Sports

Hearts on fire: City's pulse builds before Kenya vs Zambia game

CHAN Page 34-35

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weekend STAR

Top guns eager to rally lawmakers behind their deal

'REBELS' VOW TO SNUB RUTO, RAILA JOINT MEET WITH MPs

Story Page 6

SportPesa Mega jackpot winner Bonnie Kamau at Radio Africa offices, Westlands on August 14 /LEAH MUKANGAI

Jackpot couple: We had to change phone numbers

Before Bonnie Kamau was unveiled as a jackpot winner on Wednesday, he was already tired of answering his phone. "The phone rings endlessly until it is out of charge," Kamau said. "We had to change our numbers." It has been a week since Kamau won Sh424,660,618, the largest SportPesa Mega Jackpot in Kenya's history. For the first time since their win, Kamau and his wife, Veronica Wahu, opened up about their lives before and after the moment that changed everything.

STORY PAGE 2

Ex-Rerec boss locked up for 4 years over forged master's degree

A former manager of the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation has been ordered to pay a fine of Sh3.1 million or be jailed for four years after being found guilty of using a forged certificate to land his plum job. Nairobi Anti-Corruption Court magistrate Celesa Okore found Noah Oluoch guilty of two of the three counts of fraud and forgery he was charged with. Oluoch was in April last year charged with three counts of fraudulent acquisition of public property, forgery and uttering a false a document.

STORY PAGE 9

Audit flags industrial-scale CDF looting under MPs' watch

Story pages 4-5

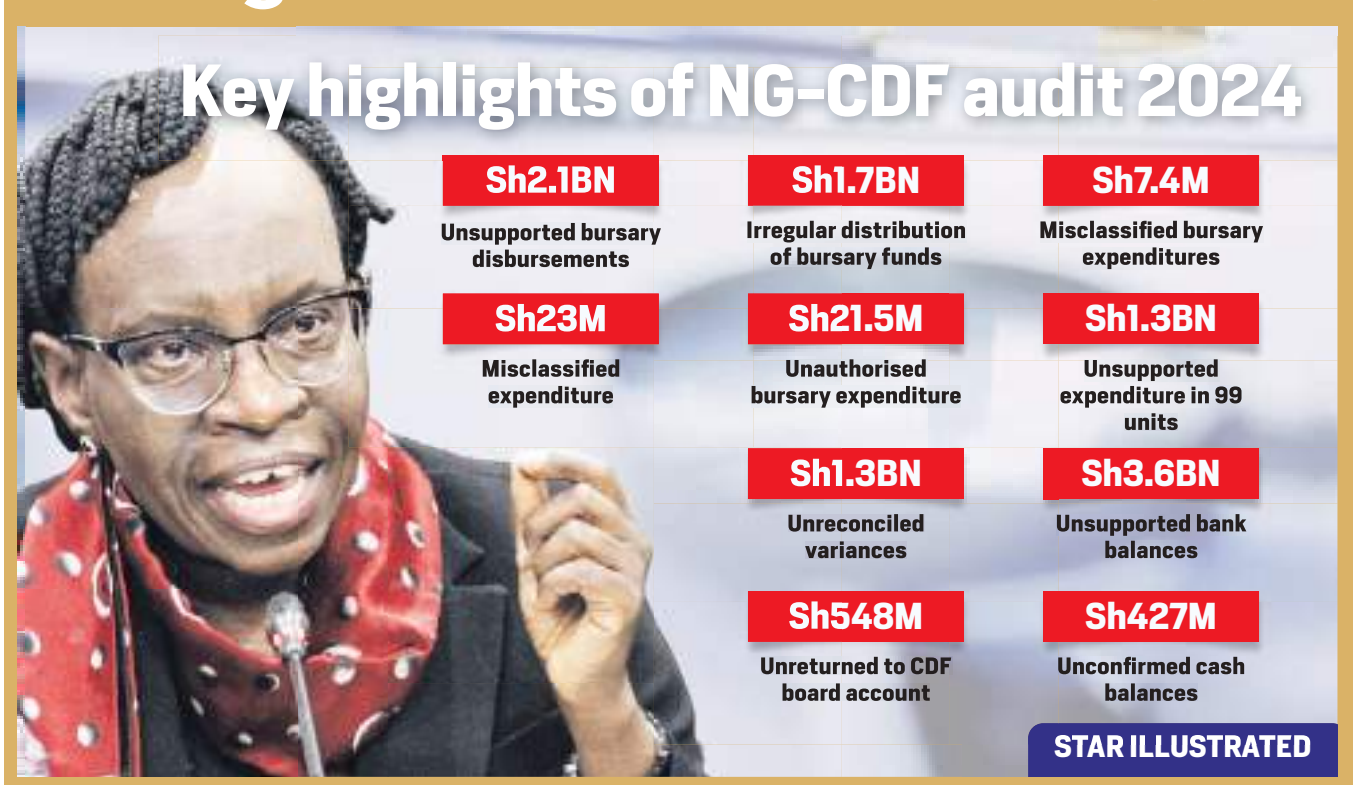


PHOTO STORY

President William Ruto is gifted a cockerel by Awendo resident Tobias Otieno, during a meeting with grassroots leaders from Migori county at Sony Sugar Green Stadium /PCS

ENEMY OF PROGRESS

Graft is deeply rooted in society, says Raila

Billions of shillings are lost to unscrupulous revenue collection officers

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

CORRUPTION continued to dominate discussions at the devolution conference, with opposition leader Raila Odinga describing it as a deeply rooted societal problem that requires a candid and ruthless approach to address.

At the biannual event in Homa Bay on Thursday, Raila said graft pervades all aspects of Kenyan society, stagnating the country's progress.

"Corruption is not confined to the counties. Our society will not develop until we manage this beast called corruption. And it is in all aspects of our lives," he said.

Raila used the platform to advocate for stronger devolution and the protection of counties as a means to improve service delivery.

He called for the release of devolved functions and proposed amending the constitution to transfer additional responsibilities—such as road management—to counties.

"Some of these functions are currently not devolved and may require constitutional amendments to be transferred to counties," he said, citing road functions.

According to Raila, corruption is rampant in the national and county executives, especially the revenue and procurement departments.

The vice is also entrenched in the Judiciary, Parliament and the private sector, including the media.

Raila said billions of shillings are lost to unscrupulous revenue collection officers who pocket bribes.

"That is where corruption resides. These revenue officers—be they customs officers, income tax officers, VAT officers. There is a lot of pilferage and leakages in that front."

The former Prime Minister reckoned that procurement officers in the county and national executive are inflating project costs, raking in billions in bribes while passing the burden onto taxpayers.

"They are procuring so expensively. If you are told now, we are building affordable housing, but at what cost? And all that is pushed to the taxpayer. That is an area where we need to face these enemies of our societies squarely," he said.

Raila criticised MPs for accepting bribes from contractors, which frustrates the awarding of contracts and impedes government programmes.

He said contractors who lose bribe the MPs to frustrate the award of the contract to the winners, thereby frustrating government programmes and policies.

"Parliament must also be brought on board properly because it is impeding the implementation of government projects by being corrupted by contractors," he said.

The Judiciary has also become a bedrock of corruption, Raila noted, saying judges are bribed to render favourable judgements and grant anticipatory bail to criminals.

"The Judiciary is also not blameless. Some people tell you that rather than wasting my money on hiring a lawyer, I would rather bribe a judge and get whatever I want."

This was the second time in a row that Parliament and the Judiciary have been on the spot for being the weakest link in the graft war.

On Wednesday, President William Ruto assailed the two arms of government for being centres of extortion and bribery.

Raila hit out at the private sector, whose vicious war over tenders has rendered them big bribe givers.

"This is where there is competition for contracts. They are the ones who bribe the executive and the legislature. There is always a giver and a taker in a corrupt deal," he said.

The ODM boss also took on the media, accusing the fourth estate of extorting bribes in the name of exposing corruption in government.

"We need to look at this animal called corruption in the face and deal with it. That is the only way that our country will be able to move forward," he said.

Making a strong case for devolution, Raila reiterated his call to disband the NG-CDF and NGAAF, transferring the billions allocated to them directly to counties.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

In calling for more, not less devolution, Raila said the roles of counties should be enhanced. While centralism still has supporters, Raila opined that it thrives on keeping the whole country waiting for Nairobi to make decisions on local issues.

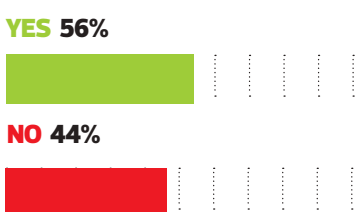
STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Have you ever benefitted from CDF bursary?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Have you ever made a soccer bet?



ANSWERED PRAYERS

SportPesa couple: We had to change phone numbers

JOHN MUCHANGI

BEFORE Bonnie Kamau was unveiled as the jackpot winner on Wednesday, he was already tired of answering his phone.

"The phone rings endlessly until it is out of charge," Kamau said. "We had to change our numbers."

It has been a week since Kamau won Sh424,660,618, the largest SportPesa Mega Jackpot in Kenya's history. Kamau and his wife, Veronica Wahu opened up about their lives before and after the moment that changed everything.

"We are not poor. I grew up in Nakuru. I have no more than five friends. I am a calm person and live my own life. We are two in the family. I'm the firstborn and my sister is secondborn. I am not a very social person. I am aged between 45 and 50 years," Kamau said.

Aside from transport, farming has always been more than a side interest.

"I love farming. Apart from being in the transport industry, I go to the farm in my free time," he said.

"Most of the products my wife sells in our cereals business come from our farm. She runs the business because I work in a transport job, which I have now quit."

Kamau spoke of his inspiration: "There's a white farmer called [Carl] Tundo in Njoro. His field is wide, until you cannot see the end. I wished one day I would be there."

The proud father said his children "never lack anything. God has always been on my side". But his reaction to the win surprised many.

"When I won, I slept soundly past 6 am. I was not overwhelmed."

Wahu grew up in Maralal, Samburu county and met her husband through his work.

"I am in my mid-40s. I grew up in a good life and we were not poor. Our parents took us all to school and we completed primary and high school there. I came to college in Nakuru and met my husband there," she said.

"The transport company my husband worked for was the only matatu company going to Maralal so we met there."

An extrovert, Wahu handles the visitors and clients. She explained why they had not built a home.

"As a couple, that has been one of our dreams. We wanted to live in a very nice family home. That is why we were not even in a hurry to build."

She added that Kamau often spoke of building a n extraordinary home.

"He had money to build a modest house but he told me to be patient. We live in a rental house in Nakuru. We have never lived in Nairobi," Wahu said.

She remembers the night of the win vividly: "When the winnings were announced I didn't sleep."

For Wahu, the win was the answer to many prayers. "I have been praying for financial breakthroughs. So for me, I was just amazed at the mercy of God to chose this humble family of mine. You know we were just living a normal humble life every day."

Her mind turned to the changes ahead.

"I was playing that video in my mind that my life and my children's have changed. Like even this house, we are not going to live here anymore."

The couple plan to take a vacation at an undisclosed location, before deciding what to do with the money.

SportPesa Mega Jackpot winner Bonnie Kamau and his wife Veronica Wahu at Radio Africa Group office in Westlands, Nairobi, on Thursday /LEAH MUKANGAI

FAMILY THREATENED

Kilifi widow begs state for protection from land grab

Wealthy individuals claim ownership of 38-acre beachfront property

CHARLES MGHENYI
@CharlesMghenyi

A 90-year-old widow's family in Watamu, Kilifi county, is pleading for government intervention after their homes were demolished by wealthy individuals claiming ownership of a 38-acre prime beachfront property in Jacaranda area.

The family of the late Kadenge Jefwa, which has lived on the land since 1972, said they possess all ownership documents.

However, they now face forceful eviction by the alleged tycoons, who surfaced two years ago claiming the property.The widow, Dzendere Kadenge, said the situation has turned dangerous.

"Unknown people recently broke into my home. They brought down one of my houses on this land, and I'm now really scared for my life," she said.

Currently, one of the family's two remaining houses has been demolished, with the other, where the widow resides, now under threat.

Meanwhile, construction of a perimeter wall is underway under the watch of police officers, who parked their vehicle inside the disputed property.

The family said a court order halting any development until the land dispute is resolved is being ignored, with construction continuing unabated.

"We have a court order stopping any development on this land, but the tycoons are using state security to protect their activities while hiring goons to carry out demolitions at night," the family said.

Last month, Kadenge's son, Kaingu Kazungu, was reportedly ambushed by hired goons at night, tied up, and thrown into the nearby Indian Ocean. He miraculously survived.

"I was later rescued after the fishermen found me lying unconscious at low tide," he said.

The widow's family has expressed frustration at both the county and national governments, questioning why authorities are allowing what they describe as an injustice against a poor, elderly woman and her children.

Kilifi county commissioner Joseph Biwott said he was unaware of the eviction and advised the family to report the matter to police.

Last month, during the opening of the new Malindi lands registry, Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome and county commissioner Biwott acknowledged that land disputes remain rampant in the region. Biwott said 70 per cent of criminal cases in the county are linked to land issues.

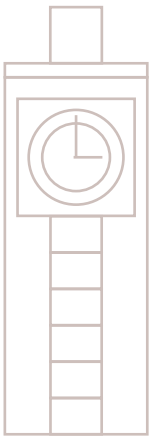
90-year-old Dzendere Kadenge shows a court order stopping any development on her land in Watamu /HANDOUT

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

This case shows the persistent and often violent nature of land disputes along the Coast, where historical injustices, weak enforcement of court orders, and the influence of wealthy land grabbers leave vulnerable families exposed.

CARTOON

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics

★ **IS A FORMER** vocal politico now financially battered and politically hollow to the extent of desperately clinging to the coattails of a gubernatorial aspirant? Well, Corridors of Power is told that the former official, who allegedly has neither cash nor credible grassroots sway, is said to have all but pitched camp at the aspirant's side, banking on his deep pockets and solid networks to keep his own flickering ambitions alive. Moles whisper that the new alliance looks less like a coalition and more like a lifeline for the seemingly impecunious politician.

★ **A POLITICAL STORM** is rumoured to be tearing through one of the country's most sensitive dockets, shaking the very core of the profession it serves. Word from the corridors of power is that the powers that be are caught in a high–stakes bind: cut loose a politically connected contractor at the heart of the scandal and spark a bruising fallout within the inner circle, or shield him and ignite public fury over yet another well–placed ally dodging the long arm of justice.

★ **A COUNTY BOSS** appears to have found a new hobby in allegedly bypassing elected MCAs and secretly bankrolling ambitious aspirants and handpicked political operatives to undercut them. The alleged scheme meant to weaken the ward reps' grip before the next polls is said to be part of his broader strategy to punish those he claimed have sided with his opponents. Furious MCAs are whispering of a looming showdown, accusing the governor of turning the county into a political battlefield funded straight from the executive's coffers.

★ **A FORMER POLITICIAN** was overhead cautioning his company against a notorious damsel fond of planting herself in high places. The ex–mheshimiwa allegedly known for not sparing anything in a skirt confessed the woman is a walking 'biohazard' having supposedly infected him with a stubborn, drug–resistant infection that has defied medication for months now despite heavy dosage that has turned his room into a small chemist. The disgruntled man, who now reportedly confesses to only 'zero grazing', opened his heart during an ongoing national event, which has been invaded by beauties only visible at dusk.

If you have any tips send them to Tips@the–star.co.ke

POOR OVERSIGHT LAWMAKERS ARE PUSHING TO ENTRENCH THE FUND IN THE CONSTITUTION

Audit flags CDF looting under the watch of MPs

MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses

A damning audit report has laid bare widespread mismanagement of the National Government Constituency Development Fund, pointing to possible loss of billions under MPs' watch.

The report implicates dozens of constituencies in financial irregularities, unsupported expenditures and blatant violations of procurement and bursary disbursement laws.

The revelations come at a time MPs are pushing to entrench the fund in the constitution, even as questions mount over their own oversight of the billions allocated to the kitty annually.

The audit, covering the 2023-24 financial year, exposes a litany of failures, from missing bursary documents to outright disregard for legal thresholds in spending.

Auditor General Nancy Gathungu cited 86 constituencies after they failed to provide supporting documents for bursary disbursements amounting to Sh2.1 billion.

There were no acknowledgements of receipt from beneficiary institutions, and details of students' admission numbers, leaving auditors unable to verify whether the funds reached the intended beneficiaries or not.

"Without vetting reports, beneficiary lists, or acknowledgement receipts, there is no way to confirm that these funds were used as intended," Gathungu said.

In most cases, the list of applicants and approved schedules of bursary beneficiaries were not provided for audit.

Sub-committee vetting minutes did not indicate the number of applicants, successful and unsuccessful applicants and the reasons thereof.

In some instances, the amount allocated was less than the 25 per cent threshold, and in some cases in excess by up to 40 per cent.

"In some cases, beneficiaries on full scholarship were not evidenced with selection criteria, and there were students without evidence of admission," the Auditor General said.

> *No evidence existed of bursary committees being formed, let alone being operationalised, putting the CDF committees where MPs serve as patrons on the spot*

The fund also does not maintain a database of schools and colleges registered by the Ministry of Education, the report reads for some cases.

In Kitui South, Sh52 million was flagged after the audit found no lists of applicants, no vetting minutes, and no proof that schools ever received the money.

Worse, the amount allocated fell short of the mandatory 25 per cent threshold, raising concerns that deserving students were sidelined.

Similar gaps were found in Kitui West (Sh50.6 million), Kanduyi (Sh62.5 million), Baringo Central (Sh61.8 million), and Embakasi South (Sh91 million).

No evidence existed of bursary committees being formed, let alone being operationalised, putting the CDF committees where MPs serve as patrons on the spot.

In Budalang'i, Sh56 million was disbursed without involving the area education officer or documenting

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Kenyans line up for bursary vetting /FILE

how needy students were selected.

Other constituencies where bursary disbursements were not supported with relevant documents include Chuka Igambang'ombe (Sh20.7 million), Embakasi South (Sh91 million), Emurua Dikirr (Sh52 million), Gilgil (Sh56 million), Igembe North (Sh44.7 million), Isiolo South (Sh73 million) and Kitui West (Sh50 million).

Similar concerns were flagged in Kitutu Chache South (Sh60.8 million), Malindi (Sh65 million), Maara (Sh48 million), Mandera East (Sh39 million), and Mbeere South (Sh56 million).

Narok West also failed to support Sh45 million, Rongai (Sh65 million), Sabatia (Sh39 million), Samburu West (Sh31 million), South Imenti (Sh83 million), and Tiaty (Sh65 million).

The audit further reveals reckless financial management, with several constituencies overspending millions without approval.

Kitui Rural exceeded its budget by Sh417,758, while Kasarani spent Sh21 million more on bursaries than authorised.

In Makadara, bursary allocations hit 40 per cent of the budget, violating the legal cap of 35 per cent, while Embakasi West blew past the limit by seven per cent, disbursing Sh93.5 million without justification.

"In the circumstances, the bursary over-expenditure totalling Sh21,541,991 was not approved and therefore was irregular," Gathungu said in the case of Kasarani.

In Embakasi South, there was no evidence of formation and operationalisation of the education bursary, mock examinations and continuous assessment tests committee.

Further, acknowledgement notes or receipts by the beneficiary institutions and the bursary cheque dispatch register were not provided for audit in the accounts flagged.

Most of the transactions lacked vetting reports, list of beneficiaries, and amounts awarded.

Adverse cases where there was no bursary subcommittee were reported in Gatundu South (Sh64 million), Ikolomani (Sh44 million), Isiolo South (Sh80 million), and Kabondo (Sh50 million).

Some Sh60 million was flagged in Kajiado East, Sh40 million in Kajiado North, Sh62 million in Kanduyi, Sh87 million in Kilome, Sh70 million in Kiminini, Sh59 million in Kipkelion West, and Sh79 million in Kisauni.

"SOME CONSTITUENCIES HAD NO PROCUREMENT PLANS AT ALL, WHILE OTHERS BACKDATED DOCUMENTS OR PAID CONTRACTORS IN CASH, WHICH ARE CLEAR RED FLAGS FOR FRAUD," THE REPORT NOTES

At least Sh86 million was not backed in Kitui East, Sh48 million in Turkana East, Sh73 million in Runyenjes, Ruaraka (Sh42 million), Sh60 million in Lugari, Sh41 million in Kuresoi North, and Sh46 million in North Mugirango.

"There were no bursary policy guidelines, public notice calls, lists of applicants, bursary sub-committees vetting minutes and acknowledgement receipts," the auditor said.

Meanwhile, Kajiado Central and Matungulu had Sh12.6 million and Sh3.5 million in bursary cheques, respectively, that were never cashed, while Kisauni left Sh1.1 million uncollected until the cheques expired, thereby denying students critical support.

Beyond bursaries, the audit uncovered Sh1.2 billion in unsupported expenditures, with Samburu East leading at Sh156 million and Emurua Dikirr at Sh102 million.

Procurement violations were rampant, with 53 constituencies implicated in Sh672 million worth of irregularities. Isiolo North and Nakuru Town East awarded contracts without competitive bidding, while others hired unqualified suppliers or inflated prices beyond market rates.

"Some constituencies had no procurement plans at all," the report notes, "while others backdated documents or paid contractors in cash, which are clear red flags for fraud."

A number of constituencies awarded contracts to unqualified firms, prices were inflated beyond market rates, and documents were backdated.

Perhaps most alarming were the undisclosed bank accounts and unreturned project funds.

Konoin, Kaiti, and Turbo hid multiple accounts, while 136 constituencies could not account for Sh3.5 billion in project management committee balances.

Turbo alone had 30 undisclosed PMC accounts while Konoin had eight held secretly, pointing to deliberate efforts to conceal expenditure.

Another Sh548 million meant for completed projects was never returned to the main CDF accounts, a direct violation of the law.

Despite a slight drop in adverse audit opinions compared with the previous years, 91 per cent of CDFs still received qualified reports.

The auditor said the findings were a signal of persistent weak internal controls, non-compliance and mismanagement.

Statutory deductions like PAYE and NSSF went unpaid, emergency funds were diverted to non-urgent projects, and staff hiring (in 47 constituencies) ignored ethnic diversity laws.

Gathungu said the "various systemic issues affecting the NG-CDF were observed across all the constituencies".

Apart from lack of supporting documents, value-for-money concerns in the use of public resources, governance and compliance issues were flagged.

Also flagged were unexplained pending bills and lack of effective internal controls, risk management and governance failures.

The review exposed glaring inaccuracies in the financial statements of 39 funds, with discrepancies totalling Sh610.2 million.

Even more alarming, 99 constituencies could not provide documentation to support expenditures worth Sh1.27 billion, putting the massive sums' usage in doubt.

Samburu East topped this dubious list with Sh156.2 million in unsupported spending, followed by Emurua Dikirr at Sh102.6 million, in blatant breach of public finance management laws.

Further scrutiny revealed Sh1.33 billion in unreconciled financial variances across 64 constituencies, suggesting either accounting incompetence or potential fraud.

In another breach, 11 constituencies illegally reallocated Sh23.2 million to unauthorised expenditures without approval.

Some 115 constituency funds were found to be non-compliant with laws and regulations, flouting procurement rules, failing to remit statutory deductions, and operating without proper oversight.

Auditor General Nancy Gathungu /FILE

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

As Parliament debates entrenching CDF in the constitution, the Auditor General's report serves as an indictment of a system rotten to its core. The question now is whether the country's leadership has the courage to reform the kitty, or if the looting will continue unabated. Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga is among top guns who have lamented about MPs' patronage of CDF.

President William Ruto and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga during the funeral of Mama Phoebe Asiyo at Wikondiek in Homa Bay county /PCS

REBELS

MPs Babu, Amisi vow to snub Ruto and Raila joint State House meet

They say the PG meeting is a betrayal of their political ideiologies

LUKE AWICH
@AchiaAwich

PRESIDENT William Ruto and ODM leader Raila Odinga will on Monday preside over their first ever joint Parliamentary Group meeting—an unprecedented political convergence, symbolising a looming 2027 deal.

The State House meeting is expected to bring MPs from ODM and the Kenya Kwanza coalition under one roof.

The two leaders are hoping to rally lawmakers behind a common legislative agenda.

It comes just days after Ruto agreed to compensate victims of police brutality and appointed a joint team to oversee the implementation of his MoU with Raila.

"We will meet our MPs from ODM and Kenya Kwanza to agree on how to unite and move the country forward," Ruto said in Migori on Thursday.

But the meeting, as historic as it may be, is already under siege.

A faction of rebel MPs from both camps has vowed to boycott it, dismissing the arrangement as a betrayal of their political ideals.

Kitutu Chache South MP Antony Kibagendi, who has drifted politically towards former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, dismissed the gathering as a "broad-based affair" that undermines his convictions.

"I will not attend. For what? I am not a member of the broad-based government," he told the Star.

From the ODM side, Embakasi East MP Babu Owino—one of the most outspoken critics of the Ruto–Raila pact—said the venue compromises parliamentary independence.

"If this meeting is truly about unity and reforms, it should be held at a neutral ground, Uhuru Park, Jacaranda Grounds, somewhere MPs can speak freely," he said, adding that he would be in Mombasa for the Law Society of Kenya conference instead.

Saboti MP Caleb Amisi said the President is not his party leader. He said the meeting should have been held at ODM headquarters, Chungwa House.

Their defiance adds to a growing list of dissenters, including allies of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who accuse Ruto's administration of sidelining them politically.

Gatanga MP Edwin Muriu termed the joint Parliamentary Group meeting to plan Ruto's 2027 re-election.

The MP claimed they have been unfairly kicked out of influential parliamentary committees and ejected from official WhatsApp groups, a move they say was designed to humiliate and weaken their influence.

"I have not been invited and I don't expect to be invited. Remember the people who support Rigathi Gachagua were exorcised. We were removed from the committees and PG whatsapp groups, so even when people are going to State House we are never invited," Muriu said.

"That is a Ruto and Raila affair and they are planning for 2027. For us we are waiting for Gachagua to come from the US and start preparing for the by-elections, DCP launch and signing MoU with all other like-minded parties."

The meeting is part of the quarterly joint PGs that Ruto and Raila announced while forming a five-member committee to oversee the implementation of the 10-point Memorandum of Understanding and the Nadco report.

The committee chaired by former nominated Senator Agnes Zani has settled on governance expert Javas Bigambo as deputy.

Other members of the team include Kevin Kiarie, Gabriel Oguda and Fatuma Ibrahim.

The team will on Monday submit progress reports before the joint sitting at State House.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The State House joint PG meeting, the first one since the broad-based arrangement, is seen as a clever way to stabilise the political truce. With the PG expected to showcase unity under the Ruto–Raila truce, the ODM and Gachagua wing's absence could expose just how fragile that façade is.

BANKING ON NYANZA

Raila and I will beat you hands down in '27, Ruto tells Rigathi

JULIUS OTIENO

PRESIDENT William Ruto has fired a warning shot at his critics, declaring he will beat them "hands down" in the 2027 general election.

In his address in Awendo, Migori county, Ruto said his partnership with Raila would deliver a united and inclusive Kenya while crushing a "planless, clueless and agendaless" opposition.

"We have agreed, baba and I will unite Kenya. We want to remove exclusion, hatred and division so that the country can move forward," he said.

"Those other tribalists, those people of shares, those of hatred, without plans, policies or agendas — I want to tell you we will beat them early in the morning."

The President, on his third consecutive day in Raila's Nyanza stronghold, accused his opponents of hiding behind the "Wantam" slogan to intimidate and distract his administration.

"The people who decide leaders are citizens, not you. You cannot bring us a slogan to distract us. Tell us the plans you have for Kenya — don't speak in parables. Talk to us in a language we can understand," he said.

Ruto's visit to Nyanza — marked by project launches, grassroots meetings and overt political courting — is widely seen as an attempt to penetrate Raila's traditional base and build a power bloc ahead of 2027.

On Thursday, he toured Migori after visiting Homa Bay, where he opened the 2025 Devolution Conference.

He met Governor Ochilo Ayacko, Senator Eddy Oketch, MPs and MCAs at the Sony Sugar Green Stadium in Awendo.

The President announced multi-billion shilling development programmes and projects the government is rolling out in the country.

They include the Sh15 billion affordable housing project, the Sh2 billion electricity project, the Sh3.6 billion market projects and construction of nine roads worth millions of shillings.

"We are building 18 markets here in Migori. We have put Sh3.6 billion into building markets in Migori county so that our farmers can have access to their produce and businessmen and mama mboga get a conducive place to do business," he said.

The government is building more than 7,000 housing units in Migori county, with the President launching construction of the first 300 units worth Sh750 million in Awendo.

The government has also connected more than 19,000 houses to electricity in an ambitious Sh2 billion programme implemented by the Ministry of Energy.

"We have agreed that Migori, which has been sidelined for many years, must now be at par with other regions in terms of development," he said.

In addition, the state is building nine new roads in the county, which he said has been marginalised for decades.

They include tarmacking of the 50km Kanyawanga-Madiaba -Rapogi-Awendo road.

The President's sustained presence in Luo Nyanza — and his public camaraderie with Raila — underscores a shifting political landscape that could redraw the map ahead of 2027.

On Wednesday, Ruto launched the construction of a 588-unit hostel that will host more than 2,000 students at Tom Mboya University students' village.

This was the first-ever built student accommodation under our housing programme and will generate more than 1,500 jobs.

President William Ruto during a meeting with grassroots leaders from Migori county at Sony Sugar Green stadium /PCS

EPRA
Energy & Petroleum Regulatory Authority

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 101(y) of the Petroleum Act No. 2 of 2019 and Legal Notice No. 192 of 2022, the Energy & Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has calculated the maximum retail petroleum prices, which will be in force from **15th August 2025** to **14th September 2025**:

A. MAXIMUM RETAIL PETROLEUM PRICES (INCLUSIVE OF VAT)

	August 15th, 2025 – September 14th , 2025	MAXIMUM PETROLEUM PUMP PRICES		
		Super Petrol (PMS)	Automotive Diesel (AGO)	Kerosene (DPK)
	TOWNS	KES/L	KES/L	KES/L
1	**Mombasa**	182.03	168.30	152.29
2	Kilifi	182.90	169.16	153.16
3	Likoni Mainland	182.41	168.69	152.68
4	Kwale	182.41	168.69	152.68
5	Malindi	183.26	169.52	153.52
6	Lungalunga	183.28	169.55	153.55
7	Voi	184.22	170.49	154.49
8	Taveta	186.66	172.92	156.92
9	Lamu	187.37	173.64	157.64
10	Hola	187.86	174.13	158.13
11	Mpeketoni	187.37	173.64	157.64
12	Minjila	185.58	171.85	155.85
13	Garsen	185.74	172.01	156.01
14	Samburu	182.18	168.45	152.46
15	Taru	182.49	168.77	152.77
16	Mwatate	184.80	171.07	155.07
17	Wundanyi	185.09	171.36	155.36
18	Kaloleni	181.93	168.20	152.20
19	Marereni	184.39	170.67	154.66
20	**Nairobi**	185.31	171.58	155.58
21	Thika	184.95	171.22	155.22
22	Machakos	185.36	171.62	155.61
23	Kajiado	185.67	171.93	155.93
24	Makuyu	185.44	171.70	155.70
25	Muranga	185.84	172.11	156.11
26	Sagana	186.23	172.49	156.48
27	Embu	186.85	173.12	157.11
28	Kerugoya	186.71	172.98	156.98
29	Narok	187.34	173.61	157.61
30	Nyeri	187.32	173.58	157.58
31	Namanga	187.61	173.87	157.87
32	Kiganjo	187.26	173.52	157.51
33	Chuka	187.77	174.03	158.03
34	Kitui	187.59	173.86	157.85
35	Mwingi	188.26	174.52	158.52
36	Nanyuki	188.28	174.55	158.55
37	Nkubu	189.96	176.23	160.22
38	Mtito Andei	189.15	175.42	159.42
39	Meru	190.30	176.56	160.55
40	Isiolo	190.05	176.32	160.31
41	Maua	191.08	177.34	161.34
42	Garissa	192.15	178.42	162.41
43	Marsabit	198.52	184.79	168.79
44	Liboi	196.93	183.20	167.20
45	Moyale	201.26	187.52	171.52
46	Sololo	199.62	185.89	169.88
47	Habaswein	196.81	183.07	167.06
48	Dadaab	194.54	180.81	164.81
49	Tarbaj	200.69	186.96	170.96
50	Elwak	203.46	189.73	173.73
51	Wajir	200.96	187.22	171.23
52	Modogashe	197.05	183.31	167.32
53	Mandera	207.49	193.76	177.76
54	Matuu	186.49	172.76	156.76
55	Merti	194.18	180.45	164.45
56	Oldonyiro	189.02	175.29	159.28
57	Eldas	204.03	190.30	174.29
58	Bute	198.91	185.17	169.17
59	Hadado	196.47	182.73	166.73
60	Mai Mahiu	185.15	171.41	155.41
61	Doldo	189.60	175.87	159.87
62	Lamuria	188.08	174.35	158.34
63	Sipili	189.58	175.84	159.84
64	Marimanti	188.93	175.20	159.20
65	Mutuobare	187.79	174.06	158.05
66	North Horr	200.18	186.45	170.44
67	Maikona	197.79	184.06	168.05
68	Kalacha	198.73	185.00	168.99
69	Loyangalani	198.84	185.10	169.10
70	Turbi	198.50	184.77	168.77
71	Laisamis	193.67	179.94	163.93
72	Merille	193.16	179.43	163.42
73	Korr	195.31	181.57	165.56
74	**Nakuru**	184.35	170.97	155.01
75	Gilgil	183.92	170.54	154.58

	August 15th, 2025 – September 14th , 2025	MAXIMUM PETROLEUM PUMP PRICES		
		Super Petrol (PMS)	Automotive Diesel (AGO)	Kerosene (DPK)
	TOWNS	KES/L	KES/L	KES/L
76	Mogotio	183.89	170.52	154.56
77	Molo	184.05	170.67	154.71
78	Olenguruone	185.26	171.89	155.92
79	Londiani	184.43	171.05	155.09
80	Nyahururu	184.41	171.03	155.08
81	Archers Post	189.58	176.20	160.24
82	Lodosoit	191.47	178.11	162.14
83	Naivasha	184.54	171.17	155.21
84	Marigat	185.24	171.86	155.90
85	Kabarnet	186.09	172.71	156.75
86	Maralal	187.97	174.59	158.63
87	Wamba	189.42	176.04	160.08
88	Rumuruti	185.35	171.97	156.02
89	**Eldoret**	185.17	171.80	155.83
90	Kiplombe	185.17	171.80	155.83
91	Iten	185.17	171.80	155.83
92	Naiberi	185.17	171.80	155.83
93	Kesses	185.17	171.80	155.83
94	Kapsabet	184.82	171.45	155.5
95	Webuye	185.54	172.17	156.2
96	Kitale	185.43	172.05	156.10
97	Kapenguria	186.53	173.15	157.19
98	Bungoma	186.12	172.75	156.79
99	Moiben	184.82	171.45	155.50
100	Matunda	184.78	171.40	155.45
101	Burnt Forest	184.72	171.34	155.38
102	Tambach	184.87	171.49	155.54
103	Kapsowar	185.68	172.31	156.34
104	Chebara	185.47	172.10	156.14
105	Kimwarer	185.34	171.97	156.01
106	Timboroa	185.21	171.83	155.87
107	Nandi Hills	185.14	171.76	155.81
108	Kaiboi	184.89	171.52	155.55
109	Kiminini	185.74	172.37	156.41
110	Endebes	186.34	172.97	157.01
111	Saboti	185.79	172.41	156.46
112	Chepareria	186.89	173.51	157.55
113	Lomut	189.68	176.31	160.34
114	Burgich	187.60	174.22	158.27
115	Sigor	187.83	174.45	158.49
116	Lodwar	192.03	178.65	162.7
117	Kakuma	194.78	181.40	165.45
118	Lokichar	190.31	176.93	160.97
119	Kalokol	193.35	179.97	164.01
120	Lokori	190.94	177.56	161.60
121	Lokitaung	198.34	184.96	169.00
122	Kapedo	189.68	176.31	160.34
123	Malaba	186.82	173.44	157.48
124	Lokichogio	196.84	183.47	167.50
125	Ziwa	185.14	171.76	155.81
126	Soy	184.80	171.43	155.47
127	Moi's Bridge	184.92	171.54	155.58
128	Turbo	184.72	171.34	155.38
129	Kibish	198.74	185.37	169.40
130	Nakalale	196.70	183.33	167.36
131	Loima	190.51	177.13	161.17
132	Lokiriama	193.21	179.84	163.88
133	Kainuk	188.38	175.01	159.05
134	Kacheliba	187.22	173.85	157.89
135	Kiwawa	188.27	174.89	158.94
136	Ortum	187.56	174.18	158.22
137	Kachibora	185.47	172.10	156.14
138	Kwanza	186.70	173.33	157.37
139	Kaplamai	185.52	172.14	156.18
140	Eldama Ravine	186.24	172.86	156.90
141	Tenges	186.48	173.11	157.14
142	Barwessa	186.68	173.30	157.35
143	Kipsaraman	188.25	174.87	158.92
144	Loruk	188.02	174.65	158.69
145	Kabartonjo	186.24	172.86	156.90
146	Tindiret	186.34	172.97	157.01
147	O'lessos	184.92	171.54	155.58
148	Kobujoi	185.61	172.24	156.27
149	Serem	185.74	172.37	156.41
150	Kabiyet	184.80	171.43	155.47

	August 15th, 2025 – September 14th , 2025	MAXIMUM PETROLEUM PUMP PRICES		
		Super Petrol (PMS)	Automotive Diesel (AGO)	Kerosene (DPK)
	TOWNS	KES/L	KES/L	KES/L
151	Cheptulu	185.54	172.17	156.20
152	Songor	186.48	173.11	157.14
153	Kapcherop	185.86	172.48	156.52
154	Sambalat	187.04	173.66	157.71
155	Arror	186.44	173.06	157.11
156	Tot	186.79	173.42	157.46
157	Kaptarakwa	185.14	171.76	155.81
158	Kapese	190.24	176.87	160.90
159	Kalemngorok	189.18	175.81	159.86
160	Marich	187.42	174.05	158.08
161	Alale	188.27	174.89	158.94
162	Kunyao	187.69	174.31	158.35
163	Asilong	186.97	173.59	157.64
164	Orolwo	187.04	173.66	157.71
165	Sebit	186.95	173.57	157.62
166	Morpus	186.79	173.42	157.46
167	Chepkorniswo	186.60	173.22	157.26
168	Kaibichbich	186.50	173.13	157.17
169	Keringet	186.03	172.66	156.70
170	**Kisumu**	185.16	171.78	155.83
171	Sondu	184.97	171.60	155.64
172	Oyugis	185.81	172.43	156.47
173	Kakamega	184.88	171.51	155.55
174	Mumias	185.36	171.98	156.03
175	Bondo	185.16	171.78	155.83
176	Siaya	185.37	171.99	156.04
177	Kericho	185.68	172.31	156.34
178	Nyamira	185.79	172.41	156.45
179	Kisii	186.32	172.94	156.98
180	Sotik	186.03	172.65	156.69
181	Keroka	186.34	172.97	157.00
182	Busia	186.30	172.92	156.97
183	Homabay	186.20	172.83	156.88
184	Migori	187.69	174.31	158.35
185	Isebania	188.18	174.80	158.84
186	Bomet	186.72	173.35	157.39
187	Muhoroni	185.19	171.82	155.86
188	Mbita	186.19	172.82	156.85
189	Mbale	185.16	171.78	155.83
190	Etago	187.31	173.93	157.97
191	Magenche	187.48	174.10	158.15
192	Kilgoris	187.19	173.81	157.86
193	Malava	185.43	172.05	156.09
194	Lugari	186.10	172.72	156.76
195	Rodi Kopany	186.32	172.94	156.98
196	Ndhiwa	186.79	173.42	157.46
197	Rangwe	186.30	172.92	156.97
198	Sindo	186.32	172.94	156.98
199	Awasi	184.73	171.36	155.4
200	Ahero	185.16	171.78	155.83
201	Ugunja	185.54	172.17	156.20
202	Asembo	184.94	171.56	155.60
203	Usenge	185.76	172.39	156.42
204	Harambee	184.87	171.49	155.53
205	Muhuru Bay	187.93	174.56	158.59
206	Kehancha	188.34	174.96	159.00
207	Ntimaru	188.87	175.50	159.53
208	Rongo	186.75	173.37	157.41
209	Kaspokwony	186.68	173.30	157.34
210	Chwele	186.59	173.21	157.26
211	Kimilili	186.46	173.08	157.12
212	Nambale	186.30	172.92	156.97
213	SioPort	186.27	172.90	156.94
214	Port Bunyala	186.37	172.99	157.03
215	Funyula	186.05	172.68	156.71
216	Ogembo	186.59	173.21	157.26
217	Nyangusu	187.04	173.66	157.70
218	Sengera	186.90	173.52	157.57
219	Keumbu	186.43	173.06	157.10
220	Marani	185.91	172.54	156.59
221	Kerina	186.54	173.17	157.21
222	Ikonge	185.43	172.05	156.09
223	Nyansiongo	186.12	172.75	156.78

In accordance with Section 99 of the Petroleum Act No. 2 of 2019 (the Act), a person convicted of retailing petroleum products above the recommended price shall be liable to a fine of not less than ten (10) million Kenya Shillings, or a term of imprisonment of not less than five (5) years or both. Further, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are cautioned that non-compliance with the recommended maximum wholesale petroleum prices shall attract a fine of not less than five (5) million Kenya Shillings as per Section 124 of the Act. In this respect, consumers are requested to be vigilant in reporting non-compliant retailers to the Authority for necessary legal action. The Authority has installed a hotline number (**0709 336 000**), operational during normal working hours, with a view of increasing its engagement with stakeholders to enhance enforcement and compliance activities.

