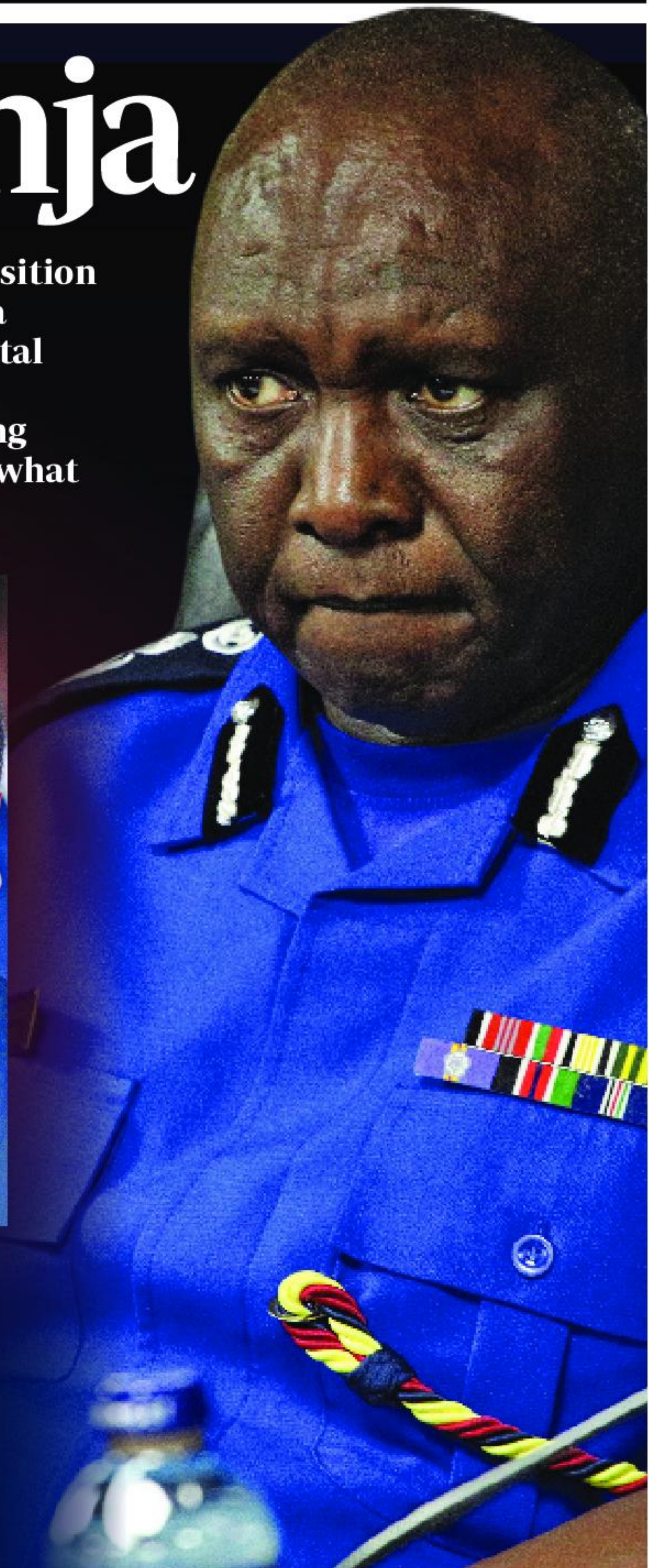




The Standard

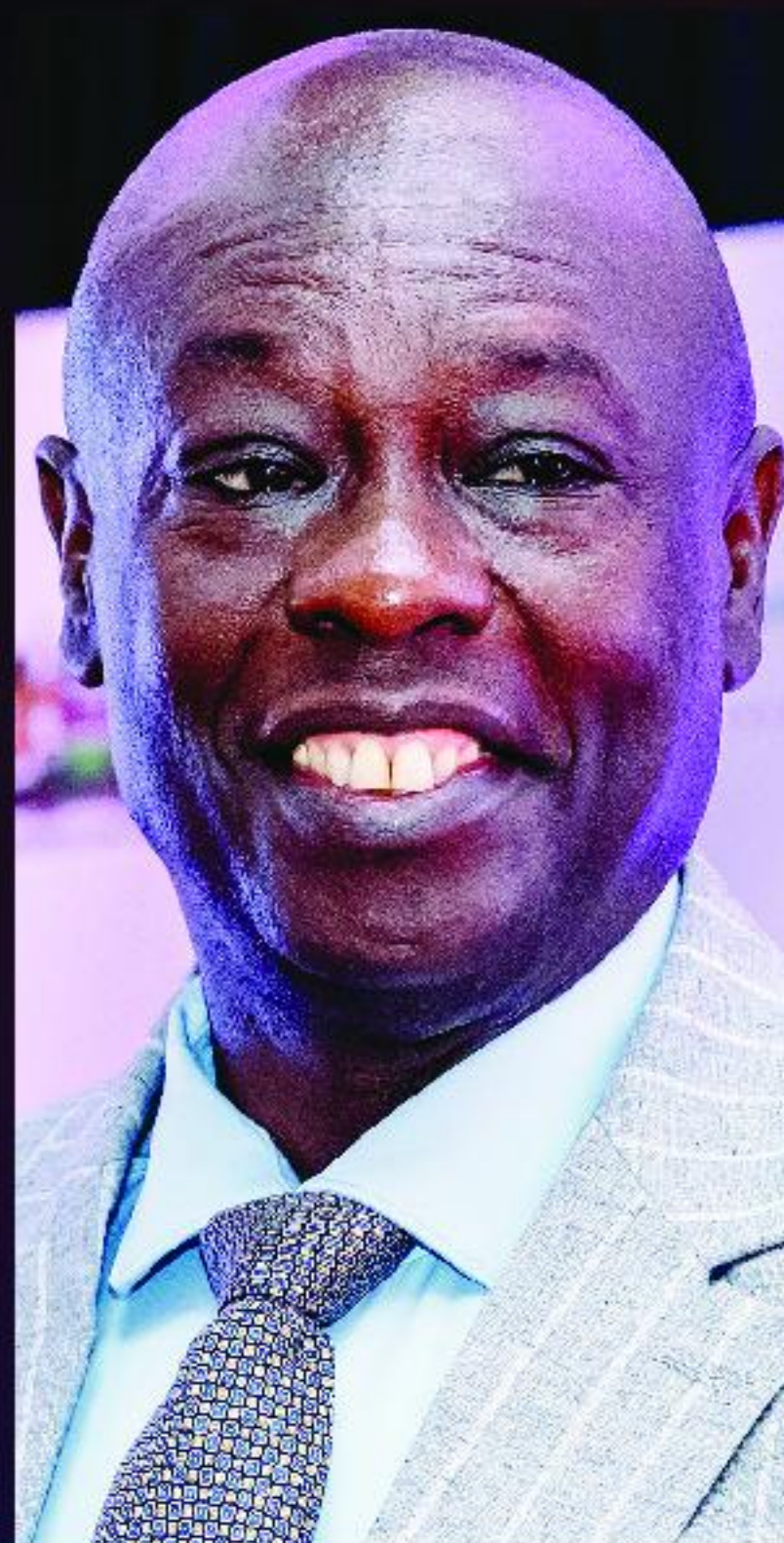
Snobbish Kanja

COWARDICE A political storm erupted at Jogoo House after Opposition leaders accused Inspector General Douglas Kanja of dodging a crucial security meeting, even as outrage mounted over the fatal shooting of a 28-year-old man during a rally in Kitengela. The leaders vowed weekly visits to police headquarters, demanding arrests over the Othaya church attack and accountability for what they termed rising police excesses. **PAGES 4 & 5**



"The spokesperson told us that they will send another invite... It is shocking that the IG and his team were not available for such an important meeting concerning the safety of Kenyans."

Kalonzo Musyoka, Wiper leader



"It cannot be that police who are charged with maintaining law and order are the ones breaking the law. Guns bought using taxpayers' money cannot be turned against unarmed Kenyans."

Rigathi Gachagua, DCP leader



"We believe these are orders from above... When we return here we expect to have a full report and remedial measures to address the concerns. We expect none other than IG Kanja."

Eugene Wamalwa, DAP-K leader

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Snakebites spike amid drought crisis in Turkana

▶ Turkana residents face heightened snakebite risks as drought drives snakes into homes and grazing areas.

▶ Delayed medical access and poor roads compound dangers, highlighting urgent humanitarian needs.

MERCY KAHENDA, TURKANA

At 7am, an eight-year-old boy was brought by ambulance to Kamuge Dispensary in Suguta as an emergency case.

He was unconscious, his leg severely swollen and oedematous (excess fluid buildup), after being bitten by a snake.

Nurses at the facility swiftly administered antivenom in an effort to save his life.

The boy had been bitten while migrating with his father in search of water and pasture for their livestock amid the prolonged drought in Turkana County.

"The boy was bitten at about 5am. His father attempted first aid by applying herbs and tying the leg with a rope to prevent the spread of venom, but the swelling continued. He then contacted the facility for transport and medical care," dispensary in-charge Soop Lomus told *The Standard*.

The nurse suspects the boy may have been bitten by a puffadder, a snake species commonly found in Turkana.

He described it as thick-bodied, with brown, black, and yellowish patterns, and highly venomous. Although it moves slowly, the species is defensive and continues to pose a significant threat to pastoralists in the arid and semi-arid county.

It took the boy about two hours to

reach the hospital due to the poor road network.

The snakebite occurred in Nelio as the family migrated toward Kakapeti, about 21 kilometres away. "Delays contributed to the swelling of the boy's leg, and the venom had already spread to other parts of his body. We are, however, relieved that he is now out of danger," said Lomus.

As the boy was wheeled to the ward for monitoring, 41-year-old Esther Amoding arrived at the facility, her hand tightly tied with a rope.

She had been bitten by a snake while plucking wild fruits (palm fruits) near Suguta Valley.

Amoding, visibly in pain, walked with difficulty and gasped for breath. "A black snake bit my hand while I was picking wild fruits. I tied it, but the pain is unbearable," she said.

Feed children

The frail mother explained she had gone to the valley to collect fruits to feed her children. "I usually walk to the valleys to gather wild fruits for my children. I have no food to give them. Bandits stole some of our livestock, and the rest was swept away by drought," she said.

Her 12-year-old son was also bitten on the hand while sleeping at night.

"It saddens me that we are forced to fight both snakes and hunger as a result of the drought. My son was asleep when a black snake entered the house and bit his hand. I do not know what we can do to stay safe," Amoding added.

These cases reflect a wider rise in snakebites in Turkana, with health experts urging residents to seek medical attention promptly.

Lomus attributed the increase to the persistent drought. "Snakes are moving closer to human settlements in search of water, putting more people at risk," said the nurse.



An eight-year-old boy receives emergency treatment at Kamuge Dispensary in Suguta after being bitten by a snake while migrating in search of water and pasture for livestock. [Mercy Kahenda, Standard]

Kamuge Dispensary data shows at least ten snakebite cases are reported daily. Some are treated and discharged, while critical patients are admitted. Poor roads and difficult terrain often delay access, worsened by insecurity in some areas. Severe cases are referred to Lodwar Referral Hospital or Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret. "We are seeing more cases of snakebites, especially in children. We are ensuring the hospital is stocked with adequate antivenom to save lives," said Lomus.

Families reportedly migrate at



It saddens me that we are forced to fight both snakes and hunger as a result of the drought. My son was asleep when a black snake entered the house and bit his hand,"

Esther Amoding, Victim

night due to the scorching sun and fear of their stock being stolen by armed bandits. "It is difficult to spot snakes at night. They hide in rocks and bite individuals searching for pasture and water for their stock," said Lomus.

Snakes hide in rocks and enter houses at night and during the day in search of water, as the drought persists.

Reports by the Ministry of Health reveal that Turkana has the highest incidence of snakebites, followed by Samburu, Kitui, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale and Taita. The rate in Turkana stands at 413 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Venomous bites can cause paralysis, fatal bleeding, kidney failure, tissue damage, permanent disability, limb amputation, or death. Antivenoms neutralise venom, though responses vary by individual.

"With rising cases, locals are being sensitised to report to hospitals. Many cannot afford transport, so we pick them up to save lives," Lomus said.

The Kenya Red Cross Society links victims to facilities and provides transport.

Nationally, the drought situa-

tion is worsening. Counties most affected include Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa and Samburu. The crisis has led to early depletion of household food stocks, reduced water and pasture, declining livestock productivity, and increased migration.

Acute malnutrition remains critical. Seven counties and sub-counties are in a critical phase: Turkana, Mandera, Samburu, Garissa, Isiolo, North Horr and Laisamis in Marsabit, and East Pokot in West Pokot.

Three counties are in a serious phase: Wajir, Tana River, West Pokot (West Pokot), and Saku in Marsabit. An estimated 784,000 children aged six to 59 months, and 134,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women require treatment nationally.

The Kenya Red Cross Society is actively responding with food assistance, cash transfers, nutrition services, clean water, and psychosocial support to vulnerable households. They work closely with national and county governments, UN agencies, and humanitarian partners, implementing a multi-sectoral drought response focusing on food, security, nutrition, water, and protection. mkahenda@standardmedia.co.ke

MERU

Community sacco empowers drought-hit pastoralist regions

Not long ago, pastoralists in northern and coastal counties had limited access to financial services. Nomadic lifestyles, little education, and distant banking left them with no savings or capital for business.

"We had no money to save. Droughts wiped out our livestock, and we struggled to buy food," said Emmaculate Naikele from Laisamis, Marsabit County.

Naikele is a member of Rangelands Sacco, initiated by Northern Rangelands Trust's MashinaniWORKS, which empowers communities in remote wildlife conservancies. Members gathered at Archers Post, Samburu County, for the sacco's AGM, celebrating financial empower-

ment.

Membership has grown to over 7,000, mostly women, including bead makers, livestock traders, and small business owners. Members receive financial and business training and access credit to grow enterprises. "In our pastoralist regions, people had limited education and financial access. Now they can open shops, start boda boda ventures, and diversify income amid droughts," said Kelvin Demogle, sacco supervisory chairman.

Naikele was among tens of members of Rangelands Sacco, an institution initiated by Northern Rangelands Trust's MashinaniWORKS, which works to empower communities in remote wild-

life conservancies.

Members from northern and coastal regions converged at Archers Post in Samburu County for the sacco's annual general meeting, celebrating the much-needed financial empowerment.

According to Kelvin Demogle, chairman of the sacco's supervisory committee, membership has grown to over 7,000, up from 315 a decade ago.

The majority of members are women, including bead makers, livestock traders, and small business owners. Demogle said members benefit from financial and business management training and can access credit to grow various enterprises. "In our pastoralist regions, people had limited education and financial access. Now they

can open shops, start boda boda ventures, and diversify income amid droughts," said Kelvin Demogle, sacco supervisory chairman.

At the AGM, model members were recognised: Naikele received the 'Top Saver' award, and Stephen Mamai from Laikipia won 'Best Borrower.' Mamai said loans enabled him to start businesses, buy and resell goats, and sustain his family.

Through the sacco, members access credit for small enterprises, livestock trade, education financing, and household assets. Co-operative officer Diramu Guyo noted diligent loan repayment and savings. "We added 500 new members last year, helping pastoralists diversify income," he said. [Phares Mutembei]

From hope to mama fua: A graduate's woes

► Jesang lives in squalid conditions with her children after her brother kicked her out of home.

► She was enlisted in the police in 2014 only for the recruitment exercise to be cancelled.

PETER OCHIENG, ELDORET

It is double trouble for jobless graduate Gladys Jesang.

The 35-year-old mother of three is struggling homelessness while raising her children in squalid conditions in Soy, Uasin Gishu.

Like many university graduates, Jesang had high hopes when she graduated 13 years ago with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from Moi University.

After years of sending out curriculum vitae and application letters, her hopes of building a better life for her family have all but faded.

At her home in Kwa Nancy trading centre in Kapsambeiywet village, Jesang sits deep in thought, clutching a porridge gourd. The science graduate is preparing to walk to another part of the village to wash clothes for local residents, the work she depends on to feed her children.

Even as she prepares a late breakfast on a warm mid-morning, her mind is on how she will provide the next meal. One of her greatest concerns, she says, is encouraging her children, aged between four and 10, to take their education seriously, considering her own circumstances.

Jesang recalls how she unsuccessful

fully sought employment with the Kenya Defence Forces for years before turning to menial jobs, including washing clothes.

"I have asked myself countless times what the need of going to school was. Many times I get so depressed that I think of setting my CVs ablaze, but something tells me to hold back my anger. Some people are being hired with only high school or diploma certificates, yet I hold a Second Class Honours degree and have nothing. It's painful," she says.

Her troubles began after her mother died. She says she was kicked out of her parents' home by a sibling who questioned why she had not secured a decent job or got married.

"When our elder brother started quarrelling with us daily, telling us to find husbands, our father, Vincent Rotich, a retired officer with the Kenya Prison Service, intervened and told him to leave us alone. But his advice fell on deaf ears. He even threatened to kill us if we did not leave. That is why we are staying here in a mud-walled house," Jesang says.

She says her life and that of her children now depend on well-wishers.

"Good Samaritans like Mama Ann Cheruto have been taking care of us. I cannot forget Engineer Stephen Ochieng and Nicholas Koech, both from Eldoret. May you be blessed abundantly," she says.

"Those who have stood with me, thank you so much, especially Eng Ochieng. I am not the only one you have helped. I have seen you fight for the welfare of the youth. God will reward you," she adds.

Forced to rent a mud-walled house



Moi University graduate Gladys Jesang displays her certificates at her home in Kwa Nancy Trading Centre in Uasin Gishu County. [Peter Ochieng, Standard]



I wash clothes for primary school teachers and do other chores such as washing utensils. I am paid Sh200 a day.

Gladys Jesang, Moi University graduate

at Kwa Nancy, Jesang survives on casual work.

"I wash clothes for primary school teachers and do other chores such as washing utensils. I am paid Sh200 a day. That is how I survive," she says.

The third-born in a family of five — four sisters and a brother — Jesang says she has never disclosed her academic qualifications to her employers for fear of losing her only source of income.

"I have suffered for 13 years. Some people think I am a primary school dropout because of the kind of jobs I

do," she says. In 2014, she says, luck appeared to smile on her when she was enlisted by the National Police Service and issued with a docket number after a gruelling recruitment exercise.

She was among hundreds of youths recruited into the service, but her joy was short-lived when the NPS cancelled the entire exercise, citing massive irregularities.

"I scored a B plain at Kapkenda Girls and did everything possible not to disappoint my parents, who sold everything to educate me. After doing my best, where am I now?" she asks, tears rolling down her cheeks.

Jesang also recounts the hardships she and her four sisters endured after their mother, Catherine Rotich, died 20 years ago following a long illness.

"I humbly appeal to President William Ruto and Governor Jonathan Bii to save me from this frustration. Just offer me a job to enable me to feed my children," she pleads.

Ann Koech, a relative, says Jesang has endured numerous challenges.

"She has the academic papers. Let the government create an opportunity for her, even if it means giving her a slot in the next police recruitment," Koech appeals.

Mercy Jekemoi, a neighbour, says Jesang has often complained about her brother's mistreatment.

"Thank you to the media for coming to witness the hardships this lady is going through. She is both a mother and a father to her family," she says.

Efforts to reach her brother for comment were unsuccessful, as his phone went unanswered throughout the day.

BARINGO

Man denies possessing ethanol as residents protest in court

A man has denied being in possession of ethanol in Eldama Ravine, as agitated residents demonstrated within the court premises over the high consumption of alcohol in the area.

James Nderitu, who was arrested on Sunday, yesterday denied charges of possessing uncustomed goods and being in possession of excisable goods without authority before Eldama Ravine Chief Magistrate Boaz Obwewa.

According to the charge sheet, Nderitu was allegedly found in possession of 255 litres of uncustomed ethanol valued at Sh612,000, which attracted an excise duty of Sh452,880, on February 15, 2026, at Shauri Village in Baringo County.

He also denied another count of being in possession of 255 litres of ethanol that had been removed from a place where it ought to have been charged

excise duty amounting to Sh452,880.

The prosecutor, Monica Mburu, opposed Nderitu's release on bail. "We are opposing the accused being released on bond; we pray for a bond hearing in the interest of justice," Mburu said. The bail hearing was scheduled for February 18.

The court heard that Nderitu is a repeat offender.

He has an ongoing case before the same court after he was arrested on August 30, 2023, for possession of ethanol.

He was released on a Sh1 million bond.

Eldama Ravine Assistant County Commissioner David Cheruiyot testified before Principal Magistrate Wilson Kitur that he received a tip-off from an informer on August 30, 2023, about a consignment at Nderitu's homestead. The case will be mentioned again on April 30.

[Yvonne Chepkwony]

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

MINISTRY OF ROADS, INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC WORKS

ADDENDUM

The County Government of Bungoma (CGB) through the **MINISTRY OF ROADS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS** wishes to inform all prospective bidders that the bid documents previously uploaded have been reviewed and found to contain some errors. This addendum is issued to request all prospective bidders to;

- Disregard the previous documents uploaded on **Tuesday 10th February 2026** and use the ones in this addendum uploaded on **Tuesday 17th February 2026**
- Download and use the revised bid documents from www.bungoma.go.ke/tenders, www.supplier.treasury.go.ke or PPIP portal: www.tenders.go.ke/portal
- Tenders to be received on or before **Thursday, 26th February 2026 at 11:00 am local time**

All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation

CHIEF OFFICER
ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS

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P.O. Box 437 - 50200, Bungoma
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DTB DIAMOND TRUST BANK

Notice on Reduction of Base Lending Rate

Following the Central Bank of Kenya's revision of the Central Bank Rate (CBR) from 9.00% to 8.75% on 10 February 2026, DTB wishes to inform you of the following:

- All new local currency variable-rate loans will be priced at a base rate of 8.75%, plus the applicable risk-based premium (K), in accordance with the Risk Based Credit Pricing Model (RBCPM).
- All existing local currency variable-rate loans currently priced on CBR + Premium (K) will have the CBR component revised from 9.00% to 8.75% p.a. effective 11 March 2026.
- All existing local currency variable-rate loans taken before 1 December 2025 will continue under their prevailing terms and will transition to the RBCPM on 28 February 2026 as earlier communicated.

DTB remains committed to full compliance with all regulatory guidelines issued by the Central Bank of Kenya.

For any inquiries or assistance, please contact your Relationship Manager, visit your nearest DTB branch, or reach out to our Contact Centre on 0719 031888.

Bank with us. Bank on us.

Kitengela rally death: Family cries for justice after young father shot

► Ayomo, a husband and father of one year old baby, was fatally shot in the face.

► His family says the mechanic was killed while walking home from work.

JULIET OMELO AND PETERSON GITHAIGA, KITENGELA

Deep sadness and anger gripped the family of 28-year-old Vincent Ayomo Otieno who was shot dead by police while walking home from work in Kitengela on Sunday during the chaos that rocked Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna's Linda Mwananchi rally.

Ayomo, a husband and father of a one-and-a-half-year-old child, was fatally shot in the face in what his family and rights activists are calling a senseless act of police brutality.

Speaking at the Nairobi Funeral Home where his body was taken, Ayomo's wife Khadija Riomy, recounted the moment she learned of the shooting.

"I was at home when I received a phone call that my husband had been shot. He was just leaving work and he never deserved this. We searched for him, but we couldn't find him in any mortuary in Kitengela. We were instructed to check at city mortuary where we have confirmed his body is here. He has a bullet wound in his face. I will never forget that moment," she said.

She said her only demand is for justice to be served for her husband, saying he did not deserve to die in such a manner. A mechanic, Oyam was allegedly shot on his way from work.

"He was a good husband and father. I will fight for justice and for the police involved to take accountability for their action," Khadija said.

The tragedy unfolded amid chaos and confusion, when police disrupted an ODM rally led by embattled secretary general Sifuna. The leaders said the police used teargas and live bullets on their supporters.

Troubling pattern

Witnesses described rushing to Ayomo's side and finding him lying on the ground lifeless after being shot.

"I received a call from an unknown number at around 6pm telling me that my colleague had been shot dead behind Bata and when I arrived at the scene he had gunshot wounds through his eyes. I had to make calls to his close family members to inform them of the incident," said one of his workmates.

Frederic Ojiro, head of Rapid Response at Vocal Africa, condemned the killing as part of a troubling pat-



People take cover after chaos erupted when police fired tear gas canisters at a rally led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna in Kitengela Town on February 15, 2026. Inset: Vincent Ayomo, victim of Kitengela shooting. [Peterson Githaiga, Standard]

tern in Kenya. "Vincent had just left work. He was not involved in any rally. Even if he had attended, what crime did he commit to be shot in the eyes? A week does not pass without police killing innocent young Kenyans. Families are left grieving while those responsible continue with their lives as if nothing happened," Ojiro said.

Formal report

Ojiro demanded accountability from the highest levels of government asking the Inspector General of Police and the Cabinet Secretary for Interior to resign.

"It is only honourable that the Inspector General of Police and the Interior Minister resign. Enough is enough. Kenyans are not safe when the people meant to protect them are the ones taking their lives," he said.

Ayomo's family yesterday identified his body at Nairobi Funeral Home before lodging a formal complaint at Kitengela Police Station. A postmortem on the body is scheduled for today.

"Our next course of action is to go back to Kitengela Police Station and make a formal report and get an OB for the same," Ojiro stated.

Civil society groups and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) have been urged to act swiftly to ensure justice is served and the perpetrators brought to book.

"We cannot continue to bury our children while the guns that killed

Tragedy

28 YEARS

AGE of Vincent Ayomo Otieno who was shot dead during an ODM rally in Kitengela on Sunday. Ayomo was a husband and father of one.

them remain in the hands of the same officers," Ojiro said.

IPOA said it had launched an independent investigation into the killing. The authority expressed concern over the loss of life and injuries reported during the rally.

IPOA said it had deployed a rapid-response team to Kitengela to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident, assess the extent of police involvement, and evaluate whether the use of force was justified and proportionate under the law.

Ayomo's death has reopened the wounds of dozens of families across Kenya who have witnessed young lives lost in the hands of police.

This comes barely a week after a girl was shot dead in Huruma estate by the police during demonstrations.

"Vincent was a husband, a father, a friend. He had dreams, hopes, and

a life to live. And it's gone in an instant," said a family member. His wife later lodged a formal complaint at Kitengela Police Station where she reiterated that her husband did not deserve such death.

"We want the government to come clear and reveal who killed my husband and why," said Khadija amid sobs.

Peaceful gathering

Following the fatal shooting, angry mobs used his body to barricade the Nairobi-Namanga Road for more than two hours. They later dumped the body at the Kitengela municipal offices where the police took it to the mortuary.

Human right activist Longton Jamil challenged relevant authorities to expedite investigations and come up with a clear answer on what actually transpired.

The incident has caused panic among business people in Kitengela Town who want the culprits brought to book.

Speaking at the scene of the shooting, the traders accused the police of unnecessarily lobbing teargas into a peaceful gathering before opening fire into fleeing crowds.

"Being on a Sunday, we expected huge sales since many people were not at work, but police blundered by disrupting the rally, and in the process, we incurred huge losses," said Moses Karanja, a businessman.

newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

MERU

Maraga condemns State over violence at Sifuna's meeting

Former Chief Justice David Maraga has condemned Sunday's violence at the Edwin Sifuna-led political rally in Kitengela, Kajiado County, and accused the government of orchestrating it.

The United Green Movement Party leader said President William Ruto's administration was in panic mode, hence breaking up of events attended by opposition leaders.

He said the attacks on opposition leaders' functions, including at a church service in Nyeri attended by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, were a sign of a regime in panic.

"The government has panicked. We have never seen a situation where the police go and teargas a church," said Maraga, who was accompanied by some of the party's aspirants in Meru.

He added: "We saw the teargas in Kitengela. Those people were having a very peaceful meeting. There was no reason whatsoever, no breach of peace. I stand firmly with the United Opposition in condemning the teargassing of gatherings, particularly churches," he said.

At the same time, the former Chief Justice urged the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to intensify voter registration and ensure all Kenyans exercise their democratic right in next year's General Election.

Maraga said many people were unable to register due to the long distances they have to cover to reach registration centres.

"At the moment, ID and voter registration are at the constituency level. These are very far from where (most) people are. To be able to register, they need between Sh1,000 and Sh1,500 to travel to registration centres and come back (home). The people who are being asked to travel are people who are extremely poor; some are young people who are unemployed," he said.

Maraga said IEBC must make elaborate plans to make sure registration centres are taken closer to the people.

He said he was in the presidential race for the long haul but was ready to work with parties that share his vision of eradicating corruption and putting the country on the path for development.

Maraga, 75, said he wants to involve the youth in the governance, noting that they had been ignored in the process.

"You cannot afford to have any plans without thinking about them. The elections of 2027 will be decided by the vote of the young people," he said.

[Phares Mutembei]



Former Chief Justice David Maraga. [Kanyiri Wahito, Standard]

Opposition fumes as IG Kanja snubs meeting

- ▶ The principals warn the IG's failure to engage undermines security, calling it disrespectful and unprofessional.
- ▶ They vowed to make weekly visits until accountability is delivered for the Witima church attack.

OKUMU MODACHI, NAIROBI

The United Opposition principals have accused Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja of snubbing a crucial security meeting at Jogoo House, as they intensified pressure to end what they described as rising cases of police excesses and political intimidation.

The leaders, including former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Kalonzo Musyoka of Wiper and DAP-K's Eugene Wamalwa, yesterday stormed the National Police Service Headquarters at Jogoo House, where they were met with a "cold" reception.

After spending a few minutes at the IG's offices, the leaders emerged and claimed police bosses had "fled". It was not clear whether they had been officially invited for the meeting.

This marked the second occasion the leaders had sought an audience with Kanja over progress in investigations into the attack at Witima ACK Church in Othaya, Nyeri County, last month.

According to the principals, during the first meeting with the IG, it was agreed that a follow-up meeting would be held, which they honoured, only to be "snubbed".

The January 30 meeting had set February 16 as the date for the follow-up, to ascertain the progress of resolving the Witima matter. "We have told the IG that before we come back on February 16, those members of that unit need to be arrested, disarmed, and taken to court. He must give us that assurance," Gachagua said.

When contacted for comment on whether the opposition leaders had an invitation for yesterday's meeting, police spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga told *The Standard*: "I thought

the burden of proof (confirmation) lies on those who allege."

However, the opposition leaders maintained that Kanja left shortly before their arrival without informing them, delegating junior officers to engage them instead, a move they rejected. "The magnitude of this matter, an attack on a place of worship, is an act of terror. We cannot discuss this issue with anyone other than the IG," Gachagua said.

Gachagua described the IG's absence as disrespectful and unprofessional, saying it undermined the seriousness of the security concerns they had raised. "He did not even have the courtesy to tell us he would not be here; he left shortly before we arrived," Gachagua alleged.

Musyoka said they were instead received by Muchiri, whom they declined to engage, vowing to return on Friday for an audience with the IG.

"The spokesperson told us another invite will be sent. We would prefer it even today or tomorrow. If not, we will return on Friday regardless," he said.

"It is shocking that the Inspector General and his team were not available for such an important meeting concerning the safety of Kenyans," Musyoka added, insisting the IG had deliberately skipped the meeting.

According to Wamalwa, the IG was acting on orders from above, but this will not deter them from meeting him.

He declared that the opposition will visit Jogoo House weekly until their concerns are addressed, reiterating that all they want is accountability. "When we return, we expect a full report and remedial measures to address the concerns. We expect none other than IG Kanja to talk to us," he said.

Gachagua further alleged that they had information from within the Service that investigations into the Othaya church attack had already been concluded and that the officers involved had been identified and traced.

The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader also accused elements within the police of being used to settle political scores, claiming there were new directives outside the police command structure.

He alleged that senior government officials were issuing instructions directly to police commanders outside the established chain of command.

"It cannot be that police, charged with maintaining law and order, are the ones breaking the law. Guns and ammunition bought with taxpayers' money to protect citizens cannot be turned against unarmed Kenyans," he said, citing the latest incident in Kitengela, where police disrupted a peaceful rally held by the ODM faction led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna.

Meanwhile, while on a tour in Meru County, former Chief Justice David Maraga weighed in, condemning the Kitengela incident.

"What was the cause? Those people were having a peaceful meeting. There was no reason, no breach of peace whatsoever," he said.



Opposition leaders Kalonzo Musyoka and Rigathi Gachagua at a political rally in Nairobi CBD yesterday. [Courtesy]

daily@standard.com



MORE STORIES

Acute condom shortage linked to donor cuts, raising sex risk fears

PAGE 13



KENYA BUREAU OF STANDARDS STAFF RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEME (DBS) & KENYA BUREAU OF STANDARDS STAFF RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEME 2011 (DCS)
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NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF YEAR 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Kenya Bureau of Standards Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme (DBS) & Kenya Bureau of Standards Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme 2011 (DCS) shall be conducted on a hybrid platform on Friday 06, March 2026, starting at 9.00 am.

The following business will be transacted:

Item	Agenda
1	Opening Prayers, welcoming remarks, and introductions
2	Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20, November 2024 and matters arising thereof
3	Report of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
4	Statement from the Sponsor
5	Presentation of Financial Statements as at June 30, 2025 and audit report thereof
6	Presentation of Investment Management Report
7	Presentation of Custody report
8	Presentation of Administration Report
9	Presentation by the Retirement Benefits Authority
10	Testimonials by a Retiree
11	Members Question & Answers
12	Vote of Thanks and Closing Prayers

Mr. Brian K. M'bwanga
 The Trust Secretary, Board of Trustees

Note.

1. All members, (Active, Deferred and Pensioners) are invited to attend the event by registering using the following link: <https://shorturl.at/C4zUI>
2. You are requested to review the attached full sets of duly executed Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2025 in preparation for the Annual General Meeting
3. In line with the Scheme Governance Policy, this notice is hereby issued at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Date: 16th February 2026.

“
 The magnitude of this matter, an attack on a place of worship, is an act of terror. We cannot discuss this issue with anyone other than the IG,
”

Rigathi Gachagua, DCP leader

James Orengo: Man of all seasons in Kenya's ever shifting political winds

- ▶ He has seen it all over his four decades in politics but is not hanging his coat just yet.
- ▶ The Governor appears to be positioning himself to mentor a new generation of firebrands.

ISAIAH GWENGI, SIAAYA

If the country had a poster for its faces of defiance, the faces behind the push for change, the face of Siaya Governor James Orengo would be plastered among the greats.

He has seen it all, challenged it all over his four decades in politics, but is not hanging his reformist coat just yet. Bold, fearless, and controversial, Orengo is on a fresh mission as he aligns with a team of young politicians seeking to redraw the country's political landscape.

Orengo has found himself at the centre of a momentous period in the country as the jostling to succeed late ODM leader Raila Odinga intensifies.

He has built a political career defined by defiance, resilience, and an unyielding belief in principle over convenience.

For more than four decades, the Siaya Governor has occupied a unique space in Kenya's political theatre, sometimes at the centre of power, often at its margins, but always unmistakably present.

On the rocky political path of Raila Odinga, Orengo was among the constant figures in his circle during times of deep political upheavals.

So daring was Orengo that he was among the few leaders who did not bolt out in fear during the mock swearing-in of Raila in 2018 as the people's president.

Today, as the country navigates a new season of political realignments, Orengo once again finds himself standing apart.

With most elected leaders from his own county aligning with President William Ruto under the broad-based government arrangement, Orengo finds himself increasingly isolated, a political position that may jeopardize his bid for a second term as governor.

The recent visit by Siaya MCAs to Eldoret State Lodge to meet President Ruto underscored the widening gap between the governor and his county's political class. While the legislators framed the visit as a strategic move to unlock development resources, Orengo has maintained that proximity to power must never dilute democratic accountability.

For a governor eyeing a second term, the fallout with nearly all MPs in his county presents a significant political gamble.

Last week, Orengo's ally-turned



Siaya Governor James Orengo speaks to the press at his Nairobi office on April 17, 2024. [Jenipher Wachie, Standard]

critic, Alego-Usonga MP Samuel Atandi told the MCAs to 'smell the coffee', with people interpreting it as a hint to an impeachment motion against the governor.

During a recent political rally in Busia dubbed 'Linda Mwananchi', Orengo reignited the ideological debate within ODM. Speaking with characteristic bluntness, he rejected any suggestion that the party should formally align with President Ruto ahead of next year's elections.

"We will not join a government whose policies we do not agree with," declared Orengo, positioning himself as the guardian of ODM's original reformist mission.

He insisted that the party's mandate is to champion the welfare of ordinary Kenyans struggling under the weight of the high cost of living, rather than seeking comfortable seats at the high table.

Orengo's defiance escalated on Wednesday following the ouster of Edwin Sifuna as ODM Secretary General. In a fiery statement, the governor directly accused President Ruto of orchestrating Sifuna's removal to destabilize the opposition.

"The problem in ODM is President Ruto. He is convening meetings, excluding key leaders like Sifuna, and dictating the direction of our party,"

said Orengo.

Orengo claimed the chaos engulfing the Orange party is a carefully orchestrated script written at State House. He alleged that Ruto is holding secret night meetings with ODM factions to sow discord and weaken the party.

The allegations come in the wake of a tumultuous National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting that saw Sifuna suspended, a move Orengo insists is null and void.

The accusations have intensified internal divisions, particularly after a faction led by Oburu Oginga declared support for President Ruto's 2027 reelection bid, a position Orengo firmly rejects.

46 YEARS

PERIOD that James Orengo has been an active politician. He was first elected MP in a by-election in 1980. Orengo has since built a reputation as a firebrand and bold politician.

While that faction signals accommodation, Orengo insists ODM will field its own presidential candidate.

Even amid the storm, Orengo appears to be thinking long-term. He has openly backed young political voices like Sifuna and Babu, positioning himself as a mentor to a new generation of opposition leaders.

Political observers say that through this, Orengo is extending his influence beyond Siaya, ensuring the continuation of reformist ideals even if his immediate political base is fractured.

While many Luo Nyanza leaders embrace engagement with the national government to secure development, Orengo emphasizes that true leadership requires accountability and ideological consistency.

"He is preserving a unique political brand that even in isolation, he remains a reference point for principled opposition in Kenya," said Michael Okumu, a resident of Siaya.

Analysts warn that if the local legislature fully backs cooperation with the national government, and ODM fractures further, Orengo may face a steep uphill battle for reelection.

In Siaya, however, critics have questioned his commitment on his role as governor and claim he has prioritized national politics at the expense of serving his county.

This has been worsened by his fallout with his deputy, William Oduol, who claims he has been sidelined in county affairs. He is among a team of critics who have joined the race to unseat Orengo.

Others are Ugenya MP David Ochieng, and UDA's Nicholas Gumbo. Also in the list of those considering to challenge him are members of the ODM brigade from the county, including Energy CS Opiyo Wandayi and three MPs; Elisha Odhiambo (Gem), Atandi (Alego Usonga), and Gideon Ochanda (Bondo), who previously helped Orengo campaign for the seat.

Orengo, however, is unfazed by his critics and continues with his fiery anti-government campaigns even as his officers rush against time to implement several projects across the county.

On Friday, a day after launching criticism against President Ruto for allegedly infiltrating ODM and threatening multiparty politics, the county chief unveiled the ongoing construction of Ukwala sub-county hospital, which is on course.

He has also appointed members of the Siaya County Public Service Board as he seeks to restore order in his administration.

Orengo says his administration is keen on implementing development projects to transform the lives of residents.

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NYERI

Deputy position is Kindiki's for keeps, Ruku tells Oburu

Leaders from the Mt Kenya region have insisted that Deputy President Kithure Kindiki must retain his position after next year's election. They were reacting to ODM leader Oburu Oginga's statement that the party is eyeing the seat.

Oburu said ODM will be asking for the DP's position in a pre-election deal with President William Ruto's United Democratic Alliance (UDA).

But Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Geoffrey Ruku and Mwea MP Mary Maingi told ODM leaders to forget the position, saying it is not negotiable.

"The position being held by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki is not negotiable. It's a historical position for the Mt Kenya region," said Ruku. "Those looking for seats should not bother with the presidency or the deputy presidency. There is no vacancy now, and there will be no vacancy in 2027."

He was speaking at the Joy Holy Trinity church in Mwea on Sunday.

He said that while the government operates under a broad-based arrangement, it's meant to foster national unity and development, not about sharing positions.

"We respect the broad-based government for its unity and development across the country. But the seat of the Deputy President is not something that can be bargained. It belongs to Kindiki, and we will stand with him," Ruku said.

Ruku also turned his guns on former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, accusing him of spreading division and threatening other leaders.

"Stop threatening people and calling yourself Mau Mau. Our forefathers also fought for independence," he stated.

Ruku said Mt Kenya East deserves its moment in national leadership.

"Mt Kenya East has supported presidents from Central Kenya for many years. Now it is our turn to support Kindiki as the second-in-command from this side. He has the closest opportunity of becoming president in 2032," he said.

Ruku said development in Mt Kenya is proof of the government's commitment to the region, dismissing claims that the dissatisfaction from some leaders is rooted in stalled projects.

Maingi said the region's support for Ruto and Kindiki was steadfast.

"We are firmly behind the Deputy President Kithure Kindiki. As a region, we have agreed to support him until he becomes president in 2032," Maingi said.

[Jane Mugambi]



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]

The Sifuna factor: Moment or movement?

► His defiant rally defied his party ouster, energising grassroots support and capturing national attention.

► The event has sparked debate on whether this momentum signals lasting influence or a temporary surge.

IRENE GITHINJI, NAIROBI

A political storm is brewing after embattled ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna drew a massive turnout in Kitengela, Kajiado County, despite claims by a rival faction that his position has already been filled.

On Sunday, Sifuna held his first rally since the ODM National Executive Council, chaired by Party Leader Oburu Oginga, announced his replacement over alleged 'indiscipline'. The unexpectedly large crowd in Kitengela has fuelled speculation about an emerging political wave around him.

Observers are now questioning whether Sifuna is building a new political force with sustainable national appeal or simply capitalising on the current fallout within the party. Others wonder whether he can maintain the momentum.

Although police lobbed teargas, forcing the rally to end prematurely, Sifuna has pressed on, announcing that his next Linda Mwananchi tour will take place on Saturday in Kakamega Town.

Political analyst Barrack Muluka believes the developments signal the start of a broader political shift. "A revolution is well under way and anyone who underestimates it does so at their own peril. It is unstoppable," he said.

He argued that the current tensions had been brewing for some time, describing the situation as a "tropical political thunderstorm".

He added that the country has effectively entered campaign mode, with the incumbent already preparing for next year and Sifuna's camp diving headfirst into the contest. "The energy sustaining them is not their own; it is the energy of the people. When people say, 'I am Sifuna' and 'We are Sifuna', how do you stop that? When the 2005 referendum wave began, it went all the way to 2007. This one, too, will not be stopped," Muluka stated.

