

"Government offices, including courts, national government and county government offices, were looted and burnt. Businesses worth billions of shillings were massively looted. The criminals targeted kiosks, supermarkets, electronic shops, hotels, and restaurants, among others," Murkomen said.

In Nyandarua, construction of Ndunyu Njeru Police Station in Kinangop Constituency burnt about a month ago, has yet to commence.

Residents have had to seek services at Engineer Police Station, the sub-county police headquarters about eight kilometres from Ndunyu Njeru market.

County police commander Stella Cheronu says construction of a new station is at an advanced stage. "Our officers are residing in rented houses within Ndunyu

Njeru to offer security. Their houses were among the buildings burnt by the public. We did not remove the officers from the market, but because there are no offices, those reporting incidents or requiring other services have to travel to Engineer town. But we have plans for the construction of a new station set to start soon," said the police boss.

Faith Mwangi, a resident, said the community is willing to support construction of a new station. "We need the services closer; the residents have a fundraiser committee in support of the construction of a new station," she said.

During the raid, the entire police station, including the cells, officers' living quarters, report office, the OCS and crimes offices, were all reduced to ashes.

The mob also burnt a police vehicle and another one belonging to livestock theft suspects, who also perished in a fire

Charred dreams, new beginnings: The grit of Nairobi's small traders

BY NATION TEAM

At the edge of the popular OTC bus station, sandwiched between the busy OTC Road and nearby shops, Yvonne Atieno is laying out shoes and handbags on a small table, the first signs of a boutique reborn.

It is new stock she has recently bought, featuring the latest designs of crocs and women's shoes. There is a consistent flow of customers into her shop as she attends to their enquiries. "It is usually busy, although we are not there yet. It is a journey," she says.

Her shop once stood hollowed out and bare. Looters had stormed the Bus Station area at the height of the June 25 protests, taking away everything, including expensive shoes and bags.

When the *Nation* visited then, she was

shell-shocked and weary, speaking in a low, measured tone about the estimated Sh2 million in stock lost and the weight of raising two children alone.

But today, there is something quietly defiant about her. The boutique is smaller now—less curated, more improvised—a few racks, some plastic hangers; nothing like the thriving storefront she once ran. Yet it is alive, and so is she. "That day, I thought it was the end," Yvonne says. "But my friends and relatives told me I couldn't stop. They pushed me. They reminded me I'm not alone."

In the days that followed the looting, she launched an online fundraiser, shared across WhatsApp groups and social media. The response was modest—not the flood she had hoped for—but enough. Enough to buy stock. Enough to

reopen. Enough to begin again.

Her eyes dart towards the road as a matatu rolls past, its conductor shouting over the thrum of traffic. Her two children, she says, are back in school, and that alone makes the return to business worth it. "This is my only way to survive. I had to choose. And I chose to fight."

Empty shops

Ms Atieno's story is not unique. Across the CBD, June's protests left charred dreams and empty shops. The city's vibrant commercial heart, normally humming with enterprise, was torn open—raw and lawless.

For Elizabeth Wanjiru, a small-scale electronics trader operating near the OTC area in the CBD, the day marked the beginning of a painful chapter in her business journey. Her shop was one

of the many targeted during the protests. Looters made away with all her merchandise, including valuable electronic devices like mobile phones, chargers, and accessories. What was once a thriving business was reduced to an empty shell.

"I had nothing left. They took everything. All the devices, phones, chargers—everything was stolen," she recalled. "It was heart-breaking. I didn't even know where to start."

With no stock and no savings to fall back on, Ms Wanjiru found herself at a crossroads. Restarting the business seemed nearly impossible without external help. She eventually decided to take a bold step—applying for a loan to restock and repair the damages.

The cost of rebuilding, she says, amounted to roughly Sh450,000. After

nearly a month of struggle, she was finally able to reopen her shop.

"I had no choice but to take a loan to restock and fix the damage. It was the only way I could get back on my feet," she told the *Nation*. "I had been running this business for years. Watching it all disappear in a day was traumatising."

Despite suffering such massive losses, Ms Wanjiru chose not to report the incident to the police. Her reason? A lack of faith in the system.

"I didn't see the point. I knew they would just take me in circles, and in the end, I wouldn't get any help," she said bluntly.

Just a few stalls away from her electronics shop, Charles Otieno, the owner of a small eatery, was also dealing with the aftermath of the protests. His premises were not spared during the unrest.

National News

Justice Timeline questions linger on as nine serve 30-year jail term each for killing Tharaka Nithi chief in 2019

'We're paying for land, river disputes:' Chief's murder convicts now cry foul

Former TSC human resources officer, one of nine convicts, says he was in Nairobi with his daughter when his rural chief was murdered

BY BRIAN OCHARO

"My wife and I are suffering in prison over a land dispute. We had nothing to do with the chief's murder," these are the words of John Nthiga Kirema, who is serving a 30-year prison sentence for the murder of his area chief, Japhet Majau.

He is incarcerated alongside his wife, Leah Muthoni. The others are Gerald Njeru M'ibua, Julius Mburu, Sisiria Katora, Julius Kimenye, Jornard Njagi, Gediel Munyua and Tom Kinyua. The group was accused of killing the Kamaindi location chief on April 30, 2019. Mr Nthiga was a human resources officer at the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) headquarters in Nairobi until his arrest and subsequent link to the murder. He had worked for the teachers' employer for 32 years. Now jailed at Embu Main Prison, he tells the *Nation*: "As a civil servant nearing retirement, I was always cautious and did everything according to the law, as expected of any public officer."

But fate had other plans—to shatter his life and prematurely end his over 30-year career. During his employment, he lived in Nairobi with part of his family. He recalls not travelling home that particular weekend, choosing instead to remain in the city. Come Monday, he left for work at around 6am.

"I clocked in using the biometric system at 7.40am, went up to the third floor, and worked the entire day. I left for lunch nearby and came back. At 4.59pm, I clocked out and headed to town, arriving there at about 6pm after a 30- to 40-minute walk," he says.

He stayed in town for about an hour and left a few minutes past 7pm for Dandora Phase Five, where he lived. He then passed by a local joint before heading home around 9pm. At midnight, he received a call from his wife, who was in the village, telling him police officers were at their house demanding entry.

"I told her to be cautious before opening the door. But before we could end the conversation, the police forced their way in and took her phone. The line went dead. She later called me around 2am, saying she'd been arrested together with my uncle and his wife and taken to Chuka Police Station for the murder of the area chief," he recounts.

Mr Nthiga was stunned that his wife had been implicated in such a grave offence. They had been in contact throughout the day as she took their daughter to school. At the station, his wife reportedly told police that her husband had not been home that weekend, but officers insisted on finding him.

"The next day, May 1, I sent our daughter to check on her mother as I went to the office to apply for leave. Unfortunately, my daughter told me later that she couldn't see her," he recalls.

The second day, while processing the leave, Mr Nthiga received a call from a security officer asking him to report to their office, saying some people wanted to see him. He was informed that he was required in Chuka to record a statement and help with investigations. He maintains that he was unfairly charged and convicted, despite evidence showing he was nowhere near the crime scene.

"I was charged with crimes I knew nothing about. I told the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) the same thing when they visited me at Kathwana Prisons. I told them that their investigation was flawed. The DCI failed to conduct a thorough probe."

His phone was seized for three months but was later returned without any forensic evidence linking him to the crime. "I had no clue what had happened. During the trial, my daughter testified that I was in Nairobi with her the day the murder occurred."

Even the deputy director in charge of security at TSC, under whose department biometrics fall, testified in court, confirming that Mr Nthiga was at work that day. "He presented biometric printouts and a



Mr Njagi Kibiubi (left), whose brother was killed and dumped in a sack in a river months before the murder of the Kamaindi chief; and Mr Nthiga Kirema (right) at the Embu Main Prison. They were among accused persons sentenced to 30 years in prison. PHOTO: IPOOL

letter from the office confirming I reported to work at 7:40am and clocked out at 4:59pm. So the question is: Could I have travelled from Nairobi to Kamaindi—a journey of over four hours—and committed the murder between 6pm and 6:30pm? Would I have returned to Nairobi by 9pm? Unless I flew, how was that physically possible? Was there any evidence I travelled to the village and back?" he asked.

According to Mr Nthiga, the investigating officer had no convincing explanation when asked why he was charged. He believes the case stems from a long-standing land dispute with the chief's family. He says he had reported the matter to the police and the Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) in Chuka, who had sent an officer from a neighbouring county to help resolve the dispute.

"My view is that all this is about land. Even now, they've encroached on my property and built a permanent house. I wrote to the DCC and the late chief's brother, explaining that my incarceration allowed them to illegally occupy my land, destroy vegetation, and cultivate freely," he says. "I was not there. I am suffering in prison because of that land. My wife is also suffering just for being associated with me. They're taking advantage of our absence. I had not seen the chief for three years—what motive would I have to murder him? This is pure hatred stemming from the land dispute. Those who claimed to have seen me are lying so they could grab my land."

His claims were echoed by witnesses he called to defend him. Longinus Dibobo Oduya, a security officer at TSC, testified that Mr Nthiga logged into work at 7.40am and signed out at 4.59pm on the day in question. Dickson Gitonga, a Nairobi-based bar and restaurant operator, told court he spent the evening with Mr Nthiga and others at his Dandora establishment, Headquarters Retreat, corroborating the alibi. Mr Nthiga's daughter, Sonia Kirema, testified that she was with her father in their Nairobi home when her mother called to report the police operation targeting suspects in the chief's murder back in Chuka.

Google Maps indicate the journey from Nairobi to Chuka takes about 3 hours and 32 minutes, with an additional 55 minutes required

FROM TSCTO PRISON Man says he's in jail for a crime he didn't commit

Nthiga is incarcerated at Embu Main Prison alongside his wife, Leah Muthoni, and Gerald Njeru M'ibua, Julius Mburu, Sisiria Katora, Julius Kimenye, Jornard Njagi, Gediel Munyua and Tom Kinyua. He denies wrongdoing. Nthiga was a TSC employee and says he and his wife had been in contact throughout the day as she took their daughter to school. At the station, his wife told police that her husband had not been home.

to reach Kamaindi location from Chuka.

As for Mr Njagi, his arrest and imprisonment also came as a shock. He says he was away on a casual job in Embu on the day of the murder and did not learn about the incident until that night. "I returned home around 8pm. While at a local hotel, I overheard the chief's brother expressing concern that the chief might be dead. That's when I first learned something was wrong," he says.

Later that night, a DCI officer called and informed him he had been mentioned by the chief's family. Despite protesting his innocence, he was asked to record a statement.

"That was the last time I saw freedom. I was locked up, remanded, tried, and eventually sentenced to 30 years. And here I am," he says.

Mr Njagi believes he was targeted because of his late brother. He claims the chief's family had blocked part of River Thuci, which locals relied on for water. His brother protested and was allegedly killed—an incident for which he suspects the chief's family was responsible. "They want me out of the way. Not only have they taken my land, but they also fear I may pursue justice for my brother's death. They think that if I'm free, their children may face arrest," he says.

In court, Mr Njagi maintained that he was nowhere near Kamaindi on the day of the murder. His wife had left him with the children, and he was working to provide for his family. However, the court dismissed both

men's defences as not credible.

But how did the murder happen?

What began as a seemingly harmless act—of goats straying into a family compound—spiralled into one of the bloodiest tragedies that shattered the silence of Kamaindi in Tharaka Nithi. The animals belonging to Mburu wandered onto the farm of Josephat Mukengu and were grazing on his crops. The act of animals wandering in the neighbourhood is a common occurrence in rural areas.

This one was no different, as it was an ordinary rural dispute in an otherwise quiet village—until tempers flared. Within hours, Chief Majau lay dead, his body torched in a brutal spectacle that stunned the nation.

Within two days, what started as a dispute over straying livestock had triggered a series of calculated killings, exposing bitter feuds related to land and access to River Thuci, a major source of water in the semi-arid area of Chuka, Igambang'ombe Sub-county. The killings led to the arrest of the nine convicts.

Goats incident

The case, as presented before the High Court in Chuka, is that when goats wandered onto his farm, Mr Mukengu drove them into his homestead and reported to Ms Veronica Kanini Mutugi, the assistant chief at the time. Ms Mutugi, in turn, told Mr Mukengu to call the area chief and report the matter. The chief informed Mr Mukengu to make arrangements with his wife, who was also the area manager, and return the goats to the owner.

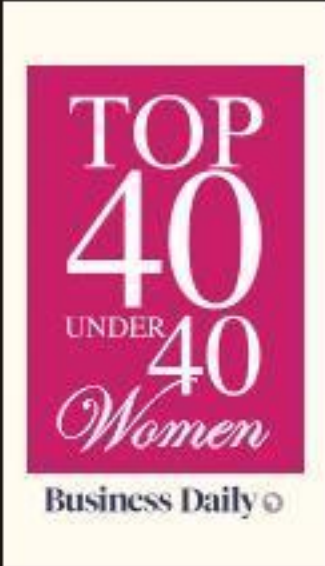
Mr Mukengu did as instructed. But as he returned the goats, he saw a group armed with pangas, sticks, and arrows heading to his home, baying for his blood. Luckily, he had locked himself inside a house. At that moment, the chief arrived at Mr Mukengu's home and started negotiating with the group. All of a sudden, Mr Mburu and Mr Kimenye started asking the rest what they were waiting for. "All the accused attacked the chief with crude weapons without any warning or provocation. Njagi picked a stone and hit the chief on the forehead," Mukengu told court.

The chief panicked and asked Njagi whether it was a fight, but his accomplices cut him with pangas and hit him with sticks. "The chief was overcome and collapsed as the accused continued attacking him. They then poured petrol, which they had carried in a jerrycan, on him and set him ablaze," he said.

Court records show Mr Kinyua was the one who removed a matchbox from his pocket and, after dousing the chief with petrol, set him ablaze while he was still alive.

In the end, Justice Lucy Gitari convicted the nine suspects, saying they had a common intention. "It is my view that all the nine accused persons had malice aforethought of... causing the death of Mukengu—or doing grievous harm to him—which sadly resulted in the death of Majau, who happened to come to the scene at the nick of time," she said on February 1, 2024, before jailing the accused persons for 30 years each.

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WHO ARE THIS YEAR'S WINNERS?

They are trailblazers who are defying norms and redefining success.



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OPINION

Harambee Stars: An economic blueprint?

If you want proof that young Kenyans are capable of excellence when the system works, look at what just happened at Kasarani. Harambee Stars took down DR Congo — a two-time Chan champion — and held Angola days later, despite being a man down for over an hour. These might look like mere flukes but they're very strong signals of the Kenyan youth's mind state.

Harambee Stars enjoys the form they're on because for once, the rules are very clear. Win, and you get Sh1 million. Draw, and you walk away with half a million. Paid. On time. No middlemen. No broken promises. That kind of clarity changes everything.

You could see it on the pitch. Austin Odhiambo burying a stoppage-time winner. A backline that refused to fold under sustained pressure from Angola with more than double the possession and total passes completed. Benni McCarthy's squad played like they had something to gain — because they did. And you could be mistaken for believing that this success is merely about chasing money. No. They were playing in a system that finally respected their effort.

It's bigger than football. This is a national blueprint.

Most young Kenyans live with the exact opposite setup. You work hard, someone else eats. You innovate, someone with a title gets credit — or worse, your idea is buried under paperwork, bribes, compliance mountains and silence. You start a business, and by the time you've paid for licenses, county fees, and unofficial "facilitation," you're broke before your first client shows up.

It isn't for lack of talent that Kenyan youth fail to thrive. It's structural sabo-

Most young Kenyans live with the exact opposite setup. You work hard, someone else eats. You innovate, someone with a title gets credit



Lewis Ngunyi | Economy



tage.

We talk a lot about youth unemployment but what we're really describing is a productivity trap. Young people aren't short on ideas. They're short on systems that pay them fairly, promptly and transparently for what they create. They're starved of predictable incentives. And when you remove predictability from a system, you get chaos: crime, corruption, despair. Not born of greed, but of survival.

This is where Chan gives us a case study. In a case of a broken clock being right one of two times a day, President William Ruto's administration made a promise: Sh1 million per win, Sh500,000 per draw, and Sh600 million on the line if they take the tournament. And they have (so far) kept this promise. When the Stars beat DR Congo, the money landed. Fast. Clean. No drama. That alone flipped the energy.

Historically, that same team might

have (allegedly) thrown the match. Match-fixing has haunted Kenyan football for years because players were broke and tired of waiting for salaries that never came. Betting syndicates offered what clubs didn't: certainty. You can't blame athletes for surviving. You blame the system that forced them to survive that way.

This time, the equation was different: play well, get paid.

Apply that logic to Kenya's wider youth economy. Startups, musicians, freelancers, jua kali makers — they all suffer from the same disease: a corrupt middle layer that extracts value but cascades none back. We have a country where our wealthiest people are middlemen and gatekeepers. Having systems that focus on clear incentives remove that. When effort is rewarded directly and publicly, corruption becomes less useful.

Take the Youth Fund. In theory, it should be the engine of youth entrepreneurship. In reality, it's a maze of bottlenecks and favoritism. The money either doesn't get to the ground or ends up in the hands of well-connected "entrepreneurs" who've never risked anything. Imagine if that fund ran like Chan bonuses: clear criteria, fast disbursement, reward for results. You'd see a flood of real businesses overnight. And they'd be forced to be compliant because the blueprint for success would be evident, public and rewarded instantly.

We don't need Utopian promises. We need systems that reward performance. That's it. Whether it's a carpenter building furniture in Githurai, a coder pushing an app from Juja, or a boda rider doubling as a delivery fleet, the game should be the same: do this much work, get this much reward.

There's cultural weight here too. Coach Benni didn't need to retrain footballers. These guys are already ridiculously talented. He gave them belief. He trusted young players like 19-year-old Manzur Suleiman to shine on a continental stage. That's what Kenya's youth need more than pity: belief backed by structure.

Compare that to how we have responded to the young people's agitation for better Governance. Over 50 lives lost, for asking questions. You don't gas your most industrious and motivated citizens. You build with them. Show them a clear, replicable path between effort and outcome. Vocational training that's actually aligned to demand. Digital infrastructure that connects local talent to global markets. Tax relief for startups under 5 years old. Mentorship pipelines led by actual operators, not token appointees. All of it tied to performance.

But none of that works if corruption continues to eat the seed. You can't scale Chan-style incentives in a country where Sh44.8 billion disappears from eCitizen without explanation. We need reform at the foundation: open accounts, real audits, accountability that stings and hurts everyone who so little as touches public funds. Corruption is economic terrorism and should be treated as such. Because when public money is safe, the people can finally breathe.

The Harambee Stars showed us what's possible. When the stakes are real, and the rewards are clean and clear, Kenyans deliver.

We've already seen the blueprint. Time to scale it.

ewisngunyi10@gmail.com

Raw sewage is choking our towns; it's time to act

Raw sewage is one of the most dangerous yet overlooked threats choking Kenya's cities — poisoning our rivers, and putting millions at risk. As urban populations grow, infrastructure hasn't kept pace. Only about 20 per cent of urban residents are connected to proper sewer systems. The rest? Their waste ends up in open drains, rivers, soak pits, or leaking septic tanks.

In many towns, the situation is grim. Landlords routinely instruct caretakers to empty septic tanks into drainage systems — often at night or during rains to avoid detection. This is not just illegal; it's deadly. The result is a toxic brew of contamination, disease, and inequality that hits the urban poor hardest and flows downstream, harming communities, farmlands, and ecosystems far beyond city borders.

Take Kikuyu town. A sewer line was installed nearly two years ago, but without a local treatment plant. All sewage flows by gravity into the Nyongara River, a Nairobi River tributary, before being dumped — untreated — into the Dandora ponds in Ruai. These sewer lines often hug the riverbanks, making them vulnerable to leaks and deliberate discharges into water bodies.

Yet people live and farm along these rivers. Smallholder farmers use this polluted water to irrigate crops that end up in local markets. The public consumes vegetables laced with dangerous bacteria like *E. coli* and salmonella, often unaware of the health risks. This hidden contamination contributes to outbreaks of typhoid, diarrhoea, and intestinal infections.

The public consumes vegetables laced with dangerous bacteria like *E. coli* and salmonella, often unaware of the health risks



David Wakogy | Pollution

In response, Friends of Ondiri Wetland Kenya (FOWK) has taken a community-driven stand against sewer pollution. In Kikuyu, where the wetland forms the source of the Nairobi River, FOWK volunteers conducted night patrols to expose illegal sewage dumping — actions that led to arrests and improved water quality. We also engaged polluting businesses, educated residents, promoted eco-toilets, and restored riparian zones. Our advocacy helped push for the wetland's legal protection and showed how local action can drive meaningful change.

The Nairobi River, once a vital artery of life, has now become a flowing gutter: choked with sewage, industrial effluent, and solid waste. And it doesn't stop there. The river feeds into the Athi River and eventually the Indian Ocean at Kilifi's Sabaki estuary, spreading the damage across counties and ecosystems.

There is some light at the end of this very polluted tunnel. President William Ruto's administration has launched the Nairobi River Engineering and Regeneration Programme — a bold, multi-agency effort led by the State Department of Housing and Urban Development, Nairobi City County Government, and the Nairobi Rivers Commission. On the ground, the Ministry of Defence and Kenya Defence Forces serve as project managers.

This initiative aims to restore Nairobi's rivers, reduce raw sewage discharge, and provide alternatives to residents in informal settlements. It includes building over 10,000 affordable housing units and modern market spaces to resettle communities currently contributing to pollution.

At the heart of this effort is the expansion of the Kariobangi Decentralised Sewer Treatment Works, designed to handle up to 90,000 cubic feet of wastewater daily. Meanwhile, conditions in informal settlements are dire. Open drains filled with black, foul-smelling wastewater run next to where children play and families cook.

Kenya has about 49 wastewater treatment plants, but many are outdated or poorly maintained. Nairobi's two main plants — Dandora and Kariobangi — cannot handle the volume of waste they receive. Much of it ends up partially treated or completely raw, back in the environment.

Relying on centralised systems alone is no longer viable. Fast-growing towns like Ngong, Ruiru, Kitengela, Kiambu, Athi River, and Kikuyu urgently need decentralised treatment plants. These smaller, local systems treat waste where it's generated, reducing the risk of leaks and overflows

from long pipelines.

We must also embrace nature-based solutions. Countries like Rwanda are using constructed wetlands to treat wastewater in urban areas — low-cost, low-tech systems that are ideal for peri-urban and informal settings. Kenya must scale up these systems now, not as an afterthought, but as a core strategy.

The legal framework exists — but enforcement is weak. Illegal sewer connections, industrial dumping, and unmanaged waste must face real consequences. Stronger monitoring and inter-agency coordination are essential.

Equally critical is public awareness. Communities must understand the dangers of raw sewage — not just for their health, but for their food, water, and dignity. Kenya could adopt Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approaches, empowering residents to take control of sanitation in their own neighbourhoods.

Globally, we can learn from leaders like Singapore, where the NEWater programme recycles over 98 per cent of wastewater for reuse. Kenya may not be ready for that level of technology, but the core idea holds true: wastewater is not waste — it's a resource.

This crisis isn't just about sanitation. It's about public health, food security, environmental justice, and national development. It poisons our rivers, pollutes our farms, threatens our oceans, and robs urban communities of dignity.

Mr Wakogy is the Coordinator, Friends of Ondiri Wetland Kenya and the Climate Worx Lead, Ondiri Wetland; Email: dwakogy@gmail.com

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SATURDAY NATION

Duale threatens an affront to freedom of the media

Health CS Aden Duale has constantly and unfairly attacked the "Nation" for doing its professional role. The Cabinet Secretary has been going against the conduct expected of a senior public official. The Nation Media Group did not create the problems in the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), which users are complaining about. It has only highlighted them.

Our cardinal responsibility is reporting on issues. In some instances our coverage helps the authorities find solutions. Mr Duale's aggressive response to our reporter's question at a briefing yesterday was uncalled for. The journalist was merely performing his role of informing and educating the public.

The CS should know he has no authority to control media coverage. He has even threatened to deny the Nation advertisements over its report on the reintroduction of a biometric patient identification by the Social Health Authority (SHA).

The media cannot be dictated to by anybody on what to cover or how to cover it. The reintroduction of biometric identification, which was used under the old National Health Insurance Fund, is a reversal that could not be ignored.

