

Transition

Raila to be buried on Saturday as Ruto declares seven days of mourning

State burial: Page 2



Influence

Raila Odinga: Kenya's most consequential politician in history

Final rites: Page 4-5

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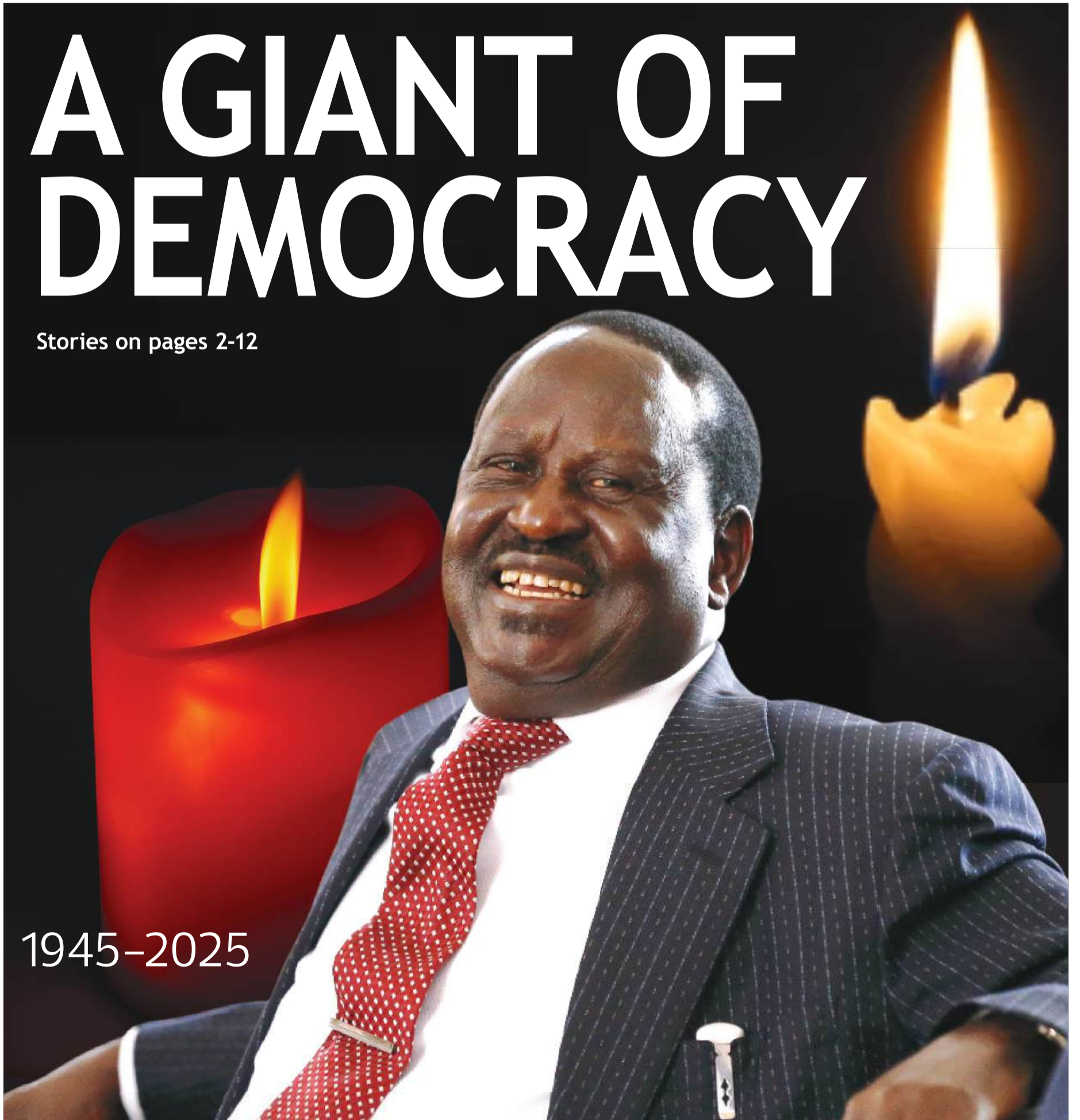
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the STAR

A GIANT OF DEMOCRACY

Stories on pages 2-12

1945-2025



GIANT OF DEMOCRACY

Raila to be buried in Bondo on Saturday

Ruto has declared seven days of national mourning following the ex-PM's death

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

THE national burial committee was last night making hurried preparations for Raila Odinga's burial on Saturday in his Bondo home.

Raila's body is expected in the country today at 9 am and will be received by President William Ruto, his family, ODM officials and military officials, among others. The body will be taken to the Lee Funeral Home as the military plans the state funeral.

The body is expected to be taken to Parliament at 11 am for viewing.

A public service is planned for Friday at Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi ahead of Raila's burial at his Opopa Farm in Bondo.

The burial committee chaired by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki and Raila's elder brother Oburu Odinga was meeting late last evening to finalise the plans.

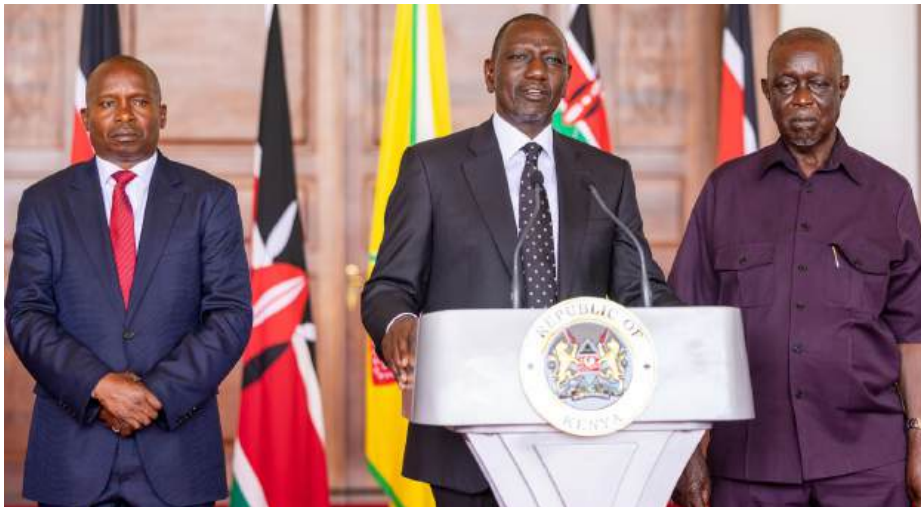
Necessary preparations began in earnest in Kang'o Kajaramogi.

Raila will be laid to rest next to his mother Mary Juma as per his wishes. The mother died on November 5, 1984, while Raila was being detained at Shimo la Tewa Prison and he never got a chance to pay his last respects.

President Ruto has declared seven days of national mourning following the death of the former Prime Minister.

During the mourning period, the national flag will fly at half-mast across the country and at all Kenyan missions abroad in honour of the ODM leader, who passed away in India on Wednesday.

"As a mark of respect, I have postponed all my public engagements for the coming days to join the nation in this period of mourning and deep reflection," Ruto said.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, President William Ruto and Siaya Senator Oburu Odinga at State House, Nairobi, yesterday /PCS

The President also announced that Raila will be accorded a state funeral, complete with full honours, in recognition of his immense contribution to Kenya's democracy.

A state funeral is a public ceremony held to honour individuals of national significance—such as heads of state or other prominent leaders—and often includes military honours and opportunities for the public to pay their respects.

A delegation, led by Ida Odinga and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday flew to India to prepare for the repatriation of Raila's body.

Other members of the delegation included CSs Kipchumba Murkomen (Transport) and Hassan Joho (Mining), National Assembly Majority leader Kimani Ichung'wah, Minority leader Junet Mohamed, and family members Jaoko Oburu and Kevin Oginga.

"At the same time, the Government of India, at the request of the Government of Kenya, has offered to facilitate the repatriation of the remains of our former Prime Minister," the President said.

The former Prime Minister, who as opposition leader ran for President five times without success between 1997 and 2022, had suffered a heart attack, the Devamatha Hospital in the southern Indian state of Kerala confirmed.

He was widely seen as a champion of democracy and political reform in Kenya. From the 1980s he opposed the one-party rule under President Moi, pressed for human rights and endured detention, torture and exile.

In his emotional tribute, Ruto described Raila as "a giant of democracy, a fearless freedom fighter and a tireless warrior for good governance".

"Fellow patriots, we have lost a beacon of courage, a tower of principle, and a father of our democracy. Let us come together, as he always urged us to do—not as rivals, but as brothers and sisters bound by a shared destiny," he said.

The President said Raila's name will forever be etched in the story

of the Republic—a story of struggle, sacrifice, courage and the pursuit of justice.

"For decades, Raila dedicated his life to the fight for justice, equity and freedom. He endured detention and persecution so that this nation might enjoy democracy," Ruto said.

He added that Raila championed reforms that birthed the rights and freedoms Kenyans enjoy today.

"His voice spoke for the oppressed, his conviction inspired generations and his vision shaped the course of our history," he said.

Describing him as "a once-in-a-generation leader", Ruto said Raila's ideals transcended politics and his legacy would shape Kenya's destiny for generations to come.

"In his passing, we have lost a patriot of uncommon courage, a pan-Africanist, and a unifier, who sought peace and unity above power and self-gain—a servant of the people who gave his all for the promise of a better Kenya," the President said.

Ruto extended his deepest condolences to Ida, Raila's children Rosemary, Raila Junior and Winnie, the Odinga family, the ODM fraternity, and all Kenyans mourning the loss.

"In a political career spanning decades, Raila offered a compelling model of principled politics. At critical moments in our nation's journey, he always put Kenya before personal interest," the President concluded.



As a mark of respect, I have postponed all my public engagements for the coming days to join the nation in this period of mourning and deep reflection

OUTPOURING OF GRIEF

Raila Odinga's death brings Parliament to a standstill, plenary and committees cancelled

LUKE AWICH

PARLIAMENT was yesterday morning abruptly adjourned following the shocking news of the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

The National Assembly was forced to suspend the morning sitting prompting an outpouring of grief from MPs across the political divide.

Ordinarily the House holds two sittings—in the morning to process private members bill and the afternoon plenary where CSs get a chance to respond to MPs questions.

Apart from the morning plenary, several committee sittings were also shelved last minute with legislators gathered in solemn groups, many visibly shaken by the news.

Some of the committee meetings that were lined up and didn't takeoff include the Petitions Committee, which was to meet Insurance Regulatory Authority and the Public Investment Committee on Governance and Education chaired by Bumula MP Wanami Wamboka.

Raila besides serving as the country Prime Minister was the MP for Lang'ata, now Kibra and Lang'ata constituencies, for two decades.

Sources within Parliament said special sessions are being planned to honour his legacy, with official state mourning arrangements expected to follow.

Speaker of the National Assembly Moses Wetang'ula led the House in a brief tribute before announcing an indefinite suspension of proceedings to allow MPs to mourn.

Wetang'ula, visibly shaken by the news, invoked his authority under Standing Order No 1 to halt proceedings, directing MPs to reconvene later in the day for official communication on the matter.

"I will invoke my authority under Standing Order No 1, and I direct as follows: the sitting this morning is adjourned," he directed.

"We will have a sitting at 2.30 pm this afternoon, where the Speaker will give you important communication. For now, the House stands adjourned to 2.30 pm this afternoon."

The announcement came moments after news of Raila's death spread across the country, plunging the nation into mourning.

Wetang'ula did not, however, disclose the reason for the sudden adjournment.

Raila, 80, was a towering figure in Kenya's political landscape for decades, known for his relentless push for reform, democracy and national unity.

His death has sent shockwaves across the country, with tributes pouring in from leaders and citizens alike.

Two lawmakers were overcome by emotion as the devastating news reached the floor of the House.

Likoni MP Mishi Mboko and Busia Woman Representative Catherine Omanyoo, both members of the Orange Democratic Movement, broke down in tears and wept uncontrollably, visibly shaken by the passing of the veteran opposition leader.

A video from the morning sitting showed the Serjeant-at-Arms stepping in to comfort the two as other MPs watched in stunned silence.



Speaker Moses Wetang'ula in the National Assembly yesterday /HANDOUT

STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Will Raila's passing greatly impact Kenyan politics?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Should private hospitals demand instant payment for emergency cases?

YES 2%

NO 98%





Raila Odinga's widow Ida at home in Karen, Nairobi, yesterday /ENOS TECHE



The body of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga in Kerala, India, where he died yesterday while undergoing treatment /VIDEO GRAB

LUO CULTURE

'Jowi! Jowi!' Why Raila used chant at funerals

Means buffalo, animal that symbolises strength, courage and fearlessness

STAR REPORTER
@gordon_osen

ON February 12, 2020, during the state burial of former President Daniel Arap Moi at Kabarak, Raila Odinga moved mourners when he broke into a Luo dirge, waved his fly whisk several times above Moi's casket, and chanting, "Jowi! Jowi! Jowi!"

The word is deeply rooted in Luo language and tradition. It refers to a buffalo, an animal that symbolises strength, courage, and fearlessness.

In Luo culture, the buffalo represents someone whose presence is powerful and whose influence cannot be ignored.

Because of this, chanting "Jowi, Jowi" is reserved for highly respected people — leaders, elders, and heroes — individuals who led large lives and left strong legacies.

It signals that the deceased was

more than ordinary and that their departure is a loss felt by entire communities.

Raila's performance at Moi's burial was not spontaneous or mere theatrics. It followed traditional Luo funerary rituals.

One important element of that ritual is the fly whisk, called orenge in Luo.

It is a status symbol carried only by elders of certain standing and used during important ceremonies.

When one raises or waves the whisk during a funeral, it is a sign of mourning and a call for peace and dignity.

At Moi's burial, Raila held his fly whisk aloft, moving it slowly over the casket before waving it six times in a deliberate gesture of honour.

The act signified deep respect in Luo custom. He also performed a Luo dirge — a mournful song in his mother tongue — that preceded the

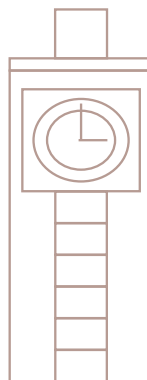
"Jowi" chant. The lyrics implored mourners to reflect on the fleeting nature of life and the uncertainty of what lies ahead.

The "Jowi" ritual has deep historical roots in Luo society. Raila's late father, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, used the same chant when mourning Mzee Jomo Kenyatta after his death in 1978.

According to Luo elders, the tradition has been preserved for generations and is widely understood as a high form of respect.

The chant is used only for great figures — political leaders, industrialists, or religious icons — people who left an imprint on their community. It is never used for children or for those who have not yet attained social status or proven leadership. The unwritten rules of the tradition consider age, service, and reputation as key.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



★ **IS IT A** decline in confidence or early signs of eventual sacking ahead of 2027? That is the question on the lips of the handlers of a top security man who has been having power tussles with a top entity in the sector over control of a crucial process. This is after senior bureaucrats and power brokers took the side of the entity, especially its newly appointed head, and apparently shoved the security boss under the bus. Court jesters now whisper that the man should read the room or wait for the dramatic exit as the signs are all over the wall.

★ **FEAR HAS BEEN** rising in some political circles for weeks — hushed conversations about what a possible void would mean, and how it could be filled. Sources whispered to Corridors that some security agencies are even conducting internal simulations on how to manage possible propaganda and contain public emotions. Behind the calm public statements, quiet meetings have been taking place. Political operatives, sensing a possible shift in the country's power matrix, are mapping potential alignments and fallback options. Everyone seems to be watching everyone else — testing loyalties, gauging the mood and weighing how to position themselves when the dust finally settles.

★ **AFTER A POLITICO** was plunged into the eye of a storm recently, his predecessor resurfaced from political obscurity with posts giving nuggets of wisdom on servant leadership. The former MP has reportedly been plotting a comeback for a while but his strategies have died in the water. The embattled politico now supposedly fears that his grip in the constituency could loosen if the negative press he has been receiving continues and given that he won it by a slim margin. Nitpickers think he must up his game fast.

★ **THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN** governors and their deputies are often frosty is not new but the tension between a coastal county chief and his deputy is reportedly on a new level. The two allegedly don't see eye to eye and don't even shake hands. The deputy county boss reportedly does not step into his boss's office and it is alleged that he does not take a sip of water or tea during meetings for fear of being poisoned. While the deputy maintains a low public profile, insiders say he has purportedly grown increasingly sidelined in major decision-making processes. Meanwhile, the governor — reportedly unhappy with the perceived disloyalty — has begun consolidating power among loyalists. **If you have any tips send them to** Tips@the-star.co.ke

CARTOON





COLOSSUS OF POLITICS FOR FOUR DECADES, HE STOOD AT THE CENTRE OF KENYA'S MOST DE

Most consequential politician in history of Kenya bows out

FELIX OLICK AND
MOSES OGADA
@TheStarKenya

IN the long arc of Kenya's political journey – from the fires of independence, through the struggles for multiparty democracy, to the ongoing fierce succession politics – few names resonate as deeply as that of Raila Amolo Odinga.

His life was a tapestry woven with defiance, resilience, sacrifice and an unyielding belief in a fairer Kenya.

Raila was not just a politician; he was a movement, with an almost cult-like following.

His supporters called him “Baba,” not out of political flattery, but affection.

For more than four decades, he stood at the centre of Kenya's most defining moments, admired, feared, misunderstood, but always impossible to ignore.

Whether one loved or loathed him, none could deny that Raila shaped the trajectory of Kenya's democracy like no other.

President William Ruto, Raila's former political nemesis-turned-friend, described him as “a once-in-a-generation leader.”

“He was a colossus of Kenya's modern politics, an indomitable warrior in our struggle for freedom and prosperity, and a statesman of boundless selflessness,” Ruto stated. “Raila Amolo Odinga's name will forever be etched in the story of our Republic: A story of struggle, sacrifice, courage, rule of law, hope, and our pursuit for excellence.”

Raila, who rose from a fiery political activist to MP, Prime Minister,



President Ruto condoles with Raila's widow Mama Ida Odinga at her Karen home in Nairobi yesterday /PCS

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Born in 1945 to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, Kenya's first Vice President, Raila inherited not just a name, but also a mission — to challenge the entrenched and speak truth to power



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and Kenya's longest-serving opposition leader, breathed his last on Wednesday.

His sudden death plunged the nation into mourning, throwing into disarray the 2027 succession politics.

Raila may never have been declared president, but, as his former spokesman Salim Lone observed, he remained more loved than any president in Kenya's history.

“This is the saddest day in our history,” Lone stated.

“Kenya will never be the same. Millions of hearts have been broken, mourning the passing of a leader who was never allowed to be president. And yet he still remained

beloved for many more years than any president ever was, because Kenyans knew he was the one making sacrifices and fighting for a better life for them by reducing our gross inequalities,” he said.

Lone, one of Raila's closest associates, did not mince words in his assessment, declaring that Raila won the presidency at least twice without being declared.

“While all our presidents curtailed our freedoms and rights to entrench their power and wealth, Raila's vast popular following allowed him, without ever holding power, to enlarge democracy and inclusion for the struggling masses and the marginalised communities

that languished in the farthest corners of this great land. That is why despite at least twice winning the presidency, it was the loser who was announced the winner”.

Born in 1945 to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, Kenya's first Vice President, Raila inherited not just a name, but also a mission — to challenge the entrenched and speak truth to power.

His political baptism came at a time dissent was treasonous, and his courage to oppose authoritarian rule earned him eight straight years in detention — the longest in Kenyan history.

Yet, from the solitude of his cell, Raila's spirit only grew stronger.

FINING MOMENTS, ADMIRER, FEARED, MISUNDERSTOOD, BUT ALWAYS IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE

When Kenya's push for multiparty democracy gained momentum in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Raila was its fiery heartbeat.