In a pointed metaphor, he said the "orange" was with Sifuna, while Oburu had been left with the "peels".

Political scientist Richard Bosire said ODM had effectively told Sifuna to leave if he was dissatisfied with the party's direction, but the Secretary General has insisted he is staying put.

Bosire noted that Winnie Odinga has publicly shown support for Sifuna, arguing that democracy de-

mands tolerance of divergent views. "The manner in which Oburu was installed did not follow the Constitution, and that triggered protest. Even before attention shifted to Sifuna, there were questions about succession outside proper party structures," he said.

He added that Ida Odinga had called for a ceasefire, signalling concern over a potential split if Sifuna were expelled.

According to Bosire, political parties often fracture when dissent is mishandled. "Disputes should be resolved within the Orange Democratic Party. Otherwise, the 'D' in ODM becomes meaningless," he said, adding that if leaders cannot work with Sifuna, they should call for elections rather than force him out.

He described the Kitengela turnout as organic and reflective of broader public sentiment, contrasting it with rival rallies marked by coordinated displays of party colours. "The natural response sends shockwaves through the Oburu axis because it suggests Sifuna's position resonates. Some members do not want a political marriage between ODM and Ruto. They want the party to remain independent, as one of the oldest and most popular parties in Kenya. Yet the Oburu side appears determined to pursue that alliance," he said.

Another analyst, Dismas Mokuia, said Kenya is firmly in campaign season, with political actors aligning and realigning to build capital ahead of the 2027 General Election.

He predicted unprecedented permutations in the political space as politicians gravitate towards special purpose vehicles capable of delivering electoral victory.

Mokuia outlined several options available to Sifuna if he intends to consolidate his support. One would be to resign both as an ODM member and as Senator, thereby triggering a by-election. "He could then run under a different party or form a new one. Raila Odinga once resigned as a Ford Kenya member and Kibera MP, and that move created enormous political opportunity for him," Mokuia said.

Alternatively, Sifuna could seek to secure control at the ODM National Delegates Conference (NDC) alongside like-minded members and use the party's infrastructure to influence national politics. "These options could provide a sustainable national



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna during the Linda Mwananchi Tour in Kitengela town on Sunday. [Kanyiri Wahito, Standard]

appeal and translate into real political capital for 2027. To maintain momentum, Sifuna must control both the political tool and the political structure," Mokuia argued.

He warned that failure to pursue either route could weaken Sifuna's trajectory, as he would lack control over a national political machine ahead of the elections.

Mokuia noted that Raila was able to hold ODM together for years largely because he wielded the authority to reward loyalty and sanction dissent.

"This is one of the most viable paths to converting national excitement into political capital. Sifuna must avoid rookie mistakes and conduct careful scenario analysis, because his peers and seniors are waiting to capi-

talise on any misstep," he said.

As the ODM wrangles intensify, Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro weighed in, criticising what he termed outdated methods of managing political dissent. "We are seeing teargas thrown at innocent Kenyans during gatherings. Do what you must, but the trend being set will boomerang," he said.

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT | FIFTH SESSION (2026)
THE SENATE

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA AND PUBLIC HEARING
THE PUBLIC SERVICE INTERNSHIP BILL, 2022 (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
BILLS NO. 63 OF 2022)

The **Public Service Internship Bill, 2022 (National Assembly Bills No. 63 of 2022)** was read a First Time in the Senate on Thursday, 12th February, 2026 and thereafter stood committed to the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare for consideration. The Committee is required, under standing order 145(5) of the Senate Standing Orders, to facilitate public participation on the Bill and to take into account the views and recommendations of the public when the Committee makes its report to the Senate.

The Bill seeks to establish a structured, equitable and sustainable framework for internship programs across the public service in Kenya by providing coordinated, hands-on training and practical experience for graduates. The Bill also seeks to enhance youth development and employability by strengthening the link between education and the labour market and ensuring interns acquire the professional exposure required for registration by relevant regulatory bodies.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 118 of the Constitution and standing order 145(5) of the Senate Standing Orders, the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare now invites interested members of the public to submit any representations that they may have on the Bill by way of written memoranda.

The memoranda may be submitted to the Clerk of the Senate, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi, hand-delivered to the Office of the Clerk of the Senate, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi or emailed to clerk.senate@parliament.go.ke and copied to laboursocialwelfarecomm.senate@parliament.go.ke to be received on or before **Tuesday, 3rd March, 2026 at 5.00 p.m.**

In addition, the Committee will hold a public hearing on the Bill on **Tuesday, 3rd March, 2026** at the **Mini Chamber, First Floor, County Hall Building, Nairobi** at **11.00 a.m.** Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing.

The Bill and a digest that summarizes the contents and context of the Bill may be accessed on the Parliament website at <http://www.parliament.go.ke/the-senate/house-business/bills>.

**J. M. NYEGENYE, CBS,
CLERK OF THE SENATE.**



MORE
STORIES

The devil is
in the detail
in this year's
Budget Policy
Statement

PAGE 18

Campaign countdown

2027

YEAR

ALREADY casting its shadow over the political landscape, has effectively ushered Kenya into campaign mode,

RIVALRY

CSs Tuyu and Mvurya caught in Kiambu politics crossfire

Cabinet Secretaries Soipan Tuyu (Defence) and Salim Mvurya (Sports) yesterday found themselves caught in the crossfire of local politics during the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of Thika Stadium in Kiambu County.

What was meant to be a milestone event ushering in a modern 10,000-seater facility instead exposed simmering political tensions in the county.

The ceremony quickly descended into a political showdown between Thika Town MP Alice Ng'ang'a and leaders allied to Governor Kimani Wamatangi.

Tension flared from the outset when the Cabinet Secretaries were taken on a tour of completed traders' stalls constructed by the county government, with supporters from rival camps trading insults and shouting at one another, prompting security officers to intervene and restore calm.

When she took to the podium, Ng'ang'a launched a scathing attack on the governor for skipping the event.

"Wamatangi, you are a coward. You ran away. You had to send people to me. Next time, come and we face each other," Ng'ang'a roared.

The MP further declared that the new stadium would host national celebrations and warned the governor against

sending representatives to future events.

"Just know I'm the incoming governor," she said amid cheers and booing from rival supporters.

Deputy Governor Rosemary Kirika, who represented the governor, said Wamatangi had been delayed by unavoidable circumstances.

She emphasised that the stadium project symbolised cooperation between the national and county governments and noted that several county-funded facilities at the site would be preserved.

"Honourable Ng'ang'a, I want to assure you that Wamatangi is not a coward. We pray that this meeting is not turned into a political gathering; this is strictly a development meeting," the deputy governor hit back.

The two Cabinet Secretaries sought to steer the gathering back to its development focus, assuring residents that the region would benefit from the government's nationwide sports infrastructure programme.

Mvurya dismissed claims that traders' stalls near the stadium would be demolished.

"The money used to construct the said stalls is public money, and we are not here to put into waste. Those spreading the propaganda should stop," Mvurya said.

[Gitau Wanyoike]

Aviation workers' strike disrupts flights at JKIA

► Kenya Aviation Workers Union had announced a nationwide industrial action affecting airports and airstrips across the country.

► The union's claims that KCAA management has failed to finalise a Collective Bargaining Agreement for more than 11 years.

MARYANN MUGANDA, NAIROBI

Travellers at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) were yesterday met with confusion, delays and cancellations after aviation workers began an industrial action that paralysed operations at the country's main gateway.

By mid-morning, the usually bustling departure and arrival terminals had turned into scenes of uncertainty. Long queues snaked outside airline counters as anxious passengers sought clarification on their flights.

The Flight Information Display System screens flashed a worrying pattern, "Delayed", "Cancelled", and "Rescheduled" dominating both international and domestic routes.

Taxis continued to drop off and pick up travellers, while foreign visitors queued at Safaricom and Airtel shops to purchase local SIM cards, unaware that some of their onward journeys would not proceed as scheduled. For many, it was an unexpected disruption at the start or end of their travels.

The chaos followed the commencement of a strike by the Kenya Aviation Workers Union (KAWU), which announced a nationwide industrial action affecting airports and airstrips across the country. The dispute pits the union against the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) and the Kenya Airports Authority, with workers citing long-standing grievances that they say have been ignored for more than a decade.

KAWU Secretary-General Moses Ndiema said the strike had been activated after the expiry of a seven-day notice issued last week.

"We wish to inform the country and travellers using Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and all other airports and airstrips in our country that we have commenced our strike action this morning, and it is progressing as planned," Ndiema said during a press briefing at JKIA.

He warned that travellers planning to use the airport should expect service interruptions.

"Those services may not be provided. There are disruptions, there are delays, there are cancellations. Not that we enjoy this, but we were left with no option when management refused to engage us meaningfully," he said.

At the heart of the dispute is what the union describes as failure by KCAA management to conclude a Collective Bargaining Agreement for more than 11 years. The



Passengers were stranded at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport yesterday after the Kenya Airports Authority announced flight delays due to a strike by workers allied to the Kenya Aviation Workers Union (KAWU). [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]

union also accuses management of introducing new human resource instruments and organisational structures without consultation, allegedly resulting in job downgrades.

Ndiema further claimed that a section of employees has been denied the right to join or participate in union activities.

"They came up with a new HR instrument, organisational structure and career progression framework without involving the union. The consequence has been downgrading of jobs. Our demand is that structure be dropped," he said.

The union also criticised the deployment of General Service Unit (GSU) officers at entry and exit points at JKIA, terming it a militarisation of a civilian aviation facility.

"As we speak, we have GSU officers manning the entry and exit points at JKIA. That goes contrary to international civil aviation regulations. Because of that, we are immediately withdrawing all employ-

ees on duty and asking those expected to report later not to do so," Ndiema added.

The strike call extended to staff at Kenya Airways, Jambojet, Swissport and other ground handling companies, including cabin crew, until an agreement is reached.

Peter Gichuri, an employee at KCAA, echoed the union's grievances, saying workers had endured years of unaddressed concerns.

"We are disgruntled. Issues within our staff have remained unaddressed for more than a decade. This includes refusal by management to allow us to join a union of representation and refusal to confirm into permanent employment people who have been performing permanent functions for years," he said.

Gichuri maintained that the strike was not orchestrated by employees but by management's inaction.

"As long as our issues are addressed at the earliest opportunity, we will gladly resume normal operations," he said.

Major airlines operating from JKIA confirmed disruptions.

Kenya Airways, the national carrier, advised passengers to expect delays and schedule adjustments.

"We sincerely regret the inconvenience and are working closely with the relevant aviation authorities and airport stakeholders to minimise disruption and maintain safe operations," the airline said in a statement.

The Kenya Airports Authority acknowledged delays affecting departing flights at JKIA due to the industrial action.

However, KCAA insisted it had activated operational continuity measures.

"Critical aviation safety and air navigation functions will remain operational and are being managed in accordance with established contingency protocols." KCAA said in a statement.



They came up with a new HR instrument, organisational structure and career progression framework without involving the union. The consequence has been downgrading of jobs. Our demand is that structure be dropped."

Moses Ndiema, KAWU Secretary-General

PUBLIC NOTICE

REVISION OF RISK BASED PRICING FOR VARIABLE RATE LOANS

Following the revision of the Central Bank Rate (CBR) by the Monetary Policy Committee from **9.00% to 8.75% in February 2026**, we hereby inform you of the following changes to our **Kenya Shilling variable-rate loan facilities**:

1. New Kenya Shilling Variable-Rate Loans

All new facilities will be priced at the revised CBR of 8.75% plus a risk based premium ("K") determined by the borrower's risk profile and other parameters approved by the Central Bank of Kenya.

2. Existing Kenya Shilling Variable-Rate Loans (Priced at CBR + risk based premium (K))

For facilities currently priced on CBR + Premium (K), the CBR component will be adjusted from 9.00% to 8.75%. This change will take effect 30 days from the date of this notice.

3. Existing Variable-Rate Loans Disbursed Before 1st December 2025

will be transitioned to the revised Risk Based Credit Pricing Methodology (RBCPM) by 28th February 2026, as previously communicated.

For further enquiries, please feel free to contact your Relationship Manager, your Branch Manager, or our Contact Centre on **0711 082 000**.

Call/WhatsApp/SMS
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Contact Centre@accessbankplc.com

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MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT



RE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE MURANG'A COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER (CFSP) 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Constitution of Kenya 2010, The County Government Act 2012, The Public Finance Management Act 2012, among other legislations, provide a framework within which county governance processes are anchored upon policy, planning, budgeting, financing, and program implementation.

To inform the regulatory framework and plans underpinning its transformative initiatives, the Murang'a County Government will hold public consultative fora to inform the formulation of the following County plans and bills:

1. County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2026
2. Budget Estimates 2026/27 Financial Year

Members of the public, stakeholders, and other interested groups are invited to attend in person and/or submit their written proposals to **The County Secretary, Murang'a County Government, P.O. Box 52-10200, Murang'a**, or vide our email: info@muranga.go.ke AND copied to **Directorate of Budget, P.O. Box 52-10200, Murang'a** email: emylomuchunu@muranga.go.ke be received on or before **Thursday, February 26, 2026**.

The forums will be held as indicated below:

Sub County	Venue	Date	Time
Muranga East	PCEA Hall, Muranga	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm
Kangema	Social Hall, Kangema	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm
Mathioya	DCC Hall, Mathioya	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm
Kahuro	Social Hall, Kahuro	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm
Gatanga	NGCDF Hall, Gatanga	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm
Ithanga	Catholic Church Hall, Ithanga	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm
Kigumo	CDF Hall, Kigumo	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm
Kandara	Children's Home Hall, Kandara	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm
Murang'a South	ACK Church Rurago Hall, Maragua	Wednesday, 25 th February 2026	9:00 am-12:30 pm

CECM, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT



THE NAIROBI HOSPITAL

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, KENYA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION "THE HOSPITAL"

This is to notify all our stakeholders and the general public that the leadership of the Hospital in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association is as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Dr. Barclay Onyambu: | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Samson Kinyanjui, PhD: | Vice Chairman |
| 3. Dr. Agnes Gachoki: | Member |
| 4. Prof. Timothy Byakika: | Member |
| 5. Dr. Magdalene Muthoka, PhD: | Member |
| 6. Prof. John Mwero: | Member |
| 7. Ms. Valerie Gaya: | Member |
| 8. Ms. Anne Njuguna: | Member |
| 9. Mr. Erick Okeyo, MBS, MKIM: | Member |
| 10. Mr. Philip Kisia, MBS, MKIM, FMSK: | Member |
| 11. Eng. Christopher Oanda: | Member |
| 12. Dr. Silverster Kasuku, PhD, MBM, FKIP: | Member |
| 13. Mr. Moses Ondaba: | Member |
| 14. Mr. Lekek Chebii: | Member |

The Principal Officers of the Board are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Felix Osano: | Chief Executive Officer |
| 2. Mr. Gilbert Nyamweya: | Company Secretary |

Any communication on the affairs of the Hospital is only made by the Chairman of the Board and/or the Chief Executive Officer.

The Nairobiian

This week's Nairobiian reveals:
Airbnb of death: Bloodstained towel nails Wahu lover.



The Nairobiian, Nothing Stays Hidden

ALSO INSIDE:



CELEBRITY: New platform to boost artistes launched, Bien to spearhead.

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POLITICS, PRIVACY & A VIRAL CLIP: Sportspesa Boss Hits Back.

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BIG BABIES: Why more grown-ups are choosing parents' home over renting.

PAGE 22-23

How Spanish teams are falling in love with Kenyan star.

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Petitioners reject CS Mbadi's bid to lift infrastructure fund court orders

► The CS told the court that the entity would operate as a private limited liability company.

► Petitioners argue establishing the fund through executive action violates the Constitution.

NANCY GITONGA, NAIROBI

Four petitioners led by Magare Gikenyi have urged the High Court to reject an attempt by Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi to lift orders stopping the establishment of the Sh5 trillion National Infrastructure Fund (NIF).

In fresh submissions filed at the Milimani High Court's Constitutional and Human Rights Division yesterday, the petitioners warned that the government had shown confusion over the legal basis for creating the fund, with different state organs providing contradictory positions.

Central to the petitioners' opposition is an admission Mbadi a few days ago that despite its name, the National Infrastructure Fund is not actually a public fund as contemplated by Article 206 of the Constitution, despite being designed to finance Kenya's transformation agenda in food security, transport infrastructure, and energy generation.

In a detailed replying affidavit, Mbadi confirmed to court that the entity would operate as a private limited liability company designed to mobilize

over Sh5 trillion, more than Kenya's entire annual budget of approximately Sh3.9 trillion.

"Though the entity was described as a 'Fund', its objects are not those of a 'Fund' within the meaning of Article 206 of the Constitution," Mbadi stated in his affidavit, acknowledging that the government intends to manage massive public resources through a corporate structure rather than constitutional frameworks governing public funds.

Mbadi defended the corporate structure, arguing it would actually enhance rather than diminish accountability.

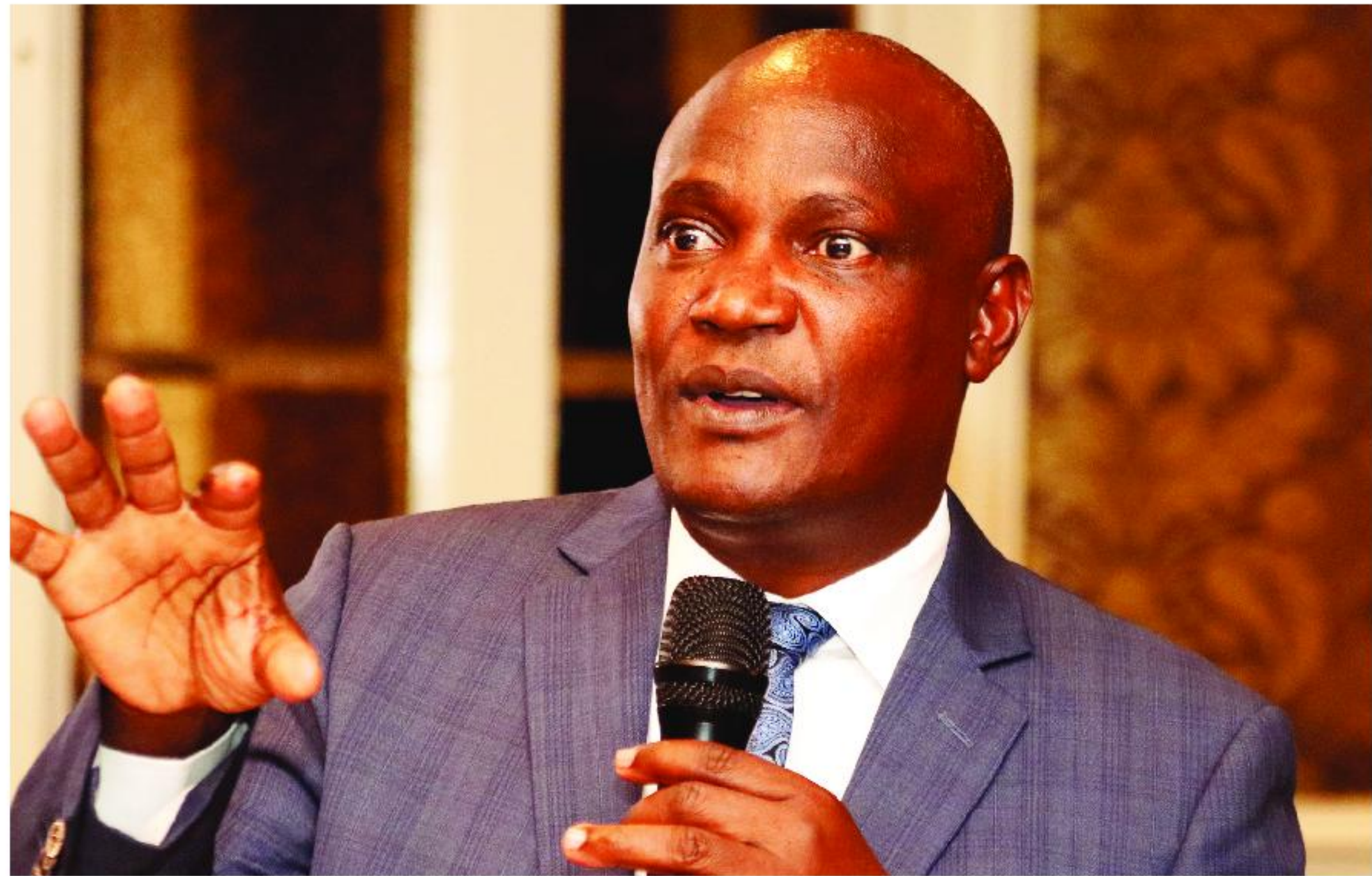
In submissions signed by second petitioner Eliud Karanja Matindi from the UK, the group warned that Treasury plans to proceed without mandatory approvals if it determines such approval is not constitutionally required.

They added that this conditional approach to seeking parliamentary and public approval has intensified concerns about executive overreach.

"As the 2nd Respondent (CS Treasury Mbadi) has averred once they complete the process to establish the impugned NIF, approval, including from Parliament, will only be sought if it determines such approval is constitutionally or statutorily required," Matindi stated.

The petitioners highlighted glaring inconsistencies that have emerged in court filings about the government's understanding of constitutional requirements on the fund.

While Mbadi's replying affidavit states the NIF will be set up as a limited



National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi. [Wilberforce Okwiri, Standard]

liability company under the Companies Act, its grounds of opposition claim the legal basis would be Section 24(4) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

The National Assembly and Senate, however, argue the fund would be established under Article 206(1) of the Constitution and Section 24(4) of PFMA.

"There is clear confusion and lack of clarity about the legal basis for

establishment of the impugned NIF between and within two key State organs responsible for ensuring compliance with the Constitution," the petitioners told the court.

They argued that without continued court intervention, their petition challenging the fund's constitutionality could be rendered meaningless if Treasury proceeds to establish the entity before the case is determined.

Unlike constitutional funds which are subject to strict parliamentary oversight and constitutional safeguards, this entity will operate as a private limited company, raising serious questions about transparency and accountability.

Gikenyi and his co-petitioners Matindi, Philemon Abuga Nyakundi, and Dishon Keroti Mogire, are challenging the Cabinet's December 15, 2025 decision to approve the fund's creation, where Mbadi and Attorney-General Dorcas Oduor jointly presented the proposal.

A confidential Cabinet communication marked "Secret" and signed

by Cabinet Secretary Mercy Wanjau filed in court reveals that Cabinet approved establishment of the National Infrastructure Fund PLC and directed the two officials to take necessary action.

They argue that establishing the NIF through executive action violates multiple constitutional provisions including Articles 201, 204, and 206 which govern public finance management, as well as principles of parliamentary oversight and public participation.

In his bid to have the conservatory orders lifted, Mbadi defended the corporate structure, insisting it would enhance rather than diminish accountability.

He outlined oversight mechanisms including audits by the Auditor General and reporting requirements to Parliament, arguing that the incorporation of the entity does not in any way diminish its public character, constitutional accountability, or statutory oversight.

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Though the entity was described as a 'Fund', its objects are not those of a 'Fund' within the meaning of Article 206 of the Constitution,"

John Mbadi, Treasury Cabinet Secretary

DISPUTE

Kenyans will suffer raw deal in Safaricom shares sale, Nyoro says

Even with the conclusion of public hearings on the government's partial sale of Safaricom shares, Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro insists that the sale must be halted immediately and advertised internationally.

Yesterday, Nyoro claimed there were ulterior motives in the sale of shares.

He said the Sh34 offer per share is below the market price and, beyond grossly losing on the price, Kenya risks losing much more on conditions allegedly issued irregularly by the regulator after being pushed by the government.

If not halted, he said, those responsible must answer to Kenyans, adding that the call he is making is not for additional shares to the market but for an international competitive bid.

"The price is now above Sh34. If they do not, we will share numbers of Vodacom directors for Kenyans to engage them directly, starting

with the chairman and chief executive officer, who was in the country to sign the deal," Nyoro said at a press conference in Nairobi yesterday.

According to Nyoro, markets have exposed and betrayed incompetence and self-interest on the side of government which must not be allowed to continue.

"After Kenyans raised valid concerns, those in government came with their usual arrogance, calling people names and lecturing Kenyans about the markets and how prices are not set in boardrooms. Kenyans do not need big worded lectures, they need accountability," he said.

He has also raised concern over sale of Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) shares saying that the Initial Public Offer (IPO) was not meant for the public but a way of taking over the asset.

Nyoro stated that it is a takeover from

upstream to downstream, describing it as full grade patronage. He alleged that some Kenyans were hiding behind Ugandan investor saying that they should come out in the open to declare their interest since the highest allocation will be publicized at the end of the IPO.

"They must know that we know them and Kenyans will know them soon," he said.

His remarks come against the backdrop of the Finance Committee concluding the public hearings on Safaricom divestiture over the weekend, having traversed 30 counties.

Finance Committee chair Kuria Kimani said the views of the public would shape the Committee's report to the House on the matter.

"We are delighted that across the 30 counties that we have visited, the members of the public have come out to candidly give their views on what direction they wish the Safaricom divest-

iture process to take. Your views are not in vain and they will enrich our report to the House," he said.

Among key issues that emerged during the public hearings and the preceding stakeholder engagements, was the prudent use of proceeds should the transaction go through.

The public called on the Committee to put in place a framework before giving a nod to the transaction, to ensure that the proceeds are directed to critical national infrastructure as was earlier intended.

The Committee is set to retreat to prepare its report for consideration.

Meanwhile, the National Infrastructure Fund Bill, 2026 has now been read for the first time in the National Assembly, paving the way for the process of public participation on the proposed law. **[Irene Githinji]**



Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba chats with Kenya National Examinations Council CEO David Njengere. [File, Standard]

From paper to digital: E-assessments unveiled

► Kneec says the system will reinforce the integrity of examinations.

► To support the transition, the government plans to connect every school to the internet.

MIKE KIHAKI, NAIROBI

The Kenya National Examinations Council (Kneec) has begun implementing e-assessment as part of Kenya's ongoing education reforms.

This will mark a significant shift in assessment since the country embarked on the reforms where assessment processes will be fully aligned with the global best practices that require faster and more accurate and cost effective feedback to learners and schools.

The transition comes amid rising costs, a rapidly growing learner population and increasing demand for fairer, more responsive assessment systems.

Kneec Chief Executive Officer David Njengere said the plan represents a gradual but decisive move toward digital testing across primary, junior and senior schools.

He noted that the council believes e-assessment will strengthen the credibility and resilience of the examination system.

Dr Njengere said digital assessments would make the system "more secure, more resilient and fairer," including for learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SNE). "We're advocating this because we

genuinely believe the system will be greatly improved," he said.

To support the transition, the government plans to connect every school to the internet through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), with a focus on remote regions that lack electricity and network coverage.

The Ministry of ICT is also deploying solar panels and fibre cables to off-grid schools to make the programme viable.

"Through the rural electrification, solar panning of schools, it is possible. It is also necessary if we want to keep the digital divide from becoming a digital chasm," Njengere said.

The push for connectivity has gained urgency following lessons learned during the Covid-19 pandemic, which disrupted learning for 1.6 billion learners globally.

Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association chairman Willie Kuria said improved access to power and internet connectivity would directly enhance learning outcomes.

"Many parts of the country have

benefited from the programme, with schools reporting a 10 percent rise in connectivity. Many of our schools are now moving towards solar power to cut on cost as well as reach remote areas," Kuria said.

In parallel, the government is reworking plans to revive the laptop project launched more than a decade ago to ensure the success of digital learning and assessment.

In 2016, more than 1.2 million digital devices, including tablets and laptops, were distributed to public primary schools under the Digital Literacy Programme.

The initiative connected over 22,000 schools to electricity and aimed at boosting ICT skills among learners.

The devices were assembled locally at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Moi University.

However, due to logistical challenges, the government later shifted its strategy from a "one laptop per child" model to constructing computer laboratories in schools.

The programme faced several challenges, including high implementation costs, limited ICT skills among teachers in some areas and the need for improved infrastructure to support digital learning.

Currently, Kneec is already implementing e-assessment in all teacher training college examinations and in 50 assessment papers for Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions.

"We expect that in the next one or two years, a third to half of exams could be online," Njengere said.

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7.2M

NUMBER of digital devices, including tablets and laptops, that were distributed to public primary schools under the Digital Literacy Programme in 2016.

NAIROBI

Fears of state capture grip Nairobi Hospital

Allegations of state capture have deepened the crisis at The Nairobi Hospital, with board members and doctors warning that political interference, systematic disregard of court orders and financial mismanagement are threatening patient care, staff livelihoods and the survival of one of Kenya's leading medical institutions.

Speaking on behalf of the board and doctors, one of the board members, Job Obwaka, said the hospital is facing a constitutional and governance crisis defined by repeated defiance of binding rulings issued by the High Court.

He said that despite multiple conservatory orders barring board meetings, governance changes and implementation of disputed resolutions, senior executives continue to exercise authority as if the law does not apply to them.

"This matter is no longer about personalities or internal disagreements. It goes to the heart of whether court orders in Kenya are respected and obeyed, or whether they can simply be ignored by those who feel protected," Obwaka said.

"Following a special board of management meeting convened on July 4, 2025 in consideration of the subsisting High Court orders, both the company secretary Gilbert Nyamweya and the Chief Executive Officer Felix Osano were lawfully placed on mandatory leave but despite this lawful decision both officers have refused to proceed on leave and continue to report to exercise authority," Obwaka stated.

He said the continued defiance raises unavoidable questions about political shielding.

Obwaka pointed to the co-option of individuals allegedly linked to State House into the hospital's board at a time when governance alterations were expressly restrained by the court.

According to the board members, the appointments were rushed through after an annual general meeting was stopped by court, bypassing vetting, member approval and established procedures.

Some of the individuals involved, they added, are alleged to have direct or indirect commercial dealings with the hospital, creating serious conflicts of interest.

"This is how capture manifests itself. Court orders are ignored, oversight is paralysed, and decisions begin to serve connected interests rather than patients and staff," Obwaka said.

The governance turmoil has coincided with a steep financial decline.

Ngugi Wachira, another board member in charge of audit and risk governance, said the hospital recorded losses of more than Sh3 billion in 2024 and now owes suppliers in excess of Sh4 billion.

"As a result, some suppliers have suspended delivery of essential drugs, medical equipment and consumables, leaving doctors struggling to provide timely and safe care," he said.

Dr Wachira warned that delayed surgeries, drug shortages and compromised standards of care are already being felt on the ground.

He further linked the crisis to recent insurance upheaval at the hospital, describing it as a major warning sign.

"Several insurance companies temporarily withdrew services after uncovering widespread billing irregularities, including patients being charged for services and consumables they never received. A task force led by doctors later negotiated the insurers' return, but only after it emerged that hospital charges had been increased by up to 61 per cent without clear justification," Wachira stated.

[Juliet Omelo]

MOMBASA

State critic Mwangodi arrested at Lunga Lunga border as he crossed to Tanzania

Human right activists in Mombasa have petitioned the government to state why they are holding Mwangodi Mwabili without formally charging him.

Mwangodi was arrested on Sunday at the Lunga Lunga border as he tried to return to Tanzania to dispose of his personal effects.

He was held overnight and then taken to the Port Station in Mombasa county yesterday and later transferred to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) headquarters in Nairobi.

Mwangodi made news last year fol-

lowing his abduction by Tanzanian security agents who subjected him to torture before dumping him at Kenya-Tanzania border at Lunga Lunga.

Mwangodi was a strong government critic who has voiced his concern over the way the Kenya Kwanza administration was running public affairs.

Yesterday, human right activists led by Walid Sketty, Coast regional coordinator for Vocal Africa, said that immigration officials at the Lunga Lunga cross border had prevented Mwangodi from crossing over to Tanzania to conduct personal business.

[Philip Mwakio]

USA says Kenya free to decide as court suspends Sh322b health pact

► High Court halts implementation of Kenya-US health agreement, citing procedural issues.

► Health experts stress the pause safeguards governance, while temporary bridge funding maintains ongoing services.

MERCY KAHENDA, NAIROBI

The US government has stated that Kenya holds sovereign authority to proceed with the Sh322 billion health deal agreed between the two countries last year.

The agreement, signed in October, has been halted by the High Court following questions over its signing process and constitutionality.

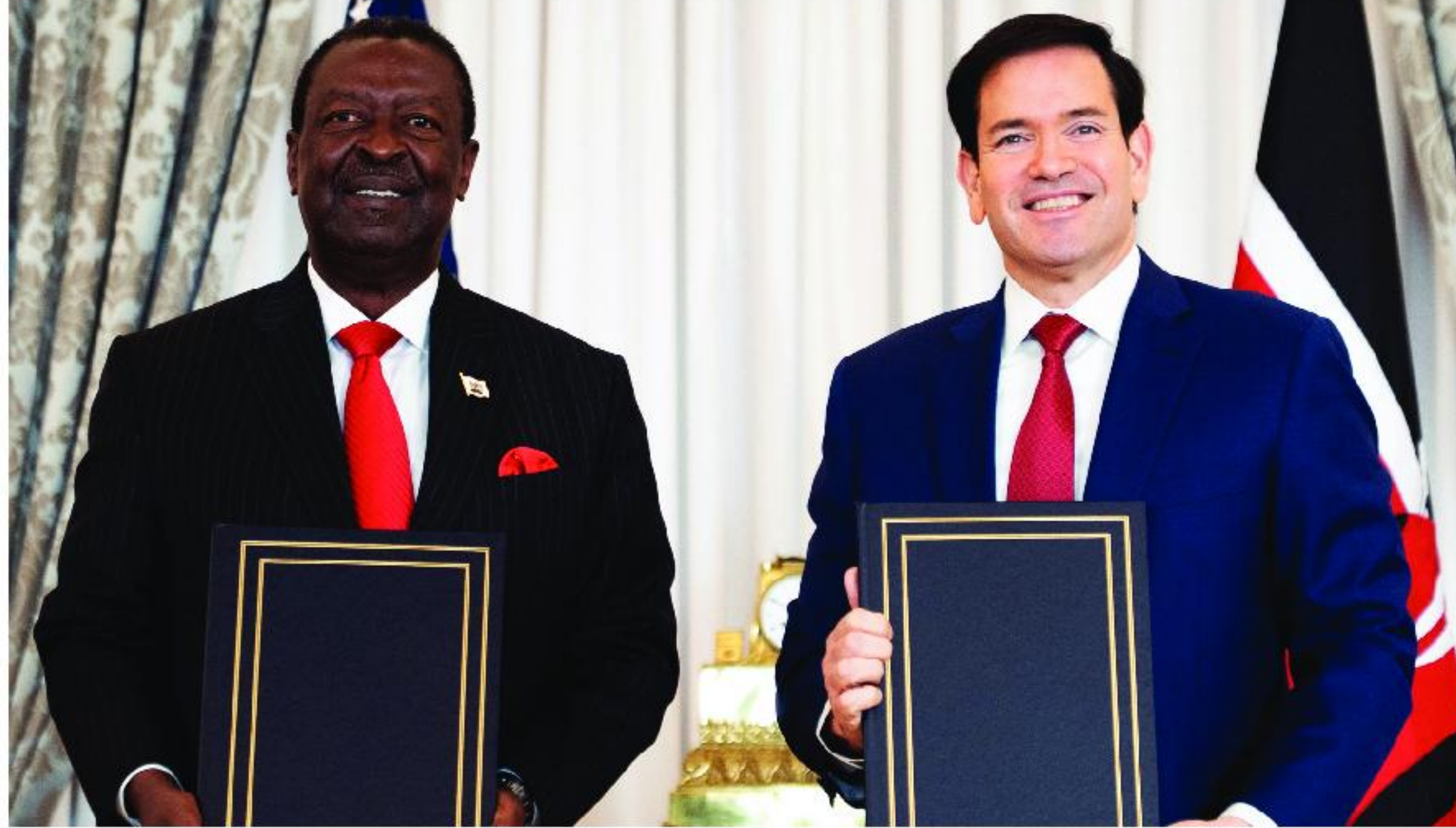
Under the bilateral government-to-government arrangement, the US was to provide US\$1.6 billion (Sh206 billion), while Kenya would raise US\$850 million (Sh109 billion) through a co-financing model.

Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Kenya, Susan Burns, said the two countries are working to determine the best way to resolve the matter. "This is a Kenyan matter. You have an independent judiciary, and you must follow the rules," said Burns during a visit to Nyeri Referral Hospital.

"It is up to Kenyans to decide whether they want this funding and how it should be implemented," she added, stressing that ongoing court proceedings have not interrupted current health programmes.

The agreement was to support Kenya's key health programmes, including HIV, TB, and malaria interventions, health data management, outbreak response, and the supply of health commodities. Burns noted that once the matter is resolved, support will continue as agreed.

Implementation was halted after lobby groups and Busia Senator Okiya Omutata petitioned the



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi participate in a Health Framework of Cooperation signing ceremony at the State Department in Washington, DC on December 4, 2025. [AFP]

court, raising concerns about data-sharing and the approval process. "The courts want to ensure the deal was properly approved. Meanwhile, delays affect planning for HIV and other health services," said Kristine Yakhama of TB Women Kenya.

She emphasised that it is Kenya's responsibility to manage the matter to ensure smooth health service delivery.

Kenya's High Court interim orders remain in effect, and the full constitutional challenge is ongoing. While core health services continue, delays may slow new programme rollouts, workforce expansion, technology upgrades, and data system improvements, all critical for disease prevention and treatment.

Some US-supported health activities, including HIV, TB, and malaria programmes under PEPFAR, USAID, and the Global Fund, remain operational under existing arrangements. Temporary bridge funding was es-

established to maintain services but is due to end in March 2026.

People living with HIV/AIDs have expressed concern over potential stock-outs of essential medicines. Nelson Otwoma, executive director of the National Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV/AIDs in Kenya, urged alternative funding solutions to prevent ser-

vice disruptions. Kenya was the first African country to sign the agreement, followed by Rwanda. Health economist Beatrice Kairu noted that the court has not rejected cooperation with the US but reaffirmed that large-scale health financing and data arrangements must comply with constitutional governance, fiscal discipline, and public trust. "Policy certainty comes from strong processes. Weak processes create costly failures," she said, emphasising that careful oversight ensures sustainable Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Otwoma, however, observed that for 20 years, US funding through PEPFAR, USAID, and the Presidential Malaria Initiative has proceeded without breaches. He regretted that the stop-work order came into force while stock-outs threatened HIV and TB treatment and vaccines for children.

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Funding breakdown

SH206
BILLION

AMOUNT the US would provide under the bilateral health deal—while Kenya would raise Sh109 billion (US\$850 million) through a co-financing model.

NAIVASHA

Mai Mahiu flood victims get plots, tenants miss out

Two years after the infamous Mai Mahiu floods that left over 60 people dead, the government has finally acquired land to resettle victims of the tragedy. However, only landowners will be resettled on the 230 acres in the Ileri area of Longonot, while tens of tenants, who were the hardest hit, have been left out.

The tenants, most of whom lost all their personal belongings, have appealed to the government to reconsider their case, arguing that they were among the most affected by the disaster.

Of the victims, 105 landowners have been identified to benefit from the land, while 56 families who were tenants remain excluded.

On April 29, 2024, a blocked railway culvert in Kijabe burst, flooding several Mai Mahiu villages, killing over 60 people and causing widespread destruction.

Naivasha Deputy County Commissioner Josiah Odongo confirmed that resettlement will begin with the landowners tomorrow. Each landowner will receive one and a half acres of the newly acquired land off the Naivasha-Mai Mahiu road. "The Deputy President will hand over title deeds to affected landowners. Discussions on the fate of tenants are ongoing," said Odongo.

Tenant Stan Kamau described the resettlement as a step in the right direction, but expressed hope

that tenants would also be considered; "We plead with the government to allocate us plots too."

Naivasha MP Jane Kihara criticised the exclusion of tenants, describing it as unfair. "While we welcome the resettlement of landowners, tenants who suffered the most have been left out. Their plight must not be ignored," she said.

Mai Mahiu MCA Eliud Kamau said engagement with the State continues regarding the excluded victims. "We are pleased the government has acquired land for landowners, but the question remains: what happens to the tenants who endured untold suffering over the past two years?" he asked. [Antony Gitonga]

NAKURU

KWS rangers deny claims of fisherman arrest, abduction

Six Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers have denied abducting Nakuru fisherman Brian Odhiambo on January 18, 2025.

The accused, Senior Sergeant Francis Wachira and rangers Alexander Lorogoi, Isaac Ochieng, Michael Wabukala, Evans Kimaiyo, and Abdulrahman Sudi, are alleged to have arrested Odhiambo in Manyani, Nakuru, for illegal fishing. Odhiambo has been missing since.

Through lawyer Leon Kalisto, the six rangers told Senior Principal Magistrate Kipkurui Kibelion that they did not arrest anyone at Manyani; "The missing person is unknown to them. They became aware of him only when his photograph circulated on social media," Kalisto deposed.

He added that no photographic, video, or other visual evidence places the rangers at Manyani around 10am on January 18. No residents who allegedly witnessed the abduction provided consistent accounts, and none of the six was positively identified by 15 witnesses during an identification parade on January 27, 2025.

Kalisto argued that witness testimonies were inconsistent regarding the location, time, manner of arrest, vehicle registration, clothing, and number of rangers involved. He also criticised Odhiambo's wife, Alvy Okello, for filing a missing person report under OB NO. 23/19/2025 instead of reporting assault or abduction. The report indicated Odhiambo was last seen at Kisumu Ndogo, not Manyani.

Call data analysis did not place the rangers near the missing person, and no forensic evidence linked Odhiambo's phone to the rangers. Kalisto further noted that the prosecution obtained call data without a court order, violating privacy rights. He added there was no DNA profiling, forensic examination, or scientific evidence to corroborate that the person seen at the rangers' vehicle was Odhiambo, and no proof of confinement was presented. "The prosecution has not proven force, coercion, or deceit against the missing person," Kalisto submitted, arguing the case had not been established beyond reasonable doubt.

The prosecution, however, maintains there is sufficient evidence and consistent testimonies to put the six rangers on defence. Odhiambo's lawyers also insist there is proof of abduction and confinement. The court is set to rule on March 3.

[Daniel Chege]



From left: KWS rangers, Francis Wachira, Alexander Lorogoi, Isaac Ochieng, Michael Wabukala, Evans Kimaiyo, and Abdulrahman Suli. [Kipsang Joseph, Standard]

Acute condom shortage linked to donor cuts, raising sex risk fears

► Kenya faces rising HIV and STI risks as condom shortages hit VCT centres.

► Sex workers and vulnerable populations struggle to access protection, raising fears of unprotected sex, new infections.

