

# Siasa

Temporary truce and why Ruto no longer needs ODM experts

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# News

Uhuru hands Matiang'i Jubilee in battle with Ruto for presidency

Readying for 2027: Page 8

FRESH, INDEPENDENT, DIFFERENT

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# weekend STAR

Odinga's political clout aided his close associates and ODM candidates

# TOP POLITICIANS FACE TROUBLE IN RAILA'S ABSENCE

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ABDUSWAMAD NASSIR



JOHNSON SAKAJA



GIDEON MUNG'ARO



RAILA ODINGA



FERNANDES BARASA



JAMES ORENGO



GLADYS WANGA

Tanzania on the brink as protests rock Election Day

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Inside state's grand plan to deliver smooth KCSE, curb cheating

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Tanzanian youth burn a tyre at the Namanga border  
/SCREENGRAB



## POLITICAL UNREST

# Tanzania on the brink as protests rock elections

Unprecedented protests have erupted across Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza

ELIUD KIBII  
@EliudKibii

TANZANIA is teetering on the edge of a major political crisis after thousands of citizens defied curfew orders and took to the streets on Election Day.

Polling stations and electoral materials were destroyed and police stations invaded, some torched in protest of what they termed sham vote marred by repression, candidate exclusions and state intimidation.

The unprecedented protests erupted across Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and Dodoma on Wednesday into the night and extended to Thursday, despite the government deploying the military and imposing a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Dar es Salaam. The defiance underscored widespread anger against

the government of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, whose reelection appears all but assured amid accusations that the polls were neither free nor fair.

Residents reported that security forces fired teargas and live bullets in several neighbourhoods of Dar es Salaam, including Mbagala, Ubungo and Gongo la Mboto.

In other instances, demonstrators marched alongside deployed soldiers, chanting for 'uhuru wa kweli' — real freedom and "hatutaki CCM (Chama Cha Mapinduzi)" — we don't want CCM party.

Reuters reported at least 10 people were killed.

Protesters also torched business establishments and vehicles in widespread destruction.

Witnesses reported gunfire in the night, with roads blocked and internet connectivity cut off nationwide and was only restored on Thursday evening.

Netblocks data showed internet was down since Wednesday, while the US Embassy in Tanzania confirmed widespread internet blackout, making all communication difficult. "There are reports of countrywide demonstrations resulting in outbreaks of violence and roadblocks. Some major roads, including the main road to Julius Nyerere International Airport, are closed," the embassy said in a consular alert to its nationals.

The alert on Thursday was the second, barely 24 hours after the embassy first advised Americans in Tanzania to shelter indoors as protests erupted nationwide during the start of the polls.

With the internet shutdown, protesters were mobilising through Zello app, which works as a walkie talkie.

The deployment of troops — a rare sight in Tanzanian politics — marked a turning point for a coun-

try long seen as one of East Africa's most peaceful and stable states.

Soldiers and police were stationed at key intersections and public offices as the government sought to contain what officials described as "isolated acts of lawlessness."

However, the images emerging on social media before the internet blackout told a different story: Citizens marching beside the military, in scenes reminiscent of Kenya's Gen Z protests in June last year.

Government spokesperson Gerson Msigwa in a message shared through Instagram directed that state officials and those in the private sector to work from home, other than for those whose responsibilities require them to be on site.

"Citizens who don't have to leave their homes are urged to undertake their activities from home," Msigwa said. The demonstrations were sparked by the exclusion of key opposition candidates, notably Tundu Lissu of the Chadema party, who was disqualified on technical grounds. Lissu is still in jail, having been charged with treason.

Chadema secretary general John Mnyika said the polls were not real elections, but "a sham aimed at deceiving the world that elections are taking place in Tanzania".

Mnyika was leading a Chadema delegation in a meeting with African Union Election Observation Mission to Tanzania led by former Botswana President Eric Masisi.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

US Senate Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Senator Jim Risch raised concerns with the shrinking democratic space, saying that the clergy in Tanzania were being targeted for speaking out against President Hassan's "brutal regime".

## CAKE FOR ALL

# State proposes law to anchor equity, promote national unity

MOSES OGADA

THE government has proposed a law seeking to address the historical exclusion of marginalised communities and ethnic minorities in state appointments and sharing of national resources.

The Ethnic Minorities and Marginalised Communities Bill, 2025, which is under public participation, seeks to compel government agencies to involve all communities in national life.

It establishes a structure for the recognition, protection and empowerment of marginalised groups with a view to fully implement provisions of the 2010 Constitution.

"Every public body shall, in the performance of its functions, ensure equality of opportunity and non-discrimination against members of recognised communities," the Bill says.

President William Ruto has been on a rallying call for national unity and the need to distribute national resources fairly and equitably among the country's ethnic groups.

It is for this reason that he has fronted the broad-based arrangement with ODM and has declared the doors open for other like-minded parties to join the fray, Kanu being the latest.

In the proposed law, public and private employers would be compelled to take measures to ensure inclusion of all communities in the job ranks.

If enacted, they would be required to have targeted recruitment or apprenticeship programmes, training and internship opportunities for the ethnic minorities.

"The national and county governments shall ensure equitable representation of recognised communities in public service appointments, boards, commissions and decision-making bodies," the proposed law reads.

It commands the Public Service Commission, the County Public Service Boards and appointing authorities to ensure such inclusion and report the same to the responsible commission.

"Every public body shall, in its annual report, provide data on representation of recognised communities within its institution," the Bill says.

A unit would be established under the Office of the President to gazette communities that meet the criteria for compulsory inclusion.

The "Unit for the Promotion of Minorities and Marginalised Communities" is tasked with coordination, data collection and reporting.

Those with distinct ethnic, linguistic, cultural or religious identity, numerically smaller and having experienced historical, social or economic exclusion or disadvantage would be considered.

The Bill delves into resource rights in an effort to end the perennial conflicts associated with oil, valuable minerals and land resources.

It introduces robust requirements for "free, prior and informed consultation" for any projects affecting community land or resources, with fines of up to Sh1 million for violators. "Every recognised community shall have the right to free, prior and informed consultation in relation to any activity, programme or development project that may affect their land, resources, culture or livelihood," the proposed law says.



President William Ruto /PCS

## STAR SURVEY

### TODAY'S QUESTION

Was the Tanzanian election free and fair?

### YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Should Dutchman who harassed a police officer be deported?

YES 90%



NO 10%

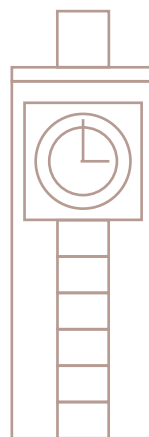




PHOTO STORY

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta's sister Kristina Kenyatta-Pratt and Tessie Musalia, the spouse of Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, at a medical camp during 'Stara ya Wazee' event organised through Tessie's Ushiriki Wema initiative at Ulizi Sports Complex grounds in Lang'ata, Nairobi, on Thursday /HANDOUT

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



AFTER BACKLASH

# MP behind cybercrime law review defends it

Wajir East's Daudi says aim is to tame rogue and criminal online activity

GEOFFREY MOSOKU  
@TheStarKenya

WAJIR East MP Aden Daudi, who sponsored the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act, 2025, has defended the legislation.

He insisted the revised law is primarily aimed at combating criminal and harmful activities within Kenya's digital space.

"The law is aimed at shutting down channels that promote violent extremism, exploit children online, encourage cultism, or facilitate any unlawful activity in the digital space," Daudi said.

The MP spoke on Wednesday evening at a Nairobi hotel during a roundtable where bloggers, online influencers and content creators discussed the implications of the



Wajir East MP Aden Daudi /HANDOUT

amendments. The Jubilee party MP said the proposed reforms target the dissemination of inappropriate sexual material involving minors, terrorist propaganda, religious extremism and cult-related content. The legislator insisted the

amendments empower authorities to block websites and compel the removal of harmful content from computer systems, digital platforms and mobile devices while dismissing claims that Parliament was railroading the law without constitutional safeguards.

Already the High Court has suspended some of the provisions contained in the amendments that were signed into law on October 15 by President William Ruto.

"I am a lawyer and a lawmaker. I have sworn to protect and abide by the constitution. Neither myself nor my colleagues will pass a law that violates it. And if we do, the Judiciary remains the safeguard," he said, adding that courts have already made determinations touching on some of the amendments.

CARTOON



★ **A SILENT WAR** is brewing between a governor and his deputy. The two, once so close that no one imagined they would ever drift apart, are now walking on eggshells. Our mole whispers that one has been supposedly quietly wooing the other's trusted aide, a move seen as the first open act of betrayal. Insiders say what began as small disagreement has now evolved into a full-blown cold war, with both camps exchanging subtle jabs while maintaining a public facade of harmony.

★ **WHAT EXACTLY IS** happening inside this state agency? Corridors of Power is told all is not well between the managing director and the chief financial officer. Insiders say the CEO has developed a habit of walking into the finance office every Friday, allegedly demanding "weekend facilitation". On some occasions, he reportedly sends his secretary to pick up envelopes containing as much as Sh50,000. The finance boss, however, has had enough. He was recently overheard lamenting that the practice has put him in a tight spot, making it nearly impossible to balance the books or explain the missing funds.

★ **A YOUTHFUL MP** from a popular political party was recently shamed by his colleagues over his alleged habit of being a spy. He has been conveying anything and everything to their boss, from strategy whispers to private grumbles made over tea. Unfortunately for him, whatever he reports somehow finds its way back to the very members he spoke against. Colleagues have now kept their distance, holding their tongues whenever he walks in. The once-trusted ally has now become an out-cast, a reminder that in politics, loyalty can quickly turn sour when one talks too much.

★ **STILL ON POLITICS**, a certain ambitious politician, once a heartbeat away from the top seat, is said to be preparing for a quiet trip abroad. Officially, it is a vacation visit but those in the know say he has supposedly planned secret meetings all in efforts to rebuild his political footing. The man, weighed down by financial troubles and fading influence, is said to be taking time to reflect and plan his next move. Those close to him say he wants to listen more than talk, and maybe, just maybe, find a way to make a comeback.

If you have any tips send them to [Tips@the-star.co.ke](mailto:Tips@the-star.co.ke)

‘ORPHANS’ FOR DECADES, HIS CHARISMA AND CLOUT NOT ONLY HELPED ODM CANDIDATES W



# Top politicians face trouble in absence of Raila's political clout

JULIUS OTIENO  
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The political future of several top leaders hangs in the balance following the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, long regarded as a political enigma and kingmaker.

The so-called “Raila orphans”—a mix of governors and MPs—are leaders who appeared to rely heavily on his influence for their election and survival in politics.

For decades, Raila's charisma and clout not only helped ODM candidates win but also shaped the trajectories of many political careers.

“I have seen people on social media saying that I am a political orphan. But coming here, I have seen a lot of political orphans—many people are crying,” National Assembly Minority leader Junet Mohamed said during Raila's burial, reflecting the anxiety among the former PM's

allies. Raila, who died in India on October 15, was buried in Bondo on October 19.

Raila's dominance was evident in ODM's near-total control of his political strongholds. Now, without him, many governors face tough re-election battles.

Gem MP Elisha Odhiambo said

whether ODM-elected leaders will retain their seats without Raila will depend on how attractive the party remains after his demise.

“Is the new party leadership going to gather all and scatter none the way Raila did? Will the party still be attractive without him? Will the people come out to vote?”

“

*In Siaya, Orengo's re-election battle looks uphill without Raila's influence. In 2022, he narrowly defeated former Rarieda MP Nicholas Gumbo, who ran on a UDM ticket—and analysts predict the 2027 race could be even tougher*

“These are tough questions, and as a party, we must handle the post-Raila era very carefully,” he said.

In Nyanza, Siaya Governor James Orengo, Migori's Ochilo Ayacko and Homa Bay's Gladys Wanga face an uncertain future.

In Siaya, Orengo's re-election battle looks uphill without Raila's influence. In 2022, he narrowly defeated former Rarieda MP Nicholas Gumbo, who ran on a UDM ticket—and analysts predict the 2027 race could be even tougher.

Ayacko faces a strong challenge from Uriri MP Mark Nyamita, who has declared interest in the governorship.

The Migori governor, a close ally of Raila, is seen as having benefited greatly from the ODM leader's popularity in 2022.

In Homa Bay, Governor Wanga—one of Raila's closest allies—



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# IN BUT ALSO SHAPED THE TRAJECTORIES OF MANY POLITICAL CAREERS



KDF soldiers during Raila Odinga's burial at Opada Farm in Bondo, Siaya county, on October 19 /PCS

may also struggle. Raila personally intervened before the 2022 elections to have Wanga run for governor ahead of Oyugi Magwanga, now her deputy.

Magwanga is reportedly preparing to challenge her in 2027.

Former Nairobi Governor Evans Kidero, who lost to Wanga in 2022, is also said to be eyeing a comeback.

With significant financial resources and political networks, he could pose a serious challenge to Wanga in a post-Raila political environment.

In Western Kenya, Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa and his Busia counterpart Paul Otuoma may also face stiff opposition.

Both are perceived to have anchored their political strength on Raila's support.

Barasa, who was backed by former governor and current Cooperatives CS Wycliffe Oparanya in 2022, has since fallen out with him—and could face challenges from Senator Boni Khalwale and former Senator Cleophas Malala.

In Busia, Otuoma's dominance has long rested on ODM's strength in the county, which may wane without Raila's presence.

In Nairobi, Governor Johnson Sakaja—who had grown close to Raila—also faces a shifting political landscape.

Raila had openly defended and appeared to endorse Sakaja despite him being elected on a UDA ticket.

"As I head off to Addis, I want Nairobi to remain united and strong. My son here will take charge," Raila said, pointing at Sakaja during a prayer meeting at the Bomas of Kenya, before leaving for Ethiopia to pursue the African Union Commission chairmanship.

Sakaja attended the event, which was organised by women affiliated with ODM.

During the event, Sakaja said he would organise a meeting with ODM women leaders in Nairobi to show his political direction ahead of 2027.

"Dalili ya mvua ni mawingu na mwenye macho haambiwi tazama (The sign of rain is clouds and one who has eyes is not told to look)," Sakaja quoted the Swahili saying after Homa Bay's Wanga and Makadara MP George Aladwa prodded him to join ODM.

"While you are away, Baba, we want our great Governor Sakaja to take charge and join ODM so that we can work together," Aladwa said.

Recently, Raila intervened to save Sakaja from impeachment by Nairobi MCAs.

Sakaja faces fierce competition from Embakasi East MP Babu Owino and former PS Irungu Nyakera, who have declared interest in the governor's seat.

Observers say Raila's political influence and popularity in the capital could have swayed the voters in favour of the city boss.

At the Coast, Mombasa Governor Abdulsamad Nassir and Kilifi's Gideon Mung'aro may also feel the vacuum left by Raila.

Nassir, ODM's deputy party leader, rode on Raila's wave in 2022. However, he now faces growing opposition from Nyali MP Mohamed Ali and Mombasa assembly speaker Aharub "Aroro" Khatri—a close



ally of Mining CS Hassan Joho.

Political analyst Frankline Nzao said Joho remains a powerful force in coastal politics because of his financial muscle and appeal to the youth.

"The only person who could tame Joho was Raila. Raila used to persuade Joho not to act in certain ways, even when he openly showed dislike for Nassir. Now that Raila is gone, this is what worries Nassir," he told the Star.

Nzao said Nassir's tears at Raila's death were not just about losing a party leader, but also a personal protector.

"Raila created an extra deputy party leader position just to elevate Nassir politically. He was shielding him from political storms," he said.

Nassir is currently battling con-

Gem MP Elisha Odhiambo during a press conference at Parliament /FILE

Minority Whip and Suna East MP Junet Mohamed /FILE



## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The sudden death of ODM leader Raila Odinga, long regarded as the enigma of Kenyan politics, has left many political careers hanging in the balance. Raila, who was buried on October 19, had for decades been the undisputed supremo of the Orange Democratic Movement. His immense influence and charisma not only propelled party candidates to victory but also anchored the political fortunes of many of his allies. Across the country, particularly in ODM strongholds, politicians rode on Raila's popularity to secure elective seats.

trovsey over a Sh17 billion waste management deal between the county and Ghana's Jospong Group of Companies.

MCAs allied to speaker Khatri—Nassir's rival—are pushing for its cancellation, and an impeachment motion against environment executive Kibibi Abdalla, one of Nassir's

allies, is reportedly in the works.

Political activist Mwakuja Mrombo said Khatri and Joho now have more leeway to fight Nassir politically since "his shield is gone". "Nassir used to rely on Raila's closeness with his father, Shariff Nassir [deceased], to gain political protection. Now, the stool he stood on has been withdrawn—he must fight on his own," Mrombo said.

In Kilifi, Governor Mung'aro—who also benefited from Raila and ODM's dominance—may find it difficult to replicate the same success in 2027.

Besides governors, several MPs representing constituencies where Raila enjoyed massive support also face re-election hurdles.

In Nairobi, ODM has long dominated constituencies such as Ruaraka, Mathare, Westlands, Lang'ata, Kibra, Dagoretti North and Makadara.

MPs TJ Kajwang' (Ruaraka), Antony Oluoch (Mathare), Tim Wanyonyi (Westlands), Felix Odiwuor (Lang'ata), Peter Orero (Kibra), Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North) and Aladwa (Makadara) may now struggle to retain their seats.

A similar situation looms in Nyanza, where MPs Otiende Amollo (Rarieda), Gideon Ochanda (Bondo), Sam Atandi (Alego Usonga), Roza Buyu (Kisumu Town West), Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town) and Junet Mohamed (Suna East) face uncertain political futures.

## NEWS GENERAL

## WITHOUT A HITCH

# Inside state's plan to deliver smooth KCSE, curb cheating

Multi-agency team to jointly manage security, digital monitoring of exam materials

LUKE AWICH  
@AchiaAwich

THE government has unveiled a tough, multi-sectoral plan to ensure a flawless and credible Kenya Certificate of Secondary School Education examination amid fears of cheating and heavy rains.

Education CS Julius Ogamba on Wednesday unveiled before Parliament safeguards his ministry is putting in place to ensure the national exams proceed without a hitch.

Some 996,078 candidates will be sitting this year's KCSE exams across the 10,765 examination centres in the country.

The CS told the committee chaired by Tinderet MP Julius Melly that the government has brought a multi-agency team on board to jointly manage security, logistics and digital monitoring of examination materials across all centres.

"In order to deliver a seamless and credible examination and assessment process, the Ministry has embraced a multi-agency approach that involves working together with the Ministry of Interior and National Administration; the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, the Teachers Service Commission, the Independent Police Oversight Authority, among other stakeholders," Ogamba told MPs.



KNEC chief executive officer David Njengere and Education CS Julius Ogamba before the National Assembly Committee on Education on Wednesday /ENOS TECHE

The ministry has also engaged 342,687 professionals, including invigilators, supervisors, security and centre managers, who have been deployed nationwide.

"We have issued public communication notifying members of the public of the following toll-free lines to report any incidents of fraud or malpractices related to examinations/assessments," Ogamba noted.

"The toll free numbers are KNEC -0800721410 and 0800724900 and IPOA's 1559 in case of misconduct by officers involved in the examination exercise."

To counter weather disruptions, helicopters are on standby to deliver papers and assist in flood-prone regions.

The ministry also has -wheel drive vehicles to respond to any emergency.

"We have four choppers, four-wheel vehicles in place to respond to any challenges," the CS stated.

The Meteorological Department has already issued an alert of moderate to heavy rainfall in several parts of the country this week.

Ogamba said the government is using real-time tracking systems to monitor the movement of exam materials and seal loopholes for malprac-

tice as well as transport challenges.

"The centres shall be out of bounds for all unauthorised persons. Centre managers have been informed of who the authorised persons are and advised to strictly adhere to the guidelines on administration of the assessments and examinations," he said.

"All registered examination centres have been mapped to the nearest distribution centres to ensure timely delivery of papers. To ensure that no candidate misses their examination or assessment, contingency plans have been put in place to address any emerging challenges."

Ogamba was accompanied by Kenya National Examinations Council chief executive officer David Njengere.

The meeting was meant to appraise the committee on the status of preparedness for the 2025 national examinations.

The CS also revealed that his ministry has purchased 43 new containers to address the identified gaps from last year's experience.

According to Ogamba, this year's exams will be administered in 396 subcounties, using 659 containers, in 642 distribution centres.

Candidates for the Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) and Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (KJSEA) will get their results starting December, while KCSE results will be out by January 2026, he said.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

With the KCSE entering a critical stage, the government says all measures are in place to ensure every candidate sits the exams smoothly and without interference.

## 4-DAY CHARM OFFENSIVE

# Raila was only worthy competitor, says Ruto as he starts Western tour

JULIUS OTIENO

PRESIDENT William Ruto has dismissed the opposition as clueless and disorganised, saying none of its leaders measure up to the late former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

Ruto said Raila was the only opponent he considered a worthy competitor, unlike the current opposition led by his former deputy, Rigathi Gachagua.

"The person I would have competed with was Raila Odinga. But now, these ones, I will beat them very early in the morning," the President said.

He accused the opposition of lacking ideas, vision and a national agenda, claiming its politics are rooted in division and tribalism.

The President spoke in Malava constituency, Kakamega county, at the start of his four-day charm offensive in the larger Western region.

"These people are propagating tribalism, pitting communities against each other and inciting hatred. I want to ask the people of

Malava—let us work together and unite for development," he said.

"Their agenda is 'Wantam, Kasongo'. Will that change Kenya? I want to tell these tribalist and planless people that it is too early in the day. Let us focus on development," he added.

Ruto defended his broad-based government, which included the late Raila, saying it was meant to unite the country and end divisive ethnic politics.

"We want to plan development for the entire country, not for certain regions. Do you want us to work together or divide ourselves?" he posed.

Accompanied by a host of regional leaders, Ruto urged residents to support his administration and vote for UDA's candidate in the upcoming parliamentary by-election.

"Rally behind our UDA candidate, David Ndakwa, to deepen our transformation agenda and propel Malava subcounty to greater heights of progress and prosper-

ity," he said. Among the leaders accompanying the President were Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula, Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa, Cooperatives CS Wycliffe Oparanya, Cotu secretary general Francis Atwoli and other elected leaders.

During the visit, Ruto launched several projects across constituencies in the county. He commissioned the modern 124-bed Butere Level Four Hospital in Kakamega, which is expected to enhance access to healthcare in the region.

The President also inaugurated the Malava Kenya Medical Training College and opened the Turbo-Shikhendu Road in Lugari.

Barasa said Kakamega residents will stand with the President in the next elections and back the UDA candidate in the Malava by-election.

"Before Raila died, we had agreed to support the broad-based government," the governor said,



President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi /PCS

adding that the region appreciates the government's development projects.

Wetang'ula echoed the sentiments, urging residents to unite politically and support the UDA candidate.

"As a people from this region, we must stand together and speak in one voice. We must walk with other Kenyans to bring unity and development to our country," he said.

On Friday, Ruto will take his

tour to Bungoma, where he will unveil various development projects.

On Saturday, he will preside over additional projects in Kakamega before concluding his tour in Vihiga on Sunday.

Ahead of the President's visit, local leaders had appealed for calm amid reports of planned disruptions. Lugari MP Nabii Nabwera urged residents to allow the President and other leaders to address the public peacefully.



# AUDITED RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

The Board of Directors of Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (KenGen) is pleased to announce the Audited Financial Results for the year ended 30th June 2025 as follows:

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	30 June 2025 KShs Million	30 June 2024 KShs Million
Revenue	56,098	56,297
Reimbursable Expenses (fuel and water costs)	(9,647)	(8,003)
<b>Revenue less reimbursable expenses</b>	<b>46,451</b>	<b>48,294</b>
Other Income	851	1,297
	<b>47,302</b>	<b>49,591</b>
Net forex and fair valuation gains/(losses)	1,453	(722)
Operating Expenses	(35,138)	(39,318)
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>13,617</b>	<b>9,551</b>
Finance Income	4,110	4,202
Finance Costs	(2,254)	(2,806)
<b>Profit Before Tax</b>	<b>15,473</b>	<b>10,947</b>
Income Tax Charge	(4,992)	(4,150)
<b>Profit After Tax</b>	<b>10,481</b>	<b>6,797</b>
Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)	247	(906)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>10,728</b>	<b>5,891</b>
<b>Basic and diluted earnings per share (KShs)</b>	<b>1.59</b>	<b>1.03</b>

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Property Plant & Equipment	429,556	426,723
Financial asset at fair value through profit or loss	6,178	729
Other Non-current Assets	16,349	15,651
Current Assets	53,490	48,190
	<b>505,573</b>	<b>491,293</b>
<b>EQUITY &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		
Total Equity	284,544	278,106
Borrowings	109,271	107,749
Other Non-current Liabilities	91,366	86,651
Current Liabilities	20,392	18,787
<b>Total</b>	<b>505,573</b>	<b>491,293</b>

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	30 June 2025 KShs Million	30 June 2024 KShs Million
Cash generated from operations	27,892	34,278
Finance income received	3,958	3,181
Tax paid	(1,233)	(614)
<b>Net Cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>30,617</b>	<b>36,845</b>
Purchase of property plant and equipment	(13,592)	(8,917)
Other investing activities	(3,384)	(3,635)
<b>Net Cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(16,976)</b>	<b>(12,552)</b>
Net Movement in borrowings	(2,399)	(8,082)
Finance costs paid	(2,174)	(2,878)
Dividends paid	(4,286)	(2,901)
Other financing activities	(268)	(276)
<b>Net Cash from financing activities</b>	<b>(9,127)</b>	<b>(14,137)</b>
<b>Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>4,514</b>	<b>10,156</b>
At the beginning of the year	25,618	15,474
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(8)	(12)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	<b>30,124</b>	<b>25,618</b>

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Share Capital & Share Premium	Other Reserves	Retained earnings	Total Equity
	KShs Million			
<b>At 30 June &amp; 1 July 2023</b>	<b>38,639</b>	<b>122,361</b>	<b>113,193</b>	<b>274,193</b>
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	(906)	6,797	5,891
Transfer of excess depreciation	-	(3,893)	3,893	-
Deferred tax on excess depreciation	-	1,168	(1,168)	-
Dividends paid	-	-	(1,978)	(1,978)
<b>At 30 June and 1 July 2024</b>	<b>38,639</b>	<b>118,730</b>	<b>120,737</b>	<b>278,106</b>
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	247	10,481	10,728
Adjustment of unallotted rights issue shares	(4)	-	-	(4)
Transfer of excess depreciation	-	(3,803)	3,803	-
Deferred tax on excess depreciation	-	1,141	(1,141)	-
Dividends Paid for FY2024	-	-	(4,286)	(4,286)
<b>As at 30th June 2025</b>	<b>38,635</b>	<b>116,315</b>	<b>129,594</b>	<b>284,544</b>

### OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

During the reporting period, the operating environment was characterized by continued steady economic growth, supported by a rebound in the agricultural sector, sustained infrastructure investments, and expanding industrial activity. These factors collectively sustained economic momentum and drove increased electricity demand, culminating in a record national peak demand of 2,316 MW on 12th February 2025.

KenGen remained steadfast in its commitment to providing reliable and affordable clean energy to power Kenya's economic growth. The Company continued to play a leading role in the energy sector, contributing 59% of the country's electricity consumption.

Our generation portfolio, comprising geothermal, hydro, wind, and thermal power plants with a total installed capacity of 1,786 MW, generated 8,482 GWh during the year, an increase of 1% from 8,383 GWh in 2024. This growth was primarily driven by the resumption of operations at the Muhoroni Power Plant and favorable hydrological conditions, both of which strengthened system reliability and enhanced grid stability, particularly in the western region of Kenya.

### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

**Total revenue** remained broadly stable at KShs 56,098 million for the year ended 30th June 2025, compared to KShs 56,297 million in the prior year. The marginal decline was mainly attributable to lower geothermal and steam revenues, partially offset by growth in diversified income streams and higher pass-through recoveries. The increase in pass-through revenue was driven by greater dispatch from Kipevu III and the resumption of operations at the Muhoroni Power Plant. Revenue from diversified sources grew significantly by 235%, largely reflecting the successful completion of geothermal consultancy work in Eswatini during the year.

**Operating expenses** decreased by 11%, from KShs 39,318 million to KShs 35,138 million, reflecting the impact of ongoing cost optimization initiatives. This reduction was primarily driven by lower depreciation and amortization charges, and a decline in overhead costs resulting from continued implementation of efficiency measures.

**Net foreign exchange and fair valuation gains** rose to KShs 1,453 million, compared to a loss of KShs 722 million in 2024. The improvement was largely driven by the strengthening of the Kenya Shilling against major currencies during the year compared to previous period.

**Finance costs** declined by 20%, from KShs 2,806 million to KShs 2,254 million, reflecting continued loan repayments and a lower debt balance. Interest income eased slightly by 2%, from KShs 4,202 million to KShs 4,110 million, as a result of the general decline in interest rates.

**Profit Before Tax** increased by 41%, from KShs 10,947 million in 2024 to KShs 15,473 million for year ended 30th June 2025. With an income tax charge of KShs 4,992 million, **Profit After Tax** grew by 54% to KShs 10,481 million, up from KShs 6,797 million in the previous year.

### FUTURE OUTLOOK

Looking ahead, we remain well-positioned to accelerate the implementation of key renewable energy projects under our Corporate G2G 2034 Strategy. Our near-term pipeline of 252.82 MW continues to advance steadily, anchored by flagship projects such as the 63 MW Olkaria I Rehabilitation, the 42.5 MW Seven Forks Solar Project, and the Gogo Hydro Power Plant Upgrade (8.6MW). These projects, alongside the Wellhead Leasing Geothermal Project (58.42MW), and Olkaria VII Geothermal Power Project (80.3 MW) in the medium term, will strengthen grid reliability, stimulate industrial growth, and advance Kenya's transition to a clean and sustainable energy future.

Our diversification agenda is also gaining pace, led by the Green Energy Park; a pioneering industrial ecosystem designed to power green industrialization through direct geothermal energy use. This initiative will position Kenya as a strategic hub for industries seeking to achieve low-carbon manufacturing and contribute to the nation's carbon neutrality goal.

Regionally, the upcoming geothermal drilling project in Ngozi, Tanzania, marks a pivotal step in extending our expertise and reinforcing KenGen's leadership as Africa's foremost geothermal developer. Together, these undertakings embody our commitment to delivering sustainable growth and climate-conscious progress for generations to come.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held virtually on Thursday, 27th November 2025 at 11.00 a.m.

### DIVIDEND

The Board is pleased to recommend a first and final dividend for the year of KShs 0.90 (2024: KShs 0.65) per ordinary share of KShs 2.50.

If approved by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting, the dividend will be paid, less withholding tax where applicable on or about 12th February 2026 to the shareholders whose names appear in the Register of Members at the close of business on 27th November 2025.

### APPRECIATION

We sincerely thank all our stakeholders including the Government of Kenya, development partners, investors, and employees for their invaluable support and contributions to the Company's strong performance. Continued partnership with all stakeholders has been instrumental to our success. We look forward to building on this momentum and achieving better performance.

### By Order of the Board

**FCS AUSTIN OUKO**  
COMPANY SECRETARY & GENERAL MANAGER - LEGAL AFFAIRS  
30th October 2025



## 1,786MW

generated 8,482 GWh during the year, an increase of 1% from 8,383 GWh in 2024.



## DPS Kshs 0.90

Dividend per share rose 38.5% to KShs 0.90, up from KShs 0.65 in the previous year.



## 252.82MW

Our near-term pipeline of 252.82 MW continues to advance steadily.

## NEWS GENERAL

ENDORSED

# Uhuru hands Matiang'i Jubilee in battle for presidency with Ruto

*Jubilee NEC has also appointed the former CS as representative in United Opposition*

LUKE AWICH  
@AchiaAwich

FORMER Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i's presidential ambi-

tions have received a major boost after the former ruling party, Jubilee, endorsed his bid for top seat.

The decision was reached during the party's National Executive Com-

mittee meeting in Nairobi and chaired by retired President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Uhuru, who also doubles up as the Jubilee's Party leader, chaired the meeting virtually.

"We, as NEC, have appointed Fred Okeng'o Matiang'i as our deputy party leader going forward," secretary general Jeremiah Kioni said.

"Alongside that, we have also resolved that Matiang'i represents us at the United Opposition and on top of that we also formally received his application to be the Jubilee presidential candidate."

The United Opposition has DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua, Wiper boss Kalonzo Musyoka, DAP-K's Eugene Wamalwa and People's Liberation Party leader Martha Karua.

Former Attorney General Justin Muturi is also part of the team.

The endorsement positions the former powerful minister as a key player in the unfolding 2027 race, potentially reshaping alliances as Jubilee eyes a comeback after years of dormancy.

Kioni said NEC approved Matiang'i's application and resolved that he would carry the party's flag in the next election.

"The NEC approved and resolved that he now carries the flag of Jubilee Party as our presidential candidate and is the face of the party," he said.

Matiang'i's appointment as deputy leader places him at the centre of Jubilee's effort to rebuild its national appeal.

The NEC decision also formalises his participation in the United Opposition, a coalition of political parties seeking to challenge the ruling administration in the next polls.

Kioni said the move is part of the party's broader strategy to strengthen its structures and affirm its commitment to opposition unity.

"This is a moment of renewal for Jubilee," he said.

"We believe Matiang'i embodies the values and leadership our party stands for — discipline, integrity and service to the nation."

The former ruling party also deliberated on several pressing issues including party structure and strategy to strengthen its countrywide reach.


The top decision-making organ resolved to among others, open new branches and market the outfit in all the 247 counties ahead of the 2027 polls.

"We were able to deal with key issues of structure and strategy that we want to take as a party. We now move out to revamp our party, open branches and reach out to our members and new members," Kioni said.

The party promised to unveil clear roadmap of revamping the party in the coming two weeks.


The NEC also filled several vacant leadership positions.

In the changes, Nakuru Town West MP Samuel Arama was named Whip of the National Assembly, while Senator James Lomenen was named Senate Whip.



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA**

SELECTION PANEL FOR RECRUITMENT OF THE GARISSA COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD  
P.O BOX 563- 70100 GARISSA



RECRUITMENT NOTICE

**Article 235** of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) read together with **Section 57** County Governments Act (No. 17 of 2012) establishes a County Public Service Board in each County that is duly responsible for the staffing of the county government.

Consequently, pursuant to Sections 58 & 58A of the County Governments Act (No. 17 of 2012), the County Government of Garissa is seeking to recruit highly competent, proactive and self-driven individuals to fill the following position: -

**JOB TITLE: MEMBER, GARISSA COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

**NO. OF POSTS: Three (3) Posts**

**Job Description**  
A member of the County Public Service Board shall:

- (i) Establish and abolish offices in the County Public Service;
- (ii) Appoint persons to hold or act in offices of the County Public Service and confirm appointments;
- (iii) Exercise disciplinary control over and remove, persons holding or acting in those offices as provided for in law;
- (iv) Advising the County Government on Human Resource Management and Development;
- (v) Advising the County Government on implementation and monitoring of the national performance management system in the county;
- (vi) Ensure a lean and efficient organization structure and facilitate the development of coherent integrated human resource planning and budgeting for personnel emoluments in the county;
- (vii) Make recommendations to the Salaries and Remuneration Commission on behalf of the County Government, on the remuneration, pensions and gratuities for the county public service employees;
- (viii) Ensure the preparation of regular reports on the execution of the functions of the Board as per Section 59 (d & f) of the County Government Act, 2012 and submit the same to the County Assembly;
- (ix) Evaluate and report to the County Assembly on the extent to which the values and principles outlined in Articles 10 and 232 are complied with in the county public service;
- (x) Perform any other relevant duties as per the County Governments Act

**REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES FOR APPOINTMENT**

- a) Be a Kenyan Citizen
- b) Satisfy the requirement of leadership and integrity in Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;
- c) Possess a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree from a university recognized in Kenya. A Master's Degree or higher qualification will be an added advantage;
- d) Have at least ten (10) years' working experience in their respective profession; Five (5) years' experience in a managerial position in either public or private sector will be an added advantage;
- e) Be a professional who demonstrates absence of breach of the relevant professional code of conduct;
- f) Demonstrate clear understanding of National and County Government goals, policies and developmental objectives including values and principles of governance; as well as demonstrate an appreciation of the diversity within the County;
- g) Have thorough knowledge of the structural, legislative and regulatory framework of the Public Service;
- h) Demonstrate a high degree of professional competence, leadership, communication skills, good judgement and commitment to public service.
- i) Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability, with the capacity to work under pressure to meet strict timelines.

**Terms of engagement:** 6-year non-renewable contract  
There is option of working part-time

**Salary and benefits:** As per Salaries & Remuneration Commission (SRC) Guidelines

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO ALL APPLICANTS**

A. **ONLY** applicants who meet **ALL** the requirements will be shortlisted and contacted.

B. Shortlisted candidates **MUST** present their original academic and Professional Certificates during the interview

C. **ONLY** successful candidates will be required to avail the following documents:

- Clearance from Higher Education Board [HELB];
- Clearance from Criminal Investigations Department (DCI);
- Clearance from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission [EACC];
- Clearance from Credit Reference Bureau [CRB]; and
- Clearance from Kenya Revenue Authority [Tax Compliance Certificate].

**E. Canvassing in any form will lead to automatic disqualifications.**

I. Clearly addressed applications should be submitted in the following ways;

1. Application sent via Postal Services: To be addressed to
 

The Chairperson,  
Garissa County Public Service Board Selection Panel,  
P.O BOX 563 – 70100  
GARISSA

**NB: The applicants to clearly indicate on the BOTTOM LEFT of the envelope the position they are applying for.**

2. Hand delivered Applications: To be delivered to  
The Garissa County Public Service Board Selection Panel Secretariat,  
Office of the County Secretary  
Situated within the County Headquarters' on or before 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**NB: The applicants to clearly indicate on the BOTTOM LEFT of the envelope the position they are applying for.**

3. Emailed applications:  
To be sent as a merged PDF document to: [selectionpanel@garissa.go.ke](mailto:selectionpanel@garissa.go.ke)

**NB: The applicants to clearly indicate on the SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL the position they are applying for.**

THE ENDORSEMENT POSITIONS THE FORMER POWERFUL MINISTER AS A KEY PLAYER IN THE UNFOLDING 2027 RACE

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The former ruling party has in recent years engaged in a protracted war after a section of its members staged an almost successful coup. The courts recently handed the party to the Uhuru wing. Secretary general Jeremiah Kioni says the move is part of the party's broader strategy to strengthen its structures and affirm its commitment to opposition unity.



Former President Uhuru Kenyatta with newly appointed Jubilee Party leader Fred Matiang'i at Ngong Racecourse in Nairobi on September 26 /ENOS TECHE

NEWS GENERAL

FALSIFIED CLAIMS

# Ex-SHA boss is charged with Sh17 million fraud

Court issues summons to another former CEO to present himself, face charges



Arthur Otula, Peter Abuna and Robert Ingasira, who were charged for conspiring to defraud Social Health Authority of Sh17.5 million and released on Sh800,000 bond on Thursday /EZEKIEL AMING'A

PETER OBUYA  
@Pobuya

FORMER Social Health Authority chief executive Robert Ingasira is

among four people who were yesterday charged with making fraudulent claims to the national health insurer amounting to Sh17 million. Chief magistrate Lucas Onyina

issued summons for Ingasira's predecessor, Elijah Wachira, to appear in court on November 11, to take plea over the same charges. Ingasira, who was arrested in Na-

ivasha on Wednesday, was charged alongside Arthur Otula, Rosemary Daraja, Peter Abuna and Archprime Medical Clinic in Homa Bay county. They faced a total of 10 counts

of conspiracy to defraud SHA of Sh17,591,473 by presenting falsified information to get claims.

The charges included conspiracy to defraud, falsification of health information, acquisition and use of proceeds of crime, uttering false documents and misappropriation of funds.

The charge sheet showed that the accused, jointly with others not before court, allegedly conspired between October 2024 and May 2025 to defraud the Authority by submitting falsified medical claims under the clinic in Oyugis.

In the first count, the prosecution accused all the suspects of conspiracy to defraud contrary to Section 317 of the Penal Code. In the second count, Otula, Daraja and Abuna were charged with falsification of health information contrary to the Social Health Insurance Act, by knowingly falsifying medical documents to claim benefits.

In the third and fourth counts, Otula, Daraja and Archprime Medical Clinic were accused of acquiring and using proceeds of crime contrary to the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, by obtaining and utilising the millions in fraudulent SHA payments.

Daraja, who served at the clinic, faced additional five counts of uttering false documents. She allegedly submitted falsified medical records of several patients, including Edna Dulo, Maureen Atieno, Alice Oburu, Felix Omondi and Andrew Okaka, to SHA, purporting them to be genuine.

In the final count, Ingasira was charged with misappropriation of funds for allegedly mishandling the Sh17.5 million belonging to the authority.

All the accused pleaded not guilty and were released on a bond of Sh800,000 with an alternative bail of Sh500,000 each.

COST OF PRODUCTION

## Ministry needs Sh4.2bn for ID issuance after Ruto directive

LUKE AWICH

THE Immigration ministry now wants Parliament to consider a Sh4.2 billion additional allocation to cushion the state department from effects of the new directive to scrap charges for national identity cards.

President William Ruto had ordered abolition of the Sh300 fee for first-time national ID applications and temporarily suspended the Sh1,000 replacement fee until after the 2027 elections.

Appearing before the National Assembly's Committee on Administration and Internal Security, Immigration PS Belio Kipsang said the funds are critical to cover production costs for six million ID cards projected for issuance this financial year.

The figure includes three million new registrations and another three million replacements of lost or defaced cards. The PS explained the new figures from last year's data where they printed about 2.3 million cards, saying the number is expected to climb because of the

coming elections. According to the ministry's estimates, producing each ID card costs about Sh700, bringing the total budget requirement to Sh4.2 billion.

"Our projection is that we will produce 3 million identity cards and then replace with a similar number and we expect to spend about Sh4.2 billion," Belio told the Star.

"The cost of the card alone is about Sh400, when you add other expenses, it goes to about Sh700."

"We are expecting to come to you (MPs) during the deliberations of the supplementary estimate one to request for this money."

The ministry noted that without the additional funding, the rollout of the free ID initiative could stall, affecting service delivery and national registration targets.

The President announced the abolition of ID charges earlier this year, terming the document a constitutional right rather than a privilege.

Previously, Kenyans were required to pay Sh300 for first-time issuance and Sh1,000 for replacements.

Belio was appearing before the

committee chaired by Narok West MP Gabriel Tongoyo to deliberate on budget implementation for financial year 2024/2025.

The PS also attributed the projected increase in the number of IDs to the scrapping of the vetting requirements before one is issued with the vital document.

Most people—especially in border counties—who attained the age of 18 years were locked out by the discriminatory vetting exercise. Residents in these counties were required to undergo vetting and most were denied a chance to get the document.

"For instance, he said in Homa Bay county persons who are 50 years and above have no Identity cards; in Kwale and Taita Taveta people who are 70 years and above do not have the said document; while in Tiati constituency the situation is even worse," he stated.

The PS noted that majority of Kenyans have suffered in silence and thus removing the vetting exercise gave them a new opportunity.

"The people to identify the eligible candidates are not the vetting committees but the chiefs. With this we expect more people to acquire IDs. People have suffered for a long time and this will sort out most of our issues," the PS noted.

