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KENYA'S BOLD NEWSPAPER Wednesday, September 17, 2025 • No. 402357 • KSh 60 • TSh 1700 • USh 2700 @StandardKenya

The Standard

Wanjiru's Murder

Unmasked: RJ Purkiss

GLIMMER OF HOPE **Agnes Wanjiru was raped and murdered in 2012, her body dumped in a septic tank while her infant daughter was left to grow up without her. For years, the name of her alleged killer, a British soldier, was buried under secrecy, denials and suspected cover-ups. Now, with a suspect finally unmasked and an international arrest warrant issued, the crime that has haunted Kenya and Britain is back in the spotlight. Yet for Wanjiru's family, justice is still far from certain.** PAGE 4

"Despite the findings of the inquest ....the respondents have failed to notify the late Agnes Wanjiru's family of the status of their investigations and possible prosecution."

Mbiyu Kamau,
Lawyer

Hiring of 10k officers in jeopardy due to NPS and NPSC stalemate

- A meeting between the two entities failed to chart the way forward.
- However, they agreed to do away with online applications and settled for physical exercise.

JOSPHAT THIONG'O, NAIROBI

National Police Service Commission chairman Amani Yuda, IG of Police Douglas Kanja, DIG Eliud Lagat and DCI boss Mohamed Amin before the CIOC Committee in Nairobi yesterday. [Elvis Ogina,Standard]

The stalemate between the National Police Service Commission and the Police National Service persisted yesterday further putting into jeopardy the recruitment of 10,000 officers.

At the same time, the police service and the commission agreed to do away with online recruitment and will now conduct a physical exercise in all constituencies.

A meeting between the duo facilitated by the National Assembly Committee on Constitution Implementation and Oversight Committee, failed to bear tangible fruits on the method of recruitment, who will spearhead it and the Inspector General of Police handing over the payroll to the commission as the law requires.

The resolutions of the meeting, held behind closed doors, were communicated by committee chairperson and Suba South MP Caroli Omondi. Present during the meeting were Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, Deputy IG Eliud Lagat, NPSC Chief Executive Officer Peter Leley and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations boss Ibrahim Amin.

"The commission and service agreed to meet on Thursday to finalise on issues of recruitment, prioritise institutional housing for police officers, and adopt recommendations regarding forum and human resource functions, in an effort to strengthen police reforms," said Omondi.

He said the police service and the commission had agreed to do away with the earlier proposed online recruitment process. "It's been difficult for the physical examination. But the problem is we don't have the regulations in place to anchor the online physical examination. So we are not (going to do it) we don't think it is a good idea to wait. So we have agreed the commission will meet on Thursday to finalise the recruitment and it will be conducted in 290 constituencies and 405 centres," he noted.

The meeting also failed to give a status update or the bottlenecks hindering the IG from handing over the human resource functions including the police payroll to the commission with the chairperson noting that communique on the same would be given in good time.

"Regarding the issue of forum and HR functions which has been the source of contention, we have agreed with both the services and the commission that uh they adopt certain recommendations we have made but subject to further consultations and they will report to us not later than 60 days on the progress," added the MP.

He added, "We have agreed on the 60 days because we want the police recruitment to be conducted immediately. We don't want to distract them from that. That is why we are giving them that time."

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>
> **Caroli Omondi,** Suba South MP

Notably, article 246 (3) of the Constitution empowers the commission to recruit and appoint persons to hold or act in offices in the service, confirm appointments, and determine promotions and transfers within the National Police Service. It is also charged with observing due process, exercise disciplinary control over and remove persons holding or acting in offices within the Service and performing any other functions prescribed by national legislation.

The police service has for years on end been undertaking the said functions and refused to surrender the same to the commission- a development that has set off supremacy wrangles between the two.

The MPs have been demanding to know why the Inspector General of Police's office has been acting in breach of the Constitution. Another key deliverable from the hours-long meeting was that the CIOC committee and other agencies of government will prioritise institutional housing for police officers within the police stations across the entire country. "We are aware that the Ministry of Housing must be involved because that committee is seized with the priority of housing for police officers," remarked Omondi.

The development comes amid a court case to suspend the planned recruitment of the 10,000 officers until a dispute over the payroll is resolved.

Through lawyer Shadrack Wambui, a public interest group the filed an urgent application on Tuesday last week seeking conservatory orders, arguing that the recruitment exercise is directly tied to the payroll system, whose constitutional management remains in dispute.

On September 5, the Commission adopted the National Police Service Commission (Recruitment and Appointment) Regulations, 2025 to guide the process.

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INTERVIEW

Fresh bid to move police recruitment online to curb graft

Whenever an announcement is made about police or military recruitment, many Kenyans conclude that those who are selected have 'godfathers' or must part with a bribe.

This has been so for years, including arrests of individuals selling fake admission letters around recruitment period.

On Monday, Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja admitted in a TV interview that the vice has been deeply rooted during police recruitment, hence a new proposal to shift the application online.

"In recruitment there is a lot of corruption, and that is something we know but this time round, I want to assure Kenyans that we are going to recruit the right people," Mr Kanja said.

Adding that, "You walk in, if you are qualified, you get recruited, any person who will go against that spirit, we are ready to take someone home and to jail."

Kanja said they have invited the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to review their systems, policies and operations to understand how the malpractice occurs. "The other day, I had an exit meeting with EACC and they are ready to provide us with a report which we commissioned way back in April," the IG added.

He said the EACC report revealed the areas still having challenges but clarified that they have information of how to arrest the vice.

This comes a time when the service is gearing to recruit 10,000 police constables, while Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) has announced recruitment next month.

This includes openings for General Service Officer (GSO) Cadets, Specialist Officers, Tradesmen/women and other specialised roles in fields such as education, engineering, ICT, mass communication, legal and supply chain management.

But according to Bilasio Wandera, a civic analyst on police, the exercise might not be transparent and will lock out many eligible youth yearning to serve. "It will lock out many young people because they don't have resources," said Wandera.

He added: "That does not guarantee that the exercise will be free and fair, it will open more window for corruption."

[Pkemoi Ng'enoh]

HOMA BAY

Why Murkomen wants boda boda riders in security meetings

Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen with other leaders at Jukwaa la Usalama forum in Homa Bay town yesterday. [James Omoro, Standard]

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen wants boda boda riders attend security meetings in sub-counties to reduce crime.

He said boda boda riders play an integral role in security at all administrative units. Addressing journalists during the International Identification Day celebration and Jukwaa la Usalama forum in Homa Bay Town, Mr Murkomen said the leadership of boda boda riders will be incorporated in security meetings in sub-counties.

"It is important to incorporate boda boda riders in security meetings at sub-county level. This will enhance collaboration between riders and police to augment the fight against insecurity," he said.

The CS said the government is also encouraging self-regulation of the boda boda sector to weed out criminals masquerading as riders. He said the government is putting a lot of effort to eliminate criminal gangs. Murkomen, who was accompanied by Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo and his counterpart from Immigration Belio Kipsang, directed police to arrest any gang found with crude weapons or guns.

"No criminal gang will be entertained. Let criminals reform and avoid being in conflict with the law," he said.

He urged the public to co-operate with police and help weed out criminals.

Murkomen is currently holding Jukwaa la Usalama meetings at grassroot levels to create mutual understanding between security officers and civilians. The meeting also enables Kenyans express security concerns that affect them in their daily lives.

Murkomen also led the team in marking the International Identification Day. He urged Kenyans to register for national identity cards to be identified properly and enjoy government services.

He said some people fail to exercise their rights due to lack of ID cards. PS Omollo urged parents to ensure their children with disabilities are properly identified.

"The government is working hard to ensure everyone is identified and all parents should ensure their children are identified regardless of whether they have disabilities or not," the PS said.

[James Omoro]

Slain lawyer's friend speaks of '96 hours in hell', his missing Sh50m

- Businessman says arrest has been the most traumatic experience in his life.
- George Wainaina explains how he met Mbobu just hours before assasination.

DAVID ODONGO AND FRED KAGONYE, NAIROBI

George Wainaina. [Stafford Ondego, Standard]

City businessman George Wainaina has been cleared off the list of suspects in the murder of lawyer Kyalo Mbobu.

Speaking from his hospital bed yesterday, Wainaina said the accusations have been the most traumatic experience in his life.

He recounted the past 96 hours when he was in custody as hell on earth.

"On the day Mbobu was shot, I met him. The meeting lasted less than two minutes. I left my Karen home at 9am. I was in Milimani Law Courts by around 10am for a matter," he said.

"At 12.30pm I was in Westlands for lunch in a friend's office. I then called my nephew to meet me at Sagret (Hotel). My driver parked near the gate and as I was waiting for my nephew to arrive when I saw my neighbour and friend Eric Muhia come out with *wakili* Mbobu."

He said the two greeted each other, and the lawyer left after the cab he was waiting for arrived.

"I then asked Muhia if he had organised medical insurance cover for our *chama* members. He went to make the phone call with the insurance agent and my nephew by then had arrived. I gave him some documents and cheques and he left. He never even met Mbobu. It so unfair that he was also arrested over the matter," he said.

Wainaina recalled that he was driven to his office in Gikambura where he stayed briefly before going to his farm in Ndeiya.

"I left the farm at 5.27pm because that's when I fueled and went home. It was at around 8.30pm that Muhia called me saying the *wakili* we met in the afternoon had been killed," he said.

Mbobu was assassinated last week on Tuesday evening. A postmortem revealed the lawyer was shot eight times at close range.

On Thursday, Wainaina said, he left his home to go to court for a matter that ended by midday.

"I told Mbugua my nephew to come meet in Karen so that we could do some business. When I got to Bogani Road, I found three Subarus and ten DCI officers surrounding my nephew's car. They told me they were arresting him and they allowed me to follow them to their headquarters. In their car was Muhia who had been arrested and when he told them I am Wainaina, they also arrested me."

He says that the officers asked for his gun. In his compound, the police said they would also detain his Peugeot 308.

> *When I got to Bogani Road, I found three Subarus and ten DCI officers surrounding my nephew's car... When they realised there was money in the car, they turned wild,"*
>
> **George Wainaina,** businessman

"When they realised there was money in the car, they turned wild. It's like it was a serious crime to have cash."

Together with Muhia and his nephew Mbugua, they were taken to DCI office near Integrity Centre where they were interrogated.

"The homicide detectives were so polite and friendly. We finished writing statements at midnight and they said they would hold us till Friday morning after our phones and guns come from testing."

He was taken to the Kileleshwa Police Station, while Mbugua was detained at Kilimani and Muhia at Capitol Police Post.

Wainaina recalled his time alone in the cold cell.

The next day, without his medication for blood pressure, he suffered a severe asthma attack and was transported in an ambulance to the Nairobi Hospital.

"I do business internationally, and my name was everywhere online. I have grandchildren," he said.

The father of four said he has been in business for years, revealing that he made his first million in August, 1990.

"I supplied the World Food Programme and was paid in dollars. It was a lot of money. I have always been in business since childhood."

Wainaina said the Sh50 million in cash the police found was for business.

"Together with my friends, we run a parallel banking system that finances businesspeople. We can raise even Sh2 billion if needed. So the money police seized was being held in trust for someone else."

Police are yet to return the money, gun and phones. "I think I have to personally go and pick them."

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EDUCATION

Universities staff vow to down tools until billions paid

Learning and teaching in public universities is expected to be paralysed beginning today after lecturers vowed to down their tools.

Yesterday, universities' unions said they have not received any positive response from the government since they issued the strike notice a week ago.

"I want to say so far nothing has been addressed," said Universities' Academic Staff Union Secretary (Uasu) Secretary General Constantine Wasonga, adding that a series of meetings have failed.

"What we are getting for those meetings is promissory notes. I want to say that dons do not eat statements of intentions and promissory notes."

According to Uasu and the Kenya Universities Staff Union (Kusu), members will not go back to work until Sh2.73 billion arrears from the 2027/2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement is paid.

Similarly, the lecturers are demanding Sh7.8 billion in arrears from the 2021/2025 CBA.

They also want "jumpstarting negotiation and conclusion" of 2025/2029 CBA, whose deadline they say, lapsed in July.

"We are going to give these employers what they love being given; massive withdrawal of labour. Tomorrow (Wednesday), that is the position. And those three demands are sacrosanct," said Kusu Secretary General Charles Mukhwaya.

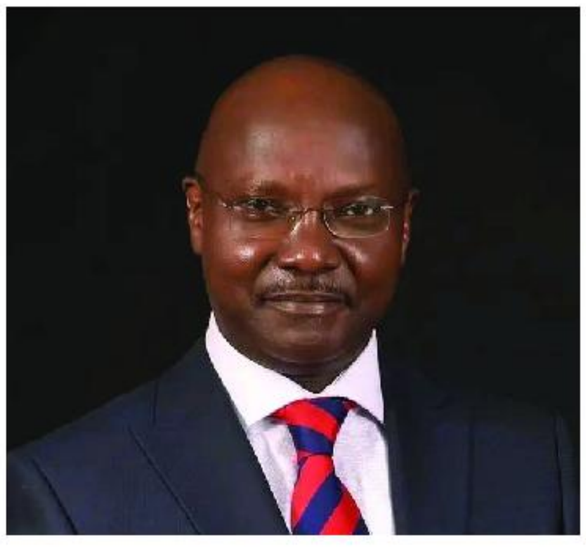
Instead of addressing these concerns, Dr Wasonga accused the Inter-Public Universities Councils Consultative Forum of seeking a joint negotiation committee in letter on September 11.

He said the union declined the call, dismissing the letter as a "PR exercise".

"When you convene a meeting of this magnitude, you are supposed to share with us the beacons for negotiation. For instance, you are supposed to submit to us in advance the counteroffer. Uasu responded yesterday (Monday) and we told them we shall not attend that meeting if you don't give us beacons for negotiation," he said. **[Okumu Modachi]**

MURDER MYSTERY

Family bars journalists from Mbobu's requiem Mass



The veil of mystery surrounding the death of lawyer Kyalo Mbobu thickened yesterday after journalists were barred from covering his requiem at the St John Catholic Church in Karen.

Since the nature of his death had drawn public interests, the Mass was expected to be a solemn public farewell, celebrating the life of the advocate who once served as chairman of Political Parties Disputes Tribunal.

However, stewards stationed around church turned away members of the press, citing "family instructions".

At the door, a notice read: "Kindly note that photography and videography are not permitted during the memorial services. Thank you for your understanding."

"There's no media coverage. The family has declined. The directions we have been given is that the mass will be a private affair," one of the stewards told *The Standard*.

More surprising, even the State House press team attached to the First Lady Rachel Ruto were barred from rolling their cameras.

"We are not going to stream. We have even brought out our equipment out of the car. It is instructions from the family," a member of team said.

Other journalists and media teams for leaders, including that of Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, left after attempts to convince protocols proved futile.

Lawyer Mbobu was gunned down on the evening of Tuesday 9 along Magadi Road, Nairobi, by assailants on a motorbike.

An autopsy revealed that he was shot eight times and died from fatal injuries to the neck and spine. Two bullets were recovered from his body, one of them lodged in his spine.

Questions have, however, emerged on the motive behind the gruesome murder even as the police launched investigation.

So far, investigators have narrowed down to two possible theories; a deal gone sour or in connection with his legal work.

Yesterday's events only added to the intrigue as questions now mount on what the family could be concealing regarding the murder.

[Okumu Modachi]

Robert Purkiss to face court for Wanjiru murder 13 years later

- The identity of the UK soldier who is alleged to have killed Wanjiru has been revealed
- After the murder, the soldier was flown out of the country as the family sought justice in courts.

STANDARD TEAM

When Agnes Wanjiru was killed in 2012, her daughter was barely five months.

The now 13-year-old perhaps knows about her mother, Agnes Wanjiru, from the many stories written about an elusive justice, with a British soldier at the heart of it.

Even with an incessant push for the prosecution of the man who was whisked away after the saga, his image, his name, his rank, why he was flown out to Britain after the incident, and the snail-paced process remain a secret.

The officer attached to the British Army Training Unit in Kenya (Batuk) was a ghost, known only to God, his colleagues, Batuk and perhaps to the Kenyan government and the United Kingdom.

However, yesterday, another chapter opened with a name, Robert James Purkiss, being put forward by Kenya's security agencies as the man who should answer the many unanswered questions of the night Wanjiru was killed. A Directorate of Criminal Investigations officer, who was in the probe team and who spoke on condition of anonymity, told this paper that the investigations and numerous interviews both in Kenya and the UK singled out James as the suspect.

"I believe that the name Robert James Purkiss will come up in court. We hope that Wanjiru's family will finally get justice," the officer said.

This information was also corroborated by a senior officer at the British High Commission.

In court, Justice Alexander Muteti issued a warrant of arrest against the officer, paving the way for the extradition process from the UK.

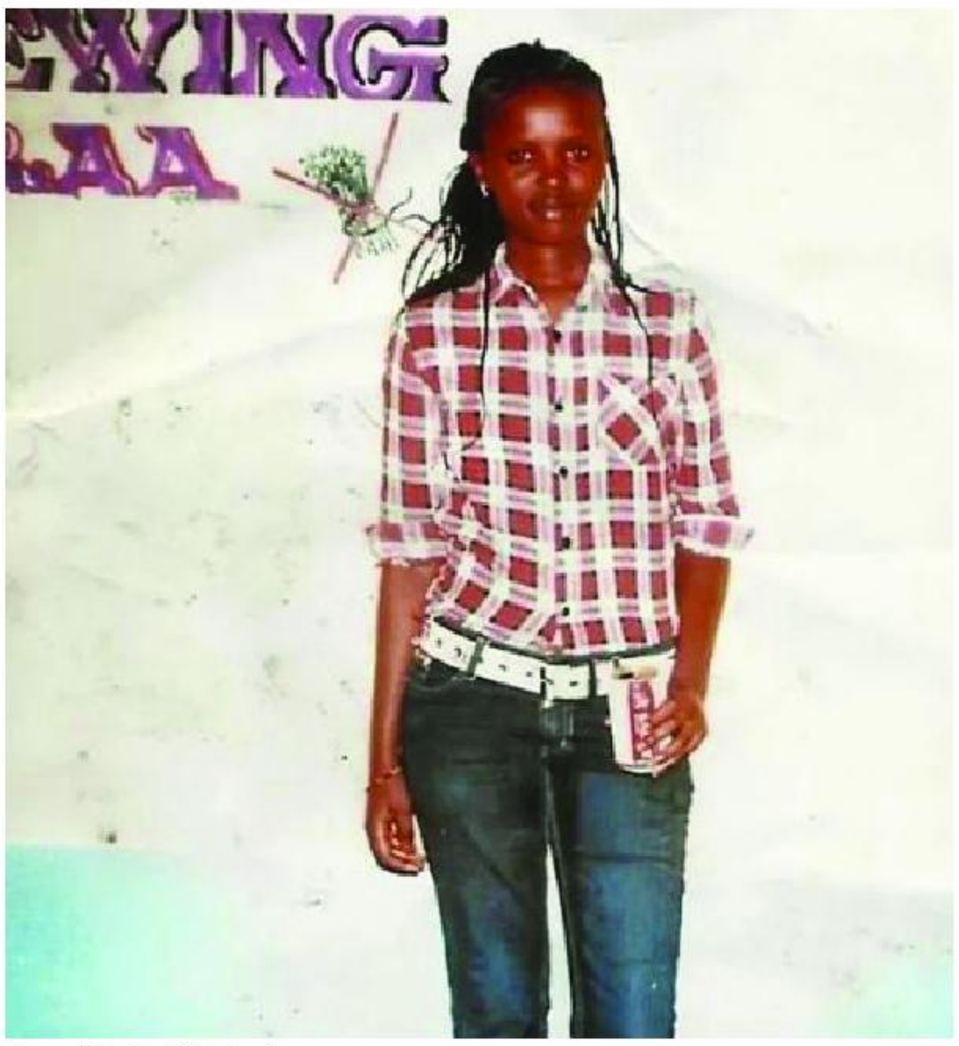
Justice Muteti directed that he should surrender.

"The offence of murder in Kenya is an extraditable offence under Section 4 and satisfies the requirement of dual criminality under the Extradition (Commonwealth Countries) Act Cap 77 of the Laws of Kenya. The accused shall therefore be arrested and brought before this court for plea," said Justice Muteti.

In the case, the DPP said that he was outside Kenya.

James will face murder charges. The particulars of the offence are that he allegedly killed Wanjiru on the night of March 31, 2012, and April 1, 2012, at the Lions Court Lodge in Nanyuki, Laikipia County.

The decision to charge him follows a long and meandering legal battle.



Agnes Wanjiru [Courtesy]

> *I believe that the name Robert James Purkiss will come up in court. We hope that Wanjiru's family will finally get justice,"*
>
> **Investigating officer**

It started with an inquest, there was a hushed story by his colleagues about who he was, then there was a hunt and a court case filed by the family, which is seeking compensation and bringing the officer to book.

At the High Court, Batuk commander Colonel Andrew Wilda, in his reply filed before High Court judge Lawrence Mugambi, argued that Kenyan courts have no powers to entertain any case against the unit.

According to him, Batuk is a part of the larger United Kingdom army and enjoys immunity accorded to the British government.

"The UK government, as a foreign sovereign state, does not consent to submit to the jurisdiction of this court and to be impleaded in the present proceedings," argued Wilda.

In the same case, the Director of Public Prosecutions Renson Ingonga also objected. In his reply, the DPP stated that he had actively given directions on Wanjiru's investigations and filed an inquest. Ingonga stated that he did not have any information on investigations in the UK.

In the case filed before the High Court in Nairobi, the late Wanjiru's family said it believed that the Kenyan Government and the British administration had been deliberately concealing the name of the perpetrator.

Wanjiru's family asked the British government to extradite the officer to Kenya to face murder charges.

The case was filed by Wanjiru's sister Rose Wanyua, alongside a human rights group, African Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action.

Wanyua's lawyer Mbiyu Kamau argued that it is unfair for the Kenyan and British governments to keep the family in the cold without knowing whether Wanjiru's killer will finally face the law or whether her daughter will be compensated for the injustice.

"The decision not to prosecute, extradite the suspects and or release information uncovered during the investigation of the deceased's murder to the first petitioner to pursue other avenues of justice for such a long period of time is a gross violation of the 1st Petitioner's right to fair administrative action.

Her body was discovered in the Lion Court Hotel's septic tank. However, investigations took around five years before their findings were sent to the DPP.

The DPP in 2013 recommended that an inquest should be conducted 22 months after he received the file.

On November 5, 2019, the magistrate's court found that Wanjiru was murdered.

Two years later, a UK-based paper, the Sunday Times, revealed that the identity of the killer soldier was known by the UK authorities.

Her family said there was a possible cover-up.

"Despite the findings of the inquest and the Sunday Times newspaper report, the Respondents have failed to notify the late Agnes Wanjiru's family of the status of their investigations and possible prosecution," Kamau argued.

The lawyer said the British High Commission and the Minister for Defence in the UK had given their commitment that they would cooperate to ensure justice was served. But according to him, no one has been charged to date in Kenya or in the UK.

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MURDER MOST FOUL

Family, UK government react to arrest order against killer soldier

The family of Agnes Wanjiru, a 21-year-old hairdresser allegedly killed by a British soldier at the Lions Court Lodge in Nanyuki in 2012, has welcomed news that a warrant of arrest has been issued against her suspected killer.

"The reports that an arrest warrant has been issued against a UK citizen is a significant moment for us and is incredibly welcome," said their lawyer, Carolin Ott of Leigh Day.

The warrant was issued yesterday by Justice Alexander Muteti, with prosecutors Vincent Monda and Gikui Gichuhi confirming that they will initiate extradition proceedings in the UK to have the soldier tried in Kenya.

In his ruling, Justice Muteti found sufficient basis to have the soldier charged with Wanjiru's murder. Wanjiru's family, through their lawyers Leigh Day, urged the British government to expedite the process to ensure the accused is brought to court.

"We have lived with the pain of Agnes' death for over a decade. We hope this marks the beginning of justice being served for our beloved Agnes," said Ott. The family noted that it has been a long and painful fight for accountability spanning more than 10 years.

"The family now calls upon the British Government to do everything in its power to ensure that the accused can be extradited and face trial in Kenya as soon as possible," added Tessa Gregory of Leigh Day.

A 2018 inquest at the Nanyuki Law Courts, led by Magistrate Njeri Thuku, found that Wanjiru, a mother of a four-month-old baby, disappeared on the night of March 31, 2012.

After her disappearance, friends and family searched the area and soon realised that Wanjiru may never have left the Lions Court Lodge after the night of merry-making.

Her friends, who were with her that fateful evening, told the family they saw her in the company of two white men.

On June 5, her body was discovered in the hotel's septic tank — a grim finding that fueled calls for accountability from the British government, as she was last seen with British soldiers.

By the time her body was found, the soldiers who had been out partying that night had already returned to the UK.

Kenyan police were accused of dragging their feet on the case, despite a post-mortem revealing stab wounds to Wanjiru's chest and abdomen.

The report further indicated that Wanjiru may have been physically assaulted.

An investigation by the UK newspaper *The Sunday Times* revealed that several soldiers from the accused's unit said he had confessed to killing Wanjiru. The newspaper also obtained Facebook messages in which some soldiers joked about the killing and the disposal of her body in the septic tank.

The paper reported that one soldier had informed his superiors about the murder, but no action was taken. Following the issuance of the warrants by Justice Muteti, a UK government spokesperson said, "Our thoughts remain with the family of Agnes Wanjiru, and we remain absolutely committed to helping them secure justice."

The spokesperson added that they would not comment further as the matter is before court.

For the soldier to be extradited to Kenya, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) must submit a formal request to the UK government, supported by prima facie evidence linking the soldier to the crime.

Kenya falls under Type B of the Extradition Act 2003, unlike the European Union and other countries with formal extradition treaties.

The request will be submitted to the UK Central Authority, specifying that the extradition is to allow the soldier to face charges for an offence committed in Kenya.

[Fred Kagonye]

Why Ruto's grand promises to teachers could be a pipe dream

- The timelines for implementation of many pledges is years that the government does not have
- On insurance and housing, the teachers feel they are being promised what is already theirs

LEWIS NYAUNDI AND MIKE KIHAKI,
NAIROBI

President William Ruto addresses more than 10,000 teachers at State House, Nairobi on September 13. [PCS/Standard]

President William Ruto's pledges to teachers are already facing a storm of doubt, with many of the promises set to mature long after his first term ends in 2027.

From school funding to promotions, medical cover, and housing the headline commitments that drew cheers and chants of victory at State House on Saturday could collapse under political, legal, and financial realities.

With the 2027 General Election already looming, Ruto's promises to teachers are shaping up as a litmus test of his credibility as many of the reforms are designed to mature in a second term that is far from guaranteed.

Stakeholders warn that what looked like triumph for teachers may prove a mirage.

"These pledges stretch beyond 2027. With shaky reforms and timelines tied to an uncertain second term, there is every reason to question whether this is another dose of political sweet talk," said an education stakeholder who attended the meeting.

One of the President's announcements was the plan to increase school capitation to the recommended levels of Sh2,238 per primary pupil and Sh22,000 per secondary student.

Ruto promised that the gap would be bridged in two phases — half in the 2025/2026 financial year and the remainder in 2026/2027.

But with the final installment falling in the middle of an election year, there is fear among stakeholders that the full rollout may never materialise.

The proposal comes amid outcry by school heads that schools were receiving slashed capitation from Sh22,244 to Sh17,000. This, school heads indicate, has greatly hurt operations in the institutions.

The President also declared that the Collective Bargaining Agreement cycle for teachers would be shortened from four years to either two or three, citing the need for faster reviews.

Yet educationist Janet Muthoni pointed out that the current CBA already runs from 2025 to 2029, well beyond the President's first term.

"Any early renegotiation would hinge not on Ruto but on whether the next government embraces or scraps it, leaving the pledge more of a campaign talking point than a deliverable," Muthoni said.

Ruto further dismissed the current teachers' medical cover as inefficient, saying inpatient access stood at just seven per cent compared to higher averages among civil servants. However, with the contract set to expire in November, the government has barely two months to overhaul the scheme.

Insiders told *The Standard* that teachers are more likely to be moved under the Social Health Authority, the new national insurer, than given a tailor-made arrangement.

Basic Education PS Julius Bitok has previously hinted at this shift, making the President's promise of a bespoke scheme appear more aspirational than actionable.

But while addressing lawmakers in parliament in April, former Teachers Service Commission chief executive Nancy Macharia said earlier engagements with the SHA management revealed that the insurer was in no capacity to sustain the teachers scheme.

The Standard established that a quiet directive has been issued to migrate all teachers to SHA.

"This seems more of a secret plan to migrate teachers to SHA rather than enhance their current medical scheme," Emmanuel Manyasa, Executive Director Usawa Agenda told the Standard.

Similarly, Ruto's promise that teachers would be allocated at least 20 percent of the affordable housing units, could also ruffle feathers within the public service.

Education stakeholders predict that the move could see other civil servants and workers demand similar treatment, setting off an equity storm that could unravel the entire project.

Education policy expert Dr Manyasa warned that such preferential treatment could backfire.

> *"Once you give teachers 20 per cent, what stops nurses, police officers, or other civil servants from demanding the same? This is the kind of policy move that can collapse the programme before it takes off."*
>
> **Emmanuel Manyasa,** Director, Usawa Agenda

"Once you give teachers 20 per cent, what stops nurses, police officers, or other civil servants from demanding the same? This is the kind of policy move that can collapse the programme before it takes off," he said.

Perhaps the most politically charged promise was the immediate review of the Career Progression Guidelines, a promotion system that unions and teachers have opposed for years.

Ruto ordered the ministry and unions to move swiftly on the matter, but history shows similar promises in both the 2021 and 2025 CBAs failed to yield progress.

The repeated stalling raises questions over whether the President's directive will change anything or simply join the pile of unfulfilled reforms.

The president also announced plans to recruit long-neglected P1 teachers who have waited for employment since 2011, and directed that CBC resource centres be established in every sub-county in partnership with MPs through CDF.

"Education is at the heart of our transformation agenda. My wife, a teacher, always reminds me that in teaching you move from the known to the unknown. Today, I want teachers to know their government is committed to resolving their problems," Ruto declared.

Critics argue the president overstepped his mandate by pronouncing himself on matters constitutionally assigned to independent bodies like the TSC, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), and even Parliament. "Matters of teacher promotions, salaries, and CBA implementation belong to the TSC and SRC. Parliament appropriates funds, not State House. What we saw was a cover-up, not a solution.

"Teachers' issues cannot be resolved through presidential decrees," said Khanyalabandu Amunga, an education advocate and researcher with the Kenya Women Teachers Association.

Janet Ouko Muthoni, director of the Tunza Mtoto Coalition, called this a road side declaration.

"The President has a habit of making promises that are never delivered. Calling 10,000 teachers to State House for matters that belong to constitutional commissions is sabotage of institutions. It's not a focus group; it's a mob rally designed for politics," she said.

If Ruto's pledges raised constitutional questions, the conduct of union leaders drew outright anger.

Instead of pressing the president on delayed capitation, housing levy deductions, and the collapsing Minet medical cover, some union chiefs used the platform to endorse Ruto's second-term bid.

Teachers felt betrayed by union officials terming it a political conversion.

"We gave Collins Oyuu (Knut Secretary-General) our agenda before the meeting. Instead, he stood up to endorse the President. We were disappointed," Amunga revealed.

He said the unions' dependence on government-collected dues the so-called "oxygen" or power to exist has made them lameduck.

"Our unions are not independent. Once their oxygen is threatened, they bend," Amunga added

Amunga, who was in attendance, related the president's promises as a mere crusade in the air.

"Ruto speaks like a faith preacher. He declares miracles, cripples will walk, capitation will be paid, housing will be allocated. But when we leave, reality hits: Schools still lack funds, teachers stagnate in positions, and CBAs remain unimplemented," said Amunga, a sentiment shared by Muthoni.

"The Ministry of Education has become a factory of fake news. Teachers are told things at State House that never materialise. Instead of accountability, we get handouts. It is embarrassing for such a noble profession," Muthoni said.

National Parents Association chairman Silas Obuhatsa expressed worry over the fate of learners.

"If teachers can be fooled by political theatrics, what happens to our children?" he questioned.

However, Kuppet Chairman and Emuhaya MP Omboko Milemba hailed the meeting terming it a breakthrough in teachers' issues.

"For the first time, teachers engaged the President directly. We agreed to reduce the CBA implementation period from four years to two. If achieved, that will be a huge win," he said.

Milemba noted progress on career stagnation of teachers adding that it will solve teachers shortage gap.

"Thousands of teachers acting as deputies, principals, or HoDs will now be confirmed. Teachers in hardship areas also had their concerns heard. This was not just politics; it was practical," he said.

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Blow to Oparanya as court annuls DPP's move to drop graft charges

- Cooperatives and MSME Development Cabinet Secretary to face prosecution.
- Top prosecutor Renson Ingonga had made a decision to drop the graft charges.

NANCY GITONGA, NAIROBI

Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSMEs Development Wycliffe Oparanya could soon face prosecution.

This is after the High Court quashed DPP Renson Ingonga's decision to review and drop alleged corruption charges amounting to Sh2.2 billion linked to his tenure as Kakamega governor.