MERCY KAHENDA, NAIROBI

There are growing fears of a rise in HIV and other sexually transmitted infections as the country runs out of condoms.

Shortages of condoms risk unprotected sex amid increased HIV infections in the country.

Individuals, particularly sex workers who are at high risk of being infected with the virus, are now forced to purchase the commodity, which is selling at exorbitant prices.

Beatrice Sudi* buys a packet of condoms every day, an extra cost she never used to worry about. Previously, the sex worker would easily walk into Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres and pick several packets for free. But now, supply is limited.

Without condoms, her safety is compromised, and the only alternative is to lower her charges to clients if they do buy condoms, something she is unwilling to do. "When clients buy condoms, they deduct pay for sex work. It hurts to lose money just because of a condom," says the sex worker.

She adds, "I do sex work for a living, but my work is compromised without access to condoms, which forces us at times to indulge in unprotected sex."

Sudi's frustrations are shared nationwide, as sex workers warn that the disruption in condom and PrEP supply is increasing risks of new HIV infections.

Sharon Lorna, a peer educator in Mombasa, noted that VCT dispensers

remain empty, leaving sex workers exposed. "For safety of sex workers, we normally pick condoms and distribute to hot spot areas, but we do not have the commodities, risking infections," she says.

VCT centres, which were once consistently stocked with free condoms, are now struggling to meet the demand, leaving sex workers grappling with the extra burden of purchasing the essential commodity.

A spot check by The Standard in respective VCT centres that used to be pick-up points shows them empty.

Commercial condoms now sell for between Sh50 and Sh1,000 depending on the brand.

Kenya previously received 180 million condoms annually from the Global Fund and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), worth Sh25.4 billion, but the supply has stopped. Health officials maintain limited distribution to high-risk groups only. Experts emphasise the need to re-educate the general population on safe sex practices, particularly college students, and encourage alternatives like purchasing condoms and enrolling in medical insurance.

A commodity status report by the Ministry of Health in November 2025 showed shortages of both male and female condoms. Kenya consumes 31,067 female and 1,065,891 male condoms monthly but needs 450 million annually. Procurement challenges have arisen due to funding gaps and restrictions, including the cessation of support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Kenya Red Cross Society.

Correct and consistent condom use provides up to 95 per cent protection against HIV, other STIs, and unintended pregnancy, according to the National Syndemic Disease Control Council (NSDCC).

The council, therefore, acknowledges the importance of ensuring every sexually active person in Kenya



Shortage of Condoms Raises Fears of Increasing HIV Infections. [Courtesy]

AT A GLANCE

- 424 million: Condom demand in Kenya annually
- 180 million: Condoms the Kenyan government receives annually from the Global Fund and UNFPA, support that has since stopped
- Sh1.12 Billion: Money which should be pumped into purchasing condoms in Kenya
- 17,854: Condom distribution points in 47 counties in Kenya
- 15,008 (84%): Condom points in bars with lodging or without lodging
- 1,947: Condom dispensers in Kenya
- 53: Huduma centres across the country, identified as condom distribution points
- 84%: Dominant public sector free-to-use condoms distributed in Kenya
- 2%: Potential commercial condoms distributed in Kenya

has access to a sustained supply of quality condoms, correct knowledge, skills, and motivation to use them correctly and consistently.

Data from NSDCC shows 19,991 new HIV infections in 2024, a 19 per cent increase from 16,752 in 2023. Children aged 0 to 14 accounted for 4,349 infections, while 32 per cent of all new infections occurred among adolescents and young people aged 10 to 24. Ten counties, including Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa, and Kiambu, accounted for 60 per cent of new infections.

Prof Koigi Kamau of the University of Nairobi's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology warned that condom shortage risks infections with other STIs such as chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhoea. "Chlamydia can cause permanent reproductive damage, including infertility. Condom use is essential for protection against multiple infections," he said. mkahenda@standardmedia.co.ke

Briefing

KERICHO. CHILDREN'S HOMES SEEK SUPPORT

Orphanage operators in Kericho have appealed for public support through donations of food, clothing and infrastructure. Speaking during a Fun Day organised by Supertricks Events Management, Uphesia Bundi of Changaa Children's Home said many institutions struggle to meet basic needs. Rev. Joyce Tonui of the African Gospel Church urged society to care for vulnerable children. Over 160 orphans from eight homes enjoyed games, meals and gifts, while organisers pledged continued support. **[Nikko Tanui]**

MURANG'A. KANG'ATA HALTS JOBS TO MEET CAP

Murang'a County Government has temporarily frozen recruitment to comply with a High Court ruling capping recurrent expenditure at 35 per cent of revenue. Governor Irungu Kang'ata said the move aligns staffing with service delivery while safeguarding existing jobs. Justice Lawrence Mugambi ruled on January 30, that salary increases breached constitutional wage limits. The county will enhance revenue automation and oversight. Six health facilities across four sub-counties have been prioritised for staffing to ensure value for money. **[Boniface Gikandi]**

KILIFI. FREE CANCER SURGERIES OFFER HOPE

Kenyans with cancer have been urged to seek early medical attention to improve survival chances. Speaking at a free gynaecological surgical camp at Star Specialist Hospital in Malindi, Dr Nurein Mohidin said most cancers are curable if detected early. During the two-day Gynaecology Mashinani initiative, 24 women underwent complex procedures funded by the Social Health Authority. Doctors plan similar quarterly camps. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude after receiving life-changing surgeries they previously could not afford. **[Nehemiah Okwembah]**

KERICHO

Court suspends county secretary appointment pending hearing

The Employment and Labour Relations Court in Kericho has suspended the approval and appointment of a County Secretary for Kericho County after a petition challenged the legality of the recruitment panel.

The court directed Governor Erick Mutai to halt the approval and appointment of any candidate whose name had been forwarded by the panel, pending the hearing and determination of the case.

The petition was filed by Ng'etich Kiplangat Gideon, a resident of Kericho County, who is contesting the composition of the panel tasked with recruiting the County Secretary.

The respondents are Governor Mutai, Kericho County Assembly Speaker Patrick Mutai, and the County Attorney. Five individuals, Rose Chepngeno Kaptich, David Siele, Caleb Cheruiyot Koech, Daisy Cherotich, and Alfred Cheruiyot Rop, appointed to the recruitment panel have been listed as interested parties. "Pending the hearing and determination of the application, the first respondent is restrained from appointing any person whose name has been submitted by the interested parties to the first respondent for appointment as County Secretary, Kericho," ruled Justice James Rika

According to court documents, the petitioner

argues the recruitment panel was unlawfully constituted. "One of the panel members does not qualify as a representative of the private sector, having previously served as chair of the National Labour Board," the petition states. Another member is accused of not being a paid-up member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) and of having unresolved disciplinary issues. A third member is alleged to have been appointed without proper clearance from the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).

The petitioner further contends that the panel lacks inclusivity, alleging that all members come from a single ethnic community despite

Kericho being cosmopolitan, and that persons living with disabilities were not considered.

Records indicate the County Assembly vetted the panel on December 2, 2025. The panel later invited applications, interviewed candidates and was at the final stage of submitting names to the Governor when the petition was filed. By the time the petition was filed, the panel was at the final stage of submitting names of successful candidates to the Governor for approval and appointment. Justice Rika questioned why the petitioner waited until the process was nearly complete to challenge it. The case will be mentioned on 13 March. **[Nikko Tanui]**



OPINION

The Standard

"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour,"

Pope Leo XIV, Head of the Catholic Church



EDITORIAL

Rid Kenya and Africa of counterfeit cancer drugs

Revelations that fake or highly ineffective cancer drugs are being administered to patients in four African countries, including Kenya, are alarming. According to a study conducted by a researcher from the University of Notre Dame in the US published in the *Lancet Global Health*, in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Cameroon, about 17 per cent cancer drugs don't contain the vital ingredients that are needed to contain or reduce their disease. That may be the case in most sub-Saharan Africa countries.

This is dangerous because cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Africa. In Kenya, between 44,000 and 48,000 people are diagnosed with cancer each year, and close to 30,000 die annually. These are not just statistics, they represent parents, siblings, friends and children whose families fill hospital corridors at Kenyatta National Hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, and other facilities praying that treatment will give them relief.

It is terrifying for someone battling cancer to learn that he or she has been taking useless medication. Chemotherapy and other cancer medicines are often the only hope of slowing or stopping the disease. When a patient is given a diluted, expired, or fake drug, the cancer spreads further.

Families that have sold land, organised fundraisers, and emptied savings accounts are often left watching in frustration as the conditions of their loved ones deteriorate despite receiving treatment.

The success of cancer care depends on the right drugs, in the right doses, and at the right time. Fake medicines do nothing except give false hope while the disease advances. In some cases, it may even cause harmful side effects without offering any benefit. For patients already diagnosed at advanced stages, counterfeit drugs wipe out whatever slim chance of survival they had.

This is a major crisis that Kenya and Africa must deal with expeditiously. There is a need for thorough inspection of drugs at entry points, tougher penalties for manufacturers and importers, and the stringent monitoring of supply chains. Protecting patients from fake drugs is a moral duty of the government.

Uproot fertiliser cartels

Police officers arrested seven suspects in Uasin Gishu County over a fake fertiliser syndicate last week. Fake fertiliser exposes farmers to huge losses, and contributes to national food insecurity. A failed planting season can push small-scale farmers into serious debt and increase poverty levels. Besides farmers' losses, fake fertiliser reduces yields and increases soil acidity.

Kenya is still recovering from poor harvests, and another blow to production would worsen the cost of living. Past scandals, including of fake seeds, show this is not an isolated problem, but a recurring cartel-driven crime. While the government's fertiliser subsidy programme is welcome, it must be matched with strict surveillance and swift prosecution of offenders.

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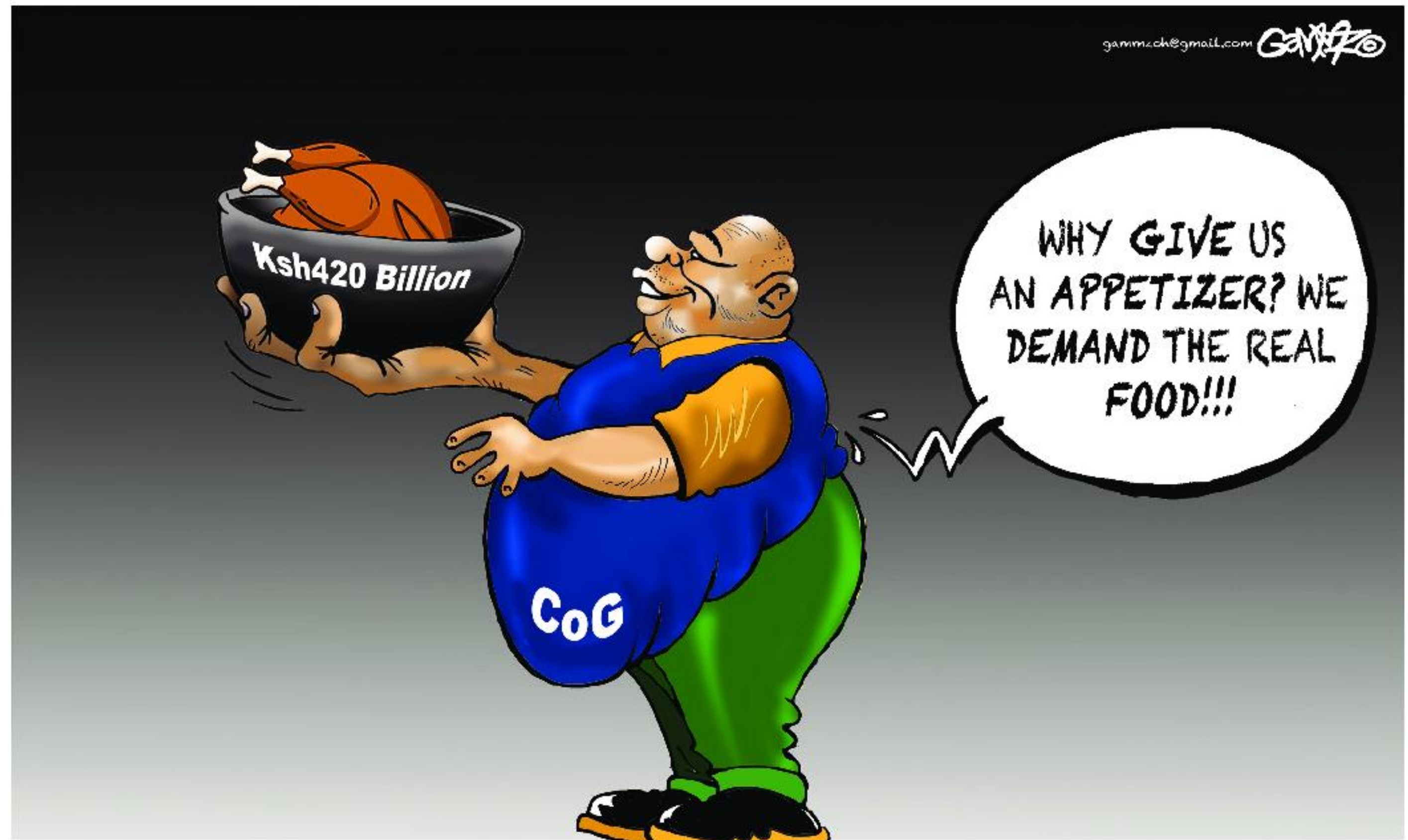
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UPFRONT

Why women are not to blame for male loneliness epidemic



NJAHIRA GITAHI

In recent years, headlines have warned of a growing "male loneliness epidemic," often framing men as uniquely abandoned and romantically invisible. Modern society, we are told, has stripped men of intimacy and belonging. One is compelled to agree with this notion, especially when reported suicide rates point to higher numbers of men dying than women. As well, society is more and more taking note of mental health concerns, and especially amongst the male population. However, it is odd that the emotional plight of men is boiled down to loneliness whose subtext, when uncovered, seems to put the blame on women for not partnering with these men and taking them out of their misery.

But are women really at fault for the abandonment of men? An examination of social spaces seems to point to a different reality. A few months ago, social media was abuzz with observations that popular outdoor events were overwhelmingly frequented by women, with very few men showing up. The reasons given by men for this phenomenon were myriad, but many insisted that men were simply finally becoming more mature, opting out of frivolous pursuits, and focusing on themselves and their goals. On the

face of it, this explanation sounds stoic and reasonable, but what we know of predominant male ideology in this day and age encourages solitary behaviour under the guise of liberation.

A significant portion of what is being described as a loneliness epidemic may therefore in fact be the predictable outcome of a cultural shift in which many men, influenced by 'red pill' ideology, the 'manosphere', and adjacent online movements, have consciously opted out of mutual social participation, particularly in their relationships with women. Over the past decade, large online ecosystems have promoted the idea that men are oppressed by feminism, exploited by women, and better off withdrawing emotionally or romantically from them. In these spaces, women are frequently portrayed not as partners or equals, but as adversaries who are hypergamous and manipulative. The logical conclusion of this worldview is disengagement.

As a consequence, the past weekend has portrayed an equally bleak picture. Whilst Valentine's Day - like so many other holidays we celebrate - is not a part of the African culture, it has been common in the past to witness men and women across the city of Nairobi walking past in red outfits, holding hands, and with the woman perhaps carrying a delicate red rose gifted to her by her man. Those with the financial wherewithal have been known to go out for fine dining experiences, and overall the hospitality, horticulture and confectionary industries fare pretty well even in Kenya. With this trend, one would expect that Valentine's Day falling on a weekend would have encouraged much fanfare and merrymaking amongst lovers.

The reality has been a little different. Whilst some canoodling was seen here and there over the weekend, events dedicated to lovers were largely dominated by women, with men opting out and appearing in the minority. Whilst economic pressures and changing relationship norms play a role, cultural messaging within certain male-dominated online spaces cannot be ignored. In many of these forums, Valentine's Day, and indeed any interaction with women that taps into the emotional, is framed as a humiliating exercise in male servitude.

It would consequently appear that, after listening to what is considered sage advice from their erstwhile peers, the men have totally disengaged from any spaces that would include women - and the covert messaging of romantic love - in them. One would shudder to think that, with the spate of ever-increasing femicide cases in Kenya, men have started to truly hate the women that they should love and celebrate.

When men internalise the belief that women are enemies or liabilities, they do not merely change their dating strategies. They withdraw from social rituals that rely on mutual affection and vulnerability. Social isolation, as we are continuing to witness, increases. This ultimately leads to a deepening resentment, as men fight against their natural instinct to connect on a human and romantic level; to tap into the emotions that they have been taught to completely shut off.

It is also worth noting that loneliness is not uniquely male. Women report loneliness at significant rates as well, but they are less likely to frame it as a political grievance against men as a class.

Ms Njehira is an international lawyer

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PALAUVER

Kevin Maina's opinion article in *The Standard* last Friday was interesting, according to Shisanya Majanja [shisanjamjanja@gmail.com]. "When he says that were President William Ruto to dissolve Parliament this year, he will sit in office until August 2031 when the new Parliament's term expires, I sit up. Did the framers of the Constitution not foresee this scenario? Why would the President court the Opposition, spend obscene amounts campaigning for a second term, if he can just dissolve Parliament and continue as President? Of course, there must be a catch."



Churches in Kenya, says Jeff Mwendwa [mwendwajeff33@gmail.com], are turning into campaign launchpads for politicians. "Before then, such visits drew little hype. President William Ruto transformed this by attending services every Sunday during his State House bid, courting clergy across 1,450 wards. Even opposition figures followed suit, as seen when Raila Odinga's allies packed services in Nyanza ahead of by-elections, doling out donations amid sermons. Leaders' post-election vanishing act from pews screams opportunism. Churches must reclaim their sanctity as moral beacons, not political tools."

Allegations against a Russian man abusing Kenyan women demand urgent government intervention, says Brian Keraa Nyachae [nyachaebrian3664@gmail.com]. "The authorities must investigate, protect victims and ensure justice prevails. Silence or inaction erodes public trust. Kenya must demonstrate zero tolerance for exploitation, regardless of ones nationality and reaffirm its commitment to safeguarding women's dignity and safety."



Kabaria Ole Muturi [jameskm570@gmail.com] would like to commend the presidential security for rising to the occasion during his recent tour of the north. "I saw purpose, agility and finesse of men-at-work. However, I'm calling for more. There's always an impenetrable cordon around the President's vehicle when addressing crowds. I thought we could do with a similar arrangement even inside auditoriums and other closed venues. We can secure the President from drunkards, idlers and layabouts without necessarily going overboard."

Write to us: Oped@standardmedia.co.ke

Should Sakaja cede key county government roles?



ALBERT BARASA,
CITY RESIDENT



Capital city needs special attention

That will be a brilliant idea because Nairobi is not a county like any other, but the country's capital and the gateway to the East and Central Africa region. Thus there is need for a broad-based approach to the management of affairs of the city. Nairobi requires special attention and investment, particularly in infrastructure and security sectors, considering that it is home to key state installations including the State House, Par-

liament as well as international diplomatic missions. It goes without saying that the national government has more finances and access to international funding and institutional capacity to get things done. These attributes, which translate to larger budgets and minimal bureaucratic protocols, will serve to speed-up delivery of critical services in the city. In addition, Nairobi has to deal with intense pressure arising from a high population that translates to environmental challenges which require huge budgets to deal with. The former Nairobi Metropolitan Services, for instance, is a good reference point.

daily@standard.com



JOSEPHINE IRUNGU,
CITY RESIDENT



That will undermine devolution

It is not right for governor Johnson Sakaja to surrender some of the key functions of his government to the national government because it will be one way of weakening or even undermining devolution. Handing over any devolved function to the national government negates the idea of bringing services closer to the people as envisaged in the Constitution. Secondly, it will set a bad precedent for the rest of the coun-

ties and probably pave the way for abuse in the future. Since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, there have been complaints by champions of devolution that the national government has been attempting to undermine devolution through various actions. Ceding some functions to the central government is likely to aggravate the assumption that it is okay to strip the counties of some roles. Instead, the national government should give additional resources to Sakaja's government so that it can deliver. Signing off some functions might make it difficult for the city residents to gauge the county's performance.

Text and photos: Erastus Mulwa

CIVIC EDGE

Oburu's dalliance with UDA is quickly driving ODM to its death bed

After the fiasco that was ODM's National Executive Committee meeting in Mombasa last week, it is safe to opine that Oburu Odinga has become a demolition expert intent on destroying ODM. Dr Oburu joins the league of party leaders Nick Clegg (UK Liberal Democrats) and Jeremy Corbyn of the UK Labour party. When Clegg pushed for a coalition with the Conservative party in 2010, many Liberal Democrats felt betrayed and the party lost popularity so fast, by 2015 its parliamentary representation had dropped from 57 seats to eight.

Beset by internal divisions and concerns over Brexit and antisemitism controversies, the Labour Party was handed its worst defeat in more than eight decades under Jeremy Corbyn in 2019.

Closer home, Robert Mugabe's latter years as ZANU-PF party leader were marked by internal faction wars that nearly collapsed the party, and his removal became inevitable. That is where ODM is today.

While Oburu is committed to forming a coalition with the United Democratic Alliance, Secretary General Edwin Sifuna and other insiders are opposed to it on principle. Unfortunately, Oburu and his co-conspirators who are currently dining at the UDA table, and others who political scientists call 'useful idiots', see Sifuna as an impediment. To overcome this hurdle, the 'useful idiots' hatched a plan that, unfortunately, boomeranged.

With the poorly hatched scheme, Oburu inadvertently set in motion what could eventually hasten the destruction of ODM. History shows that political parties collapse when their leaders fail to nurture internal democracy, ignore party structures or when they enter into unpopular



Alexander Chagema,
Sub-Editor, Standard Group

alliances. Worse, Oburu seems to have misread the public mood, or simply doesn't care.

Sifuna's tribulations fall into a tenon and mortise pattern. Globally, party SGs have fallen out of favour for being sober and principled enough to contradict the party leader directly or push for reforms that challenge entrenched networks.

Nikolai Bukharin, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, ran into trouble when he opposed Chancellor Joseph Stalin's forced collectivisation policies. He was removed from leadership, expelled and executed in 1938.

Central to ODM's feuding and near implosion is President William Ruto who has, on at least two occasions, publicly threatened to orchestrate Sifuna's ouster for needling him and refusing to play ball. But if ODM is having a nasty headache, Dr Ruto must be having a gigantic migraine trig-

gered by the forced realisation that he has all along been too clever by half.

The Deputy President (DP) slot could present his Waterloo moment in 2027. His support from Mount Kenya East, which backs his re-election because DP Kithure Kindiki is their son, hinges on the retention of Prof Kindiki. On the other hand, support from ODM is conditional.

The faction backing Ruto's re-election insists that the DP and several CS slots must be reserved for ODM. This suggestion resulted in last week's ruckus when CS Geoffrey Ruku averred that Kindiki loyalists will not standby and watch ODM have its way.

To circumvent this conundrum, Governor Muthomi Njuki came up with a ridiculous suggestion that insults the intelligence of ODM members. Mr Muthomi says the only chance ODM has of getting a shot at the DP slot is by accepting to have Kindiki 'donated' to it, purposefully to continue serving as a DP proposed by ODM. Can reasoning get more warped and pedestrian than this?

Ruto should pull the rug from under the likes of Ruku and deny them a platform to drive their tribal agenda. Secondly, Ruto should dispense with the matter of running mate now to give himself time to manage any fallout. If he waits until close to the 2027 election, he could lose everything he ever thought he had built. That, however, would be his nemesis. He walked into this with his eyes wide open. He cannot have his cake and eat it too.

Ruto is well intentioned, no doubt, but history shows us that even transformational leaders lose their appeal when voters feel economic hardships, endure poor service delivery and rampant corruption.



DAVID OCHAMI,
ADVOCATE OF THE
HIGH COURT

ODM Secretary-General's hasty removal a travesty of justice

In the realm of poetry, the cascade of events leading to the removal of Orange Democratic Movement's (ODM) Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna can be described as comedy and a travesty.

Legally, the events amount to a miscarriage of procedural and substantive justice. In biblical terms, what has been meted out on Sifuna and other so-called rebels would be executed by a biased Sanhedrin.

When Kenyans who fund political parties thought they had turned the corner in the pursuit of justice and in furtherance of the rule of law, the troubled history or summary injustice and hostility to dissenting opinion, reared its ugly head on February 11, 2026, clothed as a farce.

In a matter of hours, the equivalent of the Sanhedrin in ODM, comparable to the Kanu Disciplinary Committee of yore decided that the Secretary-General is a dangerous deviant and outcast that should be cast away, without listening to his side of the story. The "jury", in this case, acted incestuously, with none among them raising any dissent or circumspection. They even 'forgot' that ODM's constitution recommends alternative dispute resolution as the first line of dispute resolution in the party.

The Oburu Odinga faction of ODM that convened its factional National Executive Council meeting in Mombasa last Wednesday appears so self-assured to the point that the party's constitution, due process and fair administration of justice principles enshrined in Articles 47 and 50 of the Constitution of Kenya do not bother them.

Like all overzealous converts to a new religion, this faction has been acting like a zealot willing to self-immolate or explode and tear down the party for the thrill and in order to fulfil the diktat of their new patrons and high priests.

The Oburu/Wanga led faction appears hell bent on forcing its will on the party at any cost. According to the ODM constitution, the chairman of the party is required to give a written three days' notice to each member, personally to each National Executive Committee (NEC) member, convening such a meeting.

The notice must indicate the agenda and venue of the planned meeting. In this case these rules were flouted with no rational explanation for the egregious breach.

According to reports in the public domain, the Mombasa meeting was convened by a nocturnal WhatsApp missive on February 9, 2026 through the unilateral action of the chairperson and her faction members with no indication of what the agenda would be.

On the preceding Saturday (February 7, 2026) the Dr Oburu wing of ODM struck out three members; Kipkorir Menjo, Taita Taveta Senator Jones Mwaruma and Saboti MP Caleb Amisi from the NEC without explanation.

By any measure, the removal of the NEC members and the subsequent recommendation to sack Mr Sifuna as the ODM's Secretary-General amounts to unilateral action and an affront to due process as enshrined in



Articles 47 and 50 of the Constitution and the Fair Administrative Action Act that require that one cannot be condemned unheard and that the process of any administrative action must be fair and procedurally sound. It matters not what charges one is accused of as long as the disciplinary process is tainted with procedural unfairness, bias and illegality.

ODM is a public and parliamentary party funded by taxpayers. Its actions and decisions are therefore not a private matter that some officials can tinker with willy-nilly. When a party feels one of its leaders or members is errant or has violated its rules and constitution, it must follow due process



By any measure, the removal of the NEC members and the subsequent recommendation to sack Mr Sifuna as the ODM's Secretary-General amounts to unilateral action and an affront to due process as enshrined in Articles 47 and 50 of the Constitution and the Fair Administrative Action Act.

as enshrined in law to discipline them.

To discipline a party official or member you, first, frame the charge and invite the "rebels" and supply them with the incriminating evidence and facts.

You then allow them adequate time to respond to the charges and challenge the charges and evidence and thereafter make a decision after listening and evaluating responses from all sides.

This requirement for fairness and due process is neither a luxury nor an option that the triumphalist faction in ODM and its bloggers can dispense with.

The said February 7, 2026 eviction of the three NEC members from the party roll without due process was clearly designed to ensure that only yes-men and yes women attended last Wednesday's factional parley. It was also mischievous to purport to convene a NEC meeting on a parliamentary day and in the middle of the week when officials and most NEC members would be busy and unable to attend.

A party that prides itself as the champion of justice and rule of law, ODM should be the last political party to flout the Constitution of Kenya and its own constitution and in the process subject members, officials and the taxpayer to a travesty of justice.

A dispassionate court or tribunal will not hesitate to invalidate any outcome borne of a constitutional or statutory violation, especially an unfair trial even where administrative action is meted in a private organisation or club. Increasingly, courts uphold the right to expression and opinion even where such expression annoys the powers that be.

Economy

We aren't poor; resource misuse and plunder the bane of Kenya



DINA LILLY KONDOA

Across the country, a silent crisis is tightening its grip on ordinary citizens. More than 3.3 million Kenyans are facing hunger, not because the land has failed, but because leadership has. Parents are skipping meals so their children can eat. Families are surviving on one meal a day. In some homes, hunger has become routine, an expected part of life.

At the same time, students under the new education system are yet to fully report to school. There are no books, we have inadequate classrooms, overwhelmed teachers, and confused parents struggling to keep up with rising costs. Education, which should be the great equaliser, is becoming another marker of inequality.

And yet, money exists. Every financial year, billions of shillings are disbursed to county governments. These funds are meant to bring services closer to the people, food security, education support, healthcare, water, agriculture, and social protection. Instead, what many Kenyans see are inflated tenders, stalled projects, questionable procurement deals, endless foreign trips, and governors living in obscene luxury.

This is not just mismanagement. It is moral failure.

While children sit on classroom floors without textbooks, leaders debate allowances. While families line up for relief food, county officials drive past in convoys. While youth stare into an uncertain future, public funds disappear into private pockets.

Devolution was sold to Kenyans as a solution, a way to correct historical marginalisation and empower communities. Instead, in many counties, it simply decentralised corruption. Governors have become mini-presidents, surrounded by loyalists, protected by compromised assemblies, and insulated from accountability.

Human cost

County assemblies, whose constitutional role is oversight, have too often become rubber stamps. Oversight bodies release reports that gather dust. Investigations drag on until public anger fades. Arrests, when they happen, rarely lead to convictions. The message to citizens is clear; suffering has no urgency, but power protects itself swiftly.

Meanwhile, the human cost keeps rising. Hunger is not abstract. It is a child who cannot concentrate in class. It is a mother diluting porridge so it can last longer. It is a farmer unable to afford inputs while officials steal agricultural funds. It is a teacher forced to improvise lessons without materials. It is a young person losing hope, one unfulfilled promise at a time.

Poverty is spreading not because Kenyans are lazy, but because systems are predatory. Public resources are treated as political rewards rather than public trust. Leadership has been reduced to speeches, press conferences, and social media performances, while lives unravel quietly in villages, estates, and informal settlements.

What makes this tragedy worse is how normalised it has become. Hunger is now a statistic. Poverty is background noise. Outrage comes and goes with the news cycle. But hunger does not pause. A child cannot wait for the next budget cycle or the next election.

True leadership is measured by outcomes, not ribbon-cutting ceremonies, not motorcades, not political alliances, but by whether citizens can eat, learn, access healthcare, and live with dignity.

Governors must be held accountable for every shilling entrusted to them. County assemblies must remember who they represent. Oversight institutions must act independently and decisively.

Ms Kondoa is a communications specialist



READERS' CORNER The Standard

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HOT ON X

Donald Trump has no cards left

@TomHoeftling: Trump has no cards left, internationally or domestically. He already burned the deck. He's in the waning months of his power. All he can do is foment more chaos, so that's what he fully intends to do. Brace yourselves.

@driscoll1142: Lol. I don't know what you're looking at. Everything is running great for this country. Every single time numbers come out they're exactly what President Trump said they were going to be.



@TomHoeftling: You need to face up to the fact that no one in the world who isn't in the MAGA cult believes a single word this man says. He has no reservoir of goodwill left, because he's evil, and untrustworthy, and stupid, and dangerous.

@SamuelD215088: The only chaos I have seen so far has been from the left.

@TomHoeftling: That's got a name. It's called willful blindness.

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FROM THE WEB

Questions over President's safety

Standard Digital: How safe is the President? Kenyans ask.

Juliet Wanyonyi: How safe are we as Kenyans?

Beja Adamz: Which Kenyans, am not among them please.

Albert Obonyo: He should avoid a lot of PR and allow his security to perform their duties.

Wyclif Okello: I really feel for those security officers. Everyday Nyota, Nyota, Nyota, they need at least a day off.



Tobias Mandila: A good president does not need to be scared of his people.

Njeri Gaturuku: Kenyans? Naaaah the politicians are asking. We normal Kenyans don't care what happens to him.

Kangutui Johnbosco Mumo: The question should be how safe are Kenyans.

Bakora KE: Safety depends on the intensity of attack. With an unarmed Kenyan population against his heavily armed escort, he is very safe.

POLITICS

Ukambani has lagged behind for too long; there's need to change its political, economic fortunes

For a region with such a formidable history of enterprise, resilience and national contribution, Ukambani's persistent underdevelopment remains one of Kenya's most troubling political paradoxes. The explanation does not lie in climate, land or the character of its people. It lies in leadership choices and a political culture that, for decades, has traded ambition for accommodation.

Long before colonial rule, the Kamba were among Eastern Africa's most accomplished long-distance traders. They controlled routes across the perilous Tsavo wilderness, linking the hinterland to the coast. Under Chief Kivoi, Kamba caravans escorted goods and people to Mariakani, negotiating confidently with Arab traders. Kivoi later guided Johann Ludwig Krapf from the coast through Kilungu, Kabaa and Kitui, opening the interior long before formal colonial administration took hold. This was a people who did not wait to be written into history; they shaped it.

At independence, Ukambani stood at the heart of the new republic. Through Paul Ngei, one of the Kapenguria Six, the community occupied a seat at the highest political table. Kambas held senior military positions, from General Joseph Ndolo to General Mulinge, while Kisoi Muniyao hoisted Kenya's flag atop Mount Kenya in 1963. Yet that early advantage was not converted into sustained regional transformation. Historical stature was not matched with long-term institution building. In the 1980s, Mulu Mutisya emerged as a gifted grassroots mobiliser and played a key role in rallying the Kamba electorate, including supporting Kalonzo Musyoka's rise. But mobilisation often replaced strategy, and loyalty substituted for structured development planning.

Today, the consequences are visible. Poverty levels across Machakos, Makueni and Kitui remain stubbornly high. Food insecurity persists despite significant agricultural potential. Irrigation



remains limited even as seasonal rivers flow untapped. Post-harvest losses for mangoes and citrus frequently exceed a third of production due to poor storage, weak processing capacity and fragile market linkages.

Infrastructure mirrors this gap. Despite proximity to Nairobi and the Coast, parts of Ukambani still struggle with inadequate road networks, raising transport costs and limiting competitiveness. These are not natural failures; they are political outcomes. Development follows power, and power follows strategy.

Politically, the region has often negotiated for inclusion after elections rather than shaping outcomes beforehand. Loyalty without leverage yields little. That must change. With millions of voters, Ukambani possesses significant bargaining power if organised early and cohesively. A shared regional agenda anchored on irrigation, roads, agro-processing and market access could reposition the region from dependable spectator to decisive actor.
Innocent Musumbi, Nairobi

EDUCATION

Students are poorly taught at secondary level

Today, university students are struggling academically. According to Prof Maurice Okoth of University of Eldoret, even students admitted with grade A are unable to write coherent academic essays, solve basic algebraic problems, or reason scientifically. This stems from secondary schools where mean grades matter more than learning. In many schools, students are supported to use shortcuts to emerge the best for recognition. However, many may struggle with calculus, mathematics, anatomy, and other technical courses that match their grades.

An A grade, instead of preparing the nation for development, has become a symbol that quickly loses meaning after the first semester. The crisis began in classrooms where shortcuts were tolerated, in offices where grades were fixed, and in a society where results are rarely questioned. 'Freshers' disappear after their first exams, claiming to have found their passion. Continuing students appeal, retake units, or face discontinuation while supplementary exams become routine. This problem can be fixed at primary and secondary levels. We must shift from a culture of passing exams to one of meaningful learning. Universities must uphold standards and fail those who do not meet them.
Moses Oduor, Rongo University

2027 ELECTIONS

Costly political campaigns mask unmet promises

Campaigns for the 2027 elections have already begun. Both new aspirants and incumbents are criss-crossing counties, wooing voters and presenting long lists of promises and policy commitments. The political season is gathering momentum — and, as usual, it is proving to be extremely expensive. Politicians move in large convoys, hire helicopters and spend heavily on fuel, logistics and mobilisation. The financial burden is staggering. Yet one must ask: Why do campaigns in our country have to be this costly? Part of the answer lies in

performance. Many leaders seeking a second term, appear uncertain about their record in office. If elected officials worked diligently and fulfilled their pledges, re-election campaigns would not require such aggressive spending.

Satisfied citizens would become their strongest ambassadors. Redirecting funds from extravagant campaigns to development projects would deliver tangible benefits. Expensive campaigns are often a symptom of unmet promises.
Franklin Mukumbu, Tharaka Nithi



CBE

Plan for Grade 11 transition ahead to avoid disruptions

Schools are approaching mid-term, yet in many Grade 10 classrooms, meaningful learning has barely begun. The transition earlier this year was chaotic, largely due to avoidable mismanagement. Moving students from junior to senior school should never have been rushed. Many of the challenges cannot be dismissed as mere teething problems. While C1 and C2 schools attracted overwhelling enrolment, several day schools were left nearly empty—an unprecedented situation in the country's history.

Textbooks have yet to reach many school libraries. Most teachers have not been

adequately retooled, despite official assurances. Even where retooling occurred, it was too shallow to properly support implementation. Funding was erratic, and confusion over subject selection left students anxious and uncertain. These Grade 10 learners have endured repeated system changes since Grade 3. We can spare them further disruption by planning future transitions more carefully. Preparation for Grade 11 should begin now, including timely development of course books and comprehensive teacher training.
Kenneth Kuboka, Kakamega

The devil is in the detail in this year's Budget Policy Statement



DENNIS KABAARA
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT



The general trend seems to be that revenue underperformance and poor expenditure control means actual deficits far exceed the plan. It isn't just our debt trap, we refuse to live within our means. Think about that the next time you experience a presidential jolly in your digs.



Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi during the 2025 Budget reading on June 12, 2025 at Parliament. [Elvis Ogina, Standard]

When the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) finally arrives in Parliament marked "Secret", it is natural to wonder what's being hidden from Kenyans.

Because, a week earlier, we were regaled with good news stories about tax cuts for formal sector earners at the lower end of the income scale.

As is often said, the devil is always in the detail. So, Page 50 of the updated, "secret" BPS - in comparison to its original draft - offers us a mini-diatribes about "fostering fairness and equity in personal income tax". Let's prepare for lots of privacy invasions through M-Pesa and bank account snooping, and all manner of "push" income tax assessments from KRA and a subsequent log-jam of tax disputes. The long-stated rationale is the self-employed don't pay enough (or any) tax. And remember, this year's rules also require a painful accounting of our tax-deductible spending.

Whether this pain is administered through a Tax Laws Amendment or Finance Bill doesn't matter.

Of course, we are speculating here, but if there was a way to accelerate the informalization of our economy while thinking that this is the way to formalize it, this is exactly it. Good luck to the future of mobile money, and other unintended consequences. Maybe Safaricom is over-valued. We probably want to watch carefully how our "wash wash" Parliamentarians interrogate this.

Which is not to say that we have reached our revenue potential. I remain unconvinced by the efficacy (and logic) of KRA's revenue modelling, but our Sh18-19 trillion economy should be deliv-

Debt crisis

74.067

TRILLION

SHILLINGS the amount of national debt by June 2027. By 2030 the debt will have grown to Sh16.524 trillion or more.

ering a pure tax take of Sh4.5-4.75 trillion at 25 per cent flat tax extraction. Non-tax revenue, including A-in-A for government services, should be hitting another Sh1.25-1.5 trillion.

That's an annual Sh6 trillion money train to deliver us to heaven and back. By wild example, we could put a trillion each into education and healthcare, throw another trillion at infrastructure, and still have three trillion left for everything from security and justice to social protection and commercial affairs. And that's today's Sh18-19 trillion economy, not the Sh39 trillion Vision 2030 one.

Sh6 trillion? That's ten per cent of the debits and credits flowing through our national payments system so you can see the new logic. Put it this way. If we slapped a ten per cent tax on every RTGS, EFT or mobile money transaction in Kenya, the take would exceed Sh6 trillion.

We haven't even gotten to counties, where, extrapolating from CRA's 2019 guesstimates, they should be collecting Sh250 billion in own source revenues, not Sh70 billion. Sh250 billion is over

half of the current equitable share, which itself should be at least a trillion on its own by now.

Expectedly, none of this wild imagination exists in the BPS now before Parliament. The plan for 2026/27 is 3.534 trillion in revenues versus Sh4.704 trillion in spending, meaning, after accounting for grants, we will add Sh1.116 trillion to our national debt. That's after the same budget imbalance leaves us piling up Sh1.141 trillion in debt in the current (2025/26) fiscal year. By June 2027, debt will have hit Sh14.067 trillion in what we hope is a Sh20.947 trillion economy.

And we just can't help it. By June 2030, our debt mountain will have grown to Sh16.524 trillion. Or more. The general trend seems to be that revenue underperformance and poor expenditure control means actual deficits far exceed the plan. It isn't just our debt trap, we refuse to live within our means. Think about that the next time you experience a presidential jolly in your digs.

There is a sense of disappointment in this BPS, and effectively, this administration. I have said before that it doesn't feel like either a statement of intent or a statement of commitment. More descriptive than prescriptive; more stationary than visionary; more procedural than strategic.

Which is surprising given 2026/27 is the current administration's final full budget year in this term. One was hoping for a signature BPS that would preface the signature Budget Statement in June.

What would a signature BPS have highlighted for this administration? I have written about content before (remembering that it is likely the output

of multiple cooks making broth), but let's narrow this to innovation in five areas; revenue, expenditure, debt, resources and economy.

Revenue innovation? See above. To be fair, though, this administration has made positive strides on the revenue front in a tough economy; you can see a desire to make revenue (tax and non-tax) collection more seamless and maybe, more painless. However - back to revenue modelling - something doesn't add up; the effort announced doesn't fully align with the actual numbers.

Spending innovation? Let's just say that Kenya is yet to discover an administration that is willing to constructively tackle our expenditure problem, debt treadmill notwithstanding. And it's a problem in two ways. We are not spending enough on the right things (like education and health), and we refuse to cut, or innovate, spending in the "less right" things (think, administration across the board). A serious government would already have taken a hacksaw to our almost 200 national government programs, especially those euphemistically titled "general administration".

Debt innovation? The real debt innovation is not to take on more debt, which would mean delivering a truly balanced budget, or more optimistically, running a budget surplus (to cut debt). But let's be fair; at least this administration has mastered "liquidity management operations (LMOs)"; we even have a draft LMO policy up for public participation.

What's missing as a long-term question is the matter of odious debt; or differently, the lack of return from our borrowing.

Resource innovation? Probably through a mix of necessity and foresight, official thinking seems to have stumbled upon the idea that there is more to resource mobilization than taxes and debt. And resources, in the strict sense, are more than money, which is why I argue that we need to work our full "balance sheet" - human, knowledge, social, financial, economic, physical and land. We patiently await the day when we will figure this out with a proper Resourcing Plan for Kenya.