Ruto early this year scrapped the 60-year-old vetting requirement terming it discriminatory.

## NEWS GENERAL



Traders at the Busia border move goods from Jinja, Uganda to Busia in Kenya /AGATHA NGOTHO

## HARM PROSPECTS

## Sensational reporting could hurt Kenya's trade image – Kinyanjui

NANCY AGUTU

TRADE Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui has urged the media to exercise greater responsibility in their reporting, warning that sensational coverage could tarnish Kenya's international image and harm trade prospects.

Speaking on Thursday during a breakfast meeting with editors in Nairobi, Kinyanjui said the media plays a crucial role in shaping global perceptions about Kenya's stability and economic potential.

He noted that investors often rely on news coverage to make decisions on where to channel their capital.

"Like what happened at the JKIA when Raila Odinga's body was brought from India, we saw how Kenyans forced their way into the airport and even boarded the RAO 001," Kinyanjui said.

"You can't force them to leave because these are people who are mourning. But I'm not sure what the media wants to show the world, because our airport would be degraded by those reports."

When the plane carrying Raila's body landed, large crowds forced their way into the airport, with some individuals attempting to assist the airfreight crew in offloading the casket.

The situation briefly got out of control, prompting authorities to allow mourners space to grieve. But later on tried to get the casket out of the plane to take it to Kasarani. Kinyanjui cautioned that the way such incidents are portrayed could have far-reaching economic consequences, particularly for sectors that depend on investor confidence and international perception.

"If it's degraded, how does this help our trade?" he posed. "It is imperative for the media to portray a positive image of Kenya so that we have investors coming in."

He said trade thrives in an environment of trust and stability, and the media has a responsibility to highlight Kenya's strengths, including its growing manufacturing sector, infrastructure and vibrant innovation ecosystem. "Foreign investors look for consistency and confidence. When headlines focus only on chaos, it overshadows progress made as a country," he added.



Trade CS Lee Kinyanjui (second, left) during a panel discussion in Nairobi alongside other delegates on Thursday /NANCY AGUTU

## IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

# Experts push for markets for agroecological trade

Say this will make it easier for smallholder farmers to sell produce fairly

AGATHA NGOTHO  
@AgathaNgotho

AGROECOLOGY experts across the East African Community (EAC) are calling for the creation of dedicated market spaces and better facilities to support the trade of agroecological products within the region.

They say improving market infrastructure, including storage facilities and transport systems, along with harmonising standards across borders, will make it easier for smallholder farmers to sell their produce fairly.

The experts also believe these investments are essential for strengthening food sovereignty and building resilient local food systems.

In a declaration issued in Jinja, Uganda, the experts and stakeholders also urged the strengthening of producer and trader associations to enhance collective marketing, knowledge exchange and advocacy.

The Jinja Declaration was adopted

during the Regional Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Advancing Agroecological Produce Cross-Border Trade in the East African Community.

The meeting brought together participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Among the key recommendations was increased investment in cold storage and logistical infrastructure to support agroecological enterprises, as well as improving financial inclusion through regional currency harmonisation and fair mobile money systems.

The participants also called for mutual recognition of Sanitary and Phytosanitary standards across partner states and the integration of agroecology into EAC trade, climate and agricultural policies.

Africa Kiiza, a consultant and agroecology expert, pointed out the urgency of transforming food systems in response to climate change,

biodiversity loss and rising inequality.

"The declaration positions agroecological trade as a pathway toward sovereignty, justice and resilience in the region," he said.

They affirmed that Africa's resilience and food sovereignty are rooted in the heritage of its people, seeds and soils.

"Agroecological trade honours this heritage by centering farmers, women, youth, and indigenous communities in regional economies," the declaration stated. "By promoting local production, ecological farming and intra-regional markets, Africa can reduce dependency on imports and reclaim food sovereignty."

Kiiza however noted that agroecological trade continues to face structural barriers, including high tariffs, multiple fees, bureaucratic delays and complex certification processes for SPS standards. Such challenges disproportionately affect small-scale producers, particularly women.

THE EXPERTS ALSO BELIEVE THESE INVESTMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR STRENGTHENING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

## REJECT STATE PROPOSAL

## Students contend with lost semester as lecturers strike enters week seven

GEOFFREY MOSOKU

HOPES for resumption of classes in public universities have been dashed after lecturers vowed to stay on strike until end of the year.



University of Nairobi lecturers during a nationwide strike on September 18 /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

The strike, now entering its seventh week, deepened after the University Academic Staff Union (Uasu) rejected a government proposal to settle their Sh7.9 billion salary arrears in three installments.

Uasu declared that no classes would resume in all 42 public universities, insisting that learning will remain paralysed until the arrears are paid in full and the 2019–2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is fully implemented.

Uasu secretary general Constantine Wesonga accused the government of repeatedly failing to honour CBAs, saying accepting phased payments would only trigger more strikes in the future.

"The government is proposing to implement the Sh7.9 billion in three phases — that's three strikes and we don't want to subject our

students to further frustration," Wesonga said. "They better suffer now up to December so we clear all these issues."

Come January, it will be a clean slate — they can study up to 2030, and I'll call another strike in 2030. Let the country know that lecturers have blatantly refused to go back to work if the Sh7.9 billion is not paid." The prolonged strike has disrupted academic calendars in most universities, raising fears that students could miss their graduations, industrial attachments, or even completion of studies.

This year's first semester, which

began in September, was expected to end in the second week of December ahead of the Christmas break. But with six weeks already lost and no progress in talks, students now face the grim reality of a lost semester even as universities remain open.

"Most of us have given up," said Mercy Oira, a postgraduate student at the University of Nairobi Dental School. "It's a total waste of resources, including the school fees we paid and the time that should have been used to advance our studies. Time lost is never recovered."

NEWS GENERAL

AK-47 AND G3

Police lose 3 rifles in Nakuru and Kiambu

CYRUS OMBATI

SECURITY teams are searching for three rifles that were separately stolen in attacks on police in Nakuru and Kiambu counties.

The weapons that included two AK-47 rifles and a

G3 rifle, were stolen alongside 180 bullets, police said.

Two police officers, who were the custodians of the weapons were detained pending further probe, police said.

In the first incident, an AK-47 rifle was stolen from a police officer in Menengai, Nakuru. The officer is attached to Ngata police post. His colleagues said he was found outside the police post line with an injury in the head.

His colleagues said he looked confused when he was found on Tuesday morning. His rifle with 30 bullets was missing. It is not clear how and where he was robbed of the weapon. At Maguguni patrol base in Thika, an AK-47 rifle and a G3 were stolen from the armoury in unclear circumstances.

National Police Service Commission chairperson Amani Komora and IG of Police Douglas Kanja at Kenya School of Government in Mombasa on September 5 /JOHN CHESOLI



PHOTO STORY

Chinese Ambassador Guo Haiyan, World Federation of Chinese Catering Industry vice president Wu Li, Kenya Utalii college principal Mark Ogendi and Tourism and Wildlife PS John Ololuaa during the launch of 2025 Africa Championship of World Chinese Cuisine at Kenya Utalii College in Nairobi on Thursday /LEAH MUKANGAI

DEMARCATING ROLES

You have no power to hire or fire police officers – NPSC told

JAMES GICHIGI

THE High Court has declared that the National Police Service Commission has no power to recruit, train, employ, assign, promote, suspend or dismiss members of the National Police Service.

The court said such functions fall exclusively under the independent command of the Inspector General as provided in Article 245 of the Constitution.

A permanent injunction has also been issued restraining the NPSC from conducting any recruitment or related human resource processes. This includes the implementation of the recruitment advertisement published on September 19, through Legal Notice No 159, which the court found unconstitutional, null and void.

In her judgment, Justice Helen Wasilwa of the Environment and Land Court on Thursday said the constitution clearly demarcates the roles of the Inspector General and the National Police Service Commission, and any overlap would interfere with the IG's independent command over the service.

She said the NPSC, while exercising oversight and administrative functions, cannot usurp the operational powers constitutionally reserved for the Inspector General.

"The commission is not a national security organ under Article 239(1) of the Constitution. Its role is limited to policy, oversight and disciplinary control—not recruitment or deployment," Justice Wasilwa said.

The court ruled that allowing the commission to handle matters of recruitment and deployment would compromise the operational independence of the police, which the constitution safeguards to ensure professionalism and accountability within the security sector.

"The Inspector General shall exercise independent command over the National Police Service, and no person may give direction with respect to matters of employment, assignment, promotion, suspension or dismissal of any member of the Service," the judge said.

In addition to nullifying the September recruitment notice, Justice Wasilwa directed that the National Police Service Act and the National Police Service Commission Act be reviewed comprehensively to align them with the Constitution.

She said this would prevent future conflicts between the two entities and promote clarity on the chain of command within the Service.

The impugned legal notice had invited applications for the recruitment of police constables and cadets under the supervision of the NPSC.

The move prompted a constitutional challenge on the grounds that it violated the doctrine of separation of powers between the commission and the IG's office.

Justice Wasilwa said the issue went beyond an employer-employee dispute, noting that it touched on the structure and command of a national security organ.

"The National Police Service is a critical institution whose operations must remain insulated from administrative interference," she said.

Consequently, the court declared that any recruitment process initiated by the commission without the involvement or authority of the Inspector General is unconstitutional and of no legal effect.

There will be no order as to costs, with the judge noting that the matter raised significant public interest questions about the governance of Kenya's security organs.

REDUCE FOSSIL FUEL USE

Call for technologies to turn food waste to energy

Report says this will help lower greenhouse gas emissions, combat climate change

GILBERT KOECH @KoechJunior\_1

A new report by the United Nations has called for the scaling up of investments in technologies that convert food waste into fuel to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Fossil fuels—coal, oil and gas—are by far the largest contributor to global climate change, accounting for 68 per cent of global greenhouse gases.

The report 'Climate Technology Progress Report 2025: Advancing Biobased Technologies in the Bioeconomy' says adopting technologies that convert food waste to energy will help lower greenhouse gas emissions and help countries combat climate change.

It was produced by the Unep Copenhagen Climate Centre, in collaboration with the UN Climate Technology Centre and Network and the UN Framework on Convention on Climate Change Technology Executive Committee.

Unep acting director for Copenhagen Climate Centre Anne Olhoff said bio-based technologies are an important part of the climate solutions portfolio.

"If used carefully, they can support decarbonisation and create opportunities for sustainable growth and

rural development," she said. A recent report by World Resources Institute-Africa showed Kenya loses up to 40 per cent of the food it produces each year—around nine million worth Sh72 billion—even as one in four citizens struggle daily to find enough to eat.

The report showed the country can comfortably feed more than seven million people every year, inject Sh36 billion back into the economy and cut over seven million tonnes of carbon emissions if it reduces food loss and waste by 50 per cent by 2030. The WRI report showed the amount of food that goes to waste is enough to fill about 500 million 18-tonne lorries. The study offered the most comprehensive analysis to date.

The WRI report mapped the scale, the hotspots and drivers of food loss and food waste, while outlining solutions that could improve food security, farmer livelihoods and climate resilience.

The term bio-based technology refers to a series of innovations that use renewable biological resources, like agricultural residues, food waste and algae, to generate products and produce energy.

A growing number of countries are developing policies to leverage these solutions in a range of fields, from

construction to energy generation.

The report said such technologies are reshaping industries, with the global bioeconomy—a term that covers all bio-based technologies—valued at about \$5 trillion (Sh646 trillion).

The sector is projected to reach up to \$30 trillion by 2050.

The report showcases the potential of bioeconomy to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and sustainable future. It serves as a roadmap for policymakers seeking to accelerate adoption of bio-based technologies in an effort to counter climate change.

Technologies that convert biomass, like agricultural residues, wood, food waste and animal manure, into energy, fuels and advanced materials are gaining traction across multiple sectors.

Mature solutions, such as anaerobic digestion, a biological process in which microorganisms break down organic matter resulting in biogas and fertilisers, is already delivering measurable environmental benefits.

The emerging technologies like bio-based liquid fuels, produced from things like wood chips, crop residues and algae, need more investment and infrastructure to scale.

The report also noted the potential of a technology known as bioenergy with carbon capture and storage.

WRI REPORT SHOWS THE AMOUNT OF FOOD THAT GOES TO WASTE IS ENOUGH TO FILL ABOUT 500 MILLION 18-TONNE LORRIES

## NEWS BUSINESS

## BANKING

# Equity reports 54.1bn profits in three months to September

This is a 32 per cent growth compared to the Sh40.9bn reported in the second quarter

VICTOR AMADALA  
@ItsAmadala

EQUITY Group Holdings has reported net earnings of Sh54.1 billion for the three months to September, supported by easing economic pressures both locally and internationally.

This reflects a 32 per cent growth compared to the Sh40.9 billion reported in the second quarter.

The lender has also attributed the growth to diversified and growing revenue streams, enhanced efficiency, and strong regional contributions and strong recovery of the Kenya banking business.

“During the quarter, the global environment demonstrated resilience with slightly stronger economic growth expected for the year. Easing global inflation rates has been helpful in an international landscape increasingly shaped by trade tensions and fragmentation.”

The lender’s Q3 performance was marked by a Return on Average Equity (RoAE) at 26.4 per cent and Return on Average Assets (RoAA) at 4.1 per cent.

The group demonstrated effective revenue diversification, as evidenced by a 16 per cent growth in net interest income and a three per cent growth in non-funded income.

It also achieved improved efficiency, with the cost-to-income ratio significantly reduced to 50.6 per cent from 55.1 per cent, while strong asset quality was maintained through an increase in non-performing loans (NPL) coverage to 71.4 per cent and a contained cost of risk at 1.9 per cent.

Speaking at an investor briefing

held in Nairobi on Thursday, Equity Group managing director and CEO, James Mwangi, said that the execution of the strategic business plan has started to reflect on the balance sheet.

“Our Q3 2025 performance reflects the strength of our diversified tri-engine business model, operational efficiency, and continued commitment to transforming lives,” Mwangi said.

He added that by empowering MSMEs, leveraging digital platforms, and aligning with Africa’s socio-economic and sustainability priorities, the bank continues to drive inclusive growth and create shared prosperity.

“We are particularly proud of our regional subsidiaries, which have demonstrated resilience and contributed significantly to our overall performance.”

Equity Bank Kenya contributed heavily to the Group’s performance, accounting for Sh31.1 billion to the net earnings, up from Sh20.6 billion in the previous period.

Net interest income grew by 27 per cent to Sh53.6 billion from Sh42 billion, supported by a 34 per cent decline in interest expenses, which reduced to Sh25.1 billion from Sh38 billion.

The Kenyan subsidiary sustained its MSME banking leadership, disbursing 45 per cent of the Sh201 billion MSME loans in Kenya between January and July 2025, and the Equity Insurance Group reported a 71 per cent increase in gross written premiums, contributing to a 36 per cent growth in profit before tax.

Regional subsidiaries also made significant contributions, with Equity BCDC (DRC) recording 19 per cent



Equity Group managing director and CEO James Mwangi during an investor briefing in Nairobi, on October 30 /HANDOUT

YoY loan growth and Equity Bank Rwanda achieving 34 per cent.

At least 50 per cent of deposits, 53 per cent of the loan book, 50 per cent of total banking assets, and 49 per cent of Group banking revenue originated from regional subsidiaries.

This regional banking business has been value-creating, contributing 45 per cent of gross earnings and 42 per cent of net profits.

In the DRC, Profit after Tax in-

## THE DATA

## SH31.1BN

Equity Bank Kenya's earnings for the period

creased by 21 per cent to Sh13.8 billion from Sh11.4 billion, while Uganda reported a 61 per cent growth of Sh2.9 billion, up from Sh1.8 billion.

In Rwanda, total assets expanded five per cent to Sh122.9 billion, up from Sh116.6 billion, driven by growth in the loan book, which increased to Sh62.3 billion, up from Sh46.4 billion. In Tanzania, Profit after Tax almost doubled, growing by 88 per cent to Sh1.5 billion, up from Sh0.8 billion.

Equity Insurance Group registered a 36 per cent growth in gross profits to Sh1.46 billion, up from Sh1.07 billion in the prior year.

This growth is supported by a 71 per cent increase in gross written premiums of Sh6.55 billion, up from Sh3.83 billion.

## THE DATA

## 129.23

Indicative value of shilling to the dollar

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

## FINANCIAL MARKET

## FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.2399
EURO	150.4288
STG POUND	170.7453
SA RAND	7.5528
KES / TSHS	19.0344
KES / USHS	26.8261
AE DIRHAM	35.1860
JPY (100)	85.0906
CHINESE YUAN	18.2050
IND RUPEE	1.4645

## NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
EXPRESS KENYA	7.38	8.53
MEGA AGRICORP	70.25	8.08
CROWN PAINTS	54.00	7.46
SAMEER AFRICA	15.25	7.39
BK GROUP	42.85	6.59

## NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
UCHUMI	0.35	5.41
SCAN GROUP	2.80	1.75
UMEME	7.88	1.75
HOME AFRICA	1.15	1.71
NAIROBI BV	1.57	1.26



## TIP OF THE DAY

**FAKING ENTHUSIASM IS EXHAUSTING. HERE'S HOW TO BREAK THE CYCLE.**

When your emotional energy is running low, it's easy to fake your way through the day. But leaders who consistently "surface act" by suppressing their true feelings while putting on a front risk falling into a loop of exhaustion and disconnection. Research shows that breaking this cycle doesn't require grand gestures. It starts with these small, deliberate acts of recovery.

**Take micro-breaks on nonstop days.** You don't need hours to recharge. Five minutes can make a difference. Deep breathing, stretching, looking at nature, or chatting briefly with a colleague can restore energy, improve mood, and even boost performance. These short resets help prevent the emotional depletion that leads to surface acting.

**Manage emotions in the moment.** When you can't step away during a stressful moment, pause and take a slow breath to reset your mind and body. Notice what you're feeling, then reframe the situation before you respond. For example, that tough question from a team member might not be criticism but a sign of engagement. Even briefly acknowledging your own emotions (and sharing them with others when appropriate) can restore authenticity and connection. When you let yourself be seen as human, you foster trust, lower stress, and strengthen bonds on your team.

## DIGITAL SPACE

## Businesses race to build digital readiness amid rising AI adoption



GOMYCODE general manager, Mellany Msengezi with Car & General chief information officer Gilbert Mutai during an event in Nairobi /HANDOUT

## JACKTONE LAWI

AS artificial intelligence reshapes workplaces and rapid technological advancement taking place, Kenyan businesses are confronting a stark reality, adapt through upskilling or risk being left behind.

This push is driven by a potent combination of widespread automation threatening routine tasks and a

severe skills gap constraining growth in key sectors.

For instance, in the banking sector, Central Bank of Kenya says that despite growing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in key functions such as credit scoring and fraud detection, most Kenyan banks remain AI-immature.

An estimated 67 per cent of commercial banks, microfinance

institutions and digital credit providers are still in the early stages of AI adoption.

In an effort to bridge this divide, tech training firm GOMYCODE has unveiled a new initiative to help businesses adapt to the fast-evolving digital landscape.

GOMYCODE Kenya country director Mellany Msengezi said the digital skills shortage has become a pressing challenge for businesses seeking to remain competitive.

“The skills gap is no longer just a youth employment issue it’s a business-survival issue,” she noted during the firm’s second anniversary event in Nairobi.

The company has launched a corporate upskilling program aimed at equipping employees with practical digital and AI-related skills.

The move marks firms’ expansion beyond student-focused training into enterprise-level capacity building.

According to the World Bank’s Kenya Digital Economy Report 2024, nearly 70 per cent of local firms cite a shortage of digital skills as a major barrier to adopting new technologies.

The program seeks to address that gap by offering modular, hands-on training in areas such as data analytics, AI literacy, cloud computing, and software tools.

The program, which allows for in-office, remote, or hybrid learning, is already being piloted by organizations in sectors including finance, manufacturing, logistics, and health-care across Africa.

GOMYCODE Founder and CEO Yahya Bouhlel said many firms recognise the need for digital transformation but lack access to structured, adaptable training programs. “The demand is there. What is missing is tech-first training that responds to business needs,” he said.

## NEWS BUSINESS

## INSURANCE

## Kenyans abroad, families to benefit from diaspora medical cover

MARTIN MWITA

THE Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) has launched a new diaspora medical insurance cover to address a long-standing gap in health protection for Kenyans living abroad and their families, including back home.

This is through its welfare arm, Kenya Diaspora Alliance Welfare Association (KWA), with the solution being developed in collaboration with Jubilee Health Insurance, BUPA Global and Kenbright Insurance Brokers. It will offer seamless access to quality healthcare for Kenyans in the diaspora who have long carried the financial and emotional strain of medical emergencies among loved ones back home. In recent times, informal fundraising efforts have become a makeshift safety net and an indicator of an unserved but urgent need for structured healthcare support.

Central Bank of Kenya data shows diaspora remittances crossed \$5.8 billion (Sh749.4 billion) in 2024 where most of it was directed

toward household welfare, including healthcare.

Yet, until now, there has been limited integration of insurance solutions that link those remittances to sustainable medical coverage.

The new diaspora medical cover now formalises the safety net, providing structured access to medical care for families in Kenya and for diaspora members wherever they are in the world. Jubilee Health Insurance CEO Njeri Jomo said the insurer's role is in now connecting care across borders at a time when the National Health Insurance Fund is in active transition to the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) and the Universal Health Coverage framework is still evolving. "Health insurance is no longer confined by geography. Families today live across continents, but their care needs remain connected. Our partnership with KDA and BUPA is about making that continuity possible through one integrated system," said Jomo.

Kenya Diaspora Alliance global chair, Shem Ochuodho, said the new



Kenya Diaspora Alliance chairperson Shem Ochuodho, Jubilee Health Insurance CEO Njeri Jomo, BUPA Global Kenya CEO Uditha Jayaratne and Kenbright managing director Ezekiel Macharia during the official sign-off ceremony for the Diaspora Medical Cover partnership /HANDOUT

diaspora medical cover responds directly to the realities of the alliance's members.

"It gives Kenyans abroad a reliable, formal way to ensure their families back home have access to care without the distress that often accompanies medical crises," he said. The diaspora cover will lean on BUPA Global's international reach, giving diaspora members access to over 2.4 million healthcare providers worldwide, including leading hos-

pitals and specialists, BUPA Global Kenya CEO and principal officer Uditha Jayaratne noted. Recent studies by the African Development Bank and the International Organisation for Migration show that healthcare is among the top three spending priorities for Kenyans abroad, after education and housing.

About 60 per cent of Kenyan households receiving remittances spend part of it on hospital bills or medical emergencies.

By Ben Jacob

## EXPERT OPINION



## Deepfakes: The next human vulnerability for businesses?

SYNTHETIC audio and video—better known as deepfakes—have moved beyond entertainment or political misuse to become a key tool in cybercrime. What was once a tech novelty is now a serious business risk.

The danger lies not in code, but in people. Familiar voices and faces can no longer be trusted as proof of authenticity. Attackers now use cloned voices and fake videos to deceive employees into making costly mistakes.

In one case from February 2024, a Hong Kong company employee was tricked into transferring €24 million after joining what appeared to be a legitimate video call. Everything seemed real: the accent, tone, and mannerisms.

Deepfake attacks are spreading fast. A 2024 report by Anozr Way estimated their number could rise from 500,000 in 2023 to over 8 million by 2025. These attacks exploit one of our most basic instincts—trust in human interaction.

Today, cloning a voice takes only a few seconds of public audio from platforms like YouTube or TikTok. Within minutes, attackers can create convincing voices and use them in large-scale scams, including automated phone calls that sound real.

This marks a major shift: hackers no longer "break in"; they "log in." By stealing credentials or impersonating trusted figures, they bypass traditional security systems entirely. Deepfakes make it even easier by allowing criminals to mimic identity itself—voice, face, and behavior. Recent breaches show that identity has become the new battleground. As companies strengthen firewalls and passwords, attackers are focusing on manipulating human trust instead. A fake call from a "CEO" or a realistic video meeting can easily trick staff into sharing confidential information or approving payments. The line between genuine and fake interaction is fading fast. Most companies still train employees to spot phishing emails—but not fake calls or videos. That's a dangerous blind spot. Deepfakes exploit urgency and emotional cues, making it hard to detect subtle errors in timing or speech. Organizations must strengthen their defenses by teaching employees to verify any unusual voice or video requests, even when they appear to come from familiar sources. This includes using secondary checks such as follow-up messages or questions that only legitimate colleagues would know.

Awareness training should also go beyond email phishing to cover voice and video scams, which are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Companies need new habits of skepticism and cross-checking, backed by crisis drills and communication protocols.

The writer is tech lead for Europe, Middle East and Africa, Sophos red team at Sophos

## IRKED

## Tourism players protest new KWS park fee payment system

The system only provides credit, debit cards payment with the bank transfer withdrawn



Tourists during a game drive onboard a Twiga Tours van /FILE

MARTIN MWITA  
@MwitaMartin

PLAYERS in the travel and tourism industry are up in arms against recent changes introduced by Kenya Wildlife Service to its park fee payment platform, which they say will hurt the sector.

The system only provides credit, debit cards or Mpesa payment options with the bank transfer option and eCitizen withdrawn, amid questions over the beneficiary of the payments. This, even as KWS is said to have ignored a court injunction on new park fees which industry players had secured earlier this month.

All payments to government institutions were to be made through e-Citizen and after the court gave

an injunction to the new increased park fees, KWS has changed the platform with payment made away from e-Citizen.

Sector players now say the new move has complicated group and large transaction payments that previously relied on bank transfers.

Additionally, an 8.5 per cent processing fee has been introduced for all card payments—a rate they say is unusually high compared to other government platforms.

The Kenya Tourism Federation (KTF), which represents the interests of the mainstream private sector associations in Kenya's tourism industry, notes that the new system was rolled out without prior consultation with key industry stakeholders, a move that has introduced new financial and

operational challenges for tour operators, travel agents and park visitors.

KTF chairman Fred Odek yesterday said the changes have disrupted normal business operations and risk undermining Kenya's competitiveness as a global tourism destination.

"The rollout of the new KWS park payment system has created unnecessary financial strain and uncertainty for operators who had already priced and contracted tours under the previous arrangements. The additional fees and limited payment options translate to unbudgeted losses and threaten existing contracts with our international partners," said Odek.

KTF has also expressed concern over the exchange rate applied by KWS, which currently stands at Sh135 per dollar, significantly higher than the Central Bank of Kenya's prevailing rate of Sh129.

This discrepancy has inflated park entry costs for both domestic and international visitors, the federation has noted.

Kenya Association of Tour Operators in a letter to KWS director general Erastus Kanga, seen by the Star, says that whereas industry stakeholders have no problem with having the option to pay by card, other options should be provided.

KATO chief executive Fred Kaigua said many companies are not comfortable using credit or debit cards to make payment and the current situation is therefore a major concern.

"Those are some who are able and willing to pay by card, but they are

also very concerned that the transaction attracts charges of approximately eight per cent on the amount paid. This is deemed to be extremely high and a request has been made for this charge to be reviewed to not more than 3.5 per cent," he said.

"KWS remains our very strategic partner and the current situation with the credit/debit card is causing a lot of concern. We are requesting that KWS restores the bank transfer option as a matter of extreme urgency."

KTF has on the other hand called on the Tourism and Wildlife Ministry and the KWS to reinstate all previous payment options, including bank transfers, to support flexible and efficient transactions.

They should also review and reduce the 8.5 per cent card processing fee to align with industry standards, adjust the US dollar-shilling exchange rate to match the official CBK rate and commit to structured consultations with the tourism private sector before implementing future policy or system changes.

## (+ INSTANT ANALYSIS

Tourism and Wildlife CS Rebecca Miano, during a recent editors' forum in Nairobi, reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to ensuring a smooth transition, noting that the reviewed fees and all changes being made are aimed at supporting conservation and improving the visitor experience.

## VOICES

## COMMENT

**PETER NDEGWA**  
Group CEO, Safaricom PLC



The company's purpose-driven approach, integrating community benefit into business strategy, has made it a benchmark for corporate citizenship, not just in Kenya but across the region

**O**N October 23, 2000, Safaricom officially launched with a bold vision to connect Kenyans and opened opportunities for all. By the end of the first year, Safaricom had reached 300,000 subscribers, a big achievement by then.

Today, mobile phones are everywhere. Mobile phone subscriptions outnumber the population, and gone are the days when sending money upcountry involved a journey to the bus terminus, a hunt for a relative or well-meaning driver, and an envelope and a prayer that the money would get to its destination.

The reduction of the cost of connection and the expanded access to connectivity set the stage for a revolution that would reshape the country's economic and social outlook.

Seven years later, a simple yet groundbreaking idea of sending money through mobile phones gave birth to M-Pesa, the world's first mobile money platform. For the past 18 years, M-Pesa has connected communities, powered small businesses and enabled financial inclusion at an unprecedented scale.

Safaricom's impact extends far beyond connectivity. Our 2025 Sustainability report shows that our total contribution to Kenya's economy has reached Sh1.1 trillion, with Sh309 billion directly contributing to GDP through operations, employment, taxation and infrastructure investment.

These numbers represent lives transformed. A young barber in Nyalenda, Kisumu county, now serves his clients and receives payments through M-Pesa. A student in Nakuru attends online classes via Safaricom Fibre. A farmer in Kilifi accesses markets and agricultural products through our DigiFarm platform. What began as infrastructure for communication has evolved into an engine for economic empowerment.

This evolution reflects our broader mission to be a catalyst for national development. Through digitalisation, financial inclusion and innovation, Safaricom continues to open new pathways for entrepreneurship and prosperity.

At the heart of our story lies a deep commitment to community transformation. Through the Safaricom and M-Pesa foundations, we have invested billions of shillings in health, education, environmental conservation and various community projects. From building classrooms in rural areas to supporting maternal health programmes, providing clean water and equipping youth with digital skills, these initiatives embody our belief in creating shared value.

Safaricom's purpose-driven approach, integrating community

# SAFARICOM'S 25-YEAR JOURNEY OF IMPACT



**A customer at an M-Pesa stall in downtown Nairobi on October 16, 2018 /FILE**

benefit into business strategy, has made it a benchmark for corporate citizenship, not just in Kenya but across the region.

When we launched Lipa Mdogo, we turned smartphone ownership from a luxury into an accessible necessity. Today, over 27 million Kenyans, slightly half the population, own smartphones, unlocking opportunities in e-learning, e-commerce, telemedicine and Agri-technology.

We are also embracing Artificial Intelligence to deliver more personalised and inclusive customer experiences, shaping a future where technology truly works for everyone.

Our expansion into Ethiopia

**LOOKING AHEAD, OUR FOCUS IS TO LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY TO FUEL GROWTH, ENSURE PROGRESS, AND EMPOWER PEOPLE ACROSS AFRICA**

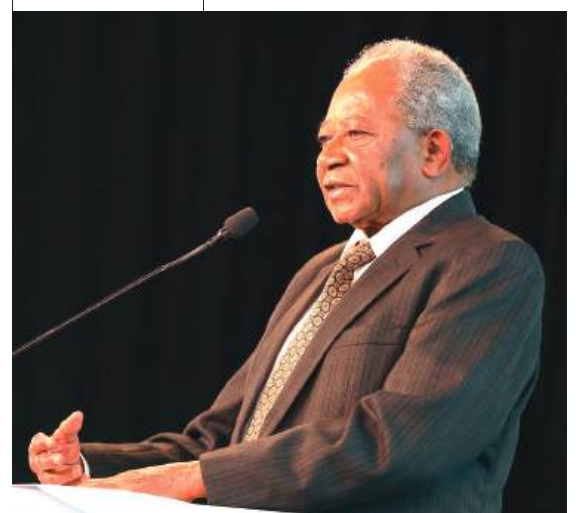
marked a bold new chapter, one that extends beyond scale to shared growth, regional collaboration and deeper impact.

Even as we celebrate this Silver Jubilee, one of the most persistent questions has been: Where do you see Safaricom in the next 25 years?

It is tempting to talk about the future and the impact technology is going to continue to have on us, but that would be stating the obvious. Much of the technology we have today was the stuff of science fiction 25 years ago. We cannot imagine well or accurately enough the advances that will have been made by the time Safaricom turns 50.

What we can predict is that Safaricom will continue to provide an always-on, secure and reliable network. We aim to be the digital partner of choice for individuals, enterprises and public services. We will continue to maintain focus on our operation in Ethiopia, bringing to Ethiopians the benefits of technology and financial inclusion.

Looking ahead, our focus is to



**M-Pesa Foundation chairman Nicholas Ng'ang'a /FILE**

leverage technology to fuel growth, ensure progress, and empower people across Africa.

As we mark 25 years, we look back on a journey shaped by innovation, resilience and a deep sense of purpose. This milestone belongs not only to Safaricom but to every Kenyan who has shared in our story.

# THE SCORE



*With*  
**BRIAN WAUDO  
BIG WILL  
DELVIN OWINO**

**SATURDAYS  
3PM - 7PM**

**KISS** KENYA'S  
**100.3 FM** NO.1 HIT  
STATION

## NEWS COUNTIES

## ONLINE VIOLENCE

## How social media platforms are weaponised to exploit women

BRIAN ORUTA

A new report has exposed how social media platforms and digital tools are increasingly being used to exploit and abuse women and girls.

The study by Equality Now says online sexual exploitation and abuse (OSEA) is on the rise, with perpetrators using technology to recruit, groom and traumatise victims.

It highlights growing cases of technology-facilitated sex trafficking, online coercion, extortion and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, including deepfakes.

The report is titled Experiencing Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Kenya: Survivor Narratives and Legal Responses, documents stories from 20 survivors.

It details how predators exploit social media, dating apps, encrypted platforms and mobile money services such as Mpesa to target vulnerable

women. Produced by Equality Now in partnership with KictaNet, Haart Kenya, Life Bloom Services International and Trace Kenya, the report calls for urgent, survivor-centred legal reforms and stronger protection mechanisms.

A companion policy brief, Not Just Online: Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Across Digital and Physical Realities, outlines how online and offline abuse intersect.

It warns that Kenya's weak laws, poor enforcement and fragmented institutions are leaving survivors without justice.

Platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp and TikTok have become key avenues for luring women into abusive situations.

Lack of regulation and weak enforcement by technology companies has allowed perpetrators to operate freely.

Predators manipulate, blackmail



Young girls use smartphones /AI ILLUSTRATION

and harass victims with ease, often across borders. Some survivors were coerced into sexual acts, livestreamed during abuse or trafficked after being promised jobs or financial help.

Of the 20 survivors interviewed, 18 were offered fake employment

or money. Over half were targeted through work-related scams. Four were trafficked abroad and sexually assaulted.

One survivor described being raped by a recruiter after responding to a WhatsApp job advert.

## REVISED CHARGES

## Nairobi City landowners to start paying new rates next January

Governor Sakaja has asked owners of unapproved buildings to regularise developments



Nairobi City /JACK OWUOR

GORDON OSEN  
@gordon\_osen

NAIROBI landowners will start paying new land rates from January 1 next year, following the release of a notice by the county government.

The rates were revised under the National Rating Act, 2024.

Urban planning executive Patrick Mbogo said the updated charges will apply on flat rate zones and properties assessed under the 2019 Draft Valuation Roll.

Properties located in flat rate zones will now be charged between Sh2,560 and Sh4,800 per year.

Land measuring up to 0.1 hectares (0.2 acres) will attract a rate of Sh2,560 annually, while land ex-

ceeding 0.4 hectares (0.9 acres) will be charged Sh4,800 per year. The reviewed rates come as Governor Johnson Sakaja urged owners of illegal or unapproved buildings to take advantage of the window provided to regularise their developments.

He warned that strict legal action will follow once the period under the Regularisation of Unauthorised Development Act, 2025 lapses.

For properties whose rates are determined through valuation, including residential, commercial and agricultural plots, the charge will be 0.115 per cent of the unimproved site value per year.

The unimproved site value refers to the market value of the land, excluding buildings or developments.

The county government outlined conditions that will apply during the implementation of the new rates. Landowners whose new rates fall below the 2022 levels will continue paying the 2022 rates, while those whose revised charges are more than double the 2022 figures will pay double the 2022 rates.

Property owners who had lodged objections to the 2019 Draft Valuation Roll will not be affected immediately and will continue paying the old rates until their cases are heard and determined by the valuation board.

In addition, landowners whose parcels were not included or valued in the 2019 draft roll have been advised to contact the chief valuer at City Hall for assessment and inclusion.

The county has also directed sectional titleholders such as apartment owners to open individual land rate accounts.

This requirement is intended to improve compliance, ensure accurate billing and streamline collection of land rates across multiple property ownerships.

Residents seeking clarification have been encouraged to reach out to the Nairobi city county customer care centre through the provided contact numbers or email address.

They may also access their land rate invoices online through the Nairobi e-services portal at nairobiservices.go.ke. Land rates form a significant component of Nairobi's internal revenue generation.

The county's own-source revenue is derived from six main streams: parking fees, land rates, single business permits, house rents, building permits, billboards and advertisements.

These sources together contribute nearly 80 per cent of the county's annual revenue.

Land rates remain the largest single source, accounting for approximately 25 per cent of the total revenue.

## (+ INSTANT ANALYSIS

The new rates could boost Nairobi's revenue base while addressing outdated property valuations. However, the impact on property owners will depend on how fairly and transparently the county implements the 2019 valuation framework.



NEWS COUNTIES

CREATING EXPERTISE

# Youths to get training on farming, marketing coffee

KNA

Youths around the country are set to be trained to serve as coordinators and trainers of coffee farmers.

The initiative is sponsored by the Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (New KPCU) in collaboration with the Coffee Research Institute (CRI).

New KPCU chairman Daniel Chemno said the training targets two youths from every coffee-growing ward.

“The selected youths will be trained on preparation, agronomy, processing and marketing,” he said.

“This will expand grassroots

expertise and provide job creation.”

He was speaking on the sidelines of the East African Coffee Markets and Conference in Nairobi.

Thirty-three of Kenya’s 47 counties produce coffee, and there are five distinct coffee-growing regions: Central, Western, the Great Rift Valley, Eastern and Coastal.

Chemno said the training will engage the youth and equip them with skills to establish their own coffee farms, become self-employed and act as trainers for other young people.

He said the government is also promoting domestic consumption

of coffee and training the youth on barista skills.

This involves learning espresso extraction, milk steaming, latte art and machine maintenance in coffee houses.

The state is also ensuring there are duty-free coffee shops at airports and mobile ‘coffee-on-go’ initiatives.

It is also introducing coffee programmes in schools, which will empower children to be future coffee growers.

The average age of coffee farmers is advanced, with many studies indicating it’s over 50 or 60 years old in various regions, such as 55 in Kenya, a concern for the industry as fewer young people enter the field.

“The training of coffee champions will spread knowledge and provide entrepreneurial skills,” he said.

“It will also provide access to finance that will boost demand among young consumers and



A participant at the East African Coffee Markets and Conference listens to a vendor at Ngacha Coffee booth in Westlands, Nairobi, on Tuesday /KNA

potentially inspire a new generation of farmers.”

Once the youth who are currently undergoing training at CRI are done, they will return to their locality and

advise farmers on what to do in their farms.

This will effectively address the gap of extension services that has been a challenge.



Rice stocks at Mwea Rice Multipurpose Cooperative Society's stores in Mwea, Kirinyaga county /ALICE WAITHERA



Mwea Rice Multipurpose Cooperative Society chairman Ndege Muriuki addresses journalists at the cooperative's stores on Wednesday /ALICE WAITHERA

UNFAIR COMPETITION

# Rice farmers want imports taxed to ‘level the market’

*They are stuck with years-old stocks that they struggle to sell due to cheap imports*

ALICE WAITHERA  
@TheStarKenya

Rice farmers from Mwea irrigation scheme in Kirinyaga want the government to impose a tax on imports to give them a lifeline.

They have been stuck with rice stocks for years that they have been struggling to sell due to cheap imports.

This is despite efforts over the years by farmers and the government to boost rice production.

For instance, the government established the Sh8.2 billion Thiba dam that was financed in partnership with the Japan International Co-operation Agency.

The dam had a storage capacity of 15 million cubic metres of water. It helped expand irrigated land in the scheme from 25,000 acres to 35,000 acres, and provides a stable water supply throughout the year.

Mwea Rice Multipurpose Cooperative Society chairperson Ndege Muriuki on Wednesday said

cheap imports have dampened the market for the local produce, leaving farmers grappling with reduced returns.

“Normally, we sell a kilogramme of unprocessed rice at between Sh90 and Sh100, but now we are forced to sell at Sh85 because imports have flooded the market,” he told the media.



NDEGE MURIUKI

*We normally sell a kilo of rice at Sh90 to Sh100, but now we are forced to sell at Sh85*

When processed, the prices rise to Sh180 per kilogramme due to processing costs, reducing the produce’s competitiveness against imports that sell at Sh100 per kilogramme.

Imposing a tax on the imports, he said, would level the ground and enable the local produce to enjoy a section of the market, boosting returns for farmers.

In August, the High Court stopped the government’s plan to import 500,000 tonnes of duty-free rice following a petition filed by the Farmers’ Party on behalf of the growers.

Agriculture CS Mutahi Kagwe published a gazette notice announcing the importation would be done until December 31, sparking uproar among rice farmers.

Justice Edward Muriithi allowed the state to import 250,000 tonnes and gave it until October 31 to procure the imports.

He also implored the government

to ensure locally produced rice is bought before turning on foreign produce to fill production deficits.

The government had told the court that farmers produce 264,000 tonnes against a demand of 1.3 million tonnes.

But the cooperative’s stores are still full to the brim even as the farmers expect a bumper harvest of 100,000 tonnes this season.

“Today, we should be cleaning our stores in readiness for the new harvest but unfortunately, they are still full,” Muriuki said.

Last year, farmers faced a similar glut after the government imported another batch of 500,000 tonnes of duty-free rice, making it impossible for them to sell their produce.

The chairperson expressed fears that continued importation of duty-free rice will cripple the economy of Mwea, which is heavily dependent on the crop.

The saturated market has been dampening farmers’ motivation, with

Muriuki noting that soon, they will be unable to cultivate the crop because of poor sales.

“We are still feeling the effects of the imports that were brought in last year, and now more have been added. This is financially incapacitating them and leaves them with no money in their pockets,” he said.

Farmer David Kamuto from Karaba said the low absorption of their rice into the market is disheartening as it negates the back-breaking work they do on their farms.

“This will take us years back when we were impoverished by poor prices if it’s not stopped. We are crying out to the government to help us sell our produce,” he said.

John Mutunga, another farmer, said the government should prioritise locally produced rice before considering imports.

He said it’s counterproductive for the government to invest heavily in infrastructural development aimed at raising their production only for their produce to remain unsold.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Rice farmers may soon be unable to cultivate the crop due to poor sales. Harvests are increasing but stores are full. This has become a recurring problem as the government imports rice duty-free to fill production deficits, to the detriment of current stocks. So farmers want imports taxed to protect their produce.

## NEWS COUNTIES



## CRITICAL CARE HUB

# Malindi's new ICU block set for December launch

*New unit poised to handle critical cases, promote medical tourism*

CHARLES MGHENYI  
@CharlesMghenyi

HEALTHCARE services in Kilifi county have received a significant boost following the completion of an ultramodern Intensive Care Unit, High Dependency Unit and theatre block at Malindi Referral Hospital.