Mr Duale claims the report misrepresented facts. He is entitled to his opinion and should have sought redress or demanded a correction or clarification.

Anybody feeling aggrieved can petition the Media Council of Kenya's Complaints Commission or simply go to court. In yet another incident, Mr Duale dismissed as fake a letter SHA issued authorising a baby's heart surgery abroad before renegeing on the pledge to pay. The CS has also taken attacks against the "Nation" on social media.

Media inform the public, question authority and uphold public interest. Threats can undermine press freedom and compromise the right of the public to know. Mr Duale should seek to fix the problems that have been experienced since the rollout of SHA instead of casting aspersions on the media.



Unlock sports potential

The last month has affirmed just how rich Kenya is in sports talent with the country's sportsmen and women competing in various age group championships around the world.

Kenya collected 33 medals - 14 gold, nine silver and 10 bronze medals - to finish second at the Africa Under-20 and Under-18 Athletics Championships held July 16 to 20 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, where South Africa topped with 49 medals made up of 30 gold, 16 silver and three bronze medals.

The country then got five medals - one gold, two silver and two bronze - to settle 31st at the Summer World University Games held on July 21-27 in Bochum, Germany with three of the medals coming from athletics - a gold, silver and bronze.

Japan topped the medal standings at the varsity games with 79 medals - 34 gold, 21 silver and 24 bronze.

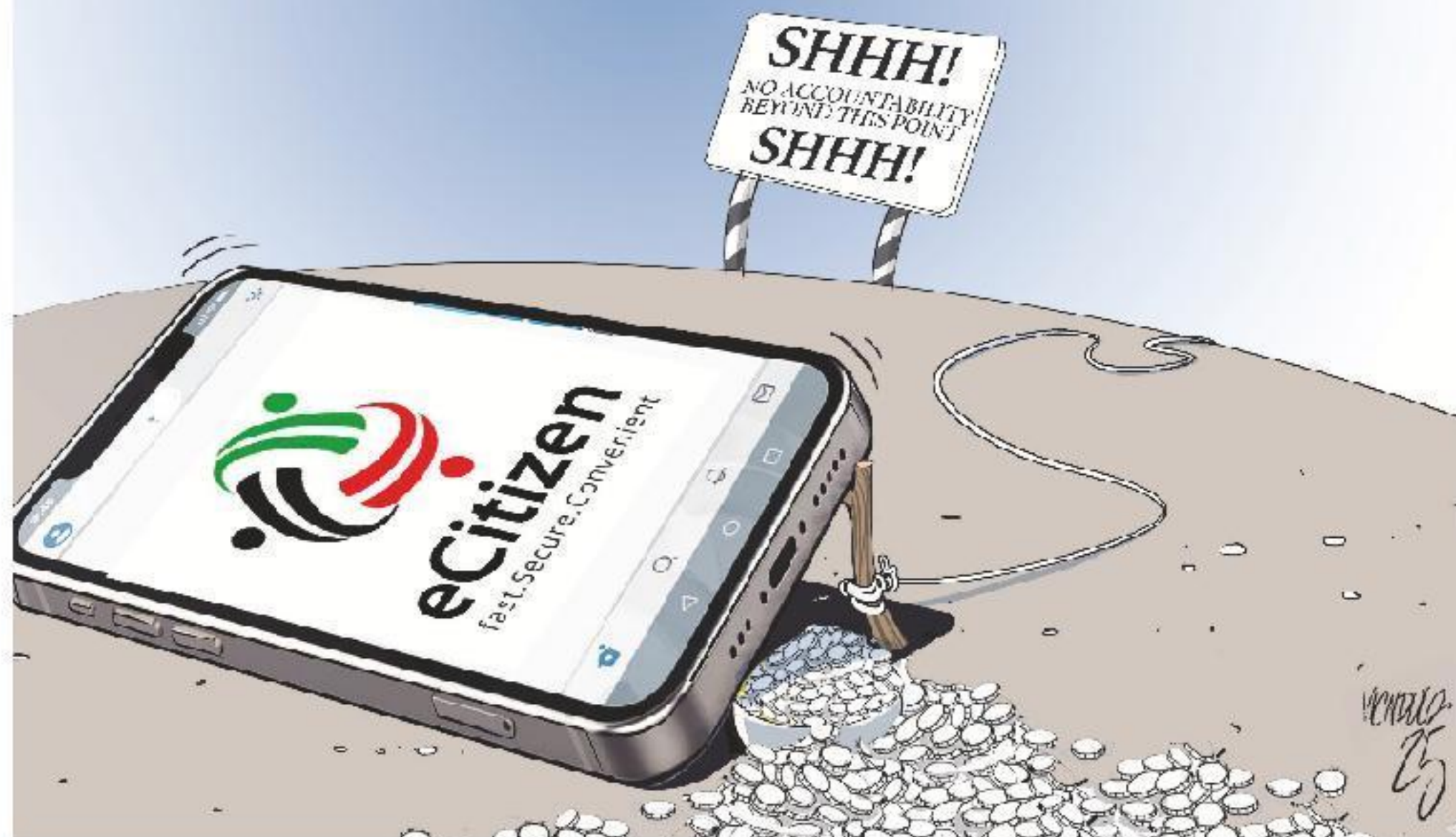
Then Kenya then secured a fifth place finish with 11 medals - five gold, one silver and five bronze - during the inaugural Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) African School Games in Annaba, Algeria, from July 26 to August.

The hosts topped the medal table with 245 medals - 103 gold, 81 silver, 61 bronze). Egypt and Tunisia secured the second and third positions respectively. Kenya junior team collected three bronze medals from the Africa Junior Championships held July 17 to 21 in Luanda, Angola.

Kenya Under-20 has eased through to the semi-finals of the ongoing Africa Women's Under-20 Volleyball Championship in Yaoundé, Cameroon while Kenya team of 14 judokas will compete at the World Cadet (Under-18) Championships on August 27 to 31 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

This is a clear indication of the immense talent that is across the country hence sports federations, higher learning institutions and Kenya Academy of Sports must strike a common code for proper harnessing and nurturing.

The country has struggled to secure medals at major events like the Commonwealth Games and Olympics for lack of a proper pathway of talent development. The over reliance of athletics is not doing the country justice when there is talent across disciplines.

Let's trust guardians of the forest
nation@daily.com

Today, August 9th, we mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a day that holds deep personal meaning for me. Over the years, I have come to truly value the relationship Indigenous Peoples have with the earth, especially forests: their lives, livelihoods, identities and cultures are interwoven into a relationship grounded in reverence, responsibility, and profound ancestral knowledge. This relationship is also upheld by many Local Communities who live where forests are found.

Globally, Indigenous Peoples number approximately 476 million and hold tenure rights to nearly a quarter of the world's land surface. These territories contain more than half of the planet's remaining intact forests, store close to 38 billion tons of carbon, and are crucial havens for biodiversity. Research continues to affirm what many have known for generations: where IPLCs manage forests, lands, water bodies and other natural resources, these very resources continue to thrive.

Yet despite this essential stewardship, IPLCs continue to be stripped of the agency over their natural resources, support structures, the income they generate, and excluded from the decisions that shape their lands and lives. Many still fight for legal recognition. Others face threats from extractive industries, deforestation, and climate impacts. Although Indigenous Peoples represent just five per cent of the global population, they make up nearly 20 per cent of those living in extreme poverty. Between 2011 and 2020, less than one per cent of international climate finance reached Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. These numbers are simply unsustainable.

This year, the United Nations has chosen to spotlight Indigenous youth as agents of change for self-determination. It is a powerful and timely theme. Around the world, Indigenous youth are not waiting to be included, they are stepping forward, raising their voices, and leading efforts to protect biodiversity, defend ancestral lands, and

Although Indigenous Peoples represent just 5% of the global population, they make up nearly 20% of those living in extreme poverty



Wanjira Mathai
Self-determination



shape a more just and regenerative future.

Just days ago, during a gathering of Indigenous women in Kenya, convened by the remarkable Jane Meriwas, Executive Director of the Samburu Women Trust, the spirit of leadership was on full display. Though I did not attend personally, a colleague shared reflections from the meeting that deeply moved me. One young woman spoke of the urgent need to be heard on their own terms: "We need space to co-create, to invest in our dignity, our knowledge, and our power." Nuria, from northern Kenya, recounted how she had run for office three times, each time met with systemic resistance. The conversation was clearly rich with wisdom and clarity. The women emphasised that flexible, responsive funding is not optional, it is essential for their safety, their organising, and their ability to respond to crises on the ground. A funder in the room offered a rare and welcome admission: "The burden of supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities must fall on us. We need more flexible funding, less reporting, and more trust."

They spoke of the need to innovate, not only in what we fund, but in how we listen, learn, and measure impact. Storytelling, mobile videos, and community-led networks were suggested as ways to build visibility without forcing communities into

systems designed far from their realities.

These reflections echo what I have heard time and again through the Community-Led Forest Economies (CLFE) Movement: a global coalition committed to re-imagining forest conservation through the lens of justice, dignity, and local leadership. At the heart of CLFE is a simple truth: when communities thrive, forests thrive.

What inspires me most about CLFE is its holistic vision. This is about shifting power: supporting communities to secure their land rights, govern their resources, and shape their own economic pathways. It means investing in forest enterprises that are rooted in local knowledge and values. And it means lifting up these stories so they can influence how global systems, from markets to multilateral finance, respond to the climate crisis.

For this movement to succeed, trust must be at its core. The women in the 10th Anniversary of the Indigenous Women's Council gathering reminded us that accountability should not come at the cost of dignity. True partnership means believing in those who have proven themselves to be the most effective guardians and stewards of nature and giving them the resources and freedom to lead.

The urgency is clear. New data from WRI's Global Forest Watch shows that the world's forest carbon sink has shrunk to its lowest point in two decades. We are running out of time. But we are not out of solutions. The wisdom, strength, and leadership of IPLCs, especially young people and women, offer us a path forward. Today, as we honour Indigenous Peoples and local communities across the globe, let us move beyond symbolic recognition and into the realm of transformative action. Let us invest in their resilience, their vision, their leadership, their knowledge systems, and their sovereign rights. Because when communities thrive, forests will flourish.

Ms Mathai is the MD for Africa & Global Partnerships at the World Resources Institute and Chair of the Wangari Maathai Foundation

Letters

LETTERS

Elect leaders with integrity

Steve Jobs once said, "If you define the problem correctly, you almost have the solution". This poignant quote is very apt for the Kenyan political turmoil experienced in the unrelenting anti-government protests that peaked on June 25 last year, resulting in numerous fatalities and injuries. Kenya's socio-economic and political problems start at the individual level, where we voters continue to elect leaders for the wrong reasons. We elevate leaders based on their initial brand as opposed to critically vetting their integrity, leadership track record, and accountability. We should prioritise leaders who respect the rule of law.

Henry Nderi, Nairobi

Kenya needs a leadership reset

If our leaders truly appreciated and embraced devolution, we wouldn't still be debating what counties need and how resources should be shared equitably. Devolution was intended to bring services closer to the people, reduce bureaucracy and promote inclusive development. Yet more than a decade later, counties are still begging for funds, governors are still operating without full autonomy, and development is still being weaponised. This country's political culture has been unhealthy for far too long. We normalise impunity, recycle leaders with questionable track records and prioritise loyalty over competence.

Joseph Katiku Kioko, Nairobi

Country must embrace devolution

The theme of this year's Devolution Conference, to be held in Homabay County, is 'For the people, for prosperity: Devolution as a catalyst for equity, inclusion and social justice'. Article 1 of the 2010 Constitution affirms that sovereign power belongs to the people, who can exercise it either directly or via representatives (MPs). We don't need further dialogue. Instead we need leaders of goodwill who can implement the constitution. President Mwai Kibaki will always be remembered for his good governance. I hope that our leaders will follow this year's devolution theme and, in a nutshell, practise what they preach.

Lincoln Kinyua, Kiambu

Provide answers on accidents

The aircraft crash in Kiambu County, which claimed six lives and left others with traumatic injuries, was tragic. We must commend the multi-agency team comprising the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and the National Police Service for their response and bravery in handling the situation. Unfortunately, every time a plane crashes, we are met with press briefings, promises of thorough investigations, and declarations of accountability. Yet, over time, the noise fades and the reports are buried. Just like the victims and their families, the public is left with unanswered questions, which consequently erode confidence in the systems. We must break this cycle and demand transparent, conclusive investigations.

Peter Ojwang, Siaya

Mail your letter to: **The Editor, Daily Nation, P.O. Box 49010, Nairobi 00100** or email mailbox@ke.nationmedia.com.

TODAY IN HISTORY



August 9, 1995: The head of Kenya's team to the Beijing Conference, Mrs Grace Ogot (left), during the launch of a photo-book, 'Our Life: A View of the Maasai Women' at the National Museum. The proceeds from the sale of the book went to the Elangata Wuas Ecosystem Management Programme. With her is the co-ordinator of the programme Ms Joyce Kores. COMPILED BY DELVIN OMWODO

nation@daily.com

LETTER OF THE DAY

Teachers are pillars of society and family

Recently, there has been a concerning increase in unfair media criticism of teachers, who are simply carrying out their noble duties. While some parents may have valid concerns, but this growing wave of negativity is often misplaced. It targets a profession that plays a fundamental role in shaping not just our children, but also the future of our society and nation.

In Kenya, the school calendar is structured so that learners spend 13 weeks in school and only two weeks at home each term. Overall, children spend approximately 10.5 months under the care of teachers and just over 7 weeks with their parents each year. Ironically, many of these same parents enrol their children in private tuition during the school

holidays, further extending the time their children spend with teachers. Children begin school at the age of 5 in playgroup to socialise and learn basic independence. By the age of 7, they are in mainstream early learning. From that point, they remain in the school system for approximately 14 more years. During this time, teachers do more than just teach; they mould, guide and develop your child's attitudes, character, skills and worldview. Teachers influence how children think, behave and interact with the world, often more deeply than parents can in their limited time. For any parent who truly loves and cares for their child, teachers are among the most valuable contributors to their child's growth

and to the stability of the family unit. Teachers are highly trained professionals. They don't just teach; they also act as parents on our behalf. Given the weight of this responsibility, it is troubling to see some parents resist or criticise initiatives such as school trips or learning activities designed to prepare children for real-world experiences. Learning trips are not leisure outings; they are practical, curriculum-based lessons delivered in real-world settings that help learners to connect classroom knowledge with the outside world. It is puzzling that some parents will happily spend money on luxuries such as new sports rims, expensive drinks and entertainment, yet balk at paying

Sh5,000 (approximately \$50) for a school trip. Yet they are quick to spend KES 3,000 (about \$25) on private tuition for two hours during the holidays. We must call out this hypocrisy and reassess our priorities. As a parent, I firmly believe in supporting school programmes and going the extra mile to help any child who may not be in a position to participate. It's time to stand up for our teachers. They are not just educators; they are the backbone of our families and our future. Let us choose what matters most and invest more in that. Other fleeting, glittering, perishable things will distract us and cause us to lose focus.

Kanyi Gioko, Nairobi

THE CUTTING EDGE by THE WATCHMAN

Send an e-mail to the watchman@ke.nationmedia.com or write to The Watchman, POB 49010, Nairobi 00100

Campaign • Peace caravans are needed to promote unity and conflict resolution by community and religious leaders, says Ahmed Somow Ahmed. Writing from Wajir, he adds: "This is needed, as political campaigns result in deaths and destruction of property. Communities that compete for pasture and water, resulting in deaths, will benefit from peace campaign." His contact is plazahosp@gmail.com.

Fraud • The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has stepped up its fight against corruption by targeting conflict of interest in tender awards in the counties, says Dave Tumbula. "The only way to deter the looting of public resources is to get convictions after the dramatic arrests of county officials, as happened in Busia recently. But I won't be surprised if, as often happens, none is arraigned."

Careers • A plan to regulate the number of trained teachers, whether by a lobby or the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) is ill-advised, says Brian Wekesa. "It will kill the dreams of many aspiring teachers. The lobby should instead enlighten students to make informed career choices. Let the authorities promote instead of undermining the profession." His contact is brianwekesa@gmail.com.

New song • A year since Eldoret Town-based gospel musician David Chegerichman released his most recent song, he hopes his fans and other music lovers have had a chance to listen to it, as it's available on the popular YouTube channel. "Its great worship message, I hope it will attract NTV and other stations to make many love the Lord." He can be reached through davidchegerichman@gmail.com.

Portal • No doubt keenly following the expose of the billions lost through the e-Citizen portal, Michael Karichu Njoroge has been wondering where the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) is in all this. He poses: "Why can't the CBK be the only central point for collecting government revenues at the county and national levels? Why do we need other bodies to do this?" His contact is karichu3@gmail.com. Have a possible day, won't you!

The weekend

LITERATURE CULTURE ARTS

Feminist revolution Denis Galava's study examines how young activists are redefining politics in the country

How Gen Z women are now rewriting power playbook

We are the leaders: Unpacking the sophisticated strategy behind Kenya's recent youth protests

BY GODWIN SIUNDU

The Gen Z phenomenon has animated public debate in Kenya for nearly two years. When this digitally fluent generation burst onto the political scene in early 2024, few understood the long-simmering discontent and strategic imagination that preceded its emergence. Fewer still anticipated the movement's staying power — or the fact that at its core stood young feminist organisers reshaping protest and politics as we know them.

One of the most revealing studies of this moment is Denis Galava's *We Are the Leaders: How Kenya's Gen Z is Rebooting Politics*. The study examines the symbolic, aesthetic, and political dimensions of Kenya's 2024 Gen Z-led protests, offering a sharp departure from the tired caricature of Gen Z as unruly, politically naive digital natives. Instead, it uncovers a sophisticated, intersectional, and deeply feminist infrastructure that powered one of the most consequential protest movements in Kenya's recent history. Galava, an interdisciplinary researcher who teaches journalism at the Aga Khan University, argues that the real story of Gen Z protests lies in how they re-centered women — not as tokens or mascots, but as the intellectual, emotional, and logistical spine of a movement redefining what leadership, citizenship, and resistance look like.

Through interviews with organizers and semiotic analysis of digital protest content — memes, AI-generated satire, livestreams, symbolic funerals — Galava tracks five interconnected strategies Gen Z used to mobilize, critique, and reimagine power. These include digital activism, meme warfare, aesthetic resistance, symbolic confrontation, and decentralised leadership, all

of which were developed, refined, and scaled by young women activists.

What appears to some as chaos was, in fact, choreography — protest by design, not by accident.

Crucially, Galava links the organisational grammar of the 2024 #RejectFinanceBill2024 protests to earlier feminist-led mobilisations like the End Femicide marches. These demonstrations, while quieter in media coverage, were critical training grounds for the movement that followed. It was in these marches that young women — outraged by state inaction in the face of gendered violence — learnt to crowdsource, coordinate encrypted chats, create protest aesthetics, and most importantly, trust each other in a system that had long betrayed them.

From these lessons emerged an unorthodox protest model anchored in horizontal accountability, care-based leadership, and emotional intelligence. Leadership was not absent, but distributed. The facelessness of the protests was not a sign of disorganisation, but a deliberate rejection of patriarchal authority and co-optive political theatre. As one organizer told Galava: "We are not leaderless. We are leaderful."

Take the emergence of Shakira Wafula as a protest symbol. Her now-iconic mugshot — arrested, defiant, eyes locked on the camera — was not just a portrait of state intimidation. It was an image of feminist leadership: raising bail, coordinating protests, holding vigils for the dead, and giving media interviews that were equal parts mourning and manifesto. Shakira didn't speak for the movement — she embodied its feminist reimagination of what protest power can look like.

And herein lies one of Galava's most compelling insights: these protests weren't simply about the cost of living or new taxes. They were about reclaiming symbolic and civic space in a country where protest had long been coded as male, elite, and partisan. By putting young women at the frontlines, the movement not only disrupted the logic of protests — it disrupted perception.

This symbolic disruption mattered. The sight of young wom-



Kenyan youth protest police brutality in Nairobi CBD on June 25, 2024. PHOTO | THOMAS RAJULA

en being arrested, tear-gassed, and dragged through the streets exposed the violent, punitive reflex of a state that views youthful dissent — especially from women — as a threat to be crushed, not heard. Older generations who had scoffed at previous opposition-led protests began to express sympathy. The state was not just confronting protestors; it was confronting its children.

What also changed was the tone of protest. Sarcasm replaced sloganeering. Memes became bulletproof vests. As one protestor quipped, "Laughter is our loophole. When they try to silence us, we respond with sarcasm louder than their bullets." Another declared, "We're children of memes and mixtapes. We remix protest like we remix music — until it slaps hard enough to scare them."

This redefinition of resistance — visually encoded, emotionally intelligent, digitally native — is precisely what makes Gen Z so difficult to dismiss or defang. Galava rightly warns, however, that protest aesthetics can be co-opted or emptied of meaning. As meme culture goes mainstream and AI-generated satire is adopted even by government agencies, the risk remains that protest becomes aesthetic ritual rather

than political force.

Yet even this ambiguity reflects the richness — and risk — of the moment. Like the mythical chimera Galava alludes to, Gen Z is many things at once: a lion roaring for justice, a goat mocking authority, a snake slithering through surveillance. This hybridity has led to misreadings and misjudgments — by political elites, media pundits, and even some scholars — who fail to grasp that this is not protest as we knew it. This is protest rebooted.

And while Galava's research offers a powerful analysis of how Gen Z has reimagined protest — through digital mobilisation, feminist decentralisation, and meme-based resistance —

it leaves largely unexamined the "so what" question that now haunts the movement: What lasting political vision are these protests pointing toward? Are these digital warriors building a coherent future, or simply reacting to a collapsing present?

By limiting his analysis to the tactical brilliance of Gen Z's mobilisation — encrypted organising, symbolic funerals, satirical memes — Galava risks sidelining the deeper political anxieties many hold about the movement. Can this fluid, decentralised protest culture evolve into a sustainable civic force capable of transforming institutions — not just mocking or resisting them? Or are these energies, as some government officials allege, being channeled by shadowy political operatives seeking regime change through the backdoor?

Such claims — however conspiratorial or self-serving — tap into a legitimate public concern: that protest must be tied to purpose, not just performance. Galava's work powerfully illuminates the form of protest but doesn't fully engage with these thornier, realpolitik questions about outcome, accountability, and long-term vision. And perhaps that, too, is part of the Gen Z ethos: a

refusal to fix the future in rigid blueprints, choosing instead to build the plane as they fly it.

For all the talk of Gen Z's supposed disorganisation, Galava shows that this generation has an implicit vision for Kenya — one rooted in radical imagination, civic refusal, and intersectional solidarity. They are not merely reacting to crisis; they are remaking the political script.

This has grave implications to older politicians. The likes of William Ruto, Raila Odinga, Kalonzo Musyoka, Rigathi Gachagua and Martha Karua must now think beyond their kingship mindsets to consider repositioning themselves in ways that appeal to generational rather than ethnic formations. The old modus operandi of patronage and regional balkanization are gone, and new ways of digital rallying are in vogue and have little time for ethnic currencies for political horse trading that the older politicians are so adept at.

Even if they are to glance backwards to their ethnic backyards, these leaders still need to find narratives that appeal to the Gen Zs and package the same narratives in grammars that the young ones have invented. Leadership has shifted from personas to purpose — now dispersed across networks united by shared ideals and collective dissent. This also may affect the tendency by politicians to perform post-election 'handshakes' that allow them to retain elite privileges at the cost of deflated electorates.

In all, then Gen Zs have forever altered the way we do politics in Kenya. They have reminded us that protest can be tender. That power can be shared. That memes can spark revolutions. That women, when they lead, do not need to ask permission.

Whether that script evolves into electoral power in 2027 — or dissipates in aesthetic fatigue — remains to be seen. But what is clear is that Gen Z, and the young women at its helm, have already expanded the space of what is politically possible in Kenya.

The writer is an Advocate of the High Court, and Associate Professor at the University of Nairobi. godwins57@gmail.com



Dr Denis Galava, author of 'We Are the Leaders: How Kenya's Gen Z is Rebooting Politics'.

Weekend

Lady Gaga, Bruno Mars lead MTV awards nominees

LOS ANGELES

Pop singer Lady Gaga and her *Die with a Smile* collaborator Bruno Mars landed at the top of the list of nominees announced on Tuesday for this year's MTV Video Music Awards.