Justice Benjamin Musyoki of the Milimani Anti-Corruption High Court ruled that the DPP's action of July last year, during the nomination of Oparanya as the CS to clear him of graft allegations, was "unconstitutional, irregular, and void," noting that it was done without transparency, accountability, or consultation with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).

"The 1st respondent(DPP) usurped the powers of the 2nd interested party(EACC) when it received alleged fresh evidence and unilaterally decided to review its decision to charge without reference to the 2nd interested party. It assumed powers it does not possess either in the Constitution or statute," the judge ruled.

The court issued an order of certiorari quashing the DPP's letter of July 8, 2024, which had directed the closure of the corruption case against Oparanya.

"A declaration is hereby issued that the DPP's decision to review its decision to charge Oparanya with the offences of conflict of interest, abuse of office, money laundering, and conspiracy to commit an offence of corruption contained in its letter dated July 8, 2024, is irregular and unconstitutional and therefore null and void. A writ of certiorari is hereby issued quashing the said decision," Justice Musyoki ordered.

Cooperatives and MSMEs Development Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya at a past function. [Wilberforce Okwiri, Standard]

> *The powers donated to the 1st respondent by the Constitution belong to the people and the 1st respondent exercises those powers on behalf of the people of Kenya.*
>
> **Benjamin Musyoki,** Judge

However, the court stopped short of invalidating Oparanya's appointment to the Cabinet.

"In the case before me, the appointment of the 1st interested party (CS Oparanya) followed the constitutional process... this court would be overstepping on the mandate of the executive if it were to allow prayer 'f' of the petition, yet the National Assembly is not a party to the petition," Justice Musyoki said.

The judge added that although Oparanya had not yet been charged or convicted, "absence of this should not be a bar to intervention of the courts in matters of this nature."

The court faulted the DPP for failing to consult the EACC and the complainant before making its decision. "It is indisputable that the DPP's letter dated 8-07-2024 was written without consulting the EACC. The wording of the letter is clear that the decision was informed by a request by the 1st interested party's advocates through their letter dated 3-07-2024," Justice Musyoki said.

He stressed that the DPP had a constitutional duty of accountability. "The powers donated to the 1st respondent by the Constitution belong to the people and the 1st respondent exercises those powers on behalf of the people of Kenya. In that case, it has a constitutional duty to explain to the people the reasons and justification for its actions. That is what the principle of accountability entails," the judge noted.

Oparanya, who served as Kakamega Governor for two terms, was accused of receiving kickbacks from six companies awarded 60 contracts worth over Sh2.2 billion. These include AFBA Construction Company Limited, Western Cross Express Limited, Sabema International Limited, and Sesela Resources Limited.

On October 12, 2023, the EACC recommended to the ODPP that Oparanya, his spouse, some county officials, and company directors be charged with conspiracy to commit corruption.

REGISTRATION

Enforce vetting for all ID applicants, government urged

Civil societies have asked the government to enforce vetting for national identity cards and stop differential treatment of applicants.

In a joint statement, Haki Na Sheria Initiative, Nubian Rights Forum, Namati Kenya, Haki Centre, Pastoralists Rights and Advocacy Network (PARANET) and Pastoralists Women for Health and Education (PWHE) want standardisation of legal requirements for ID applicants.

The right groups also called for an amendment or repealing sections of the law that purportedly provide the legal framework for vetting to prevent recurrence of vetting.

They also want the implementation of affirmative action measures to issue identification to all Kenyans, especially those previously excluded from accessing documents due to historical vetting.

"Expanding the number of registration and identification offices and resourcing of these offices, especially in under served areas of Kenya. The government must also enhance the number and capacity of registration staff in these centers," read the statement.

The civil societies also called for reducing or eliminating inconsistent high fees for ID renewals and birth certificate applications and ensuring registration officials do not charge any fees.

The civil societies in marking International ID Day, said communities continue to face numerous challenges including widespread corruption, prohibitive and inconsistent application fees, and distance from registration offices or Huduma centres.

They urged the government to seize the opportunity to implement its pledge on SDG16:9 and fulfill its promise of nationality.

International Identity Day is a global observance, celebrated annually on September 16, that raises awareness about the fundamental human right to a legal identity, including birth registration. **[Abdimalik Hajir]**

NAIROBI

History as artists earn Sh24 million first-ever royalty payout

Nearly 6,000 artists will get Sh24 million in royalties from the Performing and Audio-Visual Rights Society of Kenya (Pavrisk), a milestone for Kenya's creative economy.

Pavrisk board chairman Edwardo Waigwa said the disbursement represents 70.01 per cent of the Sh45 million collected in the 2024/2025 financial year, in line with the regulatory requirement that collective management organisations allocate at least 70 per cent of revenues to artists.

"This achievement was made despite battling several legal cases to retain our operating licence from Kecobo," Mr Waigwa said.

He noted that Sh6.9 million had been channelled to the Kenya Association of Music Producers (Kamp) for distribution to sound recording producers under a consent agreement between the two CMOs.

Pavrisk board chairman Edwardo Waigwa (left) and his deputy Daniel Kibuchi speak in Kiambu yesterday. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]

The payout was announced during the society's inaugural Annual General Meeting in Nairobi and virtually. The society's leadership said the distribution was proof that governance reforms, investment in technology, and regulatory compliance are paying off. PAVRISK has deployed 72 licensing officers across five regions, rolled out a digital licensing and monitoring system linked to government platforms such as KRA's eTIMS and eCitizen, and signed sector-wide partnerships with broadcasters, hoteliers and retailers to expand collections.

Collections between May and July amounted to Sh41.8 million, with July accounting for the bulk of revenues following KECOBO's clarification on licensing mandates. "We made the achievement despite battling several legal court cases as we fought to retain our legal operating license issued to us by KECOBO, the chairman said.

Waigwa said the surge showed that when the market is clear and enforcement is consistent, compliance improves substantially. He said membership has grown to 5,887, signalling renewed confidence in the society's operations.

PAVRISK has joined the Global Audio-Visual Alliance (GAVA) and the Africa Federation of Audio-Visual Societies (AFAS), while concluding or advancing 36 reciprocal agreements with collective management organisations across Africa, Europe and South America. It is also pursuing membership in CISAC for authors and composers and IFPI for phonogram producers.

The chairman hailed the pioneer board, credited with steering the organisation through litigation and regulatory battles, and proposed that its members serve a three-year term with rotational retirement. **[Juliet Omelo]**

Ruto regime accused of Sh3.3trn illegal debt

- Fraud examiner Bernard Muchere claims only Sh958b spent on development, raising questions over remaining funds.
- Kenya Kwanza has been big on mega projects, the most notable of which is the affordable housing programme.

BRIAN OTIENO, NAIROBI

President William Ruto's administration borrowed some Sh3.3 trillion unlawfully over the last three years, a fraud expert, who has uncovered mega corruption scandals in the past, has claimed.

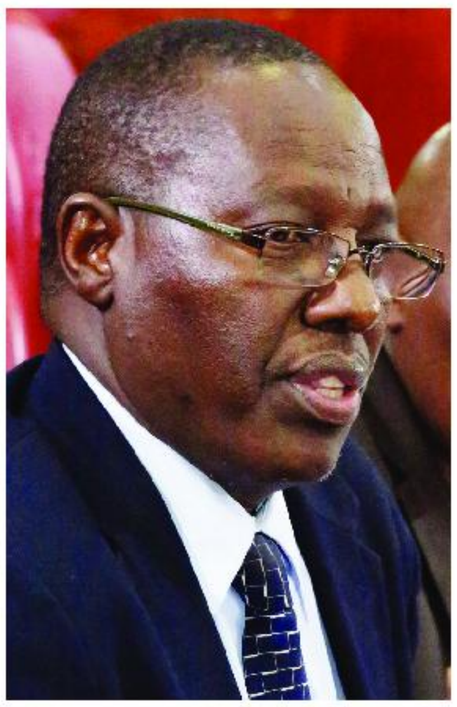
Bernard Muchere, a certified fraud examiner who worked as an auditor at the National Treasury for four decades, argues that Kenya Kwanza's loans do not tally with the development projects it has implemented.

Muchere points out that only Sh958 billion has gone to development out of the Sh4.2 trillion he says Ruto's administration has incurred in public debt. Ruto has been big on mega projects, the most notable of which is his affordable housing programme.

"If we assume that the development expenditures were financed by borrowings only (no tax revenue was used), it means WSR borrowed unlawfully (odious debts) of approximately Sh3.3 trillion (being Sh4.2 trillion minus Sh958 billion)," Muchere said in a press statement.

He draws his figures from the Statements of Actual Revenues and Net Exchequer Issues for the financial years ending June 2023, 2024 and 2025, a document gazetted monthly by the National Treasury cabinet secretary. During the stated period, Muchere notes that the government has collected some Sh6.7 trillion in taxes.

"It means Wananchi have financed WSR (William Samoei Ruto) with Sh10.9 trillion within three years to finance their programmes; however, there is nothing to show on the ground," he added.



Certified fraud examiner Bernard Muchere. [Moses Omusula, Standard]

FY	Tax Revenue (Billion)	Loans (Billion)	Development Expenditure (Billion)	Recurrent Expenditure (Billion)
2024/2025	2257.81	1558.57	335.08	1442.66
2023/2024	2161.08	1500.73	315.06	1360.06
2022/2023	1961.97	1184.71	308.03	1221.57
Total	6380.87	4244.01	958.18	4024.29

Source: *Statement of Actual Revenues and Net Exchequer Issues For Financial Years Ending June 2023, 2024, 2025*

An independent analysis by The Standard showed a minor variance in the tax revenue as stated by Muchere, resulting in a figure closer to Sh6.4 trillion. This variance is explained by the fact that Muchere included the opening balance in each financial year as well as non-tax revenue in his tabulations, and we only used the tax revenue segment of the statements of actual revenue.

The other figures, a loan portfolio worth Sh4.2 trillion and development funds worth Sh958 billion, tally. During the three years, Kenya Kwanza spent Sh4 trillion to fund recurring expenses and an equal amount to service debt.

Muchere premises his argument that the Sh3.3 trillion in debt is odious on the fact that the law only allows for long-term borrowing to fund development. That is hardly the case in Kenya, whose debt-ridden economy has always relied on more borrowing to stay afloat. Thus, successive governments have borrowed to fund recurring expenses and to repay loans.

The fraud expert, who uncovered the Sh5 billion Ministry of Health corruption scandal and the Ronald Ngala Utalii College scandal, among others, has been vocal against borrowing saying it created a loophole for fraud.

Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakang'o and Auditor General Nancy Gathungu have also faulted this practice, justified by state functionaries as necessary to plug budget shortfalls.

"Since the incurrence of loans is an imposition of a tax in advance, because loans are repaid from taxes, borrowing Sh4.2 trillion means WSR imposed more taxes concealed as borrowings. This amounts to outright defrauding the very Wananchi who were promised less taxation during the hyped campaigns of 2022," said Muchere.

Ken Gichinga, the chief economist at Mentoria Economics, described Kenya's debt cycle, which sees the country borrow to pay loans, as "vicious". Under the current circumstances, he implies that it is not feasible for the country to sustain its recurrent budget from taxes.

"The quality of revenue collection is low because of our current fiscal and economic policies, which have seen our economy performing below expectations. Until we fix our tax policy and enable it to boost businesses, we will keep burdening Kenyans with more taxes," said Gichinga, who added that Kenya could grow its revenues with a progressive tax policy.

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IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY :- PETITION ON ALLEGED UNFAIR DISMISSAL AND NON – PAYMENT OF HEALTH-CARE WORKERS

INVITATION TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

WHEREAS Article 196(1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, requires a County Assembly to facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of the County Assembly and its committees, **AND WHEREAS** Section 15 of the County Governments Act, 2012, provides for the right of any persons to petition the County Assembly to consider any matter within its authority:

IT IS THEREFORE NOTIFIED THAT The County Assembly of Siaya is investigating into allegations presented in a Petition on alleged unfair dismissal and non – payment of healthcare workers in the Siaya County Public Service:

NOW THEREFORE to facilitate the investigations, the affected persons are individually called upon to submit copies of the under listed documents for verification by the County Assembly;

1. Offer letter
2. Letter of acceptance of Offer
3. Appointment letter
4. Letter of Acceptance of Appointment
5. Deployment letter
6. Letter of Arrival
7. A statement of complaint on the subject matter
8. Any other relevant information on the subject matter under investigation
9. Contact details, e.g Telephone number and email address

The documents requested may be forwarded to the **Clerk of the County Assembly of Siaya, P.O Box 7-40600, Siaya**; OR hand delivered to the **Office of the Clerk – Siaya County Assembly Building** during official working hours; OR emailed to clerk@siayaassembly.go.ke to be received on or before **Thursday 25th September, 2025 at 5.00pm.**

Any member of the public with information relevant to the subject matter under investigation may submit such within the stated timeframes, through the channels cited here above. The submissions must be made by way of sworn-in affidavit or Statement under Oath.

Eric Ogenga
Clerk of the County Assembly of Siaya
16th September 2025

Parties sharpen knives as mini polls countdown begins today

- Political parties have until today to submit names of party primaries' contestants.
- Campaign fever is already high as Kenya Kwanza, ODM and Opposition plot onslaught.

NDUNG'U GACHANE, NAIROBI

The countdown on the long-awaited by-elections that could define the 2027 race has started.

Political parties have until today to submit the names of the persons contesting in party primaries and the date of the exercise.

They are required to submit the names and specimen signatures of the authorised persons.

According to the guidelines issued by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) on August 8, political parties are required to resolve all intra-party disputes and submit the list of aspirants on or before October 2.

For the independent candidates, they must submit their names and symbols they intend to use before the close of business today.

"The commission shall publish, in the gazette, the names of the persons contesting in a party primary and the date of the party primary within seven (7) days of receipt of the names of the candidates," the guidelines read.

The agency will publish the names and symbols of the independent candidates 14 days before nominations, which will be held on October 8 and 9.

Candidates are required to pay a nomination fee of Sh20,000 for the parliamentary seat, Sh5,000 for the MCA position and Sh50,000 for Senate. People living with disabilities will be required to pay half of the fees.

Political parties and candidates are expected to submit the names of their agents by November 11.

While the official campaign period starts on October 8 and ends on November 24, both the government side and the Opposition have already hit the ground running in a contest that could shape the 2027 political agenda.

Mbeere North in Embu County and Malava constituency in Kakamega have emerged as the most hotly contested seats with both sides leaving nothing to chance.

In Mbeere North, the ruling UDA Party settled on Leonard Muthende through negotiated democracy, while the United Opposition has chosen Democratic Party's Newton Kariuki alias Karish, an MCA.

In Malava, UDA has been pushing for a consensus between its aspirants, with Secretary General Hassan Omar and President William Ruto unsuccessfully trying to bring the rivals to agree on a single candidate.

The contenders, lawyer Leonard Shimaka, former principal Simon Kangwana, West Kabras MCA David Ndakwa and Ryan Injendi, son of the late MP Malulu Injendi, were unable to agree on who would fly the party's flag in the by-election. Party primaries are slated for Saturday.

The Opposition is also yet to agree on whether to field a single candidate. Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) is fronting Edgar Busiega while DAP-Kenya, a party affiliated to Eugene Wamalwa, has Kenya National Union of Nurses Secretary General Seth Panyako.

Raila Odinga's ODM has agreed not to field a candidate and, instead, back UDA in the spirit of the the so-called broad-based government.

President William Ruto's aide Farouk Kibet campaigns in Malava, Kakamega, on Thursday. The UDA party has failed to convince aspirants to settle on one candidate for the by-election. [Benjamin Sakwa, Standard]

daily@standard.com

> *Panyako was expected to have resigned on or before August 15 but he did not resign. To this end I call upon your office to disqualify him,"*
>
> **Caleb Burudi,** petitioner

In Banisa, Mandera County, UDA's aspirant is Ahmed Maalim, a brother of the late MP Kullow Hassan who died in March, 2023. He is expected to face off with DCP's Aden Mohammed.

In Magarini, Kilifi, ODM plans to front Harrison Kombe, whose win was nullified by the Supreme Court, and to contest with Furaha Ngumbao of DCP

UDA will also hold party primaries in Baringo on September 20 after nine aspirants declared their interests for the Senatorial seat that was left vacant following the death of William Cheptumo.

The nine are Kiprono Chemitei, Wycliffe Kipsang, Daniel Kiptoo, Reuben Chepsongol, Evans Mudulel, Joseph Cheruto, Silas Tochim, Isaac Kirikmet, and Linus Kamkaket.

As the campaign fever rises, controversy has emerged on whether some of the aspirants are eligible to contest.

Caleb Burudi has written to the DAP-Kenya's National Elections Board claiming that Panyako did not resign from the the Local Authorities Provident Fund (Lapfund) where he serves as a broad member and can wants not vie.

"Section 43(5A) of the Elections Act is instructive that a public officer who intends to contest in a by-election under this Act shall resign from public office within seven days of the declarations of a vacancy," says the letter.

"Therefore, Panyako was expected to have resigned on or before August 15 but he did not resign. To this end I call upon your office to disqualify him."

But Panyako maintains that he was not a public officer.

"Lapfund is a retirement benefits scheme established under the Local Authorities Provident Fund. It is a statutory body but it is not a government ministry or a county government department; It is a parastatal-like entity created to manage retirement benefits for employees of local authorities," he said.

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ENERGY

Agency considers eight sites for nuclear plant

The Nuclear Power and Energy Agency has identified eight sites in Siaya County as possible locations for a nuclear power plant.

Director of Communications, Patricia Ndede, said Kwale and Kilifi counties are also being considered for the facility.

"We are here in Siaya for the next two weeks to collect scientific data and rank the eight sites," said Ndede during an engagement forum with the local administration.

The proposed sites are Ugambe, Sirongo, Tiunda, Manyuanda, Osindo, Nyangoye, Dagamoyo and Kanyawayaga — all located along or near the Lake Victoria. **[Isaiah Gwengi]**

DEVELOPMENT

County raises local revenue by Sh138m

Nyandarua County has increased revenue collection, surpassing last year's performance by Sh138 million.

According to Deputy Governor Mathaara Mwangi, the county collected Sh653 million in the 2024/2025, up from Sh515 million in 2023/2024.

"We are now heading in the right direction. Having more resources means that more development will come our way," said Mwangi during the presentation of motorcycles to revenue collectors.

Finance CEC Mary Kamande praised the revenue teams. **[James Munyeki]**

TURF WARS

Leaders ask Waiguru to keep off senatorial bid

A section of Jubilee Party leaders in Kirinyaga yesterday told Governor Anne Waiguru's not to vie for the Senate seat in 2027.

Led by Mwalimu Wangui, they said if Waiguri is elected, she would frustrate investigation into the use of public funds during her tenure.

The leaders claimed Waiguru failed despite receiving billions of shillings from the national government. "Kirinyaga has nothing to show for the billions received. They called on the party to back former Interior CS Fred Matiang'i's presidential bid. **[Jane Mugambi]**

Physical planner put to task over his role in hospital land lease row

- Consultant at pains to explain why there was no correspondence with hospital yet he was paid.
- James Michoma admits he did not make a complaint althought his signature was forged.

DANIEL CHEGE, NAKURU

A physical planning consultant James Michoma was put to task over his involvement in the War Memorial Hospital land dispute.

He confirmed that through the hospital's agent, his firm Nakuplan Consultancy, was paid Sh300,000 in 2019 to help extend the lease for the hospital land in Milimani, Nakuru, measuring 25 acres.

The facility was forcefully shut down on January 23, last year following a row between the management and the county government. Its directors and land officials were arrested and charged.

On Monday, Michoma testified against the three directors; Dr Simon Mwangi, Roger Joselyn, and Malcolm Bell; two land officials, Nyandarua county assembly Speaker and a businessman.

"One of the board members I knew informed me that the lease for the land was set to expire in 2021. Through Mathias Koech, the agent, they gave me instruction to apply for extension," he told Chief Magistrate Elizabeth Juma.

He said that after visiting the land, he prepared a report recommending an approval, which he sought from the county government then led by Governor Lee Kinyanjui. He, however, testified that a concern was raised in 2023, during Governor Susan Kihika's time, that there was an ownership dispute, which he interpreted as an objection.

Physical planning consultant James Michoma testifies in a Nakuru court on Monday. [Courtesy]

However, he said that no objection was raised from the National Land Commission.

"I contacted Koech and he informed me that a lease had already been renewed. I thereby wrote a letter informing the county government that I had withdrawn the application for approval," he said.

"Director of Planning wrote a letter and asked us to go to the site and review the application status which was pending."

Michoma said he was later summoned by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), where he was shown a similar report, but disputed the signature.

"The report was similar to mine but it had a forged signature and had no stamp or seal," he said.

In cross examination, however, Michoma failed to explain why he did not reach out to the hospital directly to inform them of the objection.

"I took the letter, which I interpreted as an objection, seriously but I did not write a letter to the hospital board to inform them of the same."

He admitted that he was to be paid Sh500,000 but confirmed that he did not finish his work. However, he said at that stage , the Sh300,000 had been used up.

Michoma also found it hard to explain why he took no action when he realised that his signature had been forged.

"I did not make a formal report complaining of a forgery. I do not have an OB Number. I assumed that since the documents were in the possession of the DCI, they would take the necessary actions," he testified.

He found it hard to explain why there was no correspondent between his firm and War Memorial Hospital despite him receiving Sh300,000.

Further, Michoma confirmed that he only discussed the alleged land dispute with a county executive but did not involve the hospital management, who were his client. He added that he did not visit the hospital to discuss the way forward.

Further, in his report, Michoma had indicated that there was a helipad on the disputed land, but when he was cross-examined, he stated that there was no evidence to show it existed.

"There is no report from the Kenya Airports Authority to show that part of the land is a helipad," he said.

Michoma was questioned on why he withdrew the application for extension without a written instruction from the hospital. The case will proceed on February 23 and 25, next year.

dchege@standardmedia.co.ke

Consultancy dispute

SH300,000

AMOUNT the consultant says he had spent by the time his stopped his services for the hospital.

INTEGRITY

Kenyan, Thai embassy in Sh2.4m tender dispute

An embassy and a 24-year-old Kenyan entrepreneur are entangled in a dispute over a $18,822.24 (Sh2,431,833.41) tender.

Nasur din Abdi Yussuf claims the Thai embassy in Nairobi has refused to pay him despite offering his services, but the office has denied any contractual relationship.

"Our client expressly denies requesting, approving, or authorising any of the services referenced in your correspondence. At no time did our client initiate a procurement process, give written approval, or issue any official communication authorising the arrangements described in your invoice," reads a response from the embassy.

The embassy said the matter had been reported to Kenya's Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, and the Diplomatic Police Unit.

Yesterday, the police said the matter was under investigation but no arrest has been made.

Yussuf claims he opened his travel and tours company in May and received a call from an embassy staff on July 24, asking for his services.

He claims to have visited the embassy on the same day, and was surprised by the level of detail they seemed to already have about him. "The security guard knew my name, where I was coming from, and even the purpose of my visit," he says.

Inside, he met embassy officials, including a woman who introduced herself as being from the Office of Commercial Affairs.

They discussed terms for ticketing, safaris, and regional travel support. According to Yussuf, the woman explained that most of their communication would be via personal emails because the embassy email system was not working.

The following day, Yussuf received a contract titled 'Tours and Travel Services Agreement' between his company, Campfire Chronicles Travel Tours & Safaris, and the embassy.

"I reviewed it, signed, and sent it back. Everything looked legitimate," he says.

Soon after, the woman sent him passports and documents for seven people scheduled to travel to Kigali, Rwanda, and Bangkok, Thailand, for a business forum.

But once the tickets were issued, silence followed. The promised 14-day payment window came and went without a word. His emails, he claims went unanswered.

When he attempted to visit the embassy, the same guards who welcomed him earlier turned hostile.

"They harassed me and denied me entry. One guard almost punched me. It was as if they knew something was being covered up inside," he says.

On August 13, his lawyer issued a demand letter giving the embassy 24 hours to pay Sh2.4 million plus damages or face legal action.

But Natthapong Senanarong, minister counselor at the Office of Commercial Affairs, said the woman staff resigned on July 25 and ceased to be their employee effective August 1. **[Emmanuel Kipchumba]**

Briefly

TAITA TAVETA. MISSING WOMAN FOUND DEAD

A middle-aged woman reported missing two weeks ago has been found dead in Wundanyi. Villagers discovered the naked body, with her legs tied with a rope and her eyes gouged out, about 50 metres from the Wundanyi Police Station.County Commissioner Josephine Onunga noted that the county is one of the leading in gender-based violence, with 157 cases reported in the last one year. "Suspects have gone scot-free because witnesses are not willing to testify in court. Some of the suspects are also relatives of the victims, and there is that fear of retribution," he said. In June, aminor was defiled and murdered, and her body dumped in a fish pond in Kese village. **[Renson Mnyamwezi]**

MIGORI. SONY WORKERS DEMAND SH320M ARREARS

Operations at the Sony Sugar Company stalled for the better part of Monday as employees demanded Sh350 million in salary arrears. They say the money, which accumulated from April 2019 to December 2020, should be paid before October 31 when the transition period lapses. Sony is among four mills that have been leased to private investors, with over 5,000 workers expected to be laid off. Workers hired on contract are also demanding appointment letters to help them find jobs elsewhere. Staff who had accidents and sustained injuries are also demanding compensation. Evans Okumu questioned why it took so long for the company to clear their dues and even compensate those who got accidents in the line of duty. **[Anne Atieno]**

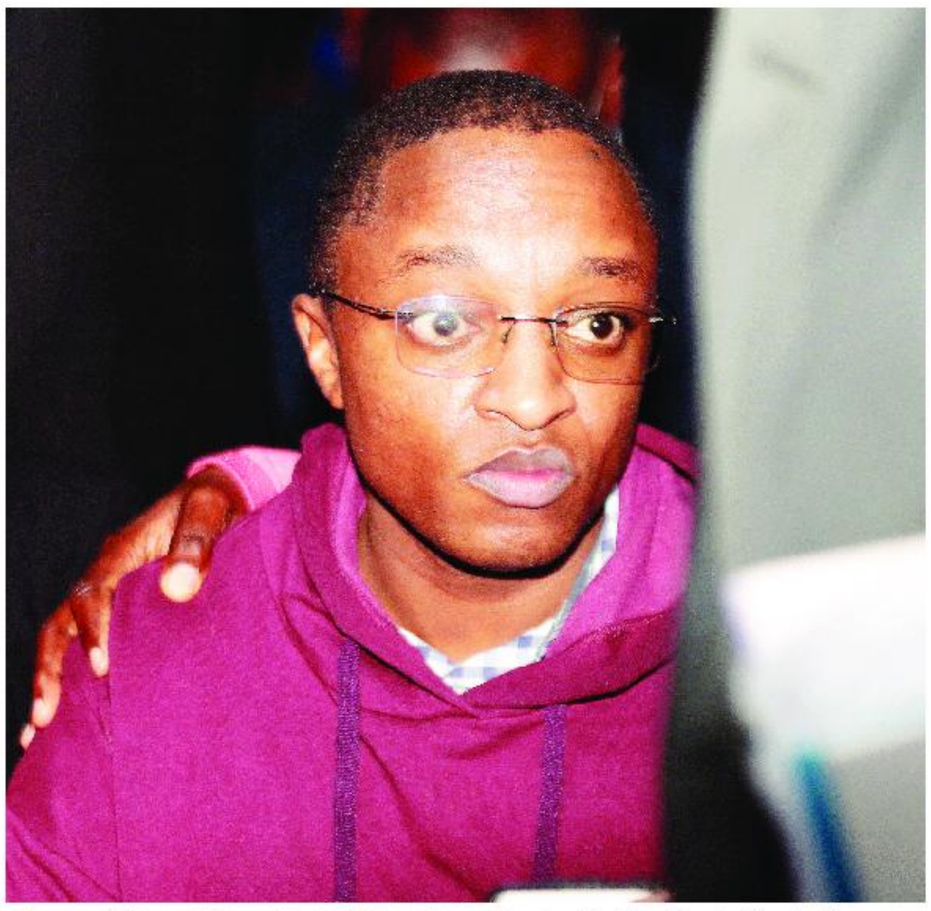
BARINGO. ORDER ON COLLEGE PLAN UPHELD

The fate of Kabarnet University College remains unclear after a court upheld orders halting the relocation of a teaching college to a secondary school. The Kabarnet High Court yesterday upheld the August 22 ruling barring the relocation of the Moi Teacher Training College the Talai Secondary School to pave the way for universitycollege. Four MTTC students have challenged the government plan, claiming it was unconstitutional and that no public participation was conducted. They have suedEducation CS Julius Ogamba, the Commission for University Education, and the Attorney General, seeking orders to suspend the implementation of a notice dated June 13. The university college has registered over 600 students. The court in August issued conservatory orders barring the college from relocating its students pending a hearing. **[Yvonne Chepkwony]**

Judge orders DCI to stop harassing blogger, declines to stop his arrest

- Ndiangui Kinyagia went into hiding fearing abduction, court acknowledges legitimate concerns.
- IT expert remains protected while seized gadgets await investigation completion.

KAMAU MUTHONI, NAIROBI



Blogger Ndiangui Kinyagia at Milimani Law Courts. [Boniface Okendo, Standard]

The High Court in Nairobi has ordered the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) not to harass IT expert and blogger Ndiangui Kinyagia.

In bringing an end to the dispute between Ndiangui, the Inspector General of Police, DCI, and the Attorney General, Justice Chacha Mwita noted that Ndiangui had gone into hiding over fears of abduction.

The judge, however, declined to compel the DCI to return documents and phones seized from his home. He stated that once the investigations, if any, are complete, the items should be returned to him.

Justice Mwita added that there is no need to block the police from charging Ndiangui, emphasizing that the court would intervene if such a charge were improperly pursued.

"The court has taken the concerns into account. He went into hiding for fear of his life. The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) acted on instructions from the family, particularly the mother, and this cannot be considered an offense. The property belongs to the petitioner, and the police should return it once investigations, if any, are complete. I do not see the need to issue an order to prevent the police from arresting him," ruled Justice Mwita. In the case, Ndiangui's lawyer, Martha Karua, urged the court to close the file after LSK dropped its case. She, however, argued that the public should first know where Ndiangui was and why he went into hiding.

> *The second petitioner says that after his house was raided by a large number of police officers, he went into hiding. He did not have a phone and was unaware of the case.*
>
> **Martha Karua,** lawyer

"The second petitioner says that after his house was raided by a large number of police officers, he went into hiding. He did not have a phone and was unaware of the case. The mother acted out of reasonable apprehension given the history of others who had been abducted," Karua said.

In an affidavit filed with the court, Ndiangui stated that on June 25, 2025, neighbors informed him that unidentified persons were looking for him.

"Given the covert nature of the raid, the lack of identification, and the threat to my safety, I had every legitimate reason to believe my life was in imminent danger. As advised by my cousin, Lilian Gitonga, I switched off my phone and went into hiding," Ndiangui stated in the affidavit sworn on July 3, 2025.

He added that throughout this period, he was unaware that a court case had been filed seeking his production alive or dead.

Ndiangui narrated that he continues to experience trauma. The 37-year-old said he has noticed unmarked vehicles both during court sessions and near his home.

"Since my appearance before this Honorable Court, I have observed unmarked vehicles and unidentified individuals at my family residence and during my daily activities, which amounts to harassment, intimidation, and psychological torture," he stated. A medical report submitted to the court indicated that the events following the raid and his disappearance have taken a serious mental toll.

"The psychological symptoms experienced by Ndiangui significantly impair his ability to function in daily life. He reports difficulty concentrating, sleeping and engaging in work or social activities. The fear of arrest has created a state of hyper-vigilance and has severely restricted his freedom of movement. With appropriate intervention, his symptoms are expected to improve over time; however, without intervention, there is a risk of further deterioration of his mental health," the report stated.

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INCLUSION

Constitution Bill: MPs, Senators get nod to join petition

The High Court has allowed Members of Parliament and Senators to formally join a petition challenging the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to entrench three national funds and could trigger a referendum.

In a ruling delivered yesterday, Justice Chacha Mwita granted the National Assembly's application to be joined as a second respondent in the petition filed by lawyer Paul Mwangi, who seeks to have the bill entirely subjected to a public vote.

"I have considered the application by the National Assembly and the response by the petitioner, who has not opposed it. I allow the joinder request by Parliament as the second respondent," ruled Justice Mwita. He directed the National Assembly, through lawyer Josphat Kuyioni, to file its responses within seven days, with the matter set for hearing on December 1, 2025.

The ruling allows lawmakers to defend the legislative process behind the bill, which has stirred legal and political debate. Justice Mwita also extended interim orders barring the transmission of the bill to President William Ruto for assent pending the hearing.

Mwangi's petition argues that the amendment triggers Article 255(1) of the Constitution, which requires a referendum for certain structural changes affecting sovereignty, devolution and public finance.

The bill creates three constitutional funds: the National Government Constituencies Fund (204A), the Senate Oversight Fund (204B), and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (204C), which he says alter governance and budgeting beyond Parliament's mandate. The bill, co-sponsored by MPs Otiende Amollo and Samuel Chepkonga, passed the National Assembly with over 300 votes and is now before the Senate. Mwangi warns of the risk it could be assented to before the court rules.

The case will be heard on December 1.

[Nancy Gitonga]

HEALTH

Doctors' strike in Kiambu sparks outcry over failing health system

The ongoing doctors' strike in Kiambu has sparked concern, with human rights activists warning of a failing health system in the county. Residents and activists argue that the continued denial of healthcare by striking medics infringes on citizens' constitutional right to health.