The facility, constructed by the Coast Development Authority, cost Sh50 million to build, with an additional Sh90 million set aside for equipment, bringing the total investment to Sh140 million.

The project is funded by the Kenya and Italian governments, with the latter providing support for the upcoming equipping phase.

East African Community, Asals and regional development CS Beatrice Askul commissioned the project and handed it over to the county government through Deputy Governor Flora Chibule.

The CS led an inspection tour of

the eight-bed facility, visiting key areas including the theatre, recovery and preparation rooms to ensure compliance with medical standards before officially handing it over to the hospital management.

Askul described the project as “a major milestone in transforming healthcare delivery in the North Coast region”.

“The project is now complete and will soon be equipped to provide ICU, HDU and surgical services. This handover ensures that the facility can now be utilised to serve the people.”

She lauded the collaboration between the national and county governments, terming it a demonstration of what can be achieved through effective partnership.

“This milestone clearly shows what both levels of government can achieve when working together for the good of our people,” she added.

EAC Principal Secretary Kello Harsama said about Sh140 million

was mobilised for both construction and equipment.

“We sincerely thank the Italian government for their continued support,” said the PS.

Deputy Governor Chibule hailed the project as a fulfillment of Governor Gideon Mung'aro's promise to enhance access to quality healthcare.

“This project is proof of our country's commitment to improving health services. It will serve not only Kilifi residents but also patients from neighbouring counties,” she said.

The facility is expected to be fully equipped and operational by December, coinciding with Jamhuri Day celebrations, noting that its proximity to the tourism zone could promote medical tourism in the region.

CDA acting managing director Dr Mwasiti Bendera noted that the facility will serve patients from Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu and Garissa counties who previously had to travel long distances for specialised care.

## COMBATING EROSION

## Bohra community leads in mangrove planting in Mombasa

BRIAN OTIENO

YOUNG people must take responsibility for protecting and conserving the environment because they form the majority of the population, members of the Dawoodi Bohra community in Mombasa have said.

The community, with roots across East Africa and strong ties to India, Sri Lanka and the UAE, has a long tradition of community service and environmental stewardship.

On Wednesday, the group concluded another successful mangrove planting and clean-up drive at Dongo Kundu, aimed at restoring the region's vital coastal ecosystem. The exercise saw students from the MSB Educational Institute—an Islamic school headquartered in India—plant 1,500 mangrove trees as part of an ongoing initiative to grow 10,000 mangroves along the Kenyan coast. The initiative is being conducted under Project Rise, a global Dawoodi Bohra development programme that aligns with the Kenya Kwanza administration's One Million Tree campaign. Mombasa Deputy Governor Francis Thoya is among its local partners.

“Mangrove forests act as natural barriers against storm surges and high waves and are highly effective at capturing carbon,” said Hamza Shura, a member of the Project Rise Mombasa chapter.

“We're pleased to collaborate with government authorities and local partners to undertake the 10,000 mangroves project.”

Shura said the wider effort is designed to combat coastal erosion, enhance biodiversity, and raise awareness about the crucial role mangroves play in mitigating climate change. The Dongo Kundu mangrove project is part of a broader global environmental effort under Project Rise, which also supports mangrove restoration programmes in the UAE, India and Sri Lanka.

Shura noted that the initiative reflects the teachings of the community's global spiritual leader, his holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, who urges members to safeguard nature's gifts through tree planting and cleanliness drives worldwide.

“These environmental efforts by our community are a reflection of his guidance,” Shura said

The youth-led nature of the initiative, he added, is meant to instill a lifelong sense of responsibility and service in students.

Since the programme began a few months ago, the community has planted more than 5,000 mangroves in Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties.

President William Ruto has set a national goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032 — a vision the Dawoodi Bohra community says it fully supports.

“This reflects a shared vision for a greener, sustainable future for our children and their children,” Shura said.

SH140 MILLION WAS MOBILISED FOR BOTH CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT

## FAST-MATURING

## New rice variety triples yields, boosts food security

BRIAN OTIENO

RICE farmers at the Coast have received a major boost with new skills and a fast-maturing rice variety that promises to increase yields and strengthen food security.

For years, farmers in the region have struggled with low productivity due to outdated farming methods—despite having the potential to turn the Coast into one of Kenya's key rice-producing zones.

During a two-day training at the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation in Mtwapa, farmers from Kilifi, Kwale and Tai-

ta Taveta counties were introduced to the Kwamboka rice variety. Experts say it matures quickly, withstands harsh weather and thrives in coastal conditions.

Kilifi Agriculture executive Chula Mwagona said rice farming had declined because of climate change, but is now poised for revival.

“The Kwamboka variety has performed well in model farms. We're ready to invest more in rice farming to tap the Coast's potential,” he said.

The initiative is backed by the Korea Partnership for Innovation of Agriculture (Kopia), which fund-

ed the model farms and training. Kopia Kenya director Ji Gang Kim said while consumption is growing in Kenya, production remains low.

“Without improving productivity in the Coastal area, it's hard to meet national demand,” he said.

Kalro's Industrial Crops Research Institute director Simon Omondi said the Coast has land suitable for rice than traditional growing regions such as Mwea and Ahero. “An acre can yield up to 35 bags, bringing in about Sh160,000 in returns. With better technology and collaboration, this region can feed the nation,” he said.



Coast rice farmers, Kalro officers and Kopia Kenya centre's Ji Gang Kim at Kalro Mtwapa on Tuesday /BRIAN OTIENO

## NEWS COUNTIES

## EASE ACCESS

## World Bank funds water projects in Turkana

MATHEWS NDANYI

TURKANA county is set to benefit from a World Bank-funded water development project aimed at boosting community resilience and improving access to clean water in arid areas.

The County Department of Water Services has officially handed over several sites earmarked for development under the Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience Project (HoA-GW4RP).

In the first phase, the World Bank will upgrade existing water infrastructure in Kerio, Turkana Central. Two sites — Nang’olekuru and Loturtur — have already been handed over, while others including Lotubae-Lokwii-Namortung’a in Turkana East and Kang’ikimak in Turkana South will follow.

Officials said the project seeks to strengthen systems for the sustainable development and management of groundwater resources in drought-prone areas. It is also being implemented in Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera and Garissa counties.

The handover ceremony was led by county project coordinator Eng Fredrick Rukoo who briefed community members on the project scope and introduced the contractor. “The project will create employment for residents and ultimately provide access to clean water,” Rukoo said.

Turkana Central administrator Esther Kiyonga said a major stakeholders’ forum would soon be convened to engage community and county leaders before construction begins.

Deputy County Commissioner Thomas Siele urged residents to cooperate with the contractor and safeguard the project infrastructure.

“We expect full community support so that work is completed on time and residents can access clean water,” Siele said.

Residents at Loturtur, led by Joyce Loupa Chilakeny, welcomed the initiative, saying the

rehabilitation of the local borehole would provide a reliable source of fresh water.

“The borehole has plenty of fresh water. Once rehabilitated, it will transform our daily lives,” she said.

At the second site in Nadoto under the Nang’olekuru scheme, community mobiliser James Awote said the project would ease the burden on women who trek long distances to fetch water.

“The project includes four water kiosks, which will bring clean water closer to our villages and create jobs for residents,” he said.

## OPENING SUBMISSIONS

## Politician’s name comes up in Eldoret murder case

Prosecution to rely on last-seen theory

MATHEWS NDANYI  
@TheStarKenya

An Eldoret politician has been mentioned in court in connection with a group alleged to have participated in the killing of a man whose body was found in River Sosiani, Uasin Gishu county.

Senior State Counsel Sylvester Thuo made the reference during opening submissions in a murder trial before Justice Emily Ominde.

Four suspects — Dennis Rono, Elvis Kiptanui, Abiud Barkutwa and Cornelius Kiplimo Keter — are charged with the murder of Samwel Mugiro on July 27, 2025, at Kipkaren

estate in Kapseret subcounty.

Thuo told the court that the prosecution intends to rely on the “last-seen” theory to link the suspects to the incident, along with forensic evidence, postmortem findings and witness accounts.

He further told the court that tension in the area escalated after an earlier killing sparked protest by youth, which were later followed by counter demonstrations.

“The deceased was allegedly targeted during the counter-protests,” Thuo said, adding that the state had lined up 22 witnesses to testify in the case.

A witness under protection, identified only as KBO, testified virtually



Mugiro Ngoko, father to the deceased, during hearing at the High Court in Eldoret /MATTHEW NDANYI



Deceased Samwel Mugiro /FAMILY

and narrated how he allegedly saw the suspects assaulting the deceased near Kipkaren estate.

According to his testimony, the deceased was tied up and beaten for over an hour before being left injured. Mugiro’s body was later recovered from River Sosiani and taken to Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital mor-

tuary. A postmortem conducted by Dr Benson Macharia, a resident pathologist at MTRH, revealed that Mugiro died from drowning but had suffered multiple injuries before death.

“It appears the deceased sustained head and limb injuries before drowning, indicating he was alive when he entered the water,” Dr Macharia said.

Independent pathologist Dr Walter Nalinya of the Independent Medico-Legal Unit, who represented the family, concurred with the findings.

Human rights defenders, led by activist Kimutai Kirui, have since called for justice over the killing.

The hearing continues before the High Court in Eldoret.

## MANIPULATION CLAIM

## Ford Kenya youth dispute over leadership succession deepens

MATHEWS NDANYI

A row has erupted within Ford Kenya over the planned replacement of the party’s youth league president, Moses Chekai, who recently stepped down to pave way for a younger leader.

Youth leaders and county officials from Trans Nzoia have endorsed Analick Makokha to take over the position, amid claims that some top party officials are attempting to front a relative of a senior leader for the post.

Sources within the party allege that William Chiveli, the Bungoma county Ford Kenya chairman and

said to be related to a top party official, is being quietly backed by influential figures to succeed Chekai.

However, some youth leaders have rejected the alleged plan, warning against what they described as manipulation of the youth elections.

“Ford Kenya belongs to all of us. We will not accept anyone to impose a candidate on us. We are fully backing Makokha for the seat,” said John Erang from Turkana county.

Another youth leader, Isaac Kirui from Bomet, argued that it would be unfair to have Chekai replaced by someone from Bungoma, insisting that leadership positions should reflect the national face of the party.

The leaders spoke in Kitale after a youth consultative meeting convened to declare support for Makokha’s bid.

During the meeting, participants urged party leader Moses Wotang’ula to ensure transparency in the upcoming youth league elections and to resist any internal pressure to influence the outcome.

“We will not allow anyone to manipulate the process. The youth presidency must be filled through a fair and inclusive election,” said Harrison Wesa, one of the delegates.

Others warned any attempt to undermine democracy within the party could alienate young supporters



Some of the Ford Kenya youth leaders led by Moses Makhokha (centre) at the party offices in Kitale on Wednesday /MATTHEW NDANYI

ahead of future political contests.

“As one of Kenya’s oldest political parties, Ford Kenya must uphold democratic values. Interference in internal elections will only weaken the party,” said John Barasa, another youth representative.

The Ford Kenya National Executive Council is scheduled to meet on November 6, 2025, where one of the agenda items will be to ratify the youth league’s decision on Chekai’s replacement.

## NEWS COUNTIES

## TRAIL OF VIOLENCE

## Bungoma, Embu and Kajiado grapple with grisly murders

CYRUS OMBATI

POLICE are investigating three separate murder cases reported in Bungoma, Embu and Kajiado counties amid growing concern over rising homicide.

In Sirisia, Bungoma county, a 70-year-old man was found dead in his house after what police suspect was a brutal killing.

The body of Juma Wanjekeche was discovered in a decomposed

state, with the throat slit inside his semi-permanent home.

Locals said the victim was last seen alive on October 26 and his body was discovered two days later.

Police said no arrests have been made and the motive remains unclear. The body was moved to the mortuary for a postmortem examination.

In a separate incident in Shauri Slums, Embu county, police are

investigating the death of Mugendi Ciangai, 35, whose body was found in his single-room house.

Neighbours said they became alarmed after seeing blood trickling from the upper part of the house. Upon checking, they found Ciangai's body on the floor, partly covered with a mattress.

Police said the body was half decomposed when discovered and has been taken to the mortuary for postmortem. No arrests have

been made, but detectives said they are pursuing crucial leads. In Magadi, Kajiado county, police are searching for a suspect behind the killing of Magret Muriithi, 28, who was attacked as she worked on her farm on Wednesday.

She succumbed to her injuries as she was being rushed to hospital. The assailant fled the scene.

The body was moved to the mortuary pending postmortem as investigations continue.

Police statistics show that murder cases are on the rise across the country, with most linked to land disputes and love triangles.

Authorities say an average of eight homicide cases are reported daily, a trend they describe as alarming.

The DCI Homicide Unit has formed a special squad to investigate the surge, with some cases unresolved and others still in courts.



## PHOTO STORY

Mount Kenya University VC Prof Deogratius Jaganyi, student leaders and staff receive a bus and equipment from chairperson Prof Simon Gicharu (C), to strengthen sports and creative arts at the institution, in line with its continued investment in talent development and student welfare  
/JOHN MUCHUCHA

## HOMICIDES

## Cops investigate murder cases across counties

CYRUS OMBATI

MYSTERY surrounds the brutal killing of a tractor driver whose body was found decapitated in Koru, Kisumu county.

Police said the body of Patrick Amemo, 41, was discovered on Tuesday, with his head and torso found in separate locations. Amemo, a tractor driver in the area, was last seen alive earlier that day.

A boda boda rider told police he and his colleagues spotted a paper bag at Kona Mbaya along the Achego-Muhoroni Road and, upon checking, found the victim's head. The torso was later discovered near Amemo's residence. Police said the motive remains unknown and investigations are underway.

The body was moved to the mortuary for postmortem and forensic examination. Officers believe the killers may have intended to send a message through the manner of the attack.

In a separate incident in Kimilili, Bungoma county, police are investigating the murder of a woman whose body was found by the roadside on Tuesday.

Officers said the body was naked, with a piece of white cloth tied around the neck and visible injuries on the face. Two suspects were rescued from a mob that attempted to lynch them and are in custody as investigations continue.

Police are also examining whether the victim was sexually assaulted before being killed.

Elsewhere, in Kapkerer, Nandi, a man was beaten to death by members of the public after allegedly stealing bananas from a farm. Police said the unidentified man, estimated to be about 30 years old, was found dead beside a murrum road with bruises on his hands, face and legs.

Remnants of bananas were recovered at the scene. His body was taken to the mortuary for postmortem.

Police have warned residents against taking the law into their own hands, urging them to hand suspects over to authorities.

Security officials said murder cases in the western region have been on the rise, often linked to domestic conflicts and land disputes.

## GRIM DIAGNOSIS

## Citizen report lays bare Vihiga's healthcare crisis

Weak grievance-handling systems, poor inclusion of persons with disability also flagged

HILTON OTENYO  
@HiltonOtenyo

A new report has exposed the challenges confronting Vihiga county's health sector, citing drug shortages, staff gaps and stalled infrastructure as key obstacles to quality healthcare delivery.

The Community Score Card report, released by the Institute for Social Accountability in partnership with local social accountability champions, reveals that patients endure long waiting hours, are often forced to buy drugs and face inadequate emergency services.

It also flagged weak grievance-handling systems and poor inclusion of persons with disabilities, which have steadily eroded public trust in the health system.

A separate citizen shadow audit of the long-stalled Vihiga Hospital Plaza paints an equally bleak picture. Launched 10 years ago, the facility is only half complete despite consuming

Sh243 million. The report described the project as "a ghost hospital", standing idle while patients crowd into overstretched facilities or travel to Kakamega, Kisumu and Eldoret for specialised care.

"These reports are meant to reinforce collaboration while pushing for transparency and citizen-centred service delivery," said Alexander Rüthi, Tisa's head of programmes.

Despite the findings, the reports acknowledged progress in expanding health infrastructure.

Between 2017 and 2022, health facilities increased from 54 to 75, reducing the average distance to the nearest hospital to 2.3 kilometres, well below the WHO's five-kilometre benchmark.

Other milestones include a 90-bed ward at Emuhaya, a twin theatre block at Hamisi and the establishment of psychiatric, eye and oncology units at the Vihiga County Referral Hospital.

Health workers' professionalism, improved HIV care services and cleaner hospital environments were



A ward at Vihiga County Referral Hospital in Mbale /HILTON OTENYO

also commended. To address the gaps, the reports recommend lifting the recruitment freeze on health workers, strengthening drug supply chains, upgrading hospital infrastructure and institutionalising the CSC process in county planning.

Tisa Vihiga coordinator Shilla Maloba called for deeper citizen participation—beyond consultation—to include "real feedback loops".

Receiving the reports, Governor Wilber Ottichilo pledged to act on the recommendations and assured residents that the long-delayed hospital plaza will be completed and operational by June next year.

"Health is a key sector in Vihiga and such initiatives help us deliver equitable and affordable care in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3," he said.

## NEWS COUNTIES

## SILENT CRISIS

# Kisumu surgical camp gifts patients simplest joy – sound

*The five-day ear, nose and throat clinic is aimed at restoring hearing and hope*

FAITH MATETE  
@faymatete

FOR 17-year-old Dorothy Awino, the world had been a symphony of silence for nearly a decade. A persistent ear condition that caused swelling, pain and eventual deafness in her left ear had robbed her of one of life's simplest joys — sound.

"I missed out on so much," she said softly. "Even just enjoying the sound of birds or hearing my friends laugh had become impossible. It felt like I had been cut off from the world."

But this week, that silence finally began to fade.

At the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH) in Kisumu, Awino is among dozens of patients receiving life-changing care at a five-day Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) surgical camp an initiative aimed at restoring hearing and hope.

The camp, a collaboration between JOOTRH and a dedicated team of ENT surgeons, audiologists and support staff, is offering specialised surgeries and treatments catered for under the Social Health Authority (SHA).

From children struggling with chronic infections to adults living with total hearing loss, patients have come from far and wide for a second chance at life.



Ear, Nose and Throat surgical camp at JOOTRH /FAITH MATETE

Lead ENT surgeon Dr Neville Okwiri described the initiative as a major step in addressing a silent crisis affecting thousands of Kenyans.

"Hearing loss is a significant and isolating problem," Dr Okwiri said.

He added, "Many people suffer quietly for years because specialist services are expensive and limited to urban centers. This camp is about

breaking down those barriers."

According to Dr Okwiri, the goal is to provide as many patients as possible with "a safe and dry ear" performing two to three complex surgeries each day and many more clinical consultations.

Among the most common conditions treated is tympanoplasty, a surgical procedure to repair perforated eardrums, a condition that has long affected schoolchildren across the region.

For 18-year-old Hillary Midenyo, hearing loss had turned his education into a daily struggle.

Since the age of two, he had battled recurring ear infections and constant discharge that forced him to miss weeks of school at a time.

"It was hard to keep up with dictations," Midenyo recalled, adding that sometimes, he only attended two weeks out of the eight in a term because he was always seeking treatment traversing Vihiga and Kisumu counties.

Similarly, 17-year-old Stancy Adhiambo, faced a similar ordeal.

Years of on-and-off schooling, recurring infections and partial deafness left her feeling isolated.

"I always had to sit at the front of the class, straining to hear the teacher. Even then, I missed a lot of what was said. It was frustrating and embarrassing."

The ENT surgical camp changed everything.

Both Midenyo and Adhiambo underwent successful tympanoplasty procedures their hearing restored, their confidence renewed.

"The surgeries have given these young people a new start," said Dr Okwiri, adding that they can now learn, socialise and dream again without the weight of a chronic condition holding them back.

For families that have spent years seeking affordable medical attention, the camp is nothing short of a miracle as SHA settling medical expenses for patients.

"This partnership has allowed us to reach even the most vulnerable," said a JOOTRH official.

"We have seen parents cry tears of joy after hearing their children respond to sound for the first time."

Awino, too, is one of those success stories. After years of postponed surgeries, she finally underwent a procedure that promises to restore her hearing.

"I'm nervous, but mostly excited," she said before surgery. "For the first time, I feel hopeful that my life can go back to normal."

## WEAK REGULATION

## Experts push for law to clean up Kenya environmental profession

FAITH MATETE

A push is on to bring order, accountability and professionalism to Kenya's booming environmental sector, a space that experts say has for years been marred by weak regulation and conflicts of interest.

At a public participation forum in Kisumu, stakeholders backed a proposed law that seeks to regulate environmental practitioners across the country from researchers and climate scientists to consultants and conservationists.

The proposed Environmental Professionals Bill, currently at the committee stage, aims to create a statutory body that will oversee registration, licensing, and quality control for all environmental experts in Kenya.

The meeting, convened by Plan International, brought together professionals from Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay, Migori, Kakamega and Bungoma counties, who shared their views on the draft law.

According to Stephen Tirop

of Plan International, the Bill represents a turning point for the environmental field.

"For a long time, the space of environmental experts has been controlled by the Environmental Institute of Kenya, which is only registered as a society. We now want to move a step forward and have a law that formally governs and protects the profession," Terro said. He said the Bill will end overlapping of roles between the National Environment Management Authority (Nema) and the institute, a problem that has long frustrated practitioners.

"Nema is a regulator not a welfare body. It licenses projects and experts at the same time, which creates a conflict of interest. The new law will separate these functions and establish a professional body, just like the Law Society of Kenya or the Nursing Council."

For Lilian Wandaka, a member of the team implementing the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Ecosystems (COS-

MIC) project supported by Global Affairs Canada, the consultations are critical in ensuring the Bill reflects realities on the ground.

"We want practitioners to shape the Bill so that it supports them as they implement environmental initiatives," she said.

She added, "Our biggest concern is inclusivity. Environmental work involves different sectors from fisheries to forestry and not everyone has a degree. The law should recognise experience as well as academic qualifications."

Wandaka said both the Coast and Lake Basin regions are central to Kenya's blue economy, and it is important that professionals working within those ecosystems are supported by a fair, well-structured regulatory framework.

Environmental consultant Ibrahim Oluoch, a lead expert and member of the Environmental Institute of Kenya, welcomed the Bill as "the missing link" in Kenya's environmental management.

"For years, the profession has



Lilian Wandaka from Plan International with other officials /FAITH MATETE

lacked order and discipline," he said, adding that this Bill introduces clear entry requirements and professional categories to ensure accountability.

He added that while those without formal degrees should not be locked out, the law must define levels of competence to maintain credibility.

"Doing an Environmental Impact Assessment report is not a walk in the park. You can't expect someone without the right training to sign

off on a report that determines whether a project gets funding. We must categorise experts properly to protect the public and the environment," he said.

County officials also expressed support for the new framework.

An environmental officer from Western Kenya said the Bill would be the first of its kind to bring structure to the sector.

"We don't have county-level policies regulating environmental professionalism," he said.

## NEWS COUNTIES

## FEMICIDE

# Cops recover items of slain varsity student

Two women, allegedly abducted by main suspect, have recorded statements



Slain UoN student Jane Quedeya /HANDOUT



Suspect Nicholas Mutua Mutia /DCI

CYRUS OMBATI  
@CyrusOmbati

DETECTIVES in Kiambu county have recovered personal items belonging to a murdered university student.

The recovery was made after a raid at the home of the main suspect in Kikuyu.

The victim, Jane Quedeya, was a second-year University of Nairobi student at Kikuyu campus.

She was reported missing on October 13.

Her body was found in Kefri Forest on October 17.

Following the discovery, detectives launched an investigation that led to the arrest of Nicholas Mutia, believed to have been the student's former boyfriend.

The suspect was arrested after an intelligence-led operation by a combined team of detectives who traced him to Kikuyu.

Police said Mutia allegedly confessed during questioning that he had lured Quedeya into the forest after an argument the night before her death.

He later led investigators to the scene where the body was recovered. During a subsequent raid on the suspect's house, detectives recovered several items believed to be the victim's.

These included a black shoelace, pair of rubber shoes, white handkerchief, black and white undergarment, black and grey backpack with a hood, yellow manila rope, elastic band, pink bedsheet and other assorted belongings.

The suspect was arraigned before the Kikuyu law courts on October

25, where detectives were granted 21 days to hold him as investigations continue.

The matter is set for mention on November 13.

Investigators have also recorded statements from two women who were allegedly abducted by the suspect in the same forest.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Last year Femicide Count Kenya, which monitors killings reported in local news, recorded 58 deaths it labelled as femicides between January and October 2022. In 2023, the organisation said it recorded at least 152 killings – the highest in the past five years.

## BOOSTING HEALTHCARE

# Hospital in Makueni receives Sh32m medical equipment

KNA

ENI Kenya has donated equipment worth Sh32 million to Mother and Child Hospital to boost provision of services.

The blood satellite centre received a blood plasma deep freezer and refrigerated centrifuge machine, a device that separates blood components to enhance medical management for various conditions.

"We have another department and its work is to donate blood to our hospitals. We have received modern equipment which are only seen in Nairobi that have the capability of separating blood components to boost medical management of various conditions," Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr said.

He spoke on Tuesday during the commissioning of the equipment, which can store 6,000 pints of blood.

Eni Kenya managing director Daniella Morra attended the event.

Mutula praised students in secondary schools for donating blood and urged college and university students to do the same.

"We have enough blood and because of the equipment we have, we can donate to other counties. I urge college and university students in the county to also donate blood to the blood bank," he said.

The governor also launched a specialised Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Mother and Child hospital. Among the equipment received include incubators, syringe pumps, infusion pumps, medication trolleys, hygrometer, pulse oximeter, glucometer, baby cots, vital signs monitor, cardiac monitor/defibrillator, blood pressure machines and bilirubinometer.

"The NICU will significantly enhance the quality of newborn care services. The availability of advanced neonatal equipment will boost efficiency of healthcare delivery and survival of newborns," Mutula said.

**POLICE SAID MUTIA ALLEGEDLY CONFESSED DURING QUESTIONING THAT HE HAD LURED JANE INTO THE FOREST AFTER AN ARGUMENT**



Eni Kenya managing director Daniella Morra and Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr /KNA

## DEVELOPMENT

# Dualling of Makutano highway to change counties' prospects



Makutano interchange on Makutano-Embu-Meru highway /KNA

KNA

THE government of Embu has welcomed the proposed dualling of 145km Makutano-Embu-Meru highway, terming it a game changer for Mt Kenya East Region.

President William Ruto, during this year's Mashujaa Day celebrations in Kitui county, said his administration has committed to dual at least 1,000km of major highways. Ruto said infrastructure development is a critical area of focus for his government to spur economic growth.

He said he is also committed to

building an additional 10,000km of new tarmac roads linking farmers, traders and manufacturers to markets across the nation.

Governor Cecily Mbarire described the project as a defining moment for the region in terms of reshaping trade, connectivity and livelihoods.

The project will cut across Kirinyaga, Tharaka Nithi and Meru counties. Mbarire said the dual carriageway will ease transport, enhance market access for farmers and traders and investors.

"The project will not only create jobs, but also accelerate value

addition in agriculture and manufacturing," she said. The governor praised Ruto for prioritising infrastructure, which she said directly uplifts local economies.

The highway has claimed many lives in some high-risk stretches, including the notorious Nithi Bridge.

"The dualling of the road is expected to address the high accident rates that have been linked to factors such as congestion, speeding, reckless driving and overtaking," Mbarire said.

Vehicles transporting miraa and muguka have also contributed to the number of accidents.

NEWS COUNTIES

CONTROL SALE, CONSUMPTION

# Proposed miraa law sparks mixed reactions in Wajir

Activists largely welcome it but traders urge caution, saying it could cripple livelihoods

STEPHEN ASTARIKO  
@astarikostephen

A newly proposed bill seeking to tighten control over the sale, distribution and consumption of miraa and related substances in Wajir county has sparked mixed reactions among residents.

While civil society activists and public health advocates have largely welcomed the Miraa and Other Substances Control Bill, 2025, miraa traders are urging caution, warning the new rules should not cripple their livelihoods.

The debate played out during a public participation forum in Wajir town, organised by the county assembly as part of the Bill's mandatory consultation process. The proposed law has already passed its first reading and now heads to subsequent deliberations.

The meeting brought together

religious leaders, miraa traders, activists and residents—all eager to weigh in on a Bill that could reshape one of Wajir's most visible trades.

Human rights defender Hussein Abdi praised the proposed law, saying it struck a much-needed balance between economic interests and public welfare. "For too long, we've seen young people dropping out of school or engaging in unproductive habits because of easy access to miraa. Stricter regulation will help protect families and communities," Abdi said.

Religious leaders also voiced their support. Sheikh Ibrahim Yunis described the bill as a bold and progressive step towards addressing the social and health challenges linked to miraa use.

"Our region is among the most affected by the abuse of this plant," he said.

"Its effects are visible—from



A miraa trader in Wajir /FILE

mental health issues to families draining their resources. Many countries have banned its use and that should tell us something."

However, for many traders, miraa remains both a livelihood and a

cultural staple. Ambia Hussein, a single mother of five who runs a miraa stall in Wajir, welcomed the spirit of the Bill but appealed for fairness in its implementation.

"While I support the intention to

regulate the business, I'm concerned about enforcement. We're asking that these controls be applied fairly and in consultation with us. Miraa is how many of us feed our families," she said.

Trader Farhia Hussein argued that miraa is not the main problem. Instead, she blamed muguka, a cheaper and more accessible variant, for fuelling addiction among young people.

"We need to deal with muguka because it's cheap and easily available to children. The miraa we sell is expensive and mainly bought by adults. The law should focus on banning muguka completely," Farhia said.

Waberi MCA Aden Bulle explained the proposed legislation aims to bring structure and accountability to a trade that has long operated informally despite its social and economic significance.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The proposed Wajir miraa bill marks a crucial moment in balancing culture, commerce and public health. It reflects growing recognition of miraa's social impact, especially on youth, while acknowledging its economic role for thousands of traders. The strong mix of support and caution shows how deeply intertwined the crop is with livelihoods and identity.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

# Garissa seeks to save iconic acacia trees from mechanics

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

FOR years, the iconic acacia trees lining Garissa's Kismayu road have offered shade to motorists, pedestrians and small-scale mechanics who found refuge beneath their canopies.

But what began as a convenient workspace has slowly turned into an environmental hazard—one that now threatens the very trees providing that comfort. This week, the Garissa municipality issued a one-week eviction notice to all mechanics and tyre repair operators working under the acacias, directing them to relocate to rented premises.

The decision, officials say, is part of a broader plan to protect the environment and restore the town's beauty.

Municipality CEO Mohamed Osman confirmed the move, saying it was prompted by growing concern over oil spills, littering and other pollutants harming the fragile ecosystem.

"We have given all those carrying out mechanical activities under the acacia trees one week to vacate. This is part of our broader plan to protect the environment and promote responsible business practices," he said.

Osman said the open-air garages had led to improper disposal of used tyres and waste oil, contaminating the soil and endangering the trees that give Garissa's main roads their distinct character. "These

unauthorised activities have caused significant environmental degradation. They threaten the health of our ecosystem and the beauty of our town," he said.

Beyond the environmental damage, the municipality says the clutter of roadside workshops has endangered pedestrians and obstructed urban beautification projects.

Those who ignore the directive now face enforcement under local bylaws and environmental regulations.

Garissa county director for environment Mulki Mohamed warned the situation had already taken a toll on the environment.

Several trees, she said, have dried up as a result of the pollution.

"All we are calling for is maximum cooperation from stakeholders. We need to restore the natural integrity of our treasured acacia corridor. The mechanics must adhere to the directives given," Mulki urged.

Mechanics work under acacia trees on Kismayu Road /STEPHEN ASTARIKO



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# Pivot from fossil fuel drives floating solar power uptake

*Trend comes amid rising energy demand and growing climate change pressures*



Conrad Onyango for bird story agency  
@TheStarKenya

**A**frica is fast turning its dams, reservoirs and lagoons into electricity plants as floating solar power begins to take shape across the continent.

Some projects have gone live as new construction goes on stream and other projects are lined up, signalling a shift from prospects a few years ago to national energy strategies.

In Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria and Seychelles, there are a handful of first-mover projects, which governments are banking on to bolster their share of renewable energy on the national grid.

Renewable energy expert George Obondi told bird in call that the technology is rapidly gaining traction as governments seek innovative ways to pair solar with hydropower, a strategy aimed at stabilising electricity supply amid rising energy demand and the growing pressures of climate change.

“For African governments facing rising energy demand, declining hydropower output due to drought and pressure to phase out diesel generators, floating solar offers a practical solution,” Obondi said.

Countries have an option to use solar panels during the day, he said, while dams can release water at night or during cloudy weather to ensure sustainable power use.

According to Intersolar’s Solarise Africa Market Report 2023, Africa has more than 100,000 sq km of man-made freshwater reservoirs suitable for floating solar.

Authors of the report said using just one per cent of that could produce 100 gigawatts of electricity, more than

Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa combined currently generate.

“Africa consequently boasts the highest absolute Floating PV energy output potential of any continent, and contains several of the countries with the highest individual FPV power generation potentials worldwide,” the report said.

Ghana announced in mid-September completion of a 5-megawatt (MW) floating solar PV system on the Bui Reservoir, considered to be the first project of its kind in West Africa to have gone live.

“The completion of this project also contributes to delivering on the promise in our National Energy Plan to increase the penetration of renewable energy by 10 per cent by 2030,” the BUI Power Authority said in a statement.

In the Seychelles, French company Qair said in October 2025 it has begun constructing a 5.8MW Seysun Lagoon Floating PV plant on Mahé Island. The project uses lagoon space due to limited size of land in the small island nation.

“With commissioning planned for 2026, the Seysun

“

GEORGE OBONDI

*For African governments facing rising energy demand, declining hydropower output due to drought and pressure to phase out diesel generators, floating solar offers a practical solution*

Lagoon project will play a pivotal role in helping Seychelles achieve its goal of sourcing 15 per cent of national electricity from renewable energy by 2030,” Qair said in a statement.

“While also setting a benchmark for floating solar innovation in the Indian Ocean and Africa.”

Early October, Nigeria broke ground with a 100MW facility, the country’s first large-scale floating solar plant. The plant will be designed, financed and operated by Mainstream Energy Solutions Limited (MESL), the operator of Nigeria’s largest hydropower plants and South Africa’s Granville Energy.

“When fully operational, the project will provide thousands of Nigerian homes and businesses with clean, reliable energy, supporting economic development while minimising environmental impact,” MESL Board chairman Col Sani Bello (rtd) said.

Nigeria’s Rural Electrification Agency managing director Abba Aliyu said the move will promote energy justice in Africa’s most populous country, and one with a high number of people without electricity.

“Nigeria still has the highest number of people without access to electricity, especially in rural communities,” he said.

“Distributed renewable energy remains the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to bridge this gap.”

In Mozambique, state-owned utility firm, Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM) and French renewable energy developer Hydroland have signed a deal to construct the country’s first floating solar power project.

The 100MW plant, located on the Chicamba Reservoir, will be deployed in two phases of 50MW each, feeding into an existing hydropower infrastructure to stabilise supply during droughts.

Mozambique’s Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Carlos Zacarias, told journalists in the country the project marks an important moment in the country’s energy transition.

“This project is a major step forward for Mozambique in its transition towards renewable energy. It will help to diversify our energy mix and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels,” he said.

The project falls under Mozambique’s Energy Transition Strategy, which aims to install at least 1,000MW of solar power by 2030.

Morocco is also piloting floating solar technology, driven partly by the need to save water.

Its first floating plant at the Oued Rmel Dam, with a planned capacity of 13MW, began testing in August.

It will use 22,000 solar panels across 400 floating platforms to supply power to the Tanger Med port complex while reducing evaporation.

Countries such as Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Sudan and South Africa are also exploring similar projects, while investors from Europe, the Middle East and Asia are starting to finance feasibility studies in Africa.

The Solarise Africa report traces the continent’s first ventures into commercial floating solar power in South Africa and Kenya.

Africa’s pioneering floating solar park was commissioned in 2019 on a fruit farm in South Africa, featuring a 60-kilowatt (kW) system designed to power cold storage facilities, irrigation systems and hospitality services.

Two years later, Kenya followed suit with a 69 kW floating photovoltaic (PV) plant, financed through crowdfunding and installed atop a rainwater reservoir.

## BETWEEN THE COVERS

BY NELLY MUCHIRI  
@totorilive

# Belonging at the edge of the map in Pate isle

Search for identity is at the heart of Yvonne Owuor's coastal book *The Dragonfly Sea*

**T**he *Dragonfly Sea* does not ease you in, it sweeps you away. Yvonne Owuor tells a story that moves like the tides, full of questions about identity, belonging and destiny.

Instead of a straight path, it offers a mosaic of moments. Ghosts of the past, erased maps and secrets that echo across time. Each line glimmers like sunlight on water: beautiful, mysterious and unforgettable.

At the centre of this ocean of a novel is Ayaana, a girl born of absence. Her early life is shaped by the long shadow of missing pieces. A father she does not know, a mother (Munira) estranged from her family and reputation and an island that itself seems suspended between memory and erasure.

When a weathered sailor, Muhidin, drifts into her world, Ayaana discovers in him something like a father, though their bond is as complicated and shifting as the sea itself. Yet the author does not let us stay anchored for long. Ayaana's story expands outward, tracing vast arcs

that carry her far from her island home, even as the pull of Pate remains inescapable.

What makes *The Dragonfly Sea* extraordinary is the author's refusal to shrink Ayaana's personal journey from the broader sweep of history. Pate Island is more than a backdrop; it is a crossroads of cultures, faiths, migrations and struggles. The novel delves into Kenya's uneasy relationship with its coastal communities, the scars of colonial encounters and the entangled histories that tie East Africa to the Middle East and Asia.

When Ayaana becomes caught up in the ambitions of nations far larger than her own, the novel poses unsettling questions: What does it mean to be claimed by a history you did not choose? To be turned into a vessel for the narratives of others?

The author writes with the patience of a storyteller who trusts that readers will surrender to the drift. At times, the novel swells with lyrical digressions, looping through memory, myth and rumour.

But this is the magic of the au-

thor's style. She renders the sea not only as setting but also as a way of being, unpredictable and alive, demanding we give up our search for fixed ground. The reward is a narrative that feels both intimate and epic, like overhearing a whispered secret that somehow carries the weight of centuries.

Elsewhere, Ayaana reflects on the

“

When Ayaana becomes caught up in the ambitions of nations far larger than her own, the novel poses unsettling questions: What does it mean to be claimed by a history you did not choose?

fragility of existence in the eyes of the world.

“On the map I've looked at, there was no place marker for Pate Island. No colour brown or green to suggest my own existence in the sea. So I wanted to know about places that could be rendered invisible.”

This is one of the novel's most piercing insights: How whole communities, whole lives, can be written out of official narratives, even as they pulse vibrantly with meaning. Ayaana's longing to understand what it means to come from an 'invisible' place is also a question about identity in a globalised world: What happens when your home cannot be found on the maps that others use to define reality?

The book is not without challenges. Its pacing drifts, sometimes lin-

gering on atmosphere at the expense of forward motion. Some readers may find themselves craving a more traditional arc.

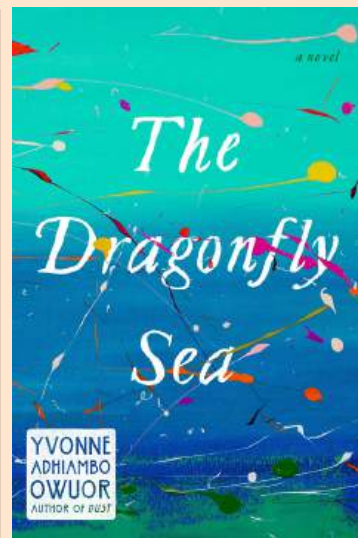
Yet these moments of slow drift are also part of the novel's design. The author's world is one where storms brew beneath still waters, and where the reader must learn to be patient, listening for the undercurrents.

Ultimately, *The Dragonfly Sea* is a work that resists easy classification. It is both a coming-of-age story and a political meditation, both a hymn to the sea and an interrogation of the legacies that haunt coastal Kenya.

It is about the seductions and betrayals of history, the fragility of belonging and the courage it takes to claim one's place in a world that

often insists on rendering you invisible. The author does not hand us answers, she offers instead the music of the sea: beautiful, restless and eternal.

To read this novel is to be reminded that identity is never fixed, that belonging is always negotiated, and that the sea, like history, remembers everything.



Book cover /COURTESY

## COOKING WITH KARZ Where food flirts with your senses

# Mukimo beef stew along with avocado

This is a thick romance for the palate's delight, and then some



Making of mukimo /FILE

DORCAS AOKO  
@Karze\_

**T**his meal isn't shy at all. It's earthy, meaty, smooth and messy, the kind of plate that makes you moan without even realising.

Mukimo isn't just food, it's that strong grip, the one that holds you down and doesn't let go. Every bite sits heavy in your hand, thick and hot, and you can feel its weight before it even touches your lips.

Mukimo is the strong, earthy base, thick and green, mashed with peas

and maize until it's heavy in your hand, warm and firm, ready to soak up anything you press against it.

It's not soft and fragile, no, it's a solid lover, the one that takes in all your heat and holds it close. It waits for the wet, it waits for the hot, it waits for the mess you're about to pour all over it.

Beef stew comes in dripping hot, red and juicy, every chunk meaty, tender and begging to be bitten.

The sauce bubbles and thickens as it cooks, oily, sticky, sliding over your lips as you scoop it, leaving your tongue coated, your chin stained, your fingers dirty and your body burning for more.

You don't just eat it, darling, you wrestle with it, you surrender to it, you lick it off yourself and still crave another bite.

Then avocado slinks in, smooth, creamy, submissive, the softest tease on the plate. You press it just a little and it melts under your fingers, spreading all over the hot mukimo and stew, making every mouthful wetter, messier and so sinfully smooth. It doesn't resist, it just gives in, coating everything with that soft, creamy slide.

Together, it's a filthy threesome:

the thick grip of mukimo, the hot dripping beef, the creamy mess of avocado. Every bite is a moan, every lick a tease and every swallow a promise of another dirty round. This isn't dinner, it's foreplay on a plate — hot, sticky and impossible to stop once you've started.

### TIPS

- Scoop beef and mukimo together, smear avocado over the top, shove it in dirty and hot

- Don't be shy, lick stew off your fingers, let the green mash stick to your lips before you lick it slow

- Keep beef chunky, let the juices drip down your chin while you chew

- Mash avocado right into the stew if you want it extra creamy and filthy

### WARNING

Darling, this plate is dangerous. Once they see you grabbing a handful of thick, hot mukimo, pressing it into dripping beef stew, then smearing it with creamy avocado before licking your lips clean, they won't just want dinner, they'll want you pinned, messy and begging for another bite.

This isn't just food, it's a full-body surrender. And once you taste it, you'll never eat clean again.