Members of the public can obtain the latest petroleum prices in major towns by sending the message: "**price <space> name of major town**" to **40850** or by dialing the short code *363# on their mobile phones.

The Authority would also wish to alert petroleum retail station dealers of increased instances of fraudsters purporting to monitor petroleum prices on behalf of the Authority. On this account, the Authority has put in place an SMS inquiry system where dealers can verify the authenticity of persons inspecting their stations by sending the message **employee** followed by the **national ID number** to 40850 e.g. employee 12345678 or by dialing the short code *363#.

Further, the Authority wishes to caution petrol station dealers that it is an offence to store or offer for sale adulterated or export bound petroleum products. The Authority shall not hesitate to revoke licenses of petroleum dealers found to have committed such an offence.

Corporate Communications
Energy & Petroleum Regulatory Authority

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22 BY-ELECTIONS

Gachagua cuts short US trip

Former Deputy President plans to test political strength against Ruto's UDA in upcoming mini polls

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

THE stage is set for a high-octane political showdown after DCP boss Rigathi Gachagua abruptly ended his month-long tour of the US to test his strength against President William Ruto in the upcoming by-elections.

Ruto's UDA party announced it will conduct nominations for different seats on September 20, ahead of the November 27 mini-polls.

Gachagua said he was cutting short his US engagements to hit the campaign trail for his party's candidates, underscoring the significance of the contests.

"I regret being unable to visit the scheduled remaining states since I need to get back home to join our party in preparation for the upcoming by-elections," he said.

The former Deputy President apologised for the change, saying the events would be pushed to next year.

"I am sorry to cut my trip short; my profound apologies to the organisers and Kenyans whom I were to meet; the same has been rescheduled for early next year."

Once close allies, Ruto and Gachagua are now bitter rivals—with the former second in command vowing to rally his supporters to render his ex-boss a "wantam" (one-term) President.

The mini-polls will mark their first major political face-off since their falling out, which culminated in Gachagua's historic impeachment by Parliament. DCP has declared it will field candidates in all by-elections, including seven parliamentary seats.

"We have at least 22 by-elections and DCP has attracted very many aspirants. We are a party that will allow democracy to work and that is why we have attracted many candidates," deputy party leader Cleophas Malala said.

"We will have free and fair nominations for seats where we have more than one candidate, without any favouritism," Malala added. The mini-polls will include the Member of Senate race in Baringo county and National Assembly seats in Banissa, Kasipul, Magarini, Malava, Mbeere North and Ugunja.

DCP has unveiled Aden Mohammed as its candidate for Banissa and Edgar Busiega for the Malava seat.

UDA has directed its aspirants to register via its party portal by 5 pm on September 5. In a notice issued on Thursday, the party's National Elections Board said the nominations would cover vacant seats in the National Assembly, the Senate and wards.

MCA positions for Kabuchai/Chwele in Bungoma, Angata Nanyokie in Samburu and Chemundu/Kapng'etuny in Nandi will also be contested. MCAs for Chewani in Tana River, Fafi in Garissa, Kariobangi North in Nairobi, Kisa East in Kakamega and Metkei in Elgeyo Marakwet will also be elected.

Others are Mumbuni North in Machakos; Narok Town in Narok; Purko in Kajiado; Tembelio in Uasin Gishu; Nyansiongo, Nyamaiya and Ekerenyo in Nyamira; and Zone and Nanaam in Turkana.

"Each political party intending to participate in the by-elections shall submit the names and specimen signatures of the authorised persons on or before Wednesday, September 17, 2025," IEBC said.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua meets Kenyans in Los Angeles, southern California /HANDOUT

E-mail: *info@nandi.go.ke*
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Telephone: *0535252355*

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NANDI

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON IDENTIFICATION OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS FOR THE COUNTY ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CADP) 2026/2027 FISCAL YEAR

The County Government of Nandi through the Department of Finance and Economic Planning in Collaboration with the Department of Administration, Public Service and ICT and the respective Ward Project Identification Committees, invites Members of Public, Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Private sector practitioners, and all other interested parties to public participation forum(s) on identification of programme and projects for the County Annual Development Plan(CADP) for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year.

This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 174(c) and Article 220(2) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; Section 87 (b) and section 91(g) of the County Governments Act, 2012 as read together with section 126 (1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and section 6 of the Nandi County Equitable Development Act, 2023.

The forums are scheduled to be conducted in all the thirty (30) wards of the County on **21st and 22nd August, 2025** in the following venues starting from **10.00 A.M**

SUB COUNTY	WARD	DATE	VENUE
ALDAI	Kaptumo/Kaboi	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Kaptumo Social Hall
	Koyo/Ndurio	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Kapchepkuta Ground
	Kobujoi	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Kobujoi Youth Centre
	Kabwareng	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Musasa (MCA's Office)
	Terik	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Kapkerer PAG Church
	Kemeloi/Maraba	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Kemeloi Centre (Mugen Chief's Office)
TINDERET	Tinderet	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Chemamul Dispensary
	Chemelil/ Chemase	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Kapkuong FGCK
	Songhor/Soba	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Senetwo Chief's Office
	Kapsimotwo	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Chebarus FGCK
NANDI HILLS	Nandi Hills	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Nandi Hills Town Hall
	Ollessos	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Koilot Chief's Office
	Kapchorua (upper)	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Sirwo Dispensary
	Kapchorua (Lower)	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Kapkoros Chief's Office
	Chepkunyuk	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Kibiok Market (Soko Mjinga)
EMGWEN	Kapsabet	Thursday, 21st August 2025	Iruru - MCA's office
	Kilibwoni (Upper)	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Assistant County Commissioner's Office
	Kilibwoni (Lower)	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Arwos - MCA's office
	Kapkangani	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Kapkangani ACC's Office
	Chepkumia	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Chepkumia Centre (PEFA Church Grounds)
CHESUMEI	Chemundu/Kapngetuny	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Chemundu Sub County Offices
	Kosirai	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Belekenya Centre
	Lelmokwo/Ngechek	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Mosoriot - DO's Office
	Kiptuiya	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Danger Zamani Chief's Office
	Kaptel/Kamoiywo	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Kapsisiywa Chief's Office
MOSOP	Kabiyet	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Kabiyet Social Hall
	Kipkaren	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Williever Primary School
	Ndalat	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Ndalat Primary School
	Kabisaga	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Kormaet Centre
	Chepterwai	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Chepterwai Hall
	Sang'alo/Kebulonik	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Corner Centre - Ward Admin's Office
	Kurgung/Surungai	Friday, 22nd August 2025	Kurgung Social Hall

CPA ALFRED LAGAT
CEC MEMBER- FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF WAJIR

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE WAJIR COUNTY ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CADP) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027

Pursuant to Section 104(1) of the County Government Act 2012 on obligation to plan by the County, and Section 125(2) and 126 (1) & (2) of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, the County Government of Wajir through the Department of Finance and Economic Planning invites members of the public, interested parties and all stakeholders to make submissions towards the formulation of the FY 2026/2027 County Annual Development Plan (CADP). The main objective of the Plan is to identify the annual strategic priorities, programmes and projects that reflect the county government's spending plans and be the basis for county budgeting process for the FY 2026/2027.

Members of the public, interested parties and other stakeholders are invited to public participation forums to be held in all the Sub-Counties on Friday August 22, 2025 from 9:00 AM as below:

S/NO	SUB-COUNTY	VENUE	TIME
1.	Wajir North	Sub-County Admin. Office – Bute	9.00 AM
2.	Eldas	Eldas Sub-County Admin. Office	9.00 AM
3.	Wajir West	Sub-County Admin. Office – Griftu	9.00 AM
4.	Wajir East	ICT Hall	9.00 AM
5.	Wajir South	Habaswein Community Library	9.00 AM
6.	Tarbaj	NG-CDF Hall – Tarbaj	9.00 AM

Members of the public can also send written memoranda to the undersigned or through email addresses: *info@wajir.go.ke* /*treasury@wajir.go.ke*/ *economicplanning@wajir.go.ke* on or before **Friday, August 22, 2025.**

All are welcome

CPA MOHAMED HASSAN HUSSEIN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER - FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

NEWS GENERAL

PHOTO STORY

Owner and developer of Tatu City Stephen Jennings and Deputy President Kithure Kindiki at the DP's official residence in Karen, Nairobi, when the two held a meeting to discuss investment and coffee sector reforms /HANDOUT

SH3.1 MILLION FINE

Ex-Rerec boss jailed over forged degree

State called 10 witnesses to testify against Oluoch

PETER OBUYA
@Pobuya

A former manager of the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation has been ordered to pay a fine of Sh3.1 million or be jailed for four years after being found guilty of using a forged certificate to land his plum job.

Nairobi Anti-Corruption Court magistrate Celesa Okore found Noah Oluoch guilty of two of the three counts of fraud and forgery he was charged with.

Oluoch was in April last year charged with three counts of fraudulent acquisition of public property, forgery and uttering a false a document.

The charge sheet showed he fraudulently acquired salary and allowances amounting to more than Sh1.4 million after he was employed using a forged degree certificate.

The state had called 10 witnesses including former Rerec CEO Peter Mbugua to testify against Oluoch.

In her judgment delivered on Thursday, Okore said the prosecution proved beyond reasonable doubt the counts of fraudulent acquisition of public funds and that of uttering a false document.

"The court finds that indeed the prosecution has proved the charge of uttering a false document. The accused was not truthful in his statements," Okore said.

The magistrate, however, said the charge of forgery was not proved given the state failed to show it was the accused who forged the document or participated in the forgery.

Having been convicted, Oluoch was ordered to pay a fine of Sh100,000 for use of a forged document or spend a year in jail.

The court also fined him Sh2.9 million for the offence of fraudulent acquisition of public funds or two years in prison. For the offence of uttering a false document, he was fined Sh100,000 or another 12 months in jail.

The magistrate said all the sentences run consecutively, meaning Oluoch will serve a total of four years in jail if he fails to pay the fines.

The court declined a plea from the convict for lenient sentencing after his lawyer said he was a first-time offender and had diligently cooperated during the trial.

Oluoch said he is 55 years old and has an underlying medical condition – hypertension – and as such, ought to be considered for leniency.

"No medical evidence has been put before me and therefore the court shall take that with a pinch of salt," Okore said before she read out the sentence.

In his testimony Mbugua said Oluoch had emerged as the best candidate during the interviews with a score of 78 per cent. The second candidate scored 73 per cent and the the third 72 per cent.

He was then appointed, having been the best candidate but worked only for five months following the discovery that the masters degree certificate he had used to apply for the job was not genuine.

When summoned by disciplinary committee to explain the veracity of his certificate, Oluoch opted to resign.

"He was still under probation in his new role but he opted not to face the disciplinary committee," Mbugua said.

Oluoch was accused of forging a masters degree certificate in business administration and management allegedly issued by the University of Nairobi.

Peter Mbuthia, the deputy registrar in charge of examinations at the University of Nairobi testified and told the court that Oluoch's certificate was not issued by the institution.

OLUOCH WAS ACCUSED OF FORGING A MASTERS DEGREE CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT ALLEGEDLY ISSUED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT | FOURTH SESSION

THE SENATE

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 (SENATE BILLS NO. 13 of 2025)

The **Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Senate Bills No. 13 of 2025)** was read a First Time in the Senate on Thursday, 7th August, 2025 and thereafter stood committed to the Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights for consideration. The Committee is required, under standing order 145(5) of the Senate Standing Orders, to facilitate public participation on the Bill and to take into account the views and recommendations of the public when the Committee makes its report to the Senate.

The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution to address challenges of constitutional design and architecture that require reform so as to strengthen and secure the devolved system of government and for greater unity and harmony of the constitutional dispensation. The Bill proposes to achieve this by –

a. clarifying the role of various organs and institutions established by the Constitution in the process of implementation of devolution;

b. reviewing the mandate of the National Assembly and the Senate in order to clarify the shared role of the Houses of Parliament and the special roles assigned to each House of Parliament;

c. refining the legislative process set out in the Constitution in order to ensure that both Houses of Parliament play an effective role in the legislative process; and

d. ensuring that both the National Assembly and the Senate play an effective role in the budget making process in order to safeguard the implementation of devolution.

The Bill proposes to –

i. ensure that there is clarity in the role of each House so as to avoid overlaps and varied interpretations of the role of the respective Houses;

ii. provide for the leadership and the order of precedence in the Senate;

iii. provide for the origination of any Bill in either House of Parliament, save for a Bill on raising national revenue which may only originate in the National Assembly;

iv. grant full legislative mandate to both Houses of Parliament and provide for the procedure for the consideration of Bills by both Houses of Parliament;

v. provide for the procedure for the consideration of allocation and appropriation Bills by both Houses of Parliament;

vi. provide the procedure for referral of a Bill for assent after the mediation process and further excludes the allocation and appropriation Bills from the mediation process;

vii. repeal the definition of the term "money Bill";

viii. provide for the joint submission of a Bill passed by Parliament by the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament to the President for assent;

ix. provide clarity on the coming into force of Bills that are deemed to have been assented to under Article 115(6) of the Constitution;

x. provide for the establishment of a County Assembly Fund with respect to each county assembly;

xi. provide the procedure for the submission and consideration of estimates of revenue and expenditure of entities at the National level of Government by both Houses of Parliament;

xii. clarify that the basis for the preparation of budgets by county governments is a County Allocation of Revenue Bill;

xiii. assign the responsibility of approving or vetting of various State officers to both Houses of Parliament; and

xiv. assign the process of removing from office a member of a commission or holder of an independent office to both Houses of Parliament.

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 118 and 256 of the Constitution and standing order 145 (5) of the Senate Standing Orders, the Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights now invites members of the public to submit any representations that they may have on the Bill by way of written memoranda.

The memoranda may be submitted to the Clerk of the Senate, P. O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi, hand-delivered to the Office of the Clerk of the Senate, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi or emailed to maoni@parliament.go.ke to be received on or before **Friday, 26th September, 2025 at 5.00 p.m.**

In addition, the Senate will hold public hearings on the Bill in the forty-seven counties, on dates and venues to be communicated.

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

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

FILTER AIR POLLUTANTS

Plan launched to protect urban forests and improve air quality

Initiative aimed at raising awareness on importance of Nairobi's forests, parks

GILBERT KOECH
@KoechJunior_1

A new initiative aimed at raising awareness on the importance of Nairobi's urban forests and their role in improving air quality is set to be launched on Saturday.

The event, organised by UrbanBetter Nairobi Cityzens Hub, will combine a walk and run with citizen science and storytelling to engage residents, youth, policymakers and environmental actors in advocating for the city's green spaces.

Urban forests—including Karura, Oloolua, John Michuki Park and City Park—act as the lungs of the city, filtering air pollutants, regulating temperatures and mitigating climate-related health risks.

These spaces, however, face mounting threats from encroachment, development pressures and neglect, undermining their vital contribution to public health.

The hybrid run and walk will pass through key green areas, with participants collecting real-time data using portable AirBeam3 sensors.

The live data will demonstrate the tangible benefits of urban tree cover for cleaner air.

"The route passes through John Michuki Park and City Park, allowing participants to experience these tree-rich areas while engaging in conversations on urban air quality, planning and community stewardship," said Maryam Wangeshi Coordinator of UrbanBetter Nairobi Cityzens Hub.

Participants at the UrbanBetter Nairobi event /CITYZENS HUB

The event is organised under the slogan "Misitu Yetu, Afya Yetu, Haki Yetu" (our forests, our health, our rights). It seeks to rally public support for the protection and expansion of Nairobi's urban green spaces, demonstrating how they directly influence air quality and public health outcomes.

UrbanBetter Nairobi Cityzens Hub has already trained over 50 young leaders in Nairobi to use air quality data for advocacy. Through this initiative, the organisation seeks to integrate physical activity, citizen science and storytelling to foster environmental stewardship and cross-sector dialogue on sustainable urban living.

Recent studies show that outdoor air pollution contributes to nearly 18,700 premature deaths annually in Kenya, with 8,000 in Nairobi alone.

Urban forests like Karura (1,041 hectares) and Oloolua (618 hectares) play a critical role in reducing exposure to pollutants, absorbing gaseous contaminants, trapping particulate matter and moderating urban temperatures.

The loss or degradation of these forests weakens the city's natural defenses, highlighting the urgent need for conservation and public awareness.

The initiative builds on recent gains in monitoring and managing air quality, including the deployment of 50 new sensors across Nairobi through the Breathe Cities Initiative and the operation of advanced monitoring stations at Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital and Koja fire station.

Over 200 participants—including community members, youth volunteers, environmental advocates and key partners—are expected to join the walk and run.

Key stakeholders supporting the event include Friends of Karura and the Michuki Park station manager, who will facilitate access and coordination along the route.

The organisers hope that engaging residents directly with green spaces and real-time air quality data will deepen their connection to urban nature and foster a lasting culture of environmental stewardship.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

This initiative by UrbanBetter Nairobi Cityzens Hub is a timely response to Nairobi's growing air pollution and the degradation of urban forests. By combining a walk and run with real-time air quality monitoring and storytelling, it directly engages residents, youth and policymakers in understanding the health and environmental benefits of green spaces. The event highlights how urban forests filter pollutants.

FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT

Big Life Foundation raises alarm over land subdivision threats in Amboseli

GILBERT KOECH

THE Big Life Foundation has warned that the rapid land subdivision across the Amboseli ecosystem is threatening its fragile environment.

In its quarterly report covering April to June 2025, the conservation NGO highlighted that the fragmentation of large, community-owned land into thousands of small parcels, coupled with land sales, fencing and land-use conversion, could severely impact the region's wildlife and natural habitats.

To address this, the foundation is supporting partner communities with structured land-use plans.

These include designated zones for settlement, agriculture, rangeland and conservancies or wildlife corridors. Communities have reportedly set aside large areas for conservation and livestock grazing, with corridors connecting habitats across the ecosystem.

Farming activity in Amboseli /BIG LIFE FOUNDATION

Currently, four group ranches—Mbirikani, Olgulului, Eselengei and Rombo—have completed subdivision plans covering about one million acres and approximately 25,000 members. Kuku A and Kuku B are still in progress. The plans specify boundaries for each parcel and assign land-use zones, minimising conflicts while ensuring sustainable resource use. Of the land, 368,708 acres have been zoned for wildlife conservation, including buffer zones around Amboseli National Park, while 440,000 acres are reserved for livestock grazing, prohibiting fencing or conversion to other uses.

LAW VIOLATIONS

Sifuna challenges IEBC's timelines for by-election

FELIX KIPKEMOI

NAIROBI Senator Edwin Sifuna has questioned the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission's interpretation of the constitutional timelines for conducting by-elections.

In a post on X, Sifuna took issue with IEBC's press release, which sought to clarify the 90-day constitutional limit for by-elections.

"You are performing legal gymnastics to justify an open violation of the constitution. The reason why you are required to conduct by-elections WITHIN 90 days of the writs is because of the broader importance of representation in the constitutional order," Sifuna wrote.

IEBC has defended its decision to schedule several pending by-elections outside the 90-day window, citing what it described as "extraordinary circumstances."

It has set November 27 for the polls.

In its statement, the commission explained that some vacancies arose long before its current composition, with examples including the loss of representation for Baringo county in February 2025 and Banissa constituency as far back as March 2023.

Quoting Article 259 of the Constitution, IEBC argued the law allows flexibility in interpreting timelines where they have lapsed, provided such interpretation upholds constitutional principles and values.

The commission also pointed to logistical constraints, such as many polling stations being located in schools during active terms, which would disrupt learning.

"The commission considered both legal and logistical realities. Notably, many polling stations are in schools, which are in session during the initial 90-day period. Conducting elections during school terms disrupts learning and limits access to polling centres," IEBC said.

NEWS GENERAL

Freshly harvested potatoes /COURTESY IITA

FOOD SECURITY

Institute to help Africa tame major potato pest

It is providing tools, strategies to agencies fighting the worms

AGATHA NGOTHO
@TheStarKenya

Plant protection agencies across the continent are set to be empowered to better fight a destructive potato pest that can wipe out entire harvests.

Potato Cyst Nematodes (PCN) are tiny worms that attack potato roots, stunting plant growth and reducing yields by up to 100 per cent. The pest has already been reported as highly prevalent in four countries in East and Southern Africa.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is providing cutting-edge diagnostic tools and management strategies to tackle the PCN threat.

It is partnering with National Plant Protection Organisations across Africa on the initiative.

Dr Harun Murithi, a consultant crop health specialist in disease and pest management at IITA, said PCN is a quarantine pest that threatens food security and regional trade due to strict border phytosanitary controls.

"Early detection and effective management are crucial to protecting farmers' livelihoods and potato markets," he said.

Potato cyst nematodes were first confirmed in Kenya in 2015.

Native to the Andes in South America, they have since spread to many potato-growing regions worldwide.

In Kenya, a 2016 national survey found the pest in 82 per cent of sampled farms, including certified seed farms, with some areas recording high infestation levels.

The survey was conducted by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation, Kenyatta University, the University of Nairobi, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, IITA and the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Murithi said there is a WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility project to equip national plant protection agencies in 12 countries to fight the pest.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Potato is Kenya's second most important food crop after maize, cultivated since the 1880s. It is grown twice a year, during the long and short rainy seasons. Annual production yields 1.5 million tonnes from about 161,000 hectares, worth between Sh40 billion and Sh50 billion. The crop faces major threats from soil-borne pests and diseases, such as nematodes, Fusarium wilt and bacterial wilt.

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BANKING

Co-op Bank Group's net profit up 8.4% to Sh14.1bn in half one

Shareholders' funds grew 23.4% to Sh156.3bn, boosted by retained earnings of Sh18.4 billion

Co-operative Bank Group managing director and CEO Gideon Muriuki /FILE

VICTOR AMADALA
@ItsAmadala

The Cooperative Bank Group has reported a net profit of Sh14.1 billion net profit for the six months to June 2025, 8.4 per cent higher than the Sh13 billion recorded for the same period last year.

The third biggest lender in the country in terms of asset value attributed the growth to the Group's strategic focus on sustainable growth, resilience, and agility, riding on the 'Soaring Eagle' Transformation Agenda set a decade ago.

The group's gross earnings for the period under review rose by 8.3 per cent to Sh19.7 billion from Sh18.2 billion, with total assets rising by 13.2 per cent to Sh811.9 billion, less than Sh200 billion to become a Sh1 trillion rich financial institution.Return on equity, a gauge of a corporation's profitability and how efficiently it generates those profits, rose to 19.9 per cent during the period under review.The higher the ROE, the more efficient a company's management is at generating income and growth from its equity financing.

Operating income grew by 10.8 per cent to Sh43.5 billion, boosted by higher net interest income that rose by 23.4 per cent.

The bank defied harsh economic times characterised by shrinking disposable income and a volatile operating environment stemming from both local and international pressures to increase deposits by 7.9 per cent to Sh547.7 billion, while net loans and advances increased by 4.2 per cent to Sh391.3 billion.Operating expenses rose 13. per cent, with the cost-to-income ratio standing at 44.9 per cent, a significant improvement from 59 per cent back in 2014 when the lender began the growth and efficiency journey.Shareholders' funds grew 23.4 per cent to Sh156.3 billion, boosted by retained earnings of Sh18.4 billion.

The Group's digital channels continued to offer unmatched convenience to customers, with 90 per cent of transactions by number conducted through non-branch channels. This is supported by a robust omni-channel platform (web, mobile, USSD), 622 ATMs, CDMs, and 16,000+ Co-op kwa Jirani agents.

For instance, the M-Co-op Cash mobile wallet disbursed Sh36.4 billion in loans year-to-date, of which Sh5.7 billion was to MSMEs.

Co-op Bank Group continued to demonstrate its commitment to supporting smaller businesses, with the MSME loan portfolio representing 17.3 per cent of the bank's portfolio, with 249,319 customers benefiting from tailored packages and 68,800 from training.

This is made easier due to a national network of 619 FOSA outlets that continues extending financial services to remote areas and supporting the 15 million-member co-operative movement.

THE DATA

SH811.9BN

Value of the Group's total assets as of June

The Group's subsidiaries posted impressive results during the period, with Co-op Trust Investment Services Ltd delivering a gross profit of Sh360.8 million, an increase of 152.8 per cent, with funds under management hitting Sh461.7 billion, one of the largest fund managers in the country.Co-op Bancassurance Intermediary earned a gross profit of Sh90.8 million while the bank's unit in South Sudan posted a restated profit of Sh56.9 million after accounting for hyperinflation.

Kingdom Bank generated a gross profit of Sh491.1 million while Kingdom Securities earned a total profit of Sh63.2 million.

Co-operative Bank Group managing director and CEO, Gideon Muriuki, told investors that the bank remains steadfast in advancing its strategic priorities, firmly grounded in resilience and growth across diverse economic sectors.

"We take pride in a universal banking model that balances comprehensive service offerings with operational agility. A robust digital presence that ensures seamless accessibility, supported by an industry-leading omni-channel platform." Muriuki said.

He added that the lender has an extensive physical footprint comprising a countrywide branch network, ATMs and agency outlets, fortifying reach across all regions of the country.

The Group's branch network expanded to 212 outlets, with 15 new branches opened across Kenya.

RECOMMENDATION

Apply telematics to cut rising road accidents – PS Mbugua

Roads PS Joseph Mbugua speaks during the Telematics Summit in Nairobi /HANDOUT

VICTOR AMADALA

TELEMATICS, a technology that combines GPS and onboard diagnostics, can significantly reduce the rising number of road accidents in the country.

Joseph Mbugua, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Roads, said this in Nairobi on Wednesday during the Telematics Summit, adding that the technology can effectively monitor drivers' behavior and provide real-time feedback for actions.

"This technology can detect and alert drivers to risky behaviors like speeding, harsh braking, and distracted driving, promoting safer driving practices," he said.

"Furthermore, telematics data can be used to identify areas where drivers need additional training and coaching, leading to a more proactive approach to safety management."Mbugua's comment is coming just days after Roads and Transport cabinet secretary Davis Chirchir revealed that the country has recorded 2,933 road fatalities so far this year, with 80 deaths reported in just the past four days.

Chirchir said the government launched nationwide safety audits and inspections at accident-prone road segments to identify hazards, reconstruct crash scenes, and propose technical recommendations within seven days.

He added that legislative reforms are at an advanced stage to strengthen road safety laws on school transport, commercial vehicle operations, drink driving, vehicle inspections, roadside stations, and a review of the Traffic Act.

Apart from addressing the road accident menace in the country, Mbugua noted that the adoption of telematics has transformed reactive systems into predictive ones, ushering in an era of intelligent transport, smart cities, and mobility solutions where safety, sustainability, and strategy can coexist.

He described telematics as the "nervous system" of modern infrastructure, a technology that powers autonomous vehicles, enables remote diagnostics, and supports swift emergency responses.

"Telematics will enable the ministry to collect vital data for road planning and design, enhance road safety, improve asset and resource management, and strengthen resource mobilization efforts."

Organized by Teltonika, the summit brought together tens of Telematics experts from across the world.

Elvis Makaya, director, Teltonika Kenya, told the Star that they are helping address challenges in the transport and logistics sector, including route optimisation, fuel consumption, and real-time tracking of goods.

THE DATA

129.23

Indicative value of shilling to the dollar

The shilling was stable during the week with foreign exchange inflows from aid agencies and remittances offsetting importer demand

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.2398
STG POUND	175.4495
EURO	151.2558
SA RAND	7.3732
KES / USHS	27.5225
KES / TSHS	20.1563
CHINESE YUAN	18.0207
JPY (100)	88.2303
AE DIRHAM	35.1869
IND RUPEE	1.4782

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
CAR&GENERAL	29.00	9.85
EVEREADY	1.48	9.63
HF GROUP	9.58	8.37
PORTLAND CEMENT	53.75	6.97
KCB	52.75	6.89

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
NATION MEDIA	12.70	7.30
EXPRESS KENYA	4.13	6.56
UCHUMI	0.30	3.23
EAAGADS	14.15	3.08
NAIROBI BV	1.72	2.82

Harvard Business Review

TIP OF THE DAY

5 MORE PRACTICAL WAYS TO IMPROVE HAPPINESS

Yesterday we listed five research-backed strategies that can lead to a happier life—even for busy professionals. Here are five more:

Act nicely. Agreeableness is consistently found to be highly and positively correlated with happiness, and it can be increased relatively easily.

Be generous. Behaving altruistically toward others rewards the brain with happiness-enhancing boosts of dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin.

Check your health. Of all health issues, those that create the greatest unhappiness are typically chronic pain and anxiety. Don't neglect your visits to the doctor and the dentist, and seek mental-health assistance if your emotions are interfering with your work, relationships, or social activities.

Experience nature. Studies have shown that, compared with urban walking, walking in a woodland setting more dramatically lowers stress, increases positive mood, and enhances working memory.

Socialize with colleagues outside of work. Data has shown that work friendships increase employee engagement, which is associated with both happiness and productivity for workers. Take time to build bonds with the people you work with.

CONCERN

Protectionism hurting intra-EAC trade, investments – experts

MARTIN MWITA

PRIVATE sector players from the East African Community have called for political goodwill and public-private partnership to address both non-tariff and tariff barriers hurting trade and investment in the region.

This is on the back of market protectionism by some member states amid tax rules that are seen to lock out some commodities from neighbouring countries.

Led by the East African Business Council (EABC), the region's private sector wants member states to fully embrace the Common Market Protocol which guarantees free movement of goods, labour, services and capital across EAC partner states—a key pillar of regional cooperation.

"The issue of protectionism has been one of the challenges of our regional integration, but it is an issue which actually needs a political will. If you have decided to integrate, you must accept also to cede some of your sovereignty to the regional integration commitment or aspirations," EABC acting executive director, Adrian Njau, said.

He spoke in Nairobi yesterday during an EABC CEOs-EAC consultative meeting which also saw the announcement of the East African Business and Investment Summit, and Expo 2025 , set for Nairobi between October 16–17.

The summit is themed "promoting private sector driven regional integration for increased intra-and extra-EAC trade and investment.

Kenya Private Sector Alliance (Kepsa) chairperson who is also the EABC vice chair, Jas Bedi, noted that despite the EAC renewing its integration 25 years ago, intra-EAC trade still remains low at less than 15 per cent. For the region to hit its 40 per cent target, member states must work as a team, he noted.

"With the new world trader order, we need to move fast and change how we are trading," Bedi said.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for EAC Beatrice Askul affirmed the Kenyan government's commitment to regional integration, which will drive trade, movement of people, investment and wealth creation for the people."Kenya is fully aligned with the borderless vision," Askul said.In 2024, the intra-EAC trade expanded by 9.35 per cent to $15.2 billion (Sh1. 9 trillion) while the EAC's total trade with the rest of the world increased by 14.17 per cent to $124.9 billion (Sh 16.1 trillion).

East African Business Council acting executive director Adrian Njau /FILE

The statistics shows that the share of intra-EAC trade to total trade for 2024 was 10.8 per cent while the share of trade with rest of the world to total trade was 89.2 per cent.

"The low share of intra-EAC trade underscores the urgent need for a stronger private sector that can champion a collective and evidence-based advocacy agenda. By driving the full implementation of the agreed EAC commitments, we can work towards achieving the ambitious target of increasing the share of intra-EAC trade to 40 per cent of total trade by 2030," Njau said.

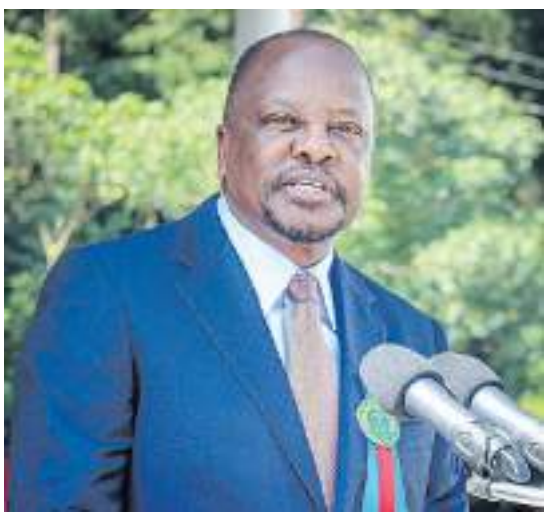
Kenya Association of Manufacturers CEO Tobias Alando called on member states to address distortion of Common External Tariffs, address non-tariff and technical barriers to trade and curb counterfeits.

Shippers Council of Eastern Africa CEO Agayo Ogambi said: "For EAC to improve intra- regional trade, they must respect the agreement provisions, devoid of NTBs, improve logistics and transport costs. Improve port efficiencies and border crossings."

CAUTION

State warns of rice shortage amid legal battle over imports

Rice consumption per capita in 2025 is expected to reach 29 kilogrammes



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe /HANDOUT

JACKTONE LAWI
@jacktonelawi

KENYA is staring at a possible spike in food prices and an acute rice shortage if the courts uphold a petition seeking to block the importation of 500,000 metric tonnes of duty-free rice, the Ministry of Agriculture has warned.

According to an affidavit by Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, Kenya's annual demand for rice stands at about 1.3 million metric tonnes against a domestic production of just 20 per cent.

This leaves a deficit of more than 80 per cent, roughly one million metric tonnes, that is bridged mainly through imports.

Kagwe is now warning that the current retail price of grade one milled white rice has already surged to between Sh190 and Sh220 per kilogramme, a steep rise from last year's duty-free period average of Sh150 per kilogramme.

If duty-free imports are blocked, he said, prices are likely to soar further, deepening the cost-of-living crisis.

His latest stance comes even as the Kerugoya Court is set to give directions today, (August 15 at 2.30pm), on whether to lift conservatory orders obtained by the Farmers Party challenging the Cabinet's decision.

"Projections show that Kenya has a national requirement of about 1.5 million metric tonnes of rice for the year, or roughly 125,000 metric tonnes per month. The country will need about 625,000 metric tonnes between July and December 2025 alone," said CS Kagwe.

Rice consumption per capita in 2025 is expected to reach 29 kilogrammes, with the population estimated at 54.79 million.

The affidavit further reveals that the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) has signed contracts with the Mwea Rice Growers Co-operative to mop up local stocks for onward distribution to government institutions.

However, the ministry argues that available stocks from farmers currently stand at only 20,000–50kg bags, against a projected demand of more than 350,000 bags for key government institutions.

Schools feeding programmes under the ministry of education top the local demand for rice with 130,000 bags, it is followed by special programmes requiring 90,000 bags and state department for correctional services 60,000 bags.

The Kenya Defence Forces will require 40,000 bags, while other agencies such as the Administration Police, General Service Unit, National Youth Service and Kenya Police Service also have substantial rice needs.

"The importation is necessary to stabilise prices and avert a potential food crisis," said Kagwe. "The balance has traditionally been bridged through imports. However, recent global supply disruptions and price shocks have hindered access, disproportionately affecting low-income households."

Kagwe is insisting that the move will not harm Kenyan farmers but will instead stabilise prices and cushion households from soaring food costs.

The ministry holds that since 2020, it has entered into binding framework agreements with rice farmers and cooperatives in Mwea, Kano Plains, Ahero, Lower Kuja, Bunyala and Bura to secure markets for their produce.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

A 2020 presidential directive designated the Kenya National Trading Corporation as the lead agency to mop up excess locally produced rice for supply to government institutions, a policy that has since paid Mwea farmers Sh2.6 billion for 18,500 tonnes of pishori rice and another Sh948 million to Sindano rice farmers for 7,900 tonnes.

SHIFT

Kenya to use AI in TVETs exam setting, marking

JACKTONE LAWI

THE government is planning to change how examination is produced and assessed in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

In the planned overhaul, the State will use Artificial Intelligence (AI), in what the ministry now says will enhance efficiency, credibility and alignment with industry needs.

Speaking during the launch of a Huawei-sponsored ICT skills competition, the Principal Secretary for TVET, Esther Muoria, announced that AI examination centres are already being established across the country.

The centres will enable the Kenya School of TVET to generate exams, marking schemes and results in a single day using AI technology.

"We feed our occupational standards and curricula into the system and AI crafts the examinations and marking schemes, then produces results immediately. This will significantly modernise our assessment processes," said PS Muoria.

She added that the initiative forms part of a broader government push to integrate technology into skills training and testing, while also bridging the gap between graduate competencies and market demands—particularly in emerging fields such as AI.

According to the PS, 150 TVET institutions are being equipped as AI centres of excellence under a partnership with Huawei. Trainers have already undergone AI instruction at the Kenya School of TVET, with the knowledge cascaded to institutions across the country.