A spot check at the Kiambu Level 5 Hospital revealed a deteriorating situation, with patients left stranded after doctors downed their tools. Many patients remain in the facility because they cannot afford private care.

Martin Kirumba, a patient at the hospital, expressed frustration, urging Governor Kimani Wa Matangi to visit and witness the conditions firsthand.

The outcry follows criticism from Dr Elias Maina, Kiambu CEC for Health, who condemned local politicians for exploiting health issues for political gain. More than 300 doctors in the county have been on strike for over three months, worsening the already fragile health sector.

Human rights activists have begun collecting signatures from residents to urge intervention by the national government. Eric Mutura, from Banana area, said the issue was raised during a recent citizen engagement by the International Commission of Jurists. He noted that the prolonged strike has compromised healthcare, increased mortality, and left patients neglected across Kiambu hospitals.

Mutura criticized the county government for trivializing doctors' union efforts and blocking their engagement with the legislative arm, resulting in the longest doctors' strike in the county's history.

[George Njunge]

COURT

Court extends orders barring MP Jayne Kihara's prosecution to March next year

Naivasha MP Jayne Kihara has secured extended relief from criminal prosecution after the High Court prolonged orders suspending her trial until March 10, 2026.

Justice Chacha Mwita yesterday ordered that criminal proceedings against MP Kihara remain suspended pending the hearing of his constitutional petition.

"The interim orders granted herein issued suspending proceedings in Milimani Criminal Case Number E382 of 2025, Republic versus MP Jayne Njeri Wanjiru Kihara are extended pending hearing and determination of this petition," said Justice Mwita.

He noted that both the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) had confirmed they do not oppose extending the interim orders for Kihara. The court directives follow a petition in which Kihara seeks to quash what she describes as an unlawful and politically motivated prosecution.

[Nancy Gitonga]

Democracy in peril as repression mutes dissenting voices: Maraga

- Former Chief Justice says shrinking freedoms hurting youth and rights activists.
- Civil society groups call for urgent reforms to strengthen institutions and protect rights.

WANJIKU WANJIRU, NAIROBI

Former Chief Justice David Maraga (centre) with lawyer Ndegwa Njiru (left) and County MP Njeri Maina at Kahawa law courts during the hearing of a case where 37 youths were charged with acts of terrorism on July 16, 2025. [Kanyiri Wahito, Standard]

Former Chief Justice David Maraga has sounded the alarm over the weakening state of democracy both in Kenya and globally, warning that governments are increasingly turning to repression and silencing of dissent.

Citing the Global State of Democracy Report 2025 by International IDEA, Maraga noted that in 2024 alone, 94 countries, representing more than half of those assessed, recorded a decline in at least one factor of democratic performance compared to five years earlier.

"Repression has gotten worse and governments have taken even greater steps to suppress dissent and limit the ability of people to choose who will govern them," he said.

The former CJ was speaking in Nairobi on Monday during the commemoration of the 18 International Day of Democracy.

During the event, a new Our Rights, Our Future report also highlighted the erosion of Kenya's civic space, once revitalized by the 2010 Constitution.

The study, commissioned by ForumCiv with support from the European Commission, shows how shrinking freedoms have disproportionately affected youth, human rights defenders, civil society organizations, and marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities, indigenous communities and LGBTIQ+ individuals.

The report, based on surveys across 25 counties and 14 key informant interviews, points to restrictive laws, harassment and financial pressures as tools of repression. Laws such as the Public Order Act, the NGO Coordination Act, the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act and new proposed bills are seen as deliberate efforts to suppress dissent.

> *"In the last 18 to 24 months, democracy has gone down. Citizens now fear even posting on social media, wondering if they will get home safely."*
>
> **Jackson Obare,** ForumCiv regional manager

Youth movements face surveillance, infiltration by police, forced disappearances and digital restrictions, while CSOs report funding delays, de registration threats and heavy compliance burdens.

The study further cites disinformation, covert policing and Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) as tactics fostering fear and discouraging public protest.

ForumCiv's Regional Manager, Jackson Obare, warned that Kenya's democracy has slipped from "obstructed" to "oppressive" over the past two years, adding that freedom of expression and assembly are now under threat.

"In the last 18 to 24 months, democracy has gone down. Citizens now fear even posting on social media, wondering if they will get home safely," Obare said.

Maraga accused the current government of "terrorizing young people" through abductions, trumped-up charges and excessive force against peaceful protesters.

He said the that past two years have seen unprecedented youth mobilization against economic strain, political disillusionment and social injustice, but their voices have been met "not with dialogue, but with unrestrained force."

He also condemned enforced disappearances, unexplained deaths in police custody and cross-border abductions of foreign nationals, describing them as unconstitutional and unworthy of Kenya's democratic journey.

Maraga has also accused the Executive of undermining key institutions, warning that erosion of justice and human rights poses a grave threat to Kenya's democracy.

He said abductions, extra-judicial killings and rights violations are going unpunished because of weak investigations and a failure by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). "The Judiciary cannot investigate cases.The problem lies with the DPP, who is failing to ensure proper investigations and prosecutions," he said.

He, however, praised the role of young people, describing them as "the bravest champions of democracy," and urged them to continue speaking truth to power.

Despite the repression, Maraga said hope endures through civil society, judicial independence and press freedom, which he described as "the lungs through which our movement breathes." But he warned that if courts are captured, the press silenced and citizens retreat, "democracy suffocates."

Calling for urgent reforms, Maraga said the 2010 Constitution is "not a suggestion, but the supreme law of the land," with rights that are absolute.

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NAIROBI

Prison chiefs meet in Nairobi to push for rights reforms

Top prison and correctional service chiefs from more than 30 African nations have gathered in Nairobi for a landmark three-day summit aimed at overhauling prison systems across the continent, with a strong focus on human rights, rehabilitation and reintegration.

The High-Level Consultative Workshop, officially opened on Monday, is hosted by the Kenyan government in partnership with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI).

The meeting seeks to accelerate implementation of ACHPR resolutions on the humane treatment of detainees and conditions in correctional facilities.

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development, and Special Programmes, Geoffrey Ruku, officiated the opening, calling the forum a critical turning point in Africa's approach to correctional justice.

"Prisons must transform from punitive spaces into institutions of dignity, rehabilitation, and reintegration," said Ruku. "The ACHPR resolutions are not just guidelines, they are a call to action."

He urged member states to align national legislation with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which underpins many of the proposed reforms.

He specifically referenced the Charter's cultural emphasis on generational care, such as children's responsibility toward elderly parents, noting that reforms must reflect both modern legal standards and Africa's deeply rooted values.

The workshop is expected to provide a platform for sharing national experiences, developing strategic action plans and exploring reforms in areas such as parole systems, alternatives to pre-trial detention, and compliance with global human rights instruments.

CS Ruku paid homage to former Kenyan Vice President Moody Awori for pioneering prison reforms during his tenure. He praised Awori's legacy, including improvements in prisoner transport systems, and called on current leaders to build on these foundations.

"Reforms must go beyond physical infrastructure," Ruku said. "We must strengthen legal protections, ensure access to justice, and safeguard the mental and physical well-being of all inmates."

He noted that overcrowding and limited space remain challenges in many countries, including Kenya. He urged leaders to prioritize modernization and expansion of facilities. **[Muriithi Mugo]**

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku. [Edward Kiplimo, Standard]

NAKURU

Water sector workers form union to defend rights

Workers in the water sector have finally formed a union to champion their rights and address long standing concerns after years without representation.

On Monday, the Water Services Workers Union (Waswu) signed its first recognition agreement with Nakuru Water and Sanitation Services Company.

Waswu Secretary-General Matilda Kimetto said that the union, registered in April, was created to fill a gap in addressing workers' issues in the sector.

Kimetto, accompanied by the Waswu Chairperson, Francis Makokha, and Waswu officials, signed a recognition agreement with Nakuru Water, calling for decent working conditions in the water sector. "This is a historical step in strengthening social dialogue within the water sector. With the agreement, we will commence negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement," she said.

She noted that the water sector has long faced challenges such as delayed salaries. With a dedicated union now in place, she said, workers will have a stronger voice to promote industrial harmony and support the delivery of safe, reliable water services to the public.

Kimetto added that employees were previously scattered under different unions, which made it difficult to air their grievances effectively.

She pointed out that the sector still grapples with threats such as privatisation, casualisation, salary delays, political interference, statutory deduction, and the victimisation of unionised employees. In Nakuru alone, more than 70 workers are set to benefit from WASWU, with the union targeting about 8,000 employees across both the public and private water sectors.

Makokha said the signing will help address unrest in the water sector.

"We used to belong to another union that never supported us. We decided to form one that has our interests at heart, understands the challenges workers face, and is committed to improving performance," he said.

NAWASCO Stakeholder Manager Joseph Githinji said the agreement will provide a framework for negotiating wages, working conditions and other employment terms. **[Yvonne Chepkwony]**

OPINION

The Standard

"The responsibility for these atrocity crimes (in Gaza) lies with Israeli authorities at the highest echelons."

Navi Pillay, UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry chief

EDITORIAL

SHA: It's time to go back to the drawing board

The Rural Private Hospitals Association Chairman, Dr. Brian Lishenga, has warned that the Social Health Authority (SHA) could collapse in three to four months due to financial constraints.

SHA collects Sh6.7 billion monthly against an expenditure of Sh8.7 billion monthly. This has left its managers scratching their heads, wondering how to bridge the funding gap made worse by allegations of massive corruption within SHA.

SHA has 25.8 million registered subscribers compared to the 6.7 million that the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) had. These numbers, however, have not translated into benefits. Out of the nearly 26 million subscribers, only 4.5 million are paying premiums. Indeed, many are holding back because they don't trust the system enough to pay their premiums when SHA has consistently failed them, and politicians ignore their concerns.

The excitement that attended the rollout of SHA in October last year has turned into a nightmare for most Kenyans who, despite rosy promises and assurance from the government, are unable to get services in public hospitals as a result of dysfunctionality in SHA, which was touted as the solution to the woes that beset the defunct NHIF, and the means to the fulfillment of Universal Health Care targets. This belief is reflected in the large numbers of Kenyans who registered for SHA compared to NHIF.

NHIF was flexible and charged a flat rate. Moreover, it accepted monthly installments. SHA, on the other hand, demands a whole year's premium to be paid once. This mode of payment disregards the financial realities of most Kenyans who live on a dollar, or less, a day and could be the reason why the majority of people are unable to to pay their premiums. Moreover, SHA charges premiums based on an assumed member's ability determined by indicators of wealth that the government introduced.

At the time that President William Ruto was popularising SHA, he assured Kenyans it would charge monthly premiums of Sh300, an amount considerably lower than Sh500 that NHIF charged to ensure all Kenyans, irrespective of their stations in life, were brought on board to benefit from comprehensive medical covers.

Instead, SHA has created more problems than it sought to cure. Some of the hospitals starved of cash by SHA have either ceased operations, fired staff or limited their operations.

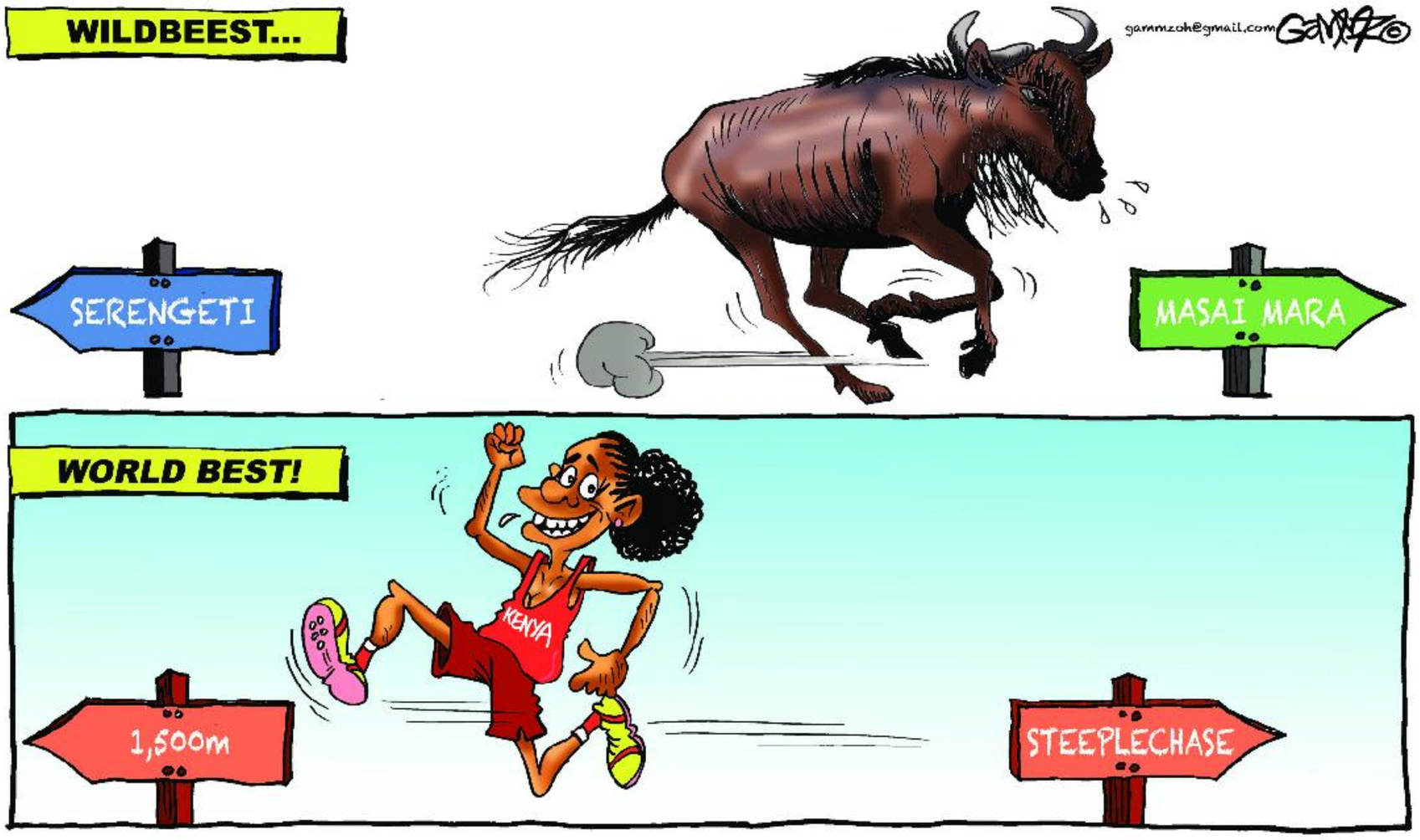
Despite assurance from the government and politicians allied to it that SHA is up, hale and hearty, it is ailing. The government cannot continue to live in denial, hoping that things will right themselves, because they can only get worse unless it takes decisive action.

There is an urgent need to review the whole concept of SHA to adequately and satisfactorily serve the public. Our failed healthcare system must be revived as soon as yesterday to win back public trust. That means going back to the drawing board. In the time SHA has been in existence, what has worked, and what has not worked is the public domain. The government should begin from there and chart a new path forward.

The Standard is printed and published by the proprietors,

THE STANDARD GROUP
NEWSDESK
3222111 | Mobile: 0719012111/0719012118
EMAIL editorial@standardmedia.co.ke

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Chaacha Mwita
ACTING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, John Bundotich
Registered at the GPO as a newspaper.



MY TWO CENTS

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Kirk died due to his opinions, but he's no free speech martyr

FAITH WEKESA

Charlie Kirk is dead. His alleged killer remains silent. The leftist narrative, first used to explain his unfortunate death, quickly collapsed once the suspect was found. We can only now say with certainty that Charlie died for his opinions. Messed up as some of those views were, skewed, abrasive even, his decision to be too loud and too brash about them ultimately did him in.

The very core of our humanity, the one thing that sets us apart is our ability to not only think but reason and communicate. We form opinions, defend them and challenge those we do not agree with because that is how we are wired. That someone can be killed simply for being human enough to hold an opinion should worry us all because humanity exists and continues to thrive on the strength of our intellectualism.

The tragedy of such actions unfortunately goes way beyond the victim. While I admire the bravado displayed by Kirk's widow and supporters about keeping his voice alive, the truth is that many more voices were silenced with that one shot. So many people will now think twice about risking their lives just to make public their opinions, however noble. So many more will shut out great ideas afraid it may cost them their lives.

I dread a muzzled society where people move around like zombies too afraid to speak their minds. A society where artists are scared to live their dreams, opinion shapers worry their message may offend the wrong audience, a people so scared to live their vibrant expressive selves because someone may take offence enough to silence them permanently.

On the other hand, even as we defend the right to think and speak freely, Kirk's death also forces us to acknowledge the profound effect our words and opinions can have on others. We are not honest if we paint him solely as a martyr for free expression without acknowledging the harm his rhetoric caused. His sweeping generalisation on matters race and religion, his dismissal of historic injustices and his unwillingness to accept that other perspectives counted left so many people deeply hurt. And their pain mattered too.

That Kirk's supporters feel anyone who isn't as wounded as they are by his death is evil and should be 'cancelled' is the height of hypocrisy. The folly of self-righteousness is that it blinds us to our own faults while spotlighting those of everyone else. It convinces us that anyone who does not think like us, or in this case, does not mourn like us, is wrong.

The irony is impossible to miss. The very people who for years dismissed critics, urging them to grow thicker skin or stay out of the public space if the heat was too much are now the ones cancelling people and demanding for their firing for not mourning the 'right' way. Suddenly, the indifference of other people to their grief is treated as criminal. The voices that defended Kirk for speaking up are the very same ones now silencing those who refuse to go with their prescribed tone of sorrow over his death. Such contradictions.

But we can be better than that. A mature society allows for space to differ and deeply reflect on everyday events that ultimately shape us. It is possible to mourn Kirk's life, senselessly cut short, while also acknowledging that his words left scars on others. It is okay to feel hurt that others seem indifferent to our grief, without becoming so vindictive as to want to destroy their careers and lives over it. An opinion is not right simply because it soothes our egos and aligns to the ideals we cherish. It is the right opinion when it is informed, thoughtful and expressed with respect especially when it touches on the core beliefs of others.

Kirk's death reminds us of the immense power in our ability to think and communicate but also the heavy responsibility that comes with this amazing gift. When we silence some while idolising others, we weaponise the very essence of our humanity instead of using it to bring us together.

Ms Wekesa is a development communication consultant

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PALAVER

Chebet Bungei [chebetbungei@gmail.com] fully supports the allocation of 20 per cent of affordable houses to teachers. "This is a recognition of the profession's contribution to nation building. It is notable that teachers are amongst the highest contributors to the housing kitty. The government should provide a clear criteria of handing out the houses to avoid politicisation and ensure transparency. From where I sit, there's no bribery as some people claim. It's just an allocation to the rightful contributors".

Kiambu County Government is not taking matters of the environment seriously, according to Githuku Mungai [githukumungai@gmail.com]. "The government, for instance, leaves clogged dirty water on passageways in front of shops all over. Additionally, many homesteads with low-cost housing burn trash as and when they want. In addition, pig farmers on small plots adopt poor farming practices, subjecting neighbours to malodorous smells. These are just a few nuisances to be found in many areas of Kiambu."

President William Ruto has been holding meetings with leaders from different communities at the State House, notes Onyango Moffat [onyangomoffat89@gmail.com]. "In those meetings, Dr Ruto has continued to give promises, but in reality, most have not been honoured. Realism should be a driving force for any leader who wants to be re-elected. Instead of making promises, tackle issues surrounding the SHA, capitation, and the high cost of living. Ruto should take advantage of decreased pressure from the public to put his house in order."

The new competency-based education helps learners discover their talents and nurture them, says Franklin Mukembu [fmukembu@gmail.com]. "Students who are not beneficiaries of this new system should also be considered. The government should build talent academies where they can have a chance to nurture their talents as well. If these academies are managed well, they will help in solving the problem of unemployment, which is a thorn in the flesh of many youths despite the fact that they have graduated from the universities."

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Should Gachagua be the Opposition's candidate?

YES

MUSILI KAUTA,
THEOLOGIAN

He is united Opposition's best bet

When I look at the current political landscape, I am convinced that former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is the best candidate from the United Opposition to beat President William Ruto. For me, politics is about numbers, energy, and the ability to connect with the people. Gachagua has all these. He has the numbers from the Mt Kenya region, a vote basket that no serious contender can ignore. He also speaks the language of the common man, and whether one agrees with him or not, people listen when he talks. That alone gives him an edge that many polished but disconnected politicians lack. Gachagua also has what many in the opposition do not have: A party, loyal foot-soldiers, and the resources to run a serious campaign. He is aggressive, fearless, and knows how to fight back, vital qualities when facing a seasoned politician like Ruto. His only drawback is the impeachment which left political scars, but in politics, scars can become symbols of survival. If the opposition is serious about unseating Ruto, then Gachagua is their best shot.

daily@standard.com

NO

HELLEN MUTHONI,
SALES EXECUTIVE

Kalonzo is better than former DP

I do not support the candidature of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua as the Opposition's presidential flagbearer because, he is unlikely to defeat the incumbent, President William Ruto at the ballot. The fact that Gachagua appears to command the biggest number of votes in the Mt Kenya region does not make him the ideal candidate to beat Ruto, nor is his abrasive nature of approaching political contests. The former DP's recent remarks that he is the best choice for the opposition should be taken as a natural urge for power by any given politician, but not as a self-declaration overriding other opposition chiefs. Gachagua is not the best-placed to send Dr Ruto home. He may have the entire mountain votes on his side but that is not all. Kenyans are looking for much more than that. Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka is the best person to fly the opposition flag due to his experience in politics and governance.

Text and photos: Erastus Mulwa

MURDER

Mbobu's killing and why we must stop normalising extralegal killings

The past week has been a dark one for the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) following the brutal killing of senior advocate Kyalo Mbobu. This tragic incident has robbed the LSK and the country of a distinguished legal practitioner, arbitrator, adjudicator, and law lecturer who trained many advocates.

As with many deaths of prominent personalities, his killing has evoked many questions, with many seeking to understand the circumstances surrounding his demise. Barely a day after his murder, copies of a High Court judgment in which a client successfully sued him to recover Sh97 million he was holding onto after a land transaction were circulated.

Shortly thereafter, media reports painted a troubling picture of his life, allegedly plagued by debts. These revelations have sparked diverse opinions. While many have condemned the killing, some have expressed resignation about its cause, implying that his financial troubles may have led to his death.

This kind of thinking is not only unfortunate but dangerous as it suggests that extralegal killings can be justified under certain circumstances. Such a mindset legitimises actions that run afoul of the law and opens the door to dangerous terrain.

Kenya subscribes to the rule of law and has a robust Constitution that protects the right to life, except in limited instances such as judicially-sanctioned capital punishment. Yet, extralegal killings persist.

The recent murder of the former MP for Kabondo Kasipul in similar circumstances is a chilling reminder of how criminal elements exploit our cognitive dissonance between legal frameworks and their enforcement. It is not only

Lucy Minayo,
Advocate of the High Court

civilians who are guilty of extralegal killings; the police have played a significant role in undermining our legal order.

Deaths of civilians in the hands of the police have with one of the most damning occurrences being the June 25, 2024 protests, where official records indicate about 61 young people were killed by police officers.

Several young people also died in this year's June 25 memorial protests. Most of these cases remain unresolved, while a few are stuck in our courts. Delayed justice in these cases—and the active involvement of police or state actors in extralegal killings—radicalises criminal behaviour.

It is therefore unsurprising that cases of femicide are on the rise. Troublingly, there are subtle and overt suggestions that extralegal actions, whether perpetrated by police or civilians, are permissible in certain instances. This type of thinking dehumanises the victims of extralegal actions. Human life is sacrosanct, and nobody—including our worst enemies—deserves to die outside the bounds of natural causes or due process

Individuals who have lost their lives to gangs or police are not mere statistics. They were friends, fathers, mothers, siblings, and colleagues, and their loss is immeasurable. Our cognitive dissonance regarding the rule of law must be addressed urgently.

Discourse surrounding these murders must be anchored in the Constitution and the Penal Code. Police investigations into the death of Mr Mbobu and other extralegal killings must be thorough and transparent.

Criminal justice actors must collaborate effectively to defend the Constitution through the swift delivery of justice. Every unresolved case of extralegal killing erodes public trust in the rule of law and emboldens perpetrators.

The media must exercise greater care in reporting cases of extralegal killings. They should avoid framing narratives that suggest such actions are permissible or justified under certain circumstances.

Entities like the National Gender and Equality Commission and civil society organisations must engage in widespread civic education to disrupt harmful narratives and restore values like human dignity, which are the hallmark of Chapter 10 of the Constitution.

Political leaders, including the President, must remain consistent in defending constitutional standards. When the rule of law breaks down, everyone is at risk of extralegal actions. This moment calls for collective action to reaffirm the principles of justice, human dignity, and constitutionalism.

GITOBU IMANYARA,
FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Why Kenyans no longer trust the Kenya Kwanza government

On the third anniversary of William Ruto's presidency, 64 per cent of Kenyans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction. That's nearly two out of every three citizens expressing disillusionment with a government that has over the last three years proudly branded itself as inclusive, broad-based, and people-driven. How does such a deep crisis of trust emerge under a leader who has spent practically every week traversing the country, holding rallies, launching projects, and assuring Kenyans that he is working for everyone?

The answer lies in the widening gulf between words and lived reality. For all the photo-ops and speeches about unity, ordinary Kenyans feel little tangible change in their daily lives. The bread-and-butter struggles, skyrocketing food prices, rising taxes, joblessness, collapsing small businesses, drown out whatever slogans the government projects. Kenyans are asking themselves a simple but profound question: If this is an inclusive government, why does it feel so exclusive when it comes to relief and opportunity?

Let's start with the most visible culprit: The economy. Taxes have become suffocating, not just for the middle class but also for the hustlers President Ruto once promised to uplift. Fuel prices, transport costs, and basic commodities are increasingly out of reach for many households. Parents struggle with school fees, while graduates roam the streets unemployed. The economic undertow is so severe that people no longer believe reassurances from the Treasury or State House. This disconnect between government optimism and citizen despair explains why many Kenyans are tuning out official communication. A press conference telling people "things will improve" means little when someone's rent is due, and their salary or lack thereof, can't cover it. The government seems unable to grasp the urgency of the economic pain, or worse, appears indifferent to it.

Beyond the economy, there is a second layer of discontent: Performance. Kenyans are not blind to the fact that their leaders are busy. The President and his deputy have been everywhere, launching roads, meeting delegations, attending prayer services, presiding over harambees. Yet, the political theatre does not translate into meaningful governance.

Unity, as Kenyans are beginning to realise, cannot be staged. A photo of the President dining with one community today and another tomorrow does not erase the structural inequalities, policy failures, or corruption scandals that define the Ruto administration. To the public, it feels like leadership has chosen optics over substance. The endless roadshows project energy but not delivery. Kenyans are essentially asking: What is the endgame of this broad-based government? Is it an actual development strategy, or just a survival mechanism for those in power?

Some defenders of government argue that the real issue is communication. If only citizens better understood the reforms underway, they say, trust levels would rise. But that argument is increasingly hollow. Kenyans are not uninformed; they are unconvinced. Communication is only as strong as the truth behind it.

daily@standard.com

What the government faces is not a communication gap but a credibility collapse. People have stopped listening, not because they don't hear, but because they don't believe. Three years of broken promises, recycled rhetoric, and exaggerated achievements have trained the public to tune out. In such an environment, even genuine progress risks being dismissed as propaganda.

There is also a deeper, less tangible but equally critical factor: Moral authority. Kenyans want a leader who can speak to them with honesty and humility, who acknowledges the country's pain without sugarcoating or blaming external forces. Instead, Dr Ruto's government often appears defensive, more interested in silencing critics than engaging them. The rhetoric of unity rings hollow when citizens see little empathy for their suffering and even less accountability for failures.

> *What the government faces is not a communication gap but a credibility collapse. People have stopped listening, not because they don't hear, but because they don't believe. Three years of broken promises, recycled rhetoric, and exaggerated achievements have trained the public to tune out.*

This erosion of moral authority explains why Kenyans no longer grant this administration the benefit of doubt. Trust, once broken, is difficult to repair. Without it, even well-intentioned policies face scepticism.

A government that loses public trust faces more than bad headlines. It faces paralysis. When citizens stop believing, they also stop cooperating. Policy becomes harder to implement, taxes harder to collect, and public patience thinner by the day. The risk is not just political unpopularity but social instability.

For Kenya, where democracy is still fragile and institutions weak, such a collapse of trust is dangerous. The government's legitimacy depends on being seen as both capable and honest. Right now, it struggles to be either.

If the President truly wants to reclaim public confidence, he must abandon slogans and embrace substance. That begins with tackling the economy head-on, cutting unnecessary taxes, investing in job creation, protecting small businesses, and cushioning the most vulnerable. It also requires humility in leadership: Acknowledging missteps, communicating honestly, and showing empathy.

Unity cannot be manufactured through endless rallies. It must be felt in the lived experiences of citizens when their children attend affordable schools, when their businesses thrive, when their taxes are put to visible, accountable use.

Until then, the broad-based government remains just that: A slogan without substance, a promise without delivery. And as long as 64 per cent of Kenyans see their country heading in the wrong direction, no amount of political roadshows or staged inclusivity will convince them that the remaining two years of the Ruto administration will be different.

Alternative View

Slain activist's critics failed to interrogate what he stood for

LEONARD KHAFAFA

Much has been said about Charlie Kirk. To some, he was a polarising and even bigoted figure. To others, he stood as a voice of reason in a world drifting away from the moral values that define our shared humanity.

Kirk was an American conservative activist, author and media personality. He co-founded Turning Point USA, a student organisation dedicated to promoting conservative principles on college campuses. He later led Turning Point Action; a sister organisation focused on advocacy and lobbying.

A close ally of President Donald Trump, Kirk echoed similar positions on issues such as immigration, gun rights and cultural conservatism. Through the daily Charlie Kirk Show, he discussed politics, education and social issues. He was especially known – and criticised – for his controversial takes on Covid-19, climate change and election integrity. Yet, were these views truly extremist, or simply unpopular in mainstream circles?

To many Christians, Kirk's positions aligned closely with biblical teachings. He was unapologetically pro-life, labelling abortion as murder and calling for its outlawing. He was equally vocal in opposing same-sex marriage, declaring homosexuality a sin. Kirk held that there are only two genders and saw gender fluidity and transgender ideology as harmful falsehoods.

Beyond social issues, Kirk championed limited government, individual liberty and free-market capitalism. He strongly supported constitutionalism, border control and immigration enforcement – not out of xenophobia, he argued, but from a concern for national security and cultural identity.

Kirk's life was cut short violently and the motives remain unclear. What is evident, however, is that Kirk made many enemies – often because his most controversial remarks were stripped of context and misinterpreted.

Christian distinction

For example, critics accused him of harbouring hatred toward the LGBTQ+ community. But Kirk, in fact, drew a clear line between opposing the sin and loving the sinner – a common Christian distinction. Similarly, his defence of gun rights was not a call to violence but a belief in personal protection and a check against government overreach.

Kirk stood out because he lived his faith publicly and allowed it to inform his politics. He believed Christians should actively participate in governance and boldly defend their values – even when it meant going against the cultural grain. "Christianity," he once said, "is not about being nice but being good" – insisting that moral courage often comes at the cost of popularity.

In many ways, Kirk was a casualty of the more toxic elements of the woke culture – particularly the cancel culture. He was vilified, not for hate, but for nonconformity. His critics often failed to interrogate what he truly stood for. Perhaps they forgot the timeless question asked by Nicodemus in John 7:51: "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

Closer home, Kenya faces a similar challenge. Political discourse has been reduced to a simplistic binary: Either for or against the government. Since its inception, the Kenya Kwanza administration has faced relentless criticism. Anyone who highlights its successes is immediately branded a government apologist – regardless of the evidence.

In life and death, Kirk leaves behind enduring lessons: Popularity does not make evil good. Truth must be defended even at great personal cost. Though suppressed, truth cannot be destroyed – it only waits to be rediscovered.

Mr Khafafa is a public policy analyst

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HOT ON X

Ex-VP faults Biden's re-election bid

@WSJ: Former Vice President Kamala Harris said in a new memoir that it was reckless to let Joe Biden and his wife decide on their own whether he should run for re-election. Harris calls the decision reckless in new memoir.

@stacey_1776: So she lied to us whenever she said he was fit for office.

@CH.: Truth told only after leaving office. That is why most politicians have little credibility when in office.

@gandralf: Kamala Harris' favourability has surged since she became the presumptive democratic nominee.

@ldw52073: Who cares. She should have never been given a chance to run. She proved that she is incompetent.

@SmallTownG336: They did not get to decide. She and Obama stabbed him in the back.

Follow us on X
@StandardKenya

FROM THE WEB

Murang'a delegation visits State House

Standard Digital: President William Ruto meets grassroots leaders from Murang'a County at State House, Nairobi. DP Kithure Kindiki, CSs, MPs and MCAs also present.

Friky Tai: He's buying them fuel for 'Wantam' journey.

Stephen Muikamba: Even Gachagua is meeting with Muranga county leaders.

Neema Wangeci: Only fools can be fooled twice.