**MUKIMO ISN'T JUST FOOD, IT'S THAT STRONG GRIP, THE ONE THAT HOLDS YOU DOWN AND DOESN'T LET GO. YOU CAN FEEL ITS WEIGHT BEFORE IT EVEN TOUCHES YOUR LIPS**

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 large potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 cups maize kernels
- 2 cups pumpkin leaves or spinach chopped
- 1 cup green peas
- Salt to taste
- 500g beef cubes
- 3 onions sliced
- 3 tomatoes chopped
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 thumb ginger grated
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 tsp curry
- Oil for frying
- 1 ripe avocado

### PROCEDURE

1. Boil potatoes, maize and peas until soft, mash them hot with chopped greens until thick, green and heavy. Season with salt, keep it steaming, thick and ready

2. Fry onions in oil until golden, add garlic and ginger, stir until the smell teases you and clings to your skin

3. Throw in beef cubes, let them sizzle and sweat, juices dripping, then add tomatoes, paste and spices, cook until thick, sticky and wet

4. Add water, simmer slow until beef is tender, juicy and swimming in sauce that coats every finger and lip it touches

5. Serve thick green mukimo on the plate, drown it in hot beef stew, then press soft avocado along the side until creamy and messy

*Cooking with Karz is your weekend escape into the kitchen, where recipes are more than instructions, they're little love affairs.*



# Aesthetics of the aftermath of death

*Funerals unfold as communal theatres of orchestrated spectacles, an artistry to behold*

There is artistry to collective grief, a composition in which a community mourns the lost person as the embodiment of its aspirations, its struggles, its shared history.

The village, the soul of societies of Kenya, and indeed Africa, interchange silence and wails in dramatic spectacles to escort the departed with song and dance to the gate of the afterlife, commonly known as the grave.

Then, once the body is interred, the world falls silent. Songs of praise and of protest linger only in memory, as if the air itself has learned to mourn. In the aftermath of death, the land itself seems to pause. This is more pronounced whenever the departed was a leader or considered one by those left behind.

The marketplace, near their gravesite, usually a maelstrom of colour and sound, moves in slow, uneven rhythms. Windows are shuttered. Streets, normally alive with negotiation and laughter, are empty, save for those who wander like ghosts, holding to memories of speeches, gestures and the cadence of a voice that once articulated the collective will. Each object, each place once touched by the leader, becomes charged with meaning.

The chair of the leader, now vacant, becomes more than mere furniture; it rises to become a monument, a vessel of expectation, aspiration and unfulfilled dreams, a work of



Mourners keep coming to this new grave /PIXABAY

art and memory. The pen that once drafted policy and political treaties lies still on the living room window proximity. All these mundane stuff that once traced the life now lost become the very element of this artistic composition of absence.

The aesthetics of mourning in this context are inseparable from ritual. Funerals unfold as communal theatres of orchestrated spectacles, blending the sacred and the political, the personal and the national. The drumming, the ululations, the ceremonial dress, the waving of banners are all forms of artistic expression that translate grief into a language the community can understand.

In these rituals, the void left by

the leader is shaped, made visible, almost tangible. Every gesture, every step, every tear becomes part of a choreography that transforms individual sorrow into collective contemplation.

The philosophical dimension of this communal emptiness is profound. The death of a leader exposes the fragility of social structures and the impermanence of human endeavour.

The office, the policies, the promises all are revealed as ephemeral. In the collective consciousness, absence becomes a lens through which the limits and possibilities of existence are refracted. The void created by a leader's death not only signals an end

but also illuminates the aesthetics of society itself, highlighting the tenuous threads of memory and hope that bind communities together.

Grief, in this context, attains the latitude of an aesthetic discipline. The community learns to inhabit absence, to navigate streets, spaces and places that bear the trace of a life now concluded. Memory becomes an art form. Stories of speeches and decisions, of courage and fallibility, are retold with subtle variation, each retelling a twist in the communal plot of a lost life story.

The sublime in this context emerges from the interplay of absence and presence, silence and performance. You experience it in the grandeur of funerary oratory and in the public intimacy of television and radio recollections. The fallen leader's resting place becomes a site of both reverence and philosophical contemplation, a locus in which life, death and memory converge. This is why mourners, big and small, keep coming, solo or in unison, to this new grave, whose petals of grief wane away with each passing day.

Time itself is transformed in the aftermath of a leader's death. Days are marked by calendars but also by ceremonies, memories and numerous artistic rituals of remembrance.

Scribes can even convene and collect poems into an anthology to mark the deceased. This, for example, is what the famous poet Christopher Okemwa is doing, under the

aegis of Kistretch Poetry Network, in honour of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

Yet even in such structured mourning, unpredictability persists. The echoes of the eloquence of the lost leader debate with the words the world interchange about him after him. The art of the aftermath lies in negotiating these tensions: between absence and presence, despair and continuity, the ephemeral and the enduring.

As a community, it is wise to cultivate a subtle appreciation of impermanence, understanding that leadership itself is a transitory phenomenon, that no single individual can contain the fullness of a nation. It is helpful to understand that, after death has occurred, meaning emerges out of action and the collective act of witnessing, remembering and aesthetically engaging with loss.

The aesthetic and philosophical lessons of mourning a leader resonate beyond the immediate community. They reveal the capacity of human consciousness to translate absence into insight, grief into art, and emptiness into a form of understanding.

The leader, now gone, persists in the rhythms of life: in the songs sung at political orgasms, in the stories told in social media, in the gestures of solidarity that echo from friend and foe at tables of power. Absence becomes generative; loss becomes instructive.

## JIJI NDOGO POLICE POST

# Where art thou, my dear Sophia?

*Misspelt note spells trouble for Makini*

DAVID MUCHAI  
@Davemuchai

For those of you out there who are married, you know how frustrating it can be when you can't find your wife.

And I don't mean like that old man who called the police to say his wife was missing, only for them to find him at the mall and he told them his wife had disappeared into one of the shops. I mean gone, like poof! Disappeared.

My wife Sgt Sophia and I are attending a police conference at the Coast. One minute she was sitting right next to me, the next, she's nowhere to be seen. Here's where it gets a little weird for me.

Most of you would imagine all kinds of scenarios and go directly to panic mode: She was kidnapped or she slipped, fell and hurt herself.

I think that, too, but something you might not know about Sophia is that she is a serial flirt. It doesn't go

anywhere (so far) because I think she does it just to get on my nerves.

So, here she is missing, and one of the scenarios in my head is that she's gone away with some guy, most likely a hunk in uniform. Mombasa is supposed to be the Paris of Kenya, after all. The city of love.

Then I remember something. Sophia arrived at Jiji Ndogo as part of a witness protection programme because she exposed some bad cops. And now, we are in the midst of cops from all over the country. Some of those bad apples might be right here in Mombasa.

Now I'm shaking in my boots. But first, I go back to our hotel room to make sure she's not there "flirting"

**SOPHIA IS A SERIAL FLIRT. IT DOESN'T GO ANYWHERE (SO FAR) BECAUSE I THINK SHE DOES IT JUST TO GET ON MY NERVES**

with some handsome superintendent. She's not there. What I find is a note:

*Dear Makini,  
Our man marriage is staling because you crossed words with another woman. I see us stuck between ending up dead or worse.*

*So, I have decided to leave fore ever. Don't look for me.*  
Sophie.

I show the note to her father, Inspector Tembo, who also happens to be our boss.

"Oh my God!" he cries. "You finally managed to drive my daughter



writing. She did write the note."

"Have you had a bit too much to drink, son? You're not making sense at all."

"She misspelled those words on purpose. She knew I'd know it when I saw the note."

"You're saying she knows you that well? I've been married for over 30 years and my wife can't tell you my favourite soda."

Tembo nods. "She does know

him well. She once told me he owns only two moods: hungry and sleepy."

"I see," says the Inspector. "That means someone made her write the note. First, we get a roll call of all conference attendees. Even if everyone is accounted for, everyone is a suspect. In the meantime, Makini, look for any other clues that might lead us to the perps."

"Yes, sir," I say more enthusiastically than I should be. Investigations always raise the hairs on my nape.

The first thing I find is her lipstick between the bedsheets. It's a clue, I just have to find out how.

away. Couldn't you be a better husband?"

"Sir," I say, fighting not to get mad, "you don't understand. It's not like her to do this."

"Why, because she loves you too much to leave you?"

"No, sir, the note. She's a stickler for proper language. No way she would spell 'fair' as 'fare', or write 'fore ever'."

By now, we've attracted the attention of other inspectors.

One of them asks, "So, you're saying someone else wrote this note?"

"No," I say. "I recognise her hand-

## SOCIETY TALK

BY NABILA HATIMY  
@realobserver

# Walk away or suffer in silence

*Some wives complain about violence only to return to the man beating them*

The internet has provided people with an instant learning and sharing platform. We can share news and views freely as regular mortals because it is not only celebrities who have access to transmission mediums like it was in the golden age of television.

Moreover, we can do it in real-time instead of weekly, like the forgotten days of magazines and tabloids. Now regular folks can share their experiences, expertise or even problems through the digital sphere.

I get all my mum tips on TikTok, my recipes on YouTube and my political news on X. As such, I often come across issues of the week or ‘trends’ being discussed by multiple people who give their individual perspectives. For the most part, the internet has been a Godsend to us, but its downsides are more problematic than we care to admit.

At first, people would share questions, queries or problems with random strangers on the internet, and for the most part, they would receive good advice from people. Over time, social media platforms became weapons of destruction, where people would go on a rant about the awful customer service of certain places to warn future customers. But these opinions that were once used to warn have been turned into a cancel culture trick.

There is also the curse of fame. Just like the curse of reality TV and how it ruined people’s lives after getting so much exposure, the people of social media run on a high that is fuelled by ‘going viral’. At some point, they stopped caring if whatever made them an overnight sensation was positive or negative. People would post videos sharing parts of their lives that would cause a stir from the audience, gaining them views.



A woman cringes away from a man clenching a fist /PIXABAY

Recently, there has been a growing trend on social media where women come to vent about their problematic marriages or bad husbands. They vent so much that they seem to be looking for a way out or helpful advice. When the viewers offer such advice on the comment section, the poster would turn around and say how wonderful their partner actually is.

Over time, the consensus amongst the audiences has shifted to, “Don’t tell us about your problems if you

are unwilling to do anything about it.” It was clear that these women were sharing these aspects of their lives as clickbait and to rile up the audience, only for them to turn it around and defend the wrongdoer they had been complaining about.

It reminded me of the awkward social position one is placed under when a friend confides terrible (bordering on criminal) treatment from their partners and expects you to hold their hand and coddle them but never allow you to say “leave!” I re-

alise that friends — better yet, good friends — are there to ease your emotional burden. At some point, by unburdening ourselves to others, we in turn burden them with heavy problems, where they can’t freely share solutions or their personal opinions. If this is the case, everyone should get a therapist to go vent instead of being a burden to others.

I have made that mistake once, too. A friend came to me at random, after many years of having little contact, asking for a good place to confide in. Having faced domestic violence in a faraway country, she felt alone and I helped by providing a safe space to talk.

However, it bothers my spirit to see this person returning to the same partner who put her in the emergency room. Yet when we speak, we do not mention these facts. We talk about her family like I am not burdened with the thoughts of her being harmed at any given time.

There are people who have been physically taken away from their situations only for them to walk straight back into them, willingly! I’m sorry to sound insensitive but if one is facing serious criminal activities from their partner and is unwilling to do anything about it, please do not bother the rest of us with your problems. Suffer in silence, sister.

## ★ SASALIVING

G-SPOT BY MWANGI G

@MwangiGithahu



# My sartorial scheme to avoid airport striptease

*Drawstrings and espadrilles safeguard my dignity and feet*



On a recent flying visit for my coastal hideaway, I had a last-minute clever scheme to avoid the undignified semi-strip tease passengers are made to go through before entering the departure lounge.

Removing my belt to put it through the scanner was a no-no. My trousers could fall to my knees and expose my underwear like a 1990s hip hop fashion victim. So I travelled in shorts that had a draw-

string instead of a belt. This ruse was successful on the whole. However, before I repeat the exercise, I will have to be sure I don’t arrive in the middle of a downpour.

Instead of lace-up shoes, I plumped for espadrilles. This move was only partially successful. I still had to take them off and risk infection by walking barefoot through a very busy segment of the airport. So perhaps flip flops or sandals next time.

On the plus side, I didn’t have to bend down, strain my back before belatedly remembering that to tie my shoelaces at my big age, I should crouch, not bend.

Dressed as I was, the flight attendant on my flight must have thought I was mutton posing as lamb. That’s the only reason I can think of for her making a point of asking me if my belt was fastened and smirking as she handed me my complimentary water.

The whole shoe-removal ritual at airports can be traced back to one particularly disastrous fashion choice made on December 22, 2001.

That was the day Richard Reid, a British extremist with more enthusiasm than skill, boarded an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami with homemade explosives stuffed into his shoes.

He tried to set them off mid-flight, but thankfully, he proved to be as bad at lighting fuses as he was at life choices. Alert passengers and crew quickly overpowered him, and the plane was diverted to Boston, where police took him into custody.

Reid later admitted he’d made the bombs himself and was sentenced to life in prison. His shoes contained around 10 ounces of explosives, enough to blow a hole in the plane’s fuselage and ruin everyone’s holiday plans.

Thanks to Reid’s ill-fated attempt, taking off our shoes and belts at airport security has become standard practice, just in case anyone else gets a bright idea about hiding danger in their footwear or fancy buckles.

Belts have to come off because, apparently, airport metal detectors can’t tell the difference between a harmless buckle and a deadly weapon. Some belts even come with enough metal to set off alarms faster than you can say “security check”.

Also, since a few imaginative souls once thought belts made excellent hiding spots for contraband, we all now get to enjoy the collec-

tive fun of waddling through security holding up our trousers.

These security measures mean that when going to JKIA, you don’t just arrive, you disembark for a full-blown security performance before you even reach the terminal. Everyone has to get out of the car at the gate for a check that feels unnecessarily more thorough than anything I have ever experienced at OR Tambo or Cape Town International. But I suppose we are “special”.

This step does not seem to happen at Wilson Airport. Apparently, it is all part of JKIA’s multi-layered security system, officially “regulations” but unofficially a chance for you to stretch your legs and practise looking innocent while your luggage gets a more detailed inspection than a tax audit.

That said, it would appear that recently, major airports in the United States decided that making travellers shuffle barefoot through security might not be the height of dignity after all.

Thanks to a new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) policy, most passengers can now keep their shoes on during standard screening. Of course, if your footwear sets off the alarm, perhaps due to excessive style or suspiciously chunky soles, you’ll still be asked to remove them for a closer look.

It’s all part of the TSA’s grand plan to “modernise security” and “improve the passenger experience”, which, in plain English, means slightly fewer people hopping around trying to untie their sneakers while balancing their dignity and hand luggage.

Will travellers in Kenya soon be accorded the same grace? Somehow, I doubt it.

TONY MBALLA **FITFINITY**

@TonyMballa

**SASAFITNESS** ★

# Night of celebration in Nairobi turns into nightmare for couple

*Pair of drunks spoil the party after assaulting a fan in front of lover*



Football fans celebrate after a match  
/AI ILLUSTRATION

The Nyayo Stadium air was electric. Jerry's heart pounded not just from the adrenaline of the game but also from the anticipation of sharing it with Milka, his girlfriend.

A devoted Gor Mahia supporter for as long as he could remember, Jerry had been looking forward to this Kenyan Premier League clash against Posta Rangers all week.

"Milka, you're going to love this atmosphere," Jerry said, a grin spreading across his face as they entered the stands. "Nothing beats the roar of the K'Ogalo faithful when we score."

Milka laughed, clutching his arm. "I've never been to a match before. I hope I can keep up with your energy."

The match began, and it was Gor Mahia asserting their dominance. Within the first half, the team's relentless attacks paid off.

Jerry jumped to his feet, singing and waving his scarf. By the time the final whistle blew, Gor Mahia had beaten Posta Rangers 3-1, and the stadium erupted in jubilant chaos.

"Three-one! Can you believe it, Milka?" Jerry shouted, hugging her

tightly as fans around them sang and danced.

Milka's eyes sparkled. "This is incredible! I can see why you love this so much."

But the celebrations didn't end at Nyayo Stadium. Jerry and Milka joined the crowd as they spilled onto the streets, chanting, singing and dancing their way through the heart of Nairobi.

The city seemed alive with the fans' energy, the rhythm of drums and the echoing voices of K'Ogalo loyalists.

It was somewhere along Moi Avenue that trouble found them. Two rowdy men, clearly drunk and mis-

chievous, noticed Milka and decided to make their presence known. One of them sidled up to her, his words coated with false charm. "Wow, you are stunning," he said, smirking. "Where did a beauty like you come from?" Milka tried to laugh it off, stepping closer to Jerry. "Thanks... but I'm with him," she said, indicating Jerry. Jerry's jaw tightened, the warmth of celebration giving way to a cold pang of jealousy. "Hey! Back off. Don't even think about it," he barked, stepping in front of her. The men laughed, unimpressed. "Relax, young man. We're just complimenting her. No harm meant," one of them said, though his eyes betrayed their intent. But Jerry wasn't having it. "I said back off! She's with me!" His voice rang out over the music and the cheering crowd. The situation escalated faster than Jerry could anticipate. The men lunged, and in a blur of fists and chaos, Jerry found himself on the ground, the sting of their blows burning his face and ribs. Milka screamed, trying to shield

him, but the men were relentless, continuing to harass her even as Jerry struggled.

"Stop! Leave us alone!" Milka shouted, tears welling in her eyes as the crowd watched in a mixture of shock and passive encouragement.

Finally, security intervened, pulling the rowdy men away as Jerry groaned, nursing his injuries. Milka knelt beside him, worry etched across her face.

"Jerry... are you okay?" she asked, her voice trembling.

Jerry shook his head, wincing. "I'm fine. But this can't happen again. I won't let anyone humiliate me like this. I... I need to get stronger."

The incident left a bitter taste in his mouth, but it also ignited a determination that would not fade.

"I'm going to the gym," Jerry said firmly, staring into the distance as Milka squeezed his hand. "I'll never be caught off guard again."

They slowly continued their journey through Nairobi, passing the NCBD roundabout where the crowds were thinning but the echoes of celebration still lingered.

The smell of street food mixed with the faint scent of smoke from

torches and flares. People were still dancing, some carrying team flags, others chanting the players' names.

"It's amazing," Milka said, her hand resting on Jerry's arm. "Even after everything, the energy here... it's unreal."

Jerry smiled faintly, wincing as he shifted. "Yeah, it's beautiful, but today taught me something important. Passion is one thing, but you've got to protect what's yours, too."

As they made their way to Donholm, the streets narrowed and the city's nightlife began to seep into their path. Streetlights flickered above, casting long shadows that danced alongside them as if echoing the lingering thrill of the match.

Vendors called out their last offers of roasted maize and roasted meat, blending with the fading chants of fans still celebrating victories won on the pitch.

"Let's take it slow," Milka said, sensing Jerry's lingering pain. "We'll get home safe."

Jerry nodded, his thoughts already turning to his plan. "I'm serious, Milka. From tomorrow, I hit the gym. Not just for me, but for you, for us. No one will dare challenge me again."

Milka laughed softly, though worry still lingered in her eyes. "Just promise me you'll be careful. Strength isn't everything, Jerry."

He pulled her close, resting his forehead against hers. "I know. But sometimes, it's the only way to stand tall when the world gets too loud."

By the time they reached their neighbourhood in Donholm, the city had mostly settled back into its rhythm, the echoes of celebration fading into a distant hum. Yet the fire of the day remained alive in Jerry's heart: the joy, the pride and the confrontation.

That night, as he lay in bed, Jerry thought of the match, the crowd and the incident with the two men. He could still hear the cheers, still feel Milka's warmth beside him. And somewhere deep inside, a resolve had solidified.

Determined, he vowed to join the nearby gym. To train, grow stronger and ensure that fear and helplessness would never touch him again.

Milka, sensing his determination, whispered, "I'll be by your side, Jerry. Through every match, every street, every challenge."

Jerry smiled, finally feeling a sense of calm amidst the storm of emotions. "And I'll make sure we walk these streets together, safe, proud and unstoppable."

In the heart of Nairobi, where football was religion and pride was a second skin, Jerry and Milka walked home, a couple bound not just by love but also by the fire of resilience, ready for whatever the city would throw at them next.



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## SANNEX AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEERS, BAILIFFS AND COMMISSION AGENTS  
WASON HOUSE (OPP NGARA POST OFFICE), NGARA, P.O. BOX 53579 00200 CITY SQUARE, NAIROBI,  
TEL: 3750348/3750647, FAX: 3750044, WIRELESS: 020 2673706, DIRECTOR: 0722 748618

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principals the landlords under the Auctioneer's Act Laws of Kenya and under uncollected goods act, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned goods.

**ON SATURDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER, 2025 STARTING AT 10.30 AM AT PANGANI AUCTION CENTRE, KIAMBU ROAD, BEHIND RUNDA MALL AND TRUCE LOUNGE NEXT TO BAPTIST CHURCH NAIROBI.**

**THE LANDLORD V/S MAUREEN WANJIRU** – Coat hanger, 2 Stools, 4 Curtains, Assorted kitchen utensils, 2 Flower vases, Electric jug, 3 Travel bags, Wall hangings, Emergency light, Floor carpet, Sofaset, Dispenser, Coffee table, TV Stand, Hisense Colour TV Set, Junk TV set, Woofer system, Meko cylinder, Samsung fridge, Microwave, Bed frame + Mattress, Side drawer,  
**GEOFFREY MAINA MWANGI** –Two piece sofaset, Floor mart, Meko cylinder, Fridge, Shoe rack.

**CONDITIONS OF SALE.**

All interested bidders must pay a refundable deposit of Ksh 10,000 before the auction so as to obtain a bidding number.

**CASH AT THE FALL OF THE HAMMER ALL ARE WELCOME.**

## WISDOM AUCTIONEERS

"Class B"  
AUCTIONEERS, REPOSSESSORS, DEBT COLLECTORS, COURT BROKERS & COMMISSION AGENTS

Lonak Business Centre, 1st Floor Rm A6b Kasarani along Mwiki Rd  
P.O. Box 34139 - 00100 GPO Mobile 0722744602/0790338345  
Email: wisdomauctioneers@gmail.com/wisdomquality2@gmail.com

### PUBLIC AUCTION

1. Pursuant to the Distress for Rent Act (Cap 293) and upon instructions received from our client, we shall sell the under-mentioned goods by a Public Auction on **5th November 2025, at Foresight Motors Yard - Kamakis along By pass at 10.00 a.m.**

**IN THE MATTER OF DISTRESS FOR RENT LANDLORD -VS- MERCY KAVUTHA MUTHUI**  
Hisense washing machine 12kg, Mika Fridge, Nunix Dispenser Machine, Home Theatre Speakers.

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**

1. Pay a refundable sum of Ksh 5,000.00 to get a bidding number.
2. Cash/Banks Cheque at the fall of the hammer.
3. Sale subject to a reasonable Reserved price.

## MORAN AUCTIONEERS

COURT BAILIFFS, COURT BROKERS, CIVIL INVESTIGATIONS, PROCESS SERVERS & DEBT COLLECTION

Kida Plaza, 6th Floor, Moi Avenue - P.O.Box 799-00100, Nairobi - Tel: 0722569022 - Email: moranauction@yahoo.com

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Under the Instructions received from our Principals, we shall sell the under mentioned goods by Public Auction to be held on **Saturday 8th November, 2025 at Pangani Auction Centre along Kiambu Road behind Runda Mall starting 10.00am.**

**SCCOMM NO. E162 OF 2025 KAJIADO. PLAINTIFF -VS- PETER KIMANA GICHARU**  
Motor Vehicle Reg No. KCU 240W HONDA FIT.

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**  
Cash at the fall of the hammer.

## MAMUKA AUCTIONEER

Auctioneer, Debt collection, private investigation and process service

FORMER KENINDIA HOUSE ROAD A OFF ENTERPRISE RD P.O.BOX. 70117-00400 NAIROBI

MOBILE: 0726969549/0736866808  
EMAIL: osundwamaurice@gmail.com  
mamukauctioneer@gmail.com

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our principals we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicle by public auction

**ON SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT 11 AM AT OUR OFFICES AT KENINDIA HOUSE BLOCK 14 ROAD A OFF ENTERPRISE ROAD.**

REG.NO	MAKE	Y.O.M	VEWING
KBS 004G	STATION WAGON	2005	ACK IMANI SACCO NAIVASHA BRANCH.

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**

1. All interested buyers are requested to verify the details for themselves.
2. The auctioneer has the right to reject the bid without giving any reason.
3. Cash at the fall of the hammer.
4. Sale is subject to reserve price.

## High Commission of India Nairobi

### JOB VACANCY

The High Commission of India, Nairobi, is recruiting a **Gardener**. More details are posted on the Mission's website at [https://hcinairobi.gov.in/eoinrb\\_list/Mg](https://hcinairobi.gov.in/eoinrb_list/Mg). Please apply only by email to [gaaso31@gmail.com](mailto:gaaso31@gmail.com) by **14th November 2025**.

## CHARLTON AUCTIONEERS

Tel: 0723276390/0775170680  
Allimex plaza, 3rd floor suite 301 off Mombasa road  
P.O. Box 22091-00100,  
Nairobi Kenya

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principals the chargee in the exercise of their statutory power, we shall sell by Public Auction the under-mentioned prime property on **THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT OUR OFFICE LOCATED AT ALLIMEX PLAZA, 3RD FLOOR ROOM 301 AT 10:30AM.**

1. All the parcel of land known as **Mwerua/Kithumbu/5184** registered in the name of **DANIEL NDEGWA KANGARA OF P.O BOX 00-0000 Kerugoya**. The property is approximately 0.35ha in size. It is located within Thiya area, Ndia sub-county, Kirinyaga county. Approach to the property from the Nairobi-Nyeri highway via Sagana-Kutus road, for about 4.6 kilometers branching leftwards for about 1.6 kilometers to the subject property.

**TERMS OF SALE**

1. All interested parties are requested to view the property during normal working hours with prior arrangement with ourselves to verify the details for themselves as these are not warranted by the auctioneer or the chargee.
2. A deposit of 25% must be paid by banker cheque or cash at the fall of the hammer and the balance is to be paid at the period of 30 days from the date of the auction to the charges
3. A refundable deposit of Kshs. 100,000.00 in the form of cash or banker cheque in the name of Charlton auctioneers will be required for one to obtain a bidding number
4. Further details and conditions of sale may be obtained at our office

Email: [info@charltonauctioneers.com](mailto:info@charltonauctioneers.com)

## CHARLTON AUCTIONEERS

Tel: 0723276390/0775170680  
Allimex plaza, 3rd floor suite 301 off Mombasa road  
P.O. Box 22091-00100,  
Nairobi Kenya

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principals the financiers, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned motor vehicles on **THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2025 at our offices at Allimex Plaza, 3rd floor suite 301 off Mombasa Road.**

REG NO	MAKE	YOM	CC	Fuel	Yard
KAT 812U	Tata Telcoline	2005	3153	Diesel	Bungoma Safe Keepers Yard
KAN 436G	Nissan Caravan VRMGE24	1992	2663	Diesel	Bungoma Safe Keepers Yard
KBU 526R	Isuzu FVR23M	2010	9839	Diesel	Nyaluoyo-Kisumu
KDC 440B	Mitsubishi Fuso Canter FBA50B	2013	2990	Diesel	Riverlong
KBD 072G	Toyota Corona Premio AT211	1996	1762	Petrol	Joyland-Eldoret
KAW 443E	Toyota Hiace LH113V	1998	2727	Diesel	Legacy Connections-Nakuru
KDQ 486T	Nissan Note HE12	2017	1198	Petrol	Riverlong
KAY 830H	Toyota Harrier SXU10W	2000	2163	Petrol	Legacy Connections-Nakuru
KCL 281V	Toyota Probox NCP55V	2011	1496	Petrol	Startruck- Meru
KBH 544L	Toyota Ipmu ACM21W	2002	2362	Petrol	Legacy Connections-Nakuru
KDK 598C	Volkswagen Polo	2015	1190	Petrol	Startruck- Nyeri
KBN 703B	Toyota Premio NZT240	2003	1496	Petrol	Riverlong
KDH 033T	Honda Vezel RU3	2015	1490	Petrol	Riverlong
KBF 719W	Toyota Corolla AE110	2001	1496	Petrol	Riverlong
KCA 510M	Suzuki Every DA64V	2007	650	Petrol	Riverlong
KAS 122T	Isuzu NPR66PU	2004	4334	Diesel	Riverlong
KBY 4665	Toyota Belta KSP92	2007	996	Petrol	Joyland-Eldoret
KBF 995N	Nissan Caravan VWGE24	2001	3253	Diesel	Riverlong
KCW 896P	Mazda Demio DE3FS	2012	1348	Petrol	Riverlong
KBU 813F	TOYOTA SUCEED	2005	1496	Petrol	Nyaluoyo-Kisumu
KAR 553J	Toyota Corolla AE110	1996	1498	Petrol	Startruck- Nyahururu
KBN 712M	Toyota Harrier ACU30W	2004	2362	Petrol	Riverlong
KAY 220A	Toyota Hilux LAN25R	2006	2986	Diesel	Cismara-Narok
KCH 534R	Nissan Advan VY12	2008	1498	Petrol	Riverlong
KBM 368W	Mercedes Benz E200	2004	1796	Petrol	Legacy Connections-Nakuru
KCX 645G	Toyota Probox NCP50V	2012	1496	Petrol	Naivasha Auto Storage
KBA 129P	Mitsubishi Galant EA7A	2000	1990	Petrol	Riverlong
KBG 453F	Toyota Voxy AZR60G	2002	1990	Petrol	Bungoma Safe Keepers Yard
KBD 546K	Toyota Corolla EE103V	2001	1496	Petrol	Mt.kenya Meru
KCZ 147M	Toyota Land Cruiser URJ202W	2014	4608	Petrol	Riverlong
KCK 849Z	Mitsubishi ASX GA2W	2016	1998	Petrol	Riverlong
KDD 760C	TOYOTA BB	2014	1495	Petrol	Legacy Connections-Nakuru
KCP 970W	Mercedes Benz B180	2010	1699	Petrol	moco-Kisii
KCG 886K	RANGEROVER EVOQUE	2015	2000	Petrol	Riverlong
KBY 388E	TOYOTA LAND CRUISER V8	2008	4660	Petrol	Riverlong
KDC 848L	TOYOTA MARK X	2013	2490	Petrol	Riverlong
KCG 943K	ISUZU FSR	2015	8226	Diesel	Riverlong
KDB 089C	TOYOTA RUSH	2013	1490	Petrol	Riverlong

**TERMS OF SALE**

1. Cash at the fall of the hammer.
2. The sale is subject to a reserve price.
3. Vehicles are sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".

Offers should be submitted on <https://autobid.riverlong.com> not later than **Thursday 6th November 2025**. For any assistant, please contact **0701689319** or **0701856557** alternatively send an email to [autobid@riverlong.com](mailto:autobid@riverlong.com)

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

Email: [info@charltonauctioneers.com](mailto:info@charltonauctioneers.com)

## BUSINESS

**CONSULTANT** Are you in need of consultancy services? We assist students in preparation of term papers, proposal writing, CVs etc. For more details call 0783007229/0721654622 or email: [escatmi2020@gmail.com](mailto:escatmi2020@gmail.com)

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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)**  
**NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED EXTENSION OF LEASE**

The registered owner of **LR No. NAIROBI/BLOCK 218/231** located off Spring Valley Road in Spring Valley proposes to **Extend the Lease on the property**, subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc. with comments and or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to:  
**The County Executive Committee Member Urban Development and Planning Nairobi City County P.O. Box 30075-00100 Nairobi**



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## Vibrant Auctioneers

AUCTIONEERS, INVESTIGATORS, OFFICIAL COURT BROKERS AND BAILIFFS. REF; AUCTIONEERS ACT (NO: 5 OF 1996) LAWS OF KENYA.

**OFFICE ADDRESS**  
Office: Nurick Business Centre, 1st floor, Room 76, Kitengela, off Namanga road.  
Po box. 300195-00100, GPO, Nairobi  
Tel: 0721272260, 0720935948, Email: [vibrantauctioneers@gmail.com](mailto:vibrantauctioneers@gmail.com)

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principal we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicle on **SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025, 10.00 A.M. at our offices NURICK BUSINESS CENTRE.**

REG. NO	MAKE	YARD
KDC 334C	NISSAN AD	VALUERS YARD
KBB 630G	ISUZU D MAX	VALUERS YARD
KCK 907S	TOYOTA VITZ	VALUERS YARD
KBM 176V	MITSUBISHI	VALUERS YARD
KCU 634G	NISSAN MARCH	INTEGRA STORAGE YARD
KDC263F	DAIHATSU MIRA 2014	TOP RIDES YARD

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**

1. Viewing to be done at the YARD to verify details as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer or our client.
2. Vehicles are sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".
3. Cash at the fall of hammer.

## MIKAEL AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Repossessors, Court Brokers & Commission Agent

Muthaiga Suites, 3rd Floor Suite No. 21 Opposite Muthaiga Police Station Tel: 0739685517 / 0722288381/0722657881 P.O. Box 598-00100 Nairobi Email: [mikaelauctioneers@gmail.com](mailto:mikaelauctioneers@gmail.com)

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals the financier, under the matter of repossession, acting upon statutory powers of sale conferred upon them, we shall sell by public auction the following motor vehicle.

**1. On 7th November 2025 at 10:30 am** at our above mentioned offices.

NO	REG. NO	TYPE OF M/V	STORAGE YARD
1	KBS 887Q	Nissan Murano	DIPHINE STORAGE YARD

**TERMS**

1. Viewing to be done at the storage yard to verify the details as these are not warranted by the Auctioneers or our principals.
2. Sale is **AS-IS-WHERE-IS-BASIS** and subject to reserve price.
3. Payment is via banker's cheque or RTGS before close of business.

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**JOBS** apply land sales agent's marketers, NKR,Gilgil area REG fee MUST SMS only for details 0722703706

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**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**IN THE PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES COURT AT VIHIGA**  
**SUCCESSION CAUSE NO. 134 OF 2023**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL OBUATIATA NDENGU (DECEASED)**  
**AND**  
**PHELISTUS MINYOSO ESOLIO.....PETITIONER**  
**=VS=**  
**OSOME KEVIN ..... BENEFICIARY**

**TO;**  
**OSOME KEVIN**  
**P.O BOX 249**  
**LUANDA**

**HEARING NOTICE**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the application dated **24/07/2025** is coming up for hearing on the **14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025**, at 9.00 O' clock in the forenoon or soon thereafter.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that if no appearance is made by yourself, your Advocates or someone duly authorized by law to act for you, the same shall be heard and orders issued as the leave of the court deems fit your absence notwithstanding.

Dated at Bungoma this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.

**M/S WERE & CO.**  
**ADVOCATES FOR THE PETITIONER**

**DRAWN & FILED BY**  
**M/S WERE & CO. ADVOCATES**  
**P.O BOX 1809**  
**BUNGOMA**

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT AT NAIROBI**  
**CASE NO E 1482 OF 2025**  
**IN THE MATTER OF CHILREN ACT (NO29 OF2022)**  
**IN THE MATTER OF CELINE WANGARI (MINOR)**

**TERESAH NJERI MUCHOBA.....PLAINTIFF**  
**VERSUS**  
**EVANS NJOROGI NJUGUNA.....DEFENDANT**

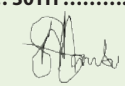
**MENTION NOTICE**

**EVANS NJOROGI NJUGUNA**  
**NAIROBI**

**TAKE NOTICE** that this matter has fixed for a Mention on the **06<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025** at **9.00A.M** or soon thereafter, before **Hon. ANDREW GITHINJI MUNENE[PM]** for the purpose of confirming compliance with the court's directive regarding public notification through the newspaper advertisement.

**FURTHER NOTE** that the advocate to the plaintiff is hereby directed to cause an advertisement to be published in newspaper in accordance with the courts order dated 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025.

**Dated at Nairobi this..... 30<sup>th</sup> ..... day of .....OCTOBER 2025**

  
**WANJIRU KANYI LAW**  
**ADVOCATES FOR THE PLAINTIFF**

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS, NYALI & MVITA SUB-COUNTY, MOMBASA COUNTY.**

**RE: INVITATION FOR A ESIA PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF AN OPTIC FIBRE CABLE (OFC) FROM MOMBASA TELEPHONE HOUSE (MOMBASA TH) TO NYALI CABLE LANDING STATION (TKL-CLS) AND ICOLO MBA 2 VIA NYALI CREEK (ENGLISH POINT) IN MOMBASA, MOMBASA COUNTY, KENYA.**

**Teleport Communications Limited (Yafibr) proposes to install a fibre optic cable linking Mombasa Town to the Nyali Cable Landing Station, and ICOLO MBA 2 including a submarine section beneath Nyali Creek.**

Members of the public and stakeholders are hereby invited for a public barazas in accordance with Environmental (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2003 (Amended 2019) to be held as follows;

- Tuesday 14th November 2025, at Mkomani Assistant Chief's office from 10:00AM-1.00PM**
- Tuesday 14th November 2025, at Tononoka Chiefs' office from 2:00 PM- 4.00PM**
- Beach Management units and fishermen Association - 15th November 2025.**

For further information, please contact: Environtech Consultants Africa Ltd:  
Email: [info@environtechafrica.com](mailto:info@environtechafrica.com)  
Tel: +254 734 146060

## THE ENERGY ACT, 2019

### GridX Africa Development Limited

#### APPLICATION FOR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION LICENCE


**NOTICE** is hereby given that **GridX Africa Development Limited**, a limited liability Company having its registered office at **ICEA Building, Riverside Park, Waiyaki Way, Westlands, P.O Box, 67802-00200** in the Republic of Kenya, ("the Applicant"), pursuant to the provisions Energy Act, 2019, will on **7<sup>th</sup> November 2025** make an application to the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority for the Electric Power **Generation Licence.**


GridX Africa Development Limited is developing, designing, financing, and installing a 1522kWp grid-tied, roof-mounted solar PV system at Abyssinia Iron and Steel Limited, Athi River ("Abyssinia"), Machakos County with GPS Location; -1.4368682162255642, 36.97925. The power generated will be used for their own consumption only. The system will reduce Abyssinia's energy costs and carbon emissions. The grant of the license will not have an adverse effect on any Public or Local Authorities, Companies, persons, or bodies of persons within the areas of the undertaking.

A copy of the application (subject to confidentiality considerations) will be available (once lodged) for inspection by the public at the registered office of the applicant.

Any public or local authority, company, person or body of persons desirous of making any representation on or objection to the application must do so by a letter addressed to the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority and marked on the outside of the cover enclosing it "Energy Act", on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days from the date of application and a copy of such representation or objection must be forwarded to the registered office of the applicant.

Dated: **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.**

**GridX Africa Development Limited,**  
**Project Execution,**  
  
**Patricia Nyadhi**




# CLASSIFIEDS

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Voucher fee 2,500/= + VAT



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### PAYMENT TERMS

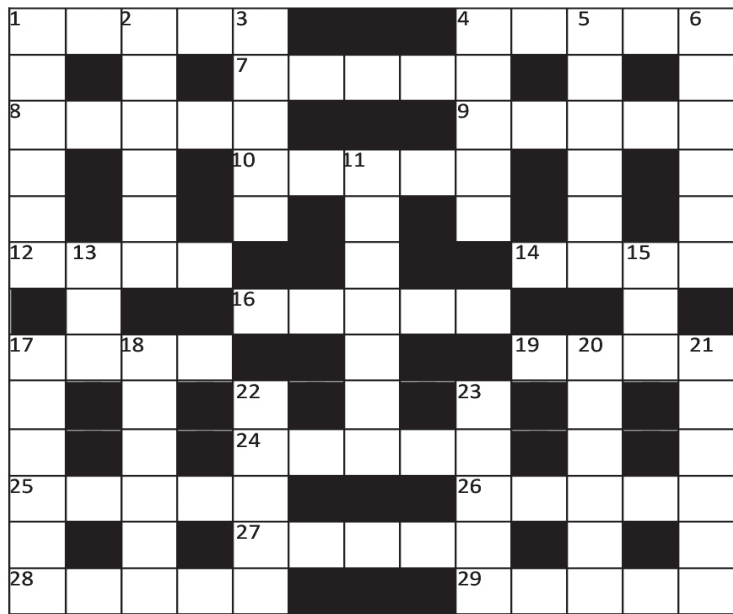
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**PAYMENTS STRICTLY VIA MPESA PAYBILL NUMBER 793601**

# COFFEE BREAK

## CROSSWORD / PUZZLE



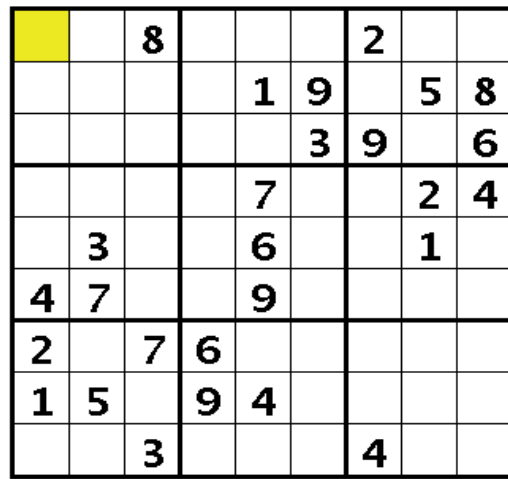
### DOWN

1. To include an external document, a file, or an executable program with an email message (6)
2. Foremost newspaper in Russia (6)
3. Which race did the Nazis claim were the ancestors of the Germans (5)
4. Constituency in West Pokot County (5)
5. French word for tomato (6)
6. Currency is used in Norway (6)
11. Constituency in Tharaka-Nithi County (7)
13. First name of the Garfunkel half of the pop duo, Simon and Garfunkel (3)
15. Which high level computer language derives its name from that of an assistant to Charles Babbage (3)
17. To gain entry to memory in order to read or write data (6)
18. Constituency in Nyeri County (6)
20. Constituency in Bungoma County (6)
21. Constituency in Homa Bay County (6)
22. Premature ending of a program because of a program error or system failure (5)
23. What is the capital of Vietnam (5)

### ACROSS

1. Pertaining to pixel's opacity (5)
4. Constituency in Bomet County (5)
7. Constituency in Kilifi County (5)
8. Constituency in Baringo County (5)
9. French based patois spoken by Creoles in Louisiana (5)
10. The pet dog belonging TVs The Jet sons (5)
12. Cold sea fog which appears on the east coast of England and Scotland (4)
14. In Stock Market terminology, what kind of an investor drives down the value of shares (4)
16. Constituency in Uasin Gishu County (5)
17. A web content and Meta data syndication form at based on XML and describes feeds (4)
19. The sea Dayan people of Kalimantan and Sarawak (4)
24. Title of a boss or master in East Africa (5)
25. On which island of Vanuatu is the capital of Vila (5)
26. Constituency in Mombasa county (5)
27. Constituency in Nakuru County (5)
28. Injury is caused by a very hot liquid, or by steam (5)
29. Constituency in Garissa County (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.