Gaga scored 12 nominations, including artist of the year and best album for *Mayhem*. Mars received 11 nods for *Die with a Smile*, his Grammy-winning song with Gaga, and for *APT.*, a duet with K-pop sensation Rose.

Both Mars collaborations will compete for video of the year against *Birds of a Feather* by Billie Eilish, the Kendrick Lamar diss track *Not Like Us*, Sabrina Carpenter's *Manchild* and others.

Superstars Beyoncé and Taylor Swift both received nominations for artist of the year. The two women have the most career VMA awards with 30 each. Other nominees in the category are Lamar, Puerto Rican singer Bad Bunny, country singer Morgan Wallen and Canadian pop star The Weeknd.

The VMAs began airing on MTV (PARA.O), in 1984 and became known for memorable moments such as an onstage kiss between Madonna and Britney Spears and Lady Gaga's appearance in a raw meat dress.

Fans can vote online in 19 of this year's categories. Winners will be announced on September 7 at a ceremony broadcast live from New York on the CBS network.

New categories were added this year for best country video and best pop artist.

The nominees for country video include *Think I'm in Love with You* by Chris Stapleton, *Liar* by Jelly Roll and Wallen's *Smile*. (Reuters)

Reflections of a scholar

Would I be gatecrashing Kenyan writers' palaver?

I am eagerly looking forward to a series of major creative events leading us into the end of the year. One is the Mashariki Literary and Cultural Studies Conference to be held in Dar es Salaam between 21st and 23rd this month. Another is the Grand Meeting of Kenyan Writers, to be held at the Daystar University's Nairobi Campus on 23rd this month as well.

Late September and early October will usher us into the grand "NIBF" (Nairobi International Book Fair) with its concomitant Macondo Arts Festival and the literary awards. Then, early December, the Waswahili of the World will congregate at the Kibabii University main campus in Bungoma for their tenth Kongamano (Conference) of CHAUKIDU (Chama cha Ukuzaji wa Kiswahili Duniani). That translates as the Global Association for the Promotion of Kiswahili.

These days, I am not particularly eager to present papers or lead discussions. I prefer listening to and learning from the young scholars still actively involved in field and archival research.

But my other reasons range from mere curiosity to simple, plain sentimentality. Remember, sentiment is good, but sentimentality is not. Anyway, apart from the dear warmth of reconnecting with old colleagues and making new friends within our disciplines, going to these events often has a rejuvenating effect. I had a healthy feel of this at the sixth edition of the Mashariki at Makerere in 2023, despite my desultory appearances there.

The Dar Mashariki meet this year, for example, is about ecocriticism and ecopoetics, the relationship between creativity and the environment. This is a crucial concern of our times, and I look forward to learning a lot from its leading theoreticians and practitioners, some of them my former students. But my main anticipation about the visit is, admittedly, about reconnecting with my dear alma mater, UDSM, the University of Dar es Salaam.

I have not been back there since early 2006, and the last time I was in downtown Dar, in 2015, for the "posa" (marriage negotiations) of one of my nephews, I was not able to go up to the Hill. Similarly, the handful of times I have been to Zanzibar recently, including one in 2022, I was not even able to cross over to my beloved Mainland.

People who crudely react to texts... risk living lives full of blunders and misunderstandings



Austin Bukonya
Conference tours

Those are the vagaries of our "most travelled" times.

This time, however, I intend to "embed" myself on that lovely campus, where I first landed sixty years ago and started learning many lessons. They were lessons of not only scholarship but also of living, loving, losing, looking life in the eye and moving on. I will check out my room in (London) Hall One and walk on the grass under the cashew trees and maybe pluck a fresh nut (korocho) to suck on the juice in its base.

Is that not worth a plane flight to Dar? Let us skip the Book Fair and its unfailing magic, for me, until its time gets closer. I do not know if my many publishers are planning a lifetime something or other for me, but I know I will be there, especially in the children's reading tent. I am hoping very much that Dr Hamisi Babusa and his TV kids will be there too. You know, book lovers come to see and to be seen.

The December CHAUKIDU Conference in Bungoma is firing my imagination early for a clutch of reasons. First, Bungoma, a city in my neighbourhood, surprises me with its never having hosted me for an event all the decades of my Kenyan gallivanting. More importantly, Kibabii University, which will be our host, is an academic powerhouse which I have always desired to visit. Relating to my endless love affair with Kiswahili, I am inordinately proud that our host, VC Prof Ipara Odeo, is one of my most respected Kiswahili scholars

in Kenya and I always find it a joy learning from him. Tu ndiani twaja, Prof (we're on our way).

It is, however, the Grand Kenyan Writers' Meeting that takes pride of place among all the events mentioned here so far. I will not spoil you with the details, since they are already widely available on the relevant platforms. News of the Grand Meeting was first conveyed to me by my friend, Chancellor Prof Egara Kabaji Sr, our principal literary hitman on many national, regional and continental fora. I also believe that it is his excellent and warm relationship with Daystar University that brought the writers' palaver to this Nairobi institution.

My central reaction to the news of the "Meeting", however, is that it should not be literally limited to "writers". Rather, it should be billed, and hopefully run, as a "literary practitioners" forum. This would enable and encourage all the "ministers" of the creative word to attend and contribute to the Meeting. These include publishers, editors, book producers, marketers and other stakeholders. Crucially, we should not forget teachers, literary agents, educational planners and administrators and, of course, readers.

My nearly 60-year involvement in the book "business" has convinced me that the bane of the book world is the great disconnect among the players in the industry. The Meeting would be a great blessing to all of us if it got us talking to one another, honestly and frankly, for a start.

I am still sadly aware that the "madit kachoke" (big chat) we had about Kiswahili at Ufungamano House last year has not yet led to the formation of the National Kiswahili Council. But we should not despair (tusikate tamaa), as Said Ahmed Mohamed urges us.

In fact I was already packing my bags for Daystar when I noticed two snags. One, I may not be quite a "Kenyan" writer, and two, August 23rd, the date of the Grand Meeting, coincides with my last session at the Mashariki in Dar es Salaam.

Is this a dilemma tale (kisa cha mtanziko)?

Prof Bukonya is a leading East African scholar of English and literature. abuwase@yahoo.com

WEEK'S PICK



REMEMBERING SINGER MADILU SYSTEM 18 YEARS LATER

For fans of legendary Congolese musician Madilu Bialu System, starting this weekend and into the next one, it will be an opportunity to mark the 18th anniversary since his death. Though no major shows have been lined up, most of the fans appear set to celebrate his music more through online posts.

Speaking to *Saturday Nation* earlier this week, Paris-based singer Nyboma Mwando said he would this weekend dedicate his show in Antwerp, Belgium to perform some of Madilu's songs.

"Though we hadn't planned any major show dedicated to Madilu, we will no doubt perform some of his popular songs as way of remembering him during our Saturday show in Antwerp," he said.

Notably Nyboma backed Madilu on most of the solo recordings he produced in France in the 1990s and early 2000. Among them were *RTC Diva*, *Apula*, *Biya*, *Jalousie*, *Ya Jean* and *Vice Versa*.

The song *Biya* was dedicated to Madilu's widow, Mama Biya Matumueene who still lives in Paris with their children. His Kenya fans will recall how he was a regular visitor at the Kenyan coast where he even had a private wedding ceremony to a Swiss woman (Paulette Juonodi) in Mombasa in August 1995. Another of his popular songs *Djaffar* was dedicated to a prominent Mombasa-based businessman and fan of his.

As Nyboma pointed out, during this weekend's shows he will be backed by others like guitarists Syran Mbenza, Caen Madoka and Dally Kimoko. Later this month Nyboma and his counterparts are scheduled to perform in London, England.

Madilu was arguably one of the top singers in the legendary TP OK Jazz band under the leadership of Franco Luambo Makiadi. He did the lead vocals in some of the TP OK Jazz songs like *Makambo Ezali Minene*, "Mario" and *Mamou*.

However, one of his best compositions while still with TP OK Jazz was *Pesa Position*.

Madilu was also a fashion icon, earning him the nickname of Le Grand Ninja by his fans.

Several Kenyan FM Radio and TV stations will in the coming days dedicate shows to Madilu. Veteran radio and TV host Fred Obachi Machoka is expected to dedicate his weekend Roga Roga shows on Citizen Radio and TV. Others include Africa Express (TV47), DJ Ken Ontuga (Le Grand Molakisi) of Inka FM, Francis Luchiyva (Milele FM) and Haggai Isanya (Mulembe FM).

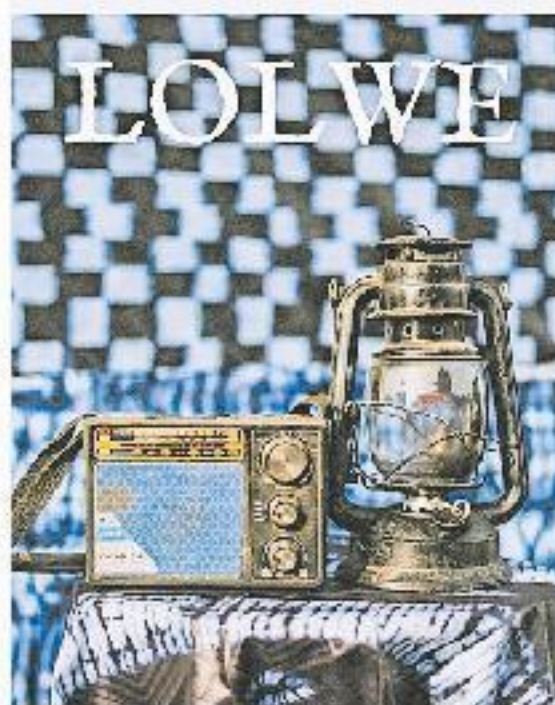
Elsewhere, Congolese songbird Faya Tess who recently returned from a private wedding performance in Ottawa, Canada is set to embark on a performance tour of USA. She is scheduled to perform this Saturday in Charlotte, North Carolina, then on August 16, in Boston Manchester.

Later on August 23, she is due to perform in St. Louis, Missouri with a last show on August 30 in Dallas, Texas.

Compiled by Amos Ngaira
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ARTS AND CULTURE DIARY | BY WANGAI MUREITHI

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Pan-African literary mag wants 'different' content

Lolwe, a pan-African literary magazine, is seeking submissions of works of drama, orature, translation, hybrid-genre, and visual art from Black creatives around the world. The publication "is looking for work that is bold, different, and blurs or pushes boundaries: play with form and language, ignore the limitations and classifications, send in your fears and joys, your doubts and faiths, your curiosities and silences", it says on its website. For more info, go to lolwe.org/submit.

Writing grants for Africans open for entry

The Morland Writing Scholarships for African writers is open for entry. The grants are aimed at helping writers produce the first draft of a completed book. They are open to anyone writing in English and who was born in Africa, or both of whose parents were born on the continent. "It can be difficult for writers, before they become established, to write while simultaneously earning a living," organisers say. The deadline is September 22. For more info, go to milesmorlandfoundation.com.

Continental book fair takes place in Nairobi

The third African Book Fair is ongoing at Maktaba Kuu Building, the headquarters of the Kenya National Library Service, in Nairobi. This year's theme is "African Stories in a Connected World". Organiser Soma Nami Books, a pan-African bookstore, says: "This theme invites us to explore how African narratives, rooted in diverse languages, traditions, and lived experiences, transcend borders to shape global conversations". The event will end tomorrow. For more info, go to somanami.co.ke.

Seeds of Gold

Mango glut sparks business idea

A farmer's innovative solution to a pandemic-induced crisis P.22



Faith Mumo at her Iviani Farm in Makeni County. BONIFACE MWANGI | NATION

BY MARGARET MAINA

The sun dipped low over the orchards of Makeni County, casting long shadows across golden rows of ripening mango trees. Yet beneath the warm glow, farmers were anxious.

With the pandemic choking off access to markets, mangoes once destined for export lay rotting in the fields. With no organised market, brokers offered as little as Sh3 per kilo, far below production costs, leaving growers little reason to harvest.

Among them stood Faith Mumo, staring across more than 20 acres of ripening fruit in her father-in-law's orchard. Like many others, she could only watch in frustration as months of labour slipped away, lost to a broken supply chain and a lack of alternatives.

But out of that moment of despair, she saw an opportunity; instead of letting surplus fruit rot, she could process mangoes on-site into dried, shelf-stable snacks, adding value and building resilience for farmers.

That idea became the seed for Iviani Farm, which has grown from a conventional orchard into a thriving agribusiness with village-level drying hubs that convert excess mangoes into nutritious crisps, offering farmers better prices and reducing post-harvest losses.

"I knew abandoning the orchard was not an option. Instead, I launched benchmarking trips across Kenya, visiting solar dryer pilots, agro-processing cooperatives, and research stations to understand what was working on the ground," she recalls.

Back home, the Iviani team conducted pre-feasibility studies and ran cost-benefit analyses to assess the most viable preservation technology. They compared solar, diesel, and biomass drying systems. This resulted in a biomass-powered village hub that offered the best balance of quality, scalability, and return on investment.

"We began researching ways to preserve our fruits, not just to extend shelf life, but to build a business that could survive even during crises. With strong data in hand, we secured supplier financing and fast-tracked installation of our first Village Industrial Power (VIP) dryer," she says.

To launch the pilot in 2020, Faith and her co-founder raised approximately Sh10 million, combining personal savings, a Sh4 million supplier credit for the VIP dryer, and a grant from a local agribusiness accelerator.

The funds went into installing the dryer, building a basic processing shelter, buying packaging, and purchasing mangoes directly from farmers.

What began as a crisis response evolved into a scalable model. Local youth were trained to operate the dryers, with remote technical support easing early mechanical glitches. Each successful batch built trust among farmers and buyers, proving the model's viability.

Capital remained a challenge in the early stages. Traditional investors balked at the risk of perishables in remote areas, and banks demanded collateral that the startup lacked.

"We leaned on personal savings and deferred payments to the equipment supplier. These flexible arrangements, coupled with early success drying 10 tonnes of mangoes, eventually drew interest from investors," she explains.

The switch to dried crisps proved transformative. With year-round processing and a 24-month shelf life, the farm provides steady payments to growers while steadily expanding its market reach.

As demand grew, they reinvested profits into improved drying technology. Initial market research had shown that solar drying was too slow and inconsistent, often leading to nutrient loss or spoilage.

"We adopted a VIP biomass dryer, which uses mango prunings, seed husks, and other farm waste to generate off-grid, controlled heat. The system enables a six-hour drying cycle and can handle up to two tonnes of fruit per day," she says.

More than just efficient, the technology forms part of a circular, zero-emission model that eliminates fuel costs while allowing mangoes to be processed right at the source. This drastically cuts transport needs, prevents spoilage, and guarantees farmers a reliable offtake.

"The old system relied on erratic solar drying or costly diesel generators, which limited our capacity and consistency," she notes. Continued on page 23

KMC eyes export market for meat in the Gulf countries

Commission set to start exporting meat and meat products before the end of the year

BY SAMMY WAWERU

The Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) is set to begin exporting meat and meat products to Gulf countries.

As part of its export expansion strategy, the state-owned meat processor is targeting Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Malaysia, an Asian country, is also among the new markets that KMC is targeting.

According to the institution's Managing Commissioner, Maj Gen Jattani Gula, tapping into these markets will enable the KMC to increase its contribution to Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP).

"Before the end of the year, KMC will start exporting meat and meat products to the Gulf countries. Plans are already underway," he said in an exclusive interview.

Currently, Kenya's main export destinations for meat and livestock are in the Middle East, particularly the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. Private slaughterhouses operating under the oversight of the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) must meet local and international standards to be approved and licensed.

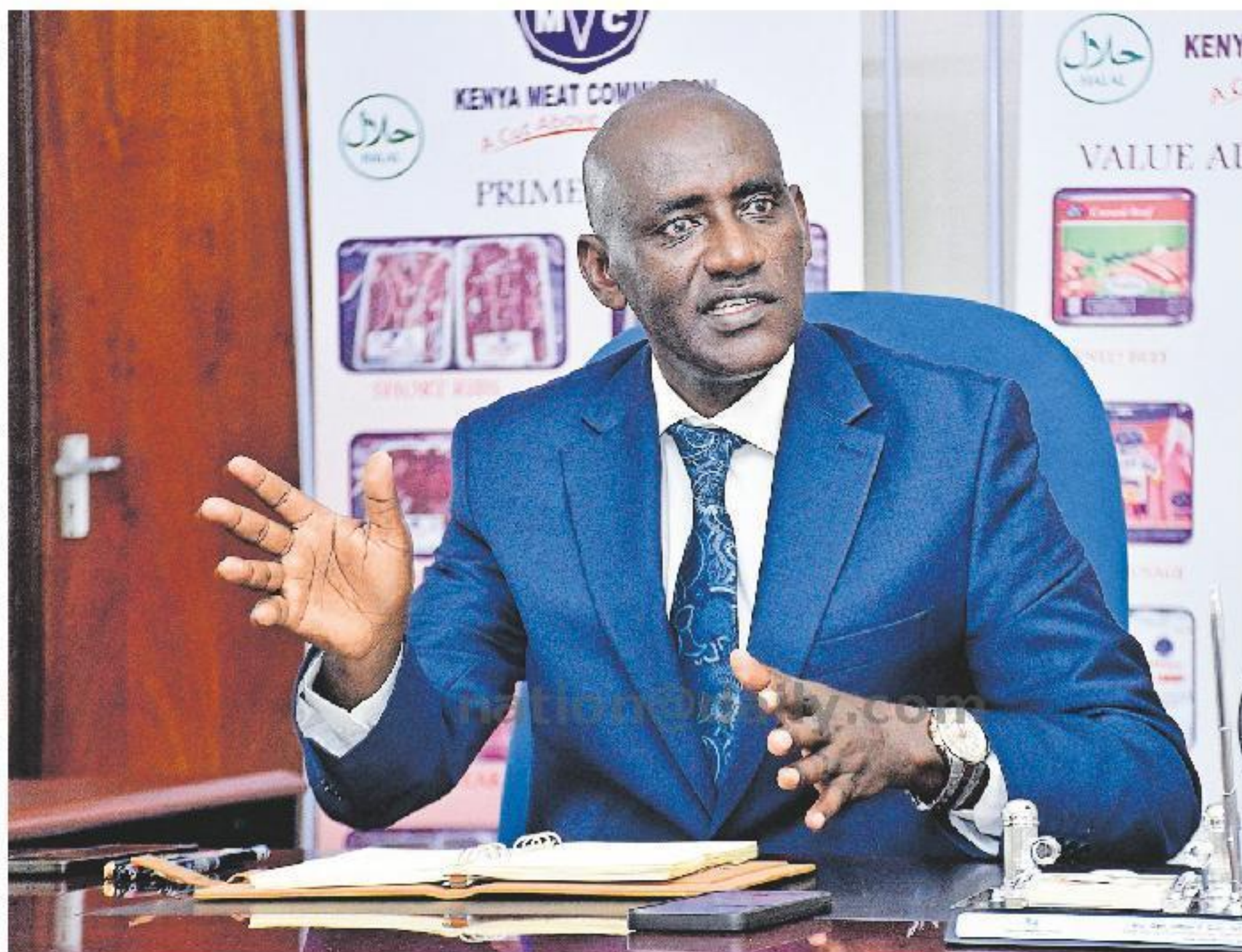
While the UAE has traditionally been a dominant market, Kenya is actively seeking to diversify its export destinations.

KMC is also targeting African nations to boost trade, including East African neighbours such as Tanzania and Uganda, as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Notably, KMC already exports meat to the DRC and Seychelles.

Mr Gula revealed that, with the commission's new expansion strategy, the Athi River-based facility in Machakos County is pro-

Everything we are currently doing is Halal-compliant. With certification from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, exports can be sent to all Islamic countries

Maj Gen Jattani Gula, KMC Managing Commissioner



jected to export approximately 40 tonnes of meat and meat products to the new Gulf markets each year.

He added that some countries have already expressed interest in trading with KMC, as the facility now complies with the standards and regulations of Arab countries, which require exporters to operate Halal-certified slaughterhouses.

"Everything we are currently doing is Halal-compliant. With certification from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, exports can be sent to all Islamic countries," the Major General explained.

KMC operates a modernised facility featuring enhanced refrigeration, chilling and cold rooms, in line with the Food and Feed Safety Control Coordination Bill 2023, which is in its final stages of approval.

To meet the regulations of Arab countries, KMC employs Halal-certified personnel alongside qualified meat inspectors and veterinary officers.

The export market is expected to be operational by December 2025 and is projected to increase the institution's annual turnover to between Sh4 billion and Sh6 billion.

"Currently, we are generating between Sh1.9 billion and Sh2.8 billion, depending on the season," Gula disclosed.

Since 2021, when KMC's operations were transferred to the Min-

istry of Defence by former President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have been praised for revitalising the previously struggling facility.

The military has significantly improved the commission's performance by addressing issues of poor management and mismanagement of resources, which previously hindered growth.

During the interview, Mr Gula revealed that, prior to the military takeover, KMC had generated a mere Sh256 million in annual turnover, largely due to unpaid farmers and an over-reliance on government funding.

"If you don't pay farmers, they won't supply you with animals," he remarked.

Today, the facility slaughters an average of 300 animals daily, a significant improvement on the previous figure of 50 per day.

Mr Gula expressed optimism that, at full capacity, the facility could process up to 1,000 head of cattle, as well as 1,500 sheep and goats, per day. This would significantly boost income, especially given the new export markets.

When the Defence Ministry took over, KMC owed farmers almost Sh900 million. However, the military leadership has since streamlined operations, restoring confidence among farmers and ensuring a steady supply of animals.

In 2022, during one of the worst droughts in 40 years, KMC played a pivotal role in purchasing live-

stock from farmers in the Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) regions, which were hit particularly hard.

The off-take programme is an initiative of the State Department for Livestock Development aimed at supporting farmers during times of crisis.

Pastoralists, who predominantly occupy ASAL areas, contribute significantly to the meat industry, yet many have not recovered from the enormous losses they suffered during the drought, according to Mr Gula.

KMC has primarily sold its meat and meat products through franchises and distributors. The institution is also establishing one-stop shops to boost sales further.

Its factory produces prime cuts and value-added products such as sausages, smokies and mutura, an African sausage. Farmers supplying animals to KMC are paid based on the weight of the carcass, which is graded.

The Kenya Meat Commission was among the exhibitors at this year's Kenya Meat Expo and Conference.

Themed 'Driving Sustainable Growth Across the Meat Value Chain', the fourth edition of the event brought together key players from the meat and livestock sectors in both the public and private sectors. Farmers also had the opportunity to network, explore new markets and engage with industry experts.

Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) Managing Commissioner Major General Jattani Gula during an interview at the KMC headquarters in Athi River, Machakos County on July 3, 2025. FRANCIS NDERITU/NATION

FARM TO FORK



Agriculture and Livestock Development PS Dr Paul Kiprono Ronoh.

State moves to boost agricultural exports by reducing costs

While the country is stepping up its efforts to attract investors to the agricultural sector, access to regional and international markets remains a significant challenge for farmers and agribusiness investors alike.

This is primarily due to persistent tariff and non-tariff barriers, poor transport infrastructure and insecurity within certain regional trade corridors.

To address these issues, the government is focusing on reducing the production and transportation costs of locally grown agricultural produce. This approach is expected to give exporters better access to regional and international markets.

During a briefing on the upcoming second edition of the Africa International Agricultural Expo (AIAE), Agriculture Principal Secretary Kiprono Ronoh acknowledged that these trade barriers continue to undermine Kenya's export potential.

"With ongoing interventions such as the removal of certain taxes and improvements to transport infrastructure, we anticipate a positive shift in the performance of Kenyan products in international markets," said Ronoh.

Kenya has entered into several trade agreements to unlock market access. One of these is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which opens up opportunities in a market of over 1.5 billion people and with a combined GDP of approximately \$3 trillion (£2.3 trillion). This encourages large-scale production and regional integration.

Further afield, Kenyan producers stand to benefit from duty-free access to the European Union (EU) market, home to over 300 million consumers, following the agreement that took effect on 2 February this year.

Additionally, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed with the United Arab Emirates has opened up new opportunities in the Gulf region, which is regarded as a promising export destination for Kenyan products.