Mwirigi Allan: Instead of summoning endless delegations, the President should just get the voters' list from IEBC and wire money directly to all registered voters - at least then, wananchi would see something tangible.

Stev Steven: Assuming each county sends 10,000 delegates. It translates to 47,0000 votes. This number will be the winning margin in 2027.

Jungle Roar: And that's how Ruto is securing his second term.

Alex Kogy: Next, stories will be heard about each person getting Sh 20k.

POLITICS

November by-elections will have far-reaching political ramifications for Ruto and opposition

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua returned to the country recently to steer his party's campaign for the upcoming November by-elections. While it's merely an exercise in filling vacant seats, their outcomes will have far-reaching political ramifications. It could rejig the faltering political careers as well as dim the prospects of others.

The exercise will be watched keenly by those with eyes on the 2027 polls. Official campaigns are a month away, but the groundswell of activities underway portray a do-or-die exercise.

Gachagua has been itching for a payback moment and there's no better chance than this to prove his mettle. But President William Ruto is a smart politician and Gachagua might as well learn the hard way that politics is not what he perceives it to be.

Those chants in rallies may not be anything more than that. Ruto as Uhuru's deputy used the mid-term polls to show his might by sweeping the latter under his feet in elections that were largely in Uhuru's backyards. Before that, ODM leader Raila Odinga used the 2005 referendum to sow the seeds of President Mwai Kibaki's Waterloo in the contested 2007 polls.

For the Opposition, and especially Gachagua, failure to make a point would be disastrous for their fledgling unity.

It might as well be career shattering for the likes of Kalonzo Musyoka and Martha Karua who are in their political sunsets. A dismal performance by the President and Raila would also portend rejection, thus give impetus to the new order propelled by the younger generation within their parties as well as outside.

However, the unforeseen beneficiary could be the Deputy President Kithure Kindiki. The by-election in Mbeere North will be keenly followed by pundits because it's in a region widely perceived

to be oscillating towards the Opposition, thanks to Gachagua's aggressive tribal overtures. Secondly, the seat belonged to Democratic Party headed by the president's friend turned foe, former Attorney General Justin Muturi.

In a nutshell, it is a duel between the current and immediate former deputy presidents in an area long regarded as a bellwether.

Instructively, by-elections hardly suffer rigging and whoever is trounced may find no easy sanctuary to hide the embarrassment. It will not only offer fodder for the victors but bragging rights as well as momentum towards the main polls coming in less than two years.

Odhiambo Jamwa, political analyst

COMMUNICATION

Accord our leaders some respect, please

The level of disrespect some citizens show their leaders is appalling. Listening to Bunge la Wananchi recently, I was shocked to hear a resident refer to Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja as an "academic dwarf" on national radio. Funny enough, the same individual repeatedly mispronounced basic words like 'viongozi', saying 'maviongozi' instead. One can't help but ask, who then is the academic dwarf? National radio is not a platform for insults or baseless attacks. It is a space for constructive dialogue, where citizens can share their opinions in a respectful and intelligent manner.

Of course, not everyone can be a darling of the ruling government and that's the beauty of democracy. However, criticism should be presented with substance and civility. If there is an issue you feel needs addressing, then speak up, but do so thoughtfully. Engage as an informed and respectful Kenyan who wants change, not as someone out to tear others down. We must also recognise the role media plays in amplifying grassroots voices. They are doing a commendable job of bridging the gap between the public and leaders. Let's not misuse that platform by turning it into a space for name-calling and chaos. ***Loreen Anyango Awuor, Rongo University***

DOPING

Comply with Wada rules to save Kenya from ban

Kenya's athletes are our pride, carrying the flag high in every marathon and international championships. But that pride is now under threat. The World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) has raised concerns about Kenya's compliance, and failure to act could see our stars barred from global competitions and our athletics body denied funding. That would not only hurt the athletes, but also damage the reputation we have built over decades and how the world sees our performance at the Tokyo World Athletics Championship where our stars are shining.

Complying with Wada is not just about following rules, it's about protecting the integrity of sport. When a few athletes cheat, they cast doubt on the countless clean runners who train day and night on our tough roads and in high altitude areas, with nothing but determination. It's unfair to them and unfair to Kenya. We must act firmly by closing loopholes and holding culprits accountable, whether athletes, coaches or agents. If we guard against doping, we safeguard our future. ***Brian Nyachae, Migori***

POLITICS

Dishonest leaders hide behind scriptures to win

A leader is someone who can positively influence others. However, many politicians today are untrustworthy. During campaign periods, they frequently seek refuge in churches, quoting scriptures to present themselves as righteous. They act friendly, honest, obedient, and faithful just to win public trust and secure votes. They claim they are ready to die for the people, promising faithful leadership and commitment to development. Yet, once elected, many politicians turn their backs on citizens.

They divert public funds meant for development to serve their personal interests. During swearing-in ceremonies, they raise the Bible, making the public believe their authority is God-given. Some politicians commit unethical acts, yet their followers defend them, insisting they are "chosen by God".

They silence those who attempt to expose their misconduct, often through intimidation, threats, or even violence. Still, these leaders attend church regularly and donate generously to churches. Today, many politicians hide behind religion, failing to deliver on their promises and betraying the trust of the people. ***Valary Birgen, Laikipia***

DEVELOPMENT

Ruto assures investors, lays ground for Sh65b textile plant

President William Ruto has assured investors of economic stability as a Sh65 billion textile plant set base in Vipingo, Kilifi County.

Ruto said there would be no change of policies within a five-year cycle as a measure for predictability of the business ecosystem.

The President spoke during the laying of a foundation for Vipingo Special Economic Zone, a project funded by Arise Integrated Industrial Properties (ARISE IIP) and Centum Investment Company.

"The government has deliberately become predictable in terms of its decisions that revolve around policy and legislations that affect businesses and investments. We have a five year cycle before any changes on policy is made in the eco-system," said Ruto.

The 2,000-acre industrial park, situated within a larger 10,000-acre development, is expected to attract $100 million in local and foreign direct investment while creating 50,000 direct and 250,000 indirect jobs.

"Special Economic Zones are where we want to add value to all the raw materials we produce in Kenya. The policy interventions that we have put in place are creating the correct fiscal and financial ecosystems to support this enterprise," said the President.

Ruto welcomed the ARISE IIP that specialises in building and managing industrial parks that accelerate economic transformation by attracting investments and fostering local value addition, with a presence in West, East, and Southern Africa

The President, while closing the Arise IIP-Kenya Investment Forum in Vipingo Ridge, said the textile industry would provide 30,000 jobs.

The forum brought together global investors, DFIs, policymakers and industry leaders who seek a pie of the SEZ.

Arise IIP Founder and CEO, Gagan Gupta, said Kenya's strategic location, skilled workforce, and supportive investment climate make it an ideal destination for long-term growth.

[Joackim Bwana]

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KIAMBU

SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA ON THE KIAMBU COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2025

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 196 (1) (b) and 210 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the Sectoral Committee on Finance and Economic Planning invites interested members of the public to submit any views they may have on the Kiambu County Finance Bill, 2025.

Written Memoranda may be forwarded to the **Clerk, County Assembly of Kiambu, P.O. Box 1492 – 00900 Kiambu,** hand delivered to the **Office of the Clerk, Assembly Buildings, Kiambu** or emailed to info@kiambuassembly.go.ke to be received on or before **Friday, 26th September, 2025 at 5.00 pm.**

The Committee will further undertake public hearing/participation on the listed dates and venues from **10.00 am – 1.00 pm**:

No.	Date	Ward	Sub - County	Venue
1.	Wednesday 24th September, 2025	Ng'enda	Gatundu South	Gatundu Educational Hall
2.	Wednesday 24th September, 2025	Chania	Gatundu North	Sub- County Offices
3.	Wednesday 24th September, 2025	Township	Thika	Thika Community Hall
4.	Wednesday 24th September, 2025	Juja	Juja	Sub- County Offices
5.	Thursday 25th September, 2025	Biashara	Ruiru	Ruiru CDF Social Hall, Ruiru
6.	Thursday 25th September, 2025	Township	Kiambu	Kiambu Community Hall
7.	Thursday 25th September, 2025	Githunguri	Githunguri	PCEA Ayub Kinyua Githunguri
8.	Thursday 25th September, 2025	Karuri	Kiambaa	St. Martin De Pores Catholic Church Hall
9.	Friday 26th September, 2025	Township	Kikuyu	ACK Emmanuel Church Hall
10.	Friday 26th September, 2025	Limuru Central	Limuru	Sub - County Offices
11.	Friday 26th September, 2025	Muguga	Kabete	ACK Ndunyu Church Hall
12.	Friday 26th September, 2025	Lari/ Kirenga	Lari	AIC Magina Hall
13.	Friday 26th September, 2025	Ndeiya	Ndeiya	Makutano Market

NOTE: A copy of the Finance Bill, 2025 may be downloaded from County Assembly of Kiambu website- www.kiambuassembly.go.ke or https://slo-countybills.go.ke/

JOHN M. MUTIE
CLERK, COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KIAMBU

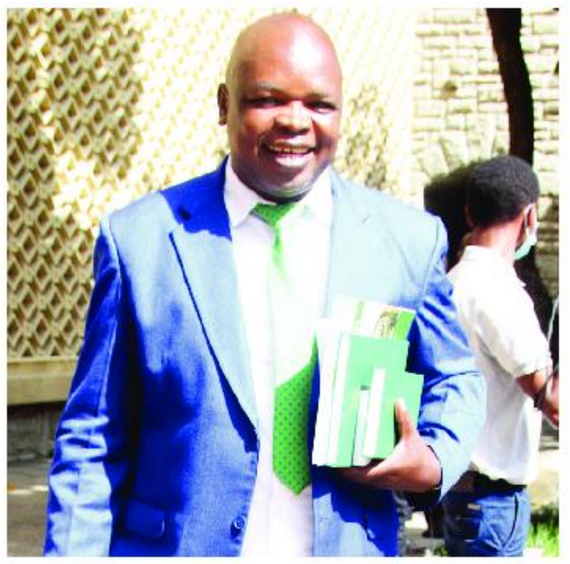
"For the welfare of society and the just Government of the people"

Wetang'ula and MP set for showdown in ward by-election

- Speaker is supporting a Ford-K aspirant while Kalasinga backs independent candidate.
- Wetangula is said to have sent emissaries to lure Kalasinga's man to Ford-K.

EDWIN NYARANGI, NAIROBI

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula.



Kabuchai MP Majimbo Kalasinga.

A fierce political duel is shaping up between National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula and Kabuchai MP Majimbo Kalasinga.

The two are backing rivals in the Kabuchai/Chwele Ward, in Wetangula's home constituency, for the by-election scheduled for November 27.

The mini poll was occasioned by the death of Barasa Mukhongo, who was the Ford Kenya chairman in Kabuchai Constituency.

What was once expected to be just a routine contest has now escalated into a high-stakes battle pitting Wetangula and Kalasinga who both belong to Ford Kenya and hail from the same constituency in Bungoma.

A falling out between the two is said to have occurred during the passage of the controversial Finance Bill, 2024, which Wetangula endorsed while Kalasinga defied the ruling coalition's position and voted against.

Sources within the party indicate that Wetangula intends to field a candidate while Kalasinga has rallied behind an independent aspirant, Eric Wekesa.

Several hopefuls have shown interest in the seat, including Vincent Maunda, who finished third in the last General Election and now serves in the office of Industrialisation Principal Secretary Juma Mukhwana. Celestine Mutaki, an employee in Wetang'ula's parliamentary office, and Protas Wanjala Chichi, once attached to the Kabuchai CDF office, are also in the race.

Insiders say Wetangula's preferred choice is Maunda, though the Speaker's camp had initially made frantic attempts to lure Eric Wekesa into Ford Kenya's fold with promises of a direct ticket and financial support.

Governor Kenneth Lusaka, acting as Wetangula's emissary, has reached out in attempts to persuade Wekesa but the aspirant is said to have declined the overtures.

"I have decided to contest for this seat as an Independent candidate as a matter of principle and political strategy. My campaign symbol, a pen, reflects my vision for Kabuchai/Chwele Ward, the pen represents education, enlightenment and the drafting of progressive policies to uplift the ward," said Wekesa.

Kalasinga said he would not support a candidate imposed by Ford Kenya, accusing the party of sidelining him in decisions concerning issues in his own constituency.

Kalasinga described Wekesa as a man who understands the needs of the residents and one capable of steering the ward towards development.

He urged locals to choose a leader who embodies their struggles and aspirations, not one pushed by politicians.

"The battle for Kabuchai/Chwele Ward in the coming by-election is more than just a ward contest, it is about dismantling a culture of political tyranny that has suffocated fresh leadership in Bungoma in the last couple of years," said Kalasinga.

Wekesa's refusal to warm up to Wetangula's overtures has triggered anxiety within the Speaker's camp, with emissaries, including Bungoma Woman Rep Catherine Wambilianga, having been dispatched to persuade Kalasinga.

Wambilianga recently orchestrated the installation of a new Ford Kenya constituency chairperson following the death of Mukhongo.

These changes in leadership were done without consulting Kalasinga, further deepening perceptions that the MP has been undermined.

Political observers have also questioned Wetangula's conduct as Speaker of the National Assembly where he is constitutionally bound to maintain impartiality yet he has openly been meddling in the by-elections.

Recent instances of the Speaker engaging in partisan political activities, including attending Kenya Kwanza rallies, have raised questions about his neutrality.

Whatever the outcome, Kabuchai/Chwele Ward's by-election is poised to make history for it might determine the place of Wetangula and Ford Kenya in Bungoma politics .

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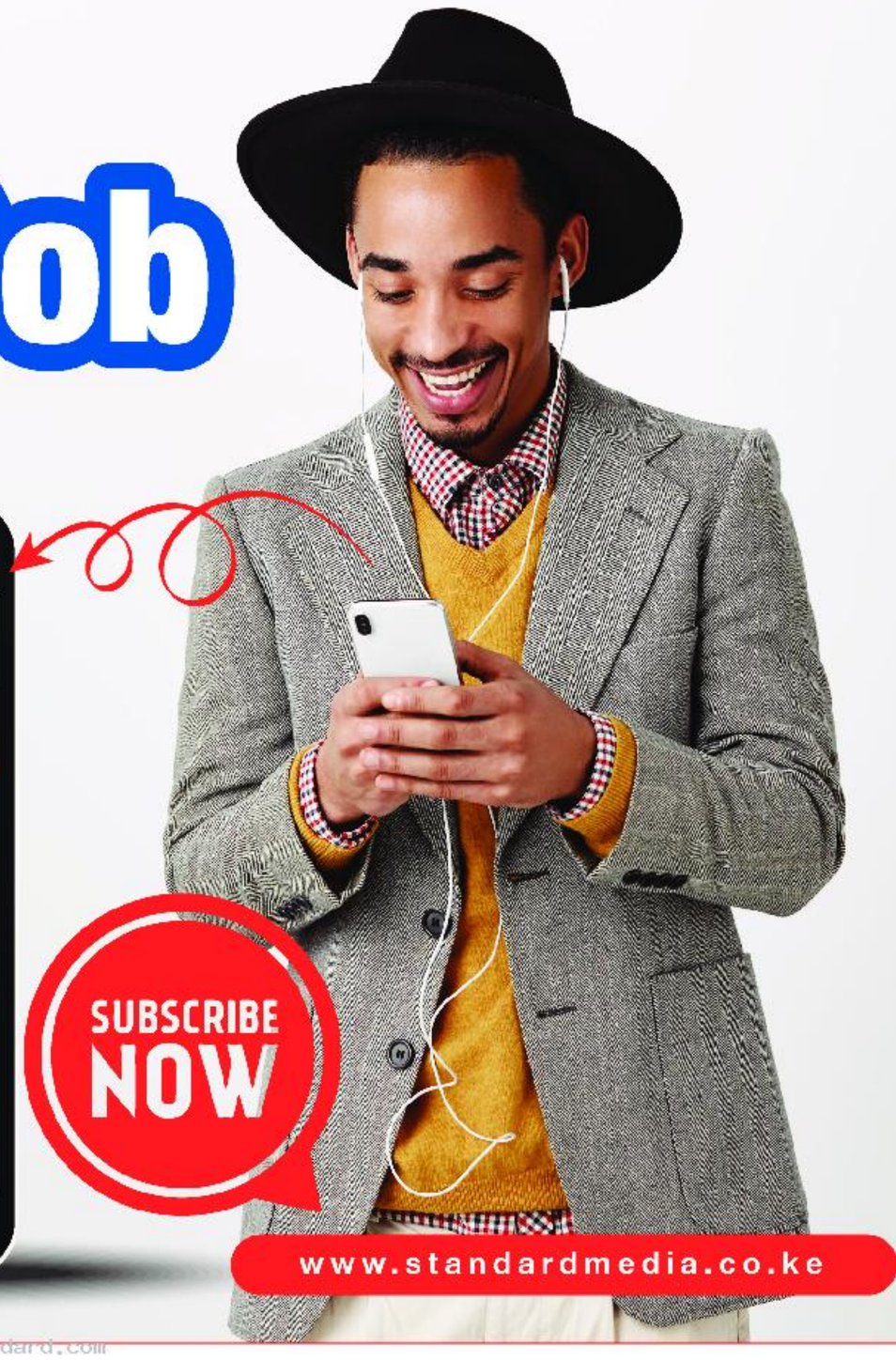

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Sports. All eyes on Wanyonyi ahead of semis. **Page 31**

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Why MPs could veto acquisition of Portland by Tanzania tycoon

- House committee says existing shareholders not given opportunity to buy shares.
- CMA had earlier admitted it approved the sale at way below the market price.

JOSPHAT THIONGÓ, NAIROBI

Lawmakers are now considering stopping the sale of East Africa Portland Cement Company (EAPC) shares unless the parties involved can prove that the acquisition process is above board.

The National Assembly Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives yesterday poked holes into the planned acquisition of EAPC shares by Tanzania's Kalahari Cement, terming the process opaque and a potential hostile takeover.

The House team led by the session chair and Aldai MP Maryanne Keitany wondered why the company's management and staff were not satisfactorily consulted before initiation of the process in view of the fact that 52 per cent of EAPC is being publicly owned through the National Treasury and the National Social Security Fund.

"This is a matter of national interest. Given the shareholding structure of EAPC company, we find it alarming that the existing shareholders and the company were not given opportunity to buy these shares before they were offered to the investor," said Keitany during a meeting with EAPC managing director Mohamed Adan on the sale of the shares.

"This is a very pertinent question, because the majority of these 52 per cent also represent the same staff and these same staff have relatives, they have their own livelihoods, and for that we must understand what plans are there."

The Capital Markets Authority approved the controversial sale of 29.2 per cent of EAPC to a Tanzanian cement baron at a price it acknowledged was a steep discount.

In correspondence to the Clerk of the National Assembly dated August 25, 2025 following inquiry by parliament, CMA Chief Executive Wyckliffe Shamiah said the regulator had granted an exemption to Kalahari Cement, a vehicle for Tanzanian businessman Edhah Abdallah Munif, to acquire the stake from Switzerland's Holcim for Sh718.7 million without making a mandatory buyout offer to other shareholders.

The controversial deal was part of a wider African exit by Holcim, which also sold its businesses in Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

29.2
PER CENT
THE percentage of EAPC being sold to Tanzania's Kalahari Cement.

East African Portland MD Mohamed Osman Adan before the Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives at Bunge Tower, Parliament, yesterday. [Elvis Ogina, Standard]

In Kenya, Holcim last year sold its 58.6 per cent stake in Bamburi Cement to Munif's Amsons Group for Sh23 billion, a transaction that culminated in Bamburi's delisting.

The deal for EAPC, valued at Sh27.30 per share, has been a point of intense contention.

"The agreed consideration represents a significant discount compared to the current market value, had the shares been acquired through an on-market transaction," Shamiah said in the letter.

Yesterday, the committee also sought to understand what measures had been put in place during the acquisition process to safeguard the interests of the government, employees and even the minority shareholders.

"Public participation is critical, because this is not just any private company. The people of Kenya, through their pensions and taxes, own a majority of this firm," said Keitany.

"We must know if due diligence was done and if employees and local communities were involved."

Adan told the committee that the management and staff of the company had not been engaged on the proposed acquisition and this had led to anxiety due to the fear of looming job losses and deviation from already established operation guidelines.

"As management, we have not been approached, and there has been no visibility on due diligence," he said.

Briefing

TRADE. EQUITY MISSION SEEKS BUSINESS IN DRC

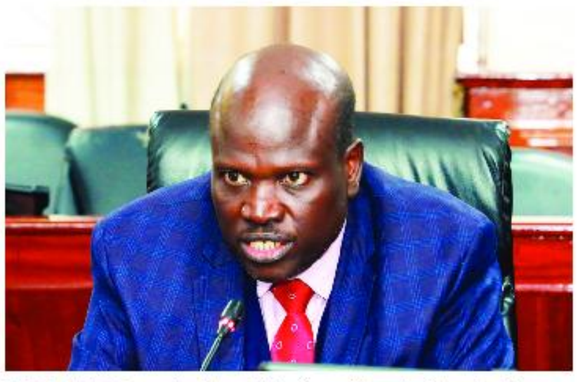
More than 50 delegates from 16 nationalities are in Lubumbashi DRC, for a five-day trade mission organised by Equity Group.The mission, which aims to unlock business opportunities, foster economic collaboration and connect investors with key partners in the mining-rich Katanga region, also includes 120 Congolese delegates.For the first time, the mission will extend to Kolwezi, a key mining hub in the northwest of Lubumbashi, where most of the country's mining operations are based.The trade mission has attracted a diverse group of entrepreneurs from Kenya, DRC, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Poland, Germany, and the United States.**[Sofia Ali]**

TECH. AFRICA LAUNCHES FIRST AI DATA CENTRE

Africa has unveiled its first Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre in Uganda, a project hailed as a turning point that will shift African data from foreign servers back to the continent.This is expected to give institutions, researchers, and businesses greater control over their digital assets.Synectics Technologies Executive Vice Chairman and CEO Oladele Oyekunle said the first phase of the project is expected to cost $1.2 billion (Sh157.2 billion).The facility will run on 100 megawatts of renewable energy and adopt a modular design that allows for expansion as technology evolves. Oyekunle added that the three-year project will begin rollout by mid-next year**. [Sofia Ali]**

POWER

Kenyans to pay more for electricity due to thermal dependence



KPLC MD Joseph Siror [Boniface Okendo, Standard]

The cost of electricity will go up this month after the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) increased the fuel cost charge component of the power bill as the country increases dependence on costly thermal electricity plants. Epra in a public notice increased the Fuel Cost Charge (FCC) to Sh3.60 per unit for electricity consumed in September up from Sh2.99 in August.

It however reduced the cost of Foreign Exchange Rate Fluctuation Adjustment to 80.67 cents per unit in September from Sh1.22 in August, which however is not adequate to offset the rise in FCC.

Epra notified consumers "that all prices for electrical energy...will be liable to a fuel energy cost charge of plus Sh3.60 per kilowatt hours (KWh) for all meter readings to be taken in September, 2025."

FCC is a pass-through cost that compensates thermal power producers for the costs incurred in acquiring heavy fuel oil used in electricity generation. The forex charge cushions power sector players from volatility in local currency.

The new rates will reverse the declining trend in the cost of power that has been seen since April this year, where power costs dropped from Sh29.39 to Sh27.7 in August.

The increased reliance on thermal power plants has been on the rise this year, accounting for 11.05 per cent of the power consumed in the country over the six months to June this year. The share of thermal power sources over the first six months in 2024 stood at 8.54 per cent, according to data by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. **[Macharia Kamau]**

Crude oil	Gold	BitcoinUSD	Euro/USD	FTSE 100	Nikkei 225	S&P Futures	NASDAQ Futures
63.22	3,734.40	115,510.80	1.1812	9,250.55	44,902.27	6,615.28	24,623.25
-0.08(-0.13%)	+15.40(+0.41%)	+615.85(+0.54%)	+0.0043(+0.37%)	-26.48(-0.29%)	+134.15(+0.30%)	+30.99+(0.47%)	+72.50+(0.30%)

Tops & Flops

CAR GENERAL	36.70	39.25	6.95%
UCHUMI	0.33	0.35	6.06%
EA PORTLAND	56.00	58.50	4.46%
SANLAM	9.14	9.46	3.50%
EVEREADY	1.32	1.36	3.03%
HOME AFRIKA	1.66	1.51	-9.04%
SAMEER	14.95	14.15	-5.35%
STANCHART	306.25	291.25	-4.90%
LONGHORN	2.94	2.82	-4.08%
UMEME	8.98	8.62	-4.01%

Exchange rates

CURRENCY	EXCHANGE RATE
US DOLLAR	129.2400
STERLING POUND	176.0120
EURO	152.2189
SOUTH AFRICAN RAND	7.4544
KES / UGANDA SHILLING	27.1201
KES / TANZANIA SHILLING	19.1117
KES / RWANDAN FRANC	11.2214
KES / BURUNDIAN FRANC	23.0927
AE DIRHAM	35.1903
CANADIAN DOLLAR	93.8698
SWISS FRANC	162.8528
JAPANESE YEN (100)	87.9333
SWEDISH KRONER	13.9378
NORWEGIAN KRONER	13.1535
DANISH KRONER	20.3940
INDIAN RUPEE	1.4671
HONGKONG DOLLAR	16.6142
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	101.0477
SAUDI RIYAL	34.4548
CHINESE YUAN	18.1629
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	86.1255

SOURCE:COMMERCIAL BANKS

Unit Trusts

MONEY FUNDS	DAILY YIELD	E. A. RATE
African Alliance Money Market	7.21 %	7.46 %
African Alliance Enhanced Yield	7.75 %	8.04 %
Apollo Money Market Fund	9.67%	10.15%
Britam Money Market Fund	10.16%	10.69%
Britam Fixed Income Fund (USD)	5.83%	6.00%
CIC Money Market Fund	8.22%	8.53%
CIC Fixed Income Fund	10.39%	10.90%
CIC Fund (USD)	4.61%	4.71%
Dry Associates Money Market Fund	9.46%	9.89%
Dry Associates Money Market (USD)	5.07%	5.19%
Enwealth Money Market Fund	10.63%	11.16%
Enwealth Money Market Fund (USD)	4.67%	4.77%
Faulu Money Market Fund	9.25%	9.65%
GCIB Money Market Fund	11.55%	12.18%
GCIB Shari'ah Fixed Income Fund	6.93%	7.15%
Genghis Money Market Fund	8.48%	8.85%
GenAfrica Money Market Fund	10.26%	10.75%
ICEA LION MONEY MARKET FUND	8.73%	9.12%
Jubilee Money Market Fund	10.06%	10.54%
Jubilee Money Market Fund (USD)	5.08%	5.20%
Kuza Money Market Fund	10.82%	11.42%
Kuza Money Market Fund	5.61%	5.77%
Lofty-Corban Money Market Fund	11.44%	12.14%
Lofty-Corban Bond Fund	12.08%	12.78%
Madison Money Market Fund	10.20%	10.73%
Madison Fixed Income Fund	11.51%	12.20%

Mali Fund	9.43%	9.43%
NCBA Fixed Income Fund	7.72%	8.00%
NCBA Fixed Income Fund (USD)	4.47%	4.56%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	10.30%	10.80%
Old Mutual Special Fixed Income	10.74%	11.37%
Sanlam Money Market Fund	9.10%	9.53%
Sanlam Fixed Income Fund (USD)	4.95%	5.07%
Stanbic Money Market Fund	6.28%	6.47%
Stanbic Fixed Income Fund (USD)	4.83%	4.94%
Zimele Fixed Income Fund	12.47%	13.21%
OTHER FUNDS		
Amana Balanced Fund	144.6347	144.6347
Amana Fund Class C	7.92	8.21
African Alliance Balanced Fund	23.4390	22.0750
African Alliance Equity Fund	209.2453	196.5036
African Alliance Fixed Income Fund	11.9585	11.5728
Apollo Balanced Fund	161.29	154.84
Britam Balanced Fund	168.35	173.79
Britam Equity Fund	130.51	135.05
CIC Equity Fund	7.57	7.38
CIC Balanced Fund	7.13	6.97
ICEA LION FIXED INCOME FUND	124.59	124.59
ICEA LION EQUITY FUND	149.62	149.62
ICEA LION BALANCED FUND	143.21	143.21
Kuza Momentum Special Fund	140.60	140.60
NCBA Equity Fund	215.52	215.52
Sanlam Fixed Income Fund	7.79	7.79
Sanlam Balanced Fund	26.90	26.90
Zimele Balanced Fund	16.6334	16.1490

NUMBER OF THE DAY

741M

EQUITIES: The Bourse closed the market with a sell of 22.8 million shares valued at Sh741 million compared to 16 million shares valued at Sh378 million posted yesterday.

Nairobi Securities Exchange | Main Investment Market

52WK HIGH	52WK LOW		VWAP	PREVIOUS PRICE	VOLUME
		AGRICULTURAL			
23.00	10.00	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25 SME	20.65	20.80	1,538
440.00	240.00	Kakuzi Plc Ord.5.00	395.50	395.50	77
350.00	81.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00SME	327.00	326.75	700
430.00	310.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Plc Ord 10.00SME	310.00	310.00	10
32.60	13.60	Sasini Plc Ord 1.00	19.00	18.55	68,796
289.00	120.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	240.50	241.75	2,761
		AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES			
49.00	18.50	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00	39.25	36.70	926
		BANKING			
23.75	10.00	ABSA Bank Kenya Plc Ord 0.50	23.30	23.00	629,910
42.00	26.50	BK Group Plc Ord 0.80	37.10	38.00	320
109.25	43.05	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	105.00	105.00	24,845
57.00	33.70	Equity Group Holdings Plc Ord 0.50	54.00	54.00	4,205,808
11.30	2.80	HF Group Plc Ord 5.00	10.90	11.00	116,799
44.80	15.80	I&M Group Plc Ord 1.00	43.55	43.55	66,379
55.00	15.00	KCB Group Plc Ord 1.00	53.00	53.00	4,727,022
75.00	28.50	NCBA Group Plc Ord 5.00	74.75	73.00	196,987
190.00	90.00	Stanbic Holdings Plc ord.5.00	180.25	181.00	86,227
347.50	134.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	291.25	306.25	144,129
21.55	10.10	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	20.30	20.80	737,029
		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	1.36	1.32	258,042
10.00	2.70	Express Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	7.94	8.02	5,747
4.66	4.66	Homeboyz Entertainment Plc 0.50SME		4.66	-
9.18	3.65	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	4.23	4.29	394,015
3.46	2.00	Longhorn Publishers Plc Ord 1.00	2.82	2.94	43,682
5.00	1.58	Nairobi Business Ventures Plc Ord. 0.50SME	1.67	1.65	53,813
22.40	10.60	Nation Media Group Plc Ord. 2.50	13.80	14.00	1,020
17.00	1.80	Sameer Africa Plc Ord 5.00	14.15	14.95	18,629
10.80	4.50	Standard Group Plc Ord 5.00	6.00	6.00	31
18.70	10.85	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	17.20	17.50	1,585
0.41	0.16	Uchumi Supermarket Plc Ord 5.00	0.35	0.33	603,537
3.95	1.80	WPP Scangroup Plc Ord 1.00	2.72	2.83	42,138
		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	-
54.50	29.00	Crown Paints Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	49.40	50.75	1,255
3.27	0.72	E.A.Cables Ltd Ord 0.50		1.71	-
64.25	4.38	E.A.Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00	58.50	56.00	608
		ENERGY & PETROLEUM			
10.40	1.94	KenGen Co. Plc Ord. 2.50	9.62	9.92	2,283,357
14.90	1.30	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Plc Ord 2.50	14.45	14.50	1,037,747
4.20	4.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 4% Pref 20.00		4.10	-
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	-
39.90	14.55	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	37.10	38.00	3,271
24.75	6.30	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	8.62	8.98	465,075
		INSURANCE			
9.28	4.01	Britam Holdings Plc Ord 0.10	8.88	8.80	96,449
5.50	1.60	CIC Insurance Group Plc Ord.1.00	5.18	5.28	102,497
326.00	142.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	320.00	320.00	23,295
3.77	1.05	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	3.36	3.40	2,217,134
12.20	3.30	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord. 1.00	11.00	11.00	4,515
11.00	4.00	Sanlam Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	9.46	9.14	11,856
		INVESTMENT			
16.50	7.60	Centum Investment Co Plc Ord 0.50	13.90	13.95	27,172
1.83	0.27	Home Afrika Ltd Ord 1.00	1.51	1.66	1,019,807
1500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00SME		1,500.00	-
7.12	1.91	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	5.08	5.08	31,320
1.78	0.29	Trans-Century Plc Ord 0.50		1.12	-
		INVESTMENT SERVICES			
16.50	5.22	Nairobi Securities Exchange Plc Ord 4.00	14.75	14.95	28,861
		MANUFACTURING & ALLIED			
130.00	65.00	B.O.C Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	122.75	127.75	6,927
495.00	325.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Plc Ord 10.00	432.50	429.00	3,671
27.05	11.00	Carbacid Investments Plc Ord 1.00	25.30	24.60	25,067
244.00	100.00	East African Breweries Plc Ord 2.00	220.00	223.50	31,733
2.33	0.86	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825	1.73	1.79	250,048
80.00	10.40	Africa Mega Agricorp Plc Ord 5.00SME	72.00	72.00	6
0.27	0.27	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	-
31.00	12.00	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	22.05	21.70	1,138
8.56	5.90	Shri Krishana Overseas Plc 0.20SME	8.18	7.92	873
		TELECOMMUNICATION			
31.00	11.50	Safaricom Plc Ord 0.05	29.30	29.40	2,695,910
		REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST			
20.00	20.00	LAPTRUST IMARA I-REIT Ord.20.00		20.00	-
		EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS			
3330.00	1880.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	4395I	4390.00	-
761.00	761.00	Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF	828.00	828.00	107

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX Down 0.96 points **NSE 20-SHARE INDEX** Down 22.00 points to close at 3005.44

DISPUTE

StanChart warns on profit fall over Sh7b pension payment

Tier one lender, Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd, has projected atleast a 25 per cent fall on its 2025 full-year net profit, attributing the decline to a significant financial provision linked to a pension dispute that is estimated to require a Sh7 billion payout.

The Nairobi-based subsidiary of UK's multinational Standard Chartered Plc, specified in a regulatory filing that the net income for the year ending December 31, will decline due to costs associated with the Retirement Benefits Appeals Tribunal judgment.

In the profit warning announcement filed with the Capital Markets Authority, the lender stated that the anticipated decline is a direct result of the judgment in "Abdalla Osman and 628 Others versus the Retirement Benefits Authority & 11 Others" and subsequent computational directions issued by the Retirement Benefits Appeals Tribunal in May this year. The bank confirmed that the payments, which it has begun processing, will impact its overall costs in line with the IAS 19 accounting standard for employee benefits. The profit warning is based on its unaudited financial results for the period that ended in August 31, 2025, and internal forecasts to the year-end.

"The payments will impact SCBKL's overall costs in line with 'IAS 19 Employee Benefits' on accounting for past service costs," the lender's board said, while reassuring stakeholders that the bank "is adequately capitalised to meet the anticipated obligations."

The projected profit drop represents a stark reversal from the bank's record performance just a year earlier.

For the year that ended in December 2024, StanChart Kenya had reported a net profit of Sh20 billion, a 45 per cent increase that allowed it to declare a record of Sh17 billion dividend payout.

Based on company forecasts, a 25 per cent decline from the 2024 profit of Sh20 billion would see StanChart's 2025 net earnings fall to approximately Sh15 billion. The Kenyan unit confirmed it has begun collecting information from the 629 appellants to verify and process their claims.

"We will commence the process of collecting the requisite information for the purpose of verification and subsequently processing claims," the Standard Chartered Kenya Pension Fund said in a notice last week.

Despite the anticipated earnings hit, the bank's statement reiterated its commitment to its strategy of "combining differentiated cross-border capabilities with leading wealth management expertise underpinned by sustainability."

[Brian Ngugi]

Have your say: follow and contact us on X @StandardKenya

The Standard
World

Sports. KPL winner to get Sh15m next season. **Page 29**

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Israel has committed genocide in Gaza, UN inquiry report declares

- Evidence include leaders' statements and the conduct of Israeli forces.
- But an Israeli military official has dismissed the report as baseless.

BBC

A United Nations commission of inquiry says Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

A new report says there are reasonable grounds to conclude that four of the five genocidal acts defined under international law have been carried out since the start of the war with Hamas in 2023: killing members of a group, causing them serious bodily and mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions calculated to destroy the group, and preventing births.

It cites statements by Israeli leaders, and the pattern of conduct by Israeli forces, as evidence of genocidal intent. Israel's foreign ministry said it categorically rejected the report, denouncing it as "distorted and false". It accused the three experts on the commission of serving as "Hamas proxies" and relying "entirely on Hamas falsehoods, laundered and repeated by others" that had "already been thoroughly debunked".

"In stark contrast to the lies in the report, Hamas is the party that attempted genocide in Israel - murdering 1,200 people, raping women, burning families alive, and openly declaring its goal of killing every Jew," the ministry added.

An Israeli military official dismissed the report as "baseless", saying: "No other country has operated in these conditions and done so much to prevent harm to civilians on the battlefield."

The Israeli military launched a campaign in Gaza in response to the unprecedented Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, in which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 taken hostage.

At least 64,905 people have been killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza since then, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

Chairperson of Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel, South African judge Navi Pillay, during a press conference in Geneva on September 16. [AFP]

Most of the population has also been repeatedly displaced; more than 90 per cent of homes are estimated to be damaged or destroyed; the healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene systems have collapsed; and UN-backed food security experts have declared a famine in Gaza City.

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory was established by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 to investigate all alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

The three-member expert panel is chaired by Navi Pillay, a South African former UN human rights chief who was president of the international tribunal on Rwanda's genocide. The two others are Chris Sidoti, an Australian human rights lawyer, and Miloon Kothari, an Indian expert on housing and land rights. The commission has previously concluded that Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups committed war crimes and other grave violations of international law on 7 October 2023, and that Israeli security forces have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes in Gaza.

The commission said its latest report was "the strongest and most authoritative UN finding to date" on the war. However, it does not officially speak for the UN.

The 72-page document alleges that Israeli authorities and Israeli security forces have committed and are continuing to commit four of the five acts of genocide defined under the 1948 Genocide Convention against a national, ethnic, racial or religious group - in this case, Palestinians in Gaza. To fulfil the legal definition of genocide under the Genocide Convention, it must also be established that the perpetrator committed any one of those acts with specific intent to destroy the group in whole or in part.

The commission says it analysed statements made by Israeli leaders and alleges that President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant have "incited the commission of genocide".

It also states that "genocidal intent was the only reasonable inference" that could be concluded from the pattern of conduct of Israeli authorities and security forces in Gaza. The commission says the pattern of conduct includes intentionally killing and seriously harming an unprecedented number of Palestinians using heavy munitions; systematic and widespread attacks on religious, cultural and education sites; and imposing a siege on Gaza and starving its population.

Israeli political and military leaders have consistently said the military's operations in Gaza are conducted in self-defence, to defeat Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups, and secure release of Israeli hostages. They have also insisted that Israeli forces operate in accordance with international law and take all feasible measures to mitigate harm to civilians.

But in an interview with the BBC, Pillay said: "As early as 7 October 2023, Prime Minister Netanyahu vowed to inflict... 'mighty vengeance' on 'all of the places where Hamas is deployed, hiding and operating in, that wicked city, we will turn them into rubble'."

"His use of the phrase 'wicked city' in the same statement implied that he saw the whole city of Gaza [Gaza City] as responsible and a target for vengeance. And he told Palestinians to 'leave now because we will operate forcefully everywhere'."

The commission cited Gallant as saying days after 7 October 2023 that Israel was "fighting human animals, and we act accordingly". Herzog stated that "it's an entire nation out there that is responsible" for the Hamas-led attack.

GENOCIDE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

Findings from a 72-page report on Gaza

1. Killing Members of the Group
- Attacks on protected objects
- Targeting civilians and other protected persons
- Inflicting conditions causing deaths

2. Causing Serious Bodily or Mental Harm
- Direct attacks on civilians and protected objects
- Severe mistreatment of detainees
- Forced displacement
- Environmental destruction

3. Deliberately Inflicting Destructive Conditions of Life
- Destroying structures and land essential to Palestinians
- Blocking access to medical services
- Forced displacement
- Denial of aid, water, electricity, fuel
- Reproductive violence
- Specific conditions harming children

4. Preventing Births
- December 2023 attack on Gaza's largest fertility clinic
- Destruction of ~4,000 embryos, 1,000 sperm samples, and unfertilised eggs

TIRANA

Albania appoints AI generated minister to fight corruption

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama has appointed the world's first AI-generated government minister to oversee public tenders, promising its artificial intelligence would make it "corruption-free".

Presenting his new cabinet at a meeting of his Socialist Party following a big May election victory, Rama introduced the new "member", named "Diella" -- "sun" in Albanian.

"Diella is the first (government) member who is not physically present, but virtually created by artificial intelligence," Rama said.

Diella will be entrusted with all decisions on public tenders, making them "100 per cent corruption-free and every public fund submitted to the tender procedure will be perfectly transparent", he added.

Diella was launched in January as an AI-powered virtual assistant -- resembling a woman dressed in traditional Albanian costume -- to help people use the official e-Albania platform that provides documents and services.

So far, it has helped issue 36,600 digital documents and provided nearly 1,000 services through the platform, according to official figures.

Rama, who secured a fourth term in office in the elections, is due to present his new cabinet to lawmakers in coming days.

The fight against corruption, particularly in public administration, is a key criterion in Albania's bid to join the European Union.

Rama aspires to lead the Balkan nation of 2.8 million people into the political bloc by 2030.

[AFP]

A video grab of the AI-powered virtual assistant in Albania. [AFP]

LILONGWE

Malawi votes in rematch between two presidents

Malawi voted in general elections Tuesday with the incumbent president and his predecessor vying for a second chance to govern the largely poor southern African nation battered by soaring costs and fuel shortages.

Thousands of people waited under trees or outside schools at outdoor polling stations across the mostly rural country for a vote focused on the faltering economy of one of the poorest countries in the world.

Seventeen candidates are running for president but observers say the race is between outgoing Lazarus Chakwera and Peter Mutharika who also duelled in the 2019 vote that was nullified over tampering and followed by a rerun.

Chakwera, a 70-year-old pastor, and law professor Mutharika, 85, have campaigned on improving the agriculture-dependent economy battered by drought in 2024 and a 2023 cyclone.

In urban centres, many young people — who make up around 60 per cent of the 7.2 million registered voters — expressed a desire for change.

"There is anger in us," said Ettah Nyasulu, 28, a waitress in the capital Lilongwe, before heading to vote.

"I want to change this government. I want young people to be in good jobs, to have opportunities to change our lives," she said.

Inflation is running at above 27 per cent, while the costs of living surged 75 per cent in 12 months, according to reports citing the Centre for Social Concern, a non-governmental organisation. Around 70 per cent of the majority young population of 21 million people live in poverty, according to the World Bank.

Chakwera stood in line to vote with hundreds of locals at his humble home village of Malembo, about 56 kilometres northeast of Lilongwe, soldiers standing guard nearby.

"Sometimes he helps us by giving us maize. He is our saviour," said Tilore Chimalizeni, 58, a farmer and single mother of four from the village who also cares for two orphans.

The election is also for seats in parliament and local wards. Polling stations closed at 4pm (1400 GMT) and ballot counting started immediately, with the results expected as early as Thursday.

With a winner of the presidential ballot requiring more than 50 per cent of votes, a run-off within 60 days is likely.

Voting was proceeding smoothly with all the more than 15,000 polling booths open, Malawi Election Commission chief Annabel Mtalimanja told reporters mid-morning.

"It's a very peaceful election process. People have gathered in large numbers," Malembo MP Lawrence Chaziya told AFP.

Chakwera and Mutharika have both been accused of cronyism, corruption and economic mismanagement in their first terms but other candidates —including the only woman, former president Joyce Banda— did not appear to be attracting significant support, according to polls.

Voters are confronted with a choice between "two disappointments", said political commentator Chris Nhlane. **[AFP]**

A voter casts his ballot at the Civic Centre polling station in Lilongwe on September 16. [AFP]

SHANGHAI

Chinese teenagers slapped with Sh40m bill for urinating on soup at restaurants

Two teenagers who peed into a pot of broth at a hotpot restaurant have been ordered to pay 2.2m yuan (Sh40m) to two catering companies in China.

The incident, which happened in February at a Shanghai branch of China's biggest hotpot chain Haidilao, sparked widespread criticism after the 17-year-olds posted a video of their drunken act online.

There is no suggestion that anyone consumed the contaminated broth but Haidilao had offered to pay thousands of diners who dined at the restaurant in the days following the incident. In March, Haidilao sought more than 23m yuan (Sh417m) in losses, saying this took into account the amount it compensated customers over the incident.

Last Friday, a Shanghai court found the teenagers had infringed upon the companies' property rights as well as reputation through "acts of insult", noting that their actions contaminated tableware and "caused strong discomfort among the public".

It also found that the teens' parents had "failed to fulfill their duty of guardianship" and ordered that they bear the compensation. **[AFP]**

Ibrahim Famuyiwa, Head of Operations at the Lagos State Waterways Authority, receives a hard-shell first aid box from a colleague on the Lagos State floating clinic, docked at the LASWA boat jetty in Lagos, on August 26, 2025. [AFP]

Barely 100 ambulances serve Lagos' 20m people

- Nigeria's mega city relies on 100 ambulances for 20 million residents.
- Traffic jams and mistrust delay lifesaving emergency medical responses daily.

AFP, LAGOS

Standing outside a public hospital in Lagos, Nigeria's biggest city, Michelin Hunsa is still "traumatised" from the two-hour wait it took to get an ambulance for her mother, found unconscious by her neighbours.

Such waits can be deadly and are not unusual in the mega-city, where notorious traffic jams snarl commutes and only about 100 ambulances serve a population of more than 20 million.

"It's a serious problem, we waited far too long," Hunsa, 25, told AFP. Her mother, suffering a cerebral haemorrhage, ultimately survived the ordeal.

Political and business big-wigs regularly bust through traffic in the largest city in west Africa with armed convoys and flashing lights — despite not being in any actual emergency.

Ambulances blast sirens, take shortcuts and speed as fast as they can — but sometimes to no avail.

Part of the problem stems from mistrust among other drivers, who are used to a state of quasi-war on the roads from frustrated commuters trying to get ahead.

"I'm sure most of the time they don't transport real emergency cases, that's why I don't move," said Anthony Folayinka, a 38-year-old ride share driver.

Queen Soetan, a 33-year-old ambulance driver, told AFP such sentiments were common.

"Most people will not just want to leave the road, so it does affect our intervention time," she said.

The government currently provides 35 ambulances, Olusegun Ogboye, permanent secretary to the Lagos state Ministry of Health, told AFP.

That number pads the 80 to 90 operated by companies but still leaves the city with a ratio of roughly one ambulance per 200,000 people — far below recommended medical guidelines.

Since its founding in 2021, Eight Medical has run 34 ambulances, day and night.

The name comes from medical experts' recommended response time for ambulances of eight minutes or less.

"In Lagos, we are still far from it, but that's the goal I want to reach with my team," said business founder Ibukun Tunde-Oni, a 36-year-old doctor.

He was motivated to start the service after the deaths of two uncles — one of whom died from a heart attack and the other who died in an ambulance while having an asthma attack.

Tunde-Oni has had his own lacklustre experiences with ambulances as well, once having to wait for three hours to receive care after breaking his arm in a road accident.

No data is available on how many people have died waiting for an ambulance, or while ensnared in one of the city's infamous "go slows", as traffic jams are known.

> *"I'm sure most of the time they don't transport real emergency cases, that's why I don't move."*
>
> **Anthony Folayinka,** ride share driver

Most populated city

But "100 ambulances for Lagos is not enough", Tunde-Oni told AFP.

And the city is only growing.

According to the University of Toronto's Global Cities Institute, Lagos is on track to become the most populated city in the world by 2100, with 88 million residents.

But public services have not kept up with the breakneck growth in Nigeria, already Africa's most populous country with more than 220 million people.

Successive governments have been accused of squandering the nation's vast oil wealth: even if there were more ambulances, they'd still have to contend with Lagos's many pockmarked and unpaved roads.

Those who make it to the hospital are treated in poor conditions and by underpaid staff.

Lack of coordination with hospitals means that ambulances don't always know which locations have open beds, Tunde-Oni added.

Authorities have also tried to get creative: with the city sitting on a massive lagoon, in 2022 they put in place a floating clinic and boat ambulance to serve the 15 to 20 communities on the water's edge, said Ibrahim Famuyiwa, a waterways official.

But lacking funds to expand the initiative, the priority remains increasing Lagos's traditional ambulances, mostly through public-private partnerships.

TV GUIDE

KTN TV

5:30 AM	COMMAND YOUR MORNING
6:00 AM	THE SITUATION ROOM
10:00AM	ZILIZALA VIWANJANI
11:00 AM	YANAYOJIRI
1:00 PM	NEWSDESK
2:00 PM	THE BROKEN MARRIAGE VOW
3:00 PM	MILLENIAL ON THE MOVE
3:00 PM	AMPLIFY
4:00 PM	MBIU
4:30 PM	KIDS
5:00 PM	BASELINE
6:00 PM	TO HAVE AND TO HOLD
7:00 PM	KTN LEO
7:30 PM	HULLABALOO ESTATE
8:00 PM	MANSPEQTIVE AFRICA
9:00 PM	KTN PRIME
11:00 PM	KTN CLASSICS
1:00 AM	BASELINE
2:00 AM	ALJAZEERA

CITIZEN TV

5:00AM	PAMBAZUKA
5:30AM	PE @ HOME RPT
6:00AM	DAYBREAK
8:00AM	SEMA NA CITIZEN
1:00PM	NEWS @1
2:00PM	MSETO AFRICA
3:00PM	CITIZEN JUNIOR
4:00PM	NEWS BRIEFS
4:15PM	KALI NI KALI
5:30PM	TAHIDI HIGH
6:00PM	KENYA'S GOLD
7:00PM	NIPASHE
7:30PM	NEEMA
8:00PM	THE STORY OF JUANA (LA HISTORIA DE JUANA)
9:00PM	JKLIVE
10:00PM	JKLIVE
11:00PM	FUGITIVES, SEEKING JUSTICE
12:00AM	AFROSINEMA
1:00AM	JKLIVE RPT
4:00AM	PAMBAZUKA

TV47

5:00AM	MORNING DECREE
5:30AM	TV47 FITNESS
6:00AM	MORNING CAFÉ'
10:00AM	THE 77 PERCENT- RPT
10:30AM	BEAT BREAK
11:00AM	TV47 MATUKIO
2:00PM	BAZE 47
3:00PM	THE DEBATE CYCLE - RPT
3:30PM	NUZO AND NAMIA (ENGLISH) - RPT
4:00PM	TV47 NEWS NOW
4:15PM	BEAT KIDS
4:30PM	KIKI AND NUNA
5:00PM	BEATPLUG
7:00PM	UPEO WA TV47
7:30PM	DR. OFWENEKE TONIGHT
9:00PM	THE DAILY REPORT
11:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
12:00AM	BEATPLUG MIX

NTV

4:00AM	ALJAZEERA
5:00AM	OFF THE HOOK
6:00AM	FIXING THE NATION
10:00AM	YOUR WORLD
12:00PM	FLAQO
12:30PM	BUSINESS REDEFINED
1:00PM	NTV ADHUHURI
1:30PM	THE ADVENTURES OF ELMO IN GROUCHLAND
3:00PM	KWETU MIXX
4:00PM	BEATZ AND BUZZ
6:30PM	NTV MASHINANI
7:00PM	NTV JIONI
7:30PM	THE GLAM
8:00PM	NOMA
8:30PM	YOU ARE THE ONE
9:00PM	NTV TONIGHT
9:30PM	THE ELEVATE SHOW
10:30PM	FIXING THE NATION - RPT
12:00AM	ALJAZEERA

BERUR FM

4:00AM	BERURTAB KARON
6:00 AM	TAAITAB BERUR
10:00 AM	TINYTINY BOISIET
2:00 PM	KOITAMA
7:00PM	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

4:00AM	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

5.00AM	INUKA
6.00PM	NEW DAWN
8.00AM	MORNING VIBE
10.00AM	NEW DAWN REPEAT
11.00AM	MCHIPUKO
1.00PM	K24 NEWS CUT
1.30PM	JUNGU LA SPOTI
2.00PM	AAPKE AA JAANESE
3:00PM	AKILI KIDS
3.30PM	UBONGO KIDS
4.00PM	K24 MASHINANI
4.30PM	MCHIPUKO EXTRA
5.00PM	BEAT BOX
6.00PM	FALING INTO YOUR SMILE
7.00PM	K24 SAA MOJA
7.30PM	AAPKE AA JAANESE
8.30PM	BBC- FOCUS ON AFRICA
9.00PM	K24 EVENING EDITION
10.00PM	BBC- DIRA YA DUNIA
10.30PM	RHUMBA OXYGEN
12.30AM	ALJAZEERA

HOROSCOPE

Virgo – Aug 23 - Sep 22
Taking little steps towards realizing a dream will be very satisfying now, even if you must overcome an obstacle before moving forward. For now, you may feel it's challenging to establish a comfortable dialogue or deeper connection. A temporarily closed mind or fear can lead to defensiveness in the people close to you.

Libra – Sep 23 - Oct 22
Focus on what you can control rather than worry too much about things that are out of your hands. Be sure to keep your mind open in case there's something to learn about moderation or practicality today.

Scorpio – Oct 23 - Nov21
There could be heavier demands in the form of chores or work, as well as tricky dealings with others. You could feel that someone is pushing you away, or you might feel underappreciated. Give others — and yourself — some breathing room.

Sagittarius Nov 22-Dec21
If you're dealing with a letdown or disappointing reality about a creative project or relationship, or if things feel a little too serious in spots, aim to focus on what excites you and pour extra energy into it. Work quietly on solutions for the best results, as they're not as out of reach as you may think.

Capricorn – Dec 22-Jan 19
This transit can bring your attention to a delay, disappointing result, or critique. While this can put a bit of a damper on things, the sooner you handle a duty, the sooner you can enjoy the good energy with you for connecting with people and projects you love.

Aquarius – Jan 20-Feb 18
Decision-making can be challenging, and people may not be jumping on board when it comes to your ideas just for now. The best way to deal with this energy is to aim to humble yourself and take lessons from slowdowns, blocks, and even criticism.

Pisces – Feb19 - Mar 20
Financial decisions are not straightforward at the moment, and you may decide it's best to conserve your energy rather than to argue a point or push an issue, as people don't seem open temporarily. Work on strengthening your position for the best results.

Aries – Mar 21 - Apr 19
Workarounds to delays today can help you as you see new ways of doing things and relating with others. Still, it's best to avoid giving unsolicited advice since people can be more sensitive than usual.

Taurus – Apr 20 - May 20
If you're feeling overwhelmed, aim to slow yourself down. Taking a brief break from a problem can help you gain a new perspective and alleviate the pressure. Ideally, you tap into a mission to get organized, which can be productive.

Gemini – May 21 - Jun 21
Self-consciousness may interfere a little with the overall happiness of your day. Lending an ear without expecting to arrive at a concrete solution to problems may be your best bet today. Aim to stay flexible and light-hearted to avoid letting small things get to you.

Cancer – Jun 22-Jul 22
When it comes to others' feedback, try to tune out the egregiously negative elements, if any, and focus on constructive ones. Obstacles are possible, but getting around them can lead to interesting alternatives.

Leo – Jul 23 - Aug 22
Try not to let these things dictate your next move, as that would be losing touch with your own convictions. Aim to look for the lesson from critique or resistance, and try not to take delays too personally for the best results.
Cafeastrology.com

CHESS

Easy puzzle
White mates in 2 moves.

Intermediate puzzle
White mates in 3 moves.

Tuesday's solution

Easy:
1. Rh5+ gxh5
2. Qxh5#

Intermediate:
1.... Qh3+
2. Kxh3 hxg6+
3. Kg4 gxf5#

SOLVIT

G	C	A	D	23
F	E	G	B	23
F	A	E	H	19
J	D	H	J	13
26	19	17	16	

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
	4	8						

Tuesday's solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J
4	7	1	9	2	5	3	8	6

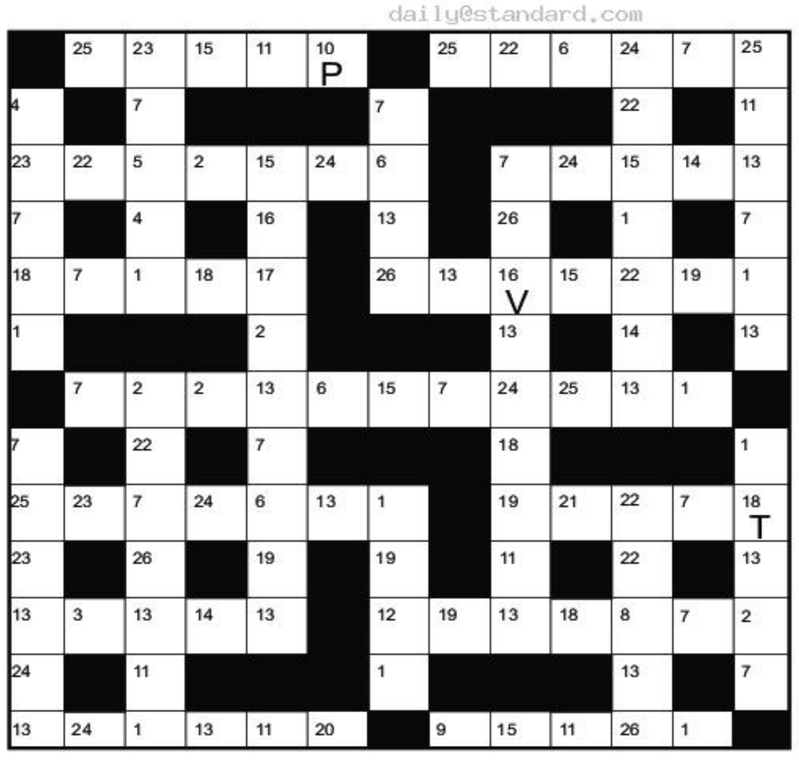
CODEWORD

daily@standard.com

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

Tuesday's solution

14 L	1 Y	2 M	3 P	4 W	5 Z	6 R	7 X	8 E	9 U	10 T	11 G	12 F	13 J
15 C	16 Q	17 S	18 D	19 B	20 A	21 I	22 V	23 N	24 K	25 O	26 H		

By Kham

KAKURO

	6	23		13	3
12			11 16		
15					
15				17	
	20				17
	15	11 14			
20					
12			4		

The totals for the rows and columns are given on the left for the rows and above for the cloumns 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 or3,3,2

Tuesday's solution

	4	32		23	12
11	3	8	15	6	9
6	1	5	4 21	1	3
	23	6	9	8	
	7 9	1	4	2	24
34	6	7	8	4	9
3	1	2	12	5	7
5	2	3	11	3	8

SUDOKU

9	3							7
				7	4	6	3	
2			4		6	9	8	5
6			2		7	4		
				3				
	2							
7		8			5			1
3		5			9	7	6	2

Tuesday's solution

7	2	1	5	6	4	8	9	3
3	8	5	1	9	2	6	4	7
6	4	9	7	3	8	1	2	5
4	9	7	8	1	3	5	6	2
8	3	6	4	2	5	7	1	9
1	5	2	9	7	6	4	3	8
2	6	8	3	4	7	9	5	1
9	7	4	2	5	1	3	8	6
5	1	3	6	8	9	2	7	4

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the question when you are the answer."

Joseph Campbell

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Weekends: 12 noon

NAIROBI
Digger Classifieds:
Rolex Building, Moi Avenue.
HOTLINE: 0719-012555,
Tel: 0719-012910.
Email: classifiedads@standardmedia.co.ke

BUREAUS

KISUMU
Mega Plaza,
4th Floor,
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.

HEAD OFFICE
The Standard Group Center,
Mombasa Road,
P.O BOX 30080-00100
Nairobi, Kenya.

IMPORTANT ADVICE TO READERS: Please make appropriate enquiries and take appropriate advice and caution before sending money, incurring any expense or intending to/making a binding commitment in relation to an advertisement.

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PERSONAL NOTICES

A9/LOST

LOST Title E / Wanga / Mung'ang'a / 1622

LOST Title Bahati/Kabatini Block 1/4687 Daniel Gitonga Mwangi

LOST Title Kyeni mufu/8048. ALEX ABRAHAM KINYUA

LOST Title: Trans-Nzoia/ Kiptoi/156 of Peter Kipkurui Langat

LOST Title / Kisa / Mundobelwa / 722

LOST Title / Kisa / Mushiangubu / 575

LOST T/Deed: North Sakwa/ Kadera Lwala/809 of Walter Onyango Okeyo

LOSS of title deed Molo South / Kuresoi block 2/ 110 John Ngaruiya Wamugua and William Kipkalan Kirui

LOSS of Title Deed Baringo/ Salawa/3649 Samuel K Marichor

FLAT A4-R6 LR 209/16783 Ramesh Karshan Patel & Chandani Ramesh Patel

LOSS of title deed no. L.R NO. Gaturi/Nembure/17056 of Mfundi M lucy & Nicholas Ngari Nyaga

LOSS of title deed no. L.R NO. Gaturi/Nembure/15715 of Nicholas Ngari Nyaga

LOST title Tetu/Kabage/922

LOST title No Nairobi/Block 32/1029

LOSS of Apt D1 on LR No 1/357

LOSS title Nairobi block 79/40

LOST title deed Dumberi/ Riabai/T.30

LOST title Euaso Nyiro/Suguroi Block IV/187 Ishmael John Kamugi

LOSS of title deed: Indenture of Conveyance LR NO. 1008/126/ (Orig.1008/41/8) owner Dr. Maggwa Athuman Baker Ndugga in trustee of Joweria Nambi Ndugga

LOSS of original lease title No IR 132640/1

LOST title Thegenge / Karangia / 315 of Kabira Munga(Deceased)

LOST title Githi/Kiharo/375 of Kibira Munga(Deceased)

LOST title Nyeri/Narumoru/1353 Wachira Waithaka(Deceased)

LOST title Aguthi/Gatitu/4264 James Gitau Murichu

A22/NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No.13 of 2019)
NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of Plot **LR NO 15003/50 located Off Marurui road, Garden street, Thome**, Proposes for Change of use from **single Dwelling to Multiple Dwellings (Town Houses)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County Government. Individuals, Institutions, Organizations etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

COUNTY EXECUTIVES CABINET MEMBER
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
30075-00100,Nairobi

FORM PLUPA/DC/4

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT No. 13 2019
SUBDIVISION AND CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner (s) of land parcel **LR. No. 10273** situated in **NAKURU** West sub county within Nakuru county proposes to subdivide and **Change its use from Industrial Use to Residential** Use subject to the approval of the County Government of Nakuru.
Any individuals or institutions wishing to make any representation or objection to the above application is requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of the date of this notice to:
The CECM land Physical Planning, Housing & Urban Development, County Government of Nakuru,
P.O. Box 2870 - 20100, Nakuru
Registered planner: Plan Samuel Ngari Maina R.P.P:0373

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO. 13 OF 2019
CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of plot no. **Thegenge/ Karia/2366** 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 e.t.c 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT NO 13 OF 2019
AMALGAMATION AND CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of parcel no. **74/298 & 74/299** located at Njatha-Ini area off Njathai-Ni Road, Roysambu Sub County intends to amalgamate and change of user from **single dwelling residential to residential multi-dwelling units (town houses),** subject to approval by Nairobi City County Government. Individuals, institutions and organisations with objections or comments to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to :-
THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER,
COUNTY PLANNING
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
P.O. BOX 30075,
NAIROBI
PLANNER: JOHN T. NGUGI MBAU
RPP NO.0284

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (CAP 303)
NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED RENEWAL OF CHANGE OF USE

The registered owners of plot No. **Nairobi/Block 192/1124 (L.R. No. 2327/126)** located along Ushirika Road within Karen area, propose to renew its Change of Use from **Single Dwelling Residential** to **Multi-Dwelling Residential Use (Townhouses)** 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 (CAP 303)
NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED RENEWAL OF CHANGE OF USE

The registered owners of plot L.R. No. **12349/33** located along Naivasha Road within Uthiru area, propose to renew its Change of Use from **Single Dwelling Residential** to **Multi-Dwelling Residential Use (Flats)** 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

FORM PLUPA/DC/3

PUBLIC NOTICE

Physical & Land use Planning Act (No.13 of 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner (s) of the property **L.R No. NAIROBI BLOCK 156/605** Located Off Kayole Spine Road, Komarock proposes to change of user of the property from **Residential to Educational (Kindergarten)** Subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Any individuals, organisations, Institutions etc with comments or objections are requested to forward the same in writing within 14days of publication of this notice to:
The CECM- Urban Planning, Lands and Housing,
Nairobi City County
P.O. Box 30075-00100
Nairobi.
Name of the Registered Planner: Kennedy M. Kaburu Reg. No. PP0353

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT No.13 of 2019
CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of parcel No. **Nyaki/ Kithoka/2900**, located at Gakurine area, in Meru County proposes to change it's use from **Agricultural to Light Industrial use (Filling Station)** subject to approval by the County Government of Meru. Those with objections/comments to forward them in writing within 14 days of this notice to:
The CECM, Lands,
Physical Planning, Urban development and Public works,
County Government of Meru,
P.O. Box 120 - 60200,
Meru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT, 2019
CHANGE OF USER

The registered owners of Plot No. **209/5027** located in **South C** area along Muhoho Avenue, seeks approval to change its user from **Single Dwelling Unit** to **Commercial Cum Residential (Apartments & Shops)** subject to approval by the Office of the Nairobi City County Government. Individual(s), Institution(s) and Organization(s) with comments/objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:
THE COUNTY SECRETARY,
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT,
P.O. BOX 30075-00100,
NAIROBI.
PLANNER CHRIS OMARE-0065

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO.13 OF 2019)
NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USER

The Registered Owner of plot **LR. No. 110/850** Located off Mukuyu Road in Thome; Roysambu Sub-County proposes to **Change the Use from Single dwelling unit to Residential Multi-dwelling Units(Townhouses)** subject to approval by the Nairobi City CountyGovernment.
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 & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO.13 OF 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The owner(s) of **Plot No. NAIROBI/ BLOCK 115/1733** located off Eastern Bypass in Karagita-Utawala area propose to **Change its Use from Single dwelling Unit to Residential Multi Dwelling Units (apartments)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. 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.
PLANNER J.N.GACHANJA
REG.No. 0173

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Physical and Land Use Planning Act (No. 13 of 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The owner of parcel **No. Kanyada/Kalanya/ Kanyango/884** located in Homabay town Sub-county, Homabay County wishes to apply for change of user **from Agricultural to Commercial (Hotel)** subject to approval by the County Government of Homabay. Those with comments or objections can write within fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice to:
The County Executive Committee Member of Lands, Housing and Physical Planning,
County Government of Homabay,
P.O. BOX 469 – 40300, HOMABAY.
Dr. Fredrick Omondi Owino.RPP 0123
PRE-ENVERO CONSULTANTS.

POSITIONS VACANT

15/GENERAL

15/VACANCY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019
CHANGE OF USER

The owner of Plot **NGONG/NGONG/94818** proposes to **CHANGE THE USE** of this parcel from **AGRICULTURAL** to **RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-DWELLING UNITS (FLATS)** subject to approval by Kajiado County. Individuals, institutions, organizations etc. with objections/comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of this notice to:
The CECM - Lands, Physical Planning & Urban Development
County Government of Kajiado
P.O. Box 11-01100
Kajiado.
John Thomas Ngugi Mbau
Reg. No. PP0284

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATES' COURT AT NAIROBI
MILIMANI COMMERCIAL COURTS
MCC CASE NO. E1290 OF 2024
(Fast Track)

CHARLES KANYANGO...PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT
VERSUS
WILFRED KEMBERO AIMA.....1ST DEFENDANT
MWANANCHI CREDIT LIMITED.....2ND DEFENDANT

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY SUBSTITUTED MEANS
(Pursuant to leave granted on 27th July 2025 by Hon. S.K. Onjoro-PM)

1. WILFRED KEMBERO AIMA
2. MWANANCHI CREDIT LIMITED
ECOBANK TOWERS, 10TH FLOOR
MUINDI MBINGU STREET
NAIROBI

TAKE NOTICE that the Plaintiff above named has commenced a suit in the above matter at the Chief Magistrates' Court at Milimani Commercial Courts which you are named as the Defendants.

Service of Summons upon you has been ordered by means of this advertisement. A copy of the Summons and Plaint can be obtained at the Chief Magistrates' Court, Civil Registry at Milimani Commercial Courts or at our under-noted offices.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that unless you enter an appearance within 15 days from the date of this advertisement, the case will be heard in your absence.

DATED at NAIROBI this 15th day of September 2025

DRAWN & FILED BY:
Ogola Okello & Co. LLP
Advocates
The Greenhouse, 1st Floor, Suite 14
Next To Adams Arcade
P.O. Box 62550 - 00200
Nairobi
Email: info@ogolaokello.co.ke
Tel: 0722-248808

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT AT VOI
LAND CASE NO. E009 OF 2025

JACOB GAMALIEL SALERIMUNENE.....
.....PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT

=VERSUS=

1. **CHIEF LAND REGISTRAR, NAIROBI**
2. **DIRECTOR, LAND ADJUDICATION AND SETTLEMENT OFFICER,**

NAIROBI.....RESPONDENTS

Substituted Service by Advertisement
(BEFORE HON. L.K. WABWOTO, J ON 30TH JULY, 2025)

a) **THAT** pending hearing and determination of this suit, a temporary injunction be and is hereby issued the Respondents, whether by themselves or their servants and/or agents from evicting, interfering with the Applicant's quiet enjoyment of and/or selling, alienating or in any manner dealing with the Plot Nos. Taveta/Taveta Scheme Phase

TAKE NOTICE that the Plaintiff has filed a case in the Environment and Land Court at Voi in respect of Plot Nos. Taveta/Taveta Scheme Phase 1/595, 957, 599, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1106, 1125, 1126, 1130, 1133, 1137, 1138, 1141, 1142, and 1143 situate in Taveta Sub-County, Taita-Taveta County.

b) **THAT** the Respondents to file and serve their defence, witness statement and any other documents they intend to rely on during trial within 21 days from the date of service of the Newspaper Advertisement

c) The matter be listed for pre-trial conference on the 23rd September, 2025.

d) Each party to bear own costs of the application.

DATED at **MOMBASA** this .....day of.....2025

ODHIAMBO S.E & CO.
ADVOCATES FOR THE PLAINTIFF

DRAWN & FILED BY:-
ODHIAMBO S. E. & CO.
ADVOCATES
CORPORATE INSURANCE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 40747-80100
MOMBASA.
Email: odhiamboseadvocates@gmail.com

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 r.3(3)(xi)

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO. 13 OF 2019)
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of parcel No. **Ruiru/Ruiru East Block 2/40310**, located in Judah area, juja sub county proposes to change the use from **agricultural use to residential multi-dwelling (flats)** use, subject to approval by the County Government of Kiambu. 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:

THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER (CECM),
LAND, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
KIAMBU COUNTY GOVERNMENT,
P.O BOX 2344-00900,
KIAMBU.

REGISTERED PHYSICAL PLANNER: ...REG. NO. 0284

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Physical and Land Use
Planning Act, 2019
CHANGE OF USER

The owner of plot no. Juja/kalimoni block 30 (njemuwa investments)/231 proposes to change the use of this parcel from **AGRICULTURAL** to **RESIDENTIAL MULTI-DWELLING UNIT (FLATS)** subject to approval by Kiambu County.
Individuals, institutions, organizations etc. with objections/comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of this notice to:

CECM Lands, Housing, Physical Planning,
Municipal Administration and Urban Development
County Government of Kiambu
P.O Box 2344-00900
Kiambu
JOHN NGUGI MBAU
R.P.P 284

MAMALO AUCTIONEERS

0743 137 417/0722 812 849 /0710 290 631 | auctioneersmamalo281@gmail.com P.O Box 14733-00400, Nairobi | Dunholm Heights 2nd Flr. Suit 205, Outering Rd.

PUBLIC AUCTION

(A Duly instructed by the Landlord we shall sell the under mentioned Household Goods by public auction on **Thursday 25th September 2025 at 10.30AM** at **Breeze Storage Area along Eastern bypass, off Kangundo road.**

UNDER DISTRESS FOR RENT
LANDLORD-VS-CAROLINE N KIROTE BONGO.
1-Mica Double Door Fridge, 1-Beko Washing Machine, 2-Sofa Seats, 1-6kg Gas Cylinder, 1-Dining Chair, Assorted Cutleries, 1-Singer Sewing Machine, 6-Curtain Pieces, 1-Von Microwave.

(B Duly instructed by the Decree Holder we shall sell the under mentioned Motor Vehicle by public auction on **Thursday 25th September 2025 at 10.30AM at Breeze Storage Area along Eastern bypass, off Kangundo road.**

UNDER WARRANTS OF ATTACHMENT AND SALE
THIKA SCCC E737 OF 2024
ELIAS WAFUKHO-VS-HELLEN WANGUI NJENGA & MICHAEL MBIRIRI GITAU.
Motor Vehicle Registration Number KCF 226B TOYOTA MARK X.

(C Duly instructed by the Decree Holder we shall sell the under mentioned Motor Vehicle by public auction on **Thursday 25th September 2025 at 10.30AM at Breeze Storage Area along Eastern bypass, off Kangundo road.**

UNDER WARRANTS OF ATTACHMENT AND SALE
MAVOKO CMCC E 273 OF 2024
HARRISON MUSYOKI DAVID-VS-THE REGISTERED TRUSTEE GIBBON WOORI WORLD & ANOR.
Motor Vehicle Registration Number KBK 968L MITSUBISHI S. WAGON.

(D Duly instructed by the Landlord we shall sell the under mentioned Household Goods by public auction on **Thursday 25th September 2025 at 10.30AM at Breeze Storage Area along Eastern bypass, off Kangundo road.**

UNDER DISTRESS FOR RENT
LANDLORD-VS-WINFRED NZIOKA.
1-Dining Table, 6-Dining Chairs, 2-Coffee Tables, 5-Seater Brown Sofa-Set, 1-Von Water Dispenser, 1-Samsung Fridge, 1-Ramtons Cooker, 1-Carpet, 1-LG Television 43", 1-Samsung Microwave, 1-Wooden Television Stand

CONDITIONS FOR SALE
1. **All intending purchasers are requested to verify details themselves.**
2. **Viewing can be done through arrangements with ourselves.**
3. **Cash at the fall of the hammer.**
4. **Sale is subject to the reserve price.**

RAN REGENT AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Official Court Brokers, Court Bailiffs, Process Servers, Repossessors and Estate Agents
New Kireita Building, Kirinyaga Road, P.O. Box 22826 00400 Nairobi.
Tel: 2212577, 2224581, Fax: 2216019, Mobile: 0722 653332 Email: auctioneersregent@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our clients, chargees we shall sell the under mentioned property by Public Auction
ON WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2025 AT OUR AUCTION MART NEW KIREITA BUILDING, KIRINYAGA ROAD AT 11.00 A.M
PRIME RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT SITUATED OFF RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NAIROBI CITY

1. All that parcel of land known as APARTMENT UNIT 1, BLOCK C ON L.R NO. 991/13 RIVERVIEW APARTMENTS, RIVERSIDE, NAIROBI CITY COUNTY measuring **0.4612 Ha** and registered in the of DINESH KUMAR ZAVERCHAD JETHA of **P.O BOX 40772-00100 NAIROBI G/T MAIZENA MILLERS LIMITED.** The property lies within **GPS Coordinates 1º 16' 00. 23"S, 36º 47' 08.49"E** and is situated off Riverside Drive and is within River View Apartments in the High Income Riverside Residential Area, Nairobi. Approach from Nairobi CBD is via Chiromo then into Riverside road approximately 2.6 Kilometers then right past Ugandan High Commission onto an unnamed Road for approximately 200 meters to the property which is **easily identified as Riverview Apartments**. Riverview apartments is developed with 20No. Apartments on 3No blocks A, B and C with 8 units, 8 units and 4 units approximately. The property is an apartment.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

a) All intending purchaser(s) are requested to view and verify the details themselves as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer or our clients
b) A refundable deposit of **Ksh 500,000/=** must be paid to obtain a bidding number. Please note that **NO** bidding whatsoever without a bidding number.
c) A deposit of 10% must be paid in cash, Bankers cheque or RTGS at the fall of the hammer and the balance within 90 days from the date of the auction to the charges advocate.
d) Sale is subject to a reserve price.

NCA NAIROBI CHANNELS AUCTIONEERS

Kiambu Road, opp. Evergreen Square
P. O. Box 598 – 00100, G.P.O Nairobi,
Tel. 0722 584 463/ 0756 685 757
Email: nairobichannels@gmail.com.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals the financiers under Matter of Repossession we shall sell the under-mentioned motor vehicles on **25th September 2025** at **11.00 a.m.** at our above mentioned offices.

REG. NO.	MAKE	YOM	STORAGE YARD
KCZ 941W	NISSAN NV 200		GREYPOST YARD
KCX 676V	VW GOLF TSI	2012	LEGACY YARD – NAKURU

TERMS

1. Purchasers to view and verify details themselves; as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer or the Principals.
2. Sale is on AS-IS-WHERE-IS-BASIS and subject to reserve price.
3. Payment via Banker's cheque or RTGS before close of business.
4. A refundable deposit of 50,000/= to obtain bidding number prior to the auction
5. The auctioneer has the right to reject any bid without giving any reason.

ALL ARE WELCOME

LAR AUCTIONEERS

Laar Auctioneers
Summit house 2nd floor 209
P.O Box 40781-00100
Nairobi G.P.O
laarauctioneers@gmail.com
0722 647 615 / 0732 257 161

Auctioneers, Debt Collection, Private Insvestigation and Process Service

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our principals, **THE FINANCIERS**, we shall sell the under mentioned repossessed motor vehicle by public auction on **26th September 2025** at our yards starting **10.30 a.m.**

NO.	REG NO:	MODEL	YEAR	STORAGE YARD
1	KCM 396W	Nissan Serena	2010	Startruck caryard and storage
2	KYA 603	Mitsubishi Canter	1986	BlackBird Yard
3	KBR 664W	Volkswagen	2006	Startruck caryard and storage
4	KCF 886M	Nissan Advan	2003	Startruck caryard and storage
5	KDH 535C	BMW	2014	Startruck caryard and storage
6	KDE 791D	BMW	2014	Startruck caryard and storage
7	KBR 807W	Mercedes benz	2005	SK dhahabu yard
8.	KCK 575B	Nissan teana	2009	SK dhahabu yard
9.	KCU 076W	Nissan Xtrail		Riverlong Yard
10.	KCS 394W	Suzuki Alto	2018	Riverlong Yard

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. **Cash at the fall of the hammer.**
2. **The bidding to be done through the office email or during auction date.**
3. **The auctioneer has a right to reject any bid without giving a reason.**
4. **The subject of sale is as it is.**
5. **All the interested bidders are requested to view and verify the details for this is not warranted by the auctioneers or our principal.**

CANCELLED

LAR AUCTIONEERS

Laar Auctioneers
Summit house 2nd floor 209
P.O Box 40781-00100
Nairobi G.P.O
laarauctioneers@gmail.com
0722 647 615 / 0732 257 161

Auctioneers, Debt Collection, Private Insvestigation and Process Service

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our principals, THE FINANCIERS, we shall sell the under mentioned repossessed motor vehicle by public auction on 26th September 2025 at our yards starting 10.30 a.m.

NO	REG NO	MODEL	CC - FUEL - YOM	YARD
1	KCU 310Q	TOYOTA FIELDER	1500CC - PETROL - 2012	THE AUCTION CENTRE
2	KCS 077F	TOYOTA CROWN	2500CC - PETROL - 2011	THE AUCTION CENTRE
3	KCC 010M	MERCESED C-LK200	1800CC - PETROL - 2009	THE AUCTION CENTRE
4	KBU 554B	SAUBARU FORESTER	2000CC - PETROL - 2005	THE AUCTION CENTRE
5	KCQ 454Y	TOYOTA RACTIS	1500CC - PETROL - 2011	THE AUCTION CENTRE
6	KCA 319G	TOYOTA PROBOX	1500CC - PETROL - 2007	THE AUCTION CENTRE
7	KDM 975U	TOYOTA PASSO	1000CC - PETROL - 2016	THE AUCTION CENTRE
8	KBY 176Y	TOYOTA HILUX	3000CC - DIESEL - 2007	THE AUCTION CENTRE
9	KCZ 541W	VOLVO XC-60	2000CC - PETROL - 2013	THE AUCTION CENTRE
10	KBW 545F	MARK X	2500CC - PETROL - 2006	THE AUCTION CENTRE
11	KCY 090F	VW GOLF	1400CC - PETROL - 2013	THE AUCTION CENTRE
12	KCH 214D	MERCEDES E250	2500CC - PETROL - 2009	STARTRUCK YARD AND STORAGE
13	KDR 109E	HONDA VEZEL	1500CC - PETROL - 2018	STARTRUCK YARD AND STORAGE
14	KCM 011W	TOYOTA VOXY	2000CC - PETROL - 2010	STARTRUCK YARD AND STORAGE
15	KDE 866R	TOYOTA PREMIO	1800CC - PETROL - 2016	STARTRUCK YARD AND STORAGE

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. **Cash at the fall of the hammer.**
2. **The bidding to be done through the office email or during auction date.**
3. **The auctioneer has a right to reject any bid without giving a reason.**
4. **The subject of sale is as it is.**
5. **All the interested bidders are requested to view and verify the details for this is not warranted by the auctioneers or our principal.**

HIPPO AUCTIONEERS GENERAL MERCHANTS

Licenced Auctioneers (Private Investigators, Licenced Court Process Servers, Court Brokers & Bailiffs) and Civil Consultants

Ritho House, OPP. H.F.C.K. 1st Floor, Suit No.2 | Tel: 0707041730 OR 0769288371, Cell Phone: 0722-338247, Email address: - hippoauctioneers1@gmail.com | P O Box 2024-10100 NYERI

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from the financier we shall sell by public auction the under-mentioned plot.

ON THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2025 OUTSIDE KCB NYAHURURU TOWN STARTING AT 11.00 AM.
All that plot known as **NYAHURURU MUNICIPALITY BLOCK 6/497** registered under the name of **DAVID KAMUNYA RUNO** and measures **0.0714 of a hectare or 0.1764 of an acre** or thereabouts. The property is located at Nyahururu town, along Nyahururu – Ol Kalau Road in Nyandarua County. It is situated adjacent to Unison Sacco Nyahururu Branch, about 230 meters to the South of Nyahururu Matatu Stage and approximately 320 meters North of Kobil Petrol Station. All main services are connected to the property. On the property stands a five (5) storey commercial block.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All interested purchase are required to view and verify the details of the property for themselves as these are not warranted by the Auctioneers or the chargees.
2. A deposit of 25% must be paid in cash or Banker's cheque at the fall of the hammer and the balance to be paid through RTGS or Bankers cheque within 90 days.
3. The deposit of Kshs 500,000/- in form of banker's cheque or cash to obtain bidding no. prior to the auction day. The deposit is refundable if not declared the highest bidder.
4. The Auctioneer has the right to reject any bid without giving any reason.
5. Sale is subject to reserve price.

SWIFTWAY AUCTIONEERS

NSSF BLDG 2nd FLOOR, SOUTH WING RM 220 NKURUMAH RD
P.O. BOX 92933-80100, TEL: 041-2230207, MOBILE: 0722-695093 MOMBASA Email:swiftwayauctioneers@gmail.com
Auctioneers, Official Court Brokers, Bailiffs, Process Servers, Repossessers, Private Investigators & Debt Collectors

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals, we shall sell by public Auction the below mentioned goods on **WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2025** starting from **10:30 am**
at our yard in Bamburi

THE LANDLORD -VS- KHAMIS SALIM
TV, GAS COOKER & CYLINDER, FRIDGE, WALLCLOCK, 2BEDS & MATRESS, SET OF SOFA, CARPET, OVEN, MEKO GAS COOKER.

THE LANDLORD –VS ALEXANDER MWENE SABURI
SET OF SOFA, 2 TV SETS, MUSIC SYSTEM +3 SPEAKERS, 6 PLASTIC STOOLS, 2 PLASTIC CHAIRS, FRIDGE, GASCOKER & CYLINDER, BED & MATRESS, 3 HIGH STOOLS, SUBWOOFER + 3 SPEAKERS, IRON BOX, CEILING FAN.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Sale is subject to a reasonable reserve price
2. Interested bidders are requested to verify details for themselves as these are not warranted by the Auctioneers nor the instructing parties
3. Cash at the fall of the hammer.

VALLEY AUCTIONEERS

Court Brokers, Bailiffs, Repossessors and Debt Collectors
P.O Box 57893-00200 Csq. Nairobi, Tel: 020-3343362 / 0722313991 / 0720362301;
Email: valleyauctioneers@yahoo.com, Agip House Entrance A, 3rd Floor Room 301, Haile Selassie Avenue

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from the chargee, we shall sell the following properties.

VACANT AGRICULTURAL PLOT WITHIN CHEPSEON CENTRE, MOMONIANT AREA, CHEPSEON KERICHO COUNTY
1. ON 16TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 11.00AM AT INDOMITABLE AUCTIONEERS, MWALIMU BUILDING 2ND FLOOR, ROOM 8 KERICHO
All that piece or parcel or land known as **KERICHO/KIPKELION/CHEPSEON BLOCK 10 (MOMONIAT)/295** measuring 1.93 Hectares or 4.7 Acres approximately. The property is located 4 kilometres North and 255 meters off Chepseon-Kipkelion Road in Momoniant area, Chepseon in Kericho County and registered in the name **JOSEPH KIPKOSKE CHEPKWONY.** Development comprises of a semi-permanent houses. GPS Cordinates; 012 09.7 S 35 23 33.7 E

FOUR BEDROOM MAISONETTE SITUATED OFF MWANANCHI ROAD WITHIN UZURI COURT, SYOKIMAU ESTATE MACHAKOS COUNTY.
2. ON 2ND OCTOBER 2025 AT 10.30AM AT OUR OFFICES AGIP HOUSE, ROOM 301, HAILE SELASIE AVENUE, NAIROBI.

All that piece or parcel or land known as **HOUSE NO. C08 ERECTED ON L.R NO 12715/6335.** Measuring 0.0382 Hectares or 0.094 Acres approximately The property is situated off Mwananchi Road off Mombasa road within Uzuri Court off Syokimau Estate, Machakos County and registered in the name **SOLOMON ODHIAMBO OLWANDE**. GPS Coordinates; 1°21'23.0"S 36°55'38.2"E

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITHIN KAJORO AREA, BUSIA COUNTY.
3. ON 15TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 11.00AM AT THE OFFICES OF NYALUOYO AUCTIONEERS SITUATED AT KISUMU, ALONG KISUMU BUSIA ROAD OTONGOLO
All that piece or parcel or land known as **TITLE NO. SOUTH TESO/APOKOR/2048** measuring 0.40 Hectares approximately. The property is situated along Mumias -Busia tarmac road near Kajoro Primary school and Tangakona shopping centre, Kajoro area Busia County and registered in the name **FLORENTIUS BARASA ONIALA.** Development comprises of four (4) residential houses which are similarly built and an incomplete house. GPS Coordinates; 0°29'51.59"N 34°13' 53.50'E

CONDITIONS OF SALE.
All interested purchasers are requested to view and verify the details as the financiers/ chargees or the Auctioneers do not warrant these. A 25% Deposit must be paid in Banker's Cheque or RTGS during the day of the auction and the balance within 90 days. Viewing of the properties can be done between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and conditions of sale can be obtained from our offices. Sale is subject to a reserve price.

BEMAC AUCTIONEERS

Licensed Auctioneers, Repossessors, Commission Agent & Investigators.
Kenya Hse 2nd Flr | Rm 23, Along Kolnange Street
P.O Box 33612-00600 | Nairobi, Cell: 0722 258 783 | 0718 457 218, Email: josephbemac@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the warrants of the Employment & Labour Relations Court of Kenya at Nyeri in **ELRC CAUSE NO. E038 OF 2021** we shall sell the under mentioned property by public auction on **Thursday, 2nd October 2025** at 11:00 am at **The Karatina Post office, in Karatina Town.**
All that property known as **BRUERU/ KAGUYU/606.** The subject property is situated **approximately 3 kilometers from Karatina Town, along the Kiburara Nduma road in Nyeri County.** The property measures 2.85 HECTARES . Boundary lines are marked by beacons and barbed wire fence.
The title is a **freehold interest** and duly registered in the name of **IRIAINI FARMERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD**

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

1. All intending purchasers are requested to view the property and verify the details as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer's or the Decree Holders.
2. A deposit of 25% must be paid in cash or by Banker's Cheque at the fall of the hammer. The balance shall be paid to the Judgment Creditor's Advocates within thirty (30) days from the date of sale.
3. The conditions of sale may be obtained from our offices. Pointing out and viewing of the property may be arranged with the Auctioneer by appointment.
4. The sale is subject to a reserve price and all the Land Board consents.

Under Instructions from our principals we shall sell by Public auction the under-mentioned motor vehicle on Thursday **25th September 2025,** at 10:00 am, at Valuers Storage Yard, off Thika superhighway, within Nairobi County.

In The Employment & Labour Relations Court Nairobi
Cause No. 1455 of 2017.
Bernard Ashiora Akiko –vs- Milonga Limited
One motor vehicle Reg. no. KBQ 330P Mitsubishi canter

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

1. Cash at the fall of the hammer.

Bama Auctioneers

Auctioneers, Court Brokers, Process Servers, Private Investigators, Bailiffs, Repossessors & Debt Collectors
Golf House Building, 2nd Floor Room 8 Gusii Stadium Road, P.O. Box 2994-40200, Kisii.
Cell: 0722 169 950 / 0738 154 530 Email: bamaauctioneers@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from Our Principals, we shall sell the Under listed motor vehicles by Public Auction:-
On Thursday the 23rd Day of September 2025- at our Kisii Yard starting 10:30am

IN THE MATTER OF NYAMIRA CMCC NO. 169 OF 2019
VISION POINT HOUSING COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD -VRS- SHADRACK KIBAGENDI OTACHI

REG MARK	MAKE/MODEL	CONDITION
KAX 673K	TOYOTA NZE	RUNNING

IN THE MATTER OF KISII CMCC NO'S E777 & E778 BOTH OF 2024
VARIOUS PLAITIFFS -VRS- KENNEDY ORURU OUNGA

REG MARK	MAKE/MODEL	CONDITION
KAK 261Z	TOYOTA HILLUX	TOWED

IN THE MATTER OF KISII SMALL CLAIM NO. E080 OF 2024
EDNAH MASITA -VRS- PAUL NJOGU MUHONI & FRED K. KARANJA

REG MARK	MAKE/MODEL	CONDITION
KBZ 223R	ISUZU FRR	RUNNING

CONDITION OF SALE
Cash at the fall of the hammer

BETABASE AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Repossessors, Debt Collectors, Private Investigators, Process Servers and Commission Agents

Development House
2nd Floor Room 211
Moi Avenue
P.O. Box 22693-00100
NAIROBI

Tel: 0721 959986
0791315419
Email:velelajoel@gmai.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by the Small Claims Court at Milimani, we shall sell the under mentioned goods by public auction:

ON 23rd SEPTEMBER 2025 AT STARTRUCK AUCTIONEERS INVESTMENTS YARD LTD ALONG KIAMBU ROAD STARTING FROM 10.30 A.M.

MILIMANI SCCCOMM NO. E77930 OF 2025

RODMAP VENTURES -VERSUS- JOSEPHINE NDUKU NDUNDA & JANET NYAMBURA

Assorted Warm Blankets, Assorted Duvets, Assorted Bedsheets,1 Small Tag wood Woofer, 1 Small Speaker, Assorted Towels,2 Mosquito nets,2 Wardropes,3 Curtains , 4 Door Mats, Assorted Bed Covers .

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- Sale subject to reasonable reserve price
- All interested purchasers are requested to view on prior arrangements.
- Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Auckland Agencies Auctioneers

Licensed Class "B" Auctioneers, Repossessors, Private Investigators & Commission Agents

Head Office: 57 Westland Road House, 1st Floor Room 1, Opp. Standard Chartered Bank (Chiromo Branch), Westland Road, P.O. Box 62210-00200 Nairobi, Kenya, Cell: 0722519586, Tel: 020-5224897 Email: aucklandagencies@yahoo.com
Branch Office: Kanai Plaza, Moi, Next to The Tusks, Cell: 0722412129, Mombasa, Kenya

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principals, we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned properties together with all improvements erected there on.
On Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 11:00 am at our offices at Auckland Agencies Auctioneers and Storage Yard at the junction of Kiambu/ Ruaka road along Northern bypass next to Glee Hotel, Nairobi.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN KAMAKIS, RUIRU, KIAMBU COUNTY
All that piece or parcels of land known as **L.R NOS: RUIRU KIU BLOCK 2 (GITHUNGURI) 19477 AND L.R NOS: RUIRU KIU BLOCK 2 (GITHUNGURI) 19480, KAMAKIS AREA, RUIRU, KIAMBU COUNTY** registered in the name **DANIEL KIBUNJA KAMAU.** The properties are in Kiratina area of Kamakis, Ruiru Municipality, Kiambu County. They are situated about 7 kilometers off and to the left of Ruiru – Ruai (Eastern Bypass) road deviating at Kamakis Corner Stage. The plot measures 0.0350 HA or 0.0865 acres approximately. These are rectangular shaped plot with near even gradient. Soils are black cotton type. Boundaries are marked by natural stones perimeter wall to one side of 19477 belonging to the adjacent plot.
Improvements
There are no improvements on the plots.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All interested buyers are requested to view the properties by themselves as these are not warranted by Auctioneers or the chargee.
2. Successful bidders shall be required to pay 25% of the purchase price in banker's cheque or EFT immediately at the fall of the hammer and the balance to the chargee within 90 days.
3. The sale is subject to a reserve price, the auctioneer's reserves to the right to accept or reject the bid.

HIGH CLASS AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEERS & OFFICIAL BROKERS (CLASS B)
Investigators, Repossessors, Process Servers, Rent Distress, Commission Agents, Debt collectors and Estate Agents,
Jurisdiction:- Nairobi, Kajiado, Machakos, Kiambu, Makueni
Information House, 2nd floor, Room 56, Haile Selasi Road/ Mfangano Street
P.O. Box 20034-00100, Nairobi, Tel: 0722-367961, Email: gallotz.bhasani@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM OUR CLIENT, WE SHALL SELL THE UNDER-MENTIONED GOODS BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON 24TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025 STARTING FROM 10:30AM AT AUTO GALLERY (MOMBASA) LTD, WESTLANDS YARD.

CMELC NO. E848 OF 2025 – (FORMERLY CMMSU E389 OF 2025)

DEBRA LIMITED – SHEM PLAZA –VS– NOLAN CLARK E. A. LIMITED

Round wooden table + chairs, big Reveres, Glass display, Mika water dispenser, small Ricoh Aficio MPC300 Photocopier, Metallic cabinet, 3 drawer reception counter, 4pcs 2 drawer office desk, 4HP computer (1Dell monitor) 2 office chairs, 2 metallic shelves, Von incomplete coffee maker, HP office printer, Solar water heater, Dish rack and 1 vest bin, 5 wooden stand and empty box, water pumps, luminous Inverkast tubular battery's , assorted solar lights 12 solar batteries, assorted sola panels.

CONDITION OF SALE
Cash at the fall of the hammer.

KINGSTAR Auctioneers

HEADOFFICE - NAIROBI
Hotex Building, Kenyatta Avenue 1st Floor Room 14
+254 728 708 900
P.O. Box 11939-20300 Nakuru
kingstarauctions@gmail.com

BRANCH NAIROBI
Windsor House 4th Flr Room No. 7 University Way
+254 728 708 900
P.O. Box 13949-20100 Nakuru
kingstarauctions@gmail.com

Auctioneers, Repossessors, Private Investigators, Debt Collectors & General Commission Agents

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our principal, the financier, we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned motor vehicles **ON FRIDAY 26/09/2025 AT 11.00 AM AT THE INDICATED YARD:**

REG. No.	MAKE	MODEL	BODY TYPE	CC	YOM	FUEL	COLOUR	YARD
KDJ 945L	MAZDA	DEMIO	S. WAGON	1200	2015	PETROL	RED	A–PLUS MOTORS THIKA ROAD

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All those interested are requested to view the motor vehicles during normal working hours. For details contact Alex on 0728 708 900.
2. Cash at the fall of the hammer.
3. Sales are subject to reasonable reserve prices.

ALL ARE WELCOME

KIMU AUCTIONEERS

Branches
Nairobi Kisii, Makueni & Kitui
P O BOX 1324 - 40200
KISII
TEL: 0792-343-206/0784-894332
0732484823

HEAD OFFICE MACHAKOS
T.TEN HOUSE
P O BOX 3498-90100
MACHAKOS
TEL: 0720-455-599/0782-540-506/
0707129481

Migori, Homabay, Bomet, Kajiado & Narok
Gitna Inn 2nd floor ROM 1
KITUI-GELA
TEL: 0724-965-498/0798-594-291
0103801481

Email: kimuauctioneers@gmail.com/kimuauctioneers@yahoo.com
Private Investigators, Debt Collectors, Bailiffs. Auctioneers, Process Servers, Re-Possessors, Commission Estate Agents, Court Brokers, & motor vehicle dealers

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under Instructions received from Financier. We shall sell the under Mentioned Property by Public Auction

ON FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER, 2025 OUTSIDE MUTOMO POST OFFICE IN KITUI COUNTY AT 10.00 A.M. OR THEREABOUTS
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL PROPERTY: TITLE NUMBER KITUI/MWALA/1137 IN NAME OF JOSEPHINE MWALIKA KATUNGI

All that Parcel of land/Residential known as: **TITLE NUMBER KITUI/MWALA/1137IN NAME OF JOSEPHINE MWALIKA KATUNGI – DEBTOR/BORROWER**
In **KITUI COUNTY, WITHIN MUTOMO TRADING CENTER.** It's located on GPS Coordinates (-1.81216,38.207505) about 280 meters from Mutomo Kibwezi road due to east and 670 meters off **KITUI-KIBWEZI HIGHWAY to South.**
It is developed with residential block of house which comprises of clay brick blocks wall, the roof is GCI roofing, soft board Ceiling, External doors are metallic, windows are glaze steel metal and floor is of cement screed. It comprises of 3 units of shops, 21 single rooms and verandah.

This is a rectangular shaped plot of land compromising of volcano mixed grade soils with a flat gradient whose boundaries are marked by lines of perimeter wall, entrance to the property is by a single leafed lockable metallic door.

It's a freehold interest registered under registration Act Cap 300 Laws of Kenya measuring approximately 0.06 Ha or 0.148 Acres or thereabout. It is registered in the name ***JOSEPHINE MWALIKA KATUNGI, P.O BOX 190-90100 MOMBASA and tel No. 0702816572.*** **Electricity and water are available and connected.** Foul drainage is into septic tank or a pit latrine. Immediate access road is tar surfaced road with a tarmac road of 280 meters away.

CONDITIONS FOR SALE

1. All interested purchasers are requested to view and verify the details for themselves as these are not warranty by Financier or the auctioneers.
2. A Deposit of 25% must be paid in ***CASH or BANKER'S CHEQUE*** at the fall of the hammer and the balance within 90 Days.
3. Sale is subject to reserve price.
4. Viewing on –Monday to Friday.

ICON AUCTIONEERS.

Auctioneers, Repossessors, Debt Recovery Consultants, investigators, Court Process server
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Celebrating Life

JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

DR. STELLA NYAMBURA MBAU
1988-2025

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) is saddened to announce the death of Dr. Stella Nyambura Mbau which occurred on 6th September, 2025 in her sleep. At the time of her demise, she worked in the Department of Construction Management.

Daughter to Elias Mbau and Martha Wanjiru.

Sister to Dennis Kamau, Donald Mwangi and the late Michael Gitau.

The cortege will leave Montezuma Funeral Home, Kabati, on Friday 19th September, 2025 at 8.00 am. Funeral service will be held at ACK Kaharo, and interment thereafter at Kaharo Village, Nginda Loacation, Murang'a County.

Rest in Peace Dr. Stella Nyambura Mbau

THE NAIROBI NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC

PROMOTION TO GLORY

James Ng'ang'a Mwangi
Sunrise: 6 Nov 1966 - Sunset: 7 Sept 2025

It is with humble acceptance of God`s will that we announce the passing on of James Ng`ang`a Mwangi from Nguthuru Makenji, Murang`a County which occurred at The Nairobi West Hospital on **7th September 2025**. Until his demise, James was a trainer at The Nairobi National Polytechnic.

He was a loving husband of Agnes Wambui Ng`ang`a. Son of the late Ezekiel Mwangi Ng`ang`a and Grace Wambui Mwangi. Father to Naomi Wambui, Tabitha Njeri, Ruth Wanjiku, Isaac Mwangi and Miriam Wairimu.

Father in law to Geoffrey Ng`a ng`a (Jeff). Doting grandfather of Isaac Ngugi. Loving brother to Paul Maina, Bishop Joel Thuo, Late Susan Wanjiku and Martha Wanjiru. He was an uncle and a friend to many.

Family and friends are meeting at the family home in Makenji, Murang`a and Mugumo Nanyuki from **4.00pm** for prayers and funeral arrangements.

The cortege leaves General Kago Mortuary (Thika) on **18 September 2025** at **9.00am. Funeral service** will be held at Makenji, Nguthuru at **10.00 am** and thereafter burial at the **same place.**

2 Timothy 4:7- I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

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Sports

Athletics. Faith delivers fourth world 1,500m title in style **Page 32**

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Football Kenya Federation (FKF) President Hussein Mohamed (left) and SportPesa CEO Ronald Karauri at the official launch of the 2025/26 FKF Premier League season. [Jonah Onyango, Standard]

It's raining cash as Sh20 million prize money awaits SportPesa League kick off

- The champion will walk away with Sh15million.
- KCB will kick off the new season with a match against Tusker on Friday.

WASHINGTON ONYANGO, KISUMU

KCB FC and former champions Tusker will kick off the newly renamed 2025–2026 SportPesa League on Friday at Nyayo Stadium from 6pm.

Fans can expect fireworks both on and off the pitch as the new campaign begins with a record Sh20 million prize pool up for grabs.

For years, league champions in Kenya have had to settle for a modest Sh5 million kitty.

That has now changed after Football Kenya Federation (FKF) President Hussein Mohamed announced that the winners of this season's title will walk away with Sh15 million, three times more than the previous reward.

In the new structure, the league champions will pocket Sh15 million, while the runner-up and third-placed team will take home Sh3 million and Sh2 million respectively.

The federation has injected Sh10 million into the kitty, with an equal amount coming from the league's title sponsor, SportPesa.

Speaking during the unveiling of the SportPesa League's new name and logo yesterday, FKF boss Mohamed described the move as a new dawn for Kenyan football.

"For the first time, our champions will earn Sh15 million. This is only the beginning. Our target is to grow this figure to at least Sh50 million in the near future," he said.

SportPesa CEO Ronald Karauri said the decision to increase the prize money was meant to inspire clubs and players to compete at the highest level.

"We are determined to make the SportPesa League highly competitive. Every player must feel they are striving for something meaningful," said Karauri.

"We had initially set aside Sh6 million, but after consultations with FKF, we agreed to double our support. We now stand with the federation in committing Sh20 million to the top three teams."

The new prize pool has raised optimism among players, clubs, and fans that Kenyan football is headed in the right direction.

Many believe the increased rewards will not only lift standards on the pitch, but also encourage clubs to invest more in player development, infrastructure, and youth systems.

With the prize money confirmed, attention now shifts to the weekend fixtures. Friday's opener between KCB and Tusker is expected to draw a large crowd, as both sides are eager to make a strong start.

KCB will be out to show they are ready to mount a serious title challenge, while Tusker, one of the most successful clubs in the country, will be keen to reclaim their lost glory.

On Saturday, Kariobangi Sharks will face Bandari at the Kasarani Annex at 1pm, followed by a late afternoon clash between AFC Leopards and Sofapaka at Ulinzi Sports Complex from 4pm.

Sunday will see Shabana host APS Bomet at Gusii Stadium in a 2pm fixture before Murang'a Seal battle Ulinzi Stars at St. Sebastian Park an hour later.

Former champions Gor Mahia will begin their title defense against Bidco United at Kasarani Stadium from 4pm.

The opening round will close on Monday with Mathare United taking on Posta Rangers at Kasarani Stadium.

wonyango@standardmedia.co.ke

SPORTPESA LEAGUE – WEEK ONE FIXTURES:

- Friday:
- KCB FC vs Tusker FC – Nyayo Stadium (6PM)
- Saturday:
- Kariobangi Sharks vs Bandari FC – Kasarani Annex (1PM)
- AFC Leopards vs Sofapaka FC – Ulinzi Sports Complex (4PM)
- Sunday:
- Shabana FC vs APS Bomet – Gusii Stadium (2PM)
- Murang'a Seal FC vs Ulinzi Stars – St. Sebastian Park (3PM)
- Gor Mahia vs Bidco United – Kasarani Stadium (4PM)
- Monday:
- Mathare United vs Posta Rangers – Kasarani Stadium (4PM)

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Revamped Bayern face early test as Chelsea come calling

Bayern Munich's revamped line-up faces an early test in their Champions League opener at home against Club World Cup winners Chelsea today.

A rematch of the 2012 final at the same venue, won on penalties by the English club, Bayern have little time to settle after a summer of upheaval, particularly up front.

Forwards Leroy Sane, Kingsley Coman, Thomas Mueller and Mathys Tel all left in the summer. Only two replacements have been brought in: Luis Diaz, from Liverpool, and Nicolas Jackson, from Chelsea on loan.

With Jamal Musiala and Alphonso Davies out with long-term injuries, the lack of summer activity earned Bayern some rare criticism from talisman Harry Kane.

Not known for controversial statements, the 32-year-old Kane called Bayern's squad "thin", adding "maybe one of the smallest I've had in my career."

With four goals and two assists in his opening five games, Diaz has hit the ground running in Germany.

But Chelsea, crowned Cup World Cup winners after a dominant display against Paris Saint-Germain just two months ago, are likely to pose a sterner test.

Like Chelsea, Bayern are expected to make it out of the league phase but have their sights set on qualifying directly and avoiding another two-legged knockout tie.

Last year, Bayern finished 12th and struggled to get past Celtic, winning 3-2 on aggregate.

Kane admitted on Saturday the extra burden cut their momentum later in the season.

"It's important to be in the top eight because that extra game can make a big difference.

"Last year, playing that Celtic game home and away in our busiest period, it made a big difference, and we ended up losing a few players." **[AFP]**

Chelsea's Moises Caicedo (left) celebrates scoring against Brentford. [AFP]

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 13 - 21, 2025

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS TOKYO 25

Eyes on 'Cheruiyots' in today's 1500m gold chase

Kenya's Timothy Cheruiyot, Germany's Robert Farken and US' Cole Hocker compete in men's 1500m heats. [AFP]

- Timothy Cheruiyot and Reynold are eying glory in the men's 1500m.
- Cherotich will be renewing rivalry with Kenyan-born Bahraini Yavi in women's 3000m steeplechase.

STEPHEN RUTTO

All eyes will be on former Under-20 champion Reynold Cheruiyot and 2019 world gold medallist Timothy Cheruiyot as the men chase glory in the men's 1500m this afternoon.

The Cheruiyots are on a mission to reclaim the 1500m glory in a star-studded final.

Expectations are high. Reynold promised a change of strategy ahead of today's finals.

The athlete, who has recently transitioned to the senior ranks, won his heat in the semi-final on Monday and is hopeful of an impressive show today.

"We are going to plan how for the final with Timothy and coaches. We are going to change some tactics in consultation with the coaches as we prpare for the final," said Reynold.

On Monday, Reynold ran from the inside in the first lap before switching to an outside position in the final 400m.

He says he was plotting to avoid being locked in the pack in today's clash.

Reynold produced a powerful kick after the final bend to win his Heat in 3:36.64. USA's Cole Hocker (3:36.67), the reigning Olympic champion, followed in second place and Spanish Adrian Ben came in third in 3:36.78.

At the finals, the Kenyan duo faced defending champion Josh Kerr of Great Britain among other athletes with decorated CVs.

Reclaiming his 2019 title remains Timothy's focus. His main rival, Norwegian Jakob Ingebrigtsen, who is the winner of the Olympic title at the Japan National Stadium in 2021, was eliminated in the first round on Sunday.

Ingebrigtsen made his outdoor season debut at the World Championships after battling injury all year, but he didn't have the fitness to advance to the next round, placing eighth in his heat.

With the Norwegian out of the way, Timothy and Cheruiyot have other big names to contend with as they eye glory in the final.

Timothy also faces athletics big shots such as Narve Nordas of Norway, Niels Laros (Netherlands) and former world champion Jake Wightman (Great Britain) among others.

The country's fast-rising star Phanuel Koech's ambition for a medal at the theWorld Championships was crushed by a fall in the early morning contest.

Koech started out well, racing from the outside but fell in the final lap and ended up finishing 12th in 3:42.77, failing to sail through to the semi-final.

Reynold had booked his semi-final slot in Heat 2 after finishing fourth in 3:41.17 behind Dutchman Laros who was third in 3:41.00 and Isaac Nader of Portugal (3:40.91). Italian Pietro Arese stopped the timer in 3:41.88.

In his Heat 4 of the preliminaries, Wightman dictated the proceedings in 3:36.90, defeating Portuguese Jose Carlos who placed second in 3:37.09, while Kenyan-born turn American Jonah Koech qualified from third in 3:37.11.

Also this afternoon, Olympic bronze medallist Faith Cherotich is set for another grueling face-off with world champion Winfred Yavi, a Kenyan born Bahraini in the women's 3000m steeplechase final.

Cherotich, who won bronze in 2023 Budapest, qualified for the final alongside Doris Lemngole, who finished second behind Chemutai of Uganda in Heat 3 during round one on Monday.

Cherotich's rivalry with Yavi in the women's 3000m steeplechase can be compared to the close contests pitting Emmanuel Wanyonyi and Canadian Marco Arop in the men's 800m last season.

This season, Cherotich, an Olympic bronze medallist, has not been giving Yavi the space to breathe.

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Kenyans stars to watch today:

Men's 1500m
- Timothy Cheruiyot
- Reynold Cheruiyot

Women's 3000m steeplechase:
- Faith Cherotich
- Doris Lemngole

Briefing

HIGH JUMP. NEW ZEALAND'S KERR WINS WORLD MEN'S GOLD

Hamish Kerr claimed New Zealand's second gold medal in two days at the world championships in Tokyo when he won the men's high jump yesterday.Olympic champion Kerr managed a best of 2.36 metres for gold to follow up on Geordie Beamish's shock victory in the men's 3,000m steeplechase on Monday.South Korea's Sanghyeok Woo claimed silver with a best of 2.34m.The Korean upped the ante at the climax of a thrilling competition by skipping 2.36m, the bar raised to 2.38m. **[AFP]**

LESSON. US TEENAGER LUTKENHAUS SCHOOLED AT WORLDS 800M EVENT

American 16-year-old Cooper Lutkenhaus vowed to come back stronger after being eliminated in the 800 metre heats at the World Athletics Championships on Tuesday, comparing it to "failing a math test".The Texas high-school student became the youngest runner to represent the United States at a world championships but made an early exit after finishing seventh in his heat in Tokyo.Lutkenhaus looked in position to attack with about 150m to go but was unable to break through and crossed the line in 1min 47.68sec. **[AFP]**

HURDLES. TINCH CROWNS ATYPICAL PATH TO TOP WITH 110M HURDLES GOLD

American Cordell Tinch capped a fine season by winning the men's 110 metres hurdles at the world championships yesterday.Tinch clocked 12.99sec for gold ahead of the Jamaican duo of Orlando Bennett and Tyler Mason, who each timed personal bests of 13.08sec and 13.12sec respectively."When I crossed the finish line I felt relieved," said 25-year-old Tinch."I came into this season with the goal of winning the world title. I wanted to be the best hurdler in the world." **[AFP]**

USA athlete Cordell Tinch after winning men's 110m hurdles final. [AFP]

Wanyonyi lays down early marker **as he powers to 800m semi-finals**

- Olympic champion will be facing strong challenge in the semi-final tomorrow.
- The world silver medallist said Diamond Leagues prepared him for the 2025 World Championships.

STEPHEN RUTTO

Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi is a man on a mission. Yesterday, he made his intentions of clinching a world 800m title in Tokyo clear.

He powered to the top place in Heat 5 as his campaign kicked off at the Tokyo World Athletics Championships.

Wanyonyi bagged silver in 2023 Budapest and he faces another strong field of 800m stars in the semi-final tomorrow. He looks to upgrade silver medal to gold in Tokyo.

At yesterday's preliminaries, Wanyonyi powered to victory in 1:45.05, after dictating the proceedings from gun to finish.

Wanyonyi started off as the leader before slowing down in the 600m mark but produced a strong kick in the last 100m.

Alongside Kelvin Loti, who finished second in Heat 2 in 1:45.35, the Kenyan duo will battling for a spot in the final in tomorrow's contest.

Italian Franceso Pernici (1:45.11) and Ireland's Mark English (1:45.13) sailed through to the semi-final after placing second and third respectively. African champion Alex Kipngetich was knocked out of the semi-final and medal contention after finishing sixth in the first heat.

> "Everyone here in Tokyo is feeling the heat and are affected by the weather conditions. My focus is nothing but a gold medal."
>
> **Emmanuel Wanyonyi,** Olympic 800m champion

Loti sprinted his way to the semi-final in Heat 2 which had defending champion Marco Arop of Canada.

He took the lead in most of the race but was overpowered by Mohamed Attaoui of Spain in the closing stages.

But he booked his spot in the semi-final after finishing second behind the Spanish star, timing 1:45.35.

Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi leads in the men's 800m heats during the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo yesterday. [AFP]

Attaoui won the Heat in 1:45.23 while Arop sealed the top three automatic qualifying positions in 1:45.39.

African silver medallist Nicholas Kebenei dictated the proceedings until the last 100m when he ran out of gas, finishing fourth in Heat 7.

Wanyonyi, the poster boy in Kenya's battle to sustain its dominance in the 800m, alongside Loti will be taking on on top guns in a race that became the most competitive in recent seasons.

Algeria'a Djamel Sedjati, Attaoui of Spain, Arop (Canada), Cian McPhillips (Ireland) and Tshepiso Masalela of Botswana are among two-lap athletes who are expected to strongly oppose Wanyonyi's race for a world title in Tokyo.

If he progresses to the final and eventually claims gold, Wanyonyi will have clinched an Olympic and world title back-to-back.

Wanyonyi said the hot and humid conditions in Tokyo will not stop him from chasing his world title dream.

"Everyone here in Tokyo is feeling the heat and are affected by the weather conditions. My focus is nothing but a gold medal," Wanyonyi said after cruising to the semi-final. He said the Diamond Leagues prepared him well for the World Championships.

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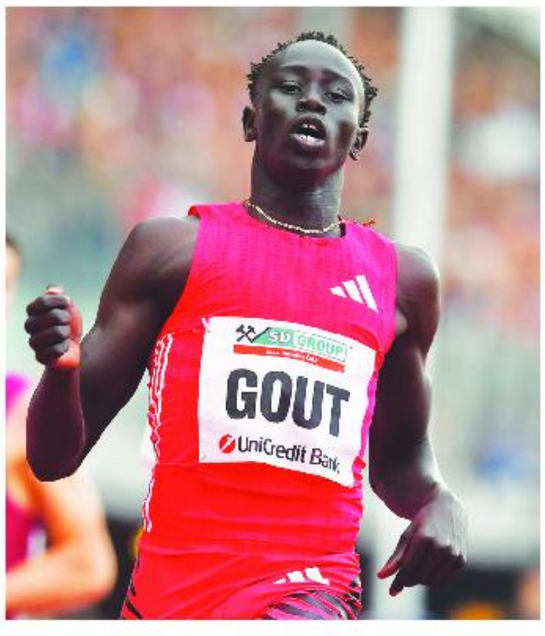
200M SPRINTS

Australian teen sprinter Gout set for first real test



Australia's Gout Gout competes in a past event. [AFP]

Gout Gout's name has sparked debate but the real question for the athletics world is whether the exciting Australian teenage sprinter can fill the vacuum left by Usain Bolt.

The precocious 17-year-old -- born to South Sudanese parents who fled the war-torn country via Egypt and arrived in Australia in 2006 -- makes his world championships debut in the 200m heats in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Three-time defending champion Noah Lyles and Olympic gold medallist Letsile Tebogo may claim they have the right to be considered Bolt's heirs.

However, for many the tall and rangy Gout is the one who has the raw potential to become the undisputed superstar of sprinting to succeed Bolt.

The Jamaican eight-time Olympic gold medallist and still the 100m and 200m world record holder retired in 2017.

Gout ran 20.04sec at last year's Australian All Schools Athletics Championship, only the second athlete to record a time faster than Bolt's Under-18 best of 20.13sec.

In doing so he also broke the 56-year-old Australian national senior record set by the late Peter Norman when he took bronze in the 1968 200m Olympic final.

In June, Gout lowered it further by clocking 20.02sec at the Golden Spike meeting in Ostrava.

Bolt has taken a liking to Gout, posting a photograph of them together with the caption: "He looks like young me."

However, the 39-year-old Jamaican has also warned that huge potential does not always translate into success.

"It's always easier when you're younger," Bolt told reporters in Tokyo.

"I used to do great things when I was young. But the transition to senior from junior is always tougher. It's all about if you get the right coach, the right people around you, if you're focused enough.

"So there will be a lot of factors that will determine if he's going to be great and continue on the same trajectory."

Gout, whose family keeps him grounded despite the glare of publicity -- he still shares a room with his "messier" older brother Mawjen -- admits comparisons with Bolt are daunting.

"In the moment it feels great because everyone wants to be compared to Usain, but at times it does get a bit overwhelming," Gout says on his Australian Athletics profile page.

"Although I do run like Usain Bolt, I do maybe look like him in a couple of ways, I'm just trying to be myself." **[AFP]**

The Standard Sport

The Standard Monday - Friday

Faith Kipyegon celebrates after winning gold in Tokyo yesterday. [AFP]

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
SEPTEMBER 13- 21, 2025

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS TOKYO 25

Faith delivers for Kenya in Tokyo with fourth world title

daily@standard.com

- Youngster Ewoi wins silver as Chepchirchir narrowly misses out on podium spot.
- Kenya has now won three gold medals in Tokyo.

STEPHEN RUTTO

Nelly Chepchirchir, Faith Kipyegon and Dorcus Ewoi celebrate after the 1500m final yesterday. [AFP]

Cometh the hour, cometh the queen! Faith Kipyegon was unstoppable as she confirmed to the world that she was the golden girl.

The three-time Olympic champion delivered Kenya's third gold medal at the ongoing World Athletics Championships.

And she led Dorcus Ewoi into a silver medal, pushing Kenya's tally to five medals on the fourth day of the global showpiece.

It was Kipyegon's fourth world 1500m gold medal at the World Championships.

That propelled her to the league of legends who have dominated the World Athletics Championships.

She rivaled legendary 3000m steeplechaser Ezekiel kemboi who also has four world titles to his name and Jamaica's sprint queen Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce who has also won the 100m title four times.

After the historic fourth 1500m title, one major assignment awaits the peerless Kipyegon.

She is set to fly the country's colours once again in Tokyo in the women's 5000m tomorrow afternoon alongside 10,000m world champion Beatrice Chebet and 10km record holder Agnes Ngetich who missed out on the podium in Day 1 of the international championship.

Chebet, who followed the race at the Japan National Stadium was spotted shedding tears of joy as her compatriots, Kipyegon and Ewoi made the country proud with their memorable show.

"I just wanted to be myself. After setting the world record in Eugene, I said to myself, 'I have to go to Tokyo and defend my title.' I knew I could run it under control.

"I won here in 2021 (Olympics) just after becoming a mother, so being back here, winning again, means I can show a new gold medal to my daughter.

"I want to win two golds here in Tokyo. I am taking it one race at a time and the 1,500m medal is now in the pocket. I will focus now on the 5,000m and try to win it," Kipyegon said.

Kipyegon displayed sharp focus from the start of the race, as she immediately stepped to the lead after the gun and gloriously controlled the pace all the way to the finish.

Efforts by Olympic silver medallist Jessica Hull of Australia to overpower Kipyegon proved hard.

Hull stuck behind Kipyegon from the start, pressing hard after the bell triggering responses from Ewoi and Nelly Chepchirchir who were closely behind the Australian.

Just before the final bend, Kipyegon produced a killer kick, opening the lead and stormed to her historic title as Ewoi battled Hull to bring home a precious silver – her first world silver.

The Australian closely edged out Chepchirchir and bagged a bronze.

Ewoi had on Sunday thanked Faith for pushing her to a second place in the semi-final, just behind the world champion.

But yesterday, Ewoi reproduced a similar script at the final, closely following the champion and finishing behind her once again.

"Even though I missed a medal, I ran a personal best. This has been a great season," said the magnanimous 22-year-old Chepchirchir.

"There's nothing to regret. I am honoured to be on the same team with Faith Kipyegon. She is a very humble lady."

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WOMEN'S 1500M PODIUM PLACES:

Faith Kipyegon	(gold)	**3:52.15**
Dorcus Ewoi	(silver)	**3:54.92**
Jessica Hull	(bronze)	**3:55.16**

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Men's Triple Jump Qualification	1.05pm
Men's Javelin Throw Qualification - Group A	1.10pm
Women's 200m Heats	1.30pm
Women's Pole Vault Final	2.10pm
Men's 200m Heats	2.15pm
Men's Javelin Throw Qualification - Group B	2.45pm
Men's Long Jump Final	2.49pm
Women's 400m Hurdles Semi-Final	3.03pm
Men's 400m Hurdles Semi-Final	3.30pm
Women's 3000m Steeplechase Final	3.57pm
Men's 1500m Final	4.20pm

Published and printed at Standard Group Plc HQ Office, The Standard Group Center, Mombasa Road. P.O. Box 30080-00100, Nairobi, Kenya. **Telephone number:** 0203222111, 0719012111 **Email:** corporate@standardmedia.co.ke **Classified Ad Center Tel:** 0719012555 Rolex Building Moi Avenue. **Mombasa Tel:** 0719012840 Kilindini Plaza,3rd Floor, Moi Avenue, Opposite KCB Bank. **Nakuru Tel:** 0719012850/0719012853/0719012869 Merica Building, 2nd floor Kenyatta Avenue.

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Enterprise

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The welding Gen Z mum

» *Ways to earn extra income from that idle plot* PAGE 3

» *Language barrier stifles software developers* PAGE 6

JOBS

Treasure Communications MD Francis Mworia (left) with Generation Kenya Head of Business Development and Innovation Mwako Ngale after signing the deal. [Jenipher Wachie, Standard]

CALLS FOR MENTORSHIP TO BEAT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Stakeholders have underscored the need for mentorship programmes as a sustainable way to tackle youth unemployment in Kenya, citing the gap between academic training and workplace readiness.

The call was reinforced during the recent launch of the inaugural cohort of the MD Mentorship Programme, spearheaded by Treasure Communications in partnership with Generation Kenya.

The programme, which will run for the next five years, aims to equip young people with leadership skills, professional networks, and industry exposure to boost their employability.

Treasure Communications Managing Director Francis Mworia said the initiative is tailored to nurture a new generation of leaders who can adapt to market demands and drive innovation.

"What we are doing with this program is empowering young people, giving them insights around leadership, and exposing them to different environments so that they can take up roles that match industry needs," he explained.

The first cohort brings together 20 participants who will undergo a 12-month mentorship journey designed to prepare them for leadership roles and transform their career trajectories.

The programme is structured into four phases, beginning with self-awareness and classroom training, followed by practical exposure to brand management, leadership simulations, and market immersion.

Participants will also get the chance to step into the role of an MD for a day, offering first-hand experience in executive decision-making.

Mworia emphasised that the mentorship is not limited to Treasure Communications, but is intended to raise capacity across the marketing sector and beyond.

"We are looking at how to transform the entire marketing environment, building networks and skills that will positively impact the industry," he added.

The launch comes against the backdrop of Kenya's growing youth unemployment crisis. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the unemployment rate among young people aged 15 to 24 stood at 11.93 per cent in 2024, slightly down from 12.01 per cent in 2023.

However, the challenge is deeper when the broader youth population is considered. More than half of Kenya's unemployed are aged between 20 and 29. **[Sofia Ali]**

CAPACITY BUILDING

KENYA DAIRY BOARD AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCHER IN PACT TO BOOST NATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCTION

The formal milk sector is growing, providing around 20 per cent of milk to consumers. [File, Standard]

The Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at accelerating inclusive growth, innovation, and sustainability in Kenya's dairy sector.

The MoU provides a framework for cooperation to work from „farm to glass" to improve dairy production, processing and consumer awareness.

This strategic partnership brings together ILRI's cutting-edge research and KDB's regulatory and sectoral leadership to unlock new opportunities for smallholder farmers, processors, and consumers. KDB has the mandate that provides the policy framework, quality assurance, and market oversight that shape the industry.

ILRI brings 50 years of experience in developing dairy-related solutions in animal health, genetics, feed, and dairy marketing systems. KDB acting Managing Director Dr Kimutai Maritim said the collaboration would not only support livelihoods and nutrition but also help Kenya meet its ambitious goal of doubling milk consumption by 2030, ensuring that growth is inclusive, sustainable, and driven by evidence-based solutions. "The More Milk 2 project is a great example of collaboration between KDB and ILRI and aligns with our mandate and core functions to regulate, promote, and develop Kenya's dairy industry. This MOU strengthens our ability to deliver on that promise with innovation, integrity, and impact," said Maritim.

Kenya's dairy sector is the largest in East Africa, producing 5.33 billion litres and is important for the national economy, contributing about 4.5 per cent to GDP and over 12 per cent to agricultural GDP. With the highest per capita milk consumption, around 92 litres per person annually, demand is expected to rise further as the population grows.

A key challenge is ensuring the delivery of safe and nutritious milk to consumers. More than 50 per cent of milk is delivered through informal market systems, which offer significant support to livelihoods, especially to youth and women, while providing affordable access to nutrient-rich milk.

The formal milk sector is growing, providing around 20 per cent of milk to consumers and is more structured, involving cooperatives, processors, and retailers. Kenya's National Dairy Master Plan projects a doubling of per capita milk consumption, requiring production to expand from roughly eight billion litres today to over 18 billion litres annually, making the industry both a vital livelihood engine and a strategic priority for food and nutrition security. **[Nanjinia Wamuswa]**

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QUOTE

"We have a situation where Kenya is having an expansionary monetary policy and lowering of lending rates, but who is benefiting?"

Ndindi Nyoro, Kiharu MP

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HUSTLENOMICS

CHEERS TO KENYAN TRIO BREWING MURATINA FOR FUN IN CALIFORNIA

I recently highlighted how we "carry" food wherever we go after sampling chapati, ugali and goat soup at the Kenya-themed Rafiki Restaurant in the American Pacific Northwest.

A visit to California, also on the Pacific Rim, left no doubt that we also love our intoxicating drinks and carry them along wherever we go.

It was hilarious to see some Kenyans preparing the *muratina* traditional brew from Central Kenya in California, of all places, home to Google, Facebook, Apple Inc, and other high-tech companies.

The "innovators" are Mwangi Maina (from Kangari, Murang'a), Gerald Gachara, and Sam Warutere (both from Gitunduti, Nyeri).

Even more hilarious, they „import" the *muratina* or sausage fruit, which is used as a catalyst in the fermentation process, from Kenya!

That is why the brew is called muratina, after the fruit. In addition to water, it also includes sugar or honey. It is easy science; you should try it out.

The key constraint for the three enterprising Kenyans was the pot. It's available in the market for hobby brewers.

I watched as the ingredients were mixed and stirred. The "glass pot" has a capacity of 27 litres. An electric blanket was improvised to heat and slowly cook the beer.

That's creativity. I was told it would be ready in five days. I did not stay that long. The simplicity and availability of raw materials explain why illicit brews are so common and profitable in Kenya.

Why would Kenyans prepare such a drink so far away from home? One, it's fun, and a good hobby.

I doubt if they were preparing the traditional beer because they lacked the money to buy the sophisticated drinks, some known for the "years."

Two, it's another way to get an identity and may feel homely. It's also part of self-actualisation; do „simple" things to satisfy your curiosity.

In the spirit of California, where innovation reigns, the muratina makers should do what Facebook, Google or Apple Inc have done - scale up and sell the product or service to the world.

Are we not told all the time that these great firms in California were started in a garage? Why not scale up like other brewers?

Unfortunately, we look down on our own products, from muratina to our names. Yet whatever you brew, from high-end Scottish whiskey to chang'aa, the key ingredient is alcohol; the rest is witty marketing.

I will inform you if *muratina* "cooked." Have you tried such a hobby?

[XN Iraki]

One of the Kenyan trio prepares "modern" muratina brew in California, USA. [XN Iraki, Standard].

Published by: The Standard Group Plc; **Acting Chief Executive Officer:** Chaacha Mwita; **Acting Editor-In-Chief:** John Bundotich; **Deputy Editor (Economy):** Sam Njogu; **Sub Editor:** Mwangi Maina **Deputy Chief Graphic Designer:** Gilbert Sigey **Graphic Designer:** Virginia Borura **Writers:** Brian Ngugi, Noela Nabiswa, Paul Mbugua, Nanjinia Wamuswa. **Photo Editor:** Maxwel Agwanda **E-mail:** enterprise@standardmedia.co.ke **Website:** http://www.standardmedia.co.ke *All correspondence to this publication is assumed to be intended for publication. The magazine accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, artworks or photographs. All rights on publication remain with the publisher.*

INVESTING

Ways to earn income **from that idle plot**

Owners can transform these plots into sources of passive income before deciding on permanent use.

By Paul Kariuki
newsdesk@standardmedia.co.ke

Many who acquire small plots of land, such as an eighth of an acre, often do not view these parcels as immediate opportunities for generating side income, leaving them largely unused.

Beyond basic actions like fencing, depositing construction materials such as sand, planting trees, or erecting a temporary structure to house a utility meter to signal ownership, these plots typically remain idle.

In rural areas, they may even serve as grazing grounds or playgrounds for children until the owner decides to build or utilise the land differently.

This trend is particularly noticeable in the countryside, where arable land is rapidly disappearing as people rush to secure their "*ploti maguta maguta*," a popular term for "prime" land.

However, there are several ways owners can transform these plots into sources of passive income. Here are some viable options:

Leasing for Commercial Use

If your plot is strategically located, such as along a busy road, consider approaching large businesses to lease it for a depot or warehouse.

This can streamline their operations, saving time and costs by bringing them closer to customers. You never know—your lessee might attract complementary businesses, transforming the area into a bustling trading hub.

As the area grows, not only will you earn rental income, but the value of your land could also appreciate significantly. What if, at the end of the lease, the business offers an attractive sum to purchase your plot outright?

Converting to a Parking Lot

A plot near a busy road can generate daily income as a parking lot, especially for matatus, long-haul vehicles, or workers in nearby businesses who lack parking space.

You could charge hourly rates or a fixed fee for set periods, with additional charges for extended stays.

This setup might attract related businesses, such as mechanic shops, car washes, fuel stations, or auto parts dealers, as well as services like security guards, eateries, or small kiosks, creating a vibrant micro-economy.

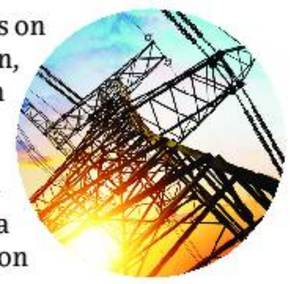
Hiking/Camping Site

If your plot is located in a rural area or near natural attractions like hills or trails, consider turning it into a stopover for hikers, campers, or adventure seekers.

Simple, eco-friendly structures like timber cabins or grass-thatched shelters can blend with the natural environment, appealing to nature enthusiasts. This low-cost venture could grow into an Airbnb-style business, attracting those seeking serene hideaways.

With time, nature lovers might promote your site as a must-visit stopover for recharging during outdoor adventures.