<p>E V N O W H E R E M A N I N E E D Y O U E E L O V E M E D O C T O R R O B E R T W O T R E T L E K S R E T L E H S R I E H W H R E H E V O L I D N A Y U B F A B A I I S O D Y S P E N N Y L A N E M L L T L S M N G O T A H E L P C S E E U O I G D B O A W M E P T H I E N L I E V M G O H O N D R O W E H T B I F G J E S O C E O Y O N N T R R G T A I G A Y O L O E S N O I U O D H B H R N A Y O T D M L G O E E T O O R E A D E M W U I E E F Y N N Y U U Y C I N C M L A T R N T F T O I R P L L S C V O K I Y O E S O U S I D V E I B O E A E O W E E D L G R E N G X O S E U V V R M N R C E U E T J O P I T L O M O E O Y R I E M T Y A S A N D D Y L G Y R L K C O T B H O M S R M Y M O M A I R N E C A F E E V R A E B T I T E L M R O K H O R R R A E L S E I G I P L I L F E S R S Y S H G O O D N I G H T A</p>	<p>ALL MY LOVING AND I LOVE HER BECAUSE BLUE JAY WAY COME TOGETHER DIG IT DOCTOR ROBERT DRIVE MY CAR FOR NO ONE FOR YOU BLUE GIRL GLASS ONION GOLDEN SLUMBERS GOOD NIGHT HELP HELTER SKELTER HER MAJESTY I FEEL FINE I NEED YOU I'M A LOSER I'M SO TIRED</p>	<p>LET IT BE LOVE ME DO LOVE YOU TO MAGGIE MAE MARTHA MY DEAR NOWHERE MAN OLD BROWN SHOE PAPERBACK WRITER PENNY LANE PIGGIES RAIN REVOLUTION ROCKY RACCOON SAVOY TRUFFLE SHE LOVES YOU THE WORD THIS BOY WHAT GOES ON WILD HONEY PIE</p>
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## ALL IN THE STARS



### SCORPIO

October 24 - November 22

Be careful when using machinery or electrical equipment. You'll feel much better when your slate is clean again.

### SAGITTARIUS

November 23 - December 21

Stay mellow. Lovers will be demanding. You are best to sign your partner up for activities that will be tiring.

### CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 20

Avoid arguments with relatives who might be conservative and outdated. You need some help today.

### AQUARIUS

January 21 - February 19

Give everyone in the house a physical chore that will help burn off some of the excess energy.

### PISCES

February 20 - March 20

Feeling under the weather may be a result of overindulgence. Invite friends or relatives into your home.

### ARIES

March 21 - April 20

You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Don't hesitate to sign up for creative courses or physical fitness programs.

### TAURUS

April 21 - May 21

You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them.

### GEMINI

May 22 - June 21

You need to put some trust in others. You can make amends by taking them somewhere special.

### CANCER

June 22 - July 22

You need to get out and challenge yourself. Look into attending seminars that can expand your perception.

### LEO

July 23 - August 22

Take care of any pressing health problems. Don't let an incident at work play on your mind.

### VIRGO

August 23 - September 23

Family outings or a quiet stroll through the park will lead to stimulating conversation and a closer bond.

### LIBRA

September 24 - October 23

You need some excitement in your life, and meeting new people in exotic destinations will certainly satisfy your desires.

## Migrant sex offender given Sh85,000 after threat to disrupt deportation from UK

**BBC/** A migrant sex offender mistakenly released from prison was given a £500 (Sh85,352) payment after threatening to disrupt his deportation from the UK to Ethiopia. Hadush Kebatu was jailed after sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl and a woman while living in an asylum hotel in Epping, Essex, but was mistakenly freed by prison staff on Friday. He was re-arrested after two days.

The Ethiopian was put on a flight on Tuesday night and landed the following morning, the Home Office said.

The payment was made by the removal team as an alternative to a slower and more expensive process, Sir Keir Starmer's spokesman said. He said Kebatu was "forcibly deported" and accompanied by five escorts on the flight.

Meanwhile, Kebatu told Sky News he had tried to hand himself in to a police officer the day before he was re-arrested - but was ignored. "I [told] police, look here, police I am wanted man, I am arrested, I will give you my hand, please help where is police station? He ignored me, he drove [off]," Kebatu said after arriving back to his home country.

In a statement the Metropolitan Police said it was "not aware of any evidence to support the claims that Kebatu approached officers on Saturday morning".

Paid removals are normal under the Facilitated Returns Scheme, with foreign nationals who agree to leave the UK being given £1,500 (Sh256,000).



## TELEVISION LINEUP - FRIDAY



<b>5:00AM</b>	MORNING DECREE	<b>6:00PM</b>	LA MUJER DE JUDAS
<b>5:30AM</b>	TV47 FITNESS	<b>7:00PM</b>	UPEO WA TV47
<b>6:00AM</b>	MORNING CAFÉ	<b>7:30PM</b>	MFAHAMU
<b>10:00AM</b>	TV47 MATUKIO	<b>8:00PM</b>	DW DOCUFILM
<b>2:00PM</b>	BAZE 47	<b>8:30PM</b>	FALLING INTO YOUR SMILE
<b>3:00PM</b>	THE 77 PERCENT - RPT	<b>9:00PM</b>	THE GREEN FIX WITH SHIKSHA ARORA
<b>3:30PM</b>	THE DEBATE CYCLE - RPT	<b>11:00PM</b>	DW DOCUFILM
<b>4:00PM</b>	TV47 NEWS NOW	<b>12:00AM</b>	BEATPLUG MIX
<b>4:15PM</b>	BEAT KIDS	<b>2:00AM</b>	DW DOCUFILM RPT
<b>4:30PM</b>	KIKI AND NUNA	<b>3:00AM</b>	WILD KINGDOM
<b>5:00PM</b>	BEATPLUG	<b>4:00AM</b>	MORNING DEVOTION

ODDLY ENOUGH



## SPORTS LOCAL

## RUGBY



Winger Lameck Ambetsa in action for Kabras/HANDOUT

## WANYAGA COUNTS ON AMBETSA EXPERIENCE

*Nondies coach believes winger's arrival will give Nondies the depth needed to fight for Kenya Cup title*

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

NONDIES head coach Moses Wanyaga is optimistic the arrival of star winger Lameck Ambetsa gives the club much-needed depth as they chase the 2025-2026 Kenya Cup title.

Ambetsa joined the club last week from Kabras Sugar. He is eligible to play in the Impala Floodlit tournament, but cannot fea-

ture in the Kenya Cup until the December transfer window, when his paperwork will be completed.

Wanyaga praised the winger, who won three Kenya Cup and two Enterprise Cup titles with Kabras, saying his experience and winning mentality will lift the team.

"He brings pedigree, terrific pace and finishing, especially to our wing positions. He will add value to the team since he is an Olympian for the Kenya Sevens team," said Wanyaga.

Nondies face neighbours Impala in the Floodlit semi-final on Saturday at the latter's ground.

Wanyaga said Ambetsa's tactical awareness and experience would be key.

"He is expected to play a key role, having played several matches for Kabras," he added.

"It will be a tough match, especially with the prevailing weather conditions. It will call on us to adapt and be ready for a com-

petitive game."

Ambetsa, an alumnus of Bungoma High School and an engineering graduate from Masinde Muliro University, said the move was the right step to rediscover his form.

"It's a chance to rediscover rhythm and look at exploring my engineering career and building my brand," said Ambetsa.

He missed the entire 2024-2025 season after suffering a tibia injury during the Paris Olympics, but confirmed he is now fully fit.

"I'm back to full fitness, and being in a new environment, I want to help Nondies, with the rest of the team, win silverware this season and build a foundation for future success," he said.

Ambetsa has been joined at Nondies by Brian Ayimba, who left Homeboyz, and Wanyaga believes the new signings add depth to the outside backs as they prepare for the new season.

## TAEKWONDO

## ICY Taekwondo coach Dock remains ambitious with eyes on global glory

BY JOSEPH MUSYOKI

THE ICY Taekwondo Club head coach, Vincent Dock, wants his players to "train like a beast, win like a champion" in their quest for local and continental honours.

The Kisumu-based club have intensified their training ahead of the African Championships set for February 2026, and the Ambassador's Cup in Kigali, Rwanda. The rigorous sessions, held three times a day, are designed to sharpen the athletes' form and boost their competitiveness.

"We've been training three times a day; morning, afternoon and evening. Our players are showing progressive improvement. This is the perfect platform to build up for the African Championships next year. It will also help us identify potential talents to represent us in the Ambassador's Cup in Rwanda," said Dock. "Our aim is to shine on the global stage."

He has great hope in three athletes who recently earned places in the national team for the Taekwondo U21 World Championships, scheduled for December 3-6, 2025, at Kasarani Stadium, Nairobi.

"We knew even before the trials that they would make the national team," Dock said. "I'm sure they will win medals for the country at the World Championships, which could guarantee them direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games."

Representing ICY Taekwondo Club in the national team are Stacy Dock and Sophy Clay in the women's category and Willis Odhiambo in the men's division. Stacy has been appointed U21 team captain, while Odhiambo continues to serve as the national team captain.

Clay credited her success to discipline and commitment: "Discipline, commitment in training, and listening to the coach's advice have been the pillars of my success. I'm now fully charged and prepared for the World Championship as I represent my country," she said.

Stacy expressed confidence in her continued progress.

"2025 has been my most successful year. I have represented Kenya in several tournaments. In the 2025 Korean Ambassador's Cup in Uganda and Rwanda, I won gold and was named the best female athlete," she said.



Willis Odhiambo, Stacy Dock, coach Vincent Dock and Sophy Clay during the U21 trials at Kasarani/HANDOUT

## Aliwa targets rhythm, cohesion as Kenya eyes Cup of Nations glory

BY CHARLENE MALWA

KENYA men's volleyball head coach Elisha

Aliwa believes a structured and consistent approach will be vital as the men's and women's national teams

prepare for next year's Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Aliwa said they are entering a crucial phase of preparation, boosted by a Sh15 million sponsorship from Mozart Bet, which now extends to the men's side.

The support marks a turning point for the team's training and organisation, allowing regular sessions and improved conditioning.

"Training will commence next week and extend to every other weekend whenever the league is on break," he said.

Discipline, physical readiness and team chemistry will be key ingredients to improving Kenya's

continental standing.

The team, Aliwa said, will make full use of off-weekends to refine their techniques and rebuild synergy among players who have been apart during the league.

"We must use the off-weeks to build fitness, sharpen our serves and reception and increase bonding time to allow the team gel fast," he said.

Aliwa observed that Kenya's 2023 silver medal in Accra, Ghana, was proof of the team's competitiveness and a reminder of the work required to match Africa's elite sides such as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Cameroon.

Structured preparation and con-

sistent exposure will close that gap.

"This time, we'll have more time to correct our basics and play with intent. It's about staying together longer and giving young players the confidence to rise to the occasion," he said.

Captain Brian Kamonde echoed the coach's optimism, saying that increased resources will help sustain training camps and strengthen their challenge for the continental title.

"Having a sponsor on board will help us stay more in camp and focus on our weaknesses. Our target is the AFCON title and building teamwork is my role as captain," he said.



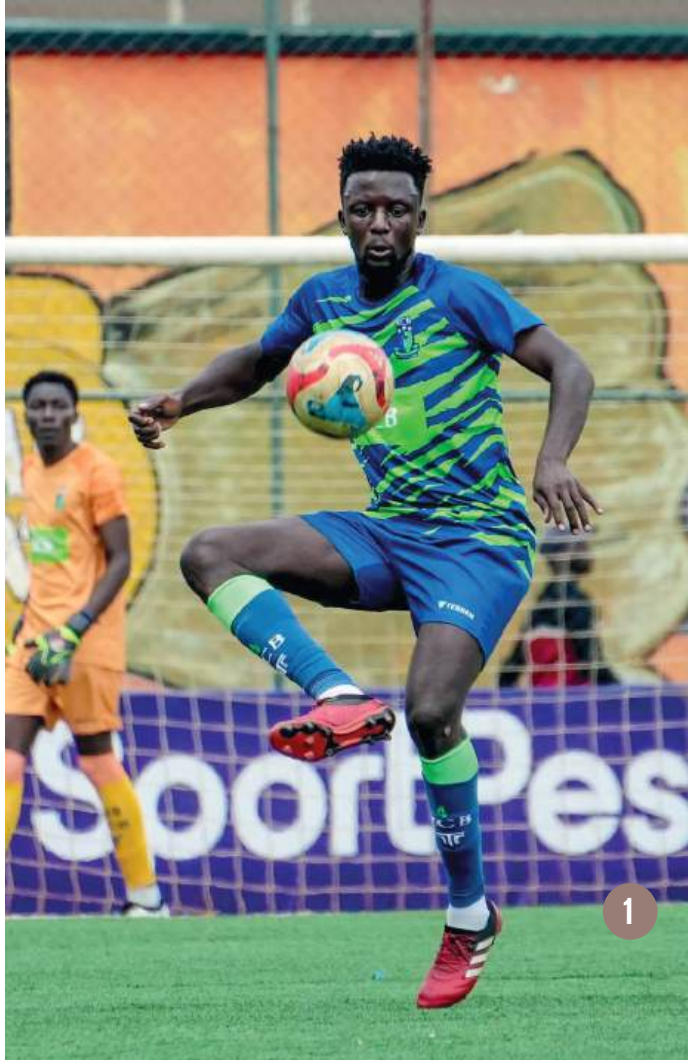
Wafalme Strikers' head coach Elisha Aliwa / FILE



## SPORTS FEATURE

# SENAJI BROTHERS' DREAM OF

*Defenders hope to steer bankers to maiden SportPesa league title*



1



2

TEDDY MULEI  
@TheStarKenya

IT'S not every day that bloodlines cross the white lines of the same pitch.

For most siblings, football is a shared dream, shouted across living-room sofas and dusty backyards, but rarely is it lived out shoulder to shoulder, under the same crest. Yet for Clyde Senaji and Lameck Luhangala, that dream leapt from fantasy to reality at the dawn of the 2025/26 SportPesa League.

When Senaji, the elder of the two, put pen to paper on an 18-month deal with KCB, joining his younger brother in the bankers' green, it wasn't just another transfer; it was the merging of two journeys, two hearts stitched by blood and football.

Senaji, the seasoned centre-half and Lameck, now learning the ropes as a full-back, are cut from the same defensive cloth.

Last Saturday, the brothers made history when they started for KCB against AFC Leopards.

The match ended in heartbreak, a 2-1 defeat that saw Boniface Munyendo and Christopher Koloti score for Ingwe, with Francis Kahiro pulling one back for the bankers. But for the Senaji brothers, it was a night that transcended the score line, a moment that will forever live in family history.

"I had to call my mom and dad to tell them we would be playing together," Senaji recalls. "The only bad side to it is that we lost."

Senaji had started all five league fixtures for KCB, while Lameck had yet to. That emotional milestone had been preceded by a sombre pause in Kenyan football, a week-long postponement of the league to honour the late former Prime Minister Raila Odinga. For the brothers, however, that break turned into a blessing in disguise.

"We were supposed to play the weekend before, but after the postponement, I used the time to motivate him (Lameck)," Senaji says. "I told him how to manage games, how to stay composed under pressure."

Lameck, the student under his brother's wing, was stepping into uncharted territory, adapting to his new role as a full-back, switching from centre-back.

"He is not a natural right-back, so I had to show him the ropes, what to do, how to approach the game and to also encourage him that he was capable of filling that role," Senaji explains.

For Lameck, the occasion was surreal.

"I don't think I have ever played with my brother, even while at home. This was our first time. It was such a great feeling," he says.

But nerves were part of the package; the positional shift meant Lameck had to adjust quickly.

"I started the AFC game with a minor challenge because I was now playing as a full-back, a position I am still new to. Tracking back was a bit difficult for me because I don't have that speed to quickly return and cover my area."

"During that one week break, my brother was motivating me and pushing me in training, showing me the ropes. He knows I am good as a centre-back but he encouraged me

to give my all in my new position."

Their debut together, however, came with a cruel twist: Senaji picked up a shoulder injury late in the game.

"It was tough for my dad; we lost the game and then I got injured," Senaji says.

Fortunately, the damage was minimal.

"I have had check-ups with the physio and doctor and the injury is not severe and doesn't require surgery. I may be back in two or three weeks max," Senaji adds.

For Senaji, joining KCB after two seasons at Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets was more than a transfer; it was a calculated move for silverware.

"Signing for KCB felt right. I have reunited with people I know, like coach Robert Matano, who managed me at Tusker and my friend Hum-



3

phrey Mieno. The transition has been seamless," he says.

He had offers from some other local teams, including record champions Gor Mahia and Bandari, but the lure of KCB's ambition sealed the deal.

"When I spoke to the chairman, he outlined the club's vision. I wanted to be part of something that's building toward glory. Matano is a winner and I want to win something this season under him," Senaji added.

And winning is exactly what the brothers have in mind. Together, under Matano's shrewd eye, they hope to help KCB lift their first-ever League title.

"Matano has a plan and he's the right man to bring silverware here," Senaji says. "Walking onto that podium to lift the trophy with my brother would mean the world to our family."

Despite a stuttering start to the campaign, Senaji insists the mood in camp remains determined.

"It's frustrating when you win two games and lose the rest," he admits. "We were expecting 12 points in the first five games but that plan has not gone the way we wanted. But we take what comes and just try to push on."

KCB's campaign began with a 2-0 win over Tusker, followed by a 1-0 loss to Mathare before bouncing back with a 1-0 win over Kariobangi Sharks.

However, their campaign took a turn, suffering back-to-back defeats to Gor Mahia (1-0) and AFC Leopards (2-1). Lameck, echoing his brother's belief, says the bankers are still dreaming big.

"Our target is to win the league.

Looking at the coach we have now, he is a winner and he has instilled that in us, we have that hunger to win now," he says.

The duo is also eager for more minutes side by side, their on-field chemistry still growing.

"The game against Leopards was just the beginning, we want more games together, more time to build our understanding," Lameck said.

Determined to perfect his craft, the youngster is putting in extra work on his delivery.

"Kahiro told me I am a good fullback, the only thing I am missing is that weight of cross, to deliver the ball into the box for the strikers," he says.

"I am pushing myself to ensure that by the time we get to the 10th or 12th game, I am well versed with my new role and can easily track back."



7

# DRIVING KCB TO SILVERWARE



Their next test is on Sunday, against Murang'a Seal at St. Sebastian Park, a fixture Lameck believes could reignite KCB's campaign.

"The mood in training now is very lively. After the loss against AFC, the coach came and told us we need to be calmer," Lameck said.

The Senaji, Lameck story began far from the league's manicured pitches, in the dusty streets of Ziواني, where football was not just a game but a way of life.

Born to Martin Navade and Judith Luhangala, in a family of five siblings (four boys and one girl), the two were brought up in a football-loving family where the sport runs deep in their veins. Senaji, the second-born and Lameck, the youngest of the boys, share that unshakable football bond.

Born on July 26, 1996, Senaji's love for the game sparked at Juja Road Primary School.

"I started playing football way back, while still a kid in primary school while in class five. I used to play for an academy called Kabanze Soccer Academy in Ziواني. My parents supported me so much," Senaji recalls.

His talent blossomed through high school and college. "From there, I got a scholarship to join Kakamega High School, but my dad advised I go to Cardinal Otunga in Kisii, then went to Sigalagala after high school to study automotive engineering. That is where Edward Manoah (current Mara Sugar head coach) spotted my talent during one of the tournaments," he says.

Soon, he joined Vihiga United in the 2016/17 season, helping them earn promotion to the top flight under Manoah's guidance.

"At that time, we had someone who loved football a lot, Governor Moses Akaranga; he was so invested in the team. Coach Manoah also scouted good players and I think the two pushed us to the Premier League."

His composure and leadership caught Matano's eye, leading to a move to AFC Leopards in 2018/19.

"Juggling football and studies was quite a challenge. From there, Matano took me up to AFC. I was doing my degree, so I had to defer. I did not finish my degree. I joined AFC," he says.

Ironically, Senaji didn't start as a defender.

"I started as a midfielder at AFC but there was a game, against Sofapaka, where all our defenders were

**1,2,7.** Clyde Senaji in action for KCB

**3,4.** Lameck Luhangala during a training session

**5.** Clyde Senaji and Lameck Luhangala after their match against AFC Leopards

**6.** Clyde Senaji during his time at Nyasa Big Bullets in Malawi  
**/HANDOUT**



injured. I was assigned to play at the back. From there, I played like five games consecutively as a defender and played well."

The rest, as they say, is history.

Senaji went on to reunite with Matano at Tusker, playing three stellar seasons (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22) and winning the 2020/21 KPL title, before returning to Leopards (2022/23) and later Nyasa.

"Winning the League is a highlight in my career. It was a truly humbling and incredible feeling. Not many people can boast that they have lifted the league title," Senaji says.

Meanwhile, Lameck, born January 28, 2004, was carving his own path.

His spark came early at Juja Road Primary and St. Francis Hambale in Vihiga before his big break at Musingu High School in 2020.

"I captained Musingu to the regional games in 2023; we fell short of making the nationals. It was also there that I met coach Brendan Mwinamo who believed in me. He was instrumental in pushing me to realise my talent on the pitch," he says.

After high school, he earned trials at KCB and impressed.

"After high school, I got a chance to do a trial for KCB, about a week after I was done with high school. It was somehow a challenge because I was stepping into the elite and meeting with players I only heard of and saw on TV," Lameck says.

The then head coach, Bernard Mwalala, saw his potential and promoted him.

"Mwalala believed in me and I got to join KCB at the end of the 2023/24 season. Just five games were remaining and I got

to feature in the very last one, against Nairobi City Stars, my debut in the Premier League," he reveals.

"I remember that game so well because I scored the match-winning goal from a set-piece. We won 3-2. Mwalala had told me I would play in that game so I was mentally ready. The experienced players guided me," he recalls.

Later, in the 2024/25 season under Patrick Odhiambo, he was converted from a centre-back to a full-back.

"Coach Odhiambo took me from a centre defender to a full-back. I think he saw I had huge potential. I took it positively and pushed myself."

In the first leg of the 2024/25 season, KCB had started with conviction, looking like real title contenders; however, lapses in the second half saw them drop down the table, finishing ninth on 42 points.

"We played well in the first leg but lost a lot of matches in the second. That, in a way, killed the morale among the players," he says.

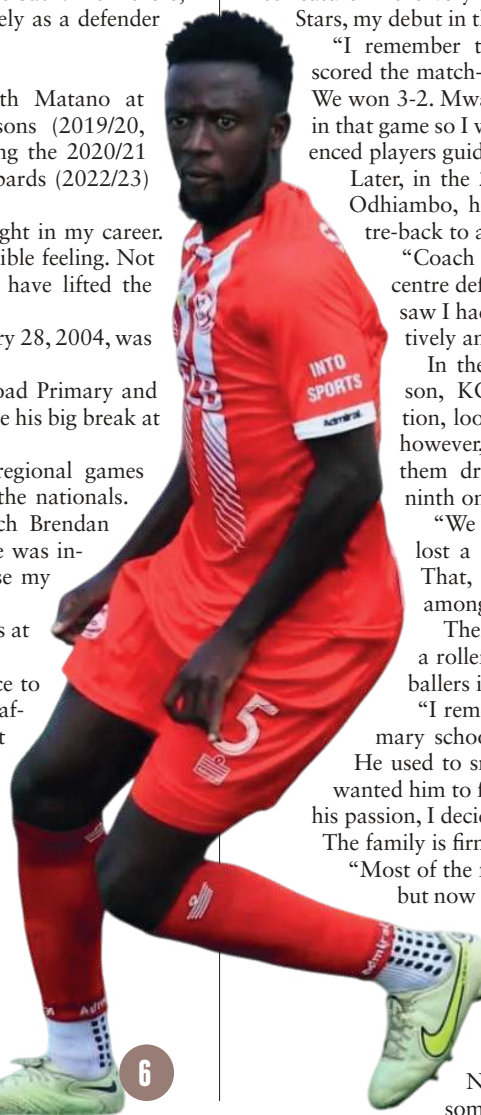
Their father, Navade, says it's been a roller-coaster ride raising two footballers in the family.

"I remember when Clyde was in primary school. He gave me a tough time. He used to sneak after school to go play. I wanted him to focus on studies but after I saw his passion, I decided to support him," he says.

The family is firmly behind the duo. "Most of the family supports AFC Leopards but now that the boys are in KCB, I told

them to choose between supporting Leopards and our boys at KCB. They said family comes first, so we support KCB fully," he says jokingly.

"When KCB have a game in Nairobi, I always ensure I get some family members to attend and cheer them on," he says.



## SPORTS LOCAL

## BOXING

## ‘JUST THE BEGINNING’

Hit Squad captain Mugunde eyes LA Olympics after continental glory

BY TONY MBALLA

KENYA'S light middleweight sensation Boniface “The Hummer” Mugunde isn't slowing down.

Fresh from his explosive triumph at the Africa Zone III Championships, the Hit Squad captain already has his eyes on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Mugunde thrilled fans at the Moi Stadium, Kasarani Indoor Arena, pummelling his way to gold with a display that fused menace, discipline, and artistry.

“It was a big day for me and my country,” said Mugunde. “Every punch I threw, every move I made was for Kenya. We’ve been waiting for this moment for a long time and I’m proud that I could end the drought.”

The defining moment came in the semi-final against Burundi’s Nestor Nduwarugira. The Burundian charged aggressively, but Mugunde’s composure proved decisive. A feint, a half-step — then a thunderous right hook sent Nduwarugira to the canvas. The referee waved it off as the Kasarani crowd erupted.

“I knew he wanted to go for the knockout early,” Mugunde recalled. “That was his mistake. I just stayed patient and waited for the opening. The moment I saw it, I took it.”

In the final, Mugunde faced his compatriot Alvin Oduor in a bout defined by mutual respect and relentless competition. Mugunde dominated from the start, controlling distance and landing crisp combinations. The judges’ unanimous 5-0 decision confirmed his gold.

“It was tough fighting a brother, but in the ring, we’re both soldiers,” he said. “Alvin gave me a real fight, and that made the victory even more special.”

The win ended Kenya’s seven-year wait for an African boxing gold

the last coming from Nick Okoth in 2017. Mugunde credits Okoth as a major influence.

“Nick was a mentor to many of us,” he said. “He showed us that Kenyan boxers can dominate at the top level. To follow in his footsteps means everything.”

Now, as team captain, Mugunde is focused on transforming regional success into global achievement.

“This is just the beginning,” he said. “We’ve shown Africa what we can do. Now we want to show the world.

My dream is to carry the

Kenyan flag into the Los Angeles Olympics and bring home that medal.”

National coach Musa Benjamin praised Mugunde’s unique blend of power and precision.

“He studies his opponents like a scientist but fights like a predator,” Benjamin said. “That mix of intelligence and aggression is rare.”

From the dusty gyms of Nairobi’s Eastlands to continental glory, Mugunde’s journey mirrors the revival of Kenyan boxing. Alongside rising stars like Alvin Oduor, Steve Oduor, and Brian Okoth, he’s leading a new generation determined to restore Kenya’s boxing legacy.

“The hunger is back,” Mugunde said. “We’re not just fighting opponents anymore — we’re fighting doubt, history, and the idea that Kenya can’t produce champions. That’s what drives us.”

After his victory, Mugunde glanced at the gold medal resting on the bench beside him.

“This is for Kenya,” he whispered. “But the next one — the next one will be for the world.”



John Lejirma in action during a recent tournament / HANDOUT

Boniface “The Hummer” Mugunde / HANDOUT

## HIGHLIGHTS

## Lejirma, Karanga among 84 entrants for next month’s Sunshine Tour double-header

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

TOP Kenyan golfers John Lejirma and Michael Karanga are among 84 golfers expected to participate in the Betika Masters tournaments, the seventh and eighth legs of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing.

The golfers will battle it out in the double header that will take place at Vetlab Sports Club from November 2-4 and at Limuru Country Club from November 9-11. The events have attracted elite amateur and professional golfers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, India and the United States.

They will be competing for a share of the Sh2 million prize purse in each leg and Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) and World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points.

The Kenyan contingent features Lejirma, the newly crowned Johnnie Walker Classic champion, and Karanga, the Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) Series winner Dismas Indiza, winner of the Ruiru leg; two-time Tour champion Njoroge Kibugu (Thika and Nyali); Greg Snow, Mutahi Kibugu, Edwin Mudanyi, David Wakhu, C.J. Wangai, Jastas Madoya and Nelson Simwa.

Lejirma, who beat professional Njoroge Kibugu in a sudden-death playoff at Royal Nairobi Golf Club earlier this month to claim his maiden Sunshine Development Tour title, is keen to extend his fine form.

“Just fresh from winning at my home club, it’s been a tremendous journey so far, full of lessons, growth and belief. Every leg of the Sunshine Development Tour has pushed me to become better, both mentally and technically,” he said.

“My goal heading into Vetlab and Limuru is to maintain the momentum and stay true to my game plan. Nothing has changed on my end. I’ve just been fine-tuning all aspects of my game, from my long shots to my short game and I feel ready,” he added.

“These events mean a lot to us as players, since they’re helping us gain confidence and experience at a professional level. For me, it’s all about staying patient, trusting the process and giving my best on every shot.”

Karanga, who has made the cut in three of his four Tour appearances, praised the Sunshine Development Tour for creating meaningful opportunities for amateurs.

## Kurgat targets New York 5K redemption after Tokyo blow

BY TEDDY MULEI

AFTER a disappointing outing at the Tokyo World Championships last month, 2023 Boston 10K runner-up Edwin Kurgat will be hoping to rediscover his spark when he lines up for the New York Dash to the Finish 5K road race on Saturday.

The race is a curtain-raiser for the highly anticipated New York City Marathon on Sunday.

In Tokyo, Kurgat hoped to end Kenya’s 24-year drought in the 10,000m race. However, Kurgat’s dream outing didn’t materialise as he faded to seventh place in 28:57.83.

The last Kenyan to conquer the world over the distance was Charles Kamathi at the 2001 World Championships in Edmonton, Canada. The medals in Tokyo went to France’s Jimmy Gressier (28:55.77), Ethiopia’s Yomif Kejelcha (28:55.83), and Sweden’s Andreas Almgren (28:56.02) after a fierce sprint finish.

After a turbulent 2025 campaign, Kurgat will be desperate to end the season on a high. While Kurgat boasts vast experience on the track, his road racing resume remains light.

His only appearance over the 5K distance came in Boston in 2023, where he clocked 13:27 to finish third behind American Morgan Beadlescomb (13:25) and Canadian Benjamin Flanagan (13:26).

Over 10K, Kurgat’s strongest showing came at the 2023 Boston 10K, where he crossed the line second in 28:01, trailing Tanzania’s Gabriel Geay (27:49).

He also placed fourth at the Cape Elizabeth 10K (28:15), behind Ethiopia’s Addisu Yihune (27:56), Conner Mantz (27:58), and Muktar Edris (28:06) that same year.

## Deaf teen golf sensation to go for gold at Tokyo Deaflympics

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

KENYAN teenage golfer Jacinta Njeri has set her sights on winning gold at the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics, scheduled for November 15-26 in Japan.

The Form Two student at Ngala Secondary School for the Deaf in Nakuru County is eager to make her Deaflympics debut a memorable one and hopes to inspire more Deaf women to take up golf.

“Being the first time to be part of the Kenya Deaf team at the Deaflympics and among three men, I am very proud

Jacinta Njeri during training at Vet Lab Sports Club/ HANDOUT

of myself,” said Njeri. “My target is to play a good round of golf and get a gold medal. I hope all four of us can reach the podium and make Kenya proud.”

“I don’t want to be the only deaf lady golfer in the team, so I’m inviting other ladies to learn golf and feel empowered,” she added.

The 19-year-old, who plays off a handicap of 20, will represent Kenya alongside Isaac Makokha, Gilbert Alikula and Adan Wario. Makokha made history by winning a bronze medal at the 2022 Deaflympics in Brazil, Kenya’s first in golf.

Njeri is currently training at Railways, Muthaiga, and Vet Lab golf clubs in Nairobi. She credits her teammates for

helping sharpen her game and says she is ready for the challenge.

“Although I am still training very hard, I’m well prepared for the task ahead,” said Njeri, who also plays volleyball and basketball.

Introduced to golf in 2022 by Vet Lab pro Shem Orwenyo, Njeri said the sport has helped her grow in confidence.

“I love golf because I get to meet fellow players and relax. I’m a very proud golfer,” she said.

Team Kenya coach David Kihara has tipped Njeri for success in Tokyo.

“Her potential is very high. She’s young, strong, and committed. She has what it takes to be a future champion,” said Kihara.



Liverpool's performance against Brentford once again exposed problems in their defensive setup

# LONG BALLS HURT LIVERPOOL



Liverpool manager Arne Slot /HANDOUT

**W**ITH four consecutive defeats, Liverpool have finally lost their "invincibles" image. Coach Arne Slot appeared both unhappy and worried as he left Brentford's Gtech Community Stadium last weekend, having watched his team succumb 3-2 to the Bees.

Liverpool's performance highlighted significant problems in their formation. Slot admitted, "Teams have a certain way of playing against us, which is a very good strategy and we haven't found the answer yet."

That strategy exploits one of Liverpool's key weaknesses: long balls, which opponents are increasingly using against them, particularly when defending against teams vulnerable at the back.

Liverpool are now facing an average of ten more aerial duels than last season. Brentford's opening goal illustrated this perfectly.

Michael Kayode's long throw to the front post allowed Kristoffer Ajer to rise above the Liverpool defence and flick the ball onto Dango Ouattara, who scored at the back post.

Kerkez, Van Dijk, Konate, and Bradley struggled against Brentford's forwards, and while Van Dijk would normally dominate in the air, he seemed unable to rise above the opposing attackers. Notably, this was Brentford's third goal from a long throw this season.

Liverpool's difficulties in handling these aerial threats have become increasingly apparent. The team's defensive coordination often appears slow, and opponents are adept at exploiting gaps with precision.

The long-ball strategy, once considered an occasional nuisance, is now a central problem that has compounded Liverpool's recent decline.

## MBEUMO TO CHALLENGE VAN PERSIE'S RECORD

Bryan Mbeumo, supported by Ruben Amorim, is confident he can surpass United striker Robin van Persie's 26 Premier League goals scored in the 2012-13 season.

The former Brentford winger and striker is already halfway to overtaking last season's top scorers, Bruno Fernandes and Armad Diallo, though they managed only eight goals each.

Mbeumo, who netted 20 goals for Brentford last season, revealed his mindset: "I always try to aim big in everything I do. I try not to set limits on myself, on what I can reach."

Amorim has been equally positive about the forward's progress. He praised Mbeumo, Matheus Cunha, and Bruno Fernandes as a formidable trio, emphasising that weekly



BY DAVID BILLINGTON

## FOOTBALL GOSSIP



training sessions are maximised this season because United are not involved in European competition. This extra time allows for more focused improvement, giving the trio every chance to flourish.

### HAALAND COULD BREAK MY RECORD — SHEARER

Alan Shearer, the Premier League's all-time top scorer, has admitted that Erling Haaland could eventually surpass his record. Shearer, who scored 260 goals in his career, once thought his tally was unbeatable.

Haaland, however, has scored 94 goals in just 104 appearances for Manchester City since joining from Borussia Dortmund in 2023.

"Haaland is the perfect centre-forward. His record is phenomenal and his appetite to score is fantastic. I love it. He is quick, strong, agile and he reacts quicker than most around the six-yard box, which is impressive, and his ability to put the ball in the back of the net is magnificent. If you are building a footballer or centre-forward, you wouldn't look too far away from Haaland being the perfect one," Shearer said.

"If he stays in the Premier League another six or seven years, he's definitely someone who could and probably will break my record."

### ARSENAL BRINGS A SMILE TO OLD BOSS'S FACE

George Graham, Arsenal's coach from 1986 to 1995, was a delighted spectator in the VIP seats at the Emirates last weekend.

The fans' chant of "1-0 to the Arsenal" brought a wide smile to his face, recalling the days when the Gunners were on their way to winning the Cup Winners' Cup in 1994.

Arsenal's success this season has given rise to other chants, such as "Set piece again, Ole, Ole," reflecting the fact that 11 of their 16 goals have come from set pieces.

With wins over Manchester United and Fulham by the same scoreline, Arsenal are being viewed as the team to beat, and many are already suggesting it is their title to lose.

Graham, now 80, seemed genuinely thrilled by the nostalgia and the current success.

### OSULA GAINS NEWCASTLE'S TRUST

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe has been particularly impressed by 22-year-old Will Osula, who has shown rapid development since joining the club for £22 million.

Initially, Osula was raw and disorganised, but Howe credits former Belgium and England coach Graeme Jones with refining the young player's natural talent.

Last weekend, Osula replaced Nick Woltemade with only five minutes remaining in the match against Fulham and immediately made an im-

pact, setting up the winning goal for Bruno Guimaraes.

Osula collected the ball on the halfway line, drove forward past Fulham's defenders, and unleashed a powerful shot that goalkeeper Bernd Leno could only parry into the path of Guimaraes, who scored from the rebound.

Howe praised Osula's dedication in training and is now focusing on improving him tactically. The Danish player from Copenhagen has a bright future at Newcastle, and the manager believes he could become a key figure in the team.

### FANS TURN ON PEREIRA

At Molineux Stadium, Wolves manager Vitor Pereira faced an ugly confrontation with the home fans following a 2-3 defeat to Burnley.

The result was the last straw for supporters, who chanted, "You're getting sacked in the morning."

Pereira, who has earned only two points from nine matches, said, "When the team gave everything on the pitch to win, but in the end concede a goal, I understand the frustration. What I must say to them is that if we fight with them and stay united, we can win games."

"If not, without them, it's impossible. Two months ago, they sang my name because of the work we did last season, which means we are competing in the Premier League and not the Championship. Now they sing my name to sack me. That's football."

Defender Toti Gomes and match stewards had to intervene to separate Pereira from the fans. Wolves remain the only club in the four divisions without a victory this season.

### NUNES CAN BECOME ONE OF THE BEST—GUARDIOLA

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has been impressed by right-back Matheus Nunes, who has adapted successfully after initially struggling following his arrival from Wolves in 2023.

Nunes, originally a midfielder, has transitioned into defence under Guardiola, particularly following the departure of Kyle Walker and the injury to Abdoukodie Khusanov.

"He can be an incredible right-back. He has the physicality and, with focus, can become one of the best. It's a question of him now... We talk a lot about that. He has special attributes to play on the sides. He has been unbelievable in the last two or three games," Guardiola said.

### DIBLING INSPIRED BY ROBBERN AND RIBERY

Everton's 19-year-old Tyler Dibling has been guided by manager David Moyes, who has shown him video clips of Arjen Robben and Franck

Ribery to inspire his development. Assistant trainers Leighton Baines and Billy McKinlay have been impressed by the young winger since he joined from Southampton for £40 million.

Moyes is determined to make Dibling more creative and ruthless in attack. "You need your wide players to score goals...I've already said to him he should be watching Jack and seeing what he does. Tyler's a really good footballer and I've been impressed since he's been here," Moyes said.

The club has also asked Jack Grealish to mentor Dibling, providing advice and sharing his top-level experience.



### IRAOLA, GLASNER — TWO OF THE BRIGHTEST COACHES IN THE EPL

Two of the most outstanding managers in the Premier League this season are Bournemouth's Andoni Iraola and Crystal Palace's Oliver Glasner.

Despite losing key players, both have steered their teams to remarkable performances. Bournemouth, for instance, sold three of their back four this summer and had already lost striker Dominic Solanke the previous year.

Nevertheless, Iraola has driven the Cherries to second place in the league, six points ahead of this time last season, highlighted by a 3-0 win over Manchester United.

He prefers 4-2-3-1 or 4-3-3 formations, but frequently switches to 3-5-2 with full-backs high on the wings and a defensive midfielder providing cover. His teams play with a forward-moving intensity that has proven highly effective.

Palace, despite a narrow 1-0 defeat to Arsenal last weekend, have emerged as a surprise top-six contender.

Glasner, who guided the team to FA Cup glory against Manchester City in May, has turned the side around following a difficult league start.

His approach includes high-intensity training, aggressive pressing, and meticulous tactical work, often using small-sided games without goalkeepers to enhance defensive awareness.

Palace lost key players Michael Olise to Bayern Munich last season and Eberechi Eze to Arsenal this season, yet Glasner has kept the team competitive.

He encourages players to learn from the Premier League's star names, instilling a belief in each other and fostering strong dressing-room camaraderie—a trait Manchester United is often criticised for lacking.

A potential future challenge for Palace will be managing the contract situation of star player Marc Guéhi, a free agent at the end of the season, though Glasner's reputation ensures he will have opportunities if he chooses to move on.

Both Iraola and Glasner prioritise team bonding, shared meals, and social outings to create a positive dressing-room atmosphere.

Their players respond to the collective spirit, demonstrating unity, focus, and resilience, which have been central to their success in a highly competitive Premier League season



## FOOTBALL

# SLOT AND HIS EXCUSES

*Should Liverpool boss have rested key players in Palace defeat?*

MICHAEL EMONS

WINNING the Premier League in his first season, Arne Slot has not got much wrong since taking charge of Liverpool.

But even he may have been surprised at how much his team selection backfired on Wednesday as his side, full of fringe players and youngsters, crumbled 3-0 at home against Crystal Palace in the last 16 of the Carabao Cup.

Virgil van Dijk, Ibrahima Konate, Dominik Szoboszlai, Cody Gakpo, Florian Wirtz, Mohamed Salah and Hugo Ekitike were absent as the Reds made a tame exit in a competition they had won twice in the past four seasons and were beaten in the previous campaign's final.

For Slot, whose side have now lost six of their past seven games in all competitions, a daunting schedule that includes encounters with Aston Villa, Real Madrid and Manchester City will follow in the next 10 days.

But the Dutchman said in the post-match news conference: "This club has always used this competition for academy players as well. It felt to me the right decision and I've not changed my opinion of that because we lost."

Slot named three teenagers in his starting line-up and a further five among his substitutes as he made 10 changes from the team that was beaten 3-2 in the league at Brentford on Saturday.

After a bright start from Liverpool, Ismaila Sarr scored twice at the end of the first half, with 18-year-old Amara Nallo sent off in the second half to end any hope of a fightback from the hosts. A late third from Yeremy Pino gave the scoreline a flattering feel as Slot watched on helplessly in the heavy Anfield rain.

"Against Brentford it was two days after we played Eintracht Frankfurt away and I saw a team that is struggling to play three games in seven days, but it is not an excuse," he added. "I've seen the struggles some players have had in pre-season. It's a new challenge to play in the Premier League and Champions League, three games in seven days."

"Our squad is probably not as big



**Daniel Munoz of Crystal Palace in action with Liverpool's Alexis Mac Allister /HANDOUT**

as people think it is. There has not been a change in the way we look at this."

Former Liverpool and England defender Stephen Warnock felt Slot had no justification for his side.

"Arne Slot has almost admitted there that the squad is not strong enough," said Warnock. "It was very much deflecting and making excuses."

"You're a team in the Champions League, yet you're moaning that you're playing a game two days later. You know that is going to happen. I felt there were a lot of excuses in there. You know your squad depth isn't the best, then your business hasn't been good enough in the summer."

Liverpool spent more than £400m in the summer transfer window and ex-Scotland international Pat Nevin felt Slot had shown the Carabao Cup was not important to the Reds.

"Arne Slot has shown it is secondary, and it is certainly not as important as the games coming up," said Nevin. "Yes, there will be a bit more stick. There will be a realisation among Liverpool fans, who aren't daft, the fact is they have already won this competition."

"Liverpool have gone heavier for the big names with huge transfer fees compared to a bulkier squad, and it is noticeable now."

Reigning champions Liverpool have lost four successive Premier League games, having started with five wins, leaving them seventh in the table.

Defeat at home to Aston Villa on Saturday will be their worst since 1953 when they lost five in a row. Asked if resting so many of his first-team players had increased the pressure to beat Villa, Slot dismissed that suggestion.