Economic innovation? We are still in no-man's land here. Yet this is what drives the other four innovations. One day we might finally figure, to build on that famous saying, that, "counties will move us fast; but national will move us far". Settle on that idea, and then we can talk all day about how we pursue a restructuring of the economy across agriculture, industry and services.

Here's a final thought to bring this all together as Parliament debates this BPS plus National infrastructure Fund and Sovereign Wealth Fund bills. Where's the overall, once in a lifetime Sessional paper that (a) builds on Vision 2030 (Sessional Paper Number 1 of 2012) (b) celebrates BETA and (c) presents our "First World" vision and ambition? That would be game, set and match.

The Standard Counties

Sports. Kenya must pull up socks in sevens, Page 48



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Eburu breathes again, the mountain hisses out steam and wildlife roams

► Despite years of fires, poaching and grazing pressure, the ecosystem endured and is now recovering.

► The forest is home to bongos, leopards, giant forest hogs, serval cats and colobus monkeys.

KIPSANG JOSEPH, NAKURU

At dawn, Mount Eburu exhales. From the fractures in the earth's crust, white steam hisses and curls into the thin highland air, drifting through bamboo thickets and ancient Podo trees, dissolving above ridges crowned with towering *Juniperus procera* trees.

The Maasai call it *OI doinyo Oporu*, meaning the mountain of steam.

Rising more than 800 metres above the Great Rift Valley floor, two peaks, 2,855 and 2,823 metres above sea level, stand silent like silent sentinels over a fragment of forest that refused to die.

For decades, Eburu was stripped, burned and hunted. Today, it is breathing again.

Joseph Lengetu kneels beside a tree, his fingers gently loosening damp soil. In the palm rests a slender root.

"This one is called *OI konyel*, it improves appetite. It treats kidney problems. It opens the urinary tract and even helps with headaches," he says.

Lengetu is an Ogiek elder, born and raised beside Eburu Forest. To him, the forest is not wilderness, it is a pharmacy, an inheritance and a secret trust.

"We have medicine for kidney diseases, for bones for arthritis, for chest complications, even medicine for women who struggle to conceive and many more," he said.

He explains how *OI konyel* is prepared, roots cleaned, bark peeled, boiled in water or mixed with sheep, cow or goat soup for joint and bone problems.

"When you take it, you feel hungry. If you do not have food, do not take it," he said, smiling.

Harvesting medicine here is not guesswork.

"Roots underground are intertwined. If you do not know, you can remove a poisonous root without knowing," he added.



One of the birds species found in Eburu forest [Courtesy]

He removes only one root from each plant, moving carefully from tree to tree, covering the soil afterwards.

"You must protect the forest because you will need it tomorrow," he added.

Before hospitals came, the Ogiek depended entirely on the forest. Even today, he says, clinic records remain low.

When Eburu was being destroyed, Lengetu felt it physically.

"When someone cuts trees in this forest, it feels like my hand is being cut," he says quietly.

Eburu spans approximately 8,715 hectares, a remnant of the once vast Mau Forest ecosystem. Though isolated, it holds astonishing biological wealth.

At least 326 plant species, more than 60 mammal species and more than 200 birds.

But that richness was nearly erased, Cedar trees were felled for posts, charcoal kilns smouldered beneath the canopy, poachers stalked the undergrowth, and livestock grazed deep inside fragile habitats. Recurrent fires scarred the hillsides.

Joseph Mutongu, the forest and community manager at Rhino Ark in charge of Eburu Forest, recalls 2012.

"Eburu had been heavily destroyed through charcoal burning, logging and poaching. Many animals and birds had disappeared because of habitat destruction. Buffaloes and bush pigs raided farms. Crops were destroyed. People were injured. Retaliation killings followed. "There was conflict on both sides," Mutongu said.

Then came the fence. Between 2012 and 2014, a 43.3 kilometre solar-powered electricity line was erected around the gazetted boundary.

It now defines and protects every hectare of the reserve, forming the backbone of a broader conservation strategy. "We first sensitised the community, we took some to Aberdare to see what fencing had achieved," he

added. After completion, the difference was immediate.

"Human wildlife conflict dropped significantly. Crops improved, living conditions became safer," said Mutongu.

Inside the fence, the forest began regenerating, and indigenous trees were replanted in partnership with Eburu Rafiki and M-pesa Foundation. More than 34 schools were brought in to learn conservation directly from Ogiek elders and trained guides.

Before the fence, Lengetu recalled that honey production fell. Medicinal trees diminished. Food became scarce.

"It was a big Challenge, but now we have a reason to celebrate," he said.

Higher up the eastern trail, Douglas Chege pauses as steam billows from a fissure in the ground, temperatures reaching nearly 90 degrees Celsius.

"There is magma beneath us, heat rises through fractures and mixes with underground water, that is how steam is formed," said Chege.

Visitors pay Sh500 for adults and Sh250 for children to explore Eburu Trails, winding through bamboo groves along the cold mountain streams lined with ferns and past waterfalls plunging from sheer cliffs

into gorges riddled with damp caves.

The steam is more than a spectacle.

"We place herbs like *Leleshwa* tree leaves on the stones when mixed with sulphur in the steam. Many believe it helps with respiratory diseases. Our forefathers used it," said Chege.

From the summit, 2,837 metres above sea level, Mount Kenya shimmers in clear mornings. But many visitors come for the birds.

Eburu is a birding sanctuary. "We have more than 200 species," says Chege proudly.

Hartlaub's Turaco flashes crimson wings mid-flight, parrots arrive seasonally to feast on fruit, and migratory birds drift from other forests.

High above, crowned eagles among Africa's most powerful raptors patrol the canopy. Their survival speaks to forest recovery.

Some of the Eburu hunters are now its quietest guardian. Men who once set snares for bongos now patrol the slopes daily, removing traps and monitoring wildlife, proof that even the hardest hearts can learn to protect.

"I was a notorious poacher, now poachers are my enemies," admits Solomon Mureithi, a former hunter turned forest guardian.

Along the steep ridges and through dense bamboo, patrols move quietly, listening to the forest whispers, ensuring that steam, trees and bongos alike survive another day.

Camera traps strategically placed near animals' tracks and salt licks capture the movement of the forest's elusive inhabitants.

"With fewer than 120 mountain bongos remaining in the wild, every sighting is precious," said Solomon.

Maseto Kosen lowers a beehive carefully to the ground, smoke calming the bees. He manages more than 500 colonised hives, a livelihood inherited from his grandfather.

"I have also about 1,000 beehives, but the ones colonised are more than 500. If you taste our honey, you will know it is original, without trees there is no honey and without trees, there is no forest, that is why we have to protect," said Kosen.

Through support from Rhino ARK, communities now benefit from beekeeping, organic farming and biogas, reducing dependency on firewood.

School programmes and conservation education have empowered children to protect their inheritance.

Deep within bamboo thickets moves a shadow, the mountain bongos. Fewer than 120 remain in the wild, confined to Eburu, Aberdares, Mount Kenya and parts of the Mau.

Many were killed through poaching; others were taken to European zoos during colonial times.



With fewer than 120 mountain bongos remaining in the wild, every sighting is precious,"

Solomon Mureithi, forest guardian

WAJIR

Somali national with forged ID card arrested

A Somali national has been arrested in Wajir County while attempting to secure employment using a Kenyan national identity card.

Abdi Hassan Ibrahim was seized at the weekend at Johwar location in Wajir East, where he was allegedly searching for job opportunities. He told the local chief, Mohamed Issack Abdille, that he had travelled from Garissa County.

Upon interrogation, he failed to give a satisfactory account of his presence in the country.

The 37-year-old was handed over to the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit (APTU).

During questioning, he claimed he had come to Kenya to look for a herdsman's job.

"He was handed over to APTU officers who are handling the matter," said Wajir County Criminal Investigations Officer Francis Chirchir, adding that surveillance in the area has been heightened.

The Saturday night arrest came a day after President William Ruto announced in neighbouring Mandera County that the Kenya-Somalia border would be reopened after a 15-year closure imposed during the Al-Shabaab insurgency.

Speaking at Mandera Stadium on Thursday during the NYOTA Capital Disbursement event, Ruto said the government would double police deployment to secure the border while allowing cross-border trade to resume.

"We cannot trade with closed borders.

"For that reason, I will be returning here in April to officially open the border post linking Kenya and Somalia," said the President.

Cases of foreigners found with Kenyan identity cards have been on the rise since the President signed a proclamation abolishing vetting for individuals seeking ID cards in northern Kenya and other border counties.

While signing the Presidential Proclamation on Registration and Issuance of IDs to border counties at Orahey Grounds in Wajir Town in February last year, Ruto termed the practice unjust and disenfranchising.

"If it is about vetting, let all children of Kenya be vetted equally without any discrimination," he said.

Since then, there has been a worrying trend of foreign nationals being caught attempting to acquire Kenyan nationality.

In November last year, a Somali national was arrested in Mandera County while in the process of acquiring Kenyan citizenship.

Assa Ali Issack was seized by APTU officers at Bulla Hawa, Mandera East, while trying to cross into Kenya.

The 31-year-old was found in possession of a Kenyan application for registration form, which he allegedly obtained from the Registrar of Persons offices in Saudi Arabia.

In the same month, Hajir Mohamed Garat was arrested in Ijara, Garissa County, in connection with the issuance of fake birth and death certificates. Several blank and partially filled birth notification forms, death notification forms, birth certificates, death certificates and rubber stamps were recovered from his cybercafé in Masalani centre.

Mohamed's arrest came about two weeks after two people were seized in Garissa for allegedly fraudulently obtaining a birth certificate.

[Hudson Gumbi]

ELDORET

Murder suspect asks court for freedom on lenient terms to reunite with children

A man has been arraigned before an Eldoret court over the alleged murder of his neighbour in a tragic incident in Kesses area, Uasin Gishu County.

Michael Tuwei denied the charge when he appeared before Justice Robert Wananda.

Tuwei is accused of orchestrating the brutal killing of Meshack Kipkemboi under undisclosed circumstances on 2 December 2025.

Moments after the charge was read, the composed suspect raised his hand and pleaded with the court for lenient bond terms, citing his desire to reunite with his children, who depend on him.

He told the court that since his arrest by detectives attached to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, his wife had fled to her parents' home out of fear of possible attacks by his enemies, leaving their children

without care. "Your Honour, I humbly plead for mercy. My children are suffering after my wife ran away and there is nobody to take care of their welfare, including food, clothing, and education. Kindly release me on fair bond terms," he said.

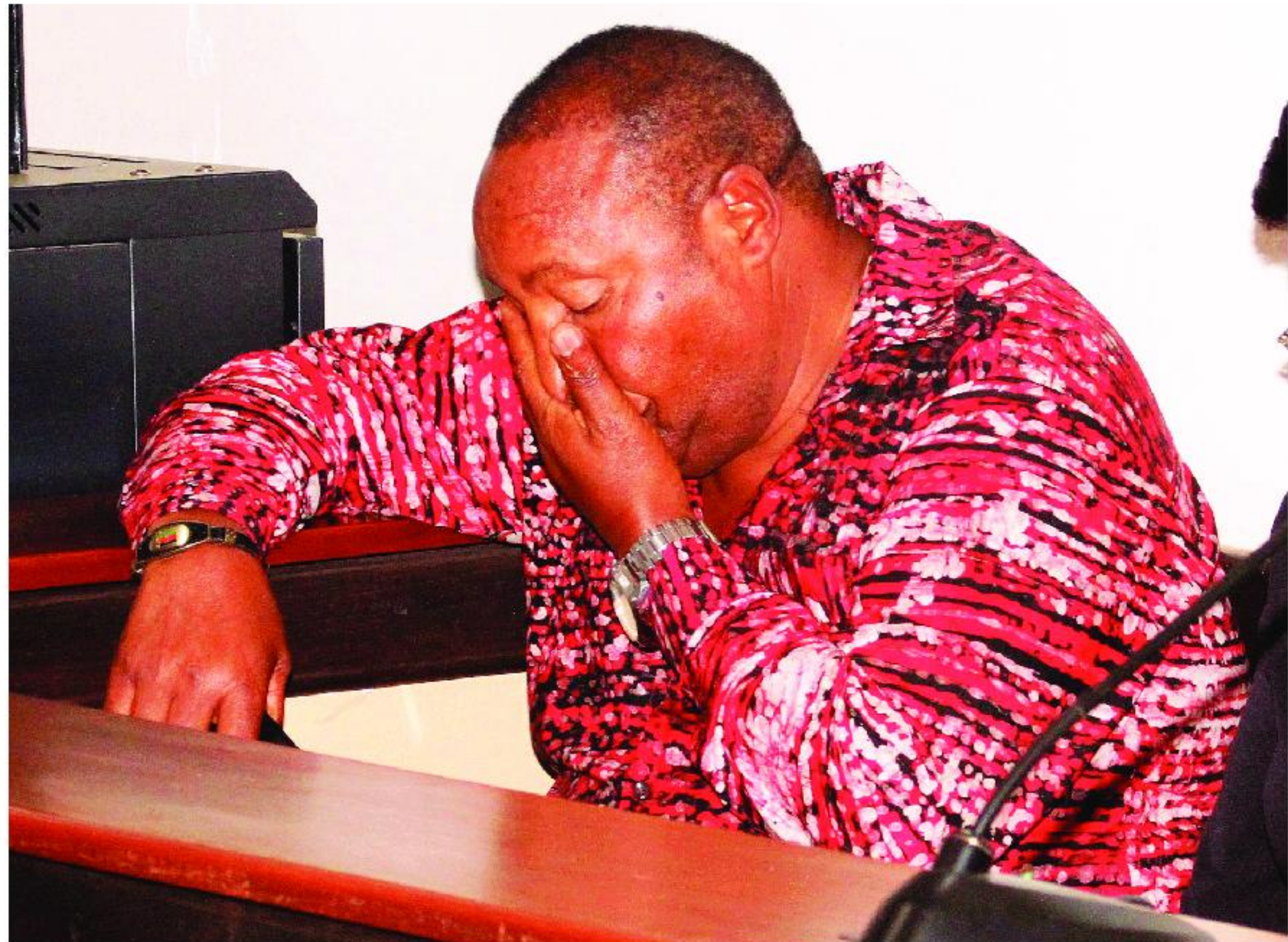
Tuwei added that one of his children, who is due to join Grade 10, has been unable to report to school due to lack of fees.

He assured the court that he would attend all court sessions without fail.

"I have heard your request, but there are technicalities that must be addressed. I therefore direct that a pre-bail report be filed within 14 days so that the court can make an appropriate ruling on whether you will be released on bond or not," the judge ruled.

The case will be mentioned on March 4.

[Peter Ochieng]



Former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu at a Milimani Court on February 13, 2025. [Collins Kweyu, Standard]

DPP opposes fresh bid by Waititu to lower bail terms

► The former Kiambu governor was sentenced to 12 years in prison for graft and has served seven months so far.

► He asked the court to exchange the Sh53.5m bank guarantee for a Sh20m cash security.

NANCY GITONGA, NAIROBI

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) yesterday opposed a fresh bid by jailed former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu seeking to lower his Sh53 million cash bail.

Waititu, who has been behind bars at Kamiti Maximum Prison for more than seven months despite being granted bail in July last year, is requesting the court to substitute a Sh53.5 million bank guarantee requirement with a Sh20 million cash security deposit, citing impossibility of meeting the original conditions.

Appearing before Lady Justice Wilfrida Okwany at the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court yesterday, prosecutor Linda Mwamburi told the court that the DPP had filed an affidavit opposing the application, stating that the previous bond terms imposed on Waititu are reasonable.

"My lady, we are objecting to the application solely on the ground that the applicant has not satisfied the conditions to warrant the re-

view of the courts issued on March 3, 2025," Mwamburi told the court.

The prosecutor further argued that Waititu's continuous applications lacked sufficient merit to warrant judicial intervention.

"This change does not necessarily meet the conditions for review, but it seems that the applicant keeps moving from one prayer to another without enough substance, my lady," Mwamburi added.

The former governor was sentenced to 12 years in prison or ordered to pay a Sh53,749,000 fine after being found guilty of corruption-related charges in February 2025.

The case involved a Sh588 million road construction tender awarded to Testimony Enterprises, with the court finding that Waititu received Sh20 million in kickbacks and that

the tender was issued fraudulently and illegally.

Following his conviction by Milimani Anti-Corruption Court Chief Magistrate Thomas Nzyoki, Waititu was granted bail on July 31, 2025, specifically to enable him to seek better medical treatment outside prison due to ill health.

However, the bail came with stringent conditions, including the provision of a bank guarantee worth Sh53.5 million.

Through his lawyer Christopher Mutuku, Waititu filed a certificate of urgency on January 21, 2026, seeking to have the bail terms reviewed.

During his submission Mutuku cited the doctrine of impossibility and frustration, arguing that despite reasonable efforts, securing the bank guarantee has proved unattainable.

"In consideration of the applicant's ill-health last year, this court admitted him to bail on July 31, 2025, in order to enable him seek better treatment out of prison," Mutuku informed Justice Okwany.

Mutuku emphasised that the court was made aware of the difficulty on December 18, 2025, when the judge directed Waititu to file an application for substitution of the bank guarantee with a cash bail.

"It is now more than 6 months since the issuance of the said order," Mutuku stated.

Justice Okwany fixed the ruling on the matter tomorrow, February 18, 2026 at 12 pm.

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In consideration of the applicant's ill-health last year, this court admitted him to bail on July 31, 2025, in order to enable him seek better treatment out of prison."

Christopher Mutuku, Waititu's lawyer

Financial Standard



The Standard Tuesday, February 17, 2026



**Audit pins
Kenya
Railways
on SGR,
dollar
deals.
PG 23**



Scan here for more stories, photos, videos and audio clips.



NSE: State's new platform to raise billions

OPTIMISM: Buoyed by a global boon that has seen Nairobi bourse's market capitalisation hit Sh3 trillion, the highest ever in its 70-year history, the Government hopes to end listing drought at the capital markets. **PGS 24-25**

REGULATION

Artificial intelligence chatbots to face UK safety rules after outcry over Grok

The UK government said yesterday it would include artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots in online safety laws, closing a loophole exposed after Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok was used to create sexualised deepfakes.

Providers of chatbots will be responsible for preventing them from generating illegal or harmful content, extending rules that currently apply only to content shared between users on social media.

It follows an international back-

lash against Grok for letting people create and share sexualised pictures of women and children using simple text prompts.

"The new measures announced today include a crackdown on vile illegal content created by AI," Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a statement ahead of a speech on the matter yesterday.

"The government will move fast to shut a legal loophole and force all AI chatbot providers to abide by illegal content duties in the Online

Safety Act or face the consequences of breaking the law," he said.

Under the Online Safety Act, which entered force in July, platforms hosting potentially harmful content are required to implement strict age verification through tools such as facial imagery or credit card checks.

It is also illegal for sites to create or share non-consensual intimate images, or child sexual abuse material, including sexual deepfakes created with AI. In January, Britain's

media regulator Ofcom opened a probe into the social media platform X, which hosts Grok, for failing to meet its safety obligations.

The country's data watchdog has launched a wider investigation into Musk's X and xAI, which developed the Grok AI tool - to see whether the companies complied with personal data law when it came to Grok's generation of sexualised deepfakes.

Ofcom has noted that not all AI chatbots are regulated under the Online Safety Act, including those

which "only allow people to interact with the chatbot itself and no other users". "Technology moves on so quickly that the legislation struggles to keep up, which is why, for AI bots... we need to take the necessary measures," Starmer said.

His government is ramping up efforts to protect children online, having launched a consultation on a social media ban for those under the age of 16, while considering measures to limit features like infinite scrolling on social media. [AFP]

RESOURCES

World copper rush promises new riches for Zambia

Surging demand from AI, green energy and defence sectors has boosted demand for the workhorse metal.

By BBC
Zambia

Five years after becoming Africa's first Covid-era debt defaulter, Zambia is seeing a dramatic turnaround in fortunes as major powers vie for access to its vast reserves of copper.

Surging demand from the artificial intelligence, green energy and defence sectors has exponentially boosted demand for the workhorse metal that underpins power grids, data centres and electric vehicles.

The scramble for copper exposes geopolitical rivalries as industrial heavyweights - including China, the United States, Canada, Europe, India and Gulf States compete to secure supplies.

"We have the investors back," President Hakainde Hichilema told delegates at the African Mining Indaba conference on Monday, saying that more than \$12 billion (Sh1.56 trillion) had flowed into the sector since 2022.

The politically stable country is Africa's second-largest copper producer, after the conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of Congo, and the world's eighth, according to the US Geological Survey.

The metal, needed for solar panels and wind turbines, generates about 15 per cent of Zambia's gross domestic product (GDP) and more than 70 per cent of export earnings.

Output rose eight per cent last year to more than 890,000 metric tonnes, and the government aims to triple production within a decade.

Mining is driving growth that is forecast by the International Monetary Fund to reach 5.2 per cent in 2025 and 5.8 per cent this year, which places Zambia among the continent's faster-growing economies.

"The seeds are sprouting, and the harvest is coming," Hichilema said, touting a planned nationwide geological survey to map untapped deposits.

But the rapid expansion of the heavily polluting industry has also led to warnings about risks to local communities and



The workhorse metal underpins power grids, data centres and electric vehicles. [File]

“

There is a risk that elites will be enriched at the expense of the broader population, while "narratives of partnership" offered by major powers can mask underlying self-interest."

Daniel Litvin, founder of the Resource Resolutions group that promotes sustainable development.

concerns of "pit-to-port" extraction, in which raw copper is shipped directly abroad with little domestic refining.

We need to be aware of the potential for history to repeat itself," said Daniel Litvin, founder of the Resource Resolutions group that promotes sustainable development, referring to the colonial-era scramble for Africa's resources.

There is a risk that elites will be enriched at the expense of the broader population, while "narratives of partnership" offered by major powers can mask underlying self-interest, he said.

Chinese firms have long dominated the sector in Zambia and control major stakes in key mines and smelters, cementing Beijing's early-mover advantage. Another major player is Canada's First Quantum Minerals, Zambia's largest corporate taxpayer.

Investors from India and the Gulf are expanding their footprint, and the United States is returning to the market after largely pulling out decades ago.

Washington, which has been stockpiling copper, this month launched a \$12 billion "Project Vault" public-private

SH1.56

TRILLION

MONEY that has flowed into the sector since 2022, according to Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema.

initiative to secure critical minerals, part of an effort to reduce reliance on China.

In September, the US Trade and Development Agency announced a \$1.4 million (Sh182 million) grant to a Metalex Commodities subsidiary, Metalex Africa, to expand operations in Zambia.

"We are at the beginning of what is going to unfold to be a dramatic new chapter in the way that the free world sources and trades in critical minerals," US Energy Secretary adviser Mike Kopp said at Mining Indaba.

Sweeping US tariffs introduced last year helped send copper prices soaring to record highs, as companies rushed to buy both semi-finished and refined stocks.

Cost of rush

"The risk is that this great power competition becomes a race to secure supply on terms that serve markets and not the people in producer countries," said Deprose Muchena, a programme director at the Open Society Foundation.

Despite its mineral wealth, more than 70 per cent of Zambia's 21 million people live in poverty, according to the World Bank. "The world is waking up to Zambia's copper. But Zambia has been living with copper and its consequences for a century," Muchena told AFP.

Environmental damage caused by mining has long plagued Zambia's copper belt. In February 2025, a burst tailings dam at a Chinese-owned mine near Kitwe, about 285 kilometres (180 miles) north of Lusaka, spilt millions of litres of acidic waste.

Toxins entered a tributary feeding the Kafue, Zambia's longest river and a major source of drinking water. Zambian farmers have filed an \$80 billion (Sh10.4 trillion) lawsuit. "Whether this boom is different depends on whether governance, rights, and community agency are at the centre, not just supply chain security," Muchena said.

TRANSPORT

Audit pins Kenya Railways on SGR operations, dollar deals

An internal report points to breaches in the public finance management laws and recommends government to immediately take over operations.

By Macharia Kamau
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Kenya Railways Corporation was expected to take over operations in May 2022, which would have coincided with the fifth anniversary of SGR, with the Madaraka Express having made its maiden journey between Mombasa and Nairobi on June 1, 2017. [File, Standard]

The dealings between Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) and Africa Star Railway Operations Company (Afristar), which operates the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), are again under scrutiny after an internal audit pointed to breaches in the public finance management laws.

The audit recommends that Kenya Railways take over SGR operations from Afristar “as a matter of priority” to avoid further costs to the taxpayer.

The audit, undertaken by the Ministry of Transport’s internal audit unit, has raised concerns about Afristar’s continued oversight of the operations of the SGR, including the possibility of billing for tasks that Kenya Railways has already taken over.

It says KRC has taken over many of the functions, but Afristar continues to be domineering in the operations of the railway line.

The audit also questions why the firm, with local operations and procured to undertake local work, is paid partly in dollars, without a clear indication of who, between the firm and Kenya Railways, pays for foreign exchange fluctuations.

The auditors also noted that KRC authorised a Sh14 billion (\$110.56 million) payout despite the absence of documents required to release the funds.

Afristar was formed in 2017 to operate both passenger and cargo services.

This was expected to give KRC time to acquire the necessary expertise to manage the railway.

The deal was to operate and maintain SGR for 10 years, but subject to review after five years. KRC was expected to take over operations in a phased approach over five years ending in 2022. This was, however, extended to December 2025.

The draft report recommends that KRC part ways with the operator to avoid further taxpayers shouldering bills run-

ning into billions of shillings paid to Afristar if it continues to operate the railway line. “The Afristar management should be vacated... as a matter of priority to ease the burden on the taxpayer for expenditure on functions which are within the control of the organisation (KRC),” reads the report by the auditors.

“The Afristar company, having invoiced and earned their entitlements of Sh18 billion as observed in this report, should not further burden the taxpayer where such extension of contract vitiates the objective clauses listed at the inception of their contractual mandate in the year 2015/2017.”

KRC was expected to take over operations in May 2022, which would have coincided with the fifth anniversary of SGR, with the Madaraka Express having made its maiden journey between Mombasa and Nairobi on June 1, 2017.

Strained relationship

The cargo service started operations in 2018. According to Kenya Railways, the handover did not take place, as past reports have shown a strained relationship between KRC and Afristar.

This was seen in allegations of fraud in ticketing by senior Afristar officials, claims of Afristar hiding information from KRC, and at some point, KRC considering terminating the operations and maintenance contract.

Kenya Railways uses money drawn from the Railway Development Levy Fund, which is financed by imports to Kenya, levied at two per cent of the declared customs value.

“At the time of this audit, and on reviewing the file, KRC has undertaken a phased takeover of the SGR management where the functions of passenger ticketing, fuel management, track manage-

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SH14
BILLION

PAYOUT that auditors say KRC authorised despite the absence of documents required to release the funds.



2022
PERIOD

THE year KRC was expected to take over SGR operations.

THIS was, however, extended to December 2025



ment, security and staff currently fall under KRC authority and leadership.

Further review established that the operator company had issued a demand for Sh18 billion being their unpaid dues... a consideration with Sh12 billion payout approved by the board and the RDLF advisory committee, and the balance of Sh6 billion subjected to an eligibility ascertainment test,” said the audit report.

“During the (2023/24) year, the management requested, got approval and received Sh18 billion to clear the pending bills owed to the company SGR related pending bills (Afristar Company Ltd) for SGR operations and maintenance pending bills.”

“However, from the billing invoices attached to payment vouchers amounting to \$110.56 million (Sh14.26 billion) ... we could not ascertain if the whole expense relates to the Afristar operation and maintenance contract intervention activities since the billing statement extracts include; previous accrued amounts as balances brought forward which in the absence of a certified, trade creditors schedule, evidenced ageing analysis of the debts and successive list of published end year financial statements, we could not relate to the contract period.”

According to the audit report, Afristar is partly paid in Kenya shilling and in dollars. This is despite all indications showing that there are no reasons why the firm should be paid in foreign currency.

The auditors also raised concerns about the cost of local currency fluctuations, pointing out that this could cause a further strain on taxpayers who have to bear the cost of a weak shilling.

“The payments are made at 60 per cent in local currency and 40 per cent in



During the (2023/24) year, the management requested, got approval and received Sh18 billion to clear the pending bills owed to the company SGR related pending bills (Afristar Company Ltd) for SGR operations and maintenance pending bills.”

Report

US dollars. This audit could not ascertain with finality why a company, registered in Kenya, with local physical addresses, domiciled in Kenya, with bank accounts in Kenyan banks, would be paid in a foreign currency for procured services undertaken in Kenya,” said the auditors.

“Further, the USD currency market fluctuations would potentially negatively impact the contract cost, creating an unnecessary additional cost burden to the taxpayer. This variation in contract costs is not recorded, recognised, or addressed by the management.”

Over the 2023/24 financial year, which is the period covered by the audit report, the shilling exhibited dramatic volatility, depreciating to the historical low of Sh160 to the US dollar in December 2023 but started strengthening in the course of 2024 to stand at Sh129 in April, where it has held to date.

SPECIAL REPORT

State bets on NSE to raise capital amid reforms push

Move is informed by a global boon that has seen market capitalisation hit over Sh3 trillion, the highest ever in the 70-year history of the Nairobi bourse.



By Graham Kajilwa
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A few years ago, when the Kenyan market was struggling to access dollars as inflation surged, hitting 9.6 per cent in October 2022, the interest rate regime was the preferred capital mop-up tool for the government that was drowning in debt.

The base lending rate shot to 13.0 per cent in February 2024. As some investors hoarded dollars, others moved their cash into government securities whose returns were as high as 18 per cent.

President William Ruto then announced that Kenya would make payments towards the Sh260 billion (\$2 billion) Eurobond by December 2023, ahead of the June 2024 maturity date, and the dynamics changed.

The shilling, that exchanged at Sh160 to the dollar, strengthened against the greenback, and inflation likewise eased as rains resumed to cushion food inflation.

Today, inflation stands at 4.4 per cent, and the Central Bank Rate (CBR) has eased to 8.75 per cent - pointing to a market that is quite stable.

To match this stability, the government has changed tact with the capital markets seemingly being the new (capital) mop-up tool.

In the recent past, a lot of emphasis has shifted to the capital markets. This has been informed by a global boon that has seen market capitalisation hit over Sh3 trillion.

This is from Sh1.2 trillion in 2022. The Sh3 trillion is the highest ever in the 70-year history of the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

It is an impressive performance for a



Globally, we have entered a new phase. Inflation has eased, interest rates are stabilising, and capital is no longer in panic mode but allocation (mode)."

Frank Mwit, NSE chief executive

stock market that has not seen a major listing in almost 20 years. Safaricom was the last major listing in 2008, with NSE self-listing later in 2014.

Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC), a State-owned business, will be listed in March this year.

Cognisant of this renewed interest in the stock markets, the government is embracing innovations and reforms to the capital markets to capitalise on this boom. Safaricom and the East African Breweries are some of the listed entities that have taken advantage of this boon through bonds.

"If there was a time to risk capital on the NSE, this is the time," said NSE Chief Executive Frank Mwit during a session with business leaders under the ambit of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (Keppsa).

He listed stable inflation figures and a well-balanced investor profile between retailers, institutional, foreign and local, as some of the reasons NSE is now thriving.

"Globally, we have entered a new phase. Inflation has eased, interest rates are stabilising, and capital is no longer in panic mode but allocation (mode)," he said. "And when capital reallocates, it does not chase headlines but systems."

4.4
PER CENT
TODAY'S inflation, according to the Central Bank Rate (CBR). It has eased to 8.75 per cent, pointing to a market that is quite stable.

SH2.4
TRILLION
CREDIT gap in the market, according to Lofty-Corban Investments Chief Executive Stanley Mutuku.



ECONOMY

Mwiti said capital looks for markets that can absorb scale, with depth, predicability, incredible exits, well-priced risks and real liquidity.

"That is why emerging markets like ours with functioning capital markets are back into focus," he said. "If there was ever a time to risk capital on the NSE, this is it."

He further revealed that the NSE, in partnership with Kepsa, would be reviving the conversation around the floor cap on allocation of pension assets to different investment instruments to expand the market.

"Working with Kepsa, hopefully in 2026, we can have these ideas, curate them and push them so that there are policy and regulatory directives," he said.

This boon has also attracted private players in the capital markets space. Last week, Safaricom unveiled Ziidi Trader, a platform where retail investors can get their feet into the murky waters of capital markets without the onboarding bottlenecks such as opening a CDS account and broker engagement.

From the comfort of their phones, they can buy and sell shares through M-Pesa.

"This is a good innovation," said KenGen Managing Director Peter Njenga. "Even us as KenGen, we are looking at innovations that can help improve value for shareholders and perhaps have people access the shares much easier."

Investment scheme

For businesses in the capital raising space, such as Lofty-Corban Investments Ltd, the boon has paved the way for a new instrument - a private debt special fund. Chief Executive Stanley Mutuku noted that there is a credit gap of Sh2.4 trillion in the market.

The fund is structured as a unique collective investment scheme that will primarily focus on investing in commercial paper as hand-picked growth-oriented financing opportunities for Saccos, NGOs, churches, endowments, trusts, and foundations.

"The Lofty Corban Private Debt Special Fund will pool investor capital to finance carefully selected credit opportunities, supported by rigorous credit assessment, portfolio diversification, and ongoing risk monitoring," explained Mutuku.

He added that private debt funds have become a core financing channel for mid-sized companies, infrastructure projects, and real estate developments, with annual growth in assets under management exceeding 20 per cent.

"While returns depend on market conditions and credit performance, private debt special funds have demonstrated in other jurisdictions that they can deliver competitive risk-adjusted returns over the medium to long term," he noted.

While unveiling the Ziidi Trader platform, President Ruto revealed that more reforms are needed in the capital markets. Already today, one can trade a single share in the market, unlike before when 100 was the base.

He said some of the proposed reforms are being overseen by the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi.

The purpose is to encourage businesses to utilise capital markets for their financial needs and to avoid crowding out other borrowers in the mainstream credit market.

He pointed out that last year alone, total market capitalisation expanded by about 48 per cent, rising from Sh1.968 trillion to Sh3 trillion. "This impressive performance

EVENTS IN THE CAPITAL MARKETS

In the recent past, a lot of emphasis has shifted to the capital markets.

Sh1.2 trillion

Market capitalisation has grown from Sh1.2 trillion in 2022 to over Sh3 trillion this year



Sh3 trillion

The Sh3 trillion is the highest ever in the 70-year history of the Nairobi Securities Exchange.

It is an impressive performance for a stock market that has not seen a major listing in almost 20 years.



2008

Safaricom was the last major listing in 2008, with NSE self-listing later in 2014.

Kenya Pipeline Company will be listed in March this year.

Cognisant of this renewed interest in the stock markets, the government is embracing innovations and reforms to the capital markets to capitalise on this boom.



Safaricom and the East African Breweries are some of the listed entities that have taken advantage of this boon through bonds.

100

Ziidi Trader, the recently launched platform, can enable one to trade a single share in the market, unlike before, when 100 was the base.

reflects improving macroeconomic fundamentals, including lower interest rates, a more stable currency environment, stronger growth prospects, and better coordination between fiscal and monetary policy," he said.

"More importantly, it signals renewed investor confidence in the long-term direction of Kenya's economy."

India forced to defend American trade deal as doubts mount



US President Donald Trump holds a bilateral meeting with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi alongside the ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines November 13, 2017. [File, Standard]

India is scrambling to defend a new trade deal with the United States that critics have branded as a surrender to Washington, as countries navigate the fallout from President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs.

The deal announced this month has rattled India's powerful farmers' unions, who argue that cheap US imports would throttle local producers in a country where agriculture employs more than 700 million people.

Details of the deal remain sparse, limited to a joint statement and a White House factsheet, but New Delhi says an interim pact should be finalised by the end of March.

Analysts warn that other elements of the agreement could also prove volatile. "In the Trumpian era, there is nothing called certainty," trade expert Abhijit Das told AFP.

Even if the deal is signed in a few weeks, it would only hold until Trump "decides to impose more tariffs for any perceived inconsistency," he said.

The most contentious pledge is India's stated intention to buy \$500 billion (Sh65 trillion) worth of US goods over five years. India's annual imports from the US last fiscal year were around \$45 billion (Sh5.85 trillion).

Doubling annual purchases to \$100 billion (Sh13 trillion) "is unrealistic", said Ajay Srivastava of the Global Trade Research Initiative, a New Delhi-based think tank.

Aircraft purchases were a major component of this commitment, but even a major expansion of Boeing aircraft orders, decisions made by private airlines, would fall far short, he said.

"Even if India were to add another 200 Boeing aircraft over the next five years, at an estimated cost of \$300 million (Sh39 billion) per aircraft, the total value would be about \$60 billion (Sh78 trillion)."

Some economists argue that the language around purchases is non-binding, hence it protects New Delhi if it fails to meet the goal.

"Framing the target as an intention, rather than a commitment, reduces the risk of the deal later

breaking down," Shivaan Tandon of Capital Economics said in a note on Friday.

Trump's unpredictability also continues to loom large.

He recently threatened higher tariffs on South Korea over perceived delays by Seoul in implementing a trade agreement announced last July.

Another flashpoint is Washington's rollback of a 25 per cent duty after what it described as India's "commitment" to stop buying Russian oil

This promise finds no mention in the joint statement and has neither been confirmed nor denied by the Indian government.

India says its energy policy is driven by national interests and that the country depends on multiple sources for crude oil imports.

'Oil plank'

New Delhi's Russian oil imports have dropped from a mid-2025 peak of more than two million barrels a day to about 1.1 million in January.

Local reports say state-owned refiners have already started purchasing Venezuelan oil for delivery in April. But it remains unclear if Russian purchases will fall to zero.

The outlook hinges heavily on Mumbai-headquartered Nayara Energy, partly owned by Russia's Rosneft, which Bloomberg reported plans to keep buying around 400,000 barrels a day.

This will likely remain a bone of contention, given the Trump administration's stance that it intends to monitor India's imports.

"New Delhi continues to avoid publicly confirming a full halt and frames energy sourcing as driven by price and availability, which underlines ongoing ambiguity over the oil plank," Darren Tay of BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, told AFP.

"There is tentative evidence that Indian refiners are reducing spot purchases of Russian crude, implying partial adjustment rather than a formal pledge," Tay said.

The deal remains "too fragile and politically contested" to justify a growth forecast change for India, he added. [AFP]

"Framing the target as an intention, rather than a commitment, reduces the risk of the deal later breaking down."

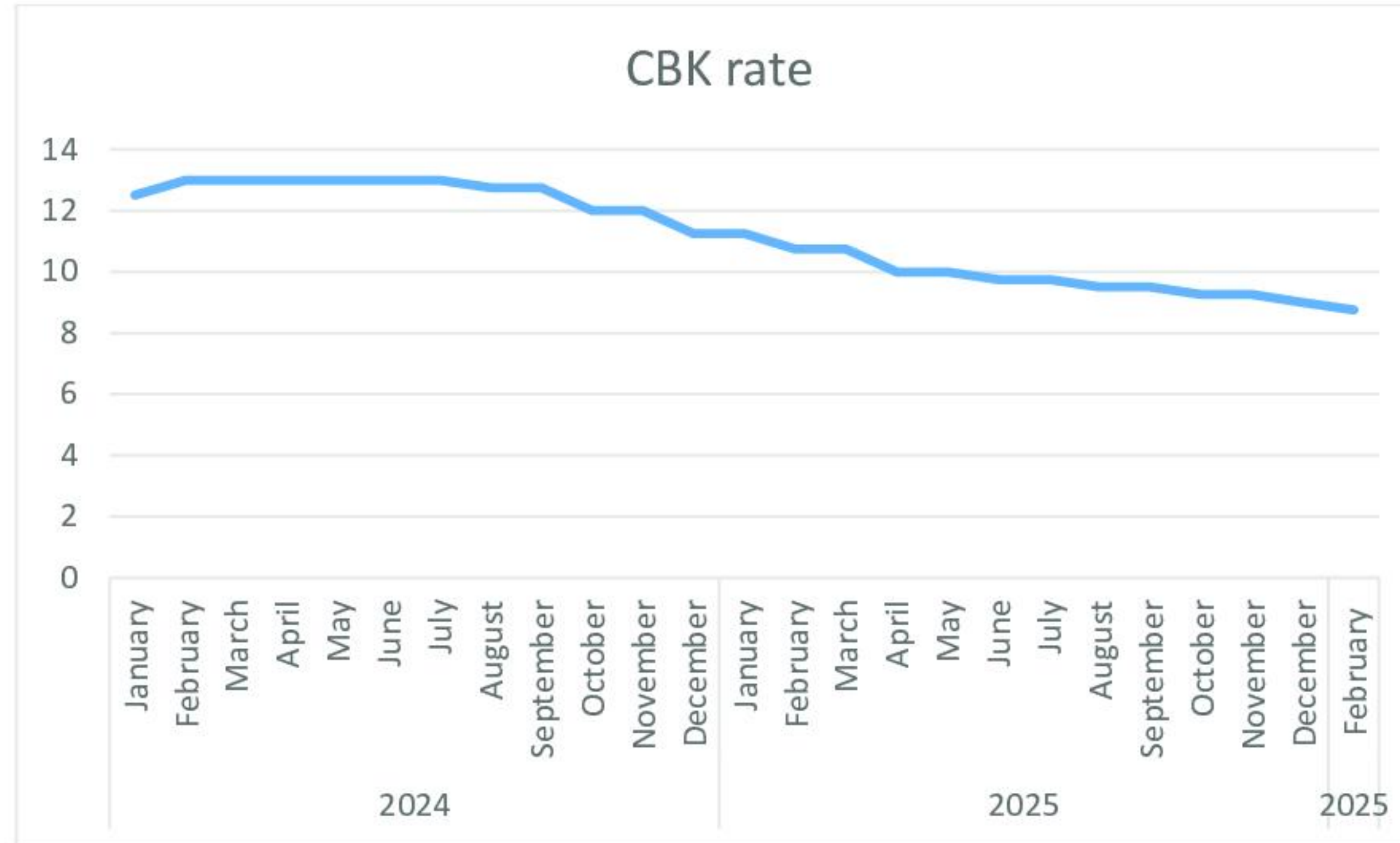
Shivaan Tandon, Capital Economics

COMMENTARY

Should we celebrate **falling interest rates?**



XN IRAKI,
Professor at the University
of Nairobi



Source: CBK

The Central Bank of Kenya's (CBK) monetary policy committee (MPC) has cut the interest rates in the last 10 meetings. Its latest rate is now 8.75 per cent. Why does this matter?

It's expected that with low rates, banks will take the cue and lower their lending rates. We shall borrow more money to invest or consume.

That will stimulate the economy and lead to growth and jobs. That would be political good news.

Economics has become the new face of politics. Who said the government has no business in business?

The MPC statement does not mention the 2027 polls, but economic growth and jobs thereof will matter. Wait for the campaign speeches.