— Margaret Maina

Seeds of Gold

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

Warehouse receipt system offers hope of better financing and market access

Kenyan farmers are set to benefit from a new system that will address long-standing challenges in the agricultural sector, chief among them being limited access to credit, unstable markets and post-harvest losses.

The recently launched Warehouse Receipt System (WRS), together with a detailed strategic plan and financing manual, offers a promising path towards structured trade and improved livelihoods for producers across the country. The WRS enables farmers to store their harvested crops in certified warehouses and receive a receipt that can be used as collateral for loans or sold when market conditions are favourable. This approach enables farmers to avoid selling their produce at low prices during harvest season, while also providing them with the financial flexibility to invest in their operations.

To support the system's rollout, the government, through the Warehouse Receipt System Council (WRSC), has launched the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and the Warehouse Receipt Financing Manual.

These documents are practical tools designed to promote the growth of warehouse-based trade and improve access to financial services for farmers. According to Regina Ombam, Principal Secretary in the State Department of Trade, the introduction of these documents marks a deliberate move towards modernising agriculture. She noted that this is not just a ceremonial launch, but also a declaration of intent to empower farmers by providing them with better market access, stronger value chains and greater financial opportunities.

The WRSC has already made notable progress in laying the foundation. Twenty-five warehouses have been certified, fifteen financial institutions have joined, and forty warehouse receipts have been registered in the central system.

While these numbers are promising, uptake among farmers remains low. This is a challenge that the council acknowledges and is working to address through continued awareness campaigns and legal reforms.

Acting WRSC CEO Lucy Komen described the strategic plan as a roadmap for transformation, outlining the expansion of warehouse infrastructure, capacity building among stakeholders, improved operational standards and strengthened oversight. She emphasised that the plan aligns Kenya's agricultural trade



Principal Secretary for Trade in the Ministry of Investments, Trade and

with regional ambitions and global best practices.

Launched alongside the strategic plan, the Warehouse Receipt Financing Manual is designed to help farmers, financial institutions, aggregators and traders understand and navigate the warehouse receipt financing process.

It offers standardised procedures to reduce confusion, improve transparency, and build trust between those in the agriculture and finance sectors.

Felicity Biriri, Chairperson of the WRSC, said that the manual plays a critical role in linking agriculture with finance.

By creating a clear framework for using receipts as security for credit, it gives farmers the opportunity to borrow money, invest in improved post-harvest handling and market their produce more effectively.

"Both the strategic plan and the manual were developed through extensive consultations to ensure they serve all players in the value chain, from smallholder farmers to large-scale traders and financial institutions," she said. Christine Mwai-Marandu, Chairperson of the WRSC Committee, echoed this sentiment, describing the launch as a step towards stronger food systems, improved food safety and more reliable markets. She added that, by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of all those involved, the manual enhances trust and supports the development of new financial products tailored to agriculture.

As implementation begins, the WRSC and government stakeholders have emphasised that this initiative must deliver tangible results, rather than just producing well-written documents. The goal is to reduce post-harvest losses, boost food security and enhance rural incomes.

Principal Secretary Ombam urged everyone involved in the agricultural sector to seize this opportunity and create a new era.

— Margaret Maina



Peter Kioko and Eunice Matheri with their Solo F1 pawpaw in their farm situated in Ngwata, Kambu area of Makueni County in this photo taken on July 23, 2025. RICHARD MAOSI | NATION

Dust to delight

Couple finds success in farming on dry land

How Kioko's pawpaw farm defied Makueni's harsh climate to become a smart agricultural hub

BY RICHARD MAOSI

The scorching sun along the dusty and bumpy road of Ngwata, in the heart of Kambu area welcomes us to Makueni County.

It is here that we find Peter Ndambuki Kioko in the company of his wife Eunice Matheri, busy tending to a section of their farm bearing a lush of green pawpaws.

Sitting on one and-a-half acres of land, the farm hosts a pure stand of 400 pawpaw plants at different stages of development.

Kioko tells Seeds of Gold that Kambu area is generally dry, rocky and sandy landscape within an Arid and Semi-arid lower Eastern.

Despite the harsh terrain and extreme heat, it is endowed with rich volcanic soils that can support diverse crops.

"Understanding the challenges of water shortage in this area, I began by seeking ways on how to sink a borehole within the farm in order to provide plenty of water for my farming venture," he says.

Since this was his first time farming, Kioko decided to cultivate pawpaws, a crop that is not commonly grown in the area as it is water intensive thus cannot be cultivated in drier areas.

He says planting on a rocky landscape was an uphill task because he was quite sure that his plants would not be in a good position to absorb all the required nutrients from the soil.

He also lamented the presence of large rocks that can hinder root growth and make it hard for his plants to thrive.

"Additionally, rocky soils often drain quickly, requiring careful attention to watering and soil management," he notes.

He did some research and realized that pawpaws thrive in well drained soils. Soil pH should be moderately acid to neutral, in the range of 5.5 to 7.0 in a rich, deep, loamy soil with high organic matter.

This prompted him to dig three feet by three feet holes, which he filled with soils sourced from Chyulu Hills.

He was assured, the nutrient rich volcanic soil would support diverse range of vegetation just like the lush green plains of Chyulu Hills.

Unlike most farmers in Makueni who predominantly cultivate mangoes and pixies, Kioko grows the Solo F1 variety of pawpaws.

The variety is characterised by smooth skin, yellow and are fleshy and sweeter than the mountain pawpaws.

The solo F1 variety is also attractive to consumers.

"The breed that is dwarf in nature, matures early and starts bearing fruits only after five months."

According to Kioko, land preparation is the crucial stage, therefore he started by digging holes later filled with the soil and planting.

To take care of the pawpaws, the farm is irrigated between two to three days with regular spraying to get rid of fruit flies that usually attack pawpaws at tender stage.

Also, pruning helps the pawpaw to maintain an open structure which establishes an even sunlight penetration and air circulation throughout the canopy essential for optimal growth and crop development.

Kioko says a single tree bears between 100-120 fruits each weighing between 500 to 700 grams, ideal for individual consumption.

A venture he began as a trial has grown into a fully-fledged smart agriculture hub.

Most of his buyers are from Mombasa, Nairobi, Machakos, Kilifi Malindi and Lamu with a kilo going at SH35 but the prices keep on changing depending on the seasons between SH40 to SH45.

To bolster his knowledge and skills, he usually attends farmers field days, agricultural ASK shows and also interacts with like-minded farmers.

Mrs Eunice Matheri says five years from now she is seeking to establish a model farm to inspire farmers from the neighbourhood.

This will help in revolutionizing sustainable farming in ASALS using innovative ways that promote smart agriculture by either planting drought tolerant crops that consume little water.

However, the major challenge is that demand for pawpaws has been steadily increasing and therefore cannot meet the market demand, driven by factors such as diversification of diets.

"The surge of interest has led to the growing number of farmers," she adds.

Mr Simon Wagura, an agronomist and an agribusiness consultant at the Country Farm says Solo F1 is an improvement of conventional pawpaws.

The breed has superior traits to deal with harsh climatic conditions and is resistant to pests and diseases.

"The shorter period of maturity offers a good return on investment."

Also the dwarf nature of Solo F1 makes it easy for harvesting therefore reduces cases of post-harvest losses.

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Richard Oduor Ating'a on a journey to revolutionise cassava production in Siaya County by adding value to the crop

BY JUDITH CHERONO OMONDI

It is a gloomy morning following a heavy downpour as the Seeds of Gold team approaches Udindi village, Mur-Malanga Sub-Location, South-East Alego ward in Siaya County. We find Richard Oduor Ating'a tending to his cassava seedlings at his four-acre farm. Apart from planting the seedlings, he also grows cassava tubers on six acres.

The middle-aged man says he started farming in the early 1990s after an inspiration from his late father. For the longest time, he couldn't get it right and failed several times before getting his footing.

"My father was a farmer and he took us to school from proceeds of farming, this is why I love getting my hands dirty on this farm because I am so passionate about farming," Ating'a says, adding that in 2012 he ventured into cassava farming, planting new varieties which are low on cyanide. For seedlings, he grows mwavuli and for the tubers, he plants Selina (MM96) varieties.

"Being a certified cassava farmer by Kenya Agricultural Research and Livestock Organization (KALRO), I decided to specialise in these three varieties because they are tolerant to Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD), as well as Cassava Brown Streak Disease

My father was a farmer and he took us to school from proceeds of farming, this is why I love getting my hands dirty on this farm

Richard Oduor Ating'a, farmer



(CBSD). They are also high yielding, high dry matter content which is suitable for processing into flour and extraction of starch for industrial purposes, early maturing and at the same time they are drought resistant. I obtained the seedlings from KALRO."

Ating'a stated that these varieties are favorable in Western and Nyanza parts of the country and that it requires low maintenance thus making it a preferred choice by most farmers from the two regions. "Cassava requires slightly acidic to neutral and low fertile soil with a pH between 5.5 to 7.0. It does very well in loam, sandy soil."

Cassava can also be used to add value, Ating'a states that after harvesting the tubers, they use the stems as firewood and that it doesn't produce smoke, therefore, making it a good alternative to cutting down trees for firewood. Also, the bark from the tubers is used for making chicken feeds.

"I have been making cassava crisps and selling them locally. I am in the process of getting certification from Kenya Bureau of Standard (KEBS) so that I can go big on it."

Ating'a has employed four semi-permanent laborers to help in the farm and contracts at least ten temporary casuals when need arises.

"On this seedling farm, I had ten casuals whom I have been paying Sh400 each per day for weeding the seedlings, work they did for twelve days and I have had them twice in three months," says Ating'a, adding that he has provided employment opportunities for others in the village saying that it is the most satisfying experience.

Just like any start-up business, farming also requires capital. Ating'a mobilised at least Sh1 million from his family members. This amount was enough to lease the extra five acres of land to add to his own because he desired to be one of the leading cassava farmers in his region. "My fami-



Richard Oduor Ating'a on his farm in Mur Malanga, Siaya County on July 9, 2025. Ating'a, combines modern tech with large-scale farming to boost cassava yields. ALEX ODHIAMBO | NATION

Farmer reaps big from cassava crop

ly members who understood my vision were really supportive and that is what motivated me to become an outstanding farmer because I did not want to let them down after making huge sacrifices for me," he says.

Over time, he has been borrowing loans from financial institutions such as saccos to help in boosting his farming activities. Ating'a added that they also have a marketing cassava co-operative which has a membership of over 60 members.

"Our co-operative is purely meant for sourcing markets for our produce," he states, adding that they have officials who act as

a link between the members and the county government of Siaya. "The county government has been sending their agricultural extension officers to work with us, right from planting season to harvesting," Ating'a says.

Speaking to Seeds of Gold, Siaya Agriculture and Livestock County Executive Committee Member Sylvester K'okoth stated that farming is one of the key focus areas by the current administration.

"We started by purchasing some tractors to allow farmers to get ploughing services at subsidised rates. Previously, our farmers were being exploited by private

individuals who own tractors. They were paying up-to Sh4000 per acre, but when we came in, we set the price almost by half, that made others players to reduce their prices."

K'Okoth added that during ploughing season, the county government ensures that there is a supervisor to ensure that ploughing is done as desired, a ritual that he says has encouraged more farmers across the county.

K'Okoth added that cassava farming, which used to be seen as a practice for the poor, has been changed and is now seen as an avenue to making a meaningful

livelihoods.

Ating'a says that cassava farming, particularly on the new varieties which have low cyanide, has boosted the confidence of farmers like him.

"I appreciate this farming, just like my father, I have managed to educate my children to college level, I am able to provide all my family needs using the proceeds I make from selling cassava seedlings and tubers," Ating'a said.

He also applauds his cooperative leadership for insisting that no farmers are allowed to sell seedlings or produce individually. That mandate has solely been left to the cooperative, which sells on their behalf. On a good month, Ating'a makes an average of Sh200,000 from selling seedlings and tubers and from his small-scale horticulture too, a sack of 1000 seedlings goes for Sh2500. The cooperative retains the Sh500 and hands the Sh2000 to the farmer.

Siaya Cassava Cooperative Society is looking forward to establishing its own Sacco to help the farmers have access to funds, according to Vice Chairman John Odera.

"Plans are underway, probably in five years time, we should be having a fully fledged Sacco. This will attract investors both locally and internationally who will set up their processing plants because of the availability of cassava tubers," says Odera.

Kenya produces approximately one million metric tonnes of cassava annually. This is below the demand for this produce which is estimated to be three million metric tonnes annually. Ating'a states that the national government in collaboration with county governments should empower more farmers to take up cassava farming.

"Cassava is a holistic plant, apart from its nutritional value of carbohydrates, it is also packed with essential vitamins and proteins making it a good choice for consumption," says Ating'a.

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Forty per cent of East Africa's soil degraded

Over 40 percent of soils in East Africa are degraded, which threatens the region's agricultural foundation and resilience. This crisis is driven by human activities and natural processes such as overgrazing, deforestation and harsh climatic conditions. In an interview, Dr Harun Warui, the Lead Programme Coordinator of Agroecology and Food Rights at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Nairobi, said that one of the most visible signs of degradation is the erosion of top fertile soils.

He adds that, in Kenya, for instance, croplands lose approximately 26 tons of soil per hectare annually to water-induced

erosion, with some areas experiencing losses exceeding 90 tons.

"In the arid and semi-arid landscapes of northern Kenya and Tanzania, salinisation is another concern."

This is due to poor irrigation and the use of low-quality water, which contributes to the problem.

He adds that nutrient depletion is another challenge, with 85 per cent of soils in East Africa being nutrient deficient due to continuous farming without replenishing the soil.

Soil contamination is also caused by overreliance on hazardous chemicals. Some pesticides used in Kenya are considered highly hazardous, with long-term consequences for soil productivity and environmental viability.

A report published in The Soil Atlas 2025 states that soil degradation has a

serious impact on communities that rely on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood.

In Kenya alone, a degraded landscape is projected to reduce agricultural productivity by around 30 per cent.

Despite these challenges, measures have been put forth in collaboration with government agencies and international organisations to promote sustainable practices and restore degraded landscapes.

These include promoting agro-ecological practices to minimise soil disturbance, incorporating organic agriculture, and diversifying crops. For instance, the agroforestry initiative taken by the Kenya Agricultural Carbon Project (KACP) in Kenya's highlands has reduced soil erosion and improved maize yields, unlike conventional farming methods.

— Richard Maosi



Dr Harun Warui.

Seeds of Gold

IN BRIEF

STAKEHOLDERS PUSH FOR POLICY ON BIOSAFETY

BY RICHARD MAOSI

In a bid to promote bio pesticides for the control and management of desert locusts and other pests, stakeholders are pushing for a biosafety policy. The initiative terms bio pesticides as safe and environmentally friendly alternatives to synthetic chemicals.

Fredrick Owino, the officer in charge of monetary evaluation and communication at the Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid), said that the project was inspired by the locust invasion that hit Kenya in 2019–2020. The worst-affected counties were mainly in northern Kenya, including Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu and Laikipia. As a result, the government, in collaboration with other development partners, provided assistance in the form of spraying. "However, we thought of an alternative way to promote the adoption of bio pesticides for managing desert locust invasions, which can also be used for managing other pests, especially in agri-food systems," he said during a national workshop in Nairobi on August 5 and 6, 2025. The programme largely targets young men and women, and so far, 34 groups have received capacity-building support, 82 per cent of whom are women.

He emphasised that this is a multi-stakeholder project, working closely with the government to determine testing procedures and associated policies. Additionally, they are working closely with private entities, including feed millers, to promote the fortification of animal feeds.

"Another pathway is to help affected communities build their livelihoods through a scalable insect value chain," he added. He said Northern Kenya is also a vibrant region for rearing crickets, which are essential for fortifying animal feeds.

The initiative is also looking at standardising some of the products that come out of value chain enterprises. Milestones achieved so far in Northern Kenya include establishing four aggregation centres, which act as training.



Faith Mumo, co-founder of Iviani Farm, with Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo at one of their mango sorting areas within the farm when he paid them a courtesy visit. Right: Faith Mumo inspects a village industrial power dryer at her Iviani Farm. BONIFACE MWANGI/NATION



Mango glut sparks business idea

nation@daily.com

A farmer's innovative solution to Covid Pandemic-induced crisis leads to a thriving mangoes and crisps firm

Continued from page 19

Once farmers deliver ripe mangoes, they are sorted, peeled, sliced, and dried using the biomass-powered VIP machine.

The crisps are tested for moisture, then packaged in airtight, UV-blocking pouches with desiccants. Moisture levels are kept below 24 per cent to ensure safety without refrigeration.

Each batch is logged, monitored for consistency, and sealed in branded packaging before being prepared for market.

Currently, they export to markets including USA, Italy, UAE, and Canada. Locally, the products are sold through supermarkets and cafés.

Locally, mango crisps retail at Sh250 for 100g and Sh400 for 200g, while banana and pineapple variants are slightly higher due to input costs.

Export prices range from \$15 per kilo for bulk orders to \$4 to \$5 per 50g pouch in high-end stores. Despite the elevated pricing,

farmers consistently earn over Sh20 per kilo of fresh fruit.

After launching with mango crisps, the team began experimenting with other produce, introducing banana chips and pineapple crisps to make use of seasonal fruit surpluses and diversify farmer incomes.

To address vegetable waste, they also trialled leafy green crisps made from sukuma wiki, mchicha, and spinach, and then pumpkin flour for chapati and porridge mixes. All products use the same on-farm dehydration model.

A key innovation in their scaling has been the introduction of the "Factory on Wheels", a mobile, all-electric unit built around the VIP system.

The truck-mounted dryer travels to farms, giving smallholders instant access to processing, better prices, and training in climate-smart practices.

"We are piloting IoT sensors for real-time quality monitoring, ex-

perimenting with mango powder for product diversification, and testing cassava-based biodegradable packaging to cut plastic

We began researching ways to preserve our fruits, not just to extend shelf life, but to build a business that could survive even during crises

Faith Mumo, Iviani farm



use," she says.

Building on its success with fruit processing, Iviani Farm expanded into aquaculture and animal feed manufacturing, creating a circular system that maximises resource use while improving food security.

They train aspiring fish farmers and run a hatchery that supplies high-quality tilapia and catfish fingerlings.

"We established fish ponds, and instead of discarding fish offcuts, we process them into high-protein animal feed. The nutrient-rich effluent from the ponds is then piped to irrigate our mango orchard, enriching the soil and boosting yields, without the need for synthetic fertilisers," she explains.

Iviani Farm's growth has created employment for about 100 people across its two village-based drying hubs in Makueni, with women handling grading and slicing, and young men operating machinery and

managing logistics.

Each hub includes teams for harvest coordination, quality assurance, and packaging, supported by a Nairobi-based core team overseeing technical, financial, and marketing functions.

To date, over 5,000 smallholder farmers have been trained in post-harvest handling, sustainable agriculture, and agribusiness, offering both knowledge and market access.

She foresees a network of 200 drying hubs and 50 mobile units operating in all major fruit-growing regions. The plan is to franchise the model, partner with co-operatives and county governments, and reinvest profits to reach more communities.

"We want to prove that arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) aren't barren. With the right technology and value addition, they can become thriving agribusiness hubs," she says.

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Farmers adopt underground pits to preserve potato seeds

BY CAROLINE WAMBUI

Irish potatoes in Kenya play a very big role in contributing to food security, but low quality seed potato is believed to be a factor contributing to low quality yields as most farmers particularly those with limited access to certified potato seeds rely on farm saved seeds that give poor quality yields after several cycles of harvesting.

In curbing this, farmers in Gakando village, Mboroga sub-location, Ntugi location, Buuri East Sub County, Meru County embraced an

old school method of potato seed preservation that entails storing potato tubers in underground pits in order to preserve the seeds. The technology thus plays a vital role in guaranteeing a reliable supply of quality seed potatoes especially for resource constrained farmers.

Though there are no specific measurements for a pit as the size of a pit is dependent on the capacity of potato seeds one intends to prepare.

Paul Mugira a professional and experienced potato farmer says that before one embarks on dig-

ging a pit, one should put into consideration some factors like site selection, a factor that requires one to select a site that is well-drained, one that will not allow water logging. To further enhance the efficacy of the technology, Mugira explains that the site should similarly be free from pests like moles and termites as to warrant that the seeds won't be destroyed.

"Once with a favourable site, a desired pit is dug and a polythene sheet is laid in a manner that no water can come into contact with the seeds, either from the walls, or

due to heavy rains. Ajwain leaves are then spread to completely cover the polythene sheets both at the bottom and the sides before placing the potato seeds into the prepared pit. In tuber placement in the pit, all that one is required to do is to spread the seeds evenly and cover the pit completely. Ajwain leaves are then spread on top to cover the seeds, after which the polythene sheet is spread to seal all the sides of the pit. Lastly, the pit is then covered with a sufficient layer of soil to prevent extreme sunlight," Mugira explains.

International

Starvation Evacuation warnings could be issued to Palestinians in specific areas of Gaza

Israeli cabinet approves the takeover of Gaza City

Hamas calls Netanyahu's moves "a blatant coup" against truce negotiations

JERUSALEM, FRIDAY

Israel's security cabinet has approved a plan to take control of Gaza City, a move expanding military operations in the shattered Palestinian territory despite criticism at home and abroad over the almost two-year-old war.

Far-right allies in PM Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition have been pushing for a complete takeover of Gaza as part of his vow to eradicate Hamas, though the military says this could endanger the lives of the remaining hostages held by the group.

Israel, at war in Gaza since Hamas' attack on southern Israel in October 2023, is planning the expanded campaign after failed attempts to mediate a ceasefire and as it faces a rising international outcry over a deepening humanitarian catastrophe.

Netanyahu's office said the military "will prepare to take control of Gaza City while providing aid to the civilian population outside the combat zones".

While Netanyahu said on Thursday that Israel intends to take military control of the entire Gaza Strip, the plan approved on Friday focuses on sprawling Gaza City, the territory's largest urban centre.

Hamas called Netanyahu's moves "a blatant coup" against the ceasefire negotiations.

Israel's cabinet is expected to endorse the Gaza City plan. Israeli media say 900,000 people now live in Gaza City, which has been the focus of major ground and air attacks.

They include many of those who were forced to leave towns in the northern edge of the enclave under army evacuation orders and ground operations.

Before the war, Hamas' most powerful fighting units were believed to operate in northern Gaza, including Gaza City.

It is not clear if that is still the case because Israel has killed the group's top leaders and many of its commanders.

Asked if Israel, whose forces say they already hold about 75 per cent of the strip, would occupy all of it, Netanyahu said on Thursday: "We intend to."

He added that Israel does not want to keep the territory, but to establish a security perimeter and hand Arab forces to govern it.

He did not elaborate on the governance arrangements or which Arab countries could be involved.

Netanyahu, who has said there will be no end to the war until Hamas is destroyed, has come under pressure from Israelis to do whatever it takes to bring home hostages held by Hamas, though many want the war to end.

"I think it's a death sentence to the hostages that are still being held there. It's the wrong decision," said Danny Bukovsky, a hotelier in Tel Aviv.

There are 50 hostages still held in Gaza, of whom Israeli officials believe 20 are alive. Most of those freed emerged as a result of diplomatic negotiations.

Talks towards a ceasefire that



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the weekly cabinet meeting at the Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv on January 7, 2024. He wants the military to take over the whole of Gaza Strip. Photo | Reuters

could have seen more hostages released collapsed in July.

Amjad Iraqi, an analyst at International Crisis Group, said the Israeli government believes the solution is "to be more aggressive in carving Gaza's geography and demographics" because it has

It doesn't seem there's a clear plan. Unless there's a clear plan, we should end the war, bring the hostages home and stop soldiers from dying

Talya Saltzman, Tel Aviv hotelier



faced no real consequences despite an international outcry.

"It's no wonder Israel is ready to do the same to the strip's de facto capital, even amid a spiral into famine," Iraqi said.

A monitor has says a famine scenario is unfolding in Gaza, where nearly all the territory's more than two million people have been displaced, often repeatedly.

Among the scenarios considered ahead of the security meeting was a phased takeover of areas in Gaza not yet under military control, a government source said.

Evacuation warnings could be issued to Palestinians in specific areas of Gaza, potentially giving them weeks before the military moves in.