Alongside other reformists, he helped dismantle the single-party system and expanded the boundaries of political freedom.

The 2002 transition, which ended Kanu's four-decade reign, bore his unmistakable imprint.

His rallying cry, "Kibaki Tosha!", remains one of the most selfless acts in Kenya's political history.

In a powerful tribute, Kisumu Governor Anyang' Nyong'o, his peer in the revolution, said Raila "stood tall, not because he sought power, but because he was power."

"To say he is gone feels dishonest. Because a man like Raila cannot be erased by time or death. His fingerprints are on our constitution. His footsteps are in our polling stations. His fire lives on in every Kenyan who dares to speak truth to power," Nyong'o, one of Raila's trusted associates, stated.

Raila's political career was marked by both triumph and tragedy. He won hearts but often lost elections, many of them fiercely contested and, in the eyes of his supporters, stolen.

Yet, in every defeat, he became a larger figure, cobbling even more giant coalitions and rebranding for a new political season.

A year after his defeat in the 2013 presidential election, for instance, Raila retreated to the United States for a two-month sabbatical.

Raila Odinga and Mwai Kibaki exchange a handshake witnessed by former UN secretary general Kofi Annan outside Harambee House in February 2008
/FILE



His critics in the then-ruling Jubilee coalition declared his career over, dismissing him as a spent force.

But even in his absence, Raila's presence loomed large.

His supporters, frustrated by what they saw as growing misrule,

began an online campaign under the hashtag #BabaWhileYouWereAway, chronicling the country's woes and calling for his return.

When he finally came back, Raila reignited the national conversation with renewed vigour, mounting one of his most consequential presidential runs in 2017.

That election, in which Uhuru Kenyatta was declared the winner, would later be nullified by the Supreme Court — the first such decision in Kenya and on the African continent.

Citing the failure to implement key electoral reforms, Raila boycotted the repeat poll, cementing his image as a steadfast reformist unwilling to legitimise what he viewed as a flawed process.

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta, whom he competed with in two fiercely contested polls, said Raila was not a man you faced in an election without a plan.

"Baba, as we fondly referred to him, was a man who made you sharpen your own ideas, compelling you to defend your positions with rigour and passion," Uhuru said.

But for Raila, politics was never personal. He could easily embrace his harshest critic.

He was a man who read moments of defeat not as endings, but as openings for recalibration.

These qualities came sharply into focus through his historic handshakes with Uhuru and later William Ruto.

Coming after the disputed 2017 elections and months of street protests, Raila stunned both allies and opponents by extending an olive branch to Uhuru, his long-time rival.

Many saw it as betrayal; others as statesmanship.

But beneath the symbolism was a calculated move — to restore stability, end political violence, and reclaim influence from outside government.

As a consequence of that hand-

shake, Uhuru would later agree to back Raila for the presidency in 2022. He lost narrowly by just about 200,000 votes to Ruto.

Years later, his handshake with President Ruto, following the contested 2022 election, again showed a master tactician at work.

Despite mounting pressure from his base, Raila opted for dialogue over confrontation, securing a bipartisan process to reform the electoral commission and maintain calm in a politically charged nation. It was a familiar play: transforming political tension into opportunity.

But Raila's legacy cannot be measured merely in electoral losses for the top job, but in the democratic culture he helped entrench.

Devolution, constitutional reform, and the bold 2010 constitution, all carry his fingerprints.

The idea that power must flow from the centre to the grassroots found its loudest champion in him.

To his deathbed, Raila strenuously opposed allocating CDF funds to MPs. He instead championed for the funds to be sent to the counties.

Even his fiercest critics concede that Raila was not just any ordinary politician.

For the better part of his career, he spoke the language of the people.

Raila was the grandmaster of political dissent in Kenya.

He numerous led bloodied street protests and would for the longest time be the only politician who could bring the country to a standstill.

Raila was one of Kenya's most vocal advocates for a parliamentary system of government.

He argued that it promotes inclusivity, accountability, national cohesion and was the only way the small tribes could ascend to the presidency.

In Raila's view, a parliamentary system—where executive authority is derived from and answerable to Parliament—would ensure broader representation and continuous oversight of leadership.



Party leader Raila Odinga receives brief on ODM@20 celebrations, which were postponed to next month
/EMMANUEL WANSON



Raila Odinga's supporters at his home in Karen, Nairobi, after news of his death broke yesterday /ENOS TECHE

ACTIVE TO THE END

A life lived in motion: Raila's last moments

Family sources say ODM leader collapsed on routine morning walk

LUKE AWICH
@AchiaAwich

FORMER Prime Minister Raila Odinga maintained a visible public presence in the days leading up to his death, with photos shared from India—where he had been hospitalised—showing him in good spirits.

Images circulated online as late as Tuesday depicted the veteran politician relaxed and cheerful, further reassuring supporters who had expressed concern about his health.

In one of the pictures, Raila appeared at ease alongside Awendo MP Walter Owino and a man identified as Robert Salah.

His calm demeanour and optimism in those final days have left many Kenyans in disbelief, mourning a leader who remained actively engaged in political and civic life until the very end.

According to family sources, the veteran opposition chief was on his routine morning walk in India when he suddenly collapsed.

He was rushed to the Intensive Care Unit of a private hospital, where doctors battled unsuccessfully to save his life.

“He had a morning jog and his heart stopped. He was treated for blood clots last week, something he had struggled with for many years,” a family source told the Star.

Those close to him said Raila had been upbeat and focused on returning home soon—determined, as always, to rejoin the national conversation he so deeply shaped.

The narrative was also reinforced by India's premier news agency, Press

Trust of India, which reported that Raila died of cardiac arrest.

According to the publication, the ODM leader collapsed during a morning walk within the premises of an Ayurvedic facility and was rushed to a private hospital in Koothattukulam, where he was pronounced dead around 9.52 am.

Before going to India, the ODM boss engaged in back-to-back meetings that underscored his characteristic energy and commitment to national issues.

On October 2, Raila hosted Gor Mahia Football Club's executive team at his Karen residence. Later the same day, he chaired a meeting of the steering committee organising the ODM@20 celebrations.

“After careful consideration, we have today decided to postpone ODM @20 celebrations to ensure inclusivity by engaging with more counties converging in Mombasa,” he posted on October 3.

The previous day, Raila posted a picture celebrating his sister Akinyi Odinga, who graduated with a PhD from Durban University of Technology in South Africa.

Before October 2, Raila was noticeably absent from the public eye for nearly two weeks, triggering speculation regarding his health. His close allies then dismissed the speculations as untrue.

He had last been seen on September 22, during an ODM parliamentary group meeting at the Argyle Grand Hotel along Mombasa Road.

That afternoon, he also met Siaya Governor James Orengo at his Cap-

itol Hill offices in Nairobi, for discussions that largely focused on the ongoing Siaya Investment Conference.

Raila had in the past spoken openly about his health, often dismissing speculation and choosing transparency over secrecy.

His candid approach helped calm fears within his political base and reinforced his image as a resilient and straightforward leader.

He was hospitalised for Covid-19 in March 2021, stirring nationwide anxiety. Around the same time, he underwent minor back surgery in Dubai and a complex procedure to drain fluid from his brain in 2010.

Raila's death brings to an end the remarkable journey of a man who for decades dominated Kenya's political landscape, a champion of democracy whose name became synonymous with reform and resilience.

News of his passing spread quickly, prompting Parliament to adjourn its morning session as leaders across the political divide struggled to come to terms with the loss.

In Parliament, MPs passed an exceptional motion to adjourn and dedicate today to mourn the late statesman.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

For a man who had weathered imprisonment, political betrayals and electoral defeats, Raila's final moments were as disciplined as his life, ending in motion, on a morning run, thousands of miles from home.

'NOBODY CAN STOP REGGAE'

20 quotes that defined Raila's colourful legacy

STAR REPORTER

ODM leader Raila Odinga's voice defined Kenya's political conscience for more than three decades—a voice of defiance, hope and resilience.

From the trenches of opposition politics to the corridors of power, his words often carried the weight of a people's struggle and the promise of a better tomorrow.

His quotes became rallying cries across generations, echoing in Parliament, protests and presidential campaigns alike.

As Kenya mourns him, his words endure—a testament to a man who believed freedom, justice and democracy were not privileges but the birthright of every citizen.

“Nobody can stop reggae.” Said during the Building Bridges Initiative rallies in 2020, this became Raila's rallying cry, symbolising unstoppable political momentum and unity.

“Tinga tinga will keep moving.” A defiant statement made during the 2013 elections, using his nickname “Tinga,” Raila assured supporters that his political journey would not end despite setbacks.

“When the people are tired, they will act.” Delivered during the 2017 campaign period, this quote reflected Raila's belief in people power and the inevitability of democratic change.

“The journey to Canaan is unstoppable.” Coined in 2017, Raila used biblical imagery to describe his coalition's vision of a just and prosperous Kenya.

“We cannot continue to live in a country where some people think they own Kenya more than others.” A powerful call for equality and justice, often repeated in his campaign rallies, emphasising inclusivity and national unity.

“Let the people decide.” A phrase he used during elections, particularly in 2022, to champion free, fair and transparent democratic processes.

“Kenya is bigger than any one of us.” After the disputed 2007 election violence, it showed Raila's statesmanship and call for peace and reconciliation.

“I don't fight individuals, I fight systems.” A reflection of his lifelong struggle against political oppression and corruption, often quoted during his reform campaigns.

“We must end impunity once and for all.” Raila emphasised this during multiple anti-corruption drives, underlining his stance on accountability in public service.

“Freedom is never given freely; it is won through struggle.” A reminder of his time as a political detainee in the 1980s, where he often invoked this sentiment to inspire resilience.

“The people's voice is the voice of God.” A statement made during rallies in 2017, asserting the supremacy of the people's will in governance.

“You cannot rig the will of the people.” Repeated during the 2022 election campaigns, this became a bold declaration of his fight against electoral injustice.

“Democracy is not a favour, it is a right.” Said during his years as opposition leader, reinforcing his commitment to democratic governance.

“We shake hands not because we agree, but because we must move forward.” Said in 2018, after his historic handshake with President Uhuru Kenyatta, symbolising reconciliation and political maturity.

“Kenya must be a country for all—not just for the rich and powerful.” Often said during campaign rallies, this quote captured Raila's populist message and advocacy for equity.

“Revolution does not come from violence; it comes from change of mind and attitude.” Raila said this while urging young people to embrace peaceful activism and civic participation.

“We have forgiven, but we shall not forget.” A post-2008 remark reflecting his view on transitional justice and the need for historical accountability.

“There comes a time when the nation is more important than an individual.” The ODM leader made this statement made during the 2002 transition that saw the end of Kanu's long rule, echoing his call for collective patriotism.

“Kenya will rise again.” A hopeful statement made after the 2007 post-election crisis, reassuring citizens of recovery and resilience.

“My dream is a Kenya where no child goes to bed hungry.” Raila said this during his 2022 presidential campaign, summarising his enduring vision for social justice and economic equality.



Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga /FILE

NATION MOURNING

In Odinga's death, Kenya finds unity

The former prime minister died yesterday morning in Kochi, India

FAITH MATETE
@faymatete

KENYANS yesterday woke up to the news of the death of political icon Raila Odinga, with the nation erupting in mourning from all corners.

From Kisumu to Nyeri, Eldoret to Mombasa, Kenyans were united in grief as they mourned the former prime minister.

Raila died in the morning in Kochi, India as he took a morning walk following a cardiac arrest.

His death pierced through the heart of the nation as citizens came to terms with the demise of a man they not only regarded as a political icon, but also as a father figure and the heartbeat of the country.

At Raila's Opora farm in Bondo, sorrow hung thick in the air as mourners flocked the home in thousands.

Barefoot women wrapped in lessos that had Raila portraits knelt on the dusty ground, pounding their chests and wailing uncontrollably.

Some rolled on the earth, calling his name "Baba! Baba!" their voices breaking with pain.

Old men leaned on walking sticks, their trembling hands wiping silent tears, while children clung to their mothers, confused yet sensing the weight of loss.

The air was filled with a haunting blend of sobs, prayers and dirges sung

in trembling voices. To many, it was not just the death of a man it was the breaking of a nation's heart.

In Kisumu, grief spilled into the streets as residents poured out in their thousands, chanting "Baba! Jowi!" through Kondele, Oginga Odinga Street, Nyalenda and Manyatta estates.

Shops closed, matatus blared mournful Luo tunes and boda boda riders waved black flags as they joined the sea of mourners.

"I was in my shop when I saw an alert confirming Baba's death. Within minutes, vuvuzelas filled the air. I closed my shop and joined the crowd," Mark Oluoch, a businessman along Oginga Odinga Street said.

Another trader at Kibuye Market John Otieno said it was only right for the city to stop. "This was our father. He was everything for us Today is his day," he said.

By afternoon, some roads, including the Kisumu-Kakamega and Kisumu-Busia highways, were briefly blocked by mourners carrying branches and twigs, chanting liberation songs that have long defined Raila's political journey.

Along the main roads, people carried twigs, candles and portraits of Raila, their tears flowing freely.

Others knelt on the tarmac, their cries piercing the humid air.

"This is unfair to us," said an elderly man amid sobs. "We are finished as

the people of the lake. Baba was our voice, our strength." In Migori town, thousands also poured into the streets, bringing business to a halt as they lit candles and sang songs of freedom.

At the town's main stage, groups of youth draped in orange flags gathered to honor the fallen leader.

"Raila was not just a politician, he was our father and liberator," Millicent Awuor said.

"He made us believe our voice mattered, even when we had nothing."

Another mourner, Tom Odhiambo said, "Baba taught us to stand up for justice and unity. We are mourning a hero who lived and died for Kenya's democracy."

In Nairobi, residents trooped to Raila's home in Karen, their hearts heavy with grief.

In Mombasa, the mourning was particularly pronounced in Bangladesh area of Jomvu constituency



A supporter of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga mourns on City Hall Way in Nairobi CBD /EZEKIEL AMING'A

which has a high concentration of members of the Luo community.

News of Raila's death added to the pain of residents who lost three of their sons in last Friday's bought tragedy at Tudor Water Sports.

"Why are we suffering like this? Why us? Why Bangladesh? What did we do wrong?" Mama Sarah Achieng wailed as she rolled on the ground.

In Eldoret, the hometown of President William Ruto, supporters of Raila poured onto the streets.



They carried twigs, placards and ODM party symbols and wailed as they walked on the streets. Security

was heightened in the city especially within Langas area where Odinga had a huge following. Several official meetings in the city were suspended as residents expressed shock over Raila's death.

Kisumu Governor Anyang' Nyong'o summarised the mood with an emotional yet powerful condolence on Raila's death.

He called Raila "an enigma and a son of the soil." "A powerful man has just rested. A lion has returned to the mountain. The storm has stilled, but the thunder of his footsteps will echo for generations," Nyong'o said.

BAREFOOT WOMEN WRAPPED IN LESSOS KNELT ON THE DUSTY GROUND

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

TENDER NOTICE

Nyandarua County Assembly invites interested and eligible Bidders for the tenders listed below.

TENDER NO	TENDER NAME	BID BOND VALUE IN KSH	ELIGIBILITY GROUP	TENDER CLOSING DATE & TIME
3861/1403/0004/2025-26	Supply, Delivery and implementation of a private cloud (Data Center) Solution	200,000.00	County Residents	30/10/2025 at 11.00 A.M
3861/1403/0005/2025-26	Proposed Construction and completion of Staff houses and associated amenities at the Official Speaker's residence	N/A	AGPO (Women)	30/10/2025 at 12.30 P.M

Interested bidders can download Tender Documents at www.egpkenya.go.ke

Prospective Bidders are advised to check the detailed specifications, requirements terms and conditions in the Tender Documents.
Completed Tender Documents must be submitted electronically through the Electronic Government Procurement system (EGPs) platform.
Tenders will be opened immediately after the submission deadline date and time specified above. Tenders will be opened electronically on the EGPs platform www.egpkenya.go.ke

NB: The tender notice is also available at www.nyandaruaassembly.go.ke
Late Tenders will not be accepted.

MUKIRI MUCHIRI (MR.)
CLERK OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY




REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE

**THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA, 2010,
THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ACT 2012,
AND
THE PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS (COUNTY ASSEMBLIES APPROVAL) ACT, 2017**

NOTICE TO THE NOMINEES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON APPROVAL HEARINGS

Pursuant to Article 196 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, section 44 of the County Governments Act, 2012, section 7 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017, and the Nyandarua County Assembly Standing Orders; the Nyandarua County Assembly's Committee on Public Service, Administration and Devolution shall conduct approval hearings (Vetting) for the nominees to the positions of the selection panel for the recruitment of the Chairperson, Secretary and Members of the County Public Service Board, at the **Nyandarua County Assembly (Chambers), Ol'Kalou** as follows;

No.	NOMINEE	POSITION	TIME
Thursday, 23rd day of October 2025			
1.	Mr. Robert Githinji Ndirangu	Chairperson	9.00 A.M. – 10.00 A.M.
2.	Ms. Tabitha Wangare Ndung'u	Member	10.00A.M. – 11.00 A.M
3.	Mr. Erick Muriuki Kirimi	Member	11.00A.M. – 12.00 P.M.
4.	Mr. Charles Karue Ngunjiri	Member	2.00 P.M. – 3.00 P.M.
5.	Mr. Millicent Wambui Kaburi	Member	3.00 P.M. – 4.00 P.M.

Any person who desires to make submissions on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees to the positions mentioned above may hand-deliver their sworn submissions /affidavit to the Office of the Clerk at the County Assembly Chambers near Huduma Centre, or email them to clerk@nyandaruaassembly.go.ke

The submissions should be clearly addressed to:
**The Clerk,
Nyandarua County Assembly,
P.O. Box 720-20303,
OL KALOU.**

so as to reach the Office of the Clerk on or before **Wednesday, 22nd October 2025 at 4.00 P.M.**

MUKIRI MUCHIRI (MR.)
CLERK OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY



Life and times of a political titan



Raila Odinga during his formative years /FILE



Raila and Ida at their wedding in 1973 /FILE

Raila is led out of the High Court during his detention in the 1980s /FILE



Ida, Raila and their daughters Winnie and Rosemary in 1991 /FILE



Jaramogi Oginga and his son Raila /FILE



Raila is introduced by Charles Rubia at a rally /FILE

Raila, Gor Mahia FC chairman Ambrose Rachier and Ida Odinga hold a jersey gifted to the former PM by the club's executive team during a visit on October 3 this year /HANDOUT



Raila Odinga, Ida and close family members upon arrival at Malindi International Airport for New Year celebrations /FILE



Raila, Barack Obama and Ida Odinga /FILE

Political leaders George Wajackoyah, Eugene Wamalwa, Kalonzo Musyoka, ODM leader Raila Odinga, Martha Karua, Wycliffe Oparanya, Jeremiah Kioni and Opiyo Wandayi attend Azimio rally on January 23, 2023 /HANDOUT



n in pictures as Kenya mourns



President William Ruto, former PM Raila Odinga and International Federation of Association Football president Gianni Infantino at the Moi International Sports Centre in Kasarani, Nairobi, for the AFCON 2024 finals /PCS



NASA principal Raila is sworn in as 'people's president' at Uhuru Park in Nairobi on January 30, 2018. He is flanked by Miguna Miguna, Tom Kajwang and James Orengo //JACK OWUOR



Jaramogi Oginga's death brought Raila and Kijana Wamalwa together //FILE



Prime Minister Raila Odinga and Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta share a light moment as they attend a PG meeting at the KICC //JACK OWUOR

ODM leader Raila with Mzee John Mwavuda, a former prison guard during the former PM's detention in Manyani Maximum Prison in Mbololo, Taita Taveta county, on March 2, 2021 //HANDOUT



President William Ruto chairs a joint ODM-Kenya Kwanza parliamentary group meeting in Karen alongside Raila on August 18 this year /PCS

Former President Daniel Moi and PM Raila Odinga during Raila Junior's wedding //FILE



King Charles III and Raila at State House in Nairobi /PCS



WIDELY FETED

Condolences from Africa,

Leaders from the Judiciary, Parliament, opposition and civil society sent their tributes



Mama Ida Odinga is comforted by President William Ruto following the death of her husband former Prime Minister Raila Odinga at the couple's Karen home in Nairobi /HANDOUT

ELID KIBII
@ElidKibii

CONDOLENCES poured from across the political divide following the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga on Wednesday.