The big question is whether the interest cut by CBK will be transmitted fast enough through the economy to be noticeable before 2027. Will banks reduce the lending rate? Shall we borrow more money by extension?

Banks don't lower rates immediately; they do so with a lag. I have heard CBK complain about that. There are many other factors banks consider in setting their interest rates, beyond the CBK rate.

One is the risk profile of the borrowers. That does not change overnight, whether it's an individual or an institution.

Do banks incorporate our credit rating in pricing the loans?

Two is the economic prospects. We borrow with a firm belief that we shall pay back and possibly make some profits.

If you borrow Sh100,000 from the bank at 15 per cent, we expect you to make a higher return than 15 per cent.

That will depend on the performance of the economy.

If the growth prospects are good, there will be demand for your goods and services, leading to profits and the ability to pay the loan.

Online lending

How are the growth prospects beyond the official statistics? How do ordinary Kenyans feel about it?

Borrowers, from their experience, decide how much to borrow, when and for how long.

Clearly, interest rate is not the only factor in borrowing. Do you recall when

“Monetary policy, best espoused by changes in CBK rate, could be more effective if its cross pollinated with fiscal policies; tax cuts and targeted government spending.”

the interest rates were capped? Did we get queues outside banks?

Why are shylocks and online lending platforms doing so well despite their high interest rates? That is the best evidence that lowering rates will not neces-

sarily lead to more borrowing.

Add the many Kenyans who borrow money with no intention of ever paying back. There is a hidden belief that debt is a “gift.” No wonder banks have to provide for non-performing loans. The government also owes citizens lots of money through pending bills and tax refunds.

Confidence in the growth of the economy is a key consideration of the borrowers; they often have a keener sense of the economic prospects than CBK as they deal with the reality.

Cutting rates frequently could have a counter-effect. Borrowers might interpret that as a sign that the economy is not doing well and needs intervention.

They may avoid borrowing and spending. Sentiments matter in the economy. Ever heard of the liquidity trap? I am not a pessimist.

Cutting rates has other consequences. It reduces the cost of government debt. Remember T-Bills and Bonds?

At lower rates, we want to borrow less from the government, while bond prices go up as coupons fall. Lower interest

rates on deposits shift us to alternative investments and enhance the stimulative effect of lower interest rates.

We can invest the money in projects that create jobs instead of keeping it, or spend it because the rates are too low. We do all that if we have confidence that tomorrow will be better than today.

We can shift our money to land, gold or other assets with higher returns. That is the beauty of affluence! The rest?

Let's not forget that low inflation is cited as one of the reasons for the interest cut. The low inflation is interpreted as a sign that we have no money to spend. We hear that in the streets and hamlets.

Monetary policy, best espoused by changes in CBK rate, could be more effective if its cross pollinated with fiscal policies; tax cuts and targeted government spending.

Tax cuts have been sticky in the last three years, but government spending is picking up.

High inflation

Will more cuts come in the remaining part of the year? My hunch is unlikely. As we head towards 2027, inflation will be fought using any arsenal at our disposal. Remember, lots of money is going out through Nyota and other projects.

Pre-election spending is a reality. That could be inflationary.

Add the prospects of subdued rain, and inflation is a real threat.

Is Philips curve still applicable? What would the government choose, low inflation and fewer jobs or high inflation and more jobs? The government has reduced inflation by “taking money” from us through taxes and levies.

Has it created jobs? That is the missing link. No wonder the focus on giving youth startup capital and internships.

One question at the back of every economist's mind is, if the CBK rate has been falling, why is the shilling not weakening when the fundamentals suggest it should?

The next MPC meeting is in April 2026. Let's watch and wait for the direction the interest rates will take and the stimulative effect on the economy.

MARKETS

European stocks, dollar up in subdued start to week

European stock markets and the dollar advanced yesterday, following a subdued showing for Asian equities ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday and after Japan reported lacklustre economic growth.

Markets were closed in Shanghai, Seoul and Taipei for the holiday, while Hong Kong and Singapore opened only for half-day sessions.

With US markets also shut for Presidents' Day, “attention will turn to company updates later in the week”, said Richard Hunter, head of markets at Interactive Investor.

“Walmart will report annual numbers on Thursday, where sales will need to be at the

top end of the expected range to continue to justify a punchy valuation rating which has seen the share price surge, propelling the group to become the first \$1 trillion (Sh130 trillion) retailer,” he said.

Stock markets showed signs of stabilising after a tech-led plunge last week, when traders reacted to growing concern about the hundreds of billions being spent on AI infrastructure and when, if ever, they might see a return on them.

Focus was on the start of a five-day AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, with the likes of OpenAI chief Sam Altman and Google's Sundar Pichai in attendance.

While frenzied demand for generative AI has turbocharged profits and share prices for many technology companies, anxiety is growing over the risks that it poses to society and the environment, and its potential impact on a range of business sectors.

Such concerns were offset slightly by official data Friday showing that consumer inflation in the United States cooled slightly more than expected in January.

Analysts said the data should see the Federal Reserve cut interest rates again later this year to bolster growth in the world's biggest economy. [AFP]



The Korean Composite Stock Price Index with the foreign exchange rate in South Korea. [File]



KCSE English essay: The cover-up

Question: People who make their money through questionable means live in fear struggling to shroud their dealings in secrecy. Validate this statement referring to Kevin Baldeosingh's story *Cheque Mate* (20marks)



By John Odundo
johnodundo8@gmail.com

Introduction: The corrupt are worried about their corrupt deals coming to light hence they go to great lengths to hide their misdeeds as in the case of Sukiya and Randall.

Since Sukiya desires to keep her corrupt plunder secret, she deliberately avoids going to the bank branch where she has her savings account because the staff there would be too familiar with her business. She chooses a special queue for platinum credit card holders that only has three people. There are only two people behind her and they are not close enough to hear her conversation with the teller. She does all this trying to keep her huge earnings a secret because of the fear of being exposed.

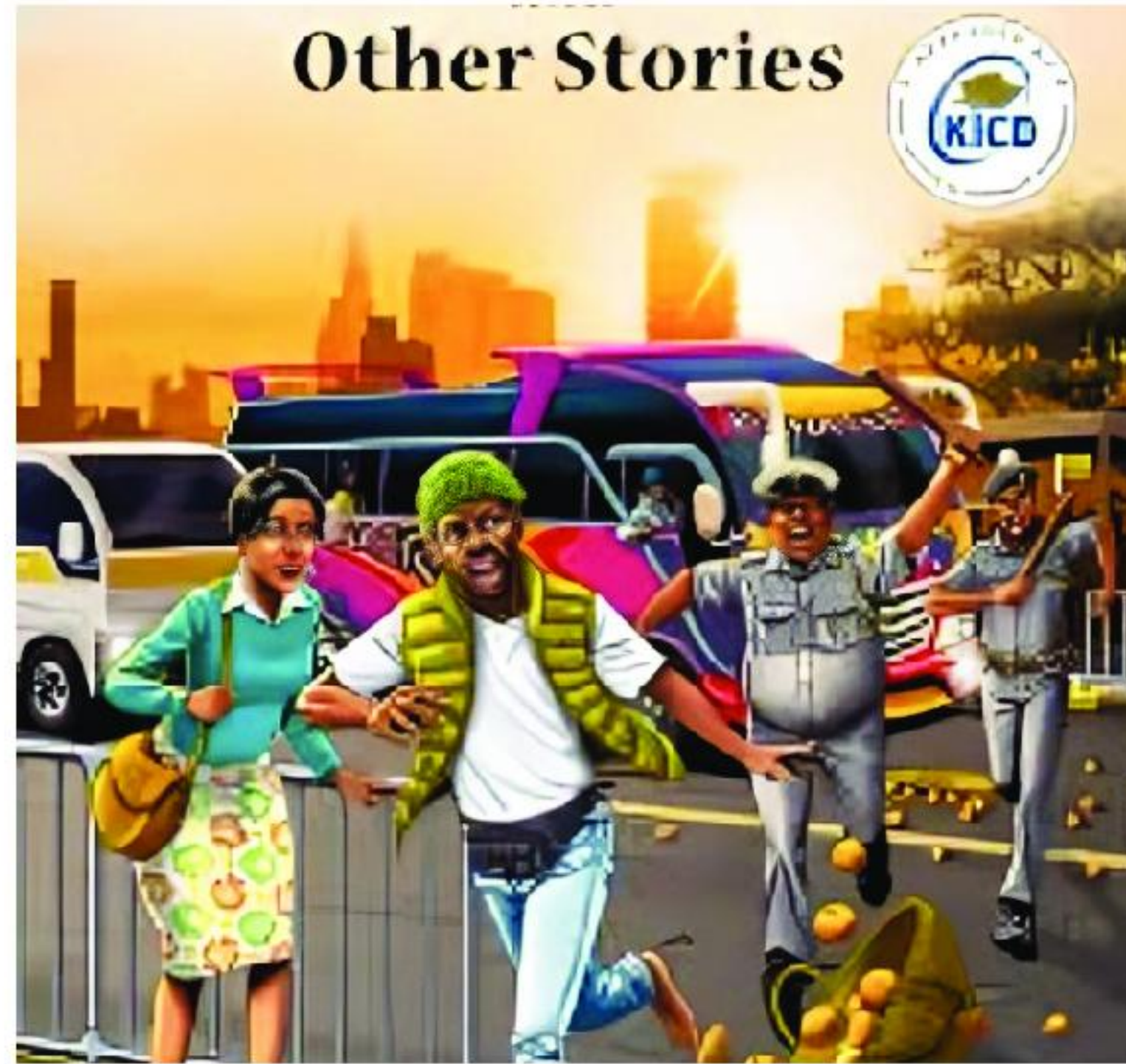
Also, she decides that she would not deal with any bank managers directly. Ever since she was appointed corporate secretary, she got a tenfold salary raise. She became among the country's one percent highest income earners. Every 28th day of the month, fifty thousand dollars went automatically into her savings account. Her savings account had over seven million dollars. Although she has been working for fifteen years, she became corporate secretary only six years ago. As an in-house lawyer for Randall's company, her savings never crossed ten thousand dollars. Now she deposits five times that amount every month in that same account, which she opened when she was eighteen years old working as a store clerk. That is why she decides never to deal personally with bank managers as most new customers in her income bracket do. A bank man-

ager could make an educated guess and find an anomaly in her earnings.

Someone who earns fifty thousand a month accumulating seven million dollars in only six years is something that would raise eyebrows.

Sukiya is worried that the bank teller may get suspicious when she takes back her cheque of five million dollars. The teller seemed like a sensible woman and everything about her, including the black wire frames of her spectacles and her stocky figure in her grey bank uniform seemed sensible. But she was not making any sense, when she asks if Sukiya wanted to deposit the thirty million dollars, in her savings account. Sukiya thinks that ordinary tellers know little about how rich people conduct their business. But today she feels a flutter in her stomach. She is nervous because she was about to deposit a cheque of five million US dollars which is equivalent to 30,242,000 Trinidad and Tobago dollars. When the teller gestures with the cheque Sukiya almost flinches. Aghast at her own carelessness she barely hears as the teller explains about US dollar accounts. Sukiya is worried because her boss would be furious if her error exposed him to a legal investigation or a public embarrassment. This is a mistake she could not have made 16 years ago when she was a 25-year-old attorney fresh out of law school or seven years ago when she completed a degree in accounting. She had never made such a mistake before and she never makes mistakes. She is thus worried that the teller may get suspicious if she took back the cheque. She does everything to keep her income secret.

Sukiya has to keep some of her money in offshore accounts for the fear of being exposed to the authorities. She could not deposit the five million dollars into her local account. All her cheques go to the Cayman Islands account which she uses to invest and pay mortgages on her London flat. When Randall inherited his company, electronic banking was not standard. He had also watched many movies where accounts of businessmen had been cleaned out by unrealistically cunning criminals who hacked into them. So, he preferred payments in paper. He insisted on paying Sukiya for



her extra duties involving foreign firms with US cheques. Every two months she had to fly from Trinidad to the Grand Caymans to deposit the cheques into her account there. She does this to keep her large earnings a secret. She is worried about being exposed if she banks the money in her local bank accounts.

In order to keep her secrets safe, the maids are not allowed inside Sukiya's study even when she is present. It always remains locked. Sukiya's desktop computer does not have internet access. The computer also has more than one layer of password for foolproof protection. On the computer, she checks her accounts over the past year and compares them with the recent transactions with the cheques laid out in front of her. Sukiya does everything to keep the dealings of her company and their incomes secret.

In order to keep his secrets safe, Randall maintains his old secretary for very long time. This is because she knows more about his dealings than anybody else at the company. Margaret was Randall's secretary even before he inherited the company. She has no formal skills except typing and shorthand.

That notwithstanding, she is Randall's executive assistant. What's more? She even has her own secretary to deal with routine duties. Her office is bigger than Sukiya's. She is paid more than most managers in the company's subsidiaries. Randall goes to great lengths to prevent his secrets from leaking out.

Randall tries to avoid prosecution by forging his own signature using Sukiya's pen. He draws to Sukiya a cheque of five million U.S. dollars which he says, on the books is her fee for writing the methanol deal but off the books, it is her fee for keeping her

mouth shut about the methanol deal. Randall influences Sukiya to write a valuation report for the shares in which the contract undervalues the shares by fifty percent. He knows that Sukiya signs documents without reading them properly. Because of the undervaluation, the Chinese offer him a huge kickback. Randall uses different signatures to sign off the cheques. He does this to make it appear like someone had access to blank cheques and forged his signature. He even uses Sukiya's pen, a Tibaldi rollerball, to make it appear like Sukiya had forged his signature. His strategy is to avoid culpability by ensuring that none of the documents the authorities will come for implicate him.

In order to protect herself, Sukiya ensures that she records Randall's voice which incriminates him. She knows that if the company goes down, it will affect many people who have taken a life insurance with them. That will affect votes and government would hire American forensic auditors or the British QCs to prosecute the case. She sheds tears and tells Randall that she has always been loyal to him to which he quickly counters that she was certainly paid enough to be loyal. Sukiya peers at her iPhone and presses some buttons. Randall's voice is heard distinctly. He stands there as if held by invincible chains. Sukiya tells him not to worry as they will face the coming storm together.

In conclusion people go to great lengths to keep their illicit details hidden, subjecting themselves to constant worry.

Mr Odundo teaches English at Nyakach Girls High School in Kisumu County.

Money Academy

By Liz



THE FIRST DEPOSIT THE THREE WALLETS

Jayden is 15 years old. He loves video games. The last School holiday in 2024, his uncle challenged him to a real-life game. He gave him Kshs. 1,000.00 with instructions to split it and save it in 3 wallets. Jayden was really confused by the three wallets?

Each wallet has a mission, his uncle explained. The first wallet is called Spend. Jayden could use it for snacks, movies, or eating out with friends. It felt good to enjoy money without guilt. The second wallet is called Save. This one was for future Jayden, like buying a new phone, a video game, or emergencies. Jayden was not to touch it much, but every so often as the money accumulated, he was to open a Money Market Fund and save it there until it is enough for his goals. To Jayden, it was starting to feel like leveling up in a game. The third wallet was called grow. This is for things that make more money, learning a skill, starting a small hustle, or investing. This wallet sounded very surprising and exciting to Jayden.

At first, Jayden spent only from the first wallet. Weeks later, his headphones broke. Instead of panicking, he used his save wallet. He felt liberated and less stressed. Months later, he used the Grow wallet to buy a basic video editing course. Soon, he was editing videos for friends and earning money.

Jayden realized something important. Money is not just for spending rather it is a tool. When you give your money goals, it stops controlling you and it starts working for you. From that day on, Jayden and his uncle did not just play games, they played the money game and won.

Goals are things you want to accomplish within a particular time that contributes to realizing your dreams. If you want something, you must plan and work for it. Financial goals are money related goals. They are things that you want to accomplish and they cost money. Not all goals are the same.

Some goals are more urgent than others. Some are individual while others involve or influence other people. Some are easily achievable while others are more complex. It is not practical to expect to achieve all goals at the same time or within a short period. Therefore, we need to prioritize.

Exercise
Write down 5 things that you would like to achieve or have, include a reason why and the price of each if any.



Bullying

Danny's Desk



Bullying is intentional, repeated behaviour meant to cause harm, involving an imbalance of power (physical strength, social status, or psychological control). While playful teasing lacks intent to hurt. Boys often bully physically, while girls lean toward social and emotional tactics. To stop bullying, one requires awareness, intervention, and building resilience for students, parents, and teachers.

Forms of Bullying: Physical includes hitting or pushing, verbal includes insults, threats, while social includes exclusion, rumours, and cyber bullying (online harassment like on social media comments).

Key Traits in Bullying: There is exhibited intent to harm. *Repetition:* It occurs multiple times, and *Power imbalance*, one side has more control or influence.

Bullying and playing can sometimes look similar on the surface, but the difference lies in intention, balance, and impact. Bullying happens when one person deliberately tries to

hurt, control, or humiliate another. It's not just a one-time incident it's repeated, and there's usually a power imbalance. For example, a stronger or more popular student targeting someone weaker or less socially connected. The victim often feels scared, excluded, or ashamed.

Playing, on the other hand, is mutual and light-hearted. Both sides are enjoying themselves, and there's no intent to cause harm. Teasing among friends, joking, or roughhousing can be playful if everyone is laughing and feels safe. The moment one person stops enjoying it or feels uncomfortable, it shifts away from play. So the key difference is that bullying is about harm and control, while playing is about fun and connection.

Boys vs. Girls Bullying: Boys get more physical (hitting, pushing, and threats). It's mostly about dominance or hierarchy. Girls lean more on social/emotional through rumours, exclusion and manipulation. Mostly, it's about status and relationships. **Impact:** Both lead to anxiety, depression, and academic decline, but girls' bullying tends to be more hidden and harder for adults to detect. So girls tend to get away with bullying other girls while boys always get caught since the bullying is more physical.

How to Stop Bullying

For Students: *Speak up:* Report bullying to teachers or trusted adults. Support peers: Stand with victims to reduce isolation. Avoid retaliation: Respond calmly, don't escalate.

For Parents: *Listen actively:* Create a safe space for children to share. Monitor online activity: Cyber bullying is increasingly common. Collaborate with the school: Work with teachers and administrators to address issues.

For Teachers: *Establish clear rules:* Zero



tolerance for bullying. Intervene immediately: Stop incidents in class or playground. Promote empathy: Use role-play, discussions, and mentorship to build respect. Encourage peer support through Student-led initiatives that can reduce bullying culture.

Overcoming Bullying as an Experience

Acknowledge the pain: Recognize the emotional impact instead of suppressing it. **Build resilience:** Engage in positive activities, friendships, and mentorship. **Seek counselling:** Professional support helps victims' process

trauma. Talk to your guidance and counselling teacher, your peer group or your trusted friend. *Transform the experience:* You can use your story to advocate for kindness and awareness. *Reframe identity:* Understand that being bullied does not define one's worth.

Bullying thrives in silence. Students must speak up, parents must listen and act, and teachers must enforce safe environments. Overcoming bullying means turning pain into resilience and advocacy, ensuring victims grow stronger rather than defined by the experience.

HOW DO YOU REMEMBER THE LATE, RAILA AMOLO ODINGA?



Kelvin Omwoyo, Grade 10 Journalism club, Olympic high school, Nairobi County.

Peace crusader:

Raila Amollo Odinga affectionately known as "Baba," was a towering Kenyan statesman widely recognized as a pivotal peace crusader and defender of democracy, whose political career spanned over three decades. Raila's legacy is characterized by a remarkable ability to prioritize national unity over personal political gain, often acting as the "stabilizer" of the nation during times of acute crisis. Following a highly contested 2017 election that left the country divided and violent, Odinga

shocked the nation by shaking hands with his rival, President Uhuru Kenyatta. This act of reconciliation was credited with preventing the country from tearing itself apart. In 2024, amidst intense Gen Z-led protests against the finance bill, Odinga intervened to promote dialogue, which many observers believe prevented further loss of life and a potential collapse of the government. Despite losing the 2022 election to William Ruto, Odinga pledged to respect the Supreme Court's decision, opting for constitutional, peaceful opposition rather than fueling chaos. Beyond Kenya, Odinga served as the AU High Representative

for Infrastructure Development (2018-2023), further cementing his role as a continental peace and development envoy. Odinga's approach to peace was not about quiet obedience but about courageous, often difficult, reconciliation. Throughout his career, he was viewed as a "mirror of Kenya's own complexity"—a man who bore the scars of detention (spending eight years as a political prisoner) but preached forgiveness and unity. Baba was hailed as "true champion of democracy" who time and again put the interests of his country ahead of his own ambitions.



Mitchell Adhiambo Ivine, Form Four Journalism club, Olympic high school, Nairobi County.

I remember **BABA RAILA AS FATHER** of Kenya's democracy. Baba was a strong advocate for democratic reforms in Kenya and Africa at large. His resistance to authoritarian regimes in the 1980s and 1990s helped shape the Kenya's democratic landscape. Baba played pivotal role in Kenya's 2010 Constitution (promoting

devolution freedom of expression and respect for human rights), fighting for multi-party democracy, AGWAMBO as he was popularly known led major infrastructure projects (like the Standard Gauge Railway and LAPSET Corridor), and serving as the African Union's High Representative for Infrastructure, fostering regional cooperation. Baba taught and instilled in us courage and boldness we see in GEN Zs and other young leaders like BABU OWINO by challenging authoritarianism and advocating for the marginalized, he became a symbol of Kenya's democratic struggle, even without becoming President. May his soul continue resting in peace.

HOW DO YOU REMEMBER THE LATE, RAILA AMOLO ODINGA?



Wesley Omondi, Grade 10
Journalism club, Olympic high school,
Nairobi County.

Multi-Party Democracy:
I have read in history that throughout his career, Baba Raila Amolo Odinga was often referred to as a “gallant soldier of democracy,” focusing on creating a people-centered government. Agwambo was a lifelong advocate for pluralism, he challenged single-party rule and pushed for democratic space. Raila Odinga was a key figure in Kenya’s Second Liberation (early 1990s), championing multi-party democracy, constitutional reform, and human rights against the authoritarian regime. As a leader he endured years of detention, torture, and exile to push for the repeal of Section 2A, ultimately shaping the 2010 Constitution. Raila spent a total of nearly nine years in detention without trial (including in solitary confinement at Kamiti prison) due to his defiance against the autocratic

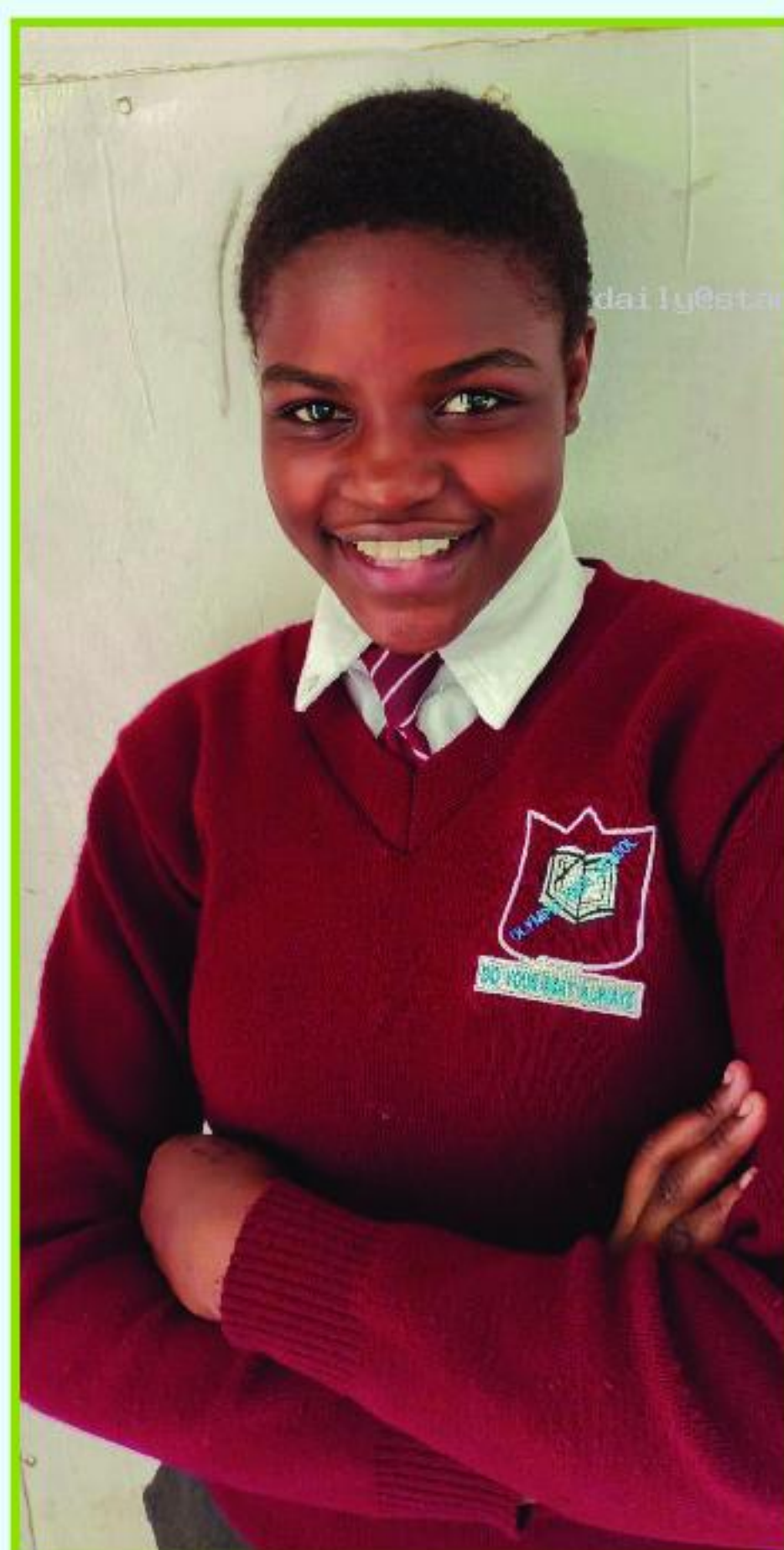
regime, particularly following his alleged involvement in the 1982 coup attempt. He played a pivotal role in organizing the 1990 “Saba Saba” protests on July 7, which demanded constitutional reforms, freedom of speech, and an end to the one-party dictatorship, marking a major turning point in the movement. As Prime Minister, Raila was central to the crafting and implementation of the 2010 Constitution, which introduced significant reforms, including devolution, a stronger Bill of Rights, and a reduction in presidential power. We read that throughout his career, he was a vocal critic of governmental overreach, corruption, and mismanagement, advocating for a more transparent and accountable government. Raila’s efforts transformed him into a symbol of resistance and democratic reform in Kenya, earning him the nickname “Baba” as he led the fight for a more democratic and equitable nation. Rest in PEACE BABA.



Beril Anyango, Grade 10
Journalism club, Olympic high school,
Nairobi County.

I remember Baba Raila Odinga as a **nationalist** who heavily promoted Kenya’s infrastructure when he was a Minister for Roads and Prime Minister (2008-2013). Baba pioneered major projects like the Thika Superhighway, the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor, and upgrading urban roads. As the African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development (2018-2023), Baba drove continental connectivity and policy reforms, focusing on modernization and sustainable financing. Agwambo Spearheaded the creation of key agencies—Kenya National Highways Authority (KenHa), Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), and Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURRA)—to manage road networks, introducing performance contracting and modern technologies like polymer-modified bitumen. Baba was instrumental in constructing the Thika Superhighway and upgrading infrastructure in Nairobi, including Mbagathi Way which now bears his name (RAILA ODINGA

ROAD)
Raila Odinga Championed for the LAPSSET corridor project, aimed at linking Kenya with Ethiopia and South Sudan, and was involved in the early planning stages of major projects like the Standard Gauge Railway. History of kenyas economic growth can be complete without the name of Baba Raila Amolo Odinga. Baba served as the African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development, fostering political support for continent-wide projects under the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). Raila Supported initiatives for water tower conservation and slum-upgrading programs, such as those in Kibra slums in Nairobi and Nyalenda Slums in Kisumu city. He build schools like Olympic Secondary School, Raila Educational Center, His efforts in these roles focused on reducing construction costs and enhancing connectivity to spur economic growth. Raila Odinga is associated with the establishment of educational infrastructure, most notably the Raila Education Centre and Olympic Secondary schools in Kibra, Nairobi, which serves the local community.



Hilary Ochieng, Grade 10
Olympic high school, Nairobi County.

2010 Constitution:
I remember Baba Raila Amolo Odinga as a key figure in creation of the 2010 constitution, which devolved power to counties and expanded citizen rights. Devolution as enshrined in our 2010 constitution has been crucial for bringing government services closer to citizens, promoting equitable resource distribution across 47 counties, and enhancing local economic development. It has fostered democratic accountability, empowered marginalized communities, and improved public service delivery, particularly in health, agriculture, and infrastructure.

Mitchell Omondi, Grade 10
Journalism club, Olympic High School, Nairobi County.

Advocate of Social Justice:
Baba is remembered as an advocate of social justice who consistently and always focused on uplifting the poor and marginalized communities in Kenya and ensured equitable resource distribution. Raila Odinga fought for social justice in Kenya for over three decades by championing multi-party democracy, enduring multiple detentions to dismantle authoritarian rule, and advocating for

constitutional reforms. He was a key figure in the 2010 Constitution’s creation, which decentralized power, and he pushed for inclusivity, accountability, and the rights of marginalized communities. He was instrumental in the fight for a new constitution that reduced executive power, enhanced civil liberties, and promoted devolution. Raila Odinga stood against extrajudicial killings, championed gender equality, and acted as a voice for the marginalized, frequently supporting civil society initiatives. Continue resting in peace BABA.





NIE Launch in Schools

Depaul Austin junior school



Madam Anne Njoroge, director of Depaul Austin Junior School, distributes copies of The Standard to students in Ruiru on February 6, 2026 during launch of the Newspaper in Education (NIE) program. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard] daily@standard.com



Standard group NIE Manager Christopher Gisiri with students of Depaul Austin Junior School on February 6 during the NIE program launch. [Edward Kiplimo]



Ms Grace Njigua, of Depaul Austin Junior School, reads The Standard. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]



Sammy Mbugua of Depaul Austin Junior School join students in reading The Standard. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]



Madam Anne Njoroge, director of Depaul Austin Junior School with her students. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]



Depaul Austin Junior School students read The Standard on February 6, 2026. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]



Standard media group staff Fidelis Ouma with students of Depaul Austin Junior School. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]



Depaul Austin Junior School students read The Standard on February 6, 2026. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]

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Horticulture exporters eye new markets after EU tightens rules

► Stricter regulations on plant health, pesticide use, and environmental compliance have driven up compliance costs.

► The tighter European Union rules have resulted in shipment delays and export rejections.

WILLIS OKETCH, MOMBASA

Kenya's horticulture exporters are exploring alternative markets in Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe as trading with the European Union (EU) becomes more complex and costly.

Europe remains Kenya's largest and most profitable destination for flowers, fruits and vegetables.

However, stricter rules on plant health, pesticide use and environmental compliance have raised operational costs for exporters and made market access more challenging. As a result, many exporters are diversifying their destinations to reduce risk and protect earnings.

According to Agriculture and Food Authority Director-General Bruno Linyiru, the shift reflects both necessity and long-term strategy.

"Europe will continue to be a premium market for Kenyan horticulture, but exporters must diversify to remain competitive and manage emerging risks," said Dr Linyiru.

"New markets are not replacing Europe; they are complementing it."

Tighter EU regulations have resulted in shipment delays, higher compliance costs and export rejections, particularly in the flower sub-sector, which accounts for about half of Kenya's horticulture export earnings.

In 2024, stricter measures targeting pest control led to increased inspections and several rejected shipments, affecting millions of flower stems and resulting in significant

financial losses for exporters.

"Every rejected consignment represents lost production, logistics costs and market confidence," Linyiru noted.

"That is why exporters are investing more in compliance while simultaneously seeking new destinations."

Although Europe still accounts for about 80 per cent of Kenya's horticultural exports, shipments to markets such as Kazakhstan, China, and Turkey have grown steadily from 2020 to 2023.

Some traditional European markets, including France, have also recorded growth despite tighter regulatory requirements.

Middle Eastern markets are increasingly important for exporters seeking alternatives to slower-growing European destinations.

Countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman are experiencing rising demand for fresh produce driven by population growth and higher incomes.

To meet EU standards, growers have invested heavily in insect-proof greenhouses, improved pest monitoring systems and staff training.

While these measures have enhanced quality and traceability, they have also increased production costs and reduced profit margins.

The vegetable sub-sector has faced the greatest pressure, with export earnings declining in 2024 due to increased interceptions linked to pesticide residue levels, particularly in French beans and snow peas.

In contrast, the fruits sub-sector performed strongly, supported by strong global demand for fresh Hass avocados. Fruits now account for about 30 per cent of horticultural export earnings and have helped stabilise the industry because they face fewer regulatory challenges.

Europe nevertheless remains Kenya's primary market overall, with the Netherlands and the United Kingdom leading as key destinations.

Government initiatives are also



Agriculture and Food Authority Director-General Bruno Linyiru. [Elvis Ogina, Standard]

80
PER CENT

EUROPE accounts for nearly 80 per cent of Kenya's horticultural exports, yet exports to Kazakhstan, China, and Turkey have steadily expanded from 2020 to 2023.

supporting diversification efforts.

During a recent visit to Malaysia, President William Ruto announced trade agreements that include the removal of tariffs on Kenyan agricultural products, opening new opportunities for exporters.

The port of Mombasa handled increased volumes of refrigerated containers in 2024, reflecting growing use of sea freight for fresh produce.

The Kenya Ports Authority has also expanded cold storage facilities in Mombasa, Nairobi, Lamu and Naivasha to support export growth.

LAMU

Coconut farmers get plant to boost value addition

More than 5,000 coconut farmers in Lamu County have received relief following the commissioning of a processing plant aimed at value addition and job creation.

The Lamu County government, in partnership with the Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) programme by the United Kingdom government, on Friday officially commissioned the coconut processor, marking an important milestone in strengthening local value addition, job creation, and inclusive economic growth.

The plant will be operated by Kentaste Products Ltd and is expected to reinforce local agricultural value chains by providing a reliable market for more than 5,000 coconut farmers.

It will also create over 90 full-time employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women, and retain more economic value within the county.

Lamu Governor Issa Timamy officiated at the commissioning ceremony, which was described as a major milestone for farmers expecting better returns.

Also present were representatives of the British High Commission, development partners, community members, and private sector stakeholders.

"The commissioning of the Kentaste coconut processing plant marks a major milestone in Lamu County's economic transformation. By adding value to our coconut sector here at home, we are creating jobs, strengthening farmer incomes, and positioning Lamu as a competitive agro-processing hub," said Timamy.

The SUED programme, funded by the UK government and managed by Financial Sector Deepening Kenya, provided seed funding to Kentaste to support the construction of the coconut processing plant.

The UK government, through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, reaffirmed its commitment to supporting inclusive and sustainable growth in Kenya through programmes such as SUED, which enable counties to attract private investment.

[Patrick Beja]

MURANG'A

Students face KCSE results cancellation after alleged cheating

A secondary school in Murang'a is experiencing the effects of the examination cancellation as 22 candidates are yet to receive their last year's KCSE results.

The former candidates at Karega Day Secondary School in Kigumo reports indicate they were involved in examination malpractices that led to the cancellation of their results.

The Standard established that the majority of the candidates had repeated at the school eyeing to attain higher grades.

Reports indicate that the school had presented 215 candidates in the KCSE exams.

Nationally 1,180 candidates had their results

cancelled after they were implicated in the examination irregularities, compared to 840 of the previous year.

Murang'a County Director of Education Philip Wambua while fielding questions from *The Standard* downplayed the issue saying despite the cancellation challenge the school was ranked among the best in the county as it was ranked at position 16.

"Despite the cancellation, Karega produced two candidates with A-, 12 B+, B 25, B-44 and C41 with a mean score of 71," he said.

He added that the school had defeated some of the leading institutions in the national exam-

ination despite the cancellation of the results.

Meanwhile, the effects of low student enrolment has led to the closure of two secondary schools in Murang'a, as several other day schools are being monitored with a view to merge them.

Mweru and Wahundura secondary schools in Kiharu and Mathioya respectively have been closed after they failed to attract Grade 10 students.

Wambua said the teachers in the two schools have been posted to other schools.

"The property in the two schools will be handed over to the management of the nearby primary schools, based on their were established

in the community land," said Wambua.

Other schools that failed to attract Grade 10 learners are Mathare ini and Yamugwe secondary schools in Kigumo and Kiharu.

He added that in Kigumo six schools attracted few Grade 10 learners and in Kahuro subcounty in Kiharu seven schools have registered low enrolment.

Murang'a county will send 6,733 students to public universities following the last year KCSE results.

"We had 119 students with A, A- 414, B+ 676, B 1,124, B-1,739 and C+ 2,661," Wambua said.

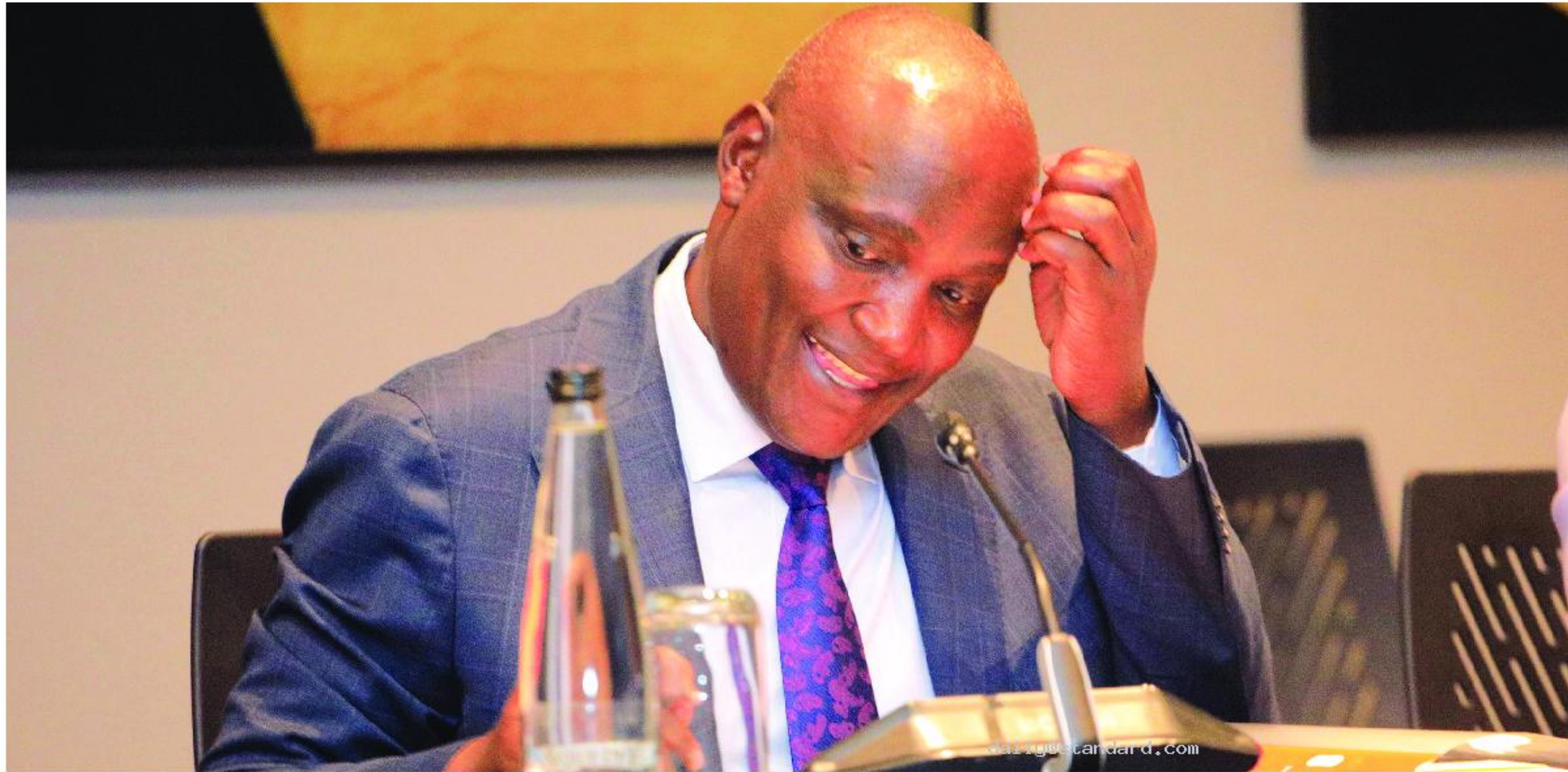
[Boniface Gikandi]

The Standard • Business

World. AI safety top agenda in the India summit. Page 34



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Treasury CS John Mbadi before National Assembly and Senate Joint Committees on Energy yesterday. [Elvis Ogina, Standard]

Government projects Sh370b in revenue from Lokichar oil fields

► The revenue will be collected from storage and handling facilities, port revenues, transportation and even road levy.

► Of the Sh1.06 trillion operating expenditure, 93 per cent of it will be utilised locally, thereby benefitting more Kenyans.

EDWIN NYARANGI, NAIROBI

The government is expected to earn between Sh136 billion and Sh371 billion once the South Lokichar oil project begins full development and production of oil in Turkana County.

National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi told a joint meeting of the Senate and National Assembly Energy Committees that this money will come directly from the government's share of profit oil and its participation in the project.

Mbadi said Kenya Petroleum Refinery Limited (KPRL) is projected to earn Sh42.3 billion in storage and handling revenues, while Kenya Ports Authority will gain Sh 41.9 billion from the New Kipevu Oil Jetty while the Government will also collect revenues from electricity and water consumption, ancillary services and in Road Maintenance Levy.

"The project is expected to cost \$8.2 billion (Sh1.06 trillion) in operating expenses, with \$7.6 billion (Sh980.6 billion), about 93 per cent, to be spent locally. It will also require and \$5.7 billion

(Sh735 billion) in capital expenditure, of which \$1.9 billion (Sh219 billion) will also be spent locally. The project is expected to create more than 3,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs, contributing to PAYE and social security revenues," said Mbadi.

He told lawmakers that communities along the project route will benefit from better markets, improved infrastructure, and growth of local businesses. He added that the project's progress will also attract more foreign direct investment into Kenya's oil and gas sector from international companies.

Mbadi said that the broader macroeconomic implications of oil production under the Field Development Plan (FDP) were assessed with oil revenues expected to positively contribute to the growth of Kenya's GDP through upstream, mid-stream and associated economic activities.