## Very stupid red cards are embarrassing, says Maresca



**Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca /HANDOUT**

BBC

CHELSEA manager Enzo Maresca described Liam Delap's red card in the 4-3 Carabao Cup win at Wolves as "very stupid" and said the Blues' repeated dismissals this season have become "embarrassing".

Delap returned from a 10-week lay-off with a hamstring injury but was sent off just 26 minutes after coming on as a second-half substitute, after pushing Yerson Mosquera and barging into Emmanuel Agbadou in the space of just seven minutes.

The 22-year-old striker will now miss Saturday's trip to London rivals Tottenham, amid fitness concerns over fellow forward Joao Pedro. When asked whether Delap deserved to be sent off, Maresca said: "Absolutely, yes. Stupid foul. We can avoid that."

The dismissal came as part of a wider Chelsea collapse. They built a 3-0 lead at the interval but after the break Wolves scored

three times, with Jamie Gittens' sensational late strike enough to scrape the Blues into the quarter-finals to face Cardiff City.

Maresca added: "The three goals we conceded, I think all of them we can avoid. For sure, today we also had a very stupid red card that was completely unnecessary."

"After the first yellow card I told him [Delap] four or five times to keep calm. But Liam is a player who, when he's on the pitch, is probably playing the game for himself and struggles to realise and listen to those around him."

It was Chelsea's sixth red card in nine games, including Maresca's dismissal for celebrating a last-minute winner against Liverpool before the international break.

## FOOTBALL

## Teen Dowman makes history for Arsenal in Carabao Cup victory

BBC

ANOTHER day, another record for 15-year-old Max Dowman. But Arsenal's teenage prodigy is taking everything in his stride, according to his manager, Mikel Arteta.

The winger had already written himself into Arsenal's history books by becoming the second-youngest player to represent the club and second-youngest to play in the Premier League - with team-mate Ethan Nwaneri holding both records.

But on Wednesday, Dowman became the youngest player - at 15 years and 302 days old - to start a match for Arsenal as he starred in the EFL Cup win over Brighton.

Dowman made his Premier League debut off the bench in Arsenal's 5-0 win over Leeds in August, but his talent has had everyone at the club excited for a long time.

He has been training with the first team since he was 14 and was one of the standout players on Arsenal's pre-season tour.

Arteta made 10 changes to the side that beat Crystal Palace on Sunday and his youthful side contained four teenagers - including Dowman and Andre Harriman-Annou who were both making their full debuts.

"A tiny smile, that's what you get with him," Arteta said when asked how Dowman reacted when he heard he was starting.

"For him everything is natural, for him everything is OK. It's the way he plays and that's the secret, that he doesn't make a big fuss of it."

"He just does what he does best, which is to play football. To play football with a lot of courage and determination and today again, he has shown some incredible skill, some capacity to run past players at that level in the Premier League at 15. It's definitely something special."

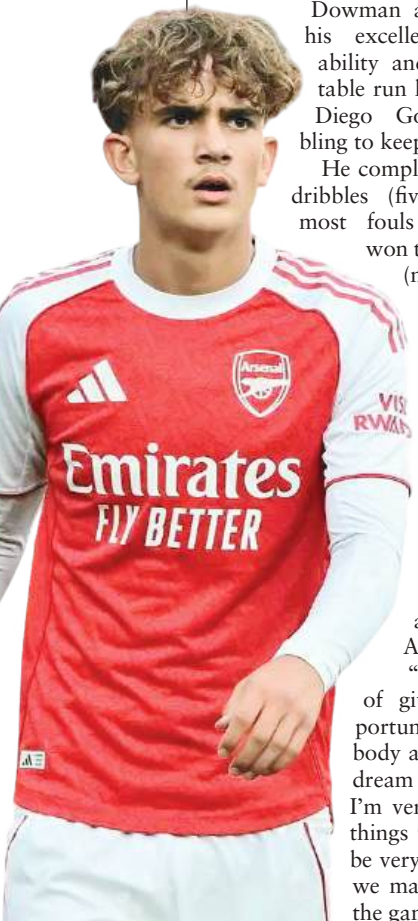
Dowman again showed his excellent dribbling ability and in one notable run left Brighton's Diego Gomez scrambling to keep up.

He completed the most dribbles (five), won the most fouls (four), and won the most duels (nine) of any player on the pitch.

"We made 10 changes, we played players that never played together, yet we made two huge debuts for Max and Andre," Arteta added.

"That feeling of giving the opportunity to somebody and fulfilling a dream is unique, and I'm very happy that things turned out to be very positive, and we managed to win the game."

**Arsenal winger Max Dowman /HANDOUT**



**FOOTBALL**

Real Madrid to seek huge damages' over Super League ruling

BBC

REAL Madrid will seek "substantial damages" from Uefa after European football's governing body lost a court appeal over the failed European Super League.

A ruling on Wednesday from the Provincial Court of Madrid upheld a decision from May 2024. That decision found Uefa, the Spanish football federation (RFEF) and La Liga were practising anti-competitive behaviour and abusing their dominant position by banning clubs from joining the breakaway league.

Uefa responded by saying the latest judgement does "not validate" the Super League project, "nor does it undermine Uefa's current authorisation rules".

Real Madrid were one of 12 European clubs — including six English Premier League teams - to back the breakaway competition in 2021 before it folded under government and fan pressure.

In a separate judgement, the European Court of Justice ruled in December 2023 that banning clubs from joining a European Super League was unlawful, which led to Uefa updating its rules.

"Real Madrid welcomes the decision by the regional court of Madrid to dismiss the appeals lodged by Uefa, the RFEF and La Liga, confirming that Uefa, in the matter of the Super League, seriously infringed European Union competition rules in line with the CJEU ruling, abusing its dominant position," said a statement from the 15-time European champions. "This ruling paves the way for the club to claim substantial damages from Uefa."

But Uefa said in a statement: "These rules ensure that any cross-border competitions are assessed on objective, transparent, non-discriminatory and proportionate criteria."

"This development comes after the European Parliament this month adopted a landmark resolution explicitly reiterating its opposition to 'breakaway competitions' as they 'endanger the overall sport ecosystem'. Uefa will carefully review the judgment before deciding on any further steps, and will not be commenting further at this stage."

Uefa added it will continue to "safeguard the unity of European football" and it is "firmly committed to the European sports model, built on sporting merit, open access, solidarity and the protection of the football pyramid".

La Liga said it respected the Provincial Court's ruling, but reiterated "firm commitment"

to the "integrity and stability of national competitions" and "respect for the European Union's competition rules".

president, Javier Tebas, added: "This ruling does not in any way represent an endorsement of the Super League or any other format. It reiterates that regulations must be applied with transparency and objectivity."



Real Madrid players celebrate/ HANDOUT

**FOOTBALL**

# BOURNEMOUTH TO TEST THEIR METTLE AT ETIHAD

City remain favourites though the Cherries have defied the odds at second place



Bournemouth players celebrate during a recent Premier League match /HANDOUT

Who would have bet on Bournemouth sitting second in the Premier League table and looking down on Manchester City? Yet, that's exactly the situation as Andoni Iraola continues to turn his south-coast side into one of the most organised and dangerous teams in the league.

However, at the Etihad Stadium, City remain overwhelming favourites. Bournemouth have defied the odds several times already this season, but this will be their toughest challenge yet.

Defenders Alex Jimenez, Veljko Milosavljevic, Marcos Senesi and Adrien Truffert face the daunting task of containing City's goalscoring phenomenon, Erling Haaland. Behind him, Bernardo Silva and Phil Foden are capable of dismantling any defence.

City's defensive setup — with Tijani Reijnders marshalling midfield and a back line of Josko Gvardiol, Rúben Dias, John Stones and Matheus Nunes — will make life difficult for Bournemouth's attacking trio of Justin Kluivert, Antoine Semenyo and Eli Junior Kroupi.

The midfield battle could decide this game. Alex Scott and Tyler Adams will look to outplay Reijnders and feed their forwards, while Pep Guardiola is keen to see City bounce back from their disappointing 1-0 loss to Aston Villa last weekend.

With Arsenal pulling clear at the top, Guardiola won't want to waste an opportunity to cut the gap — or

DAVID BILLINGTON

**PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW**



to bring Bournemouth back down from their dizzying heights.

**Liverpool v Aston Villa**

Liverpool in seventh place — who would have believed it? Liverpool and Aston Villa have 15 points, separated by goal difference. They are looking to climb toward the European places.

After Unai Emery's Villa disposed of Manchester City last weekend, confidence is sky-high. Meanwhile, Arne Slot's Liverpool are struggling through a miserable run of four consecutive defeats.

Villa striker Ollie Watkins will again lead the line, supported by John McGinn and Morgan Rogers, though the absence of Emi Buendía through injury is a setback. Still, Villa's back line — Matty Cash, Ezri Konsa, Pau Torres and Lucas Digne — protected by Emi Martínez, remains one of the toughest in the league.

Even Haaland couldn't find a way through last week.

Liverpool's defence, by contrast, looks fragile. Virgil van Dijk and Ibrahima Konate have struggled for consistency, Conor Bradley is yet to fill Trent Alexander-Arnold's boots and Milos Kerkez has yet to hit last season's form. Slot knows another poor defensive showing could spell more pressure from the Kop.

Emery's men are chasing a fifth straight win, while Slot's Reds are desperate to avoid a fifth straight defeat. Something has to give — and Anfield could be a cauldron of tension come kickoff.

**Tottenham v Chelsea**

A classic London derby with huge implications for the top six.

Tottenham sit third in the table, while Chelsea lie ninth — but just three points separate them. Both teams know a win could define their early-season trajectory.

Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca has made it clear: "Our priority is to beat Tottenham. That's how we climb back up."

Following their 2-1 home loss to Sunderland, Maresca will field his strongest 11. Joao Pedro's form has dipped, but Liam Delap returns from a hamstring injury and could make an impact from the bench.

Alejandro Garnacho, who scored against Sunderland, looks set to keep his place on the left wing, alongside Pedro Neto and Marc Guiu in attack. In midfield, Moises Caicedo — in fine scoring form — will battle Joao Palhinha and Rodrigo Bentancur.

For Spurs, coach Thomas Frank has focused on sharpening his attack. Xavi Simons, Mohammed Kudus and Brennan Johnson have looked lively, but the goals have recently come from unlikely sources — defenders Micky van de Ven (two) and Pape Matar Sarr in last weekend's win over Everton.

Chelsea boast a strong record against Tottenham, winning their last four meetings. Maresca would likely settle for a draw, but Frank is targeting nothing less than victory as he looks to cement Tottenham's place among the top four.

# FOOTBALL

Senaji brothers dream of driving KCB to maiden league title

SEE PAGES 34-35



FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 NOVEMBER 2, 2025

# stars SPORT



Action between Soy United and Luanda Villa/SOY UNITED

## Debutants Soy United eager to extend impressive NSL run

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

BUOYED by their first victory of the season in the National Super League, debutants Soy United head coach Jeffers Odongo has vowed to build on the win going forward.

Soy United beat Luanda 1-0 at Eldoret Showground on Wednesday through Alfred Ratolo. They travel to Homa Bay to face Mofa Sunday at Raila Odinga Stadium.

Coach Odongo said, "It will be a tough outing, but we will get good results. The three points against

Luanda Villa pushed us up the table, and we intend to collect more points in the upcoming games to enable us to earn promotion to the top-tier."

Soy were promoted to the second-tier alongside Gucha Stars and Kabati Youth. The highlight of the weekend will be a Vihiga County derby between Luanda Villa and winless Vihiga United at Mumboha Playground. Gucha Stars, so far unbeaten in the league, will seek their second win of the season when they host Fortune Sacco at Gusii.

Gucha Stars drew 0-0 with former Kenya Premier League side Talanta FC at a rain-drenched Ruaraka Sports Ground in their first away game. Naivas will seek to bounce back from their 1-0 mid-week loss to Mombasa United when they host Kabati at KIHBT grounds in Ngong'.

Unbeaten and top of the table, Migori Youth will hope to continue with their impressive start to the season when they travel to Nairobi for an encounter against Equity Bank at Vapor Grounds, Ngong'.

## ★GOLF

### Over 300 enlist for NCBA Series final qualifier

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

MORE than 300 golfers have signed up for the 2025 NCBA Golf Series final qualifying leg on Saturday at Muthaiga Golf Club.

The golfers will battle for slots in the coveted Grand Finale scheduled for November 28 at the same venue.

Golfers will battle for top honours across multiple categories, including overall men gross winner, overall lady gross winner, division two men and lady winner, division 3 overall winner, and junior winner, where each of them will secure a spot in the finale.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Amateur Golf Championship Series takes centre stage with the fourth edition of the Golf Park Open on Friday through Sunday.

Home player Josphat Rono will aim to defend the title he won last year, but will face a stiff challenge from the star-studded list that has Elvis Muigua, William Odek, Isaac Makokha, Joyce Wanjiru and Mercy Nyanchama.

Elsewhere, the NCBA U.S. Kids Golf Fall Nairobi Local Tour will culminate with the Tour Championship on Sunday at Muthaiga Golf Club.

The tournament is expected to bring together at least 200 junior golfers, aged between five and 18 years, who will compete in age-specific categories.

The event is organised by the U.S. Kids Golf and the Junior Golf Foundation Kenya, with support from NCBA Bank.

Titus Gichia at the NCBA Golf Series at Limuru Country Club/HANDOUT



## FOOTBALL

# IT'S REDEMPTION TIME

## Why Harambee Starlets Wafcon qualification is personal for striker Mwanalima

BY TEDDY MULEI

HARAMBEE Starlets forward Mwanalima Adam said Kenya's qualification for the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (Wafcon) is more than just a national triumph — it's a personal redemption.

Back in 2016, she was part of the Starlets squad that made history by qualifying for their first-ever Wafcon in Cameroon, but she missed the tournament while

sitting for her Kenya Certificate Secondary Examinations.

"Being part of the squad that brought Kenya back to the big stage now is such a proud moment," Mwanalima said. "Back then, I couldn't travel with the team, so this feels like making amends."

Kenya booked their ticket to next year's continental showpiece in Morocco after a commanding 4-1 aggregate victory over The Gambia.

The Starlets seized control in the first leg at Nyayo National Stadium, winning 3-1 with goals from Mwanalima, Fasila Adhiambo and Shalyne Opisa.

In the return leg on Tuesday night at the Stade Lat Dior in Thies, Senegal, Mwanalima once again rose to the occasion — her solitary strike sealing Kenya's long-awaited return to WAFCON after nine years in the wilderness.

Their campaign began with a hard-fought 1-0 aggregate win

over Tunisia, courtesy of Terry Engesha's decisive second-leg goal after a barren draw in Nairobi.

While the qualification marks a major step for Kenyan women's football, Mwanalima insists the journey is far from over.

"It's not over yet — our focus now is on Wafcon," she said. "There will be big teams and big names, but as Starlets we are confident. We are capable of bigger things; that's why we were able to qualify."

She credited their success to focus, faith, and support from all quarters.

"I thank God for the opportunity, and I also thank the President, the federation, and the technical bench. They have supported us well and that's why we've performed well," she added.

Head coach Bel-dine Odemba echoed her sentiments, urging the government and the Football Kenya Federation to ensure proper preparations ahead of the continental tournament.

"It's now time to roll up our sleeves and get down to real work," Odemba said. "We saw a big difference between the Gambia that played Niger and the Gambia that faced Kenya — that came down to good preparation. If we prepare well, we'll perform well."

FKF Vice President McDonald Mariga lauded the team's performance and called for early planning.

"It's a big achievement for the Starlets and we're very proud," he said.

"Wafcon is a major tournament, so we have to start our preparations early to make sure the team is ready to compete."



Harambee Starlets' Mwanalima Adam (L), Enez Mudeizi and Vivian Makokha / HANDOUT



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**Starts**



# Oburu's tough balancing act as he takes over ODM

While senior leaders call for continued pact with Ruto, a youthful wing insists ODM should reclaim its opposition roots



**COVER STORY UNITY TEST**

# Oburu's tough balancing act as he steps into Raila's shoes

While a section of senior leaders call for continued pact with Ruto, youthful wing insists that ODM should reclaim its opposition roots



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Political writer

**O**DM acting leader Oburu Oginga is increasingly walking a tight political rope as he assumes the delicate task of steering the political outfit through turbulent waters in the post-Raila era.

Oburu, the elder brother to the former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, is taking over the party that for decades revolved around his younger brother's magnetic personality.

ODM's national executive committee settled on the 82-year-old to replace Raila and steer it through the transition.

The Siaya senator is coming in at a time the party is rocked with high-voltage politics that threatens to tear it apart.

While a section of senior leaders advocate for continued engagement with the President William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza administration beyond 2027, a younger and more radical wing insists ODM should reclaim its opposition roots and chart their own independent political path.

Oburu is faced with amongst others internal rebellion from youthful firebrands who are openly questioning the wisdom of working

with Ruto. The Siaya senator is also expected to lead the Orange team in the November 27 by-elections, which will, for the first time, put to test the party's unity and strength after Raila.

The senator is thus faced with a delicate balancing act, one that will define not just his leadership, but also the very future of ODM.

In an interview on Tuesday, October 28, the veteran politician admitted that the continued cooperation is dividing the opposition party.

The Young Turks led by secretary-general Edwin Sifuna believe

that the pact dilutes ODM's identity as a watchdog opposition party.

The leaders fear the deal could cost the movement its revolutionary edge that once defined Raila's politics.

Determined to avert any fallout with old guards keen to have the party back Ruto's re-election bid, Oburu said the party's top decision-making organ, the central committee that he chairs, has prevailed for ceasefire amongst the rival factions to reduce political temperatures.

"I have tried to bring the party together and that will be my focus, because if we allow the party to split we would have destroyed Raila's legacy," Oburu said during an interview with Ramogi TV.



bakasi East MP Babu Owino, who has in the recent months questioned the party's intention regarding the 2027 Nairobi gubernatorial race.

According to the youthful MP, there were all indications that ODM will back incumbent Governor Johnson Sakaja who enjoyed close links with the former premier.

"I do not see anything wrong with Babu Owino, although I hear there are some issues that may be troubling him," he said.

"I do not know why he believes he cannot be given the ODM ticket to vie for Nairobi governor. I do not think there can be any reason to deny him the ticket if he wins the nominations. If he wins, he will get the ticket, so let him not run away from the party," he said

Oburu urged all aspirants to prepare for an open and transparent nomination process, assuring that no candidate will be unfairly treated.

"Anyone who wants the party ticket in the Nairobi governor race should just declare and square it out openly among each other... let nobody run away because they think they will be denied a chance. Nobody can take the ticket away from you if you win it and you're a member of the party," he said.



**OBURU OGINGA**

*I have tried to bring the party together and that will be my focus, because if we allow the party to split we would have destroyed Raila's legacy*

He has promised to consult widely, calm tempers and steer the party towards a common purpose ahead of the 2027 election.

"We will not allow ODM to crumble, my focus is to bring the party together and arbitrate in areas where there are problems like Kakamega, Busia and even Nyando and many other areas with challenges."

Apart from the implosion threatening the outfit, the Siaya senator

will once again be the centre of focus as he leads the outfit to the first by-elections battle without Raila.

ODM is putting a fight in Kasipul, Magarini and Ugunja constituencies, seats the party held before they fell vacant.

The party is also eyeing a number of ward level by-elections across the country.

Observers are however skeptical of Oburu's ability to steer the party and ensure it is intact ahead of the 2027 polls.

United opposition spokesman Mukhisa Kituyi said Raila was the glue that held the party together and no one can fit those shoes.

"Raila could make MPs do what he wanted, and they would follow his lead without question. The party's unity will now be a thing of the past," Mukhisa said.

Saboti MP Caleb Amisi has urged ODM party to shift from single-person leadership if it is to survive and honour the legacy of Raila.

"ODM needs to be led by a council of elders, not one party leader," Amisi said.

"The first and the last party leader of ODM was our late Baba. Anything else won't help to preserve the legacy of Raila Odinga."

ODM leaders during a press briefing at Dusit Princess Hotel in Nairobi on Monday  
**/LEAH MUKANGAI**

"We discussed against any premature 2027 talks, we told those pro and against 2027 deals to go slow on their utterances because that is what is going to divide us. We will also not be attacking the broad-based government because we are part of it," he added.

In a show of reconciliation, Oburu defended Sifuna, who has been vocal against any deal with Ruto's administration, saying he will not be punished for expressing his views.

He said the firebrand senator has done nothing wrong and is an integral pillar of the outfit.

"You saw he is the one who read our party resolution. I have talked to him, and he has no issues. He is young and among the politicians with a strong opinion. He can at times go overboard, but we are with him in the party.

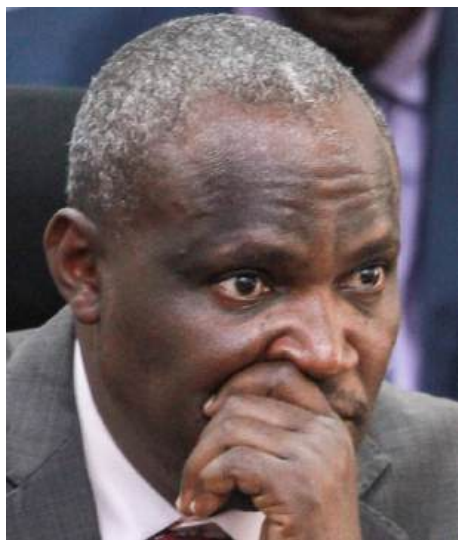
"As a young man, Sifuna sometimes can become restless and go a little overboard, but he is with us. There is nothing he has done to warrant us removing him from the party," he added.

Sifuna has recently faced criticism for his hard line position against engagements with the President.

In the same breadth, Oburu also extended an olive branch to Em-

Acting ODM chairperson Oburu Odinga during his first meeting with top party officials at Chungwa House in Nairobi  
**/HANDOUT**



**COMMENTARY POST-RAILA POLITICS**

John Mbadi



Wycliffe Oparanya



Hassan Joho



Opiyo Wandayi

# Temporary truce, and why Ruto no longer needs ODM experts

COLLINS AJUOK

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The writer is a political commentator

**P**olitics is the only game where the knives are usually out at the same time as the smiles, with protagonists raising hands in solidarity, promising undying love and crafting ideological marriages that they head straight to night meetings afterwards to betray. When the ODM central management committee met on Monday this week in Nairobi, the subsequent press conference seemed nervous and uneasy. You could almost stretch the hand and touch the hidden knives. Some of the smiles were as plastic as toy guns.

But the whole ceremony, to its credit, bought the party and the nation a temporary political truce, possibly long enough to allow the emotions from the funeral of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga to simmer down. Before the meeting, some party leaders, led by Homa Bay Governor and ODM chairperson Gladys Wanga had seemed to lose their heads in the post-burial chaos, stomping around like bulls in a china shop, with decrees and warnings, obviously imagining that the Raila succession would be handled like instant coffee.

In nearly all recent ODM central committee (CC) meetings, the advance narrative has always been that “this will be the one that deals with SG (secretary-general) Edwin Sifuna”. Make no mistake; ahead of the Monday session, certain leaders in the party had let it be known that they would propose a resolution at the committee to remove their belligerent SG, now that the safe umbrella of Raila, which had made him untouchable, was gone. Again, make no mistake, this only became untenable because the overriding chatter after Raila’s funeral within the party was “if Sifuna leaves, we’ll leave too”.

I am not certain how much self-introspection exists within the membership of the ODM CC, but I can state without fear that if each chose to take a good look at post-Raila politics, they would have

rightly concluded that many people in the room had more impending problems than an SG who refuses to bow to the new political master in town. Because in the grand scheme of things, the SG may claim real grassroots following, where others in the room had only drawn their political lifeline from the departed PM.

It is on this score that indeed, I submit that President William Ruto should deploy ruthless mode and throw out the so-called ODM experts from his government and fashion out a more aligned co-operation with Luo Nyanza henceforth. At the time of penning this piece, rumours on the streets has it that a Cabinet reshuffle is looming, with new faces set to join government as others depart. Among those said to be set for a seat on the table is Raila’s daughter Winnie Odinga currently a member of EALA, based in Arusha, Tanzania. She made the “ready to return home” declaration at her father’s funeral.

There is a simple philosophy to the broad-based government, even if it remains unsaid. It is that the shadow of Raila, and the stability that came with it, was always in government to help give it the image of wider acceptability, largely borne of the two top presidential contenders from 2022 working together. The five members of the Cabinet co-opted from ODM in 2024 represented this shadow. They are CSs Hassan Joho (Mining and Blue Economy), John Mbadi (National Treasury), Beatrice Askul (Regional Development), Wycliffe Oparanya (Cooperatives) and Opiyo Wandayi (Energy). Collectively, they represented Raila, but in the latter’s absence, each will be weighed individually.

If the President were to seek my opinion, I would gladly aver that of the entire cast, only Mbadi, and perhaps Joho, possess the political noses and grassroots connection to be valuable to him after Raila. Mbadi is a lethal political operator with an explosive presence on the microphone. He is heavily gifted in the use of Dholuo idioms and can

engage crowds for hours on end. Because of this, he is a fearless political warrior who can set the agenda and tone for narrative building. Apart from him, Joho also happens to be quite popular among the youth, even if his Instagram political style may not appeal to older audiences.

Due to the foregoing, and given Ruto’s desire to work with Luo Nyanza ahead of the 2027 election, I am persuaded that he no longer needs the “experts” in Cabinet and leaders within ODM who drew their influence solely from being propped up by Raila.

In fact, the more compelling action would be for the President to create his own surrogates outside ODM, and dump most of those he had supposedly taken on loan from Raila. This way, he avoids the need to practically run two political formations from State House.

Before Raila’s demise, ODM had planned a November jamboree in Mombasa to celebrate the party’s 20th birthday. All indications were that the President would accompany Raila to the fete, conveniently arriving their bearing the loose brand name “ODM founder”. Convenience is a staple of politics, so it is hard to begrudge Ruto one. But in the absence of the former PM, it seems to be that it would be a bad idea for the President to attend a large ODM meeting where some delegates may not be necessarily enthusiastic about the arrangement he had with Raila, where the latter can no longer call the shots.

There is a general election coming

**...OF THE ENTIRE CAST, ONLY MBADI, AND PERHAPS JOHO, POSSES THE POLITICAL NOSES AND GRASSROOTS CONNECTION TO BE VALUABLE TO HIM AFTER RAILA. MBADI IS A LETHAL POLITICAL OPERATOR WITH AN EXPLOSIVE PRESENCE...**

in just about eighteen months. Between now and that time, there will be no room for sentimental political positions based on old friendships, unless someone stands to benefit. Like with the death of the founding father Jomo Kenyatta in 1978, the mourning period for Raila will be succeeded by a season of political pragmatism, in which old ties will be broken and supposedly tight bonds will be set loose. Woe unto them who have depended for long on the political principle of “raised hands”, drawing undue benefits from closeness to especially the enigmatic Odinga.

If the Cabinet reshuffle does come, indeed if major changes happen in government, it will be a mirror to the short-term thinking of President Ruto on how he intends to position his pieces for the bruising contest ahead. But more keen watchers will be interested on the destiny of ODM from now. Many people have predicted that the party will break into smaller splinter groups, but I suspect that if the truly popular leaders in the movement take charge of it, there is a remote chance it may surprise everyone and run one more electoral cycle.

In the meantime, the possible implosion of ODM seems to have been averted for now. But the line remains drawn between those who want to use it as a trading vessel to extract favours from Ruto, and those who seek to retain its identity as an influential political formation on Kenya’s political landscape. I am sure the President will not entertain the former for too long, now that Raila isn’t here to underwrite their desires. But the latter has to go through a difficult period of trying to assert their authority and own the party. If they succeed, the party may get a lifeline and survive the short-term turbulent period. This latter faction seems to have emerged with the upper hand from the last three weeks, but staying on top of the league table requires more than winning just a few matches. The long term game starts now.



## COMMENTARY 2027 GAME PLAN

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# Inside Kitui's fierce battle to succeed Governor Malombe

**T**he race to succeed Kitui Governor Julius Malombe has kicked off in earnest, with at least eight political heavyweights and fresh aspirants declaring interest in the county's top seat ahead of the 2027 general election.

The crowded contest has already triggered heated debates over party loyalty, regional balance, integrity and the promise of generational change setting the stage for one of the fiercest gubernatorial races in Kitui's history.

Among those eyeing the seat are Charity Ngilu (former governor), Irene Kasalu (woman rep) and Enoch Wambua (senator). Others are political activist Musili Kauta, Kitui Central MP Makali Mulu, former Tourism CS Peninah Malonza, ex-PS Jonathan Mueke and Safaricom executive Nicholas Mulila.

Speaking to the Star, Kasalu confirmed she will be contesting the seat on a Wiper party ticket. She said she was prepared to bring inclusive leadership to the people of Kitui and ensure development is evenly distributed across the county.

"I am going for the seat on the Wiper ticket, and I believe it is time to have leadership that touches every corner of Kitui. The people of this county deserve fairness, and that is what I stand for," she said.

Her declaration comes at a time when the Wiper Democratic Movement, led by Kalonzo Musyoka, is under pressure to manage its succession politics in Kitui.

Kitui West MP Edith Nyenze told the Star that the 2027 contest will be unlike any other, insisting that the party must avoid past mistakes.

"The 2027 election will be very different. Those who will be elected must have integrity and be ready to work for the electorate. Wiper, being dominant in this region, will most likely carry the day, but the party must not repeat the mistakes of



Charity Ngilu



Enock Wambua



Jonathan Mueke



Irene Kasalu



Makali Mulu



Peninah Malonza

2017 when it lost to Charity Ngilu," she said. Nyenze added that Wiper would employ a fair nomination process to prevent divisions.

"Consensus should be embraced where possible, so that loyalists can all feel accommodated. Leadership in Kitui must also be well distributed so that all regions have a fair chance at representation," she said.

Senator Wambua has also officially thrown his hat into the ring, declaring his bid during a recent political forum.

"I have decided to seek the support of the people of Kitui in the next general election to be held on August 10, 2027, to serve you as your governor. My leadership record has been tested, even at the Senate where I served as deputy Minority leader. I have the full backing of the Wiper Democratic Movement," he said during a recent event in the region.

Ngilu, who sat out of the 2022 election, has also signalled a return, promising to recapture the seat. Speaking during a funds drive at Kitui Town Anglican Church of Kenya a few months ago, she declared she was ready to serve again.

"I will once again romp home as governor and serve the people of Kitui better after Malombe leaves office," she said.

Political analyst John Wahinya has said that despite the personalities in the race, Kitui's politics has historically revolved around party loyalty rather than individual appeal.

"At the end of the day, political parties will carry the day. Voters here tend to lean on party strength, whether it is Wiper, Narc, or whichever formation appears strongest heading into the election. Candidates who secure strong party backing will enjoy a significant advantage over independents or weaker outfits," he said.

Kauta has however dismissed the notion that party politics would determine the outcome. He said the electorate will elect their leader based on merit but not along party lines as it has been witnessed in past elections. "The people of Kitui are now wise enough. They will elect leaders based on merit. Political parties will play a minimal role in the 2027 election because voters have seen that personalities and compe-

tence matter more than political slogans," he added. For Mulu, insiders say he will be banking on his long service and loyalty to Kalonzo.

Political observers argue that the race reflects both high stakes and deep divisions.

Godfrey Wambua, a former councillor, said that most front-runners hail from Kitui Central, leaving other regions feeling sidelined — a factor that could shape voting patterns.

"All political heavyweights are in the mix this time. But what complicates matters further most of the leaders hail from same locality Kitui Central, which has left other areas feeling sidelined. That imbalance could influence voting patterns, with calls for other regions to be given a fair chance at producing leadership," Wambua said.

He added that Kitui may experience a generational shift noting it's too early to speculate on who will be the next governor and on which political party.

"The region might bank on new and fresh blood that can transform Kitui but it's too early to speculate, those currently elected should be allowed to serve the people."

Charles Mwangi, a political analyst and Jkuat lecturer, said Kitui voters are conservative but prone to swings between dominant outfits like Wiper and Ngilu's Narc. He pointed out that Malombe first clinched the governor's seat on a Wiper ticket in 2013, was unseated by Ngilu on a Narc ticket in 2017, and later reclaimed the position in 2022 under Wiper, a cycle that, he warned, could easily repeat itself in 2027. "While Wiper and Ngilu's Narc have traditionally dominated Kitui politics, voter dynamics are shifting. There is growing fatigue with the old order, and the rise of younger, issue-driven voters means 2027 might break the cycle. The county could surprise many by electing a fresh face outside the familiar Wiper-Narc rivalry," he said.

## It's time to turn youth bulge into development dividend

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**T**he sixth edition of Pwani Innovation Week 2025 has officially started in Mombasa, bringing together youth, innovators, policymakers and development partners to drive inclusive growth and sustainability across Kenya's coastal region.

Held under the theme 'Pwani re-imagined: youth agency, innovation & sustainability of coastal economies,' this year's forum underscores the vital role of young people in reimagining the region's future through creativity, entrepreneurship and technology-driven solutions.

Alex Chesosi, chairman of Tru-

ly Kenya Limited, emphasised the importance of empowering coastal youth to lead transformation and shape the future of the blue and creative economies.

Chesosi said the Truly Kenya Digital — the country's first ethical social media platform in partnership with ImagineBC seeks to empower digital content creators by promoting transparency, fair compensation and responsible digital engagement.

He said that Pwani Re-imagined is about charting a forward-looking transformation of the coastal region — unlocking resilience and prosperity through diversification and youth-led innovation.

"There are two sides to the youth bulge: the youth dividend and youth disruption. When empowered, youth drive growth; when neglected, they drive instability," he said.

He added that PIW 2025 builds on the success of last year's event, which established regional collaborations with Tanzanian partners through the Tanga Yetu Initiative.

This year's edition broadens participation to include innovators, investors and policymakers from across the East African coastline, fostering stronger cross-border partnerships for sustainable development.

Organised annually by the Swahilipot Hub Foundation, PIW has evolved into a premier regional platform for innovation — fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange and investment in transformative ideas across the blue, green and creative economies.

Denis Itumbi, head of Presidential Special Projects and Creative Economy Coordination recently lauded Truly Kenya and ImagineBC for promoting a transparent and inclusive model for the creator economy.

"The future of advertising is creator-led," Itumbi said in a statement shared on X. "Truly Kenya and ImagineBC are piloting a model where viewers are rewarded for their engagement while ensuring creators earn fairly — a structure that aligns with Kenya's goal to make the creative economy globally competitive and transparent."

Key speakers at the event included Dr Kevit Desai, chairman of Pwani Innovation Week 2025; Salim Mvurya, Cabinet Secretary for Creative Economy; Prof Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary for Science, Research and Innovation and Mombasa Governor Abdullswamad Nassir.

**KATIBA CORNER** **RULE OF LAW**

# Cabinet Secretaries, politics and Kenya's 2010 constitution

JILL COTTREL GHAI  
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The author is expressing her personal opinion

Is it right for Cabinet Secretaries to be going around the country praising the President and talking about “kumi bila break” or two consecutive terms for Ruto, rather than ‘wantam’ so beloved of people like ex-DP Rigathi Gachagua?

I share the disapproval of CSs spending their time in open-top cars and in churches, basically electioneering. Their jobs, for which we pay them, one imagines would consist mostly of sitting in their offices, or in meetings wrestling with the problems assigned to them when they are made CS for fisheries, tourism, health, education, security or whatever.

Apparently, the Law Society and MP Babu Owino have gone to court to challenge this behaviour, not just on the basis of early and government-funded campaigning, which is an important issue. My gut feeling was that they are wrong on this. I apologise for the rather technical exploration of what turned out to be a complex issue.

When understanding the constitution, from a legal point of view, we need to understand what was intended. Over time, it may be difficult, and not even desirable, to be rigid about the “original intention” of the makers of the constitution. But not, I suggest, at this stage.

## THE INTENTION

Under our old constitution, ministers had to be MPs. They were political appointees, and the function of the Cabinet was “to aid and advice the President in the government of Kenya”. That is the historical function of Cabinets – members are advisers to the monarch, prime minister or president.

The president without reason or notice given could sack them, and this is true under the current constitution.

I see little sign that the drafters intended to change the historic nature of the role.

Some official drafts of a new constitution required that ministers came from outside Parliament, or would allow that some be from outside.

The idea was to allow the head of government to appoint ministers with particular knowledge or skills. It was also thought that maybe people could concentrate on being either a minister or an MP. It was not intended that they be political neutrals.

At the last minute, of course, the draft was changed from a parliamentary system to a sort of US-style presidential one under which it is assumed that ministers (now renamed Cabinet Secretaries) must come from outside the legislature.

So what happens in the US? The American Constitution does not really say anything clearly about a Cabinet. It says the President “may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments”. They

Embakasi East MP Babu Owino and an advocate of the High Court of Kenya  
**/HANDOUT**

are clearly political appointees appointed because the President believes they support him. But the constitution really has nothing to say about their behaviour.

The Hatch Act (An Act to Prevent Pernicious Political Activities), according to a US Justice Department summary, “prohibits federal employees from engaging in partisan political activity while on duty, in a federal facility, or using federal property.” This includes members of the Cabinet (the President is exempt).

Was there any intention to import a similar rule into our constitution? Neither the report of the parliamentary committee responsible for the government system change, nor that of the committee of experts, gives any indication.

Article 77(2) says: “Any appointed State officer shall not hold office in a political party.” Appointed state officer are judges, magistrates, members of commissions, certain office holders (such as the Auditor General and DPP), principal secretaries, heads of defence forces and police services, and Cabinet Secretaries.

This indicates an expectation that state officers will not have the particular commitment of time, and other ways, that being a party official involves. The president (and MPs, senators, governors and MCAs), of course, are elected, not appointed.

I see no hint that the Hatch Act was an inspiration. That Parliamentary Select Committee that wanted

the US system actually removed what is now that Article 77(2) language from the draft constitution, and it was reinserted by the Committee of Experts as it finalised the draft.

That language had been in earlier draft constitutions with parliamentary systems, even if all ministers were to come from Parliament, such as the Bomas Draft, and was clearly unconnected, in the minds of drafters, with American-style CSs.

## A COMPLICATION

The important, and difficult, question is whether Article 77(2) was intended to be the only limit on the political activity of appointed state officers.

A common sense principle of interpreting legislation, including constitutions, is that if something is specifically mentioned, and something closely related is not, the exclusion of the not-mentioned thing was deliberate. On that basis it was not intended that appointed state officers should be excluded from all party political activity – just from holding office.

Clearly that cannot be true of all appointed state officers. How about judges? Article 260 on independence of the Judiciary would be infringed by anyone who played an active part in party politics, although the Article does not mention this.

Article 239 is very clear that no member of the security organs (which would include the state offi-

cers heading them) must behave in any way that favours a particular political party – clearly campaigning is out. It is perhaps surprising that the constitution is not clearer about the political neutrality of the public service, although it does mention as a value “responsive, prompt, effective, impartial and equitable provision of services”. Anyway, state officers are not part of the public service (Art. 260).

Some ordinary law tries to deal with this, disregarding the Public Officers’ Ethics Act, which has just been repealed.

The Political Parties Act, Section 12, prohibits public officers from publicly indicating support for or opposition to any political party or candidate in an election. It excludes elected officers, but not CSs. And the Act’s phrase “public officer” includes CSs because it uses the Constitution’s definition of “public officer” that includes state officers. It goes much further than the Hatch Act.

The new Conflict of Interest Act says that an appointed public officer must not, in the performance of his [or her] duties, be publicly politically active. Campaigning would be a clear violation. However, this explicitly does not include CSs and CECs. It does not explicitly change the Political Parties Act but being more recent must change the earlier Act if it is inconsistent with it.

The court case challenges this Conflict of Interest Act exclusion on the basis that the constitution expressly excludes such behaviour for CSs and CECs.

## BACK TO THE CONSTITUTION

As we saw, the Constitution expressly excludes holding party office for CSs not campaigning. Arguably the Political Parties Act Section 12 was unconstitutional because it restricted CSs beyond what the Constitution drafters chose to do.

The constitution on this issue reflects the thinking during the early stages of the constitution-making process, for a parliamentary system with ministers as part of Parliament and inevitably political.

There is no clear evidence of any intention, or any words, to make CSs apolitical. No intention to incorporate the Hatch Act or any wider prohibition into the Kenyan Constitution. No indication that the issue was considered.

I suspect some confusion arises between “public service”, which does not include State Officers, and “public officer”, a category that does (Article 260). CSs are not civil servants.

Incidentally – the Political Parties Act and the Conflict of Interest Act may not have the desired effect in limiting other public officers. There is no acknowledgement in either Act that it limits human rights under Article 38 on political rights, which all citizens have, and Article 33 on freedom of expression.



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**UNDER OUR OLD CONSTITUTION, MINISTERS HAD TO BE MPS. THEY WERE POLITICAL APPOINTEES, AND THE FUNCTION OF THE CABINET WAS “TO AID AND ADVISE THE PRESIDENT IN THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA”. THAT IS THE HISTORICAL FUNCTION OF CABINETS – MEMBERS ARE ADVISERS TO THE MONARCH...**

COMMENTARY **INTERNET AND FREEDOM**

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# Firewalls, flags and Africa's new digital war on dissent

In 2025, Africa stands at a crossroads. On one hand, the continent is experiencing a digital renaissance, an explosion of connectivity, innovation and youth-led activism powered by artificial intelligence, machine learning and the Internet of Things (IoT). On the other hand, a quiet but insidious war is being waged against political expression, dissent and the free flow of information. This war is not fought with guns alone, but with firewalls, surveillance software and the monopolisation of airwaves. It is a war against pluralism, against the right to know and against the very soul of democratic accountability.