President William Ruto led the nation in mourning the ODM leader, whom he described as the father of democracy, a tireless champion for social justice, a renowned Pan-Africanist and a statesman without equal.

Raila died in an Indian hospital aged 80.

President Ruto said Raila played a defining role in shaping Kenya's modern political history and that his name is etched indelibly in the annals of the country's journey towards greater freedom, democracy and prosperity.

"As we mourn this immeasurable loss, we recall that his was voice that fearlessly spoke truth to power, championed reform and summoned us always to the higher ideals of nationhood," Ruto said.

"With eternal gratitude the na-

tion remembers Prime Minister Raila Odinga's patriotic journey in the service of our country. This journey made him the most consequential figure in the Second Liberation of our Republic and the torchbearer in our march toward the Constitution of Kenya, 2010."

Leaders from the Executive, the Judiciary, Parliament, opposition, civil society, religious leaders and the private sector joined the President.

PCS Musalia Mudavadi, who was with Raila in the 2007 Pentagon and NASA in 2017, said Raila was a towering statesman and a gallant fighter for democracy.

"I have walked a long and eventful journey alongside Raila, at times as an ally, at times on different political paths, but always with deep mutual respect and a shared commitment to the ideals of a free, just and prosperous Kenya," he said.

"We worked together in government and in opposition, in moments of great national triumph and in difficult chapters of our history. Through it all, his resilience, polit-

ical acumen and unwavering belief in the power of the people remained constant."

Treasury CS John Mbadi, who also served as ODM chairman, described Raila as a towering African democratic giant, fighter for social justice, mentor and a father.

"When history of PM Raila Odinga shall be written, it won't go

untouched: He died a peaceful man who put the interest of the country above everything else," he said.

Mining CS Hassan Joho, who was Raila's deputy party leader, expressed difficulty in coming to term with the loss, saying Raila was more of a mentor and a father figure.

He said Raila moulded him into the leader he is.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula said Raila's courage, resilience and vision forever shaped the course of Kenya's history.

"As a five-time presidential candidate, he embodied the hopes and aspirations of millions, always putting country above self. His capacity to extend a hand of unity even to his fiercest competitors defined his statesmanship," he said.

"The historic handshake with former President Uhuru Kenyatta and his engagement with President William Ruto in the spirit of broad-based democracy remain powerful testaments to his enduring belief in national unity and reconciliation."

Senate Speaker Amason Kingi acknowledged Raila's role in political mentorship, saying Kenya's political landscape had changed.

Chief Justice Martha Koome described Raila as Kenya's most enigmatic and consequential leader.

"Kenya has lost a statesman whose name is forever etched in the annals of our democratic journey. A towering figure who stood at the confluence of history and destiny and who, through courage, sacrifice and conviction, held together the fragile threads of our nation's democracy," Koome said.

Former Vice President and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, who was Raila's running mate twice in 2013 and 2017, said the former PM was a force of nature that kept on going and going, despite and in spite of the hurdles he came across.

"In the years I interacted with Agwambo professionally in Kenya's political space, I got to understand why he was referred to as that. From the opposition benches to the government side as Prime Minister, to August 27, 2010, the day our new constitution was promulgated, my brother Raila, played an instrumental and integral role in devolving power from an imperial presidency to a people's centred constitutional order. For that, we owe him our immense gratitude," he said.

Former DP Rigathi Gachagua said much as they were never on the same political side, he had a strong admiration of Raila's art of forming and sustaining a strong political party that survived four general elections.

Martha Karua, who was Raila's running mate in the last election, said she would remember him as a fearless defender of the people, a voice of the voiceless and a steadfast comrade in the fight for the Second Liberation.

Raila's former spokesperson Salim Lone said his following allowed him, without ever holding power, to enlarge democracy and inclusion for the struggling masses and the marginalised communities.

"Millions of hearts have been broken, mourning the passing of a leader who was never allowed to be President. And yet he still remained beloved for many more years than any president ever was," he said.

“

SALIM LONE

Millions of hearts have been broken, mourning the passing of a leader who was never allowed to be President. And yet he still remained beloved for many more years than any president ever was



the world after Raila dies

Modi leads world leaders and envoys in mourning him as African icon, statesman



ELIUD KIBII
@EliudKibii

Raila Odinga
and then Indian
Prime Minister
Narendra Modi
/FILE

HEADS of state and government and regional organisation leaders poured their messages of condolences to former Prime Minister Raila Odinga following his death yesterday.

Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, where Raila died, said he was deeply saddened by the passing of his friend, a man he knew since his days as the chief minister of Gujarat.

Modi described Raila, 80, as a towering statesman and a cherished friend of India.

"He had a special affection for India, our culture, values and ancient wisdom," Modi said in a statement.

"This was reflected in his efforts to strengthen India-Kenya ties. He particularly admired Ayurveda and traditional medicine systems of India, having witnessed their positive impact on his daughter's health."

Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu described the ODM leader as "a brilliant leader, a global African, a peace-loving and solution-seeker".

mission, a seat Raila sought in February, described the former PM as a distinguished statesman of the African continent.

"On behalf of the African Union, its organs and institutions, the chairperson extends his deepest condolences to the Odinga family, the government and people of Kenya, and to the entire African family mourning this immense loss," the AUC said in a statement.

Youssouf said Raila was a towering figure in Kenya's political life and a steadfast champion of democracy, good governance and people-centred development.

"His decades-long commitment to justice, pluralism and democratic reform left an indelible mark not only on Kenya but also across the African continent," he added.

"He inspired generations of leaders, including myself, and citizens alike through his courage, resilience and unwavering belief in the power of dialogue and democratic institutions."

As the African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa, he said, Raila worked tirelessly to advance the continent's integration and connectivity agenda, helping to lay the foundations for the African Continental Free Trade Area and broader socio-economic transformation.

Igad executive secretary Workneh Gebeyehu said Africa mourns the loss of one of its most iconic sons and an unwavering pan-Africanist who dedicated his life to the pursuit of democracy, justice and unity.

"His lifelong struggle for freedom and equality inspired generations across Kenya and beyond, reminding us that leadership is not about power but about service and sacrifice," he said.

"Igad stands with the people and Government of Kenya in this moment of profound sorrow."

Gebeyehu added that Raila's legacy will forever echo in the democratic foundations he helped build and in the hope he instilled across Africa.

The EAC also joined in mourning the veteran politician, with secretary general Veronica Nduva describing Raila as a towering pan-African statesman, a courageous reformer and a relentless voice for freedom, democracy and social justice.

"He was an affable, charismatic and an enigma central to Kenya's politics," she said.

"His political life embodied resilience, conviction and sacrifice in pursuit of a fairer and more united Kenya. A steadfast believer in regional cooperation and pan-African ideals. Rt Hon Odinga championed the cause of integration, infrastructure and collective development."

The secretary general added that Raila was a consistent advocate for

equality and inclusion and a champion for women's representation.

"His conviction that Africa's strength lies in its unity resonated deeply with the EAC's vision of a peaceful, prosperous and people-centred region," she said.

The Diplomatic Corps in Kenya also mourned Raila. EU head of delegation Amb Henriette Geiger said Raila dedicated his life to fighting for Kenya.

"[Raila] has been an iconic leader through the decades. His legacy will live on. May his soul rest in peace," Geiger said.

Germany Ambassador Sebastian Groth described Raila's life as full of political struggle, fight for democracy, human rights and human empathy.

He added that the former PM was a bridge-builder in Africa and between Kenya and Germany, where Raila studied.

His French counterpart Arnaud Suquet said Raila will be remembered as a leader who used his courage to fight for multi-party democracy and national dialogue.

He also recognised Raila for his dedication to fighting for justice, peace, freedom and unity.

UK High Commission chargé d'affaires Ed Barnnet said Raila's legacy as a statesman, reformer and champion of democracy will forever resonate across Kenya and beyond.



ODM leader Raila Odinga and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu /FILE



SAFEGUARDED DEMOCRACY

Reformist: How Raila pushed for constitutional changes

For more than three decades, he championed to dismantle imperial presidency



Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and President Mwai Kibaki during promulgation of the new constitution at Uhuru Park on August 27, 2010 /FILE

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

IN August, Raila Odinga triggered a storm after calling for an enhanced mandate for governors and harshly criticising senators for overstepping their role by summoning county bosses.

This came shortly after the ODM leader—who passed away in India on Wednesday—had castigated MPs for insisting on controlling the CDF, which he believed was a mandate of the governors.

“I know my position is unpopular, but I don’t care. There can be no compromise on this issue. It should be taken to the people through a referendum,” he declared.

Raila’s bold stance reflected his lifelong, often turbulent, pursuit of reforms aimed at entrenching devolution.

For more than three decades, the veteran politician consistently championed changes to dismantle the country’s imperial presidency, advance a parliamentary system and deepen democracy.

Raila was instrumental in the campaigns that led to the 2010 Constitution and continued to call for its review to further strengthen devolution, enhance inclusivity and

accountability. “You cannot resist change; if you try, the change will change you,” he once said.

“The time for change in Kenya has come and nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come.”

He made the same call this August, pushing for a referendum to strengthen the constitution.

In 2023, he called for a plebiscite to implement amendments proposed in the National Dialogue Committee report, formed after the post-election unrest following the 2022 polls.

“Kenyans met at the Bomas of Kenya and came up with a very progressive constitution. That constitution was bastardised during the so-called Naivasha process,” he said.

“We must go back to the Bomas Draft, review it and clean it up to achieve a truly progressive charter,” he added.

Raila’s quest for reforms driven by constitutional change began in the early 1990s under the one-party Kanu regime.

As part of the pro-democracy movement, he joined forces with reformists in the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy and the National Convention Executive Council to fight for multiparty democracy.

Raila argued that Kenya needed a people-driven constitution to safe-

guard democracy, protect rights and curb executive excesses.

When the National Rainbow Coalition won the 2002 elections—with Raila as one of its chief architects—constitutional reform topped the new government’s agenda.

Narc had promised a new constitution within 100 days, a pledge that resonated strongly with reformists.

Raila played a central role in the Bomas National Constitutional Conference, which produced the Bomas Draft Constitution—reflecting his long-held vision of a parliamentary system, strong devolution and a weakened presidency.

He argued that a Prime Minister accountable to Parliament would ensure collective responsibility and prevent the concentration of power in one office.

The draft also proposed regional governments and robust devolution—ideas Raila had championed since his early political days.

However, internal divisions emerged. A faction within the late former President Mwai Kibaki’s administration rejected the Bomas Draft, preferring a stronger presidential system.

The government introduced a watered-down version—the Wako Draft—which stripped away key

reputation as the face of constitutional resistance.

After the disputed 2007 election and the ensuing violence, Raila—then serving as Prime Minister in the grand coalition government—helped steer the country back to reform.

Working alongside Kibaki under the National Accord, he oversaw the creation of the Committee of Experts, which produced the draft that birthed the 2010 Constitution.

The new Constitution enshrined many of Raila’s ideals: devolution across 47 counties, stronger checks and balances, a bicameral Parliament and greater public participation.

Though it adopted a presidential rather than parliamentary system, Raila hailed it as “a people’s victory.”

Even after its promulgation, he continued to advocate for constitutional review, arguing that the winner-takes-all presidential system perpetuates ethnic exclusion and political instability.

On March 9, 2018, Raila and President Uhuru Kenyatta stunned the country with a public truce dubbed the ‘Handshake’.

The détente cooled political temperatures and birthed the Building Bridges Initiative, an ambitious but ultimately unsuccessful constitutional reform project.

Through BBI, Raila sought to reintroduce a hybrid governance model featuring a Prime Minister, two deputy prime ministers, a powerful leader of the official opposition and to strengthen devolution.

Although courts halted the process, BBI reignited national dialogue on inclusivity and governance—issues central to Raila’s political philosophy.

“Whatever is in the BBI is not a joke..... Whatever ails this country is deeper and needs a critical review,” Raila said.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

More than three decades after he joined the reform struggle, Raila Odinga’s imprint on Kenya’s constitutional journey remains unmistakable. From the Bomas Draft to the BBI, Raila’s reformist legacy was woven into the nation’s democratic evolution—a testament that, for him, politics was never just about power, but about transforming how power is shared.



President Mwai Kibaki and Attorney General Amos Wako during the promulgation of the new constitution at Uhuru Park in August 2010 /FILE



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NEWS BUSINESS

GAPS

EAC's tax harmony failure holding back trade – lobby

The region is struggling to align VAT, income, excise and withholding taxes

JACKTONE LAWI
@jacktonelawi

INCOMPLETE and conflicting tax policies across East African countries are undermining the region's push for a common regional market, players in the tax and governance space have said.

The region is still struggling to harmonise issues such as Value Added Tax, income tax, excise tax and withholding tax whose regimes continue to distort trade, inflate compliance costs and weaken the promise of a unified regional market.

Findings from a regional tax policy dialogue, organised by National Taxpayers Association and East Africa Tax and Governance Network (EATGN), show that only Rwanda among all the East Africa member states has harmonised all the tax bands. "Fifteen years after the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol came into force, our journey toward a harmonised tax regime remains incomplete," said National Taxpayers Association CEO Patrick Nyangweso said.

"These disparities are distorting trade, discouraging investment and diluting the promise of a single market."

The EAC Common Market Protocol was envisioned to enable the free movement of goods, services, labour, and capital across member states—a goal that remains elusive as each country maintains its own



National Taxpayers Association CEO Patrick Nyangweso /HANDOUT

fiscal approach. Traders and business groups say policy fragmentation not geography is now one of the main barriers to smoother intra-regional commerce.

The East African Business Council has repeatedly urged member states to harmonise fiscal measures ahead of budget cycles, arguing that mismatched tax rates and sudden excise hikes create incentives for route-diversion, smuggling and time-consuming paperwork that hit small and medium exporters hardest.

East Africa Tax and Governance Network CEO Leonard Wanyama says that some of the member countries local policies have been hindering a unified approach in adopting regional protocols.

"Individual implementation and local policies are contradicting regional policies. This makes it difficult to move together as a region," said

Wanyama. The experts pointed out to the disparities within the region, noting that while Kenya charges 16 per cent VAT, most EAC partners including Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi levy 18 per cent, which affects competitiveness and consumption patterns.

"This difference impacts purchasing power and disposable income. In Rwanda, for example, citizens enjoy slightly higher savings and spending ability due to consistent policy alignment," said Nyangweso. An EAC Regional Meeting Committee esti-

THE DATA

SH2.2BN

Direct cost of non-tariff barriers in the region

mate puts the direct cost of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in the region at \$16.7 million (Sh2.2 billion), with a broader trade impact of roughly \$94.9 million (Sh12.3 billion).

Those figures capture border delays, administrative fees and compliance friction that reduce trade volumes and raise the effective tax-collection costs for authorities.

To tame these losses National Taxpayers Association is now calling on the East African governments to harmonise tax structures on products such as alcohol and tobacco products as part of broader efforts to reduce youth consumption and promote healthier communities.

According to the tax lobby groups, Kenya's recently adopted National Tax Policy (2023–2026) had introduced progressive, fair and equitable principles to guide future taxation, but noted that neighbouring countries must align their policies to avoid trade diversion and encourage balanced revenue generation.

"The National Tax Policy is about creating certainty and fairness in our system," said Nyangweso. "It seeks to harmonise corporate income tax bases, streamline VAT exemptions, and align excise structures across the East African Community (EAC)."

Despite the differing views, Nyangweso held that Kenya's tax reforms were on the right track and called for sustained citizen engagement as the National Tax Policy enters its first three-year implementation phase.

THE DATA

129.23

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

The shilling remained stable against the US dollar on Wednesday buoyed by strong diaspora remittances and the country's high forex reserves

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.2364
EURO	149.5976
STG POUND	171.7035
SARAND	7.4006
KES / TSHS	18.9962
KES / USHS	26.6953
AE DIRHAM	35.1850
CHINESE YUAN	18.0981
JPY (100)	85.0295
IND RUPEE	1.4556

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
SKL	8.16	9.97
NCBA	81.25	7.97
KUKUZI	425.00	5.85
LONGHORN PUBLISHERS	3.17	5.67
SAMEER AFRICA	14.10	4.06

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
KAPCHORUA TEA	355.00	9.96
WILLIAMSON TEA KENYA	214.50	9.87
KPLC	12.15	5.81
HOUSING FINANCE	10.05	5.63
UMEME	8.24	3.06



TIP OF THE DAY

HOW TO AVOID BURNOUT WHEN YOU'RE THE "GO-TO" LEADER

Being a reliable leader has its perks, but it can also make you the default pick for every stray assignment. Over time, that "magnet effect" drains your focus and fuels burnout. Here's how to stop attracting extra work.

Prioritize without overcommitting.

When given a new task, don't default to saying yes. Assess how it fits with your priorities, then suggest a clear path forward. Make trade-offs visible and get alignment on where your time has the most impact.

Clarify ownership. Not every cross-functional project needs to fall on your plate. If someone else is better positioned to lead, or if co-leadership makes more sense, recommend it. Shared ownership solves more than just bandwidth issues; it sets the tone for collaborative leadership.

Have a capacity conversation. If your workload is becoming unsustainable, raise it with your boss. Instead of saying no, clarify the strategic trade-offs. Invite them to prioritize with you and, if needed, start a broader conversation about resources.

Redefine your value. Being indispensable can feel good, but it can also stunt your growth. Ask whether you're saying yes for impact or for affirmation. Strategic leaders create space for vision, not just execution.

PROJECTION

Global economic growth to slow due to supply chain disruption, says IMF

VICTOR AMADALA

THE global economy is projected to slow this year and next as persistent uncertainty over trade policy and supply chain disruptions continue to weigh on world output, according to new forecasts published on Tuesday by the International Monetary Fund.

In its latest World Economic Outlook report, the IMF stated that global economic growth is expected to slow to 3.2 per cent in 2025, down from 3.3 per cent in 2024.

Growth is projected to fall to 3.1 per cent in 2026, as protectionist measures being adopted in the United States and around the world take hold.

The world economy is slightly stronger than economists at the international lender expected it would be earlier this year.

IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, speaking at a

press event on Tuesday, said the pain so far has been blunted by rapid supply-chain redirection, limited retaliation and active government support.

That is after the United States scaled back or delayed many of the tariffs President Donald Trump threatened after taking office and because businesses raced to stock up on goods before tariffs took effect.

Many firms have, for now, held off on passing additional costs to their customers.

Inflation is projected to continue to decline globally, though with variation across countries: above target in the United States—with risks tilted to the upside—and subdued elsewhere.

IMF's executives forecast risks to tilt to the downside, with prolonged uncertainty, more protectionism, and labor supply shocks likely to reduce growth.

"Fiscal vulnerabilities, poten-

International Monetary Fund managing director Kristalina Georgieva at a press conference during the 2025 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and IMF in Washington, in April 2025 /XINHUA



tial financial market corrections, and erosion of institutions could threaten stability."

Policymakers are urged to restore confidence through credible, transparent, and sustainable policies.

It has been advised that trade diplomacy should be paired with

macroeconomic adjustment, fiscal buffers should be rebuilt and Central bank independence preserved.

While growth is expected to slow mostly in developed countries, Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to register a 4.4 per cent growth, up from the current 4.2 per cent.

NEWS BUSINESS

LEGACY

Raila's empire, push for sound policies and economic growth

He sold his car to raise Sh12,000 capital for investing in his first company

MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin

KENYA' long-serving politician, Raila Odinga, was widely recognised for his political achievements over the past three decades.

However, the man who has over the years, been an advocate for reforms and democratic governance, a major figure in shaping Kenya's modern politics, also had a hand in shaping the country's business policies, drove regional integration and development, and was an investor himself.

He quietly built a multi-billion-shilling business empire that has remained largely out of the public spotlight, with investments, together with family and partners, spanning oil and gas industries, real estate, manufacturing and agriculture, among other ventures.

In a recent interview with the Star, one of Raila's nephews revealed that it has not been easy for the family and investing has always been a journey similar to any other entrepreneur in Kenya.

Raila, in a social media video post in June 2021 narrated how he started his journey into entrepreneurship from scratch.

At some point, he was forced to sell his Opel left-hand drive car to finance the acquisition of equipment from an Indian entrepreneur who had been exiled from Uganda and was keen on disposing of his assets.

He used the money from the car sale to acquire machines that he used to set up his manufacturing company, which is at the core of his multi-billion-dollar business empire.

"The entire machinery was being sold at Sh12,000 which I didn't have. My salary was only Sh2,000 so I sold my car to raise the cash and that is how I started East Africa Spectre Company," Odinga had said.

Spectre International Limited was incorporated on January 27, 1989, with shareholders being Lennox Development Ltd, Kisumu Development Trust Company Ltd, Oakland Ventures Ltd and his family members as lead directors.

From manufacturing steel-related products and selling them in the Kenyan market, the company would later attract the attention of a businessman from Agip Oil Company, who challenged Raila to venture into the production of gas cylinders, citing a deficiency in the market, a challenge the engineer took.

Today, East Africa Spectre Company, whose current market value is not public, is one of the top manufacturers of gas cylinders in East and Central Africa.

Raila and his family also own



Kenya Private Sector Alliance leadership led by former chairman and Bidco CEO Vimal Shah and CEO Carole Kariuki address the media after an engagement meeting with the late former Prime Minister Raila Odinga during the run-up to the 2022 General Elections / FILE

a substantial stake in Be Energy, the local arm of a multinational founded by Saudi Arabian tycoon Sheik Abdul Kader Al Bakri.

Be Energy held a market share of approximately 3.72 per cent in the local petroleum industry as of March this year, according to industry data, and was fifth after Vivo Energy, which operates the Shell brand, Rubis, TotalEnergies and Ola Energy.

Raila's family is also linked to Lennox Development Ltd, which focuses on real estate investment and property development and Duma Investments, which operates as a private investment company with interests in finance, real estate and agriculture, among others.

His most recent investment is in the Sh120 billion mixed-use LV Marina in Kisumu, a real estate project being developed by his close ally Suleiman Shahbal's GulfCap Real Estate.

LV Marina spans 285 acres on the Odinga's defunct molasses plant site. He is also a shareholder in other firms, with his family investing widely in key sectors of the economy. Raila's net worth is not

clear, in what business analysts say is a result of the dynamic nature of business valuations and the lack of disclosures, being that his companies are private, but it is estimated to be in millions of dollars.

The former Prime Minister will also be remembered for championing growth in the private sector and job creation.

On Wednesday, the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (Kepsa) mourned him as "one of Kenya's greatest statesmen," noting his dedication to the country, which went beyond politics to economic prosperity.

During his tenure as Prime Minister (2008-2013), he became the first leader to institutionalise the Prime Minister's Roundtable with the private sector in 2010.

The forum established a critical, high-level mechanism for collaboration between government and industry, directly addressing bottlenecks and shaping policy for a better investment climate.

"Now known as the Kepsa Prime Minister's Roundtable, this pioneering initiative significantly contributed to improving the ease of doing business and remains a foundational component of public-private engagement in Kenya today," Kepsa chief executive Carole Kariuki said in a statement yesterday.

According to Kariuki, Raila's deep commitment and actions to empowering the private sector as the key driver of inclusive wealth creation, economic growth, and job creation for Kenyans laid a crucial groundwork for the sustained partnership Kepsa enjoys with the government.

This involved investing in expanding key growth areas like the digital economy and circular economy, as well as strengthening value chains in productive sectors with

closer ties to MSMEs.

"We cherish the memory of his tireless efforts to move the nation forward, foster an environment of dialogue and champion reforms that have had a lasting, positive impact on the business community and the country."

Shippers Council of Eastern Africa (SCEA) CEO Agayo Ogambi said: "The improved road networks are credited to his work as Prime Minister and Minister for Roads."

"He appreciated the importance of good infrastructure and good business environment and was a firm believer that supporting the private sector was critical to the country's growth and development. His work will live for years to come."

Raila was instrumental in driving economic growth in the post-election violence period, which rebounded from a 2008 contraction, averaging 5-6 per cent GDP growth annually through

2012, driven by restored investor confidence, manufacturing and agricultural recovery.

Kenya Association of Manufacturers CEO Tobias Alando yesterday said the country has lost "a statesman and champion of manufacturing sector growth."

"He consistently called for policy reforms and included industry priorities in his manifestos. During his tenure as the Prime Minister, he convened a series of roundtables to address impediments to the creation of a conducive business environment, giving the manufacturing sector a much-needed impetus," Alando said.

Raila was instrumental in the construction and rehabilitation of key roads that greatly improved access to raw materials and enhanced market access for Kenya's manufacturing sector during his time as Roads, Public Works and Housing Minister, KAM noted.

Away from Kenya, Raila played a pivotal role in driving the African growth agenda, with a keen focus on infrastructure development, trade integration and job creation—a Pan-Africanist who had a dream for the continent.

As the African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development (2018-2021), he championed regional development with a keen focus on missing links along the transnational highway corridors identified as part of the Trans-African Highways Network, with a view to facilitating their development and modernisation.

He provided input into the Lamu Port, South Sudan, Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET corridor programme), which is Eastern Africa's largest and most ambitious infrastructure project.

Raila believed that African countries should be able to trade freely among themselves through the African Continental Free Trade Area, and the skies should be open through the Single African Air Transport Market.

"For all this to happen, we need to stay focused on the priority infrastructure projects and start with the key ones already identified in PIDA (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa) and Agenda 2063. Having an integrated approach will help us realise quick wins," he said during a forum he had attended in Johannesburg.



East Africa Spectre International Limited entrance /HANDOUT

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TOBIAS ALANDO

The country has lost a statesman and champion of manufacturing sector growth who consistently called for policy reforms

★ comment

THE STAR

Lion Place, Waiyaki Way
PO Box 74497 - 00200
Nairobi, Kenya

Raila role in democratic space was fathomless

RAILA Odinga's sudden death comes as a shock not only to Kenyans but his global followers and friends.

While it was public knowledge that he was unwell and had sought treatment abroad, the least that was expected was that he would come back home in a coffin.

Death's sting is painful; it is no respecter of age, social status or gender. The beauty is that a rich legacy long outlives one's death.

Raila leaves behind a rich legacy that will long outlive his death and will be a subject of history for years to come.

His contribution to the push for better governance, for which he paid a high price in long years of detention, is unmatched.

Raila's contribution to Kenya's second liberation, the 2010 constitution and Kenya's devolution structure will long be remembered.

He strongly defended media freedom and even when he felt wronged, he did not rush to court but preferred rapprochement.

His courage and conviction on issues were unparalleled, but he was equally quick to forgive, embrace enemies and build bridges.

The former Prime Minister, like all mortals, was not perfect but he was a true Pan-Africanist and a firm believer in One Kenya One Nation One People. He eschewed tribalism and always endeavoured to embrace all communities.

Raila is gone but his legacy endures. Fare thee well, Baba.

Quote of the day: "Courage is a special kind of knowledge: the knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared." —First Prime Minister of Israel David Ben-Gurion was born on October 16, 1886

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RAILA ODINGA: TRULY THE END OF AN ERA IN KENYAN POLITICS

By Wycliffe Muga

His death certainly brings an end to what has been the predictable voting patterns of Western Kenya for the last few decades



WHEN a person who has been such a dominant player in Kenyan politics as Raila Odinga has been taken a final bow, the public reaction is likely to focus more on his legacy and the political implications of his passing than on consoling his family.

And yet by all accounts, Raila was a devoted family man, not only to his immediate family but to an extensive clan of blood relatives.

Those are the people who will feel the deepest pain and miss him more than anyone else.

But such a towering political figure does not only belong to his family. He belongs to the entire nation, and as such his death scrambles the political calculus of virtually all major political players in Kenya, and particularly President William Ruto.

The phrase "the end of an era" is one often used in an exaggerated manner. There are many dramatic events in politics which bring out that phrase, but when you look into the matter – and when things clear up with the passage of time – it turns out that there was in fact no such end to an era, and life goes on much the same.

Such will not be the case for Raila, whose death certainly brings an end to what has been the predictable voting patterns of Western Kenya for the last few decades.

Raila had a massive support base in that region, and the bulk of votes cast there in the past quarter of a century, at least, have been cast in obedience to his directives.

As he did not in any way deliberately groom an official political successor, whether from within his own family or from among his many political proteges, there is no telling in what direction the Raila vote bloc in Western Kenya will now deliver their support. Indeed, there can be no telling whether it will continue to exist as a cohesive voting bloc at all.

But none of this is central to Raila's greatest achievement which, in my view, lies in the role he played in ushering in a new political dispensation.

For many Kenyans, once there was a return to multi-party democracy, and with it, the freedom to vote for candidates who were outside the tight control of Kanu, the political party which led Kenya to independence, there was an

expectation that miracles of economic development would follow.

But that proved not to be the case, and thereafter the clamour was for a new constitutional dispensation and, in particular, the devolution of political power and financial resources to every corner of Kenya.

Collaborating very closely with the then president, Mwai Kibaki, Raila was able to play an indispensable role in the creation of that new constitution – usually referred to as 'The 2010 constitution'.

This new political dispensation has by now been so deeply entrenched in the hearts and minds of Kenyans that it is inconceivable that its benefits should ever be rolled back by any future autocrat.

Which is not to say that this new constitution has not been revealed to have its own flaws and limits. But its benefits far outweigh any such shortcomings, and it gives voters at the grassroots the opportunity

to dictate local budgetary priorities in a manner that was beyond dreams under the old constitution.

However, the odd thing in politics is that helping bring about such transformational change – and especially change of which the benefits can only roll out over the coming years – is rarely a foundation for electoral victory.

In Kenya, elections are won more through catchy slogans and brutal negotiations aimed at bringing together regional vote blocs and thus bringing a majority of potential voters into one political coalition.

And that is what will obsessively occupy the hearts and minds of those who yet remain as key players in the Kenyan political landscape.

In the true Kenyan manner, such key players will all declare themselves to have been particularly close to Raila Odinga and will manoeuvre relentlessly to find a path to replacing him in the hearts and minds of his millions of supporters.

This is not a uniquely Kenyan phenomenon. The death of a political titan, in all countries and at all times, will always result – immediately – in a race by all ambitious leaders, to inherit his political assets.

Who will win this race – a race which has already begun, even before funeral arrangements for the late Prime Minister have been finalised – remains to be seen.

Wycliffe Muga is a columnist

Is he right? Tell us what YOU think.
email opinion@radioafricagroup.co.ke

VOICES

RAILA UNITED KENYA IN LIFE AND DEATH

He was the most politically active of the Odinga family siblings. While he was involved in politics from his early life, his star began to shine with the advent of multiparty democracy. He thrust into the public limelight after the 1982 coup attempt. Many people had not encountered him until the government detained him without trial. Earlier, he had been arraigned before the Miller commission that investigated Charles Njonjo for his involvement in the attempted coup.

It is claimed that the state could not prove his participation in the putsch and thus opted for the draconian colonial relic of detention without trial. Others opine that he collaborated with the prosecutors and took a plea bargain in exchange for being a state witness. Henceforth, the tribulations of his father and family were mirrored in his persecution. But his bravery as he went through the harrowing process became his hallmark as a champion of democracy.

He was awarded a diploma in mechanical engineering from the School of Mechanical Engineering in 1970. When he returned to his motherland, he joined academia as an assistant lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nairobi. There were only three academic staff of African origin.

His innovative acumen would lead him to found the Standard Processing Equipment Construction & Erection Ltd (later renamed East African Spectre), the only company manufacturing liquid petroleum gas cylinders in Kenya. In his own admission, he sold his only earthly possession then, a Mercedes-Benz car, to start the manufacturing unit.

By Ochieng' Kanyadudi

Perhaps the greatest gifts that Raila has bequeathed Kenya and posterity are his unique ability to handle betrayal



While at the university, he got involved in the development of the ISO Standards for the production of gas cylinders with the world standards organisation. The Kenya Bureau of Standards adopted these inventions. He served at the university until 1974, when he was appointed group standards manager of Kebs. After holding this position for four years, he was promoted to deputy director in 1978, a post he held until his detention in 1982. It should be noted that even though Raila worked for the government, he never allowed himself to be blinded by the excesses of the regimes of the time.

From his maximum security prison cells, Jakom was able to actively participate in the covert movement to return the country to democracy. It is claimed, and rightly so, that his involvement led to the movement being labelled underground. The public faces of the movement relied on his engineering thought system and vast international networks to mobilise diplomatic goodwill and resource wherewithal. His student activism in the socialist political system of Erich Ernst Paul Honecker in East Germany was instrumental in the efficient organisation of the Mwakenya movement.

Among some of his most painful experiences was when his mother

died in 1984, but the prison wardens took two months to inform him of her death. Raila was released on June 12, 1989, only to be incarcerated again on July 5, 1990, together with Kenneth Matiba and former Nairobi mayor Charles Rubia, both multiparty system and human rights crusaders. Raila was finally released on June 21, 1991, and in October he fled the country to Norway amid indications that the increasingly corrupt Kenyan government was attempting to assassinate him without success.

This was after being rearrested after eight months of brief freedom in September 1988 for his pro-democracy and human rights agitation at a time when the country continued to descend deep into the throes of poor governance and the despotism of single-party rule.

His encounters with the authoritarian government generated an aura of intrigue about him, and it was probably due to this that his political followers christened him 'Agwambo', Luo for 'The Mystery' or 'Unpredictable', and 'Jakom', meaning chairman. These personal attributes were developed out of communist socialisation and were instrumental in his tight grip and effective leadership of NDP and ODM.

After the death of his father in 1994, he chose to break ranks with

his comrades. His father, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, had been the doyen of opposition and leader of the Ford Kenya party and the opposition in Parliament. Raila tried to wrestle the leadership mantle from Kijana Wamalwa without success. This led him to resign from the party and parliament altogether.

The ensuing by-election in the then Lang'ata constituency was a watershed for Raila's political career. This was my closest encounter with him and marked decades of a longstanding political relationship. He successfully defended his seat on the little-known National Development Party. A year later, he emerged third in the presidential election after Moi and Kibaki. By beating Wamalwa and Charity Ngilu together with other novices, he established himself as a shrewd politician.

Once in Parliament, he created a niche for himself by crafting an alliance with the ruling party Kanu in a cooperation arrangement that led him into the cabinet with his erstwhile nemesis, President Moi. His dexterity enabled him to use his position and influence in the cabinet to push for constitutional reforms. This led to the establishment of the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission under the chairmanship of Prof Yash Pal Ghai. Raila demonstrated a rare trait of selflessness by literally forgiving his tormentors of yore, not for self but the general good of the nation.

Perhaps the greatest gifts that Raila has bequeathed Kenya and posterity are his unique ability to handle betrayal. After single-handedly propelling Kibaki to the presidency, Raila was thrown under the bus by no less than his second liberation movement compatriots.

It was his comrades Martha Karua and Kiraitu Murungi who led the brigade to alienate him in the first Kibaki administration.

When he won the 2007 presidential election, it was again this cabal who connived to deny him victory by manipulating the legal system. However, he showed magnanimity and, for the sake of the nation, joined them in the Grand Coalition Government. This act calmed the country from the vagaries of the post-election violence and spared the nation from the precipice of civil war.

The government not only delivered the globally celebrated 2010 constitution but also undertook major development projects. These projects had a profound impact on economic growth. Three times again, in 2013, 2017 and 2022, he cried foul in the presidential elections. But because of his unrivalled patriotism, he climbed down and worked with the perceived purveyors of electoral injustices. History vindicated him when the 2017 results were annulled.

His decision to engage Uhuru Kenyatta in the 2018 handshake agreement saved the country from plunging into chaos. The 2024 broad-based government, with President William Ruto, halted the imminent collapse of the government and potential slip into civil strife. Raila has united the country on both sides of the political divide for the sole sake of national development through the pursuit of justice and equity. His mentees shine globally. His legacy remains the national pillar of unity and patriotism.

Political policy analyst

Odinga: Life lived in defiance of silence

SOME lives speak for themselves. They do not ask to be celebrated. They are lived out loud, with conviction and cost, shaped by purpose and defined by endurance. The life of Raila Amolo Odinga is one of these. For those of us who have walked beside him, not in ceremony but in resistance, his journey is one we carry not only in memory but in bone.

I first met Raila not across a political table or in the comfort of a public rally, but in the bitter silence of Kamiti Maximum Security Prison. We were not guests there. We were detainees held without trial by a regime that feared ideas more than it feared crime.

I had already encountered his father, the late Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, years before. Jaramogi was a towering figure in our early political life, a man who had tasted betrayal but still held fast to principle. In our conversations, he struck me as someone who had seen the arc of history bend in painful directions but still believed it could be pulled toward justice.

In Raila, I saw that same belief, hardened by experience and

By Gitobu Imanyara

I honour him not because he has been perfect, but because he has been present. In every critical moment of Kenya's democratic journey, Raila has shown up. He has stood with the forgotten



softened by wisdom. In prison, he did not rant. He did not complain. He carried the weight of injustice with quiet strength. We spoke in hushed tones, exchanging thoughts on what Kenya could become. He was deliberate, measured, always anchored in the hope that what we were enduring would one day make sense to a freer generation.

When he walked out of detention, he did not ask for pity or reward. He returned to the struggle. Again and again, he entered the arena, not because he enjoyed the fight, but because the fight had chosen him. I have watched Raila be cheated, detained, maligned and misunderstood. What I have never

seen is a man tempted to surrender. His commitment has always been to something far greater than personal gain. He has remained faithful to the idea that Kenya belongs not to those who have captured the State, but to those who continue to demand that it serves its people.

In the years after our imprisonment, we worked together during the height of the second liberation movement. We helped organise protests. We spoke out in courtrooms and gatherings. We wrote and published when publishing was an act of resistance. We watched our comrades disappear, some into exile, others into graves. The cost was high.

But Raila never flinched. He had become, for many, a living symbol of the Republic's unrealised promise.

We did not always agree. That is the nature of true comradeship. It allows room for difference without betrayal. What bound us was something deeper than strategy. It was the understanding that silence in the face of injustice was never an option.

Raila has been many things in the public eye. To me, he has always been a constant. A man who kept returning to the people, even when the people were too weary to hope. His power lies not in political theatrics, but in moral stamina. He is not driven by ambition alone. He is sustained by memory. He remembers the detainees who never came home. He speaks their names when the country would prefer to forget them. He holds this collective memory as a kind of moral inheritance.

What few see is the personal cost. The missed years with family. The endless betrayals from allies turned adversaries. The loneliness that comes with being the conscience of a nation that often prefers

convenience over truth. Yet he carries these burdens without bitterness. He continues to laugh, to listen, to hope.

To walk with Raila is to walk with history. Not the history written in textbooks, but the one written in blood and courage. He has never asked to be anointed. He has never demanded sainthood. He has simply insisted on being heard. That insistence has changed the course of this country.

The 2010 constitution, flawed as it may be in implementation, would not exist without the movement that Raila helped to sustain. The political freedoms we now take for granted were once criminal acts. He lived through that transition, not as a spectator but as one of its main architects.

I honour him not because he has been perfect, but because he has been present. In every critical moment of this country's democratic journey, Raila Odinga has shown up. He has stood with the forgotten. He has named the injustice. He has reminded us that this country is still in the making.

Kenya has not always been kind to its dreamers. But it owes them everything. Raila is one of those dreamers. And I am proud to have stood beside him, then and now.

Lawyer, journalist and politician

★ letters

WRITE TO US AT: THE STAR, LION PLACE, WAIYAKI WAY, NAIROBI
OR EMAIL TO letters@the-star.co.ke Fax 4447410.

Raila is gone. Long live Railaism

KENYA is in mourning. The nation has lost a part of itself, and the republic a portion of its soul. Gone, now, forever, is the former Prime minister and powerful national leader of many Kenyans—Raila Amolo Odinga.

When the failed coup attempt in 1982 shook Kenya, he was arrested, detained without trial for six years, and tortured in Kamiti. Those were years of darkness, where every sunrise felt like a betrayal, and yet something deeper in him held, unshattered.

After release, he pressed onward: challenging the one party state, leading in the struggle for multiparty democracy in 1991, going into exile and returning in 1992 to win a seat in the National Assembly under Ford Kenya. From that chamber he kept pushing — for accountability, for ballots that counted, for a voice for those who had only ever been answered by silence.

In 1997 he stood for president, and again later, each time carrying more than candidacy: a hope that one day power would answer to justice. He formed the NDP, he later joined Kanu in 2001 to become Energy minister, a calculated move among others, working always in the field where change might grow.

The election of 2007 ravaged the land. Violence exploded in homes and markets and churches. Nearly 1,300 lives were taken; hundreds of thousands displaced. The wounds cut deep. Then, the peace brokered, the power sharing

with Mwai Kibaki, Raila took office as Prime Minister in 2008. Those days he walked between treacherous corridors and broken promises, seeking to steady the ship of a nation that seemed forever listing.

During that tenure he supported, campaigned and saw through the passage in 2010 of a new constitution: devolved power, counties empowered, a structure meant to touch the far flung places, not only the capitals. In 2018 he held out a hand to Uhuru Kenyatta in the Handshake, seeking to calm tempests, to forge some fragile unity. Curiosity, betrayal, hope mingled in people's responses.

He ran again in 2013, in 2017, in 2022. Each campaign saw new faces, new hopes, new accusations of unfairness. Each loss carved him deeper into the life of the republic as one who would not give up on fairness. He challenged election results in courts, demanded reform, urged transparency, called for accountability.

He took roles beyond opposition: when Kenya's voice was needed abroad, he went. In 2025 he was sent to South Sudan to help mediate intensifying conflict. He saw the dangerous edges of governance, of broken peace pacts, of wounded trust.

He married Ida Odinga; they raised children: Fidel, Rosemary, Raila Jr and Winnie. He held his family under the weight of political storms, under the glare of both adoring crowds and hostile scrutiny.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



SBM Bank Kenya head of customer experience Nyambura Ndung'u receives 100X Mavericks Award 2025 Excellence in Digital Banking Transformation from D8 Corporation CEO Juris Scerbickis during 100X Summit & Award Kenya Edition 2025 at Hyatt Regency hotel in Nairobi on Tuesday
/HANDOUT

There were moments he stood in open sky and shouted for the constitution, for equal voice. There were nights alone in cellars of power, nights haunted by betrayal. There were days when he was lifted by the cheers of the marginalised, the elderly, the farmer, the youth who saw their face in his words. The crowd that believed in him, even in defeat.

Now the land is hushed. Kenya looks for its captain like Walt Whitman in his famous elegy looked for President Abraham Lincoln, in empty cyber rooms, in silent halls of patriotism. His voice, once raw with protest, now echoes in court decisions, in architecture of the new law, in every ballot box pressed by human hands and sinister digital ones.

And in those echoes the nation remembers not only the ends he

sought, but the way he sought them: with persistence, with dignity, with willingness to bear both love and sacrifice. He lived in wars of words, in battles near midnight, in the slow work of change. He carried trauma, he carried hope. His life was biography and elegy joined.

The nation has lost a part of itself, the republic a portion of its soul. The years will mourn him, each grain of soil of the motherland will carry his scars. But what he built for us progeny of the founding mothers and fathers of this great motherland, I mean law, voice, constitution, yearning, will not easily be undone. Never. Ever. His legacy rises in every whisper: democracy, justice, peace. Jowi! Jowi! Jowi! Raila eeh. A luta continua.

Justus Makokha
Lecturer, Kenyatta University

Give mental health the attention and resources it needs

IT is evident that little emphasis and attention are put towards people struggling with mental health complications. This has caused the number of victims to skyrocket. The Ministry of Health should focus on providing solutions to mental illness across the country.

The Ministry of Health in coordination with the county governments and the relevant stakeholders need establish counselling centres to address the problem. This will give people access to information on how to cope with life's challenges.

Joshua Omache
Kibabii University



His voice, once raw with protest, now echoes in court decisions, in architecture of the new law, in every ballot box pressed by human hands and sinister digital ones.

COMPILED BY JOB OBANDA



No. Financial matters should be handled after treatment, not during a life-threatening situation. Patients in critical condition deserve immediate care, not pressure to pay. Moreover, private hospitals still benefit from state support such as tax relief. Medical ethics demand that doctors prioritise saving lives.

Ronn Biesa
Nairobi



No. The priority must always be to save the patient then the payment will be addressed later. Patients arriving in emergencies are often unconscious and have no access to immediate funds and demanding payment not only places a financial hurdle on the patient's path but also goes against the core values of medical professionalism.

Leonard Vusaka
Vihiga

Should private hospitals demand instant payment for emergency cases?

★ new voices

★STAR COMMENT No. Because human life should always come before money. In critical situations, priority should be saving the patient's life rather than rushing for payment. Some patients or their families might not have the funds, yet they deserve urgent medical attention. Hospitals should consider the patient's financial capability. Once the patient is stable, the hospital can then follow up on payment. Compassion and humanity should guide such institutions.



Maureen Waithe
Kiambu



No. Private hospitals should not demand instant payment because emergency care is a fundamental human right. Denying treatment due to payment concerns violates human dignity and the right to life. Providing emergency care should prioritise saving lives. You shouldn't die over payment of hospital fees.

Lee Monata
Nairobi



No. Because it's a private hospital, it has money, so I don't think they should demand payment in such a situation. They should treat the patient first because it may be a matter of life and death and get payment later after all they are well equipped. So, they shouldn't demand payment in emergency situations.

Ruth Waswa
Kakamega

★ society...

Who's in and who's out
In the local hotspots



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8

DAY OF GIRL CHILD HELD IN MATHARE

The International Day of the Girl child was commemorated at Mathare, Nairobi, on October 9.

Themed *'The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead,'* the event aimed to highlight young girls and teen mothers' empowerment.

In attendance were Nairobi Gender and Inclusivity director **Jane Gichure**, Utalii chief **Rose Ayere**, Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (Ticah) programme coordinator **Mickreen Adhiambo**, young girls and teen mothers.



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1. Maarifa Talents hub group performs a skit 2. Attendees pose for a group selfie 3. Young girls and teen mothers hold their gift bags 4. Joy Carmen, Nadia Wairimu and Linda Olesi 5. Ticah team 6. Jane Gichure 7. Jane Odhiambo, Naurine Otieno and Balvine Adhiambo 8. Ticah programme assistant Catherine Wanjiku and Utalii location chief Rose Ayere /LEAH MUKANGAI

JOURNEY OF A MILLION FOOTPATHS INTRIGUES

THE National Museums of Kenya last Wednesday hosted an exhibition staged by African Art in Digital founder **Naututu Okhoya**.

Presented through video mapping within a physical gallery, the experience layers sound and light and colour into a cinematic journey.

"Journey over a million footpaths shows us what it means for Africa's artefacts to return in physical form, through an immersive digital experience," **Naututu** says.

The ongoing exhibition will run until end-month.



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1. Jessica Kubania and Miss Heritage International Kenya MD Samuel Mwaura 2. Naututu Okhoya (C) interacts with guests 3. Fred Gatiramu, Heritage Gem Daliah Bitutu and Hellene Gatiramu 4. The audience watches videos of the exhibition 5. Exhibition designer and curatorial assistant Gilbert Ouma with Lilian Mewenda of NMK 6. Annelise Fernandez views the art pieces 7. National Art Museums of Kenya's Pelesia Wambia takes a selfie /MOSES MWANGI

NEWS COUNTIES

WILL BE MISSED

Kakamega residents mourn esteemed statesman Raila

HILTON OTENYO

RESIDENTS of Kakamega county received the news of the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga with utter shock, describing him as a statesman.

They could be seen huddled in groups as the news filtered in that Raila, who was undergoing treatment in India, was dead.

Former provincial commissioner turned politician Paul Orlando said that Raila's death will have serious political ramifications and asked Kenyans to remain calm.

"Raila has lived his life and played his roles in the democratisation process of the country to the fullest and it is going to take us time to find a replacement. We urge Kenyans to remain calm," Orlando said.

"What I know is that we're going to miss Raila. This country is going to miss Raila. We'll need to be calm, cool and sober and find a way on how

to move on without Raila. Let us look forward and not the past," he said.

The Kanu candidate for Kisa East ward by-election Maclean Khatete said that Raila was the glue that held his Nyanza region and the rest of the country that believed in him together.

"He was a politician of his kind and it may take long to replace him," Khatete said.

Boda boda rider Theophilous Induswe said the protector of the down trodden had departed.

Juliet Omollo, a cleaner, said that the death of Raila has left Kenyans exposed as only him would check the excesses of the government.

"He has helped Kenyans a lot and now we are left with no option but go to president William Ruto," she said.

An electrician, Johnson Andwati, said that Raila had saved the country from burning several times because he had the interest of Kenya at heart as he sought leadership.

Lillian Toili said that Raila played



Boda boda operators in Kakamega town after the news of ODM leader Raila Odinga's death broke yesterday /HILTON OTENYO

the role of monitor to the government and his exit leaves Kenyans vulnerable.

"We're asking ourselves what next after his death. He should have told us his time was due, so that we started preparing his replacement," she Toili said.

George Gathegu said that Kenya had lost a peacemaker.

"He has always ensured that Kenya does not go to the dogs even if he has been wronged," he said.

Raila collapsed during a morning walk at around 8.30 am within the premises of an Ayurvedic health facility in Kochi, India. Medical staff at the scene administered CPR before rushing him to Devamatha Hospital in Koothattukulam.

CLOUD OF SORROW

Grief engulfs Raila's home as leaders, city residents mourn

President Ruto visits to condole with family while mourners sing dirges and wave twigs

JANET ONYANGO
@TheStarKenya

A heavy cloud of sorrow hung over Raila Odinga's residence in Karen, Nairobi, following the official announcement of the ODM leader's death.

From the early hours of yesterday morning, hundreds of residents, supporters and political leaders began streaming into the residence after reports emerged that the former Prime Minister had passed away.

Police officers arrived at the scene shortly after to maintain order as crowds gathered outside the compound.

Security was later reinforced to manage the growing number of mourners arriving to pay their last respects. The atmosphere was one of deep emotion, disbelief, and mourning.

Trumpets and vuvuzelas echoed through the air as residents chanted Luo dirges, waved palm branches, and sang in remembrance of the man they affectionately referred to as Baba.

Some sat in disbelief, others peered through the windows, while a few moved around waving leafy branches to honour the passing of a legend.

Convoys of vehicles carrying senior political figures, diplomats, clergy, and community leaders continued to stream into the Karen home throughout the morning.

Security officers cordoned off the main gate to regulate access as more



Ida Odinga and daughter Rosemary with relatives and friends at their Karen home following the announcement of ODM leader Raila Odinga's death yesterday /ENOS TECHE

visitors arrived to join the family in mourning.

Leaders from across the political spectrum visited the home led by President William Ruto and his deputy Kithure Kindiki.

Residents from his political bases across the city also trooped into the home to mourn their hero.

So determined were some of the supporters as they braved the scorching sun and trekked for kilometers to reach the Karen home.

Loud wails tore through the silent home.

There was heavy deployment of se-

curity including the General Service Unit, general duty police, plain-cloth officers as well as private security.

Raila's supporters carrying twigs wailed and chanted 'Jowi!' 'Jowi!'. Some of the supporters carried his portraits.

Early in the morning, President Ruto made a quiet visit to the family home.

The Head of State condoled with the family for close to an hour before his convoy snaked its way out of the home.

Members of Parliament, diplomats and other leaders also visited the family.

After condoling with the family, each of the dignitaries left with heavy heart and not uttering any word to the media.

Even as leaders condole with the family, the unctrollable crowd kept swelling in the compound.

Hawk-eyed security officers could only watch from a distance.

Raila's wife Ida Odinga who spoke amidst the storm called for calm. "We did not expect it will end this way but it has happened. Please remain calm," she said. Many have described Raila Odinga's death as a monumental loss not only to Kenya but also to the African continent.



NEWS COUNTIES

LEFT A MARK

Raila devoted himself to uniting the country, Kitui leaders mourn nationalist

MUSEMBI NZENGU

LEADERS from Kitui county have expressed their condolences following the demise of former Prime Minister and ODM party leader, Raila Odinga.

Led by Governor Julius Malombe, others who mourned Raila are Charity Ngilu, a former Kitui county chief and Raila's long-time political ally, as well as Kitui Central MP Makali Mulu.

"It is with great shock and sadness that I have received the news of the passing of the former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya and leader of the Orange Democratic Movement, Raila Odinga," said Malombe in a

statement shared with the media.

He added that Raila's demise was a great loss to the nation where his legacy has been etched through the struggle for human rights and democratic governance.

The Kitui county chief further eulogised the statesman as a leading proponent of devolution.

"He has been a true nationalist who always agitated for a Kenya where social justice and the rule of law prevailed," observed the governor.

"On behalf of my family and the people of Kitui, I convey my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and relatives," he added.

In her condolence message, Ngilu said she was saddened by the

untimely and sudden demise of the former PM, who was one of Kenya's greatest leaders.

"RAO shaped Kenya's politics in a way that no other Kenyan has. Raila was very courageous, fearless, decisive and always ready to give his opinion even if it was not what others believed in," the Narc party leader said.

Speaking to the media in Kitui, Mulu said Raila's demise was not only surprising but shocking too.

"I take the opportunity to convey my personal condolences, those of my family and those of his electorate to the family of Raila and the people of Kenya, as he was a national leader," Mulu said.



Kitui Governor Julius Malombe /HANDOUT

He added that the country had lost a "great person who left a mark" and would be remembered for a long time for fighting for democratic freedoms

in Kenya. The Kitui Central MP described the ODM stalwart as a leader who had devoted his life for the country's unity.

THE KINGMAKER

Kibaki Tosha: How Raila's phrase decided 2002 poll

Declaration marked political turning point, propelled Mwai Kibaki to presidency



ODM leader Raila Odinga and then President Mwai Kibaki /JACK OWUOR

Together, they formed the Liberal Democratic Party.

Soon after, LDP joined forces with other opposition parties—including Kibaki's Democratic Party and Charity Ngilu's National Party of Kenya—to form the National Rainbow Coalition (Narc).

The coalition brought together powerful political heavyweights united by a common goal: to end Kanu's long-standing dominance.

It was during a packed rally at Uhuru Park in Nairobi that Raila made the historic announcement.

"After wide consultations and listening to the voice of the people, I say: Kibaki Tosha!"

The declaration stunned many and electrified the opposition base. Until that point, Raila himself had been considered a strong contender for the presidency.

By publicly endorsing Kibaki—a respected, seasoned politician from Central Kenya—Raila demonstrated rare political maturity and placed national unity above personal ambition.

The move consolidated the opposition vote, especially uniting the populous regions of Central and Western Kenya, Nyanza and parts of the Rift Valley.

It also sent a clear message that Narc was a united front, unlike the fractured ruling party.

When elections were held on December 27, 2002, Kibaki won by a landslide, garnering over 60 per cent of the vote.

Though Raila would later have a falling-out with Kibaki over power-sharing agreements—leading to the infamous 2005 constitutional referendum fallout—his role in Kibaki's rise to the presidency has remained unquestionable.

Over two decades later, the phrase 'Kibaki Tosha' is still remembered as one of the boldest and most selfless political endorsements in Kenya's history: the moment solidified Raila's reputation as a kingmaker.

Raila died on October 15, at the age of 80, after suffering a heart attack in India.

ALLAN KISIA
@kisiaallan

IN Kenya's political history, few moments have had as profound an impact as Raila Odinga's emphatic declaration of "Kibaki Tosha!" in 2002.

The phrase marked a political

turning point that not only ended Kanu's long rule but also propelled Mwai Kibaki to the presidency.

After nearly 24 years in power, President Daniel Moi was constitutionally barred from seeking re-election in 2002.

His chosen successor was Uhuru Kenyatta, a political novice at

the time and the son of Kenya's founding president, Jomo Kenyatta. Moi's decision to endorse Uhuru deeply divided the ruling Kanu party and sparked resentment among seasoned politicians who felt sidelined.

Among those disillusioned by Moi's succession plan was Raila,

then a key member of Kanu, who had merged his National Development Party into Kanu in 2001, in the hopes of greater political collaboration.

But when it became clear that Moi was intent on imposing Uhuru, Raila led a walkout of key Kanu leaders in protest.

NEWS COUNTIES

PEOPLE'S DEFENDER

Why Raila had massive following at the Coast

Activist Khalifa says his activism, support for the Islamic Party of Kenya contributed

BRIAN OTIENO
@Yobramos4

KENYA'S human rights and political scenario will never be the same again following the death of former ODM leader Raila Odinga in India yesterday, veteran rights activist Khelef Khalifa has said.

Khalifa first interacted with Raila in the early 90's when they were fighting the dictatorial Kanu regime.

"It was in 1993, 1994 or thereabout that I first interacted with Raila. Those days politicians were anti-Kanu so it was easy to interact," he said.

Khalifa said Raila, then, struck him as a human rights champion and that is what impressed him most about the former prime minister, easily forming a strong bond.

They would then frequently call each other and meet up whenever they could.

It is during this time that Raila started amassing a great following in Mombasa and the Coast because he was impressed with the Islamic Party of Kenya (IPK) led by Khalid Balala.

"When he started backing IPK because of Balala's opposition of the government, he built his rapport with the Muslim community, which became his stronghold to date," Khalifa told the Star.



Former ODM leader Raila Odinga and Khelef Khalifa at Raila's Mombasa home in 2019 /BRIAN OTIENO

"He stood firm with justice and against marginalisation, which the Coast was suffering. That is why the region loved him and it became his stronghold even though he was from Nyanza."

The veteran human rights activist said Raila contributed immensely to the Kenya we have today and fought for political freedoms through his

fight for a new constitution, which he delivered in 2010.

His death is a big blow to the Coast region, which will now see a political realignment, he said.

"No one in Kenya can match what Raila has done for this country," Khalifa said.

He said those not in politics, including himself, did not always agree with

some of his maneuvers in the recent past including his handshake with former President Uhuru Kenyatta and incumbent William Ruto.

"We mourn him. We congratulate him for what he did for Kenya. The country will be shaken and the many people who depended on Raila politically have now been orphaned," the activist said.

Khalifa and Jomvu MP Badi Twalib said Raila was a political father to many in Kenya and 99 per cent of the current crop of politicians would not have made it in politics if it were not for Raila.

They said Nyanza will experience a moment of confusion and chaos after Raila's demise.

The region has to mourn Kenya's enigma in the political scene before later carefully choosing someone who can try to fit into Raila's shoes.

"Because no one can fit in his shoes. This is the greatest blow Kenya has and will ever be dealt," Twalib said.

Khalifa said a Nyanza kingpin does not necessarily need to be a career politician but someone who is fearless and steadfast and who can sacrifice for the better good.

"I hope they don't choose from the same crop of politicians we currently have. Raila was cut from a different cloth, which is rare to find," he said.

He gave lawyer Willis Otiemo, who is young, energetic, well-focused and not tainted by corruption as an example of good leadership.

"Kenya deserves a leader who can make a difference. I know there will never be a leader like Raila who built himself and did not depend on the legacy of his father even though he was a vice president," Khalifa said.

He said Siaya Governor James Orengo would have been a natural heir to Raila.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The death of Raila Odinga is a big blow to many politicians at the Coast who depended on him for political survival. The region is now expected to witness a political realignment that will change the scene come 2027.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY

Mombasa residents mourn Raila describe death as double tragedy



Bangladesh residents in Mombasa county mourn former ODM leader Raila Odinga /BRIAN OTIENO

BRIAN OTIENO

RESIDENTS of Bangladesh slums in Mombasa's Jomvu constituency yesterday wept uncontrollably as

they mourned ODM leader Raila Odinga.

The residents who lost three of their sons in last Friday's boat tragedy at Tundo Water Sports,

described Raila's death as a double tragedy.

"Why are we suffering like this? Why us? Why Bangladesh? What did we do wrong?" Mama Sarah

Achieng, a resident wailed as she rolled on the ground.

Bangladesh slum is dominated by members of the Luo community and is one of Raila's strongest support bases in Mombasa.

Ochieng Auma said Raila was a great defender of the people of Mombasa and there will be no one else to defend the county as effectively as he did.

"We have lost someone who intervened to ensure issues of the SGR are right. Mombasa would have remained a ghost town were it not for Raila," Auma said.

Richard Odeny, a resident of Kisumu Ndogo in Nyali subcounty, said not only has the Luo community lost its leader but also pillar.

"I have all my life voted for Raila. I don't know what I am going to do now. I lack wisdom and strength going forward," he said.

Sefine Amol, a resident of Bamburi in Kisumu subcounty said the country's outlook will be different and unpredictable now that Raila is no more.

She said although Raila withstood all the bad things that were done to him, he remained in love with Kenya.

"Will there ever be a leader who will love Kenya the way Raila did? This country needs someone who loves the country as much as he loves the people," Amol said.

In Likoni, residents gathered in small groups to mourn the former ODM leader.

Ali Hassan, an ardent ODM supporter, said Mombasa has been dealt a big blow adding that the political scene will change with Raila's passing.

"Raila was the glue that held together most of these politicians you see in Mombasa. It is interesting to see what will happen next," he said.

Human rights activists in Mombasa said they have lost one of their own.

"Although he was actively in politics, we regarded him as a human rights person because we owe most of freedoms to him. He was more human rights activist than most of us," Muhuri's Francis Auma.

He said activism in Mombasa started with the Islamic Party of Kenya, which received great support from Raila.

SEFINE AMOL, A RESIDENT OF BAMBURI IN KISUMU SUBCOUNTY SAID THE COUNTRY'S OUTLOOK WILL BE DIFFERENT AND UNPREDICTABLE NOW THAT RAILA IS NO MORE

NEWS COUNTIES



Raila Odinga's supporters mourn in Eldoret yesterday /MATHEWS NDANYI

ONE-TERM GOVERNORS

Give me another term, Kihika urges residents amid political scheming

MATHEWS NDANYI

NAKURU Governor Susan Kihika has urged residents to give her a second term in office to implement her development plan and vision for the county.

Speaking in Kuresoi South, Kihika said it was not wise for residents to give governors only one term in office, thus cutting short programmes that needed time to complete. She cited her predecessors Kinuthia Mbugua, who was elected in 2013 for one term, then Lee Kinyanjui in 2017, who also served one term only, unlike MPs who were voted in more than once.

"I am asking you residents of Kuresoi South, why have you been re-electing all the MPs for a second term yet when it comes to the governor's office, you only want to give us one term and then go for another person?" Kihika said.

The governor said electing a new county chief would mean projects initiated would stall and residents would have to start afresh with a new office holder.

"I have started and lobbied for many development programmes which are ongoing and I urge you to re-elect me so that we complete all the plans we have in place," Kihika said.

Supporters of the governor said she had achieved much and should be re-elected.

"Governor Kihika has worked to complete many projects initiated by her predecessors and she has also initiated many projects across the county within the last three years. She surely has done well and deserves a second term in office," Jane Wangare said.

There has been speculation on the list of aspirants eyeing the Nakuru governor's seat, including Kinyanjui, who was defeated by Kihika during the last general elections and is now the CS for Trade. Kinyanjui has not, however, confirmed this.



Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika /HANDOUT

MEETINGS SUSPENDED

Eldoret residents hit the streets to mourn Raila

They carried twigs, placards and wailed as they walked across the streets

MATHEWS NDANYI @TheStarKenya

SUPPORTERS of former Prime Minister the late Raila Odinga took to the streets of Eldoret City to mourn his passing.

They carried twigs, placards and ODM party symbols and wailed as they walked across the streets.

Security was heightened in the city, especially within Langas area where Odinga had a huge following.

Several official meetings in the city were also suspended.

At the Eldoret National Polytechnic an international scientific and research was suspended briefly as guests joined in mourning.

Chief principal of the college Charles Koech said the country has lost a doyen whose contribution to the country is unmatched.

"It's a big shock to all of us. We condole with the family and pray that God gives us all strength to bear the loss", said Koech.

Governor Jonathan Bii said the country has lost a great patriot and a leader who was a pillar of leadership excellence.

"He has contributed a lot to this country including the political stability we now enjoy. As a nation this is a great loss and we condole with his family," he said.

Bii said they are grateful for the support Raila gave President William

Ruto. "Kenya has lost an icon, an enigma and a statesman whose vision and courage helped shape the destiny of our nation," he said.

The former Premier dedicated his life to pursuit of justice, democracy and unity.

ODM officials in North Rift led by Kipkorir Menjo also held a meeting where they mourned Raila.

"As a party we have lost a great leader, a mentor and a visionary person whose role in this nation has been critical," Menjo said.

Raila Odinga died yesterday while undergoing treatment in India.

President William Ruto has declared a seven-day national mourning period in honour of his death.

SECOND CHANCE

Trans Nzoia mobilises teen mothers to join technical colleges



Governor George Nitembeya issues bursary cheques in Trans Nzoia county /MATHEWS NDANYI

MATHEWS NDANYI

TRANS Nzoia county has mobilised hundreds of teen mothers to join technical colleges to gain skills that will help them earn a living.

The county reportedly has a high number of teen mothers who drop out of schools after getting pregnant.

Education executive Janerose Mutama says they have partnered with non-state organisations to implement programmes for teen mothers.

Last year the county recorded more than 5,000 teen pregnancies.

"We have a high number of teen mothers and many suffer rejection,

stigmatisation, depression and even harbour suicidal thoughts because they cannot cope with the situation," Mutama said.

She said the county has partnered with Child Resque Kenya to support more than 50 girls at Kiminini Technical Training Institute.

Mutama spoke during a graduation ceremony for the teen mothers at the college.

"The girls who have graduated had lost hope in life but through this initiative we are giving them a second chance in life because after training we will give them the tools they require to engage in self employment," she said.

The CEC urged the girls not to give up or be discouraged but focus on starting their own self-employment activities.

She said Governor George Nitembeya had also instructed that the girls be enlisted into the Nawiri Programme to get financial support.

According to Mutama, the governor is keen on supporting education of the girl child.

"As a county working with Child Resque Kenya we want to mentor the girls so that they can be self reliant and earn decent lives," the CEC said.

Stephen Barasa from Child Resque Kenya said the organisation is keen to ensure teen mothers are

empowered economically as they work to support the lives of their children.

"We have donated the necessary tools that they will use to start their own income generating activities after graduation," he said.

The county director of technical training Eliud Lusweti urged other partners to support such initiatives because the county had a high number of such teen mothers and other youth who are unemployed.

"We have no adequate job opportunities for our youth and one way to support them is by giving them technical training so that they can easily engage in self employment," he said.

NEWS COUNTIES

PAINFUL LOSS

Bitter tears flow as Kisumu mourns shocking Raila death

Business stops, wailing residents throng streets within minutes of receiving sad news

FAITH MATETE
@faymatete

THE lakeside city of Kisumu came to a complete standstill yesterday following news of the death of opposition leader Raila Odinga.

Shops that had opened early in the day were forced to close as word spread across the city.

"I was in my shop when I saw an alert by the Star newspaper confirming Raila's death. This was a huge shock and within few minutes there were vuvuzelas all over. I closed my shop and joined the crowd," said Mark Oluoch, a businessman along Oginga Odinga Street.

Another trader at Kibuye market, John Otieno, said the city and Kenya as a whole was mourning. And all they could do was close their shops and join the others.

"This was our father. He was everything to us as people from this region and I know Kenya as a whole. Today is his day".

Within minutes, residents poured into the streets, some wailing uncontrollably, others clutching portraits of Raila and chanting liberation songs that have long defined his political journey.

Groups of mourners streamed in from different corners of the city like Nyalenda, Manyatta, Obunga, and Kondele, gathering at major streets



Kisumu residents mourn the passing of ODM party leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga along Oginga Street yesterday /FAITH MATETE

and junctions to grieve together.

"This is unfair to us," said one elderly man, tears streaming down his face.

"We are finished as the people of the lake region. Baba was our voice, our strength."

Others expressed disbelief, saying they could not imagine Kenya's political landscape without the man they fondly called Baba.

"Raila is not just a leader; he is part of our lives. This feels like losing a father," said a young woman in the crowd.

As the day wore on, the streets were filled with people with minimal movement of matatus, others stopped operating, and loud cries filled the air.

Kisumu, a city that has always stood firmly behind Raila Odinga,

was united in grief its heart heavy with sorrow and disbelief.

Luo Council of Elders chairperson Odungi Randa called for calm and peaceful mourning among members of the Luo community and Kenyans at large following the death of Raila.

Speaking in Kisumu at Ofafa Memorial Hall, Randa urged mourners, especially the youth, to express their

grief peacefully and with respect for the legacy of the late statesman.

"I'm requesting the community and Kenyans at large to mourn Raila with peace particularly our young men. I'm asking our young men to mourn Raila with peace," he said.

Randa noted that plans would be made in due course to allow members of the public to pay their final respects to the veteran politician at his Bondo home.

"When the time comes, we shall request the community and the state to bring Raila to Fafa so that ordinary Kenyans can come here and mourn him," he added.

The visibly emotional elder described Raila's passing as a deeply personal loss, recalling their shared experiences during the struggle for democracy.

"I have never shed tears. When Jaramogi died, I did not shed tears. But when Raila died, I shed tears because of the bond between me and him. We were detained together by the bad regime he was in at Kamiti while I was at Manyani. We saw many things," he said.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Within minutes, residents poured into the streets, some wailing uncontrollably, others clutching portraits of Raila and chanting liberation songs that have long defined his political journey. Mourners streamed in from different corners of the city like Nyalenda, Manyatta, Obunga, and Kondele, gathering at major streets and junctions to grieve together. Others expressed disbelief, saying they could not imagine Kenya without "Baba".

BETTER CONSERVATION

Hand over Kakamega Forest to us, Governor Barasa tells government

HILTON OTENYO

KAKAMEGA Governor Fernandes Barasa has urged the national government to hand over the management of the Kakamega Forest.

Barasa said management of the tropical rainforest by the county government will enhance conservation, improved tourism revenue, and community involvement.

"We have the capacity and commitment as a county government to sustainably manage the unique rainforest ecosystem which is the only tropical rainforest in Kenya," Barasa said.

"Just like other counties that manage national parks, we believe Kakamega should take charge of its own forest."

Barasa spoke when he led members of the county executive, partners, key stakeholders and residents to plant over 1,000 trees at Isecheno forest area in Shinyalu constituency.

Prior to the tree-planting exercise, Barasa led county officials in taking

part in a 10km marathon.

Kakamega Forest covers approximately 238 square kilometres and is home to rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, including the De Brazza's monkey and hundreds of bird species and butterflies.

The governor said Kakamega forest is not just a natural heritage of Kakamega but a national treasure that has been underutilised.

Vihiga Governor Wilber Ottichilo, who chairs the Environment and Climate Change Committee of the Council of Governors, encouraged the youth to take the lead in environmental conservation.

Ottichilo addressed the athletes and residents at Shihuli trade centre, the starting point of the 10km race.

Kakamega Deputy Governor Savula said that counties such as Narok and Kajiado successfully manage critical ecosystems like the Maasai Mara Game Reserve.

Savula said a similar model can be applied in Kakamega to ensure

both ecological preservation and economic empowerment of local communities.

"Why should Kakamega Forest remain under centralised management yet we want to conserve this forest while ensuring our people benefit from eco-tourism, research, and green jobs?" Savula said.

He added that residents should be allowed to take advantage of natural products in the forest like indigenous roots 'mukombera' and promote local tourism involving unique birds, apes, snakes and insects, among other species found in the forest.

The leaders argued that the Kenya Forest Service, which currently oversees the rainforest, has not adequately engaged the local community or promoted the forest's tourism potential.

They proposed a collaborative framework where the county government takes the lead, supported by national institutions and conservation partners.

Kakamega Forest is Ken-

Kakamega
Governor
Fernandes
Barasa /KNA



ya's last remnant of the ancient Guineo-Congo rainforest that once spanned the African continent, covering approximately 238 square kilometers and is home to rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, including rare monkeys and hundreds of bird species.

But leaders are now rooting a collaborative working framework between national and county governments in the management of the forest.

During the event, marathon winners received awards in both the male and female categories after which all members of the county executive, partners, key stakeholders and residents planted over 1000 trees.

The day's event is part of the inaugural Lake Region Economic Block climate change summit and agro-expo taking place at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.

NEWS COUNTIES



A KDF officer measures the height of a recruit in Garissa /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

GROWING CHALLENGE

Drug abuse locks many out of KDF hiring in Garissa

Mandatory tests revealed traces of substance abuse

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@astarikostephen

A significant number of youth who turned for the KDF recruitment at Garissa provincial training centre were on Tuesday disqualified after mandatory medical tests revealed traces of drug and substance abuse in their blood samples.

About 250 potential recruits had turned up for the exercise.

Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Maalim disclosed this during an interview with journalists.

“The young men and women displayed very good ambitions and optimism in joining the KDF, but on the flip side of subjecting them to some medical conditions, what is coming out is there is an increase in the uptake of illegal drugs and substances,” he said.

He was, however, quick to state that despite the issue of increase in use of illegal drugs and substances, they will get the right recruits based on the numbers of youths who turned up.

RIGHT RECRUITS

Lt Colonel Maalim described the process a success, stating that they were able to get the right recruits according to the stipulated requirements.

“I want to reiterate that the exercise is done on a free and fair basis considering the KDF has a zero tolerance policy on corruption,” he said.

Use of illegal drugs and substances among the youth has been on the rise and has become one of the major challenges in Garissa town.

Most of the youths in the town lack employment opportunities and end up in drug and substance abuse leading to high rates of crime in the town.

Mohamed Hussein, a human rights activist, while describing the outcome as unfortunate, was, however, quick to state that it underscores the urgent

need for collective efforts to address the growing challenge of drug and substance abuse among the youth in communities.

“Time has come for all stakeholders including parents, local leaders, government agencies, civil society organisations, and the youth themselves to work together to create awareness, promote rehabilitation, and foster a drug-free society because as we can all see they are messing our generation,” he said.

A report released by Nacada in February this year showed that out of 10 people, seven are likely to be abusing drugs.

BHANG AND HEROIN

The report mentioned bhang and heroin as the most abused. These drugs, according to Nacada, enter the country from Ethiopia.

Others are miraa and muguka. The consumers are also abusing prescribed drugs such as Diazepam, Alprazolam, Rohypnol, Midazolam, Benylin with codeine, and Amitriptyline.

In March this year, the Ministry of Health, in partnership with Nacada, conducted a three-day drug and substance abuse sensitisation campaign.

Last month, Health CS Aden Duale urged Muslim leaders to join the war against drug abuse.

He said Muslim scholars, religious leaders, and businessmen have role to play to ensure drugs and substance abuse is dealt with.

“We are part and parcel of society. We must take positions to get rid of drugs in our communities. As a government, we cannot build a country when generations are destroyed by drugs,” Duale said.

Heller street, Garissa ndogo, Bula sheikh, Waberi and Iftin are areas notorious for drugs and substance abuse.

USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES AMONG THE YOUTH HAS BEEN ON THE RISE AND HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES IN GARISSA TOWN

PERSISTENT INEQUITIES

Marsabit Kuppet calls for affirmative action during teachers’ recruitment

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

THE Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education Teachers from Marsabit has called for affirmative action to secure the future of junior secondary school learners.

The branch leadership, led by secretary general Sera Galgalo, said they called for affirmative action in recruitment and progression to give underserved counties more weight during national teacher allocation.

He said matters human resources, infrastructure, capitation and career progression are some of the biggest challenges bedeviling teachers and the education sector in the area.

“We have observed with grave concern the persistent inequities affecting education in Marsabit county and other underserved northern arid and semi-arid lands counties. These inequities undermine the quality of education in junior secondary schools and place our learners at serious disadvantage,” Galgalo said.

“We demand that affirmative action not be a rhetoric but a binding, mea-

surable commitment, with timelines and resources behind it.”

He urged the government to fast-track posting and deployment of newly recruited teachers to underserved regions with clear incentives like hardship allowances, housing support and improved security.

He said this will go a long way in not only attracting them but retaining them.

Galgalo also took issue with some teachers remaining stuck at job group C3 for years, with little hope of progressing to C5. He said the absence of clear promotion pathways risks demoralising a workforce already strained by hardship.

Galgalo said the government should ensure teacher recruitment drives give priority to hiring qualified teachers from underserved and Asal counties, to improve retention, cultural relevance and understanding of local challenges.

He urged the TSC to recognise years of service in hardship, underdeveloped, remote and insecurity-prone zones in promotion criteria.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Tengyun Company Limited is inviting the general public and the project affected persons to public participation meetings for an Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the proposed construction of twenty-seven (27) storey commercial and residential apartments (Gemini Phase 2) comprising of retail spaces and a total of three hundred and thirty-eight (338) residential units with supporting facilities and amenities on Nairobi/Block 5/534 along Matundu lane in Westlands area, Westlands Sub-County within Nairobi City County. The meetings are scheduled on **23rd October 2025, 30th October 2025 and 6th November 2025** at the proposed project site (Latitude: -1.2590°S, Longitude 36.7923°E) at 10am.



PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principal we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicle by public auction on **Friday 24th October 2025 at 11:00 A.M**

IN MATTER OF REPOSESSION

REG NO	MAKE/ MODEL	STORAGE YARD
KBU 937D	TOYOTA TOWNACE	VALUERS YARD ENTERPRISES

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Viewing at Valuers Yard Enterprises.
2. Interested bidders are required to pay refundable deposit of Kshs. 50,000/= to obtain a bidding number.
3. Sale subject to reserve price.
4. Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.

ALL ARE WELCOME



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P.O. Box 22091 - 00100 Nairobi, Tel 0723 040 467/0733 388 795
Email: mbekiauc@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principals. We shall sell the under-mentioned goods by public auction

1. On **FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025**, starting at **10.00am** at **LEAKEYS STORAGE LIMITED, LUNGA LUNGA ROAD.**

DISTRESS FOR RENT

LANDLORD -VERSUS- SARAH RUGURU LUCY

1 TV Stand, 1 Mika Water Dispenser, Round Makuti Table With Two Chairs,
2 Saloon Chairs, Mika 6 Burner Gas/ Electric Cooker, Dining Table Plus 6 Chairs,
2 Door Samsung Fridge, Coffee Table Plus One Stool, 1 Round Small Stool, 1
Artificial Flower With Stand, 1 Gas Cylinder, 3 Floor Carpets, 1 Wall Clock, 1 Small
Round Mirror, 1 Samsung Microwave, 2 Pieces Yamaha Speaker,
65" Samsung Television, 4 Pieces 6 Seater Sofasets.

2. On **Friday 24th October 2025**, starting at **10.00am** at **LEAKEYS STORAGE LIMITED, LUNGA LUNGA ROAD.**

SMALL CLAIMS COURT AT DAGORETTI . SCCOMM NO. E091 OF 2025.
MERCY JEPKOGEI CHEMWOTIE -VS- MAGDALENE ZAWADI NGAMBONA.
2 Plastic Chairs, 1 Nollins Blue Chair, 1 Electronic Cloth Dryer, Hisense Washing
Machine, L-G Washing Machine, Hisense Dryer, 1 Ironing Board

CONDITIONS OF SALE

Cash at the fall of the hammer
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PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principal, in exercise of their statutory power of sale, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned Motor vehicle:-

On **Monday, 27th October 2025 starting at 10.00 a.m.** at **Pambo Auctioneers Yard Tom Mboya Estate Kisumu County.**
SIAYA CMCCC. NO. E032 OF 2024 BERRYL ACHIENG (Minor suing through next friend and or father JACK AMAYO OJWANG=VERSUS=ERICK NANDWA MUKOLWE.

1. **MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO.KDH 266J MAKE: TOYOTA MATATU**

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All prospective purchasers are hereby requested to view and verify for themselves all the necessary details pertaining to the above named Motor vehicle as the same are not warranted either by the Auctioneer or their Principal.
2. Bidders are required to obtain a refundable deposit of Kshs.5,000/= to obtain a bidding number.
3. Cash or Bankers cheque at the fall of the Hammer.
4. Sale is subject to reserve price, and the auctioneer reserves the right to reject any bid without giving reasons for doing so.
5. Further details and conditions of sale are available on request at our offices and viewing of the property can be done during normal working hours by prior arrangement with ourselves; the Auctioneers.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r. 3(3)(xi) THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019) CHANGE OF USE (RENEWAL)

The Owner of **LR No. NAIROBI/BLOCK 95/582** situated on Grevillea Grove, in Westlands area proposes to Change the Use (Renewal) of the plot from **Single Dwelling Unit to Multi Dwelling Units (Town Houses)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals, Institutions and Organizations etc with objections/comments to the proposal to forward them in writing **within fourteen (14) days** of this notice to:

**The County Secretary
Nairobi City County,
P.O. Box 30075-00100
Nairobi**

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The registered owner of **Parcel No. Nairobi/Block199/130** located along Ngecha Road in Kitisuru Area within Nairobi proposes to change the use from **Residential to Commercial** 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 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
Land, Housing, Physical Planning & Urban Development
Nairobi City County
P.O Box 30075-00100
Nairobi**

**Registered Planner:
Iplan Consult (0191)**

+254722703706

JOBS APPLY land sales agent's marketers, NKR, Gilgil area REG fee is a MUST SMS only for details 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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I'm A Classic Lady, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking For Love 0731990601.

Ladies & Gentlemen: Looking for love, serious & mature life partner? Instant connection sms/whatsapp your profile:0732459678

Wealthy Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies Hookup. 0731990601

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Instant date TZ Dar euro indian thai arab+254722115384

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IM KENYAN MAN, very

understanding, smart, a christian n im looking 4 a serious lady 4 marriage below 30yrs n without kids n serious, call 0724249628

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Am a 26 yrs old young man living in mombasa looking for a mature lady for discreet romance affair 0772544229.

WE sell spy gadgets and do surveillance to catch mpango wa kando,we also provide photos \$ video showing them doing it live. call spy-masters on 0788404275

I'm Dickens, 33,lvng & working in Nrb. I want a beautiful hiv-ve lady of between 27-65, lvng & working in Nrb for a romantic love.If interested SMS ur profile to: 0708101622

Kenyan in 1950 would like to get in touch with any one whom has a king george one shilling of that very year.Call me on 0724405401 or 0736211045.

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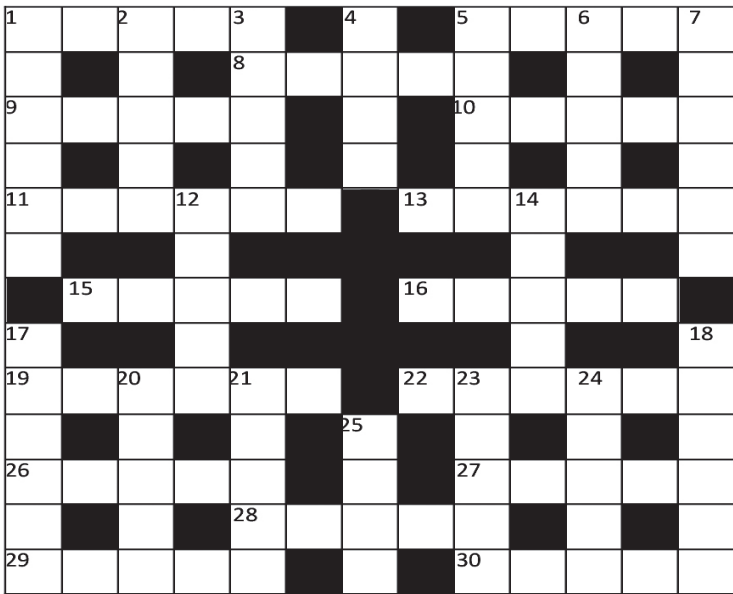
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COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD / PUZZLE



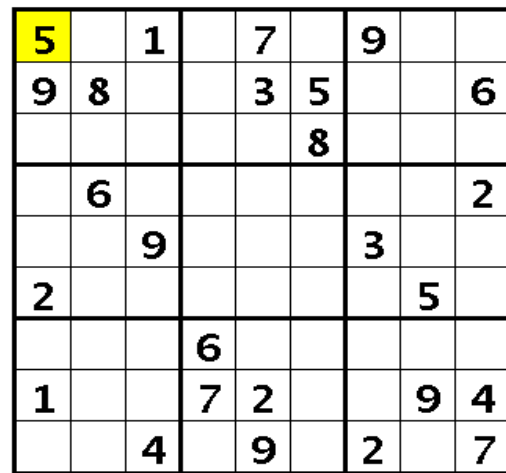
DOWN

1. A Native American people who used to inhabit parts of Kansas (6)
2. One of Kenya's freedom fighters, Ronald (5)
3. Former Cabinet secretary for Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts (5)
4. One of the pharaohs of the sixteenth Dynasty of Egypt (4)
5. New Delhi (5)
6. It is the electrode towards which anions move during the process of electrolysis (5)
7. Vizier of Pharaoh Amenhotep and Akhenaten (6)
12. Valletta (5)
14. Former Senator for Trans-Nzoia County (5)
17. In a state of inactivity or rest (6)
18. Former Principal secretary for Department of planning (6)
20. Former Principal Secretary for Treasury (5)
21. Kenyan radio personality, known for hosting shows on Classic 105 FM with co-host Mwalimu King'ang'i (5)
23. Kamba name for one born at dawn (5)
24. Former Senator for Embu County (5)
25. Past tense of sing (4)

ACROSS

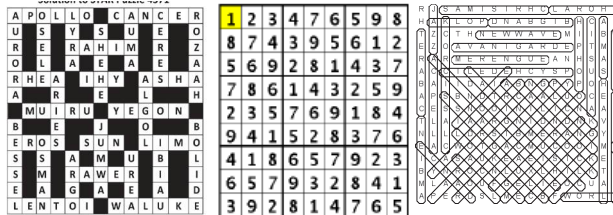
1. Native American tribe, historical inhabitants of the Kansas River valley (5)
5. In Islam, inner belief and devotion (5)
8. Porto-Novo (5)
9. Accra (5)
10. A two-terminal electronic component that acts as a one-way switch for electric current (5)
11. One of the pharaohs of Twentieth dynasty of Egypt (6)
13. The two types of male and Female cell that join together to make a new creature (6)
15. Former Senator for Uasin Gishu County (5)
16. Former name of DRC (5)
19. Former Governor for Lamu County (6)
22. Senator for Nyamira County (6)
26. Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (5)
27. One of Kenya's freedom fighters (5)
28. Former Governor for Turkana County (5)
29. Beijing (5)
30. Former CAS for Transport and Infrastructure Development (5)

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.

Yesterday solutions



WORD SEARCH

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.



ALL IN THE STARS



LIBRA

September 24 - October 23

Don't push. Let things develop as they will. The relationship might prove to be lasting if you're careful!

SCORPIO

October 24 - November 22

You might be attracted to someone you know through business, so caution is advised. Suggest a professional lunch and see where it goes.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 - December 21

Look your best when encountering current or potential partners. You'll probably get the response you want!

CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 20

Consider your body part of your physical environment. Take a break and get outside to do some exercise.

AQUARIUS

January 21 - February 19

Someone you love dearly could provide inspiration for creative activity. Your efforts will be appreciated.

PISCES

February 20 - March 20

Center yourself during this time of spiritual expansion. Your body, health, and relationships deserve your focused attention.

ARIES

March 21 - April 20

If you are looking for romance, don't come on too strongly; you need to project an aura of tantalizing mystery.

TAURUS

April 21 - May 21

A small sum of money could come today, possibly through the efforts of a woman. You've been waiting for this for a long time, so expect to feel relieved.

GEMINI

May 22 - June 21

This should prove to be a fortunate day for you, from friendship to romance to education to business.

CANCER

June 22 - July 22

The next few days could find your mind in overdrive and working on whatever ideas you come up with today. Write them down.

LEO

July 23 - August 22

You have the opportunity to accomplish things that will make you shine in days to come.

VIRGO

August 23 - September 23

Keeping a strict schedule of exercise and a healthy diet won't be hard with favorable energy readily available and abundant.

TELEVISION LINEUP - THURSDAY



5:00AM	MORNING DECREE	6:00PM	LA MUJER DE JUDAS
5:30AM	TV47 FITNESS	7:00PM	UPEO WA TV47
6:00AM	MORNING CAFE'	7:30PM	MFAHAMU
10:00AM	TV47 MATUKIO	8:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
2:00PM	BAZE 47	8:30PM	FALLING INTO YOUR SMILE
3:00PM	THE 77 PERCENT - RPT	9:00PM	THE GREEN FIX WITH SHIKSHA ARORA
3:30PM	THE DEBATE CYCLE - RPT	11:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
4:00PM	TV47 NEWS NOW	12:00AM	BEATPLUG MIX
4:15PM	BEAT KIDS	2:00AM	DW DOCUFILM RPT
4:30PM	KIKI AND NUNA	3:00AM	WILD KINGDOM
5:00PM	BEATPLUG	4:00AM	MORNING DEVOTION

ODDLY ENOUGH

ChatGPT will soon allow erotica for verified adults

BBC/ OpenAI plans to allow a wider range of content, including erotica, on its popular chatbot ChatGPT as part of its push to "treat adult users like adults", says its boss Sam Altman.

In a post on X on Tuesday, Mr Altman said upcoming versions of the popular chatbot would enable it to behave in a more human-like way – "but only if you want it, not because we are usage maxxing".

The move, reminiscent of Elon Musk's xAI recent introduction of two sexually explicit chatbots to Grok, could help OpenAI attract more paying subscribers.

It is also likely to intensify pressure on lawmakers to introduce tighter restrictions on chatbot companions.

OpenAI did not respond to the BBC's requests for comment following Altman's post.

Changes announced by the company come after it was sued earlier this year by parents of a US teen who took his own life. The lawsuit filed by Matt and Maria Raine, who are the parents of 16-year-old Adam Raine, was the first legal action accusing OpenAI of wrongful death.

The Californian couple criticised the company's parental controls – which it said were designed to promote healthier use of its chatbot – saying they did not go far enough. The family included chat logs between Adam, who died in April, and ChatGPT that show him explaining he has suicidal thoughts.

Altman said that OpenAI previously made ChatGPT "pretty restrictive to make sure we were being careful with mental health issues".



SPORTS LOCAL

RUGBY

SHUJAA TO TRAIN IN SOUTH AFRICA

Kenya Sevens to camp in Stellenbosch ahead of World 7s Division Two Series

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA



FRESH from winning the Safari Sevens, Shujaa will embark on a high-performance elite camp in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in December in readiness for the World Sevens Division Two Series in February next year.

National Sevens squad director, Humphrey Kayange, said the camp will act as a build-up as Shujaa look to reclaim core status for the 2026-2027 season.

The former skipper said Kenya must adopt a structured approach and adapt to a high-intensity elite environment ahead of the Division Two Series, which kicks off in the new year.

“We want to give the best possible avenue for them to play in that environment with the help of the South Africa Sevens team. We also want to look at areas where we can polish up and be competitive in the

Kenya Sevens' playmaker Samuel Asati in action in a past tournament / FILE

tournament,” observed Kayange.

Initially, Kayange revealed that Shujaa had been lined up to play at the Dubai Invitational tournament at the end of November, but it may not be possible. “The event requires you to pay some money up-front by a certain date, which we don't have. It's not looking possible that we play at the tournament,” observed Kayange.

The Division Two format will mirror the past edition, where teams will play three legs and the top four teams at the end of the tournament will then face off with the bottom four teams in the World Seven Series, with the top four teams gaining core status at the end of the tournament.

Kayange was delighted with the talent on show by both Shujaa and Kenya Morans at the Safari Sevens over the weekend.

“We have seen good performances from some players, and this shows the depth we have as a country in the shorter version of the game.”

“At the same time, it was encouraging to see some of our under-20 players get an opportunity to display their talent,” he said.

Co-captain George Ooro said they have been tested in the semifinal and final against Zimbabwe, winning 29-19 and the final against Shogun, where they won 14-7.

“The boys showed mentality and good game management to win both matches, where we were sorely tested. I believe there are areas where we can improve and be better in the next tournament.”

ATHLETICS

Cheserek, Chemweno hope to stamp their authority at Sunday's Toronto Marathon



Beatrice Cheserek / FILE

BY TEDDY MULEI

AFTER playing the role of a pacer at the 2023 Tokyo Marathon, Beatrice Cheserek believes she is now ripe to test her mettle over the full 42km distance at Sunday's Toronto Marathon.

Two years ago, Cheserek expertly paced compatriot Rosemary Wanjiru through 30km of the Tokyo race, where Wanjiru stormed to victory in 2:16:28.

Ethiopia's Ashete Bekere (2:19:11) and Workenesh Edesa (2:20:13) followed in second and third, respectively. Cheserek is drawing inspiration from that experience, convinced it has toughened her for her marathon debut.

“This is my first marathon, and I hope to do my best because I paced in Tokyo. I strongly paced Wanjiru up to 30K and she ran 2:16, so I know I am strong,” Cheserek told race organisers.

Her eyes are firmly set on a sub-2:20 finish in Canada, banking on the flat and fast nature of the Toronto course. “My training is going well. I think I'm going to do my best in Toronto. I want to run 2:20 or 2:19. I know Toronto is not a hard course. It is a little bit faster,” she said.

The Toronto Marathon course record currently stands at 2:20:44, set by Ethiopia's Waganesh Mekasha during her triumph last year. er the full distance, Cheserek brings impressive road running credentials to the start line.

She owns a half-marathon personal best of 1:06:48, set in 2022 when she triumphed in Cardiff. Her dominance over the 21km distance has seen her clinch titles in Santa Pola (1:07:49), Tallinn (1:08:22) and Riyadh (1:09:22), all in 2023.

She also posted a third-place finish in Buri in 2022, clocking 1:09:18 behind Hellen Obiri (1:07:45) and Ethiopia's Bekel-ech Gudeta (1:08:38).

Kiprop, Sampao in the mix as Bingwafest visits Machakos

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

ASBEL Kiprop and Amason Sampao will go head-to-head in the 5,000m and 10,000m races as more than 400 athletes compete at the Betika BingwaFest Season Two at the Kenyatta Stadium, Machakos.

Kiprop and Sampao won the 10,000m and 5,000m races respectively in this leg last year, with Sampao later going on to win the Bingwafest national 5,000m title in Siaya in April.

Athletes will compete for a share of more than Sh6 million in prize money across various track disciplines, with equal pay for the male and female athletes.

Gold medalists in the 10,000m will earn Sh300,000, while the second and third-place finishers will receive Sh250,000 and Sh200,000, respectively. The fourth and fifth-place finishers will be awarded Sh100,000 and Sh75,000.

In the 5,000m category, winners will receive Sh250,000, runners-up Sh150,000, third-place finishers Sh100,000, fourth Sh50,000 and fifth-place finishers Sh30,000.

Prizes for the top five finishers in the 100m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m will be equal across events. Gold medalists will earn Sh150,000, silver medalists Sh100,000, bronze medalists Sh60,000, with Sh30,000 and Sh20,000 going to fourth and fifth place, respectively.

In addition to athletics, there is football, rugby and basketball. Sixteen men's and sixteen women's teams are battling for a top prize of Sh1m in the football competition.

Rugby action begins on Friday at Machakos School and will shift to Kenyatta Stadium on Sunday for the main cup finals. Just like in football, the winners will pocket Sh1m, which will trickle down to Sh500,000 for the runners-up and Sh250,000 for the bronze medallists.

In 3x3 basketball, the winning teams

will receive Sh500,000, while the second and third-placed teams will take home Sh250,000 and Sh100,000 respectively.

Basketball tips off Friday at the newly installed court at Kenyatta Stadium.

Betika Head of Brand, Eric Mwiti, said: “Once again, Machakos will host the Eastern Region edition, and we are hoping to have an action-packed weekend on the track, on the court, and on the pitches.

“The first two legs of the second season have delivered spectacular versions, good attendance by the fans, as well as super competition by the sportsmen and women. As usual, BingwaFest factors everyone within the community, and thus we will have a free medical camp throughout the weekend,” said Mwiti.

The second season of the multi-discipline sports extravaganza began in August, with Nakuru hosting the Rift Valley edition at Afraha Stadium before the action moved to Siaya for the Nyanza leg.



Amason Sampao / HANDOUT



SPORTS LOCAL

Oilers, KCB clash in blockbuster Impala Floodlit showdown

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

CHAMPIONS Menengai Oilers face a stern test against KCB in a highly anticipated quarterfinal clash of the 42nd edition of the Impala Floodlit tournament on Saturday at the Impala Club.

The Nakuru-based side comes into the fixture on the back of a solid pre-season training, which include a 45-29 victory over Uganda's Black Pirates in a friendly match in Kampala two weeks ago.

They now meet a resurgent KCB outfit determined to make a strong statement ahead of the new season.

In other quarterfinals, Kenya Harlequin will take on Blak Blad in the early kickoff, while Nondescripts face Strathmore Leos. Hosts and last year's runners-up Impala will look to go one better as they take on perennial contenders Mwamba.

Impala captain Tyson Okoth expressed confidence in his side's chances this year.

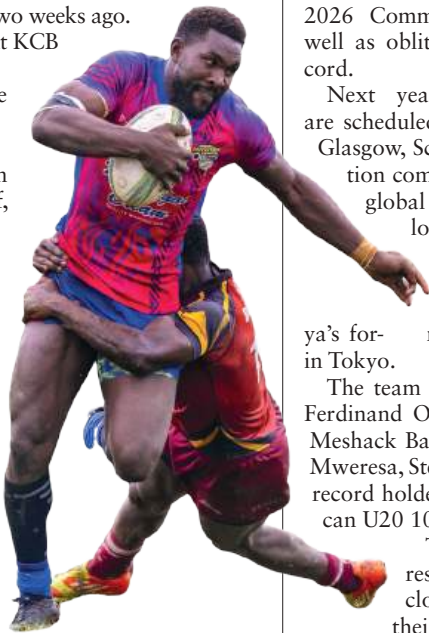
"We've had a strong preparation phase, and the team is much stronger than last season. The key is to ensure our systems are working as we target a strong push in the Kenya Cup and a place in the playoffs," said Okoth.

In the women's category, Kenya Cup champions Mwamba will clash with Northern Suburbs, while Impala Ladies renew rivalry with neighbours Harlequins.

The varsity category features several exciting matchups. Kabete Stallions face United States International University (USIU), while JKUAT meet Impala Swara. Nine-time champions Mean Machine take on Daystar University, as Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA) square off with Zetech University.

The matches will be played at Impala Club and the RFUEA Ground.

The semifinals are set for October 25, with the final scheduled for November 1. Advance tickets are going for Sh500, while tickets at the gate will cost Sh700. Fans can purchase tickets online at tikohub.com.



Oilers' Chrispine Shitundo in action against Blak Blad / FILE

MWAI EYES CLUB GAMES, NATIONAL 200M RECORD

Sprint sensation keen to leave a mark with ambitious two-pronged project

BY TEDDY MULEI

YOUNG sprint prodigy Dennis Mwai has thrown down the gauntlet, declaring his intent to challenge for a place in Kenya's 2026 Commonwealth Games squad as well as obliterate the national 200m record.

Next year's Commonwealth Games are scheduled for July 23 to August 2 in Glasgow, Scotland. Mwai's bold declaration comes on the back of his maiden global appearance in Kenyan colours during last month's Tokyo World Championships.

The 20-year-old was named as a reserve in Kenya's formidable 4x100m relay squad in Tokyo.

The team featured Africa's fastest man Ferdinand Omanyala, national champion Meshack Babu, veteran sprinter Boniface Mweresa, Steve Onyango, former national record holder Mark Odhiambo and African U20 100m champion Clinton Aluvi.

The quartet of Babu, Mweresa, Odhiambo and Onyango clocked 38.56 to finish sixth in their heat, narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

Despite being a reserve, Mwai believes the experience gained in Tokyo has set the stage for a breakthrough 2026 season.

"Tokyo was a good experience for me. I got to see how elite athletes run and gained a lot of invaluable experience," said Mwai in an exclusive interview with the Star.

As he looks ahead to 2026, Mwai has revealed his intention to focus solely on the 200m. "In the coming season, I will be focusing more on the 200m," he noted.

His decision to specialise in the half-lap sprint was inspired by conversations with world champion Noah Lyles and Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo during the World Championships. "I talked to some of the world's top athletes in Tokyo like Lyles

and Tebogo, and they told me how to approach the 200m," he added.

Mwai will, however, continue to contest the 100m at Athletics Kenya weekend meetings to sharpen his speed.

"In AK weekend meetings, I will be doubling in the 100m and 200m, but at the national championships, I will only focus on the 200m, aiming for the national title," he explained.

The youngster is also bullish about attacking the long-standing 200m national record of 20.14 seconds, held by Carvin Nkanata and set in 2015 in the USA.

"I'm also hoping to break the national 200m record and I believe it will work out," he affirmed. Mwai, who currently boasts a personal best of 20.70 seconds achieved during the 6th AK meeting at the Ulinzi Sports Complex on May 15.

His main target for 2026, however, remains earning a Commonwealth Games berth.

"I am hoping for a good 2026 season. Next year, there will be more surprises from me," he said confidently.

Mwai believes he is closing in on the Commonwealth Games entry standard of 20.60 seconds.

"My target is to make Kenya's team for the Commonwealth Games in the 200m because I'm very close to the entry standards," he concluded. Mwai has already started his preparations for an ambitious 2026 season.

"I have already started my build-up for next year with loading, and by next year I hope my

body will be in good shape," he noted.

Under the guidance of coach Perpetual Mbutu of the Utawala Sprints Club, Mwai has switched his training to focus more on strength and explosive speed. "In 2025, I had not been doing some things necessary to build the body for explosiveness."

"I had not been doing proper gym work and stretches, but as I built up for the 2026 season, my coach has been guiding me adequately," he said.



Sprint prodigy Dennis Mwai / FILE

FOOTBALL

Harambee Starlets' defender Ilavonga confident ahead of Gambia WAFCON qualifier

BY CHARLENE MALWA

HARAMBEE Starlets defender Lorine Ilavonga believes they have what it takes to beat Gambia in their next CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) qualifiers match next week.

Ilavonga will be making her debut for Starlets after anchoring Kenya's back-line during the Fifa U-17 Women's World Cup last year. She attributed her first call-up to the senior team to punching above her weight at the junior level.

Starlets have intensified their preparations for the two-legged encounter scheduled for October 24 from 6 pm at Nyayo Stadium, with the return leg set for October 28 at Stade Lat Dior in Thiès, Senegal.

Ilavonga's journey to the top has been one built on quiet conviction and steady growth. "I thank God for this opportunity and I promise to do my best," Ilavonga said.

She added, "It doesn't come easy. You

must believe in yourself and have confidence. I want to work hard and heed the coach's instructions to the letter. It's about stepping out of the comfort zone, and doing what you have to do."

For Ilavonga, an alumnus of Wiyeta Girls, this is not just a personal triumph but a symbol of Kenya's growing investment in developing women's football talent. With her steady rise through the ranks and a faith-driven work ethic, she stands ready to open a new chapter in her new journey.

"It's every player's dream to represent her country at the top level," she said. "Now that the chance has come, I'm giving it everything."

Starlets are currently in training in Thika, undergoing rigorous and disciplined



Harambee Starlets defender Lorine Ilavonga / CHARLENE MALWA

sessions under head coach Beldine Odemba, who has blended youth and experience in pursuit of Kenya's first Wafcon appearance since 2016.

Under Odemba's guidance, the Starlets have focused on tactical play, improving coordination, and maintaining high intensity in every session. Odemba said the atmosphere in camp reflects a team united by purpose, which is to deliver Kenya back to the continental stage.

She said Ilavonga, one of several Rising Starlets graduates, has brought composure and improved communication to the defence, and she is expected to play a crucial role in the qualifiers.

"Ilavonga's track record speaks of quiet excellence, and she is a key figure in Kenya's history-making U17 side that qualified for the

2024 Fifa U17 Women's World Cup without conceding a goal in qualifiers."

She was also a standout performer at the Caf Under-17 Girls Integrated football tourney held in Tanzania, where she was named among the best 11. At the World Cup, she helped Kenya record their first-ever victory on the global stage, defeating Mexico 2-1.

Now, she carries that same determination into the senior fold, with eyes set on helping the Starlets restore their continental presence.

Her performances at the youth level attracted interest from top-tier sides, eventually earning her a move to Ulinzi Starlets, which outfit known for structure and technical precision. "Every level has prepared me for this," she said. "I've learned that consistency and discipline always pay off, and now it's time to fight for Kenya," she added.

Her teammates share that conviction with forward Shirleen Opisa, also a Rising Starlets graduate, calling on fans to rally behind the team.

FOOTBALL

Tuchel enjoys fans' chants as Three Lions reach World Cup

BBC

THOMAS Tuchel said he accepted the pointed chants aimed in his direction by fans during the win over Latvia that secured England's place at the World Cup.

Travelling supporters targeted Tuchel with numerous songs throughout the game after the German manager criticised fans after last week's win over Wales.

The England boss had said he felt underwhelmed by the home support at Wembley during Thursday's 3-0 friendly win, comments that prompted a vocal response from fans who made the trip to Riga.

Supporters chanted "Thomas Tuchel, we'll sing when we want" and "Thomas Tuchel, are we loud enough for you".

After the 5-0 win in the Latvian capital that booked England's place at the World Cup next summer, Tuchel said: "I got a bit of stick in the first half, so fair enough. I take it in good humour, with a good sense of humour. I accept it.

"They had a reason from my last comments and I guess

that's fair enough. I found it quite creative. It made me smile and this is how it has to be. It's British humour and I surely can take it. No harm done."

On the impact of England's fans between now and the World Cup, he added: "It's so important. They are here and I said the support in Serbia was brilliant.

"The support was brilliant and we are very sure the support in America will be absolutely brilliant. We need it.

"It makes such a difference if you go out as a player or as a coach and you see the fans behind the team and singing. This is also part of what we do.

"We want to make them proud, we want to make them happy. They should be happy to watch us and they should be able to identify with how we play.



England players celebrate/HANDOUT

FOOTBALL

'THE PLAYER CITY LOST'

Did Manchester City let playmaker De Bruyne leave too soon?

BBC

'LEGENDARY', 'pure class' and 'on another level' are just some of the terms used to describe Kevin de Bruyne this week.

The Belgian is enjoying one of his best starts to a season since moving to Napoli on a free transfer, which begs the question, did he leave Man City a year too early?

The exodus of senior City players in the past year has been well documented, with the likes of Ederson, Jack Grealish, Ilkay Gundogan and Kyle Walker all leaving for pastures new. De Bruyne was also deemed surplus to requirements — despite 16 trophies and more than 400 appearances — and the midfielder, reluctant to leave, joined Napoli when his contract expired in June.

"I was a bit surprised but I just have to accept it," said De Bruyne back in April. "Honestly, I still think I can perform at this level like I'm showing, but I understand clubs have to make decisions."

It turns out the 34-year-old was correct in his self-assessment. De Bruyne has begun 2025-26 in sparkling form, underlined by two goals from the penalty spot during Belgium's 4-2 win in Wales on Monday night.

He has 11 goal involvements in 12 appearances for club and country this season, with three assists and eight goals. It represents his best goalscoring start to a campaign and only twice before has he registered more goal contributions in his opening 12 games, in 2023-24 and 2019-20.

The Belgian also appears to have slotted in seamlessly to life in Serie A and, while he is yet to register a league assist, he has created the equal-second most chances among all midfielders. His tally of three goals has only been bettered by AC Milan's Christian Pulisic and Bologna's Riccardo Orsolini, who have four, and only a handful of midfield players have registered more shots on target. Manchester City, mean-

while, have made a strong but not spectacular start to the campaign on all fronts, with six wins, two draws and two defeats from their opening 10 fixtures.

One of those wins came against De Bruyne's Napoli at Etihad Stadium, with the Belgian's highly-anticipated homecoming lasting just 26 minutes after team-mate Giovanni di Lorenzo was sent off.

But despite that anticlimax, De Bruyne's start to 2025-26 suggests he could still have been a key figure in Pep Guardiola's squad and, when compared to City's current crop of midfielders and wingers, only his compatriot Jeremy Doku comes close to his return of goals and assists.

De Bruyne also appears to be fully fit, having struggled to maintain his fitness towards the end of his time in the Premier League. He made only 34 league starts across the past two seasons with City but has already started five of Napoli's six Serie A matches, appearing from the bench in the other.

"I feel good," he said of his start in Italy. "I'm playing a lot and I'm in good shape."

De Bruyne has already represented Belgium in three World Cups and is one of the last remaining players from his country's much vaunted 'golden generation'.

"We're so lucky to have a player like Kevin," said his former national coach — and now Portugal manager — Roberto Martinez in 2022. "For me he's the most incredible playmaker in world football at this present time."

However, Belgium have employed two head coaches since Martinez and De Bruyne was stripped of the captaincy at the start of September by the latest boss Rudi Garcia — a role he had held since March 2023. Garcia selected Aston Villa midfielder Youri Tielemans as his new skipper, adding that he is "the link between the golden generation and the younger players".

The 34-year-old De Bruyne accepted the decision and responded in typical fashion by scoring five times in his first four games under Garcia, with his double against Wales putting the Red Devils top of their qualifying group and in touching distance of a fourth successive World Cup appearance. De Bruyne will celebrate his 35th birthday midway through next summer's showpiece event in Canada, Mexico and the United States and he is showing little sign of slowing down.



Napoli midfielder Kevin de Bruyne /HANDOUT

FOOTBALL

Ronaldo sets new record as Portugal are forced to wait in World Cup battle

BBC

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored twice and set a new goalscoring record but his Portugal side could only draw with Hungary to miss a chance to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

Ronaldo, 40, has now scored 41 goals in World Cup qualifying to move clear of the previous record holder, former Guatemala striker Carlos Ruiz who got 39 qualifying goals in his career.

Portugal were minutes away from securing their spot in next summer's tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

However, in the 91st minute, Liverpool midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai grabbed an equaliser to deny Portugal the win they needed, although they still hold a five-point lead at the top of Group F with two matches to go. Portugal's next chance to qualify comes on 13 November when they play the Republic of Ireland in Dublin.

In Lisbon, Hungary took an eighth-minute lead with a goal from Attila Szalai after he was set up by Szoboszlai. But Ronaldo pulled Portugal level in the 22nd minute from six yards out when he connected with Nelson Semedo's low cross from the right.

Ronaldo then got the 948th goal of his career and his 143rd international goal just before half-time, this time with a composed finish following Nuno Mendes' delivery.

However, Szoboszlai's late equaliser kept Hungary's hopes of winning the group alive. During Ronaldo's 22-year international career, he has helped Portugal win the European Championship in 2016 and the Uefa Nations League on two occasions.

However, the closest he has come to winning the World Cup came in 2006 when Portugal reached the semi-finals, before losing to France and then to Germany in the third-fourth play-off.

Hungary remain second in Group F and are one point ahead of the Republic of Ireland, who beat Armenia 1-0 in Dublin.

Cristiano Ronaldo /HANDOUT



RUGBY

Shujaa to train in South Africa ahead World 7s Division Two

SEE PAGE 29



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

stars SPORT

Stars will be ready to challenge Africa's best in two years, says McCarthy



Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy / FILE

BY TEDDY MULEI

HARAMBEE Stars head coach Benni McCarthy believes that in two years, the national team will be ready to trade punches with the continent's football heavyweights.

The former Manchester United assistant coach was speaking after Kenya's 3-0 defeat to the Cote d'Ivoire on Wednesday night at the Stade Olympique, a result that wrapped up their Group F World Cup qualifying campaign.

Although Kenya was already out of contention for a World Cup spot, McCarthy's men were keen to sign off on a high. But the Elephants had other ideas.

Franck Kessié opened the

scoring in the seventh minute, handing the hosts a slender lead at the break. Yann Diomande doubled the advantage in the 54th minute before Amad Diallo put the result beyond doubt with a composed finish in minute 84.

When the dust settled, Cote d'Ivoire topped Group F with 26 points, closely followed by Gabon on 25, while Kenya finished fourth with 12 points.

McCarthy was full of praise for the Elephants, admitting the gulf in class between the two sides remains significant.

"It was always going to be almost impossible for us to stop a very good Cote d'Ivoire team," McCarthy said.

"But it was a fantastic learning

experience for us, and I think in two years, we'll be ready and at a better level to compete with teams like Cote d'Ivoire."

The South African tactician highlighted the stark contrast in player quality between the two nations.

"You look at the quality of players the Cote d'Ivoire has, all of them are top internationals playing for big clubs," he said.

"They've got so many players who can change a match in an instant, players like Diallo and Nicolas Pepe. Kenya is still budding; we have a young team that's learning its trade."

Despite the gulf in experience, McCarthy insisted that his charges showed heart and intent.

★ GOLF

Lejirma bags Sunshine Tour title at Royal

BY GICHANA ANGWENYI

KENYA'S top amateur, John Lejirma of Royal Nairobi Golf Club, returned home Sh130,000 richer with 210 Order of Merit points following a superb performance during the sixth leg of the Sunshine Development Tour —East Africa Swing Tour on Wednesday.

Lejirma produced a composed performance under pressure to claim victory following a dramatic playoff after capitalising on home course advantage.

Lejirma, who began the final round with a commanding four-shot lead over his closest challenger, Njoroge Kibugu, saw his advantage wiped out as Kibugu mounted a spirited comeback.

Despite dropping a single shot on the par-4 11th hole, Lejirma held his nerve to force a sudden-death playoff after both players tied on 10-under-par after regulation play. On the playoff hole—the par-4 18th—Lejirma kept his composure to card a par, as Kibugu faltered with a bogey, handing the home favourite a hard-fought and emotional victory.

Lejirma began his final round brightly with a birdie on the opening hole, adding two more on holes six and seven before playing level par the rest of the front. He went bogey-free through the first nine holes and finished the day with a 2-under-par 70 to close the tournament on an overall score of 10-under-par.

He said: "It's been a long journey. The first leg slipped away and in another event, I lost in a playoff by just a whisker, but I didn't give up. I went back to the drawing board, did what needed to be done, and here we are."

BOXING

TIME TO FLEX MUSCLES

Hit Squad captain Mogunde aims for regional dominance as Africa Zone 3 tournament starts

BY TONY MBALLA

IN the heat of Nairobi's Mathare Depot training hall, Boniface Mugunde, captain of Kenya's Hit Squad, sharpens his jabs, slips punches and dances along the canvas with laser focus.

Every hook, uppercut and feint tells the story of a fighter chasing what has long slipped through his gloves: gold at the Africa Zone 3 Boxing Championship, set for October 15-25.

"I've fought my way to silver and bronze, but gold has always danced just out of reach," Mugunde says, bouncing on his toes. "This year, in front of my home crowd, I plan to clinch it. I'll hit, I'll slip, I'll weave—every punch counts."

Mugunde's journey is more than wins and losses—it's a battle of grit, stamina, and ring IQ.

"Boxing isn't just about throwing punches," he explains. "It's footwork, timing, angles, and mental toughness. I study my opponents like chess. Every round is a round in life, and I intend to own it."

The Hit Squad captain knows history is on his side. Kenya last hosted the championship in 2005, and fans have been waiting for nearly two decades to see a homegrown champion hoist the gold.

"To lift that medal here in Nairobi, with the flag waving and fans screaming—it would be electric. It would be more than a win; it would be a statement," he adds.

At Police Depot in Mathare, Mugunde's regime is relentless. Early morning roadwork builds his engine, sparring sharpens reflexes, and bag work refines punching power. Shadowboxing keeps his rhythm tight,

while defensive drills hone his slips, ducks, and counters.

"We hit the mitts every day. Every combination, every jab, every uppercut is dialled in," Mugunde says.

"I visualise my opponents' punches before they land. I anticipate, I read, I react. That's how you dominate in the ring. Speed, power, endurance—it's all in the prep."

His dedication is mirrored by the Hit Squad team.

"Boxing is individual in the ring, but it takes a village outside it. Coaches, teammates, and everyone

in the gym sharpen each other. Gold is the result of collective sweat and sacrifice," he adds.

The championship features 13 countries, including Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, the Central African Republic, and Cameroon.

"DR Congo is tough—they throw heavy shots, they fight dirty, but we've studied their patterns. My plan is simple: control the tempo, hit clean, slip their counters, and finish strong," he says.

"Every opponent brings a different style. Some brawl, some box smart. You have to adapt quickly—head movement, counter hooks, body shots. You fight their strategy, but you impose

yours. That's the game."

The roar of Nairobi fans provides an intangible boost.

"When I hear the flag-waving crowd chanting, my knees bend and my punches sharpen. It's adrenaline on tap," Mugunde says. "Fighting at home is motivation and pressure rolled into one. Every round matters; every punch has a purpose."

He said the Africa Zone 3 Championship is more than a regional title—it's preparation for global contention.

"Dubai's Elite World Men's Boxing Championship is next. Every round here is a simulation of world-class fights. Every counter, every combination is training for the bigger stage," Mugunde explains.



Boniface Mogunde (3rd R) with coach Benjamin Musa (2nd L) and the rest of the Hit Squad/HANDOUT