The CS said the revenue estimates could change



The project is expected to create more than 3,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs, contributing to PAYE and social security revenues,"

John Mbadi, Treasury Cabinet Secretary

depending on global oil price fluctuations and production levels. He noted that the government is using cautious price projections in its planning and will continue to closely monitor market conditions to manage the risks.

Mbadi said that under the Field Development Plan (FDP), crude oil transportation will be carried out in phases based on production levels and how ready the infrastructure is. In Phase one, oil will be transported by trucks because it is the most practical and affordable way to start production without spending too much on infrastructure at the beginning.

In Phase two, transportation will shift to rail, which is more efficient and cost-effective, especially as production increases. This phased plan ensures that transport methods match production levels and helps protect Kenya's oil revenue from high transportation costs.

"Kenya undertook an Early Oil Pilot Scheme that saw export of crude oil in the international market, the ministry of Energy and Petroleum indicates the volume of exported crude oil only generated a revenue of \$28.3 million against an expenditure of \$62.7 million, occasioning a loss or balance of \$34.3 million, forming part of the cost oil," said Mbadi. Energy CS Opiyo Wandayi told the committees that the amount that will be collected from the project will be distributed between the National and County Government, and also local communities in line with the Petroleum Act.

enyarangi@standardmedia.co.ke

Briefing

BANKING. I&M TO OPEN NINE MORE BRANCHES

■ I&M Bank has announced plans to open nine new branches this year, on areas it terms as high growth regions, targeting underserved communities in agribusiness and real estate hubs. The expansion is aimed at deepening financial inclusion by bringing banking services closer to customers in emerging economic zones. The new branches will be located in Ngong Town, Kitengela, Nyahururu, Kitui, Homa Bay, Migori, Wote, Our Mall—Magadi Road and Utawala. I&M Bank Regional CEO Kihara Maina said these branches represent more than physical infrastructure, as they are community hubs designed to drive financial inclusion, support local enterprises, and empower both individual customers and businesses. "We are strategically positioning ourselves in areas with significant agricultural value chains, burgeoning real estate markets, and underserved populations ready to unlock their economic potential. [Selina Mutua]

HOUSING. SPAIN UNVEILS FUND TO TACKLE CRISIS

■ Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday presented a new public investment fund that he said would raise 120 billion euros (Sh18.3 trillion) and help tackle the country's persistent housing crisis. Scarce and unaffordable housing is consistently a top concern for Spaniards and represents a stubborn challenge in one of the world's most dynamic developed economies. The new "Spain Grows" fund, first announced in January, aims to replace the tens of billions of EU post-Covid recovery aid that helped drive Spain's strong growth in recent years. [AFP]

PETITION. COURT BLOCKS PROPERTY LIQUIDATION

■ A Hong Kong court dismissed a petition to liquidate Chinese property giant Country Garden on Monday, weeks after the firm said it had restructured its massive offshore debt obligations. Country Garden was once China's largest real estate developer, propping up a crucial sector for national economic growth before it and industry peers such as Evergrande and Kaisa were hit with protracted debt struggles. [AFP]



Tops & Flops

KENYA-RE	3.66	3.99	9.02%
EAAGADS	26.85	29.25	8.94%
CIC INSURANCE	5.52	5.98	8.33%
BRITAM	11.55	12.20	5.63%
EA PORTLAND	81.25	85.50	5.23%
EXPRESS	8.36	7.84	-6.22%
TP SERENA	17.85	16.85	-5.60%
NATION MEDIA	15.70	14.90	-5.10%
SCANGROUP	2.51	2.43	-3.19%
EA BREWERIES	257.25	250.00	-2.82%



Exchange rates

CURRENCY	EXCHANGE RATE
US DOLLAR	129.02
STERLING POUND	175.97
EURO	153.07
SOUTH AFRICAN RAND	8.10
KES / UGANDA SHILLING	27.43
KES / TANZANIA SHILLING	20.07
KES / RWANDAN FRANC	11.29
KES / BURUNDIAN FRANC	22.91
AE DIRHAM	35.13
CANADIAN DOLLAR	94.75
SWISS FRANC	167.88

CURRENCY	EXCHANGE RATE
JAPANESE YEN (100)	84.22
SWEDISH KRONER	14.46
NORWEGIAN KRONER	13.57
DANISH KRONER	20.49
INDIAN RUPEE	1.42
HONGKONG DOLLAR	16.51
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	102.24
SAUDI RIYAL	34.40
CHINESE YUAN	18.67
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	91.45

SOURCE: COMMERCIAL BANKS

Unit Trusts

MONEY FUNDS	DAILY YIELD	E. A. RATE
Britam Money Market Fund	9.52%	9.99%
Britam Money Market Fund (USD)	4.57%	4.68%
GenAfrica Money Market Fund	9.09%	9.48%
Madison Money Market Fund	9.35%	9.80%
Genghis Money Market Fund	8.74%	9.13%
Mali Money Market Fund	8.23%	8.23%
Jubilee Money Market Fund	9.94%	10.40%
Jubilee Money Market Fund (USD)	5.06%	5.18%
Dry Associates Money Market Fund	9.21%	9.61%
African Alliance Money Market Fund	5.89%	6.05%
Etica Money Market Fund	9.79%	10.28%
Etica Money Market Fund (USD)	5.69%	5.86%
CIC Money Market Fund	8.18%	8.49%
Lofty-Corban Money Market Fund	10.31%	10.85%
Kuza Money Market Fund	9.90%	10.41%
Kuza Money Market Fund (USD)	5.13%	5.27%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	9.60%	10.06%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund (USD)	5.23%	5.35%
Enwealth Money Market Fund	10.36%	10.89%
Enwealth Money Market Fund (USD)	3.84%	3.94%
Faulu Money Market Fund	8.82%	9.18%
Co-op Money Market Fund	7.95%	8.27%
Apollo Money Market Fund	8.15%	8.49%
Equity Money Market Fund	4.81%	4.92%
SanlamAllianz Money Market Fund	8.90%	9.31%

OTHER FUNDS	DAILY YIELD	E. A. RATE
CIC Fixed Income Fund	9.22%	9.62%
CIC Wealth Fund	7.00%	7.00%
CIC Fund (USD)	4.81%	4.92%
CIC Equity Fund	9.13%	8.90%

FUND	DAILY YIELD	E. A. RATE
CIC Balanced Fund	7.55%	7.38%
CIC Global Balanced Special Fund	10.45%	10.45%
Lofty-Corban Private Debt Special Fund	14.33%	15.41%
Lofty-Corban Bond Fund	13.21%	13.21%
Kuza Fixed Income Fund	10.85%	11.46%
Kuza Momentum Special Fund	143.98%	143.98%
Britam Bond Plus Fund	10.21%	10.75%
Enwealth Fixed Income Fund	9.87%	10.33%
Old Mutual Special Fixed Income	10.73%	11.30%
Britam Fixed Income Fund (USD)	5.38%	5.53%
Britam Balanced Fund	166.53%	171.91%
Britam Equity Fund	144.73%	149.77%
GenAfrica Fixed Income Fund	10.09%	10.56%
Madison Fixed Income Fund	10.66%	11.25%
VCG Fixed Income Fund (USD)	6.77%	6.95%
Jubilee Fixed Income Fund	10.59%	11.12%
Dry Associates Special High Yield Fund	11.26%	12.25%
African Alliance Balanced Fund	22.6201%	22.4250%
African Alliance Equity Fund	228.9394%	226.3142%
African Alliance Fixed Income Fund	11.6451%	11.5584%
African Alliance Enhanced Yield	7.03%	7.26%
Etica Fixed Income Fund	11.29%	11.95%
Etica Fixed Income Fund (USD)	6.89%	7.13%
Etica Special Shariah Fund	5.33%	5.48%
Etica Special Shariah Fund (USD)	3.46%	3.52%
Co-op Bond Fund	9.23%	9.67%
Co-op Gratuity Fixed Income Fund	9.53%	10.00%
Apollo Balanced Fund	151.04%	145.00%
Equity Balanced Fund	167.39%	168.81%
SanlamAllianz Fixed Income Fund (GBP)	3.87%	3.94%
SanlamAllianz Fixed Income Fund	7.66%	7.66%
SanlamAllianz Balanced Fund	29.41%	29.41%

Nairobi Securities Exchange | Main Investment Market



52WK HIGH	52WK LOW		VWAP	PREVIOUS PRICE	VOLUME
AGRICULTURAL					
29.50	10.00	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25 SME	29.25	26.85	9,802
440.00	240.00	Kakuzi Plc Ord.5.00		436.00	76
424.25	81.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00SME	247.00	241.25	1,697
539.00	310.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Plc Ord 10.00SME	508.00	510.00	539
33.75	13.60	Sasini Plc Ord 1.00	32.10	30.95	144,655
350.00	120.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	144.75	145.00	49,360
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
73.50	18.50	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00	72.25	73.75	26,198
BANKING					
30.30	10.00	ABSA Bank Kenya Plc Ord 0.50	30.00	29.55	2,432,878
48.00	26.50	BK Group Plc Ord 0.80	46.80	45.90	1,952
170.00	43.05	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	162.00	160.00	206,074
76.75	33.70	Equity Group Holdings Plc Ord 0.50	75.00	76.75	415,562
11.30	2.80	HF Group Plc Ord 5.00	11.00	10.75	780,760
50.75	15.80	I&M Group Plc Ord 1.00	50.00	49.85	476,450
76.50	15.00	KCB Group Plc Ord 1.00	75.25	75.25	5,589,173
100.00	28.50	NCBA Group Plc Ord 5.00	88.50	89.75	51,881
248.00	90.00	Stanbic Holdings Plc ord.5.00	245.25	240.00	614,050
359.75	134.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	331.25	336.75	37,567
30.00	10.10	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	29.10	29.60	5,839,093
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
0.45	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Plc Ord 2.50		0.45	-
1.88	0.59	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord.1.00SME	1.64	1.67	952,553
10.00	2.70	Express Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	7.84	8.36	95,140
4.66	4.66	Homeboyz Entertainment Plc 0.50SME		4.66	-
9.18	3.30	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	5.46	5.48	910,348
3.46	2.00	Longhorn Publishers Plc Ord 1.00	3.36	3.28	17,008
5.00	1.37	Nairobi Business Ventures Plc Ord. 0.50SME	1.47	1.47	366,614
22.40	10.60	Nation Media Group Plc Ord. 2.50	14.90	15.70	43,175
21.50	1.80	Sameer Africa Plc Ord 5.00	20.35	20.25	45,657
10.80	4.50	Standard Group Plc Ord 5.00	6.42	6.40	7,810
18.70	10.85	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	16.85	17.85	12,617
1.93	0.16	Uchumi Supermarket Plc Ord 5.00	1.36	1.34	1,017,946
3.95	1.80	WPP Scangroup Plc Ord 1.00	2.43	2.51	279,421
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
5.55	5.55	ARM Cement Plc Ord 1.00		5.55	-
84.00	21.30	Bamburi Cement Plc Ord 5.00		54.00	-
64.75	29.00	Crown Paints Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	59.00	60.00	8,759
3.27	0.72	E.A.Cables Ltd Ord 0.50		1.71	-
101.00	4.38	E.A.Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00	85.50	81.25	7,186
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
10.65	1.94	KenGen Co. Plc Ord. 2.50	9.54	9.58	14,762,684
18.60	1.30	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Plc Ord 2.50	18.40	18.25	2,553,063
5.00	4.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	-
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	-
47.00	14.55	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	43.25	42.45	63,680
24.75	6.30	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	9.02	8.98	77,820
INSURANCE					
12.70	4.01	Britam Holdings Plc Ord 0.10	12.20	11.55	155,733
6.06	1.60	CIC Insurance Group Plc Ord.1.00	5.98	5.52	2,522,000
360.00	142.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	351.50	349.75	1,865
4.02	1.05	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	3.99	3.66	14,407,373
12.20	3.30	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord. 1.00	10.00	9.98	57,041
11.00	4.00	Sanlam Allianz Holdings Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	9.00	9.00	44,393
INVESTMENT					
16.75	7.60	Centum Investment Co Plc Ord 0.50	14.20	14.20	199,744
1.83	0.27	Home Afrika Ltd Ord 1.00	1.44	1.38	1,035,803
1500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00SME		1,500.00	2
9.00	1.91	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	8.24	8.06	11,714
1.78	0.29	Trans-Century Plc Ord 0.50		1.12	-
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
25.65	5.22	Nairobi Securities Exchange Plc Ord 4.00	23.55	23.35	271,159
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
144.75	65.00	B.O.C Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	136.50	138.50	1,936
505.00	325.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Plc Ord 10.00	495.25	497.75	30,268
32.50	11.00	Carbacid Investments Plc Ord 1.00	32.10	32.20	42,974
351.00	100.00	East African Breweries Plc Ord 2.00	250.00	257.25	56,955
2.33	0.86	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825	1.85	1.80	116,126
102.50	10.40	Africa Mega Agrlcorp Plc Ord 5.00SME	97.50	98.75	1,058
0.27	0.27	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	-
31.00	12.00	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	25.70	24.50	21,397
8.56	5.90	Shri Krishana Overseas Plc 0.20SME	8.22	8.28	1,347
TELECOMMUNICATION					
34.10	11.50	Safaricom Plc Ord 0.05	33.85	33.95	2,235,327
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
20.00	20.00	LAPTRUST IMARA I-REIT Ord.20.00		20.00	-
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
6800.00	881.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	5995.00	5960.00	197
1050.00	761.00	Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF	867.00	836.00	127

REPORT

Japan's GDP falls short of expectations

Japanese economic growth fell short of market expectations in late 2025, official data showed on Monday, adding pressure on Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to stimulate activity after her recent election landslide.

Gross domestic product (GDP) in the world's fourth-biggest economy expanded by just 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter, undershooting market forecasts of growth of 0.4 per cent.

The growth follows a contraction of 0.7 per cent -- revised downwards from an earlier reading of minus 0.6 per cent -- in the previous quarter.

Growth in private consumption and private residential and corporate investments, contributed to the expansion, according to the cabinet office data.

In calendar 2025, Japan's economy grew by 1.1 per cent, after a 0.2 per cent contraction in 2024, the data from the cabinet office showed.

On an annualised basis, GDP expanded by 0.2 per cent in the three months through December, significantly weaker than the median economist estimate of 1.6 per cent growth. Takaichi became Japan's first woman prime minister in October and called snap elections for February 8. The vote saw her Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) win a historic two-thirds majority in the lower house.

In November, her government pushed through a 21.3-trillion-yen (Sh17.9 trillion) stimulus package aimed at boosting growth. It included energy subsidies, cash handouts and investment incentives in key fields like semiconductors and artificial intelligence.

It also included funds for expanded spending on defence, as China increases military activities in the wider region.

Her spending plans have however worried investors. Japan's debts are more than twice the size of the country's economy, with the highest ratio among advanced economies.

Last month, yields on long-term Japanese bonds hit record highs after Takaichi pledged temporarily to exempt food from a consumption tax to ease the pain of inflation on households.

"The minuscule rebound in activity last quarter may embolden PM Takaichi to press ahead with even more fiscal loosening," Marcel Thieliant at Capital Economics said Monday.

The weak growth "implies that the large supplementary budget passed at the end of November provided no boost to public spending last quarter just yet," Thieliant said in a note.

"In fact, sluggish economic activity increases the chances that Takaichi will not only press ahead with suspending the sales tax on food but enact a supplementary budget during the first half of the fiscal year that starts in April already rather than wait until the end of this year," he added.

[AFP]



NUMBER OF THE DAY
SH169.8M

BANKING: Co-operative Bank closed at Sh29.10 with 614,050 shares worth Sh169.8 million transacted.



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The Standard World

Sports. Crunch time for Mbappe-Vinicius union. Page 47



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AI safety fears loom as leaders meet in India for global summit

► The summit aims to shape global governance, strengthen partnerships and assert leadership.

► However, critics question whether meaningful commitments will emerge beyond voluntary industry pledges.

AFP, NEW DELHI

A global artificial intelligence summit kicked off in New Delhi yesterday with big issues on the agenda, from job disruption to child safety, but some attendees warn the broad focus could diminish the chance of concrete commitments from world leaders.

While frenzied demand for generative AI has turbocharged profits for many tech companies, anxiety is growing over the risks that it poses to society and the environment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the five-day AI Impact Summit, which aims to declare a "shared roadmap for global AI governance and collaboration".

"This occasion is further proof that our country is progressing rapidly in the field of science and technology," and it "shows the capability of our country's youth", he said in an X post.

It is the fourth annual gathering addressing the problems and opportunities posed by AI, after previous international meetings in Paris, Seoul and Britain's wartime code-breaking hub Bletchley.

Tech giants

Touted as the biggest edition yet, the Indian government expects 250,000 visitors from across the sector, including 20 national leaders and 45 ministerial-level delegations.

Also in attendance are tech CEOs including Sam Altman of OpenAI and Google's Sundar Pichai, although unforeseen circumstances have reportedly led Jensen Huang, head of US chip titan Nvidia, to cancel his planned appearance.

Modi will seek to "strengthen global partnerships and define India's leadership in the AI decade ahead" in talks with the likes of France's Emmanuel Macron and Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, organisers say.

But whether they will take meaningful steps to hold AI giants accountable is in doubt, Amba Kak, co-executive director of the AI Now Institute, told AFP.

Industry commitments made at previous events "have largely been narrow 'self regulatory' frameworks that position AI companies to continue to grade their own homework", said Kak, a former AI advisor to the US Federal Trade Commission who is taking part in the summit.

The Bletchley gathering, held in 2023, a year



A worker installs the national flags of participating countries on the eve of the 'India AI Impact Summit 2026' at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on February 15, 2026. [AFP]

after ChatGPT stunned the world, was called the AI Safety Summit.

The meetings' names have changed as they have grown in size and scope, and at last year's AI Action Summit in Paris, dozens of nations signed a statement calling for efforts to flank AI tech with regulation to make it "open" and "ethical".

But the United States did not sign, with Vice President JD Vance warning that "excessive regulation... could kill a transformative sector just as it's taking off".

The Delhi summit has the loose themes of "people, progress, planet", dubbed three "sutras".

AI safety remains a priority, including the dangers of misinformation, such as deepfakes.

Last month saw a global backlash over Elon Musk's Grok AI tool because it allowed users

to produce sexualised pictures of real people, including children, using simple text prompts.

"Child safety and digital harms are also moving up the agenda, particularly as generative AI lowers the barrier to harmful content," AI Asia Pacific Institute director Kelly Forbes told AFP.

"There is real scope for change" although it might not happen fast enough, said Forbes, whose organisation is researching how Australia and other countries are requiring platforms to confront the issue.

Organisers highlight this year's AI summit as the first to be hosted by a developing country.

"The summit will shape a shared vision for AI that truly serves the many, not just the few," India's IT ministry has said.

Last year India leapt to third place, overtaking South Korea and Japan, in an annual global ranking of AI competitiveness calculated by Stanford University researchers.

But despite plans for large-scale infrastructure and grand ambitions for innovation, experts say the country still has a long way to go before it can rival the United States and China.

Seth Hays, author of the Asia AI Policy Monitor newsletter, said talk at the summit would likely centre around "ensuring that governments put up some guardrails, but don't throttle AI development".

"There may be some announcements for more state investment in AI, but it may not move the needle much -- as India needs partnerships to integrate on the international scene for AI," Hays told AFP.

EUROPE

Iran, US hold nuclear talks in Geneva

Abbas Araghchi arrived in Geneva yesterday ahead of a second round of negotiations with the United States, Iranian state television reported, as Washington maintains pressure on the Islamic republic.

According to Tehran, "indirect" nuclear talks mediated by Oman will take place on Tuesday. However, Washington has indicated it wants discussions to extend beyond the nuclear file to include Iran's ballistic missile programme and its support for regional proxies.

Tehran and Washington resumed negotiations this month after earlier talks collapsed when Israel launched an unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran last June. Significant uncertainty remains over the fate of Iran's stockpile of more than 400 kilogrammes of uranium enriched to 60 per cent, last verified by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency in June.

"The foreign minister has arrived in Geneva at the head of a diplomatic and expert delegation to take part in the second round of nuclear negotiations," Iran's state-run Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) said on Telegram.

Araghchi later wrote on X that he would meet the head of the IAEA, Rafael Grossi, for "deep technical discussions". He is also scheduled to hold talks with his Swiss and Omani counterparts and other international officials, Iran's foreign ministry said. "I am in Geneva with real ideas to achieve a fair and equitable deal. What is not on the table: submission to threats," Araghchi wrote.

Washington has dispatched Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, the White House confirmed on Sunday.

The talks follow repeated threats from Trump of military action against Tehran, initially over Iran's deadly crackdown on anti-government protests and more recently over its nuclear programme. Western powers suspect the programme aims to develop a nuclear weapon, an allegation Tehran denies.

On Friday, Trump said regime change in Iran would be "the best thing that could happen", as he ordered a second aircraft carrier to the Middle East. Demonstrations against Iran's clerical authorities were also held in several cities abroad over the weekend.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Majid Takht-Ravanchi, told the BBC that Tehran would consider compromises on its uranium stockpile if Washington lifted sanctions that have crippled the economy.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted any agreement must require the removal of all enriched uranium and dismantling of Iran's enrichment infrastructure. [AFP]

Playing-Time

AI

FOCUSSED

SUMMIT returns for fourth annual global gathering, following meetings in Paris, Seoul, and Britain's Bletchley Park.



Nepal 'addicted' to the trade in its own people

► Around 2.5 million Nepalis work abroad, most in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, India and Malaysia.

► The money they send back represents more than a third of the country's GDP.

AFP, KATHMANDU

Rudra Bahadur Kami returned to Nepal through a back door of Kathmandu airport in a battered coffin after working for more than a decade in Saudi Arabia to feed his family back home.

His eldest son, Lalit Bishowkarma, 21, was there to sign the papers. The death certificate said he died of a heart attack. He was 43.

Baggage handlers loaded the box onto the bed of a truck like a piece of lost luggage. There was no time for ceremony. Two more lorries were queued up behind.

Every day the bodies of three or four migrant workers are handed back to their families at the airport, the final transaction in a well-oiled system -- overseen by the state -- that helps keep Nepal's economy afloat.

"He went to seek happiness for his children and his family, and now his body has returned in a coffin. It's unbearable," his son said.

Officially around 2.5 million Nepalis work abroad -- 7.5 percent of the population. Most toil on the building sites of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia or in hotels and factories there, while others work in India and Malaysia.

The money they send back represents more than a third of the country's GDP, according to the World Bank.

Most migrants are young, driven abroad by the chronic unemployment in South Asia's poorest country that helped spark the Gen Z uprising that toppled 73-year-old prime minister KP Sharma Oli's government of "the old" in September.

Just beyond the Chitwan National Park, home of some of the last Bengal tigers, the southern town of Madi embodies Nepal's deep dependence on the export of its people.

Dipak Magar, 39, is proud of the small house he has built on a bend of a rutted road. The cube of concrete blocks topped with corrugated iron sheets cost him three years of sweat and sacrifice in a Saudi Arabian marble factory.

"I earned 700,000 Nepali rupees (\$4,800), which was spent building this house," he said.

The father-of-four was rushing to plaster the outside walls before

returning to work in Riyadh, leaving his family and the snow-capped Himalayas on the horizon behind yet again.

"I need to feed my family and provide education for my children," he told AFP. "It feels sad to leave my family, but there is no job here."

One of his brothers also works in Saudi Arabia, another in Romania.

"We haven't enough land to feed all the family," said his father, Dhana Bahadur Magar, 60.

It was the same story across the road, where Juna Gautam's two daughters have gone to Japan. "Even though they are educated, there are no job opportunities here."

Like many others, they went heavily into debt to pay the employment agencies that got them their jobs there, she said.

Local councillor Birendra Bahadur Bhandar said 1,500 young people -- in a district of some 50,000 souls -- were working abroad.

It is no better elsewhere. Nepal's steep mountain valleys are emptying of their young.

Young Nepali men have long left to fight for the British Army -- the famous Gurkhas -- a tradition that goes back to the late 19th century.

But the trickle of migration became a torrent during the 10 years of the Maoist insurgency that ended in 2006.

The young fled to the cities to escape the fighting and they found "this refuge in foreign employment", recalled Nilambar Badal of the National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM).

But the scale of the exodus has become industrial over the last decade as Nepal's agriculture and tourism industries have stagnated.

In 2016, the Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE) -- the government agency that oversees migrant workers -- granted 287,519 permits to work abroad. Last year, it issued nearly three times more.

Badal estimates that "almost half of (Nepali) households are receiving remittances" -- money earned abroad.

Migrant worker groups say the government has become "addicted" to the money to keep the economy going.

Rather than developing local industry, it promotes "foreign employment", Badal insisted. "They are expecting people to go out and send the money back so that they can run the country."

"We are a remittance-dependent economy," he added.

Former labour minister Sarita Giri went further, saying the government was at the heart of a "rotten and cor-



This photograph taken on January 21, 2026 shows Lalit Bishowkarma (back C), son of migrant worker Rudra Bahadur Kami, loading his father's coffin onto a truck upon its arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. [AFP]

rupt" system "exploiting migrant workers and their families".

She claimed the government's own licensed agency system that sends people abroad was a "mafia", bought off with money paid "to political parties through government officials. That is why this problem has not been solved... The system is so well-protected."

"The main player to blame is the government," she said.

A 2007 law was meant to regulate the 1,000 or so employment agencies -- known as "manpowers". But critics say would-be migrant workers are being made to pay 30 to 40 times the official service charge.

Many are forced into debt to pay the hundreds of dollars for visas, permits and travel organised by the agencies.

And the jobs they end up doing are often far from what they are promised.

Sanjib Ghoraisaine left for Qatar last year thinking that he would be cleaning the pool of a five-star hotel. He found himself working as a domestic servant being paid half of

what he was told and sleeping on a floor.

"I paid 200,000 rupees (\$1,350) hoping for a monthly salary of \$356, and I had to take out a loan that I took six months to pay off."

It was only when he "threatened to kill myself that my employer agreed to let me leave", Ghoraisaine said, "and I had to pay for my return".

His Nepali agent refused to reimburse him, offering to send him elsewhere for free. But after not hearing back for a month, Ghoraisaine complained to the DoFE.

Some 14,843 Nepalis lost their lives abroad between 2008 and 2025 -- 1,544 last year alone -- official figures show.

Few were recorded as workplace deaths. The official death toll of foreign construction workers in the run-up to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar was similarly small. While local authorities said less than 40 died, NGOs insisted several thousand migrant workers -- many from Nepal -- perished in deplorable conditions in the extreme heat, often from heart attacks.

Employment agencies deny they are at fault for the abuses, blaming the government for lack of enforcement.

"If you look at the complaints lodged with the Department of Foreign Employment, only five percent are due to faults of recruitment agencies, while the remaining complaints come from individuals who travel on their own initiative," said Dhana Maya Sinjali, of the Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies.

"Just making rules and policies is not enough, DoFE should also monitor them," she said.

EUROPE

Foreign workers face violence and exploitation in Croatia

When DD left his home in India for Croatia last year, he expected his food delivery work to be hard, with long hours and low pay. He did not expect to be spat at in the street.

Twice last year the 27-year-old from Chandigarh was abused by groups of young people while working. Some spat at him, others shouted at him to "go back to your own country" as they tried to steal his delivery bag.

For the young foreign worker, one of the tens of thousands drawn to the EU nation every year, it was a rough welcome -- but one he said is increasingly common among his colleagues.

As Croatia struggles with growing staff shortages, particularly in its key tourism sector, experts warn its badly needed foreign workers are left vulnerable to violence and exploitation.

"I just came to work and live peacefully," DD, who asked to be referred to only by his initials, told AFP.

"We are not stealing jobs."

Croatia has one of the five fastest-declining populations in the European Union, losing nearly 400,000 people over the past decade, according to the World Bank.

The shortages have driven a steady rise in the number of workers arriving from Asia -- particularly since Croatia joined Europe's passport-free Schengen zone in 2023.

Last year, four out of 10 work and residency permits were issued to Nepalis, Filipinos, Indians and Bangladeshis, mostly in the tourism, catering and construction industries.

It is a dramatic change for a largely conservative society with extremely limited experience of immigration from outside Europe.

In WhatsApp groups used by DD's fellow delivery riders, many share stories of almost weekly attacks, with the worst reporting broken jaws and cracked ribs.

While national crime data does not break down rates by victims' nationality, the number of crimes against Nepali nationals rose sharply in 2024, outpacing the roughly 50-percent growth of its diaspora in Croatia.

But food delivery company Wolt said many attacks on its delivery riders, which are committed mainly by opportunistic young people, went unreported.

Most foreign workers arrive through private agencies or employers that usually offer little support, according to unions.

Some employers also offer overcrowded and unsafe housing at hefty rates.

Delivery rider Hasan, who did not give his surname for fear of losing his job, said he had been charged 270 euros (\$319) a month for an "unliveable" room shared with five other men.

Breaches of arbitrary rules, such as a visitor ban, could attract hefty "fines" from his previous employer, who leased him the room.

"It's pure extortion," said the 27-year-old from India. [AFP]

“

They are expecting people to go out and send the money back so that they can run the country. We are a remittance-dependent economy,"

Nilambar Badal, Official, MNSM



KTN TV

- 5:30 AM COMMAND YOUR MORNING
- 6:00 AM THE SITUATION ROOM
- 10:00 AM DW
- 11:00 AM YANAYOJIRI
- 1:00 PM NEWSDESK
- 2:00 PM LOVE IN 40 DAYS
- 3:00 PM FARM KENYA
- 4:00 PM MBIU
- 4:30 PM KIDS
- 5:00 PM BASELINE
- 6:00 PM BROKEN PROMISE
- 7:00 PM KTN LEO
- 8:00 PM TRADING BELL
- 8:30 PM THE ENTREPRENEUR
- 9:00 PM KTN PRIME
- 11:00 PM BBC DIRA YA WIKI
- 11:30 AM SOAP OPERA
- 1:30 AM BASELINE
- 2:30 AM ALJAZEERA

TV GUIDE

TRADING BELL - 8pm
Maina Chege



CITIZEN TV

- 5:00 AM PAMBAZUKA
- 5:30 AM PE @ HOMERPT
- 6:00 AM DAY BREAK
- 8:00 AM SEMA NA CITIZEN
- 1:00 PM NEWS @ 1
- 2:00 PM MSETO AFRICA
- 3:00 PM CITIZEN JUNIOR
- 4:00 PM NEWS BRIEFS
- 4:15 PM KALI NIKALI
- 5:30 PM TAHIDI HIGH
- 6:00 PM KENYAS GOLD
- 7:00 PM NIPASHE
- 7:30 PM NEEMA
- 8:00 PM THE STORY OF JUANA
(LA HISTORIA DE JUANA)
- 9:00 PM THE EXPLAINER
- 10:00 PM THE EXPLAINER
- 11:00 PM FUGITIVES, SEEKING JUSTICE
- 12:00 AM AFROSINEMA
- 1:00 AM THE EXPLAINER RPT
- 4:00 AM PAMBAZUKA



TV47

- 5:00 AM MORNING DECREE
- 5:30 AM TV47 FITNESS
- 6:00 AM MORNING CAFÉ
- 10:00 AM THE GRIND RPT
- 10:30 AM BEAT BREAK
- 11:00 AM TV47 MATUKIO
- 2:00 PM BAZE 47
- 3:00 PM UBONGO KIDS
- 3:30 PM NUZO AND NAMIA (SWAHILI)
- 4:00 PM TV47 NEWS NOW
- 4:15 PM SPORTS LIFE - RPT
- 4:30 PM KIKI AND NUNA
- 5:00 PM BEAT PLUG
- 7:00 PM UPEOWA TV47
- 7:30 PM UKUMBI
- 8:00 PM DW DOCU FILM
- 8:30 PM ECO AFRICA
- 9:00 PM THE DAILY REPORT WITH LINDA
ALELA & VICTOR MUYAKANE
- 11:00 PM DW DOCU FILM
- 12:00 AM BEAT PLUG MIX



NTV

- 4:00 AM ALJAZEERA
- 5:00 AM OFF THE HOOK
- 6:00 AM FIXING THE NATION
- 10:00 AM YOUR WORLD
- 12:00 PM OFF THE HOOK
- 12:30 PM MIKOKO YA DEMOKRASIA
- 1:00 PM NTV ADHUHURI
- 1:30 PM SPORT ON
- 2:30 PM MUSIC MIX
- 3:30 PM NUTRI VENTURES
- 4:00 PM BEATZ AND BUZZ
- 6:30 PM NTV MASHINANI
- 7:00 PM NTV JIONI
- 7:30 PM BUSINESS REDEFINED
- 8:00 PM NOMA
- 8:30 PM THE OTHER WIFE
- 9:00 PM NTV TONIGHT
- 9:30 PM THE LAST WORD
- 11:00 PM FIXING THE NATION
- 12:00 AM ALJAZEERA



BERUR FM

- 4:00 AM BERUR TAB KARON
- 6:00 AM TAAITAB BERUR
- 10:00 AM TINY TINY BOISIET
- 2:00 PM KOITAMA
- 7:00 PM KABUREITO



SPICE FM

- 6:00 AM THE SITUATION ROOM
- 11:00 AM SUGAR & SPICE
- 3:00 PM SPICE DRIVE
- 7:00 PM AFTER HOURS



RADIO MAISHA

- 4:00 AM SAFARI
- 6:00 AM MAISHA ASUBUHI
- 10:00 AM STAARABIKA
- 12:00 PM KONNECT
- 3:00 PM MAISHA JIONI
- 7:00 PM RHUMBA REPUBLIK
- 11:00 PM MAISHA COCKTAIL



K24 TV

- 5:00 AM INUKA
- 6:00 AM NEW DAWN
- 8:00 AM MORNING VIBE
- 9:55 AM WISDOM MOMENTS
- 10:00 AM NEW DAWN - RPT
- 11:00 AM MCHIPUKO
- 1:00 PM K24 NEWS CUT
- 1:30 PM JUNGU LA SPOTI
- 2:00 PM AAPKE AAJAANESE
- 3:00 PM AKILI KIDS
- 3:30 PM UBONGO KIDS
- 4:00 PM K24 MASHINANI
- 4:30 PM MCHIPUKO EXTRA
- 5:00 PM BEAT BOX
- 6:00 PM FALLING INTO YOUR SMILE
- 7:00 PM K24 SAA MOJA
- 7:30 PM GEN Z MANIFESTO
- 9:00 PM K24 EVENING EDITION
- 10:00 PM BBC - DIRA YA DUNIA
- 10:30 PM BEAT BOX - RPT
- 11:30 PM ALJAZEERA

#RioNaShugaboy
MAISHA ASUBUHI
Main Man Rio Na Shugaboy
Monday - Friday | 6am - 10am

NAIROBI: 102.7 | MOMBASA: 105.1 | KISUMU: 105.3 | KISII: 91.3 | NAKURU: 104.5 | NAROK: 102.3 | ELDORET: 97.1 | TIMBOROA: 90.5 | KAPENGURIA: 91.1 | WEBUYE: 95.9 | NYAHURURU: 104.7 | MERU: 105.1 | NYERI: 105.7 | GARISSA: 88.7 | KITUI: 93.8 | MALINDI: 106.3 | VURIA/VOI: 107.4 | MANDERA: 91.1 | WAJIR: 91.1 | MARSABIT: 88.3 | LODWAR: 93.1

HOROSCOPE



Virgo – Aug 23 - Sep 22
Be sure to pace yourself and avoid jumping into something without thought. A new direction will come, and you don't have to push for it! It's common to feel drained around the time of an eclipse, after which your energy increases, building slowly and steadily.



Libra – Sep 23 - Oct 22
You may be starting or improving a hobby or making decisions about recreation, pleasure, and love. This eclipse is the first in a set, spanning two years, that encourages you to find a better balance between your personal life and connection with the community.



Scorpio – Oct 23 - Nov 21
Plans to reorganize, remodel, renovate, or improve your home or living conditions are underway! This eclipse is the first in a set, spanning two years, that encourages you to find a better balance between your personal and public life.



Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 21
The period ahead is excellent for taking care of daily tasks with increased and renewed energy. However, you could experience an initial feeling of being overwhelmed since eclipses can wipe us out before restoring energy.



Capricorn – Dec 22 - Jan 19
If you've held on too tightly to a lifestyle or financial habits that haven't served you well, you'll now see the need to make changes. It can also be a time for establishing yourself and discovering and developing your natural talents and personal resources.



Aquarius – Jan 20 - Feb 18
Going forward, people build their faith in you, and this only serves to motivate you further to present the best version of yourself. Ease yourself into this dynamic phase of your life—eclipse energy should never be rushed.



Pisces – Feb 19 - Mar 20
If you've resisted taking time for reflection or dealing with ongoing problems, this eclipse will prompt you to take charge. It's a compelling call to action to be less active! This eclipse wants you to get extra time to rest and reflect.



Aries – Mar 21 - Apr 19
Developments related to friends, happiness goals, dreams, wishes, new ideas, technology, networking, and teamwork are likely to be significant with long-term effects, setting you on a path for personal changes and new beginnings.



Taurus – Apr 20 - May 20
You might decide you need to improve your performance and general practices to better follow specific rules. It's a phase of being busy with career and/or public responsibilities, and you may encounter some pressure to do so.



Gemini – May 21 - Jun 21
Consider that rushing things will do you a disservice now. The Sun will move into your career and reputation sector tomorrow, putting you in a more ambitious phase of the year. But today's Solar Eclipse is potent.



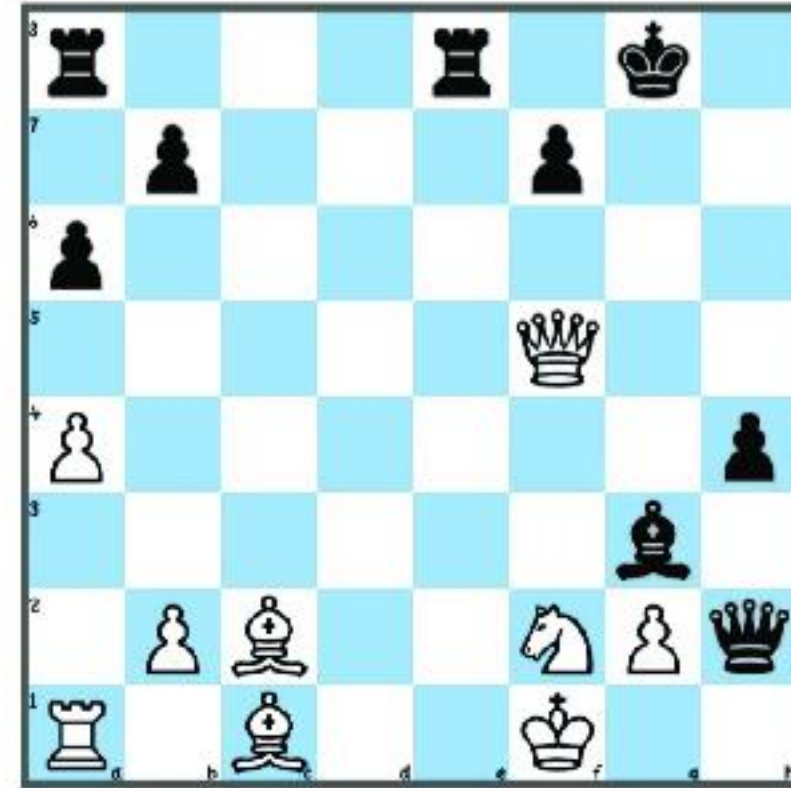
Cancer – Jun 22 - Jul 22
Energy levels can be unusually low around an eclipse, then slowly replenish themselves in the coming days and weeks. The period ahead can find you working on yourself from the inside out or improving an intimate relationship.



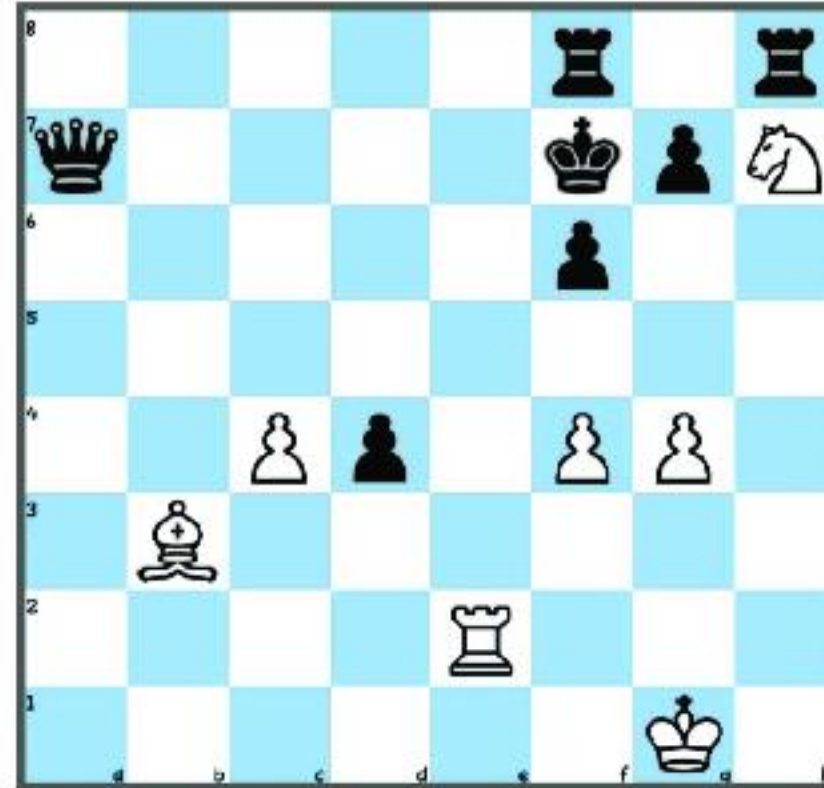
Leo – Jul 23 - Aug 22
Relationship needs awaken, and unusual impulses can overcome you now that nudge you into a new beginning. Energy levels can plummet initially, and then they're likely to rebuild slowly but surely later. Cafeastrology.com

CHESS

Easy puzzle
Black mates in 2 moves.



Intermediate puzzle
White mates in 3 moves.



Monday's solution

Easy:
1. Rg7+ Bxg7
2. Nxe7#

Intermediate:
1... Nxh3+
2. gxh3 Rg4+
3. hxg4 Qh2#

SOLVIT

E	A	D	A	19
H	B	C	G	24
F	E	H	B	14
G	J	F	D	24
21	11	25	24	

Difficulty

The letters have a distinct value between 1 and 9. Two of these values and the totals horizontally and vertically have been given. Solve all the values.