Telecommunications Mast



If your plot is on elevated terrain, it could be an ideal site for a telecommunications company to install a communication mast.

Approach a telco with this proposal, and if their feasibility study confirms its suitability, you could secure a steady income stream. As the surrounding area develops, attracting investors and homeowners, your land's value may increase.

Including a buyout clause in the lease agreement could allow the telco to purchase the plot if its infrastructure becomes too critical to dismantle after the lease ends.

The possibilities for generating passive income from small plots are not limited to these examples. For those passionate about farming, investing in a greenhouse could yield higher returns than traditional rain-fed agriculture on a larger plot.

However, choose investments that require minimal ongoing costs to sustain operations while delivering consistent returns. Building rental properties, whether residential or commercial, may not yield quick returns, especially in rural areas without industries or major investments to attract skilled labour and high-paying tenants.

> *"However, choose investments that require minimal ongoing costs to sustain operations while delivering consistent returns."*

FUNDING

Innovation investment growth at 15-year-low: UN

Growth in global innovation funding has fallen to its lowest rate since 2010, UN projections showed Tuesday, as high inflation eats into research and development spending and as venture capital deals slump.

In its annual ranking of the world's most innovative economies, the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) placed Switzerland at the top of the list for the 15th consecutive year.

Sweden and the United States retained their second and third place positions for the third year running, while China edged its way one spot higher and into the top 10.

But while the ranking picture largely resembled that of recent years, the United Nations patent agency cautioned that global innovation funding growth had notably slowed.

"The fuel powering the engine of innovation, which is capital, which is financing, is not as abundant as before," WIPO chief Daren Tang told reporters. "After a decade of rapid expansion in R&D spending and venture capital investment, we are witnessing a shift," he said in the foreword of the report. The WIPO report said R&D spending growth slowed to 2.9 percent last year, down from 4.4 percent a year earlier, and it projected that growth would slow further this year, to 2.3 percent. Business R&D expenditures, which represent over 70 percent of total global R&D, is projected to grow just 1.4 percent in 2024 and 2025, when excluding the China and the United States from projections -- far below the 4.6-percent average of the past decade, WIPO said. **[AFP]**

SPECIAL REPORT

Gen Z mum defies gender stereotypes to etch her place in Ugunja's welding space

Beatrice Achieng at work in her employer's workshop at Ugunja Market, Siaya County. [Michael Mute, Standard]

Beatrice Achieng, 24, is defying odds to make a name for herself in craft seen as the preserve of men.

By Rodgers Otiso
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At only 24, Beatrice Achieng, a mother of one from Ugunja in Siaya County, is breaking gender barriers with every spark from her welding machine.

In a trade long dominated by men, she stands out as the sole female welder in her workshop along the Kisumu–Busia Road, forging a living in steel and proving that passion, not gender, defines success.

"I am a welder, and this is what I've been doing for the last two years," she says, her voice firm and confident, above the noise in the workshop.

"I really love this job so much. It's my passion, it's my livelihood, and it's what makes me wake up every morning with purpose."

Like many young women, Achieng once envisioned herself in the beauty industry. After completing secondary school, she planned to pursue a course in cosmetology and make a living styling hair. But reality soon set in.

"The salon industry was flooded," she recalls. "I saw how everyone was doing it, and I asked myself—do I want to follow the crowd, or do I want to try something different? That's when I changed my mind. I wanted to do something unique, something society doesn't expect from women."

Her answer was welding. Choosing welding wasn't just about survival; it was a deliberate act of rebellion against societal expectations.

"People say welding is a craft for men. I wanted to prove them wrong. For me, it was about breaking gender stereotypes and showing that women can do anything if they have the interest and passion."

Her journey into the trade began when she was recruited by an organisation in Kisumu that trains young people in vocational skills.

She immersed herself in welding, learning quickly. "It didn't take long before it was time for an internship. I was posted to a workshop in Siaya. That's where I really tested what I had learned."

Her determination paid off. She impressed not just her trainers but also her supervisor.

"During my internship, I gave my all. The boss noticed. When my six months were over, he told me I shouldn't go anywhere else. He said, 'Stay here, this is your place.' That's how I got retained." Two years later, the workshop has become her second home. "This is my full-time job now. It's how I pay my bills, feed my child, and live. Just like any woman running a small food stall or kiosk, welding is my business."

In the workshop, Achieng works on windows, doors, beds, and other metallic products. She also paints finished pieces.

"I enjoy making windows and doors most," she says, eyes lighting up. "Last year, I made one window that came out so perfectly, people couldn't stop admiring it. Honestly, I didn't even want it sold; it was like a piece of my memory."

Her love for the craft is unshaken, even by the challenges. "This job needs passion, interest, and hard work. That's the only way to survive. Many women are not in this field, but I believe I'm among the very few leading the way. For me, welding is not just a job, it's part of who I am."

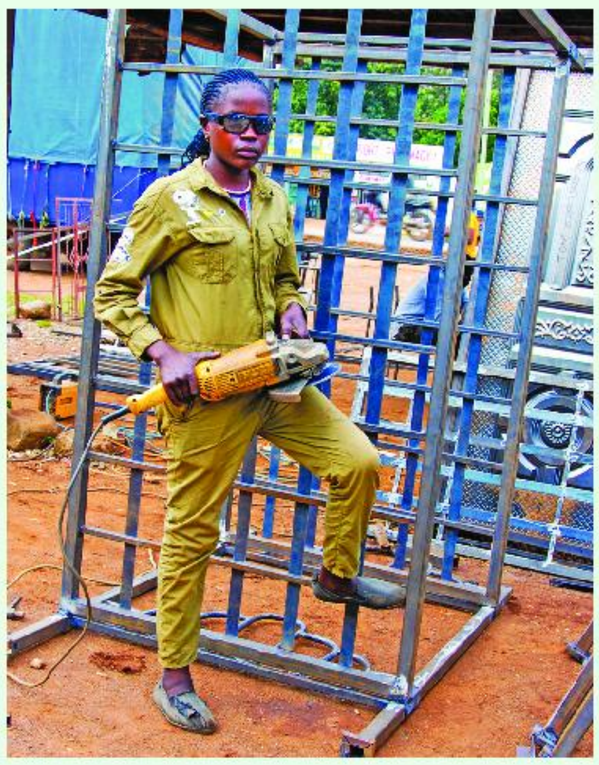
But breaking stereotypes has come at a price. When people first discovered that Achieng was a welder, the reaction wasn't kind.

"Immediately, people started shunning me," she says. "They'd whisper, 'Why is she doing a man's job? She should have gone for salon, catering, tailoring.' They made it sound like I

13.35

PER CENT

YOUTH unemployment in 2022, with between 500,000 and 800,000 youth entering the job market annually.



had made the worst decision." The discrimination extended even to clients. Some refused to buy her work simply because it was made by a woman.

"A client can come to order windows, and when he finds out it's my work, he'll start doubting the quality. Some won't buy at all. It's painful, but I've learnt to stand my ground."

Achieng is, however, undeterred. "For me, the negativity became fuel. It made me want to work harder and prove them wrong."

Today, Achieng is the only female among seven male welders in the workshop located in Ugunja Market, Siaya County. Surprisingly, she has found more acceptance inside the workshop than outside.

"Working with men hasn't been a problem. They respect what I do. It's the community outside that sometimes throws words. But inside here, I'm just another welder, not 'the female welder.'"

Her family, too, has been a pillar of support. "I thought my parents would be against it. But to my surprise, they were very supportive. They love what I do, and that motivates me even more."

Her workdays run from Monday to Friday, often stretching from 8am to 6pm. "It depends on how busy we are. Some days are long; some days are lighter."

Payment is made per piece. "For example, if a window costs Sh8,500, I can be paid Sh1,500 for making it. If I manage two in a day, that's Sh3,000. On a good week, I can earn around Sh7,000 or more."

For a young mother, it's not a fortune, but it's enough to keep her going. "This job is heavy, yes, but I've gotten used to it. People think welding is just about energy, but no, it's about skill and the mind."

Apart from bias, Achieng faces other challenges. Injuries from steel cuts and burns are common. "At first, I had so many cuts and scars, but now I know how to handle tools better," she says.

She also has to deal with predatory clients. "Some men come pretending to order doors or windows, then later turn the conversation into asking for a relationship. I don't entertain that. I'm here to work, not to be exploited. That's why I rarely give out my personal number."

Despite the hurdles, Achieng's eyes are fixed on the future.

> *People say welding is a craft for men. I wanted to prove them wrong. For me, it was about breaking gender stereotypes and showing that women can do anything if they have the interest and passion."*
>
> **Beatrice Achieng,** welder

"In the next two to three years, I dream of owning my own workshop and being the director. Every night before I sleep, that's what I think about."

Her vision is bigger than herself. "I want to inspire youth, especially women, to join this kind of work. Many complain that there are no jobs, but the truth is, they don't want to start small. If you have passion, you'll find a way."

Her employer, John Ochieng, 42, has nothing but praise. "Achieng is a good example of what we need in society - ladies who are not afraid of challenges. She started here with basic skills but has grown into a professional. She can weld windows, motorcycles, even vehicles."

He acknowledges that not everyone is cut out for the job. "They were two ladies at first, but one left because she found it too hard. That's why passion matters more than money. Achieng has passion, discipline, and a willingness to learn. That's why she's thriving."

For him, her story is a lesson to Kenyan youth. "Many say there are no jobs, but that's not true. If you open your eyes, opportunities are there. Achieng proves it."

In the Kenyan economy, the welding trade is a backbone of the Jua Kali sector, the informal manufacturing and construction industry that employs millions.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that Jua Kali employs over 15 million Kenyans, with welding and metalwork accounting for 20–25 per cent, or about 3 to 3.75 million jobs.

With investment in training and technology, this sub-sector could create up to 50,000 new jobs annually by 2030, particularly in construction, infrastructure, automotive, and manufacturing.

Materials like steel, aluminium, welding rods, and filler materials also sustain jobs across the supply chain.

According to the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), the metal and allied sector directly employed around 30,000 people as of 2022.

Despite this potential, unemployment remains a national crisis in Kenya. The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis reports that 75 per cent of the population is under 35, and between 500,000 and 800,000 youth enter the job market every year.

Yet many remain jobless, with youth unemployment at 13.35 per cent in 2022.

The Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) paints an even starker picture. Across Africa, youth make up 40 per cent of the workforce but represent 60 per cent of the unemployed.

By 2045, the number of young people will double, threatening economic stability if governments don't create opportunities.

In Kenya, while overall unemployment is around 12.7 per cent, youth unemployment is estimated at a staggering 67 per cent among those aged 15–34.

Over a million young people enter the labour market each year without adequate skills.

Against this backdrop, women like Achieng represent more than personal success—they symbolise resilience and possibility.

By daring to defy gender norms, she not only supports her family but also sets an example for others.

"Steel is my thing," she says proudly, running her hands over a freshly welded window frame.

"Carrying, cutting, moving—it's part of me. I know many people aren't ready for this conversation, but why should I hide? This is my job, my passion, and my pride."

OPINION

Why fintechs must align their products with the needs of everyday consumers

ANNSTELLA MUMBI

Thirteen years after the launch of Kenya's first fintech, M-Shwari, the country has made tremendous strides in expanding access to credit and advancing financial inclusion for everyday Kenyans.

However, despite this progress, a weak savings culture and financially unhealthy behaviours are emerging as critical weak links that threaten to undermine these gains

For millions of Kenyans running small kiosks, riding boda bodas, or working in the informal sector, the true measure of progress is whether financial services help them build resilience, ease financial stress, and unlock opportunities that can truly transform their lives.

Tala's 2025 Impact Report, developed in partnership with 60 Decibels, provides fresh evidence of how transformative well-designed fintech products can be.

An overwhelming 93 per cent of digital credit customers reported an improvement in their quality of life since using the services, 67 per cent reported increased income, while more than 90 per cent said the loans helped them address urgent needs such as school fees, medical bills, and business cash flow gaps.

These figures are not just statistics; they represent families kept afloat, businesses preserved, and futures secured.

These findings also challenge fintechs to think beyond credit access. For most Kenyans, financial health is not defined by one-off transactions, but by systems that help them withstand shocks, invest in growth, and gain control of their financial future. P roducts that fail to recognise this risk trap people in cycles of stress rather than setting them on a path toward empowerment.

Take, for example, the report's finding that 60 per cent of women using Tala now feel more confident in making financial decisions. This is a powerful reminder that financial services are not only economic tools, but also social equalisers.

When women gain financial confidence, households become more stable, children are more likely to remain in school, and communities are better positioned to thrive. If fintech products are not designed with these broader outcomes in mind, we risk missing the opportunity to unlock truly lasting impact.

The call to action is clear: fintech innovation must align with the financial health journey of everyday Kenyans. That requires designing products with three priorities in mind.

First, flexibility. For most people, life is unpredictable. Financial products must also adapt to irregular income flows instead of penalising them.

Second, affordability and transparency. Trust grows when customers know exactly what they are paying for and can see value. Hidden charges and complex terms and conditions have no place in truly inclusive finance.

Third, pathways to growth. Credit should do more than fill short-term gaps; it should create stepping stones for the future.

By helping customers build credit histories, access savings opportunities, or gain financial education, fintech can enable the shift from merely surviving to truly thriving.

As financial services providers, our commitment must be to listen, learn, and innovate with customers at the centre.

When fintech delivers real impact, it doesn't just change individual lives; it transforms millions of futures and, with them, the future of Kenya.

- The writer is General Manager, Tala Kenya

> *The call to action is clear: fintech innovation must align with the financial health journey of everyday Kenyans."*

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TECH

Language barrier stifles local software developers' foray into new markets

Reliance on English and Kiswahili, experts say, makes customer support across Africa difficult.

By Esther Dianah
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Other African countries and customers expect commonly used payment solutions in their jurisdiction. [Courtesy]

Kenya boasts of fast internet, decent electricity supply and a vibrant tech ecosystem as part of its digital footprint.

Software developers, however, reckon that despite continental reach, the language barrier is a major challenge.

Beyond English and Kiswahili, customers across the continent speak different languages, making customer support across Africa difficult for software solutions developers.

Fragmented business landscape, with varying regulatory, financial systems and local best practices across African nations, calls for considerable customisation.

Mobile money system, M-Pesa, is one of Kenya's proudest digital innovations.

A mismatch emerges, however, as Kenyan businesses anticipate integration of M-Pesa payment with other trading partners outside Kenya.

Other African countries and customers expect commonly used payment solutions in their jurisdiction, affecting cross-border trade.

In 2022, Odoo, a software solutions developer, opened its doors in Nairobi. It too was not spared the intricacies of providing cross-border support.

Patrick Lukusa, managing director of Odoo, notes that there is a growing demand for software solutions among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), highlighting the desire for small enterprises to run their businesses digitally, affordably, and with tools that adapt to their realities.

Existing data shows that software solutions' penetration is held back by widespread non-compliance among SMEs, difficulties with cross-border data transfers, and concerns about regulatory independence and political goodwill.

According to Lukusa, it is important for developers to build solutions that positively impact the local audience, a narrative Odoo rides on, and as a result, expanded its workforce to over 140 employees in just three years.

He adds that such companies need official registration with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) to ensure systems comply fully with the Data Protection Act. "Kenyan businesses need more than paperwork; they need reassurance that their sensitive data would be handled responsibly in a digital economy where trust is paramount," said Lukusa.

Data protection in Kenya is faced with challenges such as low public awareness of rights, emerging technologies outstripping legal frameworks, inadequate funding and technical expertise for the ODPC.

Strengthening public awareness and adapting legal frameworks to new technologies are, therefore, crucial for effective data protection.

The usage of digital payment systems has increased rapidly over the last five years, characterised by partnerships to enable African businesses to seamlessly accept digital payments from their customers.

Despite the internet granting consumers unprecedented direct access to international markets, cross-border e-commerce has grown at a much slower rate than its domestic counterpart.

For Odoo, the availability of digital payment as a standard feature has enabled countless SMEs to navigate e-commerce with a single update. removing a major barrier to digitisation.

Data by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) shows that data protection is an increasingly important field due to the expansion of the digital/information economy.

"As more business models and practices move onto the digital platform and data becomes increasingly shared and exchanged on an international scale, its relationship to international trade intensifies," says UNCTAD's recent Data Protection Regulations and International Data Flows report.

> *"Kenyan businesses need more than paperwork; they need reassurance that their sensitive data would be handled responsibly in a digital economy where trust is paramount."*
>
> **Patrick Lusaka,** managing director, Odoo

The report shows that in 2013, Business to Business (B2B) e-commerce was estimated to be worth $15 trillion, while Business to Consumer (B2C) e-commerce was much smaller, at around $1.2 trillion

"But it was growing fast, especially in developing countries," the UNCTAD report reads in part.

Additionally, it highlights that increased compatibility and flexibility between varying systems can lead to lower barriers to entry for SMEs entering and operating in new or developing markets.

"Internet platforms allow small- and medium**[1]**sized enterprises (SMEs) around the world, especially in developing countries, to reach more customers online with decreasing marginal costs," UNCTAD.

For cross-border solutions providers to thrive, Lukusa advises that it is essential to adopt the electronic Tax Invoice Management System to enhance tax collection and management.

To boost reach, other developers have been urged to consider workshops to enlighten both new and existing users on how digitisation can empower their businesses.

"Penetrating the market would be almost impossible without having the right ambassadors out there. Through roadshows and various training sessions, developers can show business owners how digitisation can enhance efficiency and growth," said Lukusa. "Workshops are about more than training; they're about building a community of empowered users who can leverage solutions to grow their businesses," said Lukusa, adding that the company has also so far organised business shows in more than 30 African countries.

And even as the company continues to update its business software application, for smarter and faster tools for clients, it lauds that investing in local talent, creating pathways for young professionals to build careers in tech without leaving the continent, is crucial.

Cost and lack of financial resources stand out as key barriers affecting business software solutions.

Also, insufficient digital skills and resistance to change, concerns over data security and privacy, and issues such as unclear requirements and communication gaps, especially when outsourcing, affect business solutions integration.

UNCTAD report shows that businesses are faced with barriers to trust and confidence that arise in relation to domestic e-commerce, including hidden costs and fear of fraud.

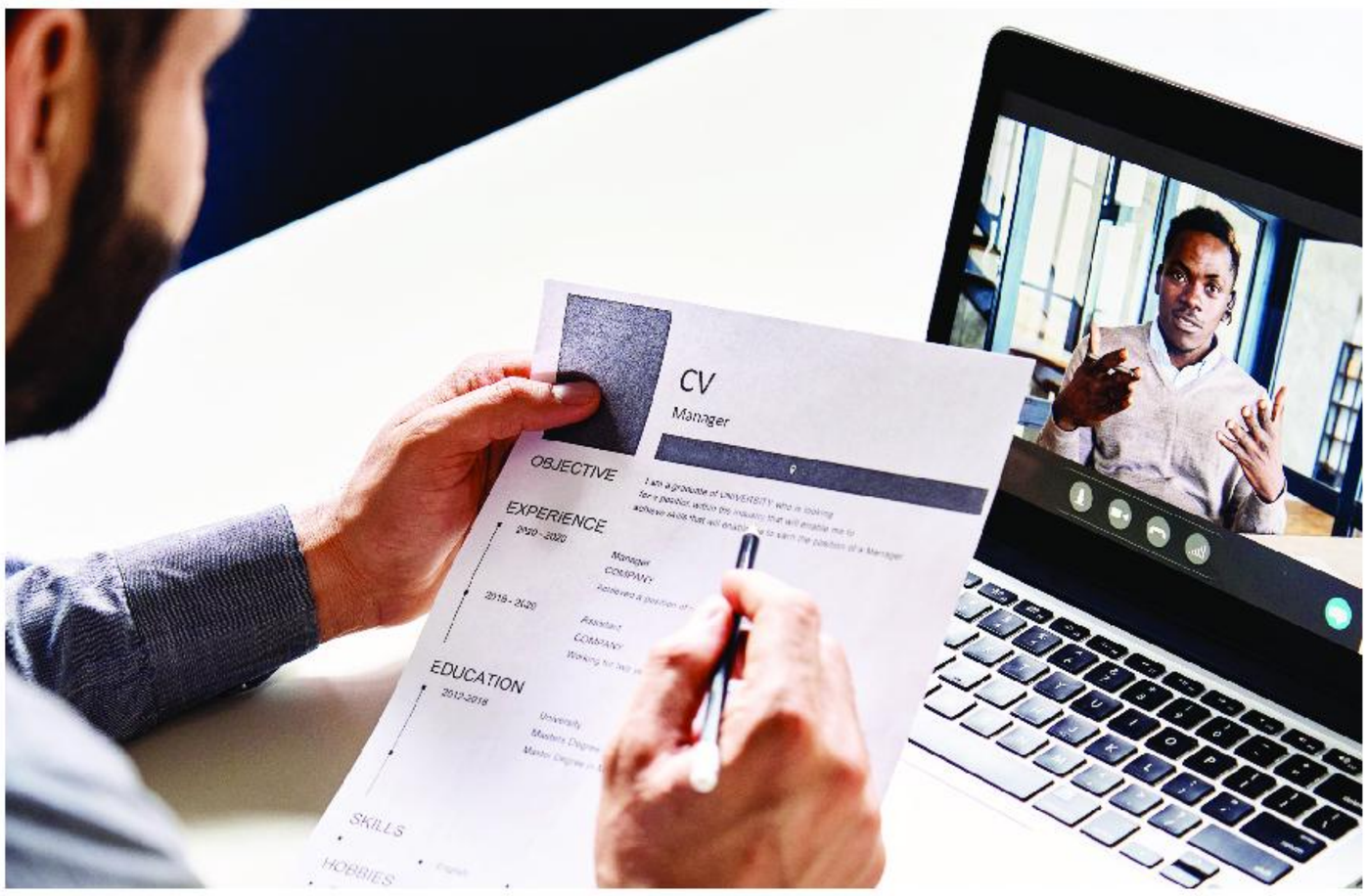
Other barriers include the availability of preferred payment methods, conformity of products to local standards, and a lack of clarity on protections afforded by the vendor's jurisdiction.

Hidden costs linked to customs duties and currency conversion have been identified as barriers holding back cross-border trade solutions.

WORKPLACE

Employers urged to take the lead in guiding staff in the roles they are best suited for.

How charting proper career path can boost labour in the retail space



Most youth today just want a job and not necessarily a better job or what they trained for. [Courtesy]

By Graham Kajilwa
gkajilwa@standardmedia.co.ke

There is a certain saying among Nairobi residents that if you have never sold GNLD products, then you haven't seen the hard part of this city.

Selling GNLD products, at least according to a majority of Nairobi residents, is an initiation into what the city has to offer in terms of eking a living and finding a footing. GNLD products are comprised of nutrition supplements and personal care items.

The saying is an inside joke of how a section of job seekers, fresh from high school or college, were lured to join the business by cunning insiders, with the promise of making good money and opening their own distribution stores.

The proposition, for many, turned out to be an empty promise.

Besides the GNLD rhetoric, sales, as indicated by Doris Muigei, chief executive of Qazi Works, is most likely the first job one gets once they graduate from an institution of higher learning. Yet this is not taught in schools.

"I don't know whether you are aware that sales is the largest funnel of employment. Are you also aware that sales is not taught in universities? I gave up trying to understand why," she said during a recent meeting with human resources professionals hosted by BrighterMonday, a recruitment agency..

While her current organisation is a recruitment agency, in her previous work in Yusudi Africa, she dealt with training individuals in sales.

And just like the recruits to GNLD, Muigei admits that teaching sales is not straightforward.

"It's just because it is not easy to teach it," she said. "How then do you get someone who did a degree in engineering or a diploma in automechanics to sell?"

She noted that the mistake she has seen business leaders make is to leave their salespeople to find their own footing. That is because selling was not taught to them; their staff will also have to learn it the hard way. "For example, I am a Gen X, we usually say we trekked 15 kilometres to school, so our children should do the same. That is the same mindset we bring into this thing (sales)," she said.

"If I learnt it on my own, I don't know why you are stressing – figure it out."

Muigei, who was part of a panel session, added that most individuals who end up in sales are first not enthusiastic about the role – they have no choice.

"I wish we spent more time understanding that because this is not a skill set that was given to them. We need to take time to train them," she said. "It may not come naturally to everybody, but it is a learnt skill."

But due to this cold reception for new staff in sales, Alvin Mukabwa, chief operating officer of Generation Kenya, an organisation that does skilling and reskilling, says there is a high level of attrition in the services, retail, and sales labour space.

> *I don't know whether you are aware that sales is the largest funnel of employment. Are you also aware that sales is not taught in universities?*
>
> **Doris Muigei,** CEO, Qazi Works

"There are many dynamics to this, for example, how do we ensure young people who are coming into these industries perceive this as a career? It has to start with employers. We have to have a clear career path within our organisations," he says. He agrees that most youth today just want a job – and not necessarily a better job or what they trained for.

"We have to understand, when someone comes into our organisation, where do they start from and where do they go," he adds.

It is something Naivas, the country's largest retailer with 110 stores, is doing.

The retailer's chief human resources, Tim Kajume, said the retailer has a fully-fledged learning and development programme domiciled in the departments he heads.

"What we do is run programmes from the first day someone joins Naivas based on the role they take, they almost know what career path is going to be," he says. "We do a lot of in-house training and external training."

Kajume noted that a bulk of Naivas employees, especially those in senior management positions, have grown with the business.

His view demystifies the analogy that jobs in such a sector are just a stepping stone as one waits for the right opportunity or what they trained for.

Kajume pointed out that today, retail requires educated and sophisticated graduates with skills such as IT, owing to how technology has revolutionised the business.

It is no longer a "dukawala" type of business. There is a social science that goes into setting up a whole store. "People underestimate the look and feel of the shop. From the way the shop is designed, there is a science that goes into it," he said.

Kajume added that it is not just about having shelves and putting things, because there is something in retail called customer journey when one walks into a shop.

"Is the entrance in the right place? What is it that is supposed to be at the front aisles, and what should be at the back – there is a science to that. You need people who have that kind of experience and education, and that high level of specialisation to be able to do all that mapping for you," he said.

The same high expertise is required for those doing inventory, managing supply chain and finance, where technology plays a key role due to new payment systems such as Visa and mobile money.

"Even the people we have as supervisors, team leads, and branch managers, we now require graduates. You can imagine the amount of money it holds as stock, and they should be able to collect data," he said.

AGRIBUSINESS

Siaya County, firm pen avocado farming deal

The Siaya County Government and listed agribusiness and superfoods producer, Kakuzi, have announced plans to foster a technical collaboration partnership to boost avocado and macadamia farming in the county.

The technical collaboration will involve the provision of agricultural extension support services by Kakuzi to smallholder farmers venturing into the lucrative avocado and macadamia farming.

Speaking during a familiarisation visit to Kakuzi's orchards in Makuyu, Murang'a County, Siaya Governor James Orengo said the county will facilitate smallholder farmer delegations to visit Kakuzi for first-hand learning about avocado and macadamia crop husbandry.

As part of a strategic economic transformation programme targeting agribusiness ventures, the county, he said, will also explore avenues to acquire quality Hass Avocado and Macadamia tree seedlings to jumpstart the farming of the two superfoods.

"This visit has been a real eye-opener on the value of both avocado and macadamia farming as poverty eradication options. The delegation from Siaya County is impressed at the transformative social-economic, professional crop husbandry practices and environmental conservation efforts employed by Kakuzi and which we will seek to emulate back home," Orengo said.

The county government, he said, will, as a matter of priority, commence technical capacity building efforts for its agricultural extension officers charged with advancing the avocado and macadamia value chain development. The county government's agricultural extension officers, Orengo said, will act as frontline workers supporting Siaya smallholder farmers in their avocado and macadamia farming ventures.

Kakuzi Managing Director Chris Flowers said the firm is dedicated to assisting farmers across the Nation increase their access to technical skills.

As part of the collaboration with the County Government of Siaya, Kakuzi Plc, Flowers said, will also participate in the forthcoming Siaya International Trade and Investment Conference (SITICO), slated for mid-next month. **[Boniface Gikandi]**

Universities finding foot on the CBE transition

By Mike Kihaki, Nairobi
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Mount Kenya University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi, Council Chairman Viencent Gaitho and DVC Mercyline Kamande welcome new students at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Center at the university's main campus in Thika. The VC announced the launch of a Ksh5m Alumni Award by the institution. [John muchucha, Standard]

As Kenya ushers in the Competency-Based Education (CBE) transition into higher education, the government, universities, and other stakeholders are bracing for what is widely regarded as the most significant shift in the country's education system in decades.

The reform, which follows years of preparation under the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) at primary and secondary levels, is now knocking at the doors of universities and colleges.

With thousands of students reporting to institutions, the conversation has shifted from theory to implementation and with it, new challenges of funding, preparedness, and quality.

Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary Higher Education, frames the moment as one of "change management," noting that education reforms are rarely smooth.

"There will be mixed results throughout the journey. The ministry is addressing this through pedagogical reforms. We are retraining teachers through the science and art of teaching, so that the focus shifts from exam-based evaluation to building skills. The goal is to help students identify their abilities and leadership qualities," she said.

Professor Daniel Muganda Njiru, Chairman of the Vice Chancellors' Committee said under the 8-4-4 system, the success of a student often hinged on a single high-stakes exam.

With CBE, progression is based on continuous assessment, giving learners multiple opportunities to demonstrate competency.

"The old system meant that if you woke up sick on exam day, your entire life could be defined by that moment," Prof Muganda explains.

"Now, with continuous accumulation of marks, we are bridging that gap. We have opened the ceiling. Even a student who scored a D can still progress, perhaps through TVET, and eventually become a university graduate," he said.

PS Inyangala argues that CBE aims to create practical, job-ready graduates.

"If a child studies business, it should not just be about theoretical knowledge. They should be able to sit with their parents and help draw up a business plan. That is what we mean by quality education skills that make a difference in life and in society," she explained.

But even as stakeholders laud the philosophical shift, the question of money looms large. Public universities are still nursing debts estimated at nearly Sh76 billion, much of it tied to pending bills, staff salaries, and statutory arrears. The government introduced a new student-centered funding model in 2023, designed to replace the underfunded Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) system.

According to Prof. Muganda, the universities are on track preparing for the transition.

"In the 2023–2024 cycle, we moved university funding from about Sh42 billion to Sh81 billion. Universities that were technically insolvent are slowly pulling themselves out of the hole. At Embu University, where I serve, we cleared Sh172 million in salary arrears within two years. This would have been impossible under the old model," he explained.

Still, not all institutions are out of the woods.

"These debts have been accumulating for years. Our role is to increase the flow of funds, improve governance and leadership, and push universities to diversify their income sources. We are not out of danger yet, but we are on a stronger path," Inyangala cautions.

The funding model categorizes students based on vulnerability, ranging from the abjectly poor to the least needy.

Government scholarships, household contributions, and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) loans are combined to meet the "unit cost" of a student's program, which can vary from Sh121,000 to Sh447,000 depending on the discipline.

Yet critics argue the model still leaves universities stretched thin. The University of Nairobi, for instance, carries a Sh13.2 billion debt despite raising billions annually in research grants. "The unit cost is known and varies by program but it is important that the burden is shared between government, households, and students," says Inyangala.

> *If a child studies business, it should not just be about theoretical knowledge. They should be able to sit with their parents and help draw up a business plan."*
>
> **Dr. Beatrice Inyangala,**
> Higher Education Principal Secretary

SH700 million

Alternative funding streams are being explored with Moi University recently securing a Sh700 million deal to manufacture laptops and computers for the ICT State Department, a venture it hopes to scale to Sh3 billion annually.

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Other universities are investing in solar power to cut energy costs or tapping research grants that come with overhead allowances for administrative use.

Skeptics, however, see these as stopgaps. "Giving a single project to rescue an ailing university may work in the short term, but without structural reforms in governance and management, the hole will widen again," notes one education analyst,

Beyond funding, universities face the immediate challenge of readiness for the first CBE cohorts. This means retooling faculty, revamping curricula, and aligning infrastructure.

"We have started continuous training of lecturers and partnered with institutions to prepare teachers for the new curriculum. The arrangements are in top gear. Change is continuous, and by 2029, we expect to be fully compliant," says Prof. Muganda.

Teacher training colleges, universities, and the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) will convene next week in a national workshop to harmonize approaches. The agenda includes sharing progress, identifying gaps, and addressing challenges in preparing educators. "We are building an ecosystem," Inyangala says.

There have also been calls for universities and colleges to tap into their alumni for support.

"Where every actor in teacher education reflects on what is working, what is not, and how to improve."

For policymakers, balancing access and quality remains the tightrope.

"Access without quality is a false promise. Quality without access is a broken promise," insists Inyangala.

"At the basic level, education should enable citizens to function in society. At the higher level, it must drive economic growth and social transformation. That is why we are integrating technology across all disciplines from robotics and AI to agriculture and music, so that Kenya remains globally competitive."

CBE's success, she emphasizes, will depend on how well institutions can adapt to the fast-changing world.

"We cannot prepare students for yesterday's jobs. We must prepare them for the future."

University staff unions have threatened strikes over delayed salaries, and parents remain uneasy about affordability under the new funding model.

Meanwhile, the global economy continues to squeeze Kenya's fiscal space, raising fears that education funding could be cut.

"We are far better prepared than we were during the 8-4-4 transition. With continuous training, investment, and commitment, we will get there," Prof Muganda said.