Netanyahu's office said the vast majority of the security cabinet "believe that the alternative plan

presented in the cabinet would not achieve the defeat of Hamas nor the return of the hostages".

"It just doesn't seem like there's a clear plan. Unless there's a clear plan, we should end the war, bring the hostages home and stop soldiers from dying," said Tel Aviv university student Talya Saltzman.

A full occupation of Gaza would reverse a 2005 decision in which Israel withdrew thousands of Jewish settlers and its forces, while retaining control over its borders, airspace and utilities.

It is unclear if Netanyahu is foreseeing a prolonged takeover or a short-term operation.

Hamas called the approval of plans to occupy Gaza City a war crime.

Israel has rejected accusations of crimes and genocide as it pursues the war. (Reuters)

New government named in DRC

KINSHASA • The DR Congo on Friday carried out a government reshuffle as the country faces security crises in the east. Presidential spokesperson Tina Salama said the new cabinet was formed after nationwide consultations to ensure efficiency, credibility as well as political, geographical and socio-cultural balance. Though initially announced as streamlined, the new government comprises 54 members – one fewer than the cabinet formed in May 2024 – including six vice Prime Ministers, 12 state ministers, 24 ministers, five ministerial delegates and six vice ministers. Judith Suminwa Tuluka remains PM. Opposition figure Adolphe Muzito, a former premier, has joined the government as vice PM in charge of the Budget. (Xinhua)

Rwanda to name 40 baby gorillas

KIGALI • Rwanda's gorilla-naming ceremony, locally known as *Kwita Izina*, will take place on September 5, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) has announced. The 20th edition of *Kwita Izina* will be in the foothills of Volcanoes National Park, northern Rwanda. The 40 baby gorillas to be named include 18 born in 2024. "Thanks to the unwavering dedication and support of the government of Rwanda, partners and communities, the mountain gorilla population in the Virunga Massif has risen from 880 in 2012 to at least 1,063. This success highlights the impact of community-based conservation and strategic partnerships," RDB Chief Tourism Officer Irene Murerwa told journalists on Wednesday. (Xinhua)



Putin and Trump meeting to be held as early as next week

MOSCOW, FRIDAY

Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) said on Thursday he hopes for a meeting with his US counterpart Donald Trump as early as next week, with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) being a potential venue.

Russian presidential aide Yury Ushakov said Moscow and Washington have agreed to hold the presidential meeting in the coming days, with the US side having initiated the push for the high-level talks.

He echoed US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's view that the two leaders have substantial ground to cover in the talks.

Putin said Russia has friends who are ready to help organise the meeting. One of the friends is UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, he said.

The *New York Times* previously reported that Trump intends to meet Putin in person as early as next week, with plans to fol-

low shortly afterwards with a meeting involving Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Plans for the face-to-face meeting between the two leaders surfaced after Putin's three-hour meeting with Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff on Wednesday. During a call with European leaders on Wednesday, Trump reportedly said the meetings would include only himself, Putin and Zelensky, excluding any Europe-

an heads of state or government. Asked about the prospect of meeting the Ukrainian leader, Putin said the conditions for a possible meeting with Zelensky are still far from being created.

Kirill Dmitriev, head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, said the Putin-Trump meeting would reinvestigate Russia-US engagement, stressing that the dialogue allows Russia to articulate its positions with clarity. (Xinhua)

Business



58%

Maritime Uproar as KPA unveils higher tariffs for services **P.26**

Ratio of households currently living in urban areas

NMG's Kenya Meat Expo 2025 comes to an end at KICC

Camp David representatives prepare roast meat during the final day of the Kenya Meat Expo 2025, organised by Nation Media Group and held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi yesterday.

DENNIS ONSONGO | NATION



EIB injects Sh3.2 billion into affordable homes in high end locations

BY VINCENT OWINO

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has made an equity investment of Sh3.2 billion (€21.5 million) in local developer International Housing Solutions (IHS) Kenya to help it deliver more than 3,000 affordable housing units in prime neighbourhoods of Nairobi and Kiambu.

The European institution says its investment is meant to aid the construction and acquisition of energy-efficient cheaper housing units in the country, specifically targeting areas traditionally out of reach for low-income earners.

Construction is already ongoing in Tilisi estate in Kiambu, and Garden City and Mashiara Park in Nairobi for 664 units, specifically targeting low-income earners whose needs have not been addressed by the market.

"With housing costs rising, we are working with experts, planners and policymakers to improve living conditions, reduce energy costs and support climate-friendly urban growth," said head of the EIB Regional Hub for Eastern Africa Edward Claessen.

"At EIB Global, we combine both financing with non-financial contribution in the form of technical assistance and advisory services to implement projects with local partners like IHS."

Other than the three neighbourhoods, IHS is also planning 10 other projects with a total of 2,600 units across Nairobi and Kiambu, although the exact locations are yet to be disclosed.

"We are on track to deliver about 4,000 quality,

affordable green homes by 2030. Projects we undertake are not just developments; they are a promise to the Kenyan market that affordability and excellence can go hand in hand," said IHS Kenya Managing Director Kioi Wambaa.

"EIB Global's investment with IHS Kenya aligns with our goals to address the critical need for affordable housing in Kenya. Garden City is an address that embodies modern living, and we are proud to make it accessible to more Kenyans."

The funding is expected to help end the proliferation of informal settlements in Kenya's urban areas while at the same time fighting climate change by increasing access to affordable energy-efficient homes for lower-income earners.

Currently, an estimated seven million households, or about 58 per cent of all households in the country, live in urban areas, with most dwelling in informal settlements due to the unaffordability of decent housing.

Other than IHS, the Linzi Finco Trust is another non-State entity involved in the development of affordable housing in Kenya, having recently floated a Sukuk bond in the Nairobi Securities Exchange.

The government is also ramping up efforts to boost access to decent housing with its affordable housing programme, which targets to construct at least 200,000 units yearly from the housing levies contributed by Kenyans.

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Stock Market sees 8,082,798 shares transacted yesterday

Small investors benefit as single shares trade starts

Investors in race to utilise smaller cash balances on their accounts to buy stakes

BY CHARLES MWANIKI

Trading in multiples of a single share at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) started yesterday, with a majority of stocks recording sub-100 unit trades as investors raced to utilise smaller cash balances on their accounts to buy shares.

In yesterday's trading, for instance, Unga Limited traded less than 100 units, moving 33 shares at an average price of Sh20.40 each.

The rules, however, state that a counter must move at least 100 shares for its closing price to be adjusted based on the day's activity, meaning that Unga's closing price remained unchanged.

In total, the market traded 8,082,798 shares yesterday, while Thursday had seen 21,021,800 shares changing hands.

"The immediate benefit of the change is that it has opened the

door for retail investors to access stocks that have a high nominal price, while also allowing investors to offload smaller cash balances in their accounts by buying shares," said Wesley Manambo, a senior research associate at Standard Investment Bank (SIB).

"It will bring in increased trading in terms of participation, although speculation might creep in and bring mispricing among stocks."

Under the previous trading rules, the NSE had a minimum trade limit of 100 shares on its normal trading board, while lots of below 100 were traded on a separate platform known as an odd lots board.

The two have now been collapsed into one board, allowing investors to freely buy and sell smaller share multiples.

With the 100 shares floor previously in place, stocks with a high nominal price were often out

MOVEMENT

33

Number of shares that Unga dealt yesterday

of reach for some retail investors, locking them out of the dividends and capital gains available on such counters.

The odd lots also traded at a discount compared to the normal board shares, due to lower liquidity and demand from investors.

The odd lots were also restricted to limit orders (meaning the seller or buyer had to specify a price) unlike normal lot orders which could be placed at market price, effectively hastening their sale or purchase.

Further, the odd lots could not be entered into the system during the pre-open period, or be considered for execution during

the opening auction, making it harder to shift them compared to normal board shares.

One of the sources of odd lot shares at the NSE is the old share certificates that were in use before introduction of the electronic share registry in 2004. These certificates did not have the 100 shares multiple rule, and therefore brought in shares of single multiples when they were immobilised into electronic depository.

The regular share bonus issuances and splits done by listed firms also generate odd lots, depending on the multiples of division or allocation applied on an issuance. For instance, a person holding 500 shares in a bonus issue of one share for every 10 held would end up receiving an additional 50 shares.

Other odd lots were generated via the oversubscribed initial public offers of the mid to late 2000's which saw pro-rata allocations of shares that were based on a percentage of the units for which one had applied.

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Business News

Maritime Increased fees to have ultimate impact on cost of goods

Uproar as KPA unveils new higher tariffs for services

The charges take effect from next month replacing the 2012 structure

BY ANTHONY KITIMO

The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) has announced new, higher tariffs effective September 15, 2025, signalling pressure on prices of commodities handled through the Mombasa facility.

The new charges announced on Thursday this week will replace the 2012 tariffs for marine

services, ship dues, stevedoring, shore handling, wharfage, storage as well as charges for general services. This follows the authority's consultation with stakeholders in Kenya and other East African countries using Kenyan ports.

The Minister of Roads and Transport, Davis Chirchir approved the new charges, which key stakeholders, including transporters, clearing and forwarding agents, already opposed.

This is a sign that KPA management is likely to face an uphill task in implementing the new tariffs.

"It is notified for general information that the board of direc-



A cargo ship sails to Mombasa port along the Likoni channel crossing on 4th August 2025. KEVIN ODIT

tors, in pursuance of the powers of Section 30 of the Kenya Ports Authority Act, CAP 391, 1978, has prepared and published this tariff as approved by the minister. These charges shall apply equally to all port users, including and not limited to shipping lines/agents, cargo agents, charterers, brokers, freight forwarders, consolidators, shippers, or consignees," read the notice by KPA.

Transporters and clearing and forwarding agents have since protested the increment and introduction of new charges.

Kenya Transporters Association (KTA) chairman Newton Wang'oo said raising trucking fees by more than 400 per cent was unjustifiable and against their recommendation.

"We were shocked to see port pass charges from Sh3,000 to Sh15,000 in the new charges. The increment will not only affect Kenyan trucks but also other East African transporters who have other options for taking their trucks. We have Dar es Salaam right on our doorstep, and it can be another option," said Mr

Wang'oo. Clearing and forwarding agents said introduction of an annual of \$300 operation license fee is another blow after Tanzania barred them from operating in their ports this month.

Former Kenya International Freight and Warehousing (Kifwa) chairman Roy Mwanthi said clearing and forwarding agents are regulated by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and not KPA, hence the latter's decision to introduce the fees is illegal.

"This is the first time KPA is bringing in the charges, which only apply to Kenyan ports, agents pay \$300 to KRA for licensing, which regulates them, hence the new fee is illegal," said Mr Mwanthi.

Mr Leonard Njiru, a Mombasa-based agent, said clearing and forwarding workers have faced difficulties considering the latest operating ban in Tanzania.

"We have lost business in Dar es Salaam and now the Kenyan government has introduced charges which will ultimately affect our operations," said Mr Njiru.

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Last 12 Mths		Security	Prices			Shares
High	Low		Yesterday	Previous		

AGRICULTURAL

14.50	10.00	Eaagads Ord 1.25	14.00	13.45	13,707
440.00	240.00	Kakuzi Plc Ord. 5.00	410.00	439.00	174
350.00	81.00	Kapchoruar Tea Kenya Plc Ord	317.75	316.50	309
430.00	320.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Ord 20.00		310.00	
32.60	13.60	Sasini Ltd Ord 1.00	15.95	16.30	61,839
289.00	120.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 500	244.75	235.00	647

AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES

49.00	18.50	Car & General (K) Ord 5.00	24.60	23.75	173
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BANKING

20.00	10.00	ABSA Bank Ord 0.50	19.85	19.70	728,470
38.00	26.50	BK Group Ord 0.80	35.95	35.45	10,371
83.25	43.05	Diamond Trust Bank Ord 4.00	79.50	77.75	45,942
52.50	33.70	Equity Group Holdings Ord 0.50	52.50	52.00	834,962
9.74	2.80	HF Group Plc Ord 5.00	7.30	7.38	380,949
39.00	15.80	I&M Group Ord 1.00	37.30	36.75	153,333
48.00	15.00	KCB Group Ord 1.00	48.35	48.05	153,659
67.00	28.50	NCBA Group Ord 5.00	66.25	65.00	164,360
180.00	90.00	Stanbic Holdings Ord. 5.00	180.75	180.00	17,435
320.00	134.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ord. 5.00	321.00	319.00	18,750
18.35	10.10	The Co-op Bank of Kenya Ord 1.00	16.95	16.80	288,246

COMMERCIAL & SERVICES

0.45	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.88	0.59	Eversedy EA Ord 1.00	1.06	1.04	245,441
5.40	2.70	Express Kenya Ord 5.00	4.32	4.40	442
4.66	4.66	Homeboyz Entertainment Plc Ord 0.50		4.66	
9.18	3.83	Kenya Airways Ord 1.00	4.90	4.91	73,547
3.46	2.00	Longhorn Publishers Ord 1.00	2.75	2.61	77,502
5.00	1.76	Nairobi Business Ventures Ord 1.00	1.72	1.71	352,229
22.40	10.60	Nation Media Group Plc Ord. 2.50	13.70	13.60	12,065
8.52	1.80	Sameer Africa Plc Ord. 5.00	12.55	11.80	249,629
10.80	4.50	Standard Group Ord 5.00	5.94	5.96	919
18.70	10.85	TPS Eastern Africa Ord 1.00	14.10	14.50	745
0.41	0.16	Uchumi Supermarket Ord 5.00	0.31	0.29	573,729
3.95	1.80	WPP ScanGroup PLC Ord. 1.00	2.73	2.61	4,241

CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED

5.55	5.55	ARM Cement Ord 1.00		5.55	
84.00	21.30	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00		54.00	
47.00	29.00	Crown Paints Kenya Ord 0.50	43.75	43.70	391
3.27	0.72	E. A. Cables Ord 0.50		1.71	
55.75	4.38	E.A. Portland Cement Ord 5.00	48.55	47.65	19,703

ENERGY & PETROLEUM

7.52	1.94	KenGen Ord 2.50	7.44	7.42	304,013
12.40	1.30	KP & LC Co Plc Ord. 250	11.30	11.401	403,572
4.20	4.00	KP & LC Plc 4% Pref. 20.00		4.10	
6.00	6.00	KP & LC Plc 7% Pref. 20.00		6.00	
26.00	14.55	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Ord 5.00	26.95	26.90	3,530
24.75	6.30	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	9.46	9.48	204,231

INSURANCE

8.98	4.01	Britam Holdings Ord 0.10	8.00	7.62	16,719
3.69	1.60	CIC Insurance Group Ord. 1.00	3.42	3.38	370,973
254.75	142.00	Jubilee Holdings Ord 5.00	260.00	264.50	20,076
2.97	1.05	Kenya Re Insurance Ord 2.50	2.25	2.25	611,717
12.20	3.30	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ord 1.00	10.00	10.60	124,843
11.00	4.00	Sanlam Kenya Ord 5.00	8.38	8.12	22,526

INVESTMENT

16.50	7.60	Centum Investment Co Ord 0.50	11.75	11.70	16,673
1.12	0.27	Home Afrika Ltd Ord. 1.00	0.65	0.65	66,383
1,500	1,500	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord. 100.00		1,500.00	
5.60	1.91	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord. 5.00	5.40	4.98	2,600
1.78	0.29	Trans-Century Plc Ord. 0.50		1.12	

INVESTMENT SERVICES

10.00	5.22	Nairobi Securities Exchange. Ord 4.00	10.35		9.90	29,894
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MANUFACTURING & ALLIED

95.00	65.00	B.O.C Kenya Group Co. Ord 5.00	89.75	89.50	500
495.00	325.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Ord 10.00	419.00	414.75	22,397
23.90	11.00	Carbacid Investments Ord 1.00	22.60	22.45	1,782
244.00	100.00	East African Breweries Ord 1.00	208.00	209.50	236,724
2.33	0.86	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ord 0.825	1.27	1.27	10,251
77.00	10.40	Kenya Orchards Ord 5.00	74.00	74.00	105
0.27	0.27	Mumias Sugar Co. Ord 2.00		0.27	
31.00	12.00	Unga Group Co. Ord 5.00		20.40	33
6.80	5.90	Shri Krishana Overseas. Plc 0.20	6.12	6.10	20,975

TELECOMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

27.50	11.50	Safaricom Ltd Ord. 0.05	26.25	26.40	1,246,372
20.00	20.00	Lap trust I-Reit Co. Ord 20.00		20.00	
3330.00	1880.00	Absa New Gold ETF	4090i	3985	
761.00	761.00	Sabrix MSCI World Feeder ETF	798i	792.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX.01st Jan 2008 -100 Up 0.21pts - 16119 NSE 20-Up 20.20pts - 2569.28 01st sep 2015-4101.67 Up 17.75pts 4176.79 NSE 20-SI -30 Aug 2023-1000 Up 3.74pts - 1593.22

COMMERCIAL BANK RATES

		Euro	\$	£	C\$	SF	IR	JY	ZR
ABC	buy	150.18	129.00	173.25	93.75	159.55	1.46	87.48	7.23
	sell	151.02	129.50	174.18	94.11	160.47	1.47	87.87	7.30
Absa	buy	150.17	129.10	173.23	93.84	159.65	1.47	87.55	7.27
	sell	150.66	129.30	173.75	94.12	160.33	1.47	87.80	7.29
Co-op	buy	147.99	128.50	170.27	92.07	157.73	1.43	86.86	6.34
	sell	153.17	129.50	174.62	95.83	162.57	1.60	89.88	8.20
Equity	buy	150.17	128.90	173.04	93.83	159.53	-	87.55	7.29
	sell	150.89	129.50	173.89	94.30	160.33	-	87.98	7.32
NBK	buy	150.53	129.00	173.47	93.95	159.98	1.47	87.72	7.28
	sell	150.74	129.40	173.73	94.13	160.32	1.47	87.86	7.30
KCB	buy	150.29	129.03	173.18	93.93	159.63	1.47	88.00	7.29
	sell	150.77	129.43	173.82	94.25	160.19	1.48	88.00	7.27
NCBA	buy	150.39	128.95	172.19	93.85	160.03	1.46	87.41	7.25
	sell	150.99	129.45	172.95	94.26	160.77	1.47	87.76	7.28
Stanbic	buy	150.49	129.00	172.32	94.00	160.39	1.46	87.55	7.27
	sell	150.98	129.40	172.85	94.29	160.89	1.47	87.82	7.37
Prime	buy	150.25	129.00	173.25	93.80	159.80	1.47	87.25	7.25
	sell	150.75	129.50	173.75	94.30	160.30	1.48	87.85	7.35

CBK RATES

	Exchange Rate	Swiss Franc	160.0386
US Dollar	129.2392	100 Japanese Yen	87.7060
1 Sterling Pound	173.5747	1 Swedish Kroner	13.4610
1 Euro	150.4797	1 Norwegian Kroner	12.7133
1 South African Rand	7.2879	1 Danish Kroner	20.2188
Ksh/USH	27.6077	1 Indian Rupee	1.4736
Ksh/TSH	19.2279	1 Hongkong Dollar	16.4638
Ksh/RWF	11.1533	1 Singapore Dollar	100.6796
Ksh/BIF	23.0698	1 Saudi Riyal	34.4436
1 UAE Dirham	35.1858	1 Chinese Yuan	17.9937
1 Canadian Dollar	93.8389	1 Australian Dollar	84.2446

UNIT TRUSTS

		Daily Yield	Annual Rate
African Alliance Kenya Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.56%	7.83%
African Alliance Kenya Enhanced Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.96%	8.26%
Britam Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.30%	10.84%
Britam Money Market Fund	USD	4.56%	4.66%
Absa Shilling MMF	Kenya Shilling	8.28%	8.60%
Absa Dollar Fund MMF	USD	4.05%	4.12%
Gulfcap Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	12.89%	13.11%
Gulfcap Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	13.13%	13.94%
Gulfcap Shar'ah Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.08%	7.33%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.54%	11.04%
Old Mutual Dollar Money Market Fund	USD	4.98%	5.10%
Etica Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.35%	12.02%
Etica Money Market Fund	USD	5.88%	6.06%
CPF Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	5.96%	6.08%
Co-op Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.81%	9.20%
Co-op Bond Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.18%	10.72%
Arvocap Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.16%	11.76%
Arvocap Alimasi Fund	Kenya Shilling	1.31	1.32
Mayfair Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.15%	8.49%
Mayfair Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	15.20	15.20
Enwealth Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.61%	11.13%
CIC Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.22%	8.53%
CIC Wealth Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.00%	7.00%
CIC Dollar Fund	USD	4.62%	4.73%
Equity Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	5.01%	5.12%
Kuza Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.44%	12.12%
Kuza Money Market Fund	USD	5.58%	5.73%
Madison Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.23%	10.77%
Madison Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.72%	12.44%
Orient Kasha Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.65%	12.25%



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Jomo Kenyatta Highway Tel: 0719 038 930

KAKAMEGA OFFICE
Mega Mall, 2nd Floor opposite NHIF
Tel: 0719 038 988

Royal Towers, 1st Floor Tel: 0719 038 924

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NAIROBI & UPCOUNTRY

PERSONAL NOTICES

A109 Lost

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOSS OF TITLE DEED
L.R No. 135/2/1,
I.R No. 128/2 – N.20/274
The proprietor has misplaced or lost the document and is in the process of replacing the same.

LOSS of Title deed Donyosabuk/ Komarock bk 1/16795 John M. Kirikuru

LOST Certificate No. Nakuru Municipality block/s 24/498 & 24/501 of Maritim Johana Chesimet (Deceased)

LOST Greencard. Kiambogo/Kiambogo block 2/13513 of John Muhindi Kinyanjui

LOST title: BUKHAYO/ MUNDIKA 14330

LOST Title Deed Konza North/ Konza North Block 2/(Malili) 837

LOST Title Deed: LAIKIPIA /SALAMA /PESI BLOCK 1/2361 (OMC)

LOST title deed Ngandori/Kiriari/5534 Of Monicah Igandu Kinyua

LOST title Kericho/Kimulot/999 for Stanely Kiprono Langat

LOST Title Tigania/ Antuamburi/ 5156 Stephen Kaura Mwanganthia Kiao

PERSONAL SERVICES

A279 Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No 13 OF 2019)
SUBDIVISION
The registered owner of LR no. 7765/1(7142/6,7142/5,7142/4 and 7142/3) located within Timau ward off the Meru-Nanyuki highway, Buaru West Sub-County, Meru County proposes to subdivide the said parcel of land subject to approval by the County Government of Meru. Any individual, institution or organization wishing to make any representations or objections to the above proposal is requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days from the date of this notice to:
The CEC Member –Lands, Physical Planning, Urban Development and Public Works, County Government of Meru, P.O. Box 120-60200 Meru.

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r.3)(3)(xi)
PUBLIC NOTICE
Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019
NOTIFICATION FOR CHANGE OF USER
The registered owner(s) of Nakuru Municipality Block 26/1135 situated within Mashini area of Nakuru East Sub County wishes to change the use of land from Single Dwelling Unit to Multi Dwelling Residential Units subject to the approval of the County Government of Nakuru. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc. With comments and/or objection to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of the date of this notice to:
The CECM-Land, Physical Planning, Housing & Urban Development, County Government of Nakuru. P.O. Box 2870- 20100. Registered Physical Planner: Plan Dr. Moses Kola Rpp.No 0099

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT
AT MERU
ELC CASE NO. E008 OF 2020
Muthomi Mungania, Nkatha Mungania, Gideon Mugambi Mworia, Silas Kamathi A. Mbui (Suing as the Legal Representatives of the Estate of Jeremiah Mungania Ayub- Deceased)..... 1st Plaintiff
Gideon Mugambi Mworia..... 2nd Plaintiff
Muthomi Mungania..... 3rd Plaintiff
-VERSUS-
Meru County Government..... 1st Defendant
Maurin Muthuri Mworia..... 2nd Defendant
Stanley Rungu Mbui..... 3rd Defendant
Itoleka Holdings..... 4th Defendant
-AND-
Muriuki Kijana Mworia..... Applicant
Substituted Service by Advertisement
(Pursuant to the court order granted on 9/7/2025)
TO: ITOLEKA HOLDINGS P.O. BOX 2281 KENYATTA N. HOSPITAL
Take notice that a plaint has been filed in the ELC Court at MERU in the Republic of Kenya, in which you are named as the 4th defendant and pursuant to the court order, you are now required to enter appearance and file defence within fifteen (15) days from the date of this Advertisement in default the matter will proceed as the law provides. The matter will be heard on 15/10/2025. A copy of the summons and the plaint may be obtained from the offices of M/S Nyamu Nyaga & Co. Advocates, Teachers House, 2nd Floor, Rooms 205, 213 & 214, Kirukuri Road, P.O. Box 2626-60200 Meru or Meru Environment and Land Court, P.O. Box 118-60200, Meru. DATED AT MERU THIS DAY OF 2025
FOR: NYAMA NYAMU & CO. ADVOCATES FOR THE PLAINTIFFS
DRAWN & FILED BY:
NYAMA NYAMA & CO. ADVOCATES
P.O. BOX 2626-60200, MERU
ADM. NO. P105/2643/93
Email: nyamunyagaadvocates@gmail.com

A279 Notices

THE NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ALLOCATE LAND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given that at the expiry of **30 days** from the date of publication of this notice, the Nation Land Commission (NLC), on behalf of the County Government of Nyeri, intends to regulate tenure of parcel No. Tetu/ Unjiru/ 3146, 3150 and 3173 Nyeri Municipality measuring 0.0196, 0.0408 and 0.0391 Ha respectively in Nyeri County for commercial use (subject to terms, covenants, conditions and reservations which shall be included in the conveyance document) in accordance with section 14 of the Land Act 2012.