Today's Clues

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J
		6						3

Monday's solution

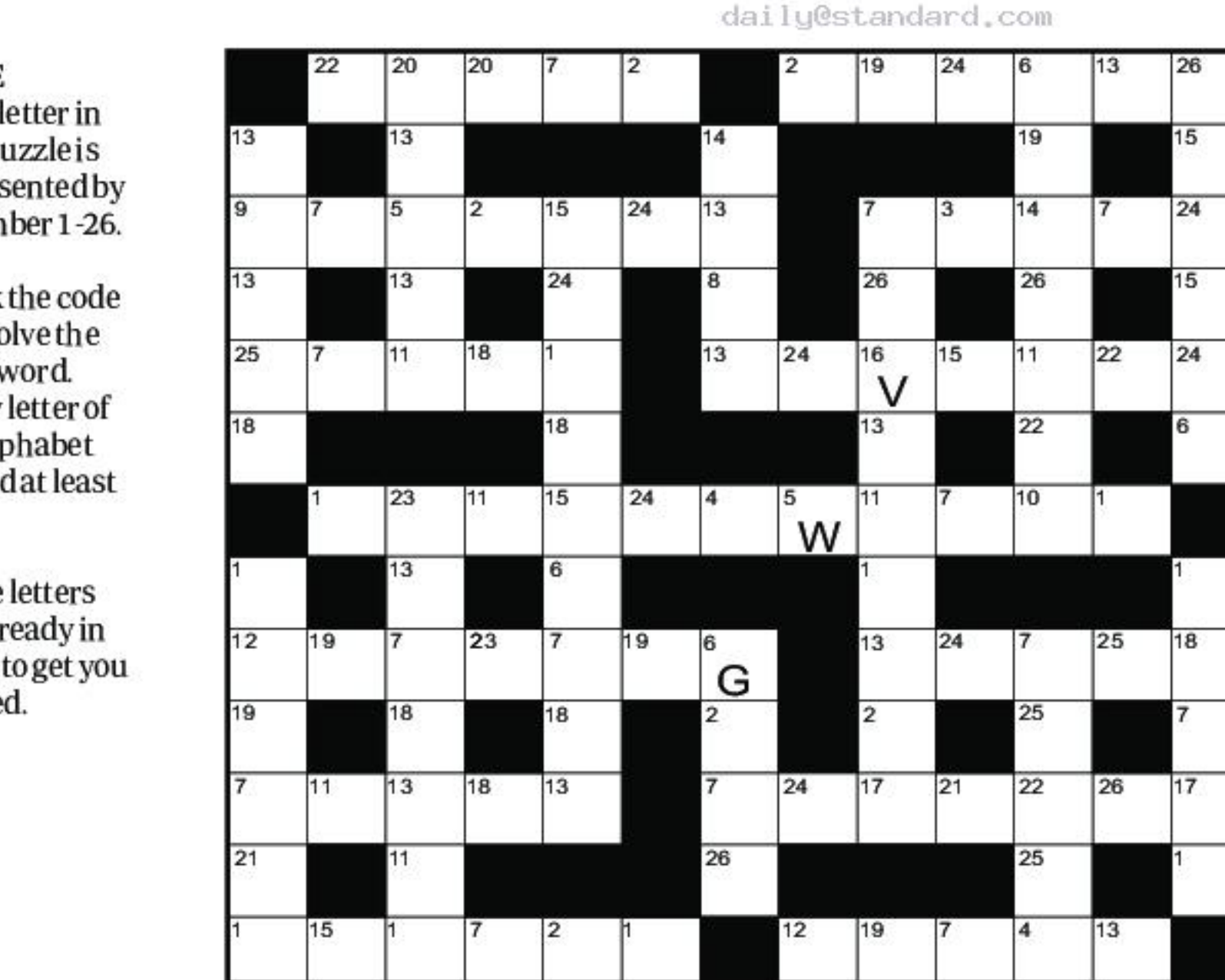
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J
3	9	6	8	5	2	7	4	1

CODEWORD

CLUE
Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26.

Crack the code and solve the crossword. Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once.

Three letters are already in place to get you started.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Monday's solution

M	S
I	L
V	X
Y	K
T	W
U	G
F	A
B	Z
O	J
H	P
N	R
C	Q
D	E

KAKURO

11	3	35	3	28	9
4			8		
	30		21		
	7				
17	12				
3			5		4
16			8		

The totals for the rows and columns are given on the left for the rows and above for the columns in the shaded boxes. The single digits which give the totals are used only once e.g. 10 = 1, 2, 3, 4 or 1, 4, 5 or 2, 3, 5 etc but not 2, 2, 6 or 1, 1, 8 or 3, 3, 2

Monday's solution

6	4	39	11	28	21
10	1	5	13	3	8
	3	7	20	4	9
	10	1	3	2	4
	24	8	9	7	
28	9	6	8	5	11
8	5	3	15	6	9
16	7	9	3	1	2

SUDOKU

	8	7		5				
4				1	2			8
9			3	8				1
5				1			2	7
	7				4	9		
		1					8	
			8					9
3				7				5
	1				9	7	4	

Monday's solution

5	7	3	4	2	8	1	9	6
2	6	9	1	7	5	4	8	3
1	4	8	3	6	9	7	5	2
4	8	5	6	9	7	3	2	1
9	1	6	2	3	4	5	7	8
3	2	7	8	5	1	6	4	9
7	5	1	9	8	6	2	3	4
8	3	4	7	1	2	9	6	5
6	9	2	5	4	3	8	1	7

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts."

Marcus Aurelius

By Kham





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 Oginga Odinga Road.
 Cell: 0719-012870, 0719-012873.

MOMBASA

Kilindini Plaza,
 3rd Floor,
 Moi Avenue.
 Tel: 0719-012836.

NAKURU

Merica Building,
 2nd floor,
 Kenyatta Avenue.
 Tel: 0719-012869, 0719-012855.

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The Standard Group Center,
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NAIROBI & UPCOUNTRY

PERSONAL NOTICES

A9/LOST

LOST Title E/Wanga/Lubinu/6486

LOST title deed Makuyu/Kariaini/ block 1/823 Pauline Muthoni Gichuki

LOSS of title thika / munyu 5842

LOST title No:Nairobi/ 12672/122.

LOSS of Title Deed:Kisumu/Kadero Got Nyabondo/1124

LOST title: Nanyuki Marura Biki/1/2971(Sweetwaters)of Jackson Ndung'u Mwhiri.

LOST title: Timau/Timau Bk7/34of Thomas Kinoti John

LOST Title: Cherangany/Kapcherop / 1155 Of William Kipkorir Kanda

LOST Title Eldoret Municipality/Block 23(Kingongo)/100

LOST title Gikondi/Kiirungi/994 of Gichuki Wambugu

LOST Title Kiplombe/Kiplombe Block 5(Kaptich)66 Lewa Children's Home

LOST title LR NO Nairobi/Block 116/1078

LOSS of title deed Laikipia/Kinamba block 1 / 3607 (Mwenje)

LOST original lease LR 137326

LOST title Ndarugu/Gakoe/2617

LOSS of original Title for LR. No. 1098/320 Nyeri Mhasibu Investment Co. Ltd

LOST titles No Timau/Timau/Block 6 Antu Ba Mwitw/597 & Nanyuki Marura Block 12/4704

LOSS of Land Certificate, Gede/Dabaso/6.Contact: 0700187860

A22/NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO. 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USER

THE REGISTERED OWNER OF PLOT NO. THEGENGE/KARIA/3617 PROPOSES TO CHANGE ITS USE FROM AGRICULTURAL USE TO RESIDENTIAL USE (MULTI-DWELLING UNITS) SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI. INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS ETC WITH ANY COMMENTS OR OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL ARE REQUESTED TO FORWARD THE SAME IN WRITING WITHIN 14 DAYS OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE TO:

THE CECM, LANDS, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI, P.O BOX 1112-10100 NYERI.

RPP 0163

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r. 3(3)(d))

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO. 13 OF 2019) CHANGE OF USER

The Registered Owner of plot LR. No. 11344/798 located off Kayole Spine Road in Kayole area within Embakasi Central Sub-County; Nairobi City County proposes to Change the User from Residential to Medical Facility (Clinic/Dispensary) subject to approval by the Nairobi City County Government. Individuals, Institutions, members of the public etc with comments, and or objections to the development proposal are requested to forward them in writing, within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

THE CECM; BUILT ENVIRONMENT & URBAN PLANNING, COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI, P.O BOX 30075- 00100, NAIROBI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019 CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner(s) of Plot No TransMara/Poroko/500 situated 1 km from Kilgoris Town along Kisil-Kilgoris Road, Narok South Sub County proposes to change the User from Agricultural User to Mixed Use (PSS & Restaurant) subject to the approval of the Narok County Government. Any individuals, institutions, organizations e.t.c with comments and or objections to this proposal is requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days from The date of this notice to:

The County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning & Urban Development Narok County Government P.O BOX 898-20500, Narok

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (CAP 303) NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of plot No. Nairobi/Block 136/172818 located off Kangundo Road within Ruai area, proposes to Change its use from Single Dwelling Residential to Commercial cum Residential Use (Shops & Apartments) subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc. with comments and or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

CECM; Built Environment and Urban Planning, Nairobi City County P.O. Box 30075-00100, Nairobi Name of registered Planner: Marvin Mutwiri Mugambi Reg. No.: 0323

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (2019) AMALGAMATION AND CHANGE OF USE

The registered owners of Land Title Nos. Mavoko Town Block 3/119455, 119454, 119497 and 119496 located off Kangundo Road in Jisaka, Mavoko Municipality wish to amalgamate and change use from Agricultural to Religious Facility (Church) subject to approval by the County Government of Machakos. Individuals, institutions or organizations etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of this publication to:

THE CECM AND PHYSICAL PLANNING, COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MACHAKOS P.O. BOX 1898-800100 MACHAKOS Peter Kabore - Registered Physical Planner No. 0287

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO.13 OF 2019) RENEWAL OF LEASE

The Registered owner of Loc. 19/ Gacharagani/ 966/10, located in Kahuti, Murang'a County, wishes to renew its lease, subject to approval by the County Government of Murang'a.

Individuals, Institutions, members of the public, etc., with comments and or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of the date of this notice to;

County Executive Committee Member, Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development P.O. Box 52-10200, MURANG'A.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE MATTER OF ARBITRATION

CHARLES GATIMU MWAL.....CLAIMANT
 VERSUS
 TABITHA NJANJA GICHIRI ALIAS TABITHA KARMA.....
1ST RESPONDENT
 GEOMARK INVESTMENT LTD2ND RESPONDENT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT

TO,
 1. TABITHA NJANJA GICHIRI ALIAS TABITHA KARMA
 2. GEOMARK INVESTMENTS LTD

TAKE NOTICE that the above matter is coming up for hearing before the arbitrator on the 5th March, 2026 at 10:00am in the forenoon or as soon as thereafter. You may join and or reach out on this email address kibla@ilco.africa and kibladoreen@gmail.com.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that failure to attend, the hearing will take place your absence notwithstanding.

TAKEN OUT BY NAOMI MURIITHI & CO. ADVOCATES, P.O BOX 14834 - 20100, PLUTOS BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, ROOM 1B, KENYATTA AVENUE, NAKURU. Email: naomibesire254@gmail.com

On This 16th day of February 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Physical and Land-use Planning Act, 2019 EXTENSION OF LEASE

The owner(s) of land parcel No.NRB/BLK 41/60 located on Factory Road in Industrial area propose to extend lease of the plot subject to approval by Nairobi City County Government. Individuals, Institutions, Organizations e.t.c with concerns or comments are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days from the date of this notice to:

The CECM, Built Environment and Urban Planning Nairobi City County P.O. Box 30075-00100 Nairobi RPP: Anthony Githaga REG No: 0396

FORM PLUPA/DC/3
PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019) NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED AMALGAMATION & CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner(s) of Land Parcel No. Nyandarua/ Kitihi/ 8543 & 8544 situated within Engineer Neighborhood, South Kinangop Sub-County, Nyandarua County proposes to: Amalgamate & Change its use from Agricultural to Light Industrial (Petrol Service Station) subject to approval by the County Government of Nyandarua. Individuals, institutions or members of the public with comments and or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

The CECM; Lands, Physical Planning, Housing & Urban Development County Government of Nyandarua. P.O Box 701 - 20303, OL KALOU.

Registered Physical Planner: Newton G. Karuri REG NO: 0145



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 National Land Commission (NLC) on behalf of the County Government of Marsabit intends to regularize tenure of Land Parcel No. 11969/210 in Marsabit County measuring 0.0461 Ha for residential use [Subject to terms, Covenants, Conditions and reservations which shall be included in the conveyance documents] 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 within 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 office in Nairobi (316 Upper Hill Chambers 2nd Ngong Avenue) as from 2.30 p.m 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 Coordinator, NLC Marsabit County.

The parcel is planned and surveyed, and ownership details may be inspected at the offices of the CECM in charge of Lands, Marsabit. County, Director of Surveys, Nairobi and NLC offices during working hours.

Gershon Otachi Bw'Omanwa
 CHAIRMAN

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PUBLIC NOTICE**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT
(NO. 13 OF 2019)
CHANGE OF USER**

The owner of the Parcel No **LR NO; JUJA/KALIMONI BLOCK 3/226** located in Kibute area, off Thika super-highway in **Juja, Kiambu** is proposing to change the use of land from **Agricultural land use to Residential Multi-dwelling use (Flats)**, subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, Institutions, Organizations and other interested parties with any **planning comments/objections** to the proposed development should forward them in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to:

**CECM – LAND, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU
P.O BOX 2344 – 00900
KIAMBU
Plan. Daniel Kabiru G R.P.P 0321**

PUBLIC NOTICE**PHYSICAL AND LAND USE
PLANNING ACT No 13 (2019)
NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED
CHANGE OF USER**

Notice is hereby given that the registered owner of Plot No. **KABETE/KARURA/4424** located at **KABETE** Sub-County **KARURA** area has applied for permission to change the user from **AGRICULTURAL USE TO COMMERCIAL (SHOPS AND OFFICES)** subject to approval by County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, Institutions, Members of the public etc. with objections or comments to the proposal should serve notice of such in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

**CECM - LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU
P.O BOX 2344-00900,
KIAMBU.
PHYSICAL PLANNER: KELVIN RITHO RPP NO. 0270**

PUBLIC NOTICE**THE PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)
CHANGE OF USE**

The registered owner of Parcel No. **JUJA/KALIMONI BLOCK 31/481** located off Gatundu-Juja Road, Juja Sub County proposes to change its use from **Residential Single Dwelling to Commercial (Resort)**, subject to approval by Kiambu County Government. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc. with comments and/or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

**CECM, LAND AND PHYSICAL PLANNING
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU,
P.O BOX 2344-00900
KIAMBU**

Name of Registered Planner; Marvin Mutwiri Mugambi Reg No. 323

PUBLIC NOTICE**PHYSICAL AND LAND USE
PLANNING ACT NO.13 OF 2019
CHANGE OF USE**

The owner of Land Title Number **JUJA KALIMONI BLOCK 22/1007** situated in **Witeithie Juja** Sub County is proposing to change its use from **RESIDENTIAL SINGLE DWELLING UNIT TO RESIDENTIAL MULTI-DWELLING UNITS (FLATS)** subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, organizations, institutions etc. with objections or comments on the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

**THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (CECM)
LANDS, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
KIAMBU COUNTY GOVERNMENT
P.O BOX 2344-00900
KIAMBU.**

Physical Planner: John Thomas Mbau R.P.P: 0284

PUBLIC NOTICE**PHYSICAL AND LAND USE
PLANNING ACT No 13 (2019)
NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED
CHANGE OF USER**

Notice is hereby given that the registered owner of Plot No. **RUIRU/ RUIRU EAST BLOCK 2/36306** located at Murera, Juja Municipality proposes to change user from **Agricultural Use to Residential Multi-dwelling (flats)** subject to approval by County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, Institutions, Members of the public etc. with objections or comments to the proposal should serve notice of such in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

**CECM - LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU
P.O BOX 2344-00900,
KIAMBU.**

PHYSICAL PLANNER: MARVIN MUTWIRI RPP NO. 0323

PUBLIC NOTICE**PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO.13 OF 2019
CHANGE OF USE**

The registered owner of Land Title Number **RUIRU KIU BLOCK 2 (GITHUNGURI)/29816** located in Ruiru Sub County, proposes to change its use from **Agricultural to Educational (Pre-Primary)** subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc. with objections or comments on the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

**The County Executive Committee Member (CECM)
Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development
County Government of Kiambu
P.O BOX 2344-00900
Kiambu.**

PHYSICAL PLANNER: KELVIN RITHO R.P.P:0270

PUBLIC NOTICE**PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO.13 OF 2019
CHANGE OF USE**

The registered owner of Land Title Number **RUIRU/ KIU BLOCK 2 (GITHUNGURI)/2656** located in Ruiru Sub County, proposes to change its use from **Agricultural to Educational (Primary)** subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc. with objections or comments on the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

**The County Executive Committee Member (CECM)
Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development
County Government of Kiambu
P.O BOX 2344-00900
Kiambu.**

PHYSICAL PLANNER: KELVIN RITHO R.P.P:0270

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 [re 3(3)(xi)]

PUBLIC NOTICE**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE
PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)
CHANGE OF USE**

The registered owner(s) of **Title No. Dagoretti/Thogoto/6505** located within Thogoto area in Kikuyu Sub-County, Kiambu County proposes to Change its Use from **Agricultural to Residential Multi-Dwelling Flats** subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. institution(s), individual(s), or organization(s) with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice to:

**The CECM Lands, Housing, Physical Planning,
Municipal Administration & Urban Development,
County Government of Kiambu,
P.O. Box 2344-00900,
Kiambu.**

Registered Physical Planner: G. Samuel Mburu Reg. No. PP0247

PUBLIC NOTICE**REF: INVITATION TO PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE PROPOSED
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PARCEL PLOT LR. 205/66
(NAIROBI/BLOCK 22/180) RIVERSIDE DRIVE,
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY.**

KP Housing Development Limited proposes to develop a Residential Development comprising **Eighteen storey residential building comprising 212 apartment units having one bedroom, two bedroom, two bedroom duplexes, four bedroom duplexes and two penthouses units apartments, a parking silo, supporting facilities and amenities** on **PLOT L.R. NO. 205/66 (NAIROBI/BLOCK 22/180)**, Westlands, Nairobi County with project coordinates; **-1.2697,36.7902**. Pursuant to Section 17 of The Environmental (Impact Assessment And Audit) Regulations, 2003 the proponent invites members of the public to consultative meetings to be held as follows;
Wednesday 25th February 2026, Friday 27th February 2026 and Saturday 28th January 2026
All meetings take place from 10:00 am at the proposed site Along Riverside Drive, on plot L.R Number 205/66 (NAIROBI/BLOCK 22/180) Riverside Drive, Nairobi County with project coordinates; -1.2697,36.7902

Patrick Njoroge
Email: njorogepatrick168@gmail.com.

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C.P.F House, 3rd Floor, Haile Selassie Avenue, P.O.Box 2788-00200, Nairobi, Kenya

PUBLIC AUCTION

1. A plot measuring 0.042 Ha situated about 370 Meters off and to the right of Karen - Ngong section of Ngong road, deviating North-East of ACK Kipepeo Homes and about 900 Meters to the North of Ngong Town Center, Ngong Township Area, Kajiado County developed with a four bedroomed maisonette (master ensuite)
2. A three (3 No.) Bedroomed (master ensuite) Maisonette with a detached servant's quarter situated within Phase II of Green Park Estate located off Mombasa Road approximately 3 Kilometers due South East of Devki Steel Mills in Athi River area, Mavoko Township, Machakos County. **The unit stands on a plot measuring 0.05 Ha**
3. A plot measuring 0.016 Ha or 0.03954 Acres developed with a three bedroomed maisonette (master ensuite) and a domestic servant quarter (DSQ) situated within Jacaranda Estate, off Savannah Road in Jacaranda area of the larger Donholm, Nairobi City County
4. A Four (4 No.) Bedroomed (master ensuite) Maisonette with a detached servant's quarter situated within Valley Brook Gardens, Athi River area, Machakos Count
5. A 3 bedroomed maisonette, 7 units of 2 bedroomed apartments and 4 units of 3 bedroomed apartments within **LONEVIEW DEVELOPMENT, SYOKIMAU ESTATE, OFF MOMBASA ROAD, SYOKIMAU - MLOLONGO WARD, MAVOKO CONSTITUENCY, MACHAKOS COUNTY**
6. A 3 bedroomed apartment and 2 units of 2 bedroomed apartments located in the immediate neighborhood of Diamond Hill Apartments within unnamed block of Flats, Athi River, Machakos County
7. A plot measuring 0.125 Ha or 0.3089 Acres developed with a three (3 No.) bedroomed bungalow and an ablution block located along an unnamed earth surfaced road branching off Imani road, within Mugutha area, Ruiru, Kiambu County
8. Two vacant plots measuring 0.81 Ha or 2.0007 Acres and 0.482 Ha or 1.19054 Acres located about 800 Meters and 700 Meters East of Desire (Flora) Kenya off Kitengela - Namanga road branching off this road to the right at Isinya Feeds for about 2.5 Kilometers turning right for about 200 Meters to find the properties to the left
9. A parcel of land measuring measuring 23.472 Ha situated approximately 5 Kilometers off and to the left of Emali -Kimana road deviating onto earth road junction at Kimana Township, approximately 700 Meters South - East of Elchoro -Lormuetti Primary School and about 4 Kilometers South - East of Kimana Township in Elchoro - Lormuetti neighborhood of larger Kimana Area, Kajiado County and developed with 14 No. Pig Sty Blocks, External ablution block, Double storey concrete water tank tower and Five (5 No.) septic tanks.
10. A vacant 0.748 Ha or 1.848 Acres situated about 1.3 Kilometers off and to the left of Kiserian - Magadi tarmac (Magadi Road) deviating onto Mwalimu Road at Mora Hill Houses Signboard approximately 1 Km South of St. Patrick School, Kiserian in Ole Moiko area, approximately 5 Kilometers South-West of Kiserian Township, Kajiado County.
11. A four (4 No.) bedroomed three storey residential house (master ensuite) with a DSQ easily identified as House No. S240 developed on a plot measuring 0.0438 Ha or 0.10823 Acres and situated approximately 100M from Northern Bypass Court, Ruiru Constituency, Kiambu County.
12. An office suite identifiable as Office No. 7C (Seventh Floor), Commodore Office Suites, Kindaruma Road at the junction of Wood Avenue and about 5Kilometers from Nairobi CBD within Kilimani Business District, Nairobi County. Accommodation Classroom, Office I, Office II, Director's Office with exit to Verandah, Passage way with high shelves, Office III, Kitchen, Cloakroom with WC, WHB and wall mirror and Cloakroom with WC, Urinal, WHB and wall mirror
13. 6 vacant plots each measuring 0.3400 Ha or 0.8401 Acres and are situated approximately 2.5 Kilometers off Mombasa - Malindi highway turning West at the Northern end of Shariani Village about 800 Meters North of Gapco Petrol Station in Vipingo Area, Kilifi County.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principal the financier, we shall sell the under mentioned repossessed motor vehicle on **Wednesday, 25th February 2026** as from **10.00Am**.

NO.	REG. NO.	MAKE/ MODEL	COLOUR	VIEW AT
1.	KCH 264W	NISSAN CARAVAN	WHITE	ABSOLUTE CHOICE CAR YARD
2.	KDM 669P	TOYOTA FIELDER	SILVER	CAPITAL DIAMOND - THIKA

CONDITION OF SALE

- The sale is strictly CASH AT THE FALL OF THE HAMMER.
- Sale is subject to reasonable reserve prices.

BRIGHT SEASONS AUCTIONEERS
FORMER CDF OFFICES BALOZI ROAD
P.O. Box 22826-00400, Nairobi
Call: 0722174816
Email: brightseasonsauctioneers@gmail.com

Repossession, Realization of Charged Securities, Debt Collection and Investigation.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals the financiers, we shall sell the under-mentioned motor vehicle through public auction on **25th February, 2026 starting at 11.00 AM.**
FINANCIER -VS- DEBTOR

REG	MODEL	STORAGE YARD
KCQ 643L	MAZDA DEMIO	EXECUTIVE YARD

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- All interested buyers are requested to view the motor vehicles during working hours.
- Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.

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Website: www.keysianauctioneers.com
C.P.F House, 3rd Floor, Haile Selassie Avenue, P.O. Box 2788-00200, Nairobi, Kenya

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our principals, the chargees, in exercise of their statutory power of sale, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned property and all the improvements erected thereon.

1. SALE ON FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY, 2026 AS FROM 11:00A.M IN OUR OFFICES AT ASHA TRUST BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR, MERU ROAD MOMBASA.

All that property known as **APARTMENT NO. 401 ON L.R. NO. MAINLAND NORTH/18889 (ORIGINAL NO. MAINLAND NORTH/1/3595, C.R. 56297) - EDEN BEACH APARTMENTS AND SPA, SHANZU BEACH, MOMBASA COUNTY** in the name of **ELKANA ALUVALE MUGALA & ALICE ALUVALE**. It is a leasehold interest for a term of 71 years w.e.f 1st December, 1981 at an annual ground rent of Kshs. 39,560/=. The subject apartment known as Apartment No. 401 is a three (3 No.) Bedroomed Apartment (all ensuite) located on the Fourth Floor and to the extreme left from the central Courtyard within Eden Beach Apartments situated about 2.5 Kilometers off and to the right of Mombasa - Malindi highway deviating onto Serena road next to La Mera Beach Apartments and one plot away from the Shaza (Shanzu Beach Resort) in Shanzu area, Mombasa County. Mains electricity services are connected into the subject property while water is obtained from a borehole on the mother property. Foul drainage is into a bio digester tank on the mother property.

Conditions of sale

- All interested bidders are requested to view the property and verify the details for themselves as the auctioneers or the chargees do not warrant these.
- Interested bidders must deposit **Kshs. 1,000,000.00** in **CASH OR BANKERS CHEQUE** with the auctioneer before being allowed to bid.
- Sale is subject to a reserve price, and the auctioneer reserves the right to reject any bid without giving any reasons for doing so.
- Interested bidders are requested to view the property between 10.00 am and 5.00pm and our office will assist the bidders to point out the property subject to prior arrangement.
- 10% of the purchase price must be paid to the auctioneer at the fall of the hammer and the balance to be paid in 90 days to the chargees.

PAWABA AUCTIONEERS
Class B Auctioneers, Official Court Brokers, Court Bailiffs, Repossessors, Debt Collectors, Estate Agent, Realization of Charged Securities, Private Investigators & Commission Agents. I.H.F.A. OFFICE Former N.S.S.F Building, Next to Equity Bank, Opp Co-operative Bank 1st Floor room 7, Moi Avenue, P.O. Box 494 Rungoma, Tel 0770 553774.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our clients we shall sell by PUBLIC AUCTION the under mentioned property together with the buildings and improvement created therein.
ON 23rd FEBRUARY 2026 AT BUNGOMA SAFE KEEPERS YARD AS FROM 9:30 AM

REG NO.	MAKE / MODEL	YEAR	COLOR	YARD
KCE 245M	TOYOTA MARK-X	2008	PEARL WHITE	BUNGOMA SAFEKEEPERS

ON 3rd MARCH 2026 OUTSIDE BUNGOMA POST OFFICE AS FROM 11:00 AM
BANK -VS- SUZI KENNEDY MAKOKHA (Co-ordinates 0.586056, 34.522722).
All that property Title No. W.BUKUSIU/MATEKA/2881 measuring (0.5) HA registered in the name of **GABRIEL WANYONYI MUSULE**. The property is located in Talita area, Bumula Constituency, Bungoma County. It is situated 1.3 Kilometres off and to St Teresa Kabula Secondary school, about 1.6 kilometres off and to the right of Bungoma - Mumias tarmac road, deviating at Kabula market and 10.5 kilometres to southwesterly of Bungoma town center. This is an agricultural land parcel, almost rectangular in shape, with a gentle northward slope. Soils are black loam types. Boundaries are marked live hedges and trees on left open. The adjacent access road is earth surfaced. Main electricity is in the neighborhood for connection to the subject property. Water can be sourced from an onsite well or nearby stream. Foul drainage can to a pit latrine/septic tank in the future.

ON 4th MARCH 2026 OUTSIDE BUSIA POST OFFICE AS FROM 11:00 AM
All the properties Title No. S.Teso/Angaromo/844388444 each measuring 0.08HA approx 0.12 Acres. Both titles are freehold interest registered in the name of **GEORGE OCHIENG OTIENO**. The properties are situated in Amoni residential area within Busia Municipality a long airstrip primary school off Eastward along Amoni ECD school. They are vacant having both water and electricity available for connection.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- All intending buyers are requested to view the property and verify details as these are not warranted by the auctioneer.
- A deposit of 25% of purchase price must be paid in CASH or BANKERS CHEQUE at the fall of the hammer and balance to be paid within 90 days.
- Refundable deposit of Kshs 50,000/= must be paid to obtain bidding number prior to the auction.
- Cash at the fall of the hammer for motor vehicle

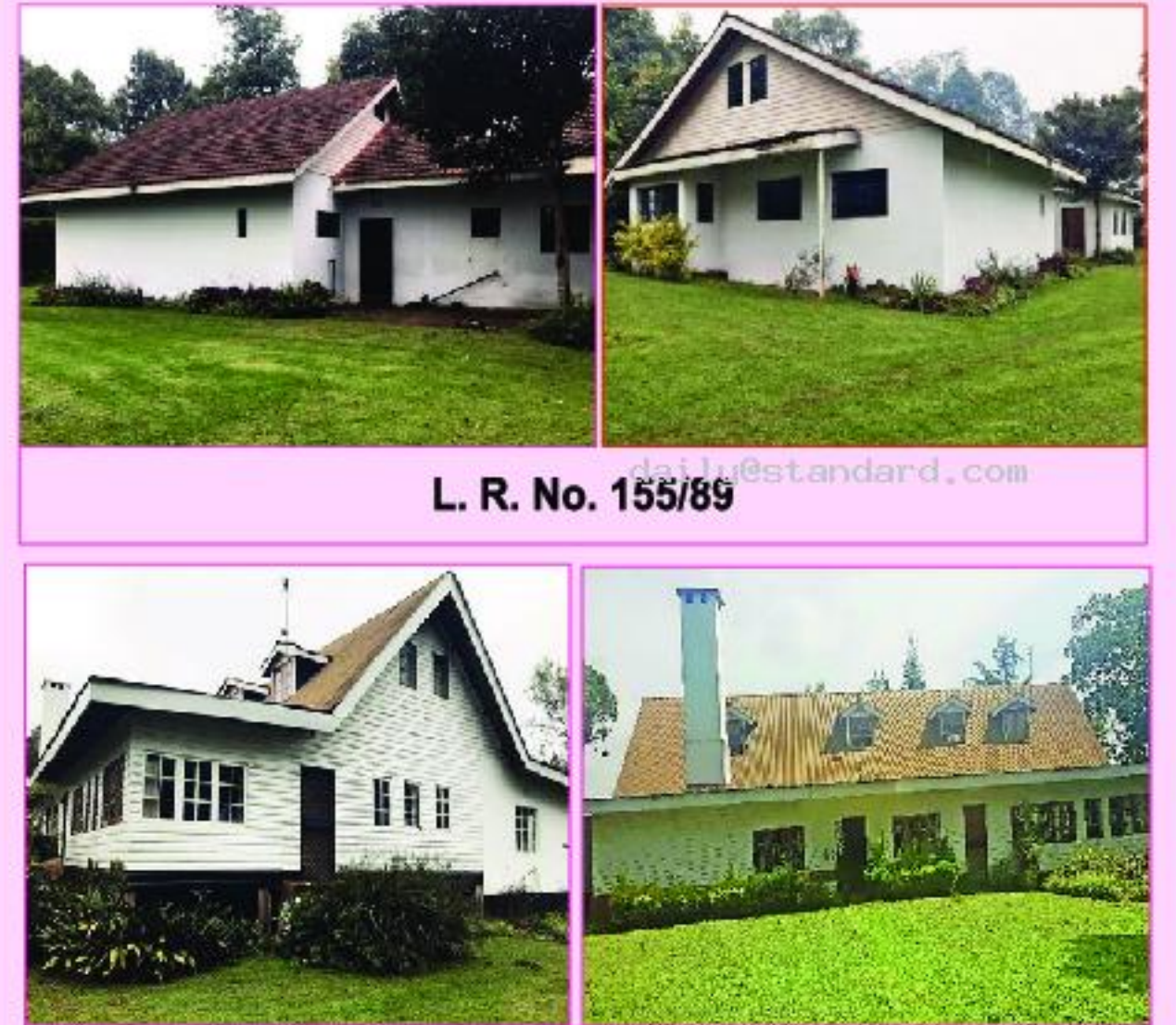
CALL 0720553774

GARAM INVESTMENTS AUCTIONEERS
Western Heights, 5th Floor, Karuna Road, Westlands-Nairobi, P.O. Box 63279, 00619,
Wireless 020 2592949, 020 2592990, Call: 0722 715838 / 0786 318663,
Email: garam@africaonline.co.ke, Website: www.garam.co.ke

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principals, we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned properties together with buildings and improvements erected therein.

PRIME RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN TIGONI, LIMURU, KIAMBU COUNTY



L. R. No. 155/89

L. R. No. 155/115

ON TUESDAY THE 3RD DAY OF MARCH 2026 AT 11:00 A.M AT OUR OFFICES ON 5TH FLOOR, WESTERN HEIGHTS, KARUNA ROAD WESTLANDS, NAIROBI

All these parcels of land known as L. R. NOS. 155/89, 93 & 115 PHASE II - ECHUKA COUNTRY ESTATE (PART) TIGONI LIMURU KIAMBU COUNTY registered in the name of **ECHUKA COUNTRY ESTATES LIMITED** c/o P.O. Box 232-00219 Karuri and/or 13774-00800 Nairobi. The properties are located within Echuka Country Estate Phase 2 situated about a kilometre off Banana-Limuru Road branching off at the sign post to Echuka Country Estate and about 500m past Kimlea Training Centre within Tigoni Area, Kiambu County. **Plot No. 155/89** measures **0.1508 of a hectare (0.373 of an acre)** approximately. **Plot No. 155/89** is developed with a three bedroom (all ensuite) bungalow (plinth area **2,450 sq.ft approx.**). **Plot No. 155/93** measures **0.1390 of a hectare (0.3435 of an acre)** approximately and is undeveloped. **Plot No. 155/115** measures **0.2834 of a hectare (0.7 of an acre)** approximately. The plot is developed with a six-bedroom (four ensuite) town house (plinth area **3,865 sq.ft**). All three titles are leasehold interests for a term of 99 years w.e.f 01.11.2013 at a peppercorn annual ground rent (if demanded). Mains electricity is connected to the properties while water is obtained from a nearby borehole. Drainage is through ha septic tank.

N/B: the properties can be sold individually or collectively

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- All intending purchasers are requested to view the property and verify the details as these are not warranted by the auctioneers. (2). A deposit of 10% each for property should be paid in cash or banker's cheque at the fall of the hammer. The balance will thereafter be payable within ninety (90) days for each property to the chargee. A bidding deposit of Kshs 1 million for each property by way of banker's cheque(s) or cash will be mandatory. Please note that failure to pay the balance by the confirmed purchaser will result in forfeiture of all deposits paid (3). For all the aforementioned properties details of encumbrances including names addresses e.t.c. together with user and any other restrictions plus rates/rents payable will be made available on request at our offices. (4). Sale of the above properties will be subject to reserve prices and land board consent if applicable. (5). Conditions of sale are available on request at our offices and viewing of properties is possible during normal working hours by prior arrangements with ourselves.

For hundreds of other properties, log on to www.garam.co.ke

Citizen Auctioneers
P.O. Box 50251-00100, Nairobi, Mwendelo House, 9th Floor, RM 908, Monrovia Street
Tel: 0736-939896 | Email: citizenauctioneers@gmail.com
www.citizenauctioneers.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principal THE FINANCIER we shall sell the undermentioned motor vehicle by public auction **ON WEDNESDAY THE 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026 AT OUR YARDS, STARTING FROM 10.00A.M.**
FINANCIER -VS- ERICK WAFULA MUGANDA

NO.	REG NO.	TYPE OF M/VEHICLE	VIEWED AT
1.	KDH 931R	MADZA AXELA	PURPLE ROYAL STORAGE AND AUCTION YARD KIAMBU ROAD

FINANCIER -VS- EZEKIEL KIPKOECH ROP.

NO.	REG NO.	TYPE OF M/VEHICLE	VIEWED AT
2	KBW 689X	HONDA CIVIC	ELDORET AUCTION CENTRE.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- Sale is subject to a reasonable reserve price.
- Cash at the fall of the hammer
- Viewing on arrangement during working hours on weekdays

ICON AUCTIONEERS.
Auctioneers, Repossessors, Debt Recovery Consultants, Investigators, Court Process server
Tembo Co-op House, Moi Avenue
P.O. Box 40781-00100. Call: 0722 488 446, 0723 113 920, 0110 012 010, 0717 056 968
Email: iconauctions@gmail.com www.iconauctions.co.ke

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals, in exercise of their statutory powers, we shall sell by public Auction the under mentioned motor vehicle and goods on **24th FEBRUARY 2026** at 10.30 am or soon thereafter at **STARTRUCK CARYARD & STORAGE. 2&3. RAJEMA STORAGE YARD,**

1. NAIWASHA SCC CIVIL CASE NO. E874 OF 2025
JOHN MBURU NJENGA -VS- HIRAM WAMBUKU GAKURU
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO: KCH 701V (TOYOTA HIACE)
2. NGONG MCCC CASE NO. E086 OF 2023
JANE MUTHONI NAUGUNA -VS- MORRIS KANGA MWENDA, ALFRED MUGENDEI KANGA & MARY NJERI MUCHIRI
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO: KCC 679E (ISUZU BUS COACH)
3. DISTRESS FOR RENT
LANDLORD -VS- AGNES NYAWIRA
assorted medicine, computer, chair, weighing machine, water dispenser, plastic chair

CONDITIONS OF SALE
Cash at the fall of the Hammer.

CLEVERLINE AUCTIONEERS
AUCTIONEERS, REPOSSESSORS, PRIVATE COMMERCIAL INVESTIGATORS,
DEBT COLLECTORS AND COURT PROCESS SERVICES

Head Office: Jagir Singh Chal Building, 2nd Floor, Wing A
Next to Hill Court Resort & Spa,
Along Nakuru-Nairobi Highway
P.O. Box 12585-20100, Nakuru
Tel: 051-2213350, M/L 0722940487
Email: clever.line@yahoo.com / info@cleverlineauctioneers.co.ke

Meru Branch: Rewa House
3rd Floor, Rm 5
P.O. Box 600, Meru
M/L 0728 924642

Nairobi Branch: View Park Towers,
9th Floor
Wing A (Watta)
P.O. Box 3041-00200,
Tel: 0737 973 781
Nairobi

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals the chargee, we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned property on **Tuesday 10th March, 2026** at **Narok Town, outside the Main Post Office at 11.00 a.m.** All that piece of land known as **L.R. NOS. CISMARA / OLESHTWA / 18150 - 18188 DUKA MOJA AREA - NAROK NORTH SUB - COUNTY NAROK COUNTY.** Registered in the name of **ALLAN LEMAYAN TWALA** measuring **35 plots measures approximately each 0.042 Ha i.e 0.104 of an acre** thereabouts. The properties comprising 39 parcels are situated in Duka Moja Area, Narok North Sub - County of Narok County. The properties lies approximately 5.5 kilometres Southeast of Katakala Shopping Centre. They are about 650 metres off Narok - Bomet tarmac road deviating about 100 metres after Enkishomi Sidal Free Pentecostal Fellowship Church and about 11.0 kilometers Northwest of Narok Town. **GPS Coordinates: -1°04'50.5"S 35°47'07.5"E.**

Improvement: Vacant.

CONDITION OF SALE

- Interested purchasers are requested to view the property and verify all the details for themselves as these are not warranted by the auctioneer or the chargee.
- 25% deposit must be paid in cash or bankers cheque at the fall of the hammer and the balance to be paid within 90 days to the chargee's office from the date of sale failure to which the deposit money will be forfeited.
- deposit of Kshs. 100,000/= must be paid direct to the Auctioneer before being issued with a bid number, refundable after sale or be part of the purchase price to the declared purchaser.
- highest bidder will be declared the purchaser and the sale is subject to a reserve price and confirmation by the chargee.

