



News

Government slashes university fees in revised structure

Higher education Page 6

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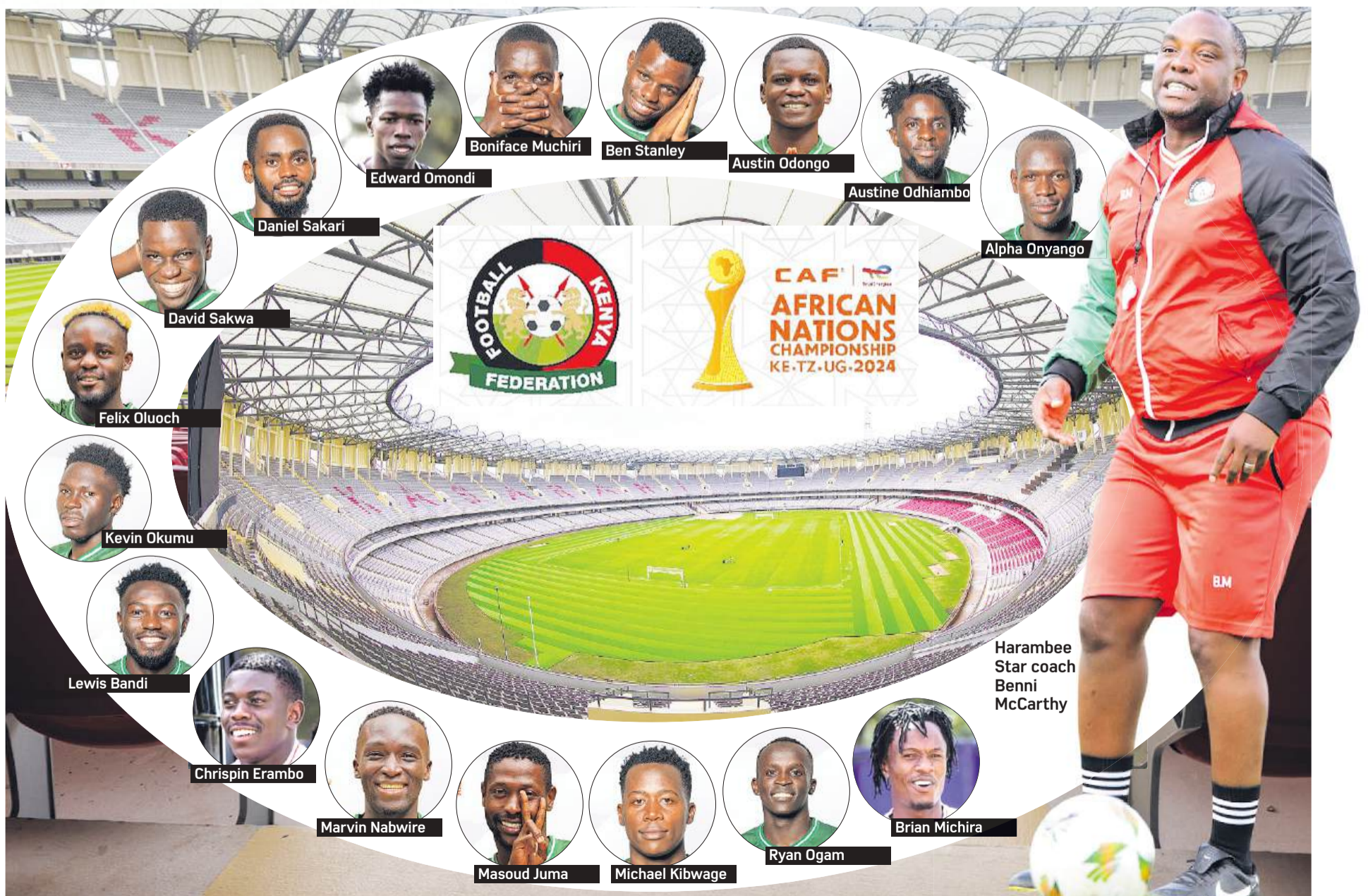
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CHAN HERE AT LAST

The moment Kenyans have been waiting for is finally here as the historic football tournament kicks off this weekend with all eyes on Harambee Stars



UNREGULATED PRODUCTS

New bid to regulate traditional medicine

Offenders face three years in jail or Sh3 million fines for false claims



Herbs at a market /FILE

MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses

LAWMAKERS are considering a new bill that seeks to integrate traditional and alternative medicine into Kenya's healthcare system.

The Kenya Medical Research Institute Bill, 2025, seeks to establish a framework for the regulation, research and commercialisation of traditional medicinal practices.

Traditional medicine has long been marginalised despite its wide-

spread use among Kenyans, especially in handling non-communicable diseases.

The Bill, sponsored by Health committee chairman James Nyikal (Seme MP), commits to recognising traditional and alternative medicine as a complementary component of conventional healthcare. It seeks to introduce stringent quality controls, provide for the conservation of medicinal plants and safeguard against exploitation.

"The government shall recognise and integrate traditional medicine in a manner that complements the conventional healthcare system," the Bill reads in part.

Kenya Medical Research Institute will spearhead research to validate the safety and efficacy of traditional remedies. Nyikal says the proposed law would help seal a critical gap in the sector where unregulated products often pose health risks.

"It is a way to encourage the use and integration of traditional and alternative medicine products in the healthcare system in the country," the MP said in the Bill's memo.

If approved, Kemri will assess traditional medicines using biochemical and clinical trials, ensuring they meet national and international safety benchmarks.

"The institute shall support regulatory bodies to establish and enforce high-quality assurance standards and conduct market surveillance to ensure the products are safe and of high quality." Kemri would also be tasked with prevent-

ing misleading information about herbal medicine and regulating their labelling, advertising and marketing. The Bill further criminalises false claims about traditional remedies, with penalties of up to three years in jail or fines of Sh3 million for offenders.

There would also be a national database to document validated traditional knowledge, preventing biopiracy and ensuring benefits flow back to communities.

It would be an offence to add unauthorised substances to medicines, sell products with no treatment benefit, make claims about herbs working without scientific evidence, or sell products without proper toxicology tests.

Manufacturing and sale of the products in an unhygienic environment will also be an offence in the proposed dispensation. Nyikal holds that the legal instrument establishing the institute – the Kemri Institute Order of 2021—is insufficient for the task it is mandated to undertake in the country.

"Kemri is currently established through a legal order, hence it has an inadequate legal framework. The Bill, therefore, redresses this by providing an elaborate legal framework."

The bill's scope extends beyond traditional medicine and empowers Kemri to conduct cutting-edge biomedical research and oversee clinical trials, including during public health emergencies.

Kemri would also be tasked with managing biobanks and intellectual property, in a move aimed at ensuring Kenya retains rights to discoveries, joining nations like China and India, which have heavily formalised the use of traditional medicine in their healthcare systems.

WHO guidelines promote integrative healthcare, especially in rural areas with limited access to conventional medicine. The Bill also proposes a Scientific and Ethics Review unit, comprising disciplinary committees to enforce ethics.

Kemri is also being tasked to develop programmes aimed at building the capacity of traditional and alternative medicine practitioners, herbal product developers and healthcare professionals. It is further proposed that the institute would cooperate with the Nacosti and be the body responsible for research for human health and approve such research proposals.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Bill is slated for debate in Parliament next month. If passed, KEMRI will face the monumental task of bridging ancient practices with modern science, a balancing act that could redefine Kenya's healthcare landscape.

DEATH ROW

I saw darkness whenever one of us was executed, says Munyakho

GORDON OSEN

EACH day for the last 10 years on death row stretched into eternity for Stephen Munyakho. The nights were even longer. But nothing compared to what inmates called "dark days"—when one among them was summoned for execution.

"Mum, today we saw darkness," Munyakho would whisper into the phone during their weekly ten-minute calls—his only window to the outside world. In his first year behind bars, he saw more than 100 fellow prisoners led out to what they called the slashing field—a crude euphemism for the place of execution.

"You eat with someone, even joke with him and the following day he is taken away for execution," he recalled. "It was very moving and frightening."

Housed in a death row facility meant for 150 inmates but holding 480, Munyakho witnessed half of them meet their end. Somehow, fate kept pushing his day forward as his family back home in Kenya fought to raise blood money, hoping to spare his life under Shariah law.

"It is a pure miracle that I'm here today," he said. "It is miraculous that I was not taken to the gallows."

Even in the darkest moments, Munyakho said a silent voice often whispered within him that somehow, some way, he would survive.

"I would sit in that small cell, listening to the silence and there was always this voice that said, 'You will leave this place alive.' It never left me."

Munyakho describes Saudi prisons as largely free of physical abuse but emotionally punishing—with no violence, but the isolation was unnerving.

"We were like chicken—fed well, given different food varieties, but denied everything else," he said. "You just wake up, eat, sit the whole day, pray and go back to your room to sleep."

Once a week, they were allowed a phone call home. "They would give us 10 minutes for a call. Who do you talk to and who do you leave out?" he asked. When a week passed without a call, his family feared the worst—that he had finally been selected for execution.

Munyakho's ordeal began in April 2011. Then a warehouse manager in Saudi Arabia, he got into an altercation with a Yemeni colleague, Abdul Halim Saleh. Initially convicted of manslaughter in February 2012, his case took a turn in June 2014, when a Shariah court reclassified it as murder—placing him directly in line for execution. Under Saudi law, executions for murder require the consent of the victim's heirs. But one of Saleh's sons was still a minor in 2014 and only reached legal age in 2024.

His mother, Dorothy Kweyu, spent years raising the diya (blood money). A proposed settlement of 10 million Saudi riyals (Sh352 million) was eventually negotiated down to 3.5 million riyals (Sh129 million) in late 2024. It was still insurmountable—until a diplomatic appeal by President William Ruto led the Muslim World League to cover the bulk of the amount.

Even so, Kweyu's grassroots fundraising efforts were crucial. In total, her campaign raised Sh20 million—just enough to earn goodwill and buy her son time. He returned to Kenya on Tuesday to begin a new life—his freedom nothing short of a miracle.



Stephen Munyakho, who spent 14 years in a Saudi Arabia jail, with his mother Dorothy Kweyu at their home in Katani, Machakos, on Thursday /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should the legal age for alcohol consumption be raised to 21?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Do you support the ban on sale of alcohol in restaurants?

YES 32%



NO 68%



PENDING HEARING

Ex-governor Waititu out on Sh53m bond

He has been serving a prison sentence after being convicted in graft charges



Former Kiambu governor Ferdinand Waititu at Milimani law courts /FILE

PETER OBUYA
@Pobuya

Former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu has been released from prison on a Sh53 million bond pending the hearing of his appeal.

Waititu has been serving a prison sentence after being convicted on Sh588 million graft charges in February.

He was finally granted bond by High Court judge Lucy Njuguna, who had previously declined two bids to be released on bond.

Earlier, Waititu had filed an appeal before the High Court challenging his conviction.

However, his initial request for bail was dismissed, with the court assuring that the appeal would be heard expeditiously.

In a new application, Waititu sought to amend his petition to introduce new evidence and additional grounds in support of his case.

The court allowed the amendment, giving Waititu a fresh opportunity to argue for his release as he continues to appeal the conviction.

The former governor was sentenced to 12 years in prison or pay Sh52.5 million fine after he was found guilty of conflict of interest in a Sh588 million graft case.

Waititu was similarly barred

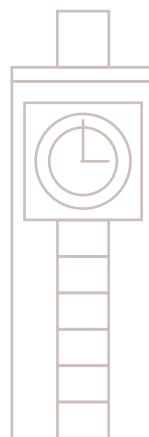
from vying for any political seat for seven years. His wife, Susan Ndung'u, was handed a one-year prison term or a fine of Sh500,000.

The court convicted both on graft-related charges but acquitted them on three counts of money laundering.

Their co-accused, Testimony Enterprises Limited director Charles Chege, was sentenced to a nine-year jail term or a Sh295 million fine, while Beth Wangeci, the company's second director, was fined Sh1 million or sentenced to one year in prison.

The money in question arose from procurement tenders meant for the construction of roads in Kiambu.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



★ **A CONTRACTOR OVERSEEING** a major government project is under intense scrutiny following a series of fatal accidents that have raised serious concerns over safety standards and accountability. In the latest incident, a site supervisor tragically died after sustaining severe injuries in a fall—adding to a growing number of deaths that have turned the construction site into what residents are calling a “death trap”. Sources familiar with the site operations claim that attempts to report injuries have been suppressed.

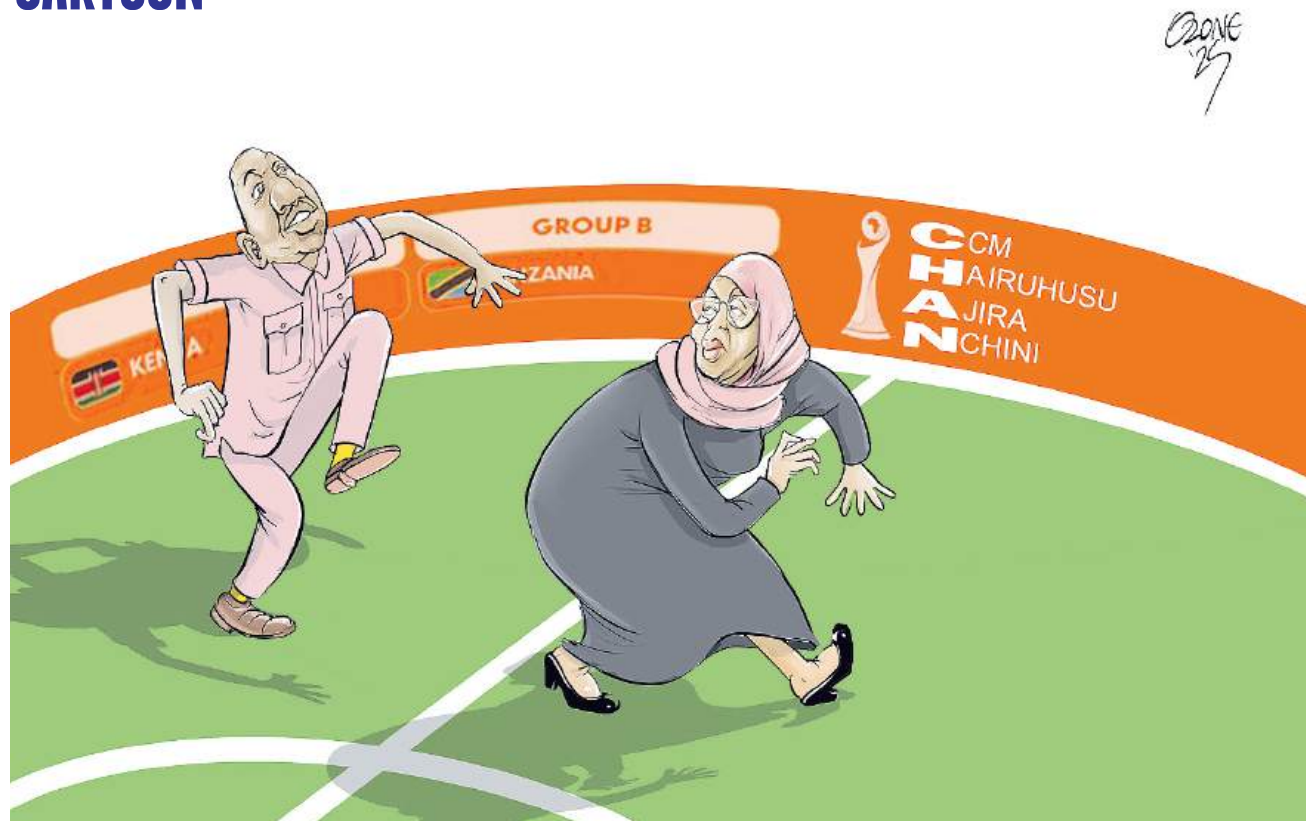
★ **A WELL-KNOWN DISTRIBUTOR** is facing criticism from retailers, who allege that they have been supplied with expired products, with no option for returns or replacements. Traders say the expired stock is not only undermining their businesses but also tarnishing their reputations with customers. According to an insider, the move to distribute expired goods is seemingly linked to declining sales recorded in the first quarter of 2025, prompting what appears to be a desperate effort to clear unsold inventory. Retailers are now calling for intervention from regulatory authorities, arguing that the distributor's actions are both unethical and dangerous to consumers.

★ **A SECOND-TERM GOVERNOR** can no longer hide his relief. A corruption probe that had cast a long shadow over his career is reportedly collapsing. Sources familiar with the matter say investigators are preparing to quietly shelve the case after struggling to gather sufficient evidence to support the charges initially planned against him. The man, who had gone low-key in recent months, was overheard telling congregants that “God has done miracles” though he stopped short of giving specifics.

★ **A FORMER MP** is facing backlash from constituents after launching a harsh critique of a sitting MCA, accusing him of incompetence and lacking a development record. The ex-lawmaker claimed the ward representative had failed the people but residents were quick to push back, allegedly citing the former MP's own underwhelming performance as a key reason he lost his re-election bid. They cautioned him against hypocrisy and urged him to reflect on his own shortcomings before criticising others.

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

CARTOON



Done 25

LIFE CYCLE “WE GET ENDLESS GUIDANCE FOR PUBERTY, PREGNANCY, AND EVEN MARRIAGE I



Menopause at 50? Women are done suffering in silence

NELLY MADEGWA
@TheStarKenya

VERONICA Nyakoboke laughs as she imagines her “menopause party”—a celebration of what many consider a dreaded transition.

“I see it as a powerful new chapter,” she says. But she did not always have the upbeat attitude. Like countless Kenyan women, she first faced menopause confused, isolated and unprepared.

“It was chaos, the mood swings that came out of nowhere, the crushing exhaustion, sleepless nights and this relentless brain fog,” Veronica recounts, her voice tinged with the memory of frustration.

“Nobody warns you about perimenopause, those years of slow transition. Not doctors. Not society. We get endless guidance for puberty, pregnancy, and even marriage preparations. But menopause? Silence.”

She pauses, then asks the question that still burns: “Does a woman’s

worth disappear when her fertility does? Are we just...discarded after childbearing years?”

That simmering anger became action. She started a simple WhatsApp support group, Ova Circle, and expected a few dozen women to join to share tips and support.

But when it hit 2,000 members in just eight weeks, the message was clear: “Thousands of Kenyan women were starving for this conversation, desperate to be seen and heard,” Veronica says. “The silence ends here.”

Her story reflects a broader health and social gap—one marked by misinformation, stigma and silence.

Menopause officially begins after 12 months without a period, but the journey starts much earlier.

Dr Nelly Bosire, a gynaecologist, explains that while most women reach menopause between 51 and 53, some experience it as early as 40—or even younger due to surgeries or autoimmune conditions. “Early menopause isn’t just hot

flashes. It raises risks for osteoporosis and heart disease,” she says.

Yet, many women do not realise

“

In Kenya, menopause is shrouded in myths. Some believe it turns women into irritable, irrational versions of themselves. Others assume it starts rigidly at 45. The truth? Every woman’s experience is different

what is happening until they are deep into symptoms.

Betty Okere, a dietitian specialising in ageing, says, “They come to me baffled—suddenly gaining weight, aching joints, craving sweets. No one told them these could be menopause signs.”

Over time, the average age of menopause has shifted. While it typically occurred around age 45 in previous decades, it now ranges between 51 and 53, with some women reaching menopause as late as 57.

This change is linked to several factors, including better nutrition, improved access to healthcare, declining smoking rates and advances in managing chronic conditions.

Women today also tend to have fewer pregnancies and more access to hormonal contraceptives, which may preserve ovarian function. As life expectancy increases and overall health improves, many women are experiencing a longer reproductive lifespan.

Premature menopause—or pre-



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PREPARATIONS. BUT MENOPAUSE? SILENCE”

mature ovarian insufficiency—happens before the age of 40 and presents unique challenges. It can be caused by surgical removal of the ovaries due to conditions such as ovarian cancer or torsion, autoimmune diseases like lupus, or unknown factors.

POI is linked to increased risks of osteoporosis and cardiovascular complications. Dr Bosire explains, “Early menopause between 40 and 45 years is still within normal limits, but menopause below 40 is considered premature and often indicates underlying causes.

Beyond biology, cultural silence and misinformation make the experience harder.

In Kenya, menopause is shrouded in myths. Some believe it turns women into irritable, irrational versions of themselves. Others assume it starts rigidly at 45. The truth? Every woman’s experience is different.

“Some think menopause means they are ‘expired,’” Dr. Bosire says. “That’s dangerous. This isn’t the end of vitality—it’s a new phase.”

Dr Bosire explains the biological process: “Women are born with about two million eggs. By adolescence, only 300,000–400,000 remain. Each menstrual cycle uses 20–30 eggs, and over 40 years of cycles, we run out of eggs, leading to menopause.”

Dietitian Betty Okere underscores the importance of preparing for menopause early through nutrition and lifestyle.

“Healthy eating should begin early in life,” she says, recommending calcium-rich foods like nuts, seeds and fermented milk, alongside vitamin D sources such as eggs and lean meat. Despite Kenya’s abundant sunshine, vitamin D deficiency is common, especially among women with early morning commutes and full-body coverings. “Many leave home early and return after sunset. This affects vitamin D levels, contributing to fatigue and grogginess,” Okere explains.

To manage common symptoms like weight gain and blood sugar spikes, she advises eating low-glycaemic carbohydrates such as whole grains, yams and arrowroots.

“These foods regulate blood glucose, improve gut health, and reduce inflammation,” she adds. While supplements can help, Okere cautions against self-prescription. “Supplements should be used to solve known deficiencies, not create excesses,” she warns, urging women to consult professionals.

Framing menopause as a natural life transition, not a crisis, Okere calls for open conversations, cultural sensitivity and supportive environments that help women move through this phase with dignity and confidence.

Grassroots efforts are challenging the silence. Podcasts like Pause for Menopause share real stories, while apps like Balance offer science-backed coping tools. Organisations such as Marie Stopes and Menopause Solutions Africa host forums where women swap advice and vent frustrations.

But menopause is more than a personal health issue—it has economic consequences. Globally, menopause-related absenteeism and productivity losses cost over \$150 billion annually. In Kenya, data is

still emerging, but a study among public hospital health workers in Kiambu county found that menopausal women experienced a 38 per cent decline in productivity—twice the rate of their non-menopausal peers.

This issue will only grow. A recent report projects that by the late 2020s, 76 per cent of postmenopausal women globally will live in developing countries, many of them in Africa.

With nearly 1 billion women expected to be menopausal by 2025—many at the peak of their careers—there is an urgent need for supportive workplace policies and stronger health systems.

In the UK, companies with over 250 employees may soon be required to publish menopause action plans, including paid leave, uniform adjustments and temperature-controlled workspaces.

“Employers are often completely unaware,” says Nyakobo of Ova Circle. “Women suffer in silence because they fear being judged or overlooked for promotions. They will lie about what they are going through because there’s so much stigma.”

Through Ova Circle, she is working with Kenyan companies to develop menopause-inclusive policies modelled on existing frameworks for breastfeeding mothers—offering empathy, flexibility and dignity in the workplace.

The cost of care remains a major barrier. Hormone Replacement Therapy costs between Sh5,000 and Sh20,000 per month, out of reach for many. HRT also is not suitable for all; it carries risks for women with hormone-sensitive cancers and requires thorough medical screening.

To address this, the Ministry of Health should integrate menopause care into national health insurance schemes to make support both accessible and affordable. It must also be prioritised in national health policies, not just because of the rising numbers, but due to its ripple effects on mental health, workforce retention and long-term wellbeing.

That means investing in local research to better understand symptom patterns, social stigma and

Menopause Symptoms

COMMON SIGNS THAT IMPACT WELL-BEING

Menopause symptoms are caused by hormonal changes, primarily a decline in oestrogen, and can vary widely among women. Common symptoms include:

- HEADACHES AND MIGRAINES
- SLEEP DISTURBANCES AND INSOMNIA
- VAGINAL DRYNESS AND DISCOMFORT DURING SEX
- BREAST SORENESS
- IRREGULAR OR STOPPED PERIODS
- MOOD CHANGES SUCH AS MOOD SWINGS, IRRITABILITY, ANXIETY, OR DEPRESSION
- DECREASED LIBIDO
- HOT FLASHES AND NIGHT SWEATS
- MUSCLE ACHES, JOINT PAIN, AND FATIGUE
- MEMORY LAPSES AND DIFFICULTY CONCENTRATING (BRAIN FOG)
- WEIGHT GAIN AND CHANGES IN BODY SHAPE
- THINNING HAIR AND BRITTLE NAILS
- PALPITATIONS OR IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT
- URINARY SYMPTOMS LIKE RECURRENT URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS AND STRESS INCONTINENCE
- SKIN CHANGES SUCH AS DRYNESS AND ITCHINESS

Some symptoms, like hot flashes and night sweats, may improve over time, while others, such as joint pain and vaginal dryness, can persist after periods stop.

Source: Dr. Nelly Bosire (Obstetrician/Gynaecologist), Veronica Nyakobo Nyabuto (Founder OVA Circle), Betty Okere (Clinical nutritionist), Dr. Christian Omoaghe (Endocrinologist)

real needs. Reliable data will drive responsive, equitable policies that reflect the lived experiences of Kenyan women.

By making menopause care a public health priority, Kenya can support millions of women navigating this life stage—and reshape how we address women’s health across the life course.

Veronika Nyakobo’s journey from confusion to advocacy highlights the urgent need for Kenya to move beyond silence—by embedding menopause into national health policy, investing in research, and building systems that ensure no

woman faces this life stage without care, dignity, and support.

This article was produced as part of the Aftershocks Data Fellowship (22-23) with support from the Africa Women’s Journalism Project in partnership with The ONE Campaign and the International Center for Journalists

“SOME THINK MENOPAUSE MEANS THEY ARE ‘EXPIRED’. THIS ISN’T THE END OF VITALITY—IT’S A NEW PHASE.”

Phases of Menopause

PHASES OF THE MENOPAUSE JOURNEY FROM PREMENOPAUSE TO POST-MENOPAUSE

Premenopause	Perimenopause	Menopause	Postmenopause
The phase in a woman’s life before any symptoms of perimenopause or menopause appear.	The gradual transition leading up to menopause.	The end of a woman’s menstruation phase. It is officially diagnosed after 12 consecutive months without a period.	This phase follows menopause and lasts for the remainder of life. Menstruation has ceased forever. A woman is in postmenopause once she has gone more than one year past her final period.
Age: From puberty to onset of perimenopause. Menstrual cycle: Regular or irregular menses. Hormone levels: Oestrogen and progesterone are within normal reproductive levels. Symptoms: None related to menopause. Duration: 25-35 years, depending on the individual. Fertility: Still in reproductive years and can get pregnant.	Age: Typically mid to late 40s (but can start earlier). Menstrual cycle: Becomes irregular (periods may come closer together or farther apart, be unusually light or heavy, or be skipped). Hormone levels: Oestrogen and progesterone begin to fluctuate and decline. Symptoms: Hot flashes, night sweats, sleep disturbances (insomnia), mood swings or irritability, breast tenderness, vaginal dryness, and difficulty concentrating (“brain fog”). Duration: About 4-8 years. Fertility: Ovulation can still occur intermittently, so pregnancy remains a possibility until menstruation has ceased.	Age: On average, 51-53 years in Kenya (though “normal” can range from age 45 to late 50s). Menstrual cycle: None. Menstruation has ended. Hormone levels: Very low levels of oestrogen and progesterone. Symptoms: Hot flashes, night sweats, vaginal dryness, and mood changes. Health risks: Decreased bone density and higher cardiovascular disease risk. Duration: Menopause is the day marking 12 months since the last period. Fertility: Ends permanently once menopause is reached.	Age: Typically from age 51-53 in Kenya, but could start earlier or later. Menstrual cycle: None. Menstruation has ceased forever. Hormone levels: Oestrogen and progesterone remain low. Symptoms: Vaginal dryness, urinary tract infections, and incontinence. Hot flashes and night sweats diminish. Health risks: Bone loss or fractures (osteoporosis) and heart disease. Duration: Until death. Fertility: Pregnancy is no longer possible.

Source: Dr. Nelly Bosire (Obstetrician/Gynaecologist), Veronica Nyakobo Nyabuto (Founder OVA Circle), Betty Okere (Clinical nutritionist), Dr. Christian Omoaghe (Endocrinologist)

NEWS GENERAL

FREE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

Don't crucify Mbadi for honesty on capitation, say Nairobi MPs

JULIUS OTIENO

A section of Nairobi lawmakers have come to the defence of Treasury CS John Mbadi, following his recent disclosures on the underfunding of Kenya's free primary and secondary education programmes.

The MPs also backed the broad-based government arrangement between President William Ruto and opposition leader Raila Odinga, urging ODM supporters to support the party's position.

They said Raila's ODM party had made its stance clear on the deal with Ruto's UDA and the move should end internal wrangles within the opposition. "This should put to an end the speculations and uncertainty

that have lingered for the last few weeks, especially among Kenyans and supporters of the broad-based government," they said.

MPs Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North), Tabitha Mutinda (nominated senator), Peter Orero (Kibra), Felix Odiwuor (Lang'ata) and Anthony Oluoch (Mathare) addressed journalists at a press conference in Parliament on Thursday.

Separately, Makadara MP George Aladwa and a group of Nairobi MCAs lauded ODM's Central Committee for reaffirming the party's commitment to working with the ruling coalition under the broad-based arrangement.

Speaking at Boulevard Hotel, Aladwa urged party members to

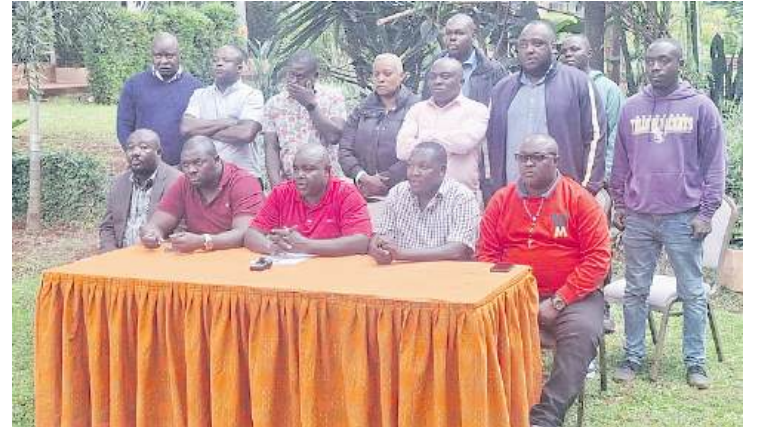
respect and adhere to the decisions made by the party's leadership.

"I urge all ODM members—elected leaders, party officials and grassroots supporters—to respect the resolutions of the Central Committee and uphold party discipline," he said.

Aladwa, who also chairs the ODM Nairobi branch, urged the National Elections Board (NEB) to expedite the party's delayed grassroots elections in the city.

"There are four constituencies where elections are still pending. We are urging NEB to fast-track the exercise so that we can prepare for county and national elections," he said.

The lawmakers also defended CS Mbadi, saying he should not



Makadara MP and ODM Nairobi branch chairman George Aladwa, Nairobi MCAs and delegates at Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi, on Thursday /JULIUS OTIENO

be vilified for telling the truth about the government's education funding shortfall. "We are in a new era of transparency. And while that honesty may feel uncomfortable, it is necessary to fix the system and restore public confidence in free education," they said.

Last week, CS Mbadi sparked public uproar after revealing the

government was disbursing Sh16,900 per secondary school student—far short of the Sh22,244 capitation target.

In response to the growing concern, President William Ruto and Deputy President Kithure Kindiki reassured Kenyans the government remains committed to free primary education and subsidised secondary education.

SIGNIFICANT SHIFT

Relief as state reduces, standardises varsity fees

This is in response to widespread public outcry over the rising cost of higher education



Higher Education PS Beatrice Inyangala /HANDOUT

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

STUDENTS and parents can now breathe a sigh of relief following a government directive to slash and standardise university fees across public institutions, easing the burden on thousands of parents and students.

The move, announced by Higher Education PS Beatrice Inyangala, comes in response to widespread public outcry over the rising cost of higher education.

It also signals a significant shift

under the new Student-Centred Funding Model, aimed at enhancing affordability and accessibility while sustaining the financial health of universities.

"This bold step reaffirms our commitment to ensuring affordable, accessible and quality university education," Inyangala said in a letter to vice chancellors and principals of constituent colleges.

She said the changes directly respond to concerns raised by students and their families over the rising cost of education.

The new directive, which takes effect on September 1, applies to first-year and continuing students.

The move follows months of consultations with the public, students and higher education stakeholders. Under the revised structure, programmes like medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and pharmacy will cost a minimum of Sh12,343 and a maximum of Sh75,000 per semester.

Previously, students in top universities, including those in the University of Nairobi, paid up

to Sh600,000 annually. Similarly, engineering and architecture programmes, which had cost up to Sh396,000 in most universities, will now range between Sh14,256 and Sh57,888.

Architecture will cost Sh12,960 and Sh57,888. Previously, the course cost up to Sh360,000 per year at the University of Nairobi, for instance.

Engineering and surveying will cost between Sh14,256 and Sh57,024 per semester. Previously, the course cost Sh336,000 at Kenyatta University, for instance.

Other courses include built environment and design-construction, real estate, urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, design and computing will cost Sh12,960–Sh51,840.

Health sciences, nursing, clinical medicine (BSC), medical laboratory science and technology will cost Sh14,400–Sh57,600. Previously, the courses cost Sh375,000.

Animal science, radiography, sport science, medical psychology, physical therapy, public health, environmental health, community health and development will cost Sh13,082–Sh52,326.

Food sciences, food science and technology, food and nutrition will cost Sh11,401–Sh45,603.

Agriculture, natural resource management and the natural environment, wildlife science and management Sh9,729–Sh38,880.

Applied sciences and education (science and technology) - education (science, tech, and special needs), exercise and sport science, biochemistry, biotechnology, biomedical sciences, applied

microbiology and molecular biology will cost Sh11,628–Sh46,512

Also in this category are applied and technical physics, applied and technical chemistry, applied and technical biology, statistics, actuarial science, financial engineering and environmental science.

Basic sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography (B Sc) will cost Sh10,659 – Sh42,636.

Applied social sciences and the arts (professional) hospitality, media and communication studies, library and information studies, business information technology, sport science and management will go for Sh9,690–Sh38,760.

Business, education (arts), economics will go for Sh7,525–Sh30,101.

Public universities are now required to revise their admissions and finance portals to reflect the new fee structure.

The government emphasised that the cost of education will continue to be met through a combination of tuition fees, scholarships and student loans, depending on individual need.

The Ministry of Education further urged universities to implement the new funding reforms efficiently and fairly.

"We count on your full cooperation to implement these financing reforms efficiently, equitably and in the best interest of Kenyan students and families."

The government also reiterated its vision to position higher education as a key driver of national development, describing the changes as a landmark reform in the education sector.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

As universities prepare to reopen in September, the new fee structure could mean relief from anxiety that has been hanging around for the last two years, as the government struggled to implement the new funding model. The PS says the fee review is part of a wider strategy by the government to realign university education with national development goals.

NEWS GENERAL

SCATHING ATTACK

Opposition chiefs take on Ruto over excesses

They accuse him of weaponising police to silence dissent, settle political scores

LUKE AWICH
@AchiaAwich

OPPOSITION chiefs on Thursday took on President William Ruto over presiding over unchecked excesses including alleged importation of 25,000 tonnes of toxic sugar.

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka and People's Liberation Party boss Martha Karua launched a scathing attack at the President, accusing him of among others, weaponising the police to silence dissent and settle political scores.

Citing the recent teargasing of Democracy for the Citizens Party leaders last week, the opposition chiefs said it was a calculated strategy to intimidate critics and suppress democratic freedoms.

"A few days ago, members of the United Opposition, while on a meet the people tour—a right that is enshrined in our constitution—were met by violence of police bullets and state-sponsored militia," Karua who read the joint statement said.

"The evidence is clear in the bullet holes aimed at specific targets and vehicles. We thank the Almighty God for His protection."

The leaders cited the forceful dispersal of opposition rallies, arbitrary detentions, and surveillance of activists as evidence of a creeping police state.

They warned that if the trend continues, the country risks sliding into authoritarianism.

Speaking at Liberation House, the leaders reiterated their push to send home the current regime in 2027 to save the country from alleged mismanagement.

"The United Opposition has one



Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, PLP boss Martha Karua and other opposition leaders during a presser at the PLP headquarters, Liberation House, Nairobi, on Thursday /DENISH OCHIENG

aim—to rescue and liberate our beloved nation from the clutches of the tyrannically inept Ruto dictatorship. That is why we and the majority of Kenyans say unequivocally 'wantam', the former justice minister said.

"We can no longer allow these brazen criminal acts, the subversion of rule of law must not be allowed to continue because of 'Orders from Above.' Enough is enough."

The meeting was also attended by Eugene Wamalwa (DAP-K), MPs Robert Mbui (Kathiani), Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), Onsemus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North), Benjamin Mejjadonk (Embakasi Central), Sen-

ator John Methu (Nyandarua) and Shakila Abdalla (nominated Senator) among others.

In solidarity with those who were murdered by the police bullets, the opposition chiefs wore black armbands during the briefing at Liberation House. The leaders also claimed a sugar consignment – reportedly condemned as unfit at the source of origin – was sneaked into the country through the Port of Mombasa with the knowledge and protection of senior government operatives.

"We are aware of a cargo of 25,000 tonnes of sugar that recently landed in our Port of Mombasa. These sugar

is already on its way to a Western Kenya sugar factory to be repackaged and sold to unsuspecting Kenyans," the opposition chiefs alleged.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Opposition leaders were this week blocked from addressing rallies in Murang'a county by police officers, the leaders were not only teargased but had their vehicles smashed after confrontation with the law enforcers.

OPAQUE SYSTEM

Private hospitals decry delays in processing of claims under SHA

LUKE AWICH

RURAL and Urban Private Hospitals Association of Kenya is now calling on the government to address delays encountered in either approving or paying claims.

Rupha told MPs that most of their facilities have been hugely affected by the incessant delays, especially under the Social Health Authority.

Appearing before the National Assembly's Health Committee, the association disclosed that 53 per cent of their dues have been pending because of the delays.

Rupha chairman Dr Brian Lishenga did not however disclose the amount owed to them due to delays in approval of claims.

Of particular concern is the delay in receiving responses in claims, which is being done by third party, whom they have a challenge in accessing, since it is outsourced.

"We are experiencing challenges in handling of claims because it is being done by a third party to the extent that if a hospital has an issue, it does not know who to contact because it is outsourced," Lishenga said.

"When you have claims pending, you hardly get the answers and 90 per cent of those made have not been paid. We ask the committee to help us entangle the claims management."

He also raised alarm that the Universal Health Coverage now stands at risk owing to issues ranging from financial shortfalls, opaque systems and weak implementation.

The committee chaired by Seme MP James Nyikal has been meeting private and faith-based organisations on the implementation of UHC, transition to SHA and other policy issues.

FINAL PHASE

Kenyans to face higher fuel prices from July next year

JULIUS OTIENO

KENYANS should brace for a spike in fuel prices from July next year as the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority rolls out the final phase of the Cost of Service for the Supply of Petroleum Products (COSSOP).

COSSOP, introduced in 2018, was designed to cushion Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) by introducing profit margins between importers and retailers in gradual phases.

Since then, the margin has increased from Sh4 in 2018 to an all-time high of Sh17 in 2025.

The matter came under sharp scrutiny when the Senate Energy Committee, chaired by Siaya Senator Oburu Odinga, summoned Energy CS Opiyo Wandayi to explain the

consistent rise in domestic fuel prices, despite falling global oil prices.

Comparative data shows a stark contrast in regional pricing: in Nairobi, petrol retails at Sh186.31 per litre, while in Kigali, Rwanda—a landlocked country importing fuel through Dar es Salaam, Tanzania—the price is Sh161.80 per litre.

Senate Minority Whip Ledama Olekina (Narok) accused EPRA of protecting oil marketers' profits at the expense of Kenyans.

"In 2017, the profit margin stood at Sh4, shared between OMCs and retailers. By 2024-25, the margin is now Sh17, split Sh11 and Sh6 respectively," he said.

"EPRA is increasing OMCs' margins unjustifiably. You can't say operational costs have risen this

drastically. Please consider the lives of Kenyans," he added.

EPRA's director of Petroleum and Gas, Eng Edward Kinyua, struggled to justify the margin increase, attributing it to the findings of a 2023 COSSOP review.

He added that last year's Road Maintenance Levy hike from Sh18 to Sh25 also pushed prices higher.

"Implementing the full increase in one go would have made fuel unaffordable. We phased it in gradually. The worst is behind us. The next increase will be negligible," Kinyua said.

Senator Ledama further questioned why the taxes on landed fuel costs were as high as 101 per cent, despite a stable exchange rate of Sh129-Sh131 to the dollar since August 2024.



Energy CS Opiyo Wandayi before the Senate Committee on Energy at Parliament Buildings on Thursday /ENOS TECHE

NEWS GENERAL

SERVE WELL

IEBC chiefs, MPs meet on 2027 polls roadmap

MOSES OGADA

THE newly reconstituted Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission leadership and MPs have begun crucial discussions to align on a clear roadmap for the 2027 general election. Top of their agenda is to rebuild public trust and address pending electoral reforms with barely 24 months left until the next general election.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula emphasised the urgency of restoring credibility, warning that failure to do so risked another fiercely contested poll.

The meeting, which brought together IEBC chairperson Erastus Ekethon, vice chairperson Fahima Abdallah and key parliamentary leaders, focused on immediate priorities including boundary delimitation, voter registration, and results transmission systems.

Wetang'ula challenged the commissioners: "You are the electoral commission for the Republic of Kenya. Regardless of where you come from, your duty is to serve all Kenyans equally."

"The Kenyan people expect from you nothing short of impartiality, integrity, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the constitutional mandate bestowed upon the commission."

He urged the commissioners to "avoid any temptation to act as representatives of particular communities".

"In an era where credible electoral processes underpin political stability and national development, the public looks to safeguard the sanctity of their vote and uphold the highest standards of transparency and accountability," he added.

The IEBC in-tray is already packed with urgent constitutional responsibilities and a demanding workload, including boundary delimitation, voter registration, register audit and conducting pending by-elections.

The activities are besides preparations for the general election, a process that is equally demanding, especially with the opposition warning against any attempts at foul play in their bid to dislodge President William Ruto.

"There is no time for excuses; it is time for action and your tray is full. Parliament will not micromanage the commission. You are an independent institution and our role is to appropriate funds, provide oversight and audit and this we shall do," Wetang'ula declared.

Lawmakers raised concerns over the compressed election timeline, with majority leader Kimani Ichung'wah noting that the 2027 polls were less than two years away.

Environment CS Deborah Barasa /FILE



ECO-FRIENDLY?

Barasa grilled over hotel in Ngong Forest

Project undermines environmental protection laws

LUKE AWICH
@AchiaAwich

ENVIRONMENT CS Deborah Barasa was on Thursday put to task by MPs over a controversial move to construct a luxury hotel deep inside Ngong Forest.

Lawmakers demanded answers on how approvals were granted for the multimillion-shilling project, which they claim threatens biodiversity and undermines environmental protection laws.

In a session before the National Assembly's committee on Environment, the MPs asked how Konyon Company Limited was awarded the contract to construct the ultra-modern Glamping Eco-Lodge and Wellness Retreat. The lawmakers also questioned the government's seriousness in realising the 15 billion trees commitment with such moves.

Chairperson Vincent Musau (Mwala) said the development is a deviation from the initial plan by Green Belt to put walkways and other amenities that were eco-friendly. "We want to make an official visit there so that we can know how much public land you have given and the extent to which the facility has interfered with the forest cover," Musau said.

The committee also demanded assurance on whether public participation was conducted before the project started. The Musau-led team also wants Barasa to furnish the committee with proof of Environmental Impact Assessment, accusing the CS of dragging her feet in supplying the documents one year since the facility was put up.

Bura MP Yakub Adow sought to know the extent to which public

participation was done even as he insisted on the need for the committee to tour the facility.

"The issue came about because of lack of public participation. We can see from your document that the request to set up the facility was done in November 2024, but the licence was issued in January this year. We would like to know why it took long before you carried out public participation," Adow said.

Kacheliba MP Titus Lotee sought to know whether there was political influence in awarding the contract to Konyon.

"We would have thought that the first indicator is to plant more trees in the forest, but clearly, we can see you are the one giving out the same forest to put up lodges. CS, please tell us, was this land given out for this facility because it belongs to a well-connected person?" Lotee posed.

In her response, Barasa said Konyon got the contract as it had also sent a Special Use Licence application to put up a Unique Glamping Eco-lodge and Wellness Retreat.

The CS clarified that construction of the hotel had been suspended, explaining that Green Kids' Museum of Kenya, under the Green Belt Movement, did not get the contract to put up a children's museum as it did not pay prerequisite fees and charges for the issuance of a SUL.

(+)
INSTANT ANALYSIS

Environmentalists had challenged the green light given to Karura Golf Range Limited, warning that such developments pose a serious threat to Nairobi's dwindling urban green spaces.

LAWMAKERS QUESTIONED GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT IN REALISING 15 BILLION TREES



National Police Service Commission



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND RECEIPT OF WRITTEN MEMORANDA ON: - THE DRAFT NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION (RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT) REGULATIONS, 2025

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 28 of the National Police Service Commission Act, CAP 85, the National Police Service Commission, has developed Draft National Police Service Commission (Recruitment and Appointment) Regulations, 2025.

The Draft Regulations 2025, aim at providing standardized framework for the recruitment of members of the Service, promoting transparency and merit-based selection.

The Commission invites stakeholders and the public to submit their views through written memoranda. The Memoranda may be sent to the Commission Secretary/CEO, National Police Service Commission, P.O Box 47363 - 00100, Nairobi or hand-delivered to the National Police Service Commission offices at CBK Pension Towers building, 6th floor Harambee Avenue or emailed to regulations@npssc.go.ke to be received on or before **11th August 2025**.

The Commission has further organized public participation fora to be held across the country in designated regions on 8th August 2025 from 9am to 1pm at the specified venues in the schedule below:

S/NO.	COUNTIES	VENUE	VENUE
1.	Murang'a, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Laikipia	Nyeri	Ruring'u Social Hall
2.	Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Isiolo	Embu	Talent Academy
3.	Machakos, Makueni, Kitui	Machakos	Machakos Social Hall
4.	Nakuru, Nyandarua, Baringo	Nakuru	Kenya Redcross Hall
5.	Bomet, Kericho, Kisii, Narok, Nyamira	Bomet	St. Bakhita Conference Centre
6.	Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia, West Pokot	Eldoret	County Hall
7.	Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma	Kakamega	Magharibi Hall
8.	Kisumu, Busia, Homa Bay, Siaya, Migori	Kisumu	Grace Onyango Social Hall
9.	Mombasa, Kwale	Mombasa	Tononoka Social Hall
10.	Samburu	Maralal	Maralal Vocational Training Centre
11.	Tana River, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Kilifi	Malindi	Nidhamia Hall
12.	Nairobi, Kiambu, Kajiado	Nairobi	KICC
13.	Garissa	Garissa	Government Guest House Social Hall
14.	Marsabit	Marsabit	Catholic Social Hall
15.	Wajir	Wajir	Wajir ICT Hall
16.	Mandera	Mandera	Mandera Polytechnic
17.	Turkana	Lodwar	St. Michael Conference Hall

The Draft National Police Service Commission (Recruitment and Appointment) Regulations 2025, can be accessed from the Commission's website <https://www.npssc.go.ke/> under Resources-Publication.

Peter Leley, EBS, CHRP(K)
CS/ Chief Executive Officer
National Police Service Commission
CBK Pension Towers, 9th Floor
Harambee Avenue
P.O Box 47363-00100 NAIROBI.
Email: regulations@npssc.go.ke Tel: 0709 099 000

NEWS JUDICIARY

ALLEGED UNLAWFUL MOVEMENT

Former soldier Osoi presented self to authorities, court told

Chief inspector Korir admits there was no indication Osoi attempted to flee or resist arrest



Jackson Kihara, alias Cop Shakur, and Patrick Osoi /DCI

JAMES GICHIGI
@TheStarKenya

FORMER Kenya Defence Forces officer Patrick Osoi, who is accused of involvement in an alleged unlawful movement, voluntarily presented himself to the authorities, a court heard.

In proceedings before magistrate Richard Koech at Kahawa law courts on Thursday, the defence, led by law-

yer Duncan Okatch, revealed that Patrick Osoi did not resist arrest, but rather approached police officers willingly after learning he was being sought.

The defence was granted the opportunity to cross-examine the investigating officer, chief inspector Korir, shedding light on the circumstances of Osoi's apprehension and his subsequent cooperation.

"Upon learning that he was being

sought, and after officers failed to locate him, the respondent approached them, knocked on the door of their vehicle and identified himself," lawyer Okatch said.

The chief inspector said she was not part of the arresting team and had no knowledge of those exact details.

When asked if such conduct was relevant to the case, Korir agreed.

Further probing by Okatch revealed that Osoi not only surrendered

himself but also cooperated fully with the officers post-arrest.

"Isn't it true that after the arrest, he cooperated and took you through the places he lives in?" Okatch asked, to which Korir replied in the affirmative.

The defence also noted the suspect handed over his phone and its password to the investigating officer, a move Okatch said demonstrated his commitment to assisting with investigations.

Korir confirmed the matter only came to her attention on July 28, with the state listed as the complainant.

However, she struggled to provide a specific Occurrence Book (OB) number when questioned.

Korir admitted under questioning there was no indication Osoi attempted to flee or resist arrest.

'FBI'

Okatch argued the case appeared to be grounded in suspicion rather than clear evidence, pointing out that even the alleged offences, linked to social media posts and a movement named "FBI" (Fighting Brutality and Impunity), had not been concretely substantiated.

The lawyer further questioned whether forming a movement such as "FBI" (Fighting Brutality and Impunity), aimed at addressing police misconduct, amounted to a criminal act.

In response, the investigating officer argued there were already established agencies, including the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), mandated to handle such issues.

Okatch, however, countered that the Constitution under Article 36 guarantees the freedom of association and that citizens are not barred from forming advocacy groups.

He further questioned which law prohibits forming a group to fight impunity, a query the officer struggled to answer.

Moreover, she acknowledged that the group allegedly formed, of which Osoi was believed to be a part, was not proscribed under the Prevention of Organised Crimes Act.

The posts in question, allegedly shared on social media, had received widespread attention according to case documents — more than 260,000 views and thousands of engagements—but Korir could not confirm through evidence whether the account in question belonged to Osoi.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations confirmed the arrest of the officer alongside former prisons officer Jackson Kihara, alias Cop Shakur.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Court declines to declare CS Murkomen unfit for office over 'shoot to kill' remarks

JAMES GICHIGI

THE High Court has declined to declare Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen unfit to hold public office over remarks made during a public address in Kikuyu town, Kiambu county, on June 26.

The remarks, widely condemned by civil society and legal professionals, were at the centre of a constitutional petition filed by the Gema Watho Association.

In a sitting by Justice Lawrence Mugambi, the court ruled it was premature to issue a declaration on Murkomen's suitability for office in the absence of concrete evidence showing his remarks had been acted upon by law enforcement agencies.

The Gema Watho Association moved to court seeking, among other remedies, a declaration that the utterance violated a wide

array of constitutional provisions and international human rights instruments. Their petition listed numerous constitutional articles, including Articles 26 (right to life), 28 (human dignity), 37 (peaceful assembly), 50 (fair hearing), and 244 (police professionalism), as having been breached.

Among the specific reliefs sought by the petitioner was, "A declaration that the conduct of the 1st Respondent is incompatible with the responsibilities, character and ethical expectations of a public officer under Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and that he is therefore unfit to hold public office," the petition read.

However, in declining to issue such a declaration, the court emphasised the National Police Service Act contains clear provisions on the chain of command and who can lawfully issue operational

directives to the police.

EVIDENCE

Justice Mugambi said unless the petitioners could provide evidence that the Inspector General of Police or officers under his command had acted upon Murkomen's statement, there was no basis to conclude his utterance had led to violations of constitutional rights or abuse of public office.

The petition also sought mandatory orders compelling the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate the CS, and directing the Attorney General to advise on his removal from office.

Further, it requested an injunction restraining the CS from making similar statements and a public apology to be issued in the media.

Proceedings are scheduled to continue before Justice Bahati Mwamuye on October 27 this year.



Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen during a press address on the state of security in the country at Harambee House, Nairobi, on June 26 /LEAH MUKANGAI

NEWS GENERAL



A patient at a TB screening centre during World TB Day /FILE

are HIV positive,” the report reads. “Discrimination is further compounded by healthcare facilities set-up of designated areas within the facility for HIV positive patients, making them easily identifiable and often shunned.”

The other practice of handling TB and HIV together could stem from the data showing most TB patients in Kenya have HIV co-morbidity.

The Centre for Health Solutions-Kenya has reported that HIV testing among the notified TB patients was 98 per cent, with nine counties recording 100 per cent testing rate. They are Elgeyo Marakwet, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kisii, Kitui, Laikipia, Mandera, Nyamira and Trans Nzoia.

“HIV testing was similar among males and females but higher among adults at 98.6 per cent, as compared to children at 96.1 per cent and there is need to scale up HIV testing among children,” CHS-K says, referring to latest data.

The Kelin report continues, “Doctors deny TB patients treatment unless they also test for HIV. The treatment cycle of PATB by the directly observed therapy is an intrusion on privacy and is discriminatory. This contravenes Article 27 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010.”

The report also indicates the government does not administer the most recent innovative TB treatments, which are first-line TB drugs, contrary to the UN recommendation on the use of science and innovation in medicine as a right.

“The government still uses old, outdated regimens that have adverse side effects such as hearing loss, which discourages adherence to treatment and compounds TB prevalence,” the report reads.

UNEQUAL CARE

Why TB diagnosis is a double tragedy of disease and stigma

Lobby says patients face discrimination by health workers and outdated treatment

GORDON OSEN
@gordon_osen

FOR many Kenyans diagnosed with tuberculosis, the pain doesn't stop at the chest, as they have to contend with stigma and discrimination, especially by health workers.

The report on bias was prepared by the Kenya Legal & Ethical Issues Network on HIV and Aids (Kelin), for discussion ahead of the 2025 UN General Assembly meetings beginning

in September. The report indicates that most health workers handle TB patients as though they are HIV positive, with a positive TB test almost always requiring HIV testing.

Tuberculosis and HIV are closely linked, as HIV significantly increases the risk of developing TB. Tuberculosis is a leading cause of death for people with HIV. The virus weakens the immune system. It is also a common opportunistic infection among people with HIV and can be fatal if

untreated. Kelin is a lobby fighting for enhanced access to health rights, including reproductive health.

“Discrimination manifests through treatment seeking interactions in health facilities, in relationships with healthcare workers, in administration of TB treatment and also through ineffective laws, policies and administrative actions,” the report reads.

It indicates there is a massive under investment in TB treatment, which causes health workers in public fa-

ilities to group regular patients and HIV patients in waiting bays.

“There is lack of adequate facilities and there are shared waiting bays for TB patients, forcing them to stay at facilities for prolonged periods of time. This situation compromises People Affected by Tuberculosis (PATB) limits free access to services, enhances stigma and discrimination.”

Further, “TB patients experience discrimination with healthcare service providers often assuming they

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Kenya's TB response is failing its most vulnerable by intertwining outdated medicine with discriminatory care. Patients face not only a curable disease, but also a system that shames them for having it.

LEGAL PROTECTIONS

Call to intensify litigation for wider abortion access, LGBTQ acceptance

GORDON OSEN

THE civil society should intensify strategic litigation to expand legal protections for abortion access and for members of the LGBTQ+ community, sexual rights advocates have said.

Their appeal came at a time of increasing threats to sexual and reproductive rights, according to experts and activists.

Lobbies should broaden their strategic litigation beyond police brutality and governance issues to include healthcare access rights, especially reproductive rights, given the rising tides against them, the experts said.

The lobbies issued their call to litigation during a panel discussion at the Eighth Pan-African Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive

Health Rights Scientific Conference in Mombasa last week. The session was organised by the Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV and Aids alongside Afya na Haki, the International Centre for Research on Women and the International Pregnancy Advisory Services Alliance.

IPAS Africa Alliance is a Nairobi-based organisation that works to reduce deaths from unsafe abortions in Kenya and Uganda.

The panel focused on the persistent criminalisation of sexual and reproductive health rights issues across Africa, especially in Kenya, where colonial-era laws greatly restrict access to safe abortion and criminalise same-sex intimacy.

“Kenya's civil society must increase use of strategic litigation to challenge outdated laws and open up oppor-

tunities for access to abortion and SRHR services, especially for sexual minorities continuing to face legal and social exclusion,” Kelin said in a statement following the event.

It emphasised that litigation is a vital tool for breaking down systemic barriers to reproductive rights that advocacy and policy work alone have struggled to dismantle.

“While advocacy and policy engagement remain essential, it is in the courtroom where enduring legal change can be secured,” the organisation said.

The panelists explained that many sub-Saharan countries, Kenya included, continue to rely on 19th century colonial penal codes that criminalise key aspects of sexuality and reproductive health.

They said these include abortion,



Members of LGBTQ during a protest /FILE

pregnancy loss, consensual same-sex relationships, HIV ‘exposure’ and sex work.

“These laws convert public health issues into criminal offences and force women, girls and healthcare providers into the criminal justice system,” Kelin said.

“They entrench stigma, endanger

lives and violate fundamental human rights.” Statistics presented during the session underscored the dire consequences of the restrictive laws.

The Guttmacher Institute estimates that 6.2 million unsafe abortions occur each year in sub-Saharan Africa, representing 77 per cent of the continent's total unsafe abortions.

NEWS GENERAL

STREAMLINING PROCUREMENT

KPA aims for transparency in new system

It has adopted digital platform E-GP meant to curb graft

CHARLES MGHENYI
@CharlesMghenyi

The Kenya Ports Authority has begun implementing a digital platform aimed at modernising and enhancing transparency in public procurement.

The Electronic Government Procurement (E-GP) system was launched by the national government on July 1.

It mandates that all procurement activities across public institutions, including those conducted under framework agreements, be carried out exclusively through the E-GP platform.

KPA managing director Capt William Ruto underscored the authority's commitment to embracing the new system during a training session for staff held at the Bandari Maritime Academy.

The training, led by officials from the National Treasury, is part of a phased capacity-building programme intended to equip procurement and supply chain personnel with skills for navigating the new digital interface. Similar sessions will soon target general managers and other senior KPA staff.

"The E-GP system is a transformative milestone that aligns us with Kenya's broader vision for a modern, accountable and efficient public sector," Ruto said.

Among the key features of the E-GP system highlighted by Capt Ruto are online supplier registration, electronic annual procurement planning, e-tendering, digital auctions, contract management, inventory tracking, electronic catalogues and e-payment modules.

He emphasised that the system is designed to make procurement more accessible, competitive and cost-effective.

Ruto said transitioning from manual procurement processes to a fully digital system will not only enhance efficiency but also strengthen public confidence in the management of resources.

"The adoption of the E-GP system will facilitate faster procurement cycles, improve data management and ensure compliance with national standards," he said.

"It reflects our determination to lead by example in public sector reforms."

He urged KPA staff to embrace the transition with enthusiasm and actively participate in training sessions, emphasising that their commitment would be key to the successful rollout of the new platform.

"Together, we will build a mod-



'IT'LL SPEED UP PROCUREMENT, IMPROVE DATA MANAGEMENT AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS'

KPA managing director Captain William Ruto during the training of KPA staff on the Electronic Government Procurement system at Bandari Maritime Academy /CHARLES MGHENYI

ern Ports Authority that meets the future's demands," the managing director said.

The rollout of the E-GP system is part of a broader government agenda to digitise public services and curb inefficiencies and corruption in procurement processes.

KPA being one of the country's largest state corporations, its proactive move to adopt the E-GP system sets a strong precedent for other public institutions aiming to align with the government's digital transformation goals.

The initiative also supports Kenya's long-term development objectives as outlined in the country's Vision 2030 and other national strategies for public sector reform.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The adoption of the E-GP system by KPA marks a crucial step in Kenya's journey toward a transparent and accountable public service. By digitising procurement processes, the authority is eliminating manual inefficiencies and minimising opportunities for corruption.

LATE BLIGHT RESISTANT

Nema seeks views on hardy GMO potatoes

AGATHA NGOTHO

Nema has invited views on the proposed commercial cultivation of a genetically modified Irish potato that is resistant to late blight, a major crop disease responsible for billions in losses annually.

The move follows the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment report by Kalro, which is spearheading introduction of the new variety.

The late blight resistant potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L) was developed using modern biotechnology.

In a public notice, Nema director general Mamo Mamo said Kalro is seeking to introduce the disease-resistant traits into 'Shangi', a popular variety among Kenyan farmers and consumers.

"This is by incorporating three late

blight resistance genes derived from wild potato relatives into the preferred variety Shangi," he said.

If approved, the GM potato will be cultivated in major potato-growing counties.

Nema has invited the public to submit oral or written comments on the proposed introduction within 30 days.

Blight infested crop at Kalro-Marindas in Nakuru county /KALRO



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NEWS BUSINESS

PROBE

NOCK-Rubis deal suspended over unclear contract terms

Auditor General is expected to audit the deal and submit findings to Parliament by August 14



A Rubis filling station /FILE

JACKTONE LAWI
@jacktonelawi

A PARLIAMENTARY committee has suspended a controversial partnership deal between the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK) and Rubis Energy Kenya.

The Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy cited deep financial instability and unanswered questions around the nature of the agreement.

The deal, which had seen Rubis Energy brought on board to inject capital into the struggling state-owned oil firm, has been halted for one month to allow for a Special Audit by the Auditor General.

The audit is expected to investigate

the legality, financial structure, and overall viability of the partnership.

“The Committee directs that NOCK suspends the execution of the agreement between the Corporation and Rubis Energy for a period of one month until this Committee makes a determination on the outcome of the Special Audit Report,” read a statement by the Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy.

An analysis of NOCK, established in 1981 to manage Kenya’s petroleum interests, shows that is now teetering on the brink of collapse.

The committee declared that the corporation is technically insolvent, burdened with debts amounting to Sh7.4 billion.

Among its biggest creditors are KCB Bank (Sh3.4 billion) and Stanbic Bank (Sh2.9 billion).

The corporation is reportedly unable to meet basic operational costs, pay salaries, or maintain its retail fuel stations — casting serious doubt on its status as a going concern.

The committee raised concerns over the opaque process through which Rubis was brought in as a strategic partner, and whether the financial support provided qualifies as a loan.

Lawmakers questioned whether the deal included National Treasury guarantees, what form of security was offered, the terms of profit-sharing, and how the agreement affects NOCK’s existing fuel station leases with other retailers.

“In line with Article 201(d) of the Constitution on prudent use of public funds and Section 34 of the Public Audit Act, 2015, we have directed the Auditor General to conduct a Special Audit of the NOCK-Rubis arrangement,” the Committee stated.

A Special Audit into the halted partnership between the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK) and Rubis Energy Kenya, will zero

in on key questions around the deal’s legality, financial implications, and its potential impact on existing business arrangements.

The committee further directed that the onboarding process be made clear. Investigators will examine how Rubis Energy Kenya was selected and brought on board, including the legal and commercial terms of the partnership.

The audit will determine whether the funds advanced by Rubis constitute a loan, and if so, clarify the loan’s size, interest terms, security arrangements, and whether it was guaranteed by the National Treasury.

With NOCK having leased many of its fuel stations to third-party retailers, the audit will assess how the Rubis deal could affect these agreements, especially if NOCK seeks to resume downstream operations.

The Nancy Gathungu team has also been tasked with reviewing any additional factors that may affect public interest, financial accountability, or the prudent use of state resources.

The Auditor General is expected to submit findings to the National Assembly by August 14, 2025.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK) is a fully integrated state corporation focused on Kenya’s petroleum industry. It was established in 1981 and became operational in 1984.

NOCK is mandated to participate in all aspects of the petroleum supply chain, including upstream exploration, midstream infrastructure development, and downstream marketing.

PERFORMANCE

East Africa’s beer giant brews Sh12.2 billion profit in 2025

VICTOR AMADALA

EAST African Breweries Limited (EABL) withstood shrinking disposable income that saw consumers in East Africa cut alcohol budget by 0.2 per cent to post 12 per cent growth in net earnings for the year ended June 30, 2025.

According to the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (Kippra), a significant portion of Kenyans, around 15 million, drink regularly, with 12 million reportedly spending an average of Sh100 per occasion. Sit-in customers in establishments spend an average of Sh300 per day, while those taking alcohol away typically spend at least Sh210 per day.

Speaking during an investor briefing on Thursday in Nairobi, EABL board chairman Martin Odour-Otieno pleaded with regional governments to carefully consider policies that do not harm investors

and the general economy. His comment comes at a time when Kenya has proposed a raft of policies that, if enacted in their current form, will pile more pressure on businesses producing and selling alcoholic beverages in the country, in addition to their already high tax burden.

The National Policy for the Prevention, Management and Control of Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse, launched on Wednesday, proposes a sweeping ban on the sale of alcohol in supermarkets, petrol stations and restaurants.

It has also recommended raising the legal age for drinking, selling, or handling alcohol to 18 to 21 years, a decision the government says is based on science about adolescent brain development and public health risks. This has triggered a storm, with traders protesting that the decision will destroy jobs and create a thriving bootleg market.

He said that the business contin-

East African Breweries Limited board chairman Martin Odour-Otieno /HANDOUT



ued to navigate external pressures, including the proliferation of illicit alcohol, sustained input cost inflation, and declining consumer spending driven by reduced disposable income. “These factors underscore the need for stronger regulatory enforcement and collaborative action to safeguard consumers and

legitimate players within the sector,” Odour said.

Shareholders of the East African Breweries Limited (EABL) will earn a total of Sh8 per share. “The business delivered a strong set of results marked by topline growth and double-digit profit expansion,” Group CEO Jane Karuku said.

THE DATA

129.23

Indicative value of shilling to the dollar

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

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.2394
EURO	147.8693
STG POUND	171.5071
SA RAND	7.1919
KES / TSHS	19.8469
KES / USHS	27.7392
AEDIRHAM	35.1859
JPY (100)	86.8136
CHINESE YUAN	17.9705
IND RUPEE	1.4757

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
SAMEER AFRICA	8.52	9.79
PORTLAND CEMENT	47.50	6.50
FLAME TREE GROUP	1.26	5.00
OLYMPIA CAPITAL	4.23	4.96
LONGHORN	2.58	4.88

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
EABL	210.75	6.75
SKL	5.92	5.43
SAFARICOM	26.30	4.01
NATION MEDIA	13.40	2.19
KAPCHORUA TEA	339.50	1.59



TIP OF THE DAY

SHOULD YOU PURSUE YOUR SIDE GIG FULL TIME?

More professionals than ever are leaving traditional jobs to work independently—and finding greater happiness, flexibility, and control. But knowing when to make the leap is tricky. Before quitting your day job, ask yourself these five questions.

Is your side hustle’s income sustainable—and growing? Your side hustle doesn’t need to match your salary today, but it should show signs of scale, pricing power, and word of mouth. A rising trajectory can justify going all in, especially if automation tools are helping you do more with less.

Do you have a 10x superpower? Your unique skill should generate outcomes worth at least 10 times what someone pays you. If clients or companies are getting huge value from your work, it’s a signal that your expertise has market pull beyond your current role.

Do you have the capital you need? It goes without saying that you need some kind of savings, but money isn’t the only thing that matters. You also need reputation capital (proof of past results), relationship capital (people who believe in you), and intellectual capital (products that generate income without your time).

Can you regulate your emotions? Self-doubt, loneliness, and anxiety can derail even the best leaders. Build emotional tools, as well as community, to weather the mental shift as you transition to launching your own business.

Do you love the mission more than the money? Commitment to your craft and the problem you solve—not just the rewards—ensures you’ll keep innovating and delivering value. The more clarity you have on your mission, the easier it becomes to say no to distractions that don’t align with it.

NEWS BUSINESS

OPTIMISTIC

State hopeful of renewed trade talks with US after EU, Asia deals

MARTIN MWITA

The Kenyan government is positive it will be among the first to be considered for tariff and bilateral trade talks with the US when attention shifts to the continent after Europe and Asia.

On July 27, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and US President Donald Trump agreed a deal on tariffs and trade which includes a new 15 per cent rate for most imports from the EU including cars, pharmaceuticals and apparel under a transatlantic partnership. US and Chinese officials have also agreed to seek an extension of their 90-day tariff truce after talks in Stockholm aimed at defusing an escalating trade war between the world's two biggest economies that threatens global growth.

President Trump however has the final say on whether to extend a trade truce that expires on August 12 or potentially let tariffs shoot back up to triple-digit figures.

Kenya's Investment and Trade

CS Lee Kinyanjui now says Kenya expects the US will consider the East African economic giant among the first economies to dialogue with when the focus shifts to Africa, with Kenya seeking a strategic trade deal and removal of the 10 per cent tariff on her exports to the US.

The country is also among African states seeking an extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which lapses on September 30.

The AGOA Renewal and Improvement Act of 2024 which was introduced by Senators Chris Coons and James Risch sought to extend the bill for 16 years until 2041 and continue to boost Africa's duty-free status as a means of "attracting private sector investment to help underwrite economic development."

"They were dealing with Europe and a bit of Asian countries I think we have not quite come to Africa and when that time comes, I think Kenya will be among the first nations...the responsibility of extending AGOA



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and US President Donald Trump /FILE

is on their side, so our work is just to wait," CS Kinyanjui said during a briefing on trade, in Nairobi, on Wednesday evening.

He said Kenya has responded to "all the issues" the US had raised in the stalled trade-talks which is intended to secure a bilateral trade deal between the two countries.

The US has been hard on Kenya on matters corruption and procurement, insiders familiar with the talks told the Star. This is alongside trade facilitation and enforcement, environment, good regulatory practices, inclusivity and workers' rights and protec-

tions. The US has also been pushing for transparent and competitive procurement in Kenya's government. It also wants effective protection of intellectual property rights, favourable sanitary and phytosanitary measures among other interests.

This, as it seeks to secure business for US companies and a comprehensive market access for agricultural goods in Kenya, by reducing or eliminating tariffs.

The US Embassy in Nairobi during a recent interview with the Star confirmed that Washington is open to a deal, albeit on new Trump terms.

RETURNS

Acorn Student hostel REITs profit up 32% as bed capacity grows

MARTIN MWITA

STUDENT hostel provider Acorn has reported a 32 per cent growth in profit for the half-year to June.

This is for its Acorn Student Accommodation Development REIT and the Acorn Student Accommodation Income REIT.

Combined profit for the period rose to Sh457 million from Sh345 million recorded during the same period in 2024, driven by continued investment in the accommodation space that has gained traction with increased learning institutions that have sustained demand. Total assets under management grew to Sh26.8 billion, compared to Sh 22.3 billion in June 2024 as its portfolio currently stands at 20,000 beds, solidifying Acorn's position as Africa's largest purpose-built student accommodation provider.

The Acorn Student Accommodation Income REIT (ASA I-REIT) net income rose to Sh251 million compared to Sh164 million in the same period in 2024, driven by gain in value of investment properties as a result of rent increases and operational efficiencies.

The ASA I-REIT has prioritised reduction in both the quantum and cost of local bank debt for 2025. In July 2025, the REIT successfully reduced its total debt from Sh2.5 billion to Sh1.9 billion and lowered its weighted interest rate from 17 per cent recorded at the end of 2024, to 11.1 per cent in July 2025. The resultant savings, management said, are expected to reflect in the full year results. "Despite macroeconomic headwinds, the ASA I-REIT remains committed to delivering consistent returns to investors," Acorn Investment Management Limited executive director, Mathew Maina, said.

Demonstrating this commitment, the REIT has declared its ninth consecutive half year distribution since inception in 2021 of Sh0.29 per unit. A real estate investment trust (REIT) is a company that owns, operates or finances income-generating real estate and sells shares to raise capital to do so.

During the period under review, the Acorn Student Accommodation Development REIT (ASA D-REIT) recorded a net income of Sh205 million compared with Sh181 million in the same period in 2024.

This was driven by gains in value of investment as Qejani at Hurlingham, Qwetu and Qejani at Kenyatta University, and Qejani at JKUAT which were completed on time and budget and are now operational. The ASA DREIT has acquired and commenced construction of Qwetu and Qejani in Eldoret CBD which will add 2,100 beds to the portfolio and is in the final stages of concluding an acquisition in Kakamega next to MMUST.

TIFF

Kenya warns of action against TZ ban but calls for "diplomacy first"

Says Tanzania should reverse decision barring foreigners from small businesses



Investments Trade and Industry CS Lee Kinyanjui during a briefing in Nairobi on July 30 /EZEKIEL AMING'A

MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin

KENYA could hit back at Tanzania's move to bar foreigners from running small businesses and offering some services, warns Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui.

This, even as Kenya calls on Tanzania to reverse the law prohibiting non-Tanzanian's from trading in 15 services, including the operation and ownership of Micro and Small Industries, which will affect Kenyan businesses and traders.

The order, which includes significant penalties for violations, takes immediate effect except for current license holders. Speaking at a media briefing in Nairobi on Wednesday evening, Kinyanjui said the action by

Tanzania is substantive and undermines the core objective of regional economic integration under the Common Market Protocol.

"We cannot rule it out (retaliation), but that will be the last resort but first we want to apply diplomacy and we believe Tanzania will reverse the decision," the CS said.

Kenya has also accused Tanzania of imposing a number of taxes which have negatively impacted Kenyan goods by making them uncompetitive.

Of concern is the recent Tanzania Finance Act 2025 and the amended Tanzania Excise (Management and Tariff) Act 2019, which have introduced excise duties and the Industrial Development levy, at 10 and 15 per cent, respectively. The current elephant in the room how-

ever is the decision to bar foreigners from participating in small businesses among them wholesale and retail sale of goods, mobile money transfer business, repair of mobile phones and electronic devices, salon businesses (with an exception for hotel or tourism-related operations), home, office and environmental cleaning services, and small-scale mining.

Others are postal activities and parcel delivery within the country, tour guiding within the country, establishment and operation of radio and television, operation of museums or curio shops, brokerage or agency in businesses and real estate, clearing and forwarding services, on-farm crop purchasing operations and ownership or operation of gambling machines or devices (with an exception for casino premises).

Tanzania has also prohibited non-citizens from ownership and operation of micro and small industries.

"Licensing authorities are forbidden from issuing or renewing licenses for non-citizens to conduct these prohibited activities once the order is in effect," Tanzania Minister for Indus-

try and Trade Selemani Jafo said in a special gazette notice dated July 28.

Non-citizens engaging in prohibited business activities face a fine of at least Tsh10 million (about Sh505,806), up to six months imprisonment, and revocation of their visa and resident permit.

Tanzanian citizens who assist non-citizens in carrying out prohibited business activities are subject to a fine of Tsh5 million (Sh252903), or up to three months imprisonment upon conviction. Suluhi's administration is said to be under pressure to provide economic opportunities for its population estimated at about 70 million people. The policy, hence, is part of a broader government strategy to promote citizen-led growth, expand economic opportunities for Tanzanians and reshape the structure of local business ownership, according to Tanzania's Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Tanzania has however been accused of going against the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol, signed in November 2009 and effected on July 1, 2010, which established a single market within the EAC, facilitating the free movement of goods, persons, services, labor and capital.

"Kenya acknowledges and respects the sovereign rights of EAC partner states to legislate on domestic matters but also believes in the importance of consultation, coordination and consistency in implementing policies that affect cross-border goods transfer," Kinyanjui said.

THE DATA

SH63BN

Value of intra-community transfers between Kenya and TZ in 2024



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COUNTIES NAIROBI

PROBE LAUNCHED

Tanager dies after botched abortion in Nairobi's Kware

CYRUS OMBATI

POLICE are investigating an incident where a 17-year-old girl died after she complained of stomach pains in Kware, Nairobi.

It is suspected that the girl had carried out an unsafe abortion at her Kitui home before she travelled to Nairobi for further treatment.

She was first taken to a private hospital in the slum before she was referred to Kenyatta National Hospital, where she died on arrival, police said.

Police said her body was taken to the mortuary

pending postmortem and other investigations. Cases of unsafe abortion are on rise in informal settlements amid campaigns to discourage the same.

Meanwhile, police in Kwa Vonza, Kitui county are investigating an incident where a human skeleton was found at the Kenyatta University Kitui campus compound.

A herder stumbled upon the skeleton and informed security.

Police said they found a dress, skirt and a yellow biker and were identified as those of Nzambi Valesi Ndumbu, 22, who went missing in May this year.

DIVINE INTERVENTION

Man dies in Mukuru church while seeking prayers for his healing

CYRUS OMBATI

DETECTIVES are investigating an incident where a 30-year-old man died at a church in Mukuru slums, Nairobi, where he had sought prayers for his healing.

Police said Francis Muchera who was ailing, had been taken to the church for prayers on Tuesday by his wife.

The pastor prayed for the man and he fell asleep, never to wake up, police said.

The wife kept waiting for the man to wake up in vain.

About an hour later, the woman went to look for the

pastor, who had left the facility, to informed him the husband was unresponsive.

Police were later informed of the incident and arrived at the scene, confirming the man had died.

Police said the deceased's face was swollen.

The body was taken to the mortuary pending postmortem.

The postmortem will inform the way forward in terms of investigation, police said.

This comes amid calls for regulation on the operations of some churches linked to occultism.



PHOTO STORY

Goodlife Pharmacy head of operations David Kasonga, CEO Justin Melvin, Old Mutual Health business acting general manager Ken Omami and Old Mutual Health business wellness and rewards lead Dr Mary Muthee during the announcement of a strategic partnership to provide free health screenings across Goodlife outlets /HANDOUT

MAINTAIN AESTHETICS

Why you won't advertise on Nairobi poles anymore

MCA John Omelleh is seeking to compel City Hall to operationalise a 2018 law

GORDON OSENI
@gordon_osen

WALLS and electric poles in Nairobi are cheap place for advertising by witchdoctors, concert organisers and other traders. This is about to change.

A Nairobi MCA is seeking to compel City Hall to operationalise a 2018 law aimed at regulating outdoor advertising and putting an end to the proliferation of illegal posters on electricity poles, public walls and buildings across the capital.

John Rex Omolleh on Wednesday tabled a motion urging the county government to implement the Nairobi City County Outdoor Advertising and Signage Control and Regulation Act, 2018, which was passed by the

assembly but has never been operationalised.

The motion also calls for the immediate development of accompanying regulations to enforce the law.

"Concerned that there are several adverts and posters erected in various public places such as electricity poles, streetlight poles, public walls and buildings, which has not only affected the aesthetics of the city but have not complied with the Nairobi City County Outdoor Advertising and Signage Control and Regulation Act, 2018," Omolleh said while moving the motion before the assembly.

Under the 2010 Constitution, counties have the responsibility to regulate outdoor advertising, control public nuisances, and maintain

urban aesthetics. However, according to Omolleh, City Hall has failed to act on its own legislation.

"Further concerned that the county assembly passed the Nairobi City County Outdoor Advertising and Signage Control and Regulation Act, 2018 which has not been published, publicised and operationalised to date," the motion states.

If adopted, the motion would compel the county attorney to publish the Act within 14 days and direct the Urban Planning executive to develop clear regulations to ban illegal advertising in public spaces.

Specifically, the motion seeks to outlaw the placement of adverts on infrastructure such as electricity poles, streetlight posts and public buildings.



A poster on a pole in Nairobi /FILE

THE MOTION ALSO CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT OF ACCOMPANYING REGULATIONS



NEWS COUNTIES



Coffee farmers on a farm in Baragwi, Kirinyaga county /ALICE WAITHERA

DEFORESTATION

AFA geomaps coffee farms in adherence to EU laws

It targets commodities like cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy, wood

ALICE WAITHERA
@Alicewangechi

THE Agriculture and Food Authority has geomapped 30 per cent of the land occupied by coffee in a bid to beat this year's December 31 deadline set by the European Union.

The authority is racing against time to geomap all land under coffee in the country to fulfil strict European Union Deforestation Regulations set to take effect by the end of the year to avoid losing the market.

The EUDR requires all agricultural products entering the EU be traceable and produced on land that has not undergone deforestation after December 31, 2020.

The law specifically targets commodities like cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy and wood. It applies to traders who place relevant commodities and their derived products on the EU market or export them from the EU.

The law came into force on June 29, 2023, and mentioned the expansion

of agricultural land linked to the production of the listed commodities as the main driver of deforestation.

The EU noted that as a major economy and consumer of the commodities linked to deforestation and their derived products such as leather, chocolate, tyres, or furniture forest degradation, it's partly responsible for the challenge and wants to lead the way to solving it.

"To ensure full adherence to the regulation, the government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has embarked on a process to map out all the parcels of land under coffee farming in the country," AFA director general Bruno Linyiru said.

He said about 32,688 hectares (80,773 acres) out of 109,384 hectares (270,293 acres) under coffee in 16 counties has since been geomapped.

Linyiru said the EU had initially set the compliance deadline at December 2024, but extended it to the end of this year to allow more time for

compliance. "This mapping exercise is being coordinated by the Agriculture and Food Authority, who is the regulator of all scheduled crops as mandated by the Crops Act, 2013," he said.

Linyiru said several teams have been formed under the EUDR Data Committee comprising of the agriculture and co-operatives departments, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Space Agency, Directorate of Remote Survey and Remote Sensing and the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation.

The exercise, he said, is expected to be concluded in two months.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The authority is racing against time to geomap all land under coffee in a bid to fulfil strict European Union Deforestation Regulations set to take effect by the end of the year to avoid losing the market.

GREEN ENERGY

Six schools in Kiambu instal solar systems for consistent power supply

ALICE WAITHERA

SIX learning institutions in Kiambu Town constituency have installed solar energy systems in a major leap towards environmental and electricity sustainability.

The project facilitated by the NG-CDF has seen Ting'ang'a secondary, Ting'ang'a primary, St Peter's secondary, ACK St Joseph Riabai, Riabai primary and Ndumberi primary schools make the shift that will cut their electricity costs.

MP Machua Waithaka said the project's objective is to transform public learning institutions into clean energy hubs.

At Riabai Primary School, installation of a solar system that is currently ongoing includes a 12kWp inverter and a 20kWh energy storage system (ESS).

Once completed, the school will operate entirely off-grid, which will eliminate its reliance on the national electricity grid, reduce monthly utility costs and bring to an end interruptions caused by blackouts.

"This is one way to empower our learners and support schools. It's more than energy. It's clean energy that will help students study better," the MP said while inspecting the solar installation at Riabai primary on Wednesday.

He said the project is part of a broader effort to green Kiambu's education infrastructure, adding that schools that have benefited have reported numerous advantages. Waithaka emphasised that the long-term impact of the initiative is to mitigate climate change and its effects on his constituents.

"With every panel we instal, we are reducing our carbon footprint, preserving our environment and ensuring our children have uninterrupted access to learning. Solar lighting means cleaner air, lower emissions and greater energy independence," he said.

The Riabai Primary School system is designed to meet the entire energy needs of the institution, including powering classrooms, administrative offices, security lights and other essential equipment.



Workers instal solar panels at Riabai Primary School in Kiambu Town constituency /ALICE WAITHERA

THE EU REQUIRES ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ENTERING THE EU BE TRACEABLE

GAME CHANGER

Sagana Industrial park now 85 per cent complete

ALICE WAITHERA

THE Sagana Industrial Park is taking shape with the construction of county aggregation and industrial

park, and special economic zone now 85 per cent complete.

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has said the construction of warehouses, cold rooms and

other infrastructures at the facility are going on smoothly within the set timelines. Speaking while inspecting the project on Wednesday, she said 18 investors shortlisted to set up factories at the industrial park are raring to go once all the infrastructure are in place.

Waiguru said the shortlisted investors will set up industries dealing in the processing and manufacturing of goods for export, especially agricultural, leather and textiles.

"This project is a game changer for Kirinyaga. We are not only creating infrastructure but unlocking

value chains for our farmers and generating sustainable employment opportunities for our young people," she said. Waiguru said the customs-controlled area has already been fully fenced with the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) advancing on steadily.

"One warehouse is at 95 per cent while the others are at around 80 per cent only awaiting floor casting and wall finishes," she explained.

The governor said the county has committed funds to build two additional warehouses to expand the park's capacity.

The facility is also in the process

of getting the necessary amenities like water, road network, security and electricity connection.

Sagana Industrial Park will be the first climate smart agro-industrial city in central region, promoting agro-processing and manufacturing and will be a source of employment for many residents.

The county plans to advertise for lease of land and warehouses at the park. "We are positioning Sagana to become a key industrial hub in the region.

This development is projected to create more than 5,000 direct and indirect job opportunities for Kirinyaga residents," she said.

Waiguru also highlighted the broader vision behind the project, which aligns with the national bottom-up agenda.



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru leads a team of county officials during an inspection tour of Sagana Industrial Park /ALICE WAITHERA

NEWS COUNTIES



Old Town MCA Abdirahman Hussein and his Kadzandani counterpart Fatma Kushe at the assembly committee room on Wednesday
/BRIAN OTIENO

NEED FOR BALANCE

Costly fees at Coast General drives MCAs push for lower rates

Governor says the hospital loses about Sh130 million due to waivers

BRIAN OTIENO
@Yobramos

TWO Mombasa MCAs have announced plans to move a motion aimed at reviewing and reducing the fees at Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital.

Fatma Kushe (Kadzandani) and Abdirahman Hussein (Old Town) cited growing concerns from residents who say the hospital's bills have become higher than those of private facilities.

Governor Abdulswamad Nassir revealed that the hospital loses about

“

ABDIRAHMAN HUSSEIN

Those going to Coast General often have limited means, so the hospital fees should be more affordable—not as expensive as private hospitals

Sh130 million annually in revenue due to waivers.

MCAs in the central business district receive about six waiver requests weekly, with those outside the CBD reporting up to 12 requests.

“Those going to Coast General often have limited means, so the hospital fees should be more affordable—not as expensive as private hospitals,” Hussein said.

During a committee meeting, the MCA, also known as Anza Fresh, received a waiver request for a family with a hospital bill exceeding Sh70,000.

He added that the waiver system lacks clear guidelines and decisions are often made arbitrarily by the governor or his aides.

The proposed amendment will seek to establish clear criteria on eligibility and waiver amounts.

The two ward reps committed to proposing amendments to lower rates. Kushe, who is the vice chair of the county assembly health committee, stressed the need to balance affordability with sustaining the hospital's revenue for essential drugs and services.

“Waiver requests come in constantly and as MCAs, we face these appeals directly. It's heartbreaking because families are suffering,” Kushe said.

She noted that MPs are protected by bodyguards and less accessible to

such requests. The governor recently announced plans for Mombasa Resident Cards, aimed at identifying locals for discounts and benefits at county health facilities.

However, Hussein expressed concerns about the programme's feasibility and legal implications, pointing out that CGTRH serves patients from all six Coast counties.

“If the programme is reasonable and benefits our people, we will support it,” he said.

But nominated Senator Miraj Abdillahi blamed MCAs for the crisis, saying they have the mandate but are yet to act.

“Go to your MCA and ask them to amend the rates. They have the power because they set them,” Abdillahi said at a public event.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Mombasa MCAs' move to lower hospital fees at Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital reflects growing public frustration over high medical costs that rival private facilities. The surge in waiver requests highlights widespread financial strain among patients, revealing gaps in healthcare affordability.

UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED

Do more to boost our digital skills, PWDs tell Senate

BRIAN OTIENO

PEOPLE with disabilities have called for more facilities that support them to be made available in institutions, especially in Vocational Training Centres.

They urged the Senate to ensure policies are put in place to make their lives easier. The British Council on Wednesday said they are working with stakeholders to ensure the availability of these facilities.

Gladys Gatiba, the Council's Skills for Inclusive Digital Participation programme manager, said the project seeks to enhance digital skills among Kenyans, especially those vulnerable and marginalised groups.

“We have trained over 6,000 people on digital skills, both basic and intermediate, in the three counties where this programme is being implemented, including Nairobi, Mombasa and Nakuru, focusing mostly on informal settlements,” Gatiba said of the initiative, which started in 2021.

She spoke during a stakeholder engagement on the SIPD programme in Mombasa. The council works with local organisations, Technical and Vocational Education and Training and county governments to ensure they reach out to the desired populations.

“We use existing digital hubs to train these people,” Gatiba said.

She noted that as jobs are scarce and with the e-economy thriving, equipping PWDs, youth and women with digital skills will help them access digital jobs easily.

“We use such forums to take stock of our challenges and come up with possible solutions and see how these challenges can be surmounted using the possible solutions,” Gatiba said.

Senate ICT committee vice chair Miraj Abdillahi said access to internet and digital skills remains a challenge to most people because these resources are unevenly distributed.

The digital divide, if left unchecked, will deepen existing social and economic inequalities, the nominated senator noted. Abdillahi said although Mombasa is an urban county, it faces a unique paradox – a youthful tech-savvy population with enormous potential but limited structured pathways to participate in the digital economy.

“Women, PWDs and marginalised youth continue to face systematic barriers to entry,” she said.

Abdillahi urged the Senate to propose digital inclusion into every County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), saying digital skills must be treated as public infrastructure like roads and water.

“Counties like Mombasa must allocate budget lines for tech hubs, digital literacy outreach and inclusive public Wi-Fi zones, especially in informal settlements.”

The Senate ICT committee is working to push national digital literacy standards certification, particularly for the TVETs and community-based institutions.

“We are reviewing legislation to ensure tech policies are gender-responsive, disability inclusive and locally anchored. National ICT strategies must reflect the lived realities of the Coast region and similar deserving areas,” Abdillahi said.



Ambrose Mwachibua, Deborah Nzisa, Senator Miraj Abdillahi and Gladys Gatiba in Mombasa on Wednesday
/BRIAN OTIENO

NEWS COUNTIES



Uasin Gishu DCI boss Daniel Muleli and county police boss Benjamin Mwanthi inspect drugs seized in Eldoret /MATHEWS NDANYI

WORTH SH3 MILLION

Police in Eldoret seize 12 bags of bhang, arrest two suspects

MATHEWS NDANYI

POLICE in Eldoret have arrested two suspects and seized a lorry that was ferrying 12 bags of bhang valued at Sh3 million.

County police commander Benjamin Mwanthi said one suspect escaped during an operation to arrest the suspects who were ferrying the drugs to Likoni in Coast region.

The lorry was intercepted at Maili Nne on the Eldoret-Webuye highway at 4.30 am on Wednesday, following a tip-off from members of the public.

“We have two suspects in custody. They will be arraigned in court tomorrow. We also have seized the lorry which may be forfeited to the state because of the crime,” he said.

Mwanthi, who was with county DCI boss Daniel Muleli, said they had put measures in place to ensure

the area is not a transit point for drugs.

“We have put in place security measures, including roadblocks, to ensure such drugs are not transported through Eldoret,” he said.

He said they were also working with truck owners association to ensure their lorries are not used to ferry narcotics.

RUINING LIVES

Mwanthi said drugs are ruining the lives of many people, especially the youth.

The police boss said they had also acquired sniffer dogs to detect such drugs.

He said the dogs will be used in all areas, including in education institutions.

“We will encourage schools to use the sniffer dogs when students return so that they are able to stop

use or infiltration of drugs to the institutions,” Mwanthi said.

Muleli asked parents and all residents to work with the police in dealing with the drugs menace in the region. “We are also urging traders to stop engaging in such business that ruins the lives of our children,” he said.

This came just a week after Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen visited Uasin Gishu and warned over increasing abuse of drugs and illicit alcohol.

He said the most affected were the young people and directed the security teams to crack down on cartels involved in the selling of drugs in the region.

Murkomen said the cartels had been threatening security officers with transfers but noted no officers would be victimised because of the cartels.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Trans Nzoia staff trained to tackle mental issues

Stress and other mental health issues harm employees, undermine productivity

MATHEWS NDANYI
@TheStarKenya

TRANS Nzoia is trying to help the increasing number of stressed county staff with mental health challenges causing alcohol and drug abuse and undermining performance.

The county employs more than 3,500 workers, and the wellness initiative comes at a time of heightened concern for employee welfare and workplace productivity.

Governor George Nitembeya’s administration has launched a five-day mental health awareness training programme to tackle psychological issues confronting county staff.

The awareness campaign, which began on Wednesday at the County Town Hall, brings together public servants across departments.

The goal is to equip employees with skills to manage stress, recognise mental health issues and foster peer support in the workplace.

Assistant county secretary Gideon Sawe described the mental disturbance trend among staff as deeply troubling.

“This training marks a new beginning for the county to confront these challenges head-on and in a way that inspires lasting change,” he said during the programme’s launch.

County officials report an increase in mental distress among workers, including substance abuse, prompting urgent implementation of the wellness initiative under the Public Service Management directorate.

Emeldah Agoi, county director of Human Resources, emphasised the need to treat mental health with the same importance as physical health.

“We need to be mentally healthy to perform effectively,” she said.



Trans Nzoia county director for human resources Emelda Agoi during the launch of a five-day mental health awareness training programme at the county hall in Kitale on Wednesday /MATHEWS NDANYI

ing insomnia, absenteeism, poor productivity, and substance use—that call for early intervention.

Director of Administration Wycliffe Pakachin underscored the need to institutionalise staff welfare programmes.

“It’s not the load that breaks our backs, but how we carry it,” he said.

Pakachin encouraged staff to consider professional counselling training and advocated for mental health education to be embedded into career development.

As the county prepares for the second phase of its performance management rollout, senior officials emphasised that mental wellness is key to boosting morale and enhancing service delivery.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Trans Nzoia is taking a proactive approach to increasing mental health issues among its 3,500 staff, highlighting a critical shift toward holistic employee welfare. A five-day training programme addresses stress, alcohol and drug abuse, as well as workplace pressures, emphasising that mental health is as important as physical well-being.

DISTURBING THE PEACE

We need more police reservists to deal with banditry, says governor

MATHEWS NDANYI

TURKANA Governor Jeremiah Lomorukai wants the government to deploy additional National Police Reservists to help stop increasing incidents of banditry attacks in Turkana county.

Lomorukai says the county has known hot spots where attacks usually occur, hence the need for additional NPRs in such areas.

“We do not have adequate police officers in the county, which is very vast, hence the need to have more NPRs to help handle the situation,” Lomorukai said.

During a visit to Logum, Kaputir ward, the governor said there was an inhumane and a deliberate attempt to destabilise peaceful coexistence between the Turkana and Pokot communities.

The governor extended his condolences to a family whose kin was reportedly ambushed and killed by armed attackers, assuring residents of swift government intervention.

According to locals, the deceased was a university student on holiday who had taken up delivering water using a motorcycle, to support artisanal miners at the newly opened Kachilangiro gold site.

“This was a promising youth working hard to earn an honest living. His murder is unacceptable. My administration will work closely with security agencies to ensure the perpetrators are arrested and brought to justice,” Lomorukai said.

The request for additional NPRs has been forwarded to Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen, who visited the region a week ago. He called on Murkomen to quickly respond to his request, emphasising that the move would significantly improve security in volatile areas.



Turkana Governor Jeremiah Lomorukai (c) during a visit to Logum, Kaputir ward, on Wednesday /MATHEWS NDANYI

NEWS COUNTIES

POOR OUTCOMES

Interference in education funding will result in exclusion – commission

KNA

THE National Gender and Equality Commission has warned that cutting education funding could result in indirect exclusion of learners, particularly children in mar-

ginalised communities. Chairperson Rehema Jaldesa said the NGECE is particularly concerned that shake-ups in basic education funding will lead to a further deterioration in outcomes particularly for schoolgirls in marginalised counties.

Speaking at the sidelines of the commission's annual staff summit in Nyeri, Jaldesa said up to 40 per cent of girls aged 15-19 in some counties are either pregnant or raising children. She attributed this partly to inadequate incentives for education, warning that inadequate funding could further widen the education gap and lead to increased dropout rates due to early pregnancies, poverty and harmful cultural practices.

Jaldesa said the commission has already taken immediate steps to address growing education gaps for schoolgoing girls in marginalised counties.



National Gender and Equality Commission commissioner Dr Margaret Karunguru, chairperson Rehema Jaldesa, vice chairperson Thomas Koiyer and commissioner Caroline Lentupuru during a press briefing in Nyeri on Wednesday /KNA

RAISE AWARENESS



Comesa sensitisation forum for cross-border traders and SME business groups at Malaba One-Stop-Border-Point /KNA

Comesa sensitises traders to promote peace, security

It is educating traders about existing policies and regulatory frameworks

HILTON OTENYO
@HiltonOtenyo

THE Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) has stepped up efforts to promote peace and security by sensitising small-scale traders along the Kenya–Uganda border.

Otia Etyang, Head of Governance, Peace and Security at Comesa said the peace and security programme aims to foster peaceful co-existence, particularly at border points and within communities emerging from conflict.

“We have already implemented this initiative in Busia and now in Malaba. The goal is to raise awareness among cross-border traders about their rights and roles in promoting peace and security, in collaboration with other government agencies,” Etyang said.

He said Comesa is educating traders about existing policies and regulatory frameworks designed to enhance cross-border trade.

The sensitisation also focuses on strengthening committees by equipping them with the knowledge needed to address longstanding challenges.

The programme aims to support more women and youth in trade, enabling socio-economic empowerment while fostering peace.

He was speaking during a four-day workshop for small-scale traders from Kenya and Uganda at Hotel Suddex in Amagoro. He also highlighted a key challenge: limited resources. “We depend on contribu-

tions from member states, many of which are currently facing economic downturns. The withdrawal of USAID support has also negatively affected our programmes,” he said.

Malaba Uganda Cross-Border Cooperatives chairlady Dinah Aman-ga cited inequalities in trade access. “Kenyan cooperatives can engage directly with Ugandan farmers, but the reverse isn’t allowed. Unharmonised trade policies, non-tariff barriers and unofficial fees imposed by county governments—especially in Kenya—must be addressed,” she said.

Lorna Okitoi, a Kenyan trader, noted that Malaba is the busiest border point in the region, clearing over 1,200 trucks daily. Yet, traders still lack information about their rights.

“New entrants are not properly trained on the challenges they will face—like fluctuating exchange rates, limited capital, inconsistent market prices, complex regulations and even issues like child smuggling. The \$2,000 tax exemption for small-scale traders is too low to sustain business,” she added.

Child hawking, particularly in Malaba, Kenya, is becoming a growing concern due to unharmonised policies within Comesa, she said.

Sam Kwemein, the Malaba Uganda Trade Information officer, pointed to inadequate infrastructure on the Kenyan side—particularly the lack of modern markets—as a major obstacle to cross-border trade.

Echairi Harriet, Treasurer of a Ugandan Sacco, highlighted how the



Traders in Malaba, Teso North, display their wares during a sensitisation session in Amagoro on Wednesday /HILTON OTENYO

lack of sanitation facilities discourages many women from engaging in cross-border business. “There’s a need for safe, clean spaces in market areas,” she said.

Betty Okuni, the cooperative’s secretary, also noted the absence of cold storage for perishable goods, proper markets in Malaba (Kenya), street lighting and scanners for transit cargo—all of which hinder efficient trade operations.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

This initiative by Comesa reflects a proactive approach to addressing peace, security and trade barriers at the Kenya–Uganda border. By targeting small-scale traders the programme promotes socio-economic empowerment.

SECOND COHORT

Barasa launches Agripreneurs model to boost food security

HILTON OTENYO

KAKAMEGA Governor Fernandes Barasa has launched the second cohort of the Kakamega County Agripreneurs programme Model.

The programme seeks to empower the youth and transform agriculture into a profitable, tech-driven enterprise to create jobs for young people.

The launch follows the successful training of 420 young agripreneurs under the Know Your Farmer platform, equipping them with digital tools, agribusiness skills and practical knowledge to support farmers across all the 60 wards of the county.

The programme is being implemented in partnership with the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project.

Speaking during the launch at Mumias Cultural Centre in Mumias West, Barasa said agriculture remains a key pillar of his development agenda.

The governor said the Agripreneurs will serve as extension officers to the 283,000 farmers already recruited on the programme under the Kenya Integrated Agricultural Management Information System digital system, enabling efficient input distribution, livestock vaccination and market access.

He said the recruits will collect data and engage the farmers for the next 18 months to help them digitise their activities.

The county has also strengthened over 7,700 Common Interest Groups and 20 Farmer Producer Organisations, with plans to expand Saccos and improve access to affordable credit through collective marketing, he said.

He highlighted progress in revitalising agro-industries such as Mumias Sugar, Matawa Fertiliser Plant and Lugari Maize Mill, with upcoming launches of Madala Tea and Malava Dairy factories.

He also urged farmers to venture into diversification in coffee, avocado, poultry, beekeeping and dairy to improve food security and household incomes.

Also present were county commissioner Mwangi Meru, MCAs led by speaker James Namatsi, county executives, NAVCDP representative Merina Atsiaya and other senior government officials.



Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa with the recruited agripreneurs under the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project /KAKAMEGA COUNTY

NEWS COUNTIES

TAKING SHAPE

Sh800m Kisumu maritime rescue centre 17% done

Governor Nyong'o says it will enhance emergency response in Lake Victoria



Kisumu maritime rescue centre under construction /HANDOUT

An impression of Kisumu's maritime rescue centre /HANDOUT

FAITH MATETE
@faymatete

KISUMU Governor Anyang' Nyong'o has hailed the construction of the maritime rescue centre at the former Lwang'ni Beach as a transformative step in safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of thousands who rely on Lake Victoria for fishing, trade and transport.

He emphasised the significance of the facility in enhancing emergency response on the lake, which has long been plagued by frequent accidents and fatalities. "This maritime rescue centre is not just about responding to emergencies; it's about giving our people peace of mind," Nyong'o said.

"Once completed, it will revolutionise how we handle maritime safety and protect those who depend on the lake to make a living."

The governor thanked the national government for prioritising the initiative and reaffirmed the county's commitment to its full implementation.

"We have long needed this kind of infrastructure. The lives of our people matter, and I'm glad this vision is finally taking shape. It will also boost the local economy by increasing confidence in lake transport and trade."

Deputy Chief of Staff for Delivery and Government Efficiency Eliud Owalo, who visited the site, said the facility is 17 per cent complete.

Valued at Sh800 million, the Kisumu Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) is a critical component of a broader national lake safety programme, led by the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA).

"This afternoon, I inspected and verified the progress of the MRCC in Kisumu," Owalo said.

"The centre will significantly improve safety on Lake Victoria, especially for local fisherfolk and transport operators."

He said once operational, the centre will serve as a command hub for coordinating search-and-rescue missions, enhancing communication, and integrating GSM networks to receive distress calls.

Beyond Kisumu, the facility will support operations across Busia, Siaya, Homa Bay and Migori counties—regions that border the lake.

The Kisumu centre is part of a Sh3.2 billion national investment aimed at boosting maritime safety on Lake Victoria.

Of this, Sh2.7 billion has been earmarked for the development of five rescue centres across the lake region.

Speaking in Kisumu during the Fourth African Sub-Sovereign Governments Network (AFSNET) Conference in November last year, President William Ruto underscored the urgency of the initiative.

"We're investing Sh2.7 billion to ensure that any accidents on Lake Victoria are attended to without delay," the President said.

"We've lost too many lives due to poor infrastructure. This investment will support the entire ecosystem—from transport to trade and fishing."

President Ruto said the rescue centre will not only save lives but also protect the economic backbone of the lake region, particularly for youth and families reliant on fishing.

"Our goal is to create a safe environment for everyone who depends on this lake," he said.

"If an accident happens, help must be immediately available."

According to KMA, the MRCC in Kisumu will be outfitted with state-of-the-art rescue equipment and personnel.

"This facility will include rescue boats, ambulances, evacuation helicopters, and fully trained emergency response teams," the authority said.

The centre will also house a security control unit, a communications room, a regional coordination office, and an EMS-equipped rescue unit.

To ensure accessibility, it will operate a 24-hour toll-free distress line, enabling real-time communication between lake users and rescue services.

More than just an emergency response facility, the maritime rescue centre fits into the government's broader agenda of food security, economic resilience and youth empowerment.

Ruto highlighted the strategic role of Lake Victoria in regional nutrition and income generation, stressing the need to protect those who work on its waters.

"Securing the lives of lake users means protecting the food supply chain and supporting economic stability," he said.

As construction continues at Lwang'ni Beach, the maritime rescue centre is poised to become a beacon of safety and preparedness—ushering in a new era for Lake Victoria where lives and livelihoods are not just supported, but safeguarded.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The maritime rescue centre in Kisumu marks a vital investment in maritime safety on Lake Victoria, addressing long-standing challenges of frequent accidents and loss of life. Backed by national and county governments, the Sh800 million facility aims to enhance emergency response, support regional coordination and protect economic activities like fishing and transport. Equipped with modern rescue tools and a 24/7 distress line, the centre reflects a broader Sh3.2 billion national effort to make lake transport safer. Its impact is expected to be both humanitarian and economic—saving lives while strengthening the livelihoods of communities that depend on the lake.

STUNG TO DEATH

Man, 39, dies after bees attack in Elgeyo Marakwet

CYRUS OMBATI

A 39-year-old man died after he was attacked by a swarm of bees in Lukuget village, Elgeyo Marakwet county on Wednesday.

Police said Alex Kosegei was attacked as he rode on his motorcycle near Kilangata Primary School.

Witnesses said he lost control of the motorcycle and fell down. The bees continued to sting him as witnesses raised the alarm. Residents rescued and rushed him to hospital, where he died while undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, police in Sotik, Bomet county, arrested two suspects in connection with the murder of a National Youth Service student on July 16.

The body of Vincent Otieno was found in a trench, long after he was attacked by five men.

Police said on Wednesday they arrested two of the suspects and the hunt for three more is ongoing.

GOT A-

Woman appeals for help to take daughter to university

KNA

A mother is seeking help from well-wishers to enable her daughter join university after stellar performance in the 2024 KCSE exam.

Ruth Auma, a single mother of three and living in Oyugis town, said she is worried that if help doesn't come, her first-born daughter will not join university.

Velma Adhiambo attained a mean grade of A- (minus). Auma said her daughter was only able to go through secondary school because the institution's principal helped.

Adhiambo said she received an admission letter to join the University of Nairobi to study Bachelor of Science in Industrial Chemistry.

"I am due to report for studies in two weeks but I don't see myself going," she said when journalists caught up with her at her former school, where she had gone to seek help.

Adhiambo said her mother does not have any property to sell and they live in Oyugis Kawahindi slums.

"I'm appealing for help so I can pursue my academic dream," she said.

Her mother does menial jobs like washing clothes for people to cater to her children needs. "Sometimes I work at the neighbours' farms," she said, adding that her two other daughters are in Grade 9.

Auma said she differed with the children's father 12 years ago when Adhiambo was in Standard 2.

"We could not stay together because my husband was not happy with me after I only gave birth to girls," she said.

After parting ways, she has been staying in Oyugis. She said Adhiambo went to Oyugis Primary School where she sat her KCPE exam, scoring 359 marks.

"She was called to join Migingi Girls, but I could not raise enough money to take her there. She instead joined Agoro Sare Mixed Day School here in Oyugis," Auma said.

Anybody wishing to help can reach the family through Ruth Otieno on 0791867021.



Velma Adhiambo and her mother Ruth Otieno in Agoro Sare Mixed Day School principal's office where they had gone to seek help on Tuesday /KNA

NEWS COUNTIES

TRUST LEGAL CHANNELS

Isiolo MCAs reject claims of fraudulent budget approval

Ward reps insist all due process was followed, dismissing reports of irregularities



Isiolo MCAs led by deputy speaker David Lemantile at a press conference on Wednesday
/EZEKIEL AMING'A

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

A section of MCAs in Isiolo county has refuted allegations that they fraudulently approved the county's 2025–26 budget, describing the claims as false, misleading and politically motivated.

Led by speaker Abdullahi Banticha and his deputy David Lemantile, the MCAs affirmed that the budget process adhered to all legal and procedural requirements.

They cautioned residents against falling prey to individuals aiming to disrupt peace and development.

"There is nothing as important as peace," Lemantile stated during a press conference in Nairobi, address-

ing recent political unrest, including a failed attempt to impeach Governor Abdi Goyo.

He urged residents to trust legal channels for resolving disputes, emphasising that the assembly received and approved the 2025–26 Appropriation Bill in accordance with Section 222(1) of the Standing Orders, following thorough scrutiny of its developmental impact.

"The Isiolo county executive is legally empowered to implement the approved Appropriation Act, 2025, as gazetted," Lemantile affirmed.

Budget committee vice chairperson Rehema Abdikadir echoed these assurances.

She dismissed reports of irregularities as false attempts to create tension

and disrupt county operations.

"All due process was followed and the budget passed through the proper legal channels," Abdikadir said.

He urged residents to reject propaganda aimed at stalling service delivery.

MCA Francisco Letimalo (nominated) highlighted that the budget was approved by nine out of 18 MCAs, surpassing the legal quorum of six and confirmed that both the budget committee and plenary sessions were properly constituted.

"The process was fair, legal and procedurally sound," he stated.

The MCAs also dismissed rumours about plans to remove assembly clerk Salad Guracha, with Lemantile clarifying that no such resolution exists.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The accusations of irregular budget approval and attempts to destabilise county governance appear to be part of a larger struggle for control and influence, exacerbated by political rivalries within and outside Isiolo. Leaders, including Woman rep Mumina Bonaya, accuse the UDM party of orchestrating unrest to advance hidden agendas. This external meddling threatens peace and development, underscoring the need for unity, transparency, and adherence to legal processes to safeguard Isiolo's stability and service delivery.

WATER SHORTAGE

Rachel launches borehole project at Makueni school

KNA

LEARNERS at a school in Makueni subcounty will have access to clean water after First Lady Rachel Ruto launched the drilling of a borehole. The project at Unoa Comprehensive School aims to alleviate persistent water scarcity.

Rachel announced that the borehole under construction will be operational before schools reopen for the third term. The project will also serve the surrounding community and enable the school to establish a kitchen garden.

"Water from this borehole will improve sanitation, food security through kitchen gardens, nutrition and enhance overall performance of the school," the First Lady said at the school on Wednesday.

Tree planting efforts will also be enhanced, contributing to the national target of 15 billion trees by 2032. Additionally, it will enable grass planting at the dusty Unoa Sports Ground.

The First Lady voiced concern over the use of firewood in school kitchens, highlighting its negative impact on the health of cooks and learners. She encouraged schools to collaborate with stakeholders to secure alternative, clean cooking energy sources to reverse this worrying trend, emphasising that clean energy promotes environmental conservation.

"I will push for the adoption of clean cooking energy solutions under the Ministry of Energy. Schools need to adopt clean cooking energy as a way to protect both health and the environment from desertification."

She was accompanied by Children Services PS Carren Ageng'o, Anita Mutula, county commissioner Duncan Darusi, Gender CEC Sebastian Kyoni, Japheth Mang'oka (Education) and John Kieti (Water). Water and Sanitation PS Julius Korir also announced plans to construct a sewerage system in Wote town.

INSECURITY

Suspected bandit killed in shootout with police in Samburu



Police officers on patrol in Samburu /FILE

CYRUS OMBATI

A suspected gunman was shot and killed in a clash between police and bandits in Suguta Marmar, Samburu county on Wednesday. The area is among those affected by constant raids by bandits.

Police said about seven gunmen raided Lolmorok village and attempted to rob herders who were grazing their livestock.

The National Police Reserve and rangers were alerted, prompting a fierce shootout. It was later established that one bandit was fatally shot.

His accomplices grabbed his gun and escaped without stealing the livestock, police said. Operations have been enhanced to tame gang activities, officers said.

On Monday, a member of the NPR was shot and killed in an attack by suspected bandits in Doldol, Laikipia county.

The incident at Seeki NPR camp also left four officers with bullet wounds, police said. The gunmen targeted the

camp late on Monday, opening fire in Mukogodo.

The reservists fought back, causing a two-hour standoff as they called for reinforcement. Police from Doldol Police Station arrived hours later to join the reservists, prompting the gunmen to retreat.

It was then discovered that James Kwale had been fatally wounded. The other four were rescued and rushed to hospital in serious condition, police said.

The motive of the incident is yet to be known, but police suspect there were other accomplices who were staging an attack elsewhere or driving away stolen animals. The body was moved to the mortuary.

Bandits have rendered much of the North Rift and neighbouring counties uninhabitable as they attack for animals, which are at times sold in urban areas for meat.

There is an ongoing operation in Samburu, Laikipia, Turkana, West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo, Isiolo, Marsabit and parts of Meru to address the menace.

The government has also acquired more equipment to enhance the operations, amid resistance from the gangs.

NEWS COUNTIES

INVESTIGATORS SILENT

Update us on missing Huduma Centre boss, Wajir cops urged

Call for answers comes as Hussein Moi's whereabouts remain unknown 25 days later

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@astarikostephen

ANXIETY is turning to fearing the worst as Wajir Huduma Centre manager Hussein Moi remains missing after 25 days.

Moi was last seen on Tuesday, July 8 at 10am in Wajir town. He has been missing ever since and has not communicated, nor have investigative authorities issued updates.

On Thursday, Eldas MP Adan Keynan urged Police IG Douglas Kanja to provide a detailed and swift update on the status of the investigation into Hussein's disappearance.

His appeal came a day after Moi's family pleaded with the government to ensure his safe return, highlighting the profound emotional distress caused by his absence.

In a letter dated July 30 to the IG, Keynan requested answers to pressing questions regarding the investigation.



MP Adan Keynan in Eldas town on Saturday /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

He expressed concern that the lack of a visible institutional response from concerned government agencies has heightened public unease and eroded trust in law enforcement.

Keynan asked about the verified

circumstances and timeline surrounding Hussein's disappearance and whether any preliminary findings have been made. He asked whether investigative authorities have collected and analysed surveillance

footage, forensic evidence, mobile phone tracking data, and eyewitness accounts to reconstruct Hussein's last known movements.

The MP also inquired if any suspects have been identified, questioned, detained, or placed under surveillance, and what progress has resulted. Keynan expressed disappointment over the lack of formal communication or public updates from the investigative agencies, despite the case's national significance and public interest.

Emphasising the importance of accountability, Keynan asked if an inter-agency task force involving Huduma Kenya, the Public Service Commission, the IG's office, and other security agencies has been formed to coordinate the investigation and ensure institutional responsibility.

He asked what measures the IG's office has taken to reassure civil servants in remote and unstable regions that their safety and constitutional

rights are protected, and that the State will act decisively to safeguard its officers.

Keynan concluded by calling for transparency on long-term reforms to prevent similar incidents and strengthen mechanisms to track, report, and respond to security threats against public servants.

No credible leads or substantive updates have emerged, despite Moi's family filing a missing person's report and ongoing efforts by law enforcement, family, friends, and the local community.

Public calls for accountability are getting louder, as family, civil society, media and community leaders demand answers.



Missing Garissa Huduma Centre boss Hussein Moi /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

YOUTH GANGS

Security team adopts tough rules to tame rising crime in Tana River

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

THE security team in Madogo, Tana River county, has adopted new measures to fight runaway crime by 'Kayole' youth gangs terrorising the area.

The juvenile criminals as young as age 12 have been wielding knives, rungs and pangas, terrorising citizens by robbing them of their valuables and even breaking into houses and businesses.

The situation is so dangerous that residents are forced to retreat to their homes as early as 5pm for fear of being attacked by the gangs.

On Wednesday, top security officers led by county commissioner David Koskei met Madogo area residents and agreed on steps to fight crime.

They settled on numerous measures, including an immediate ban on scrap metal business and activities, which are targeted by gangs and fuelling crime.

Officials announced they would round up all street children and arrest their parents for child neglect.

Koskei directed all chiefs, assistant chiefs, and headmen to initiate community policing and involve the public in fighting crime in Madogo location, Bangale subcounty.

Administrators will be required to map all crime hotspots, classify criminal activities in each area and forward reports to the subcounty security committee for action.

He warned those who attack police stations whenever a suspect is arrested, saying police officers must be allowed to do their job.

"I have heard that when a person is

arrested, you all go to the station to demand their release because they are your people. A criminal is a criminal. If you want to help them, let them go to prison, and in a few years, they will have reformed," he said.

"Woe unto you if you run into the police station. There is no difference between the suspect and you, who goes to ask them to be released," Koskei said. "Keep off completely from these matters or you will be arrested too and charged for aiding crime."

Tana River county police commander Sadiq William expressed the frustration of the DPP's office in Garissa over the failure to charge suspects arrested for crimes in Tana River or refer the cases for Alternative Justice Resolution.

He said it was unfortunate that police officers continue to be blamed for not taking action when the prosecutors failed to charge the culprits.

The visibly frustrated police boss said if the issues persist, they would be forced to take suspects to alternative courts in the Coast region.

Tana River county commissioner David Koskei addresses residents of Madogo /STEPHEN ASTARIKO



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Media Partner *The Star*

A forgotten mastermind of the attempted coup in 1982

Snr Sgt Pancras Akumu grew from recruiting to coordinating the treason



Left, A ransacked street in Nairobi on August 1, 1982 after an attempted coup failed
Above, Snr Sgt Pancras Akumu. He was hanged at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison in Nairobi in 1987 along with Hezekiah Ochuka for their roles in the coup attempt /COURTESY

Barmoiben Korir
@TheStarKenya

In early 1982, treason began with a whisper in the wind-blasted barracks of Nanyuki Airbase, a hush shared between two uniformed silhouettes beneath an aircraft hangar.

Here, Snr Sgt Pancras Akumu lit the fuse of rebellion in the heart of Kenya's northern skies.

In the corridors of the Kenya Air Force, amid rusting vehicles and muted radios, a quiet fire began to spread. The government, they claimed, had gone rogue.

And the redemption?

It would come from the skies.

"The sound of freedom," they said.

But this wasn't your ordinary mutiny. It was an engineered expedition powered by reckless ambition, raw bravado, radios in fire trucks, tape decks and borrowed microphones.

At its planning helm stood Akumu, the charismatic, daring and ultimately doomed senior non-commissioned officer.

By early 1982, within the air force, many airmen came from working-class backgrounds and held diplomas in avionics, engineering and radar systems. They were trained, politically conscious and in some cases, radicalised by external ideologies, from Nkrumahist Pan-Africanism to Gaddafi-style "people's revolution".

The idea of military-led liberation had roots. Across the continent, coups had altered national destinies: in Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda. To men like Snr Sgt Akumu, the Kenyan military, especially the Air Force, could replicate such acts.

In early 1982, the Nanyuki Airbase was a distant military outpost. But within its warrant officers' and sergeants' mess hall and corporals' club and airmen's club, a small cadre of airmen was fermenting treason.

Snr Sgt Akumu and Sgt Joseph Ogidi became the architects of what they branded the People's Redemption Council, a secret fraternity committed to the overthrow of the Kenyan government.

Further away in another airbase in Nairobi, Snr Pvt Hezekiah Ochuka was doing a similar task.

The movement spread with the stealth of a virus.

From Eastleigh to Embakasi, from Lanet to Kisumu, whispers turned into promises, and promises into oaths.

Recruitment meetings masqueraded as card games. Briefings were held over cheap beer and nyama choma. Oaths were sealed not with ceremony, but with threats and cash incentives.

In one incident, Akumu handed out Sh11,000 — blood money for a cause painted as "patriotic" — to lure recruits. This wasn't mere largesse; it was the trail of shadow financiers behind the veil of civilian sympathisers and covert donors.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

From the beginning, the coup plotters understood that ideology alone could not topple a government.

YOU HAVE TO READ THE STREET LIKE A LANGUAGE. YOU LEARN TO IDENTIFY PLAINCLOTHES POLICE BY THEIR STANCE, THE WAY THEY TALK INTO THEIR SHOULDERS. YOU SPOT GOONS BY THE ADRENALINE IN THEIR EYES. AND YOU KNOW WHEN TO EXIT
— ENOS TECHÉ

They needed men, ones who were committed, armed and ready to defy both command and constitution. But because they could not recruit the officer corps, they started from the other ranks.

Akumu and Ogidi launched an aggressive recruitment drive. Their targets were carefully chosen: young servicemen in the Kenya Air Force and disgruntled army personnel across Nanyuki, Eastleigh, Embakasi and the 81 Tank Battalion in Lanet.

Recruitment was not just verbal; it was spiritual and psychological.

Meetings took place across the country, in barracks, homes and bars. Soldiers were offered drinks, cash and most crucially, oaths of secrecy. Once inducted, they were warned that betrayal would mean certain death.

To ensure long-term success, Akumu aimed for the brass (the Officer Corps), hoping to win over pilots and commanders who could provide aerial superiority. But most officers were either cautious or loyal to the regime.

In fact, one of the earliest signs of the group's intent surfaced in March or April 1982, when Akumu and Ogidi approached Capt Jeclin Agola at his house in the Nanyuki compound. They requested his help in identifying and recruiting pilots.

Agola was stunned.

He rejected their offer and threatened to report them to higher authorities. Akumu begged him not to; he wasn't ready to be exposed.

The fragility of their plan was evident: too soon, and the whole enterprise would crumble.

One of the earliest and most active figures in the recruitment drive was Sgt Joseph Obuon.

His involvement in actively bringing personnel into the fold is noted as early as April 1982. Obuon undertook significant travel, visiting various military installations to discreetly or openly recruit individuals to the cause of



A picture showing a group of airforce soldiers who were in service during the 1982 attempted coup /FILE

overthrowing the government.

For instance, he made a notable visit to Sgt Richard Guya in Gilgil, where he discussed the recruitment of military personnel for the plot. This indicates a deliberate and systematic effort to build a network of sympathisers and active participants across different units.

PEOPLE'S REDEMPTION COUNCIL

As the conspiracy gained momentum, a leadership structure began to emerge.

The plotters envisioned a new governing body, which they named the People's Redemption Council (PRC). This name itself suggested an ideological motivation, portraying their actions as a liberation or redemption of the nation from its current leadership.

Snr Pvt Hezekiah Ochuka soon emerged as a central figure, largely taking on the role of the primary orchestrator and eventual figurehead of the coup attempt. However, his rise to leadership was not without internal contention.

There was a significant power struggle, particularly with Sgt Joseph Obuon, over the chairmanship of the PRC. Obuon, brandishing his senior non-commissioned officer rank, asserting his extensive recruitment efforts, and even citing his position as chairman of the airmen's mess, believed he had a stronger claim to lead.

Obuon could not understand how a private would be the leader of the movement, while there were

sergeants and senior sergeants in their midst.

This led to a heated debate that almost broke into a fight, underscoring the volatile internal dynamics among the plotters even before D-Day.

It was Snr Sgt Pancras Akumu who reportedly intervened in this dispute, advising Obuon to cede the chairmanship to Ochuka. Akumu's rationale, chillingly, was that they could then kill Pvt Ochuka once the coup had successfully taken place.

By May 1982, the PRC had grown into a multi-regional underground network. Its operational nerve centre was the Nairobi house of Ochuka, located in Umoja Estate, House K-27.

In that cramped residence, conspirators pretended to play cards as cover for detailed revolutionary briefings. Beneath the clink of soda bottles and cigarette smoke, a rebellion was being shaped.

Meetings were structured. Progress reports were demanded. Every member had a sector, a role, a responsibility.

When Akumu gave his report on the Nanyuki wing, he revealed plans to use radios fitted in fire trucks for communication on D-Day.

Ochuka, unimpressed, urged Akumu to do better. "You must work harder and improve your section's readiness," he said.

Ashamed, Akumu returned to Nanyuki and intensified operations.

By June, more meetings followed. Witnesses later testified how soldiers casually read newspapers while pretending to relax at Ochuka's house. But inside, they were debating failures in communication, missing gear and recruitment shortfalls.

Akumu was quietly absorbing it all, sharpening his section's preparations, identifying loyalists, stockpiling morale and spreading the doctrine of uprising.

He was building an insurgency from scratch, a dangerous blueprint hidden in plain sight.

THE HOUSE WAS TENSE, CONVERSATIONS HUSHED. THE IDEA OF BOMBING NAIROBI WAS ALREADY CIRCULATING. MILITARY RADIOS, PRESS COVERAGE AND THE TIMING OF AIRSTRIKES WERE ALL PART OF THE AGENDA

EXPANDING THE REACH

On May 8, 1982, Akumu made a decisive move. He travelled to Kisumu, widening the PRC's reach into western Kenya.

The meeting took place in a modest house, its ownership still undisclosed. But what happened inside was clear: a high-level planning summit.

Attendees included Akumu, Ochuka, Ogidi a mysterious civilian named "Langi", and the homeowner, described in court as an "old man".

Court testimony confirms the session was closed-door and strategic. The objective: to align regional efforts and discuss fallback strategies. Kisumu would serve as a secondary operations post, a support cell if Nairobi failed to fall.

Witnesses described the house as tense, conversations hushed. The idea of bombing Nairobi was already circulating. Military radios, press coverage and the timing of airstrikes were all part of the agenda.

Akumu was no longer just a recruiter. He was a tactician, a messenger, a coordinator, moving ideas like ammunition across Kenya's geography.

By mid-July, Akumu's mission shifted from recruiting to ideological activation.

In Nakuru town, he met with members of the 81st Tank Battalion from Lanet at Salwe Bar and Shirikisho Lodging.

In these smoke-filled joints, over drinks and whispers, Akumu presented the coup as a moral obligation. The target wasn't Nairobi, it

was Nakuru town, a vital logistics node in the Rift Valley.

He issued oaths of allegiance to men like Snr Pvt Abich and Pvt John Agallo, invoking cultural memory, military honour and revolutionary duty. Betrayal, he warned, would result in "execution".

The next day, outside Amingos Bar, Akumu reiterated the plan:

"When the coup begins, take Nakuru immediately. Show no resistance. Move quickly."

On July 19, 1982, the final pre-coup mobilisation was recorded at Nanyuki Air Base. This was the belly of the beast, where it all began.

Akumu convened a last gathering with soldiers from the base, including Pvt Tom Okwengu and Snr Pvts Juma Ooko and Akoko.

His message:

"The hour has come. The Kenya

Air Force is ready to take over."

To sweeten allegiance, he and Ogidi provided food, drinks and cash bribes. They issued threats cloaked in fraternity and made recruits swear loyalty to the cause. According to testimony, one Pvt Obell was given Sh11,000 to help bring in more soldiers.

Where did the colossal amount of money come from? Witnesses pointed to civilian financiers, possibly sympathetic businessmen or ex-soldiers; quiet sponsors of Kenya's great gamble.

By the end of July, everything was ready: The Voice of Kenya transmission stations had been mapped; The Langata Barracks, Department of Defence, Army Headquarters, General Post Office, Kenya Air Force Eastleigh, State House, Broadcasting House and GSU Ruaraka were identified as key targets; Cells in Kisumu, Nakuru and Embakasi were on alert; Air Force pilots were to be "tasked" with bombing strategic sites if resistance mounted.

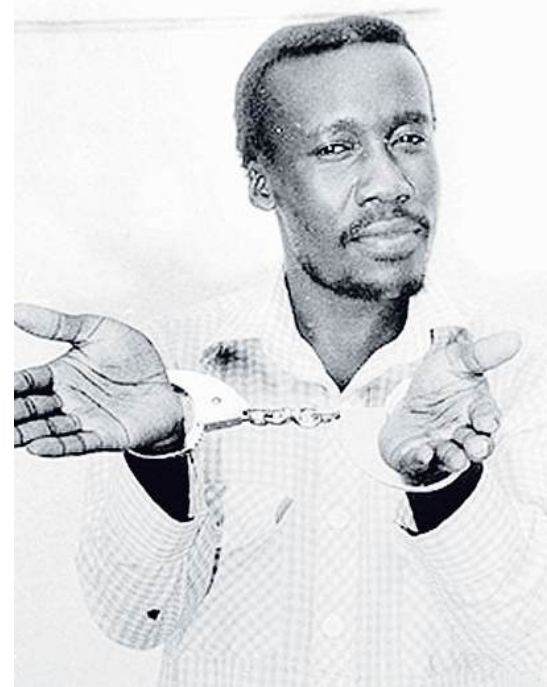
The last point proved difficult as the coup had been organised outside the Officer Corps, who were the trained pilots. Sidelining these officers alienated the very people who held technical expertise, operational authority and institutional credibility.

Only one thing remained: the date.

Excerpt from the forthcoming book: 1982: The Coup That Shocked Kenya, By Barmoiben Korir. It will be available on Amazon Bookstore in 2027.

Capt (Rtd) Barmoiben Kipkemoi Araap Korir is a retired military officer and author of several cultural and historical books.

Coup mastermind Snr Pvt Hezekiah Ochuka. He ruled Kenya for about six hours before the government quashed the rebellion. His senior co-conspirators planned to kill him after the coup's success /FILE



ABOUT THE COUP ATTEMPT

The 1982 Kenyan coup attempt was a failed attempt by a group of rogue Kenya Air Force servicemen to overthrow President Daniel arap Moi's government. The rebels seized key locations like VOK but were ultimately defeated by loyalist forces. The coup attempt resulted in significant violence and casualties, and led to a period of increased authoritarianism under Moi's rule.

TO SWEETEN ALLEGIANCE, AKUMU AND OGIDI PROVIDED FOOD, DRINKS AND CASH BRIBES. THEY ISSUED THREATS CLOAKED IN FRATERNITY AND MADE RECRUITS SWEAR LOYALTY TO THE CAUSE. ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY, ONE PVT OBELL WAS GIVEN SH11,000 TO HELP BRING IN MORE SOLDIERS

How to raise Gen Zs in faithful way

Often seen as rebellious, manual offers way to parent them

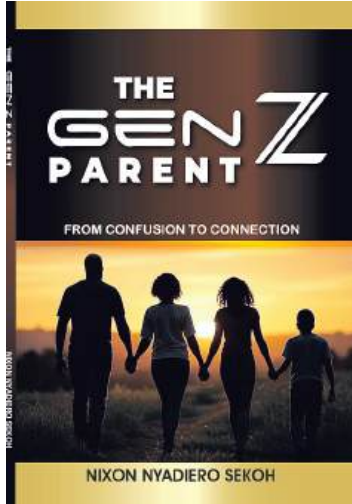
Nixon Sekoh believes in solving problems. Yet when he was faced with the challenge of raising his own children, who mostly belong to Generation Z, he was briefly overwhelmed until he learned how to connect with a generation often labelled as rebellious.

His book, *The Gen Z Parent: From Confusion to Connection*, offers a fresh perspective on how to build meaningful relationships with Generation Z, a group that now dominates discussions not only in parenting but also in governance and the workplace.

Generation Z, often referred to as Gen Z, generally includes individuals born between 1997 and 2012. This would make the current age range for Gen Z roughly 13 to 28 years old.

Sekoh's book stands out as a practical manual that equips parents to understand generational conflicts and the internal struggles that often shape the mindset of young people. He proposes three key perspectives in approaching Gen Z: understanding where they come from, where they are going and the world they inhabit.

While the book touches on



larger societal challenges — like the tension between Gen Z and older generations in politics and governance — Sekoh chooses to focus on repairing the breakdown in relationships through the lens of parenting.

“In light of the foregoing, most of us tend to learn the hard way insofar as parenting Gen Z and Gen Alpha is concerned. Albeit gradually, we realise issuing marching orders often amounts to nothing but an exercise in futility,” Sekoh writes in the book's introduction.

The 10-chapter book is easy to navigate and treats each subject

with clarity and depth. For example, in the chapter titled Background Factor and a Parent's Excesses, Sekoh shares the story of losing both his parents at the age of 17, a painful and devastating experience.

He argues that parenting must be deliberate and intentional. According to him, the way we were raised can unconsciously influence how we raise our own children, unless we are actively aware and break unhealthy patterns.

For married couples, Sekoh warns that the husband's relationship with his wife plays a vital role in how he connects with his children.

“I lost some ground in my relationship with my children every time I permitted them to witness any form of antagonism in the way I related with their mother,” Sekoh admits.

VALUE OF MENTORSHIP

The author's love for mentorship is evident throughout the book. When writing about networks and net worth, he urges the younger generation to pursue their passions relentlessly. In his motivational talks, he also stress-

es the importance of building meaningful relationships in the pursuit of their goals.

Perhaps the most powerful chapter is the one on the art of listening, a skill Sekoh believes is severely lacking both in households and in government.

He reflects on the June 2024 protests against the Finance Bill in Kenya, which led to the burning of Parliament. He believes this event holds deep lessons for both parents and those in power: “It is sad to own up to the fact that failure to listen to our children could easily plunge us into a worse situation than what we witnessed in June-July 2024 protests.”

Sekoh also explores themes of character, values and technology. He emphasises that parenting is not just about providing a comfortable lifestyle but also about nurturing children's moral and emotional development. While technology is here to stay, Sekoh warns that it must be used responsibly, especially when it comes to what children consume online.

He urges parents not to leave children alone with their devices.

“Handhold them and help them to safely navigate the murky waters of technology. Unrestricted access is the reason so many children got hooked to

pornographic addictions that are literally devouring their lives,” he says.

“Such regrettable situations could be avoided if children are hand-held, mentored and instructed in a manner that steers them off these vices.”

The book also delves into drug and substance abuse, addiction and sexuality. In a chapter that boldly addresses sex and sexuality, Sekoh confronts a topic that many parents avoid. He questions how society has made sex a taboo topic between parents and their children. This silence, he argues, leaves children to seek answers from questionable sources.

He encourages parents to return to the basics by initiating conversations about sex and sexuality from as early as age 10.

“They ought to be taught, point-blank, about all the dangers of premarital sex and why they must abstain. They must be taught that purity is priceless and why it must be treasured.”

Sekoh draws heavily from biblical principles and personal life experiences, making the reading experience both practical and spiritually enriching.

‘The Gen Z Parent: From Confusion to Connection’ is available on Amazon and at Nuria Bookstore. It retails at Sh1,299.

JIJI NDOGO POLICE POST

When giving silent treatment backfires

Dodging arguments leads to disaster

DAVID MUCHAI
@Davemuchai

My wife Sophia and I are beefing. It's nothing momentous, just the fact that she's been treating me like a fool. Like suggesting that we take a holiday to the coast to rebuild our waning relationship, only for me to realise that the trip is a government-paid retreat. Am I being petty? Probably. But there's more.

She claims that I snore at night purposely to annoy her.

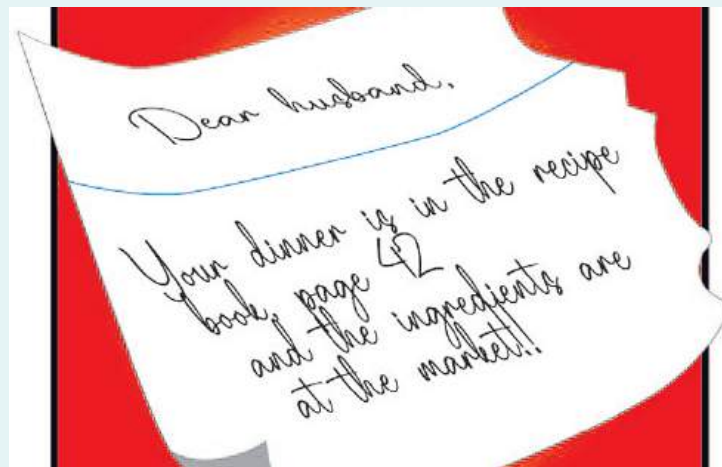
“Sophie,” I plead, “it's a medical condition, not a gimmick to rile you.”

“So is farting,” she counters. “But when I eat beans, you don't see me bombing the sheets all night, do you?”

I'm beginning to concede that men are biologically wired to lose to women in every single argument. It doesn't matter who is in the wrong. As long as opposite sexes go at it, the man ends up feeling like a total buffoon.

And the fights don't necessarily have to be verbal. Women are experts at cold war. Sophia knows I'm not fond of ugali. Whenever she is mad at me, she makes the damn meal five days in a row. And because I don't want to appear trivial or like I can't handle it, I slog through it and say nothing. Sometimes I'll pass by Kula Ulupe, our resident hotel, and chow down a boring fatty meal just so I can nibble on the ugali and hit the bed.

The opposite also happens. Since I never win any arguments, there is



never a chance for Sophia to apologise for anything. To make up for this loophole, she makes the most delectable chapatis. Since I know that's how she shows contrition, I pretend not to be too impressed, although I would be dying to jump

YOU OBVIOUSLY KNOW EVERYONE HAS NOTICED HOW LOW THE NECKLINES OF MAMA MBOGA'S BLOUSES HAVE BECOME LATELY. IT'S LIKE SHE'S NOW SELLING AVOCADOES WITH A SIDE OF AMPLE CLEAVAGE

in and bury my face in the chapos.

“Sasa utakula ama siku hizi upendi chapo?” she'd ask.

Translated, that means: “I know I was wrong for accusing you of spending too much on groceries the other day. It's not that I don't know the price of one nyanya is upwards of Sh20. Truth is, I was madder over how long you lingered at the kibanda.”

“You obviously know everyone has noticed how low the necklines of Mama Mboga's blouses have become lately. It's like she's now selling avocados with a side of ample cleavage.”

“And the way she ogles you, my handsome husband, any wife

would be insanely jealous. Anyway, I'm truly sorry for my needless outburst. I trust you with my life and I know you would never cheat on me.

“In fact, I know you'd rather chop off your makagare rather than offer them to another woman. Do you forgive me?”

Or something like that.

Lately, it's gotten worse. Every other word is a pointed jab, and it's worse that we have no choice but to work together. The other day, we had gone to calm a domestic dispute (the man was wrong, obviously) when I noticed her looking into an animal pen filled with goats, sheep and pigs.

“Relatives of yours?” I said.

“Yes.” She nodded. “My in-laws.”

That made things worse. Today, I had to wake up very early for a medical appointment in Kericho. Since we weren't talking, I wrote a note and left it on the table: Please wake me up at 5am for my hospital visit.

When I woke up, it was already seven in the morning. She was in the shower. I was about to confront her for not waking me up when I saw another note next to me on the bed. “Wake up,” it said. “It's 5am.”

SOCIETY TALK



From top YouTuber to disgraced abuser

Shannon Sharpe's fall is cautionary tale

NABILA HATIMY
@realobserver

The whole world watched as the YouTube show *Club Shay Shay* blew up last year courtesy of the one and only comedian Katt Williams. Those unfamiliar with the show's host Shannon Sharpe were introduced to him last year as the viral interview trended around the globe for days after airing.

In fact, a quick search has proven that the interview is YouTube's most watched interview of all time. Within 24 hours of airing, the interview had garnered double digit millions in views.

Granted, we all watched because of the 'truth bombs' Katt Williams was exposing on the show, but by default, the interview propelled the host and former NFL player

to a higher viewership audience. My husband is an avid basketball watcher and of course with that comes the aftergame shows on television. As such, I had been familiar with the likes of Shannon Sharpe, Skip Bayless and Stephen A for many years.

Although Shannon Sharpe gained new international interest in 2024 courtesy of his highly controversial interviews with the likes of Williams and Monique, it was this year in 2025 that his reputation took a dive while simultaneously propelling his personal life into the public eye.

In April, Shannon Sharpe was sued by an OnlyFans model by the name Gabriella Zuniga, who claimed Sharpe had committed "assault, sexual assault, battery and sexual battery".

The release of audio and text



Shannon Sharpe went from most watched to most condemned /PIXABAY

messages between the two wiped all traces of support from Sharpe fans all around.

And for the first time ever, it seemed as though the people were united against him because they cheered for the porn star to take him to the cleaners. Reports out of America indicate that Zuniga has in fact gotten her pay day in a \$23 million settlement.

I count myself a feminist of sorts, but I am more realistic than idealistic in the ways of life. I have spoken many times on the topic of black men, especially professional athletes, believing that being with a white woman is a status symbol

of 'having made it'. Meanwhile, they are with fellow black women only during the struggle phases of their lives.

As a person from a multiracial background in a mixed heritage marriage, I am very pro-interracial marriages. However, this does not mean there are some people in mixed relationships solely for the purpose of gold digging.

Shannon Sharpe was known around Hollywood as a forever bachelor with a type... the type? The likes of Gabriella Zuniga. Very young, white and in it for the economic benefits. It's not like this was news to Shannon, he knew.

He engaged in racial cosplay and kinky affairs with Zuniga without her signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement. He paid her for the events and now he has apparently retired her from her prostitution career with a big beautiful check.

Let's just say that I am united with viewers around the globe as we watch this successful black athlete being taken to the cleaners. He deserves it and more.

He knew what he was getting into; why should we care that he is losing his entire net worth to a 20-year-old?

Sometimes, we cheer for our sisters to get paid. Even though what she does is considered morally reprehensible, at least she was honest from the beginning about it. Today, I am not ashamed to say I applaud a sex worker for getting her money's worth.

Black men need to learn. These girls will take you to the cleaners, but they do not care because it is all about the image and what the money can get them. So if these young men choose to squander their fame and fortune on gold diggers to prove to us that they have made it, we will take a back seat and enjoy the show.

★ SASA LIVING

G-SPOT BY MWANGI G

@MwangiGithahu



I am not a loyal customer, more so if you collect data

I shift from vendor to vendor out of convenience, as my barbers in Nairobi can attest



I am a fairly private individual and do not like too much of my personal information floating about unnecessarily. This is why, for instance, I regularly delete cookies from both my computer and phone.

For those wondering what biscuits have to do with anything in this context, cookies in the digital world are small text files that websites store on your device to remember information about you and your browsing

habits. As it stands, modern digital life means my personal data is already lodged in far too many databases, so whenever I can reduce that footprint, I do.

The other day, while visiting a shop that sells spectacles and accessories such as lens wipes, I became a little irritated when the sales assistant asked for my name and telephone number in order to enter me into their customer database.

I told him that I had never bought

glasses from this retailer before, and if buying spectacle wipes was enough to warrant inclusion in their system, then perhaps I did not wish to shop there at all. I can buy those wipes at any halfway-decent pharmacy and do not require reminders to return and make further purchases.

I requested to be removed from their database under the provisions of the Data Protection Act. The assistant seemed slightly taken aback by the firmness of my request, but to his

credit, he complied. Even so, I doubt I shall be darkening their doorway again any time soon.

I do tolerate supermarkets requesting personal details, as I make use of their loyalty schemes, which can be handy when it comes to special offers and the like.

Truth be told, I am not a loyal customer. If you are a retailer or supplier of goods or services, please do not take it personally. However, if, like the aforementioned retailer, you attempt to force the issue, then it might well become personal.

I have written previously about my willingness, unlike many people I know, to switch barbers at the drop of a hat. Of course, some might question why, with only a fifth of my original hair still clinging on, I bother visiting a barber at all.

The answer to that slightly cheeky question, which I have been asked more times than I care to count, can be summed up in a single word: vanity.

Now that you know, has the number of sufurias of ugali in your household increased?

My father also experienced hair loss, although his receding follicles did so at a much more leisurely pace than mine. Nonetheless, he too visited the barber regularly, and as a boy, I accompanied him to whichever

barbershop he favoured in the River Road district.

After I started earning my own income, I continued patronising the same barbershop for a while before switching allegiance to one closer to the part of the CBD where I worked, still within the broader River Road neighbourhood.

Not long after, a stylish colleague and friend suggested I try his hair stylist, who, if memory serves, was called Franco. This gentleman was no ordinary barber. His salon, and indeed his prices, were quite literally a floor above the rest in that area.

It was this tonsorial artist who, as gently as possible, broke the news that my once-full head of hair was beginning to thin. On my next visit, I happened to pass a barbershop where one of the stylists was touting for clients at the door.

Out of curiosity, I stepped inside and decided to take a chance and let this barber, wielding a straight razor, shave my entire head.

He did such an impressive job that I remained a loyal client for years, until the shop relocated to Highridge, an area inconvenient for me as I was still based in the CBD.

I then found new barbers in town, but whenever time allowed, I made the trek to Highridge, where I discovered even more skilled barbers adept with the cut-throat razor, and so began to spread my patronage accordingly.

To cut a long story short, I will frequent whichever barbershop is most convenient at any given moment. The same principle applies to butchers, bakers, greengrocers, kiosks, mitumba vendors and optometrists, but go easy on the personal data collection.

TONY MBALLA **FITFINITY**

@TonyMballa

SASAFITNESS ★

Dumped by a seasonal lover, cherished by a true soulmate

Kimeu rallied himself after losing his bae to football star in Africa Nations Championship



“

Otieno has certain attributes that make him more attractive. And he's going places, Kimeu. He's about to compete in the Africa Nations Championship, and I couldn't be more excited to be his girlfriend

Kimeu was devastated when Nduku broke the news to him.

“I'm leaving you for someone else,” she said, her voice cold and detached. “Someone who can give me the life I deserve.”

Kimeu's heart sank as Nduku revealed her new beau was none other than Otieno, a star player for the Kenyan national football team. He was known for his chiselled physique and dashing smile.

“You're ditching me for a football player?” Kimeu asked, trying to keep his emotions in check.

Nduku smiled smugly. “Let's

just say Otieno has certain... attributes that make him more attractive to me. And he's going places, Kimeu. He's about to compete in the Africa Nations Championship, and I couldn't be more excited to be his girlfriend.”

Kimeu watched as Nduku posted pictures of herself and Otieno on social media, beaming with pride. Otieno's muscular body and chiselled features seemed to radiate confidence, and Kimeu couldn't help but feel inferior.

Determined to prove to himself and Nduku that he was more than just a discarded boyfriend, Kimeu

joined a gym in Nairobi. He threw himself into his workouts, pushing his body to its limits.

“I'll show her,” Kimeu muttered to himself as he pumped iron. “I'll get fit, and I'll be better than Otieno any day.”

Months went by, and Kimeu's hard work began to pay off. His muscles began to define themselves, and his confidence soared. He started to notice the admiring glances from women at the gym, and his self-esteem began to repair.

As Kimeu's transformation neared completion, Nduku started to notice. She sent him messages,

pleading with him to take her back. “Kimeu, I'm so sorry for what I did. I realise now that I made a mistake. You were always there for me, and I took you for granted. Otieno is just a flash in the pan, but you... you're the one I truly love.”

Kimeu smiled to himself as he read the messages. He had come a long way since their breakup, and he wasn't about to fall for Nduku's charms again.

“I appreciate the apology, Nduku,” he replied, his tone firm but polite. “But I've moved on. I've been working hard to become a better version of myself, and I'm happy now. You should focus on your relationship with Otieno. I'm sure he'll be busy preparing for the Africa Nations Championship.”

Nduku's responses grew more desperate, but Kimeu remained resolute. He had met someone new, Gladys, who appreciated him for who he was. She was kind, intelligent and beautiful, with a quick wit and infectious laugh.

“I'm so proud of you, Kimeu,” Gladys said one evening as they strolled through the streets of Nairobi. “You've come a long way since we first met. You're confident, fit and handsome. I feel lucky to be with you.”

Kimeu smiled, feeling grateful for Gladys' support and encouragement. “I couldn't have done it without you,” he said, wrapping his arm around her shoulders.

“You've been my rock, my motivation. I'm glad I didn't take Nduku back. She's not the right person for me.”

As the build-up to the Africa Nations Championship intensified, Otieno and his teammates continued to steal the headlines. Nduku posted excited updates on social media, but Kimeu barely noticed. He was too busy enjoying his new life with Gladys.

One evening, as they watched the tournament highlights on TV, Kimeu turned to Gladys and smiled. “I'm glad I got dumped,” he said, chuckling. “If Nduku hadn't left me, I might not have met you.”

Gladys laughed and leaned in close. “I'm glad she did, too,” she whispered, her lips brushing against his ear.

Kimeu's heart skipped a beat as he wrapped his arms around Gladys, feeling grateful for the unexpected turn his life had taken. He knew he had Nduku's decision to thank for his newfound happiness.

As the tournament drew to a close, Otieno's team emerged victorious, lifting the championship trophy aloft. Nduku's social media posts were filled with pride and excitement, but Kimeu barely registered on her radar.

He didn't need her validation anymore. He had Gladys, his fitness and his confidence.

HEALTH

Silent struggle with hormonal disorder

Polycystic ovary syndrome is haunting young women of reproductive age but is little known

JANEMOLLY ACHIENG

@TheStarKenya

At first glance, Aginetta Onyango, 29, looks like any other young woman: confident, cheerful and composed.

But beneath the bright smile is a daily struggle she's lived with for more than a decade. A struggle that most people cannot see.

“I was 17 when my period disappeared for two straight months,” she recalls. “I was used to short, regular cycles, three or four days at

most. Suddenly, it was eight weeks and counting.”

A visit to a gynaecologist confirmed what she had never heard of before: polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), a common hormonal disorder affecting women of reproductive age. It was the beginning of a long, complex journey.

PCOS affects how the ovaries function. It is typically characterised by irregular periods, excess levels of male hormones known as androgens, and polycystic ovaries, where the ovaries become enlarged and contain numerous small flu-



Young women in hospital
/PIXABAY

id-filled sacs. Though common, PCOS is widely misunderstood and often dismissed until symptoms become unmanageable.

Dr Brenda Kiende, a seasoned gynaecologist, says PCOS presents in three distinct ways, and not every woman will exhibit the same signs.

“There are women who have polycystic ovaries detected through ultrasound. Others experience irregular menstrual cycles. And others show signs of hyperandrogenism, which relates to hormonal imbalances,” she says.

HOW IT STARTED

Aginetta's symptoms began gradually. First came the irregular periods. Then sudden facial hair growth.

“I remember looking in the mirror and noticing fine hair above my lip, then on my chin,” she says.

“People started staring. Some offered advice, others gave me creams or remedies. They meant well but it was demoralising.”

Unwanted hair, or hirsutism, is one of the more visible symptoms of PCOS, but for many women, it's

the emotional impact that lingers longer.

Aginetta often felt isolated.

“Every comment felt like a reminder that I was different,” she says. “It wasn't something I could talk about openly. Even some of my close friends didn't know.”

Weight gain soon followed, another hallmark of PCOS.

“Even now, I struggle. Friends who haven't seen me in a while often comment on my body. They don't mean to be cruel, but it's hard,” she admits.

According to the World Health Organisation, PCOS affects between 6 and 13 per cent of women of reproductive age.

Alarmingly, up to 70 per cent of cases remain undiagnosed. Family history, insulin resistance and metabolic disorders increase the likelihood of developing the condition.

Dr Kiende warns against the tendency to dismiss symptoms like cramps, missed periods or acne as ‘normal’.

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TEACHERS, NURSES Lawyers and Accountants earn 60000 part time work 4 only 2hrs aday twice a week From 5pm to 7pm.col0769150870. Manager.

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JOBS APPLY land sales agent's marketers, NKR, Gilgil area REG fee is a MUST SMS only for details 0722703706

TRAINED HOUSE KEEPER house help shamba boy nation wide available part time full time sms 0722115384

JOBS apply land sales agent's marketers, NKR, Gilgil area REG fee MUST SMS only for details 0722703706



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Vibrant Auctioneers

AUCTIONEERS, INVESTIGATORS, OFFICIAL COURT BROKERS AND BAILLIFFS. REF; AUCTIONEERS ACT (NO: 5 OF 1996) LAWS OF KENYA.

OFFICE ADDRESS

Office: Nurick Business Centre, 1st floor, Room 76, Kitengela, off Namanga road.
Po box. 300195-00100, GPO, Nairobi
Tel: 0721272260, 0720935948, Email: vibrantauctioneers@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principal we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicles on **FRIDAY 8th August 2025, 10.00 am** at our office **NURICK BUSINESS CENTRE**

Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model	Year	Reg Number
Toyota	Land Cruiser V8	2015	KCG100H
Subaru	Legacy	2015	KDH 711D
Mercedes Benz	B180	2015	KDL530N
Mercedes	Benz GLE	2016	KDH092S
Mazda	Biante	2015	KDJ427N
Peugeot	3008	2015	KDK416N
Alfa Romeo	Mito	2014	KDE117N
Daihatsu	Move	2015	KDH836A
Toyota	Land cruiser Prado	2017	KDR947C
Chevrolet	Captiva	2015	KDD 331K
Jeep	Grand Cherokee	2015	KDK747V
Toyota	Prado	2012	KCY502E
Audi	A4	2014	KDG967D
Mercedes Benz	E250	2014	KDD088R
Subaru	Outback	2017	KDS313A
Toyota	Harrier	2016	KDN656Y
Toyota	Fielder	2016	KDM755F
Toyota	Passo	2014	KCZ851Q
Nissan	March	2013	KDE405E
Isuzu	Elf	2014	KDK668H
Suzuki	Alto	2015	KDH982Q
Audi	A3	2015	KDJ 997E
Lexus	RX350	2012	KCW444E

All vehicles are stored at pluspoint motors yard Kiambu road

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Viewing to be done at Pluspoint Motors Kiambu road to verify details as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer or our client.
2. Vehicles are sold on " AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".
3. Cash at the fall of hammer.



National Environment Management Authority

Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, P O BOX 67839-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: 0724253398, 0735013046, Email: info@nema.go.ke Website: www.nema.go.ke

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SERVICED APARTMENTS ON PLOT TITLE NO. NAIROBI/BLOCK 34/319, ALONG MUTHITHI ROAD IN WESTLANDS, NAIROBI COUNTY.

Pursuant to Section 59 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act 1999, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has received an Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for the above proposed project.

The proponent, **Western Palace Investment Limited**, proposes to develop a 26-storey (2No. basements, ground and Mezzanine floor plus 25No. floors) serviced apartments block comprising a total of 406No. Serviced apartment Units (138No. studios, 168No. one bedroom, 92No. two bedroom, 8No. three bedroom units), gym, kids play area, sauna, games room, laundry, restaurant and a swimming pool, parking spaces, lifts and staircases, other associated amenities and facilities on plot L.R. No. Nairobi/Block 34/319 along Muthithi Road, in Westlands, Nairobi County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures:

Impacts	Proposed mitigation measures
Soil Erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control earthworks. Install drainage structures to control flow of storm water. Ensure and management of excavation activities.
Loss of Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only area earmarked for development should be cleared. Plant trees, shrubs and flowers on remaining open spaces.
Changes in hydrology/impended drainage/deep excavations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 has been generated as required by NCA
Air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockpiles of earth should be sprayed with water or covered during dry seasons 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
Noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install suitable barriers to shield compressors and other small stationary equipment where necessary Display signs to indicate construction activities Maintain all equipment The working hours should be in line with NEMA licensing conditions 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
Public health, occupational health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Road traffic disruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No overloading of trucks and good driving practices to be practiced. Suitable junction/access point to be provided. Use of appropriate & legible signage. Employment of formal flagmen/ women to ensure the public safety. Follow the recommendations of the traffic management plan.
Insecurity and social impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Increased Water Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An alternative water source shall be provided. The proponent shall drill a borehole at the proposed site 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.
Increased generation of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

A full report of the proposed project is available for inspection during working hours at:

1. Principal Secretary, State Department of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, NHIF Building, 12th Floor, Ragati Road, Upper Hill, P.O. BOX 30126-00100 **NAIROBI**
2. Director General, National Environment Management Authority, NEMA Popo Road, off Mombasa Road, P.O BOX 67839-00200, **NAIROBI**
3. County Director of Environment **NAIROBI**

A copy of the EIA report can be downloaded at www.nema.go.ke.

NEMA invites members of the public to submit oral or written comments within thirty (30) days from the date of the publication of this notice to the Director General, NEMA, to assist the Authority in the decision making process for this project. Kindly quote ref No. **NEMA/EIA/5/2/2359**

Comments can also be e-mailed to info@nema.go.ke

DIRECTOR GENERAL

This advertisement is sponsored by the proponent

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Waiyaki Way,
Westlands,
Box: 74497
Tel: 0711046200,
4246200

NAIROBI CBD OFFICE
Portal Place
House 3rd Floor
Room 310,
Muindi Mbingu
Street
Tel: 0711046300

MOMBASA OFFICE
TSS Towers, 2nd
Floor, Nkrumah
Road Mombasa
City CBD
Tel: 0711046101
0711046529

ELDOROT OFFICE
Laneens Center,
Ground Floor,
Off Elgeyo Road
Tel: 0790 036671

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday- Friday
8 am to 5 pm
Saturday: 9 am to
12pm

ALFAJIRI AUCTIONEERS
(Public Auctioneers, Debt Collectors, Repossessors
Court Process Servers, Court Brokers and Commission Agents)

M-Plaza, 1st Floor, Maungano Road, Opp. Fatemi House
P.O. Box 42164 - 80100 Mombasa, Tel: 0711 245043 / 0734 618777 / 0777 245043,
Email: alfajiriauctioneers@yahoo.com / urbkioko89@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

1. Duly instructed by our principals we shall sell the following goods by Auction.
IN THE MATTER OF DISTRESS FOR RENT CAP 293 LAWS OF KENYA

ON Friday the 8th August, 2025 at 10.00 a.m. at our offices, M-Plaza, 1st floor, Maungano Road, Mombasa
LANDLORD V/S FARAJ HAMIS MASIOUD
1pc Carpet, 1pc wooden tv stand, 1pc Samsung fridge, 1pc mika freezer, 5 seater sofa set, 1pc small water dispenser, 1pc 21' sonny tv set, 1pc glass table, music system, 1pc round table, 1pc 6kg gas cylinder.

ON Friday the 8th August, 2025 at 10.00 a.m. at our offices, M-Plaza, 1st floor, Maungano Road, Mombasa
LANDLORD V/S BENJAMIN KIAMBI
1pc Sofa set, 2pcs wall units, 1pc Fridge, 1pc Table, Music system.

ON Friday the 8th August, 2025 at 10.00 a.m. at our offices, M-Plaza, 1st floor, Maungano Road, Mombasa
LANDLORD V/S MESHACK MUTUA MAINGI
2pcs wall unit, 2pcs plastic drums, 3pcs coffee table, 1pc sofa set, 1pc singer sewing machine, 5pcs plastic chairs, 6 sitter dining table, 1pc LG fridge, 4 burner meko, drawers, assorted crockeries, 1pc file cabinet.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
1. Cash at the fall of the hammer
2. Sale is subject to Forced Sale Value price
3. Viewing can be done on Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 5.00pm
4. All interested bidders are required to pay a refundable deposit of Ksh. 5,000 to obtain a bidding number

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9 Kabarsira Ave. P.O. Box 79051-00400
+254 798 999 641
info@baselineauctioneers.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals The financiers, we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned motor vehicles.

ON MONDAY 11TH AUGUST 2025 STARTING FROM 11.00AM AT OUR OFFICES NO.9 KABARSIRAN AVENUE, LAVINGTON, NAIROBI.

REG. NO	MAKE	MODEL
KDH 574T	MAZDA	DEMIO
KCZ 794M	MITSUBISHI	CANTER
KDL 878B	MITSUBISHI	CANTER

CONDITIONS OF SALE
1. Prior viewing arrangements to be done via 0798999641 (Magdalene).
2. Refundable deposit of kshs.100,000/= MUST BE PAID to obtain a bidding prior to the auction.
3. Sale is subject to a reserve price.
4. Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Nairobi connection services auctioneers
View Park Towers, Utalii Lane 4th Floor, Wing C, Suite 1
P.O. BOX 5444-00100, NAIROBI. Tel: 020 2400460.
Email: info@ncsa.co.ke, nairobiconnection@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principal we shall by Public Auction sell the under mentioned Motor Vehicle and Goods on **Saturday, 9th August, 2025.**

1. CTC NO. E488 OF 2023
JACOB OGACHI VS INDIMANJE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY at LEAKEYS STORAGE LIMITED, LUNGA LUNGA ROAD at 10:30am
MV Registration No. KCB 067D Isuzu Easy Shift

DISTRESS FOR RENT at DIAMOND PLAZA PARKING LOT, Time 11:30 am

1. LANDLORD VS KEVIN MUNENE MURIITHI
Metal Chairs, Wooden Shelves, Glass Side Display, Tripod Stand, Mouse, Screen Protectors, Phone Covers, Beard Oil and Phone Chargers.

2. LANDLORD VS FRESHIA WANGUI MUYA
Assorted Pants, Assorted Bras, Round Stool and Wooden Cabinet

3. LANDLORD VS VICTOR MUTHINI
White Plastic Chair, Wooden Cabinets, Assorted Bags, Assorted Belts, Assorted Shoes, Wallets, Waist Bags, Woven Kiondo and Bags

CONDITIONS OF SALE
Cash at the fall of the hammer

NEXTTGEN AUCTIONEERS
CLASS B LICENCED AUCTIONEER
Realization of Charged Properties, Repossession, Distress for Rent, Debt Collection & Commercial Investigations

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our principle, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned goods on **8th August, 2025 at AUTO GALLERY at 11.00 a.m.**

PRINCIPLE VS MOOV CAFE
USED Round tables wooden, round modern chairs, wooden tables plastics, metal chairs & tables, 55 inch tv stand, microwave, gas cooker meko, speaker(woofer), oven, gas cylinders, assorted alcohol, assorted utensils, freezer, chips making machine, metal stand, double fridge, metalboards, gas cylinders [large], keyboard, *speakers, drum sets, mixture, chopping board.

PRINCIPLE VS BISTRO
USED plastic chairs, fridge, coffee maker, assorted alcohol, crates, glasses, metal tables, speakers, assorted drinks, [sodas],cooker meko, chips making machine, mixer, premier blender, cd changer, double speaker, cupboards.

PRINCIPLE VS MOWAKA BARBER SHOP
USED executive chairs, TV.(L.G)Wooden stands, plastic stands, plastic stool, towel warmer, sink, UV-Sterilizer, shavingmachine, mirror, Inverter+jacob battery, big flower vessels, Drawer, Wooden Drawers, flowers, plastic board.

PRINCIPLE VS MOWAKA AUTO SPARES
Used washing machine, black becker, Office chairs, wooden book shelves, Generator WSP7500R, Metal Generator, Generator power, solar power, flood light, plastic table +chairs, plastic.

CONDITION FOR SALE
Cash at the fall of the hammer

FELINA COMMERCIAL AUCTIONEERS
Auctioneers, Court Brokers, Repossessors, Debt collectors
Investigators & Property Agents

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under the Distress for Rent Act (cap 293) Laws of Kenya, we shall Sell the under mentioned goods by Public Auction.

ON SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST 2025 AT PANGANI AUCTION CENTER, MURANG'A ROAD NAIROBI AT 11:00 A.M.

**LANDLORD - VS - A) HANNAH NJERI KAMAU
B) SAMUEL KIRURU WAIRIMU**

A) 5 seater sofaset, 2pc wall unit, Coffee table, Wooden bed, Shoe rack, 2door fridge, TV stand, 2pc three seater sofaset, Samsung 2 door fridge.
B) Metallic radder, Metallic seat, Assorted mobile phone accessories.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
CASH AT THE FALL OF THE HAMMER

ASTORION AUCTIONEERS
Ulundi Co-op Plaza | 5th Floor
Moi Avenue, Nairobi
Mobile: 0720 797 118
0720 513 674
Tel / Fax: 020 225 2343
P.O. Box: 33340 - 00600 Nairobi.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principals, the National Police Service through the OCS Kiriani Police Station, Pursuant to Court Orders received from The Senior Principal Magistrate's Court, Kangema Law Courts, under Criminal Miscellaneous Case No. E 017 of 2024 under section 63(2) & (5) of National Police Service Act of 2011 Laws of Kenya, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned unclaimed properties consisting of Motorcycles, and Motorbikes Shells and Write Offs on:-
On Friday 8th August, 2025 at Kiriani Police Station as from 10.00 A.M

LF/NO	ITEM DESCRIPTION
1.	KMCH 181Z JINHEN
2.	KMCH 686P JINHEN
3.	KMDC 086Q RANGER
4.	KMCC 677L BRONCO
5.	KMDF 224J LIFAN
6.	KMDQ 309G BAJAJ
7.	KMCH 350L
8.	KMDU 940N RANGER
9.	KMCL 332W HONGYA
10.	KMCR 961J SKYGO
11.	KMDJ 442K RANGER
12.	KMCB 442M MTR
13.	UNREGISTERED SHINERY
14.	UNREGISTERED RANGER
15.	ONE OLD METAL CONTAINER
16.	ASSORTED ACCIDENT BICYCLES
17.	ASSORTED SCRAP METAL
18.	TWO WHEEL BARROWS

CONDITIONS OF SALE
1. Cash at the fall of the hammer
2. No Logbooks for these units.
3. The Auctioneer has a right to accept or reject any bid without giving a reason whatsoever.

BUSINESS

CONSULTANT Are you in need of consultancy services? We assist students in preparation of term papers, proposal writing, CVs etc. For more details call 0783007229/0721654622 or email: escatmi2020@gmail.com

BLISS SPAR CBD
0729 677 559/ 0720 493 795

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT
AT VOI
CIVIL SUIT NO.E155 OF 2024

SA' AD BAKARI MWACHINGA & MWANALIMA ATHUMAN MWERO (suing on behalf of the late BAKARI MOHAMED MWACHINGA-DECEASED) ...PLAINTIFFS
-VERSUS
EUNICE IMINZA AGENG'O.....1ST DEFENDANT
JIHAN FREIGHTERS LTD.....2ND DEFENDANT

Substituted Service by Advertisement
(Pursuant to the Order of the Court made by Hon. T.N. SINKIYIAN on 19TH DECEMBER, 2024)

TAKE NOTICE THAT a plaint attached to verifying affidavit and summons to enter appearance has been filed in this suit by the plaintiffs in this suit in which you are named as the 1st Defendant. Service of the plaint attached to the verifying affidavit and summons to enter appearance may be obtained from the Voi Law Court at Voi.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you are required to enter Appearance by yourself or your duly authorized Advocate within Fifteen (15) days from the date hereof.

Dated at Voi this 27th day of January, 2025

OMULAMA E.M & COMPANY
ADVOCATES FOR THE PLAINTIFFS

DRAWN & FILED BY:-
OMULAMA E. M & COMPANY ADVOCATES
P.O BOX 99146-80107 MOMBASA.
emomulama@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r. 3(3)(xi))
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019) CHANGE OF USE

Pursuant to the provisions of The Physical and Land Use Planning Act, No. 13 of 2019, the registered owners of plot **Title No. Nairobi/Block 15/717 (Original No. 330/1180) situated along Gitanga Close, off Gitanga Road, in Thompson Estate; Westlands sub-county** in Nairobi City County are applying for **Change of Use** of the property from **single dwelling to commercial cum residential (apartments)** subject to approvals by the Nairobi City County. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc. with comments and or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to :-

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM), Built Environment and Urban Planning, Nairobi City County, P.O. Box 30075 - 00100, Nairobi. Dated: 31/07/2025

(Planner: Shadrack K. Mbuta: PPRB Reg. No. 0332)

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/kihara/2800** located at KIAMBAA Sub-County KIHARA-GACHIE area has applied for permission to change the user from **AGRICULTURAL USE TO COMMERCIAL CUM RESIDENTIAL (MULTIPLE DWELLING FLATS AND 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sequoia China Limited is inviting the project affected persons to public participation meetings for an **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment** for the proposed construction of twenty-seven (27) storey residential apartments comprising of six hundred and forty-four (644) units on **Plot LR No. 1870/85(Nairobi/Block 7/57)** along Ring Road Parklands in Parklands area, Westlands Sub-County within Nairobi City County. The meetings are scheduled on **14th August 2025, 21st August 2025 and 28th August 2025** at the proposed project site (Latitude: -1.2576°S, Longitude: 36.8053°E) at **10am**.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019) CHANGE OF USER
The owner of **Plot No. NBI/BLK 138/1488** - Opposite Tessara Bistro - Mirema, along Mirema Drive proposes to change the user of the plot from **Single dwelling unit to Commercial cum Residential (Shops and Flats)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals, Institutions, Organizations etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within **14 days** of publication of this notice to:
CECM: Built Environment and Urban Planning, Nairobi City County Government, P.O. Box 30075-00100, Nairobi.

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LANGUAGE CONNECTIONS CENTRE. Speak. Write. Refresh. Call 0733128976 / 0725724219 /0721287034

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HOME_BASED Personal and private tutor in business and computer studies both secondary/colleges in kisumu details 0716462733 0713957136

PERSONAL AND PRIVATE TUTOR in business and computer studies both secondary/colleges in kisumu details 0716462733 0713957136

JOBS

TEACHERS, NURSES Lawyers and Accountants earn 60000 part time work4 only 2hrs aday twice a week

From 5pm to 7pm.col0769150870. Manager.

WANTED: Salonist, hoteliers, house-keeper, maids, cleaners, train& employ Local inter, NBI, MSA, Gilo, NKR Reg fee is a MUST details sms only +254722703706

JOBS APPLY land sales agent's marketers, NKR, Gilgil area REG fee is a MUST SMS only for details 0722703706

TRAINED HOUSE KEEPER house help shamba boy nation wide available part time full time sms 0722115384

JOBS apply land sales agent's marketers, NKR, Gilgil area REG fee MUST SMS only for details 0722703706

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DR. MAMBA kutoka (TZ) Anatibu magonjwa na shida zote. Malipo ni baada ya kufaulu **Piga simu 0715 860148**

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Offering motivation speaking for schools, individuals or groups for details call coach 0743249306 0713957136

ARE YOU IN NEED of a personal computer trainer home_based coach, more details call 0788779377 0713957136

Home based counselling support at your favorite residence for private and confidential call lawrence 0716462733 0788779377

Cure INFERTILITY Call/Whatsapp 0712149433. Our Facebook page is Ashwagandha Kenya.

operation for blind eyes to see yes Miracle doctor sms to be connected 0722703706

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RELATIONSHIPS


Canadian Cate Johnson working in Kenya with UNHCR looking for marriage partner. Call/SMS +254752609194

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Imani House, Juja 1st Floor, Room 2
P.O. Box 2013 00200
Nairobi
Email: tnp@gmail.com

CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to section 20(2) of the Political Parties Act 2011, The National Party gives notice that the National Delegates Conference held on **July 8th, 2025** initiated change of party officials.

Any person with written submissions concerning the said officials shall within 14 days herein deposit such submission at The National Party Secretariat Headquarters at Imani House, Juja 1st Floor, Room 2

Charles K. Muigai
Secretary General

PAYMENTS STRICTLY VIA MPESA PAYBIL NUMBER 793601



PUBLIC AUCTIONS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The registered owner of **LR No. 330/411** located along Dagoretti Lane in Dagoretti Area within Nairobi City County proposes to Renew the change the use from **Residential to Educational (Primary School)** subject to approval by the Nairobi City County Government. Individuals, Institutions, Members of the Public etc. with comments and or objections to the proposal should forward them within **14 days** of this Notice to: -

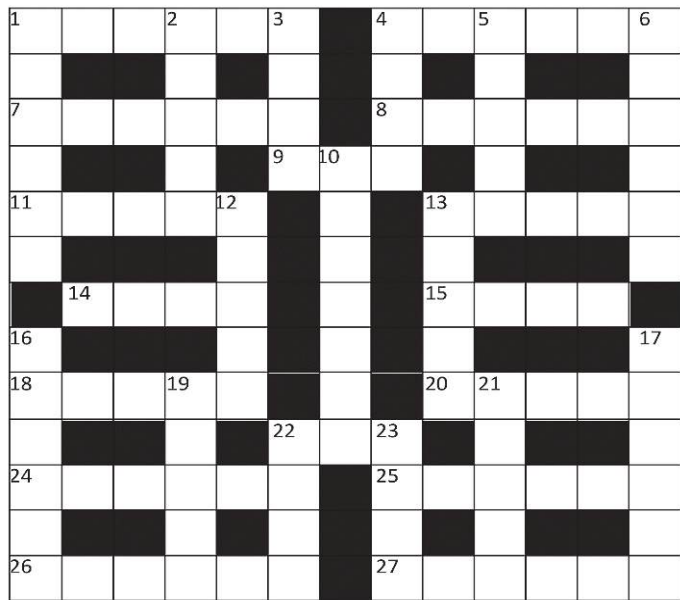
The County Secretary
Nairobi City County
P.O Box 30075-00100
Nairobi
Reg. Planner: Iplan Consult Ltd,
Reg. No. 0191



For more classifieds on our website. Scan this quick response code using your smartphone.

COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD / PUZZLE



DOWN

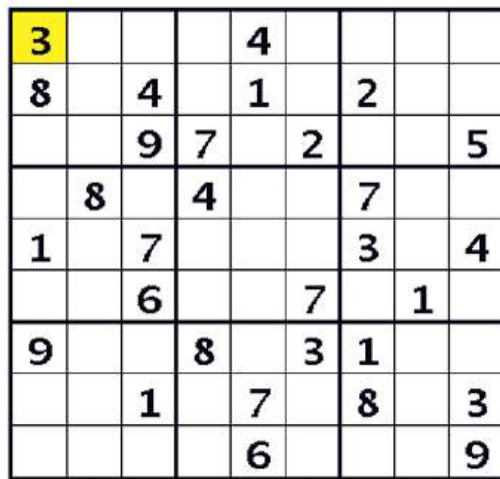
1. Capital city of Taiwan (6)
2. Skeleton that forms the main axis of the body (5)
3. Former Member of Parliament for Women in Kisumu County (4)
4. Capital city East Timor (4)
5. It's a food source for Vitamin B, Useful for cell respiration, proper growth in children (5)
6. Capital city of Niger(6)
10. Freckle (7)
12. The final part of the small intestine (6)
13. The eyes nerve has (sensory) nerve fibers for transmission of impulses to the brain for interpretation (5)
16. Chemical element with atomic mass of 15.999 (6)
17. Capital city of United Kingdom (6)
19. Member of Parliament for Turkana West constituency (5)
21. Constituency in Nandi County (5)
22. Equal in Swahili (4)
23. Primordial giant in Norse myth (4)

ACROSS

1. Capital city of Albania (6)

4. Capital city of Ireland (6)
7. Chemical element with atomic mass of 114.82 (6)
8. Capital city of Angola (6)
9. World famous boxer Mohammad (3)
11. Former Member of Parliament for Tongaren constituency (5)
13. Former Member of Parliament for Kabondo Kasipul constituency (5)
14. Capital city of Maldives (4)
15. Temporary Environmental Protection Order abbr. (4)
18. Vessels that transport water and mineral salts from the soil (5)
20. Capital city of Egypt (5)
22. A legume native to East Asia, widely used for its edible beans(3)
24. Member of Parliament for Embakasi North constituency (6)
25. Capital city of Spain (6)
26. Member of Parliament for Mbooni constituency (6)
27. Dried grape(6)

SUDOKU / SIMPLE

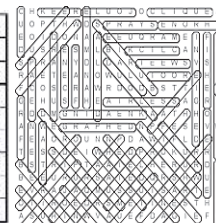


Fill the grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the sub-grids that compose the grid all contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 one time.

Thursday solutions



ACROSS
1 Currency used in Denmark (9)



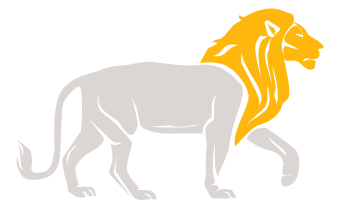
WORD SEARCH

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

M N O O P H C I D N A L E C I I A F L O
I S T A N D A R D B R E D S O S A P B D
S B R A B A K H A L T E K E O L H O E S
A E R S K M T H D R O J F O A P C R P E
K S O B O A A I O T H O L B E H B E A N
I R O R L C T P S H U A E R S H C R I N
M R G G K A S H A U P L C L G N L I N E
O A E N H H C N I P L H E U M A Y H T D
N R E G S M O K A A E W O L U I D S O R
G Y E I N V I Y F R W R Y C S S E R L A
O O R N E I L N O O A M P T U S E D R
L I E R A R L N I H R H R E A L D N E N
I D I U U Z S F T A A E S I N A A H N N
A A A C E T Z A A R T O S Q G D L E B A
N M A R W A R I S H E U L T U N E K U I
M S U F F O L K P E D L R L G A O A R P
O G D N A L T U J I N S A E O Y R R G S
R A N A I S E I R F L N N W D I P T H A
A R A B I A N H O L S T E I N E R S E C
B O R D E R B E L D D A S R S E S C Y R

- AKHALTEKE
- ANDALUSIAN
- APPALOOSA
- ARABIAN
- ARDENNES
- AZTECA
- BARB
- BLACK FOREST
- CASPIAN
- CLYDESDALE
- CRIOLO
- CURLY
- FALABELLA
- FJORD
- FRIESIAN
- GYPSY
- HACKNEY
- HAFLINGER
- HANOVERIAN
- HOLSTEINER
- ICELANDIC
- IRISH SPORT
- JUTLAND
- KATHIAWARI
- LIPIZZANER
- LUSITANO
- MARWARI
- MINIATURE
- MISAKI
- MONGOLIAN
- MORAB
- MORGAN
- MUSTANG
- OLDENBURG
- PAINT
- PERCHERON
- QUARTER
- SADDLEBRED
- SENNER
- SHIRE
- STANDARD-BRED
- SUFFOLK
- THOROUGH-BRED
- TRAKEHNER
- WALER
- WELSH COB

ALL IN THE STARS



LEO

July 23 – August 22

You'd be doing yourself and other people a disservice by not revealing the true scope of your emotions.

VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

You have more internal strength than you reveal to others. There's no need to hide it any longer.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

The energy of today is teaching you to toughen up. Realize that there are important lessons to learn.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

Order others around and delegate tasks for a change. An aggressive approach is what's needed.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

If you decide to go out, be prepared. Know your weaknesses so you can use your energy resources most efficiently.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

A position involving power and authority is opening up, and you're the perfect one for the job, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

War can break out if you aren't careful. Try to maintain the peace. You may need to seek shelter.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

Emotionally speaking, things might get tense for you today as others demonstrate a rather selfish attitude.

ARIES

March 21 – April 20

Strong emotions are the weapons of the day. Everyone knows that you have a strong arsenal in this department.

TAURUS

April 21 – May 21

Don't stop until you succeed. Have confidence in yourself and the way you act around others.

GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

Today, be bold and aggressive. Other people might respond similarly, so if you dish it out, be sure you can take it.

CANCER

June 22 – July 22

Take control of the conversation and accept the mental challenge of trying to win other people over to your side.

ODDLY ENOUGH

Warning after US energy drink cans filled with vodka

BBC/US authorities are warning consumers of Celsius energy drinks to check their cans after some were accidentally filled with vodka.

The US Food & Drug Administration issued the warning for the Astro Vibe Blue Razz edition of the drink. The mix-up came about after a packaging supplier mistakenly shipped empty Celsius cans to the vodka seltzer company High Noon, which filled them with alcohol.

High Noon is also recalling some of its Beach Variety packs which came from the same production line. No illnesses or adverse events have been reported for the impacted products, the USFDA added.

The recall affects two production lots, which the USFDA published on its website. The products were shipped to retailers in Florida, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin, between July 21 and July 23.

The recalled High Noon packs include the retail code and lot codes. The lot codes are lasered on the bottom of cans. "Consumers are advised to dispose of the Celsius Astro Vibe energy drink, Sparkling Blue Razz Edition cans with the impacted lot codes, and not consume the liquid" the USFDA said. High Noon Beach Variety packs with different lot codes are not affected by the recall and are safe to consume, it added.



No illnesses or adverse events have been reported

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



RUGBY

Ooro passes fitness test ahead of this weekend's Prinsloo 7s



George 'Japolo' Ooro / HANDOUT

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

KCB RFC have given Shujaa skipper George 'Japolo' Ooro a clean bill of health for the Prinsloo Sevens slated for this weekend in Nakuru.

Ooro, who recently joined the bankers from Strathmore Leos, limped off with muscle cramps in the knee during their 10-5 win over arch-rivals Kabras RFC in the Driftwood semifinals.

Head coach Dennis Mwanja said Ooro passed the fitness test on Wednesday and is ready and raring to go as the bankers chase back-to-back wins.

"Ooro trained on Wednesday and has seen off the knock and is in the squad for selection. He played a key role in Mombasa, and I am delighted he has been

able to train with the rest of the squad."

Mwanja expects a competitive tournament in Nakuru. "We know the task ahead is not going to be easy, but we are more than ready to take on any opponent. The boys have trained well, and the confidence within the camp is encouraging. We are going all out to win it."

The Thika-Road side has been drawn in Pool 'C' where they face Nondies, Catholic University Monks and Kisumu RFC. Mwanja wants his charges to carry the momentum from Mombasa to Nakuru.

"We are in a good place, but the pool will be tricky. Nondies are a tough team to beat and have improved in the last couple of years, while Catholic University were the surprise package last season

and can't be underestimated alongside Kisumu," said Mwanja.

He added, "We have a target on our back. Everyone will want to beat us, and we have a couple of tweaks which will surprise everyone for the two days in Nakuru."

Mwanja is expected to make minimal changes to the squad that took part in Mombasa. Jenkins Kipruto, Vincent Onyala, Emmanuel Opondo, Festus Shiasi, Elvis Olukusi and Bob Muhati are all expected to travel. Others are Floyd Wabwire, Dominic Sande, Steven Osumba, Ooro, Davies Nyaundi, Michael Wekesa, and Lionel Ajeliti.

The bankers lead the standings with 22 points having secured maximum points from the opening leg.

ATHLETICS



Doris Lemngole competes in the NCAA championships / HANDOUT

VOLLEYBALL

Tata targets top honours as KVF names U20 squad for Cameroon tournament

BY CHARLENE MALWA

KENYA Cup Most Valuable Player (MVP) Marlin 'Tata' Terry believes the national Under-20 women's volleyball team has what it takes to bring home the title during the African Championships set for August 3-12 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Tata, a right attacker for the KCB Women's Volleyball Club, is among the 12 players selected by the U20 technical bench as Kenya readies for the continental assignment.

"The players are friendly, and they train well. I look forward to blending with them," said Tata, who joined the camp this week. "If we carry on like this, we'll bring the cup home."

The squad, named Wednesday at Nyayo National Stadium, has been undergoing residential training at the same venue, with preparations fully supported by the Ministry of Sports and the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K).

The team is scheduled to depart for Yaoundé on Saturday at 9 am aboard Ethiopian Airlines via Lome, Togo.

Tata, who was instrumental in guiding KCB to the Kenya Cup title last month, remains eligible for selection for the senior Malkia Strikers squad heading into the FIVB Women's World Championship in Thailand later this August.

She noted that her experience with the senior national team has given her confidence as she now shifts her focus to supporting the junior squad.

"It's been two days since I joined the juniors, and I've gotten immense support," she said. "I am targeting to bring back a personal award. We've talked with my fellow juniors, and I'll help them where I can. We need to believe in ourselves and all will be well if we put God first."

Kenya Volleyball Federation (FKF) second vice president and U20 team manager Kenneth Tonui confirmed that the squad is in high spirits.

"The team has been training at Nyayo for a while now, and they are good to go. We are looking forward to a better result,"

Tonui said. He added that the team will return to the country on August 12.

Joining Tata in the final squad are opposite attacker Eddah Jepkemei; left attackers Milkah Akinyi, Daisy Jepleting, Mary Nanjala and Daisy Chepkirui; middle blockers Benta Oluoch, Sharon Akinyi, and Patricia Chemutai; setters Sheila Wabuile and Esabella Nafula; and libero Sharon Jepkosgei.

The technical bench is led by head coach Jackline Barasa, assisted by Luka Kariuki. The team physiotherapist is Bala Conceptor, while Kenneth Tonui serves as team manager. Ismail Chege has been appointed head of the delegation.

Marlin Terry / CHARLENE MALWA

LEMNGOLE KEEN TO MAKE TOKYO COUNT

NCAA star hopes to leave a mark on World Championships debut

BY TEDDY MULEI

NATIONAL Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) 3,000m steeplechase champion Doris Lemngole is bullish about making her World Championship and Team Kenya debut count when she lines up for the global extravaganza in Tokyo in September.

The 23-year-old rising star will form part of a formidable Kenyan trio in the water-and-barrier event in Tokyo. She will line up alongside Olympic bronze medallist Faith Cherotich and 2023 World Cross Country junior bronze medalist Pamela Kosgei.

Lemngole earned a coveted slot in team Kenya after placing second in the national trials on July 22, clocking 9:24.69 behind Cherotich, who clocked 9:09.44.

Despite her inexperience at the global stage, Lemngole is bullish about her chances of leaving a mark at the Tokyo showpiece.

"It means a lot to make this team go to Tokyo. I am so happy even though the results were not good at the trials," Lemngole said. Of the trio, only Cherotich has the experi-

ence of flying the nation's flag at the senior world stage.

Cherotich made her senior debut at the 2023 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, where she settled for bronze, clocking 9:00.69 behind Bahrain's Winfred Yavi (8:54.29) and World record holder Beatrice Chepkoech (8:58.98).

She then made a second senior appearance at the 2024 Paris Olympics, yet again winning bronze in 8:55.15 behind Yavi (8:52.76) and Uganda's Peruth Chemutai (8:53.34).

Kosgei has experience at the global stage but in the junior ranks, having placed fifth in 10:06.46 at the 2022 World U-20 championships in Cali, Colombia.

Going into Tokyo, Lemngole will seek to draw inspiration from her performance at the NCAA National Championships on June 14, where she ran a then-world-leading time of 8:58.15 to claim the title.

Americans Lexy Halladay (9:08.68) and Angelina Napoleon (9:16.66) completed the podium in that race.

"I think running 8:58 was good and it told me I was capable of making the World Championships,"

Lemngole added.

Lemngole, based in the USA, had pitched camp at Ngong for two weeks before the national trials to sharpen her talons. She noted that the country's altitude played a major role in her performance.

"I was struggling because of the altitude, but I am still happy."

With a ticket to Tokyo already secured, Lemngole hopes to sharpen her form for her World Championship debut. "I have to prepare very well because we are now going into the World Championships."

"I need to do more workouts and drills because I have to represent my country well," she added.





CAF AFRICAN NATIONS

THE MOMENT WE'VE BEEN

Time for historic kick off as neighbours Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda partner to deliver a tournament for the ages



BY TONY MBALLA
@tonymballa

FROM the vibrant streets of Nairobi to the thunderous avenues of Kampala, and all the way to the warm shores of Dar es Salaam, East Africa is humming with one united rhythm—the sound of football coming home.

For the first time in history, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have joined hands to host the Africa Nations Championship (CHAN), a tournament that celebrates not just talent, but identity. No foreign-based stars. No inflated egos.

Just raw, homegrown brilliance on display—crafted in local leagues, raised in dusty pitches, now set to dazzle on continental turf.

The tournament will burst into life at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Tanzania on Saturday, where the host nation will flex muscles with Burkina Faso in a high-stakes Group 'B' opener, which promises fireworks on and off the pitch.

Kenya, reborn from the ashes of footballing disappointment, is finally ready to welcome the premier biennial continental showpiece. Come Sunday, the 60,000-capacity Moi Stadium, Kasarani, will erupt in colour, chants, and unfiltered joy as the opening whistle pierces the air in the vicious Group 'A' opening encounter pitting Kenya's Harambee Stars against the Leopards of DR Congo. It will not be just the start of a match—it will be the ignition of a dream.

In an age where football is often swallowed by billion-dollar empires and megastar egos, CHAN remains refreshingly raw — a tribute to the local. Since its inception in 2007,

the tournament has become a haven for Africa's unsung heroes who rise from village pitches, city estates, and league fixtures often

ignored by the global spotlight.

And now, for the very first time, the spotlight shifts eastwards. Hosted for the first time across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, the 2024



African Nations Championship (CHAN) promises to be more than just a tournament—it's a regional statement. From the coastal breeze of Dar es Salaam to the roaring terraces of Nyayo Stadium and the electric energy of Kampala, East Africa is ready to showcase its homegrown footballing pride to the continent.

This is the most significant continental football showpiece Kenya has hosted since the 1987 All Africa Games, when the Harambee Stars locked horns with the Pharaohs of Egypt in a thunderous final that ended in heartbreak. Now, nearly four decades later, Kenya stands on the brink once more. And this time, the wind feels different.

THE SILENT PULSE OF THE CONTINENT

While the world fawns over European leagues and televised galácticos, CHAN has quietly grown into Africa's most soulful celebration of local talent.

This biennial tournament allows only players plying their trade in domestic leagues to represent their countries.

"CHAN was born to let Africa speak to itself — in its own tongue, on its own soil," former CAF President Issa Hayatou once remarked. Unlike the Cup of Nations, CHAN doesn't showcase players from the likes of Arsenal, Napoli, or PSG.

NOT JUST MATCHES — MOMENTS OF MEMORY

From the inaugural edition in 2009 in Côte d'Ivoire, to the emotional triumph of Libya in 2014 amidst national chaos, CHAN has provided more than silverware. It has offered healing, hope, and homegrown heroism.

When Ayoub El Kaabi fired Morocco to the title in 2018, few outside North Africa knew his name. By 2021, he had become a household figure — a testament to what CHAN can do.

"Before CHAN, I was just a striker. After it, I became a dream," El Kaabi once said.

In 2023, Senegal — fresh off their AFCON success — clinched CHAN glory too, defeating Algeria on penalties. In doing so, they became only the second country to win both major CAF titles.

A TOURNAMENT FORGED IN FAITH, NOT FINANCES

CHAN has never been immune to turbulence. Kenya,

OFFICIAL STADIUMS



Moi International Sports Centre Kenya



Amaan Stadium - Zanzibar Tanzania



Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium Tanzania



Namboole Stadium Uganda



Nyayo National Stadium Kenya



CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

N WAITING FOR



a goal—one that would echo far beyond the net. Zambia's Singuluma wrote his name into the African football annals by slotting in the first-ever goal of the tournament against the host nation.

In Group A, the hosts—brimming with expectation—fell short. Zambia and Senegal clinched qualification, sending Tanzania and the Elephants home in an early twist of irony. Group B bore a different melody. Ghana and DR Congo emerged triumphant, as Zimbabwe and Libya faded quietly.

The semi-finals? A stage for tension and teeth-gritting drama. Ghana edged Senegal through penalties, while DR Congo saw off Zambia with a clinical performance. The Chipolopolo, though bruised, bowed out with bronze after defeating Senegal in the third-place play-off.

Then came the final. Same stadium. Same sky. Different script. With a performance laced with precision and power, DR Congo blanked Ghana 2-0 and lifted the maiden CHAN trophy—ending a 35-year drought for international silverware. Africa watched. History applauded.

EXPANSION: FROM ABIDJAN'S ECHO TO SUDAN'S STORM

The appetite had grown. From eight nations, the tournament doubled in size by its second edition in 2011—rising like a tide in a continent thirsty for local glory.

Sudan, amid its stirring winds of political upheaval and a pending referendum on Southern independence, opened its arms as host.

Matches unfolded across four cities: Omdurman, Khartoum, Wad Madani, and Port Sudan. A grand theatre set across shifting sands and restless hopes. This was the CHAN of surprises.

Eleven debutants graced the tournament, while seasoned sides like Ghana and Libya returned to test their strength. Qualification had ended months earlier, in June 2010, but now the battle began in earnest.

The group stage danced to an unpredictable rhythm. Cameroon and South Africa, so dominant in early games, were, shockingly, knocked out in the quarters—falling to Angola and Algeria respectively. Meanwhile, Sudan edged out Niger in a nerve-wracking penalty duel, and Tunisia dispatched then-champions DR Congo.

The semi-finals, played on February 22, 2011, brought more grit than glamour. Both fixtures—Tunisia vs Algeria and Sudan vs Angola—ended 1-1 after extra time. Again, penalties. Tunisia won 5-3, Angola 4-2. The hosts, Sudan, still had fire in their lungs—clinching third place with a 1-0 win over Algeria.

And so it was: the final, a rematch of a group-stage draw. Tunisia, appearing in their first CHAN, arrived not just to play—but to claim. And claim they did. A commanding 3-0 win over Angola sealed their coronation. A debut steeped in dominance.

A LEGACY FORGED IN LOCAL FEET

CHAN was never meant to rival the glittering AFCON. It was conceived as a canvas for locally based talent—those who sweat daily in domestic leagues, unknown to European scouts, yet born with fire in their boots.

It is here, in CHAN, that nations rediscovered their soul. That footballers without passports found purpose. That cities like Abidjan and Khartoum pulsed with football's purest hymn.

LOOKING AHEAD: A WOMEN'S CHAN ON THE HORIZON

In line with broader efforts to elevate women's football, CAF has proposed a Women's CHAN — a parallel tournament celebrating locally based female footballers across the continent. It is a natural extension of CHAN's founding ethos: "To honour those who rise not because they left home, but because they stayed."

QUOTES THAT ECHO BEYOND THE PITCH

CHAN allowed Africa to see itself — not in exile, but at home — former CAF president, the late Issa Hayatou

It is the only tournament where I saw myself in every player — Senegal coach Aliou Cissé

The boy I was is proud of the man CHAN made me — Morocco striker, Ayoub El Kaabi

initially set to host the 2018 edition, lost hosting rights due to infrastructural delays.

Yet from the ashes, Morocco rose to step in. Political tensions, such as the strained relationship between Algeria and Morocco in 2023, have also tested the tournament's resilience — but never its relevance.

"CHAN is not a trophy. It's a prayer answered for many," noted Motsepe.

CHAN'S RHYTHM: A CONTINENT IN SIX MOVEMENTS

CAF structures CHAN qualification through six regional zones: North, West A, West B, Central, Central-East, and Southern Africa. Each zone offers its flavour — from the fast-paced flair of West Africa to the structured discipline of the Maghreb.

It is a football tournament, yes — but also a musical, a market, a memory. It is ululations instead of horns, gospel instead of chants, dust instead of pyrotechnics.

"At CHAN, you don't just play. You dance. You testify. You remember where you came from," said Junior Binyam, CAF's communications director.

FROM STADIUMS TO THE STREETS: CHAN'S LASTING IMPACT

For many players, CHAN is not just a career launchpad — it is a life-changing event. Players like Zambia's Given Singuluma, Libya's Mohamed Zaabia, and DR Congo's Elia Meschak used the tournament to rise from anonymity to continental stardom.

For others, it offered a moment of recognition in front of the home crowd — not in foreign boots, but in native breath. The tournament has also bolstered local economies.

Host nations experience tourism boosts, job creation, and infrastructure improvements — all while celebrating domestic leagues often overshadowed by imports.

It's all about local heroes, national colours, pure football, from Abidjan's opening roar to Tunisia's triumphant debut.

INAUGURATION AND COMMENCEMENT: THE DRUM ROLL IN ABIDJAN

It was February 22, 2009, at the grand Félix Houphouët-Boigny Stadium. The air thick with promise, the grass freshly cut and glistening under the Ivorian sun.

The tournament kicked off not with fireworks, but with



1. Harambee Stars goalkeeper Faruk Shikhalo and striker Ryan Ogam during a training session /HANDOUT

2. CAF secretary general Véron Mosengo-Omba, FKF secretary general Harold Ndege, CHAN 2024 LOC chairman Nicholas Musonye and Sports Kenya acting Director General Gabriel Komora during an inspection tour of Nyayo Stadium /HANDOUT

TEAM FACTFILE

GROUP A	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
KENYA	NICKNAME: WILD BEASTS OF BAS-OUBANGUI
NICKNAME: HARAMBEE STARS	APPEARANCES: DEBUT
APPEARANCES: DEBUT	FIFA RANKING: 135
FIFA RANKING: 111	COACH: SEBASTIEN NGATO
COACH: BENNI MCCARTHY	
GROUP C	GROUP C
MOROCCO	UGANDA
NICKNAME: ATLAS LIONS	NICKNAME: THE UGANDA CRANES
APPEARANCES: 5	APPEARANCES: 6
TITLES: 2	LAST APPEARANCE: ALGERIA 2022
FIFA RANKING: 12	FIFA RANKING: 89
COACH: TARIK SEKTIOUI	COACH: MORLEY BYEKWASO & FRED MUHUMUZA
ANGOLA	NIGER
NICKNAME: THE SABLE ANTELOPES	NICKNAME: THE MENA
APPEARANCES: 5	APPEARANCES: 5
LAST APPEARANCE: 2024	BEST PERFORMANCE: FOURTH IN 2022
BEST PERFORMANCE: 2ND PLACE	FIFA RANKING: 122
FIFA RANKING: 87	COACH: HAROUNA DOULA GABDE
COACH: PEDRO GONÇALVES	
DR CONGO	GUINEA
NICKNAME: THE LEOPARDS	NICKNAME: SYLI NATIONAL
APPEARANCES: 7	APPEARANCES: 4
TITLES: 2	BEST PERFORMANCE: 3RD PLACE
FIFA RANKING: 61	FIFA RANKING: 82
COACH: OTIS N'GOMA	COACH: SOULEYMANE CAMARA
ZAMBIA	ALGERIA
NICKNAME: CHIPOLOPOLO	NICKNAME: LES FENNECS
APPEARANCES: 5	APPEARANCES: 3
LAST APPEARANCE: 2020	LAST APPEARANCE: 2022
BEST FINISH: 3RD	BEST PERFORMANCE: FINALISTS (2022)
FIFA RANKING: 88	FIFA RANKING: 36
COACH: AVRAM GRANT	COACH: MADJID BOUGHERRA
CAPTAIN: KABASO CHONGO	
	SOUTH AFRICA
GROUP B	NICKNAME: BAFANA BAFANA
TANZANIA	APPEARANCES: 3
NICKNAME: TAIFA STARS	LAST APPEARANCES: 2014
APPEARANCES: 3	BEST PERFORMANCE: 3RD PLACE
FIFA RANKING: 107	FIFA RANKING: 56
COACH: HEMED 'MOROCCO' SULEIMAN	COACH: MOLEFE NTSEKI
	CAPTAIN: NEO MAEMA
MADAGASCAR	GROUP D
NICKNAME: THE BAREA	SENEGAL
APPEARANCES: 2	NICKNAME: THE LIONS OF TERANGA
BEST PERFORMANCE: 3RD (2022)	APPEARANCES: 4 (2009, 2011, 2022, 2024)
FIFA RANKING: 115	NUMBER OF TITLES: 1 (2022)
COACH: ROMUALD RAKOTONDRABE	FIFA RANKING: 19
MAURITANIA	CONGO
NICKNAME: LES MOURABITOUNES	NICKNAME: THE RED DEVILS
APPEARANCES: 4	APPEARANCES: 5 (2014, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024)
LAST APPEARANCE: ALGERIA 2022	BEST PERFORMANCE: QUARTER-FINALS
BEST PERFORMANCE: QUARTER-FINALS	FIFA RANKING: 110
FIFA RANKING: 110	BEST PERFORMANCE: QUARTERS (2018, 2020)
COACH: ARITZ LOPEZ GARAI	FIFA RANKING: 125
BURKINA FASO	SUDAN
NICKNAME: THE STALLIONS	NICKNAME: FALCONS OF JEDIANE
APPEARANCES: 4	APPEARANCES: 4 (2011, 2018, 2022, 2024)
LAST APPEARANCE: 2024	FIFA RANK: 114
BEST PERFORMANCE: GROUP STAGES	
FIFA RANKING: 63	NIGERIA
COACH: ISSA BALBONE	NICKNAME: SUPER EAGLES
	APPEARANCES: 4
	FIFA RANKING: 43 (JULY 2025)



CAF AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024



MEET KENYA'S CHAN WARRIORS

Coach McCarthy's battle-hardened 25-man squad blending league champions, local legends, and new blood

BY TONY MBALLA

AS Kenya gears up to host its first-ever African Nations Championship (CHAN), head coach Benni McCarthy has named a battle-hardened 25-man squad blending league champions, local legends, and new blood.

With Group 'A' clashes against DR Congo, Angola, Morocco, and Zambia, the Harambee Stars are banking on home advantage and fiery local form to make history.

Here's a full player-by-player breakdown of the squad representing Kenya on home soil.

GOALKEEPERS

Faruk Shikhalo – Bandari

A veteran of the local league and former KCB goalkeeper, Shikhalo brings calmness, composure, and a commanding presence between the sticks.

His experience in CAF competitions and calm under pressure make him a likely starter. Shikhalo has been a consistent performer and was vital in keeping 12 clean sheets for his club last season.

Byrne Omondi – Gor Mahia

Recently signed from Bandari, Omondi was a revelation last season. Known for his cat-like reflexes and ball distribution, his move to Gor Mahia signalled his rising stock.

His performances earned him a spot ahead of several more experienced contenders at the Dockers last season.

Sebastian Wekesa – Kariobangi Sharks

The youngest of the trio, Wekesa has been a standout performer in a struggling Kariobangi Sharks side.

At just 22, his bravery and shot-stopping instincts caught the eye, making him a project for the future and a dependable backup.

DEFENDERS

Siraj Mohammed – Gor Mahia

A gritty and fearless right-back, Siraj joined Gor Mahia from Bandari, where he instantly became a fan favourite.

His marauding runs and tight marking make him one of the most consistent defenders in the country. He's also deadly on the overlap and contributed four assists in the league.

Manzur Suleiman – KCB

Towering and tactically astute, Suleiman was the rock in KCB's backline last season. His aerial presence and comfort on the ball have made him a reliable choice for McCarthy, especially against physically imposing sides.

Abud Omar – Kenya Police

The Harambee Stars captain is one of the most experienced players in the squad. He helped Police clinch their first Kenyan Premier League title last season. His versatility as a left-back and ability to deliver pinpoint crosses provide width and leadership.

Alphonse Omija – Gor Mahia

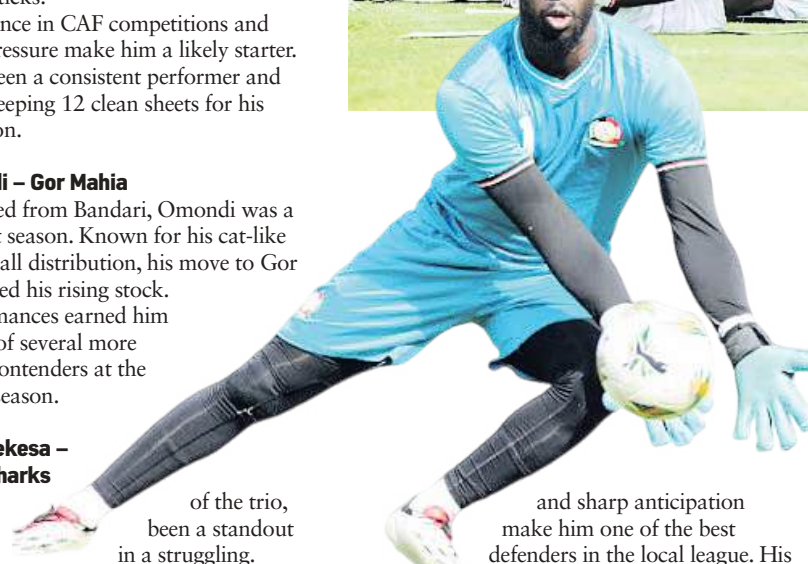
Tall, composed, and technical, Omija was Gor Mahia's defensive anchor. His reading of the game and clean tackling helped Gor finish second in the league. A natural leader at the back, he's likely to partner with Sylvester Owino in central defence.

Sylvester Owino – Gor Mahia

A rock-solid centre-back, Owino's physicality



Harambee Stars during a training session at Police Sacco Stadium /HANDOUT



and sharp anticipation make him one of the best defenders in the local league. His partnership with Omija is one of the best in the country right now.

Mike Kibwage – Tusker

The KPL's most consistent defender over the past few seasons. Kibwage brings tactical intelligence and maturity. His ability to play out from the back adds a dimension to Kenya's buildup.

Daniel Sakari – Kenya Police

Quick, aggressive, and tactically sharp, Sakari was a regular in Police's championship run. His versatility in both right-back and left-back positions gives McCarthy multiple options, especially against fluid opponents like Morocco.

Lewis Bandi – AFC Leopards

One of the most improved players of the season, Bandi's composure and overlapping ability earned him plaudits. He blends speed with tactical awareness and was a key outlet in the Leopards' wing-play system.

Kevin Okumu – KCB

Okumu is a classic utility defender—comfortable at centre-back or full-back. He played nearly every minute of the season for KCB and has developed into a tough-tackling, no-nonsense defender with an eye for long passes.

MIDFIELDERS

Christine Erambo – Tusker

A late inclusion, Erambo is an industrious midfielder with an eye for goal. Tusker's midfield engine, he contributed six goals and

Brian Michira – Shabana

A fan favourite in Kisii, Michira is known for his elegance on the ball. He was Shabana's creative heartbeat, threading passes and driving forward. Despite Shabana's inconsistent campaign, he shone as a bright spot.

Alpha Onyango – Gor Mahia

One of the most technically gifted midfielders in the country, Onyango is Gor Mahia's metronome. His ability to dictate tempo, switch play, and deliver inch-perfect passes makes him a lock-in starter for McCarthy.

Austin Odhiambo – Gor Mahia

A magician with the ball, Odhiambo dazzles with dribbles and vision. He was Gor's top assist provider with 11 and chipped in with crucial goals. He's expected to be the creative spark in midfield.

Ben Stanley – Gor Mahia

Gor's breakout youngster, Ben Stanley, mixes flair and tenacity. He plays box-to-box and covers ground relentlessly. His rise this season earned him both league and fan admiration.

Marvin Nabwire – Kenya Police

One of the unsung heroes of the Police's league-winning side, Nabwire is a



Harambee Stars' Masoud Juma and Ben Stanley during a training session /HANDOUT

five assists and is known for his tireless pressing and leadership in transitions.

midfield destroyer who wins tackles, intercepts passes, and starts counters. His tactical discipline offers balance to the midfield.

FORWARDS

Edward Omondi – Sofapaka

Drafted in after Brian Musa's injury, Omondi is a traditional centre-forward with aerial prowess. He scored nine goals for Sofapaka and is known for his physicality and ability to hold up play.

Boniface Muchiri – Ulinzi Stars

Muchiri's pace and crossing ability make him lethal on the wings. A natural wide forward, he has the experience and finishing touch, scoring eight goals and assisting six times during the season.

David Sakwa – Kakamega Homeboyz

Quick and unpredictable, Sakwa was Homeboyz's livewire, capable of turning defenders inside out. He scored 10 goals and is seen as a wildcard option off the bench.

Ryan Ogam – Tusker

A technically gifted left-footed winger, Ogam is a ball carrier with an eye for goal. He combines speed, trickery, and clinical finishing, and was one of Tusker's standout players in the final third.

Masoud Juma – Migori Youth

A surprise selection, Masoud has experience in the lower leagues but impressed in CHAN pre-tournament friendlies. Known for his finishing and intelligent runs, he offers a poacher's instinct.

Austin Odongo – Shabana

Shabana's talisman and leading scorer, Odongo, is aggressive, sharp, and fearless. His goal tally stood at 12, and he's seen as a future star and vital attacking option.

Felix Oluoch – Gor Mahia

An intelligent forward with excellent movement, Oluoch's incredible performance for Posta Rangers in the preceding season earned him admiration from Gor Mahia, who have offered him a deal.

He's lethal in tight spaces and clinical in front of goal, making him Kenya's biggest goal threat at CHAN.



CAF AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024



TOURNAMENT LIKE NO OTHER

CHAN promises to be more than just a competition — it's a statement to Africa and the world: We are ready



Harambee Stars' players and technical bench huddle after a training session at Police Sacco Stadium/ HANDOUT

BY TONY MBALLA

With less than 48 hours to the opening whistle, the tension in Nairobi is palpable.

Kenyans across the country are holding their breath, anticipating the first kick of the 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN), a tournament celebrating local footballing talent, and for the first time, co-hosted by Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

The Moi Stadium, Kasarani, and the historic Nyayo Stadium have been repolished and refortified—ready to welcome thousands of passionate fans.

But this year's CHAN isn't just about the game. It's about the experience, safety, and the statement Kenya is determined to make as a capable footballing host.

Digital tickets only: Welcome to a new era

To streamline attendance and enhance control, the Ministry of Sports, in collaboration with the Local Organising Committee (LOC), has introduced an all-digital ticketing system.

"There will be no physical tickets accepted at the gates," announced Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya. "All tickets must be purchased online through the official CHAN portal. Payments can be made via M-Pesa or debit/credit card."

Once payment is confirmed, ticket holders

will receive a digital confirmation via SMS or email, which they must present at the gate.

For those without smartphones, cyber cafés have been designated as access points to help fans purchase tickets.

This new approach aims to curb fraud, overcrowding, and scalping—a notorious challenge at previous events.

Security like never before

In anticipation of large crowds and in the spirit of ensuring fan safety, the CHAN security protocol is extensive and non-negotiable. Four layers of screening will be enforced at both stadiums:

Leave the Vuvuzela at home

In a move that may disappoint the most boisterous fans, the LOC has imposed a sweeping ban on items that traditionally define African football energy. Banned items include: Vuvuzelas, megaphones, whistles, and loudspeakers, drums and any noise-making devices, flares, fireworks, and firearms.

Also included are sharp objects or projectiles, political or offensive signage, signal jammers or electronic interference devices, large backpacks and motorcycle helmets. Organisers have also banned takeaway food and drinks, and pets (except service animals).

"If it explodes, offends, blocks, blasts or distracts, it stays outside," read a stern LOC guidance notice.

Also barred is any food from outside, unless it's for babies or individuals with medical conditions.

What fans can bring

Still, organisers are not blind to the joy and culture that football brings. Permitted items include: national flags, team jerseys and mobile phones.

Kenya's big day

The Harambee Stars, under head coach Benni McCarthy, are set to face DR Congo in their CHAN opener on August 3 at Kasarani Stadium. It's a tough start, considering DR Congo's pedigree in African football—but the home support could make all the difference.

"We are focused. The boys are fired up," McCarthy told journalists after the final training session. "This is

a rare opportunity to play in front of our people. We won't waste it."

McCarthy's final 25-man squad includes some of the FKF Premier League's standout names, including players from title winners Kenya Police FC and second-place finishers Gor Mahia.

Group A: The Group of fire

Kenya is pooled in Group A, alongside DR Congo, Morocco, Zambia and Angola.

Stadium upgrades: What's new at Kasarani and Nyayo?

The Ministry of Sports confirmed that both stadiums have undergone crucial upgrades, including refurbished turf and drainage, improved seating and signage, enhanced media and broadcasting infrastructure, modernised VAR rooms and match officiating technology. The government also expanded parking and fan holding zones. "We've spent months preparing, and the results are clear," said Principal Secretary for Sports Elijah Mwangi. "This is not just about football—it's about Kenya on the continental map."

★ OVERVIEW

Tournament: African Nations Championship (CHAN)

Dates: August 2 – 30

Hosts: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania

Kenya's opener: August 3 vs DR Congo

Venues (Kenya): Nyayo Stadium and Moi Stadium, Kasarani



Stars' Daniel Sakari and Ryan Ogam during training / HANDOUT



SPORTS LOCAL

CHAN CUP

A WAR OF WORDS

McCarthy and N'Goma banter ahead of Stars opener match against DR Congo



BY TONY MBALLA

DR CONGO head coach Otis N'Goma has vowed to unleash a full-force assault on Harambee Stars in Sunday's CHAN 2024 opener, while Kenya's Benni McCarthy remains defiant ahead of the sold-out showdown at Moi Stadium, Kasarani.

The battle lines are drawn, and the first shots have already been fired—verbally. N'Goma warned that his team will not hold back when they face CHAN debutants Kenya in the eagerly-awaited Group A opener.

Arriving in Nairobi on Thursday morning aboard Air Tanzania, the Leopards touched down with quiet confidence and the swagger of a team aiming to claim their third African Nations Championship (CHAN) crown. For N'Goma, it's more than just a group match—it's a statement of intent.

"We feel excited for the warm welcome that we have received at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport," N'Goma said.

"We had a good time in Tanzania preparing for this great tournament. Our players are in good condition and ready for the task ahead."

Kenya should expect a war. "It's going to be a fierce and tactical battle. We've come here with a mission—to take this title back home. We respect the hosts, but we are not here to play

nice," he said.

DR Congo's pedigree in this competition is not to be taken lightly.

They were champions in 2009 and 2016, and this year marks their seventh appearance in the continental tournament that exclusively features locally-based players.

Their last title came in Rwanda, where they crushed Mali 3-0 in the final.

Now, with a refreshed squad and the same hunger, the Leopards believe they can repeat history in East Africa once more.

Their path to Nairobi wasn't smooth.

After a 1-1 away draw against Chad in the qualifiers, they rallied to produce a resounding 3-1 victory at home, proof of their grit and quality

under pressure.

Group A, where they've been drawn, is no easy route.

Alongside hosts Kenya, the group features 2018 and 2020 cham-

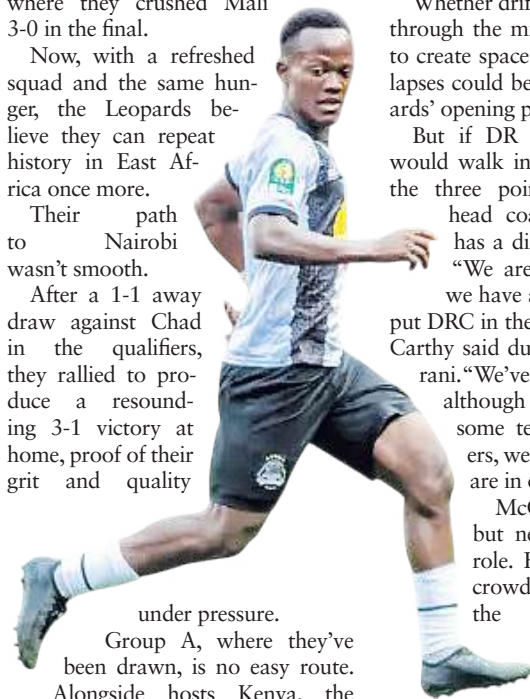
pions Morocco, Zambia, and Angola—teams rich in tradition and talent.

All eyes will be on Oscar Kabwit, the dynamic forward from TP Mazembe, who is expected to lead the Congolese line. Kabwit brings versatility, strength, and a goal scorer's instinct—qualities that could spell danger for Kenya's backline.

Whether drifting wide or operating through the middle, Kabwit's ability to create space and exploit defensive lapses could be pivotal for the Leopards' opening performance.

But if DR Congo thought they would walk into Kasarani and take the three points, Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy has a different script in mind. "We are ready for them and we have a good squad that can put DRC in their rightful place," McCarthy said during training at Kasarani. "We've studied the team, and although I believe they have some technically adept players, we will prove to them we are in our backyard."

McCarthy insists that debut nerves will not play a role. He believes the home crowd—expected to fill the 60,000-seater stadium—will give his players an edge.



DR Congo head coach Otis N'Goma and Kenya's Benni McCarthy /HANDOUT

FKF president Hussein Mohamed and SportPesa CEO Ronald Karauri display a dummy cheque /HANDOUT

FOOTBALL

SportPesa seals Sh1.12bn deal with FKF in historic 10-year league sponsorship

BY TONY MBALLA

ONLINE betting giant SportPesa has returned to the Kenyan football scene in a big way, committing Sh1.12 billion in a decade-long partnership with Football Kenya Federation (FKF) to secure exclusive title rights to Kenya's top-tier league from the 2025/26 season.

The announcement was made at a colourful unveiling ceremony in Nairobi, with SportPesa CEO Ronald Karauri describing the deal as a bold step toward rebuilding the sport's lost glory.

"We are thrilled to announce our partnership with the FKF, building on the success we achieved together in the past," said Karauri. "Football in Kenya can reclaim its lost glory, and we are starting this journey today. Over the years, we will steadily make great progress and strides."

The agreement marks SportPesa's return to football sponsorship after a previous fruitful run between July 2015 and November 2019, a period that saw unmatched growth and visibility for Kenyan football. "In the yesteryears, we have seen our leagues at their best. Nothing stops us from getting there once again," added Karauri. "I believe some of our top talents across various sporting disciplines are part of Kenya's exports to the world."

Karauri emphasised that the journey ahead was a collaborative one, highlighting the need for unity among stakeholders. "We are at the rebuilding phase. With our strong belief in winning partnerships, we will not walk this journey alone," he said.

"Together with FKF, the football clubs and the entire football community, including the fans, we aim to work closely to understand the challenges, find solutions and get back to where we belong."

While acknowledging the league's prolonged absence of a title partner, Karauri called on other corporate players to follow SportPesa's lead.

FKF President Hussein Mohammed hailed the sponsorship as a major turning point for Kenyan football.

"A transformative chapter begins for Kenyan football, and we extend our gratitude to SportPesa for their belief in our vision through this partnership. After enduring challenges in attracting private sector backing, SportPesa's renewed faith signals a turning point for Kenyan football's future."

He added that the federation is committed to ensuring the partnership yields maximum benefits. "FKF sees this partnership as a crucial advancement in attracting more collaborations. We are resolutely committed to upholding the confidence you've placed in our hands as we look forward towards a long-lasting partnership."



Kwanthanze in action against Bishop Sulumeti/ HANDOUT

Champions Kwanthanze, Kesogon Mixed storm semi-finals

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

DEFENDING national girls' volleyball champions Kwanthanze and East Africa champions Kesogon Mixed stormed the semi-finals as the National Term Two Games entered the third day in Kakamega yesterday.

Kwanthanze beat Bishop Sulumeti in straight sets of 25-19, 25-21, 25-13 to finish top of their group, while Kesogon beat Eldas 3-0 (25-13, 25-16, 25-5) to make the last four.

Kwanthanze play Nairobi's Soweto Academy in the semis

while Kesogon face Western region's Bishop Sulumeti today at Masinde Murilo. In the boys' category, defending champions Cheptil will play debutants Mwaluphamba from Kwale, while former champions Malava take on Nyanza's Gogo Mixed.

Cheptil outclassed Kambaa 3-0 (25-14, 25-12, 25-12, 25-25-14) while Malava came from two sets down to beat Mwaluphamba 3-2 (15-25, 12-25, 25-12, 25-18, 15-15) in an entertaining game. Gogo, coached by their principal Tom Achila, saw off Furaha 3-0 (25-19, 25-10, 25-19).

In girls' football, defending champions Butere maintained their 100 per cent record after defeating Ruiru 3-0 to book a semi-final date with Nyanza region champions Kobala. Kobala sailed to the semis after a 3-0 win over Mwamambeyu.

Kobala team manager Julius Aming'a said, despite being underdogs, they are ready for Butere. "They are defending champions, but that will not count for anything," said Aming'a. In the second semi-final, Western giants Madira play Rift Valley's Nasokol. Madira stormed to the semis after

a 2-1 win over Dagoretti Mixed while Nasokol battled to a 1-1 draw with Dr Charles.

In boys' football, favourites St Joseph's, Kitale, Musingu and Nyanza champions Agai Mixed all booked semi-final slots. St Joseph's Kitale completed their pool games when they edged Kirangari 3-1, while Musingu narrowly beat Agai 1-0. Defending champs Highway defeated Serani 2-0.

St Joseph's Kitale play Agai Mixed while Musingu's Scorpions have a date with either defending champions Highway or Kirangari.

Tottenham fans concerned at clubs failure to bring in fresh talent as new season looms

SPURS LOSE OUT ON SIGNINGS

TOTTENHAM Hotspur supporters are concerned at the lack of movement in bringing in fresh players to enable new coach Thomas Frank to improve on the club's 17th-place finish last season.

Tottenham spent £55million on Mohammed Kudus from West Ham United and £5million on Kota Takai from Kawasaki Frontale. Takai was injured in training and has missed pre-season games.

Tottenham had hoped to announce the arrival of Morgan Gibbs-White for £60million, and they thought they had triggered his release clause. However, Nottingham Forest shut down communications and threatened legal action over what they considered an illegal approach. 25-year-old Gibbs-White has now signed a new contract with Forest. Frank saw the England international as the perfect No.10 in his system.

Spurs are falling behind in strengthening their team with only two weeks to go before the start of the season. Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City and Manchester United have all made considerable strides in improving their squads in the summer transfer window.

Liverpool have signed four new players at £269million, while Chelsea have brought in six new faces for around £212million. Arsenal have made an impressive six signings after eventually capturing Viktor Gyokeres, which takes their spending to around £200million.

Manchester United have written cheques for £133million on three new signings — Bryan Mbeumo, Diego Leon and Matheus Cunha. Man City have brought in five new faces for about £127million — Rayan Cherki, Tijjani Reijnders, Rayan Ait-Nouri, Marcus Bettinelli and Sverre Nypan.

ODEGAARD AND GYOKERES SWAP MESSAGES

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard sent new signing Viktor Gyokeres a friendly message as he flew out to join his new teammates in Singapore. He said: "If there's anything you need or any way I can help, just give me a shout."

"Some assists, please, would be nice," responded Gyokeres instantly.

Odegaard continued: "Looking forward to working together and sharing success in the season ahead. All the best, Martin."

Gyokeres replied: "Very nice. The only thing I need are some assists!"

WHAT DOES GYOKERES BRING TO ARSENAL?

Viktor Gyokeres joins Arsenal with a big reputation...similar to when Erling Haaland arrived at Manchester City — a prolific goalscorer who can more than hold his own against defenders in the Liam Delap or Luis Diaz style.

I have spent time this week talking to Gyokeres' previous club, Sporting of Portugal and my contacts who are on tour with the Gunners in Singapore. What will Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta gain from having the Swede upfront?

He is an intelligent player who



Tottenham Hotspur manager Thomas Frank /HANDOUT

BY DAVID BILLINGTON

FOOTBALL GOSSIP



plots his moves carefully, running in from behind defenders, using the channels and always on his mind is shooting at goal and he can strike from anywhere along the front line. He likes to move out into wide spaces, win the ball and has the confidence in his own ability to move forward, taking midfielders and forwards with him.

He is not a Haaland-type of goal poacher and doesn't sit around waiting for crosses into the penalty box, which he could attack... receiving crosses from the wing is not his strength. However, he doesn't drop too deep either and, more often than not, will be in the right space to receive a pass from Martin Odegaard and Declan Rice.

Despite his record of 97 goals across the last two seasons, he will not find it easy to penetrate Premier League defences. I keep mentally comparing him with Delap and Haaland and that is after talking to his teammates, coaches and staff. He is powerful, his build is strong, he shoots with power, is fast and can spin off defenders. There is no doubt in my mind that Arteta has brought in a player who can improve the Gunners and, given that their first three games include Manchester United and Liverpool, we should get a chance to see how he responds to his new challenge.

With Odegaard, Rice, Bukayo Saka and Gyokeres all in the team, Arsenal fans have much to look forward to and feel positive about.

XHAKA HEADS TO THE STADIUM OF LIGHT

In a major embarrassment to former Manchester United coach Erik Ten Hag, Granit Xhaka is likely heading back to the Premier League. Ten Hag insisted that the midfielder would not leave Bayer Leverkusen.

However, reports reaching me indicate that Sunderland have agreed a £17million fee with the German club and Xhaka has agreed terms on a three-year contract to take him to the Stadium of Light. Initially,

Leverkusen turned down the Black Cat's offer but coach Regis Le Bris is so convinced that the ex-Arsenal star can make a big difference to his squad that they upped their original offer and the deal was agreed.

RAYA AND ARRIZABALAGA — WHO IS NO. 1 AT ARSENAL?

After the arrival of Kepa Arrizabalaga at the Emirates Stadium, David Raya sought assurances from coach Mikel Arteta that he would remain as the Gunners' No. 1 goalkeeper.

Raya has been a constant between the posts for two seasons since arriving from Brentford in a £27million deal. However, Arteta refused to confirm his No 1 status with Arrizabalaga arriving for £5million from Chelsea. He intends to select his goalkeeper on a week-to-week basis, depending on who impresses in training.

Raya missed only three games of Arsenal's 58 matches last season but played only the first 45 minutes of last week's 1-0 win against AC Milan in Singapore. Kepa came on for the second half and saved three penalties in a pre-arranged shoot-out.

Raya said of Kepa: "We are friends. We have a healthy relationship. We have welcomed him with open arms. He is a top guy. His arrival will raise all our standards, including his. That will benefit the team."

UNITED STILL WANT FRESH TALENT BUT MUST BALANCE BOOKS

Manchester United have been told they must sell two players to avoid breaking the Premier League's Profit and Sustainability Rules (PSR) for the 2025/26 season.

Fans have pushed for new talent to aid coach Ruben Amorim in his quest to give United a dramatic improvement after last season's disappointing performance.

Despite owner Sir James Ratcliffe cutting through the club with a chainsaw approach, as he tries to save money, even he recognised that fresh talent is the only way forward.

It has been difficult attracting top players because United failed to secure Champions League football for this coming season. However, they have signed Bryan Mbeumo, Diego Leon and Matheus Cunha and Amorim says they will make a considerable difference to the team.

Marcus Rashford has completed his loan move to Barcelona, which leaves Alejandro Garnacho, Antony, Tyrell Malacia and Jadon Sancho to be sold. All have told United they want to move out.

Their wages add up to a staggering £29million per year. Amorim said if they are not sold before the start of the season, he is willing to work with them and bring them back into the squad, but, ideally, Ratcliffe wants to ship them out.

BRENTFORD NEED TO REPLACE MBUEMO

I genuinely fear for Brentford this season after losing captain Christian Noorgard, Bryan Mbeumo and possibly Yoane Wissa. The trio scored most of Brentford's goals last season. First team goalkeeper Mark Flekken has joined Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga.

Premier League rookie coach Keith Andrews, who has replaced Thomas Frank, will find it difficult to match up

to most of the strong defences at the top level. One solution is to quickly buy French club Metz forward Idrissa Gueye. However, the 18-year-old is being stalked by Borussia Dortmund, Manchester United and Burnley. United can only offer the Senegalese a future as a long-term project, whereas he could play immediately if he joins either Brentford or Burnley.

Brentford are a much weaker team than last time around. Frank will be missed as he takes up the challenge at Spurs, where he is joined by assistant first-team coach Justin Cochrane, head of first-team performance Chris Haslam and first-team analyst Joe Newton. Brentford have taken a huge step backwards.

MAINOO MUST UP HIS GAME TO SURVIVE AT OLD TRAFFORD

Kobbie Mainoo has been spoken to by Ruben Amorim after the coach changed Manchester United's defence to a back three and suddenly Kobbie was struggling to repeat his excellent season two years ago.

The midfielder is only 20 and is still remembered for his winning goal in the FA Cup victory over derby rivals Manchester City. That earned him a place in the England Euro 2024 team, but has since endured a disappointing run.

Amorim said: "Kobbie can play in both positions in midfield and last year he played more in front. His perfect position is to play near to the ball and always with the ball. He is a tremendous talent, but he must increase his rhythm and pace and I am always telling him that in training. The point is that this coming season we average just one game per week and the competition for places is going to be huge."

UNWANTED STERLING STILL COLLECTS £325K-A-WEEK

Was it so long ago that Raheem Sterling was one of the most cherished, admired and exciting players in the Premier League and for the England national squad? It seems like a lifetime ago.

The attacking forward is back at Chelsea, following his failed loan to Arsenal, working with a group of players who are unwanted by coach Enzo Maresca, including Alex Disasi and Ben Chilwell. Djordje Petrovic was part of the group before he

joined Bournemouth, while Joao Felix has joined the Saudi Pro League's Al Nassr. The club's officials are working intensely to do deals to move them all out of Stamford Bridge.

Sterling is still on his £325k weekly salary and will be for two more years if the club doesn't sell him. There seems to be a strange aura around Sterling, although the player is relaxed about his situation.

But with all that money coming in each week, I guess he can afford to keep calm. However, footballers want to play and he has little chance of doing that at Stamford Bridge.

Sterling does not want to move away from London. His family is settled there and enjoys life in the capital city. His son, Thiago, is in the Arsenal Under-9s academy, which Sterling is proud of.



FEATURE

Historic kick off as East Africa hope to deliver one for the ages

SEE PAGES 34-35



FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 1-3, 2025

starSPORT

'Proud moment' as Kenyan trio picked to officiate at CHAN 2024



Stephen Yiembe, Samuel Kuria. Dickens Mimisa/FILE

BY TONY MBALLA

THREE Kenyan referees will officiate in the 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN), offering a significant milestone for local officiating standards. CAF Picks 70 referees for prestigious tournament

The Confederation of African Football (Caf) has released the official list of 70 match officials selected to

oversee the Caf CHAN 2024 tournament, set to take place from August 2 to 30, 2025, in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Among the selected officials are Dickens Mimisa (centre referee), Stephen Yiembe (Video Match Official), and Samuel Kuria (assistant referee), who will fly the Kenyan flag at the much-anticipated championship.

"This is a proud moment for Kenya. It speaks volumes about the growth and recognition of our match officials at the continental level," said a Football Kenya Federation (FKF) official.

Mimisa's inclusion places him alongside top-tier referees such as Egypt's Ahmed Nagy, Senegal's Diouf Adalbert, and Morocco's Bouchra Karboubi, one of the leading women officials on the list.

★ FOOTBALL

Bunge FC rally Kenyans behind Harambee Stars

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

PARLIAMENT Football Club (Bunge FC) players have promised to give Harambee Stars ahead of the Africa Nations Championships (CHAN), which kicks off this weekend.

The MPs, who paid the team a courtesy call during training, also promised to attend all their games. Kenya will open their campaign against two-time winners DR Congo on Sunday at Moi International Sports Centre (MISC), Kasarani.

Led by team captain Otiende Amolo, the delegation of MPs offered words of encouragement, support, and praise to the Stars ahead of the kick-off. "We have come here first as Members of the Bunge FC, and second as MPs to encourage the Stars and their technical team," said Amolo.

They emphasised the need to ensure that the team is sufficiently prepared to undertake the assignment ahead. Bunge FC captain assured of their full support in sealing any loopholes that may negatively affect the team's performance. "If anything is pending, we will push as MPs to make sure our country delivers both as host and team. We also intend to attend all their games in Kenya and beyond in solidarity," said Amollo.

Amollo handed over Sh1 million from the Bunge FC members to the team, and the MPs reassured the Stars of their unwavering support and commitment to uplift them in this important endeavour.

"We are here to encourage you and to ensure that everything is in place as you prepare for this important task," Wanami Wamboka MP (Bumula).

FOOTBALL

'FLYING START IS KEY'



Harambee Stars in training /HANDOUT

BY TEDDY MULEI

HARAMBEE Stars head coach Benni McCarthy has underlined the importance of a flying start as Kenya prepares to open their Africa Nations Championship (Chan) campaign against two-time winners DR Congo on Sunday.

Drawn in arguably the group of death, Stars will also battle the Atlas Lions of Morocco, who have been to four CHANs (2014, 2016, 2018, 2020), winning it twice (2018, 2020), the Sable Antelopes of Angola, who have been to four CHANs (2011, 2016, 2018, 2022) and the Chipolopolo of Zambia, who played at the 2009, 2016, 2018 and 2020 editions.

Stars' second match will be against Angola on August 7, Morocco three days later and con-

McCarthy believes DR Congo opener will set the pace for Stars'

clude their preliminaries against Zambia on August 17.

McCarthy views the DR Congo as a platform to set the team up for the rest of the tournament.

"We are in a group of death, so if we can get good results against DR Congo, who have won this tournament twice, it will give us more breathing room for Angola and Morocco," McCarthy said.

"Whether it's CHAN, a World Cup qualifier, or any major tournament, how good you start sets you up for a good tournament."

Still, the former South Africa international was quick to caution against panic should results not go Kenya's way on matchday one.

"But it's not the end of the

world if we don't have a good opening game," he said.

"Argentina, for example, in the World Cup Qatar, they lost against Saudi Arabia in their first match, which they needed to win, but they went on to win the World Cup. So losing the first match is not the end of the world."

Originally scheduled for February, the tournament was postponed due to infrastructure delays in co-hosting nations Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. McCarthy views the disruption as a blessing in disguise.

"We were very ready for CHAN six months ago, but when it was delayed, a lot of players

had to go back to their teams and play league football," he said.

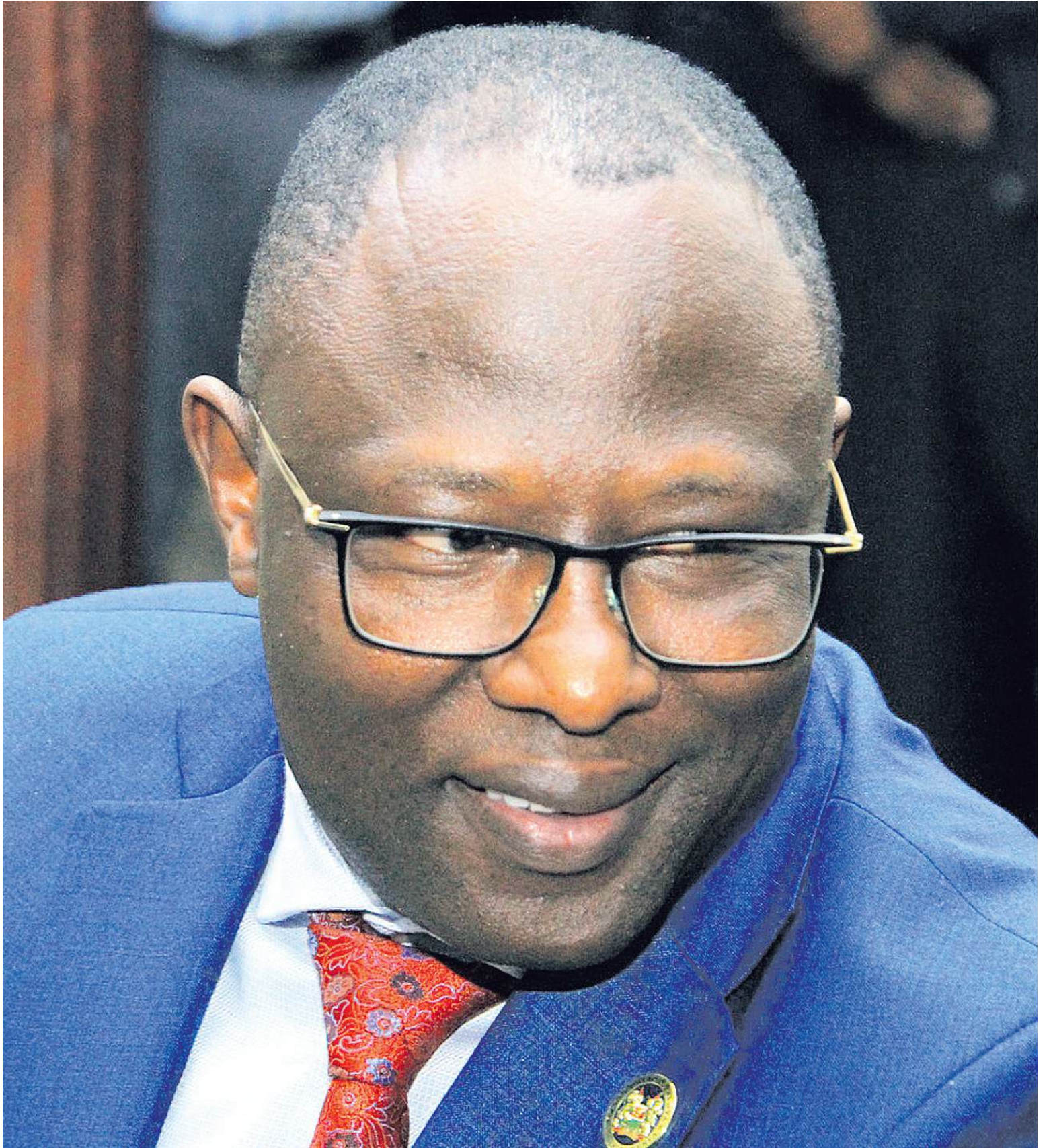
"We have had almost a month together, which was enough for us to rekindle the chemistry, give everyone a chance to prepare and get better, and I can say we are now ready."

He will use the remaining days to fine-tune tactics and solidify their approach.

"We still have two more days to tweak some things, prepare for (DR) Congo," he observed. "We are confident the boys will be ready to give a good performance that the Kenyan faithful deserve. We will make it our quest to have one of our best matches on Sunday."



Erasta



Practicality vs legality

IEBC chairman Erastus Etheke is under immense pressure as politicians clash over boundaries amid preparations for at least 23 by-elections. Will the commission balance competing interests?



COVER STORY DEEPLY EMOTIVE

Fresh dilemma for IEBC chief as politicians clash over boundaries

This comes even as new commissioners prepare for at least 23 by-elections and the 2027 general election, just 24 months away



JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04
Political writer

The electoral agency is facing a critical dilemma – balancing the practical feasibility of conducting a boundary delimitation exercise with the legal implications of failing to do so.

This comes as the newly appointed commissioners of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission prepare for at least 23 by-elections and the 2027 general election, now just 24 months away.

This test comes amid mounting political tensions as leaders from Kenya Kwanza and the opposition are sharply divided over whether the IEBC should undertake the bound-

ary review ahead of the polls.

Constitutional timelines for boundary delimitation lapsed in March last year due to the absence of IEBC commissioners, throwing the country into what some have termed a constitutional crisis.

Constitution Articles 84(4)(c) and 89 mandate the electoral commission to review constituency boundaries every eight years, concluding reviews at least 12 months before a general election for Members of Parliament.

The last delimitation or fixing of the boundaries was carried out in 2012.

Newly appointed IEBC chairman Erastus Ethekeon, whose team is still undergoing orientation, said the commission is yet to take a position on the issue as it continues to gather facts.

“We are barely 14 days into office. We need to study the situation thoroughly and make decisions based on concrete information and well-laid plans,” Ethekeon told the Star.

He said the commission would keep the public informed at every stage of the process, once a decision is reached.

At the heart of the debate is whether the remaining two years

before the next general election are sufficient for such a complex and politically sensitive exercise.

It can benefit some politicians and parties and set back others; it can also split some communities and clans, merge constituencies or hive off sections of them. The number of constituencies is fixed by the constitution at 290, but their composition could change.

Boundary delimitation is a deeply emotive process demanding extensive consultations, transparency and public participation to achieve consensus.

Legal experts warn that failure to delimit boundaries could expose the 2027 election to legal challenges. Lawsuits could include petitions seeking to nullify the results on grounds the commission violated the constitutional right to fair rep-

Milimani law courts /FILE



“Boundary review cannot be done before the next election. There is a problem, but it will have to be resolved either by Parliament or the courts,” Murugara told the Star.

He said the review would require significant resources – both time and funding – which are not feasible within limitations of the current electoral calendar.

“As far as delimitation of boundaries is concerned, we have not embarked on that as a committee. We are on the electoral pathway to ensure readiness for 2027,” Murugara said.

Opposition legislators, however, rejected the notion that the commission has completely run out of time for the delimitation.

Makueni Senator Dan Maanzo – a close ally of Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka – and Gatanga MP Edward Muriu – an ally of Gachagua – warned that the commission would be treading on dangerous ground if it fails to review the boundaries, practicalities notwithstanding. Both lawmakers are lawyers.

Maanzo said while the commission might be pressed for time, boundary review does not necessarily entail altering boundaries or creating new constituencies.

“We did not, and we do not expect the IEBC to create new constituencies beyond the 290 provided for in the Constitution,” the senator said.

The veteran lawmaker said the review also involves solving boundary disputes and realigning overlapping polling stations, among other issues.

“The IEBC can still do the review. They can check whether there are problems that can be solved. They cannot add the number of constituencies because that would require a referendum [to change the Constitution],” he said.

The Wiper legislator added, “We might have small issues like overlapping polling stations and small boundary disputes, which they can resolve.”

Muriu warned that the 2027 polls risk being nullified should the IEBC fail to undertake the crucial exercise.

The MP said political rights and the right to fair representation is



EDWARD MURIU

Constituencies cannot change. They remain at 290. What will happen, for example, in Murang’a, where there are two protected constituencies, Kangema and Mathioya

enshrined in the constitution and forms a strong basis for annulling elections.

“The most important thing is that by the time of the 2027 elections, will there be fair representation of every citizen in this country?” he said. “If not, then there will be a transgression of justice, and that can be one of the grounds for petitions in the upcoming election.”

Muriu said the purpose of delimiting boundaries is to provide fair representation, based on the scientific ratios outlined in the constitution.

“If we proceed to the next election without delimitation, there will definitely be unfairness and a violation of the constitution in terms of ensuring everyone is fairly represented,” he said.

“Constituencies cannot change. They remain at 290. What will happen, for example, in Murang’a, where there are two protected constituencies, Kangema and Mathioya. They have fewer people than what is specified in the constitution.”

“The neighbouring constituency of Kiharu has close to 200,000 registered voters. What will happen is that part of Kiharu will be hived off to join Mathioya, and another part

to join Kangema, to achieve the representation mandated by the constitution. That way, there will be fair representation.”

However, he said boundary review is a sensitive matter that requires proper community engagement.

“If you move this clan from this area to another, it will have serious implications. Do they want to move? Where people vote by clan, what will happen?” he asked.

In the last review, at least 26 constituencies were protected, although they did not meet the constitutional population threshold.

The constituencies are Tetu, Ndaragwa, Mukurweini, Othaya, Kangema, Bura, Galore, Isiolo South, Kilome, Laisamis, North Horr, Saku, Mbeere North, Lamu East and Lamu West.

Other constituencies that could lose their status are Mvita, Mwatate, Wundanyi, Voi, Mathioya, Samburu East, Marakwet East, Keiyo North, Mogotio, Vihiga, and Budalang’i.

The new review would either scrap or merge them to meet the required number of 290.

In 2021, the IEBC increased the population threshold from 133,000 to 164,015, further endangering the less populous constituencies, as they would have ceased to exist.

The population quota is arrived at by dividing the national population of 47.5 million by 290 constituencies, the number stipulated in the constitution. In February, IEBC chief executive Hussein Marjan ruled out the delimitation before 2027.

Marjan said the agency would be time-constrained to meet the constitutional deadlines for the process. “Even when the commissioners join in June and those timelines remain, will time be sufficient to complete the process? My estimate is no. It will be very difficult for the commission to work with these timelines,” Marjan said in a television interview.

“Commissioners are supposed to oversee the processes in the field for purposes of public participation, which requires them to go to the 290 constituencies. Even if they are to go once to each constituency, we are already going beyond one year.”

representation. To resolve the impasse, the IEBC has already sought an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court. It asks whether it can legally proceed with delimitation, despite missing the constitutional deadline.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua’s Democracy for the Citizens Party

has applied to be enjoined in the case.

“We have requested guidance on whether the commission can lawfully proceed with the boundary delimitation despite the lapse in the constitutional timeline,” Ethe-kon said.

He emphasised that once the Supreme Court renders its advisory, the commission will engage relevant stakeholders – including the public – to determine the most appropriate way forward.

Meanwhile, in Parliament, the National Assembly’s Justice and Legal Affairs Committee – tasked with resolving legal uncertainties such as this – has ruled out the boundary review before the 2027 polls.

JLAC chairman George Murugara, a close ally of President William Ruto, said the commission should now focus on preparing for the next polls.



Gatanga MP Edward Muriu



Makueni Senator Dan Maanzo



Justice and Legal committee chairman George Murugara

COLUMN **LOST AND MUDDLED?**

Raila, ODM face stark realities in tricky pre-election period

COLLINS AJUOK

@TheStarKenya

The writer is a political commentator

On Tuesday last week, ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna went on prime-time TV and did what Kenyans love to refer to as “burning the school with all certificates inside”. You didn’t need to wait until the end of the interview to know that trouble would be coming. In fact, even before trouble found the right door to knock on, the interview trended atop most Kenyan media conversations, mainstream and social, for a good three days. The punch lines from were so many that anyone asking, “Did he just say that?” may have done so for the entire duration of the interview.

Predictably, the ODM faction that finds warmth in the comfortable embrace of the broad-based government was utterly enraged. Party leader Raila Odinga was then visiting Nigeria, and his faction waited anxiously for him to return and read the riot act to his SG. But as fate would have it, the next public ODM function happened to be last Friday in Kakamega county, in Sifuna’s native Western region, which also happened to be the first time since the interview that the party leader and his SG were sharing a podium.

To be fair, no one really expected the ODM-In-Government faction to go after Sifuna while in Western. But that was only as far as it extended the grace of restraint. Once out of Western, where Raila had voiced support for his SG, the knives were back out. The ODM Central Committee, the party’s top management organ, met on Tuesday this week to deliberate on the issues. The consensus on the political street is that fireworks are expected.

But if you put aside the tone displayed by Sifuna during his TV interviews, at public rallies and in the Senate, you will begin to understand the frustration expressed by many ordinary party members over the direction taken by their movement. Make no mistake: of all ODM bases, the broad-based arrangement only appears popular in its Luo Nyanza backyard. And mostly because elected leaders there have taken to fashioning co-operation with President Ruto as the genesis of newfound state largesse supposedly flowing to the region.

Outside Luoland, as with most parts of Kenya, the disenchantment with Ruto and the Kenya Kwanza regime has now become a twin to the disillusionment within ODM circles about the confusion over the future of their party.

UNLIKE FORD KENYA IN 1994 AND THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT, ODM HAS GROWN PROPER STRUCTURES AND NETWORKS THAT CAN EASILY OVERSEE A PROPER TRANSITION POST-RAILA. THESE NETWORKS, IN THEIR LEADERS’ WISDOM, MUST UNDERSTAND THAT ODM’S SURVIVAL AFTER RAILA WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON RETAINING ITS NON-LUO POLITICAL BASE



Days before Sifuna’s interview, former PM Raila himself had been on a TV show, stating the party’s support for the President would run only until 2027, when Ruto’s first current term ends. But this begs the question: at what point will the Orange party withdraw from the co-operation framework and begin its own 2027 preparations, in a country where campaigns begin long before elections?

The ODM boss has been a major part of the confusion. In between declaring his party is not in government and that ODM will run a presidential candidate in 2027, he pops up at a Cabinet retreat, embraces his so-called ODM experts in government. Raila appears to give free rein to elected leaders in the party who routinely declare that, indeed, they are stuck with Ruto until 2032. This August, the next election will be exactly two years away, and I wonder if that is the sort of political environment that a 20-year movement, the most consequential in Kenya’s electoral history, should find itself in, with only months to spare.

There is yet another burning issue that has alienated the ODM leadership. It is that the co-operation with the Kenya Kwanza regime is seen mostly as one between Ruto and the Luo community, as opposed to the entire ODM party. It doesn’t help that the salespeople for the broad-based arrangement are almost always Luo politicians who love to point to the benefits accruing from that frame-

work are always in Luo Nyanza.

ODM central committee members (From third left) Godfrey Osotsi, Junet Mohamed, Raila Odinga, Edwin Sifuna, Stewart Madzayo and Gladys Wangwa
/EMMANUEL WANSON

work are always in Luo Nyanza.

In their naivety, elected Luo leaders forget that such powerful and traditional ODM bases such as Kilifi, Busia, Kakamega, Kisii, Mombasa and Kajiado, among others, are left out of the vociferous flaunting of the supposed benefits of government access.

Because of the foregoing, Sifuna has in fact emerged as the face of the non-Luo ODM, involuntarily representing the hopes of the larger party base that something good lays ahead. Luo leaders such as Homa Bay Town MP Opondo Kaluma, who demands removal of Sifuna, do not realise that move will confine ODM further into a corner of Luoland, as representing the aspirations of only one region.

Which brings me to a second question: might it have been Ruto’s plan all along to destroy the cross-country foundations of ODM as a national movement, blunt its impact and confine it to being a regional party?

Considering how long the destruction of Raila and his powerful mass appeal has remained a political doctrine in the country, it is difficult not to speculate that Ruto may have planned this all along, to make the post-Raila ODM party an easier, tamer force to deal with.

Nothing demonstrates this fast ODM decline better than the ongoing campaigns in Kakamega’s Malava constituency, left vacant by the death of MP Malulu Injendi. Well, the writs haven’t been issued yet by the Speaker to declare the vacancy, but of course, this wouldn’t be Kenya if campaigns for that seat weren’t already on.

In Kakamega county, ODM holds the vast majority of the 12 constituencies. But a visit to the electoral zone shows that former DP Rigathi Gachagua’s DCP and former CS Eugene Wamalwa’s DAP-K, are the

parties creating excitement the ground with massive rallies. Like a forlorn movement, ODM is yet to hit the ground, and no major candidate has shown interest in its ticket.

ODM may take the easier route of taking a roll call among those who want Sifuna removed and those who want him to stay on. But for its leader, Raila, you get the feeling the dilemma is bigger than this. After ODM’s 20 spectacular years as a powerful movement, does he allow the party and its legacy to fade away now to please the loud Luo voices within it, those who are unable to see the roadmap because they are blinded by state privileges? Or should he now oversee a credible transition of the party into the hands of a younger, more liberal leadership, regardless of what his Luo base says? What is the ultimate motivation for leading such a powerful multi-tribal movement if it ends up reverting to a tribal party?

Raila himself was there when the transition in Ford Kenya after the death of his father, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, ended up as a violent still-birth, forcing many to abandon it. The party never recovered its prestige and lustre. But one could make the argument that it was handled badly and Wamalwa Kijana himself was an uninspiring leader. Unlike Ford Kenya in 1994 and the period immediately after that, ODM has grown proper structures and networks that can easily oversee a proper transition post-Raila.

These networks, in their leaders’ wisdom, must understand that ODM’s survival after Raila will depend largely on retaining its non-Luo political base. Thus, the Luo leaders who spend their waking hours trying to chase party stars from other regions, are unwittingly killing their own party and with it, the Raila dream of a liberal and sustainable left-of-centre movement!

COMMENTARY **ROADS TO POWER**



President William Ruto inspects the Galana-Kulalu food security project in Kilifi and Tana River counties on May 16 /PCS

State revives stalled infrastructure projects amid plans to woo voters



MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses
Political writer

President William Ruto's administration has breathed new life into the stalled infrastructure agenda, with documents revealing how road maintenance funds have unlocked 580 paralysed projects across the country.

The revived projects, top among them urban interchanges, highways and rural connectors, were revived through the repayment of Sh175 billion debts owed to contractors.

The documents exclusively in our possession show the full scope of the infrastructure revival that poses not only to reconnect communities but also to reshape the country's political landscapes ahead of the 2027 election.

Faced with a tight fiscal space, the government opted to pay Sh7 out of Sh25 of the road maintenance levy to fund the projects, mostly inherited from President Uhuru Kenyatta administration.

It is emerging that Sh65 billion in contractor payments has been released already, with most of them mobilising work crews back to sites nationwide.

It is projected that by mid-August, 80 per cent of the pending bills owed to road contractors will have been cleared.

The Ruto administration has prioritised roads in opposition strongholds in what observers hail as a strategy to weaken opposition narratives of neglect.

Works have resumed on, among others, the Upper Hill-Haile Selassie Interchange, part of which includes an overpass connecting to Ngong Road.

Critical transport arteries are springing back to life, including the James Gichuru-Rironi highway, Mombasa-Kwa Jomvu corridor and the long-stalled Kitale-Suam route.

Contractors executing various roads in Banisa, Bute, Kirinyaga, Eldas, Homa Bay, Mandera, Kajia-do, Narok, and Kisii towns are also back on site.

A brief by Kenya Urban Roads Authority shows that construction of Ngong Road footbridges has also resumed, so will the establishment of the Bus Rapid Transit line (Line 5).

For highways, the Barpele-Tot-Sigor-Marich Pass project, the Dhogoye bridge in Siaya, the completion of Kisumu Boys-Mamboleo and the Athi River turnoff are lined up.

The contractor building the James Gichuru-Rironi highway is also expected back on site, and so is the one building the Mombasa-Kwa Jomvu stretch.

The papers further show that work on the Kibwezi-Kitui road has also resumed, as well as Kitale-Suam, which has remained outstanding for years.

Mau Mau road network, which is envisioned to open up the Mt Kenya region, is seeing renewed activity after months of delay.

Documents show that work would resume on the Mau Mau Lot 1B project, Kenol-Sagana-Marua and Mau Mau Lot 2.

Also featured in the Kenya National Highways Authority-led projects is the Mamboleo-Chemelil road, Ugunja Nyadorera-Rwambwa and Garissa-Isiolo road, as well as Enziu bridge.

Other roads are underway in Nyandarua, Marsabit, Turkana, Homa Bay (Mbita-Sori road), Kitui, Kwale - connecting to Kinango, Bamburi, Ngong-Suswa, Soy-Turbo, and Kakamega-Musikoma (Bungoma).

For the Kenya Kwanza administration, the unlocking of the 580 stalled

projects would "breathe new life into communities, businesses, and livelihoods that had been left in limbo."

The resumption of roadworks is also envisioned to bring back thousands of jobs for contractors, engineers, suppliers and casual labourers.

For many families, it means restored incomes, dignity and the ability to meet daily needs, sources aware of the deliberations on the road projects say.

"Road resumption will boost local economies, enable access to markets, and reduce post-harvest losses, especially in agricultural counties," one project assessment reads.

"Where roads were incomplete and impassable, renewed construction has improved access to schools, hospitals and trading centres."

The non-payment of the outstanding contractual amounts saw many contractors shut down operations, a situation the state hopes would change with the payments.

The resumption of roads is expected to create thousands of jobs, rejuvenate the construction industry and unlock stalled infrastructure investments.

While critics like Kiharu MP Ndirindi Nyoro have dismissed it as a risky financial manoeuvre, it is the opinion of the top decision-making organs that the policy has tangible outcomes.

"These measures have resolved long-standing financial obligations, improved contractor cash-flow and ensured continuity in infrastructure development nationwide," a Cabinet brief reads.

During a meeting at his Irunduni home this week, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said the tough economic times slowed down the projects.

"Some of these have stalled since

2019, some of which I lobbied when I was Senate Majority leader...we are glad the contractor is back on site," he said.

"All the roads that stalled will now be kick-started. Where the contractors are yet to resume work, they are just on their way. There is no excuse about debts anymore."

Some of the road bridge projects were among those approved by Cabinet during its meeting on Tuesday, the DP revealed that among them was the Nithi bridge.

The project is among those President Ruto promised to deliver, and the latest moves show a commitment to deliver tangible results ahead of the 2027 electoral cycle.

The government has also announced the expansion of Kiambu Road into a four-lane dual carriageway with two service lanes on either side.

The major connector for Kiambu and Nairobi commuters would be funded through the China Exim Bank and will cover Pangani-Muthaiga-Ndumberi.

Details show it would also have spurs like Ridgeways, UN Avenue and access to Thika Road.

"The road will include new interchanges, six pedestrian bridges, bus bays and lanes for non-motorised transport," a brief on the anticipated expansion reads.

It is envisioned to ease congestion in Nairobi and improve mobility as well as road safety.

While Nyoro question the financial mechanics, the administration frames the new government policy as an innovative solution to the chronic cash problem.

"It stands as a bold and practical solution to a long-standing challenge," one policy document asserts, emphasising the tangible benefits now reaching communities.

KATIBA CORNER PEOPLE BETRAYED**Getting rid of your MP: The dilemmas**

JILL COTTREL GHAI
@Katibainstitute
Director, Katiba
Institute

The author is
expressing her
personal opinion

Apparently voters in several constituencies want to start the process of recalling their MPs, and, indeed, one case has gone to the Independent Election and Boundaries Commission.

The constitution says simply (Article 104) the electorate have the right to recall their member of Parliament or senator representing their constituency before the end of the term. However, Parliament must enact legislation providing for the grounds for recall and the procedure to be followed.

There is currently no clear procedure in law. The parliamentarians passed the Elections Act including sections that made it almost impossible to recall them. Katiba Institute sued, and the High Court declared some of those provisions unconstitutional. That was 2017. Efforts are finally under way to produce new provisions on recall.

Those Elections Act sections (partly declared unconstitutional) set out detailed rules for a recall petition. A successful petition would be followed by a recall election – the only question being “Do you want this MP/senator/MCA to lose their seat?” If enough said ‘Yes’, then there would be a by-election in which the recalled legislator could stand.

THE COURTS' DILEMMA

The previous constitution recognised people's human rights, but also said, “The Chief Justice [CJ] may make rules with respect to the practice and procedure of the High Court in relation to [that] jurisdiction” No CJ did. The High Court refused to accept human rights cases. Present judges will remember how this was viewed as the Judiciary being subservient to the government. The current constitution says this must not happen again – absence of rules is not an obstacle to the right (Article 22(4)).

Now we can say that clearly the people are supposed to have the right of recall, but equally clearly it was intended to be used through law passed by Parliament. (It was perhaps a bit naïve to expect Parliament to pass law for their recall enthusiastically!)

Quite likely some case will be filed which will involve trying to convince the courts that they must not fall into the same trap as the earlier High Court, and must be prepared somehow to approve the exercise of the recall right in suitable circumstances. Otherwise the conclusion might be that Parliament strangled the right in Article 104, and the courts finished it off.

People who want to recall must give reasons, and work through a procedure that the courts can accept as fulfilling the aim of the constitution. Parliament will argue that the courts cannot invent rules that Parliament should have passed but has not.

There is of course a constitutional procedure (Article 261) to deal with Parliament's failure to pass law as required by the constitution. They were supposed to pass this recall



A plenary session of the National Assembly/**FILE**

law within two years. But much of what they did is not now law. The Article 261 procedure is to get the High Court to order the passing of law within a reasonable time. And if they don't, it is for the CJ to order the President to dissolve Parliament.

CJ Maraga tried this – in connection with the two-thirds gender rule. It didn't work. So the only remedy for Parliament not passing law is likely to be ineffective – if the president is not in favour of it.

For the courts to approve a recall procedure they would have to be able to say they were interpreting the constitution, or the law. The primary question for the courts when they interpret the constitution is “What was intended by this language?”

Various issues would have to be decided.

WHY?

The High Court struck out the Elections Act section that listed possible grounds. One reason was that a legislator would have had to be held responsible by the High Court under existing law before a recall petition could be prepared. This was too much to expect. Also, the underlying conduct (breach of integrity provisions of Chapter 6, mismanaging public money, or committing an election offence) might lead to loss of seat by some other means – so the Elections Act added little).

The very first draft by the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission in 2002 said that recall of an MP could be on any of these grounds:

(a) Physical or mental incapacity rendering that member incapable of performing the functions of the office; or

(b) Misconduct likely to bring hatred, ridicule, contempt or disrepute to the office; or

(c) Persistent neglect of the electorate without reasonable cause.

In evidence to the High Court, Yash Pal Ghai said that the persistent neglect provisions reflected people's common complaints to the CKRC that MPs were around when they wanted votes, but were invisible during the term of Parliament only to reappear when they again needed votes.

Could a court be convinced that the CKRC reasons underlay the whole idea of recall and should be revived?

Another approach: some other countries have no list of grounds for recall. Could the Kenyan courts perhaps accept that, though voters should specify their reasons, it is not essential for law to restrict the possible grounds? The absence of grounds is the fault of Parliament – they have failed to make law constitutionally prescribing grounds; let them pay the price.

However, grounds that were de-

clared inappropriate in the High Court case ought to be excluded. Being convicted of an offence and sentenced to six months or more, or being found under a law to have abused a state office or violated Article 6 – such people should automatically lose their seats under Article 99(2)(h) with 103(1)(g). Recall is not needed.

WHO?

The High Court did give some guidance on who: any registered voter in the constituency should be able to participate. And even a candidate defeated in the election could initiate a petition. Indeed, it said Parliament had no power to make law on this issue restricting the right to participate in recall.

HOW MANY?

The court decision did not affect the number of signatures – so at least 30 per cent of the registered voters in the constituency must still sign. The CKRC said the same.

WHEN?

Three years since the last election has given plenty of time for the MPs to show their worth – or the converse. However, Article 101(5) barring a by-election within three months of the next election would still apply – there is not much time.

RECALL ELECTION

The High Court did not quarrel with the idea of a recall election (though you might think it adds greatly to the expense). A badly expressed rule about deciding on the outcome was unclear and unconstitutional – so the result of a recall election will depend on a simple majority of those who vote in that election.

JUDICIAL CREATIVITY

The High Court held that Article 104 gives a right, and that right is an “important component” of the political rights in Article 38. It is therefore appropriate to remind any court facing this problem that Article 19 says that a court applying the Bill of Rights, “adopt the interpretation [presumably of the Bill of Rights and any other law affected] that most favours the enforcement of a right or fundamental freedom.”

In other words, judicial creativity is demanded and an attitude that gives priority to fulfilling rights.

ANOTHER APPROACH?

A member who misses eight sittings without permission of the Speaker and without any explanation loses their seat. No one has ever suffered this fate. But maybe an access to information request to the Speaker about an MP might uncover something useful.

It is a bit surprising that no case challenging the effective change of party by various MPs in the last three years has reached a court hearing. Such a step should lead to loss of seat. Again an access to information request to the Speaker about why XXX is still in Parliament might have an interesting response if nothing else.



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PEOPLE WHO WANT TO RECALL MUST GIVE REASONS, AND WORK THROUGH A PROCEDURE THAT THE COURTS CAN ACCEPT AS FULFILLING THE AIM OF THE CONSTITUTION. PARLIAMENT WILL ARGUE THAT THE COURTS CANNOT INVENT RULES THAT PARLIAMENT SHOULD HAVE PASSED BUT HAS NOT

COMMENTARY NOT FREE MONEY

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki during the Ruiru constituency economic empowerment engagement at Ruiru Technical and Vocational College in Kiambu county /PHOENIX OKALL/ DPCS



DP Kindiki's empowerment bolsters groups and Saccos



JEREMIAH KIPLANGAT

@TheStarKenya

The writer is a communication specialist

kiplangatje@gmail.com

The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda has been crafted with the sole purpose of uplifting the lives of millions of Kenyans, who mostly have had no significant role in the nation's economic wellbeing for years. It is a deliberate effort to open up the hitherto exclusive space for them to make cogent contributions on how to improve their economic statuses. It also, importantly, deliberately aims to redesign and rebuild the old economic structures for their benefit.

Kenya's economic stability relies heavily on the growth and strength of the micro, small and medium enterprises, which generate income for at least 17.4 million people, according to the 2025 Economic Survey by the

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. With this huge number, there is no question from where the nation's economic heartbeat emanates, considering that only 3.4 million are formally employed, which translates to only six per cent of the population.

The empowerment drive spearheaded by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has touched hundreds of groups in more than 50 constituencies so far.

It is meant to give a shot in the arm to those at the bottom of the economic structure. Therefore, it should not be misconstrued as bribery in exchange for political support.

The DP has been clear that this is not aimed at raising money to be shared among individuals. But it is

a timely endeavour, being carried out in broad daylight and in front of thousands of people to prevent misconceptions that it favours individuals with immediate cash. In fact, it empowers existing self-help groups or Saccos keen to expand their hustles and businesses.

Millions of shillings have been raised in these events, with the DP calling on those in charge of the groups to ensure prudent investment to benefit their members in the long run.

Of course, the DP is acutely aware the money will have little or no impact if, say, a group receives Sh200,000 and it is split among 200 members, each going home with Sh1,000.

Comparatively, if this amount is invested in two boda bodas, each fetching Sh1,000 a day, it will come to Sh60,000 a month and about Sh720,000 a year. Chopping expenses, you remain with at least Sh500,000.

This amount could further be invested in more boda bodas or even in Treasury Bills, establishing a firm financial foundation for members to tap into for many years in the future.

Members must reject the desire for quick gratification and must invest in patience for long-term satisfaction so that they earn more from this initiative.

It is wrong, therefore, to reduce this effort to a mathematical calculation by a few misguided people. The Sh10 million raised in most events cannot be reduced to anything near a tiny Sh64 under the false narrative that being wrongly being pushed by some quarters.

A quick look at the outcome of the empowerment forums held so far clearly shows the financial strength that can be drawn from them. For instance, following a successful event in Taveta constituency organised by MP John Bwire and attended by DP Kindiki, a number of women's groups received Sh1 million each to boost their hustles and improve their earnings.

In Mwala constituency, Machakos, MP Vincent Musyoka also took it upon himself and distributed to each group the funds collected during an empowerment exercise.

Many groups received more than Sh1 million. This success is being replicated in most constituencies where lawmakers have taken full charge and established clear distribution structures.

Critically, this empowerment is a complementary gesture because the government is also rolling out structured programmes.

These include the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement, which aims to financially aid 70 micro and small enterprises in each of the country's 1,450 wards. The aim is to give Sh50,000 in grants to each.

US lost its appeal in Africa, it must do this to win it back

CAVINCE ADHERE

@TheStarKenya

The writer is a scholar of international relations with a focus on China-Africa development cooperation.

X: @Cavinceworld.

The United States, once a dominant force in global geopolitics, is experiencing a noticeable decline in its appeal and influence among African countries. The recently released poll by the Pew Research Centre, a Washington-based think tank, indicates that favourable perceptions of America in many African countries have significantly dwindled in the last decade. In Kenya, for instance, the US rating as most preferred economic partner has dropped to 48 per cent compared to 52 per cent in 2019. This shift, driven by a combination of strategic missteps, competing global powers and evolving African priorities, has significant implications for US foreign policy and global standing.

Historically, the US was viewed as a partner of choice in Africa, particularly during the post-Cold War era. Programmes like the President's

Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, launched in 2003, saved millions of lives and bolstered US credibility. However, this goodwill has waned as African nations have diversified their partnerships, driven by perceptions of American neglect and inconsistent engagement. A 2023 Gallup World Poll revealed that US approval ratings in Africa slipped from 59 per cent in 2022 to 56 per cent, while China's rose from 52 per cent to 58 per cent, surpassing Washington, for the first time.

The shift in public perception underscores a decline in US soft power, as African populations increasingly view other powers as more reliable partners. Destructive policies such as aid cuts and punitive trade tariffs by current Trump administration are only the latest exemplars of US disaffection among Global South countries, most of which are based in Africa.

The US has also been criticised for prioritising geopolitics over human rights, which has alienated some African nations. For example, during the Trump administration (2017-2021), derogatory remarks about African countries, damaged US credibility. Additionally, the Biden administration's failure to follow through on promises of robust engagement, such as the 2022 US-Africa Leaders Summit, which produced few tangible outcomes, further reinforced perceptions of US unreliability.

Another key factor in Washington's declining influence is its inability to compete economically with China. Since surpassing the US as Africa's largest trade partner in 2009, China's trade with Africa reached \$295 billion in 2024, four times the US-Africa trade volume. China's Belt and Road Initiative has funded major infrastructure projects, such as the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, which has transformed regional connectivity. In contrast, US initiatives like Prosper Africa, launched in 2019, have struggled to match this scale, with American companies often deterred

by perceived risks and lack of government support.

Beijing's foreign direct investment in Africa has also outpaced the US, doubling American levels by 2021 and supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs across the continent. African governments, prioritising economic development, are therefore drawn to China's no-strings-attached approach, which heavily contrasts with US aid, often tied to so-called democratic reforms.

But it doesn't stop at the external factors. America's domestic challenges, including political polarisation and events like the January 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection, have tarnished its image as a democratic model. African leaders, observing US internal divisions, question its ability to project stable leadership. For example, a 2021 Afrobarometer survey indicated that only 49 per cent of Africans viewed Washington as a reliable democratic partner, down from 60 per cent a decade earlier. In order to regain its utility and approval among African countries, the US should consider increasing trade and investment engagement with the continent.

COMMENTARY **AGENDA ON COURSE**

President Ruto at his maize farm in Narok /PCS

Ruto transforms Kenya in agriculture, jobs creation

new businesses have been started, women, youth and PWDs are now able to access capital more easily, and more digital lenders are regulated, thus reducing predatory lending habits of shylocks.

Over and above the jobs created so far, there are 110,000 new opportunities in green public works (ClimateWorx) and 182,000 digital jobs through Jitume labs and Tvets. More than 400,000 Kenyans are now working abroad in health, farming, hospitality, construction, domestic employment and other industries. This means more Kenyan youth are not idling at home but can send money back home to their families. Diaspora remittances reached more than Sh638.5 billion last year alone. Local economies are now thriving, hardware stores, salons, boda bodas and food kiosks are benefiting from new earnings.

Kenya is the silicon savannah for Africa, with more than 24,000km of fibre laid, connecting remote areas to the world. So far, 1,494 free Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in markets, towns and schools, compared with none a few years ago. In addition, eCitizen services increased from 353 to 22,500, with 316 digital hubs now operational. A further 404 are under construction, while 20,000 laptops/devices have been distributed. So far, more than 1.8 million youth have been trained in digital skills, with more than 300,000 of them now earning online through the Ajira, BPO and the gig economy. This has led to increased online learning, and access to information and digital assets for decision-making.

In conclusion, President Ruto's transformation agenda is on course, and it's about lowering the cost of living, building a healthy nation, creating more jobs and income opportunities, providing affordable and dignified housing for all, empowering farmers, and providing relevant education for our children.



ISAAC MWAURA

@TheStarKenya

Government spokesperson

Good day, dear fellow lovers of the written word. I hope your week has been great. Last week, we focused on what the fifth administration led by President William Ruto has achieved so far in the economy, health and education. Today, we describe many more achievements in areas such as agriculture, job creation and digitalisation of government services, wins that can only serve to make our country a true middle-level economy.

In agriculture, we have moved from struggle, to surplus. Previously, there was a lot of exploitation of farmers by middlemen and cartels through fake farm inputs, and unsustainable subsidies. Cartels thrived, and racketeers profited at the expense of the common good of all farmers. As a result, farm inputs became expensive, and farming became less profitable. The game changer came when 6.6 million farmers were registered digitally, ensuring more accurate mapping of farming activities. This move cut out fraudsters and connen and enabled real farmers to direct support from the government.

A good example is the fertiliser distribution programme. A 50kg bag now retails at Sh2,500 down from Sh7,500. More farmers are using certified fertiliser, thus enhancing yields. In addition, milk prices have risen by 29 per cent, with dairy farmers now earning Sh,45 per litre up from Sh35 per litre, with exports doubling to Sh7.2 billion. Coffee prices have more

than doubled, from Sh65 in 2022 to Sh148 per kg in 2025. Export earnings from coffee also increased by Sh34 billion to stand at Sh170 billion. In the tea sector, farmers now earn Sh60 per kg of green leaf, up from Sh50, with national earnings rising to Sh215 billion, up from Sh138 billion. Further, maize harvests jumped from 40 million bags in 2022 to 64 million bags in 2024, thanks to production support and good rains.

In the sugar sector, production rose from 490,000 tonnes to 815,000 tonnes, a 66 per cent growth, reducing imports by 70 per cent, and increasing income from Sh50 billion to Sh90 billion. For the first time in Kenya's history, sugar farmers received a bonus. Even more transformative, Kenya is now on the verge of achieving sugar self-sufficiency. Once the remaining 30 per cent import gap is closed, Kenya will move from deficit to surplus, with sugar ready for export. Going forward, the government is leasing out four sugar factories to turn Kenya into a sugar exporter.

This way, there shall be more disposable income, lower cost of food, better earnings for farmers, jobs creation across value chains, reduced reliance on food imports (rice, maize, sugar, etc.) and data-based planning and decision making to enhance food security.

Our urban areas are being renewed through the affordable housing programme (AFP), which is not only helping Kenyans get jobs, but also

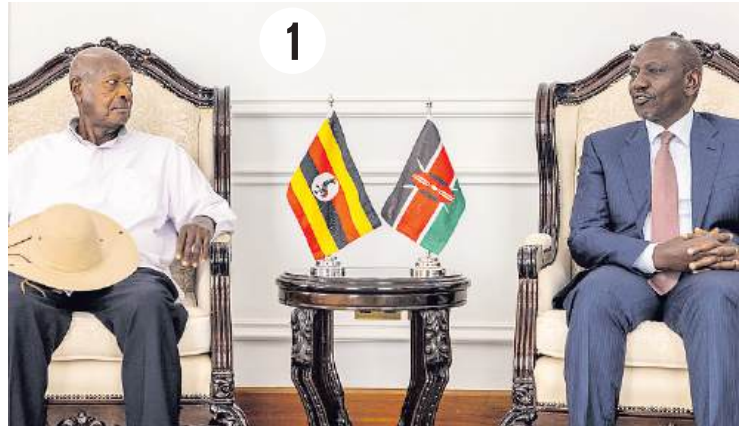
giving them dignity and decency. So far, more than 1,000 slum dwellers have been resettled in the new Mukuru estate, and 44 out of 47 counties have ongoing AFP construction works. In total, more than 171,000 housing units are underway, and more than 320,000 construction jobs have been created for our youth. This has led to secure, decent housing for low-income families, dignified living, better and healthier environments and safer neighbourhoods.

The transformation and stabilisation of our economy is also happening in Micro, Medium, and Small Enterprises. Financial access through the Hustler Fund, launched within the first 100 days of President Ruto's Kenya Kwanza administration, has 25 million Kenyans getting more than Sh70 billion. These are mostly youth, mama mboga, boda boda riders and artisans who have saved more than Sh4.5 billion through the platform. Loans are collateral-free, and seven million blacklisted Kenyans are now restored to the credit system, based on smart credit scoring. As a result,

KENYA IS THE SILICON SAVANNAH FOR AFRICA, WITH MORE THAN 24,000KM OF FIBRE LAID, CONNECTING REMOTE AREAS TO THE WORLD. SO FAR, 1,494 FREE WI-FI HOTSPOTS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN MARKETS, TOWNS AND SCHOOLS, COMPARED WITH NONE A FEW YEARS AGO



THE WEEK/ WHO RESURFACED, WHO LEFT: WHAT KENYAN LEADERS HAVE BEEN UP TO



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1. President William Ruto and his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni at State House, Nairobi, on Wednesday /HIRAM OMONDI/PCS
 2. Ruiru MP Simon Ng'ang'a hands over a car wash machine to youth members of Hope City Youth Group in Mwilhoko ward /KNA
 3. Tans Nzoia Governor George Ntembeya with Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen in Kitale on Monday /MATHEWS NDANYI
 4. Gender CS Hannah Cheptumo (2nd L) and Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga condole with the family of the Phoebe Asiyo /KNA
 5. Eliud Owalo, Deputy Chief of Staff, Delivery and Government Efficiency, during an inspection tour of Kisumu Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre that will reduce the current annual death toll of 300 to 400 casualties among lake users, including fishermen and commuters, once it becomes operational /KNA
 6. Health CS Aden Duale and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi during an exhibition tour of the National Cancer Summit at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi on Monday /KNA
 7. West Pokot Governor Simon Kachapin (standing front left) during the handing over of Sh2.8 million dummy cheque to 456 business groups supported by village enterprise organisation Monday /KNA
 8. Turkana Deputy Governor John Erus attends to a child as the county unveiled seasonal malaria prevention campaign that targets up to 39,000 children between three and 59 months in Kakuma and Kalobeyei /KNA
 9. Ramogi Institute of Advanced Technology principal Gilbert Mwavali and Muhoroni MP James Koyoo during an event. Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation, in partnership with Muhoroni constituency NG-CDF, has launched a Sh10 million programme to sponsor students pursuing technical courses at RIAT /KNA



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TOP 4 STORIES

MONDAY, JULY 28

Youths carve own paths amid lack of formal employment

WHEN George Ogutu graduated from university with a degree in actuarial science on December 16, 2016, the day felt like an ending and a beginning all at once. The campus, once buzzing with lectures and late-night study sessions, now echoed with the sounds of suitcases rolling across concrete and heartfelt good-byes of the 5,611 graduands. Four years of deadlines, friendships, and self-discovery were packed into that single sheet of paper—and now, the world was suddenly wide open. It was exhilarating. It was terrifying. And it was his to shape.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

High stakes for top political guns ahead of 23 by-elections

KENYA is at a critical juncture as 23 pending by-elections are likely to reshape the balance of power in 2027 polls. What would otherwise be routine electoral exercises have now snowballed into a full-blown political showdown, with the top political figures eyeing them as a litmus test for their influence and popularity. The IEBC says it will conduct the by-elections once it receives the requisite writs from the speakers of the National Assembly and Senate.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Senators turn up the heat, demand county cash trails

THE war on corruption in counties has intensified, with senators now demanding access to automated financial records from the National Treasury. The move comes amid a surge in graft allegations in the devolved units, with several governors under investigation by the EACC and others already battling court cases. In a move that could expose financial malpractice, the Senate is pushing for real-time access to the Integrated Financial Management Information System.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

ODM party 'splinter' group now plans parallel activities

ODM party is facing fresh cracks as a hardline faction opposed to the deal with President William Ruto quietly mobilises across the country. The group, composed mainly of youthful MPs, accuses the party of "betraying the struggle" by cozying up to Ruto's administration. Led by secretary general Edwin Sifuna, the faction has defied the political truce.

COMMENTARY CAN IT HOLD?

Why rift in ODM threatens broad-based government

**OCHIENG KANYADUDI**
@TheStarKenya**The writer is a
Political and Policy
Analyst**

Recent remarks by ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna have been consistent with his initial public position regarding establishment of the broad-based government. The coalition government was created through an initial agreement between ODM leader Raila Odinga and President William Ruto.

The 2024 Finance Bill sparked unprecedented violent protests across the country. The demonstrations were led by the young generation known as Gen Z. They mounted successful sieges of major cities that culminated in the storming of Parliament on June 25 last year. Key ODM leaders led by Governors James Orengo (Siaya) and Anyang' Nyong'o (Kisumu) came out to strongly oppose the truce between Raila and Ruto. Their constellation included youthful Embakasi East MP Babu Owino and the other Azimio la Umoja coalition principals, Kalonzo Musyoka and Eugene Wamalwa.

Their reproach received support from a large number of then ODM leaders, including deputy party leaders Wycliffe Oparanya and Hassan Joho, as well as national chairman John Mbadi and National Assembly Minority leader Opiyo Wandayi.

Later after the ODM quartet were sworn in as Cabinet Secretaries, a 10-point agenda agreement was signed at the historic KICC. Sifuna had to eat, humble pie and sign on behalf of ODM as the party secretary general. It is instructive to note the agreement was between UDA and ODM but not the Kenya Kwanza and Azimio. For starters, the UDA leader is Ruto while ODM's is Raila. The other principals in each coalition were left smarting and sour-graping.

ODM insiders argue that Sifuna as party spokesperson expected to be first in line for Cabinet appointments. The two governors being senior members of ODM leadership expected to play key roles in the resultant coalition government, as they did during the grand coalition with President Mwai Kibaki.

Meanwhile, Raila and Ruto seem to have had different ideas as they crafted the new government. The impact of the nationwide protests reverberated across the country and focused the attention of the international community. The President had survived the greatest threat to his leadership since taking over after the disputed elections of 2022.

Soon afterward, his deputy Rigathi Gachagua was impeached by Parliament. He had found himself between a rock and a hard place owing to his previous stand on government policies. He had pushed the narrative of one man one vote and declared the government belonged to those who voted it in. What irked him and his supporters

**Edwin Sifuna****Babu Owino****James Orengo****Anyang' Nyong'o**

most was the inclusion of Raila in government and the appointment of his lieutenants to key ministerial portfolios. He quickly joined forces with the other opposition leaders and formed a loose alliance known as the 'Ruto One Term movement'.

In the Senate, they found a willing acolyte in Sifuna who is also serving as deputy Minority whip. Any time the ministers from the ODM side are summoned by the Senate, Sifuna has been in the front row with tough and condescending questions. At one point, they exchanged expletives with National Treasury CS Mbadi.

Then the unfortunate events of abductions of young people occurred. Tied to police brutality during the regular demonstrations, ODM leadership has had to balance between being in government and in opposition at the same time. Raila has variously and publicly stated that he is not in government, yet his party's key leaders sit in the Cabinet.

The explanation that these individuals merit Cabinet positions on their own right as Kenyans has not washed. This is because their being in the Cabinet is a result of the rapprochement between Ruto and Raila. In fact, Raila's candidacy for the AU Commission chairmanship

was taken over and promoted after the agreement by the government. Although the campaign was not successful, it was the best diplomatic engagement by the Kenyan government ever since the Odero Jowi-led Unep establishment of 1972.

The ecstasy in the ODM strongholds was palpable. The joy that greeted the Cabinet appointees when they undertook what has traditionally become homecoming in Kenya was nostalgic and historic. This demonstrated that the general membership of ODM had endorsed the marriage.

However, in spite of the mellowing of Orengo and Nyong'o, Sifuna continued on his warpath against the government. His efforts were buttressed by the youthful MPs in the national assembly, notably Babu Owino of ODM. Azimio reorganised its leadership in Parliament and Junet Mohamed and Millie Odhiambo took charge of House business as Minority leader and Whip, respectively. This created open antagonism in the party leadership within the two Houses. It has become difficult to discern from the leadership doublespeak who represents the official party position.

The discomfort Raila faces

IT HAS BEEN EMBARRASSING TO THE PARTY'S RANK AND FILE SEEING THEIR ESTEEMED LEADERS CONTRADICTING EACH OTHER WITH GLEE AND WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELID IN THE GLARE OF THE MEDIA. IS ODM PARTY PLAYING TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY? DECORUM DEMANDS THAT LEADERS DISPLAY SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR POLICY POSITIONS

regularly in this façade and charade is visible. It has been embarrassing to the party rank and file seeing their esteemed leaders contradicting each other with glee and without batting an eyelid in the glare of national media outlets. Is ODM playing to the public gallery?

Decorum demands that leaders of an organisation display shared understanding of their policy positions. Further, they should demonstrate respect for their governance organs. Without clear decisions, it is difficult if not impossible to give the membership enforceable directives for implementation.

Governments the world over are established to provide social service to the citizens. The effectiveness of government is measured by the success and acceptance of its policy programmes. This requires unity of command and clarity in communication. The reporting lines for officers should never be blurred to enable ease of instructions and fidelity to commands. Where governments choose to be ambiguous in communication, it must be deliberate and strategic for the attainment of the public good.

It is for this reason that the US government would hunt down international criminals such as Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan and Pablo Escobar in Colombia to protect their citizens. The US has made the security and safety of every of its citizens its highest priority. In the same vein, it would bring down regimes as with Antonio Manuel Noriega of Panama and Saddam Hussein of Iraq. It does this whatever the cost, even if only one citizen is at threat. There are no two ways about it, irrespective of whoever occupies the White House.

Kenyans have determined that every child must have education of quality and with easiest access. One of the major hindrances to access has been the cost of education. Therefore, the people ratified the Lome Declaration of Education for All, EFA. EFA became a major pillar of the Millennium Development Goals and Kenya is celebrated as a global promoter of free education. As with any serious government, the Ruto administration must continue to guarantee and provide free primary and secondary education.

Since ODM promised free tertiary and university education, the union with UDA should fulfill this noble pledge. The cost notwithstanding, every nation must determine their highest priority. Kenyans long resolved to eradicate ignorance and develop citizens who are globally competitive in the labour market.

No amount of investment in this sector is in vain. Mbadi and CS for Education Julius Ogamba must avoid unnecessary counter communication and speak in the language of the President. The ODM high command should as a matter of urgency revise their communication strategy and reestablish the clear chain of command that has been their strength. This will provide support and protection for their leaders appointed into government and eliminates confusion. Otherwise, the rift in the ODM leadership is an existential threat to the broad-based government and fodder for the opposition.

COMMENTARY **CRISIS**

Private sector must create jobs for youth to stimulate growth



CALEB MWAMISI

@TheStarKenya

The writer is a political commentator



Workers on site at the affordable housing project in Kajjado /HANDOUT

The Kenya Kwanza administration has made youth job creation a central plank of its economic agenda. From the Hustler Fund to the new National Volunteerism Programme, this government has repeatedly signalled its intent to confront the job crisis that has left millions of young people Kenyans feeling trapped and invisible. The latest initiative, a modest monthly stipend of Sh6,000 to Sh9,000 to young people engaged in community service, cannot solve the problem, but it reaffirms the government's recognition that the youth question cannot be postponed any longer.

As someone working closely with young people in football circles in Kitengela, I witness their despair daily. When we speak of places like Nongopir and Kyang'ombe as protest hotspots, we must also speak of the chronic economic exclusion that fuels tension in these places. These are not just informal settlements; they are homes to thousands of young people left out of the formal economy, ambitious, capable and brimming with talent, but unable to find space to thrive.

The government's stipend initiative is welcome, but it must be clearly understood that the public sector alone cannot absorb the labour force entering the market each year. It is the private sector that must rise and meet the moment. If corporates, manufacturers, startups and service providers do not step forward, then all we will have is a government

running in circles, plugging holes in a sinking boat, while the private sector remains a passive observer. That is not sustainable.

To bridge this persistent disconnect between youth and opportunity, the private sector must reimagine its role, not merely as an employer but as a catalyst for youth-led innovation. The key lies in leveraging technology to mainstream the youth into Kenya's economic transformation. Globally, we have witnessed how targeted investments in technology and digital platforms have unlocked the potential of young populations. In India, for instance, platforms such as Udaan have democratised access to formal jobs by connecting youth in tier-two and tier-three cities to employers and supply chains that were previously out of reach.

In China, youth-friendly e-commerce ecosystems and digital incubators, many co-supported by government and private investors, have turned rural entrepreneurs into international sellers on platforms such as Alibaba and Pinduoduo. These are not accidental outcomes; they are the result of strategic collaboration and investment.

Kenya can follow suit. Our youth are not short of ideas. They are building fintech tools in Kibera, running digital marketing agencies from Nakuru and designing agritech apps in Kitengela. But these sparks of innovation rarely catch fire at scale. What is missing is an enabling ecosystem: robust digital

infrastructure, inclusive financing, market access and deliberate mentorship. The private sector must move beyond pilot projects and competitions. It must embed youth mainstreaming in its operations, prioritising scalable apprenticeships, remote work hubs, localised tech labs and inclusive procurement. In doing so, it will not only drive growth but help build a Kenya where youth are architects of the economy, not idle bystanders.

Government can provide capital and incentives, but it is only through partnerships that results will be felt. For instance, a simple partnership between counties, youth groups and local businesses can create a circular economy around waste management, digital services or sustainable farming. Football teams in areas like Kitengela, if properly resourced and linked to private partners, can become platforms not just for sport but also for training, leadership and enterprise.

The stipend scheme must be used as a spark. If coupled with capacity building, digital tools, access to credit and links to private employers, it could help transition thousands into

PUBLIC SECTOR CANNOT ABSORB THE LABOUR FORCE ENTERING THE MARKET EACH YEAR. IT IS THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAT MUST RISE TO MEET THE MOMENT AND THE DEMAND

long-term productivity. But if it becomes just another short-term relief measure, then we will have failed our young people once again.

To foster a more inclusive economic future, Parliament should consider enacting legislation compelling the private sector to actively cultivate opportunities for youth. While the Constitution (Article 55(c)) mandates the state to take measures, including affirmative action, to ensure youth access to employment, this obligation does not directly extend to private entities. The Employment Act prohibits discrimination and allows for affirmative action in line with national policy, yet it lacks the specificity and enforceability needed to drive meaningful private sector involvement. A more robust legislative framework could emulate the precedent set by the Persons with Disabilities Act, which requires private employers to reserve five per cent of positions for persons with disabilities.

Parliament could adopt a similar approach by legislating a youth employment quota or internship requirement across medium and large enterprises. Although the National Youth Employment Authority Act (2015) envisioned a statutory mechanism to coordinate youth employment efforts, its implementation has stalled.

Furthermore, emerging county-level initiatives such as the Kajjado county CSR Bill 2024 obliges companies to allocate at least one per cent of their net profits to community welfare. This includes youth development and demonstrates the feasibility of compelling private sector participation through law. National legislation could build on these models to establish enforceable obligations, ensuring the private sector is not a passive observer but a co-architect in addressing youth unemployment.

It is not enough for the private sector to praise government policy from a distance. It must become active, deliberate and generative, creating value not just for shareholders but also for the wider society. Youth joblessness is not a government problem alone. It is a national emergency. And if we fail to deal with it now, we will reap the consequences in the form of instability, resentment and wasted potential.

Let us be clear. Young people are not looking for handouts or sympathy. They are yearning for the chance to contribute meaningfully to society. They want to build, to create and to live with dignity. What many lack is not drive or ambition, but opportunity. This new programme is a commendable effort to plant the seeds of inclusion and self-reliance. Its success, however, will depend not just on government support, but also on the collective responsibility of all sectors, especially the private sector, to nurture and expand those opportunities.

COMMENTARY **BREAKING THE CYCLE**

Hundreds of youthful protesters along Moi Avenue in Mombasa on June 25 last year /**CHARLES MGHENYI**



Gen Z: New breed set to reshape Kenya for good



CATHY IMANI
@TheStarKenya

The writer is a sub-editor with The Star

There's a saying, "nothing can stop an idea whose time has come." One year after Gen Z entered the scene, this statement has effectively been proven right. This new schema – a departure from the previous generations' ways and norms – is gradually proving that the change this nation has long hoped for is finally here. And there's no turning back.

I have said it before that every generation before Gen Z tends to be pulled toward a false sense of stability, at the expense of making things right. Previous elections have been about politicians, who have woven narratives surrounding their ethnic communities in an intricate, deceptive tapestry. Once in office, these tribal chiefs pledged they would change the fortunes of "their people". But these tribesmen are still disenfranchised, four generations later.

Since Kenya's independence in 1963, there have been roughly four generations (where a generation is generally considered to be around 20-25 years). The four schemas since independence are the Uhuru generation (1940-1965): This generation experienced colonial rule, the struggle for independence, and the early years of nationhood. They can be excused for not wanting to be part of any more agitation – they're in their twilight years and look at life through the lens of stability, and fairly so. They can sit this struggle out.

Then there's post-Uhuru generation (1965-1981): This group came of age during a period of political consolidation and economic challenges, witnessing the transition to a one-party state and the rise of opposition movements. They lived through a dictatorship and were taught not to rock the boat, sang the dictator's praise, went through the dictator's school system (which wasn't too bad, especially considering the current competency-based curriculum) and drank his milk for free. Naturally, they would tilt towards the hand that feeds them. Any divergent thinking was considered abominable.

By the time Millennials were born (1982-1994), they found pretty docile generations already in existence. This schema came of age during a period of increased globalisation and technological advancements. They too, toed the line and might not be remembered for anything too memorable.

But in comes Gen Z (1995-2012): This generation is the most recent, having grown up with digital technologies and social media. This group is very distinct: while they had parents, social media largely raised them. Their learning style is different – favouring influence over handed-down instruction. They are squeamish at work (most don't stay too long in one place), are adept at tech and gave social media influencers more online followers than physical friends. Influencing became a job, trending a benchmark and online presence a lifestyle. Why is any of this important? I submit to you that this is the very generation that will effect a turnaround and give us the nation we should have had after attaining self-rule. Here's a similar case study.

The Israelites in biblical days lived in Egypt for 430 years. The first tranche – during Joseph's time – was bliss. They lived on the best part of the land and had food to eat. Few in number, but well taken care of, with Joseph as the second-in-command. Then came a pharaoh "who knew not Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). By then, things had changed drastically – the Israelites numbered millions and this new leader, unlike those before him, did not recognise Joseph's role in keeping his country alive and turning it into a superpower. This new regime marked a turning point, leading to the oppression of the Israelites. One that would last four generations. But after the darkness comes dawn. A new day emerged, and the Israelites were set free. It took very dramatic actions for this hard-hearted pharaoh to finally let them go, for dialogue and convincing alone did not work.

We stand on the precipice of something new. Definitely not 400 years, but four generations later is as good as it gets. While the main actors (politicians) are scrambling to accumulate votes and change laws to allow ID card voting (and have opened the doors to non-Kenyans to vote), others in the opposing camp are gathering tribal back-up – same script, different cast. But there stands a group that is convinced that politicians are not the answer; leaders with integrity are. And this group is gathering steam, educating the masses by disseminating pertinent information and consolidating the numbers. They are hungry, hopeful and determined to turn the tide. Their time has come.

WE STAND ON THE PRECIPICE OF SOMETHING NEW. THE GROUP IS CONVINCED POLITICIANS ARE NOT THE ANSWER; LEADERS WITH INTEGRITY ARE

WANTAM KINGMAKER

Why good-hearted Gachagua will make Matiang'i president

SAM OMWENGA

When then UDA leader William Ruto announced then Mathira MP Rigathi Gachagua as his running mate, few had heard much about the man. In no time, however, the fiery politician and Moi era administrator had his knives out and immediately made his pain known to then President Uhuru Kenyatta and Azimio presidential candidate and ODM leader Raila. By this time, everyone except Ruto and his operatives assumed it was a foregone conclusion he would be the next president of Kenya.

I recently had an opportunity for the first time to meet and greet the DP, the man from Wamunyoru. I must say, even though the meeting was brief, what he then said to me and a colleague led me to immediately conclude the man has the humility and kind heartedness that many assume he lacks, given his effectiveness as slasher and destroyer of the powerful.

When Ruto announced Rigathi as his running mate, the word humility did not flow from his lips in describing the man. Rather, Ruto described Gachagua as an "astute debater with prodigious persuasive ability, a fantastic grassroots mobiliser and political operative". Ruto only focused on qualities or characteristics he was looking for in a person who could help him not to govern, but more importantly, who could help him politically finish Uhuru, and therefore Raila.

Little did Ruto know that those same qualities would politically finish him as well.

What Rigathi has done to avenge his impeachment by Ruto is astounding and the trophy will be celebration of Wantam success with the swearing-in of a new president to make this quest an epic success.

That president will be someone Rigathi blesses with his support come 2027, if not long before when the coalitions form.

And this is where Rigathi's humility and good heartedness will come into play.

Being a man of God, Rigathi knows the Bible instructs believers to forgive one another as God has forgiven us, emphasising kindness, compassion, and a willingness to let go of bitterness and anger. All well and good but let's not lie to ourselves; there are some who offend so much that such that forgiving is not easy or it comes long after one has avenged the wrong.

It is clear and Rigathi has made it known that his mission is one and only one: Wantam.

What a sweet victory it shall be for Rigathi and whoever he supports for president for in 2027 for he shall be the kingmaker for the season.

Some would argue Raila will also be a kingmaker but only if he chooses to support the only candidate who can easily beat Ruto come 2027 and that is Fred Matiang'i.

It is now a foregone conclusion that even Ruto and his operatives have come to the realisation that even though Raila saved him from being chased out of State House by Gen Z, he no longer adds value to Ruto and his moribund reelection campaign. What Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna has been saying lately points to Raila bolting from the so-called broad-based government.

The question is, what will Raila then do? Will he run for president? Other than his fanatic supporters, everyone agrees Raila vying for the presidency would be a mistake that would damage his legacy beyond what he has done already.

To help repair that legacy, Raila would be well advised to support Matiang'i.

As to Rigathi, and putting aside the legal viability of his candidacy he is challenging in court his impeachment, which bars vying, the Ruto destroyer has said he is willing to shelve his political ambitions if that is what it would take to make Wantam a reality.

In analysing the impeachment of Rigathi, I noted one of the mistakes Rigathi made that led to his impeachment was his initially trashing Uhuru and later tormenting the Kenyatta family, complete with unforgivable insults of Mama Ngina.

The writer is a political commentator based in the US



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NEWS RAGE AND DISCONTENT

More than 1,000 arrested over deadly Angola fuel protests

BBC AFRICA

@TheStarKenya

Police in Angola say five people, including a police officer, have been killed and more than 1,200 have been arrested after demonstrations in the capital, Luanda.

What began as a three-day strike by taxi drivers against rising petrol prices has escalated into one of the most widespread and disruptive waves of protest the country has seen in recent years.

Thousands of people joined demonstrations in the capital on Monday that saw roads blocked, shops looted, cars destroyed as well as clashes between demonstrators and police. The police also reported attempted demonstrations and looting in the provinces of Icolo e Bengo and Huambo, which they now say have been contained.

Pockets of protests had continued in Luanda on Tuesday, along with further clashes with police and more looting of shops. The unrest has also involved reports of gunfire in parts

of the capital. "The fuel price issue is just the last straw that has reignited widespread public discontent... People are fed up. Hunger is rife, and the poor are becoming miserable," a prominent local activist, Laura Macedo, told the BBC.

The strike was called by taxi operators in response to the government's decision to raise the price of diesel by over 33%, a measure introduced in early July as part of plans to remove fuel subsidies in the oil-rich nation.

Not only has this resulted in higher fares for urban Angolans who rely on the taxis, but it has also driven up the price of staple foods and other basics - as suppliers who transport those goods by road are passing on their additional costs to consumers.

But President João Lourenço has dismissed such concerns, saying that protesters are using petrol prices as a pretext to undermine the government. "Even after the increase, the price of diesel in Angola remains

around 40 US cents [per litre], and there are not many countries in the world with prices this low," he told CNN Portugal in a recent interview.

The average monthly wage in Angola is just 70,000 kwanzas (\$75; £56), and a promise by the presidency to increase this to 100,000 kwanzas has not materialised.

As frustrations spilled over on Monday, groups of protesters took to the streets in various parts of Luanda, chanting against fuel price increases, nearly five decades of rule by the governing MPLA party and expressing their frustration with the country's current state of affairs.

State-run media in Angola came under heavy criticism on social media for continuing with its regular programming and failing to cover the demonstrations.

By Monday evening, the MPLA warned young people not to join the protests and said that these "acts of vandalism are deliberately intended to tarnish and hinder the joyful celebration" of Angola's 50th anniversary of independence.

Local authorities in Luanda on Monday also issued a public statement expressing "deep concern" over the events, which they described as "disturbances and acts of

vandalism associated with the forced halting of taxi services".

According to the statement, the strike originally announced by taxi organisations had been called off following negotiations with authorities. However, it said, "groups of unidentified individuals, without any legitimate representation of the taxi sector, resumed the call for strike actions, promoting intimidation and violence, including attacks on vehicles circulating on public roads, even those not providing taxi services".

Much of these protests have been spontaneous in nature.

A major taxi association, Anata, has distanced itself from Monday's violence but vowed to continue the three-day strike, saying "the voice of the taxi drivers reflects the outcry of the Angolan people".

As of Wednesday afternoon, major shops, banks and other businesses have remained closed. Some civil servants have returned to work, but many people who work for private companies have stayed at home on the advice of their employers.

Police warn they are patrolling the streets and will continue to "intervene where there are still disturbances" to "re-establish public order and peace".

China's EV leadership: What it means for the mineral economies of Africa



ONYANGO K'ONYANGO
@TheStarKenya

Journalist and communications consultant

The transition to electric vehicles is not just a technological shift - it is a redefinition of the global industrial landscape. In 2025, China leads this transformation, commanding more than 60 per cent of the global EV battery supply chain. From lithium extraction to battery manufacturing, China has built a coherent and scalable ecosystem that positions it as a key player in green transportation. For Africa - home to some of the world's richest deposits of critical minerals such as cobalt, lithium, and nickel - this evolving dynamic presents both opportunities and lessons.

Over the past decade, China has invested significantly in clean energy technologies, recognising early the central role of EVs in future mobility and carbon neutrality goals. Through consistent policy, public-private partnerships and large-scale infrastructure, it has created a robust EV industry. The focus has extended far beyond domestic manufacturing; Chinese companies have made strategic investments across the EV value chain - including in Africa, where much of the world's essential battery minerals originate.

Chinese firms have entered into agreements and partnerships in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (cobalt), Zimbabwe (lithium) and South Africa (nickel), contributing to mineral exploration, mine development and export logistics.

In many cases, these investments have brought in foreign direct capital, employment opportunities and infrastructure. Such collaborations underscore the importance

of cross-border partnerships in realising the full potential of global energy transitions.

However, as the EV market grows exponentially, mineral-exporting economies in Africa face a critical development crossroads. The increasing global demand for EVs - and the minerals that make them possible - could either deepen Africa's reliance on raw material exports or become a catalyst for long-term industrial transformation. The difference lies in the choices African governments make now.

Africa has the resources. What it needs is a deliberate strategy to move up the value chain. Exporting unprocessed minerals generates limited revenue and fewer jobs. On the other hand, local processing, refining and eventually manufacturing can create more robust, diversified economies. With the right policies, Africa could begin building its own battery supply capabilities or form regional alliances to share industrial infrastructure.

This is where China's model offers useful insights. China's success in EVs was not accidental - it was built on long-term planning, investment in human capital and integration between government and industry. African nations can adopt similar approaches, not by replicating China's strategy exactly, but by tailoring it to regional strengths and economic contexts. For example, countries could prioritise the development of mineral industrial parks or establish special economic zones dedicated to clean energy technologies.

Equally important is the need for intra-African cooperation. No single



A factory of Chinese electric vehicle maker Li Auto Inc., in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province /XINHUA

African country has all the elements needed for a complete EV supply chain. But through regional integration - supported by frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area - countries can share resources, standardise policies and pool investments. A refined mineral from one country could be processed into battery components in another, then assembled into electric buses or two-wheelers in a third. This kind of regional specialisation can enable Africa to gain a foothold in the global green economy.

The role of multilateral institutions and development partners will also be vital. Supporting Africa's ambitions with access to financing, technology transfer and fair trade agreements will help ensure that mineral wealth becomes a foundation for inclusive growth. Furthermore, public-private partnerships involving African governments, local entrepreneurs and international in-

vestors can facilitate infrastructure development and skills training.

It is also crucial for African countries to balance investment attraction with long-term economic vision. Welcoming foreign partners - including from China - should be aligned with national development goals such as employment generation, environmental sustainability and technology adoption. Transparent contracts, clear regulatory frameworks and local content requirements can ensure that collaborations are mutually beneficial.

The global shift to EVs is still in its early phases. Demand for lithium, cobalt and nickel is projected to surge over the next decade. This gives Africa a window of opportunity to redefine its role in the global supply chain. The decisions made today will determine whether the continent becomes a critical link in future clean energy industries or continues to play a supporting role.

Nacada must revisit its harsh booze proposals

The recently launched 2025 National Policy on Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse calls for raising the legal drinking age from 18 to 21 and banning home delivery. Other measures include ban of alcohol on vending machines and online sales, and enforcing strict 300 metre buffer zones around schools, churches and residential zones. These well intentioned measures aim to protect youth, curb addiction and reduce alcohol related harm.

Kenya must indeed acknowledge the risks. Studies cited by Nacada show alarming rates of alcohol use among youth – 87.3 per cent university students – and rising addiction levels among 15 year olds.

Yet while the public health case is strong, Nacada must avoid “setting the house on fire to rid it of rats.”

Blanket bans on sales in estates, petrol stations, restaurants, bus parks, and vending machines could remove legitimate options for responsible adult consumption and threaten thousands of small businesses and jobs.

If mature 18-year-olds are trusted to vote, marry and make life decisions, why exclude them from regulated, responsible alcohol use?

Eliminating restaurants and transit sales like on the SGR, with clear rules, seems excessive.

HISTORICAL QUOTE

“I do not think I have any uncharitable prejudice against the rattlesnake, still, I should not like to be one”

Herman Melville

American novelist, short story writer and poet of the American Renaissance period was born August 1, 1891

COLUMN COUNTRY IN CRISIS

Masked presidency: The charm, claws and crisis



EDWIN WANJAWA

@TheStarKenya

The writer teaches Globalisation and international development at Pwani University and is a programmes associate at DTM, a Media CSO

e.wangoli@pu.ac.ke



Then Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi with President William Ruto at a past function /FILE

“A nation gets the leadership it tolerates.” – Frantz Fanon

When Justin Muturi, a seasoned insider of Kenya’s political machine, stepped onto the people’s bench and peeled back the image of President William Ruto, he dropped a bombshell long whispered in corridors of power: that Ruto is a man of two faces – one charming and polished, the other calculating and ruthless. It wasn’t just a rebuke; it was a confession of complicity, a belated alarm from one who has sat at the President’s table. But what Muturi did was not merely call out a person—he diagnosed a pathology in Kenyan leadership.

This duality of persona is not rare in politics, but it becomes dangerous when the gap between the public façade and private reality becomes a chasm. Ruto’s presidency, built on the scaffolding of populist piety and hustler hope, has mutated into a regime marked by duplicity, coercion and systemic betrayal. It’s not that Ruto changed. It’s that many Kenyans projected onto him what they needed to believe, while ignoring the warning signs.

Ruto’s rise was theatrical: the son of a peasant, the street-smart survivor of political banishment, the self-styled hustler who weaponised biblical scripture and digital hashtags. In 2022, he didn’t just win an election; he seduced a nation. And that seduction came with a promise – to dismantle dynasties, uplift the poor and restore dignity. Yet what has followed is not a revolution from below, but repression from above. The same people who sang “Ruto Tasha” now chant “Ruto Must Go.” The betrayal is not ideological – it is spiritual. The hustler gospel has become a technocratic tyranny.

Behind the soft sermons and handshake politics is a presidency that brooks no dissent. Civil servants have been sacked for imagined disloyalty, oversight institutions neutered, the media harassed

and protesters brutalised – some fatally. Police violence has become normalised under the guise of “law and order.” Meanwhile, the President maintains a polished calm, publicly preaching tolerance even as his agents clamp down on it. This is not merely hypocrisy – it is statecraft by duplicity.

This leadership style – public geniality paired with private vengeance – mirrors autocrats who understood that control thrives best when masked as consensus. Former President Daniel arap Moi ruled with a Bible in one hand and a whip in the other. Uganda’s Yoweri Museveni speaks of Pan-Africanism while jailing journalists. Rwanda’s Kagame charms the West with reformist talk even as political opponents vanish. Ruto has not yet crossed those lines fully, but his trajectory rhymes ominously with these precedents.

The cost of this duplicity is now clear. The country is adrift – economically strained, socially polarised and politically explosive. The Finance Bill fiasco was not just a policy failure; it was a credibility collapse. Young Kenyans saw through the lies and said no – loudly, relentlessly, fearlessly. Their movement was not merely anti-tax. It was anti-betrayal. It was a scream against a leadership that cloaks itself in the language of salvation while presiding over suffering.

But this crisis is not Ruto’s alone. It is a mirror reflecting a society that too often confuses eloquence with ethics and scripture with strategy. Ruto did not seize power by force – he was elected. And he was elected

AS WE APPROACH THE 2027 ELECTION, THE GOVERNANCE LESSONS ARE URGENT. BUT FIRST, WE MUST REJECT PERSONALITY CULTS AND DEMAND POLICY CLARITY

not just because of what he promised, but because of what many voters failed to interrogate. In a country where performative piety substitutes for policy, and where every leader becomes a saviour, betrayal becomes inevitable.

So, do Kenyans really know their President? Perhaps they never did. Or worse – they knew and chose denial. And now the consequences are cascading: a bloated Cabinet, shrinking freedoms, disillusioned youth and a President more isolated than ever. The mask is slipping, and the face beneath it is not kind.

As we approach the 2027 election cycle, the governance lessons are urgent. First, we must reject personality cults and demand policy clarity. Second, civil society and independent institutions must be defended as pillars of accountability, not enemies of the state. Third, electoral choices must be informed by memory, not just hope – by scrutiny, not sentiment. Fourth, the church must stop being a stage for political theatre and reclaim its prophetic role in truth-telling. And fifth, Kenya’s youth must continue to organise, agitate and vote – not just in elections, but also in everyday acts of civic resistance.

Leadership with two faces is no leadership at all – it is manipulation. And if President Ruto wishes to rescue his legacy, he must reconcile the contradictions within himself. He must choose: preacher or enforcer, reformer or ruler, leader or deceiver. The hour is late, and the country is watching – not through rose-tinted glasses, but through the clear eyes of lived betrayal.

The next election may seem far, but history is being written now – in every budget, every protest, every silence and every scream. A nation can no longer afford a masked presidency. Kenya deserves a leader who does not speak from both sides of the mouth while pointing fingers at shadows he commands.

INTERVIEW **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

'Deaths and disappearances during demos reason for serious concern'



ELIUD KIBII
@TheStarKenya

The author writes on diplomatic issues and international relations

Outgoing Finland Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola is concluding his tour of duty in Kenya this month. He proceeds to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, as executive director and member of the board of the African Development Bank. In his new role, he will be representing a constituency of the Nordic countries, India and Ireland. In this interview edited for length and clarity, he reviews his tenure and the current political developments.

As you end your term of duty in Kenya, could you review for us your stay in Kenya and the highs and lows you experienced during your posting?

It has been a wonderful and very interesting period of nearly four years in this beautiful country, which as my President noted during his state visit is one of those middle powers that can be considered swing states in defining the new world order.

Much has happened in Kenya, the region and the world. Domestically, we saw peaceful and successful elections in 2022, devoid of post-election violence. This was a major success. Since then, however, we have seen the rise of increasing domestic problems, with popular dissatisfaction and demonstrations. The loss of life in the context of demonstrations last year and in 2025 is a reason for serious concern, as are reports of disappearances. The right to peaceful demonstration and protest is a fundamental one.

The region has also been in turmoil from the Horn of Africa to the Great Lakes region. Kenya has been called upon to play a key role. Her leadership has been and is required in mediating and finding sustainable solutions to conflicts. Here we have also been able to start a good bilateral dialogue, which I am very pleased about.

Globally the past years have been particularly challenging after Russia – a member of the P5 of the UN Security Council – challenged the entire rules-based multilateral order through an unprovoked – basically colonial – war of aggression on Ukraine. This has shaken the fundamentals of the multilateral rules-based order, which has been the guarantor of peace ever since the end of the Second World War. Kenya took a very principled stance against this aggression at the beginning. This was highly appreciated. It is important to stay on course as regards this principled stance.

One of the key battles we have had has been the fight against disinformation, which is part of the hybrid security risks posed by Russia and some other players. Fighting disinformation has been for me a major focus during my posting in Kenya.

There have been successes in this regard, but key challenges also remain. Some even talk about a post-truth world. It should also be noted that in the context of the domestic



Outgoing Finland Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola
/ELIUD KIBII

turmoil, it is absolutely vital that forces wanting to play geopolitical games or push authoritarian agendas are not instrumentalising the situation. Democracy and the rule of law need to prevail under any circumstance. Overall, my posting here has seen the intensification of our bilateral relationship culminating in the first-ever state visit to Kenya by a Finnish Head of State, in May. Our relationship has become more political, and more equal, moving away from a donor-recipient relationship to an equal partnership. It has been a pleasure – and an honour – to be part of steering our relationship towards an ever-closer partnership.

A key highlight must have been facilitating the historic state visit by President Alexander Stubb. He then proceeded to Tanzania. What did that visit mean in regards to Finland's interests in Kenya, the region and Africa?

The visit was a strong demonstration of our interests in Kenya, which is traditionally a strong democracy, a like-minded partner in the defence of the rules-based multilateral world order. Kenya is also the economic powerhouse of East Africa, it matters to us and it is no surprise that our Embassy in Nairobi is our largest diplomatic mission in Africa. As my President said during the visit, we see Kenya as a leader in Africa and one of those states that will help define the new world order which is emerging from the current turmoil the world is facing.

The visit reflected well what goes on in our relationship, with in-depth talks between the two Presidents on our bilateral relations, as well as regional and global developments. The President and First Lady also met with representatives of civil society for a frank and open conversation on the direction Kenya is taking. There was a business forum and a visit to a Finnfund financed development investment on providing affordable internet connectivity to people on a commercially sustainable basis. We also visited a Tvet institution to showcase the important work we

are doing together with Germany in terms of skills-development and job creation for Kenya's vibrant young population.

Two MoUs were signed during the visit – on regular political consultations and on co-operation in peace mediation – to help us intensify our dialogue and co-operation in tackling key challenges. This is very much in line with the transformation of the nature of our relationship.

So – the visit was about engagement and listening, as well as conveying messages. Kenya's role in defending the rules-based international system is key. The visit therefore really went to the heart of both our interests and values, sending a strong signal of the importance we attach to Kenya.

For me the President's public lecture – who also has a solid academic background – at the University of Nairobi, was a particularly important element of the visit, allowing for a strong contribution to the conversation on where the world is heading.

The lecture described the current global tensions, which are affecting different states differently. Who is to blame and what do you think needs to be done?

As ambassador, I will certainly not speculate on my President's words, nor interpret them. His key message was more about the importance of North – South engagement and the multilateral order we are seeing transforming. Kenya's role is key and we as Finland are also strongly in favour of reforming the UN systems, which still largely reflects the realities at the Second World War.

Without pointing fingers of blame, I will of course state the obvious. Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine constitutes the most dramatic challenge to the international system since the Second World War. We have spent decades carefully building international institutions to ensure wars could no longer be a possible as a means of changing borders and grabbing territory. Now we are seeing a colonial war aimed

at re-subjugating a country that regained her sovereignty at the fall of the Soviet empire. The war has also caused global suffering with the interruption of supplies of grain and fertiliser. Russia alone is to blame for this suffering.

What then should be done? Fundamentally, this is about efforts of defending and restoring a just and functioning rules-based multilateral order. The defence of a rules-based system is also a domestic choice between authoritarianism from the one hand and democracy, accountable institutions and the rule of law on the other. Those who have started wars are usually for authoritarianism, violence and might rather than rules and right.

Finland has been vocal on the current national affairs, particularly police brutality and repression. Did you have a chance to share these concerns through diplomatic channels?

Our relationship with Kenya and Kenya's standing is very much linked to her status as a leading democracy in Africa. As part of the EU and the international community, Finland is following Kenyan domestic developments closely. I have also joined public statements by likeminded envoys who are invested in governance-related issues. We also regularly speak up as part of the EU.

Diplomacy will at times use public statements, but it is not fundamentally about such statements. Dialogue and quiet diplomacy are what our profession is and should mostly be about. In this context, we are in a constant conversation with the authorities on issues of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In line with good diplomatic practice, I will leave it to the Kenyan authorities to comment on their response. It is not my place to do so.

One of the key issues during your tenure was the "Finland scholarship scandal". The President termed it as unfortunate and that mistakes were made. What measures has Finland done to avoid a repeat of the same?

This issue did indeed happen during my tenure, but strictly speaking did not involve the Finnish government. What we are talking about was a private business agreement between a county in Kenya and a University of Applied Sciences in Finland on what we call a commission education project. The so-called scandal erupted following the county government in question not honouring its payment obligations to the Finnish educational institution. The problem has, therefore, been at county level, and the needed investigative and legal action concerning local actors lies within the purview of the relevant Kenyan authorities. Accountability is and needs to be key in this context.

Read full interview at <https://www.the-star.co.ke/>



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GENDER CHAMPION



Maendeleo Ya Wanawake chairperson Rahab Mwikali signs condolences book at the home of Mama Pheobe Asiyo in Wikondiek village, Karachuonyo constituency on July 27/**ROBERT OMOLLO**

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Big brother is watching: Dangers of social media

A recent Coldplay concert in Boston, a CEO of an AI organisation was having a wonderful time; little did he realise that a kiss cam moment meant as light-hearted entertainment would turn into a viral sensation. Kiss Cam is a live camera that picks two people at random from the crowd, usually sitting next to each other and broadcasts their faces on a large screen. It's a light-hearted moment that implies that they should kiss as people cheer them and boo if they don't.

In our CEO's instance, the audience applauded, the couple recoiled and the internet exploded. Within hours, the video had gone viral, and internet "DCI" had identified the two. Speculation of an affair spread worldwide.

Videos were reposted with commentary, memes and moral judgments. A moment that was intended to be private, or at least limited to a single physical location, made its way online, globally. What began as a short public moment became an unwelcome and permanent global exposé; the internet had transformed from a place of

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON FALLACIES IS THAT PEOPLE'S PRIVACY CONTINUES EVEN WHEN THEY'RE IN A CROWD. GENERALLY, THERE IS NO REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY IN PUBLIC PLACES AND THIS IDEA IS MOST EVIDENT AT EVENTS SUCH AS CONCERTS.

contact to a massive surveillance system; a cautionary story about privacy in the digital age.

Thus, it's no surprise that cameras are recording much of our lives these days. For years, sports and entertainment venues have videotaped spectators, frequently showing amusing moments of audience interaction to the rest of the crowd. But, in an era of lightning-fast social sharing and cameras that are nearly unavoidable, can being in public still imply any expectation of privacy? Let it be known that one of the most common fallacies is that people's privacy continues even when they're in a crowd. Generally, there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in public places and this idea is most evident at events such as concerts, sports, rallies and festivals.

If you are visible to the public, you can be filmed or photographed by them. This includes appearing in another person's photo or video as well as being captured by a media source or bystander. And it is founded on the legal premise that in public places, there is often no reasonable expectation of privacy in terms of being seen or heard by others. Nonetheless, there are legal limitations, and recognising them is critical, especially when a viral video has an impact on one's personal or professional life; if someone exploits your picture or identify for commercial purposes, such as advertising, promotional content, or implying an endorsement, you may have a legal claim under publicity laws. This is especially important for prominent people and celebrities, but it can also apply to ordinary

persons whose images are used without authorisation.

Additionally, inasmuch as there is nothing in the privacy laws that prohibit people from taking photos in a public place what one does with that photo or video may become a data protection problem, with a slew of requirements and duties under the Data Protection Act of 2019.

As the distinction between entertainment and data processing blurs, it is critical for organisers, broadcasters and venues to reassess traditional norms through a privacy-first lens.

First, let me put a wrench in the works: the filming and subsequent broadcast of our favorite CEO cuddling up with their partner may suggest sexual orientation. And that might be deemed sensitive personal data under data protection laws, necessitating a greater level of safeguards.

Second, organisers, broadcasters and venues must demonstrate, among other things, a legal basis for the processing of such personal data. To record and project people in front of thousands, one must have a valid justification. While some may argue that there is a legitimate interest, explicit consent is often the safest choice, particularly when focusing in on people. And let me be clear: there is no place for ambiguity! Consent is invalid if it is ambiguous, silent, or people feel pressured. Being in a throng does not imply that they agreed. Consent must be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous.

The audience should also have the ability to exercise their data subject rights to access, correction, deletion, or objection to such footage.

Mutua Mutuku
Partner, Sisule & Associates LLP

WHAT THEY SAID ...



Political contest

If UDA loses in the by-elections, it signals they might perform dismally in the general elections. And the same goes for the opposition

AYUB SAVULA
Deputy governor, Kakamega



There is a clear gap between what we are preparing the youth for versus what the market is demanding. And so, there needs to be very intentional conversations and thoughts around what we need to do to bridge that gap

SARAH NDEGWA
Acting MD, BrighterMonday

COMMENT

SHARON NAMAROME

@TheStarkenya

Education crucial to curb spike in teen pregnancies

Nothing casts a dark shadow in a teenage girl's world like waking up one morning to the harsh reality of an unexpected pregnancy. It doesn't matter how it happened, but the truth remains, pregnancy is no small journey. It demands mental strength, emotional maturity and social support.

Ask any woman and many will confess without hesitation that the toughest chapter in a relationship or marriage is pregnancy itself. And don't forget childbirth itself has a reputation of being incredibly painful. That's the raw, unfiltered truth.

And when pregnancy comes unplanned, especially to a young, perhaps innocent teen, the weight is almost unbearable. Her future seems to be clouded by uncertainty.

The fear of dropping out of school, the shame and the isolation hits harder than anyone can imagine. No wonder, the introduction of the re-entry policy in 1994 by the Ministry of Education was a glimmer of hope, allowing pregnant schoolgirls and young mothers to return to school after giving birth. And this is not about endorsing teenage pregnancy.

Rather, it's about recognising the importance of giving these girls a second chance in education to reclaim their dreams and break free from the chains of poverty and the harsh realities that often accompany teenage parenting.

This policy was especially crucial for those whose pregnancies resulted from circumstances beyond their control, such as gender-based violence.

As seen on paper, the policy would have been vital in reducing dropout cases related to teenage pregnancies and ensured inclusive education for the most needy students.

Three decades later, of the 13,000 girls who drop out of school every year due to pregnancy, hardly 1,200 return to school.

Our fight on teenage pregnancy is applaudable as the 2025 Economic Survey report indicated that adolescents aged 10 to 19 presenting with pregnancy at their first antenatal care visit declined by 4.8 per cent to 241, 228 in 2024 compared to 110,821 pregnancies that were recorded among adolescents aged between the ages of 10 to 19 in the first five months of 2023.

However, failing to take them back to school, even as teenage pregnancy cases reduce, is a dire tragedy. It leaves thousands of girls trapped in a cycle of poverty, exposes them to further abuse and denies them the dignity of reclaiming their dreams.