Any interested person wishing to raise any comments may do so to the Chairman, NLC with **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

In the absence of any valid objections, the allocation shall take place at the Commission's offices in Nairobi (316 Upper Hill Chambers, 2nd Ngong Avenue) as from 2:30pm on the next working day following the expiry of this notice.

The terms of allocation are available at the Commission's offices in Nairobi and the office of the NLC County Coordinator in Nyeri County.

The land is Planned and Surveyed, and ownership details may be inspected at the offices of the CECM in charge of Lands, Nyeri County, Director of Surveys in Nairobi and NLC offices during working hours.

Gershom Otachi Bw
Gershom Otachi Bw Omanwa, EBS CHAIRMAN

MOTOR VEHICLES

B049 Car Hire

CARS wanted 30-200k 0722511573

B085 For Sale, Private

KBU Suzuki Escudo 2.0cc Sunroof 850k 0725654678 Nai

PRIVATE Toyota Voxy KBH 700K 0732624558

TOY Rav4 KBWV 1.2m clean 0722742361

RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS PROPERTIES

B740 Land, Plots for Sale

2PLOTS 50x100 for sale with clean title opposite KMTC Machokos township no 0724462104, 0720441033, 0721649325

KAHAWA west 3 plots 40by90ft & 100by100 Tassia plots 33x66, 0729475785

KENOL plot 40x80 0721338479

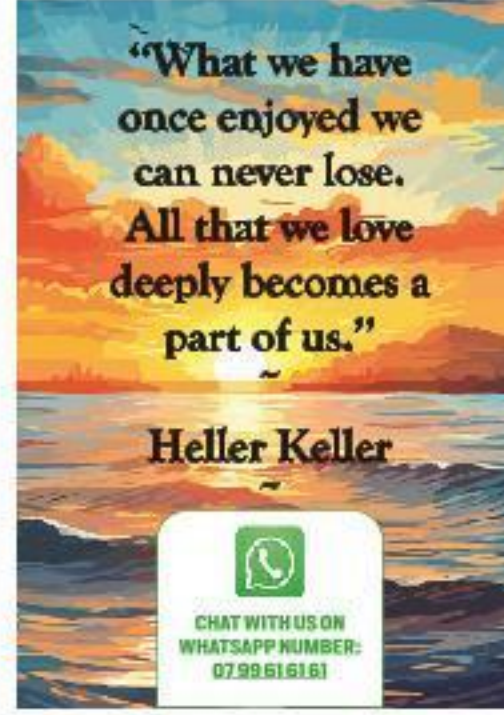
KITENGELA Oloolotikoshi 35m Acres call for viewing 0703135300, 0722596053

MAMBURI | Ac call 0721338479

RUMURUTI Posta Township blocks of 1 acres. Very prime @950K 0726341993

B782 Properties for Sale

UMOJA II typeB 2bedroom self contain house, Kayole Brooms house 0729475785



Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with deep sorrow and acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of Peter Muthini Wambua, (retired Officer Ministry of Water and Irrigation), after a short illness. Son of the late Wambua Nthaa and late Mwikali Wambua.



Peter Muthini Wambua

He was a loving husband of the late Priscilla Wanza and Dorcus Syokau. Father of Winfred Mwendu, Justus Kyalo (NCBA-Nairobi), Raphael Wambua (formerly SBM- MSA), Nancy Mwikali (Absa-Machakos), Michael Wambua (car and general -Voi), Juliet Wanza (Voi), and the late Anthony Mutinda.

Grandfather of Chanita, Melissa, Hanns, Hadaria, Higgins, Daisy, Bramwell, Jason and Goodluck.

Brother of Benjamin Mulwa, late Thomas Muia, Bines Mbithe, the late Stephen Musyoki and late Daniel Kivindu.

Family and friends are meeting daily at his home in Nunga Village starting at 3.00 p.m for prayers and burial preparations. The cortege will leave Machakos Funeral Home on Wednesday 13th August, 2025. Thereafter, the burial will take place at his home in Nunga Village, Mwala, Machakos County.

Celebrating Our Patriarch



Engineer Stephen Seth Njane Munyiri

It is with profound sadness and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of our beloved Dad Stephen Seth Njane Munyiri on August 4, 2025.

Loving husband of the late Esther Wangechi and Magdalene Mutuli.

Cherished father of the late David Waihenya, the late Antony Munyiri and the late Peter Kairanga, Jane Waithera Gladys Wanjiru and Rosemary Wambui. Also, father of the late Nicholas Mboka, Samuel-Daniel Wambua and Monicah Muoti.

Doting grandfather of Esther Mirigo, Stephen Tungani, Sheila Wambui, Tracy Wangechi, Michelle Wanjiku, Stephen Njane, Judy Kairanga, Trizah Wangechi, Aaron Njane, Ava Wangechi, Wangechi Munyiri, Laban Muriithi, and great-grandfather of Jabari Enzi, Vinicius Munyiri, Stephen Njane, Kai Muriuki Tungani, Ella Katrina Mwangi, Arianna, Jordan, Joseph, and Lionell Maina.

Brother of the late George Githinji, the late Michael Ngayo and the late Joseph Kairanga, Teresa Wambui, Priscilla Wanjiku, Gerald Warui, Jane Wanjiru, Ann Muthoni, George Githinji (Jr.), Julius Kiama and Margaret Wangari.

The funeral service and burial will take place at the Munyiri family home in Kiserian, Ngong, on Tuesday, August 12th, 2025.

The cortege will depart Montezuma Funeral Home at 9:00 AM, proceeding to a funeral service at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Kiserian, followed by burial at his residence at our Kiserian Home.

We loved you Dad, but God loved you more. Rest in peace, dear Dad.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." — Psalms 116:15

What is lovely
NEVER DIES,
but passes
into another
LOVELINESS.

- Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Nation Media Group
Media of Africa for Africa



Sport

Golf Leisure Lodge Resort next stop for golfers in Sunshine Development Tour **P.30**



2024 Chan Harambee Stars coach McCarthy urged his players to start strongly against Morocco tomorrow in Group 'A' match **← P.32**

Taekwondo practitioners in Kwale call for government support

BY SIAGO CECE

Taekwondo stakeholders in Kwale county have called for the passing of the Sports Amendment Bill in order to enhance development of the sport in the county.

They said the potential of the sports has not yet been harnessed especially at the grassroots despite the abundant talent.

"The Sports Bill was supposed to be amended. We want them to move fast so that martial arts and other sports are also funded by the government," said Kenya Taekwondo Federation (KTF) Kwale Branch chairperson Idi Said.

The bill, which is sponsored by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, provides for the establishment and administration of a County Sports Association Fund, which will help nurture and support local sports associations to foster sports development at the grassroots level.

Selection of teams

Said said such funds would help in the selection of teams and also enable international travel for players. He added that the taekwondo federation did not own its own facilities and hiring the facilities and equipment was very expensive.

Speaking during a yellow belt graduation ceremony at Mekaela Academies in Diani, Kwale County, Said said many talented youths are unable to progress in the sport due to lack of funding, equipment, and national exposure.

"There are so many young people in this county who have the skill and discipline for martial arts, but very few get the chance to compete outside the country. It's not due to lack of talent, its minimal resources and lack of recognition," he added.

Over 30 learners from Mekaela Academies successfully earned their yellow belts during the event.

Hand over After eight years at the helm Tergat officially exits the Kenyan Olympic body

We'll not reinvent the wheel, says new NOC-K boss Maluki

Committee president says team will work for success of the movement, and for athletes

BY AYUMBA AYODI

The new president of National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) Shadrack Maluki has pledged to maintain the structures and ethos of the organisation as he was officially handed the reins of power yesterday.

"Most assuredly, there will be no reinventing the wheel but simply oiling and reinvigorating the parts and linkages that propel it to greater success, ensuring the good of the (Olympics) movement, and our athletes," Maluki said.

The NOC-K boss said continuity and progress will be strong pillars to anchor every governance perspective that they shall implement.

Maluki, the Kenya Judo Federation (KJF) was speaking at the NOC-K headquarters at Gallant House, Nairobi when he officially took over from former NOC-K president Paul Tergat, who is also a Colonel at Kenya Defence Forces.

Also present were NOC-K first vice president Barnaba Korir, second vice



president Nashon Randiek and secretary general John Ogolla, all taking up their new posts. They were elected to office on July 21.

"We undertake a significant shift as we receive the authority and instruments to execute our mandate and vision as captured in the promise we made as Team New Dawn," said Maluki, who is also the Africa Judo Union chairman.

He hailed the NOC-K secretariat staff for their great service and professionalism.

Maluki said that his new team will work with the secretariat to implement the objectives that they have set forth to achieve.

Some of the departments that made NOC-K vibrant are the administrative services and strategic partnership headed by Tony Karuru, and development department that handles Olympic solidarity programmes and continental, Commonwealth and national programmes headed by Susan Adhiambo.

Others are corporate affairs and communication departments.

Maluki, who served under Tergat as NOC-K first vice president paid tribute to Tergat and the team for their tireless efforts and commitment to the organisation.

Maluki said that under Tergat, NOC-K registered great participation

and performances of Team Kenya in various international games like the delayed 2020 Tokyo Olympics that were held in 2021, 2024 Paris Olympic Games, Winter Olympics, continental as well as regional games for both elite athletes and the youth.

"Even the unfortunate breakout of Covid-19 pandemic did not deter Team Kenya from participating in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The team competed and returned exemplary results," said Maluki.

"It has taken sheer passion, commitment and unity of purpose so that, today, we stand on the foundation of a very reputable NOC-K with great admiration across borders," said Maluki.

Tergat also commended NOC-K secretariat staff for establishing, nurturing and giving the space, infrastructure and latitude to translate NOC-K vision and mission to reality.

"This, they did not disappoint. I thank them most sincerely," said Tergat, who told the new executive that the secret to success is adopting "We for Me." "This is what transformed NOC Kenya to a respectable and enviable institution as we exit the stage," noted Tergat.

Maluki assured athletes, partners and stakeholders of commitment to build on existing successes and addressing challenges for the key reason to ensure continued growth and progress.

Former National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) president Paul Tergat (left) with his successor Shadrack Maluki during the official handover at the sports body's headquarters at Gallant House, Nairobi yesterday. AYUMBA AYO-DII NATION

ENGLISH FOOTBALL

Liverpool eye Community Shield title tomorrow

Liverpool coach Arne Slot said yesterday his side is relishing the challenge of facing Crystal Palace in the FA Community Shield, as the Premier League champions aim to begin the new season with silverware and prepare for their title defence. Liverpool, who won the Premier League last season to secure a record-equalling 20th English title, face FA Cup winners Palace at Wembley tomorrow. Liverpool are eyeing a 17th Community Shield title, with their latest coming in 2022. "It's nice if you can start the season by winning something. We have a chance at the beginning of the season. We face a difficult Crystal Palace side. They have shown how hard it is to win a one-off game with them," Slot told reporters. (Reuters)

Vintage 1930 Essex Super Six car gears up for Concours



This rare 1930 Essex Super Six will be making its debut in this year's Concours d'Élégance at Ngong Racecourse in Nairobi. It has been entered by car enthusiast Mike Duder.

PHOTO | POOL

Sports

Golf

Sunshine Development E. Africa Tour: Leisure Lodge next stop for golfers

BY LARRY NGALA

Action in the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing enters the fourth leg this weekend with the inaugural season at the scenic Diamonds Leisure Beach and Golf Resort in Diani, Kwale County.

Coming after the third leg that ended on Wednesday at Nyali Golf and Country Club, this weekend's action has attracted 61 professional and elite amateur golfers from various African countries who will fight for a share of Sh2 million prize fund.

More importantly, amateurs will fight for Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) and World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points.

World ranking points on offer in the tournament attracted players from far away as Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, and Rwanda. The Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing is the only golf tour in East and Central Africa offering OWGR points, making it a vital pathway for players aiming to qualify for global tours and the Olympic Games.

This weekend's tournament has been sponsored by East African Breweries PLC (EABL) through its premium whisky brand of Johnnie Walker, and will tee off today, and run till Monday, just days after the thrilling Nyali leg that saw Windsor Golf and Country Club's Njoroge Kibugu clinch his second Sunshine Development Tour title of the year.

The Diamonds Leisure leg has attracted a stellar line-up from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Burundi. Besides the Nyali leg winner Kibugu, the Kenyan contingent also features Daniel Nduva, and seasoned campaigners Greg Snow, Dismas Indiza, David Wakhu, Samuel Njoroge, Kenneth Bollo, and Tony Omuli.

Vipingo Ridge's Naomi Wafula will also be seeking to continue her stellar performances since turning pro. From Rwanda is Celestin Nsanuwera, who tied in second place at Nyali.

Sunday Olapade carries Nigeria's hopes in the tournament, while Ronald Rugumayo will lead Uganda's challenge. Nuru Mollel, one of the longest hitters in East Africa, leads the Tanzanian contingent that includes Isaac Wanyeché, Abdalla Dullah, and Fadhil Nkya.

Ghana's Erick Kwame will kame his debut in the tournament, while Malawi's Paul Chidale who was a regular player in Kenya during the Safari Tour, will also compete. The par-72 Diamonds Leisure Golf Resort course is known for its coastal winds, tricky greens, and lush tropical fairways, making accuracy off the tee and careful course management essential.

Speaking ahead of the event, golfer Njoroge Kibugu said: "Nyali Club held a special place for me, but I have quickly shifted my focus to Diani. It's a completely different course, with new set-up, and I know I'll need to adapt quickly. The goal remains to stay consistent and put myself in contention for Monday"



2024 AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP August 2-30 Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania



Group B Central African Republic lock horns with Mauritania in Dar es Salaam from 5pm

Tanzanian players celebrate their second goal against Burkina Faso in Group 'B' of the 2024 African Nations Championship at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on August 8. PHOTO: MWANANCHI TANZANIA

Tanzania look to make the most of Madagascar clash



19

Teams competing in 2024 African Nations Championship in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

FIXTURES

Yesterday's results:

Group "C"

Algeria 1-1 South Africa

Playing later yesterday:

Uganda v Guinea

Playing today:

Group "B"

(At Benjamin Mkapa Stadium)

Tanzania v Madagascar 8pm

CRA v Mauritania 5pm

Playing tomorrow:

Group "A"

Kenya v Morocco 3pm

(MISC Kasarani)

Zambia v Angola 6pm

(Nyayo National Stadium)

Victory against the Indian Ocean islanders, the third on the trot in the tournament, will boost Taifa Stars chances of reaching quarter-finals

BY VICTOR OTIENO

Hosts Tanzania will be out to boost their chances of qualifying for the quarter-final stage of the 2024 African Nations Championship (Chan) when they face Madagascar at the 60,000-seater Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam this evening.

The Group "B" match will kick off at 8pm (East African Time).

The match will be preceded by another Group 'B' encounter between Central African Republic (CAR) and Mauritania at the same venue from 5pm.

Kenya are co-hosting the 19-nation, biennial four-week football tournament with Uganda and Tanzania.

After playing two matches, Tanzania's Taifa Stars top the group with six points, followed by Burkina Faso on three points from the same number of matches. Madagascar are ranked third with one point from one match, and Mauritania are fourth with one point

from two matches, while CAR are placed bottom of the group with zero points from one match.

Against Madagascar, Tanzania will be seeking to maintain their perfect run in the competition, having won all their previous two matches.

Under the tutelage of experienced coach Hemed "Morocco" Suleiman, Tanzania began their campaign in the tournament with a 2-0 win over Burkina Faso on Friday last week.

Abdul Hamisi and Mohamed Hussein were on target for the hosts, who are making their third appearance in the tournament.

In their second Group 'B' match played on Wednesday, Tanzania defeated Mauritania 1-0 courtesy of Shomari Kapombe's late strike.

Following Tanzania's impressive display in the two matches, many have tipped them to progress to the quarter-final stage of the tournament. In both 2009 and 2020 editions of Chan, the "Taifa Stars" were eliminated at the group stage.

Madagascar are making their second appearance in Chan after their debut in 2022, when they emerged third. In their opening match of the campaign on Sunday last week, the Indian Ocean island nation battled to a barren draw with Mauritania despite being reduced to 10 men.

Forward John Christiano Razafimanana and Rakotondraibe Toky Niaina as some of the key players Madagascar are banking on for a good showing in the tournament. Razafimanana was instrumental in Madagascar's qualification for the Chan finals as he scored in the crucial first leg against Eswatini. Known for his blistering speed, and clinical fin-

ish, Razafimanana is a constant threat to opposing defenders.

On the other hand, Niaina's sharp finishing and form earned him a spot in the squad. He scored 13 goals for his club, Cosafa FC, helping them finish second in the league last season. While Tanzania are placed 107th in the global Fifa rankings, Madagascar lie 115th.

Against Mauritania, Burkina Faso will be aiming to build on their 4-2 win over CRA on Wednesday. Ranked 63rd by Fifa, Burkina Faso are making their fourth Chan appearances after competing in the 2014, 2018, and 2020 editions. They have yet to progress past the group stage. Similarly, Mauritania who are ranked 110th are making their fourth appearance in the tournament.

Their best performance in the competition came in the 2022 edition held in Algeria where they reached the quarter-finals stage. Only the top two teams in all the four groups will progress to the quarter-finals stage.



2024 AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP
August 2-30 Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania



BRIEFLY

Harambee Starlets climb two places to 140 in the world

The Kenya women's football team, Harambee Starlets, climbed two spots to 140th in the latest Fifa rankings released on Thursday.

This improvement follows their runners up finish at the 2024 Cecafta Senior Women's Championship in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where they lost 1-0 to the hosts in the final at Azam Sports Complex.

On the way to the final, Kenya, coached by Beldine Odemba, beat Burundi 3-0, Uganda 4-0, and South Sudan 4-0.

Nigeria are the best placed African nation followed by South Africa, Morocco, Cameroon, and Zambia.

World champions Spain reclaimed the top spot after a strong run to the Uefa Women's Euro 2025 final where they lost to England, displacing the USA, who had held the position since August 2024, to second place. France rose four places to sixth. The top 10 has been shaken up completely since the June rankings were released.

Toto Arege

FIXTURES

Yesterday's results:

Group "C"
Algeria 1 South Africa 1

Played later yesterday: Guinea v Uganda

Playing today:

Group "B"
Central Africa Republic v Mauritania
5pm
Tanzania v Madagascar 8pm

Playing tomorrow:

Group "A"
Kenya v Morocco 3pm
Zambia v Angola 6pm

2024 CHAN TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Group «A»								
1 Kenya	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
2 Morocco	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
3 DR Congo	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
4 Angola	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
5 Zambia	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Group «B»								
1 Tanzania	2	2	0	0	3	0	3	6
2 Burk.Faso	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
3 Madagascar	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4 Mauritania	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
5 CAR	1	0	0	1	2	4	-2	0
Group «C»								
1 Algeria	2	1	1	0	4	1	3	4
2 Guinea	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
3 S. Africa	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
4 Niger	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
5 Uganda	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
Group «D»								
1 Senegal	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
2 Congo	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Sudan	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
4 Nigeria	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

*Tables before yesterday's match between Guinea and Uganda

History Video Assistant Referee is being used on Kenyan soil for the first time



VAR to Kenya's rescue again, 'mwah, nwah', goes McCarthy

Penalty, send off, disallowed goal calls, all made after video review, widely discussed after dramatic tie with Kenyans on tenterhooks

BY VICTOR OTIENO

Sudden collapse and then wild celebration. That was the scene at the death at a packed 48,000-seater Moi International Sports Centre (MISC), Kasarani in Nairobi during the dramatic Group "A" clash of the 2024 African Nations Championship (Chan) between Kenya's Harambee Stars, and Angola's Palancas Negras on Thursday evening.

As millions of Kenyans, emotions raw from the 90 minutes roller-coaster, revelled in the hard-fought 1-1 draw, one sentiment rang true among them – the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) was almost a godsend in this match, at least as far as Harambee Stars were concerned. Even the team's coach Benni McCarthy echoed the view.

"...VAR mwah!" exclaimed a delighted McCarthy at the mixed zone after the match: "Beautiful! Beautiful," he added.

VAR made its Chan debut during the sixth edition held in Cameroon in 2021. However, it was deployed from the quarter-finals stage. It is the first time in history that VAR, a technology that aims to improve officiating in football, is being used on Kenyan soil.

With Harambee Stars reduced to 10 men after 21 minute following a red card on midfielder Marvin Nabwire, a draw against Angola looked a very acceptable result for the home team.

And so as the home players fought tooth and nail to salvage a point in the tough match, the thousands of enthusiastic supporters, emotions frayed, backing them up. Mission look accomplished at the last minute of time added on, then the unimaginable hap-

pened.

Angola launched a counter attack, with Joao Chigando scoring with a header.

Having struggled to restore their lead against a numerically inferior opponent, the Palanca Negras erupted in wild celebrations while Harambee Stars players slumped on

the pitch deflated. A deathly silence engulfed Kasarani you would have heard a pin drop.

But, phew, a VAR review was called and centre referee Sadou Ali cancelled the goal for an offside.

As the frustrated Angolan players and technical bench scratched their heads in disbelief, it was the turn of Kenyan players to erupt in celebration. They had rescued a point, gone top of the table and earned Sh500,000 each from the reward pledged by President Ruto

Kenya had also earlier benefited from a VAR decision when they were awarded a penalty in the 12th minute.

The review confirmed that Austine Odhiambo had been fouled in the box. The attacking midfielder duly stepped up to slam the penalty home.

But VAR decisions were not all in Kenya's favour.

Marvin Nabwire was sent off in the 21st minute following a VAR review.

The Kenya Police player had fouled Alberto Miguel, denying him a goal scoring opportunity. "Those were two moments (foul on Odhiambo and the offside goal) that I completely missed," said McCarthy will lauding organisers for using VAR.

After the match, some Harambee Stars players gathered around the screen on the touchline the referee used to review decisions, with few even kissing the electronic set in appreciation.

2020

Edition of the African Nations Championship that Video Assistant Referee technology was first deployed

Sport Olympics

New office takes over the running of NOC-K's affairs following June 21 elections **P.29**



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2024 AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP August 2-30 Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania



DR Congo's Leopards out to exorcise ghosts of the 2022 championship

PATRICK ILUNGA NATION CORRESPONDENT, KINSHASA

After a mediocre performance in 2022 African Nations Championship (Chan) held in Algeria from January 13 to February 4, 2023, the Leopards of the Democratic Republic of Congo are back in the competition with greater ambition, first and foremost to make people forget the poor campaign of 2022 and restore their image as one of the contenders for the final title.

The 2022 Chan proved a debacle for the Congolese, who were eliminated in the first round after two draws and a crushing 0-3 defeat against Senegal's Lions of Teranga. The team has already won two editions of the competition; first in 2009 by beating Ghana in the final, and in 2016 by inflicting a resounding 3-0 defeat on the Eagles of Mali. Victory in the 2026 tournament held in Rwanda made the Congolese team the most successful nation in the young competition.