ALL ARE WELCOME

MOGO AUTO LTD
P.O. Box Number 29107-00100
Pine Tree, Kaburu Drive, Nairobi, Kenya

MOTOR VEHICLES FOR SALE

We are inviting offers from interested parties for the purchase of motor vehicles in our car yards countrywide, as listed below:

REG NO.	MODEL/MAKE	YOM	YARD/LOCATION	FORCED VALUE
KCJ029R	Toyota Vitz	2009	Kisumu - Car Yard - Kanyamedha (Cars)	500000
KDC961S	Toyota Spade	2014	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	720000
KCJ039K	Toyota Harrier	2009	Kisumu - Car Yard - Kanyamedha (Cars)	722000
KDN997U	Toyota Fielder	2016	Mombasa - Car Yard - Ferry (Cars)	1190000
KCX284J	Toyota Probox	2014	Mombasa - Car Yard - Ferry (Cars)	722500
KCM945N	Toyota Vanguard	2010	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	1170000
KDB855D	Nissan March	2013	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	459000
KCG480D	Toyota Auris	2008	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	675000
KBY664S	Mazda Demio	2007	Mombasa - Car Yard - Ferry (Cars)	255000
KDC321N	Nissan March	2014	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	405000
KCL571U	Mazda Demio	2010	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	416000
KCJ324R	Nissan Wingroad	2009	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	320000
KCD793P	Mazda Bongo	2008	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	272000
KBZ362V	Mazda Premacy	2007	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	459000
KCV331T	Subaru Impreza	2012	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	680000
KBT543B	Nissan X-trail	2005	Meru - Car Yard - Kathita (Cars)	320000
KDH123U	Nissan Vanette	2015	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	722500
KCS994W	Suzuki Alto	2011	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	255000
KBS197S	Volkswagen Touareg	2005	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	810000
KBW940R	Nissan Bluebird	2006	Kisumu - Car Yard - Kanyamedha (Cars)	255000
KBT708U	Mercedes C 180 Compressor	2005	Kisumu - Car Yard - Kanyamedha (Cars)	425000
KCC442L	Nissan Vanette	2008	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	488000
KDE718C	Nissan Advan	2014	Mombasa - Car Yard - Ferry (Cars)	255000
KCN849M	Toyota Rumion	2010	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	467500
KDE187P	Suzuki Alto	2016	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	400000
KCV206L	Nissan Note	2012	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	382500
KDG630N	Nissan Note	2014	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	493000
KCM567E	Toyota Probox	2012	Kisumu - Car Yard - Kanyamedha (Cars)	360000
KBN887P	Toyota Premio	2004	Meru - Car Yard - Kathita (Cars)	450000
KDE595U	Mazda Bongo	2014	Kisumu - Car Yard - Kanyamedha (Cars)	585000
KCM129H	Toyota Succeed	2010	Meru - Car Yard - Kathita (Cars)	425000
KBT570M	Toyota Avensis	2005	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	467500
KBS689C	Toyota Townace	2004	Kisumu - Car Yard - Kanyamedha (Cars)	315000
KCP434W	Toyota Landcruiser	2015	Nairobi - Car Yard - Kiambu (Cars)	

Viewing of MOTOR VEHICLES to be done at MOGO Car Yards, (call 0114823694) for directions) to verify the details, as SALE IS 'ON-AS-IS WHERE-IS-BASIS'.
Bids should be submitted through email: cars.sales@mogo.co.ke (as well put down your mobile number on the mail) or drop in a sealed envelope and clearly marked "Tender for Motor Vehicle" addressed to:
**Mogo Auto Ltd, Pinetree, Kaburu Drive
P.O. Box 9979 - 00100
NAIROBI.**

DIRECT "O" AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Realization of securities, Repossesses, Investigators & Debt Collection
 Webcom House
 Ground Floor,
 P.O. Box 13041 - 20100,
 Nakuru
 VAT: 0144563P
 PIN NO: 1001123275G
 EMAIL: danmur09@gmail.com
 CELL: 0724 859 351
 0721 105 337
 0720 680 495

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals, we on **24THth February, 2026** starting from **10:30am** shall sell by public auction the under mentioned vehicle stored at **Cyka Yard Nakuru-Eldoret Highway.**
NAKURU COUNTY NAIVASHA SCC CASE NO. E371 OF 2025
GEORGE GICHUKI THUO =VERSUS= EDMOND KIPRONO CHERUIYOT
I. M/V REG KBZ029V-M/FUSO

CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF SALE

- i. Cash at the fall of hammer subject to reserve value
- ii. Subject to any caveats

SSEBO INTEL COMPANY AUCTIONEER

CLASS "B"
 Cosade House, 1st Floor
 Administration Road
 Opp. Show Ground
 VAT No. A003570088V
 "Motto-Honest & Responsible"
 P.O. Box 488 - 40400
 Sune - Migori
 Call: 0722 - 572 484/0773604545
 Migori Town
 Email: henryjacobs@gmail.com
Auctioneers, Court Brokers, Repossessors, Private Investigators, debt collectors
Commission Agent, Process Server

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under court warrants issued by the Migori Chief Magistrate's court CMC CIVIL SUITS, NOS. E284, E305 & E312 & ALL OF 2018, David Obel Juma, Caroline Atieno Onyango & Joseph Otieno Kilum (Plaintiffs respectively) versus South Nyanza Sugar Co. Ltd. on THURSDAY 12th MARCH, 2026, WE SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION THE UNDERLISTED PROPERTY, M/TRACTORS REG. KBB 048S, KBR 617 U, KBB 531 S (New Holland) & M/WING TMO WINGBOX SN5C/TMO/001 ALL THE PROPERTY ARE AT SOUTH NYANZA SUGAR CO. LTD WORKSHOP WITHIN THE FACTORY AND SHALL BE SOLD *in-situ* WHILE THE CONDUCT OF THE AUCTION SHALL TAKE PLACE IN OUR OFFICES IN **MIGORI TOWN, COSADE BUILDING 1st FLOOR.**

CONDITION OF SALE

1. All interested purchaser(s) are requested to view and verify the details at South Nyanza Sugar Co. Ltd workshop for these are not warranted by the Auctioneer
2. Sale is subject to a reasonable reserve price.
3. Viewing would be facilitated with prior arrangement with us.
4. Cash at the fall of the hammer



Wamarema Building 3rd Floor Room D
 P.O. Box 1847-00100 Nairobi-Kenya
 Cell: 0712 343861 / 0721 442919
 Email: upscaleauctioneers@gmail.com

Licensed Auctioneers, Debt Collectors, Re-possessors & Investigators

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals, the charge's, we shall sell the under mentioned properties by public auction, ON **FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2026 AT OUR OFFICES STARTING AT 11:30A.M**
1. All that freehold parcel of land known as TITLE NO. MUGUGA /JETSCHIME/4782 REGISTERED I.N.O: PETER MUGU MBUGUA (GUARANTOR) ESTHER WANJIKU KINUTHIA (PRINCIPAL DEBTOR), OF P.O BOX 902 KIKUYU KIAMBU COUNTY. The subject property is located within Thamanda area, about 800 Metres off Nairobi - Nakuru Highway, in the larger Muguga area of Kiambu County. It lies about 200 metres east of KAG Thamanda Church and about 250 metres from Thamanda Training Centre. The GPS Co-ordinates: [1.186158, 36.643882]

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All interested purchasers are requested to view and verify the details for these are not warranted by the Auctioneers or our clients.
2. A Refundable Bidding Deposit of Kshs 50,000/-
3. A deposit of 25% MUST be paid by CASH or BANKERS' CHEQUE at the fall of the hammer and the balance paid to the charges within a period of Ninety (90) Days from the date of sale.
4. The sale is subject to reserved price and other requisite consents.
5. Viewing of the property is possible during normal working hours by prior arrangements with ourselves.

Duly instructed by our principals, the LANDLORD, we shall sell the under mentioned goods by public auction on **Tuesday 24th FEBRUARY 2026 AT OUR OFFICES STARTING AT 10:30A.M**
2. LANDLORD -VS- BERNARD KIPKOECH KITUR RONO
 Samsung two door fridge, one rotating chair, wooden small desk, small wooden coffee table, Hisense TV, 13kg gas cylinder, small oval coffee table, Lshape sofaset

Condition of sale
 Cash at the fall of the hammer

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MOGO AUTO LTD

P.O. Box Number 29107-00100
 Pine Tree, Kaburu Drive, Nairobi, Kenya

MOTORCYCLES & TUKTUKS FOR SALE

We are inviting offers from interested parties for the purchase of motorcycles and tuktuks in our boda yards countrywide, as listed below:

Registration	YARD/LOCATION	FORCED VALUE (KES)	YDM	MAKE/MODEL
KMEG741D	Kitale - Branch - Kitale Printers (Bodas)	33,000	2017	Honda Ace 125 Ks
KMEL308J	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	22,380	2018	Boxer Bm 100
KMEP440X	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	25,980	2018	Honda Ace 125 Ks
KMER773K	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	32,114	2018	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMEV365Y	Kabarnet - Branch - Opp. Coca Cola Depot (Bodas / Cars)	43,815	2019	Tvs Hlx 150 4g
KMFA536D	Embu - Branch - MKU (Bodas / Cars)	25,690	2019	Honda Ace 125 Es
KMFB424Y	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	23,478	2019	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMFE109M	Nairobi - Branch - Suburu (Bodas)	42,345	2020	Boxer Bm 100
KMFF977W	Kisumu - Branch - Fire Station (Bodas)	40,455	2020	Honda Ace 125 Ks
KMFG523Q	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Boda)	35,434	2020	Tvs Hlx 150 4g
KMFG557W	Mumias - Branch - Musanda Rd (Bodas / Cars)	40,500	2020	Honda Ace 125 Es
KMFIH659K	Kisii - Branch - B3 Rd (Bodas / Cars)	40,202	2020	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMFIH888P	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	35,897	2020	Tvs Hlx 125 Ref
KMFIH988S	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	40,170	2020	Ranger Sanya Ry 150-18
KMFIH992N	Narok - Branch - Ota Petrol St (Bodas / Cars)	30,516	2020	Boxer Bm X150
KMFIJ085F	Eldoret - Branch - Kapsoya Business Park (Bodas)	25,387	2020	Sonlink SI 150 Kd
KMFIJ338A	Nairobi - Branch - Suburu (Bodas)	15,000	2020	Sonlink SI 150 M1
KMFIJ605Z	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	40,834	2020	Boxer Bm X150
KMFIJ622K	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	46,944	2020	Tvs Hlx 150 4g
KMFIJ707Y	Nairobi - Branch - Suburu (Bodas)	42,791	2020	Boxer Bm 100
KMFIK030S	Embu - Branch - MKU (Bodas / Car)	30,500	2020	Haolin HJ 125-a
KMFIK096J	Embu - Branch - MKU (Bodas / Cars)	20,453	2020	Sonlink SI 125 A1
KMFIK780F	Embu - Branch - MKU (Bodas / Cars)	25,678	2020	Haolin HJ 125-a
KMFM578X	Nairobi - Branch - Suburu (Bodas)	20,105	2020	Tvs 125 Cc
KMFM269D	Nyamira - Branch - Spoton (Bodas / Cars)	31,208	2020	Tvs Basic 100
KMFM488K	Kapsabet - Branch - CBD (Bodas / Cars)	40,408	2020	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Es
KMFM723Z	Kisumu - Branch - Fire Station (Bodas)	50,862	2020	Boxer Bm 100
KMFP012X	Kitul - Branch - Kalundu Town (Bodas / Cars)	50,885	2021	Boxer Bm X150
KMFP380P	Eldoret - Branch - Kapsoya Business Park (Bodas / Cars)	61,284	2020	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Es
KMFO133A	Kitul - Branch - Kalundu Town (Bodas / Cars)	50,201	2021	Captain Max 150-x
KMFO833F	Meru - Branch - CBK (Bodas)	60,422	2020	Captain Cp 150-10
KMFR226D	Bungoma - Branch - Sharif Centre (Bodas)	60,789	2021	Tvs Basic 100
KMFS125W	Mumias - Branch - Musanda Rd (Bodas / Cars)	45,256	2021	Boxer Bm 100
KMFS618A	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	62,818	2021	Boxer Bm 150 Ug
KMFT715C	Malindi - Branch - CBD (Bodas / Cars)	53,113	2021	Boxer Bm 100
KMFT719B	Kimilili - Branch - Masanja City Stadium (Bodas / Cars)	52,871	2021	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Es
KMFU912Z	Kimilili - Branch - Masanja City Stadium (Bodas / Cars)	52,172	2020	Tvs Hlx 150 4g
KMFV283D	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	63,113	2021	Tvs Hlx 150 4g
KMFV700E	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	35,087	2021	Honda Ace 125 Ks
KMFV729W	Nairobi - Branch - Suburu (Bodas)	40,108	2021	Captain D-max 150
KMFW825Z	Nyahururu - Branch - Opp KRA (Bodas / Cars)	35,300	2021	Honda Ace 125 Ks
KMFX527Z	Ngong - Branch - Hivi Court (Bodas / Cars)	45,872	2021	Boxer Bm 100
KMFX538P	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	50,790	2021	Boxer Bm 100
KMFX896Q	Kapsabet - Branch - CBD (Bodas / Cars)	32,508	2021	Tvs Basic 100
KMFX715N	Kabarnet - Branch - Opp. Coca Cola Depot (Bodas / Cars)	25,238	2021	Honda Ace 125 Ks
KMFX881T	Eldoret - Branch - Kapsoya Business Park (Bodas / Cars)	35,412	2021	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Es
KMFY013D	Nairobi - Branch - Suburu (Bodas)	35,708	2021	Honda Ace 110 Es
KMFY023D	Eldoret - Branch - Kapsoya Business Park (Bodas / Cars)	26,456	2021	Honda Ace 110 Ks
KMFY741W	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	43,567	2021	Boxer Bm 100
KMFY794Q	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	65,209	2021	Boxer Bm 150 Ug
KMFG2016J	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	50,798	2021	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMFG251X	Nyamira - Branch - Spoton (Bodas / Cars)	42,390	2021	Tvs Basic 100
KMFG260M	Eldoret - Branch - Kapsoya Business Park (Bodas / Cars)	26,574	2021	Tvs Hlx 125 Ref
KMFG266R	Kisii - Branch - B3 Rd (Bodas / Cars)	50,452	2021	Boxer Bm 100
KMGA201L	Kimilili - Branch - Masanja City Stadium (Bodas / Car)	42,356	2021	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMGB009G	Mumias - Branch - Musanda Rd (Bodas / Cars)	51,483	2021	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMGB041E	Mumias - Branch - Musanda Rd (Bodas / Cars)	38,050	2021	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMGB289C	Nairobi - Branch - Suburu (Bodas)	42,301	2021	Tvs Hlx 150x 5g
KMGB758X	Kisumu - Branch - Fire Station (Bodas)	56,849	2021	Honda Ace 125 Es
KMGC017S	Kisumu - Branch - Fire Station (Bodas)	60,325	2021	Honda Ace 125 Ks
KMGC345E	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	43,097	2021	Tvs Hlx 125 Ref
KMGC445K	Kabarnet - Branch - Opp. Coca Cola Depot (Bodas / Cars)	45,200	2022	Tvs Hlx 150x
KMGC588B	Kisumu - Branch - Fire Station (Bodas)	53,267	2022	Boxer Bm 100
KMGC625X	Nairobi - Branch - Ruiru (Bodas)	65,234	2022	Boxer Bm 150 Ug
KMGC764E	Kisumu - Branch - Fire Station (Bodas)	61,243	2022	Boxer Bm 100
KMGC876Y	Nyamira - Branch - Spoton (Bodas / Cars)	35,000	2021	Tvs Basic 100
KMGC934V	Kimilili - Branch - Masanja City Stadium (Bodas / Cars)	25,104	2022	Jincheng 150-15a
KMGD012A	Bomet - Branch - CBD (Bodas / Cars)	50,371	2022	Boxer Bm 100
KMGD067OZ	Kisii - Branch - B3 Rd (Bodas / Cars)	60,666	2021	Boxer Bm 125 Ug
KMGE088G	Kabarnet - Branch - Opp. Coca Cola Depot (Bodas / Cars)	50,155	2022	Boxer Bm 100
KMGE608T	Malindi - Branch - CBD (Bodas / Cars)	55,294	2022	Boxer Bm 100
KMGE980W	Nyamira - Branch - Spoton (Bodas / Cars)	25,000	2022	Tvs Basic 100
KMGF388K	Kisii - Branch - B3 Rd (Bodas / Cars)	72,061	2022	Boxer Bm 100
KMGF453N	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	50,302	2022	Honda Ace 125 Es
KMGF873L	Nyamira - Branch - Spoton (Bodas / Cars)	42,390	2022	Tvs Basic 100
KMGF930H	Kilifi - Branch - Gakala Driving School (Bodas / Cars)	50,500	2022	Boxer Bm X125
KMGG408G	Lodwar - Branch - Opp J.P Transporters (Bodas / Cars)	70,345	2022	Boxer Bm 150 Ug
KMGG693F	Kisii - Branch - B3 Rd (Bodas / Cars)	61,774	2022	Honda Ace 125 Ks
KMGH150D	Eldoret - Branch - Kapsoya Business Park (Bodas / Cars)	35,890	2022	Tvs Basic 100
KMGH209R	Kapsabet - Branch - CBD (Bodas / Cars)	55,600	2022	Tvs Basic 100
KMGJ109S	Eldoret - Branch - Kapsoya Business Park (Bodas / Cars)	60,923	2022	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMGJ530K	Mombasa - Branch - Express (Bodas)	56,800	2022	Honda Ace 125 Tuff
KMGM752D	Kitul - Branch - Kalundu Town (Bodas / Cars)	69,656	2023	Honda Ace 125 Es
KMGN191C	Kisii - Branch - B3 Rd (Bodas / Cars)	70,217	2023	Boxer Bm 100
KMGN591G	Kitul - Branch - Kalundu Town (Bodas / Cars)	115,124	2023	Honda Ace 125 Es
KMGN808A	Kitale - Branch - Kitale Printers (Bodas)	60,831	2023	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KMGN930Q	Maru - Branch - CBK (Bodas)	65,937	2023	Skygo Sq 150-3
KMGF835G	Nairobi - Branch - Langata (Bodas)	105,790	2024	Honda Ace 150Ccc
KMGS488U	Eldoret - Branch - Kapsoya Business Park (Bodas / Cars)	75,794	2025	Tvs Hlx 100 Plus Ks
KTWC098C	Mombasa - Branch - Express (Bodas)	72,000	2018	Piaggio Open Tourer 385cc (three Wheeler)

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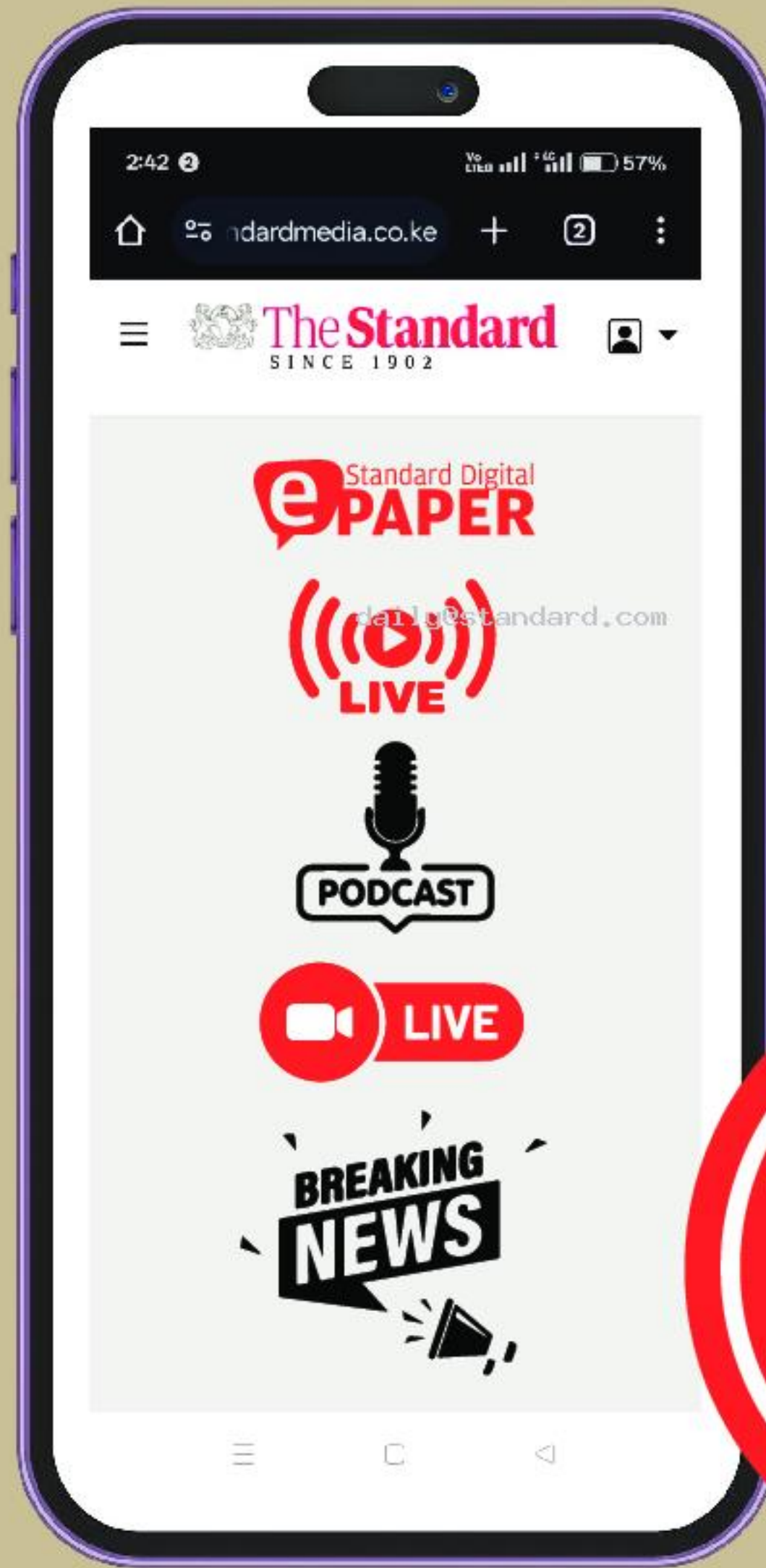
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Sports

Rugby. Kenya Shujaa and Lionesses have a lot to work on **Page 48**



Scan here to give us feedback on these stories and more.

► Defending champion Evans heads strong Toyota lineup as 46 drivers confirm Safari Rally entry

► Multiple Safari champion Tundo, double African winner Karan and WRC3 defending champion Sachania among local charges.

OCHIENG OYUGI, NAIROBI

Following completion of the second leg of the 2026 World Rally Championship (WRC), the Rally Sweden at the weekend, focus now shifts to WRC Safari Rally that is set for the scenic Naivasha terrains on March 12-15.

Welshman Elfyn Evans will head to the Safari buoyed with Rally Sweden victory where he stretched his points margin to 60 at the weekend, helping Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team (WRT) to maintain a grip of the constructor's leaderboard on Sunday.

Evans is among the strong list of 46 drivers who have confirmed entry for the Safari Rally where he is aiming to successfully defend his last year's victory.

He is determined to lead Toyota to a sixth consecutive triumph in Naivasha since WRC return on Kenyan soil in 2021.

World Driver's champion, Sebastian Ogier of France will also ply trade for the Japanese motorsports outfit, with focus to net a third Safari Rally individual win in Kenya.

Oliver Solberg also lines up for the stellar cast for Toyota in the Safari. The Swedish dare devil heads to Naivasha buoyed with victory in the opening leg of the 2026 WRC held in Monte Carlo (France) in January where he thrust Toyota to the top of the constructor's leaderboard.

Safari Rally two-time podium finisher Takamoto Katsuta and rising Finnish star Sami Pajari round off the imposing Gazoo Racing WRT cast in the Safari.

South Korea's Hyundai Racing WRT has also brought out its best as it chases an elusive first Safari Rally title having been the only team to stop a complete Toyota podium sweep since 2021.

Belgium's Thierry Neuville, the 2024 world champion, headlines the team as he bids to end his string of bad luck in the Safari.

Frenchman Adrien Fourmaux, who joined Hyundai from American outfit Ford M-Sport Puma WRT, and Finnish ace Esapekka Lappi, will pilot the other Hyundai cars. Irishmen Joshua McErlean and Jon Armstrong will lead the M-Sport Puma charge that has en-

It's man versus machine moment one more time



Elfyn Evans from Great Britain navigated by Scott Martin driving Toyota Yaris at the Super Special Stage in Kasarani. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]



Safari Rally spectators at the Super Special Stage in Kasarani. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]



Gregoire Munster from LUX, navigated by Louis Louka driving FORD Puma at Soysambu Ranch in last year's WRC Safari Rally. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]

tered two cars to bring the WRT entries for the Safari Rally to 10 WRC Rally 1 machines.

Away from the main category, top local drivers have also made strong entries into this year's Safari Rally, with Carl Tundo, a five-time Safari Rally champion (during its WRC hiatus) the most recognised. Two-time Africa Rally Champion (ARC) Karan Patel will also use Safari Rally to launch his bid for a third ARC title which he said he is going for this season. Patel has so far said that

the dreaded knee-high volcanic dust, that normally gives drivers nightmares in Kedong, is his greatest Safari Rally nightmare.

"I'm working hard to overcome that, hopefully my Ford Fiesta Rally2 does the magic in Naivasha this year," Patel said at a ceremony last week.

Current junior ARC champion Samman Singh Vohra has vowed to go the trophy in Naivasha, same with paraplegic driver Nikhil Sachania, who will be out to defend his WRC3 category at the



MARCH 12-15

When this year's WRC Safari Rally will be held

46

Drivers who have confirmed participation in this year's Safari Rally

Safari Rally. "Last season was a good outing in the Safari, my co-driver Deep Patel and I came home with trophies, and that is what we will be out for this year," said Sachania.

The ladies are also well-represented in the list, with local favourites Tinashe Gatimu returning with her mother Caroline Gatimu in a Ford Fiesta Rally3, an upgrade from a Subaru Evo they were using last season.

"Already we have planned for several test drives ahead of the Safari, even though we thirst for the main trophy, our mission is still basic- just to take the car home in one piece," Tinashe said.

The all-lady duo of Pauline Shegu and Linet Ayuko have also entered a Subaru, with Nairobi based lady driver Lisa Cristoferssen also in the mix.

This year's Safari Rally will cover a total competitive distance of 350.02 kilometers, supported by a liaison distance of 842.9 kilometers, in line with FIA requirements.

The four-day event will be based in Naivasha, a move designed to meet the FIA 2026 sporting regulations on distances and crew working hours, moving away from the usual ceremonial flag off in Nairobi.

On Thursday, March 12, there will be a shakedown at the newly introduced Nawisa stage. This will be followed by a ceremonial flag off before the cars pass Camp Moran and Mzabibu stages.

Sunday, March 15, marks an electric day of action as cars rev off from Oserengoni, Hell's Gate, before passing the Wolf Power Stage in the afternoon, culminating in the prize-giving ceremony. eooyugi@standardmedia.co.ke

What Faith's transition to road racing means to athletics family

► If she fully transitions to marathon, a race to maintain the Kenyan dominance in the women's 1500m begins.

► Kipyegon ran an impressive 29:46 while winning her 10km road race debut.

STEPHEN RUTTO, ELDORET

Since 2023, three-time Olympic champion Faith Kipyegon had hinted at long distance racing.

And on Sunday, she stylishly put into action her long distance running dream, winning her 10km road race debut at the Monaco Run in an imposing 29:46 victory.

The warning shot was not a huge surprise for a 1500m athlete who trains with marathon big shots at the Global Sports Communication in Kaptagat.

Her long runs in Kaptagat involve training with stars who possess the world's most impressive CVs in marathon racing as well as rising runners kicking off their journey to stardom.

After the Sunday contest, the 32-year-old, who ran her world track mile record of 4:07.64 in Monaco in 2023, now sits joint 14th on the world all-time list for the road 10km – an event whose world record of 28:46 is held by compatriot Agnes Jebet Ngetich.

"It's a matter of learning, to know how the roads work. I normally talk of doing a marathon in the future, so this is the start," Kipyegon told World Athletics on Sunday.

Before Sunday, her last successful long distance race was at the Sirikwa Classic World Cross Country Tour in February 2023, in which she emerged the winner and went ahead to storm to a world record in the women's



Kenya's Faith Kipyegon celebrates after winning gold medal in women's 1500m at last year's World Athletics Championships, in Tokyo. [AFP]

1500m and 5000m in the Diamond Leagues.

Nicknamed the 'smiling assassin', the three-time Olympic champion, who also owns four world 1500m ti-

ties and a world 5000m crown, has also previously hinted at handing over the 1500m mantle to younger athletes. Among 1500m stars to watch in the race to fill Kipyegon's

KIPIYEGON'S SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 1500m world record – **3:48.68**
- The Mile record – **4:07.64**
- World Championships 1500m – **4 gold medals**
- Tokyo World Championships 5000m – **1 gold medal**
- Breaking 4 Attempt – **4:06.42 in the Mile**

big shoes are world silver medallist Dorcus Ewoi and Olympian Nelly Chepchirchir.

"I am so happy to see the next generation of 1500m athletes such as Nelly Chepchirchir especially now that I am planning to transition to long distance. They will be taking the baton because this has been our event for a long time and I don't want to see us losing the 1500m," Faith Kipyegon said in Nairobi in July last year.

She has been measured in addressing her transition to the marathon.

Last December, she was not sure whether she would commence her road racing chapter in 2026, but her maiden 10km set the pace for what is likely to be a significant shift in her athletics career. She passed the 5km mark in 14:59 in the Sunday race.

In December 2023, just months after Kipyegon hinted at a marathon run in the future, decorated marathon legend Paul Tergat who was the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) President at the time, predicted what he described as a "huge success" if Kipyegon transitions to the marathon.

Tergat said Kipyegon had the right tactics and mental fitness to make waves in long distance running.

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GOLF



Kenya's that has been unveiled a for the Magical Kenya Open. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]

Snow leads Kenya's 12-man squad for Magical Kenya Open

Kenya has unveiled a 12-man squad for the 57th edition of the Magical Kenya Open, setting stage for what officials believe could be the country's strongest showing in years.

10 players were submitted to the DP World Tour, with reserve slots strengthening the final list.

Kenya Open Golf Limited chairman Patrick Obath is confident that most local players will make a cut this time around.

"This season, the players have enjoyed far greater competitive exposure compared to previous years. I see no reason why three or four Kenyan players should not make the cut this year. If they don't, I honestly won't know what to tell them," said Obath.

Members of the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK) have featured in several regional and international tournaments this season, including the Equator Tour and Sunshine Development Tour, a build-up widely viewed as critical to improving Kenya's competitiveness on home soil.

The 2026 Magical Kenya Open will feature a full field of 144 players from more than 30 countries.

Kenya brings the largest contingent with 18 players; 12 professionals and six amateurs followed by South Africa with 17 players, who'll be led by defending champion Jacques Kruyswijk.

The field also includes five past MKO winners and six top-ranked players from the PGA Tour.

[Stafford Ondego]

NBA

LeBron still unclear on his NBA future

LeBron James has no clue if he will play beyond this season, his record 23rd in the NBA, but the superstar has some projects in mind for his retirement days.

The 41-year-old Los Angeles Lakers forward spoke Sunday ahead of the NBA All-Star Game, saying his playing future beyond this season remains uncertain.

"Yeah, I want to live," James said of his post-season plans.

"When I know, you guys know. I don't know. I have no idea. I just want to live, that's all."

James, the NBA's all-time scoring leader and a four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, said the uncertainty about his future will not impact his efforts to spark the Lakers

to the NBA title, which would be a fifth for "King James" in his landmark career.

"This is beginning towards the post-season so it has nothing to do with that," James said.

"Same motivation, same mind factor. We've got past the marathon and now the sprint is about to start. I think everybody understands that."

James has averaged 22.0 points, 7.1 assists, 5.8 rebounds and 1.1 steals a game this season for the Lakers, who rank fifth in the Western Conference at 33-21.

After battling sciatica at the start of the campaign, James says health will be a crucial factor for the Lakers in the remainder of a campaign that has seen star Luka

Doncic and other battling injuries.

"Our success is going to come down to obviously I think our health, our coach staff putting us in the right position," James said.

"I think they're going to give us the game plan every night. But when it comes to what we have to work with, we have to actually go out and see it."

"We haven't been able to have an opportunity much this year."

James has already mentioned that he would like to become an NBA team owner when his playing days are done, but that's far from his only post-playing pursuit.

[AFP]



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James in action against the New Orleans Pelicans. [AFP]



Gor Mahia's goalkeeper Mathew Gad in their match against Murang'a Seal. [Jonah Onyango, Standard]

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Crunch time for Madrid's Mbappe-Vinicius union

French superstar Kylian Mbappe is poised to return for Real Madrid's Champions League play-off clash at Benfica tonight after resting at the weekend.

The availability of the team's top scorer and best player this season is excellent news for coach Alvaro Arbeloa, but it raises the question of whether Los Blancos lose too much balance when both he and Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior line up in attack together.

That problem is further exacerbated when Jude Bellingham is available too, but the England international is injured and will not feature against Jose Mourinho's side in Lisbon.

All three stars lined up for Madrid in the league phase against Benfica in late January, as Los Blancos fell to a damaging 4-2 defeat that left them facing a play-off round tie against the same opponents.

Mbappe struck twice for Madrid in that match and is the Champions League top marksman with 13 goals.

However Madrid were outplayed and unpicked by Mourinho's side, who secured their own play-off round spot thanks to Ukrainian goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin's stunning 98th-minute header.

13

KYLIAN Mbappe's Champions League goals



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

With Mbappe an unused substitute against Real Sociedad on Saturday because of knee discomfort, Vinicius shone as Arbeloa's team ran out comfortable 4-1 winners at the Santiago Bernabeu.

The Brazilian won and converted two penalties in one of his best displays of a mixed campaign.

"Since I've arrived he's had games at a really high level... he's a player who goes beyond the statistics, how he can change a game, condition opponents, the number of players he can attract," enthused Arbeloa.

"He is one of the best in the world, and it is a privilege to coach him."

As Madrid's key attacker against La Real and operating in plenty of space, Vinicius put his stamp on the game. [AFP]



Kylian Mbappe in action against Barcelona. [AFP]

Gor Mahia's thirst for title begins to take shape

► Sofapaka sink deeper as relegation fight heats up.

► K'Ogalo move six clear from Ingwe at the top.

WASHINGTON ONYANGO, KISUMU

Gor Mahia stretched their lead at the top of the SportPesa Premier League table after a hard-fought 2-1 win over APS Bomet, opening a six-point gap as the 2025-2026 title race begins to take shape.

The victory pushed K'Ogalo to 43 points after 20 matches, giving them some breathing space ahead of second-placed AFC Leopards, who dropped points in a goalless draw against Bandari.

Gor Mahia's win away to Bomet was not easy, but it underlined their growing authority in the title race. With 13 wins already this season, they are showing consistency at a crucial stage of the campaign.

Their closest challengers, AFC Leopards, failed to keep pace after being held 0-0 by Bandari in a tight contest that saw both sides cancel each other out. Leopards remain second on 37 points, but the gap now looks significant as the season moves into its final stretch.

Shabana took advantage of Leopards' slip to strengthen their own push near the top. A convincing 2-0 win over Posta Rangers lifted

them to 34 points, keeping them firmly in the title conversation.

Murang'a Seal also continued their impressive run, edging Sofapaka 3-2 in an entertaining clash. That win took Murang'a to 33 points, just one behind Shabana, and confirmed their status as serious contenders in what is becoming a crowded chasing pack.

Homeboyz, Kenya Police, and KCB remain within touching distance but will feel pressure to improve their consistency.

Kenya Police were held to a 1-1 draw by Ulinzi Stars, while KCB also shared points in a

1-1 draw with Kariobangi Sharks. These results slowed their momentum and allowed the top four to create a small cushion.

Further down, Nairobi United boosted their position despite not being in action over the weekend, staying 10th on 25 points.

Mathare United, however, made one of the biggest statements of the round with a 3-1 win over Tusker. That result lifted Mathare to 11th and dragged Tusker further into mid-table uncertainty.

While the title race is beginning to take shape at the top, the battle to avoid relegation is growing tighter with each passing week.

Sofapaka's struggles deepened after their narrow loss to Murang'a Seal left them rooted at the bottom with just 14 points.

With only three wins all season, Batoto ba Mungu are now staring at a serious survival fight and will need a major turnaround to escape the drop zone.

Bidco United also remain in danger after slipping to 17th with 16 points, while Kariobangi Sharks' draw against KCB only slightly eased their worries.

Sharks sit 16th on 18 points and remain firmly in the relegation mix despite picking up a valuable point.

Ulinzi Stars are another side now looking over their shoulder. Their draw with Kenya Police took them to 18 points, the same tally as APS Bomet and Kariobangi Sharks, highlighting just how tight the bottom half has become.

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PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS:

■ Gor Mahia	-	43 points
■ AFC Leopards	-	37 points
■ Shabana FC	-	34 points
■ Murang'a Seal	-	33 points
■ Homeboyz	-	31 points
■ Kenya Police FC	-	30 points
■ KCB FC	-	29 points
■ Bandari FC	-	28 points
■ Tusker FC	-	28 points
■ Nairobi United	-	25 points
■ Mathare United	-	25 points
■ Posta Rangers	-	24 points
■ Mara Sugar	-	21 points
■ Ulinzi Stars	-	18 points
■ APS Bomet	-	18 points
■ Kariobangi Sharks	-	18 points
■ Bidco United	-	16 points
■ Sofapaka	-	14 points

The Standard Sports

The Standard Monday - Friday



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Why Kenya must up their socks in Montevideo Sevens



Shujaa fans during the 2026 HSBC SVNS 2 at Nyayo Stadium. [Jonah Onyango]

- ▶ Shujaa sit third on the round-robin table with 16 points.
- ▶ Both Shujaa and Lionesses must take their A-game to Montevideo.

WASHINGTON ONYANGO, KISUMU

Kenya Sevens and Lionesses have their work cut out for them next month ahead of the Montevideo Sevens as reality sinks in after the opening leg of the 2026 HSBC SVNS Division two saw both teams register mixed results in Nairobi.

Hosting a HSBC SVNS leg for the first time ever, fans did not disappoint after filling Nyayo Stadium for two days running and showing the whole world watching that Kenya loves rugby as a celebratory energy filled the air.

Despite the fan flair and excitement on the stands, Shujaa and Lionesses posted mixed show on the pitch with the women's team the less impressive.

Lionesses won only one match out of the five played across Saturday and Sunday while Shujaa were on top with four wins out five, missing out on the gold medal after losing to USA in their final match of the opening leg.

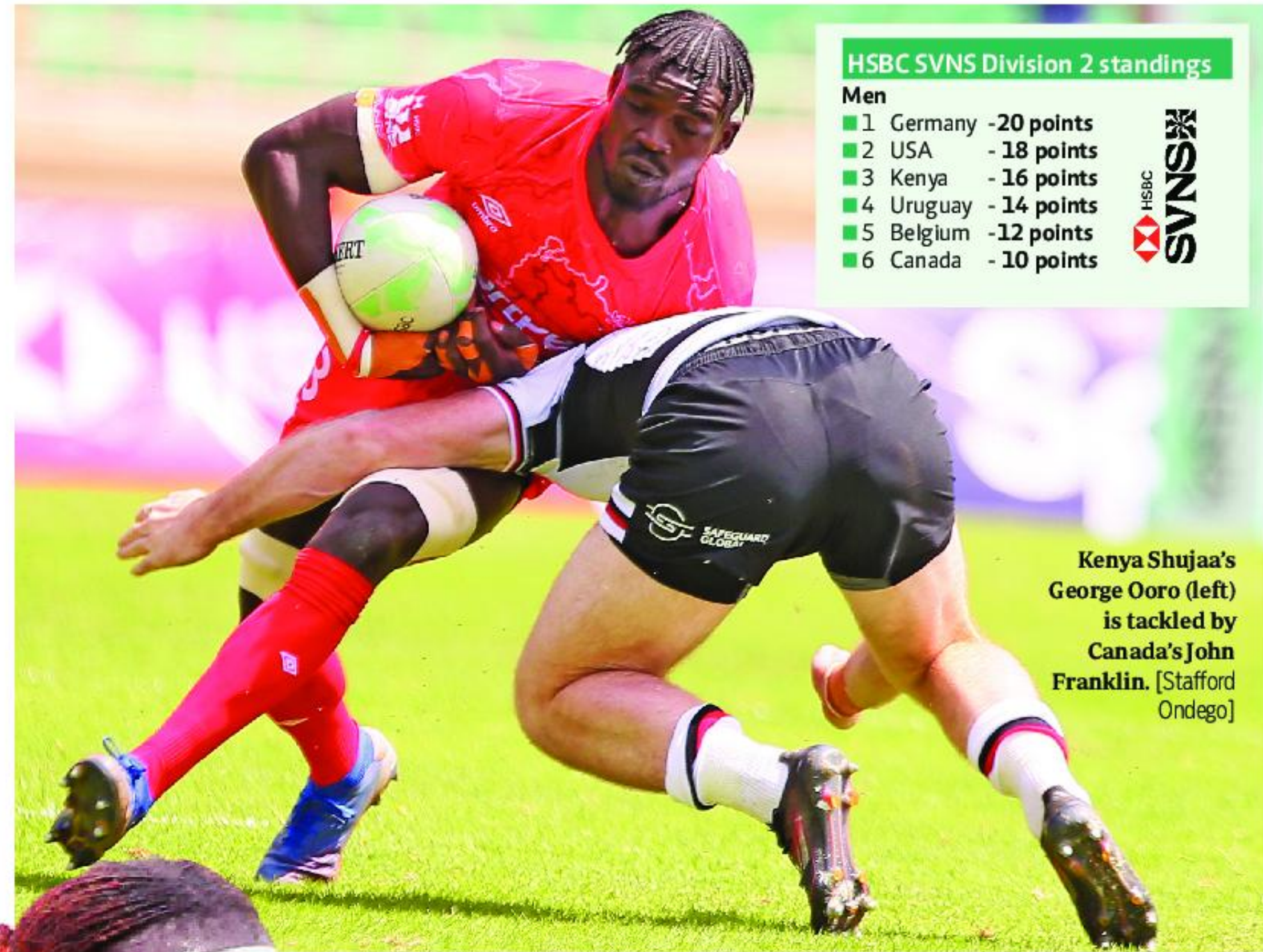
With a spot in next year's top tier HSBC SVNS Division One at stake later in the year, Kenya must now up their socks if they are to make their dream a

reality. Last year, World Rugby shuttered Kenyans hopes after changing the World Rugby Sevens format when they introduced Division One, two and three.

The changes brought to an end the days of 16, or even 12 nations dining indefinitely at the top table of the global sevens game.

Instead, eight men's and eight women's teams are now battling it out in Division 1, across six global events that include the traditional HSBC SVNS Series opener in Dubai, Cape Town, Singapore, Australia, New York and Vancouver.

In Division two where Kenya is currently participating in, the top four men's and women's teams will earn promotion to the elite HSBC SVNS World Championship Series. With the opening leg already done and dusted in Nairobi, the teams move to Montevideo



HSBC SVNS Division 2 standings

Men	
1	Germany - 20 points
2	USA - 18 points
3	Kenya - 16 points
4	Uruguay - 14 points
5	Belgium - 12 points
6	Canada - 10 points



Kenya Shujaa's George Ooro (left) is tackled by Canada's John Franklin. [Stafford Ondego]



Kenya Lioness' Grace Okulu reacts in their match against China 7S. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]



Shujaa fans during the 2026 HSBC SVNS 2 at Nyayo Stadium. [Jonah Onyango, Standard]

in Uruguay next month and Sao Paulo in Brazil also in March.

After the Nairobi leg, Shujaa sit third on the log with 16 points, four points behind leaders Germany who were crowned gold medal winners at Nyayo and two point behind USA who finished runners up.

By the end of next month, Kenya must ensure they are among the top four as they continue battling Belgium, Canada, Germany, USA, and Uruguay for them to stand a chance of making the World Championships.

Here, the winner-takes-all series will see 24 teams (12 men's and 12 women's) compete at prestigious three stops.

The Championship journey will kick off in Hong Kong at the iconic

Cathay/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens, before heading to Europe for an exciting new double-header finale.

Valladolid (Spain) and Bordeaux (France) will make their debut on the SVNS calendar, hosting back-to-back events that will bring the World Championship to a dramatic close.

In the end, the top eight teams from the three legs will be promoted to Division One for the 2027 season while the bottom four drop to division two and the cycle begins again.

For Lionesses, the situation is direr as they sit fifth with 12 points behind China (14), Spain (16), South Africa (18) and Argentina (20). Brazil are bottom with 10 points.

The women's team must at least finish in the top three in the next two legs to be sure of finishing among the top four.

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