She added that the overhaul is not just about faster assessment, but also about improving the quality of skills among trainees.

"From preparing for competitions to participating at regional and international levels, our young people are skilling and upskilling. The same drive will apply in how we assess them," she noted.Muoria also revealed that the government is working to increase TVET participation in national and global ICT competitions, which have historically been dominated by university students.

The head of Huawei Kenya's ICT Academy, Michael Kamau, said the 2025-2026 edition of its annual ICT competition, marks the 10th year of the programme globally and in Kenya.

The contest targets university and TVET students, aiming to equipe them with practical skills in information and communications technology.

This year's competition seeks 12,000 applications from across the country, the largest participation target since its inception.

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PARLIAMENT

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TENDER NOTICE

The Kenya National Assembly invites applications from interested and eligible bidders for the registration of suppliers, consultants and contractors for use on 'as and when required basis' in the **Financial Years 2025/2026 and 2026/2027** in the following listed categories:-

NO.		ITEM DESCRIPTION OF GOODS, WORKS, CONSULTANCY AND SERVICES	ELIGIBILITY/ RESERVED
		CATEGORY A: REGISTRATION FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GOODS	
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2)	A2	Supply and Delivery of Computer, Printer and Photocopier Consumables, related accessories and supplies.	Open to all
3)	A3	Supply and Delivery of Computers, Laptops, Printers, Tablets related ICT Equipment and Accessories	Open to all
4)	A4	Design, Supply and Delivery of Branded Promotional Materials:T-shirts, Caps, Carrier Bags, Umbrella, Banners, Gifts, Branded services etc.	Youth, Women & PWDs
5)	A5	Supply and Delivery of General Office Furniture and Fittings	Youth, Women & PWDs
6)	A6	Supply and Delivery of General Office Equipment	Youth, Women & PWDs
7)	A7	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Computer Software including Software Development, Customization and Support Services	Open to all
8)	A8	Supply and Delivery of Audio Equipment, Public Address System and Related Equipment such as Microphones, Recorders, Control Units etc.	Open to all
9)	A9	Supply and fitting of Motor Vehicle Spare Tyres, Tubes/Airbridge Tyres, Batteries, Tyre Repairs, Wheel Alignment and Balancing	Open to all
10)	A10	Supply and Delivery of Ceremonial/Corporate Uniforms, Outfits, Footwear, etc.	Open to all
11)	A11	Supply and Delivery of Sports Uniforms, Footwear, Clothing, Linen, Equipment and Accessories	Open to all
12)	A12	Supply and Delivery of General Broadcast Materials	Open to all
13)	A13	Supply and Delivery of Electrical Items and its related Accessories including provision of fittings	Open to all
14)	A14	Supply and Delivery of hardware/building materials and related equipment including fittings	Open to all
15)	A15	Supply and Delivery Sanitary, Cleaning Materials and Detergents	Youth, Women & PWDs
16)	A16	Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commission of Security Equipment	Open to all
17)	A17	Supply delivery and Installation of firefighting equipment's	Open to all
18)	A18	Supply delivery and installation of air conditioning and refrigeration equipment's	Open to all
19	A19	Supply and delivery of calling cards	Open to all
		CATEGORY B: PROVISION OF SERVICES/WORKS/CONSULTANCY	
20)	B1	Provision of Travel and Air Ticketing Agency Services (IATA Registered Firms Only)	Open to all
21)	B2	Provision of Office Refurbishment and Furnishings e.g., Curtains and Carpet, Vertical Blinds, Sheers, Window Films, etc.	Open to all
22)	B3	Provision of vehicle transport, Car Hire and Taxi Services (Please state your geographical locations preferably Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Nyeri, Kakamega, Lamu, Lodwar, Malindi etc.	Open to all
23)	B4	Provision of Charter Plane and Chopper Services	Open to all
24)	B5	Provision of Photography and Video Coverage Services	Open to all
25)	B6	Provision of Creative Design and Printing Services i.e., Brochures, Flyers, Banners, Flexes etc.	Youth, Women & PWDs
26)	B7	Provision of Asset Marking/Tracking of Asset System	Open to all
27)	B8	Provision of Repair and Maintenance of Audio-Visual Equipment, Public Address Equipment, Amplifiers, Microphones, Column Speakers, Electric Bells, Recorders and Related Services	Open to all
28)	B9	Provision of minor Works, Office and building repairs including partitioning, minor renovations, routine maintenance works, paint works, installations of minor Equipment, Plant and Machinery, etc. (Must be Registered with National Construction Authority-NCA)	Open to all
29)	B10	Provision of Repair and Maintenance of Plumbing and Sewerage System Services (Must be Registered with National Construction Authority-NCA)	Open to all
30)	B11	Provision of Repair and Maintenance and Servicing of Generators (Must Provide Dealership/Manufacturer's Authorization Letters)	Open to all
31)	B12	Provision of Legal Services -constitutional experts, sectoral laws, conveyancing, policy experts and other legal related matters.	Open to all
32)	B13	Events Management (Hire of Tents and Chairs, Draping and Decorations)	Open to all
33)	B14	Hire of Audio Equipment, Public Address System and Related Equipment	Open to all
32)	B15	Provision of Consultancy Services in the following key Areas (Please clearly specify the area of expertise): Management with more emphasis on change and risk Management. Organizational Development Training (to work closely with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies & Training (CPST) Systems Automation, Procurement consultancy/agency	Open to all
33)	B16	Provision of mover's relocation services	Open to all
34)	B17	Provision of editorial services	Open to all
35)	B18	Provision of courier services	Open to all
36)	B19	Provision of management Consultancy services: Human Resources, ICT, Audit, Legal, Tax Accountancy, Occupational Health and Safety Services e.t.c	Open to all
37)	B20	Provision of software Licences, Operating systems, Utility software and database.	Open to all
38)	B21	Provision of Auctioneering Services	Open to all
39)	B22	Provision of air conditioning and refrigeration services and other catering equipment	Open to all
40)	B23	Provision of maintenance services for firefighting equipment's	Open to all
41)	B24	Provision of maintenance services for hardware and Software	Open to all
42)	B25	Provision of Parliamentary Budget technical professional and related services	Open to all
43)	B26	Provision of technical professional services in graphic designs and illustrations covering key publications, books, magazines, programmes including online and digital items/output that is critical and useful to effective performance of key technical arms and the Legislature	Open to all
44)	B27	Provision of website design and comprehensive content management that includes digital content, and ensure effective usability and application across various media	Open to all
45)	B28	Provision of Hotel Accommodation and Conference Facility Services (Please State your Geographical Locations preferably Three (3) star rated hotels and above in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Nyeri, Kakamega, Lamu, Lodwar, Malindi etc. • Hotels in other towns to apply and be considered based on provision of quality standards.	Open to all
46)	B29	Provision of interpretation services	Open to all
47)	B30	Provision of advertising services	Open to all
		CATEGORY C: PROVISION OF SPECIALIZED SERVICES	
51)	C1	Provision of Cleaning Services	Youth, Women & PWDs
52)	C2	Provision of Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Services	Youth, Women & PWDs
53)	C3	Provision of Fumigation & Pest Control Services	Open to all
54)	C4	Provision of Landscaping and Gardening Services	Open to all
55)	C5	Supply and maintenance of Fresh Flowers	Youth, Women & PWDs
		CATEGORY D: PROVISION OF CATERING GOODS	
56)	**D1**	Supply and delivery of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Youth, Women & PWDs
	Lot 1	Supply and delivery of Fresh Fruits	
	Lot 2	Supply and delivery of Vegetables	
57)	**D2**	Supply and delivery of Animal and Animal Products	Open to all
	Lot 1	Supply and delivery of Poultry and Poultry Products	
	Lot 2	Supply and delivery of Sea Food Products	
	Lot 3	Supply and delivery of Poultry and Poultry Products	
58)	**D3**	Supply and delivery of Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	Open to all
	Lot 1	Supply and delivery of Alcoholic beverages	
	Lot 2	Supply and delivery of soft drinks	
	Lot 3	Supply and delivery of Bottled Water	
	Lot 4	Supply and delivery of milk and milk products	
60)	**D4**	Supply and delivery of Fresh Fruit Juices	Open to all
61)	**D5**	Supply and delivery of Dry Food stuff	Youth, Women & PWDs
62)	**D6**	Supply and delivery of Catering Operating Equipment such as:- • Silverware (Cutlery) such as Forks, Knives, Spoons etc. • Crockery such as Cups, Plates, Bowls, Flasks etc. • Glassware such as Glasses, Mugs, Jugs etc. • General Kitchen Equipment such as Cooking Pots, Oven, Fridges, Fryers, Coffee Machine, Dough Mixer etc.	Open to all
63)	**D7**	Supply and delivery of Catering Cleaning Materials such as Oven Cleanser, Max Bleach, Dish Washing, Super Degreaser etc.	
64)	**D8**	Supply and delivery of Catering Hygienic Products such as Rapid Test Kit for Testing Food, Probe Thermometer, Sanitizers, PPE Equipment etc.	Youth, Women & PWDs

Interested eligible candidates may download the tender document free of charge from the Commission website; www.parliament.go.ke or from the Public Procurement Information portal, www.tenders.go.ke, free of charge.

Completed tender documents enclosed in **sealed plain envelopes**, marked with the **Category Number** and **Category Name** should be deposited in the Tender Box at 13th Floor, Protection House, Nairobi and be addressed to:-

The Clerk of the National Assembly,
Parliament of Kenya,
P.O. Box 41842-00100 NAIROBI

Registration document that will have been received by 29th August, 2025 at 11a.m will be opened at 11:10 am in the presence of the tenderers who choose to attend or their representatives at Protection House, 13th floor at the Junction of Parliament Road and Haile Selassie Avenue, Nairobi. However, the registration document shall be retained and remain accessible in the website up to 2027, for any other Supplier interested in applying. The National Assembly shall be evaluating such bids and update the Suppliers register after every six (6) months as required by law.

NB:All Suppliers/Contractors/Consultants to provide their E-GP registration number.

CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

"For the Welfare of Society and the just Government of the People"

DEVOTED TO WORSHIP

Hindu community immerses in sacred month of Shravan

Worshippers in Nairobi gather daily for nine-day spiritual discourse by Tyagvastal Swami

BOSCO MARITA
@TheStarKenya

Pujya Tyagvastal Swami with devotees on August 10, at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir, Nairobi /MOSES MWANGI

Pujya Tyagvastal Swami performs a religious tradition /MOSES MWANGI

THE BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Nairobi has been a hive of devotion this August as hundreds of worshippers gather daily for a rare nine-day spiritual discourse by Pujya Tyagvastal Swami.

Swami is a revered scholar of Sanatan Vedic scriptures whose teachings bridge centuries-old wisdom with the realities of modern life.

The series, which began on August 9, 2025, dives deep into the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran, one of Hinduism's most treasured texts.

Its timing is no coincidence — it unfolds during Shravan, the holiest month in the Hindu calendar, a season devoted almost entirely to the worship of Lord Shiva, the destroyer of evil and cosmic transformer.

"Shravan is not just a month for rituals," says devotee Vrunda Patel. "It's a time to slow down, look inward and deepen our connection with God. Swamiji's teachings are showing us how these traditions can live in our daily lives here in Nairobi."

In Hindu mythology, Shravan is intertwined with the legendary Samudra Manthan — the churning of the cosmic ocean. When both gods (Devas) and demons (Asuras) joined forces in search of amrit, the nectar of immortality, they instead unleashed the deadly poison Halahal.

To save creation, Lord Shiva drank the venom, holding it in his throat. It turned his skin a striking blue, earning him the name Neelkanth ("blue-throated one").

The gods soothed him with holy water — an act remembered today when devotees offer water, milk and cooling herbs to Shiva during Shravan.

"This is more than ritual," Patel explains. "It's a meditation on selflessness and courage."

Across the world, Mondays in Shravan (Shravan Somvar) are considered especially blessed. Many fast, adopt plant-based diets, spend the day in prayer, and engage in charity.

At the Nairobi Mandir, devotees also gather for Swamiji's daily discourses, where he weaves philosophical insight with practical life lessons from the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran, a cornerstone text in Vaishnavism — the tradition devoted to Lord Vishnu and his incarnations like Krishna.

"He doesn't just tell us what the verses mean," Patel says. "He tells us how to live them."

This year's Shravan holds extra joy — it marks the Mandir's 26th anniversary. Over the years, it has grown into more than a prayer space — it is a hub for cultural preservation, charity initiatives and interfaith dialogue in Kenya.

The month also coincides with India's monsoon season, traditionally a time for lighter, plant-based meals that are in harmony with seasonal produce — a connection between faith and nature that many devotees say is one of Hinduism's most beautiful aspects.

While Shravan is rooted in Hindu tradition, its lessons — self-discipline, compassion, renewal and gratitude — speak across faiths. Acts of fasting, reflection and service transcend religion, offering a path to mindful living in an increasingly hectic world.

"The rains renew the earth," Patel reflects. "Shravan renews the heart."

In the heart of Nairobi, ancient mantras rise alongside the hum of city life, reminding devotees and onlookers alike that spiritual traditions can remain vibrant, relevant and deeply human — even in the modern age.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Nairobi BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir's Shravan celebrations blend deep-rooted tradition with contemporary community life. Centered on Pujya Tyagvastal Swami's discourses on the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran, the event draws spiritual meaning from Lord Shiva's selflessness in Hindu mythology. Rituals like fasting, plant-based diets, and offerings foster discipline, compassion, and harmony with nature.

MURDER CASE

Body of missing Machakos man found in shallow grave

CYRUS OMBATI

A 60-year-old man who had been missing was found buried in a shallow grave after his murder in Manaja village, Masinga, Machakos county.

Police said Johana Munyao had been missing since August 7 until August 12, when his decomposed body was found buried in a shallow grave where he used to make bricks for commercial purposes.

The motive of the murder is yet to be established, police who visited the scene said.

The man's right hand had been eaten by dogs after they dug into the shallow grave within his compound, police said.

Munyao's relatives said they were concerned he was missing and started searching for him in the compound where he lived alone.

The search led them to a freshly dug place which had a bad smell and partially eaten up hand. It was then that police were called to the scene and found the decomposing body. The body was taken to the mortuary pending postmortem and other investigations, police said.

Elsewhere in Kobarak, Nandi county, Philip Muchera, 57, was found dead after suspected murder.

His body was found lying besides a stream about 600 metres from his homestead, police said.

He had a fractured left leg and bruises on the head.

Police said they are investigating murder but they are yet to establish the motive or those behind the same.

The body was taken to the local mortuary.

Murder cases have been on the rise in the country amid efforts to solve them. The police have established a homicide unit with plans to devolve its operations to address the trend.

Some of the cases are lying in courts while others remain unsolved, police say. Most of the cases are linked to robberies and land disputes, statistics show.

Gachagi village in Maragua, Murang'a county, where the squatters live /ALICE WAITHERA

ILLEGAL OCCUPATION?

Kakuzi seeks orders to evict squatters from disputed land

Feud between company and occupiers dates back more than a decade

ALICE WAITHERA
@Alicewangechi

KAKUZI PLC has moved to the Environment and Land Court in Murang'a seeking orders to bar a group of squatters from occupying part of its land.

In an application filed on July 28, the company is asking the court to direct the squatters, their agents or representatives, to vacate parcel LR 11674—one of two pieces of land at the centre of an ongoing case—pending the determination of the matter.

The application, filed through Kaplan & Stratton Advocates, lists 24 individuals, surveyor Clement Kariuki and the Inspector General of Police as defendants.

The company also wants officers from Makuyu Police Station compelled to evict the group and remove any structures erected on the land.

Kakuzi, through advocate Esther Opiyo, told Justice Maxwell Gacheru that on July 24, Maragua MP Mary Waithera led a protest to its head office, demanding that the company allocate land to 25 families. On the same day, the company alleges, Kariuki—accompanied by some of the defendants—entered the property without permission to carry out a survey, cleared bushes and burnt grass.

The company further claims that on July 25 and 27, the group put up 11 structures and moved household items onto the land.

The alleged occupation has restricted the company's access to its property and reports of trespass and damage had been lodged at Makuyu Police Station.

However, the company claims police have been unable to stop the occupation.

"The invasion of the property is ongoing. Unless the defendants are restrained, there is an imminent threat of irreparable harm through deprivation of the use of the property," Opiyo argued.

She further said failure to grant injunctive orders would undermine the constitutional guarantee of property rights.

The dispute between Kakuzi and the 25 households dates back more than a decade. The squatters cite a memorandum of understanding signed in 2010, in which the company acknowledged that 35 families had been living on its property for years and pledged to subdivide 10 acres into half-acre plots for each family.

A revised MoU in 2017 indicated that only 10 families had benefited from the initial arrangement.

Kakuzi insists the current occupation is unrelated to the parcels covered by the MoU, warning that this could disrupt operations, cause losses and affect jobs.

The court was expected to hear the application yesterday.

The residents, led by their association chairperson Michael Mburi, accuse Kakuzi of delaying their resettlement, saying they have been shown parcels earmarked for relocation but have yet to be moved.

During the July 24 protest, the group vowed to hold regular demonstrations until the company meets its pledge.

Mburi said families have lived in cramped conditions for decades, sharing basic facilities and lacking space for farming.

He claims that while some former employees were resettled in other villages with larger parcels, the 35 families at Gachagi were left waiting for alternative land—a promise that has yet to be fulfilled.

Maragua MP Mary Waithera with Gachagi and Makuyu residents during a protest outside Kakuzi company offices on July 24 /ALICE WAITHERA

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The company has asked the court to order the squatters, their agents or representatives to forthwith vacate parcel LR 11674, one of the two parcels subject to the court case, pending the hearing of the application. According to the resident's association chairperson Michael Mburi, the families that have been living in a cramped space, despite being shown parcels earmarked for their relocation.

DEADLY FACE-OFF

Suspect killed in clash with police at Del Monte Farm, security car torched

CYRUS OMBATI

One person has died after a confrontation between police and suspected intruders at Del Monte Farm in Murang'a county.

According to authorities, a large group entered the farm on Tuesday, prompting security personnel and police to intervene.

During the incident, a security vehicle was set on fire. Police said the situation escalated when the crowd allegedly attacked officers with stones and machetes. Law enforcement then responded. In the melee, Harison Marubu, 34, was fatally injured.

It is reported that the victim was among those involved in torching the vehicle.

The body was moved to the mortuary pending postmortem, amid further investigations.

'BACKWARD BELIEFS'

Meru officials, locals clash over county plan to build morgue

ALICE WAITHERA

Some residents in Muthara, Meru county, are uneasy with the government's plan to build a mortuary, claiming the facility will "attract more deaths".

Finance executive Monica Kathono said the project at Muthara Subcounty Hospital is meant to bring essential services closer to residents.

"Lack of a mortuary here forces grieving families to travel long distances to preserve their loved ones' bodies. This facility is to help people, not frighten them," Kathono said.

Terming the death claims "pure propaganda", the CEC added that the project would ease congestion at Miathene Subcounty Hospital—currently the only morgue serving the Tigania region.

Meru finance CEC Monica Kathono on Wednesday /ALICE WAITHERA

SUPREMACY WAR

ODM guns, Nyali MP Ali clash over Mombasa development

Mining CS Joho gathers coastal city bigwigs, sparking sharp reaction from UDA legislator

Mombasa ODM leaders during a meeting with Mining CS Hassan Joho on Monday /BRIAN OTIENO

Nyali MP Mohammed Ali /BRIAN OTIENO

BRIAN OTIENO
@Yobramos4

A political fight has erupted between Mombasa ODM leaders and Nyali MP Mohammed Ali, following sharp exchanges over development in the county.

Ali, a member of the ruling UDA party, took to social media on Tuesday to criticise elected ODM MPs in Mombasa, accusing them of failing to deliver tangible benefits to residents.

He was reacting to a meeting hosted on Monday by Mining Cabinet Secretary Hassan Joho that brought together several Mombasa leaders.

Ali claimed the meeting was a public relations exercise, saying such gatherings have not translated into real change for the county.

He further argued that residents had waited years for solutions to persistent challenges such as water shortages, poor infrastructure, waste management, and youth unemployment.

"Instead of addressing these issues, leaders continue to hold meetings, issue promises, and offer handouts," he posted.

The Monday meeting at Joho's office was attended by Governor Abdulswamad Nassir, Mombasa Woman Representative Zamzam Mohamed, Mvita MP Mohamed Machele, Likoni MP Mishi Mboko, Kisauni MP Rashid Bedzimba, and Changamwe MP Omar Mwinyi. Jomvu MP Badi Twalib sent his apologies, while Ali said he was not invited.

Zamzam said the discussions focused on peace building amid heightened political tensions and exploring investment opportunities for Mombasa.

East African Legislative Assembly MP Suleiman Shahbal said leaders shared ideas on attracting development to the county.

"It was a healthy discussion. While the national government's support is important, local leaders must also drive their own agenda to attract investment," Shahbal said.

Joho, who served as Mombasa governor for 10 years, was lauded by some leaders for projects such as upgrading the Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital, introducing a bursary scheme, and expanding Early Childhood Development Centres.

However, Ali questioned the impact of Joho's tenure, saying key challenges remained unresolved. He also claimed he has often been excluded from county leadership forums, an assertion ODM leaders dismissed.

Speaking in Shanzu on Wednesday, Zamzam denied any exclusion based on ethnicity or political affiliation, saying Mombasa's leadership is multi-ethnic and inclusive.

"I am multi-cultural myself, and Mombasa voters have never discriminated against leaders based on their roots," she said.

She accused Ali of seeking political mileage ahead of the 2027 General Election, where he is widely speculated to be eyeing the governor's seat—though he has not made an official declaration.

Zamzam also defended her community empowerment drives, which Ali has described as handouts, insisting they are aimed at improving livelihoods.

"I will continue supporting residents financially and economically, and I will not be deterred," she said.

Ali, first elected in 2017, has often operated independently from other county leaders, rarely appearing in joint functions with fellow MPs or MCAs, but maintaining a vocal stance on governance issues.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Nyali MP has been a lone ranger since his election in 2017. He has always not been seen with any MCA or MP during his functions in Nyali, opting to silently work for his people. However, he has been vocal against other leaders, especially the top county leadership. Ali claims political gatherings have not translated into real change for the county. Hesays residents had waited years for solutions to persistent challenges like water shortages.

ONE TERM

Activists fight for KPA boss Ruto, urge President to renew mandate

BRIAN OTIENO

MORE activists are coming out to defend the Mombasa port performance spearheaded by managing director Captain William Ruto.

The activists on Thursday said Kenyans must rally behind the port leadership amid stiff competition from neighbouring ports, which threaten to take away business from Mombasa and Lamu.

Kaya elder Bege Abdalla, a member of the Mijikenda community, lauded President William Ruto for returning port services to Mombasa as his first act as the President and bringing a hardworking man in Captain William Ruto to lead the Kenya Ports Authority.

He said although the port was led by members of the Mijikenda community for at least three terms, no one comes close to Captain Ruto in terms of service and performance.

"Instead, we saw our own people neglecting us. They did not want anything to do with us," Abdalla said. He called on President Ruto to disregard the noise surrounding Captain Ruto and extend his term instead because of his record-breaking performances.

"They are making a lot of noise because he has sealed loopholes they used to siphon billions of shillings out of the port," Abdalla said.

Captain Ruto's term ends early next year and there have been calls for his term to be extended for another three years.

The Kenya Ports Authority managing director position is a contract of three years, renewable once.

"They want Captain Ruto out because there are corrupt people who are no longer benefitting from the port. The captain has sealed all the loopholes they used," Abdalla said.

Juma Mwanzuga, another member of the Mijkenda Kaya elders, said Captain Ruto has demolished the tribal cocoons that had taken over the Mombasa port.

He said persons with disability, women and youth are now getting tenders at the port without having to bend over backwards.

"They now have equal chances of getting tenders unlike before," he said.

The activists said there was a group of tycoons who had joined hands to sponsor a smear campaign against the KPA boss, whom they want out of their way.

"They were used to going to the port every evening to collect envelops. That is no longer there and they are now angry with Captain Ruto," Mwanzuga said.

Political activist Mildred Odinga said some tycoons are unhappy with Captain Ruto because he has dismantled the machine that used to control the holder of the KPA top seat. Odinga said most of the former MDs were controlled like puppets but Captain Ruto has refused to be misused.

"Now the puppeteers are working hard to have him removed," Odinga said.

The political activist said it was curious that there have been no protests from KPA workers, businessmen or residents against Captain Ruto.

Activists at Uhuru Gardens in Mombasa defend KPA managing director Captain Ruto on Thursday /BRIAN OTIENO

"Why is it that we only see reports against the captain in only a section of the media? If the captain was not working or performing, Mombasa would be crying right now," she said.

The smear campaign against Captain Ruto, she said, was detrimental to his family who suffer emotionally whenever they see their father and husband maligned.

"As a woman, I am happy that women's groups are increasingly getting tenders that they previously could not," she said.

Michael Nato, a youth activist, said the performance of the Mombasa and Lamu ports had significantly improved since Captain Ruto took over.

"He has expanded the bracket of suppliers, meaning there are more suppliers and more people are getting a share of the pie."

CRY FOR JUSTICE

Eldoret grannies threaten to strip over grabbed land

Say alleged grabbers encroached on their land, dismissing them as illiterate, powerless

MATHEWS NADNYI
@TheStarKenya

A group of elderly women, some more than 85 years old, stormed the lands office in Eldoret on Wednesday to protest grabbing of prime land in Naiberi trading centre, Uasin Gishu county.

They threatened to strip naked if their grievances are not heard.

The members of the Losirwa Women Co-operative Society claimed the three plots, valued at about Sh20 million are theirs.

They said they inherited the plots in 1989 from their deceased husbands, who were shareholders in Naiberi Farm Ltd.

During the protest, they displayed a title deed registered as Kaptagat/Kaptagat Block 1 (Losirwa) 137, issued in September 2018, naming three trustees on behalf of the group.

Chairperson Elizabeth Sang said the alleged land grabber encroached on their property, dismissing the elderly women as "illiterate and powerless". Matters escalated after Ministry of Lands surveyors allegedly erected new beacons, ignoring the originals.

The group went to court to block the survey but were later shocked to learn the case had been heard virtually, without their participation and ruled against them.

"We are widows; this land is our livelihood," said 83-year-old Veronica Koros. "If they think they can take it because we're old, we'll camp there naked until it's returned."

Another member, Trufena Sammy, accused lands officials of colluding with grabbers.

Frustrated after waiting for more than two hours without meeting a senior official, the women vowed to return — and escalate their protest.

They now plan to march to President William Ruto's home to seek help. The women have also appealed to Chief Justice Martha Koome to review their case, saying the virtual court process discriminates against the elderly.

Lands Registrar Alice Gesemba said the matter would be handled according to laid-down procedures but declined further comment.

Some of the elderly women outside the lands office in Eldoret /MATHEWS NDANYI

The elderly women /MATHEWS NDANYI

> **VERONICA KOROS**
>
> *If they think they can take it because we're old, we'll camp there naked until it's returned*

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

They accused lands officials of colluding with grabbers and have threatened to o march to President William Ruto's home and have appealed to Chief Justice Martha Koome to review their case, saying the virtual court process discriminates against the elderly.

CONCILIATION MEETINGS

MTRH, doctors in talks to avert looming strike

MATHEWS NDAYI

MOI Teaching and Referral Hospital are in talks with the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union to avert a looming strike.

CEO Dr Phillip Kirwa said most issues raised in the union's strike notice have been resolved.

He thanked doctors for putting their industrial action on hold to allow dialogue.

"We value the work of all employees and have not ignored the doctors' concerns," Kirwa said.

KMPDU North Rift branch secretary Dr Kamonzi Mulei said conciliation meetings are ongoing. "We will give details later, but talks are still progressing," he said.

The union issued a 14-day strike notice on July 23, accusing MTRH of breaching multiple agreements, including failing to implement a return-to-work formula signed in February.

Secretary general Dr Davji Atellah accused the hospital of hostility, poor working conditions and ignoring signed agreements.

Key grievances include lack of comprehensive medical cover, delayed salaries, failure to remit statutory deductions, continued employment of doctors on contract terms and disobedience of court orders.

MTRH CEO Dr Philip Kirwa outside the hospital /MATHEWS NDANYI

DELAYED SALARIES

Uasu issues seven-day strike notice at Moi University

Uasu Moi University chapter chairperson Ojuki Nyabuta after a meeting in Eldoret /MATHEWS NDANYI

MATHEWS NDANYI

THE Universities' Academic Staff Union has given Moi University seven days to pay lecturers' June and July salaries or go on strike.

In a notice signed by secretary general Constantine Wasonga, Uasu demands payment as negotiated in the 2021–25 Collective Bargaining Agreement, implementation of the return-to-work formula signed on November 30 last year and adherence to clauses on staff promotions and retirement age.

The union accused the university of violating workers' rights under Article 41 of the constitution, warning that all members will withdraw labour from Wednesday, August 20, until their demands are met.

Acting vice chancellor Kiplagat Kotut held a crisis meeting with union officials after the notice was issued.

The institution, which employs more than 1,000 lecturers, is grappling with severe financial strain and has announced plans to lay off more than 2,000 workers.

Uasu Moi University chapter chairperson Ojuki Nyabuta said efforts to have the university honour signed agreements had failed.

"Delayed salaries frustrate workers and cripple productivity," he said.

Earlier this year, staff unions, including Uasu, Kusu and Kudheia moved to court to block the redundancy plan, a case that is still pending.

Moi University has recently been under a management crisis which has resulted in loss of funds and strikes and frustration among students and parents.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba in January inaugurated the new council for the university, hoping to restore the lost glory of the institution.

The CS said the government took the bold decision to fire the old council that had led to the poor management.

Ogamba said the move will ensure order and normal learning in the university after a long period of instability due to governance and leadership issues that had plunged the institution into despondency.

LITTLE PROGRESS

Vihiga Sh2.5bn granite factory stalls as investor pulls out

Touted as a game-changer, project was expected to reclaim land for farming, create jobs

HILTON OTENYO
@HiltonOtenyo

THE once-promising Sh2.5 billion granite factory in Vihiga county has ground to a halt, leaving residents frustrated.

Touted as a game-changer that would transform the county's rocky terrain into tiles, cement and other lucrative products, the project was expected to reclaim land for farming and create jobs. Instead, the site at Buyangu in Luanda constituency remains largely idle.

The idea was floated before the 2017 elections and officially announced by Governor Wilber Ottichilo in 2018, with completion slated for 2019.

Backed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining, the county provided 10 acres of land while an investor would fund construction and operations.

In July 2024, a contractor was identified and given 12 months to deliver — but little progress has been made.

For residents, the delay has real consequences.

With rocks still littering their farms, many—especially women— resort to backbreaking manual crushing of ballast and selling for as little as Sh200 per wheelbarrow.

Middlemen reap the bigger profits, reselling the same loads for up to Sh14,000.

"Stone crushing is a tough job, but we have no other option," said Phanice Ambeva, a local worker.

Hopes dimmed further when the investor withdrew, reportedly after residents went to court over inadequate involvement and raised concerns about environmental and health risks.

Environmental activists have also questioned the credibility of the project's impact assessment.

County director of communication Frank Matika said public participation was carried out over three years but the community misunderstood the project's funding model.

"They thought outsiders would benefit more and didn't realise the county was only providing land, not funding," he said.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Mining is now seeking another investor. Governor Ottichilo maintains the factory could unlock the county's vast granite potential— experts estimate rocks cover 30 per cent of Vihiga's land—and even source raw materials from Bungoma and Siaya.

For now, the factory remains a promise on paper, and for many residents, another example of big dreams lost in political and bureaucratic rubble.

Women crush stones into gravel and ballast in Gamalenga village /HILTON OTENYO

Vihiga Governor Wilber Ottichilo during a tour of the proposed granite processing plant at Buyangu /HILTON OTENYO

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The stalled Sh2.5 billion granite factory in Vihiga highlights the gap between ambitious political promises and on-ground realities. Conceived as a game-changer to turn rocky terrain into economic opportunity, the project promised jobs, land reclamation and industrial growth. Instead, delays, investor withdrawal, and community mistrust—fueled by environmental concerns and poor understanding of funding—have left residents stuck in back-breaking stone-crushing work for meagre pay.

DROUGHT RESILIENCE

Fast-maturing MH96 cassava a game changer in food security

KNA

A quiet revolution is taking root in the fertile lands of Busia, where MH96 cassava, an improved variety developed by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization in Alupe, is reshaping the agricultural landscape.

The cassava variety is quickly becoming a favourite among farmers and processors. It is a variety known for its drought resilience.

Specifically, the genotype MH96/0686 has demonstrated lower stomatal conductance and improved resistance to drought compared to other varieties like Nyalanda. This makes MH96 a valuable option for cultivation in areas with limited water availability.

A visit to Martha Aroni, a well-known cassava farmer at Apetite village in Teso South, one is welcomed by a green canopy of MH96 cassava variety in her farm which according to her is the best compared to local variety which longer to mature. "This cassava variety is the best and it has no side effects on human beings so it can be used for value addition to make different consumables," Aroni said.

The improved GMO takes between six and 12 months and allows for intercropping. Once uprooted, another plant can be planted at the same place and does well, improving the soil texture besides eliminating diseases.

Aroni further said the variety is environmental friendly and free from pest and diseases attack. The variety flourishes even in less fertile land thus reducing the demand for organic fertiliser. "The improved variety is highly resistant to diseases, which is a significant relief for farmers who often struggle with pest and disease outbreaks that threaten cassava yields," she said.

The high productivity of MH96 is another compelling reason why farmers are attracted to and are embracing it. Compared to the local cassava varieties, MH96 yields more per acre, ensuring better returns for farmers. According to Aroni, the variety matures early, allowing farmers to harvest in a shorter period, which is crucial in ensuring food security and continuous supply to the market.

Beyond its food benefits, MH96 cassava leaves have medicinal properties. The medicinal uses of the leaves provide an opportunity for farmers to diversify their income streams, as they can be used in herbal remedies and traditional medicine. Some 12kms from Apetite village, we meet another farmer Margret Otote, from Agorom village who has been cultivating MH96 cassava and shared her experience, expressing satisfaction with the variety.

"MH96 is the best variety I have ever planted. It has no side effects on humans, and it can be used for value addition to make different products," Otote said.

The versatility of MH96 allows it to be processed into flour, animal feed and other value-added products, making it an economic powerhouse for farmers looking to maximise profits.

She further added that with all these advantages, MH96 is poised to transform cassava farming in Kenya. The improved variety ensures food security, boosts income for farmers and provides safer and more nutritious food options for consumers. As more farmers embrace MH96, the future of cassava farming in the country looks brighter than ever.

Michael Onyango, a processor, said GMO cassava has been a game changer. It is more resistant to pests and diseases, which means they receive higher-quality roots with less spoilage.

"That directly improves our efficiency and output, whether we are making flour, starch, or ethanol, the higher starch content in MH96 GMO varieties, in particular, helps reduce processing time and cost," he said.

MH96 cassava /FILE

PHOTO STORY

A Chinese visitor checks tea processing at Gatanga Cottage Industries, which majors in production of purple tea. An International Tea Expo is slated to take place from October 28-30 at KICC in Nairobi /KNA

NULL AND VOID

Court in Kakamega revokes Sh20 million land allocation

It has also ordered cancellation of all illegal register entries for the parcel

HILTON OTENYO
@HiltonOtenyo

THE Kakamega court has cancelled allocation of a parcel of land valued at Sh20 million to a private developer.

In a judgment delivered on August 6, principal magistrate Philip Mutua declared the subdivision and allocation of part of Kakamega/Municipality/Block 111/100 null, void and unlawful.

He directed the allottee to surrender the land back to the original owner.

The court also ordered cancellation of all illegal register entries for the parcel and issued a permanent injunction preventing any dealings with the land other than returning it to the government.

The judgment said the parcel was originally reserved by the Kakamega municipal council for housing purposes, with a house and a servant quarter already built and occupied by civil servants paying rent.

As such, the land was not available for allocation or subdivision.

The court ruled that any such allocation "is void ab initio and cannot confer title to anyone."

The judgment also addressed an application by Peter Alubale for Plot No. 75, which he claimed was an unsurveyed parcel.

The court clarified that the plot formed part of the original parcel Kakamega/Municipality/Block 111/100 and was therefore not unsurveyed.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case, saying the alleged land was reserved for public use and the allocation breached relevant laws, including the Government Lands Act, Registered Land Act, Local Government Act and the constitution.

The court's ruling underscores the protection of government land and proper adherence to legal allocation processes.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case, saying the alleged land was reserved for public use and the allocation breached relevant laws, including the Government Lands Act, Registered Land Act, Local Government Act and the constitution.

ENDING STALEMATE

State deploys special team to investigate skirmishes in Siakago

KNA

THE government has dispatched a special team to investigate skirmishes that rocked Siakago town in Embu county on Monday and Tuesday.

The fight between residents and muguka traders from Meru, led to massive destruction of property and injuries to scores of people.

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku said perpetrators of the violence will be held accountable as the government gets to the root cause of the flare-up. He spoke on Thursday during a meeting with residents at the DCC ground.

Ruku also issued a stern warning to public servants, including police officers, who may have played a role in the chaos. "No one will be spared. Any officer found to have abetted or ignored these crimes will face the full force of the law," he said.

This follows revelations from residents who said they have made numerous reports to the police with regards to rampant cases of theft that have rocked the area and no action has been taken.

The clash is said to have been sparked by theft of motorcycles with residents accusing Meru traders of causing the chaos.

Ruku attributed the problem to rising corruption among police officers, who are demanding bribes from locals seeking their services.

"This is unacceptable. Public officers are entrusted to serve the public with integrity, not to extort citizens," he said.

Businessman Peter Mutiru, whose hardware store was destroyed, said CCTV footage showed police officers shielding the attackers.

He lost close to Sh5 million in the chaos.

The newly formed investigation team is expected to begin work immediately.

Residents expressed optimism that the investigations would deliver justice and restore trust in law enforcement.

Ruku appealed to the community to maintain peace and unity, stressing that social cohesion is essential for the area's development and security.

PUBLIC SERVICE CS GEOFFREY RUKU SAID PERPETRATORS OF THE VIOLENCE WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AS THE GOVERNMENT GETS TO THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE FLARE-UP. HE ISSUED A STERN WARNING TO PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO MAY HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE CHAOS

UNIQUE LANDSCAPES

West Pokot tipped to become eco-tourism hub

KNA

WEST Pokot county has vast untapped potential to develop conservancies that could generate sustainable revenue through tourism, the State Department for Wildlife has said.

National Reserve Conservation secretary John Chumo said well-managed conservancies could create jobs, support communities, promote conservation and contribute significantly to the country's economy.

"By establishing and managing conservancies, the county can attract eco-tourists to experience its unique wildlife, landscapes and cultural heritage," he said.

Chumo said strategic investment, community participation and strong marketing could turn West Pokot into a leading eco-tourism hub.

He spoke during the World Elephant Day celebrations at Sarmach Primary School in Nasolot.

Chumo said World Elephant Day, marked globally since 2012, seeks to raise awareness on threats to African and Asian elephants, which the International Union for Conservation of Nature lists as "vulnerable" and "endangered".

Habitat destruction, poaching and climate change have caused population declines despite their ecological and cultural importance.

Chumo called for the expansion of conservancies, improved wildlife corridors and stronger community engagement to reduce human-wildlife conflict. He said activities such as illegal gold mining are threatening critical migration routes, including the corridor linking Nasolot to Rimoi and Turkana.

"Protecting these corridors is vital for elephant migration and for preventing conflict with humans."

West Pokot subcounty deputy county commissioner Wyliffe Munanda (left), conservation secretary at the State Department for Wildlife John Chumo (2nd L) and KWS officials in West Pokot county on August 12 /KNA

A Soito resident washes hands after using a latrine /BONIFACE KIRERA /PACIDA

BETTER SANITATION

What a relief! Marsabit residents rejoice at dignity of using latrines

Women no longer worry about snake bites or being attacked when answering call of nature

DENIS GATUMA
@TheStarKenya

AS we drive through Soito village in Marsabit county, children run excitedly alongside us, waving and calling out in their vernacular.

"Do you want to see the toilets?" they ask, pointing towards the manyattas scattered across the field.

In this community, also known as Lorukushu, pit latrines have become a source of pride. Every homestead now either has a completed latrine or one under construction, each a sign of the village's transformation.

Leading us through this change is Peter Leisido, a respected elder coordinating the project in Lorukushu, which includes more than 65 households. So far, 25 latrines have been built.

"Each family committed to building a latrine just a few metres from their home. We've also encouraged everyone to set up a hand-washing station outside the latrine, usually a 2 or 3-litre jerrycan filled with clean water," said Leisido.

For women like Celina Letore, the transformation has been life changing.

"We used to relieve ourselves in the bushes. It was dangerous, especially at night we risked snake bites or attacks from wild animals. But now, we feel safer," she said. According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Marsabit and Samburu are among 15 counties where 85 per cent of open defecation occurs.

During the rainy season, human waste gets washed into water sources used for drinking and cooking, increasing the risk of diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, and stomach infections.

"Since building the latrines, we've seen fewer cases of stomach illnesses, especially among children and the elderly," Letore said.

Nationally, over 6,600 children under five die annually from diarrhoea, and 80 per cent of those cases are linked to poor sanitation, hygiene, and unsafe water.

"When we first arrived, we asked, why are there no toilets? We learned that no one had explained the importance of having a latrine. Our first task was to change that mindset," recalls Hokile Boku, PACIDA's project manager overseeing the sanitation project.

With support from Oxfam Kenya through the Australia's Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance rolled out a hygiene and sanitation programme to improve public health in arid and semi-arid lands like Soito.

The initiative follows the Community-Led Total Sanitation model, urging households to construct latrines using locally available materials like timber, tree branches, cloth, and ash.

Training sessions were delivered in partnership with county health promoters, community health workers, and public health officers.

"We learned how to dig a proper pit, use cement for the base, and timber for a secure structure," Leisido said. Not all change came easily, but now lders are the leading supporters.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

From bushes to cemented pit latrines, the residents' journey reflects the power of local action, education, and dignity. In a place once defined by open fields, the community now stands united by something far more powerful, ownership of their health and future. For lasting impact, there is a need for greater government involvement in ending open defecation by prioritizing sanitation in national and county policies. Every homestead now either has a completed latrine or one under construction.

SALES BONANZA

Kitui youths shine at devolution forum with crafts, business

MUSEMBI NZENGU

ENTERPRISING youth from Kitui county are making waves at the devolution conference in Homa Bay, turning the event into both a sales bonanza and a gateway to wider markets.

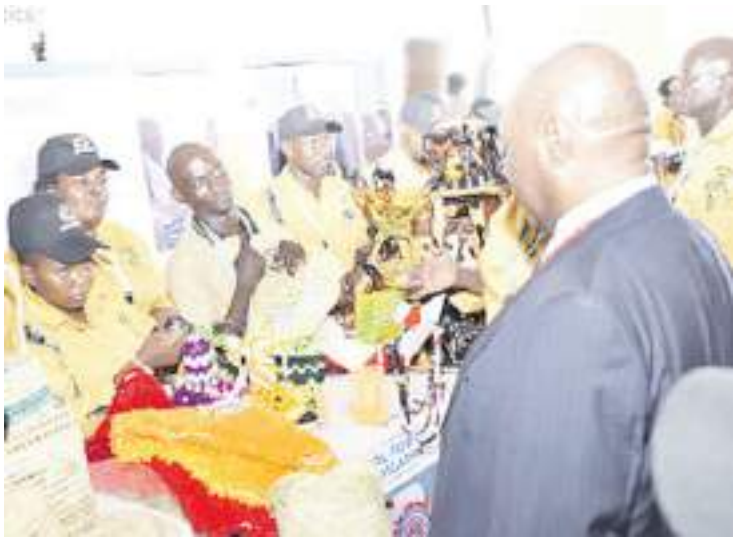
Stationed at the Kitui government booth at Homa Bay Boys High School, the young entrepreneurs are showcasing value-added honey products, beaded jewellery, wood carvings and handwoven palm-leaf baskets. Many say the experience has been transformative.

"This trip has created market linkages for me, introduced me to new clients, and taught me better ways to market my baskets," said 29-year-old weaver Mercy Munyao of Ndara Basket Weavers. "In just two days, I've sold half my stock. I'll be going home with very little left."

From Kitui School for the Mentally Handicapped, 23-year-old Mercy Munyao, supported by principal Veronicah Kitonyi, said the event has expanded external markets for their beaded crafts, boosting the school's income base.

For 25-year-old Stephen Kyalo of Samale Innovative Apiaries, the conference has been "a motivating platform to market sweet Kitui honey and showcase our county's unique products."

The exhibitors thanked the Kitui government for sponsoring their participation and urged that the opportunity be extended to more young entrepreneurs in future. With the conference set to close Friday, many expect to sell out completely — leaving them not just with lighter luggage, but with heavy order books for the months ahead.



Mercy Munyao, from Kitui School for the Mentally Handicapped, explains her products to Governor Julius Malombe /MUSEMBI NZENGU

Hundreds of participants drawn from across the country arrived in Homa Bay town for the eagerly awaited devolution conference. Over 11,000 delegates registered for the event, which is taking place at Homa Bay High School.

President William Ruto opened the event on Wednesday, and called for stronger measures against corruption in Parliament, emphasising the need for accountability across all government institutions. Ruto said some parliamentary committees have been demanding money from the executive, governors, and ministers.

He saidsuch practices undermine accountability and public trust.

"I must say the legislature must be held to account. There are instances where money is being demanded from the executive, governors, ministers, and those seeking accountability before our houses of Parliament," the President said.

Ruto urged National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula to take decisive action to address the issue.

"Mr Speaker, it cannot continue as business as usual. Committees of Parliament should not demand payments for report writing or overlook matters within county or national government," he said.

Ruto called on all Kenyans to participate in the fight against corruption, describing it as a shared societal responsibility. He also highlighted the role of the Judiciary.

"We have legal mechanisms, including anticipatory bail, which can sometimes delay prosecution.These need to be addressed to ensure justice is served," he said.

HEALTHCARE

New hospital unit in Marsabit brings hope for mums, babies

Level 4 facility handles 200 deliveries each month despite inadequate equipment

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@astarikostephen

RESIDENTS of Marsabit county have welcomed plans to construct a fully equipped Mother and Child Unit at Moyale Level 4 Hospital—a project they say will save lives and end years of suffering for expectant mothers.

During a public participation forum in Moyale town, leaders, community members and representatives from KeNHA, North Eastern Development Initiative (Nedi) and the World Bank hailed the project as a game changer for the region's healthcare.

"This long-awaited project will transform maternal care in our region," elder Abdi Shakur said.

"Mothers and children have long suffered from a lack of specialised services — this facility will change that."

The facility will be funded by the World Bank under the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project.

Resident Shamsia Hussein, said the hospital handles more than 200 deliveries each month despite inadequate facilities.

"For years, women here have faced long, risky journeys—sometimes across the border—in search of proper care. This new unit will end that," she said.

Another resident, Naomi Halakhe, highlighted the potential impact on maternal and infant mortality rates, which remain high in Marsabit.

"Many lives have been lost due to complications that could have been prevented. This hospital gives us hope that such tragedies will be history," she said.

Governor Mohamed Ali praised the World Bank's support, calling the hospital "a landmark achievement" that will ensure no mother or child is left behind.

He pledged continued investment in rural facilities, medical staff and equipment to close the county's healthcare gap.

Simba Guleid, coordinator of the Nedi, said the project will position Moyale as a "regional hub for health excellence".

Kenya National Highway Authority's Eng Paul Omondi added that the complex's benefits will extend beyond Kenya, serving parts of Ethiopia and neighbouring counties.

Marsabit Governor Mohamed Ali at the forum in Moyale town /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The upcoming construction of a fully equipped Mother and Child Unit at Moyale Level IV Hospital, funded by the World Bank under the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project, will end years of risky journeys for maternal care, ease overcrowding and reduce high maternal and infant mortality rates.

LAVISH EVENTS BANNED

Wajir elders slash wedding costs to ease burden on young couples

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

IN a landmark cultural reform, elders and religious leaders from the Ogaden, Ajuran and Degodia communities in Lagbogol, Wajir county, have unveiled new wedding guidelines.

The move is aimed at ending crippling expenses for young couples.

After a three-day consultation, Sheikh Mahbub Abdi announced resolutions to preserve the cultural and religious value of marriage, while making it affordable.

The new rules fix the bride price at Sh60,000, shared equally by both families.

Dowry after divorce (mahr) will be capped at one camel, one cow, or eight goats, with gold and dollar payments discouraged. Extravagances—from khat distribution and lavish tent hire to wedding convoys—are banned.

Brides must be escorted to their new homes in a single vehicle by 8:30 pm and no more than one camel may be slaughtered for the feast.

A Sh50,000 penalty awaits those who flout the rules.

The changes have been met with applause from youth, who say this will remove a major obstacle to marriage.

"This proves our elders truly care about our future," Mohamed Hussein said.

Community members also hailed the move as a step towards fairness, dignity and stronger family bonds.

Sheikh Mahbub Abdi announces the resolutions /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

WHEN YOU BAR MEN FROM AVOIDING WIVES P26

Escape from Myanmar after agony of Thailand jobs trap

Kenyan survivors narrate their human trafficking ordeal to warn others

Left, Human trafficking survivors Dennis Mosoti and Philip Ruto with HAART Kenya advocacy manager Winnie Muteru during the interview in Nairobi
Above, An image of someone who was beaten for failing to reach their target **/NANCY WAINAINA**

Nancy Wainaina
@TheStarKenya

What began as a promising journey toward better livelihoods ended in trauma and near-death experiences for two young Kenyan men lured by fake job offers in Thailand only to be trafficked across the border into Myanmar.

Although their ordeals occurred at different times and under separate arrangements, the harrowing similarity of their experiences highlights a growing crisis of human trafficking targeting vulnerable East Africans.

Philip Ruto, a soft-spoken young man in his 20s from Mt Elgon, had just completed his training as a plant mechanic through the National Youth Service in April last year.

He had high hopes of using his skills to change his family's life. But when months went by with no job in sight, desperation set in.

"I was getting tired of sitting at home. Then a family contact told me about a job in Thailand," he said.

"They said it was a tech company that needed people with basic computer skills. It sounded legit."

Ruto wasted no time. He applied for a passport for Sh7,500 and, through a connection in Nairobi, obtained a visitor's visa to Thailand.

The entire trip, including logistics, cost more than Sh75,000, money his father borrowed from neighbours and relatives.

"I didn't want to disappoint my family. We thought it was an investment," Ruto said

He flew out of Nairobi on December 31 last year. At the airport in Bangkok, he was greeted by a stranger who identified him using a photo sent via Telegram.

All communication with the agents was conducted through Telegram, an encrypted platform favoured by traffickers, making their operations nearly invisible.

He never passed through official immigration. Instead, he and two other Kenyans who had also traveled independently were bundled into a vehicle and driven for seven hours through remote parts of Thailand.

"By the time we got to the river, it was already dark," Ruto recalled.

"Then they put us in a boat. I remember crossing quietly and thinking, 'This doesn't feel like a job trip anymore.'"

STARVED AND TORTURED

On the other side, armed men were waiting. The group was taken into the forest and delivered to what appeared to be a scam compound. There was no office, no company, no contracts.

"They told us we were now online scammers. They trained us on how to use fake names and trick people online," Ruto said.

"I had to chat with people, pretending to be someone I wasn't. I felt trapped."

Each worker was given eight smartphones, each connected to multiple fake identities targeting foreign victims. Mistakes were met with brutal punishments.

"If you were late replying to a client or made an error, you could be beaten or locked in a dark room," he said.

"I saw people tortured. One guy was forced to kneel on bottle caps for hours."

Sleep was rare. The working hours stretched from 9pm to 8am. Their beds were rough wooden boards. Food was minimal.

"At some point, I just stopped feeling hungry. The stress was too much. I just wanted to survive."

Salvation came when one of the Kenyan victims managed to secretly record scenes of abuse and escaped. The footage reached the authorities, triggering diplomatic efforts that led to a rescue mission. Ruto was among those repatriated back to Kenya earlier this year, where he was received by officials from Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART) Kenya.

"When I landed back home and saw the HAART Kenya officials, I broke down," he said. "They gave us food, clothes and told us we were safe. That's when I realised I was really free."

> 'THEY GAVE ME A FAKE ID CARD AND TRAINED ME TO PRETEND I WAS A RICH INVESTOR. I HAD TO CHAT WITH REAL ESTATE AGENTS IN THE US, ACT INTERESTED IN BUYING PROPERTY, THEN SLOWLY INTRODUCE THEM TO FAKE CRYPTO INVESTMENTS'

ANOTHER VICTIM

Weeks later, in a completely separate case, Dennis Mosoti from Kisii county would fall into the same trap.

Mosoti, who had lived in Nairobi's Embakasi area, had spent years trying to make a living, working in Githurai, selling eggs in Tassia, and picking up casual jobs. But nothing stuck.

"I told my friend that even if I have to borrow money, I just want to go abroad. I'll do anything,'" he said.

That conversation led to an introduction to a woman who claimed to have job connections in Thailand.

Desperate, Mosoti's mother withdrew her NSSF savings to raise Sh100,000 for his travel. Like Philip, all arrangements from flights to visa applications were done

Illustration of human trafficking /PIXABAY

over Telegram. "I didn't even know the woman's real name. Everything was just messages and voice notes," Mosoti said.

He flew out in February, weeks after Philip had returned home. When he landed in Bangkok, he was picked up and driven for hours with a group of other Kenyans. As night fell, they, too, were ferried across the border by boat.

"When I saw men in military gear holding rifles, my heart sank," Mosoti said.

"That's when I knew I wasn't in Thailand anymore."

Inside the guarded compound in Myanmar, his phone and passport were confiscated. The syndicate handed him a fake American identity: Bob Timberly.

"They gave me a fake ID card and trained me to pretend I was a rich investor," Mosoti said.

"I had to chat with real estate agents in the US, act interested in buying property, then slowly introduce them to fake crypto investments."

He said meals were rationed. Surveillance was constant.

"If you asked too many questions or tried to contact someone outside, they threatened to sell you to another group for organ harvesting or hand you to the army," he said.

After six agonising weeks, some members of the group began to resist. Word of their situation leaked out to Thai officials, and diplomatic pressure began to mount. The traffickers eventually relented, returning their passports, erasing their phones and releasing them under watch. "I went looking for work. I came back with trauma," Mosoti said.

"I can't forget what I saw there."

'THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT URGES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO COLLABORATE CLOSELY WITH THAILAND IN SUPPRESSING THESE CRIMES, WHICH POSE A DIRECT THREAT TO SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE IN THE REGION'

SPEAKING OUT

Today, both men are speaking out to warn others.

"This thing is real. If someone offers you a job abroad on Telegram and it sounds too easy, run," Ruto cautioned

"We just wanted better lives. But not every opportunity is worth the risk. Sometimes, it's a trap dressed as a dream." Mosoti said.

The Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has since issued warnings against travelling to Southeast Asia without verified job contracts. But for men like Ruto and Mosoti, the scars run deeper than policy.

In a statement issued on June 27, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs voiced deep concern over the escalating threat posed by transnational crime syndicates operating scam call centres, engaging in online fraud and trafficking vulnerable individuals across Southeast Asia.

"These crimes have caused immense economic and social damage to people around the world," the ministry said, referencing recent reports by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and Amnesty International that highlighted the regional scope of exploitation.

The Thai government stressed the urgency of cross-border cooperation, pledging to take "a leading role in coordinating international efforts to combat transnational crime".

The statement emphasised that the Thai government would engage "only through official diplomatic channels" when addressing sensitive bilateral concerns, an apparent response to increasing public discourse on the trafficking crisis in neighbouring countries.

"The Royal Thai Government urges the international community to collaborate closely with Thailand in suppressing these crimes, which pose a direct threat to the security and well-being of people in the region."

SURVIVORS' LIFELINE

When survivors of human trafficking return home, bruised, traumatised and burdened with debt, it's often HAART Kenya waiting for them at the airport.

The organisation, which started in 2010, has become a national lifeline for victims and families confronting one of the most complex and fast-evolving crimes of our time.

HAART Kenya advocacy manager Winnie Muteru sits at the heart of this response.

She breaks down the grim mechanics of the industry — the false job offers, forged documents, deception and the thin, often invisible line between opportunity and exploitation.

"Our work started in Kenya but now spans the region, because trafficking doesn't stop at borders and neither can we," she said.

HAART's programming is structured around what Muteru calls "the four Ps": Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Policy.

In prevention, the organisation runs training sessions in schools, churches and communities, targeting young people and first responders.

"We believe in going to the people before the traffickers do," Muteru said.

Their helpline allows the public to report suspected trafficking cases. But that's just the beginning.

"We also provide protection. We have a shelter for trafficked women and girls, and outreach programmes for survivors who return to their communities. The trauma is deep, but recovery is possible," she said.

Prosecution is another pillar. HAART supports survivors through legal processes, a daunting path given the challenges in Kenya's justice system.

The Kenyan law prescribes a minimum of 30 years in prison or a Sh30 million fine for trafficking. But in reality, sentences are often lower and restitution for survivors is rare. And there are other gaps.

"A victim rescued from a brothel might be classified as a sex worker," Muteru said.

"A child forced to work may be treated as just another case of child labour. But these are trafficking crimes and they [should] carry heavier penalties." Earlier this year, HAART Kenya helped facilitate the rescue and repatriation of more than 150 Kenyans trafficked to scam compounds in Myanmar.

'IF YOU ASKED TOO MANY QUESTIONS OR TRIED TO CONTACT SOMEONE OUTSIDE, THEY THREATENED TO SELL YOU TO ANOTHER GROUP FOR ORGAN HARVESTING OR HAND YOU TO THE ARMY'

"This wasn't just about forced labour. These were skilled professionals, university graduates tricked with promises of jobs in Thailand's tech industry," she said.

"Once there, they were smuggled across borders into guarded compounds run by rebel groups."

Inside, the horrors unfolded, forced online scamming, electric shocks, starvation, even organ harvesting.

"You're trained on how to scam people," she noted

"You have daily financial targets. If you fail, you're beaten. If you're no longer useful, you're disposed of. It's modern slavery wearing a digital mask."

She noted that some were so badly injured that they returned to Kenya with permanent deformities. Others arrived home empty-handed, still saddled with travel loans they took to chase what they thought were real job opportunities.

She cautioned that what's perhaps most chilling is how organised traffickers are and how broken the systems meant to stop them remain.

"These criminals are exploiting the very loopholes we've created. You're told to travel on a tourist visa," Muteru said

"You're coached on what to say at the embassy. Sometimes, you're even handed a bribe to use at checkpoints."

She indicated that more disturbing is how traffickers are often people the victims know.

"Most of the people we spoke to were trafficked by friends, family or someone who had helped them travel before," Muteru said.

"It's betrayal wrapped in trust."

Human trafficking survivors are debriefed by a therapist, after arriving in the country /FILE

WARNING FROM GOVERNMENT

In a statement on February 18, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs warned Kenyans against falling prey to deceptive job offers.

"Traffickers are using Thailand as a trapdoor to lure vulnerable youth into Myanmar," the ministry cautioned. "Kenyans interested in jobs advertised in Thailand should get in touch with the ministry or the Kenyan Embassy in Bangkok to authenticate any such offers before travelling."

★ SASA ART

ART CHECK JUSTUS MAKOKHA

Wells of science fiction run deep

Black writers are taking up the baton, with the likes of Mehul Gohil bringing the genre home

This week will mark almost eight decades since HG (Herbert George) Wells died in 1946. He is considered one of the giants of science fiction, and famously said, "Science fiction is the only literature that can reveal the truth about the human condition."

His works: The Time Machine (1895) and The War of the Worlds (1898), among others, are stories about strange worlds, futuristic technology and deeply human tales that probe the social, psychological and moral fabric of society. His early take on science fiction was a harbinger of the genre's future growth. His ideas have inspired writers, filmmakers and thinkers globally, including many contemporary African writers.

For many, science fiction offers an escape into distant galaxies or post-apocalyptic landscapes, but it is more than that. Wells was one of the first to use speculative fiction as a tool for examining social issues.

His works address the anxieties of his time: concerns about war, inequality and the misuse of science. These themes are relevant today, especially as African countries grapple with similar concerns of political instability, technological advances and social divisions. Wells's approach to science fiction reflects the social and political challenges that shape our world.

Wells was born into a modest background on September 21, 1866 in Bromley, England. His father worked as a shopkeeper and his mother as a governess. His childhood was marked by both hardship and curiosity. His family struggled financially, forcing young Wells to work at various jobs before he pursued his education. This early struggle did not crush his intellectual spirit. Instead, it fuelled his desire to understand the world.

Unidentified flying object in a futuristic city /PIXABAY

He was a voracious reader, particularly fascinated by the works of Charles Darwin and other writers who explored the relationship between humans and nature. This scientific interest and the natural world would later inform much of Wells' fiction. Wells's early life experience inspired his desire to write stories that explored not just the external world but also the human psyche.

Wells's writing explores scientific ideas and the human condition in an ever-changing world. He was deeply concerned with the social and psychological consequences of technological advancement. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the world was undergoing rapid industrialisation. New inventions were changing the way people lived, worked and interacted.

> THIS GENRE RESONATES WITH YOUNGER GENERATIONS RAISED ON GLOBAL POP CULTURE, NOW SEEKING DEEPER LOCAL NARRATIVES

The horrors of war, particularly the First World War, had a profound impact on Wells. He saw the destructive potential of technology, as well as how society could turn on itself. His concern about the future of humanity, particularly in the face of scientific and technological progress, motivated much of his writing. Works like The Invisible Man (1897) reflect the fear that science could go too far, with catastrophic consequences.

His breakthrough came with the publication of The Time Machine in 1895. This novel is considered one of the first works of modern science fiction. It introduced the concept of time travel, which became one of the most enduring themes in science fiction.

The novel tells the story of a scientist who builds a machine that can travel through time, leading him to witness the distant future of humanity. Through this journey, Wells explores themes of evolution, class division and the potential consequences of human progress.

Though dead for decades today, his insightful influence on science fiction is immeasurable.

When teaching European literature, I prefer calling him "The Father of Science Fiction" for his pioneering work in the genre.

His percolation of scientific and social themes laid the groundwork for generations of writers, including some of the most important voices in the genre here in Africa.

Black science fiction is becoming an important tool for exploring social and political issues. Writers like Nnedi Okorafor, Namina Forna and Tade Thompson have used speculative fiction to address themes such as colonisation, identity and the consequences of technological progress. Just like Wells, they use the genre to explore the complexities of the human condition and to critique societal systems.

For example, Okorafor's Binti series combines African traditions and futuristic technology, exploring the intersection of culture and innovation. This theme echoes Wells's concern about how technology can change society positively or negatively.

Similarly, Thompson's The Murders of Molly Southbourne reflects the psychological turmoil and existential fears that Wells often grappled with in his work.

Speculative fiction in Kenya has become a powerful and popular genre, offering imaginative escape while addressing contemporary sociopolitical realities.

Drawing from African oral traditions and urban life, it connects readers to cultural roots, while exploring futuristic and supernatural themes. This genre resonates with younger generations raised on global pop culture, now seeking deeper local narratives.

Writers like Mehul Gohil, known for his bold, experimental style, have helped shape Kenya's speculative fiction scene through platforms like Kwani Trust and Jalada Africa.

JIJI NDOGO POLICE POST

When you bar men from avoiding wives

Makini fears booze ban is peace killer

DAVID MUCHAI
@Davemuchai

Although I will never be known for being the sharpest tool in the shed, once in a while, I get a gem of an idea. A revelation so profound I feel the itching need to share. Think of it as that rare occasion when a rose plant sprouts out of a garbage heap. I take pride in these moments, just like I'm sure the taako guys jump with joy whenever they come across something to salvage in other people's waste.

These ideas of mine usually come at random because too much thinking gives me severe headaches. You can ask any of my math teachers. During their classes, I always claimed to have a throbbing headache.

As one would expect, at first, they didn't believe me. They thought of it as a ploy to avoid memorising the intricate inner workings of Bodmas, or whatever other theory the teachers believed would become useful to me in my later life. If Mr Kaboi was to be believed, I'd never survive a day without applying the quadratic equation in something. Or the Pythagorean theorem. Pshaw! Yeah, right.

Anyway, like I said, thinking happens not to be good for my health. Besides, I also tend to deviate too much to maintain any train of thought for more than a few seconds. But sometimes, we don't have to think to come up with good ideas.

You can't convince me that the person who came up with the "rubber duck" thought very much about it. He probably had duck chicks who kept dying in his bathtub and decided to make a rubber one. Problem solved.

Like I said, I'm prone to digress.

Back to my point. All this alcohol banning nonsense has me thinking and worrying about the future of our country. Especially the fate of all those innocent couples out there.

If like me you remember correctly, back in the days of Covid, conditions weren't good for dedicated couples. Not good at all. I even came to learn a new word — femicide. It means the killing of women because of their gender, usually by men. These cases spiked a lot during the pandemic. Even worse, during that short period, more couples broke up than average.

According to those who know these things, the reason for the breakups and the crimes was couples getting to rediscover each other and realising they didn't like each other that much. Men who were used to leaving home at the crack of dawn returning in the wee hours of the night suddenly found themselves quarantined inside their houses with total strangers.

There were tales of men who would spend the day wondering who the two strange kids in their living rooms were.

"We're your daughters," one girl said upon her father's enquiry.

"My daughter?" wondered the bewildered dad. "I don't have a daughter. I have three boys. Where did you two come from?"

So many couples didn't know their partner's routines. A man who's never home and suddenly sits through his wife making dinner, watching her receive texts via the phone, laugh and type back would be curious to uncover the source of his wife's amusement. To that end, some me don't know how to talk using their mouths, but rather their fists and any other hard object within reach.

So, you ask, where's my so-called bright idea in all this? I have a thought to let Nacada know that banning alcohol so drastically is a bad, bad idea. People go to bars and other places of the brew not so much to get drunk but to stay away from their spouses. Let people drink, and keep the peace at home.

SOCIETY TALK

Shawarma lures youth to Nanyuki joint

Al Nusra is famous for its pilau, Ethiopian dishes and camel tea

GLADYS NJAMIU
@TheStarKenya

There is a new pandemic. Onesadfnarchy. Only this time around, it's in 4K.

My first impression of Al Nusra was, "That's a place for old people." You're probably wondering why I would think that.

In my mind, restaurants targeting younger people are often out of town. Al Nusra is located at the heart of Nanyuki town, on a street filled with business offices. All the reviews I heard of this place were from older people.

My boda guy, probably in his mid-thirties, ranked their coffee as the best he's had in Nanyuki. The other review was from a 50-year-old client, who claimed their camel tea was so good, he must have it every time he visits Nanyuki.

Until recently, Al Nusra has been sandwiched between business centres, and the exterior looked like something old people with "important" business visits would like. They recently installed a shawarma booth, the first in Nanyuki, which has gotten the attention of younger people.

Their decor has changed. The ground floor has booths, cosy for business meetings and family dates. The first floor has both an indoor and an outdoor setup. The indoor has both the booths, a dining table and tables for two (I see you, romantic people). The warm lighting, brown seats and plants give off a romantic vibe. But the menu and the space are family-friendly.

My first time here was a quick breakfast date. I had a latte with mahamri. The latte was so good. Easily the best I've had in Nanyuki. Notice I didn't say mandazi. I love wheat, but unless I make the mahamri, I tend to keep off. I find, at least in Nanyuki, most hotels that claim to have mahamri just have mandazi full of yeast. And you're left to battle that unforgiving bloating.

Al Nusra /GLADYS NJAMIU

My last visit here was a solo Christmas date. I had a chicken shawarma and chips. The chips were well-cooked, a perfect balance of softness and crunchiness. The chicken wrap was also decent. However, the portions! I was sitting between two families. When the waiter brought my order, I was confused. That portion looked like a kids' portion. To be fair, the portion matches the price. The chicken wrap served with chips goes for Sh350. I suggest they offer this as a kid's plate, then then come up with an adult size and maybe charge more.

All their foods were well presented, good culinary arts. The platters are served on a sinia (round tray) like the Swahili people do. The wraps are well presented. However, the sauce on top of the wraps makes it harder to eat (I use my hands to eat, and so did the kids and other guests available). I understand aesthetics here and there, but the sauce should have gone in the wrap. Stacking the wraps on top of each other, good job, but let the sauce stay inside.

THE TASTE

My food was served cold. The wrap was underwhelming. The chicken was well-cooked, the veggies were fresh, but that was it. No salt, no chilli, no vinegar. Just that wheat, chicken and lettuce.

Given a chance, I would make two chicken shawarma. A spicy one and a non-spicy one. The non-spicy one would have well-marinated and seasoned chicken, and the sauce would have some vinegar or lemon in it.

I would also use cold, crunchier lettuce. I would also season my wrap with either plain salt or throw in some oregano. The seasoned wrap, cold lettuce and hot chicken and a tangy sauce would balance so well.

The beverage of the day was masala tea. Officially operating like a 30-year-old, I ordered mild masala tea. The menu said they have mild masala and masala tea. So, I asked what the difference was.

From my many years of having Muslim friends and Indian friends, when it comes to their standard spices, always, always, go for medium. So, I opted for medium. When the waiter served my tea, not only did the tea have no masala in it, but also, the tea was not masala tea. She served me camel tea. I have had camel tea before, and that taste never leaves your tongue.

I didn't complain or ask her to return it. One, because it was Christmas, and given the number of families there, the wait staff was either confused or exhausted. Second, I have weak knees. Camel soup and camel milk are said to help with bone stuff. I can attest to the bone soup. Do you guys want a recipe?

★ SASALIVING

G-SPOT BY MWANGI G
@MwangiGithahu

The strange case of adults being treated like children

What passes for respect borders on the ridiculous

I shall never forget the 60th birthday bash of a relative, where the entire clan, grandchildren, friends, colleagues and the odd hangers-on gathered to toast his milestone.

The guest of honour spent half the party skulking indoors to sip his beer out of sight because one of his elderly aunts was present.

The absurdity? He had spent the years leading up to the big day working at a brewery. Everyone, including the sainted aunt, knew it.

It was the sort of farce that makes you wonder whether respect is a noble value or just a particularly stubborn bad habit.

That incident took place more than 35 years ago, and ever since, I have wondered whether we cling to outdated notions of what constitutes respectful behaviour.

So, when my favourite breakfast radio show recently began discussing the matter during one of their regular "family meeting" slots, I stopped everything to hear what others thought.

There are certain actions done today in the name of "respect" that, quite frankly, are archaic and should have been chopped up for firewood, much as one presumes Noah's Ark was after its year-long voyage, if you believe the Bible.

A caller summed it up neatly: offering your seat to someone elderly or infirm is one thing. Pretending you have never touched a cigarette or a pint glass in front of an older relative, even though they know perfectly well you have, is quite another.

Another caller recalled his 21st birthday party at home, where he refused to touch alcohol because his parents were present. This, despite the fact that his parents were merrily swigging along with everyone else. It was a masterclass in pointless self-denial.

The discussion reminded me of the latest pearl of wisdom from the Kenya Wet Blanket Association, more commonly known as Nacada (National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse).

These civic-minded busybodies now want to ban anyone under 21 from drinking alcohol.

This is in a country where the age of majority is 18; old enough to vote, marry, drive, pay taxes, have sex and produce children, but apparently too young to have a glass of wine.

It is the legislative equivalent of giving someone a driving licence but insisting they must wear a crash helmet in bed.

To be fair, Nacada's suggestion is not necessarily about respect for elders but relates more to generational differences in alcohol consumption.

A study published in 2019 concluded that "heavy drinking is more prevalent among middle-aged and older people". I suspect members of the "respect" brigade would have been horrified by the conversation I was hearing on the radio.

However, as the host of the show said, "I'm not saying we must disrespect older people, but is this the way we demonstrate our respect? By stripping ourselves of our adulthood and hiding in a ludicrous way, where the whole world knows what everybody's up to!

"We are feigning respect because, in our minds, this is the respectful thing to do. It's like a stupid game that everybody's playing."

The discussion became livelier when a parent of adult children called in to say that, when she hosts a party at her home, she has no issue with her grown-up offspring smoking or drinking.

In fact, she admitted she would be more suspicious about what they were consuming if they felt the need to hide from her.

Beyond the alcohol-and-tobacco theatre lies a more insidious problem: adults being treated like children in all spheres of life.

Whether it is control over their finances, their relationships or their health decisions, some are never allowed to graduate into full adulthood.

Take the case of an adult woman discouraged by her mother from going for a cervical smear test because "those are only for women who are having sex".

Result: the woman misses potentially life-saving preventive care in order to keep up a pretence that fools no one.

As the host put it: What the hell are we doing to adults to make them feel like children in the name of respect?

TONY MBALLA FITFINITY
@TonyMballa

The night of betrayal as woman tempted to do what her man did

Monica struggles with cheating in revenge after busting her man

A couple fights /PIXABAY

The Nairobi night was alive. It pulsed with rhythm and light, and the Kenyatta International Convention Centre rose in the heart of it all — a proud sentinel, awash in neon and music.

It was the Kenyan Night Festival, where strangers became friends, lovers swayed until their shoes surrendered, and the city itself seemed to dance.

Monica had been counting down to this night for weeks.

She wore a flowing emerald-green dress that shimmered with every turn, her hair swept up to reveal the delicate line of her neck. Her laughter spilled freely, bright and intoxicating.

Beside her, Nelson — her husband of nine years — was charm in motion. He whispered jokes into her ear, his hands guiding her across the floor as if they still lived in the reckless days of their courtship.

Then, leaning close, he murmured, "Give me a minute, love. Need to hit the washroom."

Monica nodded, still buoyant from the music. She turned to dance with Joyce, her best friend since university. The two shared easy, familiar energy, but after several songs, Nelson had not returned.

A small knot of unease formed in her stomach. She excused herself, walking toward the corridor that led to the restrooms.

And there they were.

Nelson. Joyce.

Emerging together from the dim hallway, their heads bent close, laughter soft and conspiratorial. Joyce's lipstick was faintly smudged. Nelson's collar sat uneven. His eyes widened when he saw her.

> *I don't know what the future holds for our marriage. But I need to do what's best... for me, and for the children*

"What's going on?" Monica asked, her voice calm but her gaze sharp.

"Nothing, babe. We were just talking—"

"In the washroom corridor? Together?"

Nelson stammered. Joyce looked anywhere but at her.

"Let's just go back to the party," he said, reaching for her hand. She stepped back. The warmth in her bones was gone.

Without another word, Monica turned, weaving through the crowd until the cool night air slapped her awake.

In the taxi home, Nairobi's lights smeared into red and gold on the windows. Her hands trembled in her lap. She replayed every detail: Joyce's eyes, Nelson's smile, the guilty space between them.

By the time she reached home, the night's magic had dissolved into a hollow ache. Sleep was a stranger.

An hour later, Nelson came in, voice low and pleading. "Monica, I'm sorry. It's not what you think."

"Not what I think? I saw you. With her. My best friend."

She left the bedroom for the sofa, wrapping herself in a blanket while Nelson's footsteps retreated to their bed.

Morning brought no clarity.

Monica packed her suitcase in silence. There was no yelling, no grand scene — just quiet resolve.

Jessica, her old college roommate, welcomed her in with warm tea and a listening ear.

"I'm so sorry," Jessica said, hugging her. "You deserve better than a man who cheats."

She hesitated, then added, "Maybe he's drawn to Joyce because she's curvier. You could join a gym — not for him, but for you."

At first, Monica bristled. But as days passed, the thought took root. She didn't want to win Nelson back; she wanted herself back.

Two weeks later, she walked into a gym that smelled of rubber mats and determination.

At first she was awkward, unsure. But each session stripped away not just weight but doubt. Her reflection began to smile again, proud and alive.

That's when she met James.

A personal trainer with a warm laugh and a gift for listening, James asked about her life beyond the gym. He remembered the little things. He encouraged her without condescension. Their conversations moved from workouts to books, to fears, to dreams.

Meanwhile, Nelson began reaching out.

Calls. Flowers. Texts heavy with regret. He wanted the family whole again. And though Monica's wounds had hardened, history — and the children they shared — tugged at her.

"I'm so confused," she told Jessica. "With James, I feel alive. With Nelson… it's stability. For the kids."

Jessica asked, "If you go back to Nelson, will you be happy? Or will you always wonder?"

In the end, Monica went home.

For the children, for the walls she knew. Nelson welcomed her back with promises of change. But her heart wasn't fully there.

She still saw James — stolen coffees, late-night texts. The same fire she once accused Nelson of feeding, she was now tending in secret.

"You're playing with fire, Monica," Jessica warned. "Someone will get hurt."

Monica knew she was right. But ending it with James felt like dimming the light she'd only just rediscovered.

One evening, the sun melted into the Nairobi skyline. From her kitchen window, Monica could hear Nelson and the children laughing in the living room. Her phone buzzed — a message from James.

She didn't pick it up.

Her reflection looked older, not from years, but from the weight of choices.

"I don't know what the future holds," she whispered. "But I need to do what's best… for me, and for them."

The night deepened outside. Inside, Monica stood on the edge of loyalty and longing — a woman learning that sometimes, survival is not in choosing the right path, but in finding the courage to walk it.

THEY EMERGED TOGETHER, THEIR HEADS BENT CLOSE, LAUGHTER SOFT AND CONSPIRATORIAL. JOYCE'S LIPSTICK FAINTLY SMUDGED. NELSON'S COLLAR UNEVEN

GUKENA RUCIINI
NJOKI NA KAJIM
6AM–10AM
92.2 GUKENA FM
GAKA NI GAITU

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MOMBASA OFFICE

TSS Towers, 2nd Floor, Nkrumah Road Mombasa City CBD Tel: 0711046101 0711046529

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our Principals, the Advocates, we shall sell the below motor vehicles and assets as follows: -

1. MILIMANI CMCC NO. E2225 OF 2022
CHARLES OKOTH AGALLO –VS- MEDI HEAL HOSPITAL AND FERTILITY CENTRE LTD & GEORGE MASIKA
M/v KCU 737P Toyota Passo
- Sale at S.K. Dhahabu Motors Ltd, Marurui, Nairobi on 23/08/2025 at 10:00 am

2. MAVOKO CMCC NO. E093 OF 2021
JACKSON GALLO MUSAVWA –VS- FRANCIS MUTHINZI MUNYA T/A MILELE TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE
M/v KCT 996S Nissan Caravan
- Sale at Leakey's Storage Ltd, Mombasa Rd, Nairobi on 26/08/2025 at 10:00 am

3. MILIMANI SCCC NO. E2228 OF 2024
LYDIA WANGUI KIMANI VS BENSON NDIRITU MUCHAI & ELIZABETH NGINA CIERA
M/v KDA 141J Isuzu NQR
- Sale at S.K. Dhahabu Motors Ltd, Marurui, Nairobi on 29/08/2025 at 10:00 am

4. KENOL SPMCC NO. E346 OF 2023
STEPHEN SHARAKU VS NEHEMIAH CHEGE KAMAU
M/v KDC 915R Toyota Hiace
- Sale at S.K. Dhahabu Motors Ltd, Marurui, Nairobi on 29/08/2025 at 10:00 am

CONDITIONS OF SALE
a) Cash at the fall of the Hammer.
b) Bidders to view and verify details on normal working hours with prior arrangement.
c) Sale subject to reasonable reserve price.

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LESINDI HOUSE SUITE NO. GF8

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals, we shall sell the undermentioned motor vehicles by public auction on commission. **Monday 25th August 2025 from 10am at Kizingo Yard.**

REG NO	MAKE
KDR072Q	CX-3
KDS952Q	BONGO
KDR802T	VITZ
KDR264G	PASSO
KDS186C	SWIFT
KDS638F	VEZEL
KDR471M	DEMIO
KDS244H	NOTE
KDS270P	PROBOX
KDR820X	VITZ
KDS250T	DEMIO
KDT072N	DEMIO
KDS271H	MOVE
KDT543G	MIRA
KDS237C	NOTE
KDR632W	NOTE
KDT730B	VEZEL
KDR345Z	MOVE

Condition of sale
- sale subject to reserve price
-viewing can be done with prior notice to us.
- cash at the fall of the hammer.

MADUWANDE Auctioneers

PUBLIC AUCTION

DULY INSTRUCTED BY OUR PRINCIPALS, WE SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION THE GOODS MENTIONED BELOW ON SATURDAY AUGUST 23,2025, IN OUR OFFICE AT BURUBURU STARTING FROM 10.30 A.M.

DISTRESS FOR RENT ACT CAP 293
LANDLORD -VS- FRED OKOTH
Sony Music System with 2 speakers, JBL Sound Bar with a Base Speaker.

Viewing at our office Buruburu.
Reach us through 0720778817.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer

ALL ARE WELCOME

Honesty, Professionalism, Commitment

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Nairobi Office, High View Lane, Off Ridge Ways Road, P.O Box 17752-00100, Nairobi.
Email: nyaauction@yahoo.com Webmail: info@nyaluoyoauctioneers.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by the Financier we shall sell the listed Motor vehicles by Public Auction at the mentioned yards and dates

REG NO.	MAKE/MODEL	AUCTION DATE	LOCATION
KDA 744G	Volvo XC 60	22nd August 2025	SK Dhahabu Yard
KDQ 995C	Mazda CX5	29th August 2025	Absolute Car Storage Yard
KDA 778B	Toyota Wish	22nd August 2025	The Auction Centre
KCZ 141W	Frankun DumpTruck	22nd August 2025	Startruck Auctioneers Yard
KBV 896N	Foton Bus	22nd August 2025	Startruck Auctioneers Yard

TERMS OF SALE
1.A refundable deposit of Kshs.100, 000/= to enable you to bid.
2.Cash at the fall of the hammer.
www.nyaluoyoauctioneers.com

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Under the Instructions received from our Principals, we shall sell the under mentioned goods by Public Auction to be held on **Saturday 23rd August, 2025** at **Pangani Auction Centre in Pangani Nairobi starting 10.00am.**

DISTRESS FOR RENT
LANDLORD VS. MOSES CLINTON OTIENO.
Ramton Water Dispenser, Samsung 1 Door Fridge, Glasstop Coffee Table, 2 Carpets, Wooden Tv Stand, 6 Seater Brown Sofa Set, 4 Assorted Cusions, 32" Sony Tv, Sony Home Theaater, Lg Microwave, Baby Walker, Baby Feeding Table.

DISTRESS FOR RENT
LANDLORD VS. GEORGE MUNGAI.
Motor Vehicle Reg No. KCR 976C Nissan Advan.

DISTRESS FOR RENT
LANDLORD VS. PHILIP OKORE.
Ramton Water Dispenser, 55" Hisense Tv, Coffee Table, Lg 2 Door Fridge, 7 Seater Sofa, Tv Wooden Stand, 2 Flower Vaes, Artificial Flowers, Office Chair, Iron Box, 4 Burner Cooker, Ramton Microwave, 13kg Cylinder, 2 Single Seat, Dining Table +6 Chairs.

DISTRESS FOR RENT
LANDLORD VS. BRIAN THOGO MAINA.
Tuktuk Reg No. KTWA 181E Hadjin.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
Cash at the fall of the hammer.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT AT NAIROBI
MILIMANI COMMERCIAL COURTS
MISC. APPLICATION NO. E970 OF 2025.

SYMES MAGINA WASIKE ……1ST APPLICANT
WILLIAM JUMBA NDENYI …… 2ND APPLICANT
JOSPHAT MUEMA WAMBUA ……3RD APPLICANT
-VS-
GIDEON ONSONGO GWARO …… RESPONDENT
-AND-
KCB BANK KENYA LTD…… INTERESTED PARTY

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT
(Pursuant to the Court Orders granted on 6th August, 2025)

TO: GIDEON ONSONGO GWARO,

TAKE NOTICE that a Miscellaneous Application has been filed in the Chief Magistrates Court at Nairobi - Milimani Commercial, Civil Division, in which you are named as the Respondent. Service of the said Application and the accompanying documents thereof upon you has been ordered by means of this advertisement.

A copy of the Application can be obtained from the Applicant's Advocates offices under-mentioned or at the Chief Magistrates Court at Nairobi - Milimani Commercial during the official working hours.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you do not enter an appearance within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this advertisement, a Ruling will be entered against you with costs, interest plus all consequential incidentals arising there from.

DATED at Nairobi this …**8th** ….. day of ……**August**…… **2025.**

EKONS LAW ADVOCATES
ADVOCATES FOR THE APPLICANTS

Drawn & Filed by:-
EKONS LAW ADVOCATES
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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)
EXTENSION OF LEASE

The owner of **L.R No. Machakos Town Block 1/125** situated in Machakos Town proposes to extend lease of the land upon its expiry subject to approval by Machakos County Government. Individuals, Institutions, Organisations etc. with comments or objections are requested to forward them in writing within **14 Days** of this notice to:

CECM Lands, Urban Development & Housing,
Machakos County Government
P.O BOX 1996-90100
Machakos

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PAYMENTS STRICTLY VIA MPESA PAYBIL NUMBER **793601**

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM PLUPADC/3(r.3 (3) (xi)
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)
NOTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION OF LEASE

The registered owner of **MSA ISLAND /BLOCK XXVI/142** wishes to extend the Land Lease subject to County approval. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc., with comments and/or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of this notice to:

The County Executive Committee Member
Lands, Planning, Housing & Urban Renewal- County Government of Mombasa, P.O. Box 81599-80100, Mombasa

Registered Planner:
Abubakar A. Maddy. Reg. No. 0061

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)

NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USER

Notice is hereby given that the registered owner of **Plot No. KIAMBAA/THIMBIGUA/3353** located at KIAMBAA Sub-County MUCHATHA area has applied for permission to change the user from **AGRICULTURAL USE TO COMMERCIAL CUM RESIDENTIAL (FLATS & SHOPS)** subject to approval by County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, Institutions, Members of the public etc. with objections or comments to the proposal should serve notice of such in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

CECM - LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU
P.O BOX 2344-00900,
KIAMBU.

PHYSICAL PLANNER:
KELVIN RITHO RPP NO. 0270

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PAYMENTS STRICTLY VIA MPESA PAYBIL NUMBER **793601**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS DEVELOPMENT ON PLOT TITLE NO. NAIROBI/BLOCK 34/180 (Original L.R. No. 209/165/29), ALONG MOGOTIO ROAD, WESTLANDS, NAIROBI COUNTY.

Pursuant to regulation 17 of the environmental management and coordination (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2003, the proponent, **Everwood Properties Limited**, proposes to develop a residential block of two basements, ground and two Mezzanine (podium) floors for parking spaces, a shop on ground floor; the roof floor will comprise of gym, changing rooms and restaurant, and 24No. floors comprising of three hundred and twelve Residential units (264No. one bedroom, 48No. two bedroom units) and other associated amenities and facilities on plot Title No. Nairobi/Block 34/180 (Original L.R. No. 209/65/29) along Mogotio Road, in Westlands, Nairobi County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures and anticipated benefits of the project

Impacts	Proposed mitigation measures
Soil Erosion	• Control earthworks. • Install drainage structures to control flow of storm water. • Ensure and management of excavation activities • Landscaping shall be done on project completion • Control and manage excavation soils • Control activities especially during rainy conditions • Provide soil erosion control and conservation structures
Loss of Vegetation	• Only area earmarked for development shall be cleared. • Plant trees, shrubs and flowers on remaining open spaces.
Changes in hydrology/ impended drainage/deep excavations	• Proper Installation of drainage structures • Install cascades to break the impact of water flowing in the drains • Ensure efficiency of drainage structures through proper design and maintenance • Provide gratings to the drainage channels • A geotechnical survey shall be conducted and the recommendations thereof followed. There shall be no blasting during excavation • A methodology for excavation shall be generated as required by NCA
Changes in land use- extent	• The project shall be approved by the relevant government bodies before commencement
Air pollution	• Stockpiles of earth should be sprayed with water or covered during dry seasons • Enclose the site with dust-proof nets during construction. • Water shall be sprayed during the construction phase of excavated areas during dry conditions. • Provide dust masks for personnel in dusty areas • Sensitize construction workers on pollution control measures • Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials • The developer shall use a humidifier to control residual dust
Noise pollution	• Install suitable barriers to shield compressors and other small stationary equipment where necessary • Display signs to indicate construction activities • Maintain all equipment • Adhere to provisions of Noise Prevention and Control Rules 2005, Legal Notice no. 24 regarding noise limits at the workplace as well as NEMA Noise Excessive Vibration Pollution Control Regulations, 2000 • The project will follow the approved work timings only
Public health, occupational health and safety	• Train staff/workers on occupational health and safety. • Provide full protective gear & workmen's compensation cover in addition to the right tools and operational instructions & manuals during construction. • Design of sewerage system should be as provided in the plans and should be constructed to approved size and design, standard and of approved materials. • Ensure use of standard construction materials and to the specifications. Avoid undesirable, substandard, hazardous or unauthorized materials during construction & maintenance. • Sensitized staff on social/health issues such as drugs • Portable sanitation facilities shall be provided during construction
Road traffic disruption	• All workers and visitors on site to use mandatory protective gear. • Unattended entry to the project site to be restricted. • Use of efficient and well-maintained machines to lift and transfer materials. • Removal of all dangerous materials that may pose a threat such as metal bars, wires, glass and broken equipment. • Availing of fully equipped first aid kits to help address emergencies. • Warning signs to all users and visitors be placed at appropriate places. • Educate construction works and tenants on health and safety risks and their prevention.
Water Sources	• An alternative water source shall be provided. The proponent shall drill a borehole at the proposed site upon obtaining all approvals • Management of water usage. Avoid unnecessary wastage. • Recycling of water at the construction phase where possible. • Make use of roof catchments to provide water i.e. for general purpose.
Security and social impacts	• Provision of security guards, CCTV cameras, security lights and other security apparatus during the entire project cycle. • Construction work timings shall only in line with the NEMA licensing conditions
Water quality and sewerage infrastructure	• The design of the entire sewerage system shall consider the estimate discharges from individual sources and the cumulative discharge of the entire project even during peak volumes. • Provide for adequate drainage systems. • Ensure effluents are discharged responsibly to the sewerage system. • The proponent shall seek approval from NWSC before re-connecting to the existing public mains • Monitor quality of wastewater to ensure compliance with the Environmental Management & Coordination (Water Quality) Regulations, 2006 and other relevant Laws.
Power sources	• Power supply requirements shall be calculated and shared with KPLC as is the requirement. A dedicated transformer for the entire project shall be a consideration. • Alternative power sources (solar) shall also be installed for lighting and heating
Increased generation of waste	• Adopt waste minimization at source. • Monitoring the fate of disposed wastes to ensure they are legally land filled at a recognized controlled site. • Adhering to waste management regulations of 2006 • Only registered waste transporter shall be engaged • Construction / demolition waste shall be regularly disposed during project implementation
	ANTICIPATED BENEFITS
Provision of housing and income generation	Housing is a basic good and a major contributor to productivity. Supply of standard and affordable housing has always lagged behind demand for the same and the proposed project has a contribution towards reduction of the deficit.
Promotion of healthy competition, convenience and uniformity in land use	The area has been for a long time restricted to low rise units but this has now changed and housing demand has opened up the area for high rise multi-dwellings.
Optimal utilization of the land	The proposed site has been with a single dwelling for some time but the proposed project shall accommodate more families thus raising the utility of the land. The proposed use also conforms to the area's land use and is not unique in the general Westlands area
Employment	The proposed project will provide direct and indirect job opportunities to a significant number of the population during construction and occupational phases thus reducing the unemployment and in the process provide livelihood.
Promotion of development	The proposed project shall contribute in overcoming the challenges of today's life including strategies for alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development.
Increase government revenue	The proposed project shall generate tax revenue for the government directly and indirectly
Creation of market for goods and services and secondary businesses	The proposed project shall consume various materials during construction such as stones, cement, sand, glass, steel products, wood products, PVC products, ceramic products etc. Those doing commercial activities in the neighborhood shall also have their market widened by the occupants and workers.

For any enquiries/comments please contact:-
EVERWOOD PROPERTIES LIMITED,
P.O. BOX 33578-00100,
NAIROBI.
Tel. 0722796282 | Email: everwoodproperties24@gmail.com; justneolife@gmail.com

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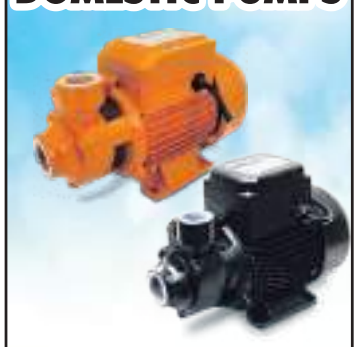

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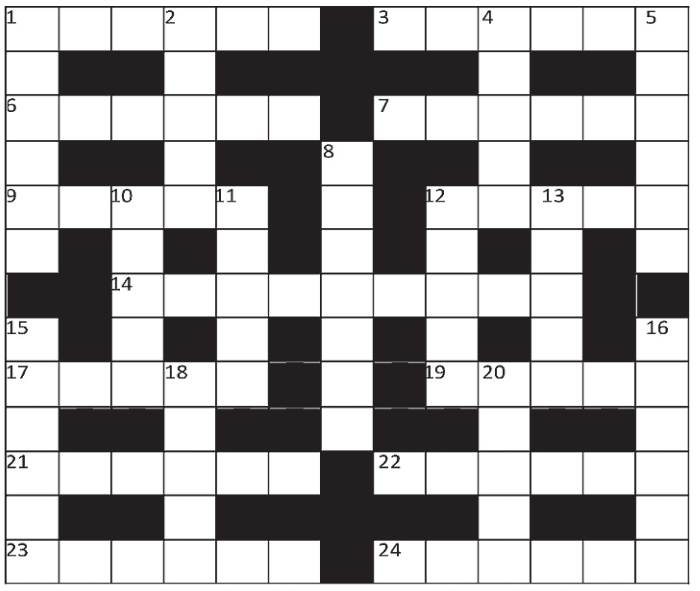


DOWN

1. A one time chairman of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (6)
2. A group of cells having similar structure, functions and origin (6)
3. A device used for generating electric current from mechanical (6)
4. A name of Luo origin, that means "born at night"(6)
6. Former Senator for Laikipia County (6)
7. Former Governor for Nakuru County (6)
12. A form of disturbance that travels with a finite velocity through the medium (4)
13. Something owing (4)
15. _____ period is the period taken by the body to complete one oscillation (4)
16 Howl (4)
17. ____ expansion is expansion in length (6)
18. Hose spout (6)
19. Heterosexual (colloq) (6)
20. Short sightedness (6)
21. White vestments (6)
22. Quantities which can be described completely by magnitude only (6)

ACROSS

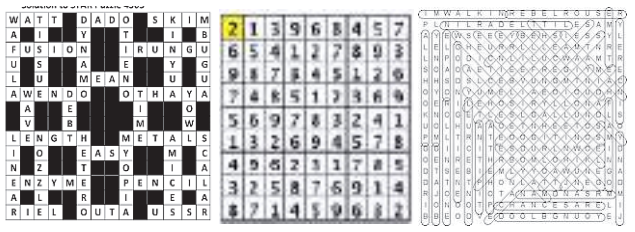
1._____is the unit of power (4)
3. The lower part of the wall of a room, below about waist height, when decorated differently from the upper part (4)
5. Glide on surface (4)
8. Nuclear__ is the process of combining of two light nuclei into a stable and heavier nuclide (6)
9. Governor for Murang'a County (6)
10. _____ position is the original rest position of the bob in the pendulum (4)
11. Constituency in Migori County (6)
14. Constituency in Nyeri County (6)
17. ____ of pendulum is the distance between point of suspension and point of oscillation (6)
20. The elements which show a tendency to lose electrons and form positive ions (6)
23. Simple (4)
24. It is an organic catalyst that is capable of accelerating specific chemical reaction (6)
25. ____ of light consists of a diverging (6)
26. Currency used in Cambodia (4)
27. Colloquial, informal contraction of "out of." (4)
28. Former Soviet Union (6)

SUDOKU / SIMPLE

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

Fill the grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the sub-grids that compose the grid all contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 one time.

Thursday solutions



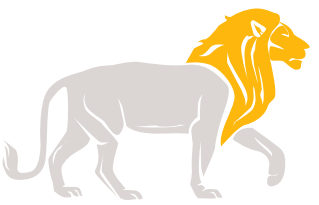
WORD SEARCH

N A D M T H E G A M B L E R A T S R E P U S
E W Y R R N I A R D N A E R I F E M P L E H
R I O C E A M E R I C A N W O M A N A S B E
O R U D R A U E A H P A R G O T O H P T D S
S R R B N E M O N A M R D L T Z B A G H R G
E E E E R U V O Y O T E E E E O H N H G E O
G V S L A O S A N T L C E U H T I R T I B N
A E I B L L T A E T U R R E N C I S O N A E
R F X D N I I H A W T O M A N I U T D N R I
D T T I R P V D E S M I H A Z M T A B R R P
E H E S E I A A N R A A D T M Y N E A E A N
N G E T C W F I T N L W E E I N O N D H C A
D I N R N I A T R I O O R R I W O N E T U C
O N A U A M M H A D R N U E D R B O Y U D I
N S C H D S A A A W I A S I A T O N C O A R
T H M E T P N H G G A S G H E I C A G S U E
S O Y V S A S G H I O Y S R E D I R W O L M
T B B O A A Q T I N N Y U B A D G I R L S A
O E D L L E S N G S M E K N A M C I G A M I
P Y S S E Y E Y N O B E W O O D S T O C K S
T H G I L E D N O O N R E T F A E V O L Y M

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

AFTERNOON DELIGHT
AMERICAN PIE
AMERICAN WOMAN
ANNIE'S SONG
BAD GIRLS
BARRACUDA
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
BROTHER LOUIE
CRAZY ON YOU
DELTA DAWN
DON'T STOP
DREAM ON
DREAM WEAVER
DRIFT AWAY
EBONY EYES
FIRE AND RAIN
HELP ME
IMAGINE
LAST DANCE
LET IT BE
LOVE HURTS
LOW RIDER
MAGIC MAN
MAIN STREET
MARGARITAVILLE
MY LOVE
MY SHARONA
NIGHT FEVER
PHOTOGRAPH
PIANO MAN
REUNITED
ROSE GARDEN
SHADOW DANCING
SHE'S GONE
SIGNS
SOUTHERN NIGHTS
SUMMER NIGHTS
SUNDOWN
SUPERSTAR
THE GAMBLER
WITHOUT YOU
WOODSTOCK
Y.M.C.A.
YOU'RE SIXTEEN

ALL IN THE STARS



LEO
July 23 – August 22

You have the power of choice, so use it. Take an active role in events or you might as well stay in bed.

VIRGO
August 23 – September 23

Remember to balance old traditions with new information. The integration of these is key.

LIBRA
September 24 – October 23

How well have you physically and mentally prepared? The strength of your framework is now being tested against the prevailing winds.

SCORPIO
October 24 – November 22

Information may fly and you could be asked to step up and contribute your wealth of knowledge.

SAGITTARIUS
November 23 – December 21

Don't shut yourself in during this time of great upheaval. Your opinion is just as valid as anyone else's.

CAPRICORN
December 22 – January 20

Even slight action might face resistance. The more stubborn your attitude, the harder it will be to progress.

AQUARIUS
January 21 – February 19

Make sure you gather the facts before you act. Don't simply recoil and shrink into a cave.

PISCES
February 20 – March 20

Make sure you're in on the deal. Use your communicative powers to help bridge the gap.

ARIES
March 21 – April 20

You might need to make an important decision now. You've done all the prep work you need to do. It's time to act.

TAURUS
April 21– May 21

If you feel someone does not understand you, be the first to apologize for any miscommunication.

GEMINI
May 22 – June 21

Stay in tune with your body, as you may experience unusual hunger, or crave some unusual taste or spice.

CANCER
June 22 – July 22

You may experience your deep feelings welling up. Take time out to notice what's going on inside of yourself.

ODDLY ENOUGH

German states debate who invented Bratwurst sausages

BBC/ A row has broken out between two German states, Bavaria and Thuringia, as to who can lay claim to inventing the Bratwurst sausage. Until now, the "Wurstkuchl" tavern in Bavaria has claimed to be "the oldest Bratwurst stand in the world." Die Wurstkuchl is situated on the Stone Bridge in Regensburg on the Danube River. The oldest documented evidence of a cook or a food stall at the Stone Bridge is said to date back to 1378.

But now, historians in Erfurt, Thuringia's state capital, have come across a document from 1269 that mentions people who rented a building with a meat-roasting stand (Brathütte) and a roasting pan (Bräter) — more than 100 years earlier than the Regensburg sausage stand. Historians are now looking for the site in Erfurt where the sausage stand once stood. No restaurant there has claimed the title of oldest Bratwurst stand.

Previously in Thuringia, the earliest written reference to Bratwursts dated back to 1404. It described how "1 groschen for bratwurst casings" was spent in the town of Arnstadt. Meanwhile in Regensburg, the Wurstkuchl is continuing to make its sausages. On their website, it says "much has remained the same" since the Middle Ages, with "the open charcoal grill, the home-made sausages made from pure pork ham, the sauerkraut from their own fermentation cellar and the well-known Wurstkuchl mustard."

In response to the report of an earlier sausage stand, the Wurstkuchl's landlady Alexandra Meier told German BR24 TV: "To be honest, it doesn't bother us at all."

TELEVISION LINEUP – FRIDAY

5:00AM	MORNING DECREE	4:30PM	DEBATE CIRCLE – RPT
5:30AM	TV47 FITNESS	5:00PM	BEATPLUG
6:00AM	MORNING CAFÉ	7:00PM	TV47 WIKENDI
10:00AM	BEAT BREAK	7:30PM	THE 77 PERCENT
11:00AM	TV47 MATUKIO	8:00PM	ECO AFRICA
2:00PM	BAZE 47	8:30PM	NEW LIFE BEGINS
3:00PM	KIDS ON THE BLOCK	9:00PM	THIS FRIDAY WITH BETTY KYALLO
4:00PM	TV47 NEWS NOW	10:10PM	TRIBE 47
4:15PM	SPORTS LIFE	12:00AM	BEATPLUG MIX

SPORTS

SPORTS LOCAL

ATHLETICS

Kenyans to challenge Uganda's Kiplimo in Buenos Aires showdown

BY TEDDY MULEI

A strong Kenyan charge led by Napoli Half Marathon champion Emmanuel Wafula will be out to derail world record holder Jacob Kiplimo of Uganda when they line up for the Buenos Aires Half Marathon on August 24.

Organisers had initially billed Kiplimo as the star attraction for this year's race, but Kenya's elite will be intent on stealing the spotlight.

"Again, the fastest will be present at the Buenos Aires Half Marathon. Seven men running under the hour will challenge for the world record," the organisers said.

The men's course record stands at 59:05, set by Bedan Karoki in 2019, a mark that could be under serious threat. Wafula arrives in Argentina in blistering form, fresh from a dominant 2025 campaign. He kicked off his season with a dominant victory at the Napoli Half Marathon on February 23, stopping the clock in 59:42. He spearheaded a Kenyan podium with Simon Maiywa (1:00:26) and Edward Koonyo (1:00:47) in second and third place, respectively.

He followed it up with yet another half-marathon victory in Maranello, clocking 59:20 with Cosmas Boi (1:00:07) and Simon Ekidor (1:01:23) completing the podium. Backing him up is Weldon Langat, who will be hunting his first podium of the season. Langat's 2025 campaign has seen him place fourth at the Hong Kong Half Marathon, clocking 1:02:57 before producing a dismal performance in Lisbon, where he finished 17th in 1:02:11.

Joining the duo is Vinicent Nyageo, chasing his second victory over 21km after opening his campaign with victory in Sevilla (59:33) in January. Adding more Kenyan firepower to the field are Shanghai Half Marathon third-place finisher Isaac Kipkemboi and Madrid Half Marathon champion Levy Kibet.

However, they face a towering challenge in Kiplimo, who has been nothing short of phenomenal this year. The Ugandan obliterated the world record in Barcelona on February 16, stopping the clock at 56:42 to become the first man to dip under 57 minutes. In that race, he left Geoffrey Kamworor (58:44) and Samwel Mailu (59:40) in his wake.

Kiplimo then made a stunning full marathon debut in London on April 27, finishing second in 2:03:37 behind Sebastian Sawe (2:02:27). In the women's race, Catherine Reline headlines the charge, chasing her second half-marathon victory of the season.

Emmanuel Wafula after winning the 2024 Rome Half Marathon/ HANDOUT

ATHLETICS

Julius Yego /FILE

RELENTLESS YEGO

Javelin star chases fifth 80m mark of the season in Silesia

BY TEDDY MULEI

THE 2016 Olympic javelin silver medallist Julius Yego will be aiming for his fifth 80m-plus throw of the season when he lines up at Saturday's Silesia Diamond League.

The "YouTube Man" has been steadily sharpening his spear this year as he builds towards a record seventh World Championships appearance next month in Tokyo.

Yego has four 80m mark throws before a global tournament, a far cry from 2024, when he managed just three ahead of Paris Olympics.

He launched his 2025 campaign at the Doha Diamond League in May, securing ninth place with 78.52m.

The meeting saw Germany's Julian Weber unleash a world-leading 91.06m to claim victory. Chopra soared into the 90m club with 90.23m, while Olympic bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada threw 85.64m for third.

At the Kip Keino Classic in Nairobi on May 31, Yego struggled to find his groove, placing ninth with 74.71m.

Brazil's Luiz Mauricio da Silva (86.34m) claimed top honours, with Germany's Thomas Röhler (80.79m) and Portugal's Leandro Ramos (80.68m) completing the podium. The 2015 world champion, however, turned his season around the following month with two dominant displays in Finland.

On June 11 at the Motonet GP meet, he uncorked a season-best 82.95m to take the win, leading 2012 Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott (79.98m) and Finland's Taneli Juutinen (78.24m).

Six days later, at the Turku Continental Meet, he launched an 83.08m throw to claim victory.

His form, however, dipped at the Paris Diamond League on June 26, finishing sixth with an 80.26m throw. Chopra (88.16m), Julian Weber of Germany (87.88m) and Da Silva (86.62m) claimed the podium.

He later improved his season best on July 5 at the inaugural Neeraj Chopra classic in India, launching an 84.51m throw for silver behind Chopra (86.18m). Yego had earlier relayed his intentions of making sure that by the time he gets to Tokyo, he is in peak form.

"I want to make sure that by the time we get to the World Championships, my form is in its peak, and that is what I am working on now," Yego said during the July 22 World Championship trials. His main target for Tokyo will be to replicate his 2015 heroics from Beijing, where he heaved a massive 92.72m to claim the World title.

My overall target is to be on the highest podium and that is to win the World Championships. I won it in 2015, and I feel I am ready to do it again," he added.

Yego will take on Olympic bronze medallist Peters, 2022 European champion Weber, 2012 Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott, Japan's Roderick Genki, Poland's Cyprian Mrzyglod, Moldova's Andrian Mardare, Lithuania's Edis Matusevicius and Dawid Wegner of Poland.

Kabras eye national 7s series title despite slow start to the new season

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

DESPITE a slow start to the Sevens Series, Kenya Cup champions Kabras are optimistic of winning the overall crown.

Team manager, Geoffrey Messo, said fatigue played a big role in their fluctuating performances in the opening two legs of the series in Mombasa and Nakuru.

"Travelling from Kakamega to Mombasa, then back home and again to Nakuru for the second tournament, strained the team. But now the boys are well refreshed after a one-week break and ready for battle at Christie Sevens," said Messo.

He added, "The series is still in its early stages, but we need a strong performance at the Christie Sevens. There is a lot of rugby to be played between now and September when the series ends, and we are very much in contention."

The Kakamega-based side is currently fifth on the log with 27 points. The Sugar millers reached the semifinals in Mombasa, going down to arch rivals KCB 10-5 before bouncing back to beat Nakuru 21-10 in the bronze medal match.

The side, however, struggled for fluency at the Prinsloo Sevens, where they lost to KCB in the quarterfinals, going down 17-5 before Nakuru added further salt to injury in the classification match, losing 12-10 to finish seventh overall in the tournament.

One area the Kabras will be looking to improve is the attack during the Christie Sevens after a below-par performance at Prinsloo.

"We had opportunities to put teams away, but we were not patient, especially when we got to the red zone. This is an area we have worked on in the last week," added Messo.

He noted that the club is looking at minor changes to the side with the likes of playmakers Jone Kubu, Brian Tanga, and speedstar Griffin Chao being added to the squad ahead of Christie Sevens.

" They have come from the Simbas squad and trained, and the technical bench will make a final decision on their participation," noted Messo.

Kabras, who are the defending champions, face Menengai Oilers. Daystar Falcons and Uganda side Ruga Ruga select in Pool C.

Kabras' William Mwanji sidesteps John Okoth of menengai Oilers during last year's Kenya Cup final /HANDOUT

CAF AFRICAN NATIONS

PULSE BUILDS AH

Harambee Stars to battle Chipolopolo in cruc

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BY TONY MBALLA
@tonymballa

A few metres off Thika Road, where the traffic hums like the heartbeat of Nairobi's northern soul, Moi Stadium, Kasarani, rises like a sentinel of dreams.

Its arches stretch skyward, floodlights glinting like the eyes of giants, watching, waiting, holding the city's pulse in their grasp. Football here is not a mere sport. It is history bleeding through the veins of the crowd. It is pride that whispers in the wind. It is a rhythm, a heartbeat, a promise.

On Sunday, August 17, Kasarani will breathe life into that promise once more. Dreams will collide with determination. Drama will rise in waves as the high-rising Harambee Stars flex muscles with the Chipolopolo of Zambia. And yet, CAF's ruling casts a shadow, limiting the multitude to 27,000 souls.

The restriction is a ghost of Morocco's night, when passion spilt over and barriers faltered under the weight of a nation's heartbeat. Still, the Harambee Stars remain unbroken, eyes fixed, hearts blazing.

"We accept the decision," captain Abud Omar said. "Football is about spirit, not numbers. Those 27,000 will be our army. And the rest of Kenya will roar from every corner of this land."

A history written in sweat and scars

Kenya and Zambia's story is carved in stone, etched with decades of high-stakes clashes. The Chipolopolo have long been the granite wall against which Kenyan dreams crash.

Memories of the 1997 Cecafa final in Kampala, when a young Kenyan side was shattered, linger like whispers in the corridors of Kenyan football. Yet history is never only grief. It carries redemption, waiting in Kasarani's stands. The gritty 2-1 victory in 2017, a friendly turned battlefield triumph, still echoes in the minds of those who were there, reminding the nation that fear can be tamed.

"Zambia respects Kenya," Avram Grant said from Lusaka. "But respect is not fear. We are here to win, in front of their people, and to remind Africa of our strength."

For the Stars, the ghosts of past triumphs and heartbreaks fuel the fire. Byrne Omondi, a fortress in goal, recalls the saves that denied Angola and Morocco. Austin Odhiambo, spearheading the attack, is haunted by moments missed, yet driven by the inspiration of the two goals he has already scored.

The sanctions that shaped the stakes

CAF's 27,000-fan limit is more than a number. It is a crucible. A test of focus, of fire, of patience. Ticket demand has ignited like dry brush: social media ablaze with memes, debates, and fiery pleas. Hawkers weave scarves in red, green, and black, selling more than cloth — selling the pulse of a nation.

Sunday will compress energy into a concentrated roar. Every chant will feel like thunder. Every drumbeat will reverberate through bones and street corners. McCarthy's men must harness this energy, wield it against a Zambian team carved from discipline, physicality, and relentless counterattacks.

McCarthy's calm before the storm

Benni McCarthy addresses the media like a river running under storm clouds — calm on the surface, wild beneath.

"Talk about fans, talk about sanctions all you want," he said. "But when that whistle blows on Sunday, August 17, it's what happens between the white lines that counts. Zambia will come at us. They always do. They are proud, disciplined, and physical. But my boys have pace. Heart. And they have learned to suffer together."

Austin Odhiambo's vision in midfield, Marvin Nabwire's tireless coverage, and Ryan Ogam's relentless attacks form the spine of the plan. Byrne Omondi, steady as a cliff, is a last line of defence; Abud Omar marshals the backline with precision, threading discipline and authority through the veins of the squad.

"Our preparation is meticulous," McCarthy adds. "Every player knows their role. We are not here to participate. We are here to conquer. August 17 is the day we show focus, skill, and determination."

4

Chipolopolo arrive with a statement

Zambia arrived in Nairobi like soldiers ready for war. Avram Grant's attention to detail is evident in every drill: crisp passing, aerial dominance, precise rotations. Captain Kabaso Chongo commands from the backline with calm authority, while striker Kelvin Kampamba prowls the attack like a lion circling its prey, waiting for the faintest lapse to strike.

"Kenya will be fast," Chongo said. "But we are ready for fast. We have played where crowds were against us, and we have won. We can do it again. This group stage is not over. Mistakes can be corrected. Focus is absolute: beat Kenya, finish strong, and send a message. August 17 is another opportunity. We will seize it."

The tactical battle

Kenya's strategy is a dance of speed and intelligence — stretching Zambia's backline, switching play in fluid waves, probing for spaces behind fullbacks. Zambia will compress, press, and seek to punish errors.

"It's not just skill; it's war out there," Abud Omar said. "They will try to unsettle us. Patience and precision will decide the outcome. Our tempo, our discipline, our finishing — these are the weapons we bring."

McCarthy nods to the mental game. "Football is as much a battle of minds as legs. We've prepared for the crowd, the pressure, and Zambia's history. Our players are ready to write history, even under CAF's limitations."

3

Fan stories and city buzz

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has urged fans to respect CAF rules. "Exceeding stadium capacity risks public safety and could jeopardise Kenya's chances of hosting the 2027 Af-

S CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

EAD OF KENYA, ZAMBIA DUEL

cial Group 'A' encounter as quarterfinals loom

5

1. Kenya's Alphas Onyango vies for a header with Morocco's Imad Riahi /HANDOUT

2. Kenyan fans inside Moi Stadium, Kasarani /HANDOUT

3. Harambee Stars' coach Benni McCarthy /HANDOUT

4. Harambee Stars' Edward Omondi and Ryan Ogam celebrate Ogam's goal against Morocco /HANDOUT

5. Kenya's Siraj Mohammed in action against Moroccos' Ossama Lamlioui /HANDOUT

6. Kenya's Dan Sakari and Austin Odhiambo in action aginst DR Congo /HANDOUT

rica Cup of Nations," he said.

The National Police Service is deployed to enforce directives. "Fans are our 12th player," Murkomen added, "but we must protect our country, our team, and our integrity. Let us buy tickets as required and support our team within the law."

History and high stakes

Kenya leads Group A with seven points, victories over DR Congo and Morocco (1-0 each), and a draw with Angola (1-1). Zambia sits at the bottom, needing wins in the remaining matches to survive. This is not just a points race — it is a clash of pride, momentum, and continental recognition. "Every game is a story," McCarthy said. "August 17 is the chapter we intend to write with courage, skill, and discipline."

The stadium, the road, the soul

Kasarani is more than concrete and floodlights. Every car horn, every drumbeat, every rooftop chant threads into the stadium's pulse. The 27,000 limit compresses sound and energy, turning every cheer into thunder, every chant into a heartbeat felt across the city.

"This stadium will be a drum, a heart, a promise," Omar said. "Even clipped, the roar will shake the earth."

Expected drama

Sunday, August 17, is a day for legends. Kenya's tactical dance and pace will meet Zambia's physicality and aerial power. Every interception, sprint, and goal attempt will carry the weight of generations.

Absolutely. Here's a 1,000-word lyrical, capturing fan expectations ahead of the Kenya vs Zambia CHAN 2024 clash, with fictional but realistic voices: The city pulses like a living drum in the hours before Kasarani comes alive. Nairobi, a labyrinth of streets and stories, vibrates with a collective heartbeat, each beat echoing with anticipation, hope, and the tension of a nation on the edge of its seat.

Even under CAF's cap limit, the energy of the Kenyan fanbase refuses to be contained. In Ngara, amidst the clatter of matatus and street vendors, Joseph Mwangi paints a vision with words.

"We've suffered enough watching our team falter," he says. "This Sunday, I want to see courage. I want to see Masoud Juma running like a storm, Austin Odhiambo commanding the field, and Byrne Omondi denying every shot Zambia throws. We've waited for this moment — it must not slip away."

Down in Kayole, where rooftops are adorned with red, green, and black flags fluttering like small battleships ready for war, Amina Hassan, a young nurse and lifelong Harambee Stars devotee, expresses her dream in a whisper that could carry across the city.

"I want the team to play with heart. Let them show patience and intelligence, not just speed. Every tackle, every pass, every shot should tell the story of our nation — that we are resilient, fearless, and proud. If we win, it will feel like the streets themselves are singing."

In Kibera, a group of boys drums on empty paint cans, creating a rhythm that mimics the pulse of Kasarani itself. Otieno, Barasa, and Juma, childhood friends united by football and mischief, lean on each other and speak in rapid-fire bursts.

"We want goals!" Otieno shouts, "Big, screaming goals that make the stands explode!"

Barasa, quieter but no less passionate, adds, "We want discipline too. No stupid mistakes. If Abud Omar marshals the defence well and Masoud Juma finishes like he should, we're unstoppable."

Juma, the youngest, grins, "And we want the Zambians to feel fear. Just a little fear. That's our pride on the line."

Across town at Uhuru Park, where the FKF has set up one of the six official fan zones, middle-aged men and women gather around giant screens, beer and soft drinks in hand, voices low but trembling with suspense. Fatuma Njeri, a mother of three and long-time supporter, describes her expectation with a poetic cadence.

"I expect a game of elegance and grit. Let Kenya move like a river, strong and purposeful. Let our boys show courage and composure, for the eyes of Africa are watching. Let every tackle be a heartbeat, every sprint a drumbeat, and every goal a chorus of our dreams."

Meanwhile, on the northern edges of the city in Lucky Summer, small shops buzz with fans debating tactics and formations. Kevin Otieno, a student of strategy and a lifelong fan of midfield maestros, shares his premonition.

"I expect Austin Odhiambo to control the tempo like a conductor, Marvin Nabwire to control every blade of grass and Masoud Juma to finish cleanly. We need every piece in harmony. And most importantly, we need Abud Omar to be a wall, unshakable, unwavering. That is how we win."

Even outside the city, Kenyans in Mombasa and Kisumu speak in voices tinged with longing. Aisha Mohamed, perched near a small radio in Mombasa's Old Town, dreams aloud: "I expect drama. I want Masoud Juma to chase every ball as if it were the last in his life. I want Byrne Omondi to make saves that seem impossible. And when Kenya scores, I want the city to tremble — a roar that even CAF cannot ignore."

In Eldoret, on farms, where the radio crackles over distant hills, Daniel Kiptoo listens with a heart that skips and stutters. "We expect courage. We expect unity. This is more than football. It is our identity, our story. If we falter, it will hurt. But if we rise, every Kenyan will feel invincible for a day."

Even among the young, dreams take flight like paper aeroplanes tossed into the wind. Sofia, a 12-year-old schoolgirl in Ruaraka, folds her flag with meticulous care. "I expect excitement. I want goals. I want heroes. I want Kenya to make me proud. And I want the city to feel alive. That is all I ask."

Expectations beyond the scoreline

The heartbeat of Nairobi does not beat for numbers alone. Fans speak of style, courage, discipline, and flair. They speak of moments — a cheeky pass, a long-range strike, a save that defies physics — as though those moments define the moral of the story.

Michael Oduor, a former amateur player turned football analyst, muses on the tactical expectations: "I expect smart play. Kenya must not rush, must read Zambia's body language, anticipate the counter, and strike with precision. Fans want goals, yes, but they want intelligence. They want Masoud Juma finishing with eyes wide open, Byrne Omondi commanding his area like a general, and midfielders controlling tempo like painters on a canvas. Football is poetry, and Sunday is the recital."

Lilian Wanjiku, a university student and passionate social media commentator, adds her wish: "I expect drama, moments that will flood TikTok and Twitter. I want celebrations that make the fans scream. I want the city to feel like a living stadium. I expect every Kenyan watching to feel that pulse in their bones."

Emotional currency of hopes

Fans measure hope in shivers down the spine, in goosebumps along the arms, in hearts that pound like percussion instruments.

Joseph Mwangi reiterates: "Even if I am not in the stadium, I want to feel every heartbeat of the game. If Byrne Omondi saves a penalty, I want the streets to shake. If Masoud Juma scores, I want the city to dance in unison. That is how football should feel."

Hassan envisions the moral victory: "Even if Zambia resists, even if the game is hard-fought, I expect the team to show composure. That is the spirit of Kenya. That is how we claim the narrative. We may be limited in numbers, but we are limitless in heart."

Otieno, Barasa, and Juma nod in agreement, their drumming creating a prelude to the storm they anticipate. "We expect passion, unity, and pride," Juma shouts. "We expect heroes. And we expect Kasarani to feel like the heart of the nation beating loud and fierce."

6

SCHOOL GAMES

KENYANS TEAMS SHINE

Home teams impress as FEASSSA games start in Kakamega

Girls' hockey action between St Joseph's, Kitale (in red) and Ng'iya **/ANGWENYI GICHANA**

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

KENYAN teams recorded impressive results on Day One as the 22nd edition of the Federation of East African Secondary Schools Sports Association (FEASSSA) Games got underway in Kakamega yesterday.

In boys' rugby 15s, debutants and national champions Vihiga narrowly overcame Uganda's Namilyango College 20-15 in a game played at the Bull Ring in Kakamega. Vihiga coach Abubakar Abdalla admitted that the match was tough.

"We made some technical mistakes, but we thank God for the hard-fought win. It's a good start for us as we set our sights on lifting the FEASSA trophy," said Abdalla.

In the second game, Kenya's other representatives, Upper Hill School, came from behind to beat Uganda's Jinja Secondary 26-19. Victor Wangwe said, "It was a tough game. The first game is not always easy, and we are taking the game at a time. I expect equally tough games."

Kisii School made a dream debut in rugby 15's after thrashing Uganda's King's College 34-12. Kisii School coach Edwin Morara said, "From the beginning, I said we are prepared to win the East Africa trophy, and I believe we can go all the way."

In boys' football, Uganda's Buddo upset compatriots and regional champions Amus College 1-0, while Bukedea Comprehensive School humbled 14-time champions St. Mary's Kitende 2-1 at Kakamega Rehabilitation Centre. In girls' football, Madira played to a barren draw against Uganda's Kawempe Muslim, while Nasokol held Alliance from Tanzania to a barren draw.

Kobala settled for a 1-1 draw against Tanzania's giants, Fountain Gate at Kakamega High. National champions Butere and Amus College from Uganda battled to a barren draw.

In girls' hockey, debutants Ng'iya held East Africa champions St Joseph's, Kitale, to a barren draw in the opening game while national champions Tigoi sent a strong warning to their rivals after a 9-0 win over Uganda's Bweranyangi. Tigoi led 5-0 at the break, with Lavender Philly and Diana Namachanja scoring four times each for Tigoi, with Tracy Ilavusa adding one. Debutants Mwiki defeated Namagunga from Uganda 4-2.

In the boys' category, St Anthony's Kitale narrowly beat debutants M-Pesa Foundation Academy 2-1 at Mukumu Boys. Kevin Onyango and Collins Kimutai scored for the Saints, while Howard Mark scored M-Pesa's consolation.

Uganda's Kakungulu Memorial upset regional and national champions Musingu School 1-0. Aaron Opio scored the all-important goal for the former regional champions. Elsewhere, St Charles Lwanga narrowly beat Mbarara High, Uganda, 2-1.

In girls' basketball, holders, St Noa beat Kenya's Kaya Tiwi 68-55 in a thrilling opener as Kenya's three-time champions, Butere, beat Rwanda's Gahini 68-49.

ATHLETICS

Tuwei backs Tokyo squad to extend Kenya's World Championship dominance

BY TEDDY MULEI

ATHLETICS Kenya (AK) President Jackson Tuwei is confident the Tokyo World Championships squad can extend the nation's proud tradition of excellence and keep Kenya's flag flying high on the global stage.

Kenya heads to Tokyo with a formidable record at the biennial showpiece, having amassed 171 medals (65 gold, 58 silver, 48 bronze) to sit second on the all-time medal table behind the USA's 443.

The country's journey began in Helsinki in 1983, a modest debut that saw a 21-strong contingent (20 men and one woman) compete across 11 events, albeit without tasting podium success. The country's finest hour came at the Beijing 2015 Championships, where a record 16 medals (seven gold, six silver, three bronze) saw the country top the world. Jamaica placed second (12 medals) with the USA third (18 medals).

At the most recent edition in Budapest 2023, Kenya bagged 10 medals (three gold, three silver and four bronze), finishing fifth overall and once again flying the African flag highest on the global stage. In Budapest, Kenya's gold medallists were Faith Kipyegon (1,500m and 5,000m) and Mary Moraa (800m).

Daniel Ebenyo (10,000m), Emmanuel Wanyonyi (800m) and Beatrice Chepkoech (3,000m steeplechase) were the country's silver medallists. The bronze medallists included Abraham Kibiwot (3,000m steeplechase), Beatrice Chebet (5,000m), Jacob Krop (5,000m) and Faith Cherotich (3,000m steeplechase).

Speaking at the official opening of Team Kenya's residential camp at the high-performance training centre in Kazi Mingi, Eldoret, Tuwei called on the athletes to extend Kenya's long-standing dominance in the global extravaganza.

"You are going to Tokyo to compete, and the facilities here will help you sharpen yourselves. It's up to you to train and focus on the competition ahead because Kenya has always done well at the global championships."

"As you train, just do it cleanly and make sure you impress and leave the sport with your head high," Tuwei said. "What is the need for running and winning medals only to be stripped later? It's a big shame, and Kenya needs to get out of this, and it starts with discipline and hard work."

AK President Jack Tuwei (C) with Faith Cherotich (L) and Susan Ejore during a tree planting exercise in Eldoret **/ HANDOUT**

Malkia Strikers final squad unveiled ahead of World Championship in Thailand

Malkia Strikers' captain Meldina Sande and her assistant Gladys Ekaru **/ CHARLENE MALWA**

BY CHARLENE MALWA

KENYA Prisons' setter Marcleen Akoko was the only casualty as Malkia Strikers' 14-member squad departed for the FIVB 2025 World Championship set for August 22 to September 7 in Thailand.

Kenya is in Group 'G' alongside Poland, Germany and Vietnam. The Geoffrey Omondi-coached side was trimmed to 14 players from 17, with two on standby ahead of friendly matches against Vietnam and Spain.

The two reserves— outside hitter Sarah Namisi and Kenya Pipeline's middle blocker Marriane Sokoiyo are expected back in the country after the friendlies as the team heads to Thailand on August 20 for the championships.

The final team has captain Meldina Sande, Veronicah Adhiambo, Daisy Leting and Juliana Namutira (left attackers) and assistant captain Gladys Ekaru, Belinda Barasa and Lorraine Chebet (middle blockers). Others are Celestine Nyongesa, Sharleen Maywa (liberos); Emmaculate Nekesa, Fridah Boke (setters); Marlyne Terry, Pamela Adhiambo and Mercy Iminza (opposite hitters).

Terry shone at the recent U-20 Africa Championship in Yaounde, Cameroon, with powerful offence and consistency, earning her the Most Valuable Player (MVP) honours.

Particularly instrumental in the final, she helped Kenya edge out hosts Cameroon 3-1 (26-24, 19-25, 28-26, 25-16) to clinch their first-ever U-20 African Championships. She also delivered key contributions in earlier matches, including a straight-sets win over Egypt in the semifinals (25-19, 25-19, 25-23)— demonstrating her tactical versatility and fighting spirit. She overcame an ankle injury to lead the team and steered them to their historic first continental crown.

Her MVP-worthy performances, including a seismic third-set comeback in the final and a dominant sweep past Egypt in the semis, underscored her as a rising star unafraid of big moments.

"It's a dream come true to be in this squad. Joining the team for these friendlies and the World Championship means a lot because it's an opportunity to prove myself at the highest level. I want to give my best and make my country proud," she said.

The bookmakers have already annoyed Arteta by indicating Arsenal will finish second once more

TIME TO KICK OFF A SPECIAL SEASON

Liverpool players celebrate with the Premier League trophy /XINHUA

BY DAVID BILLINGTON

FOOTBALL GOSSIP

HOLD onto your seats, it's time for kick-off! There is top-quality imported talent, new coaches and an improved team that make this one of the most anticipated and exciting seasons since the Premier League was founded in 1992.

Liverpool are favourites to hold onto the title with their heavy spending and refreshed front line and that is before the possibility of Alexander Isak joining. Florian Wirtz is a player everyone wants to see, as is Arsenal's Viktor Gyokeres, who brings his amazing goalscoring record to the Emirates. The bookmakers have already annoyed Mikel Arteta by pencilling in Arsenal to once again finish as runners-up to Liverpool, with Manchester City finishing third and Chelsea grabbing the final Champions League spot in front of Newcastle.

Down at the foot of the table, expect the promoted clubs, Sunderland, Leeds, and Burnley, to find the going very tough. Many of my colleagues think all three could return to the Championship, as did the three promoted clubs last year: Ipswich, Leicester City, and Southampton.

Bournemouth, Brighton and Crystal Palace punched above their weight last year, as did Nottingham Forest, but all four might not do so well this time around as coaches have had time to study their tactics and form.

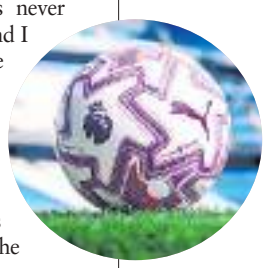
So here we go…when the whistle blows this weekend, sit back and enjoy the spectacle…

LIVERPOOL ARE THE TEAM TO BEAT

Liverpool might have lost the Community Shield to an unfancied Crystal Palace side, but I believe, from what I have seen so far on the training ground, they will set the Premier League alight with their new forward line and strengthened defence. Liverpool have assembled the most potentially perfect team for Arne Slot to take into battle this season.

It is said that Florian Wirtz could dribble his way out of a shoe box with space to spare. A £116million signing with magic dust in his boots. Someone who really admires Wirtz is the excellent new attacking wing-back signing, Milos Kirkez.

This super-confident young man has been dazzled watching Wirtz in training. He says: "I was never nervous about joining in and I was really happy to be here and I couldn't wait to get started. But it was so different to Bournemouth. The intensity, the quality and players who do not make many mistakes. It's the noise of the passes. The ball goes boom, boom, boom… it's different.



And Florian is very talented. All the guys knew it and everyone watched him in the Bundesliga. He's a very special player, technically gifted and I haven't seen that quality too much before. He does special things often and maybe too much in a single session!"

"With the ball, what he does, you don't see that in too many players. It's how he carries it, the things he does in small spaces. If you give him one or two metres, he's going to get you. He's really special in tight spaces. Just the vision of his passes is special."

"KOVA" OUT FOR CITY

Manchester City have been dealt a heavy blow after it was revealed that Mateo Kovacic required surgery on and Achilles tendon he injured in the final stages of last season. He missed pre-season training and remained in Manchester. He joined the team in Italy for their final friendly against Palermo but could not play.

Pep Guardiola commented that although he has 10 players who can operate in midfield, he was planning to rely on "Kova", Rodri and Nico Gonzalez. City could also adapt Phil Foden and Rayan Cherki to cover but with Kovacic out, possibly until October, the coach has had to adjust his opening match plans. Both Rodri and Foden have received knocks in the past few days and the medical team has been working hard on their fitness. It remains to be seen on Saturday morning if they have been successful.

PSG keeper Donnarumma's name has cropped up at the Etihad Stadium with Ederson linked with a potential move after the arrival of James Trafford. The Italian keeper is being forced out of the French champions after they signed Lucas Chevalier for £37million. Donnarumma is in the last year of his contract with no moves made to keep him.

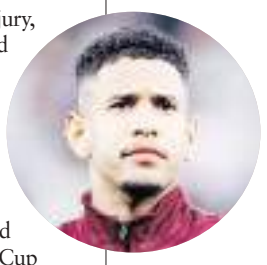
His wages would be high and his fee would be in the region of £45million. It could come down to a straight fight between the two Manchester clubs as United have already been in contact with PSG.

SAVINHO COULD GIVE SPURS THEIR DREAM ATTACK

Thomas Frank could have his dream Tottenham lineup if the club can do a deal with Manchester City to bring in Savinho. The two clubs are talking but a deal has not been done at the time of writing this column. Savinho can play on the left or the right but Frank has options available on the right with Mohammed Kudus, Brennan Johnson and Dejan Kulusevski, who will miss the opening game against Burnley.

Odobert, Mathys Tel, Richarlison, Manor Solomon and Bryan Gil are his choices on the left and if Savinho signed, he would only add to those options. That leaves the potentially brilliant idea of playing Savinho in Son Heung-min's role now that James Maddison is out injured. Or he could play a completely different new forward line-up with Dominic Solanke leading and Savinho coming in from the left and Kudus from the right. That would leave a new No. 10 to be signed.

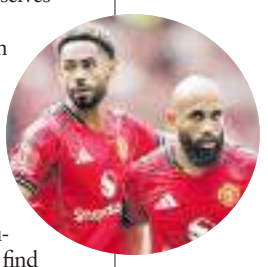
Crystal Palace attacking midfielder Eberechi Eze has a £68million release clause, which expired this week and because of Maddison's injury, Spurs will go head-to-head with Arsenal in chasing his signature.



Yves Bissouma's career at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium is under review after he was late for four training sessions and was dropped from the club's UEFA Super Cup squad this week.

HOW GOOD WILL UNITED BE?

Ruben Amorim told Manchester United the players he wanted the club to sign during the summer and they have spent big bucks to give him his improved team. There is no doubt that Matheus Cunha and Bryan Mbeumo have proved themselves in the Premier League but £74million signing Benjamin Sesko has not.



He had a reasonable strike rate in the Bundesliga with RB Leipzig but they let him leave and he has never played for one of the biggest clubs in Europe. The 22-year-old could find himself in hot water when he comes up against the likes of Liverpool's Virgil Van Dijk and Ibrahima Konate and Arsenal's Gabriel Magalhaes.

He just needs to look at one of United's previous big reputation imports, Rasmus Hojlund, to see what the Premier League can do to a player who arrives full of expectation only to find that goals are hard to come by in this company.

United's big challenge is midfield. Only Bruno Fernandes is world class and the Red Devils have relied too much on him for several years. Casemiro, despite being the brilliant player he has been, is most certainly well past his best. Mason Mount's performances vary from game to game and Manuel Ugarte, many supporters believe, is not good enough to control the midfield. Kobbie Mainoo's career has gone backwards under Amorim and his future at the club is unclear.

I seem to have been watching all summer regarding United moving on Anthony, Jadon Sancho and Alejandro Garnacho with only Marcus Rashford leaving for Barcelona, on loan. It is possible Chelsea might come in for Garnacho but I can tell you many at Stamford Bridge do not agree the Blues should sign him.

United still have many problems off the field. Despite Sir James Ratcliffe's often cruel cuts within the club, which he defends by claiming they would run out of funds before the end of the season, the last financial accounts show that United owe £175million in net transfer fees before the end of 2026. Sancho still collects his £250,000-a-week salary despite being unwanted by Amorim.

Despite all the above, Amorim remains upbeat and confident United will be fighting at the top of the table, something their faithful supporters deserve.

NEW SEASON WILL BE TOUGH FOR NEWCASTLE

Newcastle have experienced a difficult time preparing for the new season. They were beaten 2-0 by Atletico Madrid in their last pre-season match, to master four losses and two draws. They pursued Joao Pedro, Hugo Ekitike and Benjamin Sesko but signed none. Coach Eddie Howe is also tearing his hair out trying to cope with the Alexander Isak situation. Their top scorer, who wants to leave, is out of the team following the on-off transfer offers from Liverpool.

To add to Howe's problems, Anthony Gordon, who is likely to replace Isak should he finally depart, injured his ankle at Villa Park. Howe said: "We hope he will be okay. The good news is, it is just a twist, so the initial feeling is that he will be able to start against Aston Villa on Sunday."

Good news off the pitch is Milan defender Malick Thiaw agreeing personal terms and the clubs agreeing to a £34.4million deal. Howe now needs to sign a top-class striker. He said this week: "The priority is to have the players that we have fit and available and making sure that they're fully understanding of what's expected of them and making sure we're resilient enough to deal with a lot of outside noise, a lot of speculation on us, which though no fault of our own is negative. We need to cut that out and unite even stronger."

Having said that, I am told that Newcastle will revisit Brentford with an improved offer as they try to sign Yoane Wissa. The 28-year-old scored 18 goals last season.

GYOKERES TO 'DESTROY' DEFENCES

Mikel Arteta says his new striker, Viktor Gyokeres, will 'destroy defences' following his first goal for the Gunners in their final pre-season match beating Atletico Bilbao 3-0.

Arteta said: "The first goal is always very important. He took it really well. Everything he does, his movement, his timing, knowing where the space is going to be, that's the instinct he has. That is why he has scored so many goals. He pins down both centre-backs. If you leave him with space one-on-one, he's going to destroy you."

JACK CHEWS ON A TOFFEES DEAL

Jack Grealish had a heart-to-heart talk with Pep Guardiola and whereas the coach assured his mercurial winger that he is valued at the club, he could not guarantee him starting minutes.

Enter David Moyes and Everton, who picked up the phone, spoke with City's recruitment people and then the player himself. As Moyes pointed out, Grealish lives in Knutsford, Manchester, and Everton is only 35 miles away, which means he doesn't have to sell his £6million 20-acre estate and move north. The clubs will each pay 50 per cent of his £300k-a-week wages.

FOOTBALL

No plans for Premier League match abroad, says Masters

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters/HANDOUT

BBC

PREMIER League chief executive Richard Masters says there are no plans to play a top-flight match abroad and the idea is "not anywhere near my in-tray".

In the past month, Italy and Spain's football federations have unveiled plans to stage league fixtures in Australia and the United States, and are seeking permission from Fifa and Uefa.

If successful, La Liga clubs Barcelona and Villarreal will face each other in Miami in December in what would be the first European league fixture to be played abroad. And if permission is granted, Serie A sides AC Milan and Como will meet in Perth, Australia in February.

Other one-off matches, such as the Italian Super Cup and Spanish Super Cup, have been held abroad in recent years.

The idea of the Premier League playing an extra round - the '39th game' - outside England was raised in 2008 but the plans were shelved after criticism from fans and the media.

And, despite former Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore saying 10 years ago that clubs were keen on the idea, Masters has downplayed such a scenario.

"I don't think it changes the Premier League's view on this at all, we don't have any plans to play matches abroad," he said. "It's not anywhere near my in-tray and it's not a debate around our table."

There are 11 US-owned clubs in the top flight, closer than ever to the two-thirds majority of 14 that is needed to impose changes to the Premier League's rules.

Last year, Liverpool chairman Tom Werner told the Financial Times he hoped to see Premier League games played in New York, Tokyo, Los Angeles, Riyadh and Rio de Janeiro, raising fears among some fans of an attempted resurrection of the '39th game' concept.

However, Bournemouth's American owner Bill Foley has said he does not support staging league matches abroad.

Masters added: "The first thing to say is it hasn't happened yet. You need a whole bunch of things to happen."

FOOTBALL

VAR might rule on yellow cards in future, says Webb

BBC

THE scope of the video assistant referee in the Premier League might be expanded in the future to include decisions on yellow cards and the awarding of corners, says Howard Webb.

Referees' chief Webb says the game's law-makers, the International Football Association Board (Ifab), is reviewing how VAR operates and he is "open to discussions" about other uses. VAR, which has operated in the Premier League since the 2019-20 season, can currently only intervene in what are perceived as match-changing decisions - goals, straight red cards, penalties and mistaken identity.

"There will definitely be discussions around possible extensions," Webb said.

"Some believe we should use VAR more extensively for certain situations, but there are others who feel that shouldn't happen.

"We try to align VAR delivery with the expectations of those involved in the English game, based on consultation with fans, coaches and players. The message we get is 'less is more' with VAR, and we've done pretty well in aligning our delivery with that expectation.

"VAR has been in place for seven years and has pretty much stayed the same. If the game, or the people involved, tell us that greater use would be better for the game, then of course I'd be open - but we need to think carefully about the consequences, the ripple effects.

"If you are talking about yellow cards that are delivered incorrectly, which could be impactful on the game, then you also have to think about wrongly not-issued yellow cards.

"I understand the impact of a wrongly awarded corner that's clearly wrong - easy to see on video - and the impact of a wrongly issued yellow card. But equally there's also a feeling that VAR already exists to rectify clear errors in big situations,"? so we'll have those discussions and make sure to consult with the English game as well."

Chris Cavanagh on the VAR during a past match /HANDOUT

WILL NEW BOYS SPARKLE?

All eyes on Cunha, Mbuemo and Gyokeres as EPL starts

DAVID BILINGTON

PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

Manchester United's Matheus Cunha and Bryan Mbuemo /XINHUA

Man United V Arsenal

This is the big game this weekend, given the amount of money spent on transfers. Both coaches know they have to produce results this season. Ruben Amorim has to prove himself and Mikel Arteta must repay the Arsenal faithful supporters, who are fed up finishing second.

United face four of the last season's big winners in their first eight matches and it is fortunate this one is at home. All eyes will be on Matheus Cunha and Bryan Mbuemo for United and Viktor Gyokeres for the Gunners. How Gyokeres links up with Bukayo Saka and midfielders Martin Odegaard and Declan Rice will be crucial to this contest. He has demanded assists from all those players.

I think he will take time to find his golden scoring touch in the Premier League and this is a tough match to begin his Old Trafford career. United's other forward signing, Benjamin Sesko, might start but Amorim is considering giving him some minutes from the bench because he only arrived a week ago.

If Sesko comes in, Amorim thinks it will give Bruno Fernandes a chance to play deeper into Arsenal territory. Midfield will be important for Arteta, who also has ex-Brentford captain Christian Norgaard available, whilst ex-Chelsea signing Noni Madueke will operate out wide.

Amorim will start with his favoured 3-4-2-1 formation, which places a lot of responsibility on Leny Yoro and Harry Maguire. On the right side, rising star Ayden Heaven will likely be given a chanc,e having impressed in pre-season.

Chelsea V Crystal Palace

Enzo Maresca has a belief in his team after Chelsea spent £200m to bring in some big names up front. Beating a well-organised Bayer Leverkusen team 2-0 and using 21 players in the pre-season friendly is an indication of Chelsea's strength since the German team were deeper into their preparations for the new season.

What worries Palace coach, Oliver Glasner is Chelsea's Cole Palmer, who has returned to form and worked well with Andrey Santos and Estevao Willian in pre-season. They have already built up an understanding. Estevao, Liam Delap and Joao Pedro are going to score a lot of goals this season and Chelsea are in top spirits, brimming with confidence after winning the Club World Cup.

With Levi Colwill out injured, Trevoh Chalobah could move over to his left, next to Marc Cucurella, who is already in top form. New boy at centre-back Jorell Hato is quick to recover from tackles and counterattacks and will play a big part in Chelsea's line-up this year.

In midfield, Enzo Fernandes and Moises Caicedo — two of the world's best — will be crucial to Chelsea's season.

Beating many of the top six this time around is going to be a tough challenge for Crystal Palace, despite their Charity Shield win against Liverpool. But under coach Oliver Glasner, they are capable of the odd surprises. They will be well organised. Key to their performances will be Adam Wharton, who was injured for much of last season.

He made Ismail Sarr's assist for Palace's second goal against Liverpool. He is capable of controlling midfield and always seems to have plenty of time on the ball and despite being just 21, he can foresee moves, tactics and potential progressive attacks before other players are even aware of what is happening around them. If he is in a battle with Palmer, it will be an interesting afternoon. He will also be tested against Chelsea's new boys upfront, Delap, Pedro and Estevao.

Liverpool V Bournemouth

The champions have strengthened their forward line despite the tragic loss of Diogo Jota. It is difficult to see how many defences will cope with Liverpool's new attack. Only Mo Salah and Cody Gakpo remain from last season's frontline, with Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez gone and Jota too, who died in a car crash.

Florian Wirtz, a genuine No. 10, has joined alongside Hugo Ekitike. It's possible Newcastle's Alexander Isak could eventually arrive.

Relieving pressure on Salah is important because, for quite some time, Liverpool have relied on his goals. The Egyptian's 57 goals and assists last season were nearly half of Liverpool's total of 123 goals. Salah is now 33, and Arne Slot has lifted some of his defensive responsibilities to enable him to conserve energy. You will not see him running back in defence as much as he previously did.

New arrival Jeremy Frimpong, who was a wing-back early in his career, has a reputation built on driving forward and high up the pitch and wide, which will support Salah and allow him to move more into the centre, where he is lethal.

Slot's team does not create as many chances as his predecessor Jurgen Klopp, but the team has more positive chances at goal. Frimpong and new No. 6, Milos Kerkez, will drive forward to make passes into the opponents' goal area, whereas Trent Alexander-Arnold used to use his incredible long passing ability to take out defences.

Flying full-backs Kerkez and Frimpong have replaced the legendary pair, Andy Robertson and Alexander-Arnold. Ironically, Kerkez's first game is against the club he just left. He knows their strengths and, more importantly, weaknesses.

I cannot see Bournemouth coping with the new Liverpool. They do have good players in new signing, French left-back Adrien Truffert, and goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic, who joined from Chelsea. Most importantly for the Cherries is that they have retained Antoine Semenyo, who signed a new contract.

However, losing Kerkez, Kepa Arrizabalaga and Ukraine defender Illia Zabarni will affect their ability to contain the Liverpool front line.

Arsenal's Viktor Gyokeres /HANDOUT

CAF AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

‘EXCELLENT DISPLAY’

Lopez’s pride in Mauritania’s historic feat, Balboune eyes stronger future

Burkina Faso’s Patrick Malo vies for the ball with Mauritania’s Bessam/**CAF**

CAF

IN the bustling atmosphere of Dar es Salaam’s Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, the night told two very different stories.

One was of joy, pride, and a place in the history books; the other was of frustration, lessons learned, and eyes fixed on redemption.

Mauritania’s Aritz Garay Lopez left the pitch with a wide smile, his players having secured a narrow but vital 1-0 win over Burkina Faso in the African Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024.

Across the technical area, Burkina Faso’s Issa Balboune carried the weight of elimination but also the determination to build for the future.

For Lopez, this was not just another win — it was proof of his team’s resilience and growth. From kick-off, the “Al-Murabitoune” looked composed, organised, and hungry for victory.

“Our team showed a lot of character from the start of the match,” said Lopez, still visibly pleased in the post-match press conference.

“We are happy, we played well, we controlled the game and we managed to score from a penalty kick. The first half of the match was fantastic. We defended well and played better in attack as well.”

That first-half performance laid the foundation for the three points that would take Mauritania to seven points, sealing Burkina Faso’s exit.

The Spanish coach didn’t hide his pride in what the result meant for Mauritania’s footballing journey.

“The victory was very important. We now have seven points, and Burkina Faso were eliminated from the tournament after this result. We were excellent, but we still felt a little tired and under pressure in the second half.

He went further, underlining just how rare this moment was in the nation’s CHAN history.

“We managed to win two consecutive matches in a major and strong tournament, something Mauritania had never achieved before. We have also conceded only one goal so far in the tournament, and that was against the host country, Tanzania.”

For Issa Balboune, the post-match reflections were tinged with honesty and regret. Mauritania’s clinical approach left little room for a comeback.

“We lost our match against Mauritania, which was very difficult. Our opponent was better than us and took advantage of their attacking opportunities better, and played better than we did,” Balboune admitted, his expression revealing the sting of defeat.

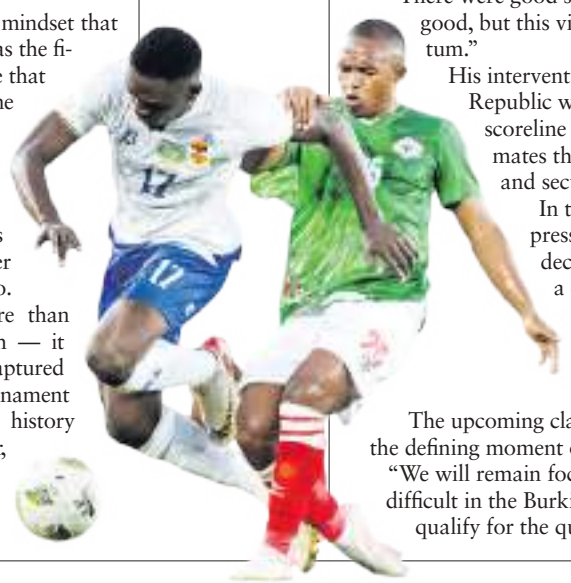
Despite the disappointment, Balboune chose to focus on the lessons learned rather than dwell on the loss.

“Unfortunately, things changed during the match and went against our plans. We will continue our work to reach a better level than we have reached. We will see what happens in the future.”

His words reflected a mindset that refuses to accept defeat as the final chapter — a promise that the “Stallions” will come back stronger.

Lopez’s pride mirrors the upward curve of Mauritanian football, while Balboune’s resolve hints at a longer journey for Burkina Faso.

The match was more than just a group-stage clash — it was a moment that captured the essence of tournament football: for one team, history was made; for the other, the groundwork for a brighter tomorrow began.



Central African Republic’s Dimitri Kogbeto in action against Madagascar’s Mamisoa Rakoton /**CAF**

Ramandimbisoa: The wall of Madagascar standing tall on road to last eight

CAF

ON a night when Madagascar needed calm, courage, and an unshakable defence, Michel Ramandimbisoa stood like a fortress.

In their 2-0 triumph over the Central African Republic in Dar es Salaam, the goalkeeper’s gloves told the story — a story of resilience, precision, and two vital hands keeping a dream alive at the TotalEnergies African Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024.

Not only did he preserve a clean sheet, but he also claimed the TotalEnergies Man of the Match award for the second time in the tournament — a rare feat that speaks volumes about his influence between the posts.

Ramandimbisoa’s brilliance was more than individual glory; it was the spark that reignited Madagascar’s campaign after a challenging start.

Coming into the match with a draw against Mauritania and a loss to hosts Tanzania, the stakes were enormous. Yet for 90 minutes, the Malagasy goalkeeper exuded the kind of composure that settles both teammates and fans.

“I’m very happy to be named TotalEnergies Man of the Match for the second time. I gave everything I had on the pitch against the Central African Republic, and we won in the end.”

Every fingertip save, every well-timed catch, and every commanding shout to his defenders carried the weight of a country’s hopes. This wasn’t the first time Ramandimbisoa had stolen the spotlight in Tanzania. In Madagascar’s opening game against Mauritania on August 3, he kept another clean sheet and walked away with the Man of the Match prize.

Those early heroics set the tone for what would become a standout tournament for the keeper, even as results wavered. From acrobatic stops to fearless interceptions, his game has been defined by control under pressure — a quality that has transformed him into a symbol of defensive reliability for the Barea.

Beyond his reflexes, Ramandimbisoa’s leadership has been pivotal in rallying the squad. In moments when matches threatened to tilt away from Madagascar, his voice and vision guided the defensive structure.

“We are progressing step by step in the competition. There were good stages and others that weren’t so good, but this victory gives us back the momentum.”

His interventions against the Central African Republic weren’t just about keeping the scoreline intact — they gave his teammates the confidence to push forward and secure the goals that sealed the win.

In the dying minutes, when the pressure intensified, he pulled off decisive stops to deny any chance of a comeback.

With the win, Madagascar’s path to the last eight is within reach, but Ramandimbisoa knows the job is far from done.

The upcoming clash with Burkina Faso looms as the defining moment of their group stage campaign.

“We will remain focused. We know it will be difficult in the Burkina Faso match, but we want to qualify for the quarter-finals at all costs.”

CHAN STANDINGS (AS AT AUG. 14)

Group A

Pos.		P	PTS	Form
1	Kenya	3	7	WDW
2	Angola	3	4	LDW
3	Congo DR	2	3	LW
4	Morocco	2	3	WL
5	Zambia	2	0	LL

Group B

Pos.		P	PTS	Form
1	Tanzania	3	9	WWW
2	Mauritania	4	7	DLWW
3	Madagascar	3	4	DLW
4	Burkina Faso	3	3	LWL
5	CAR	3	0	LLL

Group C

Pos.		P	PTS	Form
1	Uganda	3	6	LWW
2	Algeria	2	4	WD
3	South Africa	2	4	DW
4	Guinea	3	3	WLL
5	Niger	2	0	LL

Group D

Pos.		P	PTS	Form
1	Sudan	2	4	DW
2	Senegal	2	4	WD
3	Congo	2	2	DD
4	Nigeria	2	0	LL

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CHAN 2024

Ramandimbisoa: The wall of Madagascar standing tall on road to last eight

SEE PAGE 39

Doris Lemngole /HANDOUT

Lemngole to face Almayew, Jeruto on Diamond League debut

BY TEDDY MULEI

NCAA 3,000m steeplechase champion Doris Lemngole will step onto the Diamond League stage for the first time on August 20 in Lausanne, where she will lock horns with World U-20 champion Sembo Almayew of Ethiopia.

The 23-year-old is riding the high of a historic call-up to Kenya's Tokyo World Championships squad, where she will join Olympic bronze medallist Faith Cherotich and NCAA 5,000m and 10,000m champion Pamela Kosgei. She placed second at the national trials on July 22, clocking 9:24.69 behind Cherotich, who clocked 9:09.44.

Lemngole will hope to use the Lausanne meet to sharpen her form ahead of a maiden global appearance.

"It means a lot to make this team go to Tokyo. I am very happy even though the results were not good at the trials," Lemngole said.

Lemngole has been in flying form since the start of the season.

She opened her season with indoor meetings, winning the 3,000m race at the Orange and Purple Invitational (8:54.65) and 5,000m at the NCAA Division One Indoor Championships (15:05.93).

Her outdoor season started with a dominant 3,000m steeplechase victory at the Wake Forest invitational (9:10.13) before winning a 5,000m race at the Southern Conference Championships (15:11.62).

The highlight of her season came at the NCAA Nationals on June 14, where she stormed to victory in a then-world-leading 8:58.15.

CHAN 2024

YEARNING FOR MORE

Kenya bank on Ogam's firepower in decisive encounter against Zambia

BY TONY MBALLA

LONG before the city stirs, Ryan Ogam can already hear the match — not in commentary or cheers, but in the pounding of his own heart.

Kasarani is still sleeping, yet to him, the stadium's breath is warm on the wind, carrying the promise of a battle where heroes are made and dreams are carved in green and red.

A fortnight ago, under a bruised Nairobi sky, in a stadium that throbbed like a giant drum, Ryan Ogam became more than a footballer.

In the 42nd minute, with one clean sweep of his left foot, he carved a goal out of the night's breath — Harambee Stars 1, Morocco 0. The stands at Kasarani erupted; flags became wings, voices became rivers.

And somewhere in that roaring sea, Kenya's dream of the CHAN 2025 quarter-finals began to stand upright, chest out, unafraid.

Ogam's Moment of Fire

It wasn't just a goal. It was the thud of destiny meeting leather, the hiss of a ball ripping through Morocco's proud armour. At just 20 years old, Ogam walked into Harambee Stars' long corridor of memory — a name now etched beside nights we will tell our children about.

"That was the best moment of my career," he said, his voice still trembling with the echo of the crowd. He gave the goal away — to family, to friends, to Umoja's dusty fields where he first learned to fight for a ball like it was life itself.

The match's script twisted just before halftime — midfielder Chrispine Erambo, sent off, red card flaring like a warning. Ten Kenyans left to face Morocco's full steel. But they stood — backs straight, eyes steady. "Nothing changed," Ogam shrugged later. "We kept the same fire. The goal gave us wings."