But since then, Morocco has equalled the team's record with two titles, having won it in 2018, and in 2020.

The challenge is daunting for coach Otis Ngoma's men. The Congolese coach is aware of the expectations of the Congolese public. He knows that over the years, the competition has taken on a new dimension, with teams becoming more competitive than ever. Contrary to this development, the local championship has declined significantly in quality and intensity over the past five years, affecting the competitiveness of the country's clubs. Once again this year, Congolese football league, the National Football League, had a controversial ending.

The championship was halted midway through, and the crowned champion was challenged by Tout-Puissant Mazembe, which relied on a decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport that demanded the resumption of matches.

The Congolese Football Fed-

eration did not effect the resumption of the competition, leading to confusion and uncertainty.

This has negatively impacted the performance of Congolese clubs in African club competitions organised by CAF. This year, TP Mazembe, a prestigious Congolese club, was eliminated in the first round of the CAF Champions League, having failed to win any of its five matches and earning only two points. AS Maniema Union, the other DRC club, was also eliminated from the CAF Champions League. As a result, there were no Congolese clubs in the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League. It is these clubs that provide players for the national football team currently competing in 2024 Chan.

Which Leopards will we see tomorrow against Angola on Thursday next week at Nyayo National Stadium? The conquerors of 2009 and 2016, or those who left Algeria with their tails between their legs in 2022? The Congolese team finished the qualifying phase by comfortably beating Chad's Sao in Kinshasa 3-1.

Coach Otis Ngoma has already promised to do his best to field 'a consistent and competitive team' in 2024 Chan. He knows he will be able to count on talented players such as Oscar Kabwit. The 20-year-old winger, a native of Lubumbashi in the south of the country, is a rising star of Congolese football, having made a name for himself at the highest level with TP Mazembe, but also with the Leopards, notably starting against Ethiopia on the last day of 2025 Afcon qualifiers.

Other leading players in Otis Ngoma's team are Micka Miché, the only survivor from the 2016 triumph, and experienced 40-year-old goalkeeper Aimé Bakula. Otis Ngoma, who was already coach of the Leopards during CHAN 2022, has completely revamped his squad. In the qualifiers, the Congolese coach all but replaced the entire playing unit.

Group A Atlas Lions are favourites to win a third title in Nairobi

Morocco's Anass El Mahroui (left) tussles for the ball with Angola Vanilson Tita of Angola in their Group 'A' match Of 2024 African Nations Championship match on August 3 at Nyayo National Stadium. CHRIS OMOLLO / NATION



McCarthy: Morocco present the toughest test for Stars

Stars coach is unimpressed by his team's lack of composure in first half of matches played so far

BY VICTOR OTIENO

Harambee Stars coach Bennie McCarthy has said his team faces the toughest test in Group 'A' of the 2024 African Nations Championship (Chan) when they come up against two-time champions Morocco tomorrow.

At the same time, coach McCarthy has asked his charges to stop playing like 'rookies', urging them to seize the moment and take control of matches right from the first whistle. Kenya's match against Morocco will be played at the 48,000-seater Moi International Sports Centre (MISC) Kasarani tomorrow, and will be crucial in determining Kenya's fate with regard to qualification for the quarter-finals stage of the 19-nation biennial tournament which started on August 2 and will run till August 30.

Kenya are co-hosting the delayed tournament with Uganda and Tanzania. Only the top two teams from the four groups in the tournament will qualify for the quarter-finals. After playing two matches, "Harambee Stars" top Group "A" with four points followed by Morocco on three points from one match. Two-time Chan winners,

the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are third with three points from two matches. Angola are fourth with one point from two matches, while Zambia are bottom of the group with one point from one match.

Morocco present tough test for Kenya as they are the top ranked African side globally at position 12. Kenya sits a distant 111th.

While Harambee Stars are making their debut in Chan, Morocco are featuring in the tournament for the fifth time, with an eye on the third title. Morocco won the title in 2018, and in 2020.

Proven to be ruthless

They have proven to be ruthless on mistakes committed by opponents as despite Angola enjoying most of the possession, especially in the second-half, they still managed to score. They hold an advantage heading into tomorrow's match as they have not had a mid-week fixture.

Although Moroccan striker Ayoub Mouloua didn't score against Angola, he is among the players Stars must watch for, thanks to his sharp instincts. The 22-year-old Fath Union Rabat player was the top scorer in the Moroccan league

with 11 goals in 26 league matches. Morocco's coach Tarik Sektioui has declared his intention to win the title with a 100 per cent win record.

Kenya defeated DRC 1-0 in their opening group match on Sunday, and drew 1-1 with Angola on Thursday despite being reduced to 10 men in the 21st minute, but McCarthy is unimpressed with the lack of composure by his players, particularly in the first-half. Adding to his frustration is the fact that Harambee Stars have paid dearly for their nervous start in the two matches.

"These players can play but my God, they need to get over this fear factor in the first 45 minutes. It is stressful," McCarthy said on Friday after his team's match against Angola.

"Whoever is in the squad has to understand that he has made it. You are at the pinnacle of the elite football, you are the best that the country has, you cannot still be like a rookie, like someone who has never walked onto a football pitch before, someone who has never seen so many people in the stadium and that is what my team is doing at the moment and it is becoming costly," the South African said.

Against DRC, Kenya looked nerv-

ous in the early stages of the first-half, with burly Jephthe Bola firing DRC ahead in the fourth minute after dispossessing captain Abud Omar at the edge of the box.

After a VAR review, the goal was cancelled after it was confirmed that Bola had fouled Omar. However, Kenyans were left asking why the experienced defender held on to the ball for long, and attempted to beat Bola in a dangerous area instead of just passing the ball forward.

Against Angola, Kenya started slowly, allowing the "Sable Antelopes" to dictate play in their area.

The southern African nation took the lead through Joaquim Jo Cristovao Paciencia in the seventh minute. Kenya's goalkeeper Byrne Omondi took a share of blame after Marvine Nabwire was red-carded as he gave the ball away while trying to clear a back pass, forcing the Kenya Police man to foul Alberto Miguel, denying him a goal scoring opportunity. The red card was confirmed by VAR.

But the match's biggest mistake came from substitute Ben Stanley, who gave the ball away to the opposition who scored at the death, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside.



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**Women
who faced
fibroids
and won**

Meet the mighty river on its most dramatic stage where it plunges 43 metres on its journey north to drain into the Mediterranean. BY **RUPI MANGAT**

Where the Nile whispers and the waterfalls roar

The great expanse of water shimmers in the morning light as we fly over it to land in Entebbe, an hour's flight from Nairobi. Yet less than 200 years ago, the outside world knew nothing about this lake or the country that we now know of as Uganda.

Back then, Africa's interior was a closely guarded secret by the Arab traders mainly for slaves, elephant tusks and timber. The mystery of the Nile's origin became the driving force for the European explorers to enter the unknown. So when John Hanning Speke saw the lake in 1858 from a village near Mwanza in Tanzania, he uttered the unforgettable quote, "The Nile is solved." He was ridiculed for it. The matter of the Nile was finally solved in 1875 when the journalist-explorer Henry Morton Stanley circumvented Victoria (as Speke christened it after the then British monarch, Queen Victoria), confirming it as the Nile's source.

The world's most powerful falls

We're wrapped in luxury at Lake Victoria Serena Entebbe on the edge of the Great African lake. Our journey into Uganda is to scale the mountains of the impenetrable forest in search of Bwindi's Mountain gorillas that the outside world only got to know of in 1987 – and not even by sighting our ape cousins but from the droppings below their night nests.

"The Mountain gorilla is the only subspecies of gorilla that is increasing in number and is now classified as 'endangered' from 'critically endangered'," states Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Uganda's first wildlife vet. Their numbers have increased from an estimated 300 to 1,063 in the wild today.

Dr Gladys is a trailblazer. She and her husband Lawrence founded Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) 20 years ago and have achieved international recognition for their 'One Health' approach that in-

volves the well-being of the people who live alongside our ape cousin. Dr Gladys' book, 'Walking with Gorillas' is a best seller, copies of which she signs after her presentation to the enraptured group.

The first leg of the journey is to Murchison Falls National Park – a 50-minute flight – to meet the Nile on its most dramatic stage where the mighty river plunges 43 metres through a seven-metre chasm on its 6,000-kilometre journey north to drain into the Mediterranean in the land of the pharaohs.

Murchison on the Nile

It was Baker with his wife Florence who came upon the 'world's most powerful waterfall' in 1864, when looking to solve the Nile's source, which they did not. They named the falls Murchison after the president of the Royal Geographical Society. However, the wandering couple came upon the lake (which today spans Uganda-DRC border) that glistens in the horizon as we land in 3,893-square-kilometre Murchison Falls National Park at Pakuba airstrip – the lake they named Albert after the British queen's husband. The duo also documented Karuma Falls, a spectacular series of cataracts along the Nile spanned today by Karuma bridge along the main Kampala-Gulu highway.

The park is lush green like an emerald with towering Borassus palms that our safari guide jokes are planted by elephants! The seed passes through the elephant's gut and germinates on the ground.

The common patas monkeys watch us from the roadside. Unlike other monkeys that prefer trees to terra firma, the patas is mostly seen on ground and with its long legs is a fast runner. Unfortunately the Kenyan patas monkey is extinct in the wild – the Critically Endangered southern patas monkey (*E. baumstarki*). Found only in northern

Tanzania today, the population is between 40–100 mature individuals remaining in the wild.

The Rothschild giraffes grace the plains nibbling on the acacias. Jackson's hartebeest stand sentinel, a lioness in the tree stops all on track and finally the day ends with a drive to the top of the thundering falls on a road recently tarmacked over the new bridge spanning the Nile, doing away with the iconic ferry crossing.

The following day we sail the Nile to the bottom of the falls. A crocodile slithers into the river, others stay statuesque with jaws wide open to cool down in the afternoon heat. A herd of elephants frolic on the river's edge hosing themselves with the rich red mud – a spa in the wild. FYI – Baker had by the age of 20 invented a powerful gun to kill an elephant with a single shot.

Pods of hippos pop around in the blue waters and we give them a wide berth. In 1870, Baker's boat was attacked by an angry hippo on the Nile which munched a large mouthful of the wooden vessel. An hour later we sight the falls – and they never fail to impress. The river has risen and the force of the falls keeps the boats at a distance. All we can do is watch in awe at its permanent rainbow.

Worth the trouble

The journey is easily doable from Nairobi via road or by air with a range of accommodation in and outside the park. Combine the falls for a safari circuit with Budongo or Kibale forests for chimpanzee trekking; Queen Elizabeth National Park and Bwindi for the Mountain gorillas.

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cinema guide



NAIROBI

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA

Andaaz 2 2D 1.20PM, 7PM

Dhadak 2 2D 12PM

The Bad Guys 2 3D 2.40PM, Saiyaara 10.10AM, 4.10PM, 7PM, 10PM

Son of Sardaar 2 2D 10.30AM, 9.40PM

Superman 3D 3.10PM, 10PM

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

2D 1PM, 5.40PM, 7.50PM

The Naked Gun 3D 10.20AM

Weapons 2D 4.40PM

ANGA SKY CINEMA, PANARI CENTRE

Freakier Friday 2D 10AM,

4.40PM, 9PM

Superman 2D 12PM, 2.20PM,

6.40PM

The Bad Guys 2 3D 10AM,

2PM, 6PM,

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

2D 11.50AM, 4PM, 8PM,

Weapons 2D 10PM

WESTGATE CINEMA

WESTGATE MALL

The Bad Guys 2 2D-SCRN 2 &

3 (PG) 11.00AM & 2.55PM

The Naked Gun 2D-S10.00PM

Freakier Friday 2D-SCRN1,3

&4(PG) 4.55PM & 9.50PM

Superman: Legacy 3D-

11.30AM, 2.35PM & 7.20PM

F1: The Movie 2D-7.05PM

Smurfs 2D- 5.00PM

The Fantastic 4: First Steps

3D- 11.15AM & 5.05PM

The Fantastic 4: First Steps

2D-SCRN2 & 3(PG)7.05PM

Jurassic World Rebirth

2D-SCRN 2 & 3(PG) 2.20PM

Saiyaara 2D- 11.10AM, 3.00PM,

6.10PM & 9.10PM

Andaaz 2 2D-) 9.20PM

Jurassic World Rebirth

2D-SCRN 6(PG) 11.10AM &

6.35PM

The Naked Gun

2D-SCRN 5 (16) 5.00PM

Freakier Friday 2D-SCRN

5(PG) 2.50PM

Weapons 2D-SCRN 5(TBA)

11.05AM & 9.40PM

Saiyaara 2D-3.10PM & 9.10PM

Son Of Sardaar 2 2D

6.45PM

CENTURY CINEMAX

SARIT CENTRE

WESTLANDS

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

3D 12.00PM, 2.30PM, 5.00PM,

7.30PM & 10.00PM

The Bad Guys 2D-12.30PM &

2.30PM

Superman: Legacy

4:30PM, 7:15PM, 10:00PM

Freakier Friday 2D 12.30PM,

2:45PM & 10:00PM

The Naked Gun 2D 5PM

Weapons 2D- 7:15PM

The Naked Gun 2D 11AM

Saiyaara 2D- 1PM, 7PM

Son Of Sardaar 2 2D- 4PM,

10PM

CENTURY CINEMAX

TWO RIVERS MALL -

LIMURU ROAD

The Bad Guys 2D 11AM, 1PM,

3PM, 5PM

The Naked Gun

2D 7PM & 9.30PM

Superman: Legacy

11AM, 1.45PM, 4.30PM, 7.15PM

& 10PM

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

3D 12PM, 2.30PM, 5PM, 7.30PM

& 10PM

Freakier Friday 2D 5PM,

7.30PM & 10PM

Smurfs 2D- 11AM, 1PM, 3PM

Jurassic World Rebirth 3D

1PM & 4PM

F1: Formula 1-, 7PM, 10PM

The Naked Gun 3D 12.30PM

& 3PM

Weapons 2D 5.15PM, 7.30PM

& 10PM

CENTURY CINEMAX

THE JUNCTION MALL -

NGONG ROAD

Smurfs 2D- 11.00AM, 1.00PM,

3.00PM & 5.00PM

Weapons 2D 7PM, 10PM,

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

3D 12.00PM, 2.30PM, 5.00PM,

7.30PM & 10.00PM

Freakier Friday 2D 12.30PM,

5.00PM & 9.30PM

The Naked Gun 3D 2.45PM &

7.30PM The Bad Guys 3D

11.00AM, 1.15PM, 3.30PM &

5.30PM

Superman: Legacy 3D 7.30PM

10PM

CENTURY CINEMAX

GARDEN CITY

THIKA ROAD

Superman: Legacy 3D 11AM,

4:30PM & 10PM.

F1- Formular 1-2D 1:30PM &

7PM.

Smurfs 2D 11AM, 1PM, 3PM &

5PM.

Weapons 2D 7PM & 10PM

The Bad Guys 3D

11AM, 1:15PM, 3:30PM & 5:30PM

Jurassic World Rebirth 3D

7:30PM & 10PM.

Freakier Friday 2D 11AM,

1:15PM, 5:30PM & 10PM.

The Naked Gun

2D 3:30PM & 8PM.

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

3D 12PM, 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM

& 10PM.

PRESTIGE CINEMA,

PRESTIGE PLAZA

The Bad Guys 3D

11.30AM, 4:30PM

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

3D 7PM, 9.40PM

Freakier Friday 1.45PM, 5PM,

The Naked Gun- 12PM, 7.15PM

Superman: 2.15PM,

Weapons 9.30PM

MOTION CINEMAS,

GREENSPAN MALL,

DONHOLM

Freakier Friday 2PM,, 6.15PM

Weapons 4PM. 6.15PM

The Bad Guys 3D 12PM,

3.30PM, 8.15PM

The Naked Gun- 2PM, 6.45PM

, 8:15PM

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

3D 12PM

MEGA CINEMA,

KISUMU

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

2D 11.50AM, 4PM,

The Bad Guys 2D 12.10PM, 2PM

Freakier Friday 2.10PM, 9PM

The Naked Gun- 4.20PM

Weapons 6.10PM

Son Of Sardaar 2

6.15PM

Andaaz 2

8.40PM



Murchison Falls National Park, where the Nile River surges through a narrow gap over a massive drop. PHOTO|POOL

Eddy Ashioya My only regret is that I never asked my father why he never thought Kenya would make it to the World Cup

My father's voice, Kadenge's magic, and the game that moulded me

You won't believe this, but I am going to recount to you what was recounted to me by who recounted it to them. I am not sure whose memory it is, but it involves a ball. You didn't hear this from me, but somehow most writers become writers after having spent their childhood making up stories. In my Potemkin childhood, I am a swashbuckling midfield general, stitching and threading passes through the eye of a needle.

See, the conversations that ultimately determined the course of my life were about sports. My father was a fanatic, and as the oldest child and favourite son, I was designated to accompany him to football games. Roasters in Kakamega. He'd talk and I'd listen; sometimes he'd talk and I wouldn't listen because the referee had made a bad call, and the crowd jumped him and stones would fly and the game would have to be postponed, or a new referee appointed. Good times.

My father loved Kadenge. Or rather, he loved talking about Kadenge. Joe Kadenge. Football's impresario. A coach's wet dream. "Kadenge na mpira, kadenge na mpi-ra..."

I never met Kadenge, but I heard his legend was so huge that he could take Pelé, and Maradona and make them look like marionettes. He was that player. That good. He was flash, but with the fight. In essence, what you think of when you think of a footballer. Someone who can do it all.

My father never said it, but perhaps he wanted to be a footballer. Or he wanted me to be a footballer? My younger brother, Loud, certainly is. Left back. *Beki wa kupanda na kushuka*. He is built like a cyborg. At 19, he already had a man's body—shoulders, chest, and ego.

I was never a sports guy. I tried rugby, but they hit me in scrum and broke my left finger and I said, *Kivendeni hukoi!* The rugby coach said I had the legs for the game. Legs, my foot! I was fast, yes, but it was the only time I saw a fat man faster than I was. *Kivenda!* I said, and jumped into basketball. I had the height, or so I thought. When I am 50, this is how I



Mantalk with Eddy Ashioya

will remember my stint in basketball. Someone did a slam dunk on my face, and you know how it is in high school. Children don't let up. The man was dangling above me, and reader, that image has burned into the recess matter of my brain. This felt both surprising and intrusive, like being touched by a relative you don't know. I asked my then-boys whether the sight of a man's groin on my face had damaged my street cred, and they said, *Yo, umechoma msee*. Never forgave any of them for that.

In the end, I settled for cycling, which gave me the freedom to be me and still protected my money maker (my face). On the bike, I felt free. Then I realised perhaps I am not as clever as I thought I was. My father had owned a bicycle in his salad days, which he used to tune my mother. Judging by the fact that you are reading this, it means I was born, which further means mother got tuned, which further, further means bicycles hold charm, despite what Sauti Sol said about *kulia kwa Range Rover*. Still, I haven't had such luck, mostly because girls have always preferred four tyres on their bikes, with a sunroof and legwarmers and massage seats.

Looking back at my childhood, I can say that soccer was one of the things that introduced me to joy and pain and everything in between. This past weekend, watching Harambee Stars dim the light of DR Congo, gliding across the green expanse like a gladiator in a Colosseum, with the bloodless serenity of an assassin, the crowd holding their breath, one of those moments before a car acci-



dent where suddenly everyone present, if you look closely enough, gets a premonition, the player caressing the ball, then careening loose, like your bladder giving way after holding it in for too long, bulging the net with a lovey, sensual twang: "Gooooooaaaaaallllll!" followed by the hapless goalkeeper filing for early retirement.

And the crowd? The crowd went nuts. Bonkers. Dizzy and gleeful, a mob unbuckling its belt and filling its face on the spectacle, a whiplash attack of delirium, chaos and football gluttony. It was madness. This is the edge that soccer dances on. Sometimes poetry, sometimes brutal and unforgiving prose.

In that stadium, at that very moment, I was transformed into a little boy. I thought of Joe Kadenge, who retired in 1975, the year my father was born. Stop doing the math. He (my father, not Kadenge) recounted to me what was recounted to him, what I am recounting to you. He told me Kadenge scored the fastest ever goal in the Kenyan top-flight. He told me that Kadenge was a whirling dervish of attack-

ing creativity and God help anyone who thought they could stop him. What he lacked in height, he made up for in menace, bamboozling through tight markings. He would tell a defender one story with his hips and write another with his feet. "Kadenge na mpira, kadenge na mpira..." His talent made fans swoon and turned commentators into poets. Anything they will ever say about Messi, they said it about Kadenge first.

My father swore that Kadenge was a Christian, but that day, he had not taken Holy Communion, showing no mercy to his enemies and doing things the pope would probably not sanction for absolution. After asking the goalkeeper where do I put the ball, Kadenge gave him the eyes, dropped a shoulder, and let his hips tell no lie. "That's how Kadenge scored the fastest goal in Kenya's history."

My only regret is that I never asked my father why he never thought Kenya would make it to the World Cup. I think he laughed, at best snarled, much like what you are doing now. Kenya? World Cup? That's like investing with the govern-

ment...

This thing is for serious countries, my father would say. And to date, I wonder what a serious country is... I just know Kenya isn't.

On some nights—especially when Harambee Stars require a Harambee to reach the stars—I want to go back. I think I'm one of those guys who live too much in the past. I was only 14. Many sins can be forgiven in a boy of 14, but I'm not thinking of the sins, I'm thinking of how moments quickly turn into memories, and how these days easily become those days. I am thinking of all the years that might have been—if I'd only known then what I know now. What do I know? Not much. Only that life is a zero-sum game. There are no winners without losers. So, don't complain. Nil-nil, as I read once, is the score of life. Really, that's all there is to this story. But you can't imagine the fun we had. Nothing could compare. Watching the game with my father. I lived it. I was blessed. If I was to die and go to heaven, it would be a step down.

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I'll be right there in the delivery room: Arrow Bwoy on supporting Nadia through pregnancy

Songwriter and singer Ali Yusuf, better known as Arrow Bwoy, is in a joyful season. The fashionable hit maker is set to become a father for the second time, and he couldn't be more excited.

How would you describe your 2025 so far? It is amazing. I am healthy, and that's the most important thing. I have not been hospitalised, and I can still get my daily bread. For me, that's a blessing.

You are going to be a dad for the second time, how is that for you? Another handsome boy is on the way. I am really looking forward to it. I am praying and hoping for Mama Kai, Nadia, to have a beautiful and safe delivery. It is not easy to bring forth life. Women are truly blessed. We are praying that God gives her the strength so she comes out of it healthy and well.

Were you there during your first child's delivery? Yes. From the moment she told me she was pregnant, I walked the entire journey with her. We went into the theatre together, and I experienced the whole process. It was emotional, intense, but beautiful.

Do you plan to be present again this time? Absolutely. I will be right there in the labour ward. It is the least I can do to support her. These moments mean everything to me.

You had planned to wed this year, what happened? The traditional wedding was supposed to happen on April 19. Everything was ready—the clothes, the décor, it was all paid for. But then we found out Nadia was expecting. According to our cultures, you cannot proceed

with dowry or traditional rites when the woman is pregnant, so we had to pause. My parents said we couldn't proceed with the plans, and I respect that.

So it is an unexpected pregnancy? Actually, we did not know what was going on until we went to the hospital and found out Nadia was pregnant. She had just been feeling sick. It was unexpected in terms of timing, but a huge blessing.

Where do you get the courage to accompany your wife to the delivery room? I never thought it was a big deal. She carried our child for nine months, and with complications. So the least I could do was be there. That moment is serious. It is a matter of life and death. You are watching someone bring life while fighting for her own. Being there is about love, sup-

port, and prayers. She needs to know she is not alone.

What is it like being a couple in the same industry? Does it ever get complicated? Actually, it helps. We understand each other's schedules and scenes. If I am performing and there is a woman on stage, she gets it. It is the job. Same way when I see her performing with a male dancer or artiste, I don't get jealous.

Have you two ever tested each other's boundaries, especially on stage? We both know our limits. Nadia is mature and knows how far to go. I also know where to draw the line. Fans sometimes push boundaries, but we know how to handle them. You just have to stay grounded.

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These three women discovered they had uterine fibroids while navigating pain, fear, and fertility challenges. Through diagnosis, treatment, and resilience, they each found a way to reclaim control over their reproductive health. By **Wangu Kanuri and Esther Intabo**

Behind the pain: How we fought for and won a chance at motherhood



Jael Wakesho, 34, had fibroids the size of a lemon when she conceived her first child. PHOTO|LUCY WANJIRU

Ever felt like your body was keeping secrets from you? Fibroids crash the party without warning, turning normal periods into unpredictable chaos. Suddenly, you're dealing with heavy, lingering bleeding and stubborn cramps that just won't quit.

Quick dashes to the bathroom become routine, thanks to constant pressure on your bladder. Even intimacy can start to feel uncomfortable, or downright painful.

Sometimes the only clue is a bloated belly that just won't budge or, for some women, there are no hints at all until a routine check-up reveals the truth.

These aren't just medical bumps in the road. They're the plot twists no one ever asks for, yet so many women bravely navigate them.

Like Jael Wakesho, 34, who got pregnant despite having fibroids. She says that her monthly periods had always been regular, but at the start of 2019, something changed. She experienced her period twice within two weeks.

This unusual pattern worried her not just because her period came so soon after the last one, but also because the colour wasn't normal. Unsure what was happening, she called her doctor, who recommended an intra-vaginal ultrasound.

"The results showed I had three fibroids on the upper part of my uterine wall. I cried and screamed, not because I knew what fibroids were, but because of fear of the unknown. The doctor later explained to me the sizes and length, and told me one was growing rapidly," she recalls.

You want to get pregnant? Ditch the pills

At the time, Jael had no children and worried she might have difficulties conceiving. Her doctor advised her to try and get pregnant soon and to discontinue the family planning pills she was taking.

"Two months after my appointment, I got pregnant, and around three months in, I felt some sharp pain below my abdomen that made me seek medical help immediately. My gynaecologist told me that my uterus was tight and advised I take bed rest for two weeks plus some medicines, and to avoid heavy tasks," she says.

Thankfully, this was the only complication Jael experienced during her pregnancy. Sometimes, when her son was active, she could feel a lemon-sized growth protruding near her umbilical cord and it would move.

The doctor explained that fibroids some-

times grow alongside the baby. Still, Jael couldn't help but worry about the potential effects. "I was worried that it would mess with my child's growth. That I would die, or even go through caesarean section."

Thankfully, Jael's doctor was always on call. Any time she felt discomfort or didn't feel her baby kick, he would be available.

Jael had her son through vaginal delivery, though she had to be induced because her son was "still relaxed." "After about five minutes in the delivery room, I held my son and the fibroid, one the size of a lemon. It had imprinted itself on his chest," she says.

Jael's postpartum recovery went smoothly, and her doctors advised waiting until she had fully healed before considering surgery. To this day, the fibroids have never affected her well-being. She isn't bleeding excessively, her intimacy is unaffected, and she has no back pain. For now, her doctor has recommended leaving the fibroids alone.

When her son was six weeks old, Jael got a contraceptive implant in her left arm. But after a year, her periods became irregular again, coming every other week, so she had it removed.

Jael wishes she had more information about fibroids. "Maybe I would not be so scared and hysterical. To women who have fibroids, I know it's hard and disheartening, but don't be scared. Have regular check-ups, especially if you are 20 years old and above so that it's detected early."

Fibroids reappeared, and I got pregnant anyway

Ever since her first period, Peris Mboya, 49, experienced cramps which she always dismissed as normal. However, when she conceived her third born in 2012 and visited her gynaecologist, she was not only diagnosed with pregnancy-induced blood pressure and started on medication, but also learned she had a fibroid growing alongside her baby.

Unfortunately, Peris suffered a miscarriage but the fibroids kept growing. "I started having very painful periods, cramping so much and even bleeding non-stop for seven to eight days. I could not even leave the house during that time," she says.

This continued for some time until one day, when she was hanging her house curtain, she collapsed. "After running some tests, I was told my blood levels were so low and I needed to get the fibroids removed."

At the time, Peris, a mother of four, was very scared, not only because she had never delivered her children through caesarean section but also because her sister's friend had passed away in theatre from her fibroids.

"Seven years after I got them removed, I conceived again but when I went for check-up, I was informed that I had a fibroid again."



Lucy Bahati, a mother of one and founder of Bahati Imports, was diagnosed with fibroids at 28 years. PHOTO/POOL

She was concerned that the fibroid might affect her baby, but the doctors reassured her that the growths were outside her uterus, so there was no cause for alarm.

"At the beginning of that pregnancy, I was told there were about four but when I went for my last scan, I was told they had all shrunk, save for one," she says.

However, she had to deliver through caesarean section, because of the growing fibroids. Although she is still living with fibroids, Peris now bleeds heavily for two days, then gets a one-day break before bleeding heavily again for another day, but the cramping is not as much. Peris wishes there could be a way to remove the fibroids permanently.

"Fellow women, please get your uterus checked before you plan on having children so that if you have fibroids, you know where they are and their dangers," she advises.

I removed my fibroids and conceived afterwards

Lucy Bahati, 30, had been having regular, painful periods until she turned 26, and her monthly visitors became a nightmare. They began being very painful and they'd come for five days with heavy clots, persistent backaches, unrelenting fatigue, and uncomfortable bloating which would be relieved by Ibuprofen.

Like many women, she dismissed the signs as a normal part of being a woman. "It wasn't until I was 28 and could barely get through a day of my period without exhaustion or dizziness that I knew something was not right."

Previously, she had consulted other gynaecologists looking forward to conceive, only to be told nothing was wrong with her as she was in her fertility window. So, for a year, she took the fertility drugs but she never conceived.

Early November 2023, Lucy visited a fertility doctor, who, with a simple pelvic scan and hormonal tests, diagnosed her with a five-centimetre fibroid on her myometrium—a muscular layer of the uterus located under the endometrium.

"Hearing the word fibroids felt like being hit by a wall," she recalls. "I was shocked, confused, and honestly, a little broken. I kept thinking what this would mean to my dream of becoming a mum. Would I ever carry a baby?"

She consulted other specialists, changed her diet, and began a journey of self-education in reproductive health, something she had never given serious thought to before.

"I tried herbal teas, castor oil packs, reduced my sugar intake, ate less red meat and processed foods, leaning heavily into plant-based meals. I also consulted a nutritionist and tried to stay consistent with natural remedies," she shares.

But consistency was a challenge. Often, Lucy would fall back on the dietary restrictions as the thought of having fibroids took a toll on her mental health.

However, after weeks of research and regular consultations with her doctor, Lucy opted to remove the fibroid through surgery in December 2023.

"It wasn't an easy decision. But I chose it because I wanted to give myself the best chance at a healthy pregnancy."

After surgery, Lucy embraced gentle walking, castor oil therapy, journaling, and taking iron and vitamin D supplements. Three months after surgery, she got pregnant and although she never had any complications conceiving, she was scared of having a miscarriage.

"The bigger my stomach would grow, the more I feared that my womb would erupt." Doctors had previously removed fibroids near her endometrium—a position that, in some cases, can increase the risk of complications like placenta detachment, although this risk varies from person to person. "So, I chose delivering through caesarean section."

Lucy wishes she had acted sooner and listened to her body. "There's this idea that fibroids only affect older women, or that they don't impact fertility. That's not true. We need to normalise discussions around fibroids. There's too much silence and shame around reproductive health," she shares.

For women navigating fibroids while hoping to conceive, Lucy advises them not to lose hope. "Be informed. Advocate for yourself. Your body is not broken—it just needs care, time, and the right support, because healing isn't just about the physical. It's about getting better emotionally and spiritually too."

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Beyond the myths

By Wanja Mbutia

Uterine fibroids are benign growths in the uterus that affect a significant number of women worldwide. Fibroids are often surrounded by myths that fuel anxiety and misinformation. One widespread belief is that an "idle womb", meaning a womb belonging to a woman who has never had children, attracts fibroids. Experts firmly refute this, explaining that fibroid development is driven by hormonal imbalances, particularly estrogen and progesterone, rather than reproductive inactivity. Another misconception ties fibroids to witchcraft or supernatural causes. Specialists assert that these growths are physiological, not mystical.

Some believe fibroids cause severe symptoms or infertility. Up to three-quarters of women may develop fibroids over their lifetime without significant impact, detected only during routine pelvic exams. They are not linked to contraceptives or any man-made factors. Allegations that one cannot conceive after fibroid removal are also unfounded. It is very possible to get pregnant and deliver a healthy child after removal. Further, the belief that all fibroids require immediate surgical removal is incorrect, as treatment is tailored to individual needs.

The recurrence of fibroids after removal is normal within five to 10 years post-myomectomy. This is because new fibroids can form due to residual microscopic cells or hormonal triggers and not a failure of the initial surgery.

The first step to management

Early and accurate diagnosis is crucial for effective fibroid management. Experts recommend regular gynecological check-ups, utilising tools like ultrasound and MRI to map fibroid size and location, which can range from small growths to those several centimetres in diameter. Misdiagnosis or delayed detection can complicate outcomes, although no direct causal link exists between fibroids and conditions like breast cancer.

Treatment options

Uterine Fibroid Embolization (UFE) is a non-surgical method that shrinks fibroids by cutting off their blood supply while preserving the uterus, benefiting those concerned about fertility. For symptomatic cases, myomectomy removes fibroids while retaining the uterus, although recurrence remains a possibility due to the regenerative nature of uterine tissue. In severe instances, hysterectomy may be recommended.

The cost

Surgical interventions incur substantial costs, including lost productivity, burdening patients, employers, and healthcare systems. "We are encouraged by the recent inclusion of fibroid services under the Social Health Authority (SHA), which marks a significant step toward making diagnosis and treatment more accessible," says Dr Grace Kanyi, an Obstetrician-Gynecologist.



Help! I'm terrified of ending up childless...



I was very clear about wanting a family early in our relationship, but after two and a half years together, my partner has admitted he doesn't want children. I respect his decision, but I'm hurt and angry about being misled. After years of dating, I can't seem to find anyone I have much in common with who wants a family. The thought of ending up alone and childless terrifies me. I am trying to

think of an alternative solution but having a family with a person other than the one you love and who loves you back feels like a compromise.

Don't give up yet. I believe there is still hope for you if you remain optimistic and focused. All is not lost. Pray

about it before making the next move.
**Rev Geoffrey Avudiko, Senior Pastor
in Mitume P.A.G Church, Kitale**

There is a very common saying, "a family that prays together stays together." These words are attached to a photo of a man, a woman and

a child. A complete family should have parents. No matter how long a relationship lasts, for it to be referred to as a family, there must be a child. You were clear about wanting to have a family, which is commendable. If he was opposed to having children since the early days of your relationship, then blame yourself for turning a blind eye. For your partner not to be interested in having children is a red flag. He's not serious about taking the relationship to the next level. It is heartbreaking and you must focus on your happiness. Have a serious conversation with your partner and express your concern. If he sticks to his resolution, then seek to humbly and peacefully end the relationship and go for what you want. The right one is out there looking and searching for you too.

D Mutunga, from the school of life

In life, we all have different preferences. There are those who want to get married and others want to remain single. Respecting people's desires is key. All is not lost though. You can still find love and someone who wants to have a family and children. All you have to do is be patient. Your perfect match is waiting for you somewhere. All the best.

Calvin Queens, Blogger and writer

FROM THE EXPERT

I understand your disappointment. However, I would like to point out a few things that we as humans fail to appreciate. Having a family may seem like a good idea but it does not translate into the perceived harmony that one would wish. He may not want children, but does he make you happy? Is your love for each other worth fighting for? Are you genuinely happy in his space? Those are the questions that you need to ask yourself because I have handled many couples who have a family, and the one thing they lack is happiness. You can leave him for another who wants children but find yourself constantly miserable. You can want a child but not having a child should not define you as a human. It does not make you less of a woman despite the outdated societal pressure put on women to have children. Having a functional relationship with a partner you love is far more important. The choice is yours.

Maurice Matheka is a relationships expert

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

This sounds bad, but I'm thinking of cheating on my husband. Why are thoughts like that going through my mind? What should I do about them?

Health matters

Why women leave 'perfect' marriages

The narrative that women want rich men has been carried too far. Women don't just thrive on money

This week I met three different women at the Sexology Clinic who do not know each other but have similar stories. All of them want advice on how to divorce without causing too much stress to themselves, their parents or other relatives. Incidentally, they are in the same age bracket – 35 to 40. They had been married for between 10 and 15 years and all of them have children. Their husbands are between 37 and 45 years of age.

Eva, one of the women, was grateful that her husband was a great dad to her children.

"He is keen on our children. He pays their school fees on time, talks to the teachers, drops and picks them up from school... I am so lucky to have him."

Another woman, Maggy, appreciated the sacrifice her husband

had made in building a home for her. They live in a six-bedroom mansion in Karen. "It is a lovely home, and he also bought me a red Range Rover. I have five servants taking care of the home."

Christine is similarly wowed by the kindness of her husband, who is investing big time in her siblings and mum. "He has paid fees for my sisters and brothers and built a house for my mum."

Despite all these sacrifices the men are making, the three women had decided to leave their marriages. They had landed in the Sexology clinic because they had been off sex for some time. Eva had not had sex for three years, Maggy for one year and Christine for seven months. It is in the process of understanding why sex was not happening that I learnt a lot about what women want beyond the big money that men want to spend on them.



Health matters
Sexologist
Prof Joachim Osur

Eva's concern was that her husband never allowed her into his world. "He is aloof, always in his own world, I never understand what he is up to or what he is going through. He makes investment decisions that I am not privy to. Many times I have discovered the assets he owns by mistake."

According to Eva, the man lives as if he is not married. He is close to his mother and sisters



and Eva is not sure what the future of the relationship holds. Because he never talks about his feelings and about what he is going through in his life, Eva also stopped talking to him about her feelings. The relationship has become transactional and emotional needs are unmet.

"It is difficult living in a relationship where you can't express your emotions," she said, her eyes welling up with tears. "I feel frustrated, my head aches all the time. I can't sleep most nights."

The lack of emotional connection has made Eva lose desire for sex. She feels nothing even when the man touches her. This has caused her more problems because the man now accuses her of infidelity.

Maggy's man is too busy to attend to her needs. She has had occasional health problems and whenever she talks to her husband about them, he does not pay attention.

"He never remembers my birthday and even if he is reminded, he does nothing about it. I envy women who are given flowers on Valentine's Day and on Mother's Day."

According to her, the relationship has no flavour and is emotionless. It is hollow and the material provision by her husband lacks meaning.

Christine's situation is overt. The man is hostile. He reminds her of all the sacrifices he is making for her. Recently, he blamed her of plotting to kill him.

"He says I am a parasite feeding on his wealth, that I want him dead so that I inherit his wealth," Christine says, tears rolling down her cheeks.

The narrative that women want rich men has been carried too far. Men are beginning to think that long-term relationships can be built on meeting the material needs of the woman, that marriages can be transactional, that they can thrive on money. Far from it! Bold women are now coming out to seek divorce unless relationships revert to love and emotional satisfaction as the foundation of happiness, with money only as a fringe benefit. Anything short of this is unsustainable for the long term, maybe for short-term relationships.

Game plan You need a comprehensive and structured financial plan which prioritises debt repayment

I've defaulted on Sh1.6m debt, how can I repay the loan in two years?



Personal finance

Sound money advice from the experts **By Simon Mburu**

I am 36 and single. I have an eight-year-old daughter who has been living with me upcountry with my parents. I have debts amounting to Sh1.6 million. Sh700,000 of this is from a bank loan that I have defaulted on for the past three months. The remainder is from assorted debts from family, siblings and friends. I had taken the bank debt to start a business and go back to school for my Master's. However, the business did not do well and I started racking up additional debts from siblings and close friends. I found myself borrowing from Paul to repay Peter until I lost my job earlier this year and started defaulting. I went broke and moved back upcountry with my parents. I have ruined relationships because of my non-payment. However, I recently secured a job that will pay me a net of around Sh70,000 per month. I would like to pay off these debts within the next two years. I would also like to support my mum who is currently helping me with my daughter. I don't know how to budget and I am afraid of messing up again. How should I budget for the debt repayments? What allocations should go to rent, food, transport, entertainment, savings, emergency, my mum and daughter's support? Tim

Dominic Karanja is a financial planning and investments consultant

With an objective to settle Sh1.6 million debt over the next two years while maintaining essential expenditures and preventing financial missteps, implement a strict budgeting strategy. You need a comprehensive and structured financial plan which prioritises debt repayment while ensuring coverage of fundamental needs.

To repay Sh1.6 million over 24 months, you need monthly payments of approximately Sh66,667 plus interest. This amount represents nearly your entire salary and leaves limited funds for living expenses. Consider extending the repayment period or negotiating with creditors for more manageable terms, particularly for the Sh700,000 bank loan that may be incurring penalties due to default. Contact the bank to discuss possible loan restructuring, such as extending the repayment term or reducing monthly instalments to avoid further consequences like



asset seizure. For the Sh900,000 owed to family and friends, communicate openly, explain your current employment status, and propose a structured repayment plan, even if initial payments are small, to maintain trust. Allocating a substantial portion of income to debt repayment should also take into account necessary living expenses and support for dependents.

Allocate Sh30,000 towards debt repayment, representing approximately 43 per cent of your monthly income. Of this amount, designate Sh15,000 for the bank loan to demonstrate good faith and progress toward settling the outstanding balance of Sh700,000. Direct the remaining Sh15,000 towards debts owed to family and friends, prioritising those that are most urgent or where relationships may be adversely affected. This approach equates to an annual repayment of Sh360,000, indicating that clearing the full Sh1.6 million debt may require approximately four and a half years, unless future salary increases or additional side income allow for larger payments.

Allocate Sh15,000, representing 21 per cent of your income, to cover rent expenses. In Nairobi, a modest one-bedroom apartment in a suitable neighbourhood typically ranges from Sh12,000 to Sh15,000. This allocation ensures housing remains affordable while providing a secure environment for you and occasional visits from your daughter.

For food, designate Sh10,000 (approximately 14 per cent of your income) towards groceries and occasional dining out. Preparing meals at home such as buying in bulk and meal prepping can help manage costs effectively while allowing for nutritious meals within your budget. Set aside Sh7,000 (around 10 per cent of your income) for transport. Utilising Nairobi's public transport system (matatus and buses) generally costs Sh50 to Sh100 per trip. With daily commuting in mind,

budget Sh5,000 for work-related travel and an additional Sh2,000 for other activities such as family visits or errands. If your workplace is far, consider residing closer to reduce transportation expenses. Allocate Sh5,000 (approximately seven per cent of your income) to cover your daughter's requirements such as school supplies and clothing and provide assistance to your mother, who is overseeing her care. Consult with your mother to identify specific needs and adjust the amount as necessary based on changes in financial circumstances.

Even while tackling debt, start building a small emergency fund. Any surplus income remaining after essential expenditures ought to be allocated either toward reducing debt or establishing a modest emergency fund. Once liabilities have been brought to a manageable level, you may increase your savings contributions. Set aside Sh2,000 (approximately three per cent of your income) each month in a designated savings account or through a mobile money platform for unforeseen emergencies, such as medical costs or unexpected travel. This precautionary approach helps minimise the risk of incurring additional debt.

Limit entertainment expenses to Sh1,000 per month for occasional social activities or minor personal purchases. This strategy allows for controlled discretionary spending while maintaining overall budgetary discipline. It is important to exercise strict oversight in this category, as it is a common area where budgets are exceeded. Consider restricting outings, seeking free or low-cost entertainment options, and prioritising essential personal care items.

To ensure effective implementation, monitor all expenditures using a spreadsheet or budgeting app, and conduct weekly reviews. Avoid lifestyle inflation by maintaining current spending levels, even

if income increases. Pursuing additional income opportunities may also help accelerate debt repayment. Considering previous challenges with budgeting, it is important to proactively address any weaknesses and seek further education on personal finance. Recognising milestones, such as repaying an individual debt, can support continued motivation throughout this process.

I'm a teacher living hand to mouth with Sh36,000 salary; should I take Sh500,000 to start side hustle?

My name is Emily. I am a 28-year-old teacher with a net salary of about Sh36,000. My expenses are as follows: Rent Sh10,000, food and groceries Sh10,000, mom Sh3,000, tithe Sh3,600, salon Sh4,000 (Sh2,000 biweekly), power, water and GoTv Sh2,500, airtime and internet Sh1,000, cooking gas Sh1,500. My budget is so strained that I sometimes struggle to afford decent clothes and shoes. I am hardly saving as I am left with so little. Being a teacher under the TSC, I am contemplating taking a loan of about Sh500,000 to start a clothing boutique as a side hustle. Is this a good move? How can I budget my money more wisely? I work so hard every day and have little to show for it. I recently got a pay raise in the teachers' deal but that has been a drop in the ocean and couldn't offset even the water bill.

Gertrude Njeri is an accountant, personal finance and investment consultant. She works as a community manager for an investment company

Looking at your budget, most of your income is locked into fixed commitments namely rent, food, tithe, helping your mum, salon, and utilities. After those are paid, you're left with almost nothing, which explains why you're struggling to buy clothes or save. The first step is to create some breathing room. Reducing salon visits to once a month and handling simple styles yourself in between could save you around Sh2,000. Meal planning and bulk buying could trim your food expenses by another Sh2,000 to Sh3,000. You might also be surprised at how much small, untracked daily spending (snacks, impulse buys, MPesa charges) can add up. Even Sh100 a day is Sh3,000 a month. Tracking every expense for 30 days will reveal areas where you can cut without affecting your quality of life.

You also have an expense of Sh3,600 for tithe. Whereas tithing is a matter of personal belief, it is not cast in stone. It is unwise to continue being financially constrained when you have this allocation being dispensed to other people at every paycheck, not to mention the possibility of weekly church contributions and donations that you have not accounted for. Suspend this allocation forthwith. These minor budgetary cuts will give you a disposable income of at least Sh7,600 for a total of Sh8,000 when you factor in the balance of around Sh400 that you are left with after your current budgetary allocations.

Now, about that Sh500,000 loan for a boutique. I know the dream is to create an additional income stream, and a boutique sounds exciting. But here's the reality. A loan of that size could mean repayments of Sh16,000 or more every month for the next three years, regardless of whether the business makes a profit. The boutique industry is also highly competitive, and without a unique selling point, you could be spending heavily on rent, stock, and marketing before you can establish a steady flow of customers. If sales are slow, you'll still repay the loan, and with TSC, the deductions are automatic. You wouldn't even get the chance to hold the money before it is gone.

A safer way is for you to start small, but with a larger vision. Since you are a teacher, explore the possibility of taking weekend classes. These can end up paying as much as Sh2,000 per weekend duty, which will add to your disposable kitty. In the medium term, this hustle could grow to offering independent private lessons to various groups seeking various certifications, for example, private candidates seeking to sit their national exams. You may also consider creating teaching materials that you can sell online, such as digital teaching content that includes notes, worksheets for parents and students online, and manuals guiding parents and students on how to maximise their chances of success in the curriculum-based education (CBE).

Before expanding the boutique, build an emergency fund for unexpected costs like delayed salary. Start with a goal of one month's expenses, then work your way up to two or three months. Even putting aside Sh3,000 a month from the disposable income of Sh8,000 you salvage will make a cumulative difference. These funds should go into a money market fund where they will be compounded daily and still be accessible within minutes. Do your due diligence to ensure you save these emergency funds in an MMF platform that has easy, legitimate and legal access, possibly via mobile money.

Put the remaining Sh5,000 into a Sacco account to start building your financial base for potential future financing, and for future projects. These funds should be in an account that will earn your dividends north of 10 per cent. As your situation improves, you can gradually improve your wardrobe as you are in a field that requires decent attire and in which clothing can have a direct correlation with self-esteem. The goal here isn't to shrink your life, Emily. It is to create enough breathing space in your finances so you can grow, whether that's into a fully fledged side hustle, a more comfortable wardrobe, or a solid savings habit. If you start small, stay consistent, and avoid locking yourself into a big loan too soon, you'll be in a much stronger position three years from now. Do not rush into taking loans just because of the ease of access.

If you have any money problems, send us an email at simburu@ke.nationmedia.com and leave your number for contact. Money questions will be answered in this column