## OLD GUARD AND THE NEW FRONTIER

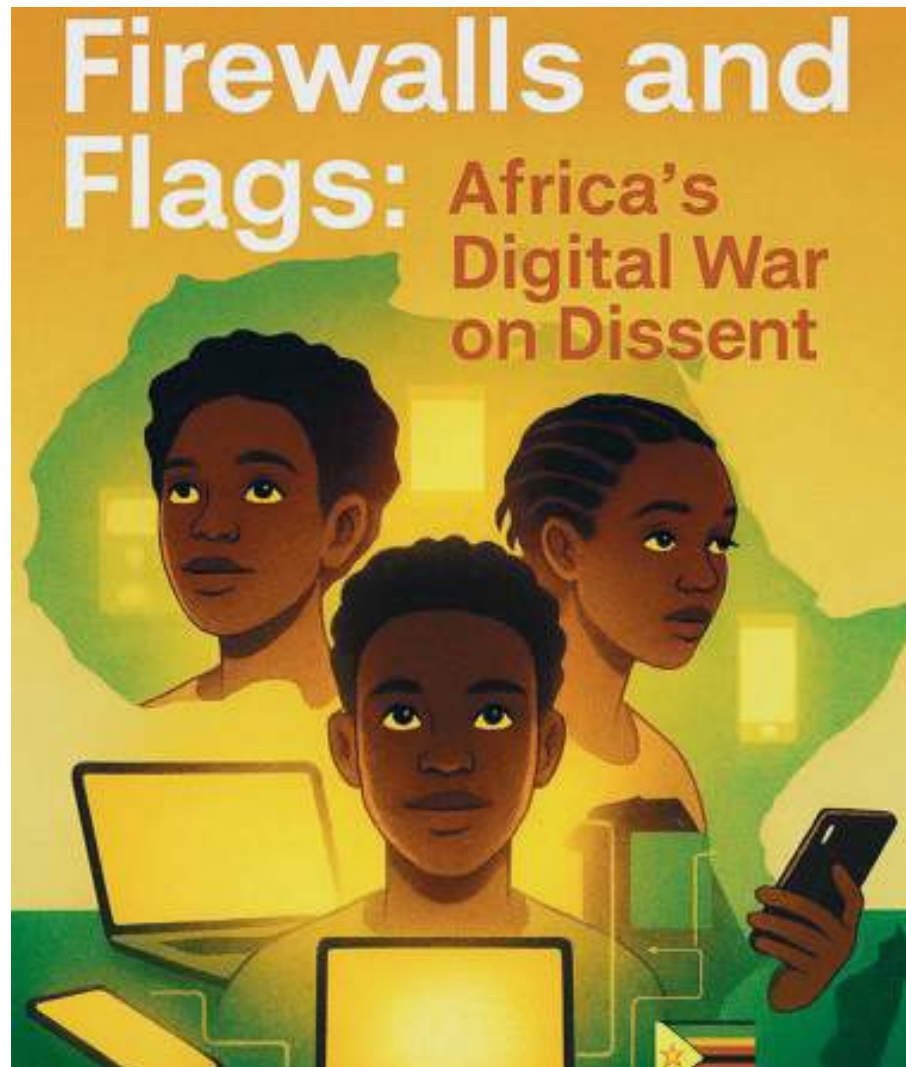
Across much of Africa, traditional media, radio, television and print remain tightly controlled by the state. National broadcasters dominate the airwaves, especially in rural areas where radio is still the most accessible medium. In countries like Rwanda, Eritrea, Sudan, Cameroon, Egypt and Zimbabwe, the state's grip on information is justified in the name of national unity, security, or development. But beneath these noble veneers lies a darker truth: the deliberate suppression of dissent, the silencing of opposition and the manipulation of public perception.

In Eritrea, where independent media is virtually non-existent, the government maintains a monopoly on truth. In Rwanda, the narrative of post-genocide unity has been weaponised to stifle criticism. In Sudan and Cameroon, ongoing conflicts provide a pretext for information blackouts. Egypt's regime, under the guise of anti-terrorism, has jailed journalists and censored online platforms. Zimbabwe's state broadcaster remains a mouthpiece for the ruling party, while opposition voices are relegated to the margins.

These regimes operate within a framework of electoral autocracy, where elections exist but are neither free nor fair. The control of information is central to this model. By monopolising the media, governments shape reality itself, turning propaganda into policy and silencing those who dare to imagine alternatives.

## DIGITAL REVOLUTION MEETS FIREWALL

The rise of digital platforms promised to disrupt this monopoly. Social media, blogs and citizen journalism offered new avenues for expression, but as connectivity grew, so did the state's paranoia. Governments began to tighten control over digital spaces, especially ahead of elections. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Ethiopia, internet shutdowns have become routine during periods of political tension. In Zimbabwe, the government infamously shut down the internet during protests in January 2019, cutting off citizens from each other and the world.



These shutdowns are often justified as measures to prevent violence or misinformation. But in truth, they are acts of repression, frivolous and futile attempts to halt the inevitable march of the digital revolution. With innovations like Starlink bringing high-speed internet to even the most remote corners of the continent, the state's ability to control the digital frontier is waning. Yet, instead of embracing this transformation, many regimes are doubling down on censorship, surveillance and intimidation.

In this hostile environment, a new figure has emerged: the citizen journalist. Armed with just a smartphone and an internet connection, this fearless, brazen and unbound individual is reshaping the African civic space.

They are not beholden to institutions or editorial boards. They report in real time, from the streets, the villages, the refugee camps. They document police brutality, electoral fraud and social injustice. And they do so with a clarity and urgency that traditional media cannot match.

These digital warriors are often young, tech-savvy and politically conscious. They are the children of the revolution, born into repression but raised on resistance. Their tools are hashtags, livestreams and viral videos. Their battlegrounds are Twitter threads and WhatsApp groups. And their victories are measured not

in votes, but in visibility.

## DIGITAL MOVEMENTS THAT SHOOK THE CONTINENT

Africa has already witnessed the power of digital activism. The Arab Spring in Egypt and Tunisia (2011) was catalysed by social media, with Facebook and Twitter used to organise protests and share footage of state violence. In Zimbabwe, the #ThisFlag movement (2016) began with a simple video by Pastor Evan Mawarire and grew into a nationwide call for accountability. In South Africa, #FeesMustFall (2015-16) mobilised students across campuses to demand affordable education and decolonised curricula. Nigeria's #EndSARS (2020) exposed police brutality and galvanised global solidarity. The #CongoIsBleeding campaign (2020) highlighted the exploitation of Congolese miners and called for ethical tech supply chains. Many examples abound.

Each of these movements faced backlash, arrests, internet shutdowns and smear campaigns. But they also left legacies. They changed laws, shifted narratives and inspired new generations of activists. They proved that digital tools could be used not just for entertainment, but for emancipation.

## DIASPORA, SOLIDARITY AND TRANSNATIONAL IMPACT

The impact of these movements ex-

tends beyond borders. Diasporan communities have played a crucial role in amplifying local struggles. Zimbabweans abroad used social media to support #ThisFlag, organise protests and pressure international bodies. Nigerians in the diaspora raised funds and awareness for #EndSARS. South African students abroad echoed the demands of #FeesMustFall. This transnational solidarity is a powerful counterforce to state repression. It connects local struggles to global conversations. It brings visibility to the invisible. And it reminds authoritarian regimes that the world is watching.

## AI AND THE FUTURE OF CIVIC SPACE

As Africa embraces artificial intelligence, machine learning and IoT, the stakes are rising. These technologies can be used to enhance governance, improve service delivery and empower citizens. But they can also be weaponised. Facial recognition software, predictive policing and algorithmic surveillance are already being deployed in some countries to monitor dissent and control behaviour.

The challenge is not the technology itself, but the intent behind its use. In the hands of democratic governments, AI can be a tool for inclusion. In the hands of autocrats, it becomes a tool for exclusion. The future of civic space in Africa will depend on how these technologies are regulated, who controls them and whose interests they serve.

## RADIO: LAST BASTION OF CONTROL

In rural Africa, where internet access remains limited, radio is still king. It is cheap, accessible and trusted. But it is also vulnerable to manipulation. In countries like Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia, political campaigns rely heavily on radio to reach voters. State broadcasters dominate the airwaves, pushing regime narratives and drowning out opposition voices.

This monopoly on information is especially dangerous in remote areas, where citizens have few alternative sources. It creates echo chambers of propaganda, distorts public perception and undermines informed decision-making. Breaking this monopoly is essential for building a pluralistic and participatory democracy.

## DEFENDING DIGITAL CIVIC SPACE

Despite these challenges, the digital civic space is being defended by youth, by activists, by ordinary citizens. They are building alternative platforms, creating independent media and using encryption to protect their communications. They are challenging laws, filing lawsuits and demanding accountability. They are refusing to be silenced. This resistance is not just political; it is cultural. It is a rejection of fear, a celebration of freedom and a declaration of dignity. It is the heartbeat of a new Africa, an Africa that refuses to be defined by its oppressors.

**COMMENTARY PEOPLE AND POWER**

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# Kindiki at one year: Highlights of shining track record as DP

**S**aturday, November 1, marks exactly one year since Kithure Kindiki assumed office as Deputy President, replacing Rigathi Gachagua, who was impeached by MPs in a historic impeachment motion.

As he marks the 365 days, the political conversation has shifted from questioning whether the DP could fill his combative predecessors' shoes to how he has managed to redesign them. For long in the country's history, the DP's office has been characterised as jinxed, with occupants set up for supremacy battles with their boss, the president.

But Kindiki's tenure has not been one of inflammatory pronouncements but of a quiet, strategic operator who has brought a sense of stability and dignity to President William Ruto's administration.

Unlike the events that played out before him, his tenure so far reveals a figure keen to blur the power he wields and give prominence to the efficiency he enables.

His mode of operation has earned him praise across the board, with political pundits underlining how he has redefined the role of the country's second most powerful office.

Despite the widespread acclaim, Kindiki's first year has not been without its political headwinds.

His most notable struggle has been in consolidating political support in the Mt Kenya region, a key political base, underscoring the complex political dynamics he must still navigate. The DP's admirers, however, dismiss the political question as inconsequential, drawing comparisons with the positives of his first year.

Insiders note that, unlike his predecessor, Gachagua, he is not a source of internal friction but a pillar of support in his apolitical approach. He has emerged as a unifying factor in the Cabinet, giving the President the peace of mind to focus on broad-



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki  
/HANDOUT

er state duties. Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri attests that the DP has proved his critics wrong, saying, "He is the best thing that happened to this country." "He strictly understands his role in how to deal with the Executive and the Legislature. He is calm, listening and not fast at commenting out of nothing," the lawmaker, once Agriculture CS, said.

"The DP has coordinated government affairs excellently. He has carried out his duty as is supposed to be. He has respected members of Parliament," Kiunjuri told the Star on the phone.

Governance expert and political analyst Javas Bigambo also observed that the transformation in the DP's office has not gone unnoticed.

"Over the past year that Prof Kindiki has served as DP, he has effectively portrayed himself as a consummate deputy to President Ruto, and his emotional intelligence is remarkable," Bigambo said.

He went on, "Some had the opinion that the shoes would not fit him, given the bravado that his predecessor, Gachagua, had. He is an effective political windshield to President

Ruto, complementing his roles with remarkable subordination."

President Ruto himself, during Kindiki's swearing-in, lamented having had "no helper to articulate the government's agenda."

A year later, he has publicly declared how that void has been decisively filled, a pronouncement that shows how the support is echoed at the highest level of government.

During a recent wildlife compensation event at Meru National Park, Ruto publicly praised his deputy for having "knowledge of government operation".

"Professor knows that he is not for the Meru people alone, he is for every Kenyan," the head of state said, "I am very proud to have a deputy who understands government, is supportive of the ministers and myself." He restated the same during a meeting with hundreds of teachers at State House, emphasising that it was better to have a learned DP.

"If you want to succeed, look for a deputy who is more learned than you," President Ruto said, painting the stark contrast to the previous era of public tension.

In the political establishment, the narrative is the same.

Former Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi said, "The role of the Deputy President is to assist the President. Prof Kindiki has been a star performer in this role."

He added, "As a leader of the Meru community, I have seen and worked with several vice presidents. I think Kindiki has done an excellent job in his first year in office.

"He has won President Ruto many friends by his humble, soft-spoken, down-to-earth approach to issues."

Political observers describe him as a 'good boardroom architect'. His hand is evident in the seamless coordination of high-stakes events and the day-to-day grind of governance.

A prime example cited was his recent management of opposition leader Raila Odinga's funeral, where he skillfully balanced national, community and political interests without fanfare.

"He handled the task that requires a deft touch and immense emotional intelligence without any dramatic outcomes," Suna East MP Junet Mohamed, who was a member of the funeral committee, said.

For the observers, President Ruto is no longer bogged down by what they call "small-time errands," having delegated the daily inspection and oversight of government projects to his deputy.

A case in point is the Kitui stadium project, which had been stalled for years due to pending bills. After an inspection visit from the DP, the financial bottlenecks were sorted, and work resumed.

For lawmakers, the operational excellence stems from Kindiki's accessibility and coordination.

Uguya MP David Ochieng said, "Kindiki has executed his role well, he has lived by the dignity of the office and Kenyans have something to learn from him on how the office should run."

## Dr Ouma Oluga: From a union firebrand to health technocrat

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The writer is a political commentator

**W**hen Dr Ouma Oluga first appeared on the national stage nearly a decade ago, he was not the polished, consequential bureaucrat seated behind a mahogany desk at Afya House. He was a defiant young doctor in a white coat — leading street marches, facing riot police and demanding better pay and working conditions for Kenya's medics.

Today, that same man sits at the heart of government as the Principal Secretary for Medical Services — one of President William Ruto's most visible technocrats driving the administration's universal health

coverage agenda. His transformation from fiery union leader to top state official has drawn admiration and curiosity in equal measure. It not only speaks to the changing relationship between activism and governance in Kenya, but also to Oluga's growing influence on the national stage.

A graduate of Moi University and the University of Nairobi, Oluga rose to prominence in 2015 when he was elected secretary-general of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union.

It was a turbulent period in the health sector — doctors were striking, hospitals were understaffed

and counties were struggling under devolution.

Young, articulate and unafraid, he quickly became the face of a restless medical workforce demanding dignity and fairness. His speeches combined professional idealism with sharp political critique. During the 2016-17 doctors' strike, he endured arrests and vilification but held firm, ultimately securing improved pay and working conditions.

Among his major victories was calling on both national and county governments to clear millions of shillings in salary arrears owed to doctors since 2017. For years, medics had complained of delayed pay following devolution's payroll disruptions. This year, many finally smiled to the bank after payments running into hundreds of millions were processed — a milestone that restored confidence within the medical fraternity.

Yet, even in his activist days, Oluga's rhetoric went beyond paychecks. He consistently framed doctors' demands as part of a broader call for systemic reform — governance, accountability and the need for a functional, equitable health system. That reformist streak would later define his technocratic career.

When he resigned from KMPDU in 2020 to join the Nairobi Metropolitan Services as chief officer for health, many were stunned. How could the fiery activist work within the same system he had long condemned? But those close to him say the move was strategic — a chance to test reform from within.

At NMS, Oluga was thrust into a bold experiment: building health facilities in informal settlements, recruiting medical staff and restoring trust in a devolved health system. The NMS experience became his proving ground for national service.

# THE WEEK/ WHO RESURFACED, WHO LEFT: WHAT KENYAN LEADERS HAVE BEEN UP TO

## TOP 4 STORIES



MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

### Insurance industry bleeds as fraud, fake claims rocks sector

Kenya's insurance industry is facing a fraud crisis, which is threatening both private underwriters and the government's SHA scheme. From exaggerated or faked accident claims and forged medical reports to ghost beneficiaries, fraudsters have continued to milk companies of billions as they exploit gaps in oversight and collusion with insiders. In August, the Ministry of Health suspended 40 health facilities after uncovering widespread fraudulent claims.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

### How accountants signed off billions of public money

A review of the auditor's reports has revealed that senior accounting officers at the National Treasury and other key government ministries have been signing off on financial statements despite not being in good standing with their professional body, Icpak. The findings, part of a broader audit review covering the financial years 2020-21 to 2022-23, raise serious questions about the credibility of the public financial management.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

### Former governors in multimillion-shilling loan scandal

An uncovered what appears to be widespread abuse of car loan and mortgage schemes involving current and former governors, and senior county officials. The Senate County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee found many county executives, particularly former governors, have defaulted on their loan repayments. The probe revealed most of the loans were granted without proper securities or repayment safeguards.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

### USA report links Kenyan officials to human trafficking

A new report by the US government has exposed deep-rooted complicity by Kenyan state officials in human trafficking networks. The US Department of State's 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report reveals a pattern of corruption, impunity and government inaction that continues to fuel slave-like exploitation at home and abroad. The report exposes how police, magistrates, court officials, immigration officials and diplomats collude to facilitate trafficking.

**1.** President William Ruto joins traditional dancers after laying the foundation stone for the 382-unit Marigat affordable housing project and inspecting ongoing road construction works in Kabarnet, Baringo county, on Tuesday /EMILY LANGAT/PCS

**2.** Former Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo and former Baringo Senator Gideon Moi visit Ida Odinga in Bondo to pay their respect to former Prime Minister Railla Odinga /EMMANUEL WANSON

**3.** Gem MP Elisha Odhiambo hands over his contribution to Ugenya MP David Ochieng during a funds drive at St Teresa Kawuondi Catholic Church in Rarieda constituency, Siaya county /KNA

**4.** Mama Ida Odinga hugs Charlene Ruto when she visited Odinga's homestead in Bondo to condone with the family /HANDOUT

**5.** Nyamira Woman Representative Jerusha Momanyi presents a cheque of Sh147,000 to Miriri boda boda operators from Gachuba ward on Monday /KNA

**6.** Former Baringo East MP Joseph Lotodo represents marginalised Pokot community in Tiaty constituency when they presented a written memorandum to Caroline Lentupuru, commissioner at National Gender and Equality Commission at Kenya Forestry Research Institute in Marigat /KNA

**7.** Senators John Methu (Nyandarua) and Karungo wa Thang'wa (Kiambu, second left) present sheep to Oburu Odinga (2nd right) at his Bondo home on Wednesday /COURTESY

**8.** Kajiado Deputy Governor Martin Moshisho, Governor Joseph Ole Lenku and MP Kakuta Ole Maimai join in song and dance during Mashujaa Day celebrations in Kitengela /KNA

**COMMENTARY DANGER AHEAD**

# Tribal jingoists reemerge as anti-tribalist Raila mourned

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**T**he country has just come from two long weeks of national mourning for one of her quintessential icons of liberation, Raila Odinga. The enigma has been celebrated as foremost nationalist and pan-Africanist par excellence. Across the globe and within the breath and length of the country, the ODM leader was eulogised as a unifying pillar of the nation. He dared dream where many recoiled in fear. Kenyan leaders from both sides of the political divide put aside their differences to eulogise him as the true face of justice and liberty. His leadership developed networks that transcended tribes and regions.

Delegations from organisations, communities, families and regions continue to pour in their numbers at Opoda farm and Kang'o ka Jaramogi, the burial site. The ODM party and the government under the broad-based arrangement provided the largest and most visible representation at the funeral. Almost all the speakers agreed that the best tribute to give Raila was to emulate his nationalist ideals. Opinion was unanimous that while he never achieved his desire to be the president of Kenya, he was able to influence government policies more than any of his political peers.

His patriotism made him put aside his personal interests for the good and unity of the nation. He championed inclusivity and justice for all without any bias. Within the region, he was not only a conciliator but also an influencer of democracy and justice.

Many prodemocracy crusaders looked up to him as their mentor. He was always called upon to broker peace and negotiate amicable solutions in political disputes. Such was the case in Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It was quite unfortunate that it would be during Raila's mourning period that key national leaders resorted to spewing tribal vitriol. The jingoist fervour reared its ugly head at a time of solemn farewell to a gallant son of the nation. To add salt to injury, the champions of ethnic balkanisation chose to use his name and reputation as the basis for fanning tribal hatred.

**POLITICAL ORGANISING**

Politics in Kenya has generally been organised along ethnic lines since the colonial period. As the nation geared up for Independence, Africans were allowed limited political organisation and representation through regional political parties. At Independence, the dominant parties of Kanu and Kadu were both formed and organised on the basis of tribes and regions. However, during the one-party system era under Presidents Jomo Kenyatta and Daniel Moi, the tribe emerged as the single most



important vehicle to state power.

From 1966 onwards, government and state operations were designed with the Luo ethnic community as the strategic target. Interestingly they were targeted not as key partners in government but as dangerous elements and opponents of the state. Every effort was made to isolate and marginalise them from the centre of government institutions. Inadvertently, these deliberate actions had the consequence of radicalising many political leaders from the region. It did not help matters that the community had a critical mass of intelligentsia immediately post-independence. From the political realm, government operatives became sensitive to Luos occupying key positions in institutions of governance. Systematically they were removed from the leadership of academic, security and financial institutions of the country.

**MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY**

The return of multiparty democracy in 1992 did entrench and formalise the tribal cleavages. Parties emerged along ethnic and regional lines. The political fault lines of yore came into play once again but this time with more vigour and resoluteness. The 1992 presidential election was a life and death competition among the three leading political tribes

of Kenya. President Moi of the Kalenjin went all out to protect his community's interests by retaining power at all costs. Kenneth Matiba and Mwai Kibaki sought to restore the lost glory of the Kikuyu hegemony. The community was ruing the misfortune of allowing Moi to succeed Kenyatta upon his death. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga hoped to redeem his Independence debt.

**LIMURU CONFERENCE**

It will be recalled that as Kenya approached Independence, claims were made that Jaramogi turned down the British offer to form government. He instead insisted that Kenya would only gain genuine uhuru with Kenyatta as her leader. Kenyatta appointed him his first vice president before they bitterly fell out after the infamous Limuru Kanu conference of 1966. Other scholars, however, opine that this narrative was an M15 intelligence spin to hoodwink the Kikuyu extremists that Kenyatta was a national leader, hero and freedom fighter. Subsequent events after 1966 consolidated tribal jingoism.

Upon his return from exile, Raila joined the opposition forces under the behemoth of Ford. The movement would succumb to ethnic bigotry and state machinations to split into Ford-Kenya and Ford-

A military procession escorts the body of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga ahead of public viewing at Jomo Kenyatta Stadium in Kisumu on October 18 /ENOS TECHE

Asili. He cast his lot with the radical and socialist-leaning Ford-Kenya under the chairmanship of his father Jaramogi. The rest of the conservative group joined the entrepreneur and gradualist Matiba. Soon after the death of his father, Raila broke ranks with his comrades and formed NDP. The new party was premised on social democracy as its ideology. He sought to bring into his fold political and social leaders of diverse backgrounds and from across the country.

**ENDING TRIBALISM**

Raila was intentional in his philosophy to rid the country of tribalism. He took bold steps to bring down the ethnic boundaries by reaching out to his erstwhile political enemies and comrades who later turned into regime apologists. His made deliberate efforts to unite the country: merge his party with Kanu; join Kibaki in Narc; form the grand coalition government; shake hands with Uhuru Kenyatta; and form the broad-based government with President William Ruto. He saw the tribes as custodians of the nation's cultural heritage but not as bastions of ethnic chauvinism. His party ODM was the best example of the fruits of his life struggles in membership and leadership constellation.

The surge of ethnic bigotry and jingoism being propagated during Raila's funeral is a dent in the country's national consciousness. Leaders must be called out to halt the unnecessary drift toward inflammatory political rhetoric. Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga set the ball rolling by insinuating that the death of Raila was good riddance. He suggested formation of the broad-based government was the former Prime Minister's strategy of alienating the Kikuyus from government.

**EXCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT**

His contention that the new government was equal to the inclusion of Luos and the exclusion of Kikuyus from government is baseless but fodder for tribal animosity. He knows that this is not true and the facts point otherwise. Yet he brazenly makes such declarations to appeal to raw base emotions of his tribe for political expediency. The hatred that public pronouncements foment will certainly lead to political tensions that easily erupt into violence.

Kahiga's counterpart in Homa Bay, Governor Gladys Wanga, response continues in the same spirit. She brings in former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua into the fray and declares that he is not welcome. She treats Kahiga as speaking on the behest and behalf of Gachagua by virtue of ethnic affiliation. By default, Wanga is entrapping the Kikuyus around Gachagua by gaslighting them. The net effects of these activities are a siege mentality and ethnic jingoism.

The country has been on this road before and the consequences are well known and recorded for historical reference. The worst scenario being the 2007 post-election violence, but it can still be worse than that. Kenyans must reject this invitation to glorify tribal politics and refuse to follow such leaders into the political abyss.

**POLITICS IN KENYA HAS GENERALLY BEEN ORGANISED ALONG ETHNIC LINES SINCE THE COLONIAL PERIOD. AS THE NATION GEARED UP FOR INDEPENDENCE, AFRICANS WERE ALLOWED LIMITED POLITICAL ORGANISATION AND REPRESENTATION THROUGH REGIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES**

COMMENTARY **ALL MUST HELP**

# Restoring Mau Forest a patriotic national project



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**T**he Mau Forest Complex stands as one of Kenya's greatest natural endowments. It is the country's largest water tower and one of the most critical ecosystems in East Africa. Its rivers feed Lake Victoria, the Mara, Sondu, Njoro and Ewaso Ng'iro basins, sustaining agriculture, tourism and hydropower. The Mau is not simply a forest. It is the beating heart of Kenya's ecological and economic stability.

For years, the forest has faced destruction through illegal logging, encroachment and poor land use. Each fallen tree has carried a hidden cost in soil erosion, reduced rainfall and silted rivers. Science explains this clearly. Forests moderate rainfall distribution, recharge groundwater, filter water and prevent flooding. The Mau's canopy regulates evaporation, keeps the soil moist and controls river flow throughout the year. When this canopy is destroyed, floods become severe, dry seasons become longer and rivers shrink. These are not abstract effects. They translate directly into lower crop yields, unreliable electricity generation and economic loss for millions of Kenyans.

This is why the government's renewed push to restore the Mau is a moment of great national importance. Reforestation here is not just an environmental exercise. It is a matter of climate justice and intergenerational responsibility. It is also a strategic investment in Kenya's long-term stability. The forest's health directly affects rainfall patterns from the Rift Valley to the Lake Victoria Basin and influences the livelihoods of communities that depend on agriculture, livestock and tourism.

The government's programme of restoration in the Mau and other catchment areas demonstrates an understanding that environmental protection must go hand in hand with economic planning.

Under the national tree-growing initiative, the government aims to plant 15 billion trees by 2032. This is not a ceremonial campaign. It is a carefully designed policy linking forest restoration with livelihoods, water security and energy production. Counties such as Narok, Kericho and Nakuru have already integrated these goals into their development plans.

Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei recently led a tree-growing event at the Mau and adopted 50 hectares (123.5 acres) for restoration. His sent a powerful message to public servants and communities. He reminded Kenyans that the cost of failing to preserve the Mau would be far greater than the effort of restoring it. He urged citizens to view tree growing not as a symbolic act but as a patriotic duty.

"Our collective commitment to planting and growing trees will gradually transform Kenya into a beacon of ecological responsibility," he said.

His appeal for shared responsibility placed environmental care within the framework of national service.

The Mau's history reminds us that this is not a simple task. In the late 2000s, the government under President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga attempted to remove illegal settlements from the forest. The exercise was scientifically justified but politically charged.

Thousands of people had settled within excised areas, some with genuine titles and others through irregular allocation. The government's decision to clear encroachments led to protests and intense political debate. Raila, who pushed for decisive action to save the forest, faced strong resistance, especially from leaders who framed the evictions as ethnic or political persecution.

The process revealed the deep tension between environmental justice and social equity. It also taught the nation that restoration must be accompanied by humane resettlement, legal clarity and alternative livelihoods for affected families.

The current approach builds on those lessons. It combines ecological science with social responsibility. Restoration efforts now involve communities directly through nursery management, beekeeping, tree seedling enterprises and sustainable farming. These activities provide income while protecting the ecosystem. This model recognises that conservation cannot thrive where poverty persists. When local people benefit from restoration, they become protectors of the forest rather than its adversaries.

From a scientific perspective, the success of the Mau restoration will be measured through observable changes. These include increased forest cover, better soil health and

more consistent river flow during dry months. The government and partners plan to monitor soil carbon, water quality and sediment levels in major rivers. Such data will help evaluate progress and guide adjustments in policy. Restoring the forest also contributes to carbon sequestration, helping Kenya to meet its international climate commitments while improving local environmental conditions.

The government's investment in the Mau is also an economic decision. Healthy catchments reduce sedimentation in dams, which extends their lifespan and ensures steady hydropower generation. This reduces energy costs and supports industries that depend on electricity.

Similarly, sustained river flows guarantee reliable irrigation for agriculture, leading to higher food production and lower market prices. Restoration therefore supports both economic growth and climate resilience.

One of the striking features of the current initiative is its scale and coordination. It brings together the Kenya Forest Service, the National Environment Management Authority, county governments and communities under a unified plan. This interagency approach ensures that restoration is not left to chance. It links environmental action with planning, water management and social protection. It also aligns with the global understanding that landscape restoration requires integration of science, governance and community participation.

Still, the task ahead remains demanding. Seedling survival rates must improve, grazing must be managed and illegal logging must be deterred. Restoration will only succeed if it is followed by consis-

tent protection and monitoring. The public must also remain engaged through awareness and community patrols. Government alone cannot save the Mau. It requires collective vigilance.

Kenya's reforestation effort, particularly in the Mau, symbolises a broader awakening to the reality of climate change. As extreme weather events become more frequent, water scarcity and food insecurity threaten economic gains. Restoring the Mau is therefore a national insurance policy. It ensures that rivers keep flowing, farms remain productive and communities continue to thrive.

The government's step to reclaim and restore this forest is bold and timely. It demonstrates foresight and responsibility. The Mau's health affects not only Kenya but also neighbouring countries that share its rivers.

This effort is a contribution to regional stability and global climate goals. When Koskei and his team lead from the front, they send a powerful message that public service extends beyond offices and policies. It reaches the soil, the streams and the trees that sustain life itself.

The Mau restoration is more than an environmental programme. It is a moral statement about the kind of nation Kenya wants to be. A country that restores its forests restores its future. The government's action, backed by science and guided by compassion, stands as a monumental step toward ecological renewal and climate justice. The success of this work will define not only the fate of the Mau but also the legacy of a generation that chose to heal the land that feeds it.

President William Ruto (centre), Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika (third left), Environment CS Deborah Barasa (fifth right) and other senior government officials during the unveiling of Mau Forest Complex programme in Nakuru county on Monday /SUE NYAMASEGE/PCS

**FOR YEARS, THE FOREST HAS FACED DESTRUCTION THROUGH ILLEGAL LOGGING, ENCROACHMENT AND POOR LAND USE. EACH FALLEN TREE HAS CARRIED A HIDDEN COST IN SOIL EROSION, REDUCED RAINFALL AND SILTED RIVERS**



**COMMENTARY DREAMS VS REALITY**

Cameroon President Paul Biya and candidate of Cameroon People's Democratic Movement casts his ballot at a polling station in Yaounde, Cameroon, on October 12 /XINHUA

# We celebrate one beautiful Africa but endure another



**VERA BWIRE**  
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The author writes on African youth, democracy, higher education and development

**S**ometimes I feel as if we have a parallel continent. While beautiful, uplifting and optimistic forums are discussing very pertinent issues, especially on how to involve the youth, including governments, partners, youth leaders and all the relevant players in the region.

On the other hand, we endure endless political strain and conflict in the continent, which are getting more and more embarrassing by day, with particular focus on recent turbulent elections, upcoming elections and the current hanging economies of our countries.

How embarrassing has it gotten? Just this week, Cameroon's long-serving leader, 92-year-old President Paul Biya, was officially declared the winner of the presidential election, securing 53.66 per cent of the vote for an unprecedented eighth term. He was declared the victor despite widespread criticism and allegations of electoral malpractice. In Ivory Coast, President Alassane Ouattara, aged 83, and a former IMF official who has been in power since 2011, was also declared the winner with nearly 90 per cent of the vote. The opposition has dismissed the polling as neither free nor fair and rejected the result.

Meanwhile, in Tanzania, President Samia Hassan, who became the nation's first female president in 2021 following the death of John Magufuli, ran for her first full term in the October elections. The poll was on Thursday.

Her campaign has drawn criticism after several opposition candidates were disqualified and her running against herself raises questions about the credibility of the polls.

In Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni, who has been in power since 1986, has been endorsed by his ruling National Resistance Movement to run yet again in the January 2026 general election. He says his presumed victory will be his "last term". Meanwhile, in Madagascar, the former DJ-turned-politician Andry Rajoelina was removed in a military coup this month in October. The army revoked his Malagasy

citizenship after revelations he held dual French nationality, forcing him to flee the country as the African Union swiftly suspended Madagascar. Despite their controversial reigns, some argue these long-serving leaders have at least maintained a semblance of stability, kept their nations from total collapse, and sustained a level of continuity in governance that, though imperfect, has prevented deeper chaos.

However, in all these countries, one thing remains the same, the biggest victims are the voiceless African youth. And just as in Kenya, they are the most numerous and prominent in protests as many remain angry and have very little say in or control on how to handle the political crises in their countries.

For instance, youths have been killed in the current protests in Cameroon, led by opposition candidate Issa Bakary.

Since last year, Gen Z protests have erupted in Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, Morocco, Togo, Mali, Mozambique, Madagascar with more or less similar causes. And this is not the end.

In the meantime, just a small Google search will lead you to many forums across the continent, with elaborate programmes and noble principles, good visions and high-level delegations in attendance.

All seriously mean well, and I speak from experience in attending, speaking and actively participating in plenary sessions.

Many pan-Africanists and partners go for these forums in good faith and with passion for change.

But why the parallel continent? What can we do to bridge the deep divide that seems to separate the Africa we talk about from the Africa we live in?

The truth is, we have mastered the art of speaking about change more than living it. Many African countries have had forums, lots of papers, strategies, some of them implemented, while many important ones are shelved. Africa has so many ideas, but to actualise them, our leaders need more sincerity, courage, inclusivity and the passion to follow through, for the Africa we want.

**WE HAVE TWO AFRICAS: ONE ASPIRING TO INCLUSION IN CONFERENCE HALLS, ANOTHER BLEEDING ON THE STREETS FOR THE SAME ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CAUSES**

**VISIONARY LEADER**

## Matiang'i the candidate to beat President Ruto 2027 general election

SAM OMWENGA

**O**ne of the greatest impediments to progress is doing the same thing over and over but expecting a different outcome. Unless one is willing to change ways and take new approaches to achieve desired outcomes, one cannot escape the state of quagmire or doom they always find themselves. In 2002, this is exactly what voters did to free ourselves from the Moi era rot, namely, breaking with the past and ushering in the Kibaki era with the rejection of status quo.

We'll need and must do the same thing in 2027 to free ourselves from the failures of the Ruto government, but even more importantly, to free ourselves from historical tendencies and habits that have not served any public interest but have been exploited to the detriment of our interests.

At the top of that list is tribalism and negative ethnicity. To be sure, there's nothing wrong and we all must take pride of who we are as a people and that includes cultural pride steeped in our individual customs and practices, though some are antiquated and are abandoned in due time. That's not the problem.

The problem when people allow politicians to exploit their blind allegiance to tribal affiliation as to deny a good presidential candidate votes to their detriment but as a community and individually.

Former Raila Odinga (now deceased)—hard to believe we're now saying that—was denied the presidency at least twice because he was a Luo. More specifically, most of our sisters and brothers from Mrima either hated him or would just not bring themselves around to voting for him and many openly and publicly stated so.

Even the thought of him being president was nauseating to them. But others from the region—few as they were relatively speaking, disagreed and openly showed their love and support for Raila. If that was true in 2013 and 2017, the situation dramatically improved in 2022, especially when Raila announced Martha Karua as his running mate and this following the dalliance with President Uhuru Kenyatta leading to the historic handshake of 2018.

This, however, was not enough to overcome what Ruto cunningly had in mind and brilliantly executed to plow his way to State House as our fifth president.

I have deliberately left out 2007 because I don't and wouldn't fault Kibaki carrying Murima votes to the man and woman no different than I would fault Matiang'i carrying Gusii votes to the man and woman.

Why? Because such vote was not and would not be against the respective voters' interests for one, and even more importantly, it wouldn't be denying or rejecting an even better candidate solely because of their tribe as was the case for Raila.

Put Matiang'i in a comparison chart and compare him to Ruto and Kalonzo—the only other two candidates from among which we'll have our next president, the former Interior CS objectively ticks more positive boxes than either of the two and is therefore objectively a better presidential candidate than either of the two.

It is for this reason that Matiang'i rejected moves to box him in a tribal party for Abagusii and instead has commendably chosen Jubilee to reinforce this noble notion that it's time to move away from tribalism driven politics. Uhuru started us in this direction when he openly made it known and did his best to have Raila succeed him in 2022. This is unfinished business and the person to finish the business is Matiang'i.

Put another way, Matiang'i is as good a candidate for Mrima akin to her own son and nobody comes even close, and that includes former Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka who if pride were to step aside and let him be, he would make an excellent running mate for Matiang'i.

Although the other way is theoretically possible, we're far beyond theories and must address the elephant in the room and that is, who is best suited to make 'Wantam' a reality among those who could potentially vie.

That candidate is Matiang'i and this will be true regardless of whether or not the entire opposition rallies behind him. Most will.

The US-based writer is a political commentator

**PUT MATIANG'I IN COMPARISON CHART AND COMPARE HIM TO RUTO AND KALONZO... HE OBJECTIVELY TICKS MORE POSITIVE BOXES**



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COMMENTARY **SUSTAINABILITY**

# Let's seize opportunities in changing flower trade

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**R**ecent news articles reported that Kenya's flower exports have dipped — not because of fading demand, but because of a shortage in airfreight capacity. The message is clear: it's time to rethink how we move our blooms. Shifting toward rail and sea transport isn't just a greener alternative; it's also more cost-effective. The Netherlands and Kenya are already rolling up their sleeves to build up and develop this 'cool logistics' chain — one that keeps products fresh throughout transit.

The flower trade between Kenya and the Netherlands is one of the strongest and most influential partnerships in global horticulture.

Kenya ranks among the world's top flower exporters, particularly of roses, while the Netherlands remains the world's largest flower importer. Together, the two countries form the beating heart of the international flower market — a bond celebrated earlier this year when King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima visited a flower farm and the Inland Container Depot in Naivasha.

But the industry faces turbulence. Air carriers have shifted capacity toward more lucrative routes, while instability in the Red Sea disrupts sea freight. Quick fixes don't exist, but waiting it out isn't an option either. The Netherlands believes firmly in sea freight as a sustainable, long-

term solution. With growing export volumes of flowers — and avocados — sea freight is becoming increasingly viable. To unlock this potential, developing reliable transport corridors in and beyond Kenya is vital. Investing in cold chain infrastructure and logistics not only strengthens agri-trade but also boosts food security and supports smallholder farmers. That's why the Netherlands is spearheading bankable projects in port development, cold storage and consolidation centers.

In the short term, however, airfreight remains necessary. Allowing additional cargo flights during peak seasons could help the industry seize high market demand.

Yet, transport isn't the only hurdle. Business climate and phytosanitary policies continue to put pressure on the sector — one that operates 24/7 and sustains hundreds of thousands of jobs. While private investors expand flower farms, diversify beyond roses and embed sustainability, gov-

ernment action must keep pace. Improving the business environment and supporting smaller entrants into the sector will help diversify and future-proof the industry. Empower companies to grow — not give up.

The flower trade's future extends well beyond Europe. Emerging markets in Asia and the Middle East are blossoming with opportunity for Kenyan exporters. For Kenya, success depends on innovation, reliability, and maintaining its reputation as an attractive place to do business.

With decades of experience in horticulture, logistics and sustainable trade, the Netherlands remains a steadfast partner. The next chapter of this success story depends on collaboration.

From government agencies and transport firms to growers and service providers — it's time to bring everyone to the same table, identify the bottlenecks and tackle them together. Because the flower trade will bloom, if we choose to make it grow.

# What we learn from Raila's legacy

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**A**rguments have been made on the fallen Kenyan political maestro Raila Odinga as a leader whose political imprints into the sands of our time are at best enigmatic. Yes, it is arguably and factually true that the former Prime Minister is a politician of many exceptional firsts in Kenya. In 1994 he resigned as MP on Ford-Kenya ticket to seek reelection on NDP ticket.

So far, the first and the only time a political leader has made such a bold step in Kenya's history. A lot of times, many political leaders have made bold declarations on podiums but not in act. Raila took a bold step to enliven his convictions when in the by-elections of 1996 for Lang'ata parliamentary seat; he won the seat back on a different ticket.

Political boldness may not necessarily be expressed through resignations from political seats and contesting by-elections but one lesson any politician would draw from Raila's feat is boldness of decisions and convictions in pursuit of common good for all Kenyans. Kenyan leaders from all walks should embrace boldness in decision making on matters that are at the core of our governance.

Our collective foray into the future shall surely not be with the former ODM leader in person but we should carry valor in our hearts even as we collectively deal with our present socioeconomic and political challenges.

In Article 27 of the Constitution, the Supreme Law of the land proclaims equity and non-discrimination in all spheres of our national life. There is so much progress Kenya has made, notably through devolution to bring governance and government services closer areas that were previously underserved. Raila was an ardent champion of devolution to the point of his passing on.

As the country witnesses this historical moment, mourning and celebrating the life of the departed political titan, leaders must be ready

to bear the torch of devolution and even make it better to serve and even bring greater equity and inclusion of Kenyans from all walks.

Raila's major political decisions were characterized by sobriety, reconciliation and forgiveness more so during Kenya's most difficult periods when the country threatened to go asunder under the weight of fragile political cleavages.

The year 2007 when the aftermath of contested general election almost irredeemably tore into the Kenyan socioeconomic and political fabric, Raila, unlike what many political leaders of his stature would do, accepted to work with President Mwaki Kibaki in a coalition arrangement which restored sanity into the Kenyan polity. Perhaps many Kenyans would remember the vividness with which he supported universal education for all Kenyan children. He believed in education as a great equaliser in the society. In a virtual public lecture at the University of Nairobi in 2021, Raila underscored his strong belief in education that prepares the youth for the fast-evolving workspace.

This futuristic thinking in skilling of our youth should underlie any current and future reforms in the education sector. There has not been any other time in our recent history that technological evolution is foreshadowing fundamental changes in the workspace.

The World Economic Forum's report 'Future of Jobs' January 2025, projects that an estimated 39 per cent of existing skill sets will be transformed or become outdated between 2025 and 2030. This anticipated 'skill instability' is not all doom and gloom as skill upgrade through training, retraining, reskilling and/or upskilling could help Kenyan youth seize opportunities presented in the evolving work landscape. With these projected monumental changes in the workplace, our leaders must carry Raila's futuristic vision even as the country fast tracks educational reforms to



Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga addresses supporters after casting his ballot during a presidential election in Nairobi. Raila Odinga died from a heart attack at a hospital in India /XINHUA

prepare our youth for present and future workplace.

Thinking grand and being strategic was quite outstanding in the former premier's manifestos for Kenya in some of the recent electioneering campaigns and even in the recent campaigns for African Union chairperson in 2025. Raila in life expressed grand goals for Kenya, which leaders would need to embrace and synergise efforts to achieve. For instance, in January this year in Tanzania, the former ODM leader underscored his desire to see Africa sufficiently lit up with clean and reliable energy. Kenya's rural communities still suffer a disproportionate inadequate access to electricity and thus a majority relies on unsustainable sources of energy, including traditional biomass, according to Ministry of Energy and Petroleum's plan 'Kenya National

Energy Compact 2025-2030.'

Kenya under President William Ruto is making strides towards universal energy access. In his remarks at Raila's funeral, Ruto committed to ensure that Kenya realises energy sufficiency. The immense importance of energy sufficiency for Kenya's cannot be gainsaid and our political leaders need to keep vision alive.

Lastly, it is a great privilege to have shared our living memory with the veteran political leader. In him we Kenyans of all walks of life have learnt of the essence of reliance even in the darkest of hours.

We may be grappling with many issues today, but with resilience we are able to overcome even the severest of torments. We must live to cherish the memories of Raila and build a better society for current and future generation.

*Time for African leaders to nurture promote democracy*

**A**frica has witnessed several presidential elections this month, with the incumbents being reelected with a landslide victory.

In Cameroon, 92-year-old Paul Biya – the president who never loses – has just received an “overwhelming” vote for another seven-year mandate. The world's oldest president is now serving his eighth successive term.

Not far off in the Ivory Coast, 83-year-old Alassane Ouattara has been in power since 2011 and has just won a fourth term. This is after he barred his main rivals, among them Laurent Gbagbo, from contesting on flimsy charges.

In Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni, who took power in 1986, has year in year out ‘won’ the elections with a landslide and is set for victory in the forthcoming elections.