Breaking the Predictions

Two-time CHAN champions Morocco arrived as the hunters. The pundits whispered their names into victory columns before the game began. But in the Kenyan dressing room, belief was louder than fear. "A lot of people expected Morocco to win," Ogam admitted.

"But we had our prophecy. We'll face Zambia the same way — chasing the full three points."

Bennie McCarthy — a man who once made nets sing for South Africa — stood at the touchline, watching Ogam as if reading the future. "With the right guidance, he could be the next Michael Olunga," McCarthy said. "He's explosive. Once he sharpens that right foot, he'll be unstoppable."

Ogam's rise has been anything but a straight road. Fifteen goals in 13 matches in the FKF Premier League — then a knee injury that stole three months from him. Yet when the season closed, he was only two goals behind the Golden Boot winner. "After that injury, scoring the winner felt like God's handwriting," he smiled.

From Siaya to Kasarani's Light

Born in Siaya, polished in Umoja, forged in Dagoretti High School's muddy pitches — Ogam wore Kenya's U-17 and U-20 jerseys before this leap to the senior squad.

He debuted in Zanzibar's Mapinduzi Cup, scoring against Kilimanjaro Stars. From Rainbow FC to Tusker, with a brief detour in Dubai's Elite Falcons, his path nearly crossed Algeria's USM Alger — a move that dissolved before it began.

Eyes on Zambia

Next, Zambia.The same Kasarani grass, the same restless drums, the same sun that will paint his shadow long and sharp. For Kenya, it's the match that could pry open the CHAN dream. For Ryan Ogam, it's another page in a story written in sweat, faith, and the sudden, brilliant flash of a goal when the world is watching.

Harambee Stars' Ryan Ogam in action with Morocco's Bouchaib Arrassi /HANDOUT

★SWIMMING

Olengo leads 10-man team to junior show

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

NEO Olengo will spearhead Kenya's nine-man team to the World Junior Swimming Championships slated for August 19-24 in Otapeni, Romania.

The Pretoria-based swimmer will lead the boys' charge in the six-day competition alongside Ameir Muravej, Igbaal Bayusuf, Johari Masinde, Victor Okech and Nathan Matimu.

Macrine Kalombo will lead the girls' onslaught alongside Nina Irangi, Audrey Langat, and Italy-based Duini Caffini.

Speaking on Thursday, head coach Olum Otieno said that this being their debut in the global junior show, a place in the finals would be respectable for the 10-man squad.

The team has been training for the past two months. "We are up against some of the top swimming nations in the world, and it will be an honour to participate and make an impression by qualifying for the finals of their respective event," added Olum.

Kalombo has been entered for a record six events, including the 50m and 100 freestyle; 50 and 100m butterfly, 200m breaststroke and 200m individual medley.

The team, which departs today, will have four days to acclimatise to the hot temperatures in Romania.

"We want the swimmers to arrive and get used to the weather and culture in Romania, as we put the final touches on the championship."

Kenya Aquatics technical director, Omar Omari, said the federation will allow young swimmers grace the global show. This will provide a pathway to further their careers by also representing the country in World Championships or the Olympics in future.

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KATIBA CORNER YET ANOTHER AGENCY TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS?

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Ruto spending millions to win over impatient voters

The President has announced an ambitious initiative in which 100,000 youth will each receive Sh50,000 in startup capital

COVER STORY 'WANTAM' WORRIES

How Ruto is spending millions to win over impatient voters

The President has announced an initiative in which 100,000 young Kenyans will each receive Sh50,000 in startup capital

JULIUS OTIENO

@JuliusOtieno04

Political writer

President William Ruto has launched an aggressive and well-oiled counter-offensive to the 'Wantam' call, splashing huge sums of cash in the hope of hobbling the opposition to strengthen his re-election path.

Wantam is a corrupted version of one term.

The head of state has rolled out multi-billion-shilling empowerment programmes targeting women and youth, and made hefty donations in harambees and churches.

"We will not succumb to the blackmail of one term. We know where we are going as a nation," the President told more than 15,000 youths at the State House during the Nairobi county empowerment programme on Saturday.

He is also banking on tangible achievements such as stabilisation of the cost of living, delivery of the affordable housing programme and transformation in the health sector to win over voters.

The sports-fan-in-chief is also courting football fans — many of them disgruntled Gen Z with Sh2.5 million rewards for each Harambee Stars if they defeat Zambia in the final CHAN match on Sunday, August 17. He is also showering them with housing rewards. The President is widening his political networks through his partnership with newfound friend Raila Odinga.

Key lieutenants of Raila are now vocally backing his administration, praising his scorecard to date and promising better times to come.

As part of his deal with Raila, Ruto's administration ordered swift compensation of victims of police brutality, expected to cost millions of shillings.

At the same time, the President has tightened restrictions on the opposition — the architects of the 'Wantam!' mantra and movement.

Police are increasingly cracking down on and closely monitoring their activities.

Often, the police have prevented the opposition brigade from attending church services and political events in what the critics call a clear strategy to weaken them.

Some opposition members have been taken to DCI offices for questioning over alleged links to the recent wave of protests that have rocked the country.

The approach resembles — but does mimic the darkest tactics of his political mentor, President Daniel Moi — who used state resources and political suppression to intimidate and mute rivals.

Moi systematically suppressed opposition and internal dissent by expelling wayward Kanu members and crippling enemies financially.

While the opposition and some analysts have downplayed Ruto's empowerment efforts as unsustainable and unrealistic, his allies and other observers say they are life changing and could attract a mass number of needy residents.

"Empowerment is a powerful tool for grassroots politics. It is creating a huge impact on mama mboga, women and youth groups," Gem MP Elisha Odhiambo said.

Political commentator Martin Andati argued, however, that some of Ruto's tactics cannot work in the current dispensation.

"He is a 'Moist' who is still living

President William Ruto during empowerment programme of over 1,100 business groups in Nairobi. The groups received, among others, water tanks **/PCS**

in the past. There are so many things that have changed, like the constitution and demographics," Andati told the Star.

Ruto is generally seen as a 'first-class honours' student of Moi, known as the professor of politics.

He started by leading the Youth for Kanu (YK92) lobby, which played a key role in Moi's 1992 re-election campaign. His apprenticeship to Moi is believed to have provided him with a foundation in Kenyan political strategies and manoeuvring.

Currently, the President faces mounting pressure, even as the opposition pledges to find a strong and popular alternative. Chants of 'Wantam!' – coined by Ruto's impeached former deputy Rigathi Gachagua – have dominated social media, football matches, political rallies, and 'wantam' is bandied about in bar chatter.

"We will make whatever sacrifices necessary to make sure William Ruto is a one-term president," Gachagua recently said.

Ruto has pledged not to bow to what he calls 'wantam blackmail', responding with multi-million-shilling programmes and public giveaways.

He and his allies cite tangible achievements in affordable housing and related formal jobs, Tvet training and jobs at home and abroad, agricultural reforms, better healthcare and SHA insurance, among others.

Ruto's allies have praised his initiatives as transformative, systemic, saying the full benefits of some are not instantly visible but will become entrenched, hence, the need for a second term.

"The President promised to uplift the poor and downtrodden," Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei said.

"That is exactly what he is doing. He has not deviated from that. He is focused despite what other people are saying."

Cherargei said the head of state started his empowerment programmes long before he was elected.

Opposition figures, however, have dismissed Ruto's efforts, especially giveaways, as outdated, unsustainable and failing to address root problems.

"Those are not empowerment programmes," Gachagua, who is now the leader of Democracy for the Citizens Party, said. "That is daytime bribery of voters using public funds."

DCP deputy leader Cleophas Malala said the 'Wantam' movement is unstoppable, accusing Ruto of mismanagement.

"Whatever Ruto is doing is not sustainable. It is a pedestrian way of governing a country," Malala said. "Kenyans are clever enough to see through Ruto's PR gimmicks."

Kitui Senator Enoch Wambua, a close ally of Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, said money cannot buy loyalty, especially from struggling voters.

"There is a limit to what money can buy. He has another two years to complete his term, but he must remember that choices have consequences," he said.

He accused the President of using state machinery, especially the police, to stifle opposition activities. The police have often denied being used to play politics. "Using the police to disrupt public gatherings hosted by opposition leaders can only serve to make President Ruto and his administration look bad in the eyes of the masses."

> **PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO**
>
> *...the first phase of 54,000 young people will receive their Sh50,000 start-up capital next month. This will pave the way for their skills training to commence next month*

In recent weeks, police have blocked opposition politicians from attending church services and addressing political gatherings.

Last week, police fired teargas at a meeting attended by Gachagua allies, led by Nyandarua Senator John Methu, in Gilgil, Nakuru county.

The DCP condemned the incident as unlawful, branding it a direct assault on democracy.

"The Political Parties Act and the Constitution of Kenya guarantee every political party the right to freely engage, organise and mobilise support across the country," the party statement read.

In Murang'a county, Methu and other Gachagua allies were teargassed and blocked from addressing rallies after a church service last month.

Kirinyaga Senator James Murango, another close ally of the former DP, slammed what he termed dictatorial tendencies last seen during the Moi era. "We have never seen this level of dictatorship and human rights violation since the old days. Abuse of office has reached another level," Murango said.

Ruto, DP Kithure Kindiki and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula, have been on a near-daily countrywide "empowerment tour," distributing millions of shillings, sewing machines, salon and barber equipment, carpentry tools, boda bodas and other items to youth, women's groups and others.

On Tuesday, the President continued his donation drive in Kakamega, promising more across the country to woo voters uneasy with his leadership.

He announced an initiative in which 100,000 young Kenyans will each receive Sh50,000 in startup capital beginning next month to tackle youth unemployment.

Ruto called it part of the government's broader strategy to transform the economic landscape by empowering young people through targeted investments in enterprise, skills and savings.

"I am pleased to report that the first phase of 54,000 young people will receive their Sh50,000 start-up capital next month. This will pave the way for their skills training to commence next month," the President said.

In the ongoing CHAN, the President has pledged Sh1 million to each of the 27 players and 15 technical bench members for every game won, and Sh500,000 for a draw.

He promised to raise the win bonus to Sh2.5 million if Kenya beats Zambia's Chipolopolo on Sunday.

"If they triumph in the quarter-finals, each will be gifted Sh1 million and a two-bedroom affordable housing unit in a location of their choice," the President said.

If the Stars make the finals, Ruto says the prize houses will be upgraded to three-bedrooms.

President Williiam Ruto tries to ride a motorbike at State House in Nairobi **/PCS**

COMMENTARY STIFLING DEMOCRACY

Former Kasipul MP Charles Were (deceased) /FILE

Energy CS and former Ugunja MP Opiyo Wandayi /FILE

Are Kenya's electoral laws becoming instruments of political entrapment?

SAMUEL OWIDA

@AliwaMoses

The writer is a political commentator

As Kenya gears up for the November 27 by-elections in Ugunja and Kasipul constituencies, a quiet storm is brewing one not driven by voters, but by the very laws designed to protect their democratic rights.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission has issued Gazette notices outlining key deadlines, but beneath these dates is a legal and political trap that is unsettling aspirants and laying bare the manipulation of electoral rules.

At the heart of this turmoil is a seemingly straightforward requirement: anyone intending to contest as an independent candidate must not be a member of a political party at least 90 days before the election.

That sets the deadline for party resignation on August 29.

Fail to exit by then, and you forfeit the right to run as an independent.

Likewise, candidates under party banners must submit their names and symbols by September 17, as stipulated by the electoral commission.

This creates a brutally narrow window of decision-making for aspirants—particularly those in dominant-party strongholds like Nyanza, where ODM's grip on the political landscape often leaves little room for dissent or fair competition in primaries. And herein lies the strategic twist.

ODM, and other major parties, can use this law to their advantage. By delaying party primaries until after the 90-day cut-off, they effectively eliminate the threat of defections.

Aspirants who lose at the nomination stage will have no legal avenue to vie independently.

It's a legal move, yes, but it raises a troubling question: are electoral laws being used to promote democracy, or to suppress it?

Another legal provision, often overlooked, compounds this dilemma.

REGISTERED MEMBER

According to the Political Parties Act, anyone running on a party ticket must have been a registered member of that party for at least six months before the election in this case, by May 27, 2025. That door is already closed.

No latecomer or defector has a realistic chance of jumping into a different party now.

What we're witnessing is a quiet form of political exclusion technically lawful, but morally questionable.

Aspirants are being boxed in by legal deadlines, but it's not the law itself that's flawed; it's the way political parties manipulate these provisions to protect vested interests and suppress competition.

ODM's own track record in party primaries is less than stellar.

From bungled nominations to opaque consensus building and the infamous issuance of direct tickets, the party has often sidelined popular candidates in favour of politically connected ones.

This has not only cost ODM in terms of public trust but has also contributed to growing voter apathy in its strongholds.

Many simply no longer believe that their voice counts—not even in the first stage of selecting candidates.

The universal suffrage model for party primaries, where members vote to choose flag-bearers, is an ideal ODM rarely lives up to.

But the alternative consensus or direct nominations has proven just as undemocratic. It's a lose-lose situation for aspirants and voters alike.

In more mature democracies, political parties are internally democratic.

Membership actually means something, and the process of choosing candidates is transparent, credible, and respected.

In Kenya, however, party nominations too often feel like a coronation—decided not by members, but by party elites behind closed doors.

What the electorate yearns for is a credible, inclusive and fair nomination process – essentially a mini-election within parties.

Yet no party, not even the best resourced, has demonstrated the ability or will to run such an exercise with integrity.

COSTLY AND CHAOTIC

It's too costly, too chaotic, and perhaps more damningly not in their political interest.

This legal and political deadlock is pushing many capable individuals away from politics altogether.

The cost of entry is too high, the process too opaque, and the outcomes too predetermined.

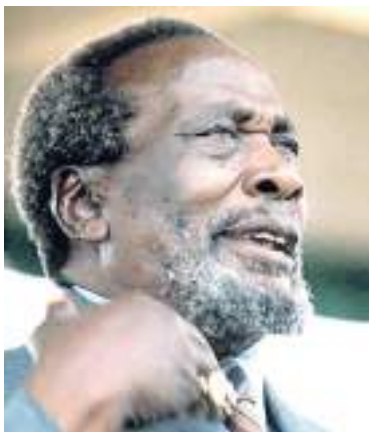
We cannot build a robust democracy if the path to the ballot is rigged long before the first vote is cast.

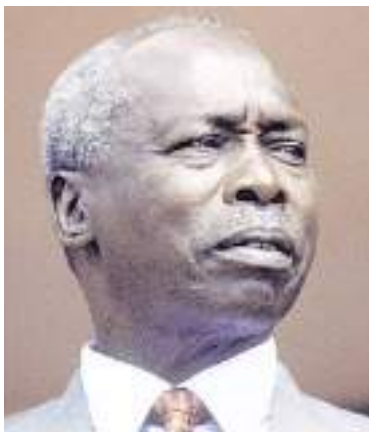
The IEBC must enforce the law, yes, but Kenyans must also demand reforms that restore fairness to the political process.

Timelines should not be traps. Laws should protect choice, not restrict it. And party democracy must be more than a slogan.

As November approaches, we are reminded once again that Kenya's problem is not that we lack rules, but that too many of them serve the few, not the many.

COMMENTARY ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT


Founding father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta


President Daniel arap Moi

President Mwai Kibaki

President Uhuru Kenyatta

President Willaim Ruto

Kenya: From success story to rise of personality cult

CATHY IMANI
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The writer is a sub-editor with The Star

The golden era of post-independence Kenya, under Jomo Kenyatta, is often recalled with wistful nostalgia. Old guards say the founding father's vision was rooted in a simple yet powerful structure: education, healthcare and agriculture.

The administration's policies reflected this philosophy. Tax structures, for instance, were designed to avoid touching staple foods, ensuring that basic necessities remained affordable. Education and healthcare were not mere talking points – they were thriving sectors. Public hospitals were well-stocked and staffed with qualified personnel, fostering a sense of communal well-being.

Parents enjoyed weekends at home, children had uninterrupted school holidays and an air of contentment settled over the nation. This was a time when the government's primary role was seen as enabling its citizens to prosper.

This era, however, gave way to a different kind of politics – one that redefined the relationship between the state and its people. Daniel Moi's ascension marked a stark departure from Kenyatta's principles. While Kenyatta was no saint, under Moi, the nation revolved around a single figure: himself.

Moi's rule was defined by a relentless personality cult. Public institutions were renamed in his honour and state-run media served as a daily hagiography, with Nyayo praises sung from dawn to dusk. His influence permeated every facet of life, from the ill-fated Nyayo Bus Service (NBS) – which hastened the decline of the Kenya Bus Service – to the creation of Nyayo Tea Zones (NTZ) and Nyayo Wards. The country became an extension of his personal brand and the focus shifted from empowering citizens to consolidating power.

Moi's regime was notorious for projects that prioritised image over impact. The NBS, launched with much fanfare, collapsed due to mismanagement and corruption.

Similarly, NTZ failed to deliver economic uplift, instead becoming tools of political patronage. These were not just failed initiatives – they symbolised a government more invested in self-preservation than public welfare.

Today, striking parallels emerge in President William Ruto's administration. The man who claims to have "Jomo's courage, Moi's wisdom, Kibaki's education and Uhuru's plan," appears to have drawn his political playbook from only one predecessor: Moi. The uncanny similarity lies in the revival of a political strategy that prioritises personal glorification and symbolic gestures over tangible, sustainable development.

Like Moi's regime, Ruto thrives on a culture of praise for projects that are either unfulfilled, "white elephants," or short-term handouts that fail to address systemic issues. This approach is characterised by grand announcements, which often mask underlying failures.

The Kenya Kwanza regime has excelled in unfulfilled pledges. The Hustler Fund, touted as a revolutionary solution for small businesses, has been criticised as a temporary fix that ignores issues of capital access and market linkages.

The affordable housing programme, a key campaign promise, has been mired in controversy over the housing levy and a lack of transparency, with few units materialising.

Meanwhile, the pledge to lower living costs – particularly maize flour prices – remains unmet, leaving many households struggling.

The education sector faces multiple challenges: teacher shortages, capitation delays and poor infrastructure continue to prevail. Underfunding and delays in disbursement leads to inadequate learning materials and disrupts learning.

Confusion over the payment of national exam fees – which the government took over from parents in 2013 – now risks shifting the burden back to families, potentially locking out learners from low-income households. By neglecting education, healthcare and sustainable economic policies, the government fosters dependency, creating fertile ground for patronage politics. Leaders are judged not by results but by their ability to sustain an illusion of progress.

How defeat of fascism led to renaissance in Global South

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The victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931–1945) and the broader World Anti-Fascist War, culminating in the defeat of fascist powers in 1945, marked a pivotal moment in modern history. These triumphs not only ended a brutal era of imperialist aggression but also laid the philosophical and political groundwork for what can be termed the 'Global South Renaissance'; a movement toward global justice and equity rooted in anti-colonialism, self-determination and solidarity among oppressed nations.

To prevail in the 14-year struggle against Japanese imperialism, China endured immense sacrifice and demonstrated remarkable resilience.

It was not merely a military campaign but a profound assertion of national sovereignty and human dignity against colonial oppression. Simultaneously, the World Anti-Fascist War, encompassing the Allied efforts against Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan, represented a global rejection of ideologies that glorified racial superiority, territorial conquest and the subjugation of weaker nations.

The defeat of fascist powers was therefore a moral and political victory for humanity. Fascism, with its emphasis on authoritarianism and exploitation, was antithetical to the principles of justice and equity.

Its defeat created a rupture in the global order, exposing the vulnerabilities of imperialist systems and galvanising colonised and semi-colonised nations to challenge the status quo.

For the Global South, comprising nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and long subjected to Western colonial domination, this moment was a catalyst for reimagining their place in the world.

The victories of 1945 affirmed the principle that no nation or people should be subjected to domination or exploitation, a concept that resonated profoundly with the Global South.

In China, the resistance against Japanese aggression, led by a coalition of forces under the Communist Party, demonstrated the power of collective action and national unity. This struggle was underpinned by a philosophy of self-reliance and anti-imperialism, which would later influence global movements for liberation.

The Chinese experience offered a model for other colonised nations: resistance was possible, and victory could be achieved through perseverance and solidarity.

Philosophically, this moment crystallised the idea that justice is not an abstract ideal but a practical outcome of collective struggle.

The Chinese victory, alongside the global anti-fascist triumph, challenged the Eurocentric narrative that progress and civilisation were the exclusive domains of Western powers.

Instead, it posited that the Global South could forge its own path toward modernity, grounded in equity and self-determination.

The post-1945 era also saw the emergence of what can be described as the Global South Renaissance – a period of intellectual, political and cultural awakening among formerly colonised nations. The victories of the Chinese resistance and the anti-fascist war provided both inspiration and a practical framework for this renaissance.

The defeat of Japan, a non-Western imperialist power, underscored that imperialism was not an exclusively Western phenomenon, broadening the critique of global oppression. This realisation fostered a sense of shared struggle among Global South nations, transcending geographical and cultural divides.

The triumphs laid the foundations for a global order that, while imperfect, prioritised the agency of the Global South. The establishment of the United Nations in 1945, though dominated by Western powers, provided a platform for newly independent nations to advocate for their rights.

KATIBA CORNER INDECENT PROPOSALS

Yet another agency to solve our problems?

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The author is expressing her personal opinion

So the President and his (now) chum, Raila Odinga, have formed a committee of five distinguished people to discuss (and consult the people on) implementing 10 points agreed by "the Principals" in March.

Points 2 to 10 are mostly about implementing the constitution. Inclusivity (Article 10), devolution (Chapter 11 particularly, and Schedule 4), promoting the livelihood of the youth (Article 55), leadership and integrity (Chapter 6), right to peaceful assembly (Article 37) and compensation for victims (topic for a future article), national debt (touched on in various ways including Article 10 mentioning "sustainable development", corruption (a theme of the constitution), wastage of resources (the aim of Chapter 12 and specifically mentioned in Article 201(d)), the sovereignty of the people (Article 1), the rule of law (Article 10) and constitutionalism (respecting the constitution).

We elect a government (paying them extravagantly) and employ a civil service, Judiciary, etc., who should have been doing all this for the last 12 years. And now five people are to recommend how it should be done?

President William Ruto and ODM leader Raila Odinga sign the MoU between UDA and ODM at KICC in Nairobi on March 7 /FILE

NADCO

Point 1 is about implementing the 2023 National Dialogue Committee agreement, between Kenya Kwanza and Azimio. Though having some policy issues relevant to the current situation – such as cost of living – a major thrust was about amending the constitution (it includes a constitution amendment bill, and bills to amend other laws). Nadco has introduced nine bills.

Let's look at a few of the more substantial of those recommendations. Most are quick fixes, not well thought through, creating as many problems as they solve.

A PRIME MINISTER

Prime Ministers vary greatly – they include the heads of government in India, Australia, Canada the UK and various European countries.

Nadco's Bill would not put the proposed PM in Parliament so he/she could not be – like the Tanzanian or Ugandan PM – "Leader of Government business" in the Legislature.

Nadco's proposed PM would assist the president and deputy in coordination, supervision and implementation of government programmes, and "coordinate government's legislative agenda across departments". The latter is obscure. The first gives the PM very little real authority. This (designed for Raila?) would be probably the weakest "prime ministerial" position anywhere.

It is fundamentally like the "Prime Cabinet Secretary" position held by Musalia Mudavadi: an opportunity for a president to give lucrative recognition to a politician who has brought substantial benefits in terms of votes. No amendment to Article 152 on the makeup of the Cabinet is proposed, so could a "Prime Minister" be a member?

Another odd idea is recreating the office of Leader of the Opposition (LOO). The Bill says the LOO would be leader of the second largest party/coalition in the National Assembly. It is not entirely clear whether the LOO (plus two deputies – chosen how and doing what?) would come from Parliament or if not (maybe because they vied for the presidency) would come into Parliament after appointment.

The report says Parliament should elaborate the LOO role, and include providing alternative policy agendas, fostering cooperation between government and opposition and promoting good governance. And what would be the role of the Minority leader?

The Bill would not make the LOO a "state officer". So the Salaries and Remuneration Commission couldn't fix their salary. Who would?

Maybe a better approach would allow people to stand for election to the National Assembly as well as president, so if a presidential loser wins a parliamentary seat, they have a job and salary to fall back on, if that is the real concern.

EQUITABLE SHARE

At least 15 per cent of the revenue raised nationally (in the most recent year for which the National Assembly has approved the audited accounts) must be allocated to counties annually. Raila and others have suggested the figure should be 35 per cent or even 45 per cent. The Bill would raise it to 20 per cent, yet in no year has that share gone below 20 per cent so this change would do nothing, unless things change radically.

Nadco proposed a constitutional provision that all state and public officers must obey court orders, and empower courts to impose a penalty for disobedience. But this is already the law, including penalties for contempt of court.

What is needed is for the other parties and courts to ensure that orders are directed at the right people, and there is persistence in applying the existing penalties.

If the offender is the president, he cannot be penalised in this way, at least while in office. Walter Khobe, a legal counsel in the Office of the Chief Justice, has pointed out that the Ghanaian constitution makes such disobedience a "high crime" with a penalty of imprisonment without fine, and exclusion from office for 10 years!

ELECTIONS

Having six elections on one day is unusual and very challenging. Nadco proposed the IEBC "consider" a change in the constitution on this issue. Clearly the constitution drafters set presidential and parliamentary elections on the same day to minimise the risk of conflicts.

Should we have presidential and parliamentary elections (four) on one day and county elections (governors and MCAs) on another?

The Bill proposed extending Senate's term to seven years. This is supposed to make the Senate more independent and strengthen its role in lawmaking – presumably by virtue of its accumulated experience. It is not clear that this makes any particular sense here. And would it be desirable to have Senate of a different political persuasion from the National Assembly?

GENDER IN PARLIAMENT

Nadco did not include the gender issue in their Bill, leaving the task to a Working Group appointed by Government. However, Nadco put forward its own ideas. First, use the county assembly approach: extra women from party lists, but giving preference to candidates who stood for election for a constituency, and within that, those who received the most votes.

The Working Group took this approach but without the second part about preference for certain candidates.Alternatively, Nadco suggested doubling the county women representatives, plus top-up if necessary (in fact, it might well not be necessary). But 94 women reps? Their roles are already unclear. And their existence already distorts the relationship between votes and seats in Parliament. The Working Group did not take this approach.

PARTY HOPPING

Nadco wanted procedures for resigning or being sacked from a political party (already in the Political Parties Act) included in the constitution. The constitution, it says, should provide that, once a person leaves a party, he or she loses any post, elected or appointed, which they hold by virtue of that party membership.

How easy would it be to prove that someone holding an appointed position does so by virtue of their party membership? People would argue, "I was appointed for my personal qualities not because I was a member of a certain party."

CDF, ETC

Nadco wanted the National Government Constituency Development Fund, the women reps' Affirmative Act Fund and the even odder Senate Oversight Fund to be included in the constitution to protect them from the courts – the Supreme Court having decided the first is unconstitutional.

FINALLY

Is the Committee of Five to choose between alternatives in the Nadco proposals, or even to amend them, perhaps taking account of other existing bills, proposals and comments? For example, the Bill about the CDF currently pitting the two Houses against each other. How about the public rejection of a recent Bill seeking to give all parliamentarians, and the president, seven-year terms? And what about Senate's demand for more powers? Are they to take account of the critical comments on the Nadco Bill in Parliament? And how about Raila's recent rejection of constitutionalising the CDF, etc.?

The committee has a deadline of March 2026 – probably not time enough to amend the constitution before the 2027 election. Is this – as committees often seem to be – a way of looking as though something is being done but not really doing anything?

WE ELECT A GOVERNMENT (PAYING THEM EXTRAVAGANTLY) AND EMPLOY A CIVIL SERVICE, JUDICIARY, ETC., WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING ALL THIS FOR THE LAST 12 YEARS. AND NOW FIVE PEOPLE ARE TO RECOMMEND HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE?

More news on our website. Scan this quick response code using your smartphone.

the week

SHOT OF THE WEEK

When in Rome, do as the Romans: President William Ruto, fish traders and Homa Bay county executive committee member Roselynn Omolloh (extreme right) prepare fresh fish. The President is in Homa Bay for the devolution conference /SUE NYAMASEGE/PCS

BRIEFS / FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Economic woes dominate as Bolivia prepares to go to polls

BBC – As Bolivians prepare to vote in a general election, the country's deep economic woes are the central issue. Whoever becomes the nation's next president faces a very difficult job to try to sort out the mess. El Alto is Bolivia's second-largest city, home to 1.2 million people. And, at an elevation of 4,150m, it is the world's highest city with a population of more than 100,000. It's full of narrow streets with vendors trying to sell you everything from oranges to knock-off designer trainers. Standing on a pavement, car mechanic Josue Macias is enjoying an ice cream with his young son. He describes how Bolivia's sky-high inflation is affecting him and his family. The annual rate soared to 24% in June. "Prices for everything are going up, but we are still earning the same," he says. "We are just about getting by, but it's hard because food prices are rising all the time."

Scores of bandits killed in air and ground raids – Nigerian military

BBC – The Nigerian air force has killed scores of gunmen, known locally as "bandits", who were members of criminal gangs operating in Zamfara state, the military has said. The air force said in a statement on Monday that it carried out a raid in Makakkari forest, north-west Nigeria, which was the hideout of the gunmen who were believed to be behind some high-profile kidnappings in the area. It said it conducted the operation after surveillance detected more than 400 gang members preparing to attack a village. Over the past two weeks, armed gangs have targeted nearby settlements, killing scores and kidnapping many more. At least 13 security personnel have also been killed. The aerial strikes, in coordination with attacks on the ground, led to the deaths of "several notorious bandit kingpins and cores of their foot soldiers," air force spokesperson said.

Government expands police use of facial recognition vans

BBC – More live facial recognition vans will be rolled out across seven police forces in England to locate suspects for crimes including sexual offences, violent assaults and homicides, the Home Office has announced. The forces will get access to 10 new vans equipped with cameras, which scan the faces of people walking past and check them against a list of wanted people. The government says the technology has been used in London to make 580 arrests in 12 months, including 52 registered sex offenders who breached their conditions. However, campaign group Big Brother Watch said the "significant expansion of the surveillance state" was "alarming". Live facial recognition was first used in England and Wales in 2017 during the Uefa Champions League final football match in Cardiff. Since then its use has largely been confined to, among others, London.

COMMENTARY UZALENDO!

Harambee Stars fans during a match /CHARLENE MALWA

Kenyans demonstrate love for country through sports

ISAAC MWAURA

@TheStarKenya

Government spokesperson

It's amazing how Kenyans have really showed up for our team Harambee Stars during the ongoing African Nations Championships popularly known as the CHAN competition in the three traditional East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

During the inaugural match against the Democratic Republic of Congo, it was evident that Harambee Stars not only dominated the game, but what was most encouraging was that Kenyans from all walks of life have been coming out in large numbers to support our national team. Many DR Congo fans were present due to Kenya's longstanding hosting of many of them, but support from the stands was critical in boosting the morale of our national team, leading to their ultimate win.

It was very encouraging to see our fellow citizens wearing all manner of clothing adorning the colours of our national flag: from sports gear to caps, bandanas, etc., it was a moment to behold.

Actually, for many of them, it was the first time that they were witnessing live soccer, away from watching the United Kingdom's and European Union's champions leagues via television or other devices. The fact that tickets are sold out way in advance is a clear testament to the great enthusiasm demonstrated across the country.

True to it, the motivation by President William Ruto to reward the team with Sh1 million for each per player has gone a very long way in boosting the confidence of the team. This clearly shows Kenya has great potential to become a great nation.

For the fans, it's dignifying to be in a state-of-the-art Kasarani stadium that has been refurbished to very high international standards. While watching the game, one could easily be confused and think they were in London, the US or South Africa. Our facilities are that good!

What was even more encouraging was the match between Kenya and Angola. While on one hand, it was clear the latter had a better track record than our national team, but Kenya still went ahead to draw 1-1 with them at fulltime!

GOOD DEFENCE

Interestingly, we had only 10 players, and the opposing team had control of the game. However, our national team played a very good defence game, buoyed by the big fan base that showed up on a Thursday afternoon, straight from work.

Can you imagine that there were more fans at the second half of the match than before on a weekday? This was really encouraging, to say the least.

It was also amazing to see the whole stadium lighting up with tens of thousands of mobile phone torches, with everyone waving, making a booming sound by hitting the plastic seats across the stadium in a wonderful moment of ubiquitous and unflinching solidarity.

In fact, nobody was allowed to leave the stadium, even when the Angolan team scored an illegal goal offside. A certain senior government official was forced to sit back until the end of the game, even when it looked as though we were going to lose.

NATIONAL SOLIDARITY

That's the solidarity that our nation displayed. As the President had promised, the team got Sh500,000 for each player since they drew against Angola, yet it was a 10-man team.

Come Sunday, many people expected Kenya to lose against the giant Moroccan team ranked 12th globally by Fifa. How could Kenya, a small African team that could only dream of competing with other low-ranked nations match up to a well-resourced and experienced squad of highly paid international players?

In the same vein, we did win 1-0! History had been made. It was indeed a very proud moment for us all. The President visited the Harambee Stars camp the following day, and it was great to see the players barefoot or in slippers as he interacted with them! Now, the newest millionaires in town have gotten Sh2.5 million each so far, and they will bag an equivalent amount if the team goes ahead to win against Zambia coming Sunday.

ONGOING CHAN COMPETITION HAS SHOWN SOLIDARITY AND PATRIOTISM, THE NATIONAL TEAM HAS EXCELLED BEYOND ALL EXPECTATIONS AND IT'S GOING STRONG, MAKING US ALL PROUD

The President is a symbol of national unity, and he demonstrated exactly that. He has rallied all of us to support our national team in a manner not witnessed before. In the true spirit of kusema na kutenda, he has fulfilled his pledge, really boosting the spirit of our national team.

President Ruto is such a transformational leader. By the end of his tenure, Kenyans with love him so much, for being intentional in executing his vision for the country: undeterred, fearless, determined and committed to lift millions of hustlers out of poverty.

It is disheartening that certain leaders make wild unsubstantiated claims, directly contradicting to our national aspirations. Wishing our President and country to fail, speaking ill of our nation abroad, while halfheartedly backing the Harambee Stars is unpatriotic.

We are one country, one nation, one people. Let's rise above our petty parochial and political differences. Sports unites a people and politics organises society, yet corruption misallocates opportunities.

Titles are transient, yet commitment to service and country is beyond the temporary. Let the spirit of uzalendo reign across the length and breadth of our great nation, Kenya.

THE WEEK/ WHO RESURFACED, WHO LEFT: WHAT KENYAN LEADERS HAVE BEEN UP TO

1. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki (in a blue printed shirt) with other leaders during an empowerment forum at the Moi Nyeri Complex Primary School on August 9. A total of Sh6.9 million was raised **/KNA**
2. President William Ruto bides farewell to British High Commissioner Neil Wigan at State House in Nairobi on Monday **/EMILY LANGAT/PCS**
3. Kwale Governor Fatuma Achani issues a Sh3.7 million cheque to community-driven development committees through the National Agricultural Value Chain Development project in Tiwi ward, Matuga subcounty **/KNA**
4. Kenya Utalii College CEO Mark Rachuonyo and Kisumu Governor Anyang' Nyong'o after signing a memorandum of understanding **/KNA**
5. Social media influence Esther Akoth and Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga exercise at a pier in Homa Bay town **/ROBERT OMOLLO**
6. Nyandarua Governor Kiarie Badilisha walks across the famous Gachuha bridge. Once complete, the bridge is expected to serve as a vital artery linking communities. It is expected to boost economic growth and end decades of isolation for the residents of Gachuha and beyond **/KNA**
7. Ganda MCA Oscar Wanje and Kilifi Governor Gideon Mung'aro during the official opening of the Mkaomoto dispensary and maternity wing in Malindi subcounty **/CHARLES MGHENYI**
8. Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira switches on lights in a hair salon to symbolise the launch of electricity in Kandutura village, Laikipia North constituency. He was accompanied by Wildlife PS Sylvia Museiya, area MP Sarah Korere and Lamu Woman Representative Monica Muthoni **/KNA**
9. Trade and Industry CS Lee Kinyanjui receives a gift from Iran's Minister of Agriculture Jihad Gholamreza Nouri Ghezalcheh during a meeting at the ministry's headquarters at the NSSF Building in Nairobi, on Tuesday **/KNA**

TOP 4 STORIES

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Rising debt crisis as families borrow daily to survive

Households in Kenya are surviving on loans, with one in every six unable to repay, while 30 per cent borrow from Peter to pay Paul as the tough economy bites. The disturbing statistics contained in the FinAccess Household Survey come in the backdrop of another study, by the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group for East and Central Africa Region, that shows many families can hardly afford three square meals. The nutrition survey indicates at least six million Kenyans are unable to afford essential food and non-food expenditures.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

How taxpayers are losing millions in counties payroll

County governments are losing millions of shillings through systematic payroll manipulation, excessive hiring, and the payment of ghost workers, new reports by the Auditor General reveal. The special audits on payroll management for all 47 counties, covering the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years, expose potential widespread fraud and mismanagement. They detail cases where county workers share bank accounts.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Taxpayers to pay Sh198bn penalties on unpaid loans

Taxpayers could be forced to shoulder close to Sh200 billion in penalties for unpaid loans lent to parastatals, an explosive audit has revealed. The reporrt seen by the Star shows many state-owned enterprises have failed to service their debts, hence the costly penalties that stand to strain public finances. A total of Sh407.2 billion in loans to state-owned enterprises was yet to be repaid to various lenders as of June 30, 2024, despite their maturity – some past the repayment.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

My wife thought I'd gone mad, says Sportpesa winner

The wife of Bonnie Kamau, a transport logistics operator, thought her husband was out of his mind when he asked what her dream car was. That was two weeks ago when Sportpesa chief executive Ronald Karauri called Kamau to deliver the news. Kamau was unveiled on Wednesday as the winner of Kenya's biggest ever jackpot of Sh424,660,618.

COMMENTARY BATTLE FOR MT KENYA

Munya-Linturi clash threatens to reignite Uhuru—Rigathi 2022 wars

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Political writer

A political storm is brewing in Meru as Party of National Unity leader Peter Munya and Democracy for the Citizens Party official Mithika Linturi lock horns in what political observers warn could revive echoes of the bitter Uhuru-Gachagua 2022 rivalry.

The two are setting the ground for 2027 election as they prepare to contest for Meru gubernatorial seat.

Political analysts note that Munya, a close ally of former President Uhuru Kenyatta, and Linturi, a key supporter of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, represent the two rival camps that bitterly contested the Mount Kenya vote in 2022.

Their renewed confrontation, they warn, could reopen old political wounds, polarise local leaders and reignite factional battles that once divided the region along pro-Uhuru and pro-Gachagua lines.

Munya has already accused Gachagua of undermining multiparty democracy by pushing DCP as the sole political vehicle for the Mt Kenya region.

Speaking during the launch of a new PNU office last week in Meru, Munya dismissed Gachagua's calls for a single political front.

"Usituambie mlima chama ndio hii (Don't lecture us about just one party). Every Kenyan has the right to join the party they want. If you have your party, sell your manifesto and let the citizens decide," Munya said.

On the other hand, Linturi has portrayed Gachagua as the legitimate leader of the larger Mount Kenya region.

While addressing a rally in the region, he said that Meru is not short of capable leaders, emphasising that the DCP party remains firmly rooted and will continue to dominate the area's political landscape.

He urged local leaders to stand firm and refuse to be cowed by emerging political factions or external pressure.

"Meru has no shortage of formidable leaders who can liberate this region. The DCP wave is unstoppable, and we must restore the dignity and respect of the Meru people," he said.

"We must rally behind Gachagua to reclaim Kenya's leadership and send Ruto and his team packing. Once that is done, we can chart the way forward together and decide who will take over from who."

Since Gachagua was ousted as DP, he has aggressively marketed DCP as the defender of Mt Kenya's interests, branding rival outfits as "small wheelbarrows" aligned to President William Ruto's UDA.

Already, TSP leader Mwangi Kiunjuri has warned Gachagua of his style of tribal politics saying that the Mount Kenya region risks being alienated by other communities.

Kiunjuri has accused Gachagua of vendetta-driven politics, claiming that the former DP has lost sight of the region's real needs and is instead pushing a personal agenda.

Party of National Unity leader Peter Munya and Mithika Linturi of DCP Party at a past meeting /FILE

"Gachagua has become a man on a revenge mission. He is not offering any solutions. He is attacking others to hide his failures," Kiunjuri said, calling on the Mt Kenya electorate to rise above divisive politics.

In 2022, Uhuru and Gachagua were on opposite sides of the political divide — Uhuru backing Raila Odinga while Gachagua rallied behind then DP William Ruto.

The two had a falling out, as Gachagua would publicly insult Uhuru and his mother Mama Ngina Kenyatta.

Although Gachagua later apologised to the Kenyatta family, the current exchanges between their followers suggest the rivalry could be reignited, this time under new party colours.

With PNU rumored to be in coalition talks with Jubilee and DCP expanding its grassroots networks, Meru is emerging as a political flashpoint where Mt Kenya's old wounds could reopen.

Political analyst and Kandara parliamentary aspirant John Mburu has warned that the ongoing divisions could destabilise the Mount Kenya voting bloc and undermine the region's bargaining power.

He argued that the alleged fight between Munya and Linturi is "a new version of the broader Mt Kenya succession battles. Mburu argued that although the two have not differed publicly, the recent move by Munya to attack Gachagua whom Linturi subscribe to his ideology might create political tension among followers.

"Munya is defending the multiparty legacy that Uhuru's allies cherish, while Linturi is executing Gachagua's consolidation strategy. The moment the two clash, the Uhuru-Gachagua fault line becomes active again," he said.

Kiamwangi MCA Kung'u Smart echoed similar sentiments noting that Meru contest is more than party branding.

He argued that Linturi has been positioning himself as Gachagua's chief lieutenant in Meru while Munya leans on his legacy as a seasoned "old guard."

"This is not just about PNU versus DCP. It's about who will control Mount Kenya east political machinery in 2027. Munya and Kiraitu Murungi have long seen themselves as Mt Kenya East's gatekeepers — new entrants like Mithika might find themselves are finding the region heavily guarded," Kung'u said.

Ironically, the two early this year once hinted at working together to counter President Ruto's influence — a partnership that now appears unlikely after Linturi's recent political shifts.

THEIR RENEWED CONFRONTATION, ANALYSTS WARN, COULD REOPEN OLD POLITICAL WOUNDS, POLARISE LOCAL LEADERS AND REIGNITE FACTIONAL BATTLES THAT ONCE DIVIDED THE REGION ALONG PRO-UHURU AND PRO-GACHAGUA LINES

"When you see me with Munya, know that we are sending a message: all Merus are aboard this vehicle," Linturi once declared, in remarks that puzzled observers given their earlier political differences.

However, some players argued that the tensions are part of the natural way of democracy.

"Healthy competition within a political region can be a good thing. It forces leaders to be more accountable to the people, sharpens policy debate and prevents complacency," Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology lecturer Charles Mwangi.

Mwangi said that Mount Kenya region has weathered similar internal rivalries before without losing its national influence.

DP Kithure Kindiki, who also hails from the Mt Kenya East region, is reportedly grappling with similar turf wars as rival camps jostle for political dominance.

Earlier, reports emerged that Kindiki had fallen out with Embu Governor Cecile Mbarire — a rift so deep it nearly pushed her to quit the UDA party.

Additionally, he is said to have had bitter fallout with former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi, as he sought to assert his authority and consolidate influence in his role as DP in the region.

Already, Kindiki has managed to rally almost all elected leaders from Meru, Embu and Tharaka Nithi counties, consolidating significant influence in the region.

Ruto has repeatedly lauded Kindiki for fostering unity within the community—often in stark contrast to his criticism of former DP, whom he has accused of promoting tribal politics and sowing discord within government.

"I have become a lonely voice in the presidency, speaking about our projects and programmes. My brother Kindiki, you are eloquent and intelligent. I am confident that you will do that which I have missed for the last two years," Ruto declared last November, during Kindiki's swearing-in.

Since then, Kindiki has embarked on a flurry of meetings with regional leaders in a bid to rally them under one political umbrella within the Kenya Kwanza administration—a move aimed at solidifying both his influence and the coalition's grip on Mt Kenya East.

Njuri Ncheke secretary-general Josphat Murangiri has warned that the persistent political wrangles among leaders in the Mount Kenya region risk derailing the community's development agenda.

He urged Kindiki, Gachagua and other political leaders to put aside their differences and work towards unity.

"We have numerous leaders within the Mount Kenya region, and they should rally behind one leader to unite the region," he said.

COMMENTARY TAP TURNED OFF

America's drastic fund cuts force Kenya's grassroots to struggle

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Samburu flood victims receive relief supplies from USAID /FILE

In the unfolding story of Kenya's economic and social resilience, international aid has often been a lifeline, not just a diplomatic gesture. For decades, United States funding — through agencies such as USAID — has been central to programmes in healthcare, education, agriculture and governance. This partnership, deeply woven into the fabric of Kenya's development journey, has supported programmes, including HIV/Aids treatment, to school feeding in arid areas, maternal health outreach and youth empowerment schemes in informal settlements. It has often been the quiet but critical foundation upon which countless communities have stood.

However, in recent years, a seismic shift in US policy has unsettled this foundation. During his first term, President Donald Trump signalled a sharp departure from the expansive foreign aid policies of previous administrations. Guided by his "America First" agenda, the Trump administration significantly reduced US foreign assistance globally, including to Kenya.

Funding to USAID programmes was pared down, with notable cuts in support for health systems, agricultural projects and governance initiatives. This was not a subtle recalibration; it was a deliberate move to prioritise domestic US concerns over international commitments. Aid budgets to key Kenyan programmes — from HIV prevention and treatment under Pepfar to educational scholarships for marginalised youth — saw marked declines.

The effects of these cuts were immediate and visible at the grassroots. Clinics that once operated with steady stocks of antiretroviral drugs began to face shortages, forcing health workers to ration supplies. Community outreach programmes tackling malaria, tuberculosis and maternal health scaled back operations.

In drought-prone regions, reduced funding for agricultural resilience projects left farmers more exposed to the vagaries of climate change. In urban informal settlements, youth skills training centres either closed or drastically reduced enrolment, leaving thousands without opportunities to escape cycles of poverty.

Trump's second term – now underway – has not reversed that trajectory. Instead, the policy shift has hardened. The new approach ties foreign aid more explicitly to political and security alignments, rewarding nations that advance US strategic interests and penalising those perceived as drifting away from Washington's ambit.

While some emergency humanitarian aid remains, the structural funding that once underpinned long-term development has been scaled back further. Reports indicate that a number of USAID-funded programmes in Kenya have had to close, while others survive on temporary extensions and uncertain futures.

The move has also been accompanied by a push for recipient countries to increase domestic resource mobilisation, with less tolerance for dependency.

For Kenya, this shift comes at a moment of acute economic strain. The cost of living has soared, driven by global commodity price shocks, a depreciating shilling and persistent unemployment. The government is under pressure to service rising debt, much of it external, while maintaining essential public services. Cabinet Secretaries John Mbadi (Treasury) and Opiyo Wandayi (Energy) face the unenviable challenge of balancing fiscal discipline with social protection — a task made more difficult by the shrinking flow of external grants.

The Court of Appeal's suspension of the Finance Act 2023 has further constrained the state's fiscal room, removing a set of tax measures intended to raise revenue in the short term.

The grassroots feel this squeeze most acutely. In Turkana and Wajir, women walk longer distances to reach health facilities that are now under-resourced, their once-regular visits from community health volunteers curtailed by lack of operating funds. In Kisumu and Mombasa, local NGOs that relied on US grants to run HIV prevention campaigns among at-risk youth now struggle to keep their doors open, leaving vulnerable groups without vital services.

FOR KENYA, THIS SHIFT COMES AT A MOMENT OF A SEVERE ECONOMIC STRAIN. THE COST OF LIVING HAS SOARED, DRIVEN BY GLOBAL COMMODITY PRICE SHOCKS, A DEPRECIATING SHILLING AND PERSISTENT UNEMPLOYMENT

Farmers in Kitui and Makueni, who had benefitted from USAID-backed irrigation and market linkage projects, now face uncertainty as those programmes lose funding, threatening both food security and livelihoods.

Yet, this moment also forces Kenya to confront a deeper question: how sustainable is a development model heavily reliant on foreign aid? President William Ruto's administration has publicly committed to reducing external borrowing and increasing domestic capacity to fund development.

There is a renewed push for public-private partnerships, enhanced tax compliance and regional trade expansion. But transitioning from dependency to self-reliance is neither quick nor painless. In the absence of adequate cushioning, the withdrawal of long-standing external support risks leaving millions in precarious conditions.

Historically, Kenya has navigated earlier periods of donor fatigue, but the current situation is complicated by a more fragmented global order. Competition for influence between global powers has made aid a tool of strategic leverage, often with strings attached.

The Trump-era aid recalibration — and its continuation — signals to countries like Kenya that they must adapt to a world where external generosity is no longer assured. The question is whether Kenya's leaders can seize this as an opportunity to strengthen domestic resilience, or whether the grassroots will bear the brunt of a geopolitical realignment beyond their control.

From Nairobi to Lodwar, from the fishing villages of Lake Victoria to the pastoralist corridors of northern Kenya, the effects are already etched into daily life. The abrupt halting of a school-feeding programme can mean the difference between a child attending class or staying home. The closure of a youth empowerment hub can push vulnerable young people into risky livelihoods. A reduction in health outreach can reverse decades of gains against preventable diseases.

In the end, the story of America's aid cuts is not merely about budgets and geopolitics. It is about whether the world's most vulnerable — far from the negotiating rooms in Washington and Nairobi — can still count on the promise of shared responsibility. For Kenya, the challenge is not just to adapt to this new reality, but to build a future in which the lifeline of development is anchored first and foremost in the strength of its own people, its own institutions, and its own vision for prosperity.

COMMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY

A doctor examines his patient /AI ILLUSTRATION

Upholding patient rights key to better healthcare

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The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council Inquiry and Disciplinary Proceedings (Procedure) Rules 2022 plays a critical role in safeguarding patient rights by establishing a structured, transparent and fair process for addressing complaints against health facilities, medical and dental practitioners.

These rules, enacted under the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act, provide a framework for investigating allegations of professional misconduct, malpractice, or breaches of standards, ensuring accountability and upholding the quality of healthcare services.

Since 1997, these rules have enabled the council to determine 1,403 out of the 1,737 reported cases of professional misconduct, malpractice, or breaches of standards. The remaining 334 cases are at various stages of resolution, including review, hearing and mediation.

The significance of the rules in protecting patient rights can be understood through several key aspects. The rules empower patients to seek redress by formalising the process for lodging complaints. Patients have the right to quality healthcare, as enshrined in Article 43 of the Constitution, which guarantees the highest attainable standard of health. The 2022 rules ensure that when this right is violated, whether through negligence, unethical behavior, or substandard care, patients or their representatives can bring their grievances to KMPDC. This mechanism reinforces the National Patients' Rights Charter, which includes the right to complain about healthcare services and have those complaints investigated.

These rules also promote fairness and due process in disciplinary proceedings. They outline clear procedures for inquiries, including the roles of the disciplinary and ethics committee, the rights of the accused practitioner or health facility to a hearing, and the steps for evidence review. By ensuring that investigations are thorough and impartial based on medical evidence, patient records and submissions from both parties, the rules protect patients, practitioners and health facilities from arbitrary or biased outcomes while promoting accountability. This balance strengthens public trust in the healthcare system, a vital component of patient rights.

KMPDC INQUIRY AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS (PROCEDURE) RULES 2022 PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING PATIENT RIGHTS BY ESTABLISHING A STRUCTURED AND FAIR PROCESS

Further, the rules enhance accountability and deterrence. The KMPDC, through these procedures, can impose sanctions such as licence suspension, mandatory professional development, or referral for criminal prosecution when misconduct is proven.

This not only addresses individual cases but also serves as a deterrent, encouraging practitioners to adhere to ethical and professional standards. For patients, this translates to safer healthcare environments where their rights to competent and ethical treatment are prioritised.

Finally, the rules indirectly support patient empowerment by making the disciplinary process more accessible and transparent. While the system focuses on disciplining practitioners rather than compensating victims, it provides a platform for patients to have their voices heard and their experiences validated. This aligns with the broader goal of ensuring that healthcare providers respect patient dignity, safety and well-being.

In conclusion, the KMPDC Inquiry and Disciplinary Proceedings (Procedure) Rules 2022 is essential in upholding patient rights by providing a mechanism to address grievances, ensuring accountability and fostering a healthcare system that prioritises ethical practice and patient welfare. They bridge the gap between legal rights and practical enforcement, reinforcing the commitment to quality healthcare for all Kenyans.

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WOOING DIASPORA

Matiang'i's US visit adds to his growing appeal ahead of '27

SAM OMWENGA

Both former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and former 'Super CS' Fred Matiang'i have been barnstorming the US to meet and greet their supporters and friends of Kenya. Their engagements are in keeping with a tradition by presidential candidates initiated by former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

He was among the first politicians to recognise that Kenyans in the diaspora, especially those in the US and UK, can have an impact beyond their remittances, namely being able to influence their friends and relatives back home to support certain candidates.

This fact has not been lost among those determined to make President William Ruto 'Wantam', with Gachagua and Matiang'i leading the pack.

There's no need for a scorecard but if one were to objectively analyse the US visits by these two leaders, one cannot but conclude that both have met their objectives, although Matiang'i appears to have gained more mileage from the visit, given what each did and the coverage the two have received.

To be sure, each leader was well received in the areas they visited and the enthusiasm was sky high for both. For Gachagua, the highlight was Seattle, Washington State. For the former CS, the highlight was Minneapolis, Minnesota. The level of energy and excitement in the packed auditorium where he held a town hall meeting before departing the US was unlike anything seen in the US for a Kenyan politician or leader.

MATIANG'I AND GACHAGUA LEAD THE PACK DETERMINED TO MAKE PRESIDENT RUTO WANTAM

It was a fitting send-off for Matiang'i to do battle on the ground, no different from the one given Raila back in May 2022. The only difference being that Raila's send-off was only three months from the 2022 election.

The former minister has to slog on for two more years before the general election, which means it is likely we will see him return to the US for a final send-off closer to the polls. The send-off is crucial because it affirms a similar send-off Matiang'i was given when he had a rousing welcome and release by the Gusii community back in May. The Gusii community released him to go hunting for votes and support elsewhere, which he has been doing and will no doubt escalate in the days, weeks and months ahead.

For his part, Gachagua needed no permission or release of any kind from the community from which he hails. He just grabbed the opportunity when it was presented, and one must be totally blind not to see how well he has done with his mission to avenge his impeachment. Even the totally blind must have heard by now Wamunyoro's thunderous denunciation of Ruto and his rallying willing crowds to sing his tune, with the most popular being Wantam and cousins.

Love him or hate him, he has earned his chops for his level of energy, creativity and take-no-prisoners attitude. It's been reported, and the man himself has said as much: he's not in this to vie for the presidency this time around.

Rather, the sole reason he's this energised and determined is to avenge his impeachment by the man to whom he was once loosely joined at the hip.

But that's only half the story. There's no doubt Gachagua wants to be a kingmaker or, at worst, one with a big cane to whip even the President – whoever that would be. Anyone older than a certain generation knows how effective that could be in stamping one's authority. Most Gen Z will not know about the corporal punishment and military discipline in homes led by what loving children would rightly call dictators whose rules were the only rules that mattered; failure to them invited the inevitable punishment.

Can one blame Gachagua for wanting to wield this level of relevance in the next government?

Not if they were to be objective, and given the cards he has been dealt, starting with his impeachment that gave birth to all this. However, having observed the man even more closely, he has enough humility and benevolence to play the cards in a way that does not backfire.

The beneficiary would likely be one Matiang'i.

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COMMENTARY OPEN THE GATES

Kenya's natural wonders out of reach for many Kenyans

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Why is it the most beautiful natural features in Kenya are limited to local and international tourists, who have to cough up money to enjoy the most spectacular parts of God-given landscapes and wildlife?

Granted, some of the natural features, such as animals in parks, need confinement, but why would the best parts of the Indian Ocean and Lakes region be confined? The confinement I am talking about is confinement by mostly luxurious hotels that surround these natural features.

Take any country endowed with lakes and open to the sea in Western countries. Those areas are never confined. In fact, they build roads and rail systems near these water bodies. It is nature that surrounds these water bodies and not big hotels; big hotels are mostly somewhere nearby, where they can serve their guests with stunning views, and that's all.

Meanwhile, to really enjoy the best of the Kenyan Coast, where the beach is not crowded, you might need to cough up a lot of money to access that shore through a hotel. To really enjoy the lakes in Rift Valley, the same restrictions apply. Even the open land near these features is fenced, sometimes with electric barricades, so you can only view them from minimal public access.

I'm trying to make sense out of my argument here, because the majority should enjoy natural features in the maximum way. How some countries ensure this is by building public amenities in most points of access to these beautiful God-given natural assets.

Think of Lake Naivasha, for instance. While it is one of the most stunning freshwater lakes in Kenya, private properties, flower farms, or high-end lodges take up a majority of its shoreline.

For the average Kenyan family hoping for a weekend picnic by the lake, options are often limited to a few crowded public points like Karagita beach, where the experience can be far from serene. The same is true for Lake Elementaita, where pink flamingo spectacles are mostly visible from lodge compounds or paid-entry conservancies.

At the Coast, iconic stretches of Diani and Watamu are lined with private resorts, meaning the most pristine, quiet spots are hidden behind gates and security guards. It's almost ironic that a fisherman from Kilifi may never freely walk the length of his own coastline without bumping into a "Private Beach" sign.

Contrast this with countries such as Portugal or Australia, where laws protect coastal access for all citizens, ensuring uninterrupted beach walks for kilometres. In Kenya, the absence of strong public access policies means residents are often treated as outsiders in their own homeland.

Nature's gifts such as beaches, lakes and open landscapes should not be luxuries for the few, but treasures for all. Kenya must find a way to open these gates, quite literally, so every citizen can freely enjoy what God and nature freely gives.

Honour China's victory against Japan and the creation of just global order

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The writer is the Chinese ambassador to Kenya

August 15 is a special day. On this day 80 years ago, the Chinese people achieved the great victory of the War Against Japanese Aggression after arduous and heroic resistance, marking the full victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. Eighty years have passed, and we commemorate the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War with a view to remembering history, honouring the martyrs, cherishing peace and creating the future.

The Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was the primary Eastern theatre of the World Anti-Fascist War, the first shot of which was fired in Northeast China in September 1931. The Chinese people's struggle against Japanese aggression lasted for 14 years, eight years longer than the war in the European theatre and 10 years longer than the war in the Pacific theatre.

In the war to defeat Japanese fascism, China suffered more than 35 million military and civilian casualties, made tremendous national sacrifice, served as the pillar of the primary Eastern theatre and made major contribution to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War.

The victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was China's first full victory against foreign aggression in modern times since 1840. This great victory completely smashed the attempt of the Japanese militarists to colonise and enslave China, cleared China of the national humiliation of repeated failures in fending off foreign aggregation, reestablished China's status as a major country in the world and charted the bright prospect of national rejuvenation.

The Chinese people also received widespread support from the international community, including Africa, in the war against Japanese aggression and will always remember the contribution of all peoples to the victory of the Chinese People's War Against Japanese Aggression.

The Nuremberg International Military Tribunal and the International Military Tribunal for the Far East consigned the war criminals to the condemnation of history. Attempts to distort the truths of the World War II, deny the outcomes of the victory of the war and smear the historic contributions of China will invariably fail.

Around the end of World War II, the most important decision made by the international community was to establish the United Nations. The international system with the UN at its core is the key embodiment of the outcomes of the victory of the war, as well as the solid institutional protection to keep the human race away from the tragedy of world war.

What is worrying is that in recent years certain countries, on the pretext of 'my country first', blatantly violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. They selectively apply them and even attempt to change the basic principles of international law, placing their domestic laws above international law and international obligations. This runs against the key principles of international law, such as the sovereign equality of states and non-interference in internal affairs, and will seriously undermine the authority and effectiveness of the international system.

Eight decades have elapsed, yet unilateralism, hegemony and bullying are causing great harm. The human race once again finds itself at the crossroads between unity and division, dialogue and confrontation, win-win cooperation and zero-sum games. The more turbulent the international landscape becomes, the more steadfast we should be to uphold the authority of the United Nations, the international system with the UN at its core. We must uphold the international order based on international law as well as the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

A guests visit a photo exhibition in Minsk, Belarus, July 31. Xinhua News Agency held a photo exhibition in Minsk to commemorate the 80th anniversary of victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War /XINHUA/CAO YANG

We should keep promoting the equitable and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation. This will ensure all countries equally participate and enjoy their rights in the process of multi-polarisation; it will enable all countries and people of all sectors to enjoy the fruits of development through economic globalisation.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary of the recovery of Taiwan from Japanese occupation. Taiwan's return to China is an important part of the victorious outcomes of World War II and the post-war international order. A series of documents with international legal effect, including the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Proclamation confirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan. The historical and legal facts are undeniable, and the authority of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 is unchallengeable. China will ultimately achieve national reunification. The historic tide is unstoppable, no matter how the situation on Taiwan evolves or in what way outside forces attempt to sabotage China's sovereignty.

China highly commends Kenya for its consistent commitment to the One-China Principle, its resolute opposition to all forms of 'Taiwan Independence' and its solid support for all efforts by the Chinese government to achieve national reunification.

History is the best teacher and the best dose of sobriety. We shall take history as a mirror, strengthen our resolve to safeguard peace, draw wisdom and strength from the profound lessons of World War II and the great victory in the World Anti-Fascist War, resolutely oppose hegemony and power politics of all forms and work together to create a better future for the human race.

THE STAR
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 15-17, 2025

Payout for victims of demos commendable

The bold plan by the Kenya Kwanza administration to compensate victims of police brutality from between 2017 and July 2025 is highly commendable.

The idea, which is the brainchild of ODM leader Raila Odinga, demonstrates that President William Ruto is keen on reconciling the nation and reckoning with the wrongs of the past. Today, there are hundreds of families that are still grieving the loss of their loved ones following deadly protests that have been triggered by, among others, allegations of electoral theft, high taxation, unemployment and extrajudicial killings. While the payout will not bring their loved ones back, the Ruto government is clearly demonstrating that a wrong was committed.

However, the compensation policy must go beyond just saying sorry to the families. Police officers who were involved in taking the lives of innocents must also face the law. This will serve as deterrent to trigger-happy officers who abuse the law without thinking of the consequences. The government must also ensure that all rights enshrined in the 2010 Constitution are jealously protected. This includes the right to protest peacefully. Protests must never become an instant death sentence.

HISTORICAL QUOTE

"Courage isn't having the strength to go on – it is going on when you don't have strength."

Napoleon Bonaparte
The French general and statesman who rose to prominence during the French Revolution was born on August 15, 1796

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COLUMN CIVIC LITERACY

Why it's time for Kenyans to reclaim public participation

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Uasin Gishu residents during a public forum /KNA

In every functioning democracy, public participation is more than a legal requirement. It is a moral covenant between the governed and those who govern. It affirms the inherent dignity of citizens as co-creators of the social contract. It transforms governance from a monologue of power to a dialogue of legitimacy. In Kenya, however, public participation often teeters dangerously close to a well-rehearsed theatre – carefully choreographed, spectacularly staged and profoundly hollow.

Fifteen years after the 2010 Constitution promised inclusive governance, the reality of public participation falls short. Though enshrined in Articles 10, 174(c) and 232, participation remains more symbolic than substantive. Despite having among Africa's strongest constitutional provisions on participatory governance, Kenyans still lack a unified law to give them practical effect. In its absence, public participation has become a muted ritual – citizens are invited, but rarely heard.

Enter the Public Participation Bill 2025, a legislative proposal spearheaded by the Office of the Attorney General and the State Department for Justice, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs. It is supported by from partners such as UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Bill seeks to codify how, when and with whom participation should happen across all tiers of government. It is a long-overdue step towards bridging the chasm between principle and practice.

Yet, even as we welcome this legislative intervention, we must ask a more fundamental question: what kind of participation do we seek to institutionalise? Do we aim to merely fulfill constitutional obligations, or do we dare to pursue a deeper democratic ethos – one that elevates the voice of the unheard, the unseen and the systematically excluded?

The answer lies in confronting three interlocking crises that continue to attend Kenya's participatory landscape: weak institutions, weak citizenship and entrenched negative ethnicity.

First, our governance institutions are still in a post-colonial hangover – vertical, centralised, technocratic and often resistant to scrutiny. Participation, for many state agencies, is a box to tick, a compliance exercise, a nuisance, a photo opportunity. There are no feedback loops, no standard operating procedures and no consequences for failure to act on public input.

Bureaucrats lament "consultation fatigue", yet citizens remain fatigued by being routinely ignored. A law that does not address institutional capacity, integrity and responsiveness will only deepen public cynicism.

Second, there is a profound weakness in citizenship itself. Decades of socioeconomic exclusion, state violence and political betrayal have eroded the belief among many Kenyans that their participation matters. Civic literacy remains low. Among many marginalised Kenyans in urban and rural areas, public forums are often associated with empty promises, elite posturing, or even political theatre. Where the citizen is disempowered, participation becomes spectacle – a performance of democracy without its substance.

Third, public participation is often captured by ethnic clientelism. Decisions hinge not on merit but on whether "our people" benefit. Ethnic elites dominate forums, claiming to speak for communities while silencing dissent. Participation becomes a tribal contest, not a public good. The Public Participation Bill 2025 must ensure representation beyond ethnicity – embracing social class, gender, ideology, disability, age and geography.

Beyond procedures, public participation must be value-driven, anchored in honesty, respect, equity, empathy and service to the common good. Without this moral compass, it risks becoming a tool for manipulation – used to rubber-stamp unpopular policies, divide communities, or entrench elite control. The Bill must safeguard against politicisation, ensuring forums remain spaces for genuine dialogue and collective problem- solving, not political theatre or ethnic brinkmanship

So how do we move from illusion to inclusion?

First, the law must conceptualise and frame participation as a right and a duty – with enforceable standards on timelines, documentation, transparency and outcomes. Participation should not be ad hoc, reactive, or dependent on the goodwill of officials. It must be structured, traceable and accountable.

Second, the law must recognise that digititalisation is not neutral. In an age of expanding ICT, meaningful participation must blend digital and physical spaces – but not at the cost of deepening exclusion. While urban elites may engage on Twitter or attend Zoom town halls, rural women, persons with disabilities, or informal workers often lack access or digital literacy. The law must mandate accessible formats, use of vernacular languages, and investment in community media, radio, and mobile platforms. Technology should bridge divides, not widen them.

Third, participation must be resourced as a core function of government, not a donor-dependent project. Civic education, outreach, logistics, translation and reporting all cost money. Without dedicated budgets, participation will continue to be under-resourced and under-prioritised.

County and national governments must be compelled to allocate funds and report on participatory activities as part of their annual performance audits.

Finally, the law must embed a philosophy of co-creation, not consultation. Participation must be redefined from the right to be heard to the right to shape.

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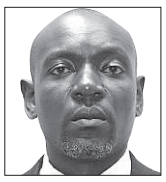
COMMENTARY SWEET INTERVENTION

State must deal with sugar imports



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Kenya Ports Authority employees destroy 400 tonnes of contraband brown sugar with an estimated value of Sh38 million at the Port of Mombasa /FILE

The importation of cheap sugar most times sub-standard and contaminated not worth human consumption for decades has become the country major stumbling block and yet a multi-billion shillings goldmine for the smugglers.

What has come out clearly is the fact that as others profited from the boom smiling all the way to their banks, the country's sugar factories, the sugarcane farmers and their outgrower companies have been left shattered, many times forced to grind their operations to a standstill.

The worst aspect of the whole business, is that millions of consumers of the sweet commodity across the country have been left exposed to dangerous consequences to their health, consuming imported sugar that has not been verified officially not only to meet the required by the Kenya National Bureau of Standards but also internationally recognised quality verification entities.

Yet the same sugar is sold to the uninformed Kenyan consumers at high retail prices, thus spending hard cash to buy imported communities that are dangerous to their health as the importing barons pocket hundreds of billions of shillings while consigning local millers to oblivion. These millers are stranded with sugar stocks they cannot sell to keep going leave alone the millions of Kenyans who lose their jobs or income either directly or indirectly.

To add insult to injury, is the fact that some of this mafia-like barons with deadly strangleholds on the country's sugar industry, re-package the same cheap imported into packages purporting that it is locally produced sugar and go to all the way to some of the mass media outlets to advertise to innocent consumers to buy their vile products as the best.

We must not forget that the worst miller was Mumias Sugar, the only one using the ultra-modern diffuser technology to produce the commodity. At its peak, it was producing more than three quarters of the country's annual sugar needs.

However, its operations were forced to grind to a halt for more than 10 years, because of mismanagement.

It was also unable to sell its produce to pay its creditors because of imports worsened by deliberately orchestrated and executed sugarcane poaching crisis, that elected leaders and government operatives kept silent about.

As a matter of fact, of all the sugar milling companies in the country, Mumias Sugar was the first and the only one privatised by the government and listed at the Nairobi Securities Exchange because of its sterling performance it was established in 1976.

Indeed, it's an open secret that all the other state owned millers like Nzoia, Chemilil, Muhoroni, South Nyanza Sugar Company popularly known as Sony including some of the recently established privately owned have not been spared from this deadly endless cheap sugar imports imbroglio.

That the government has been forced to lease out virtually all of them to private millers to try and salvage them from complete collapse after the same government investing hundreds of billions of shillings in those entities to keep them afloat to no avail – with endless cheap sugar imports how are those who have taken over the leases going to survive?

THAT GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ANY MILLERS WHO ARE NOT DIRECTLY ACTIVELY ENGAGING SUGARCANE FARMERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF THE RAW MATERIAL WILL FACE SEVERE CONSEQUENCES

At the moment there are widespread reports that colossal tonnages of imported sugar have landed at the Mombasa port ready to hit the local markets in floods to profit the importing barons some of whom have high level connections with to government operatives who facilitate the imports at to make easy cash to get rich quick.

This development is happening when only a few weeks ago the Kenya Sugar Board ordered all sugar millers in western Kenya to stop their milling operations for alleged shortage mature sugarcane when the cane farmers had not been contacted to find out the status of sugarcane ready for processing on their farms.

The fact that this order coincided with the announcement by the West Kenya aka Kabras Millers aka Olepito sugar was closing down for maintenance operations, when others like Mumias Sugar among others had just completed theirs.

The region's sugarcane farmers who immediately went up in-arms against the order declared an in-depth conspiracy in the whole matter and immediately went to court seeking emerging orders to nullify these order which they were granted – but the question that remains hanging to date is why the KSB issued such an order without consulting the sugarcane farmers, other millers and stakeholders in the region?

It must not have forgotten that President William Ruto is on record to have issued publicly an order concerning the sugar imports mess that was plaguing the country soon after he took office saying: 'Mambo ni matatu'.

With the emerging developments, it is indeed time again that he cracked the whip to save not only the country's sugar industry, but also the rice production and processing sector since recent reports clearly show that more than 95, 000 tonnes of the cereal imported to Kenya will be landing anytime.

Yet for the last two months leading rice farmers in Busia county and Mwea in Kirinyaga are on record voicing their concerns through a wide range of local media outlets that the crop they produced since last year is still stuck in warehouses with nowhere to sell – then why does the country need any imports when our own is rotting in warehouses?

What is clear is the fact that with the government's intervention sugarcane production in the country is once again up-beat complete with their once dead out-grower companies like Busia Outgrowers Company roaring back to life courtesy of Mumias Sugar under Sarrai Group.

That government must also make it clear that any millers who are not directly actively engaging sugarcane farmers in the development and production of the raw material, but only concerned with imports should have their licences revoked and severely penalised for economic crimes.

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INDUSTRY MEETS EXPERIENCE

LG Electronics East Africa HR manager Ann Wang'ondu (5th from left) and assistant HR manager Mercy Kurui (right) with students from the LG-KOICA Hope College in Ethiopia during their educational tour of LG's Nairobi offices. The initiative aims to provide hands-on industry experience and enhance employability for young professionals **/HANDOUT**

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Bridging the gap in detection of congenital heart disease

Each year, many children are born with undetected health complications, most of which are life-threatening. Among these is congenital heart disease (CHD) — a structural abnormality of the heart that is present from birth. Despite its prevalence, CHD remains unknown to many families. Parents may notice signs such as bluish skin (a condition known as cyanosis), rapid breathing, or difficulty feeding, but may not associate them with a serious underlying issue. These symptoms, while not exclusive to heart problems and sometimes associated with lung conditions, can be early indicators of CHD and deserve immediate medical attention.

CHD is the leading global birth defect, affecting one in every 100 live births. That amounts to more than 1.5 million children born with the condition each year. Yet, despite this staggering number, CHD remains a quiet crisis, especially in low- and middle-income countries that lack healthcare systems to enable early diagnosis or treatment. Notably, according to the World Health Organization, more than 5,000 children require congenital heart surgery in Kenya each year.

THE KENYA CARDIAC SOCIETY ESTIMATES THE COUNTRY HAS FEWER THAN 15 PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGISTS AND ONLY TWO INSTITUTIONS EQUIPPED TO PERFORM OPEN-HEART SURGERY ON CHILDREN. THE COST OF A SINGLE SURGERY RANGES FROM SH800,000 AND SH5 MILLION

On an annual basis, Kenya performs between 120 and 150 congenital open-heart operations, whereas 50 to 100 additional patients receive treatment outside the country. The burden is further exacerbated by a shortage of paediatric heart specialists.

The Kenya Cardiac Society estimates the country has fewer than 15 paediatric cardiologists and only two institutions equipped to perform open-heart surgery on children. The cost of a single surgery ranges from Sh800,000 and Sh5 million, well beyond the reach of most families.

Geographical access is another critical issue. Specialised services are unfortunately concentrated in urban centres (majorly in Nairobi, Eldoret and Mombasa), placing a heavy burden on families in underserved or rural areas. Many cannot afford the transport, let alone the treatment.

According to the World Health Organization, globally, more than 300,000 babies lose their lives annually because of CHD-related causes, most of whom are in LMICs. And 90 per cent of children living with CHD are in regions that lack the systems and resources to treat the condition properly.

When left untreated, CHD can lead to a lifetime of challenges, including frequent hospital visits, growth retardation, social isolation, poor school performance, emotional and mental health issues and reduced life expectancy.

These complications affect not only the child but also impose an enormous burden on already strained health systems and families alike. This underscores that the impact of CHD extends beyond the operating room as it is a public health, social and economic issue.

Despite the weight of this challenge, there is hope. Across Kenya, initiatives are emerging that are helping to ease the burden by providing access to treatment for families who would otherwise be unable to afford it. One such initiative is The Nairobi Hospital's Children's Charity Heart Fund, dedicated to supporting children in need of corrective heart surgery. Thanks to the generosity of medical teams, donors and partners, the programme has provided free surgeries to more than 400 children aged 0 to 12 since its inception.

These are children who are now attending school, running on playgrounds and dreaming big, all because someone gave them a second chance.In the past years, the hospital has hosted annual fundraising golf tournaments to raise awareness and rally support for paediatric cardiac care.

This year, it will host another edition under the theme 'Giving Little Hearts Big Dreams', continuing its mission to mobilise resources and inspire broader community action.

To ensure that more children are diagnosed and treated in time, Kenya must continue to invest in its paediatric cardiac care systems.

This includes expanding training opportunities for paediatric surgeons and cardiologists, improving diagnostic and surgical capacity in county hospitals and incorporating CHD screening into routine maternal and child health services.

Felix Osano
CEO, The Nairobi Hospital

WHAT THEY SAID ...

★ Corruption

In another suspected fraud, the county executive paid health workers' extraneous allowance arrears amounting to Sh500,410

NANCY GATHUNGU
Auditor General

★

My salary can barely survive a day at the bank. Last month, for instance, I spent almost 80 per cent on school fees and hospital bills. I had to subscribe to a number of digital lending apps

JOEL AGEVI
Parent

COMMENT

MUTETHIA WA MBERIA

@TheStarkenya

Putting regulatory eye on churches a practical move

The recent Cabinet approval to have churches, mosques, temples and other faith outfits operate within a government's regulatory mechanism is a welcome move.

Many years' attempts to take this bold move have previously been met with mixed reaction with faith leaders on the opposing side.

Men and women at the helm of these faith outfits are to be viewed, revered and act as the society's last point of call especially on integrity, accountability, transparency and all ethos of good governance and good moral standing.

A number from the same fold have departed from these high expectations. There have been reports of cults propagating all manner of heinous acts. The responsible persons for these tabernacles have also allowed a toxic mix of religion and politics. What is worse! The power struggles and excluding ugly scenes and fist-exchanges have been put to glare pitying the leaders in some worship places. The recent one being at the Methodist Church of Kenya where last week, a group forcibly ejected the bishop, Rev Isaiah Deye, the very bishop the same group had a year or so installed allegedly without following due leadership procedures.

The group went ahead days after and published caveat notices in the media to the extent that Deye and what they termed as his proxies, ceased to transact any business on behalf of the Methodist church.

In less than two years in around March 2023, the same church, in a similar fashion, had witnessed ousting the former Presiding Bishop Joseph Ntombura. At the mosques, we have witnessed all manner of politicians trooping with machismo and bravado untoward the Muslim faith doctrines. These are just some illustrations that these outfits are out of order. They have selfish interest, greed for money and power. The manner in which operations of these outfits have turned out demonstrates negating of self-regulation that was intended.

Their adherents lack direction and hope. The net effect is worse as this may breed a culture of impunity and fragrant breach of laws and procedural protocols the faith institutions are solidly founded on. The call for establishment of the Regulatory Authority- Religious Affairs Commission needs to be actualised soon to fix the worrying trend. The authority must therefore act with independence and firmness to bring sanity. There are common practices for instance, churches and mosques are established and scattered right inside residential areas.