Other African presidents who have clung to power for more than 20 years by stifling democracy include Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea, Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea, Republic of Congo's Denis Ngueso, Djibouti's Ismael Omar Guelleh, Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Togo's Faure Gnassingbe.

Power has indeed gone into these men's heads, making them believe that they are God's gift to their countries.

Autocratic African leaders must pass the baton to the next generation of leaders and stop behaving as if their countries are monarchies. Sham elections do not grant them legitimacy.

## HISTORICAL QUOTE

*“There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there.”*

### INDIRA GANDHI

The Indian politician and stateswoman was assassinated on October 31, 1984

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## COLUMN NATION'S CONSCIENCE

# The duality of Raila's exit



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A pallbearer from Kenya Defence Forces stands next to a portrait of former PM Raila Odinga during burial service in Bondo /PCS

**T**he passing of Raila Odinga has struck Kenya like the sudden silence that follows a thunderstorm – deafening, sobering and deeply unsettling. For more than four decades, his voice dominated Kenya's public life – alternately as an agitator, liberator, prophet and villain, depending on who was listening. Now, that voice is gone. Yet, in a profound irony, his silence speaks even louder.

Therein lies the duality of Raila's demise. It is at once an ending and a beginning – the extinguishing of a political sun and the rising of a myth that will outlive all who spoke his name.

The former Prime Minister's death closes one of the longest political chapters in Kenya's history. He embodied a generation that believed politics could still redeem the soul of the nation. From the dark cells of Nyayo House to the triumph of the 2010 Constitution, he represented resistance in its purest form – the stubborn belief that Kenya could be better, fairer, freer.

Yet, his death also liberates the idea of Raila from the limits of the man himself. In life, he was constrained by the realism of power – by betrayal, by fatigue, by human frailty. In death, he ascends into symbolism. Like Dedan Kimathi before him, or Nelson Mandela after Robben Island, he becomes a moral archetype – the eternal dissident who refused to bow to the machinery of impunity.

In Luo and Luhya cosmology, death is never final. A great man's spirit is believed to dwell among the living, guiding his lineage and community. The rituals surrounding his funeral – the bulls, the dirges, the public lamentations – were not mere theatrics. They were a reaffirmation of Raila's continuing presence in the moral imagination of his people. Now, as the circle completes, the Kenyan nation weaves myth and memory into political inheritance.

But beyond the symbolism lies the politics – raw, uncertain and unfor-

giving. Raila's death has reopened the tectonic fault lines of Kenyan politics. For decades, he was both a bridge and a barrier – a rallying point for reformists and a lightning rod for establishment anxieties. His absence creates a vacuum that no single figure seems ready to fill.

For President William Ruto, the loss is double-edged. On the one hand, the opposition loses its unifying centre. On the other, Ruto loses the one man whose presence legitimised his own balancing act. In courting Raila through the idea of a “broad-based government,” the head of state sought not just cooperation, but co-optation – the symbolism of unity that transcends partisanship. With the former ODM leader gone, that project collapses into uncertainty. The next elections may no longer be fought along familiar binaries of ‘Raila vs Ruto,’ but along unpredictable coalitions shaped by ambition rather than ideology.

The tragedy for Kenya is that even in death, Raila remains the measure of our democracy. His life story is intertwined with our national conscience – every struggle for justice, every cry against exclusion, every dream of devolution bore his fingerprints. Whether one loved or loathed him, his consistency forced the country to confront its contradictions.

There was also a deeply human duality about him. The same man

who could electrify crowds with fiery defiance could sit quietly among fishermen in Bondo, listening, smiling faintly and saying little. He was at once the philosopher and the populist; the reformer and the reluctant insider; the rebel who wanted order.

Raila's political life was a long walk between betrayal and belief. The system jailed him, vilified him and stole from him. Yet he never lost the faith that politics could still serve the people. That resilience, more than any single electoral victory, is his true legacy.

We are not merely mourning a man; we are interrogating the nation he leaves behind. Have we become the democracy he fought for, or have we simply perfected the art of managing dissent? Do our institutions reflect the spirit of 2010, or have we returned to the complacency of one-man rule cloaked in constitutional niceties?

The duality of Raila's demise, then, lies not in his mortality but in our response to it. His death challenges us to decide whether we will canonise him in nostalgia or continue his unfinished struggle for justice and inclusion. The real tribute to him is not in statues or streets bearing his name, but in a politics that listens, includes and redeems.

In a sense, the former premier never belonged entirely to politics. He was a cultural moment – the kind of leader history produces once in a generation to remind nations of their moral possibilities. His life was the bridge between Kenya's colonial ghosts and her democratic hopes. His death, therefore, is both requiem and rebirth: the end of an era and the birth of a myth.

Raila is gone, but Kenya's conversation with him continues. In our frustrations with power, in our yearning for justice, in our defiant hope for a better tomorrow – we shall still hear his voice. And that is the paradox – that even in death, he remains the conscience of the nation that could not ignore him.



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**THE TRAGEDY FOR KENYA IS THAT EVEN IN DEATH, RAILA REMAINS THE MEASURE OF OUR DEMOCRACY. HIS LIFE STORY IS INTERTWINED WITH OUR NATIONAL CONSCIENCE – EVERY STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE, EVERY CRY AGAINST EXCLUSION, EVERY DREAM...**

COMMENTARY **STRATEGIC ALLIANCES**

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# Africa's industrial future depends on ties that work



Sagana Industrial Park in Kirinyaga county/FILE

**F**or decades, Africa has been described as the continent of the future — a phrase that captures both hope and frustration. The continent holds immense natural wealth, a young and ambitious population, and a growing consumer market. Yet, industrialisation — the true foundation of sustainable prosperity — has often lagged behind. The central question remains: how can Africa finally achieve an industrial breakthrough, and which partners can help turn that vision into reality?

The traditional model of dependence on raw material exports has kept many African economies vulnerable to external shocks. When commodity prices fall, government revenues shrink, currencies depreciate and public projects stall.

The lesson is clear: Africa must move up the value chain, processing and manufacturing its resources domestically. The road to industrialisation, however, requires more than ambition; it demands infrastructure, technology transfer, reliable financing, and above all, genuine partner-

ships built on mutual respect.

Over the past two decades, a quiet transformation has been taking shape across the continent. Roads, railways, ports and industrial parks are emerging in places where there was once only untapped potential. These developments are not the result of charity or aid, but of collaboration with nations and institutions that view Africa as an equal partner, not a passive recipient. Increasingly, African countries are turning toward partners who offer practical solutions and tangible results rather than conditional promises.

The most successful collaborations are those grounded in shared benefit — trade that empowers, investments that create local jobs and infrastructure that links communities. In Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania, industrial parks and manufacturing hubs are reshaping local economies. What sets these initiatives apart is their focus on building local capacity: training African engineers, technicians and entrepreneurs who will continue the work long after the

initial investments have been made.

This shift in mindset — from aid dependency to partnership — is perhaps the most powerful driver of Africa's industrial takeoff. Rather than seeking handouts, African nations are asserting their agency, negotiating deals that serve their own development agendas.

The partners who understand and respect this new African confidence are the ones who will thrive alongside it.

In recent years, China's engagement with Africa has been at the centre of this transformation. Though often misunderstood in Western discourse, China's approach has been grounded in infrastructure-driven cooperation — an area where Africa's needs have long been unmet. From railways connecting inland cities to coastal ports, to renewable energy projects powering industrial clusters, these initiatives have laid the groundwork for long-term growth.

Importantly, they embody the principle of "win-win cooperation" — a relationship in which both sides

gain through trade, technology, and shared development. Critics often focus on the issue of debt, but such narratives overlook the bigger picture. Investment, by its nature, carries cost — but it also builds capacity. The question is not whether Africa should borrow, but whether those investments create value that endures.

Many African leaders have learned to distinguish between loans that produce dependency and those that build self-reliance. The difference lies in whether the financing supports real industries, creates jobs and fosters skill development. On these fronts, Africa's partnerships with nations that prioritise tangible outcomes are paying off.

Industrialisation also requires innovation in financing and governance. By adopting flexible models such as public-private partnerships and special economic zones, African governments can attract long-term investors and promote technology transfer.

The focus must now shift to sustainability: ensuring that industrial growth aligns with environmental protection and social inclusion. Here again, there are valuable lessons to learn from Asian economies that have successfully balanced rapid development with ecological responsibility.

Ultimately, Africa's industrial future will be written by Africans — but it will also be shaped by the quality of their international partnerships. The world is watching a new generation of African leaders and entrepreneurs who are redefining what it means to engage globally.

They are looking not for lectures, but for collaboration; not for aid, but for opportunity. The partners who recognise this shift and respect Africa's aspirations will find in this continent not a charity case, but a confident co-builder of the global future.

Africa's industrial takeoff is no longer a dream. It is a process already in motion — one fuelled by infrastructure, innovation and strategic alliances.

The continent is choosing partners that deliver results, respect sovereignty and share its vision of inclusive growth. In this emerging era of cooperation, Africa's rise is not only inevitable; it is unstoppable.

## Historical justice: It's time to forge new world order

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**T**he concurrent calls for colonial reparations by Africa and China's new Global Governance Initiative (GGI) are not a coincidence. They are two powerful symptoms of a system in terminal decline, and they could be the twin engines for building a fairer world.

Far from isolated campaigns, these initiatives are twin flames illuminating a path to a new world order; one that is just, inclusive and truly beneficial to all humanity. Together, they offer not just redress, but a blueprint for collective renewal.

For decades, the architecture of

global governance has been showing cracks.

Built in the aftermath of a world war by the victorious powers, the Global South, particularly Africa, has long borne the brunt of this imbalance, locked into cycles of debt and dependency that have clear roots in the colonial past. Today, that simmering discontent is boiling over into two distinct but powerfully linked movements.

The first is the moral and political crusade, led by the African Union and its member states, for meaningful reparations for the horrors of colonialism. At its 38th Summit in January, Africa's 55 nations united

under the theme 'Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.' This isn't a plea for charity; it's a reckoning with the transatlantic slave trade's 12 million stolen lives, the Berlin Conference's arbitrary borders that sowed endless conflict and the resource plunder that funnelled trillions from African soil to European coffers.

The demands are multifaceted: financial compensation to bridge the \$1.2 trillion annual cost of colonial legacies, technology transfers to leapfrog development gaps, debt relief to unshackle sovereign futures and cultural restitution to reclaim stolen artifacts like the Benin bronzes. It's a clarion call for racial healing, positioning Africa not as a victim, but as a vanguard in the global justice movement.

The reparations movement forces a vital, uncomfortable question: How can a system be just when it is built upon, and still benefits from,

a foundation of profound historical injustice? The second is a strategic and structural initiative: China's GGI. Framed around principles of 'inclusivity,' 'win-win cooperation,' and a 'shared future for mankind,' the GGI presents itself as an alternative for the developing world, offering a partnership free from the political conditionalities and hegemony. Through institutions like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Belt and Road Initiative, GGI provides a tangible, pathway toward a more multipolar world.

At first glance, these two initiatives seem unrelated: one looking backward to correct historical wrongs, the other looking forward to build new systems. But their linkage is their greatest strength.

The push for reparations provides the indispensable moral imperative for change. It dismantles the myth that the current global order is a neutral playing field.

## POLENI SANA



Jomvu MP Bady Twalib hands over cash donations from Office of the Deputy President to families of victims of the Tudor Water sports tragedy that claimed the lives of three Jomvu residents. DP Kithure Kindik released Sh3 million to help with burial arrangements that had stalled due to financial constraints to the families who lost their sons in a tragic boat incident during East African Ocean Festival in Mombasa two weeks ago /KNA

## COMMENT

Tonny Kyule  
@TheStarKenya

### Journalists have huge role to play in breast cancer war

October has long been linked with pink ribbons and global breast cancer awareness campaigns. In Kenya, communications practitioners and journalists are increasingly on the frontlines of that fight, writing the headlines that could make the difference between an early diagnosis and an unwarranted delay.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women in Kenya. The National Cancer Institute of Kenya has approximated the new cases to be about 6,799 women per year and more than 3,100 annual deaths due to cancer. It is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the country, after cervical cancer. The challenge is that nearly seven in 10 diagnoses are advanced stages (three and four).

Everywhere in the world, according to the World Health Organization, breast cancer is rising at a pace that health systems cannot keep up with. If action is not taken, it is estimated that by 2050, there will be a rise of 38 per cent of cases and mortality by nearly 70 per cent, mostly in low- and middle-income countries. In Kenya, breast cancer is driven by lifestyle, late screening and scarce diagnostic facilities.

Here is where journalists and communicators come in. What they do connects numbers to context and puts public health in motion. A media story that walks a woman from symptoms to diagnosis can turn numbers into something tangible and provoke response in a way policy briefs can only hope for.

Likewise, coverage that speaks to how breast cancer impacts both men and women, although not typically reported, would serve to dissect stigma and raise awareness.

Accuracy is necessary in quality reporting, nonetheless. The Ministry of Health has highlighted risk factors such as family history, obesity, alcoholism and hormonal exposure in its National Cancer Treatment Guidelines. It also explains that Kenyan women are infected with breast cancer at an early age compared to women in Western countries. Reporters enlighten readers by reporting such facts that breast cancer is not some far-off reality but a pending public health concern. Kenya is also ahead in breast cancer treatment capacity in Africa at a national level of preparedness of 66.7 per cent, significantly higher than the 37 per cent average across the continent. Media practitioners can use their platforms to question whether this readiness ever reaches rural hospitals, and whether facilities for screening ever come to life for the majority.

Communication practitioner

## LETTERS

Write to us [letters@the-star.co.ke](mailto:letters@the-star.co.ke)

### Early breast cancer screening, diagnosis could save thousands

Breast cancer is becoming one of Kenya's most pressing health challenges. According to the GLOB-OCCAN 2022 data, breast cancer accounts for 25.5 per cent of all new cancer cases among women and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the country. Each year, approximately 7,000 new cases are diagnosed, but many more go undetected until it's too late. Awareness efforts increase each October as we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Despite these efforts, many Kenyan women and men are still diagnosed at stage three or four, where treatment becomes complex and expensive.

In Kenya, over a third (37.2 per cent) of breast cancer cases are discovered at stage four. This drastically lowers survival rates. The World Health Organization notes that if detected early, breast cancer survival rates exceed 90 per cent in high-income countries but drop below 40 per cent in low- and middle-income

nations like Kenya. The disparity is not biological; it is structural.

Significant strides have been made in the country with the development of policies such as the National Cancer Screening Guidelines and the Breast Cancer Screening and Early Diagnosis Action Plan.

Capacity building and engagement of community health workers, primary care workers and health workers in secondary and tertiary level hospitals are ongoing to facilitate early diagnosis. The establishment of regional comprehensive cancer centres has also helped to bring cancer care closer to the population.

Several challenges remain, including low levels of awareness, especially in rural areas where screening and diagnostic imaging with mammography and access to biopsy are limited. Women must often travel hundreds of kilometres to major towns to access these services—a cost that discourages many.

Furthermore, cultural taboos surrounding breast examination deter

some women and men from seeking medical help. The government's National Cancer Control Strategy (2023–2027) recognises these gaps and calls for integrating cancer screening and early diagnosis into primary and secondary healthcare. Collaborations between national and county health departments, as well as public-private partnerships, can help accelerate the process of early diagnosis and screening and need to incorporate organised community-based screening.

Equally, men must be part of this conversation. While rare, about one per cent of breast cancer cases occur in men, and many are diagnosed late due to social stigma.

Kenya's progress against breast cancer will not come from slogans or pink ribbons alone. It will come from action — from counties investing in screening and early diagnosis, communities normalising conversations about breast health, and individuals taking personal responsibility for regular checks, as well as well-equipped health systems and good referral mechanisms.

**SITNA MWANZI**  
Medical oncologist,KNH

When the government recently posthumously honoured him with the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya, it was a well-deserved recognition.

Yet, true honour for Raila lies not in medals or speeches, but in continuing his mission of protecting justice, equity and rule of law.

Raila's life was more than politics; it was a national curriculum on courage and conviction. He embodied the Kenyan dream in its purest form—a dream of unity, fairness and opportunity for all.

**OWINO NYAKITI**  
Via email

## WHAT THEY SAID ...



Unpaid loans

*We had a case where a governor borrowed Sh50 million. How can one possibly repay Sh50 million in five years? In Parliament, we also access loans, but all must be cleared within our term*

**GODFREY OSOTSI**  
Vihiga senator



*Fraud has been a big problem in our sector and especially fraud of public service vehicle insurance. We have places in this country that are hotspots...*

**GODFREY KIPTUM**  
IRA CEO

### Kimemia right, Raila's legacy was the people's dream made flesh

I never worked closely with Raila Odinga, but like millions of Kenyans, I followed his journey through the pages of newspapers, voices on radio and images on television. His words, courage and convictions shaped our national consciousness for decades.

From what I observed, read and later witnessed firsthand, I can confidently say, 'yes, Francis Kimemia is right.'

Raila's sacrifices for Kenya will live

on far beyond his lifetime.

Raila's life was a story of courage in the face of oppression and endurance in the pursuit of justice. His multiple detentions, instead of silencing him, refined his resolve.

He fought for freedoms that many today take for granted; multiparty democracy, constitutional reform and good governance. His was not a career of convenience, but one anchored in conviction and love for country.



REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF POLICE CONSTABLES INTO THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE**

Pursuant to Article 238, 243, 244, 245 as read with Articles 10, 27(8) and 232 of the Constitution of Kenya and the National Police Service Act, the National Police Service (NPS) is pleased to announce to the public the upcoming recruitment of suitably qualified persons to be trained as Police Constables.

**1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants shall be required to meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be a citizen of Kenya;
  - Hold a Kenya National Identity Card;
  - Age: 18 – 28 years;
  - Minimum grade in KCSE D+ (with minimum of D+ in English or Kiswahili);
  - Be physically and medically fit;
  - Minimum Height: Male 5ft 8in., Female 5ft 3in.;
  - Have no criminal record or pending criminal charges;
  - Female Candidates must NOT be pregnant at recruitment and during the **ENTIRE** training period.
- National Youth Service (NYS) graduates who meet minimum entry requirements are encouraged to apply.

**2. WARNING. The National Police Service recruitment drive is FREE and OPEN to all eligible and qualified candidates. Engaging in BRIBERY or any other form of CORRUPT PRACTICES with the intent to influence the recruitment process constitutes a CRIMINAL OFFENCE. Any person who willfully gives to the National Police Service any information which is false or misleading in any material particular, commits an offence and will be prosecuted. Members of the public are urged to report any recruitment malpractice to the nearest police station or reach out via our toll-free numbers: 999, 911, 112, and #FichuaKwaDCI 0800722203. All reports shall be treated with confidentiality.**

**3. HOW TO APPLY**

Interested and qualified applicants are required to **download and fill** the prescribed application form available in ANY of the following websites:

- [www.nationalpolice.go.ke](http://www.nationalpolice.go.ke)
- [www.kenyapolice.go.ke](http://www.kenyapolice.go.ke)
- [www.administrationpolice.go.ke](http://www.administrationpolice.go.ke)
- [www.dci.go.ke](http://www.dci.go.ke)
- [www.mygov.go.ke](http://www.mygov.go.ke)
- Forms may also be obtained from the nearest Huduma Centres.

Upon filling the forms, applicants must present themselves at the designated Recruitment Centres with original and copies of the following documents on the day of the recruitment:

- Academic certificates and testimonials
- Kenya National Identity Card
- Birth Certificate  
NYS discharge certificate where applicable with a minimum rating of 'GOOD' in conduct  
**NYS graduates who meet the minimum entry requirements are encouraged to present themselves at their respective home recruitment centres. All original documents will be returned to the applicant before leaving the recruitment centre.**

**4. COMMENCEMENT OF RECRUITMENT:** The recruitment process will take place on **MONDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2025** from **8:00am** to **5:00pm** in all the under listed recruitment centres country wide. All applicants **MUST** be at their respective recruitment centres by **8:00am**.

COUNTY	S/NO	SUB-COUNTY	RECRUITMENT CENTRE
MOMBASA	1	Kisauni	Kisauni Sub County Police Hqrs
	2	Nyali	A.S.K Show Ground
	3	Mombasa	Mombasa (Mvita Grounds)
	4	Changamwe	Changamwe (Changamwe Oil Refineries)
	5	Jomvu	Amani Primary
	6	Likoni	Likoni Approved Grounds

KWALE	7	Matuga	Matuga Baraza Park (Kwale)
	8	Shimba Hills	DCC's Office Shimba Hills
	9	Msambweni	Msambweni Stadium
	10	Kinango	Vurungani Stadium
	11	Samburu	Kasarani Grounds
	12	Lunga Lunga	Lunga Lunga Secondary School
KILIFI	13	Kilifi North	Karisa Maitha Stadium
	14	Kilifi South	Kikambala DCC's Office
	15	Chonyi	Banda La Salama
	16	Malindi	Malindi Alska Grounds
	17	Rabai	Rabai Mkapuni Open Grounds
	18	Ganze	Ganze Primary School
	19	Kauma	Kauma DCC's Office - Jaribuni
	20	Magarini	Marafa Polytechnique
	21	Kaloleni	Kaloleni Grounds
	TANA RIVER	22	Tana River
23		Gallydertu	DCC's Office Wayu
24		Kokane	Kokane
25		Tana North	Bura Sub-County Hqrs
26		Bangale	DCC's Office Madogo
27		Tana Delta	Tana Delta Sub-County Hqrs
28		Tarasaa	DCC's Office Tarasaa - Tana Delta
LAMU		29	Lamu Central
	30	Lamu West	Mpeketoni Tiger Grounds
	31	Lamu East	Faza Football Field
TAITA TAVETA	32	Taveta	Taveta Airstrip
	33	Voi	Voi Stadium
	34	Mwatate	Soko ya Samani Play Grounds
	35	Taita	Wundanyi Stadium
GARISSA	36	Garissa	Garissa PTC Grounds
	37	Fafi	DCC's Office Fafi
	38	Bura East	Bura East Police Station
	39	Balambala	DCC'S Office Balambala
	40	Sankuri	DCC's Office Sankuri
	41	Ijara	Masalani Police Div. Hqrs
	42	Hulugho	Hulugho Police Divisional Hqrs.
	43	Bothai	DCC's Office Bothai
	44	Lagdera	Modogashe Police Station
	45	Shanta-Abaq	DCC's Office Shantabaq
	46	Dadaab	Dadaab Police Station
	47	Liboi	Liboi DCC's Office
WAJIR	48	Tarbaj	DCC's Office Tarbaj
	49	Kotulo Wajir	DCC's Office Kotulo
	50	Wajir East	Wajir Stadium
	51	Khorof Harar	Khorof Harar DCC's Office
	52	Wajir West	Griftu Play Grounds
	53	Hadado	DCC's Office Hadado
	54	Wajir North	Bute Police Station
	55	Buna	Buna Grounds
	56	Korondille	DCC's Office Korondille
	57	Wajir South	Leheley Play Ground
	58	Diff	DCC's Office Diff
	59	Habaswein	Habasweini Baraza Park
	60	Sabuli	Sabuli
	61	Eldas	Eldas Baraza Park
	62	Eldas South	DCC's Office Elnur

COUNTY	S/NO	SUB-COUNTY	RECRUITMENT CENTRE	
<b>MANDERA</b>	63	Mandera East	Mandera Stadium	
	64	Khalalio	DCC's Office Khalalio	
	65	Arabia	Arabia DCC's Office	
	66	Mandera Central	Elwak Police Station	
	67	Kotulo	Kotulo Police Divisional Hqrs.	
	68	Mandera West	DCC's Office Takaba	
	69	Dandu	DCC's Office Dandu	
	70	Lafey	Lafey DCC'S Hqrs	
	71	Banisa	Baraza Park	
	72	Kiliwehiri	DCC's Office Kiliwehiri	
	73	Mandera North	DCC's Office Rhamu	
	74	Ashabito	DCC's Office Ashabito	
	<b>MARSABIT</b>	75	Marsabit Central	Marsabit Stadium
		76	Marsabit South/ Laisamis	Laisamis Police Division Hqrs
77		Loiyangalani	Loiyangalani Police Station	
78		Marsabit North	DCC's Office Maikona	
79		Turbi-Bubisa	Turbi DCC's Office	
80		North Horr	North Horr Police Div. Hqrs	
81		Dukana	Dukana DCC's Office	
82		Moyale	Moyale Police Station	
83		Sololo	Sololo Youth Play Ground	
<b>ISIOLO</b>	84	Isiolo	Isiolo Police Div. Hqrs	
	85	Merti	Merti DCC'S Hqs.	
	86	Cherab	DCC's Office Malkagalla	
	87	Garbatulla	Garbatula Police Div Hqrs	
<b>MERU</b>	88	Meru Central	Githongo Stadium	
	89	Igembe South	Maua Stadium	
	90	Akachiu	DCC's Office Akachiu	
	91	Nkuene/Mitunguu	Nkubu Stadium	
	92	Abogeta	DCC's Office Kanyakine	
	93	Igoji	DCC's Office Igoji	
	94	Tigania West	Uuru Stadium	
	95	Tigania Central	Mikinduri Stadium	
	96	Tigania East	Nguthiru Stadium	
	97	Igembe Central	Kangeta Dcc Play Ground	
	98	Kiengu	DCC's Office Kiengu	
	99	Igembe North	Muringine Play Ground	
	100	Mutuati	DCC's Office Mutuati	
	101	Buuri West	Timau Stadium	
	102	Buuri East	Kiirua DCC's Office	
	103	North Imenti	Kinoru Stadium	
	104	Imenti East	Thuura Secondary School	
<b>THARAKA NITHI</b>	105	Igamba Ng'ombe	Igamba Ng'ombe DCC's Grounds	
	106	Chuka North	Chuka DCC's Ground	
	107	Chuka South	DCC's Office Kibugua	
	108	Maara	Kienganguru DCC's Ground	
	109	Muthambi	DCC's Office Marima	
	110	Tharaka South	Marimanti Stadium	
	111	Tharaka West	Kibung'a	
	112	Chiakariga	DCC's Office Chiakariga	
	113	Tharaka North	Katunga Police Station	
	114	Mukothima	DCC's Office Mukothima	

COUNTY	S/NO	SUB-COUNTY	RECRUITMENT CENTRE
<b>EMBU</b>	115	Embu East	Runyenjes Muncpal Stadium
	116	Embu North	Kairuri Stadium
	117	Embu West	Moi Mun. Stadium
	118	Mbeere North	Mbeere North DCC's Grounds
	119	Mbeere South	Umuu Grounds
	120	Mwea	DCC's Office Karaba
<b>KITUI</b>	121	Kitui West	Kauwi Sadium
	122	Mwingi East	Nguni
	123	Mwingi East	Mathuki DCC's Grounds
	124	Nuu	Nuu TVET Grounds
	125	Migwani	Migwani Stadium
	126	Mwingi Central	Musila Play Ground
	127	Kyuso	Kyuso Stadium
	128	Tseikuru	Tseikuru Stadium
	129	Kisasi	Mbitini Police Station
	130	Lower Yatta	St. Luke Boys Secondary School
	131	Katulani	Katulani DCC's Office Grounds
	132	Kitui Central	Old Municipal Stadium
	133	Matinyani	Matinyani Kwamkoma Play Ground
	134	Mutitu	Muritu DCC's Grounds
	135	Zombe	Zombe Stadium
	136	Mutitu North	Mutitu Stadium
	137	Mutomo	Mutomo Stadium
	138	Mumoni	Katse Football Pitch
	139	Ikutha	Ikutha Stadium
	140	Thagichu	DCC's Office Thagicu
	141	Nzambani	Chuluni DCC's Office
<b>MACHAKOS</b>	142	Matungulu	Kisukioni Play Ground Behind Tala Boys
	143	Masinga	Masinga Sub County Hqrs
	144	Mwala	Masii Stadium
	145	Kathiani	Mitaboni DO's Office
	146	Athi River	KMC Ground Athi River
	147	Machakos	Machakos Kenyatta Stadium
	148	Kalama	Kalama DCC's Office
	149	Kangundo	Kangundo D.E.B
	150	Yatta	Yatta Field Unit (NYS Grounds)
	<b>MAKUENI</b>	151	Kibwezi
152		Kambu	DCC's Office Kambu
153		Kilungu	Kyembeke Police Station Ground
154		Mukaa	Mukaa Sub-County Hqrs
155		Makindu	Makindu Sports Ground
156		Nzau	DCC'S Office Matiliku
157		Kathonzweni	Kathonzweni Public Grounds
158		Makueni	Makueni Police Div. Hqrs
159		Mbooni West	Kakima DEB Play Ground
160		Mbooni East	Mbooni East DCC's Office
<b>NYANDARUA</b>		161	Nyandarua Central
	162	Nyandarua North	Ndaragwa Police Sub County Hqrs
	163	Aberdares	Shamata DCC's Office
	164	Nyandarua West	OI Jororok Play Ground
	165	Gathanji	Ngano DCC's Office
	166	Mirangine	Mirangine DCC'S Office
	167	Wanjohi	DCC's Office Wanjohi
	168	Kipipiri	Wakiongo Stadium
	169	North Kinangop	Engineer
	170	South Kinangop	Rurinja Stadium Njambini

COUNTY	S/NO	SUB-COUNTY	RECRUITMENT CENTRE
NYERI	171	Mathira West	Kaiyaba Chief's Camp
	172	Mathira East	Karatina Stadium
	173	Nyeri South	Moi Kibaki
	174	Kieni East	Chaka Play Ground
	175	Kieni West	Mweiga Stadium
	176	Nyeri Central	Ruringu Stadium
	177	Tetu	Wamagana Play Grounds
	178	Mukurwe-Ini	Mukurweini Stadium
KIRINYAGA	179	Kirinyaga East	Kianyaga Stadium
	180	Kirinyaga Central	Kerugoya Stadium
	181	Kirinyaga West	Kianjanga Grounds (Shikuku)
	182	Mwea West	Kandongu Hospital Grounds
	183	Mwea East	Wang'uru Stadium
MURANG'A	184	Murang'a East	Ihura Stadium Murang'a
	185	Kahuro	Kahuro Stadium
	186	Kigumo	Kigumo Bendera Play Grpunds
	187	Murang'a South	Kimorori DCC's Office
	188	Gatanga	Gatunyu Play Ground
	189	Ithanga/Kakuzi	Kirathani Sports Ground
	190	Mathioya	Rurie Stadium
	191	Kandara	Kandara Stadium
	192	Kangema	Kangema General Kago Stadium
KIAMBU	193	Kiambu East	Ndumberi Stadium
	194	Thika West	Thika Mun. Stadium
	195	Thika East	Kilimambogo Play Grounds
	196	Juja	Premier Bag Grounds
	197	Murera	DCC's Office- Toll
	198	Kabete	Kirangari Vocational Training Center
	199	Kikuyu	Alliance High School
	200	Kiambaa	Karuri Play Grounds
	201	Limuru	Kwambira Stadium
	202	Ndeiya	DCC's Office Ndeiya
	203	Ruiru	Ruiru Mun. Stadium
	204	Githurai	Play Ground next to Mwhoko Police Station
	205	Gatundu North	Kamwangi DCC'S Office
	206	Gatundu South	Gatundu Town Stadium
	207	Githunguri	Githunguri Stadium
	208	Lari	Kirenga Stadium
TURKANA	209	Turkana Central	Moi Garden
	210	Turkana East	Lokori DCC'S Office
	211	Suguta	DCC's Office Kapedo
	212	Turkana West	Kakuma Air Strip
	213	Lokichoggio	DCC's Office Lokichoggio
	214	Turkana North	Lokitaung Stadium
	215	Kibish	DCC'S Office Kibish
	216	Loima	Lorugum Resource Centre
	217	Lokirama	DCC's Office Lokirama
218	Turkana South	Lokichar DCC's Office	
219	Aroo	DCC's Office Kainuk	
WEST POKOT	220	West Pokot	Makutano Stadium
	221	Kipkomo	Chebareria DCC'S Office
	222	Pokot South	Kabichbich DCC'S Office
	223	Pokot Central	Sigor DCC's Office
	224	Pokot North	Alale Air Strip
225	Kacheliba	Kacheliba DCC's Office	
SAMBURU	226	Samburu Central	DCC'S Office Maralal
	227	Samburu North	DCC'S Office Baragoi
	228	Samburu East	Wamba Market
TRANS NZOIA	229	Trans Nzoia West (Kitale)	Kenyatta Stadium
	230	Saboti	DCC's Office - Saboti
	231	Kwanza	Kwanza Police Patrol Base
	232	Kiminini	Kiminini Primary School
	233	Endebess	Endebes Primary School
	234	Trans Nzoia East	Kachebora DCC'S Office

COUNTY	S/NO	SUB-COUNTY	RECRUITMENT CENTRE
UASIN GISHU	235	Turbo	DCC's Office Turbo
	236	Soy	Chepkigen in Ziwa
	237	Ainabkoi	Waunifor Stadium
	238	Moiben	Moiben Grounds
	239	Kesses	DCC'S Office Kesses
	240	Kapseret	Eldoret Ask Show Ground
	ELGEYO MARAKWET	241	Keiyo North
242		Marakwet West	Kapsowar Play Ground
243		Keiyo South	DCC'S Office Chepkorio
244		Marakwet East	Chesoi Chief's Camp
245		Kerio Valley	DCC's Office Chesongoch
NANDI	246	Nandi North	Kabiyet High School
	247	Nandi South (Aldai)	Kobujoi DCC's Office
	248	Nandi East	Nandi Hills Stadium
	249	Nandi Central	Kapsabet Parade Ground
	250	Tinderet	Maraba DCC's Office
	251	Chesumei	Chemundu Sub County Hqrs
BARINGO	252	Tiaty West	Chemolingot Stadium
	253	Tiaty East	Tangulbei DCC's Office
	254	Kolowa	DCC's Office Kolowa
	255	Mogotio	Mogotio Stadium
	256	Koibatek	Eldama Ravine Stadium
	257	Baringo Central	Kabarnet Show Ground
	258	Marigat	Marigat Sports Grounds
	259	Mukutani	DCC's Office Mukutani
	260	Baringo North	Moi Primary School Kabartonjo
	261	Baringo West	DCC's Office -Barwessa
LAIKIPIA	262	Laikipia East	Nanyuki Stadium
	263	Laikipia Central	Sirima Grounds
	264	Nyahururu	Nyahururu Municipal Stadium
	265	Laikipia West	Rumuruti Grounds
	266	Kirima	Olmoran DCC's Office
	267	Laikipia North	Doldol T. Centre
	268	Kuresoi South	Olonguruoni Stadium
NAKURU	269	Kuresoi North	Sirikwa DCC's Office
	270	Nakuru North	Bahati Centre
	271	Gilgil	Gilgil Stadium
	272	Rongai	DC'S Office Kampi ya Moto
	273	Subukia	Subukia Play Ground
	274	Naivasha	DCC'S Office Naivasha Kihoto
	275	Molo	Molo Municipal Stadium
	276	Nakuru East	Afraha Stadium Nakuru Town
	277	Nakuru West	Kaptembwa Grounds
	278	Njoro	Njoro Police Station
NAROK	279	Narok Central	Narok Stadium
	280	Narok North	DCC's Office - Olorkurto
	281	Narok South	Ololulunga Baraza Park
	282	Narok Amalo	DCC's Office - Sogoo
	283	Narok West	Lamek DCC's Office
	284	Narok East	Nairagie - Enkare DCC's Office
	285	Trans Mara West	DCC's Office Kilgoris
	286	Trans Mara South	DCC's Office - Lolgorian
	287	Trans Mara East	Emurua - Dikirr Sub-County Hqrs
KAJIADO	288	Kajiado Central	Kajiado DCC's Office
	289	Oloililai	Ngataek DCC's Office
	290	Isinya	DCC'S Office Isinya
	291	Mashuru	DCC'S Office Mashuuru
	292	Kajiado North	Traffic Training School
	293	Kajiado West	Oltinga Center
	294	Elangata Wuas	Oltinga Center
	295	Loitokitok	Loitokitok Stadium
KERICHO	296	Kericho East	Kericho Green Stadium
	297	Belgut	Belgut (Sosiot Grounds)
	298	Sigowet	DCC's Office - Sigowet
	299	Soin	DCC's Office Kipsitet
	300	Kipkelion	Kipkelion DCC's Office
	301	Londiani	Londiani County Stadium
	302	Bureti	Kapkatet Stadium

COUNTY	S/NO	SUB-COUNTY	RECRUITMENT CENTRE	
<b>BOMET</b>	303	Bomet Central	Bomet Stadium	
	304	Bomet East	Longisa Youth Empowerment Ground	
	305	Chepalungu	Sigor Play Ground	
	306	Sotik	DCC'S Office Sotik T/Ship	
	307	Konoin	Konoin Stadium	
<b>KAKAMEGA</b>	308	Kakamega Central	Bukhungu Stadium Kakamega	
	309	Kakamega South	Malinya Stadium	
	310	Kakamega East	Solio Play Ground	
	311	Kabras East	Isanjiro Play Ground	
	312	Kabras West	DCC'S Office Shikutse	
	313	Lugari	Lumakanda Township Pny Sch.	
	314	Matete	Matete Playing Ground	
	315	Likuyani	DCC'S Office Kongoni	
	316	Navakholo	DCC'S Play Ground Navakholo	
	317	Khwisero	Khwisero Sports Ground	
	318	Mumias East	DCC'S Office Mumias East	
	319	Matungu	DCC'S Office Matungu	
	320	Mumias West	Bomani Grounds	
	321	Butere	Shiatsala Play Ground	
	<b>VIHIGA</b>	322	Hamisi	Hamisi Sports Ground
323		Luanda	DCC'S Office Luanda	
324		Emuhaya	DCC'S Office Emuhaya	
325		Sabatia	Sabatia DCC'S Office	
326		Tiriki East	DCC'S Office - Shaviringa	
327		Vihiga	Kindundu Stadium	
<b>BUNGOMA</b>	328	Bungoma North	DCC'S Office Bungoma North	
	329	Tongaren	DCC'S Office Tongaren	
	330	Kimaeti	DCC'S Office Kimaeti	
	331	Kimilili	Kimilili - Amtala Sports Centre	
	332	Bungoma South	Kanduyi Airstrip	
	333	Bumula	Bumula Centre DCC'S Office	
	334	Bungoma West	Sirisia Sports Ground	
	335	Webuye West	Bokoli Division Hqrs	
	336	Webuye East	Pan Paper Grounds	
	337	Bungoma Central	Musese CDF Grounds	
	338	Mt. Elgon	Mt. Elgon Police Div. Kapsokwony	
	339	Kopsiro	DCC'S Office Kopsiro	
	340	Cheptais	Cheptais Police Station	
	<b>BUSIA</b>	341	Busia	Busia Mun. Stadium
		342	Butula	Butula Youth Polytechnic
343		Samia	Funyula Stadium	
344		Bunyala	Siagonjo Stadium	
345		Nambale	Nambale Polytechnic	
346		Teso North	Amagoro Sub County Police Hqrs	
347		Teso South	Amukura Stadium	
348		Teso Central	DCC'S Office Amukura	
<b>SIAYA</b>	349	Siaya	Siaya Stadium	
	350	Ugenya	Ugenya DCC's Office	
	351	Gem Yala	Sawagongo DCC's Office	
	352	Gem Wagai	Wagai Primary School	
	353	Ugunja	Nyasanda Primary School	
	354	Bondo	Bondo University Grounds	
	355	Usigu	DCC'S Office Usigu	
	356	Rarieda	Nyilima Centre Grounds	
	357	Kisumu Central	Kenyatta Grounds	
<b>KISUMU</b>	358	Kisumu East	Mamboleo Show Ground	
	359	Kisumu West	DCC'S Office -Ojola	
	360	Seme	DCC'S Office - Kombe-wa	
	361	Nyando	Nyado DCC's Office	
	362	Kadibo	Rabuor Primary School	
	363	Muhoroni	Chemelil Sugar Company Stadium	
	364	Nyakach	Nyakach Sub County Police Hqrs (Pap Onditi)	

COUNTY	S/NO	SUB-COUNTY	RECRUITMENT CENTRE	
<b>HOMA BAY</b>	365	Homa Bay	Homa Bay Police Div. Hqrs	
	366	Ndhiwa	Ndhiwa Police Sub County Hqrs	
	367	Suba South	Magunga Primary School	
	368	Suba West	Sena Air Strip	
	369	Suba Central	DCC's Office Sindo	
	370	Mbita	Onunga Stadium	
	371	Rachuonyo South	Kosele Stadium	
	372	Rachuonyo North	Kendubay Show Ground	
	373	Rachuonyo West	DCC's Office Got Oyar	
	374	Rachuonyo East	Pundo Karaila Sports Ground (Kadongo)	
	375	Rangwe	Rangwe Market	
	<b>MIGORI</b>	376	Suna East	Migori Stadium
		377	Suna West	Piny Oye DCC's Grounds
		378	Nyatike North	Moi Nyatike School
		379	Nyatike South	Migingo Grounds
380		Nyatike West	Sori Stadium	
381		Rongo	Rongo Sub-County Hqs	
382		Awendo	Awendo ACC'S Office	
383		Uriri	Uriri DCC's Hqs	
384		Kuria West	Kuria Police Sub County Hqrs	
385		Mabera	Mabera Social Hall	
<b>KISII</b>	386	Kuria East	DCC's Office Kegonga	
	387	Ntimaru	DCC's Office Ntimaru	
	388	Kisii Central	Kisii Stadium	
	389	Kisii South	Kerina Ground	
	390	Marani	Marani Football Ground	
	391	Masaba South	Nyantrago Play Ground	
	392	Gucha	Ogembo DCC's Office	
	393	Gucha South	Nyamarambe Stadium	
	394	Etago	Etago Green Stadium	
	395	Nyamache	Nyamache Stadium	
	396	Sameta	Sameta Stadium	
	397	Kenyanya	Kenyanya Green Stadium	
	398	Kitutu Central	Kisii Stadium	
	399	Nyamira South	Nyamira DCC's Office	
<b>NYAMIRA</b>	400	Nyamira North	Ekerenyo DCC'S Ground	
	401	Borabu	Matutu Police Station	
	402	Manga	Manga DCC'S Office (Mrkt)	
	403	Masaba North	Rigoma Market	
	404	Kasarani	Moi Sports Centre Kasarani	
<b>NAIROBI</b>	405	Njiru	Moi Sports Centre Kasarani	
	406	Roysambu	Moi Sports Centre Kasarani	
	407	Ruaraka	Moi Sports Centre Kasarani	
	408	Kamukunji	Kamukunji Sports Grounds	
	409	Starehe	Pumwani Play Ground	
	410	Embakasi South	Vision Grounds/ Makao Bora	
	411	Embakasi North	Dandora Stadium	
	412	Embakasi West	Tena Grounds	
	413	Embakasi East	Jakaranda Grounds	
	414	Embakasi Central	Humama Grounds	
	415	Makadara	City Stadium	
	416	Lang'ata	Nyayo Stadium	
	417	Kibra	Nyayo Stadium	
	418	Westlands	KTTC Gigiri	
	419	Dagoretti North	Ndururu Stadium	
	420	Dagoretti South	Ndururu Stadium	
	421	Mathare	Mathare Depot Play Ground	
	422	NCIA (DCI) Training School	NCIA (DCI) Training School, South C	



**DOUGLAS KANJA KIROCHO, MGH, CBS, OGW**  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE**