



# Siasa

Ruto headache as Mt Kenya pushes Kindiki as 2027 running mate

Politics: Page 4

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE SELECTION PANEL FOR THE SELECTION OF NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION (NCIC)  
The National Cohesion and Integration Act, 2019 (CAP 7N)  
SEE PULL OUT INSIDE

# Pain

How rogues fleece desperate Kenyans in Gulf jobs scam

Nowhere to turn: Page 10

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# weekend STAR

Rivalry threatens to weaken party's leverage in poll talks with UDA

# ODM FACTIONS IN EPIC WAR TO TAKE OVER RAILA BASES

Story on 4-5

**Sifuna vs Oburu**

Amisi Babu Abdulswamad Joho Osotsi Orengo Wanga Arati Winnie Junet

**Violence: Politics a test of resilience for women aspirants with disabilities**



PAGE 16

**Silent killer: Garissa's 40°C heatwave leaves residents on the brink**

PAGE 11

TRANSITION

# Lawyers vote to elect LSK bosses

Senior counsel Kanjama battles it out with Wanyama and outgoing vice president Kabata for presidency

CATHY WAMAITHA  
@Cathylmani

LAWYERS on Thursday took to the ballot to elect new officials of the Law Society of Kenya including its president.

Renowned lawyers including senior counsel Charles Kanjama and LSK vice president Mwaura Kabata are among the three candidates seeking the association's top seat.

Also in the running was lawyer Peter Wanyama. The new officials will lead for the 2026-2028 biennium. As the premier bar association in the region, the LSK election is often viewed as a barometer for democratic health within the country's legal and political architecture.

Kabata set an early tone of confidence after casting his ballot at the Supreme Court polling station. He appeared refreshed and ready for the culmination of months of campaigning.

He expressed his satisfaction with the engagement levels observed throughout the period. "I am optimistic that we have spoken to our membership and I see a clear, white light at the end of the tunnel," Kabata said.

Kanjama also voted in the morning. He emphasised the critical role the LSK president plays in the national discourse, noting that the leader is required to champion various causes.

The election day atmosphere remained professional, with candidates strictly adhering to the prohibition of active canvassing.

Wanyama voted a few minutes before 11 am, focused his commentary on the logistical flow of the day.

While noting the steady morning pace, he urged for patience regarding the overall participation statistics, as numbers were expected to swell significantly in the afternoon.

A notable incident occurred involving National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula, who arrived to vote around 10 am. His experience was complicated by a search for his name on the register, necessitating intervention from the Independent



Outgoing LSK president Faith Odhiambo casts her vote at the Supreme Court polling station in Nairobi on Thursday /LEAH MUKANGAI

Electoral and Boundaries Commission officials.

Ultimately, he was denied the opportunity to vote. Officials cited his current position in the government as a state officer, a status that renders him exempt from such exercises within the professional society.

The incumbent president, Faith Odhiambo voted at 10:37 am before turning her focus to overseeing the administrative health of the process.

Her leadership has been defined by efforts to modernise the society's infrastructure and she highlighted several improvements implemented for this specific cycle.

"We added more booths this year to ensure more efficiency, we had the agents properly accredited so there's no issue of 'super' agents," Odhiambo said.

Transparency appeared to be the cornerstone of the outgoing council's electoral strategy. Odhiambo detailed the layers of oversight integrated into the 2026 polls, including

the presence of observers at both the polling stations and the national tallying centre.

"We've also enabled observers not only at the different polling stations but also at the tallying centre to just give people that assurance that the process is transparent," she added.

There was a high turnout of legal and political luminaries. Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, PLP leader Martha Karua, and Senior Counsel Rapinder Sehmi were amongst the early voters.

Siaya Governor James Orengo, Senior Counsel Paul Muite, and Ambassador Michael Mubea all voted in the morning.

Their presence underscored the election's significance, as the LSK continues to be a pivotal player in defending the rule of law and constitutionalism in Kenya.

Election results were expected later in the night with counting starting after the close of the voting in the evening.



Charles Kanjama /LEAH MUKANGAI



Mwaura Kabata /LEAH MUKANGAI



Peter Wanyama /LEAH MUKANGAI

## STAR SURVEY

### TODAY'S QUESTION

Is ODM still a party to reckon with?

### YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Is IPOA doing enough in holding police accountable over extrajudicial killings?

YES 36%



NO 64%



## WORLD PANGOLIN DAY

# Kenya's race to save the rare giant ground pangolin species

BY GORDON OSEN

AT 73, Peter Tompoy has seen only one giant ground pangolin—and it was dead, electrocuted by a power line. Once revered as entaboi, a symbol of luck, these elusive creatures are now fading into memory.

As chairman of the Nyekweri Kimintet Community Forest Conservation Trust, Tompoy is fighting to save their last Kenyan refuge.

The crisis is urgent because since 2010, 80 per cent of the Nyekweri forest has vanished due to farming and charcoal burning.

Today, fewer than 30 giant pangolins remain in Kenya.

To counter this, the Trust and The

Pangolin Project have partnered with 191 landowners through conservation leases. Landowners receive annual payments up to Sh 24,000 per hectare to protect the habitat, linking wildlife survival directly to local livelihoods.

Innovative safety measures have also been implemented, including the modification of 125 kilometres of electric fences to prevent accidental electrocutions.

Project manager Michael Koskei utilises tracking devices and geo-fencing to provide real-time alerts for rapid field intervention.

Beryl Makori, Chief Programs Officer, insists that community involvement is the only path forward.



The Pangolin Project team retags a pangolin in Nyekweri Forest on Tuesday /GILBERT KOECH

By researching the pangolins' primary food sources—ants and termites—the project informs vital habitat restoration.

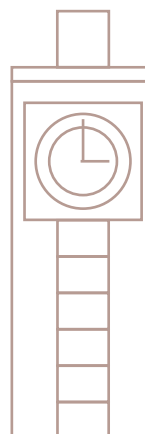
As World Pangolin Day approaches on February 21, this community-driven model proves that saving the entaboi is about more than just biology; it is about honouring a cultural heritage and protecting the fragile biodiversity that sustains all life.



PHOTO STORY

Muslims buy kanzus in Mwembe Tayari, Mombasa, at the start of Ramadhan on Thursday  
/JOHN CHESOLI

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



IN 2022

# Man who killed wife as son watched convicted

Boy told court he saw his father strike his mum with wood embedded with a nail

CATHY WAMAITHA  
@Cathylmani

THE impact of domestic violence on the family unit was on display at the High Court in Nairobi on Tuesday.

This was after Kevin Oduor Barak was found guilty of the 2022 murder of his wife, Medrine Magova.

Justice Kanyi Kimondo, sitting in the Milimani Law Courts Criminal Division, heard that on July 4, 2022, in Githaturu, Korogocho, a domestic dispute escalated into the fatal assault.

The case hinged significantly on the testimony of the couple's nine-year-old son, who witnessed his parents fighting outside their home.

The boy told the court he saw his father strike his mother with a piece of wood embedded with a nail.

The mother, while under attack, urged her son to flee to his aunt's

house in Kariobangi for safety. It was only upon the boy's return later that evening that he discovered his mother's body on a sofa.

Pathologist Dr Simon Omuok testified that while there was a wedge-shaped laceration on the victim's thigh, the actual cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head. The postmortem report further detailed defensive bruises on her limbs.

Phylis Imali, the victim's sister, also testified of a history of volatility between the pair.

She recalled previous instances where the deceased had sought refuge at her home, once even appearing with a bloodstained shirt.

Despite the defence's attempt to portray the accused as a co-operative husband who stayed at the scene, the court found the nature of the injuries pointed towards a clear intent to cause grievous harm. The minor's account of a

daylight brawl was corroborated by the accused's own contradictory defence.

While the defence argued it was unsafe to rely on the word of a minor, the judge noted the accused unwittingly confirmed the boy's version of events.

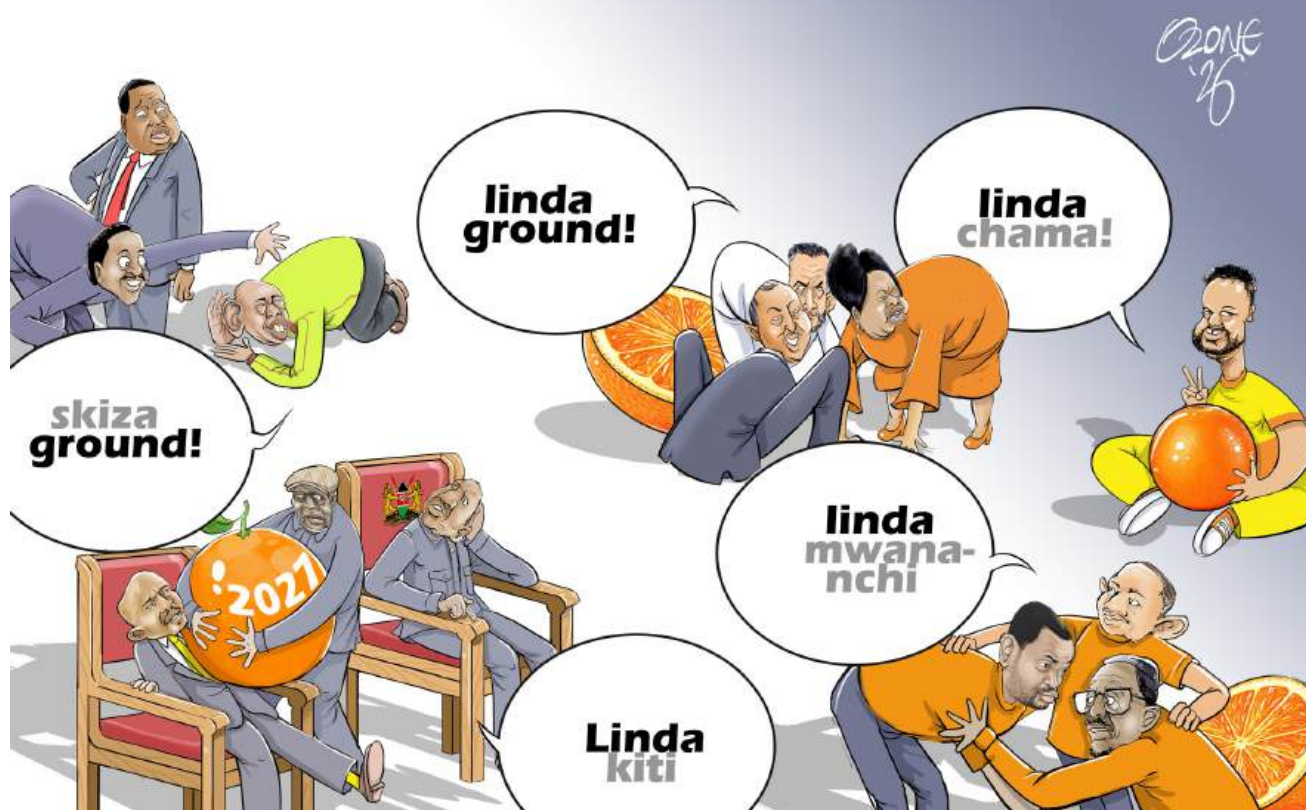
In his sworn testimony on Tuesday, Barak admitted to a confrontation.

"She claimed I had another wife. She started throwing stones and sticks at me. There were people at the scene."

This admission, the judge ruled, placed the accused at the centre of the violence, dismantling his later claim that he had simply returned home to find a tragedy he could not explain.

The court rejected Barak's alibi—that he had been at work during the afternoon—as a convenient lie meant to distance himself from the immediate aftermath.

CARTOON



★ **TWO GOVERNMENT-ALLIED MPs** were reportedly unsettled during a talk show at a local media house after noticing that the Wi-Fi password was a popular opposition slogan. The discovery is said to have instantly shifted the atmosphere, with the lawmakers questioning why such a politically charged phrase had been chosen. They supposedly argued the password's wording suggested bias, raising concerns about the station's neutrality and whether the platform could offer a fair and balanced discussion.

★ **IT IS NOW** becoming clear why a governor and the deputy governor have for some time been running county affairs from their respective homes. Their offices have reportedly been without electricity for two months after power was disconnected over massive unpaid bills. The development has turned the county into a subject of ridicule among those privy to the situation, with critics pointing to it as an alleged glaring example of administrative and financial strain.

★ **AN ANNUAL GATHERING** of a women's organisation reportedly descended into what attendees have described as a "conference of shame". Delegates say they were allegedly frustrated and poorly treated throughout the event. Many were purportedly crammed four to a double bedroom, while others were forced to sleep in tents. On the first day, participants were apparently informed that no meals would be provided, as they were expected to have eaten at home. Even on the day of departure, they were again told to eat at their respective homes.

★ **THE DECISION BY** a prominent leader to forgo contesting any elective position in his county has reportedly left many disappointed. The leader explained that his current role provides a more effective platform to serve the people. Among the most disheartened were local elders who had planned to endorse him, with reports suggesting they were possibly anticipating a substantial reward for their support. The elders are said to be scouting for another politician to endorse ahead of the 2027 election.

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

## POWER STRUGGLE THE RIVALRY THREATENS TO WEAKEN ODM'S LEVERAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS



Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga, Mombasa Governor Abdulsamad Nassir and ODM leader Oburu Odinga at Tononoka grounds in Mombasa on February 15  
/JOHN CHESOLI

# ODM factions in epic war to take over Raila bases

Political analyst Naituli says the faction perceived to be championing Raila's ideals will ultimately capture his turf

LUKE AWICH  
@AchiaAwich

ODM rival factions have escalated their power struggle, shifting the contest to the control of political bases long associated with veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga (deceased).

With the broader opposition also digging in, Raila's traditional strongholds are now bracing for an influx of political activity, including the possible emergence of new parties targeting elective seats beyond the presidency.

Within ODM, the camps led by party leader Oburu Odinga and embattled secretary general Edwin Sifuna have gone all out in the battle to inherit Raila's political turf.

The rivalry threatens to weaken ODM's leverage in negotiations with President William Ruto's UDA.

A section of Mt Kenya leaders has been blunt, telling off ODM over its demand for Ruto's running mate in 2027, a position presently

held by Kithure Kindiki. The Oburu-aligned camp has announced a major 'Linda Ground' rally at Ahindi Grounds in Siaya county on Sunday — widely regarded as the heartland of Raila's political influence.

The meeting's agenda is two-pronged: to cut Governor James Orengo, one of the rebel leaders, down to size, and to consolidate Luo Nyanza behind Ruto.

But a day before the Siaya rally, Sifuna and Orengo will pitch camp in Kakamega county.

The Sifuna team has announced plans to head to Vihiga after staging rallies in Busia and Kitengela in Kajiado county.

Meanwhile, the Oburu team has already criss-crossed Western and the Coast as it seeks to lock down the bases from what it terms enemy encroachment.

The Coast, Nyanza and Western regions have traditionally voted for Raila.

ODM deputy party leader Godfrey Osotsi told the Star their public

engagements will span all 47 counties, dismissing claims his side is in competition with Oburu's faction.

"You will see us going across the country; this movement will be in all the 47 counties in the country," the Vihiga senator said.

Some observers, however, dismiss the Sifuna-Orengo wave as a

passing cloud that will soon fizzle out.

Tana River Senator Danson Mungatana downplayed the current momentum, arguing that the team will eventually return to mainstream ODM.

"Unless Sifuna and his team have proper structures, financing and long-term planning, the rebellion within ODM will fizzle out, and they will soon return to ODM," Mungatana argued.

Political commentator Meshack Odede posed, "Sifuna's movement is causing a lot of confusion because Kenyans are not sure where he stands. Is he still in ODM or not?"

Lawmakers allied to the Oburu camp have defended their country-wide rallies, saying they are aimed at reconnecting with grassroots supporters and strengthening party structures ahead of next month's National Delegates Convention (NDC).

Speaking to the Star, the lawmakers maintained the outreach programme is meant to solidify the party's base.

"Nobody can ever inherit Raila's bases; Raila was just an extraordinary person. I think we are hold-

“

MESHACK ODEDE

*Sifuna's movement is causing a lot of confusion because Kenyans are not sure where he stands. Is he still in ODM or not?*



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# WITH PRESIDENT RUTO'S UDA

ing ODM rallies in all parts of this country," Kibra MP Peter Orero told The Star.

"We are just trying to reach the counties to sell the ideas to the people and to the delegates. I think the Linda Ground team is going to the counties to meet the delegates because we are approaching elections."

Orero said ODM's support across its traditional bastions was built over decades through Raila's personal sacrifice and ideological stand, arguing that no individual or faction can simply claim ownership of those regions.

Lang'ata MP Felix Oduor described the rallies as routine party engagements.

"Nobody is trying to inherit anyone; we are just making the ground stronger and telling the people that ODM still has its bases and that it is strong in those bases," he told the Star.

But according to political analyst Prof Gitile Naituli, the faction perceived to be championing Raila's ideals will ultimately capture the bases.

"Raila's bases are going to be captured by whoever is thinking like Raila when he formed ODM," he said. "ODM was founded as a street party. What that means is that ODM is a people's party. Whoever is able to articulate people's frustrations is the person who will capture ODM."

The university don added that the Sifuna-Orengo team has received a warm reception from ODM supporters at the grassroots. "So far, the Sifuna team is able to articulate the people's philosophy," he said.

Both sides are keen to demonstrate grassroots dominance, with pundits describing the rallies as a test of political muscle and loyalty.

Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu, however, believes the Sifuna wave may not easily fizzle out, particularly in the absence of a unifying figure like Raila.

## WEAKER POSITION

# How Sifuna, Orengo wave could puncture Oburu and Ruto talks

LUKE AWICH

The growing wave around Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and Siaya Governor James Orengo is threatening to complicate the planned negotiations between ODM and the ruling UDA, analysts warn.

The two leaders appear to have succeeded in consolidating a critical mass opposed to rapprochement with President William Ruto ahead of next year's elections.

The team has positioned itself as defenders of the party's grassroots base under their banner 'Linda Wananchi'.

Their push appears to have resonated with a section of supporters who feel sidelined in recent high-level decisions.

Analysts now argue that this emerging Sifuna-Orengo wave could significantly weaken Oburu's bargaining power in talks aimed at striking a pre-2027 political deal.

Political analyst Martin Andati told the Star the Oburu faction will have to scale down their expectations during the negotiations.

He said Ruto's camp could offer a reduced deal, calculating that a divided partner lacks the cohesion to demand premium terms.

"Definitely it will water down the negotiations, Oburu will go to the negotiations when he is very much weakened," Andati argues.

"Ruto will give them whatever he [Ruto] likes. It will be a matter of take or leave."

ODM has, prior to the talks, put forward a demand for the Deputy President seat currently held by Kithure Kindiki.

Speaking during an ODM delegates meeting in Mombasa on February 12, Oburu made it clear they would be negotiating for the post in their talks with UDA.

"That Deputy President seat is what we are targeting very strongly," Oburu said.

A section of ODM lawmakers admit that deepening cracks within the party could weaken its negotiating leverage with Ruto ahead of

the 2027 political realignments. Ruaraka MP TJ Kajwang conceded that persistent public spats between rival camps have not only confused supporters but also strategically disadvantaged them on the table.

"Of course, it [divisions] will weaken our position to negotiate. Who wants to negotiate with a house divided? Who wants to negotiate with somebody who does not bring anything to the table?" Kajwang told the Star, noting that unity has historically been ODM's strongest bargaining chip in coalition talks.

"So watch out there. It does not make you better even if you are Linda Wananchi because you will still lose your bargaining power. It does not make you better if you are Linda Ground because it will make you a weaker person."

He warned that unless the wrangles are urgently resolved, ODM risks losing influence in any structured engagement, particularly on issues relating to power-sharing arrangements and the party's future political direction.

"What you must know is that the baseline is numbers. If you cut yourself off, you are of no use to anybody. Nobody can negotiate with you. Even negotiating with the current regime, or if you choose to negotiate with other parties, you will still be useless. All of us will still go back to the opposition," Kajwang warned.

Kibra MP Peter Orero was, however, optimistic the party will be able to strike a united front after the March National Delegates Convention (NDC).

"In politics, one day is a long time. We still have more than 14 months before the next election. It will be prudent that we hold our horses and see what happens after the NDC," he said on Thursday during an interview with the Star.

Langata MP Felix Oduor dismissed the talks of unity, saying ODM is one under Siaya Senator Oburu Oginga.

"There is no party that is fractured, there are people who are walking saying Linda Wananchi - they don't have ODM blessings," he said.

The opposition party has also expressed that it will negotiate for a 50-50 share of government with Ruto.

Also on the list of demands is the push for zoning of regions that will see affiliate parties fielding candidates only in their strongholds.

Political commentator Daniel Orogo warned that divisions within the Orange party could hand Ruto a strategic advantage in any 2027 negotiations between ODM and UDA. "It will significantly weaken the negotiations. It [ODM] has already weakened," he told the Star on the phone.

The analyst added that such internal wrangles weaken the party's bargaining power at the negotiation table.

SUBA CHURCHILL



## EXPERT COMMENT

# Support for ODM will be intact with or without Sifuna

I have seen varied opinions about ODM's strength when it comes to negotiating with UDA, but I think they have the advantage of time, given that the wrangling is happening at this point.

I think the notion that has been peddled around—that ODM has split down the middle—is not a reality. If you look at those opposing talks with UDA, they are a handful; they are few, countable MPs.

You look at all the organs of the party and find that, for instance, in the Central Management Committee, it is Sifuna and deputy party leader Godfrey Osotsi who are opposed to the idea of talks.

It is very small faction, which seems not to have much influence in the organs of the party.

But that aside, the fact that the idea to talk with UDA has been mooted early enough will probably be seen when the talks begins in earnest. All these factionalisms will have since ceased and things will have settled.

Either the people who are opposed would have given up, because in politics, when your idea does not seem to sell, you either surrender or ship out.

I do not see them (dissenters) going away with such following of the party that would warrant UDA viewing ODM as weakened.

The two leaders do not enjoy a following compared to those in support.

I still hold the view that the side that is in support of negotiations will prevail and they will be able to carry with them a significant majority of the party and its strongholds.

It will be able to give ODM a reasonable grounding to take its rightful place in the planned negotiations.

Linda Wananchi is an attempt to bring anybody else who is opposed to the UDA government; it has nothing to do with fighting for Raila's traditional bases. It is for anyone who is willing to attend a political rally and join them.

Linda Ground despite not bringing crowds as large as what we saw in Kitengela is more targeted and speaking to the members of the party.

The veteran activist spoke to the Star

**I DO NOT SEE THEM (DISSENTERS) GOING AWAY WITH SUCH FOLLOWING OF THE PARTY THAT WOULD WARRANT UDA VIEWING ODM AS WEAKENED**

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The scramble for Raila's bases could redefine the balance of power within ODM and potentially reshape the broader opposition landscape. As both camps hit the ground running, all eyes will be on Siaya and Kakamega this weekend in what promises to be an epic showdown for control of Raila's political turf.



ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna arrives in Kitengela town /EZEKIEL AMING'A

## NEWS GENERAL

## POSSIBLE FUNDS LOSS

# Audit reveals flaws in Treasury pension system

*New report shows database riddled with incomplete records, invalid identification details*

MOSES OGADA  
@AliwaMoses

DETAILS have emerged of serious flaws in the database used by the National Treasury to process pension payrolls.

The details point to possible losses of billions of shillings in taxpayers' money.

A new audit has revealed that the system used to manage pensions and gratuities is riddled with incomplete records and invalid identification details.

In addition, long-outstanding balances running into billions of shillings further undermine the

system's credibility, Auditor General Nancy Gathungu says.

The Auditor General raised concerns about the integrity of pensioners' data, noting that several records were either incomplete or inconsistent. She made the findings in her report on the Consolidated Fund Services – Pensions and Gratuities for the year ended June 30, 2025, tabled in Parliament.

The audit found that 4,843 pensioners had invalid or missing tax PIN numbers, while 40,140 had invalid identification card numbers captured in the system.

A further 4,847 pensioners had dates of birth identical to

their enrolment or end-of-service dates, raising questions about the accuracy of personal data.

Auditors also flagged 2,912 deceased principal pensioners recorded as "DUMMY", meaning the system did not reflect their proper identification details.

In another anomaly, 2,386 cases showed pensioners' names identical to their dependants' names.

Most strikingly, the audit revealed 73,153 instances where the death date field was left blank. The enrolment data also contained seven records with either incomplete or future dates of enrolment.

Due to these inconsistencies,

Gathungu concluded that "the credibility and integrity of data from the pensioners' database used to process pensions payroll could not be confirmed".

The report warns that unless the database is cleaned up, reconciliations completed and internal controls strengthened, the system will continue exposing public funds to risk.

Beyond data inconsistencies, the audit pointed to direct breaches of pension regulations. Nine widows were paid pension benefits beyond the legally stipulated five-year period, receiving a total of Sh2.09 million above their entitlement.

"Although management indicated that the payments had been ceased and recovery of overpaid amounts initiated, no evidence to that effect was provided for review," Gathungu said.

At the same time, 17 pensioners had not received their lump sum and arrears 12 months after retirement, with Sh31.09 million still outstanding.

This was despite legal requirements that such payments be settled within 90 days. "This indicates a systemic failure in the timely disbursement of pensioners' benefits." The weaknesses extend beyond data errors. The audit also questioned billions of shillings reported in the department's financial statements.



## MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS

### STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SPORTS

#### INVITATION TO TENDER

The State Department for Sports invites sealed bids from interested eligible tenderers for the tenders listed below: -

S/NO	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	BID SECURITY
1.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/01/2026	Supply and delivery of Medical bag and Critical Care Heli Equipment]	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
2.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/02/2026	Provision of Hire of Portable Toilets Services	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
3.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/03/2026	Provision of Waste Management Services	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
4.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/04/2026	Provision of Hire of Screens	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
5.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/05/2026	Provision of Hire of Helicopter	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
6.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/06/2026	Provision of Hire Motor Vehicles	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
7.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/07/2026	Provision of catering services	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
8.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/08/2026	Provision of Consultancy for Accommodation services	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
9.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/09/2026	Provision of Hire of Tents, Tables and Chairs	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
10.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/010/2026	Provision of Hire of Crowd Control Barriers	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
11.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/11/2026	Provision Hire of Flood Lights	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
12.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/12/2026	Provision of Hire of Generators	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
13.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/13/2026	Supply and Delivery Stage Furniture	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
14.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/14/2026	Supply and Delivery of various tabards	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
15.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/15/2026	Supply and Delivery of Road books	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
16.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/16/2026	Supply and Delivery of fire extinguishers	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
17.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/17/2026	Supply and Delivery Rechargeable handheld torches	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
18.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/18/2026	Supply and Delivery of FIA rated overalls	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
19.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/19/2026	Provision of Hire of Body & luggage Scanners	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
20.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/20/2026	Provision of Hire of Private Security Guards	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
21.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/21/2026	Supply and Delivery of Oil Spill Kits	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
22.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/22/2026	Supply and Delivery of Laptops	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution

S/NO	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	BID SECURITY
23.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/23/2026	Supply and Delivery of Desktop Computers	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
24.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/24/2026	Supply and Delivery of Toners and extension cables	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
25.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/25/2026	Supply and Delivery of Rally control ICT equipment	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
26.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/26/2026	Provision of Security Surveillance and Monitoring System	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
27.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/27/2026	Supply and Delivery Chain-link ,Poles ,Binding Wire, [Erection and dismantling]	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
28.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/28/2026	Provision of Hire of water bowser	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
29.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/29/2026	Provision of consultancy services for publicity and Marketing Services	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
30.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/30/2026	Supply and Delivery of Trophies	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
31.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/31/2026	Supply and Delivery of Champagne	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
32.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/32/2026	Provision of Rally Village Setup Services	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
33.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/33/2026	Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicle Tyres and Steel Wheel Rim	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
34.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/34/2026	Supply and Delivery of General Office Suppliers	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
35.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/35/2026	Supply and Delivery of Garmin Explorer Gps With Mountings	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
36.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/36/2026	Provision of Hire of vehicles for Transportation of Bulk Items	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
37.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/37/2026	Provision of Hire of Trestle towers	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
38.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/38/2026	Provision of Hire of Scissor lift and Crawler Truck Crane	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution
39.	MYACE&S/WRC/ONT/39/2026	Provision of Hire Car Wash Services	1.9% bank guarantee of the bid sum from a reputable financial institution

A complete set of Standard Tender documents with detailed requirements are available and can be downloaded from the following Portals:- [www.moyasa.go.ke](http://www.moyasa.go.ke) and [www.ppip.go.ke](http://www.ppip.go.ke)

Duly completed documents sealed in an envelope clearly marked with the respective category numbers and item description, should be submitted in the Supply Chain Management Office, located at Talanta Plaza 4<sup>th</sup> Floor during normal working hours and addressed to: -

**The Principal Secretary**  
State Department for Sports  
P.O Box 49849-00100 Nairobi, Kenya

on or before **23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2026 at 10.00 am EAT**. Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the tenderers' representatives who may choose to attend. Late tenders will be rejected.

**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SPORTS



## NEWS GENERAL

## COURT ORDERS

# Taxpayers bleed as state sits on Sh230bn awards

*Interests accumulate unchecked as decrees are ignored*

MOSES OGADA  
@AliwaMoses

A financial crisis is unfolding inside government books, with billions of shillings in unpaid court awards continuing to accumulate interest, exposing taxpayers to growing liabilities.

Budget reports show that as of December 2025, national government ministries and state agencies were sitting on legal decrees amounting to Sh233 billion, yet only Sh7.5 billion of this amount had been paid.

The health sector bears the heaviest burden, with unsettled awards estimated at nearly Sh100 billion, some dating back to President Daniel Moi-era tenders. Among the largest claims is a Sh58 billion award to Equip Agencies, granted in 2011 after the state failed to pay for anti-malaria drugs and equipment supplied in the 1990s. The same supplier has another unpaid award of Sh1.5 billion dating back to 1999.

The Health ministry is also yet to settle Sh17 billion owed to United Medical Supplies for medical products, including throat swabs delivered between 1992 and 1993, with a large portion of the claim made up of accumulated interest.

The agriculture sector carries the second-largest liability at Sh74.8 billion, with the State Department for Agriculture accounting for Sh57 billion. The department faces a Sh19 billion arbitration award arising from a dispute with M A Consulting Group.

Another Sh4 billion is owed to Halal Meat Products, following a Supreme Court ruling.

The original judgment, entered in 2005 for Sh1.8 billion, escalated to Sh5.2 billion after prolonged litigation. Although the amount was later negotiated down to Sh4 billion, it remains unpaid.

Outstanding awards at the Lands department stood at Sh12.9 billion, of which only Sh378 million had been

settled by December 2025. Treasury reports further show the National Police Service is yet to clear Sh1.9 billion slapped on it by various courts, while a separate claim of Sh1 billion remains outstanding against the Interior department.

The State Law Office owes litigants Sh1.4 billion, including Sh270 million awarded in a case involving Martha Karua, with Kwale Sugar also owed Sh70 million.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission faces Sh65 million in court awards, some of which remain unresolved due to ongoing appellate proceedings.

Political parties also feature among claimants. ODM has the largest share of a Sh5 billion award against the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, with Sh4.9 billion still unpaid.

PNU is owed Sh5 million, while the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is yet to settle suits totalling Sh436 million arising

from cases ruled between 2013 and December 2025.

In the energy sector, the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (Ketraco) has an unpaid award of Sh8.7 billion to a Spanish firm whose contract it terminated.

Treasury reports show the power agency has yet to pay a single shilling, with the amount accounting for most of the sector's Sh9 billion liability.

Public administration agencies recorded court awards of Sh7.7 billion, with National Treasury accounting for the highest share at Sh4.9 billion. The claim arose from a breach-of-contract dispute over the construction of a data centre in Nakuru.

"There is need to reconsider allocation of resources to the sub-sectors to address these obligations to adhere to the rule of law," Treasury noted in its report. Agencies under the social protection sector recorded unpaid awards of Sh15.4 billion.

According to recent reports by

Auditor General Nancy Gathungu and Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakang'o, court awards now form a significant share of pending bills across both levels of government.

Treasury data shows that while ministries and agencies are required to budget for legal liabilities, many continue to treat decrees as contingent obligations rather than fixed debts, allowing interest to accumulate unchecked.

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee has repeatedly raised concerns over the trend, faulting ministries and counties for poor legal risk management and weak defence of cases, sometimes leading to avoidable losses.

MPs have questioned why government lawyers fail to pursue appeals promptly or negotiate out-of-court settlements, allowing interest to pile up while accounting officers rotate out of office without facing personal liability.



Controller on Budget Margaret Nyakang'o /FILE

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Kenya Power

**Pamoja Twang'aa**

## NEWS GENERAL

## SH10BN SHORTFALL

# TSC to hire 16k teachers as hundreds out of SHA cover

*Critical funding gaps threaten to leave tutors without essential medical scheme*

MOSES OGADA  
@AliwaMoses

THE Teachers Service Commission has proposed the recruitment of 16,000 additional teachers in the 2026–27 financial year.

This comes as it emerged that hundreds of teachers are being locked out of medical cover under the Social Health Authority due to a Sh10 billion funding shortfall.

Appearing before the National Assembly Education Committee on Thursday, TSC said although its budget has increased from Sh387 billion to Sh422 billion, critical funding gaps threaten to leave teachers without essential medical cover.

At the session, chaired by Tinderet MP Julius Melly at Parliament Buildings, it emerged that SHA medical cover for teachers faces a massive deficit.

TSC has been allocated Sh16.5 billion for medical cover, yet the actuarial cost stands at Sh26.5 billion, creating a Sh10 billion gap that is already affecting teachers.

Kabondo Kasipul MP Eve Obara pressed TSC on the shortfall and asked how much more was needed to ensure teachers are not left without cover.

TSC acting CEO Evelyn Mitei acknowledged the crisis. “The actuarial cost is Sh26.5 billion. We are Sh10 billion short. This is the money we will be asking the Treasury to give us.

“We will be meeting with SHA on Monday to discuss how to make the scheme better. We have had a challenge with treatments outside the country,” she said.

The revelation sparked concern among committee members.

Kitutu Masaba MP Clive Gisairo asked about the practical



Teachers Service Commission CEO Evelyn Mitei before National Assembly Committee on Education at Bunge Towers /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

implications for teachers already struggling to access services.

Committee chairman Melly noted that TSC had not indicated the funding gap in its official wish list submitted to Parliament.

TSC clarified that discussions on

the uncovered teachers are ongoing.

“The issue of SHA is ongoing; we are agreeing on the model. We can confirm the figure after the meeting with SHA. We do not want to pin a figure when the discussions are ongoing.”

## OVERSIGHT

## Lawmakers threaten sanctions as PS Bitok skips budget hearing

MOSES OGADA

BASIC Education Principal Secretary Julius Bitok is facing mounting pressure from lawmakers after failing to appear before a House committee.

Bitok was to appear before the National Assembly’s Education Committee to defend his ministry’s allocation in the Budget Policy Statement.

MPs on the Education committee accused the PS of repeatedly ignoring summons and treating the House with contempt.

The lawmakers warned that punitive measures are now under consideration.

Led by committee chairperson Julius Melly (Tinderet MP), the legislators said the PS’s absence from the crucial budget hearing had disrupted their timelines and undermined Parliament’s oversight role.

“Because it’s not the first time and when he has failed to appear in this very important session, we are really saddened, and our timelines are now over,” Melly said.



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA  
P.O. BOX 563-70100

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

### TENDER ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

The County Government of Garissa invites sealed bids/tenders from interested and eligible contractors for tenders listed below: -

S/NO.	TENDER	TENDER DESCRIPTION	BID BOND (KSHS)	ELIGIBILITY
1.	CGG/T/GSSS/01/2025- 2026	PHASE I OF THE PROPOSED GARISSA CULTURAL MUSEUM, GARISSA COUNTY	260,000.00	OPEN TO ALL
2.	CGG/T/GSSS/02/2025- 2026	PHASE II OF THE PROPOSED PAVILLION AT GARISSA PRIMARY SCHOOL IN GARISSA COUNTY	3,600,000.00	OPEN TO ALL
3.	CGG/T/ALFC/004/2025- 2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VACCINES	400,000.00	OPEN TO ALL
4.	CGG/T/KDSP11/CA/001/20 25-2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LAPTOPS, DESKTOPS, AND ACCESSORIES	N/A	RESERVED FOR YOUTH
<b>RE-ADVERTISED TENDERS</b>				
1.	CGG/T/ALFC/001/2025- 2026	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF SIX (6 NO.) MODERN PUBLIC TOILETS IN GARISSA LIVESTOCK MARKET- GARISSA TOWNSHIP	N/A	RESERVED FOR YOUTH
2.	CGG/T/WS/07/2025-2026	PROPOSED DANYERE WATER SYTEMS IN BALAMBALA SUB COUNTY GARISSA COUNTY	300,000.00	OPEN TO ALL
3.	CGG/T/HEALTH/004/2025- 2026	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 16 BED CAPACITY MALE WARD AT MADINA LEVEL IV HOSPITAL IN TOWNSHIP SUB COUNTY	490,000.00	OPEN TO ALL

A complete set of tender documents may be downloaded by interested bidders FREE OF CHARGE from the County’s Website(s) [www.garissa.go.ke](http://www.garissa.go.ke) or the Public Procurement Information Portal ([www.tenders.go.ke](http://www.tenders.go.ke)).

Completed Tender documents should be deposited in the Tender Box located at the Urban Planning Offices (former Municipality) on or before **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 at 10.30 a.m. E.A.T.**

Tender documents will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the **Urban Planning Offices (former Municipality).**

Bidders who download the tender documents must submit their company name, postal, physical email and telephone addresses to the **Director, Supply Chain Management** to receive any further clarifications and /or addendum where necessary.

COUNTY SECRETARY AND HEAD OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA.

## MEDICINES DIVERTED

## Duale raises alarm over private chemists around public hospitals

LUKE AWICH

THE Health ministry has raised the alarm over the rapid proliferation of private chemists operating around public hospitals.

The ministry has warned that some facilities could be colluding with rogue medics to divert medicines.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale on Thursday cautioned state-employed medics against engaging in unethical practices, including directing patients to specific chemists.

Duale told MPs there is a worrying trend of private pharmacies mushrooming just outside major referral and county hospitals. This has raised concerns about possible conflicts of interest and exploitation of patients.

“If you go to some of our referral hospitals, I will give you an example of Kisii. The hospital is surrounded by

chemists. Every referral, every rural hospital — go to Nyeri, go to Garissa, everywhere in this country — they are surrounded by the same people. And the question is, who are the owners? Most likely, the owners are staff of the county, so they send their patients to pay directly,” Duale said.

The CS said the ministry has observed what he described as strange trends. Out of 52,000 patients who have gone through hospital processes digitally, only about 9,000 have received drugs.

“We have found that our referral hospitals, for example, Kakamega, Bomet and a number of others, since SHA came into being, over 52,000 patients have gone through the hospital digitally, and you can view them,” he said.

“But out of these 52,000, only 9,000 have received drugs. So we



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale /HANDOUT

## NEWS GENERAL

## FAMILY AGGRIEVED

# Justice is delayed in case of Mukuru teen slain 'by police'

*Plea taking was postponed over the failure by KNH to release mental assessment report*



Shukri Ibrahim Adan, who was allegedly slain by police /JSC

CATHY WAMAITHA  
@TheStarKenya

The pursuit of justice for the family of 19-year-old Shukri Ibrahim Adan has been slowed as procedural bottlenecks stall legal proceedings.

A scheduled plea taking for Sgt Godwin Mjomba, the primary suspect in the fatal shooting of the teenager, failed to proceed yesterday.

The delay was attributed to the failure of Kenyatta National Hospital to release a court-ordered mental assessment report.

The report is a mandatory re-

quirement to determine if the officer is fit to stand trial.

In a significant turn of events during the same session, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions withdrew all charges against the second accused person, Patrick Mutunga, leaving Mjomba to face the allegations alone.

The case originates from an incident on January 11 in the Mukuru kwa Njenga informal settlement.

Shukri and two companions had been involved in a minor traffic accident while delivering a vehicle.

Following a brief confrontation

with a matatu crew, the trio began walking home, only to be intercepted by police officers near the MCC school.

According to investigations by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority, the young men were ordered to lie on the ground.

It is alleged that Mjomba then executed Shukri by shooting him in the head at close range while he was in a prone, defenceless position.

The brutality of the killing sparked immediate and sustained civil unrest in the community.

Residents engaged in running battles with anti-riot units as the settlement became a flashpoint for broader frustrations regarding police misconduct and the perceived lack of safety for youth in informal settings.

Human rights advocates say the situation was further complicated by initial attempts at the Villa Police Station to distort the facts of the killing before independent investigators intervened.

The recurring postponements have taken a visible toll on the victim's relatives and the local community.

Expressing the growing desperation on social media following the most recent postponement, the Mukuru Community Justice Centre stated:

"For the family, this is not just another date on the calendar. It is another sleepless night. Another reminder of the life that was taken. Another delay in a journey that already feels unbearably long. How long must they wait? How long must justice be postponed?"

This sentiment reflects the broader anxiety that administrative delays often serve to undermine the momentum of high-priority human

rights cases.

Evidence presented by investigators paints a clinical and chilling picture of the teenager's final moments.

During the initial court filings, Ipoa investigators told the court that Shukri was "shot at close range while lying on the ground near the MCC area".

This was supported by ballistic and postmortem findings, which confirmed a penetrating gunshot wound that entered and exited the

back of the skull, causing instantaneous death.

Ipoa was scathing in its assessment of the conduct of the officers involved.

In their report to the court during the early stages of the investigation, the authority described the officers as "trigger-happy" and found no legal justification for the use of lethal force in what was essentially a minor traffic dispute.

The magistrate presiding over the matter also noted the concerning reports of a cover-up attempt by local police before the oversight body took over the file.

But the legal process has remained sluggish.

As the case moves toward its next mention on February 25 at the Milimani High Court, the family, bolstered by groups such as Vocal Africa, continues to demand a fast-tracked trial to ensure that the death of Shukri does not become another cold statistic of police violence.



Adan Ibrahim, father of Shukri Adan, during a press briefing at Milimani law courts in Nairobi on January 29 /LEAH MUKANGAI

## AWARDED DUES

# Court upholds dismissal of Access Bank ex-employee

CATHY WAMAITHA

A former employee who sued Access Bank Kenya over her dismissal has had mixed fortunes after the court upheld the bank's decision but faulted procedure, awarding her limited terminal dues.

Tabitha Nasipwoni Taracha, who joined the institution in November 2006 when it operated as Transnational Bank Limited and rose to the position of ICT officer, was summarily dismissed on March 1, 2016.

She subsequently filed a claim before the Employment and Labour Relations Court in Nairobi, seeking

Sh46.9 million in damages, alleging that her dismissal was unlawful and humiliating.

The termination followed a forensic audit conducted by Deloitte and Touche, which identified a series of irregular transactions.

According to court findings, the audit showed that Taracha facilitated cash credits and withdrawals amounting to more than Sh11.6 million through her personal bank account over a sustained period.

The bank maintained that she voluntarily admitted involvement in the transactions, while the claimant told the court that her admission

had been extracted under duress.

In a judgment delivered on Monday, Justice Nduma Nderi held that although there was evidence of employee misconduct, the disciplinary process adopted by the bank did not meet procedural fairness standards.

**IT WAS NOT DISPUTED THAT TARACHA HAD NOT BEEN PAID HER FEBRUARY 2016 SALARY AND COMPENSATION FOR 28 DAYS OF ACCRUED LEAVE**

The court found that the claimant had been summoned to a meeting without prior notice of the allegations against her and without being informed of her right to representation.

The judge observed that even where serious allegations arise, an employer is required to clearly communicate the charges and the possible consequences if no satisfactory explanation is offered.

Despite those procedural shortcomings, the court concluded that the bank had established a valid reason for the summary dismissal.

Justice Nderi found that the evidence against the claimant, including her handwritten admission and supporting bank statements, was sufficient to justify termination.

The court noted that her ICT expertise had enabled concealment of the transactions from immediate detection.

It, therefore, held that the employer had discharged its legal burden of

proof, notwithstanding the absence of a formal notice to show cause or recorded minutes of the disciplinary meeting. However, the court also found that the bank remained liable for certain outstanding employment dues.

It was not disputed that Taracha had not been paid her February 2016 salary and compensation for 28 days of accrued leave.

Justice Nderi ordered the bank to pay Sh326,000 in respect of those entitlements and to issue a certificate of service within 30 days.

The claimant's broader claims, including exemplary damages and projected loss of earnings calculated up to retirement age, were dismissed. The court held that she had failed, under Sections 107 and 108 of the Evidence Act, to demonstrate that the summary dismissal was unlawful or unfair.

Given the mixed outcome, the court directed that each party bear its own legal costs.

## NEWS GENERAL

## PHOTO STORY



James Mwangi, managing director and CEO of Equity Group, and executive chairman of Equity Group Foundation, addresses the 2026 Equity Leaders Programme scholars during their induction at Sportsview Hotel in Kasarani on Tuesday. The 733 scholars, who excelled in the 2025 KCSE exam, are set to begin a six-month paid internship with a monthly stipend of Sh50,000 across Equity Bank branches nationwide  
/HANDOUT

## HONEY-TONGUED CONMEN

# How rogue agents fleece Kenyans in Gulf job scam

*Nelson was to travel to Bahrain for work before Christmas, but he is still stuck in Nairobi*

HENRY MAKORI  
@TheStarKenya

DESPERATE Kenyans are spending huge sums of money on job hunting in the Gulf and sometimes losing to honey-tongued con men taking advantage of the unemployment crisis in the country, a Star investigation has revealed.

Meet Nelson\*, a 40-year-old degree holder and father of two who has been doing low-paying jobs for years. [\*Names have been changed to protect identities]. He was supposed to travel to Bahrain for work before Christmas last year, but he is still stuck in Nairobi jobless after he resigned from the promised greener pastures.

His contact person in the Gulf nation keeps postponing the plans, pushing Nelson deeper into despair.

"An official from the company told me to wait until Thursday," the exhausted man told the Star on Tuesday. That same woman had promised Nelson that the visa issue delaying his travel would be cleared the previous Sunday.

Nelson said he no longer spoke to the agent he had sent money and documents months ago when he began the process. He kept taking him around in circles. The woman he is waiting to sort things out for him is from the second prospective employer after negotiations with the first apparently failed.

Nelson was working as a security guard when a relative doing domestic work in Saudi Arabia linked him up with an agent in Bahrain, who told him a certain firm needed two employees immediately.

They communicated through

WhatsApp calls and messages. "He explained to me the terms and conditions and we agreed. I sent him Sh9,000 for a medical report. He sent me a form for meningitis, measles and yellow fever vaccinations," Nelson said.

But he was not vaccinated. "What happened is that I sent the money and received a form that was already filled." Thereafter he was directed to a hospital in Nairobi for medical tests that cost him Sh12,500.

After sending the medical report, the agent booked an interview with the prospective employer, a travel firm where Nelson was to work as guard. He was supposed to receive a job offer, sign it, send them the money for a visa and then fly out.

But after the interview, he was informed that the agent had not remitted the money for the visa. When Nelson raised the matter with him, he told him to be patient. "Recently, he has become evasive and rude when I press him and demand my money back if there is no job."

He started the migration process in November last year. "That was when the agent told me there was an opportunity and it was urgent. I should send him the required money so that he could prepare for my travel before the end of December," Nelson said.

He frantically raised the money from his savings and contributions from family and friends.

"The first time I sent him Sh100,000 and the second Sh90,000. The total was supposed to be Sh200,000. Adding the medical form fees and for the tests, the total came to around Sh230,000," he said. He is yet to pay the agent a balance of Sh10,000. The

money covers the air ticket, which the agent should send Nelson.

He was all set for a new life abroad, waving a happy goodbye to many hard years of unemployment and low pay in Nairobi and other towns. His salary would be Sh55,000 for a contract lasting four years. The job would open a new chapter of life for Nelson's young family.

"When I told him that I needed to give my employer notice of resignation, he told me, 'Drop the job, you will be coming before December 24'," he recalls. He resigned immediately and began packing. And then the waiting began.

"I was mad at him and demanded my money back. I told him he should not take me for a fool," Nelson said. The agent told him he would link him up with a different employer who would pay him about Sh49,000 plus any overtime. The contract would be for two years renewable.

"I did the first interview on January 11 and was successful. They later called me for another interview, which they are processing now. But

“

NELSON

*What happened is that I sent the money and received a form that was already filled*

the problem is that the medical report has already expired after two months. This means I will have to undergo medical tests afresh. That's another Sh12,500."

From our inquiries, there are flights to Bahrain for as low as Sh40,000 one way. If Nelson's agent sends him a ticket, it means the broker pockets Sh150,000 from that single deal.

Betty, a 30-year-old single mother of two, travelled to Qatar for work last October. She had spent two years as a domestic worker in Saudi Arabia. "We contacted an agent in Nairobi with offices not far from Afya Centre. There are several recruitment companies in the building," Betty's mother said.

When Betty went to Saudi Arabia in 2023, she did not pay a cent. The recruitment company that organised her trip paid for everything. "Once you are hired, they deduct their money from your pay," Betty's mother said.

"When they take you, they get you an employer. They negotiate your pay and their cut. The employer sends the money to the recruiting company that pays you."

After Betty completed her two-year contract, she flew back to Kenya last July. She didn't want to continue doing domestic work in Saudi Arabia. While here, she tried Qatar. "That company took from us Sh200,000. I have threatened to take action against the man. I have the messages of the cash transfers," Betty's mother said.

"I had told the agent I wanted my child to go to Qatar but did not want her to do domestic work. We agreed. He told me she would be hired as a cleaner. But he lied. I first sent him Sh50,000 and later Sh150,000."

"He had said a cleaner's job required Sh200,000. My daughter made all the preparations, including medical tests that we paid for separately. The total I spent came to around Sh230,000. But the cash I sent him directly was Sh200,000 and I have never deleted the messages."

The agent told them Betty would be paid between Sh70,000 and Sh80,000 a month as a cleaner. But shock awaited her when she arrived in Doha.

"She arrived in Qatar and was received well and taken to the company premises, where she found other job seekers from the Philippines. When she inquired what work she was going to do, she was told domestic duties."

Betty protested, telling her handlers it was not what she had agreed to. She was heartbroken and wept for days. She refused to do any work for almost two weeks, staying in the company hostel. She demanded to be returned. But she was told she would have to meet her travel costs to Nairobi. She didn't have the money. Eventually, she agreed to take up the domestic job for two years for a much lower pay of Sh47,000.

"The agent said he would refund us Sh80,000 but hasn't, despite many reminders," Betty's mother said. "That man is a fraudster," Betty's younger brother added. "He keeps promising he would call back every time I talk to him but never does."

A reliable source in Nairobi connected the Star to a job agent in Qatar. Our reporter posed as a father looking for a job for his son. "For young men it is very easy. Women have to wait longer to get a visa," he said via WhatsApp.

Gardeners can be paid up to Sh45,000 while warehouse assistants get Sh42,000. The agent asked for a copy of the passport of the jobseeker, a police clearance certificate (previously known as Certificate of Good Conduct), passport size photos and a processing charge of Sh200,000 that covers the air ticket.

A big problem for job seekers like Nelson and Betty is the uncertainty about whether the agent is genuine or a con man. Our source in Nairobi cited the case of a relative he assisted to fly out to work in Qatar a few years ago.

## NEWS GENERAL

## PHOTO STORY



Family and friends of Kenyans who were recruited to fight in the Russia-Ukraine war gather at Jeevanjee Gardens in their planned protest to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday /ENOS TECHE

## SILENT KILLER

# Heatwave in Garissa leaves locals on brink

*Excess heat can quickly damage the brain, heart and kidneys*

STEPHEN ASTARIKO  
@TheStarKenya

A 'silent killer' is stalking residents of Garissa in northeastern Kenya as temperatures oscillate between 39°C and 40°C, exposing communities to severe health risks, particularly among outdoor workers.

Medical evidence shows that extreme heat of 39.4°C or higher becomes dangerous because at that level, the human body can no longer effectively cool itself.

Prolonged exposure can trigger heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Yet heat is rarely listed as the direct cause of death, despite heatwaves lasting two to three consecutive days, with little nighttime cooling significantly increasing health risks.

The situation is especially dire for vulnerable populations, including the elderly aged 65 and above, young children, pregnant women and individuals with chronic medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease.

Intense heat becomes an emergency when a person develops dizziness, extreme thirst, heavy sweating, nausea, a throbbing headache, confusion or weakness.

When heat-related illnesses progress to heat exhaustion, the danger escalates. Heat exhaustion signals that the body is losing its ability to maintain a stable core temperature.

Immediate measures, such as moving to a cool, ideally air-conditioned space, drinking liquids, loosening clothing and applying wet clothes, can prevent the condition from deteriorating into heat stroke.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency. At that stage, the body can no longer regulate its core temperature, and the excess heat can quickly damage the brain, heart and kidneys.

In the absence of a national or county-led heatwave action plan, residents of Garissa remain exposed to severe health risks, dehydration and cardiovascular strain.

Infants, older adults and outdoor labourers are bearing the brunt of the relentless temperatures.

For traders like Hadija Hussein, the scorching sun is exacting an economic toll.

"This heat is just too much. We are used to this weather in this part of the country, but sometimes it reaches unimaginable levels," she said.

"As a trader dealing with per-

ishable goods, I am forced to store my produce in refrigerators or keep sprinkling water on it to prevent it from drying up."

Other residents are urging collective adaptation. Hussein Abdullahi called on fellow residents to minimise outdoor activities and adjust their daily routines to cope with the harsh climatic conditions.

"We expect these temperatures to continue soaring until we get the rains in March. We have no option other than to devise mechanisms to cope with the weather."

The intense heat has coincided with the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, compounding the strain on the faithful.

Hussein Mohamed said fasting under such conditions is challenging for those engaged in energy-intensive jobs like construction.

"We officially started fasting today so you can imagine working under these very unfriendly weather conditions. It is not easy. The trick is to slow down your movements and only go out when it is absolutely necessary," he said.

Even so, the heatwave has produced mixed fortunes. Boda boda operators report thriving business as many residents avoid walking under the scorching sun.

Wambua Musyoka, a boda boda rider in Garissa, said the extreme

weather has boosted returns, especially with the majority Muslim population observing the fast.

"We expect business to improve even more. Muslims are the majority here, and since they are fasting, many prefer not to walk long distances because the heat makes them feel thirsty more frequently long before the time to break their fast," he said.

Despite the growing threat, policy frameworks remain limited. The Kenya Climate Change and Health Strategy does not provide an explicit action plan, even as it acknowledges that temperatures above 39°C can lead to heat-related deaths.

Similarly, the Garissa County Climate Change Action Plan largely concentrates on drought, floods and livestock disease.

Evidence from the 2025 Global Report of the Lancet Countdown indicates that developing and funding a National Heat-Health Action Plan would enable Kenya to better protect its population from escalating heat-related risks.

The report recommends forecast-based heat alerts, integration of heat-health surveillance into disease monitoring systems, occupational safety measures for outdoor workers and nationwide public awareness campaigns to promote protective behaviour.

## MEETS LEGAL THRESHOLD

# High Court clears way for KPC privatisation

JAMES GICHIGI

The High Court has dismissed consolidated petitions challenging the proposed privatisation of Kenya Pipeline Company Limited.

In a judgment on Thursday, the court found that the privatisation process had been conducted in substantial compliance with the constitution and the law.

"The proposed privatisation of Kenya Pipeline Company Limited, as set out in Sessional Paper Number 2 of 2025, is not unconstitutional and will proceed in accordance with the Privatisation Act," Justice Andrew Mwamuye ruled.

The judge highlighted that the privatisation process had complied with constitutional requirements for public participation, parliamentary scrutiny and transparency.

He said lawmakers had carefully considered stakeholder input before approving the framework.

He also rejected arguments that the National Land Commission should have been involved at the parliamentary approval stage.

He pointed out that the valuation of KPC's assets, including land holdings, will be undertaken at the implementation stage under the oversight mechanisms of the Privatisation Act.

"At this juncture, no such disposition has taken place, and the petitioner's concerns are, therefore, premature," the court said.

"The implementation shall be subject to the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Committee on Energy and the Select Committee on Public Debt and Privatisation dated 14th August, 2025."

Addressing worker concerns, the court clarified that employment-related grievances raised by the Kenya Petroleum and Oil Workers Union fall outside its jurisdiction.

"The second petition of the Kenya Petroleum and Oil Workers Union is at liberty to pursue any employment-related grievances arising from the implementation of the privatisation before the Employment and Labour Relations Court," the judge said.

On the jurisdiction challenge, he said, "This court has full and undoubted jurisdiction to determine

the consolidated petitions." He said the dispute raised "pure constitutional questions" regarding the va-

lidity of the proposed privatisation of the Kenya Pipeline Company Limited.



Milimani law courts /FILE

## NEWS BUSINESS

## ADMINISTRATION

## PwC tests market in KOKO Networks turnaround plan, potential sale

MARTIN MWITA

AUDIT and financial advisory firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has invited interested firms for the business and assets of Kenyan clean-cooking fuel startup KOKO Networks.

PwC's Muniu Thoithi and George Weru took control of KOKO Networks (in administration) in the first week of February after the company went bust.

The two are expected to work on a turnaround plan for the firm that until its closure served about 1.5 million low-income households in the country with alternative clean cooking solutions, specifically liquid bio-ethanol fuel.

It specialised in two-burner stoves and rode on its “KOKOpoint” ATM network located in local shops to provide alternative to charcoal and kerosene, significantly reducing indoor air pollution for low-income, urban, and peri-urban families.

KOKO had invested over \$300 million (about Sh 38.7 billion) in its Kenyan operations, mainly the subsidised cooking stoves.

PwC's move to invite an Expressions of Interest (EOI) for KOKO assets sets the stage for a possible sale or liquidation, but also a potential capital injection.

An EOI in this context (for a company under administration) is non-binding and acts as a market-testing tool to identify potential

buyers without immediately committing to a full, resource-intensive sales tender.

KOKO was placed into administration due to its inability to continue operating sustainably. This followed the Company's inability to obtain the required authorisation to support its carbon credit export business to the compliance markets, which was a key component of the Company's business.

“The primary objective of the administration of the Company, as set out in the Insolvency Act, is, to the extent possible, to explore possibility of rescuing the Company, maintaining the business as a going concern and achieving a better outcome for the creditors than they would get in

a liquidation,” PwC said.

Key assets of the company include the nationwide fuel distribution and retail network comprising KOKO Points (smart fuel dispensing machines), smart tanker systems, smart depot systems and motor vehicles (trucks and motorbikes).

PwC has also listed Software and Intellectual Property (IP) essential to the company's operational and management functions, office furniture and fittings, laptops, monitors and other office equipment.

Review of the affairs of KOKO indicates that significant capital will be required to resolve the insolvency of the Company sustainably, the audit and professional services provider noted.

## THE DATA

129.02

## Indicative value of shilling to the dollar

The shilling remained stable against the US dollar during the week amid stable inflows mainly from diaspora remittances and export earnings

## FINANCIAL MARKET

## FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.02
STERLING POUND	174.00
EURO	152.12
SOUTH AFRICAN RAND	8.02
KES / UGANDA SHILLING	27.62
KES / TANZANIA SHILLING	20.07
AE DIRHAM	35.13
JAPANESE YEN (100)	83.15
INDIAN RUPEE	1.41
CHINESE YUAN	18.67

## NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
EAGADS	32.95	9.11
UCHUMI	1.72	7.50
CIC GROUP	6.46	7.31
SANLAM	9.98	6.85
CROWN PAINTS	68.50	5.79

## NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
UNGA GROUP	27.15	9.05
EVEREADY	1.46	8.75
BRITAM	11.95	7.72
DTB KENYA	150.25	4.30
KENYA POWER	17.80	4.04

## SPLIT

## Analysts divided on offer price as KPC sale comes to a close

Majority of fund managers insist the share is grossly overvalued



Treasury CS John Mbadi during the launch of the Kenya Pipeline Company Initial Public Offering, on January 19 /HANDOUT

VICTOR AMADALA  
@ItsAmadala

HOURS to the close of Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) share sale, fund managers and capital market analysts are sharply divided on a fair offer price.

While lead transaction advisor, Faida IB and broker, Dyer & Blair believes that the Sh9 is ideal, the majority of fund managers insist that the offer is grossly overvalued, linking the high price to reported under subscription.

Early this week, a local daily reported that various fund managers are allegedly struggling to sell the oil transporter's shares, saying the subscription rate was less than 15 per cent.

On Wednesday, Kestrel Capital threw a spanner in the works, handing KPC shareholders a fair value of Sh12.12, 35 per cent above the Sh9 offer. The Nairobi-based brokerage firm, recently picked by Safaricom to facilitate online trading of NSE-listed shares, is pegging the premium review on tariff review gains, volume growth from capacity expansion and

fibres optic revenue. It has, however, warned that near-term drag from capital expenditure freezes and tariff approval delays could hinder the price value.

“Key risks include governance weaknesses, East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) for Uganda export and pending legal settlements running into billions of shillings,” Kestrel Capital says in its analysis.”

The highest valuation by Kestrel Capital is coming just days after Uganda-based counterparts, Crested Capital, Old Mutual Uganda and Sterling Capital handed the offer the lowest values of Sh4.61 and Sh3.70, respectively.

Earlier on, SIB capital valued the share at Sh8.23, Pergamon Sh6.55, NCBA IB Sh6.35 and Ind Analysts Sh5.41.

On Thursday, capital market enthusiasts flocked to social media to critique valuations by fund managers. For instance, X user, @Kenyan Optimist, called out Kestrel for making a lot of assumptions in its pricing model.

“Long-term buy pegged on Uganda oil export does not seem solid

enough,” he tweeted. He insists that the fund manager must desist from giving an opinion on the offer price as it is conflicted. “They are agents via Ziidi App. This is propaganda valuation,” he said.

Another user, @GibsonK, who describes himself as a capital market enthusiast, says that the valuation of Sh9 per share is way too high, considering that it is projected to fall to Sh6.50 before it stabilises.

Other critics argue that the valuation might be rich for a company whose fortunes are tied so tightly to policy whims and fuel demand volatility.

The Kenyan government floated a 65 per cent stake of the strategic oil facility to the public mid last month, hoping to net close to Sh106.3 billion to be applied within the national budget framework as seed capital for priority national infrastructure,

strategic investments, and fiscal consolidation.

It will retain 35 per cent ownership, which will be subject to a 24-month lock-in period to ensure continued strategic oversight of the national energy artery.

Yesterday, KPC revised settlement terms for investors using Irrevocable Bank Guarantees in its initial public offer, extending the final payment deadline to March 6, 2026, and lengthening bank settlement timelines after approval by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

Large domestic institutions typically use Irrevocable Bank Guarantees; oil marketing companies, pension funds, and cross-border investors that settle after allocation rather than funding applications upfront.

Under the revised terms, the final date for payment under Irrevocable Bank Guarantees for both domestic and international investors moves from March 5 to March 6.

In addition, the standard guarantee form now allows guarantor banks up to 48 hours to settle valid payment demands, replacing the earlier 24-hour requirement, with a firm cut-off set at 3:00 p.m. on March 6.

It also amended the assignment clause within the bank guarantee that now requires prior written consent from the guarantor bank before any transfer of rights, tightening contractual certainty for institutions issuing the guarantees.

It previously allowed the company to assign or transfer rights under the guarantee without consent.

The IPO is strictly segmented: 20 per cent for local retail, 20 per cent for local institutions, 20 per cent for East African investors, and a strategic 15 per cent for oil marketing companies to lock in their loyalty.

66

KESTREL CAPITAL

Key risks include governance weaknesses, East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) for Uganda export and pending legal settlements running into billions of shillings

Harvard Business Review

TIP OF THE DAY

ARE YOU READY TO MANAGE AI AGENTS?

Managing AI agents requires a new kind of leadership. If you oversee a hybrid human-AI workforce, your role is to orchestrate performance, safety, and alignment with business goals. To do it well, you need six critical capabilities.

**Build AI operational literacy.** Understand how agents function, how prompts shape outcomes, and how to diagnose failures.

**Develop deep functional expertise.** Know the business process your agent supports. You can't train or tune an agent effectively unless you understand what great performance looks like in your domain.

**Practice systems thinking.** Map how agents interact across teams and workflows. Design coordination across multiple agents and ensure smooth handoffs to humans when complexity increases.

**Strengthen change resilience.** Work in rapid test-deploy-learn cycles. Adjust logic frequently as models evolve and business priorities shift.

**Refine your prompt craftsmanship.** Treat prompts as training tools. Continuously improve language and structure to drive accuracy, tone, and consistency.

**Design hybrid work intentionally.** Define clear escalation paths. Shift human KPIs toward outcomes, not activity. Help your team focus on high-value judgment, persuasion, and relationship work while agents handle scale.

## NEWS BUSINESS

## STRATEGY

# Airtel banks on Starlink to grow mobile internet market in Kenya

The deal will see the network reach more users while enabling faster speeds at low cost



**Airtel Group CEO Sunil Taldar, Airtel Money Kenya MD Anne Kinuthia-Otieno and Airtel Kenya MD Ashish Malhotra during a media briefing where the company committed to scale-up network capacity / HANDOUT**

**VICTOR AMADALA**  
@itsAmadala

KENYA has been thrust to the forefront in the battle for mobile internet access across Africa, following a partnership between Airtel Africa and Elon Musk's SpaceX.

The deal expected to ride on Starlink's satellite network targets service roll-out in 14 African markets.

Once finalised, the deal will likely see Airtel Kenya eclipse its competitors in the mobile Internet market, reaching more users, with faster speeds at more affordable rates.

Speaking at a media roundtable in Nairobi on Thursday, Airtel Africa chief executive officer, Sunil Taldar, said that the direct-to-Cell system will offer up to 20 times improvements in data speed at much more affordable rates.

This will support video streaming, cloud services, and other bandwidth-intensive applications, once only feasible on fibre or well-served 4G/5G. Taldar said Airtel Africa is in advanced talks with SpaceX, suggesting the deal will likely be sealed in the coming months. "We will be ready to

roll out once we obtain relevant regulatory approvals." The collaboration was first announced in December last year and is expected bring high-speed, low-latency internet connectivity to both urban centres and hard-to-reach rural regions that have long been underserved by traditional telecom infrastructure.

It will allow compatible mobile devices to connect directly to low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites without relying on extensive ground-based networks.

"By bypassing the need for conventional towers in remote areas — where rugged geography and infrastructure costs traditionally limit connectivity — the technology is expected to widen access to digital services across our markets dramatically," Taldar said.

For Kenyan consumers and businesses, the partnership will herald several breakthroughs, including broader reach in regions where 3G, 4G, or fibre infrastructure is sparse.

Although the cost benefits to users under this planned partnership are not yet clear, experts say that leveraging satellites to complement terrestrial networks could ultimately reduce

the marginal cost of extending coverage — particularly in low-density areas — and exert downward pressure on retail prices in the long term.

This partnership is expected to further boost the country's Internet penetration, currently at 49 per cent, with the latest data by DataReportal showing that at least 27.4 million people are using the Internet in the country.

The country's internet penetration and usage rates place it among the top performers on the continent, a distinction that brings both immense opportunities for its burgeoning digital economy and significant challenges, particularly in cybersecurity.

Kenya's mobile internet market remains dominated by a few major players, with the regulator's latest data confirming that Safaricom holds the largest share of mobile broadband subscriptions at around 63 per cent, followed by Airtel Kenya with roughly 32 per cent.

Smaller providers, including Telkom Kenya, Equitel, and Jamii Telecommunications, account — accounting for the remainder.

Airtel Kenya has been steadily eating into its rival, Safaricom's base, in almost all spheres apart from mobile internet, according to the most recent sector statistics by the Communications Authority (CA).

It added nearly three million new subscribers in Q4, 2025, boosting its market share to a record-high of 32.2 per cent with a total of 24.5 million users.

Safaricom subscriber base increased by a million, representing 63.3 per cent of the market — its lowest in recent years — and a continued slide from 65.3 per cent in December 2024 and 65.7 per cent in September

2024.

Airtel Money hit double-digit market share for the first time in Q4, piling pressure on market leader Safaricom's M-Pesa, which slipped below 90 per cent for the first time.

Sector data for the period under review shows that Airtel Money's market share extended its climb, reaching 10.3 per cent, a sustained growth noted since 2023.

According to the report, Safaricom's M-Pesa slipped to 89.7 per cent, its first reading below 90 per cent, marking a shift in a market long shaped by near-total dominance.

M-Pesa's share has been slipping from roughly 95 per cent in 2023 to about 90.8 per cent in early 2025, while Airtel Money rose from about six per cent to 9.1 per cent on the back of lower fees, wider agent coverage and aggressive pricing.

The deal is likely to dramatically push up the satellite Internet market in the country, currently accounting for two per cent of total users.

According to state data, the country had just 769 satellite internet users in 2017, with the number rising to 1,547 in 2018 but falling to 860 in 2021 and to 730 in 2022.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The change point came in 2023 when SpaceX's Starlink entered the Kenyan market, with subscriptions jumping to 2,933, a 302 per cent year-on-year increase, the strongest growth ever recorded in the segment. This momentum accelerated even further in 2024, when subscriptions soared to 19,403.

a negotiation and has been executed in agreement, there is a quantification on the basis of the final agreement of what the contingent liabilities would be," said Onyango.

"That number is then adopted to the Public Debt Management Office, who reviews and tracks it, and they monitor." Among the key undertakings headed for concession is the redevelopment of the Port of Mombasa and Lamu Port, which will be packaged with the Lamu Special Economic



**National Assembly Finance Committee chairperson Kimani Kuria/FILE**

## PLAN

## Treasury seeks private investors to shoulder maximum liability in planned privatisation drive

## JACKTONE LAWI

NATIONAL Treasury wants private investors to bear the highest possible share of project risk and liabilities under Kenya's upcoming privatisation and public-private partnership programme.

Senior officials from the state department for public investments and asset management told lawmakers on Tuesday that liability management is key in on-boarding firms taking part in PPPs.

Appearing before the Finance and Planning Committee, Director at the Public Private Partnerships Directorate Christine Nganga said the government's strategy is designed to protect the public from excessive financial exposure as it rolls out large-

scale infrastructure projects.

She was responding to questions from Committee Chairperson Kimani Kuria, who sought clarity on the Treasury's approach to risk allocation, contingent liabilities and project financing. Ng'ang'a told MPs that no PPP project proceeds to approval unless the Treasury is satisfied that "most risks are transferred to the private party as much as possible."

She added that while government may still carry a portion of the risk, the aim is to ensure the state is not left excessively exposed, particularly as it prepares to privatise or concession major national assets.

"Before any project is approved, one of the key areas we assess is how much risk can be shifted to the private party. We put several measures in

place to minimise government exposure," Nganga said.

The Treasury is currently developing a more robust contingent-liability framework, including setting upfront caps on risk exposure.

Public Private Partnership Directorate and Head of Finance and Administration Samuel Onyango said Kenya is benchmarking this framework against models used in countries such as Peru and the Philippines.

Onyango noted that Treasury aims to mobilise at least Sh80 billion in private financing between 2026 and 2027 through its PPP pipeline.

"In regards to our contingent liabilities management, we have a process that we coordinate with the Public Debt Management Office. Once we have a project that has gone through

## ENFORCEMENT

## Insurers, police intensify crack down on fake motor covers

MARTIN MWITA

ASSOCIATION of Kenya Insurers (AKI) has cautioned against insurance fraud amid an ongoing country-wide crack down on fake policies in the motor industry.

A recent enforcement operation involving AKI, the traffic police department, Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) and the Insurance Fraud Investigation Unit, targeting fraudulent motor insurance certificates, uncovered 44 cases in central and coast regions. Yesterday, the association said the joint operations are moving to other regions in the country, as part of a broader industry effort to strengthen compliance. AKI issues digitised motor insurance certificates as part of ongoing efforts to digitise and ease access to insurance. However, cases of forgery persist in various parts of the country, which translate to criminal offence punishable by law.

In June last year, an operation in the central region, led by Commissioner of Police Anthony Muriithi, uncovered 27 cases of forged motor insurance certificates.

Four cases have since been concluded, AKI noted yesterday, with offenders fined (Sh15,000 and Sh30,000, or sentenced to prison terms ranging from four months to one year. The remaining cases are pending before the courts.

A subsequent operation in the Coast region in December identified 17 additional cases with three cases finalised so far.

One of the offender was fined Sh200,000 or two years imprisonment, with two being slapped with fines of Sh50,000 each or six months' imprisonment. AKI noted that the persistence of fraudulent motor insurance covers poses financial and reputational risks to the industry and leaves unsuspecting motorists exposed.

"Digitisation has significantly strengthened verification, but enforcement remains critical. Fraudulent motor insurance certificates offer no protection to motorists and undermine public confidence in the sector," executive director, Tom Gichuhi, said. He said the association will continue working closely with law enforcement officers to protect consumers and uphold the integrity of the insurance industry.

"Motorists are urged to verify the authenticity of their motor insurance certificates via USSD code \*352# or via the Bima Yangu App both developed by AKI and avoid purchasing insurance cover from unauthorised agents and brokers," Gichuhi said.

Insurance fraud in Kenya remains a significant challenge, with motor vehicle and medical claims topping the list, causing millions in losses and driving up premiums.

Sector regulator-IRA reported a 77.6 per cent surge in rejected claims, reaching Sh658.9 million in Q1 2025, largely due to heightened scrutiny and fraud detection.

## VOICES

## I AM 50 EPISODE 1: MEANING

EDWARD GAKUYA

Advertising copywriter, fiction writer and column writer

I shall start with a clarification: age 50 is not ‘old’. Age 50 is middle age. The technical term for that in the fields of psychology and human development is middle adulthood. Middle age is not a medical condition

# THE BEAT GOES ON: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE 50 IN TODAY’S KENYA?

do not imagine many have stopped to wonder. Probably because many are nowhere near age 50, but if they absolutely had to guess, the answers you’d get would likely be age 50 means the elderly, Boomers, midlife crisis, wonky knees, bad back, poor memory, failing eyesight and on and on this list of decrepitude continues. Some of these views are not true.

So here is what’s real about age 50. My reasons for telling you are simple: First, it’s always nice to clear up misconceptions. Second, I turned 50 not so long ago and my therapist told me writing is a good way to come to terms with challenging life events – like turning 50. The third is a selfless reason, in that I’m doing this for you.

Now you may be thinking, ‘I’m 35 years old, what do I care about old people?’ My thinking is, since you are heading this way with the passage of time, I might as well tell you what lies in wait.

And I shall start with a clarification — age 50 is not ‘old people’.

Age 50 is middle age. The technical term for that in the fields of psychology and human development is middle adulthood. Middle age, aka middle adulthood,

“

*You know how when you are young you are told, ‘you have your whole life ahead of you’?... Well, I’m here to tell you that by the time you get to 50, most of that ‘whole life’ that was ahead, is now behind you*

is not a medical condition. It is simply the midpoint in the development of a human adult. It comes after young adulthood and precedes late adulthood (old people). So how it works is you are young, then middle-aged and then you are old, in that order. Therefore, 50 is not old yet.

I will concede that when you do get to that ripe middle age of 50, some things change. Notably, some gradual decline in abilities begins to become apparent at this age.

So yes, it’s true, unfortunately, that middle-aged people often walk into a room and forget what it is they came to do. Also true; most of us wear glasses and we still cannot make out the small print on medicine packs. And then there’s your knees and back, which cannot allow you to do most of what you could once do, like jumping off a swing.

All of the above declines in abilities do not then mean you can call me a Boomer, for I am not.

I’m in my early 50s in 2026. This makes me Generation X, meaning people born between the years 1965 and 1980. As it just so happens, this also means we are the very first generation of Kenyans to be born in post-colonial Kenya.

Boomers, on the other hand, or Baby Boomers in full, are people who were born between 1946 and 1964. These are people my parents’ age, that’s people well into their 70s, so I’m often confused, and miffed, when younger people commingle the two generations. That said, I can kind of see why this commingling happens. It’s because most 50-year-olds are invisible.

Old people are easy enough to spot – the excessive grey hair, a walking stick is perhaps involved, they witnessed Kenya’s freedom struggle and they can tell you about it. As for young people, they are everywhere, in every space, nook and cranny. But people my age, we are not as easy to spot old-age-wise, and compared to young people, we



THE BEST PART OF LIFE IS THE JOURNEY, A COWBOY ENJOYS EVERY STEP. -UNKNOWN-

Artwork © Bryan Kambo

are but scattered speckles in an ocean of youth.

Fun statistic: Did you know 85 per cent of you are under the age of 50 this year? That’s going by the last National Census. In a general knowledge sort of way, I always knew there were more of you hopping, bopping younger people than there are of us, but finding out by how much exceeded my expectations.

The most real thing, though, I

**I’M OFTEN CONFUSED, AND MIFFED, WHEN YOUNGER PEOPLE COMMINGLE THE TWO GENERATIONS. THAT SAID, I CAN KIND OF SEE WHY THIS COMMINGLING HAPPENS. IT’S BECAUSE MOST 50-YEAR-OLDS ARE INVISIBLE...SCATTERED SPECKLES IN AN OCEAN OF YOUTH**

can tell you about age 50 is this. You know how when you are young you are told, ‘you have your whole life ahead of you’; meaning experiences to come, nuptials, parenting, career? Well, I’m here to tell you that by the time you get to 50, most of that ‘whole life’ that was ahead, is now behind you.

I’m talking dreams, ambitions, the spectacular you imagined for yourself that did not happen; all of it, not completely gone exactly, but definitely trudging off towards the sunset, like a forlorn gunslinger on horseback in one of those Spaghetti westerns.

Sounds sad, but it’s really not, because it’s been an amazing trip, we’re still here, and the beat goes on.



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CRUISERWEIGHT

'KING' GEORGE  
ONYANGO  
SUPER WELTERWEIGHT

MORRIS 'HERCULES'  
ALFAYO  
HEAVYWEIGHT

FELIX  
"LIGHT'S OUT"  
LOGGENBERG  
SUPER WELTERWEIGHT

MARTIN  
'TIGER' ACHEBI  
WELTERWEIGHT

# NIGHTMARE IN NAIROBI II

📍 MASSHOUSE, NAIROBI 📅 FRIDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

🕒 6:00PM TO 12:00AM 🎫 TICKETS: [KALAKODA.HUSTLESASA.SHOP](https://www.kalakoda.com/hustlesasa/shop)



## NEWS COUNTIES

## AGGRESSION, VIOLENCE

# Politics a test of resilience for women with disabilities

*Group remains more vulnerable due to the combative nature of campaigns in Kenya*

CHARITY CHIGULU  
@TheStarKenya

POLITICS has long been viewed as a male-dominated arena, with only a handful of women daring to venture into it.

Even then, women politicians often face dismissal, branded as mere “flower girls” for party leaders.

In Kenya, where politics has historically been associated with aggression and at times violence; the challenge is even greater.

For women with disabilities, the barriers are multiplied. In Mombasa, Hamisa Zaja has twice vied for the Woman Representative seat in 2017 and 2022 without success.

Yet she insists she is not giving up.

Hamisa, who has a physical disability and is the founder of Coast Association of Persons with Disability, says the political space is far from welcoming for women like her.

“The environment isn’t friendly at all for women with disabilities due to the violent nature of our politics,” she says.

Resistance began at home. After declaring her interest in the seat, her family discouraged her.

“Simu zilipigwa, wajua wewe tayari ni mlemavu, wachana na hii siasa.” (Calls were made telling me, ‘You already have a disability, leave politics out of your life.’)

Online ridicule followed. At one point, a photo of her weak leg was posted on Facebook to mock her.

## WHEN CHAOS ERUPTS

The stigma deepened, with some people arguing that, based on religion and her gender, she had no place in politics.

“It was as if getting into politics meant I was indulging in more sins as a Muslim woman with a disability. Siasa ni vurugu mechi,” she says.

Others dismissed her candidacy, claiming she would only serve persons with disabilities if elected, a perception she says cost her votes.

Beyond stigma, security posed serious risks. During one rally, chaos erupted and she was left alone on the podium as tear gas filled the air.

“Walinibeba juu juu kutoka kwa jukwaa,” she recalls explaining how her team had to lift her off the stage.

The tear gas affected her for days, halting her campaign.

Terrain was another barrier. Some areas were physically inaccessible, forcing her to send campaign team members in her place, a move some voters interpreted as disinterest.

“It’s easier for men to campaign in areas where the landscape isn’t friendly for women with disabilities,” she notes.

For Sara Mueni, who is visually impaired and vied for an MCA seat in Changamwe in 2022, finances were the greatest hurdle.



In the 2022 general election, approximately 600 candidates with disabilities contested for seats across the country. Only seven were elected, and just one of them was a woman  
/AI ILLUSTRATION

Because of her disability, she needed trusted individuals to assist her mobility. “I couldn’t get a stranger to walk with me because that made me feel unsafe,” she says.

Without strong party backing, she relied on friends and relatives and took loans to fund her campaign.

But financial strain was only part of her struggle. Some voters openly questioned her capability.

“You are already disabled, what can you do or give us if we vote you in?” they would ask.

One incident particularly hurt her. A former headmistress confronted her and told her she should “love herself” instead of contesting.

“Hata hujihurumii wewe, you are visually impaired for God’s sake,” the woman told her.

Mueni says she struggled to understand how an educated person could hold such views.

Safety was also a constant concern. “I would sometimes wonder whether someone was leading me in the wrong direction since I couldn’t see,” she says with a nervous laugh.

At some point, her party persuaded her to step aside, promising nomination. “They were just lying. Nomination slots aren’t for those on the ballot,” she says.

Despite the setbacks and debts she only cleared in December, Mueni says she would vie again if she secures adequate resources.

According to Alice Munala, a programme officer at Women Challenged to Challenge, political violence and the high cost of campaigns discourage many women with disabilities.

Munala, who has a physical disability and once sought a senatorial nomination, argues that political parties must do more.

She recommends that parties establish and fully implement Gender-Based Violence policies to curb political violence.

She also proposes a dedicated fund to support women with disabilities who wish to contest seats.

“The cost of registering as a political party member and campaigning is high. Most women with disabilities are not economically empowered,” she says.

Munala also dispels the belief that nomination slots are free. “Some pay as much as Sh60,000 and still don’t get nominated,” she notes.

While many persons with disabilities wait for party nomination slots, Mueni believes this approach is misguided. “It’s a fallacy. We should come out and fight for positions like everyone else,” she says.

“

SARA MUENI

*I would sometimes wonder whether someone was leading me in the wrong direction since I couldn’t see*

FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES, POLITICS IS NOT JUST ABOUT COMPETITION: IT IS ABOUT VISIBILITY, DIGNITY AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION



## NEWS COUNTIES



River Ena has dried up following prolonged drought /ALICE WAITHERA

## WITHERED CROPS

# Hunger fears rise in Mbeere North amid acute water crisis

*The drying up of River Ena has dealt a major blow to farmers*

ALICE WAITHERA  
@Alicewangechi

MBEERE North residents are staring at starvation after key water sources dried up, plunging the semi-arid constituency into a deepening humanitarian crisis.

Families are now trekking long distances in search of water for domestic use and livestock, as the prolonged dry spell tightens its grip on the lower parts of Embu county.

The drying up of River Ena, a permanent water source, has dealt a major blow to the largely agrarian community.

With crops withering in the fields and pasture diminishing rapidly, residents have said their hopes for a bumper harvest this year have been shattered.

Resident Kennedy Mugo said the acute water shortage has disrupted farming activities and their everyday lives.

Women and children are now forced to spend hours walking in search of water, while livestock owners are struggling to keep their animals alive.

"We are suffering. There's no water for drinking, for our homes, or even for our animals. Everything has dried up," mugo said.

Those who can afford it are digging deep into their pockets to buy water from privately owned boreholes that have not yet dried up, a costly option for many households already grappling with failed crops and shrink-

ing incomes. Resident Njinjo Mbiti appealed to the national government to intervene urgently with food donations to cushion affected families.

He said crops on most farms have withered, leaving households without food and income. "We expected good harvests this year, but everything has dried up. People are now depending on food relief," Mbiti said.

He said the situation is so dire that some residents are forced to use any available water without regard to its safety, raising fears of waterborne diseases.

Many are now pinning their hopes on the onset of rains to save their livestock and remaining crops.

The crisis in Mbeere North reflects the broader drought situation affecting several parts of the country, with large swathes of arid and semi-arid regions grappling with erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells, worsening food insecurity and water shortages.

For residents of Mbeere North and neighbouring Mbeere South, the drought has exposed long-standing development challenges.

The lower parts of Embu county have historically faced water scarcity due to limited infrastructure, such as dams, water pans, and reliable irrigation systems.

Residents said successive administrations have failed to implement sustainable water projects, leaving the community heavily dependent on seasonal rivers.

Community members are now calling for long-term solutions, urging

both levels of government to invest in water reservoirs to ensure reliable access to clean and safe water for domestic use and farming.

"We cannot continue living like this every time there is drought. We need permanent solutions," Mbiti said, noting that changes in weather have caused rising anxiety in households depending on rain-fed agriculture.

Nationally, an estimated 3.3 million Kenyans are facing acute food insecurity, a figure that could rise to 3.6 million by June if drought conditions persist.

Acute malnutrition is also on the rise, with 810,000 children and more than 100,000 expectant and lactating women vulnerable due to food shortages.

Twenty-three counties have been classified as facing acute food shortages by the National Drought Management Authority amid the prolonged drought affecting arid and previously more secure agricultural regions.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The lower parts of Embu county have historically faced water scarcity due to limited infrastructure, such as dams, water pans, and reliable irrigation systems. Residents have now appealed to the government to provide relief food as they await the long rains to resume their farming activities.

## VOLUMES DROP

# Tea farmers rake in Sh10bn as quality drives auction gains

ALICE WAITHERA

TEA farmers have earned \$76.37 million (about Sh9.9 billion) since the beginning of the year after selling 35,031,737 kilos at the Mombasa auction.

Data from the East Africa Tea Trade Association shows tea traded at a cumulative average price of \$2.18 (Sh281) per kilo in six auction sales.

This represents an improvement from the \$2.14 (Sh276) per kilo recorded over the same period last year. However, traded volumes declined by 5.9 million kilos from 40.95 million kilos in 2025 to 35,031,737 kilos.

The figures point to a market that has remained increasingly quality-driven, with improved prices cushioning farmers against lower supply volumes.

Last year, tea production dropped by 13.55 per cent in the first two months of the year, with Tea Board of Kenya CEO Willy Mutai attributing the decline to unusually dry conditions.

"The dry weather had a significant impact on tea production in this period with output falling by 21 per cent in east of Rift and 18.6 per cent in west," he said.

Absorption levels remained steady with the first sale in the first week of January this year recording a 79.6 per cent clearance rate, followed by 84.8 per cent in the second and 86.9 per cent in the third sale.

Demand strengthened further in the subsequent auctions, with sales four and five each posting 91 per cent absorption rates, while the sixth sale rose to 93 per cent, indicating consistent buyer participation and stable market fundamentals.

A defining feature of the period has been the strong performance of orthodox teas.

Although black CTC (crush, tear, curl) teas continued to account for the majority of traded volumes, orthodox varieties consistently commanded a premium and played a central role in lifting overall earnings.

Across sales four, five and six, orthodox teas totalled 3,616,233 ki-

los and maintained a premium of between \$40 cents (Sh52) and \$50 cents (Sh65) per kilo on top of black CTC teas.

In the fourth sale, orthodox teas averaged \$3.62 (Sh467) per kilo compared to \$3.17 (Sh409) for CTC teas.

In sale five, orthodox teas earned \$3.54 (Sh457) against \$3.14 (Sh405) for CTC varieties and by the sixth sale, the premium widened further, with orthodox teas averaging \$3.71 (Sh479) per kilo compared to \$3.21 (Sh414) for CTC teas.

The consistent premium underscores a clear buyer preference for better liquoring teas and has significantly supported the overall cumulative average of \$2.18 (Sh281) per kilo.

Kenya retained its dominance in both volumes and value while Rwanda continued to command premium prices despite lower volumes.

The country sold 2,671,984 kilos at an average of \$3.08 (Sh397) per kilo, slightly above last year's comparable performance.

The majority of the teas were main grades, which drew robust international interest, supporting Rwanda's status as a high-value, low-volume origin in the East African tea market.

Uganda traded 5,767,964 kilos across the six sales, averaging \$1.11 (Sh143) per kilo, with the tea attracting buyers particularly for blending purposes in international markets.

Other East African countries had limited market participation in the first six sales. Tanzania sold 212,049 kilos cumulatively at an average of \$1.36 (Sh175) per kilo while Burundi moved 120,598 kilos at an average of \$1.49 (Sh192) per kilo.

Sales from Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, DR Congo and Ethiopia were negligible or absent in the six weeks.

Global Tea and Commodities Kenya Ltd emerged as the largest buyer with about 14 per cent followed by Chai Trading Company Ltd with eight per cent. James Finlay Mombasa Limited accounted for 7.65 per cent while LAB International Kenya and Mombasa Coffee Ltd completed the top five buyers.



Leaf processing at Ngere tea factory in Gatanga, Murang'a /ALICE WAITHERA

## NEWS COUNTIES

## PLEADS GUILTY

# Shakahola 'killer' turned state witness after plea-bargain deal

Court adopts agreement as prosecutors drop 195 counts of manslaughter against Amany

CHARLES MGHENYI  
@CharlesMghenyi

SELF-CONFESSED Shakahola massacre perpetrator Enos Amany Ngala, alias Hallelujah, will be turned into state witness following a plea-bargain deal with prosecutors.

Amany on Thursday told Mombasa chief magistrate Alex Ithuku that he was ready to plead guilty to all the 238 counts of manslaughter, admitting his role in the deaths linked to the Shakahola killings in Kilifi county.

The confession came barely a month after he pleaded guilty to 191 counts of murder before the High Court in Mombasa.

Under the plea-bargain agreement dated February 18, 2026, and approved by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the state will withdraw 195 of the charges initially preferred against Amany in the Chief Magistrate's Court.

Amany will now face 43 selected counts and is expected to testify for the State in related proceedings, including the Kwa Bi Nnzaro case that is also linked controversial preacher Paul Mackenzie.

Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions Jami Yamina told the court that the agreement was entered into voluntarily and with full understanding of its terms.

"The document, which is a plea agreement, is dated 18th of February 2026... and it has been signed by the accused himself," Yamina said.

He added that Amany's advocate, Kelvin Lisanza, had explained each term to him (Amany) in Swahili and confirmed that he fully understood the consequences.

Yamina further told the court that the agreement had been approved



Enos Amany Ngala, alias Hallelujah, at the Mombasa Chief Magistrate's Court on Thursday /JOHN CHESOLI

after consultations with investigators and with family members of the deceased. He confirmed that he personally spoke to Amany's daughter

before signing the agreement and took her views into consideration.

The 43 counts Amany will plead guilty to were carefully selected, the

prosecution said. "They represent victims positively identified through DNA analysis, including some of his own children. The counts also include instances where identified victims were buried in graves alongside unidentified bodies, which have been incorporated into the charges," he said.

As part of the bargain, the state will also withdraw a case before the Tononoka Children's Court where Amany was charged alongside 38 others, including Mackenzie.

The prosecution indicated that once the plea agreement is adopted, it will notify the trial court so that Amany's name can be expunged from the charge sheet.

In turning state witness, Amany has agreed to fully cooperate with investigators by recording a detailed witness statement and testifying in court. He has waived his right to remain silent and will be subject to cross-examination.

He will also testify in the Kwa Binzaro case, described as part of the same series of transactions as the Shakahola events, and has agreed to submit to cross-examination in a pending radicalisation case in a Shanzu court if required.

On sentencing, Yamina told the court that the prosecution and defence would make joint submissions recommending an 11-year sentence.

The proposal includes two years in custody for rehabilitation and psychosocial support, followed by six years under probation supervision.

The remaining period accounts for nearly three years already spent in custody since his arrest.

However, the court retains full discretion in determining the final sentence and may consider victim

impact statements and other reports.

The court adopted the plea-bargain and entered Amany as a state witness. He pleaded guilty to the 43 counts of manslaughter.

Last month, before High Court Judge Diana Mochache, Amany pleaded guilty to 191 counts of murder committed between January 2021 and September 2023.

During the proceedings, the names of 11 murdered children were read out in court. They included Seth Hinzano Ngala, Evabra Dito Ngala, Sifa Edison, Nathan Mathu, Neema Robert, Joyce Amani, Stacy Hadama, Elna Mpa, Ejah Nyaleso, Sara Peter and Patience Kahindi.

Other victims were identified by initials, gender and grave sites.

Superintendent of Police Martin Ndegwa presented a confession recorded from Amany.

The prosecution stated that Amany, together with 29 others, murdered more than 191 children as part of what it described as a suicide pact orchestrated by Mackenzie and his associates.

According to the facts read in court, Amany served as a grave digger and provided security in Shakahola Forest. In his confession, bodies were referred to as "fertiliser" and burial as "planting," while death was described as "taking a jet" to meet Jesus.

Amany admitted witnessing the deaths of some of his own children.

He told the court his first child to die was Aaron Joshua. He helped his wife carry the body for burial.

The following day, his son Ejah Nyaleso died. He also witnessed the death of his child Senaida, while other children died in his absence.

Only one child, Israel Veronica, survived after refusing to participate and leaving to seek employment.

He further stated that Mackenzie declared that entry into heaven required total obedience and that those who declined were punished. The punishments involved tying victims with binding wire and beating them with sticks and tree branches until death.

Justice Mochache convicted him on his own plea of guilty and directed that a victim impact assessment be conducted, including consideration of his surviving child.

## MIXED RESULTS

## MP revives Rabai's education fortunes after years of underperformance

BRIAN OTIENO

EDUCATION standards in Rabai constituency have seen an upward turn after MP Kenga Mupe initiated interventions for reforms.

Concerned by years of below-par academic performance, Mupe commissioned a task force to investigate the challenges facing the sector.

Rabai is historically known as the birthplace of education in Kenya. The constituency hosts just 12 public primary schools and nine secondary schools, yet systemic issues, including poor infrastructure, inadequate guidance and limited parental and teacher engagement slowed down performance.

Widespread poverty was also identified as key contributor to low performances.

After the findings were made, the MP prioritised infrastructure development and fostering public-private partnerships.

Over the past four years, new classrooms and sanitation facilities have been constructed to improve learning environments. Dzanikeni Primary School is among those that have benefited. Corporate stakeholders have also played a key role in supporting the initiatives.

Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), for instance, pledged Sh2 million to fund a modern science laboratory at Jimba Primary School, alongside equipping it with computers and a water pump under its corporate social responsibility programme.

Scholarships and bursaries for underprivileged learners have also been expanded, with support from both private firms and the National

Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

Following improved performance in the 2025 KCSE examinations, KPA donated food supplies to learners affected by drought.

Kenneth Konde, MP Mupe's personal assistant, emphasised the importance of collaboration between parents and teachers to raise education standards.

During a bursary issuance event for TVET, college, and university students, Konde highlighted the MP's commitment, noting that while significant progress has been made, there remains work to be done. "The work being done in Rabai is well known," Konde said. "We aim for the highest standards of education, recognising that this is where education in Kenya began. We are not where we want



Ruruma chief Joseph Boza and Rabai MP's personal assistant Kennedy Konde at Bofu chief's office on Monday /BRIAN OTIENO

to be, but we are certainly ahead of where we were before."

He urged parents to engage actively with teachers, ensuring children attend classes and make full use of bursary opportunities. "No learner should miss school

due to avoidable circumstances like fees," he said. Emmanuel Muhaso, Rabai NG-CDF chair, said education is a constituency priority, with both public and privately sourced funds directed to improving standards.

## NEWS COUNTIES



Turkana county and Red Cross officials during an assessment of families affected by drought and famine /MATHEWS NDANYI

## FOOD SECURITY

## Turkana partners to tackle drought vulnerability

MATHEWS NDANYI

TURKANA county has partnered with the Kenya Red Cross Society, with support from the Danish Red Cross, to register families most affected by famine for a cash transfer programme.

The week-long registration enrolled more than 2,000 vulnerable households.

The programme aims to strengthen food security and provide supplementary support to 10 schools in Suguta and Lokori Kochodin.

Public Service, Administration and Disaster Management executive Patrick Losike highlighted the urgency of the crisis.

He said prolonged drought has created acute humanitarian challenges. The initiative is coordinated through the County Steering

Group to ensure coverage without duplication of efforts. Recent surveys show that recurrent drought, resource scarcity and weak early warning mechanisms are increasing vulnerabilities among pastoralist communities in Turkana, West Pokot county and Uganda's Karamoja region.

Deputy Governor John Erus said dwindling water and pasture resources are directly linked to rising inter-community tensions and threats to livelihoods.

A study commissioned by the Danish Refugee Council involved 580 respondents across six project areas. It provided baseline data to guide the Karamoja Strong programme.

The study highlights cross-border vulnerabilities and calls for coordinated resilience measures,

including peace-building, early warning systems and sustainable fodder production.

Turkana is also pursuing private sector-led approaches by allocating land for animal feed cultivation to complement humanitarian interventions.

DRC Kenya country director Simon Nzioka and DRC Uganda country director Samuele Otim said the study provides a framework for targeted interventions.

They noted that drought response must be integrated with community cohesion, cross-border coordination and long-term resilience planning.

The programme signals a strategic shift towards data-driven, collaborative approaches to mitigating famine and climate-induced shocks in the Horn of Africa.

## 2027 RE-ELECTION

## Kisang banks on growth track record to retain post

Senator cites securing equitable funding and peacebuilding in his bid

MATHEWS NDANYI  
@TheStarKenya

ELGEYO Marakwet Senator William Kisang is leveraging on his development record, achievements in securing equitable funding to get support ahead of elections.

A former Marakwet West MP, Kisang is exuding confidence of his re-election.

He cites his decade-long legislative experience, performance as a senator and extensive political networks as key assets in retaining his seat.

Central to his political positioning is his role in securing increased equitable allocations for Elgeyo Marakwet.

The county is now among 12 benefiting from an affirmative allocation of Sh374 million to disadvantaged counties, raising its total allocation from the national government to Sh6 billion.

An additional Sh700 million has been mobilised following the increase of the equitable share from Sh387 billion in 2024-25 to Sh415 billion.

Kisang presents these achievements as tangible evidence of his effectiveness in mobilising resources for local development.

He intends to channel the additional funding into flagship projects in each ward, focusing on infrastructure, youth empowerment, women's initiatives and other high-impact social programmes.

Beyond development, Kisang has invested political capital in stabilising Kerio Valley by addressing insecurity and inter-community tensions that have historically threatened cohesion and economic progress.

This dual focus on governance and



Elgeyo Marakwet Senator William Kisang during a public meeting /MATHEWS NDANYI

peace-building strengthens his public image as a leader capable of delivering resources and mitigating conflict.

His political strategy is anchored in inclusivity. Elgeyo Marakwet comprises the Marakwet and Keiyo sub-communities.

His outreach approach targets residents across clans, genders and social groups, aiming to broaden his base and consolidate electoral support.

He emphasises dialogue over confrontation, positioning himself as a unifying figure in a politically competitive region.

At the national level, Kisang aligns closely with United Democratic Al-

liance policies and William Ruto's development agenda. This signals loyalty to the ruling party while leveraging its programmes for county-level gains.

## (+ INSTANT ANALYSIS

Senator William Kisang's 2027 re-election strategy highlights the interplay between performance, resource mobilisation and cross-community engagement in county politics.

## SOLUTIONS

## State agency engages export stakeholders to address trade barriers

MATHEWS NDANYI

THE Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency is engaging exporters and stakeholders to address trade barriers and accelerate growth in Kenya's export volumes.

Chief executive officer Floice Mukabana convened a forum in Eldoret, bringing together manufacturers, exporters, government officials and industry players.

The meeting sought to identify regulatory, logistical and market access challenges and propose practical solutions.

Kenya's exports grew by 10.4 per cent in 2024, reaching Sh1.1 trillion. The growth was driven by a 77.3 per cent surge in re-exports and a 2.9 per cent increase in domestic exports.

Mukabana emphasised that stronger communication between businesses and government, coupled with strategic branding of Kenyan products, is critical to sustaining growth and enhancing competitiveness.

The forum coincided with industrial transformation in Uasin Gishu county, including the near completion of the County Aggregation and Industrial Park in Moiben and the Export Processing Zone.

These initiatives are designed to link farmers to exporters, enhance value addition and meet global standards.

Plans for a Special Economic Zone aim to attract investors in manufacturing, agro-processing, logistics and technology. The projects are expected to create jobs and boost exports.

Kenya's top exports include tea, petroleum oils, cut flowers, coffee, fruits, medicaments, cement, meat, iron and steel, and palm oil.

Leading destinations are Uganda, UAE, USA, Pakistan and the Netherlands.

Regionally, Africa remains the largest market, accounting for 38 per cent of total export earnings. Exports to Asia rose by 22.3 per cent, notably to UAE and India.

Mukabana highlighted the government's strategic measures under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

These include promoting value-added exports, expanding market access and supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Keproba has set a target of growing Kenya's exports to Sh1.5 trillion by 2028.

The Exporters Roundtable forms part of preparations for the Annual Exporters Convention 2026.

## NEWS COUNTIES

## FORMALISE MINING

# Gold boom looms as state plans Kakamega refinery

*Initiative to allow artisanal miners to coexist with commercial operations*

HILTON OTENYO AND FAITH MATETE  
@TheStarKenya

THE government has intensified efforts to formalise gold mining in Kakamega, combining a repeat mapping exercise of artisanal and small-scale miners with plans to establish a refinery.

Mining PS Harry Kimtai said the refinery will be developed through a public-private partnership, positioning the county as a strategic hub for gold development while addressing longstanding challenges in licensing, royalty collection and community engagement.

He said previous mapping exercises in Ikolomani constituency had failed to achieve inclusivity, prompting the formation of an expanded 15-member team to conduct a repeat survey and ensure all miners are formally registered.

The initiative will allow artisanal miners to coexist with commercial operations under legal frameworks, enabling proper oversight, environmental protection and safe working conditions.

Officers from the Ministry of Mining will return within weeks to complete licensing and formal registration.

The government has also instituted the Kakamega County Mining Committee, drawing members from the governor's office, local community leaders, artisanal miners and the county mining officer as secretary.

The team will oversee compliance, coordinate public participation and facilitate consultations to rebuild trust after past clashes between the community and police that resulted in deaths, injuries and property damage.

Kimtai emphasised mining will only commence once the host community provides consent, with public hearings to address petitions on human rights, cultural heritage, environmental protection and economic



grievances. Currently, Kakamega receives negligible royalties from gold mining, with the county's 20 per cent share amounting to just Sh12,000, despite being a major gold-producing region.

Kimtai said formalisation and licensing are critical to maximising revenue for the county and national government while curbing illegal mining and smuggling.

Shanta Gold Kenya has assured no public institutions will be displaced and assessments for compensation will prioritise the Isulu area, where the company plans its plant and operational offices.

The planned refinery represents a landmark step in local value addition, expected to create employment, enhance transparency and strengthen regulatory oversight.

By integrating artisanal miners into the formal system, the government aims to improve safety, environmental compliance, and revenue

collection, unlocking Kakamega's economic potential while positioning it as a model for sustainable gold development nationwide.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The government's dual approach in Kakamega—formalising artisanal mining while establishing the country's first gold refinery—signals a strategic push to unlock the region's economic potential. Repeat mapping and licensing of small-scale miners aim to curb illegal operations, improve safety and ensure equitable royalty collection. Coupled with the refinery, the initiative strengthens value addition, creates employment and enhances revenue transparency. Success depends on meaningful public participation and trust-building with host communities, given past clashes and displacement concerns.

**Kakamega assembly speaker James Namatsi, Mining PS Harry Kimtai and Kakamega assembly deputy speaker Collins Shitiabayi after a meeting in Kisumu on Wednesday /HILTON OTENYO**

## BREAKING BARRIERS

## Women in Busia shattering ceilings, one loan at a time

HILTON OTENYO

THE Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry–Busia chapter has partnered with Stanbic Bank–Busia Branch to break barriers that lock women out of formal finance.

KNCCI Busia chairman Sylvanus Abungu said the initiative will benefit at least 1,000 underserved women in Amagoro Division, Teso North sub-county, under the Dada Mashinani programme by Stanbic Bank Kenya, Busia Branch.

He said the same initiative is aimed at equipping women with financial knowledge and unlocking access to low-interest credit facilities to venture into businesses where they have a comparative advantage.

Through the partnership, women will access loans ranging from Sh5,000 to Sh50,000 at an interest rate of two per cent. “If you borrow, you must repay. Before the end of May 2026, we aim to recruit 20,000 women across the county to access these loans and become economically empowered,” Abungu said.

He spoke during an empowerment and financial literacy forum at the ACK Guest House in Amagoro on Wednesday.

Dada Mashinani is an inclusive platform by Stanbic Bank Kenya that offers financial and non-financial services to support women entrepreneurs.

Launched in 2024, the programme seeks to reach five million underserved women over seven years through data-enabled credit scoring models designed to address collateral challenges which have historically excluded women from formal lending.

Beyond loans, the programme provides financial literacy training, networking opportunities, savings and wealth management solutions, and wellness initiatives to support women's holistic growth.

Abungu said KNCCI Busia branch has built partnerships globally in the last five years under his stewardship.

“We have supported more than 35,000 people to venture into business, trained them, and enabled them to access affordable collateral-free loans as start-up capital,” he said.



**National Chamber of Commerce Busia branch chairman Sylvanus Abungu in Kaimosi on Wednesday /HILTON OTENYO**

## ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD

## Stop sand harvesting in Buhani or face arrest, warns administrator

KNA

THE government has banned sand harvesting in Buhani, Vihiga county,

as the activities are posing an environmental hazard.

Deputy county commissioner Linet Orina issued a stern warning



**Vihiga deputy county commissioner Linet Orina and other leaders at Buhani sand harvesting site /KNA**

to sand harvesters and transporters that the exercise should stop immediately or they risk arrest. She spoke during a baraza with residents at a church in Buhani, Vihiga subcounty.

Orina said the harvesters are not abiding by laws and regulations, citing an example where Buhani PAG church is left just hanging after was removed around it.

She said this has denied worshippers access to the facility and has posed a great hazard, as the church could collapse at any time.

Orina urged residents, especially the youth, to look for alternative

sources of income, like planting and selling vegetables, commending those who have embraced the greenhouses. She gave an example of Ernest Boge, who is earning a living by selling indigenous vegetables.

Orina advised the sand harvesters and transporters to form and register groups with the Directorate of Social Services so they can benefit from government funds, such as the Youth Enterprise and Development Fund, Uwezo Fund and Women Enterprise Fund.

She said a crackdown will be conducted soon and anyone found

violating the regulations will be arrested and charged. Residents, led by Ken Ambwere, urged the government to give them more time to look for alternative sources of income, saying they have been depending on sand harvesting for their livelihoods.

Nema official Brenda Obura asked the sand harvesters and transporters to get licences from the agency. She also asked landowners to ensure they have licences and designated sand harvesting sites.

Obura advised them to harvest sand in a sloping manner.

## NEWS COUNTIES

## OVERSEAS JOBS SCAM

# Muturi demands urgent probe into recruitment of youth to Russia war

LUKE AWICH

THE Democratic Party has called for an urgent and independent investigation into the recruitment and deployment of Kenyan citizens to fight for Russia in its war with Ukraine conflict.

DP party leader Justin Muturi said intelligence reports corroborate earlier fears that some Kenyans may have been misled, coerced or trafficked into the war zone.

A report by the National Intelligence Service that was tabled in Parliament on Wednesday showed at least 1000 Kenyans had been recruited to the war zone, and some killed on the frontline.

“As a constitutional democracy,

the protection of our citizens is not optional,” Muturi said in a statement.

He transparency from the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Labour ministries, seeking clarity on the circumstances under which the Kenyans were recruited.

He also sought to know the existing safeguards that protect vulnerable job seekers from exploitation in foreign countries.

The former Attorney General called for an independent probe to determine whether local or international networks are involved in the unlawful recruitment and human trafficking.

He urged the government to provide immediate consular assistance and support to affected

individuals’ and their families, saying the reports are agonising.

Appealing for calm as investigations proceed, Muturi insisted that any evidence of negligence, complicity or dereliction of duty by public officials must attract political responsibility.

“Kenya’s sovereignty and the dignity of our people must never be compromised,” he said.

Reports of Africans and specifically Kenyans being recruited by the Russian army to fight in the war have been widely publicised by the international media.

Since the outbreak of the war, both Russia and Ukraine have drawn foreign nationals into the conflict, either through formal volunteer units or informal recruitment networks.

Analysts have linked reports of Africans joining the war to high unemployment and overseas job recruitment drives that may disguise the true nature of the work, exposing job seekers to exploitation.

The United Nations’ Security Council has however warned that armed conflicts heighten the risk of human trafficking, particularly in countries where regulatory oversight



Clinton Mogesa, 29, who died while fighting for Russia /UKRAINE DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE

of recruitment agencies is weak.

Kenyans fighting in the war have claimed they were hoodwinked with promises of good jobs only to be forced into the war once they got to Russia.

Evans Kibet, a Kenyan captured by the Ukrainian army while fighting for Russia, said he had gone to the country for work only to be forced into joining the war.

Duncan Chege who was lucky to escape and return to Kenya said he

was trained for about a month and pushed to the battle front with the promise of Sh3 million.

He said he had travelled to the country in November to work as a driver in Moscow after he was selected alongside 10 others through a local recruitment agent.

Within a week of fighting, Chege said all 10 of his fellow Kenyans had been killed, prompting him to start plotting his escape by feigning mental instability.

## MOBILITY REGAINED

# Surgery gives new lease of life to Busia grandma

Margaret is among 50 patients who have benefitted from JOOTRH outreach



Margaret Onyango after surgery at JOOTRH in Kisumu /FAITH MATETE

FAITH MATETE  
@faymatete

For months, 67-year-old Margaret Onyango’s world shrank.

The grandmother from Bumala, Busia county, found herself trapped by agony; a sharp, shooting pain in her back made walking, standing, or even simple chores nearly impossible.

What began as lingering discomfort from an old accident spiralled into a crisis after a severe fall in May last year. Fear set in as her mobility vanished, but this week, Margaret’s narrative changed.

She underwent successful spinal surgery at the Jaramogi Oginga

Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH) during an ongoing neurosurgical camp.

Doctors had diagnosed her with spondylosis, a degenerative spinal condition that causes chronic pain and nerve compression.

After months of unsuccessful physiotherapy, specialists recommended a laminectomy, a procedure that removes part of the vertebral bone to relieve pressure on the spinal cord and nerves.

The surgery was successful, and Margaret is now recovering in the ward as she awaits discharge.

“I can already feel a difference,” Margaret said from her hospital bed,

her voice filled with newfound hope.

Her path to the operating table was paved with obstacles. After an MRI in Bungoma confirmed severe degeneration, Margaret faced a agonising choice. Financial strain and warnings from skeptical friends fuelled her anxiety.

It was her sister’s success story—regaining full mobility after a similar surgery at JOOTRH two years ago—that finally gave Margaret the courage to proceed. Today, she stands beside Margaret as a caregiver and source of reassurance.

Margaret’s story mirrors the silent struggle of dozens of patients who arrived at the camp seeking relief.

She is among 50 patients benefitting from a five-day neurosurgical outreach organised under the Kisumu Neuroscience Initiative in partnership with JOOTRH.

The programme has brought together an international team of neurosurgeons, anaesthetists and theatre nurses working alongside local specialists to address complex brain and spinal conditions.

For the first time, the camp also includes a paediatric neurosurgeon, expanding services to children with neurological disorders.

The initiative aims to bridge the gap in specialised neurological care across western Kenya and neighbouring regions, where access remains limited and costly.

Dr Victor Awuor, a neurosurgeon based in Columbus, Ohio, and co-founder of the Kisumu Neuroscience Initiative, said the team’s annual

return to Kisumu reflects a strong and growing partnership.

“It is not about the numbers,” he said. “It is about ensuring that the patients who entrust us with their lives recover safely and return to their families.”

Since its inception in 2017, the initiative has performed more than 554 surgeries and conducted over 1,500 clinic reviews.

Beyond operations, the programme focuses heavily on training local teams, mentoring young doctors and strengthening post-operative care systems.

International neurosurgeon Dr Robert Galler noted that the transformation at the referral hospital has been evident over the years, with stronger systems and more trained professionals.



Medics perform an operation at JOOTRH in Kisumu /FAITH MATETE

At the host hospital, acting CEO Dr Joshua Okise said the partnership has significantly boosted capacity. When the collaboration began, JOOTRH had no resident neurosurgeon.

“Today, it has three, with two more expected to complete training soon”.

The cost of surgery for patients like Margaret has been covered under the Social Health Authority, making specialised treatment accessible to those who would otherwise struggle to afford it.

As Margaret recovers, she speaks quietly about returning home, walking without pain and resuming her daily routines.

For her, the surgery was not just a medical procedure, it was a second chance at independence.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Margaret Onyango’s successful spinal surgery highlights the critical role of specialised neurosurgical outreach in bridging healthcare gaps in western Kenya. The Kisumu Neuroscience Initiative, addresses limited access to complex neurological care, offering advanced procedures, post-operative support, and paediatric services previously unavailable locally. The programme strengthens regional healthcare systems and ensures sustainability.

## NEWS COUNTIES

## THREE-YEAR WAIT

# Kitui now gets substantive attorney, county secretary

Governor Malombe urges new officials to execute their duties diligently



Kitui county public service board secretary Christopher Ombunya, county secretary Agnes Mulewa and county attorney Timothy Mwange during the swearing-in ceremony on Wednesday /MUSEMBI NZENGU

MUSEMBI NZENGU  
@nzenyumj

KITUI county has formalised key leadership positions after three years wait.

On Wednesday, Agnes Mulewa, Timothy Mwange and Christopher Ombunya were sworn in as County Secretary, County Attorney and Board Secretary respectively.

Mulewa, who had served as acting county secretary since 2022 and Mwange, previously acting county attorney, formally assumed their offices.

Ombunya was sworn in as secretary to the Kitui County Public Service Board, succeeding Wilfred Ngesu, who had also been serving in an acting capacity.

The recruitment process for the three positions began in December 2024 and culminated in the formal swearing-in after approval by the Kitui County Assembly.

Members were recalled from recess by Speaker Kevin Katsiya to consider the nominees on January 27. Gov-

ernor Julius Malombe subsequently gazetted the appointments on January 30, 2026.

The ceremony was held at the county headquarters and presided over by Principal Magistrate Calestous Sindani.

Governor Malombe emphasised the importance of the three offices in ensuring effective governance.

He said the county secretary heads the County Public Service and serves as secretary to the County Executive Committee. The county Attorney acts as the principal legal adviser to the governor and the Executive.

The board secretary serves as secretary to the County Public Service Board and oversees its secretariat.

Highlighting the integrity of the recruitment process, the governor said it was conducted in strict adherence to the County Governments Act. He urged the appointees to uphold professionalism, diligence and integrity in service delivery.

During the ceremony, Malombe also announced the renewal of con-

tracts for all 19 county chief officers whose three-year terms expired on February 12, 2026.

The reappointments followed positive performance appraisals conducted under the Kitui County Human Resource Policies and Procedures Manual. The renewed contracts will run for two years or until successors are competitively recruited after the 2027 General Election.

The governor called on the officers to execute their duties diligently, deliver services and foster transformative development across the county.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The swearing-in of substantive office holders in Kitui county marks a significant step towards consolidating governance and administrative stability. By formalising the roles, the county strengthens institutional continuity and accountability.



Kitui Governor, Julius Malombe, during the swearing-in ceremony on Wednesday /MUSEMBI NZENGU

## DEMISE

# Police officer dies by suicide in his Marsabit house

CYRUS OMBATI

A junior police officer has died by suicide at his house in the Forolle police lines in Marsabit county.

Officials said constable Joseph Komolomoi was found dead in his house after he apparently used his AK-47 rifle to shoot himself on the morning of February 17, 2026.

He was alone at the time of the incident.

His colleagues said they heard a gunshot from the house and went to check but found the door locked from the inside.

They broke in and discovered his body with a gunshot wound in the head.

The team recovered a suicide note explaining the motive.

However, details were not made public, as police said the note would undergo forensic examination to determine its authenticity.

The body was taken to the mortuary pending a postmortem and other procedures.

His family was informed and plans are underway to move the body to his rural home for burial.

The incident is the latest in a series that has rocked the National Police Service amid efforts to contain the trend.

Dozens of police officers have died by suicide in what authorities describe as a worrying pattern.

Police say the trend could be linked to rising trauma within the service. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the service.

Authorities say officers are exposed to various forms of trauma, which leads some to take their own lives.

As part of efforts to address the trend, police authorities have launched counselling services.

The National Police Service Commission has also established and staffed a unit to support officers facing demanding situations.

The counselling unit evaluates, designs and leads outreach programmes aimed at preventing mental health challenges and substance misuse.

Officials say police officers are often on the receiving end of community problems.

They are expected to maintain law and order in extremely difficult situations while putting their lives at risk.

**AUTHORITIES SAY OFFICERS ARE EXPOSED TO VARIOUS FORMS OF TRAUMA, WHICH LEADS SOME TO TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES. AS PART OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE TREND, POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE LAUNCHED COUNSELLING SERVICES**

## PEOPLE-CENTRED GROWTH

# Nairobi government invites public views on community development policy

AGATHA NGOTHO

NAIROBI City County government has invited residents to give their views on a proposed Community Development Policy aimed at guiding inclusive, people-centred development.

The public participation forum will be held at Charter Hall on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

Residents including youth and children are encouraged to attend and share their views. This seeks to help shape a policy designed to strengthen community participation and improve services.

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja said the proposed policy seeks to empower marginalised and vulnerable groups. It also seeks to improve coordination and effectiveness in community development programmes.

He said the policy will guide how the county engages and supports groups such as youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons.

“The policy will provide a framework for inclusive engagement and social transformation,” he said.

The draft policy seeks to bring

out priorities and goals to support sustainable community development and ensure residents are involved in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Among its key proposals is the strengthening of community-based organisations and self-help groups.

This is expected to deepen social and economic justice and enhance community confidence and participation.

County officials say these groups are vital because they have the numbers, local knowledge and innovation needed to drive change at the grassroots level.



Community development forum /HANDOUT

## NEWS COUNTIES



Noordin Mohamed, who is seeking elders' endorsement to become deputy governor, and Sultan Hamud Sheikh of the Auliyahan clan in Garissa town on Wednesday  
/STEPHEN ASTARIKO

## ENDORSEMENTS SOUGHT

# Garissa clan urges unity as elders chart 2027 direction

*Sultan Sheikh tells Aulihan members to resist attempts to divide them*

STEPHEN ASTARIKO  
@stephenastariko

THE Sultan of the Aulihan clan has called on members of the community to remain united and resist attempts by external forces to divide them, emphasizing that their strength lies in unity.

Sultan Hamud Sheikh asked community members to remain patient as elders deliberate on the political direction of the clan.

He spoke at a Garissa hotel when he received the application of Noordin Mohamed Ibrahim, who is seeking nomination as deputy governor.

"Today we are here with my fellow elders receiving Noordin Mohamed's application. People out there are asking why we are receiving the application of a person seeking the DG position," he said.

"This clearly shows there is a reason for that. And this we have explained to our people, and they are fully aware of these developments.

It means there is something there. He can be deputy to a governor candidate from the other clans. We will make that clear in due course," Sheikh said.

Former Lagdera MP Mohamed Shidiye presented his application to the elders last month although there are claims alleging the Aulihan clan is considering forging a political alliance with the Sawadhhal clan.

The proposed coalition would see the Aulihan clan front a candidate to deputise current Garissa Senator Abdul Haji. Haji has already been endorsed by his Samawadhhal clan as the sole candidate for the governorship.

However, Sultan Hamud neither confirmed nor denied whether the Aulihan community would front a candidate for the governor's seat, stating only that "all indications are there for all to see."

Noordin Mohamed said his decision to enter politics and seek the elders' endorsement for the deputy

governor's seat was driven by his desire to bring the much-needed change he believes the county is yearning for.

"I am alive to the clan dynamics in our county and I have formally tendered my application to our elders. It is my hope and prayer that they will consider me for the position," he said.

Noordin pledged to respect the elders' decision and urged fellow aspirants who have sought endorsement for various positions to do the same.

"The elders' resolutions should be binding on all of us. We cannot have a situation where some individuals who are not happy with whatever decision the elders arrive at decide to chart their own path. This disunity and division is what we should discourage," he said.

Like in many pastoralist counties, Garissa is a region where politicians eying various elective seats often seek the blessing of elders. Before formally declaring their bids, aspirants often seek an audience with clan leaders to present their intentions.

## LIVELIHOODS DISRUPTED

## Persistent Wajir drought triggers livestock deaths, market collapse

KNA

PASTORALISTS and livestock traders in Wajir County face severe livelihood challenges following a prolonged drought. This crisis has triggered widespread livestock deaths, stifled market activity, and caused a sharp decline in animal prices.

The drought, affecting large swathes of the county, has resulted in acute pasture and water shortages. Consequently, herders must trek long distances to find grazing areas, recording significant losses along the journey. In the Dambas area of Tarbaj subcounty, the dry spell's impact is starkly visible. Carcasses of cows, goats, and sheep are scattered across open rangelands, highlighting the extent of deaths caused by the lack of resources.

Local pastoralists report the situation has worsened over recent months as rains failed and traditional water sources dried up. "We have lost many animals due to lack of pasture and water," said Abdi Hassan, a pastoralist from Dambas. "We move long distances but still fail to find grazing areas. Some animals collapse before reaching water points."

The drought has further disrupted livestock markets, the primary income source for households in this arid region. At Orahey market, traders report a drastic reduction in animal supply and a sharp fall in prices due to poor body conditions.

According to traders, goats previously priced between Sh9,000 and Sh12,000 now fetch as little as Sh600, decimating household incomes.

"The market is very slow," said trader Fatuma Ali. "Animals are weak and buyers are few. We sell at very low prices because we have no other option. Families depend on these sales for food and school fees."

Traders also noted that transport costs have risen, as herders must move animals further in search of resources before attempting a sale.

This decline in trade has created a ripple effect across the local economy, impacting transporters and small businesses.

Humanitarian agencies have raised concerns over the deteriorating conditions. The Kenya Red Cross has classified Wajir county in the "alarm phase," indicating a high risk to food security.

"The county is experiencing increased livestock deaths and reduced water access," stated a Red Cross official, calling for urgent, coordinated interventions.

Women and children are among the most affected, with families reporting reduced food consumption and increased time spent searching for water. Some households have migrated for pasture, disrupting access to education and health services.

**THE ELDERS' RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE BINDING ON ALL OF US**

## 2027 REALIGNMENTS

## Boost for Senator Haji as rival clan backs his bid for Garissa governor

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

Garissa Senator Yussuf Haji has received a boost in his bid to become governor after professionals

from the Samawathal clan formally endorsed his candidature.

The Samawathal Council of Elders, led by Sultan Hassan Omar Shurie said Haji is their sole

candidate for the county top seat. The declaration means the clan has snubbed former Ijara MP Ibrahim Ahmed Abaas who also wanted the gubernatorial job.

Professionals from the clan told journalists in Garissa town that they will support the elders' position.

Salah Aden, speaking on behalf of the professionals, said the declaration was made after careful deliberation and a commitment to long-term stability, fairness, and collective progress. "The council's decision reflects thoughtful leadership and a responsible approach

to governance," Salah said. He said the elders had considered the perspectives of community leaders and stakeholders while safeguarding shared values.

Former Garissa Deputy Governor Abdullahi Hussein endorsed Senator Haji's administrative experience, integrity, and competence.

Holugho MCA Adow Omar urged the community and professionals across the county to engage constructively to ensure positive outcomes.

Senator Haji expressed gratitude to the elders on social media, pledging to carry the "shared

vision" to the people across Garissa county.

He is expected to face competition from former Governor Ali Korane of the Abduwaq clan and former Lagdera MP Mohamed Shidiye of the Awlihan clan, both of whom have already declared their intentions to run for the position.

Korane recently launched a series of constituency tours across Balambala, Garissa Township, and Fafi constituencies.

The Samawathal endorsement consolidates Senator Haji's position within his clan.

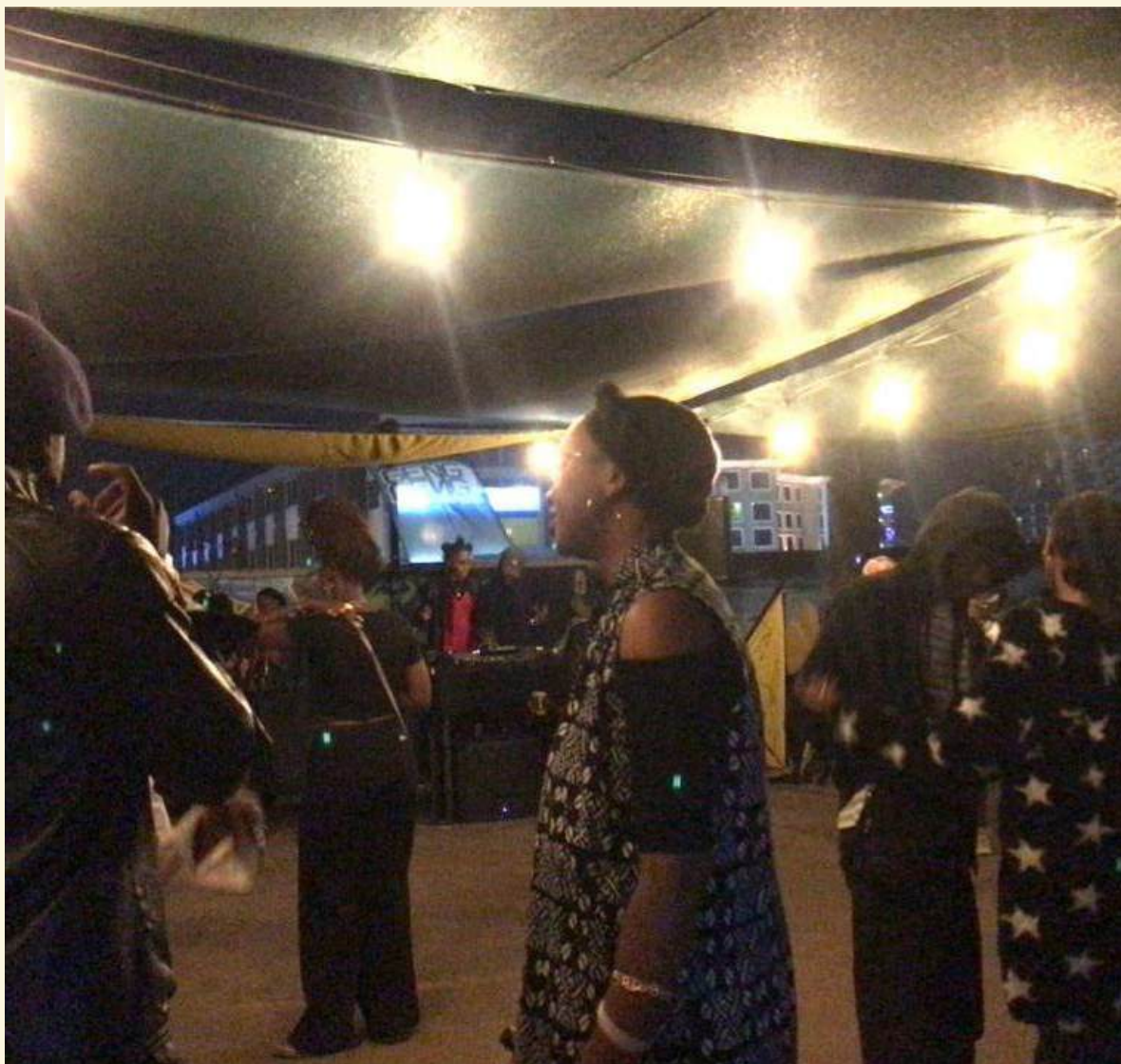


Former Garissa Deputy Governor Abdullahi Hussein at a press confenece in Garissa town on Thursday  
/STEPHEN ASTARIKO



# NAIROBI AFTER DARK: Essentials of a night out

## Beware of fights erupting, phone dying and creeps lurking



A random Friday night out at the rooftop of The Mall, when we felt we had found our tribe /SOPHIE NZISA

SOPHIE NZISA  
@TheStarKenya

Nights out in Nairobi can feel like the literal equivalent of magic, almost as though Tinkerbell flew over the city and sprinkled fairy dust, where the people, places and parties merge into escapades that embed themselves as everlasting memories into the fibres of your being.

If you look closely, you can nearly see the shiny particles, glistening as they fall onto the spaces that come alive in the night time.

Conversely, there is the borderline-inevitable promise of mayhem and confusion, especially because of the blend of different personalities that are intensified by inebriation.

Nairobi's nightlife is an experience, and I generally see it as an adventure waiting to happen.

Whenever I leave the house, after saying a silent prayer of protection and spritzing Elizabeth Arden's Red Fifth Avenue on all my pulse points, I make it a personal intention to make the most out of my night. And true to the rule of attraction, it usually sums up as being yet another episode to add in the currently running series that is my life.

In my undisputed time crawling the streets of Nairobi on the weekends, shamelessly memorising the Great Westlands Circuit, I've found that there are must-haves to complement the objective of having a night to remember.

A regular Friday night looks like stepping into The Mall to check out either the rooftop or the basement (shout out The Mist), heading to Molly's Pub on 'Electric Avenue' for a quick pregame, and then winding up at Alchemist to cap off the night with Boombox Fridays.

### KEEP IT REAL

For one, you have to wear your personality as proudly as possible.

In our big, bold, bustling city, performative behaviour has leaked out of social media through our phone screens

**THERE ARE SEVERAL TRIGGERING INCIDENTS THAT ARE MORE OR LESS BOUND TO HAPPEN, FROM A VERBAL ALTERCATION WITH A MENACING BOUNCER OUTSIDE A NEW SPOT, OR A DISPLEASING EXCHANGE WITH THE NEARLY INCOHERENT GUY, TO THE BELLIGERENT COUPLE WHO DIDN'T LEAVE THEIR BICKERING AT HOME AND CARRIED IT TO THE CLUB**

and replaced the authentic mannerisms and habits we embody.

Of course, inebriation lowers inhibition and strips whatever masks people initially put on before others.

However, it should be natural that we behave as ourselves rather than compromise our individuality to fit into the clearly defined boxes Nairobi's social scene has apparently constructed.

After all, if we're all keeping up appearances, then when do we make time to show off our real selves? (If at all we know who we are, because identity crisis is a real conundrum of our 20s)

### KEEP IT COOL

With personality, comes composure — the greatest tool to navigate interactions with varying individuals on a night out.

Through my lens, composure is the defining difference between going home with bloodied knuckles (or bloodied clothes, which is not a desirable splash of red) and peacefully coming to the end of the night.

There are several triggering incidents that are more or less bound to happen, from a verbal altercation with a menacing bouncer outside a new spot, or a displeasing exchange with the nearly incoherent guy approaching a three-day bender, to the belligerent couple who didn't leave their bickering at home and carried it over into the club to invite innocent bystanders to spectate.

In such scenarios, it is important to maintain composure. Remember that you are sharing spaces, and though that spur-in-the-moment swing might feel good, in hindsight, it won't be worth the aftermath.

### STAY CONNECTED

If you're like me and possess a mobile device that could be at 100 per cent on leaving the house and on its proverbial deathbed by midnight (I own an iOS device that is clocking 10 years), you should invest in a power bank.

I can't count the number of times a power bank has intervened, saving me from not being able to pay for a cab, or entrance, or for the side-quest I had not anticipated, and even further sparing me from the slightly embarrassing "Can I charge my phone here?" conversation at numerous counters, where I had no intentions of making a purchase.

### STAY SAFE

A night out in Nairobi can be beautiful, but it can also feel as though imminent danger is looming, like a Scooby Doo episode (I'm referring to the Hanna Barbera production). More so for women, who have to be extra cautious.

We love the city, but sometimes it is unkind to us, and that's courtesy of the creeps who haunt lonely streets and desolate bends to find someone to prey upon for their immediate gratification (because anything delayed is not in their vocabulary).

Lately, the creeps have become more brazen and come packaged in sweet, trusting smiles, clean swag and "selfless" intentions, presenting a façade that can coax you into lowering your guard.

I'd recommend carrying mace, or a bottle of homemade pepper spray, and this is not just limited to the ladies — guys need protection, too.

Finally, affirm yourself that the night before you will be incredible and stick to that motto, regardless of what the night throws your way. This stream of consciousness has yet to fail me.

## TIDBITS OF HOPE

BY DOLLY MICHENI  
@TheStarKenya

# Russian man: Why did the women agree?

*White privilege opens doors. Public shame closes it on the women*

Social media has been ablaze with videos showing a Russian man moving through Nairobi's public spaces, supermarkets, sidewalks, even churches, approaching women casually, confidently, almost methodically.

He compliments them. He asks for names. He asks for numbers. He moves fast.

What follows are quick, private encounters, all recorded. All crossing boundaries.

The immediate conversation online has been predictable: Why did they agree?

But that question isolates individual women from the system shaping their responses. It misses the point entirely.

Most of these women have never closely interacted with a white foreigner. In a society where whiteness still carries unspoken prestige — global mobility, perceived wealth, status, encounters like this are rarely neutral. They carry novelty. Fantasy. A subtle suggestion of elevation.

Risk is recalibrated when validation appears on the other side of skin colour. This is not carelessness. It is how human psychology responds to power structures that have been internalised over generations.

Exploitation thrives precisely where aspiration intersects with



**Odds are stacked against victims /AI GENERATED**

bility of gifts, travel, money or upward movement — even imagined — can overpower instinct.

This is not a moral judgment. It is observation. Predators understand it. They exploit it. They move fast, knowing hesitation will

only help their targets.

Colonial history did not just draw borders. It drew hierarchies. For generations, whiteness was coded as authority, opportunity, even security. Independence shifted flags, but it did not fully dismantle perception. That residue remains in schools, families, media, churches and social spaces. It shapes judgment, desire and trust, silently, invisibly.

A white stranger does not arrive empty. He carries inherited social capital. He arrives with centuries of conditioned prestige. Suspicion softens. Curiosity widens. Boundaries shift. The pedestal exists before he says a word.

Kwame Nkrumah warned that political independence without psychological and economic autonomy is a trap — neocolonialism. That warning is alive in these encounters. The nation may govern itself, yet internalised hierarchies still dictate who is trusted without scrutiny, who is desired without vetting, whose presence is automatically elevated.

And then the private becomes public.

Clips circulate on TikTok, Instagram, X. They are stitched, reposted, commented on. The violation fades into the background. The spectacle dominates. Women are ridiculed for “falling”. The man is analysed for boldness. The system protects hierarchy twice: first in access, then in narrative.

White privilege opens the door. Public shame closes it on the women.

This was never just about the woman. The odds were stacked the moment a white man approached. He was not walking in alone. He carried the weight of centuries of socialised prestige, amplified by contemporary inequality.

Ask yourself this: If an African man did the same in Paris, Moscow or New York — bold, fast, extracting intimacy — how long would it last? How long before he was profiled, questioned, removed?

We know the answer. Light-

er-skinned foreigners often experience less scrutiny and more automatic privilege, even in African cities. African bodies, by contrast, are more closely observed, questioned, delayed.

African passports queue. Westerners walk in. Africans wait in embassies. Western tourists roam freely. An American can enter Kenya with a passport and a ticket or visa-on-arrival. A Kenyan entering the US? Visa, interviews, months of waiting, proof of return.

This imbalance is not a coincidence. It is systemic. It explains why African governments remain beholden to foreign capitals. Why mobility is unequal. Why internalised hierarchies still shape desire, trust and access.

Until Africans confront this — economically, politically, psychologically — the pedestal remains.

Every time a white man walks into a Nairobi supermarket, a church or a sidewalk, the hierarchy is already doing half the work for them. The same pedestal that lets him move freely also ensures the narrative will always favour him.

Different man. Different city. Same structure. Same outcome.

Until we confront the systems that produce privilege, neocolonial hierarchies, colourism and inequality, the cycle won't end and we will keep asking the wrong question: Why did the women agree?

## COOKING WITH KARZ Where food flirts with your senses

BY DORCAS AOKO  
@Karze\_

# Athola, mrenda and ugali – slow fire love

*Valentine's is still whispering, and this meal is answering*

Valentine's may be over, the roses slightly tired, the chocolates reduced to wrappers and memory, but love has not left the air. It has only changed its rhythm. February is still warm. Still tender. Still leaning in close.

And tonight, we cook something

deeper than candles and whispered promises. We cook athola, that Luo delicacy, meat first kissed by open flame, then slowly stewed until it softens and surrenders. We cook mrenda, lush and slippery, unapologetically sensual. And we cook ugali, firm, warm and grounding.

This is not restaurant love. This is

heritage love. Fire. Smoke. Patience. Touch.

Athola begins with flame. The meat is roasted first, held over heat until the outside darkens, tightens and absorbs that smoky seduction. The fire licks it slowly, sealing in juices, creating a char that smells like something ancient and irresistible. You turn it gently, watching the surface brown, listening to the fat crackle and drip.

Then it moves to the pot, because love is not only about heat. It is about depth.

In a sufuria, onions soften in oil, turning translucent and sweet. Tomatoes break down slowly, melting into a thick, red base. Garlic and spice bloom quietly. Then the roasted meat slides in, dark, smoky, confident. Water or stock follows. The lid closes. And the stew begins its slow surrender.

As it simmers, the meat softens. What was once firm begins to yield. The smoky exterior relaxes into the rich tomato sauce. The aroma deepens, earthy, bold, unapologetic. When you finally press a piece with your spoon and it gives in easily, you know it is ready. Tender. Juicy. Willing.

Beside it, mrenda cooks down into glossy perfection. Those green leaves collapse into something thick and silken, almost indecent in the way they cling to your spoon. They glisten. They stretch. They shine under the light like they know exactly what they are doing.

And ugali. Steaming. Firm. Patient. Waiting to be torn by hand. Waiting to carry the stew, scoop the greens, bring everything together.

### Tips

Eat with your hands. Intimacy begins at the fingertips.

### Ingredients

- Athola**
- 1kg beef, cut into chunks
  - 2 large onions, finely chopped
  - 3 tomatoes, blended or diced
  - 3 cloves garlic, minced
  - 1 tsp ginger, grated
  - Salt and black pepper
  - 4 tbsp oil
  - Water or beef stock

### Mrenda:

- 3 cups fresh mrenda leaves
- 1 small onion
- 1 cup water
- 2 tbsp oil
- Salt to taste

### Ugali:

- 2 cups maize flour
- 4 cups water

### Method

**Athola:**

1. Roast the beef over open flame or in a very hot oven until browned and slightly charred outside. Let the fire mark it. Let the smoke cling to it

2. In a pot, heat oil and sauté onions until soft and fragrant. Add garlic and ginger. Stir gently

3. Add tomatoes and cook until thick and glossy, oil separating slightly at the edges

4. Add spices, salt, and pepper. Stir. Then add the roasted meat

5. Pour in enough water or stock to cover the meat halfway. Cover and let it simmer on low heat until tender. Do not rush this part. Athola rewards patience

### Mrenda:

1. Heat oil and sauté onions lightly
2. Add mrenda leaves and water. Stir as they cook down into that signature smooth, glossy texture. Season and simmer gently

### Ugali:

1. Bring water to a boil
2. Add maize flour gradually, stirring firmly until thick and smooth
3. Let it cook through, turning it over until firm and steaming

You do not eat this with distance.

You wash your hands. You sit close. The plate sits between you like a shared secret. Tear a piece of ugali. Roll it slowly between your fingers. Dip it first into the Athola, scoop up that rich, smoky sauce. Lift it to your mouth. The meat falls apart softly, carrying fire and comfort all at once.

Then into Mrenda. Feel the way it stretches and coats the ugali. The contrast, smoky meat, silky greens, firm maize, is almost unfair.

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Sit close. Eat slowly. Because February is still whispering.

And Athola is answering.



Athola, mrenda and ugali /DORCAS AOKO



# Consent in age of privacy violations

*Boundaries should be respected, not treated as negotiable*

I learned about consent the same way Nairobi teaches you most lessons: loudly, suddenly and in public. One second I was squeezed into a matatu, knees knocking strangers', gengetone blasting like the city's heartbeat. The next, my phone lit up with a message from someone I'd danced with the night before in Westlands: "We already started something yesterday, so don't switch up today."

Outside the window, Nairobi slid by in a blur of boda bodas, hawkers and unfinished buildings. Inside me, something hardened. Since when did sharing a dance floor turn into owing someone access to my body? In a city where everything feels borrowed — space, time, patience — it turns out even your no can get treated like it's negotiable.

Here's the real talk we keep dodging: Consent isn't a vibe, a look across the room or the fact that I laughed at your joke. It isn't silence, and it definitely isn't "you didn't say no".

Consent is a clear, enthusiastic, ongoing yes. It's specific to what's happening right now, and it can change halfway through. It's mutual. It's sober enough to be real. It's the difference between guessing what someone wants and actually asking them. If that sounds like it might interrupt the moment, that's because it's meant to interrupt the parts of the moment that rely on pressure, assumptions or fear of seeming rude.



Young adults misread nonverbal cues, especially if drunk /AI GENERATED

We like to think we are more 'woke' about these things as Gen Zs. We repost infographics about boundaries on Instagram. We drag toxic behaviour on TikTok. We use words like 'bare minimum' and 'red flag' fluently.

But offline, in the mess of real life, those ideas get shaky. There's this pressure to be chill, to not be 'that person' who kills the mood. One of my friends, Jemimah Mukasa, 23, told me, "If you keep asking 'are you okay with this?' *Utaonekana kama huna game.*"

In the same breath, Nathan Kimani, 25, pushed back when we argued about it over fries at Sonford: "If your game depends on someone being too awkward to say no, that's not your game, it's manipulation."

**WE LIKE TO THINK WE ARE MORE 'WOKE' ABOUT THESE THINGS AS GEN ZS. BUT OFFLINE, IN THE MESS OF REAL LIFE, THOSE IDEAS GET SHAKY. THERE'S THIS PRESSURE TO BE CHILL, TO NOT BE 'THAT PERSON' WHO KILLS THE MOOD**

I've tested both theories. The people who get annoyed when you check in? They're telling you something important about themselves.

The pushback is real, though, and I don't want to pretend it isn't. A guy I went on a few dates with once said,

"If you agree to come over at midnight, what am I supposed to think?" I wanted to tell him he's supposed to think I want to talk, maybe just escape my noisy house for a bit.

The bigger issue isn't about blaming individual guys or girls; it's about the scripts we've inherited. Pop culture still romanticises persistence. If you 'chase', you're confident. If you stop when someone hesitates, you're weak. Those scripts don't survive real life. They collapse the moment someone freezes because their body is saying no even when their mouth hasn't caught up yet.

And this isn't just feelings, it's facts. Research consistently shows that people, especially young adults, misread nonverbal cues. Alcohol makes that worse, not better. Power dynamics matter. If someone is older, richer, more popular or literally the one with the car to take you home from Kilimani at 3am, your "choice" is already under pressure. Pretending consent is obvious ignores how messy human communication actually is.

I've also experienced consent done right, and it's not awkward or robotic. It's someone noticing when I go quiet and saying, "Hey, *uko sawa?*" It's a pause when my body stiffens, not a push. It's being okay with me changing my mind mid-moment because a song came on that reminded me of something heavy. The moments that stayed with me weren't dramatic declarations; they were small acts of care that said my comfort wasn't an inconvenience.

We also need to talk about consent outside bedrooms, because that's where we practise respecting boundaries. Friends who post your photos from last night's sherehe without asking. People who insist on hugging you even when you step back. Group chats that forward screenshots of private messages for laughs.

These small violations teach us that other people's comfort is negotiable. Then we act surprised when bigger boundaries get crossed.

Some people worry that talking about consent turns intimacy into a checklist. My controversial take? Checklists can be sexy if what you're checking for is mutual desire. "Is this okay?" can be whispered like a promise.

The romance isn't in guessing right; it's in choosing each other, clearly, in real time. Spontaneity doesn't disappear when you ask. It just becomes shared.

So yeah, consent isn't a vibe, and it's not a mood killer either. It's a practice. It's something you rehearse in group chats, in clubs, in late-night walks home when someone wants more and you don't. It's choosing to ask even when you're sure. It's choosing to hear no without turning cold or cruel.

If Gen Zs are really about rewriting broken systems, then this is one of the scripts we have to burn and rewrite from scratch. Not online, not in captions, but in the awkward pauses, the honest questions, the moments where respect costs you a little ego. That's where the real revolution is.

## JJI NDOGO POLICE POST

# Kenya in Winter Olympics? Wow!

*Many more could if given a chance*

DAVID MUCHAI  
@Davemuchai

I've had no reason to follow the Winter Olympics, just as I have no reason to know who is currently in space. These are matters that won't reduce the cost of food on my table, I reckon. Someone might say the same of my support for Man United, but I'll say that's different. That's entertainment that gives one a mindless thing to look forward to.

But winters sports are also sports, you'd say. And you'd be right. But the thought of sliding on snow isn't something that comes easily to a man from the equator. And why should it?

The closest we come to snow is the white stuff on Mt Kenya, and some of us have never seen it with our naked eyes. However, that lasted until I heard of this chap from France who is representing Kenya in the winter games. His name is Issa Laborde, I believe, and I learned of him from the rumour mill in the village.

"*Yeye nakuja namba 66,*" Dr Selitol, our resident Kenyan Mhindi tells me with pride in his eyes. Apparently, it was good enough to guarantee a place in the second round.

I know nothing about this French-born teenager representing our country in the cold games, but I know about a guy we all call Maasai because, well, he's a Maasai and no one has ever bothered to ask his name.

Maasai is Sonko's guard. Sonko is the richest man in Jiji Ndogo, and he feels the need to protect that status. Maasai is only ever armed with a spear. Although no one has ever tried invading Sonko's compound, Maasai has exhibited his prowess with a spear on a few occasions when he's been challenged to do so. And boy is he good with it. He can hit a bull's eye from a hundred metres out.

There's also a fella called Onyango here in Jiji Ndogo. Onyango is known for telling people that life in our village is very easy, very smooth. He says when he lived in Kisumu, he was



**THERE'S AN ABUNDANCE OF TALENT IN THIS COUNTRY THAT ONLY NEEDS TAPPING AND GOOD, HONEST MANAGEMENT**

responsible for catching the family's meal every day.

"*Samaki wa Kisumu ni werevu sana,*" he says. "*Ukirusa ndoano, hawaumi. Sasa, inabidi uruke ndani ya maji ukimbizane na hao.*"

I can't say for sure how true it is that Onyango used to dive into the lake and fight fish with his bare hands, but one thing's for sure: Onyango is one hell of a swimmer. Once he's in the water, he basically becomes a huge fish with arms and legs.

So, why am I telling you about these guys? Simple. I believe they, and many others like them, can become very accomplished Olympians.

Onyango will tell you so himself.

"*Hakuna mtu ana wesa sika mimi. Hata biyo kuruka ndani ya maji iki-*

a bunch of medals.

Which reminds me... Baseball is nothing but a bunch of guys hitting balls with rungs. And we can't do that? There's an abundance of talent in this country that only needs tapping and good, honest management. As long as we don't leave them stranded at the airport or sell their uniforms, Kenya can be right up there on the podium with the best of them. Onyango might ask for fish together with his medal, but it would be worth it.

*ansa ni upusi. Na kama iko mawe huko chini? Mimi naonja na mguu kwanza. Kama maji si baridi sana, naingia pole pole. Halafu sasa nang'ang'ana na biyo watu."*

So what if he's a little prone to tooting his own horn? I don't doubt for one second that he would give anyone a run for their money. Just as Maasai can throw his spear and bring home

## SOCIETY TALK

BY NABILA HATIMY  
@realobserver

# The randy Russian and pliant women

*Recording was criminal but degrading oneself for foreign passport must stop*

Social media has been ablaze for a greater part of last week, when a mysterious Russian man posted videos of him seducing and having intimate relations with several women in Kenya and Ghana.

Rumour has it, he might have travelled to other countries in Africa, too, but the videos he released were mostly featuring women from Ghana and Kenya. These videos seem to have been taken covertly by some kind of hidden camera in his spectacles.

Out of the gate, we are going to declare the Russian a criminal for recording and distributing private recordings without consent or even the other person not knowing that they were being filmed secretly.

It doesn't matter which part of the world he is in, secretly recording intimate moments and publishing them is a clear violation of the law, which makes him a criminal. How-

ever, what does it make the women who willingly joined him for the tête-à-tête at his abode?

There is a lot of discourse on the subject. Everyone seems to have a different opinion. I have not watched all the videos and definitely have not seen any X-rated material the Russian may have posted. I just watched a couple of videos of him approaching several women and asking for their numbers or if they could visit him in his hotel room.

Here's the catch: The man barely spoke any English, yet he was confident enough to zoom in on a target, spew some words on beauty and somehow sweep dozens of women off their feet in a matter of minutes. Which begs the question, who bears the blame?

It is no secret that people of colour from poor countries often bend over backwards for the white man. This is a subject we have discussed on this platform many times be-



The young woman from the congregation will probably face a harsh backlash from her mates /AI GENERATED

cause of my very own exposure to such issues. Women of colour from poor backgrounds all over central Asia, South America and of course Africa are known to dream of marrying European, American and, more recently, even Chinese men for the possibility of moving abroad and having those darn cute biracial babies.

These were things we heard about or saw with our own eyes, but being

exposed to the reality of the desperation from these women from the Meta glasses of an average Russian was a hard pill to swallow. From actual sex workers to regular women, married women and even young girls from the church.

The Russian was very smart about his choices. He would ask young-looking girls how old they were on camera and made sure to approach only women above 18

years old. But the sadness of the reality that women would jump into bed with a white man they could barely communicate with for the possibility of being the wife or girlfriend of a foreigner cut deep.

I was embarrassed for some of the older women who were clearly married or were doing an honest job just to be exposed in such a manner. The young woman from the congregation will probably face a harsh backlash from her mates, and her poor choices will be reflected in her future.

I have tried for many years to warn people on the dangers of 'free stuff'. Before the scandal of Dubai Porta Potty was released, people believed you could have all the wealth the influencers did if you just worked hard.

Those of you who admire the black women married to mzungus living abroad should dig deep about the horror stories these women are living. Nothing is ever what it seems. So for the love of God, please stop putting yourselves through degrading situations just for the possibility of marrying a foreigner.

## ★ SASALIVING

G-SPOT BY MWANGI G

@MwangiGithahu



# Why immersion is the ultimate language hack

*You learn faster in an environment where it is the sole language used*



I was walking along, minding my business, when out of the blue, a passer-by said, "Shikamoo" — the respectful Swahili greeting used by young people when addressing elders, which literally means "I hold your feet."

I was so taken aback by the realisation that, as sprightly as I may feel on my brisk morning walk, I am seen by others as an elderly gent taking his constitutional, that I stumbled.

Instead of responding correctly with "Maharaba" (I accept your respect), I muttered an almost inaudible

ble "Sijambo", or I am fine. I wasn't ready.

Nevertheless, after just over a year living in Malindi, where Kiswahili remains the "lugha ya mawasiliano" or language of communication, I'd like to think my Kiswahili is on the road to recovery.

Where once I was proficient enough in the language to have a job analysing reports in and translating Kiswahili, 15 years of hardly speaking it have caused shocking incompetence. Until a year ago, I assumed picking up the language would be like riding a bicycle again after

many years. I was sadly mistaken.

It has been an uphill struggle to regain my former level of expertise in the language, and I am still nowhere as comfortable with it as I would prefer to be.

A string of basic mistakes in the language has me wondering whether I can find a "full immersion" experience for a couple of months. An Estonian friend, who speaks several languages, shared his experience of learning isiZulu and IsiXhosa using this method.

Full immersion works by surrounding yourself with the target

language and learning through context, repetition and sheer necessity. It is like being gently pushed into the deep end of the pool and discovering, to your surprise, that you can swim. By forcing you to use the language for everyday tasks, immersion builds fluency, comprehension and cultural understanding in a way that textbooks can only dream of.

Total language immersion is also one of the best ways to move from merely visiting another country or culture to actually experiencing it. You stop being a tourist and start feeling, at least occasionally, as if you belong there.

I read somewhere that scientists have found that when we learn a new language, our brains do not just collect individual words. They pay attention to which words frequently travel together and attempt to predict what is coming next.

One of the most effective approaches is to be immersed in an environment where your brain is constantly flooded with "natural" content, the language people actually use while buying bread, giving directions or talking about the weather.

This might mean sitting in a Kiswahili immersion class where English is strictly off-limits, and you are expected to ask and answer questions in Kiswahili only, no matter how much your brain protests.

There are several ways to achieve

immersion. Physical immersion involves living, working or studying in a country where the target language is spoken, resulting in round-the-clock exposure and very little opportunity to hide.

Simulated immersion, on the other hand, allows you to create a similar environment at home by changing your device settings, watching films, listening to podcasts and reading the news in the target language. Your sofa becomes your classroom.

Active engagement is crucial. This means moving beyond passive listening to speaking, keeping a journal and interacting with native speakers. Simply nodding along while understanding nothing is not quite enough.

Consistency is essential, with daily exposure of even 30 to 60 minutes helping to build momentum and prevent your brain from quietly forgetting everything overnight. Mistakes should be embraced as they are an unavoidable and necessary part of the process.

Starting immersion early, even with very basic vocabulary, helps lay a strong foundation.

The benefits are considerable: Faster acquisition of natural, idiomatic expressions, better accent development and improved long-term retention.

The challenges are equally real. Immersion can be mentally exhausting, overwhelming for beginners and requires enough motivation to stop you from retreating into your native language at the first sign of difficulty.

Fortunately, there are modern digital tools that make it possible to create an immersive environment from almost anywhere, allowing you to confuse and educate your brain without ever leaving home.



# How to make mental health investable via tax incentives

*Large taxpayers could be lured through tax credits to sponsor county mental health budgets*



Mentally challenged patients at the Mathari Hospital in Nairobi. Depression and anxiety cost the global economy roughly \$1 trillion (Sh129 trillion) a year in lost productivity, according to the World Health Organisation /FILE

Kenya has become very good at taxing behaviour it wants to discourage. Betting. Alcohol. Tobacco. Even the payment rails that make those industries frictionless.

Excise duty has quietly grown into one of the state's most flexible levers, expanding from traditional products into modern consumption and digital transactions.

If excise duty can shape behaviour, it can also repair the harm. A verified social impact tax credit would let big taxpayers fund county mental health outcomes, ease pressure on public budgets and make care investable.

But here is the uncomfortable question: After we collect the money, do we invest enough in cleaning up the damage?

The case for doing so is no longer moral. It is commercial.

The World Health Organisation estimates depression and anxiety alone cost the global economy roughly \$1 trillion a year in lost productivity. In Kenya, the loss shows up as burnout, substance abuse, absenteeism and families pushed into crisis by untreated illness.

The supply side is painfully thin. Kenya has roughly 150 psychiatrists serving more than 50 million people. Even when people are ready to seek help, the system often cannot meet them halfway.

Kenya does not lack money. Kenya lacks a scalable, predictable way to pay for prevention and early care.

Treasury has proposed Sh138 billion for the health sector in the financial year 2025-26. Within that envelope, mental health continues to compete for space

against more visible and politically urgent line items.

Mental health becomes the kind of budget that is easiest to postpone because the consequences show up slowly in productivity and household stability rather than in dramatic headlines.

Meanwhile, the country is sitting on long-term capital searching for investable ideas. Pension assets have grown past Sh2.5 trillion. Kenya has money. The problem is the pathway.

Mental health has not been made bankable.

## SCALABLE AND MEASURABLE

Corporate Kenya understands incentives. What the tax code rewards, the market scales. That is why we have proposed a Mental Health Social Impact Tax Credit that gives large taxpayers a clear reason to fund verified mental health delivery, while giving the government a structured way to buy outcomes without ballooning the annual budget process.

This is not an untested idea. Other markets have used tax poli-

cy to mobilise private capital into public-good outcomes, including healthcare and other social services.

The 'sin tax' conversation in Kenya often stops at moralising. That misses the point. Betting, alcohol and tobacco are not only heavily taxed. They are also heavily regulated and heavily scrutinised, with public debate regularly linking them to addiction, financial distress and mental health harms.

A verifiable mental health investment programme, structured as a private-public engagement and recognised through a tax credit, offers something most CSR does not: measurable outputs, credible proof and a direct financial rationale.

For CFOs and finance teams, this matters because it moves mental health spending from 'nice-to-have' to an auditable productivity and risk-management investment.

This is not donation accounting. It is a productivity investment that can be measured, audited and defended.

## COUNTY SPONSORSHIP

Under the proposal, a large taxpayer in betting, alcohol, tobacco, banking or other high-excite sectors could sponsor a county mental health budget through a structured agreement with the county government and an accredited delivery partner.

The funding would not be a blank cheque. It would be tied to verifiable outputs, such as screening coverage, referral rates, time from screening to care, follow-up and retention, workforce well-being metrics and substance-use re-

“

*Kenya has roughly 150 psychiatrists serving more than 50 million people. Even when people are ready to seek help, the system often cannot meet them halfway. Meanwhile, the country is sitting on long-term capital searching for investable ideas*

14 Lake Region Economic Bloc counties, starting with Bomet, Kericho, Kisii and Migori, extending lessons from work undertaken in Vihiga county.

The initiative is being undertaken by Thalia Psychotherapy in conjunction with partners such as the Ministry of Health, Insight Health Advisers, Villgro Africa and Reckitt catalyst.

The technical model exists. The financing innovation must follow.

If you are a CFO or finance director, the business logic is straightforward.

Untreated mental illness increases medical claims, turnover, safety incidents and compliance risk. It depresses productivity through presenteeism and weakens consumer purchasing power and repayment behaviour.

A verified tax credit linked to measurable mental health delivery is a resilience investment for the workforce and the customer base that keeps the economy moving.

Kenya has already shown it can innovate at the intersection of finance and everyday life. Now it should use those same tools to fund the resilience of its people.

Large taxpayers should join a structured, verifiable private-public financing push for county mental health budgets, backed by a tax credit framework that rewards outcomes.

That is how mental health stops being a peripheral programme. That is how it becomes infrastructure. And when it becomes infrastructure, capital will follow.

*Dennis Mwangi is the managing director of Thalia Psychotherapy*

covery pathways. An independent verifier would confirm delivery. The county would receive predictable support. The company would receive a tax reward proportional to verified outcomes.

This approach does three things at once. It removes pressure from annual county budgeting. It makes mental health bankable by standardising outcomes and verification. And it opens the door for additional financing vehicles, such as outcome-based contracts and impact bonds.

## BUSINESS LOGIC

Mental health services are already being deployed at scale across the



Health CS Aden Duale and Treasury CS John Mbad. Treasury has proposed Sh138 billion for the health sector in the financial year 2025-26 /FILE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE PROPOSED MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT ON PLOT L.R. NO. NAIROBI/BLOCK 19/467, ALONG CHANIA AVENUE AND RING ROAD KILIMANI, KILIMANI AREA, NAIROBI COUNTY.

Pursuant to regulation 17 of the environmental management and coordination (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2003, the proponent, **Everfor King Company Limited**, proposes to develop a mixed use development of three basements, ground and Upper Ground floor for parking (ground and upper ground floors will also comprise of shops), a mezzanine floor comprising of 483No. serviced apartment Units (414No. one bedroom serviced apartments, 69No. two bedroom serviced apartments) and other associated amenities and facilities on plot Title No. Nairobi/Block 19/467 (Plot Size 0.1829Ha) along Chania Avenue, in Kilimani, Nairobi County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures and anticipated benefits of the project

Impacts	Proposed mitigation measures
<b>Soil Erosion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control earthworks.</li> <li>Install drainage structures to control flow of storm water.</li> <li>Ensure and management of excavation activities</li> <li>Landscaping shall be done on project completion</li> <li>Control and manage excavation soils</li> <li>Control activities especially during rainy conditions</li> <li>Provide soil erosion control and conservation structures</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of Vegetation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only area earmarked for development shall be cleared.</li> <li>Plant trees, shrubs and flowers on remaining open spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Changes in hydrology/ impeded drainage/deep excavations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper Installation of drainage structures</li> <li>Install cascades to break the impact of water flowing in the drains</li> <li>Ensure efficiency of drainage structures through proper design and maintenance</li> <li>Provide gratings to the drainage channels</li> <li>A geotechnical survey shall be conducted and the recommendations thereof followed. There shall be no blasting during excavation</li> <li>A methodology for excavation shall be generated as required by NCA</li> </ul>
<b>Changes in land use- extent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project shall be approved by the relevant government bodies before commencement</li> </ul>
<b>Air pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stockpiles of earth should be sprayed with water or covered during dry seasons</li> <li>Enclose the site with dust-proof nets during construction.</li> <li>Water shall be sprayed during the construction phase of excavated areas during dry conditions.</li> <li>Provide dust masks for personnel in dusty areas</li> <li>Sensitize construction workers on pollution control measures</li> <li>Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials</li> <li>The developer shall use a humidifier to control residual dust</li> </ul>
<b>Noise pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install suitable barriers to shield compressors and other small stationary equipment where necessary</li> <li>Display signs to indicate construction activities</li> <li>Maintain all equipment</li> <li>Adhere to provisions of Noise Prevention and Control Rules 2005, Legal Notice no. 24 regarding noise limits at the workplace as well as NEMA Noise Excessive Vibration Pollution Control Regulations, 2000</li> <li>The project will follow the approved work timings only</li> </ul>
<b>Public health, occupational health and safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train staff/workers on occupational health and safety.</li> <li>Provide full protective gear &amp; workmen's compensation cover in addition to the right tools and operational instructions &amp; manuals during construction.</li> <li>Design of sewerage system should be as provided in the plans and should be constructed to approved size and design, standard and of approved materials.</li> <li>Ensure use of standard construction materials and to the specifications. Avoid undesirable, substandard, hazardous or unauthorized materials during construction &amp; maintenance.</li> <li>Sensitized staff on social/health issues such as drugs</li> <li>Portable sanitation facilities shall be provided during construction</li> </ul>
<b>Road traffic disruption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No overloading of trucks and good driving practices to be practiced.</li> <li>Suitable junction/access point to be provided.</li> <li>Use of appropriate &amp; legible signage.</li> <li>Employment of formal flagmen/ women to ensure the public safety.</li> <li>The proponent shall conduct a traffic Impact Assessment and generate a traffic management plan</li> <li>The Traffic management plan shall be followed throughout the project cycle</li> <li>The road network shall regularly repaired during the construction period</li> <li>Construction trucks shall be parked at designated location to avoid traffic congestion during project implementation stage</li> </ul>
<b>Water Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An alternative water source shall be provided. The proponent shall drill a borehole at the proposed site upon obtaining all approvals</li> <li>Management of water usage. Avoid unnecessary wastage.</li> <li>Recycling of water at the construction phase where possible.</li> <li>Make use of roof catchments to provide water i.e. for general purpose.</li> </ul>
<b>Security and social impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of security guards, CCTV cameras, security lights and other security apparatus during the entire project cycle.</li> <li>Construction work timings shall only in line with the NEMA licensing conditions</li> </ul>
<b>Water quality and sewerage infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The design of the entire sewerage system shall consider the estimate discharges from individual sources and the cumulative discharge of the entire project even during peak volumes.</li> <li>Provide for adequate drainage systems.</li> <li>Ensure effluents are discharged responsibly to the sewerage system.</li> <li>The proponent shall seek approval from NWSA before re-connecting to the existing public mains</li> <li>Monitor quality of wastewater to ensure compliance with the Environmental Management &amp; Coordination (Water Quality) Regulations, 2006 and other relevant Laws.</li> </ul>
<b>Power sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power supply requirements shall be calculated and shared with KPLC as is the requirement. A dedicated transformer for the entire project shall be a consideration.</li> <li>Alternative power sources (solar) shall also be installed for lighting and heating</li> </ul>
<b>Increases generation of waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt waste minimization at source.</li> <li>Monitoring the fate of disposed wastes to ensure they are legally land filled at a recognized controlled site.</li> <li>Adhering to waste management regulations of 2006</li> <li>Only registered waste transporter shall be engaged</li> <li>Construction / demolition waste shall be regularly disposed during project implementation</li> </ul>

#### Anticipated benefits

<b>Provision of housing and income generation</b>	Housing is a basic good and a major contributor to productivity. Supply of standard and affordable housing has always lagged behind demand for the same and the proposed project has a contribution towards reduction of the deficit.
<b>Promotion of healthy competition, convenience and uniformity in land use</b>	The area has been for a long time restricted to low rise units but this has now changed and housing demand has opened up the area for high rise multi-dwellings.
<b>Optimal utilization of the land</b>	The proposed site has been with 8No. Apartments for some time but the proposed project shall accommodate more families thus raising the utility of the land. The proposed use also conforms to the area's land use and is not unique in the general Kilimani area
<b>Employment</b>	The proposed project will provide direct and indirect job opportunities to a significant number of the population during construction and occupational phases thus reducing the process provide livelihood.
<b>Promotion of development</b>	The proposed project shall contribute in overcoming the challenges of today's life including strategies for alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development.
<b>Increase government revenue</b>	The proposed project shall generate tax revenue for the government directly and indirectly
<b>Creation of market for goods and services and secondary businesses</b>	The proposed project shall consume various materials during construction such as stones, cement, sand, glass, steel products, wood products, PVC products, ceramic products etc. Those doing commercial activities in the neighborhood shall also have their market widened by the occupants and workers.

For any enquiries/comments please contact:

**EVERFOR KING COMPANY LIMITED,**  
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 NAIROBI.  
 Tel. 0722796282  
 Email: [superboundary762@gmail.com](mailto:superboundary762@gmail.com); [justneolife@gmail.com](mailto:justneolife@gmail.com)



## National Environment Management Authority

Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, P O BOX 67839-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.  
 Tel: 0724253398, 0735013046, Email: [info@nema.go.ke](mailto:info@nema.go.ke) Website: [www.nema.go.ke](http://www.nema.go.ke)

### RE:ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LEVEL 3B HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT ON PLOT L.R NGONG/NGONG/3347, ONGATA RONGAI, ALONG GITAKA ROAD, OFF MAGADI ROAD, KAJIADO COUNTY.

Pursuant to Section 59 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act CAP 387, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has received an Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for the above proposed project. The proponent, **Beacon of Hope Foundation**, proposes to develop a 3B level hospital comprising of ground plus two floors including reception, 2No. triage rooms, 4No. consultation rooms, pharmacy, dental clinic, physiotherapy room, delivery ward, radiology, casualty room, labor ward, maternity ward, minor theatre, lift shaft, staircase and ramp, associated facilities and amenities on plot L.r no. Ngong/ Ngong/3347, Ongata Rongai, along Gitaka Road off Magadi Road Kajiado County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures:

Impact	Mitigation Measures
<b>Soil Erosion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control earthworks.</li> <li>Install drainage structures to control flow of storm water.</li> <li>Ensure and management of excavation activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of Vegetation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only area earmarked for development should be cleared.</li> <li>Plant trees, shrubs and flowers on remaining open spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Changes in hydrology/ impeded drainage/ deep excavations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper Installation of drainage structures</li> <li>Install cascades to break the impact of water flowing in the drains</li> <li>Ensure efficiency of drainage structures through proper design and maintenance</li> <li>Provide gratings to the drainage channels</li> <li>A geotechnical survey shall be conducted and the recommendations thereof followed. There shall be no blasting during excavation</li> <li>A methodology for excavation shall be generated as required by NCA</li> </ul>
<b>Air pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stockpiles of earth should be sprayed with water or covered during dry seasons</li> <li>Provide dust masks for personnel in dusty areas Sensitize construction workers on pollution control measures</li> <li>Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials</li> </ul>
<b>Noise pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install suitable barriers to shield compressors and other small stationary equipment where necessary</li> <li>Display signs to indicate construction activities Maintain all equipment</li> <li>The working hours should be in line with NEMA licensing conditions</li> <li>Adhere to provisions of Noise Prevention and Control Rules 2005, Legal Notice no. 24 regarding noise limits at the workplace as well as NEMA Noise Excessive Vibration Pollution Control Regulations, 2000</li> </ul>
<b>Public health, occupational health and safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train staff/workers on occupational health and safety.</li> <li>Provide full protective gear &amp; workmen's compensation cover in addition to the right tools and operational instructions &amp; manuals during construction.</li> <li>Design of sewerage system should be as provided in the plans and should be constructed to approved size and design, standard and of approved materials.</li> <li>Ensure use of standard construction materials and to the specifications.</li> <li>Avoid undesirable, substandard, hazardous or unauthorized materials during construction &amp; maintenance.</li> <li>Sensitized staff on social/health issues such as drugs</li> </ul>
<b>Road traffic disruption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No overloading of trucks and good driving practices to be practiced.</li> <li>Suitable junction/access point to be provided.</li> <li>Use of appropriate &amp; legible signage.</li> <li>Employment of formal flagmen/women to ensure the public safety.</li> <li>Follow the recommendations of the traffic management plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Security and social impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of security guards, CCTV cameras, security lights and other security apparatus during the entire project cycle.</li> <li>Construction work timings shall only in line with the NEMA licensing conditions</li> </ul>
<b>Increased Water Usage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make use of roof catchments to provide water i.e. for general purpose.</li> <li>An alternative water source shall be provided. The proponent shall drill a borehole at the proposed site</li> <li>Management of water usage. Avoid unnecessary wastage.</li> <li>Recycling of water at the construction phase where possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Increased generation of waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt waste minimization at source.</li> <li>Monitoring the fate of disposed wastes to ensure they are legally land filled at a recognized controlled site.</li> <li>Adhering to waste management regulations of 2006</li> </ul>

A full report of the proposed project is available for inspection during working hour:

1. Director General  
National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA),  
Popo Road, off Mombasa Road  
P. O. Box 67839-00200,  
NAIROBI.
2. County Director of Environment,  
KAJIADO COUNTY.

A copy of the EIA report can be downloaded at [www.nema.go.ke](http://www.nema.go.ke)

NEMA invites members of the public to submit oral or written comments within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice to the Director General, NEMA to assist the Authority in the decision making process for this project. Kindly quote ref. No.

**NEMA/ENVIS/SR/00380**

Comments can also be e-mailed to [info@nema.go.ke](mailto:info@nema.go.ke)

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

*This advertisement is sponsored by the proponent.*

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Floor, Nkrumah  
Road Mombasa  
City CBD  
Tel: 071 1046101  
0711046529

## ELDOROT OFFICE

Laneens Center,  
Ground Floor,  
Off Elgeyo Road  
Tel: 0790 036671

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday- Friday  
8 am to 5 pm  
Saturday: 9 am to  
12pm



## BETABASE AUCTIONEERS

*Auctioneers, Repossessors, Debt Collectors, Private Investigators, Process Servers and Commission Agents*  
Development House  
8th Floor Room 8-11  
Moi Avenue  
P.O. Box 22693-00100 NAIROBI  
Tel: 0721 959986  
Email:velelajoel@gmail.com

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by the Small Claims Courts at Makindu, Thika and Kitui respectively, we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicles and goods by public auction:-

**ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2026 AT STARTRUCK AUCTIONEERS INVESTMENTS YARD LIMITED ALONG KIAMBU ROAD STARTING FROM 10.30 A.M.**

**MAKINDU SCCC NO. E193 OF 2025  
BUIDALL CONSTRUCTION LIMITED-VERSUS- GNASIO OUMKAGA PAPA**

M/V	MAKE/MODEL	COLOUR
KBK 250N	NISSAN XTRAIL S-WAGON	SILVER

**THIKA SCCC NO. E402 OF 2023  
SIMON NJOROG NJERI-VERSUS-GENNA MWELU& EVA WANJIRU MING'ALA**

M/V	MAKE/MODEL	COLOUR
KCD 555A	TOYOTA-CROWN	WHITE

**KITUI SCCCMM NO.E136 OF 2025  
JAMES MUNYWOKI NWANIA -VERSUS-SYLVESTER MUKUNA & JETXIN K COMPANY LIMITED**

Complete Knock Down (CKD) Son Link Motorcycle Spare Parts Including; Engine No. SL-150FM-B50004918, Engine No. SL-162FM - E31504641, Frame No. Hmpocq4-AA8A004641, Frame No. Hmpocq1-BASAO04918 and Four Tyres.

#### CONDITIONS OF SALE

- Sale subject to reasonable reserve price
- All interested purchasers are requested to view on prior arrangements.
- Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.

ALL ARE WELCOME



+254 722 357 156  
talonsauctioneers2015@gmail.com  
West View Plaza, Kahawa West  
Along Northern Bypass,  
2nd Floor, South Wing, Room 202  
P.O BOX 215-00618 Ruaraka

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principles, The Financiers, we shall sell the undermentioned Motor Vehicles Through Public Auction on **27th February 2026 starting at 11.00 a.m.** Viewing can be done at various yards during working hours.

REG NO	MAKE & MODEL	YOM	RATING	VENUE	
FINANCIERVS KENNETH EDWARD	KCG 518Q	TOYOTA	2009	1490	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS ALEX MANOAH	KCZ 763T	TOYOTA PASSO	2015	990	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS NANCY NYANGUTHII	KDV 517S	NISSAN DAYZ	2018	650	HAKKI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS LUCY WANJURU	KDT 580G	NISSAN DAYZ	2018	650	HAKKI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS MESA GEOFFREY	KDB 943D	TOYOTA VITZ	2013	1320	MOCO AUCTIONEERS-KISII
FINANCIERVS QUEENTER ADHAMBO	KDB 968K	SUZUKI SWIFT	2013	1240	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS STEPHEN MUSYOKI	KCK 361N	TOYOTA HARRIER	2010	2360	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS ROBERT NGANDA	KDN 346C	DAIHATSU MIRA	2016	650	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS MIKE NDURUMO	KCZ 505H	SUBARU LEGACY	2013	2490	STARTRUCK YARD-MERU
FINANCIERVS PETER MUSEMBI	KDG 233S	TOYOTA PASSO	2015	990	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS PATRICK AMBAKO	KDO 756A	NISSAN DAYZ	2017	650	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS JAIRUS WAFULA	KDA 021F	NISSAN NOTE	2013	1190	JOYLAND STORAGE YARD-ELDOROT
FINANCIERVS MARTIN MBITI	KDS 741L	DAIHATSU MIRA	2017	650	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS ANTHONY KINYANJUI	KDR 354K	SUZUKI ALTO DBA-HA36S	2017	650	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS EVANS MUNJALA	KDQ 153Z	NISSAN DAYZ	2017	650	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS PAUL MAGOMERE	KDN 132G	NISSAN DAYZ	2016	650	HAKKI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS HASTINE LUCHEVERERI	KDS 203Q	NISSAN DAYZ DBA-B21W	2017	650	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS BENARD MUEMA	KDE 571Y	MAZDA CX5	2014	1990	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS ROBERT ANDREW	KAT 495E	VOLKSWAGEN TOLAREG	2004	2460	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS GODFREY ODHAMBO	KDE 990Y	NISSA SERENA	2014	1990	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS ANTONIO INNOCENT	KDG 668Y	SUBARU IMPREZA XV	2014	1990	JOYLAND STORAGE YARD-ELDOROT
FINANCIERVS ANTONY KIRIMI	KCZ 772Q	TOYOTA PROBOX	2014	1490	STARTRUCK YARD-MERU
FINANCIERVS ALEX IBRAHIM	KDS 663S	DAIHATSU MOVE	2018	650	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS MARK BORUMA	KDS 098D	NISSAN DAYZ	2017	650	HAKKI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS ISAYAH MWITI	KDD 712P	TOYOTA FIELDER	2014	1490	ADONAI YARD-ADONAI
FINANCIERVS DALMAS MASOLOLWE	KDR 391T	DAIHATSU MIRA	2017	650	BUFALO CAR DOCTOR-NGONG ROAD

#### CONDITION OF SALE

1. Sale subject to reserve price
2. Cash at the fall of the hammer.
3. Sale to the highest bidder.
4. The Auctioneer has the right to reject a bid.
5. Sale is as it is basis

## ONYX AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEERS, REPOSSESSORS, DEBT COLLECTORS, PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS & GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS.  
Head Office, Norfolk Towers, Kijabe Street off Harry Thuku Road P.O. BOX 14857-00100 Nairobi  
Call-0104336834/0782336834 Email:info@onyxauctions.co.ke

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instruction received from our principles the Financiers, we shall sell the under mentioned Motor Vehicles through Public Auction to be held on **FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026 starting from 11.00 A.M at ADONAI STORAGE YARD.**

NO.	REG NO.	MAKE/MODEL	VIEWING
1	KDT 534Q	NISSAN DAYZ	ADONAI STORAGE YARD
2	KDK623X	MAZDA FLAIR	ADONAI STORAGE YARD
3	KDR 502N	MISTUBISHI EK WAGON	ADONAI STORAGE YARD
4	KDU 198G	NISSAN DAYZ	ADONAI STORAGE YARD
5	KDS 766C	SUZUKI ALTO	ADONAI STORAGE YARD
6	KDT 063M	NISSAN DAYZ	ADONAI STORAGE YARD
7	KDT 036B	DAIHATSU MIRA	ADONAI STORAGE YARD
8	KDR 951N	SUZUKI ALTO	HAKKI YARD
9	KCZ 655C	NISSAN MARCH	HAKKI YARD
10	KDA 121V	SUBARU FORESTER	HAKKI YARD
11	KDK 278Y	HONDA N-WAGON	HAKKI YARD
12	KDJ 177A	NISSAN DAYZ	HAKKI YARD
13	KDS 804H	NISSAN DAYZ	HAKKI YARD
14	KDR 932W	MAZDA FLAIR	HAKKI YARD
15	KDT 415V	HONDA N WAGON	HAKKI YARD

#### CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All interested purchasers are requested to view the unit and verify the details as these are not guaranteed by the Auctioneers.
2. The sale shall be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS.
3. Cash at the fall of the hammer.
4. The sale is subject to a reasonable reserve price.

## REPUBLIC OF KENYA IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT AT KANGUNDO CIVIL SUIT NO. E143 OF 2025

RUTH ATIENO OCHIENG OBUNY

(Suing in her capacity as the administrator of the estate of Isaiah Ouma Ochieng -Deceased) .....PLAINTIFF

-Versus-  
JOSEPH NJOROG NYAMBURA.....1st DEFENDANT  
GIBSON GACHINGIRI KIRAGU.....2nd DEFENDANT

#### SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT (0.5.r.17)

TO 1. JOSEPH NJOROG NYAMBURA  
2. GIBSON GACHINGIRI KIRAGU

**TAKE NOTICE** that Plaintiff has been filed at the Kangundo Chief Magistrate's Court in CIVIL SUIT NO. E143 OF 2025 which you have been named as DEFENDANTS. Service of the Notice to appear in respect of the suit dated 4TH JUNE, 2025 upon you has been ordered by means of this advertisement. A copy of Summons and Plaintiff may be obtained from the court at Kangundo Magistrate's Court Civil Registry or from plaintiff's advocate's office at OTIE-NO OBWANDA & COMPANY ADVOCATES, WANANDEGE FLATS, KIRICHWA GARDENS, KIRICHWA ROAD KILIMANI,1ST FLOOR, SUITE DOOR- B7, P.O. BOX 60900-00100, NAIROBI.CELL PHONE: +254 722 651787, EMAIL: obwanda2010@gmail.com.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that unless you enter appearance within 15 days from the date of this publication judgment may be entered against you and **TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the matter will be mentioned on 27th March, 2026 for Pre-Trial Conference.

DATED AT NAIROBI THIS .....11TH DAY OF ...FEBRUARY...2026

OTIENO OBWANDA & CO. ADVOCATES  
FOR THE PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT



East African Portland Cement PLC

*Holding Life Together*

## APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD OF EAST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT PLC

Following the successful acquisition of a controlling interest in East African Portland Cement PLC (EAPC) by Kalahari Cement, the Company enters a new era of strategic leadership and corporate governance.

In compliance with the disclosure requirements set out in Paragraph 10.1.1 of the Thirteenth Schedule of the Capital Markets (Public Offers, Listing and Disclosures) Regulations, 2023, the Board of Directors of EAPC hereby notifies the public and its stakeholders of the following changes to its composition, effective **19th February 2026**.

The Board announces the exit of **Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, Juma Mukhwana, PhD,CBS** and **Patrick Koinari Ole Tutui** from the Board. The Company extends its gratitude to the outgoing directors for their service and contributions to the Company during their tenure.

Concurrently, the Board is pleased to announce the appointment of two new directors whose extensive expertise will be instrumental in driving the Company's turnaround strategy and growth objectives.

#### Summary Profiles of New Directors:

**1. Ahmed Sheikh Adan, SC, CBS**  
Mr. Adan has been appointed as a Director of the Company. He is a Senior Counsel and Managing Partner at Wetangula, Adan & Co. Advocates. He brings over two decades of high-level legal, regulatory, and international advisory expertise. His experience spans international transactions, sports governance, telecommunications regulation, cross-border trade, and institutional reform. He is recognized for his strategic leadership in complex negotiations, public sector restructuring, and multi-jurisdictional legal practice across East Africa and the Horn of Africa.

**2. Eshak Harunani**  
Mr. Harunani has been appointed as a Director of the Company. He is currently an independent Non-Executive Director on the board of a regional oil marketing company, where he chairs the Finance & Operations Committee. With over 30 years of experience, he has led teams in delivering professional services including audit, assurance, tax, and advisory to clients listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange and the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. A former member of the Deloitte Africa Board for eight years, his industry experience covers Banking and Financial Services (including Shariah compliant banking), Telecommunications, Energy, Manufacturing, and Agriculture.

The Board of Directors of East African Portland Cement PLC welcomes and congratulates **Ahmed Sheikh Adan SC CBS** and **Eshak Harunani** on their appointments and wishes them success in their new roles. Their vast experience will undoubtedly contribute to the growth, sustainability, and turnaround of the Company.

By Order of the Board  
20<sup>th</sup> February, 2026



www.eastafricanportland.com

#ASolidTurnAround  
Strong • Durable • Bright

East African Portland Cement PLC

## YUNILY AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, court brokers, Bailiffs, repossessioners,  
Process Servers & Investigators, Estate & Commission agents.

EMPEROR PLAZA, 5TH FLOOR SUITE 511, Cell: 0701244285  
KONINANGE STREET & KENYATTA AVENUE JUNCTION Email:yunilyauctioneers@gmail.com

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principal, we shall sell by public auction the under-mentioned goods.  
**ON FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026 IN-SITU.**

**IN THE MATTER OF DISTRESS FOR RENT ACT (CAP 293 LAWS OF KENYA)**

**RODNEY HARRISON WAITE AND ALICE KIARIE MUIRURI -VS- ECO-BLEND FUEL ENERGIES LIMITED**  
Assorted building materials, six wheelbarrows, one big white fuel storage tank, building metal rods, electric wire, assorted metal rods of different sizes.

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**  
Viewing on the same day from 8.00am – 10.00am  
Cash at the fall of hammer.



## 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:moranau@yahoo.com

### PUBLIC AUCTION


1. Under the Instructions received from our Principals, we shall sell the under mentioned goods by Public Auction to be held on **Friday 27th February, 2026 at Pangani Auction Centre along Kiambu Road behind Runda Mall starting 10.00am.**

**CMCC NO. E2815 OF 2024 NAIROBI**  
**PLAINTIFF -VS- CHRISANTUS STEPHEN OUMA & DENNIS MURABULA OBUYA COLLECTIVELY T/A LUTEA AFRICA SAFARIS.**  
Wooden Board, Reception Counter, Brown Coach, 4 Straight Back Chairs, Small Office Desk, Wooden Coat Hanger, Wooden Box Stand, Air Fan, Complete Acer Computer, 2 Extension Cables, 2 Fonn Arm Machine.

2. Under the Instructions received from our Principals, we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicles by Public Auction to be held on **Saturday 28th February, 2026 at Kenya Pipeline Company Limited Depot, Eldoret starting 10.00am.**

**CMCC NO. E2815 OF 2024 NAIROBI**  
**PLAINTIFF -VS- OCEANIC OIL LIMITED.**  
KBQ 848K/ZC8383 TRUCK  
KBU 015N/ZD 9696 TRUCK

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**  
Cash at the fall of the hammer.



## TREASURE TROVE AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEERS, BAILIFFS AND COMMISSION AGENTS.

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Wason House, Ngara Rd, Opp. Rubis Petrol Station, P.O. Box 53579-00200 Nairobi, Kenya. +254 721 856 561. treasureauctioneers@gmail.com

### 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 28TH FEBRUARY, 2026 STARTING AT 10.30 AM AT PANGANI AUCTION CENTRE, KIAMBU ROAD, NAIROBI.**

**THE LANDLORD V/S**  
**GETRUDE LITU-Sofaset,** Water dispenser, Coffee table, Study lamp, Floor mats, Wall clock, L-Shaped desk, Office chair, 2 Printers, Tool box, 2 Puffs, TV Stand, 3 Portraits, Portable radio, Vitron colour TV set, DVD Player, Assorted decorations carvings, Black board, Samsung microwave, Dinning table, 2 Storage boxes, Small bicycles, Study table, Metal chair, Table top electric cooker, 2 double decker beds +Mattress, White metal bed+Mattress, Chest of drawers, exercise mat, white board, electric heater, seat cushions, Hisense broken TV, 4 Batteries+inverter, Fridge, Meko gas, 4 burner gas cooker+cylinder, Assorted kitchen utensils, 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.**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### THE PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)

#### NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USER

Notice is hereby given that the registered owner of **Plot No. KIAMBAA/THIMBIGUA/9081** located at **KIAMBAA** Sub-County **KARURI** area has applied for permission to change the user from **AGRICULTURAL USE TO MULTIPLE DWELLINGS (TOWN HOUSES)** subject to approval by County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, Institutions, Members of the public etc. with objections or comments to the proposal should serve notice of such in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to:

**CECM - LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU  
P.O BOX 2344-00900,  
KIAMBU.**

**PHYSICAL PLANNER: KELVIN RITHO RPP NO. 0270**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### THE PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)

#### NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USER

Notice is hereby given that the registered owner of **Plot No. KIAMBAA/KIHARA/9084** located at **KIAMBAA** Sub-County **KIHARA-GACHIE** area has applied for permission to change the user from **AGRICULTURAL USE TO COMMERCIAL** subject to approval by County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, Institutions, Members of the public etc. with objections or comments to the proposal should serve notice of such in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to:

**CECM - LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU  
P.O BOX 2344-00900,  
KIAMBU.**

**PHYSICAL PLANNER: KELVIN RITHO RPP NO. 0270**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### THE PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)

#### EXTENSION OF USE FROM INDUSTRIAL TO INDUSTRIAL-CUM-COMMERCIAL ON PLOT L.R. NO. 209/15364 (NAIROBI/BLOCK 71/246)

In pursuant of the provisions of:-  
-The County Governments Act, 2012  
-The Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2010  
-The Physical and Land Use Planning Act, No. 13 of 2019  
-The Physical Planners Registration Act (1996), Section 21

The owners of **Plot L.R. No. 209/15364 (NAIROBI/BLOCK 71/246)** situated on **Lusaka Road, Industrial Area, Nairobi** propose to **extend the use from Industrial to Industrial-cum-Commercial**, subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals and institutions with any objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within **14 days** from the date of this notice to:-

**CECM - Built Environment and Urban Planning Sector,  
Nairobi City County  
City Hall Way,  
P.O. Box 30075-00100  
Nairobi, Kenya**

Regd. Physical Planner: Munyua Mwaura (0101) Dated: 20th February 2026

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Arento Kenya Limited** is inviting the project affected persons, the general public and interested stakeholders to public participation meetings for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the proposed construction of twenty (21) storey multi-dwelling residential and commercial apartments comprising of two hundred and forty-four (244) residential apartment units and twelve(12) shops with supporting facilities and amenities on Nairobi/Block19/59 along Maalim Juma Road, off Denis Pritt Road in Kilimani area, Dagoretti North Sub-County within Nairobi City County. The meetings are scheduled on **28th February 2026, 6th March 2026 and 14th March 2026** at the proposed project site (Latitude: -1.28561°S, Longitude 36.791270°E) at 10am.

*For any enquiry/comments please contact:*  
**Arento Kenya Limited**  
**P.O Box 22768-00505**  
**NAIROBI**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

#### CHANGE OF USER

The Owner of land PLOT NO. 12701//MN situated in Nyali along Mahesh Doshi Road wishes to change user from **One Private Dwelling to Multiple Dwelling Units(Apartments)**, subject to the approval of the County Government of Mombasa. Any individual or Institution wishing to make any representation or objection to the above application is requested to forward the same in writing within **14 days** of the dates of this notice to:

**THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER (LAND, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING)  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MOMBASA  
P.O BOX 81599-80100  
MOMBASA**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### FORM PLUPA DC/3

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

#### NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED EXTENSION OF USE

The owners of **Nairobi/Block 148/139 (Formerly LR No: 2248/131)** located along Langata road, Nairobi City County, propose to **Extend the user from shops and offices to include Hotel and Recreation use (Padel tennis court)** subject to approval by the Nairobi City County Government. Individuals, Institutions or Organisations etc. With objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of publication of this notice to:-

**The County Executive Member  
Built Environment and Urban Planning  
County Government of Nairobi  
P.O Box 30075-00100  
Nairobi.**

**Name of the Registered: Planner Silas Mbaabu Gichuru Reg No. 0249**



## DAYLIFF

*Dependable Quality*

### DSmart

#### AUTOMATIC BOOSTER PUMP


- Self-priming, inverter-controlled pump for constant water pressure
- Energy-saving IE5 motor with built-in dry run & overload protection
- Quiet operation (<60dB), suitable for indoor or outdoor use
- Easy LED control panel with pressure settings & fault display
- Compact design with integrated pressure tank & option for 2-pump setup



## WASTELIFT

#### WASTE WATER SOLUTION

- Collects & discharges waste from WC, basin or shower where gravity drainage isn't possible
- Built-in cutter pump macerates waste to pass through small pipes
- Self-cleaning design with odour control filter
- Compact, quiet, easy to install with 3 inlets for full bathroom connection
- Reliable motor with protection, connects directly to mains power



## ROVATTI SKD

#### MULTISTAGE PUMPS

- Heavy-duty, high-pressure pumps for water supply, irrigation & industry
- End-suction design with adjustable delivery flange (3 positions available)
- Durable electro-plated cast iron build; brass or stainless impellers available
- Easy maintenance with gland packing seals & external tie bolts
- Options for electric motor or diesel engine drive

**Flexible Financing Options Available**

**The Brand of**  
**D&S DAVIS & SHIRTLIFF**  
*Know How through experience*

**GUARANTEED DAYLIFF QUALITY**

**Tel: +254 730 079 000**  
**+254 711 079 000**

dayliff.com

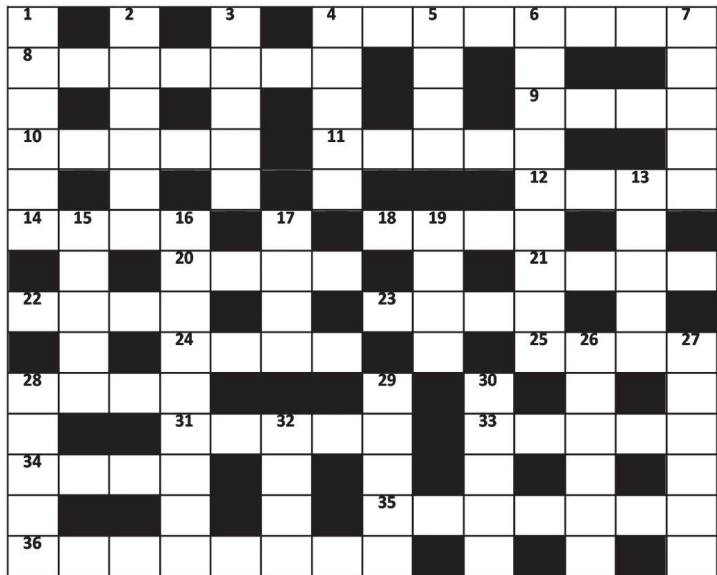


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MPESA PAYBILL  
NUMBER 793601

# COFFEE BREAK

## CROSSWORD / PUZZLE



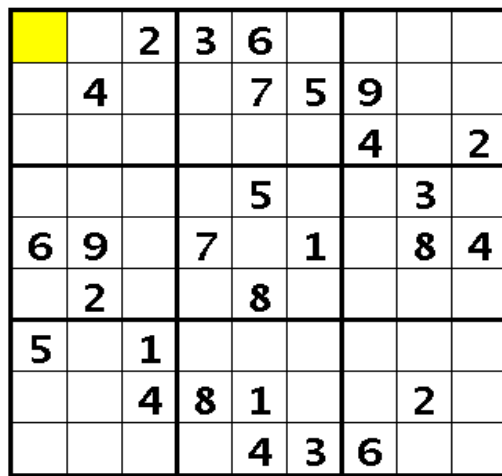
### DOWN

1. Hon member of Parliament for Karachuonyo County (6)
2. CEO of Kenya Healthcare Federation (6)
3. Express through a scornful smile (5)
4. A position particularly well suited to the person (5)
5. Basic unit of money in Peru (4)
6. Former member of Parliament for Wajir West constituency (9)
7. Gender-neutral name of Greek origin, meaning "star." (5)
13. Not in action or at work (5)
15. An exhibition of cowboy skills (5)
16. Former member of Parliament from Nyamira County (9)
17. Consistent with fact or reality (4)
19. Slightly open (4)
26. Motor that converts thermal energy to mechanical work (6)
27. Former Governor for Elgeyo-Marakwet County (6)
28. In or to a place that is lower (5)
29. Locality in Kiambu County (5)
30. Weed out unwanted or unnecessary things (5)
32. A Hindu demon who swallows the sun causing eclipses(4)

### ACROSS

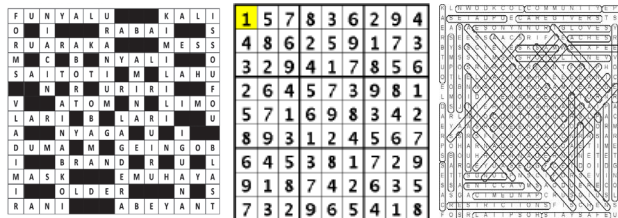
4. Hon Kihara Jayne Njeri's political backyard (8)
8. Hon member of Parliament for Kaloleni constituency (7)
9. Fine powdery material such as dry earth (4)
10. Former member of Parliament for Teso South constituency (5)
11. An island in the West Indies (5)
12. President of south Sudan (4)
14. An early name of Ireland that is now used in poetry (4)
18. A collection of facts from which conclusions may be drawn (4)
20. A unit of length equal to 3 feet (4)
21. Money received from the state (4)
22. The main thing you are thinking about (4)
23. An island in Indonesia to the east of Java (4)
- 24 A condition requiring relief (4)
25. A pause for relaxation (4)
28. A cultivar of the European pear (4)
31. Unkind, cruel, or uncivil (5)
33. The brightest star in Orion (5)
- 34 Large luxurious car (4)
35. Hon Tayari Dalu Stephen's political backyard (7)
36. Governor for Nakuru County (8)

## SUDOKU / SIMPLE



Fill the grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the sub-grids that compose the grid all contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 one time.

### Thursday solutions



## WORD SEARCH

Z E Z U M B A T S I W T E H T D D Y T  
T A L R P E T S O W T S A X E T O M A  
L K V Y O R N H C I I N C E E B O C N  
A R O T T B E G E S T H I L L A W A G  
W E G I H S O L U R A O T E I L Y M O  
L J U N O S M T L R U S R C N L L A S  
I E E O K B A A L I U N T T E R L C P  
N H C P E W M E N H R P N R X O O A Y  
D T N M Y C S I E G O H H I U O B R L  
Y E A U P T H H L H N S T C N M F E A  
H M D J O B T A Y O I A A S G G B N C  
O O N N K D Y N C N M S G L H N M A W  
P D E A E Y U D G H G E O I S I A F  
C E K E Y U A L O M A U R D M A M W N  
P R C L B D E C O E B S B E R A M M S  
O N I E I L N O C S I D L R N I M B Y  
H R H P A E N S U Z I E Q I E G V B A  
P T C D M W H A N D J I V E D T U E O

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

- BALLROOM
- BOLLYWOOD
- CALYPSO
- CHA CHA SLIDE
- CHARLESTON
- CHICKEN DANCE
- DA DIP
- DISCO
- ELECTRIC SLIDE
- FLAMENCO
- FOOTLOOSE
- FOXTROT
- GANGNAM STYLE
- HAND JIVE
- HIP HOP
- HOKEY POKEY
- JITTERBUG
- JUMP ON IT
- LIMBO
- LINDY HOP
- LINE
- MACARENA
- MAMBO
- MERENGUE
- MODERN
- MOONWALK
- QUICKSTEP
- RIVER
- ROBOT
- RUMBA
- SALSA
- SAMBA
- SHIMMY
- SINGLE LADIES
- SQUARE DANCE
- SUZIE Q
- SWING
- TANGO
- TAP
- TEXAS TWO-STEP
- THE BUNNY HOP
- THE HUSTLE
- THE JERK
- THE RUNNING MAN
- THE TWIST
- THRILLER
- VOGUE
- WALTZ
- WATUSI
- YMCA
- ZUMBA

## ALL IN THE STARS



### AQUARIUS

January 21 - February 19

Your efforts on the domestic front have certainly paid off, Aquarius. Your home is looking wonderful. Everyone who enters says so.

### PISCES

February 20 - March 20

Look at the other side of the coin and adjust your position accordingly. It is favorable to change course at this time.

### ARIES

March 21 - April 20

Be tolerant of other points of view, but don't feel obligated to change your own. Your time will come. Hold on.

### TAURUS

April 21 - May 21

Good luck continues to follow you. The contacts you make now will be of great importance later on.

### GEMINI

May 22 - June 21

Don't be afraid to let your sensitive side shine through - even in the workplace. It is good to let people know that you are human and that you have feelings too.

### CANCER

June 22 - July 22

If you need to do any studying for a test or for a presentation, now is the time to do so. Nothing will escape your eye for detail.

### LEO

July 23 - August 22

If your emotions become overwhelming because of something going on outside your work, you could easily get distracted and lose all sense of rational thought.

### VIRGO

August 23 - September 23

Your mind is quite grounded, helping for you to see the facts for what they are, instead of what you perceive them to be.

### LIBRA

September 24 - October 23

Perhaps you should seek a financial planner for steps you could take right now to improve your bottom line.

### SCORPIO

October 24 - November 22

Concentrate on finishing only one or two minor tasks today and put the rest off until tomorrow.

### SAGITTARIUS

November 23 - December 21

A slightly disheveled appearance is better than no appearance at all. Swallow your pride.

### CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 20

Today will be a lovely combination of harmony and passion. Make the most of it, Capricorn.

## 'Smiling' fossil discovered in the UK



**BBC/** Christine Clark, 64, was hunting for fossils during a Boxing Day walk on Holy Island, Northumberland when something caught her eye. A tiny pebble seemed to be "smiling at me", she said. "It looked like someone's fake teeth." She took it home and posted it to a Facebook fossil identification page.

Thousands of likes and comments later, others seemed to confirm her suspicion that it was, in fact, an ancient marine animal. Christine holidays every year to Northumberland with her husband Gerard where, she said, they regularly go hunting for Cuddy's beads on the Holy Island.

A spit of land with only 150 residents and cut off twice daily by the sea, it is considered the cradle of early English Christianity. The "beads" are fossilised parts of the stem of a marine animal called a crinoid, but they earned their nickname from St Cuthbert, considered the patron saint of the North of England.

"He arrived on the island in 670s as a monk coming to the priory, he is buried here and miracles took place around his shrine," said Dr Frances McIntosh, collections curator in the North East at English Heritage.

Hundreds of years later in the 1300s people were finding these small fossils. "But they didn't know what they were, they [thought] Cuthbert was making them and it was part of his spiritual process, and by collecting them they could become more spiritual," she said.

And so the tradition has continued and on Boxing Day last year, Clarke was hunting for the beads, but she spotted an altogether very different looking fossil amongst the pebbles on the beach. "I saw this fossil smiling at me - it's the first set of teeth I have found," she joked.

## TELEVISION LINEUP - FRIDAY



5:00AM	MORNING DECREE - RPT	7:00PM	TV47 WIKENDI
5:30AM	TV47 FITNESS	7:30PM	THE 77 PERCENT
6:00AM	MORNING CAFE'	8:00 PM	ECO AFRICA
10:00AM	TV47 MATUKIO	8:30 PM	NOTHING BUT THIRTY
2:00PM	BAZE 47	9:00PM	THIS FRIDAY WITH BETTY KYALLO
3:00PM	KIDS ON THE BLOCK	10:10PM	TRIBE 47
4:00PM	TV47 NEWS NOW	12:00 AM	BEATPLUG MIX
4:15PM	SPORTS LIFE	2:00AM	WILD KINGDOM
4:30PM	NUZO AND NAMIA (SWAHILI)	4:00AM	MORNING DEVOTION
5:00PM	BEATPLUG		
6:00PM	LA MUJER DE JUDAS		

ODDLY ENOUGH



SPORTS LOCAL

RUGBY

A lot at stake as JKUAT Cougars turn focus on 'Play-Off' battle against Mwamba

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

JKUAT Cougars coach Smith Muhoya has labelled Saturday's top-of-the-table clash against Mwamba Rugby Club as a de facto play-off in the race for promotion.

The two sides meet in a high-stakes KRU Championship showdown, with a home semi-final spot — and a clearer path to the Kenya Cup — firmly on the line. "This is one of the most important games for us this season. A win will assure us of a home semi-final, which is an advantage in our journey to the Kenya Cup," said Muhoya.

The Cougars head into the fixture on a seven-match unbeaten run, a

streak Muhoya insists has been built on discipline and hard work.

"It has not been by luck. It has taken hard work and determination. To beat Mwamba, we must be strong in defence, avoid mistakes in our half, and be clinical in execution.

Tactical awareness will be key," he added. Muhoya also confirmed his squad is at full strength following a two-week break, with players who picked up knocks in their win over South Coast Pirates in Diani now fully recovered.

"The home fans and family will be there to support us. We don't want to let them down," he said.

Elsewhere, USIU-A Martials travel to face host Mombasa RFC

in what promises to be a stern coastal examination.

Martials' coach, Tom Lagat, acknowledged the challenge of playing in Mombasa. "It's always a tough trip. They are very strong at home with the crowd and weather behind them, and we respect that. However, our boys understand what is at stake," said Lagat.

He welcomed back Don Ochieng, Humphrey Kimeli and Elvis Kadima from injury and called for composure in testing conditions.

"We expect a spirited and disciplined performance. If we execute our plan and stay composed, we give ourselves a real chance. A win will take us a big step."



Kisiu RFC and Mean Machine in action at Cardinal Otunga High School/ANGWENYI GICHANA

ATHLETICS

WHO WILL EMERGE BEST IN NEW YORK?

Obiri and Loked set for blockbuster half marathon race

BY TEDDY MULEI

A high-octane clash is brewing on March 15 as three of Kenya's female distance heavyweights — Hellen Obiri, Sharon Lokedi and Agnes Jebet Ng'etich — square off at the New York City Half Marathon.

With pedigree, pride and pace all on the line, the streets of the Big Apple are set to host one of the most compelling women's half-marathon fields of the season.

Defending champion Lokedi returns brimming with confidence.

The Boston Marathon titleholder stormed to victory in New York last year, clocking 1:07:04 to outkick American Fiona O'Keeffe (1:07:46) and Britain's Calli Hauger-Thackery (1:07:49). At 31, Lokedi is still relatively new to the 21km distance. She made her

debut at the Great North Run in 2021, finishing fourth in 1:09:53, and followed that with another fourth-place finish in New York in 2022 (1:08:14).

That race was won by Ethiopia's Senbere Teferi (1:07:35), with Kenya's Irine Cheptai (1:07:37) and Norway's Karoline Bjerkeli Grøvdal (1:08:07) completing the podium.

Lokedi's most recent half-marathon outing came at the Copenhagen Half Marathon in September last year, where she rocketed to second place in a personal best of 1:05:00, finishing behind Ethiopia's Likina Amebaw (1:04:44). But if Lokedi carries the confidence of a defending champion, Hellen Obiri brings the aura of a proven conqueror. A two-time champion of both the New York City Marathon and the Boston Marathon, Obiri is no stranger to delivering on big stages.

She claimed the 2023 New York half-marathon crown in 1:07:21, surging clear to defeat Teferi (1:07:55) and Grøvdal (1:09:53).

Her half-marathon résumé sparkles with victories in Istanbul (1:04:48, 2022), Ras Al Khaimah (1:05:05, 2023), Tyne (1:07:05 in 2022 and 1:07:42 in 2021) and Buri (1:07:45, 2022).

The Lokedi-Obiri rivalry has become box-office viewing. Their marathon duels last season were decided in the dying stages. Lokedi struck first at the 2024 Boston Marathon, clinching victory in 2:17:22 with Obiri close behind in 2:17:41.

But Obiri responded emphatically at the New York City Marathon, reclaiming bragging rights with a 2:19:51 triumph as Lokedi settled for second in 2:20:07.

Yet while the spotlight shines brightest on that familiar rivalry, Ng'etich arrives as the wildcard and the fastest woman in the field.

The 25-year-old owns the second-fastest half-marathon time in history: a blistering 1:03:04 from Valencia in 2024. Only Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey has gone quicker, courtesy of her 1:02:52 world mark set in Valencia in 2021.

Ng'etich may lack extensive experience over 21km — her only other half-marathon also coming in Valencia (1:03:08) — but she compensates with fearless front-running and ruthless pace judgment.

She heads to New York riding a wave of early-season dominance. In January, she captured her maiden global title at the World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Florida, clocking 31:28.



Sharon Lokedi after winning the Boston 10K last year/HANDOUT

Korir fires warning shot as Glasgow dream takes shape

BY TEDDY MULEI

AFTER a relatively quiet 2025 campaign, 2021 World Relays silver medallist Naomi Korir is plotting a thunderous return, with her sights firmly set on the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Korir's 2025 season was somewhat subdued on the track. She opened her year with a fourth-place finish at the National Cross Country Championships at Eldoret Sports Club over 2km, clocking 7:10.

She followed that up with a fifth-place showing at the Sirikwa Classic Cross Country, timing 6:54 over the same distance.

Her track campaign gathered momentum at the sixth Athletics Kenya weekend meeting, where she settled for second place in her 800m speciality, clocking 2:04.68.

Korir then embarked on a European circuit over the two-lap event. She finished second in Poland in 2:00.43, placed seventh in Italy in 2:00.99 and took 10th place in France in 2:05.95.

She wrapped up her season on June 15 with a morale-boosting victory in Spain, clocking 2:01.45 to sign off on a high.

However, she did not feature at the Tokyo World Championships trials, drawing the curtain on a campaign that never quite caught fire.

The 28-year-old is determined to inject fresh energy into her 2026 season after having already made an emphatic statement early on.

She kick-started her year with triumph at the Sirikwa Classic Cross Country Tour, storming to the women's 2km title in 6:42, powering clear of Judy Kemunto (6:47) and Mercy Chepng'eno (6:54).

Korir believes the victory sends a strong signal ahead of the 2026 campaign. "This win is very important because I had been out of competition for a long time. I came here, and won, and I feel great. It gives me motivation," Korir said.

Her primary ambition this season is to don the Kenyan singlet at the Commonwealth Games scheduled for July 23 to August 2, 2026, in Glasgow.



Naomi Korir competes at the Sirikwa Classic/HANDOUT



## SPORTS PROFILE

# MBURU RELOADS FOR OLYMPIC REDEMPTION IN LOS ANGELES

*How Kiganjo Police Training College Shooting Range sparked Mburu's Olympics 2028 dream*

BY CHARLENE MALWA

KENYAN air rifle shooter Priscilla Mburu's rise to the top is anything but accidental. Her journey did not begin in a stadium or on a school playground, but inside a police training range — in uniform, rifle in hand, discovering a talent she never knew she had. Mburu

did not grow up dreaming of targets and bullseyes.

Sport was never her first love. She stumbled upon shooting in 2015 after joining the Kenya Police Service, where firearm handling was part of routine induction.

It was at the Kenya Police Training College in Kiganjo, where something unexpected happened. The first shot changed everything. What began as compulsory drills quickly exposed an uncommon calm and precision.

While other recruits treated range sessions as routine, Mburu found herself intrigued by the mechanics — the science of breath control, the discipline of stillness, the quiet authority of focus. Instructors noticed it too. Her shots were grouped tightly.

Her posture rarely wavered. Even as a beginner, there was something deliberate about her presence on the firing line. "At first it was just part of the training," she recalls.

"But after a few sessions, I realised I was enjoying it — and my shots were landing well. I wanted to get better."

She began staying behind after official sessions and squeezing in extra practice whenever ammunition was available. Pellets were scarce, sometimes shared, but that never discouraged her. "Every shot felt like I was learning something new," she says. That cu-

riosity soon turned into commitment. Encouraged by senior officers who saw her potential, Mburu began to view shooting not just as a police skill but as a competitive sport.

By the time she completed her training, she had built more than technical competence and developed the mental discipline that would define her career.

Her breakthrough on the continental stage came at the 2019 African Shooting Championships in Algeria, where she posted 601 points — a score that signalled she belonged among Africa's elite. "I never even knew this sport existed at first," she admits. "But once I started, I realised I could actually compete."

Since then, silence has become her arena. Unlike athletics or football, air rifle shooting does not command roaring crowds.

There are no deafening cheers when she raises her rifle — only the controlled rhythm of breath, the steady squeeze of a trigger, and the faint thud of a pellet striking paper. In that silence, Mburu thrives.

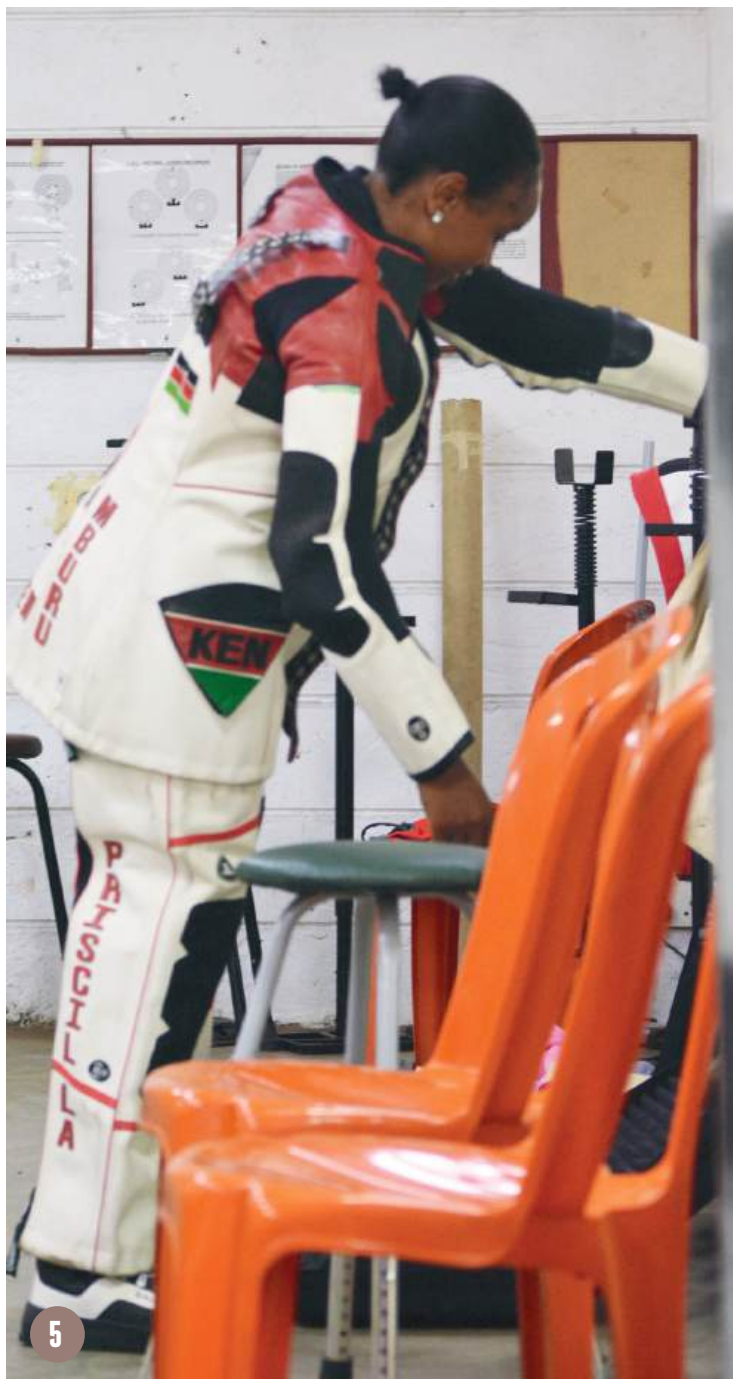
At the African Championships in Cairo, she secured two silver medals — in the 50m rifle three-positions and the 50m rifle prone events — cementing her status as one of the continent's top shooters.

"I won two silver medals in Cairo, which was a huge achievement," she says. "It showed me I could compete with the best in Africa." Her ambition now stretches beyond continental podiums. A second nod from the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship programme has placed her firmly on the road to the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

For Mburu, the scholarship is more than financial assistance — it is validation. "I am honoured to receive it for the second time," she says.

Kenyan air rifle shooter, Priscilla Mburu, in different frames during her training at the Kenya Regiment Rifle Club at Lang'ata / CHARLENE MALWA





Her first Olympic push ended in disappointment at the ISSF qualification championships in Rio de Janeiro, where she finished 50th in the 50m rifle three-positions event, missing out on the 2024 Summer Olympics.

"The competition exposed gaps in my preparation," she reflects. "Precision shooting is not linear." Instead of retreating, she recalibrated.

Paris became a lesson, and Los Angeles became the mission. Now competing through the 2025-2028 Olympic cycle, she is focused on improving her ranking points and gaining more international exposure after funding constraints limited competition opportunities between 2024 and 2025.

"I have been missing competitions because of funding limitations," she says. "But now the focus is on qualifying early and preparing properly."

Shooting is not a cheap pursuit. Rifles, pellets, range access and international travel all come at a cost. Before her first scholarship, Mburu largely funded her own training. A single box of pellets can cost around Sh2,500 — a recurring expense that made sustained preparation difficult. "The scholarship covers training, camps and competition exposure," she explains. "It supplements what is already on the ground." Her dream carries historical weight. Mburu hopes to become only the second Kenyan shooter to compete at the Olympic Games — and potentially the first Kenyan woman.

"It is everyone's dream to be at the Olympics," she says. "But you must sacrifice and commit to the process."

Away from the range, she is pursuing an undergraduate degree in counselling psychology — a field that mirrors the mental precision her sport demands. "One thing about the brain is that it cannot multitask," she says. "When you step onto the shooting line, you must think only about shooting."

Her days are built around discipline: early wake-up, warm-up, breakfast, training session, then gym work in the afternoon. Yet the real battle is internal. "The first minutes on the line are for mental preparation. This sport is largely mental."

Her next major test comes at the World Cup and African Championships in Germany this May — competitions that will measure her progress as she intensifies her Olympic build-up. In Kenya's sporting culture, noise often equals recognition.

Mburu's journey, however, is unfolding in near silence. There is no roar when she lifts her rifle — only a quiet click and a tiny mark appearing on a distant target.

But if her aim remains steady, that silence could one day explode into history in Los Angeles — proof that sometimes, the loudest statements are made without a sound.

BY TEDDY MULEI

## KNOW YOUR SPORT



### Fast growing Lacrosse spreading on Kenyan landscape like bush fire

**L**ACROSSE has made significant strides in Kenya, and its growth has been nothing short of exponential.

We break down lacrosse, its rich origins, the basics of how it is played and how it is carving out space on the Kenyan sporting landscape.

Lacrosse is a fast-paced, full-contact team sport rooted in Indigenous North American traditions.

Players wield a long-handled stick, known as a crosse, fitted with a netted head used to pass, catch and fire a solid rubber ball into the opponent's goal. The sport is played by two teams of 10 players in the men's game and 12 in the women's version. The objective is simple yet demanding: outscore the opposition over four quarters of high-tempo action.

Each match begins and restarts after every goal, with a face-off in the men's game or a draw in the women's contest at the centre of the field. Here, players battle for possession in a test of strength, reflexes and technique.

Once in control, players sprint across the turf, cradling the ball, a rhythmic rocking motion of the stick that keeps it secure in the pocket while running at speed or absorbing contact.

Tactically, teams must maintain balance. A specific number of players are required to stay on either side of the field, typically three attackers and four defenders anchored in their respective halves, ensuring structure in both offence and defence.

In men's lacrosse, physicality is part of the spectacle. Body checking and stick checking are permitted to jar the ball loose, making it a bruising yet skillful affair.

However, illegal hits, such as contact to the head or checks from behind, draw penalties, often resulting in a "man-up" advantage for the opposing team. Modern lacrosse has evolved into several regulated formats: field lacrosse, box lacrosse played indoors and the fast, Olympic-bound "sixes" version, which emphasises speed, fluid substitutions and relentless attacking play.

The sport's roots stretch back to the 12th century (1100-1200 AD), when Indigenous communities across North America played variations of the game. Originally known as "stickball" or by traditional names such as *tewaarathon* among the Haudenosaunee, it served purposes far beyond recreation, from ceremonial rituals and military training to conflict resolution between communities. In 1637, French missionary Jean de Brébeuf witnessed the game and coined the term *la crosse*, noting the resemblance of the stick to a bishop's crosier.

By the mid-19th century, the game had been codified into a structured modern sport. The Montreal Lacrosse Club, founded in 1856, became the first organised club, laying the groundwork for international expansion.

Today, the sport is governed globally by World Lacrosse, the international federation overseeing men's, women's and box lacrosse.

Established on September 30, 2008, as the Federation of International Lacrosse following a merger of the men's and women's governing bodies, it rebranded to World Lacrosse in May 2019. The federation now boasts more than 90 member national federations across five continental regions. The IOC recognises the sport and successfully spearheaded the campaign that will see it return to the Olympic programme at the 2028 Olympics in LA.

## SPORTS LOCAL

## FOOTBALL

## TITLE SLIPPING AWAY?

Time to salvage dream as Leopards face Posta in do-or-die clash



BY TONY MBALLA

AFC Leopards head coach Fred Ambani has struck a tone of calm defiance as the FKF Premier League title race tightens, insisting his charges still possess both the belief and ability to hunt down archrivals Gor Mahia.

With the season entering a decisive stretch, Ambani has framed the coming weeks not as a burden, but as an opportunity — a test of nerve, consistency and character.

Leopards approach this weekend's fixture against Posta Rangers knowing that the margin for error has all but vanished.

Their 1-1 draw against Bandari FC at Mbaraki Stadium in Mombasa last week halted their momentum at a critical juncture, leaving them second on the table with 37 points — six adrift of Gor Mahia.

What once was a neck-and-neck duel separated only by goal difference has now evolved into a chase that demands precision and resolve. Ambani, however, remains unshaken.

"We know exactly what is required of us," he said firmly. "If we win our remaining matches, we give ourselves a real chance. There is no shortcut, no

magic formula. It's about consistency and belief."

The coach acknowledged the frustration of dropping points at the Coast but stressed perspective over panic.

"Of course, we wanted maximum points in Mombasa," Ambani admitted. "But the league is not decided in one afternoon. What matters most is how we react. The players have responded well in training, and that gives me confidence."

For weeks, Leopards had matched Gor Mahia stride for stride, the rivalry adding fresh intensity to the title conversation. Ambani believes that period proved Ingwe's credentials.

"We were level for a long time because we earned it," he said. "That shows the quality and mentality within this squad. The difference now is small details — concentration, decision-making, composure."

"Six points is not an impossible gap. In football, momentum can shift very quickly. Our responsibility is to focus on ourselves and collect maximum points."

The weight of history, however, looms large. AFC Leopards have not won the league trophy since 1998, a drought that has deepened the hunger

among their supporters.

"Our fans have waited patiently," Ambani said. "They carry the memories of past glory, and they want to see it again. We feel that desire, and it drives us."

"Pressure is part of playing for this club. If you are afraid of expectation, you cannot succeed here. We embrace it."

Turning to the immediate challenge, Ambani warned that Posta Rangers' mid-table position offers no guarantees. The two sides will battle for honours at Nyayo Stadium on Sunday.

"They are organised and experienced," he noted. "Teams fighting for points are always dangerous because they have their own battles."

He emphasised sharpness in both boxes.

"We are creating opportunities," Ambani explained. "But at this stage of the season, you must be ruthless. Titles are won by teams that convert chances and stay disciplined defensively."

The message to his dressing room has been consistent. "I've told the players this is the moment to show who we are," he revealed. "Anyone can talk about ambition. Now we must demonstrate it on the pitch."

AFC Leopards players celebrate during a previous match /HANDOUT



Nairobi United defender Yusuf Mainge/NAIROBI UNITED

## FOOTBALL

## Bidco Utd eye survival boost against wounded Naibos this weekend

BY TONY MBALLA

NAIROBI United head coach Godfrey Oduor has challenged his players to respond with character when they return to FKF Premier League action this weekend following a bruising end to their continental adventure.

The Naibos saw their CAF Confederation Cup campaign come to a painful conclusion last week after a 3-0 defeat to Congolese side AS Maniema Union.

The loss not only ended their run in Africa but also left questions about how quickly the squad can regroup ahead of Saturday's league fixture against Bidco United at the Ulinzi Sports Complex.

Currently 10th on the table with 25 points, Nairobi United know that a strong finish to the domestic campaign is essential to steady their season. Bidco, meanwhile, sit second from bottom on 17 points and are equally desperate for results as the relegation battle tightens.

Oduor has called for resilience and maturity from his squad. "Continental football can be unforgiving," Oduor admitted. "We faced a strong side, and we fell short. But what defines a team is how it reacts to setbacks."

The Nairobi United tactician believes the experience, though painful, could prove valuable in the long run. "Playing at that level exposes your weaknesses," he said. "Now we must use those lessons to improve in the league. There is no time to feel sorry for ourselves."

"The boys were disappointed in the dressing room after the match, and that is natural. But I reminded them that the badge still demands commitment in every competition."

Oduor insists that the focus has shifted firmly back to domestic priorities. "The league is our bread and butter," he said. "We have to climb higher than 10th. That position does not reflect our ambition."

Looking ahead to Bidco, Oduor warned against complacency. "People look at the table and think this will be easy," he observed. "But teams fighting at the bottom are often the most dangerous."

He stressed the need for sharper execution in both attack and defence. "We conceded goals in Africa that we should have managed better," Oduor said. "In the league, we must be compact and disciplined."

He also challenged his attackers to rediscover their confidence. "We have creative players," he noted. "Now they must express themselves without fear."

On the mood in camp, Oduor remained optimistic. "Training this week has been intense," he revealed.

## Selebwa demands perfection as Mombasa United chase promotion



Nairobi City Stars players celebrate at Gusii Stadium during the game against Gucha Stars/ANGWENYI GICHANA

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

MOMBASA United coach Gilbert Selebwa has warned there is no margin for error as the fight for SportPesa Premier League qualification intensifies.

The veteran tactician described every remaining fixture as a final.

"For us, all our remaining 17 games are like finals. We must avoid mistakes and capitalise on our opponents' errors. The race for promotion is tight — if you drop points, you are overtaken," said Selebwa.

United have managed only three away wins this season, but the coach is eyeing maximum points against the struggling Nairobi-based side. The coastal outfit won the first leg 2-1

in Mombasa. "I know they will come guns blazing against us, but we are well prepared. Our target is maximum points. We want to extend the gap between us and MOFA to five points before we meet next weekend at home," he added.

Selebwa strengthened his squad during the just-concluded transfer window, bringing in nine players and releasing 12 as he reshaped the team for the promotion push. "I now have a squad of 30 players, and I'm confident they will help us seal qualification," he noted.

Mombasa United are joint top of the National Super League standings with Migori Youth on 40 points, though Migori hold a superior goal difference. Migori Youth will be in action on

Sunday against Gucha Stars at Gusii Stadium. The match was moved from Saturday due to the stadium's unavailability.

In Saturday fixtures, City Stars host Fortune Sacco at Gems Cambridge. Both sides are seeking redemption after narrow 1-0 defeats last weekend — City Stars falling to Migori Youth and Fortune Sacco losing to MOFA at Kianyaga Stadium. With 17 matches to go, the promotion race is tightening — and Selebwa knows any slip could prove costly.

Sunday Fixtures: All Stars vs 3K FC (Kenyatta Stadium), Soy United vs Naivas (Eldoret Showground), Luanda Villa vs Talanta (Mumboha), Kabati Youth vs Mwatate (Thika), Equity vs Kibera Black Stars (Kajiado).

Gunners seek redemption against North London rovals after a 2-2 against Wolves on Wednesday

# CAN TUDOR SAVE TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR?

**T**OTTENHAM Hotspur management decided three weeks ago that unless there was a dramatic turnaround in results, they would sack Thomas Frank. The results did not improve enough and he was shown the exit door. Igor Tudor had already been well researched by the recruitment department and Tottenham built a thick file on the Croatian. What appealed to them most was the way he has previously moved into clubs and produced a rapid improvement in player performance.



Igor Tudor /HANDOUT

Both Juventus and Lazio benefited from Tudor's playing expertise and saw an upturn in results which regrettably did not last and he eventually resigned from Lazio and was fired by Juventus. He said this week, "It is an honour to join Tottenham at an important moment and I understand the responsibility I have been handed and my focus is clear. To bring greater consistency to our performances and compete with conviction in every match." That conviction was lacking from several of Frank's last games and matters were made worse when he fell out with Micky van de Ven and Djed Spence, both of whom are highly regarded by the club hierarchy. Tudor has managed 10 clubs in 13 years which has alarmed some Tottenham supporters who think he will not be big enough for such a high profile club as Spurs. They claim that although he has managed a lot of clubs, few if any, match up to Tottenham. The official supporters club however have pledged to give him a loud welcome for the game this weekend. Tudor believes Tottenham already have the players capable of moving out of the relegation zone and up the table and this week he started immediately appointing four new assistants who have joined with him. This weekend will prove to be a tough challenge and I doubt he has witnessed such intense rivalry as the north London derby against Arsenal. Tudor said that he would like the job permanently but results will determine whether he has a chance but Tottenham have said he is in the running. The club is also in touch with former boss Mauricio Pochettino and his current position with the USA national team ends after the World Cup. Roberto De Zerbi has left Marseille and both Bournemouth's Andoni Iraola and Crystal Palace coach Oliver Glasner have contracts which will end this summer and all are under consideration.

## CARRICK LIFTS AMORIM'S BAN ON PLAYER FREEDOM

During Ruben Amorim's time at Old Trafford he banned mid-season breaks after Casemiro and Marcus Rashford flew off to America to socialise with friends. Interim coach Michael Carrick is trying to lift the spirit within the team and is doing everything

BY DAVID BILLINGTON

## FOOTBALL GOSSIP



possible to give the players more freedom. United have enjoyed a 13-day break after elimination from the FA Cup and Carrick cancelled Amorim's ban so the players could spend

some leisure time in order to come back to training in the right frame of mind. Goalkeeper Senne Lammens chose to return to his former club Royal Antwerp for a visit and he wore a Belgian national outfit and posted a photo when he visited his old friends. Club captain Bruno Fernandes decided to return to his home in Portugal and he watched a local football match.



## ARSENAL AND TOTTENHAM IN SECOND BATTLE THIS WEEKEND

Arsenal and Tottenham line up against each other this weekend knowing that the fierce rivals are in for another battle off the pitch. Both clubs are seeking the signature of Bayern Munich midfielder Leon Goretzka and Tottenham were leading the race but it is now looking doubtful that he will move to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Arsenal are in a better position to offer Goretzka what his looking for. Both the Bayern player and his agents have studied the standing of the two clubs and whereas the Gunners can potentially offer Champions League football next season and a Premier League title winner's medal. Spurs on the other hand might be relegated if Igor Tudor cannot turn the club around from their precarious position. Both clubs have instructed their scouting agents and recruitment teams to follow the situation closely and to keep the hierarchy informed. \*\*There are plenty of rumours that Liverpool midfielder Alexis MacAllister could leave in the summer after a difficult season.

## EZE'S VISION DISPLAYS ALL HIS PREVIOUS PALACE CONFIDENCE

Mikel Arteta was delighted with Eberechi Eze's performance against Wigan Athletic in the FA Cup. Eze hasn't enjoyed the excellence he achieved at Crystal Palace. Arteta said Eze's two superb assists hopefully has unlocked his confidence and he is ready to step up and supply the Kai Havertz type of through balls to enable Jesus, Martinelli, Madueke and Bukayo Saka to find the back of the net. His vision in the FA Cup match was a joy to admire. Whether Eze has at last gained the old confidence shown at Palace remains to

be seen against tough opposition but certainly Arteta believes he has. He pointed out that his attacking midfielder had improved his confidence and he said, "He's already playing a big role. Those creative players need to feel that they are producing those magic moments. I am happy with Gabriel Martinelli and Bukayo – a late replacement for Riccardo Calafiori – slotting into the formation of three forwards and together they swept Wigan aside winning 4-0.



## WHY IT HAS ALL GONE WRONG FOR NEWCASTLE

I travelled up to Newcastle this week, 300 miles north east of London, to find out why Eddie Howe's team blows hot and cold and consistency has become a real problem. Many supporters have turned on Howe recently but my findings reflect a different story at St James Park. Newcastle's problems began when their sporting director Paul Mitchell quit. He had been a vital part of the club set up and much of his work was pushed onto Howe's shoulders when he should have been concentrating solely on team training, opponent research and working with his players in their team selection. The club then were involved in difficult transfer options and the chief executive left and again it signalled even more work for Howe. Alexander Isak went on strike, and the Magpies had to look at bringing in fresh talent, at least equal to the striker's amazing scoring record. Brentford's Yoane Wissa was chosen but his move has been ruined by injury. Many insiders at the club believe that a chaotic summer with poor recruitment and spending £240million is at the heart of the problem as that huge amount of money has not brought the necessary improvements to Newcastle. When the club was performing behind the scenes they brought in talented players such as Livramento, Tonali, and Bruno. Eddie Howe simply does not have the time to spend on recruitment and at the moment the club is lacking a clear structure pattern. On a brighter note, Sven Botman is close to playing his best football and Eddie Howe believes he will get even stronger now he has signed a new contract. Howe is anxious that the club now extend Kieran Trippier and Fabian Schar's contracts as they close in on their deals ending this June. Howe said this week, "I think Sven's has always been the type of player who is fully committed and I've never seen him distracted.



## NWANERI LOAN WRECKED AS DE ZERBI SACKED

Marseille have given Arsenal a problem by sacking Roberto De Zerbi. Ethan Nwaneri was loaned to the French club in order to improve his development by the ex-Brighton and Hove Albion boss. Mikel Arteta had not selected Nwaneri to start a Premier League match all season. He made only four starts in 12 appearances in all competitions such as the Carabao Cup and FA Cup. The Arsenal boss said he trusted De Zerbi who is a "courageous manager" as he gives young players continuous opportunities to shine. The arrangement between the two managers worked brilliantly when the Arsenal midfielder/winger scored after only 13 minutes in a 3-1 win over Lens.

## VITOR PEREIRA STEPS INTO THE FOREST FIRE

Sean Dyche left Nottingham Forest's City Ground and owner Evangelos Marinakis' revolving door revealed Vitor Pereira arriving to take over a struggling team only three points above the relegation zone down in 17th place. Ironically Pereira will face his former club Fenerbahce in the Europa League playoffs this coming week. Marinakis was persuaded to gamble on the new coach after the 57-year-old moved into Molineux in December 2024 with the Amber & Blacks five points off relegation safety. However, eight defeats in their first ten matches and Wolves look doomed to return to the Championship next season. My only piece of advice to Vitor is if he buys a brand new car with his Forest salary, don't fill it up with petrol just yet because Forest coaches don't tend to stay around long!



## TRAFFORD NEVER KNEW OF DONNARUMMA'S ARRIVAL

James Trafford joined Manchester City on July 29th instead of Newcastle because he thought it would give him playing time in one of the world's leading clubs and his path to an England international cap would be guaranteed. Unfortunately the situation is far different and Trafford is upset. He was guaranteed game time under Pep if he moved to the Etihad Stadium after the World Cup. In fact he has played for City only 11 times and none of those games has been in the Premier League. He was not made aware that City had already decided to move for Gianluigi Donnarumma who arrived at the club on September 2 from Paris Saint-Germain and since then Trafford has been made No2 when he thought he was replacing Ederson. Trafford is understandably upset after joining his boyhood City club and he faces a dilemma. Does he stay in the hope that Donnarumma moves to his native Italy and his agent Enzo Raiola has hinted at this possibility or does Trafford go for another move in the summer?



## PREMIER LEAGUE

## FOOTBALL

# IS TITLE IN CITY'S HANDS?

Are gunners mentally ready to end 22-year wait to become champs

BY DAVID BILLINGTON

QUESTIONS linger over Arsenal's title bid as they squander two-goal lead against bottom side Wolves

After blowing a two-goal lead to draw against the Premier League's bottom club Wolves, there will be no dodging the questions on whether Arsenal are mentally ready to end their 22-year wait to become champions.

For the first time really this season, the title race is not completely in the control of Mikel Arteta and his players.

If Manchester City—five points behind in second place—win all of their remaining 12 games, which includes a home meeting against Arsenal, they will finish first.

The same, though, can be said for the Gunners, who have 11 matches left - and they win the April encounter at Etihad Stadium.

But after dropping four crucial points in successive draws against Brentford and Wolves, they are in danger of being haunted by the ghost of past failures.

Three successive runners-up finishes, two of them to Pep Guardiola's men, provide a constant reminder.

Former Arsenal forward Alan Smith admitted "that word bottle will be used quite a bit in the next few days".

The scenario seemed a lot different when Piero Hincapie slotted home his first goal for the club in the 56th minute, adding to Bukayo Saka's fifth-minute opener.

But the Gunners lacked the control and ruthlessness to finish off a Wolves side that had lost their nine previous meetings and are heading for the Championship.

The hosts showed remarkable spirit to fight back with Hugo Bueno's 20-yard curler giving them hope. Then, in the fourth minute of added time, 19-year-old Tom Edozie - off the bench for his senior debut - pounced on a mix-up between Arsenal pair David Raya and Gabriel and his shot went in off Riccardo Calafiori for a dramatic, dreamy leveller.

Arsenal next face London derbies with Tottenham and Chelsea and they have worryingly started to wobble at a decisive stage in the season.

Arteta knows his side will come under fire and scrutiny.



Arsenal's Noni Madueke, Ben White and Ebirech Eze in recent action (INSET) Bukayo Saka and Decan Rice /HANDOUT

opinion you have to take it on the chin," he said. "Any bullet, take it, because we didn't perform at the level required.

"Anything anyone says can be right because we didn't do what we had to do. The way to do it is on the pitch on Sunday [against Spurs]."

Wolves boss Rob Edwards said his side "knew there is a massive pressure" on Arsenal at the minute - and they capitalised on that.

The Gunners have not been performing at their best since the start of 2026 and won only two of their last seven league matches, with victories against Leeds and Sunderland.

Arteta added: "Certain basics we have to do, we did them so poorly, one after the other.

"It is better not to judge it. We are all too emotional about it. You have to take the hit because we deserve it. It is very easy with emotion to say things that can damage the team. Everyone wants to do their best."

Only Crystal Palace and West Ham (both eight) have dropped more points from winning positions in the league in 2026 than Arsenal (seven) and the Gunners have now failed to win

from a leading position in three of their last five league games.

This was also the first time in Premier League history that a side starting the day bottom of the table avoided defeat to the leaders, despite trailing by two or more goals.

"It feels like a pivotal moment, a vital one, maybe a turning point," Smith added on Sky Sports.

"It's in Manchester City's hands now. With their experience and Guardiola's experience they will really fancy it now. They can almost feel the nerves of the Arsenal team watching that.

"Having been 2-0 up against the team rock bottom on nine points is just not good enough for the team hoping to win the title. It doesn't bode well for Arsenal to be able to handle the pressure."

The result also meant Arsenal failed to win an away league game in which they had a two-goal lead for the first time since April 2023 at West Ham, stretching back 18 matches.

Forward Saka, who ended a 15-match goal drought in all competitions, said there was a "big difference" with how his side performed in the second half compared to the first.

## Newcastle star Gordon channels Shearer after breaking his record

BY CIARAN KELLY, BBC

ANTHONY Gordon had already scored a hat-trick. But the ruthless Newcastle United forward only had one thought in his mind at the Tofiq Bahramov Republican Stadium.

Gordon had just won his side a penalty against Qarabag in the first leg of their last 16 Champions League play-off tie, and he was not about to hand the ball over after Kieran Trippier felt Nick Woltemade should get a chance to take the spot-kick.

It brought back one or two memories of the single-mindedness of Newcastle's greatest ever goalscorer, Alan Shearer.

In fact, after already netting four goals against Sheffield Wednesday, in 1999, Shearer told striker Paul Robinson where to go after his teammate asked him if he could take a spot-kick.

So it was rather fitting that this was a night where Gordon overtook the Newcastle legend as the club's all-time top scorer in the Champions League with 10 goals.

"We should be in it together," Gordon told TNT Sports after netting four goals in his side's 6-1 win. "But I'm an attacker. I'm the penalty taker, so I want to score as many goals as I possibly can."

Qarabag, in truth, played right into Gordon's hands. This side had previously drawn against Chelsea and defeated Benfica, Eintracht Frankfurt and Copenhagen. But the sight of the rapid Gordon playing further forward than Woltemade appeared to catch Qarabag a little cold.

By the time they finally readjusted, and dropped deeper in the second half, the damage had been done, as Match of the Day pundit Thomas Hitzlsperger noted. "I have to say I was surprised by how high Qarabag defended, and how they kept a high line in the first half when the Newcastle goals were going in," he said.

"I was thinking, 'are they not watching Newcastle and their recent games?'"

Because why did they allow so much space for Gordon, who was brilliant all evening?"

Gordon has impressed in such a role away from home in recent weeks - opening the scoring at Anfield last month

and setting up Jacob Ramsey's winner against Spurs last week.

He gives Eddie Howe's side something different through the middle with his movement and pace, and the Azerbaijan Premier League champions could not cope.

"I think he's been really good in that position," Howe said. "Looking back to the Liverpool game, where I thought he was excellent, he scores.

"He's shown he wants to play there and then he's got the quality to play there. His pressing today was incredible for us. That gave us the platform to rebuild off of his work.

"Of course he's taken the four goals and will get the headlines, naturally, but his all-round game was really strong."

Gordon's first goal set the tone for Newcastle. It only took the rapid forward two minutes to open the scoring after he beat the offside trap to latch on to Dan Burn's through ball before coolly picking out the bottom corner.

Having scored his second from the spot, to make it 3-0, Gordon's speed caused Qarabag problems once again from the restart just seconds later when he pounced on some slack play from defender Kevin Medina and rounded Mateusz Kochalski to score his hat-trick.



Gordon /HANDOUT

## Benfica claim 'defamation campaign' against Prestianni

BY CIARAN KELLY

BENFICA claim there is a "defamation campaign" against Gianluca Prestianni after Uefa launched an investigation into claims he racially abused Real Madrid winger Vinicius Jr.

Tuesday's Champions League tie at Benfica was halted for 10 minutes after Vinicius reported alleged racist abuse to referee Francois Letexier and he and his team-mates left the field.

Brazil international Vinicius, who has been a victim of numerous incidents of racist abuse during his playing career, later said in a post on Instagram: "Racists are, above all, cowards."

Prestianni, who could face a minimum 10-match ban from European competition if found guilty, denied directing racial abuse at Vinicius.

On Wednesday, Benfica defended Prestianni via a post on their official X account, alongside a video of the alleged incident, saying: "Given the distance, the Real Madrid players could not have heard what they claim to have heard."

The club added they "fully support" and believe the version of events presented by Prestianni.

"[Prestianni's] conduct in the service of the club has always been guided by respect for opponents, institutions and the principles that define Benfica's identity," Benfica added.

"The club regrets the defamation campaign of which the player has been a victim."

Benfica manager Jose Mourinho has been criticised for comments he made after the-



Benfica's Nicholas Otamendi argues with Real players/HANDOUT

match, including saying Vinicius had been disrespectful in his goal celebration.

Former referee Mark Clattenburg, who was a pundit for the match on Amazon Prime, apologised on Wednesday for his "clumsy" comments on the incident.

Clattenburg said Vinicius had "not helped himself" and made things difficult for the referee.

"Nothing justifies racism in sport or in life. I'm grateful to have a chance to follow-up on last night. I got it wrong, I'm sorry," the 50-year-old posted on X., external

"It was live TV, my job is to respond to the moment and the words I used were clumsy and not right.

"I'm already learning from this and appreciate my colleagues who covered the situation with class throughout."

Mourinho said in his post-match interview that he had been told different things by Vinicius and Prestianni regarding the incident.

The Portuguese, who managed Real for 178 games between 2010 and 2013, pointed to their legendary striker Eusebio as proof that Benfica is not a racist club.

## FOOTBALL

## SURPRISE AWAIT GUNNERS?

North London derby puts Spurs' coach Tudor's new era to the test

DAVID BILINGTON

## PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW



## TOTTENHAM VS ARSENAL

THIS match will offer a clear measure of how effectively newly installed Tottenham interim coach Igor Tudor has managed to organise his side after only a few days on the training ground.

The players have had to adapt quickly to a completely different coaching philosophy, alongside the new methods introduced by his four recently appointed assistants. In many ways, this is probably the one opponent Tottenham Hotspur would have preferred to avoid for Tudor's first match in charge.

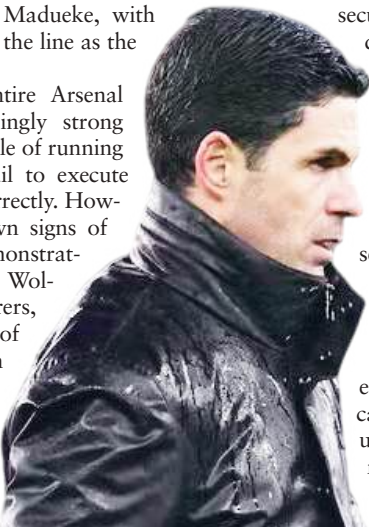
Tudor is determined to protect his reputation as a manager capable of rescuing clubs caught in perilous relegation battles. He understands that assembling a strong run of results would place him in a prime position to secure the manager's role permanently.

His teams typically adopt a physical, high-intensity approach, which could see his forwards directly testing Arsenal's robust defensive line, potentially comprising Piero Hincapié, William Saliba and one of Cristhian Mosquera, Ben White or Jurriën Timber.

Going forward, Arsenal appear extremely potent. Bukayo Saka will be especially motivated after signing his new £75 million contract. He is expected to drift inside for much of the contest, operating between the in-form Leandro Trossard and Noni Madueke, with Gabriel Jesus leading the line as the central striker.

On paper, the entire Arsenal line-up looks alarmingly strong and more than capable of running riot if Tottenham fail to execute their tactical plan correctly. However, they have shown signs of vulnerability, as demonstrated in midweek when Wolverhampton Wanderers, currently bottom of the table, held them to a 2-2 draw.

Tudor generally prefers a 3-4-2-1 formation, while Mikel Arteta is



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta/HANDOUT

likely to select his favoured 4-2-3-1 system. Arteta had intended to rotate his squad carefully because of the demanding schedule of Premier League and cup fixtures, building in structured rest periods for key players.

However, injuries to Kai Havertz, Martin Ødegaard, Max Dowman and Mikel Merino have restricted his ability to rotate as planned. Even so, Arsenal arguably possess the most talented substitutes' bench in the Premier League, giving Arteta considerable depth and quality to call upon.

Midfield could ultimately determine the outcome of this contest. Declan Rice, Eberechi Eze and Martín Zubimendi are arguably among the finest midfield combinations in Europe when in full flow.

Should Zubimendi not start, former Brentford captain Christian Nørgaard is fully capable of delivering a strong and disciplined performance. At the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Conor Gallagher has settled effectively alongside Yves Bissouma and Pape Matar Sarr.

While that trio work hard and show good understanding, they could find themselves overpowered by Arsenal's technically gifted midfield unit.

Tudor has conducted training sessions behind closed doors this week, with added security measures in place, making it difficult to judge which players have impressed him during his brief five-day assessment period.

From discussions and team talks, it is clear he intends to maximise home advantage in front of one of the country's loudest and most demanding sets of supporters.

He plans to press aggressively from the first whistle, move the ball with speed and purpose, and involve Dominic Solanke as early as possible. Solanke's physical presence and direct style could unsettle Arsenal's defenders if he receives the right service.

He is capable of producing spectacular goals, though he has also been known to drift

out of matches, something no Tottenham player can afford against such formidable opponents.

Arteta will aim to dominate both the wide areas and central midfield. Saka and Gabriel Martinelli offer significant attacking threat, with the ability to deliver incisive assists as well as

score themselves.

After consulting several bookmakers, I found that Arsenal are considered to have roughly a 70 per cent chance of winning this encounter. Nevertheless, depending on the effectiveness of Tottenham's preparation this week, a draw might represent a respectable outcome for both sides. Should Spurs score early, the atmosphere inside the stadium could become a decisive factor, driving the team forward with belief as every player seeks to impress their new manager.

## EVERTON VS MAN UNITED

This Monday evening kick-off promises to be a compelling encounter, with both sides having demonstrated noticeable improvement in recent weeks.

Everton are no longer a straightforward opponent under David Moyes, while Michael Carrick has made an encouraging and confident start as interim manager of Manchester United.

The Hill Dickinson Stadium provides Everton with a genuine advantage. The pitch is compact and the supporters are among the most passionate — and certainly the loudest — in the league.

If United's attacking quartet of Bryan Mbeumo, Matheus Cunha, Bruno Fernandes and Amad Diallo hit top form simultaneously, they could cause serious problems for Everton's defence.

However, they will need to overcome the physical resilience of James Tarkowski, with Vitaliy Mykolenko at left-back engaged in what should be a fascinating duel with Diallo, and Jarrod Branthwaite providing additional support. Behind them stands the excellent Jordan Pickford, whose presence alone makes scoring significantly more difficult.



Tottenham manager Igor Tudor/HANDOUT

## THE MATCHDAY LENS

BY TEDDY MULEI



## Arsenal, City in focus as EPL title charge hot up, Gor look to extend lead

## Tottenham vs Arsenal

[Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Sunday at 7:30 pm]

An out-of-sorts Tottenham side welcome table-topping Arsenal for an encounter that rarely disappoints and seldom lacks edge, the North London derby.

Form often goes out of the window when these two collide with pride, noise and raw emotion usually taking over.

Recent history, though, tilts firmly in Arsenal's favour. The Gunners have won their last three league visits to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and dismantled Spurs 4-1 in the reverse fixture at the Emirates earlier this season.

Yet this is not a flawless Arsenal machine. Mikel Arteta's men have stuttered in the title race, surrendering valuable ground with draws against Wolves (2-2) and Brentford (1-1).

What remains razor sharp, however, is their set-piece threat, with 24 goals from dead-ball situations in all competitions, the highest return across Europe's top five leagues.

Spurs, meanwhile, are navigating a new era under Igor Tudor. The Croatian has injected intensity and vertical thrust, but consistency remains elusive.

The last time Tottenham beat Arsenal in the league was a fiery 3-0 win in May 2022.

Home advantage, a new tactical voice in the dugout and the sheer unpredictability of a derby could rattle Arsenal's rhythm. Further, Arsenal's last two League draws may have, in a sense, dented their rhythm and charge.

The match will no doubt be intense with the possibility of a high-scoring tie.

**Prediction: Tottenham 2-1 Arsenal**

## Manchester City vs Newcastle

[Etihad Stadium, Saturday at 11 pm]

Manchester City return to the Etihad knowing any slip from Arsenal must be punished. Pep Guardiola's side are unbeaten in four and beginning to hum with the familiar mechanical precision that defines title run-ins.

Newcastle arrive with more questions than answers. Just one win in their last five league outings has dented momentum, though their 2-1 victory over City at St James' Park earlier this season proves they can land a blow.

History, however, offers little comfort for the Magpies in Manchester. Newcastle have not picked up any points away at the Etihad in the league since November 2006, when they held City to a 1-1 draw.

Visits since have largely been exercises in damage limitation. City's squad depth and attacking fluency make them formidable on home soil. The rotations, the control, and the suffocating possession will see them dominate play. Still, Newcastle's high press and direct transitions can trouble even elite sides. If they disrupt City's build-up and attack space with pace, they will have moments.

**Prediction: Manchester City 3-1 Newcastle**

## Gor Mahia vs KCB

Nyayo Stadium, Sunday at 4 pm

Record KPL champions Gor Mahia host seventh-placed KCB with the title picture quietly sharpening.

Gor arrive on a commanding 10-game unbeaten streak, exuding the calm authority of a side that knows how to grind out results.

KCB, the bankers, have managed just two wins in their last five league matches and face a stern examination at Nyayo. The recent head-to-head tells its own story. In their last 10 league meetings, Gor have won four, five have ended level, and KCB have triumphed just once.

The margins are typically slim with 1-0 scorelines and goalless stalemates dominating this fixture.

The last encounter ended in a narrow 1-0 victory for Gor, another demonstration of their ability to edge tight contests.

With AFC Leopards trailing by six points, Gor have every incentive to stretch the gap and tighten their grip at the summit. Their squad depth, defensive structure and sharper attacking patterns suggest control.

KCB remain organised and disciplined, but against a Gor side in rhythm, they may struggle to dictate terms.

It may not be a goal fest, it may not be spectacular, but it could be decisive.

**Prediction: Gor Mahia 2-0 KCB**

## Is England headed for 5th Champions League spot?

XINHUA

WITH the knockout phase of all three European competitions having started this week, how is the race for the extra places in the Champions League shaping up?

The two nations which perform best across the Champions League, Europa League and Conference League this season will be handed European Performance Spots (EPS) by Uefa. That means fifth place in the Premier League table could go from being a Europa League place to a ticket into the Champions League—Newcastle benefited this way last season.

To work out who are the successful nations, Uefa takes into consideration the overall performance of clubs in the Champions League, Europa League and Conference League. It creates an average by taking the total coefficient score and dividing it by the number of clubs each league has in European competition. So, the Premier League has a

total score of 188.625 this season. Divide that by nine clubs and you get an average of 20.958. The top two leagues in the table get an extra place in the Champions League. Each win—regardless of the competition—is worth two coefficient points, with a draw worth one.

The key differential is in bonus points awarded based on clubs' finishing positions in the league phase and knockout rounds, as these are much higher in the Champions League. By way of an example, the teams that finish 25th-36th in the Champions League got six bonus points - even though they were eliminated. Yet the team who finished top of the Conference League table - Strasbourg - received just four points.

Bonus points for progressing through the knockout rounds are also weighted. In the Champions

League it is 1.5, Europa League 1, and Conference League 0.5. This means it is almost certain that one of the top European leagues will get the extra places each season because they have

more clubs in the

Champions League.

With all

bonus points now

dished out, the table is taking shape.

Last season, the Premier League's

extra place in the

Champions League was confirmed on April 8.

Such has been the high level of English clubs' performance in the top competition this season that it could come earlier this time.



Pep Guardiola/XINHUA

## FOOTBALL

How Kiganjo Police Training College sparked Mburu's Olympic dream

SEE PAGES 34-35



FRIDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026

# starSPORT



Lionesses' Freshia Awino in action against China in a past match /FILE

## Lionesses target sharper restarts ahead of Uruguay leg

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

KENYA Lionesses interim head coach Simon Odongo has identified kickoff reception and decision-making as areas to improve ahead of next month's World Rugby Sevens Challenger Series leg in Uruguay.

Lionesses finished fifth out of six teams in last weekend's Division One leg at Nyayo Stadium.

"Looking at the overall picture, we struggled at kickoff restarts in many games and our decision-making in some matches — where we

chose to kick instead of pass or ran into opponents instead of looking for space," said Odongo.

On restarts, he admitted the team must adapt to its physical profile.

"In regards to kickoff reception, we don't have tall girls, so we have to adapt and improve the lifter and the catcher going forward," he said.

Odongo remains optimistic about the team's prospects, especially after falling to narrow defeats.

"If you look at our results, the margins were less than seven points. If we clean up certain facets of play,

we will be in contention to win matches," he added.

The former Quins' assistant coach stressed the importance of improving their conversion rate.

"Our kicking for conversions has to be better. We will work on that with Geace Okulu once we resume training. Those two points are very important, especially in tight matches," said Odongo.

The tactician wants the players to cope better with the pressure of performing in front of large home crowds.

## ★SWIMMING

### Aquatics set for massive restructuring

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

KENYA'S swimming landscape is set for a major shift after the Kenya Aquatics technical committee and coaches commission unveiled plans to develop a comprehensive curriculum to harmonise training and coaching standards.

The curriculum will provide a clear and structured pathway for swimmer development — from beginner level to high performance — ensuring consistency in coaching methods.

KAs technical director, Omar Omari, said the framework is designed to align the country's coaching programmes with global standards. "This will provide a clear, structured pathway for swimmer development from beginner stages to high-performance level to ensure practices remain consistent and well coordinated nationwide," he said.

The curriculum will outline what swimmers should learn at every stage of development, the key technical skills to be mastered, and the most effective training methods to support safe and progressive growth. "This will give coaches a shared reference point for planning sessions, assessing performance and competition preparation," Omari noted.

Beyond athlete development, the initiative is expected to strengthen coach education. Omari said coaching courses and certification programmes will be built around the curriculum, making it easier to develop technically sound coaches equipped with modern training methods. The framework will also support continuous professional development through updated modules, workshops and mentoring opportunities.

## GOLF

# A REASON TO SMILE

## Kibugu aims to build on strong

BY MUIGAI KIGURU

KENYA'S Njoroge Kibugu will look to carry forward his attacking approach into the second round of the 2026 Magical Kenya Open after opening with a four-under-par 66 on Thursday.

The 22-year-old combined patience on the front nine with aggressive scoring on the back, posting five birdies against a single bogey.

His back-nine charge included three consecutive birdies, signalling the type of controlled risk-taking he hopes to repeat on Friday.

"The golf course was good. I started well. It was quite a hot start in the morning, but I managed to pull it through," he said. Kibugu admitted that consistency on the greens remains an area for improvement, but he intends to stick to his strategy of creating chances and capitalising on them. "I turned four under. I created a lot of chances which I utilised well. I got myself opportunities and made good use of them. I, however, dropped at 17," he noted.

In Kibugu's words, the course is firmer than expected, which offers players the chance to position shots.

Kibugu believes this suits his style of aggressive, chance-making golf. "I am happy, as surprisingly it has not been that wet. If it doesn't rain, then it will firm up well," he said.

Kibugu's four shots off the early lead put him comfortably inside the projected cut line, which will be known at the end of Friday's round.

Meanwhile, Sweden's Niklas Lemke and South Africa's Casey Jarvis fired brilliant eight-under-par 62s to share the lead after the opening round. Both players combined precise shot-making with aggressive finishes, setting the pace early in the tournament.

Scotland's David Law and Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat sit just behind on seven-under-par 63, while a cluster of players, including Ryggs Johnston (USA), Angel Ayora (ESP), Ricardo Gouveia (POR), and Sweden's Joakim Lagergren and Mikael Lindberg, are six under.

Several other players, including Rocco Repetto Taylor (ESP), Antoine Rozner (FRA), and Jason Scrivener (AUS), are five under, keeping the leaderboard tight and competitive.

With 156 golfers in the field and only the top 65 and ties making the cut, every shot matters. Friday's Round Two will be crucial as leaders aim to maintain momentum and challengers attempt to climb the standings.



Njoroge Kibugu during round one of the Magical Kenya Open at Karen Golf Club on Thursday/HANDOUT



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**THE SELECTION PANEL FOR THE SELECTION OF NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL  
COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION (NCIC)  
The National Cohesion and Integration Act, 2019 (CAP 7N)**

Pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 4 of the First Schedule of the National Cohesion and Integration Act, the Selection Panel invited applications from suitably qualified persons for nomination for appointment to the positions of Chairperson and Members of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission on 30th January 2026. The advert closed on 13th February, 2026 at 5.00 p.m. (EAT) and the applications received were as follows:

**(A) LIST OF APPLICANTS**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County
1.	Elkana Kathie Nyaga	Male	Embu
2.	Abdisalam Sheikh Mohamed	Male	Garissa
3.	Kauma Jim Gitonga	Male	Embu
4.	Margaret Wanjuhi Chege	Female	Kajiado
5.	Julius Wafula Wabwile	Male	Bungoma
6.	Thomas Letangule	Male	Baringo
7.	Ahmed Osman	Male	Marsabit
8.	Julius Okoth Nudi	Male	Kisumu
9.	Benard Krade Yaite	Male	Busia
10.	Winnie Jeptum Bargaroria	Female	Uasin Gishu
11.	William Otieno Oketch	Male	Homabay
12.	Jackson Kiboko	Male	Tharaka Nithi
13.	Nancy Wanjiku Kariuki	Female	Laikipia
14.	Ngairah James Liguyani	Male	Tharaka Nithi
15.	Vincent Kinas Makokha	Male	Trans Nzoia
16.	Ogweyo Peter Ogal	Male	Siaya
17.	Wilfred Yano Chepkole	Male	West Pokot
18.	Joseph Kyavoa	Male	Kitui
19.	Samson Aliton Okello	Male	Not Indicated
20.	Patrick Ayiecho Olweny	Male	Kisumu
21.	Ogotu Edward Obudo	Male	Siaya
22.	Lul Abdiwahid	Female	Garissa
23.	Zeth Ouma Omollo	Male	Nyamira
24.	Maurice O. Otsieno	Male	Siaya
25.	Nancy Oundo Dalla	Male	Busia
26.	Nasore Soloi Seet	Male	Kajiado
27.	Muronga Kadurenge Benard	Male	Vihiga
28.	Ambrose Lkusulan Lochokwe	Male	Marsabit
29.	Juvinalis Atancha	Male	Narok
30.	Joseph Kipkirui Rono	Male	Bomet
31.	Josephine Apondi Opiyo	Female	Migori
32.	Moses Ngemu Somoine	Male	Kajiado
33.	Margaret Wairimu Chege	Female	Nyandarua
34.	Robert Okelo Arunga	Male	Homa Bay
35.	Mohamud Ali Saleh	Male	Wajir
36.	Mary Ciambaka Mwiandi	Female	Tharaka Nithi
37.	Yufnalis Ndege Okubo	Male	Busia
38.	Jacqueline Wawira Mbogo	Female	Embu
39.	Abdirizak Hussein Shafat	Male	Garissa
40.	Dennis Banda Aroka	Male	Homa Bay
41.	Charity Rebecca Wako Kagwi	Female	Kiambu
42.	Celestine Chepchirchir Mutai	Female	Uasin Gishu
43.	Micah Pkopos Powon	Male	West Pokot
44.	Vincent Ongato Rapando	Male	Kakamega
45.	Gilbert William Opanga	Male	Vihiga
46.	Julius Yiega	Male	Homa Bay
47.	Praxedes Chepkoech Tororey	Female	Nandi
48.	Timothy Kariuki Mwangi	Male	Kirinyaga
49.	James Ibrae Abudho	Male	Marsabit
50.	Joseph Riwongole Ngoriakou	Male	West Pokot
51.	Elijah Kiprof Kipkoros	Male	Baringo
52.	Sam Ochieng	Male	Homa Bay
53.	Francis Anyona	Male	Not Indicated
54.	Daniel Juma Omondi	Male	Siaya
55.	Evans Makori Ombongi	Male	Kisii
56.	Joseph Kaberia Arimba	Male	Meru
57.	Murakaru Wahome	Male	Kiambu
58.	Wilson Kuria Thuita	Male	Muranga
59.	Josephine Anyango Oduol	Female	Siaya
60.	Betty Atieno Radier	Female	Kisumu
61.	Beatrice Karwitha Kiragu	Female	Meru
62.	Redempta Kavindu	Female	Machakos
63.	Beatrice Mugeni Meso	Female	Busia
64.	Purity Kithiru Gitonga	Female	Meru
65.	Juma Silas Malemo	Male	Bungoma
66.	Elijah Kitur	Male	Nandi
67.	Kepha Nyamweya Omae	Male	Kisii
68.	Alice Atieno Otuala	Female	Siaya

69.	Nelly Ilongo	Female	Taita Taveta
70.	David Alvin Alkelola	Male	Kakamega
71.	Hassan Mahmoud Haji	Male	Garissa
72.	Geoffrey Kipnetich Korir	Male	Kericho
73.	George Morara Monyoncho	Male	Kisii
74.	John Oloishuro Konchellah	Male	Narok
75.	Jane Apetet Nashida	Female	Turkana
76.	John Otieno Ondego	Male	Kisumu
77.	Bellinda Akoth Akello	Female	Siaya
78.	Pamela Awino Akello	Female	Homa Bay
79.	Kennedy Onyonyi	Male	Homa Bay

**(ii) MEMBER**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County
1.	Fredrick Mainda Nyang'au	Male	Kisii
2.	Leonard Ndung'u Karau	Male	Kiambu
3.	Kennedy Onyango Ochuka	Male	Kisumu
4.	Rodgers Ombeck Oyoo	Male	Migori
5.	Simon Owawa Nyamolo (PWD)	Male	Nairobi
6.	Justine Anyango Ochieng	Female	Homa Bay
7.	Phobian Simiyu Lusweti	Male	Trans Nzoia
8.	Mibei Kiplangat Geoffrey	Male	Kericho
9.	Hassan Issack Hache	Male	Mandera
10.	Anthony L. Mbocho Mwakaba	Male	Taita Taveta
11.	Benard Lipesa Chetambe	Male	Bungoma
12.	Isaac Wafula	Male	Busia
13.	Ilhan Ahmed Bakir Abass	Female	Mandera
14.	Kennedy Kwoba Ogonji	Male	Kakamega
15.	Joseph King'ori Nyuyo	Male	Nyeri
16.	Christopher Simiyu Khisa (PWD)	Male	Bungoma
17.	Gordon Omondi Odhiambo	Male	Homa Bay
18.	Nickson Shedrack Amitai	Male	Lamu
19.	Lucy Wanja Julius	Female	Meru
20.	Ahmed Billow Osman	Male	Wajir
21.	Elkana Kathie Nyaga	Male	Embu
22.	Abdisalam Sheikh Mohamed	Male	Garissa
23.	Wycliffe Obiki Meshuko	Male	Narok
24.	Nixon Gecheo Mageka	Male	Kisii
25.	Eric Kipkoech Ng'etich	Male	Bomet
26.	Lengupae Martino	Male	Samburu
27.	Alexander Mwendwa Kimilu	Male	Makueni
28.	Parkusaa John Merinyi	Male	Nyeri
29.	Jim Gitonga Kauma	Male	Embu
30.	Romeo Ogeto Tom	Male	Kisii
31.	Nelson Mosiborwa Omwoyo	Male	Nyamira
32.	Salma Otunga	Female	Bungoma
33.	Lamech Willy Arisa	Male	Nyamira
34.	Hassan Hajji Kassim	Male	Wajir
35.	Kennedy Ouma Ogindi	Male	Migori
36.	Wesley Muragai	Male	Not Indicated
37.	Jacob Kiprof Chamdany	Male	Narok
38.	Billow Khalid, HSC	Male	Wajir
39.	Margert W. Naserian Gakami	Female	Kajiado
40.	Hannah Njeri Maina	Female	Nakuru
41.	Fred Opiyo Jonyo	Male	Migori
42.	Cornelius Kiprono Serem	Male	Not Indicated
43.	George Onyango Jobando	Male	Migori
44.	Shadrack Kimutai Kirop	Male	Trans Nzoia
45.	John Kibaso Warioba	Male	Migori
46.	Happi Adan Happi	Male	Isiolo
47.	Jane Musangi Mutua	Female	Kitui
48.	Peter Nyamai Nzuki	Male	Makueni
49.	Joseph Riwongole Ngoriakou	Male	West Pokot
50.	Abdirashid Yussuf Abdinoor	Male	Garissa
51.	Alex Natembeya Matere	Male	Trans Nzoia

52.	Mohamed Rashid Hassan Hussein	Male	Mandera
53.	Mathew Mamo Isako	Male	Laikipia
54.	Jackson Swadi Kedogo	Male	Nandi
55.	Julius Wafula Wabwile	Male	Bungoma
56.	Paul Igweta Mungathia	Male	Meru
57.	Alphonse Bashani Soso	Male	Tana River
58.	Abdirahman Maalim Abdullahi	Male	Mandera
59.	Dennis Kipngeno Cheruiyot	Male	Bomet
60.	Ruth Jelagat Tubey	Female	Nandi
61.	Edward Kibiwott Boor	Male	Uasin Gishu
62.	Kelvin Kiuna Mbae	Male	Murang'a
63.	Anne Lanoi Pertet	Female	Narok
64.	Jacob Etenyi Nyawanga	Male	Kakamega
65.	Johathan Rutto Tyno Rotino	Male	West Pokot
66.	Thomas Letangule	Male	Baringo
67.	Teresa Jerusalem Mwaathime Michael	Female	Kitui
68.	Ngahu Daniel Muiruri	Male	Murang'a
69.	William Kipyego Birech	Male	Nandi
70.	Eddy Smith Otieno	Male	Kisumu
71.	Washington Opiyo Sati (PWD)	Male	Kisumu
72.	Junior David Omollo	Male	Homa Bay
73.	Ahmed Abdikadir Nunow	Male	Garissa
74.	Daniel Mwendwa Maluki	Male	Kitui
75.	David Olanana Loolpapit	Male	Narok
76.	Elga Jebichii Kiprotich	Female	Baringo
77.	Joel Ongoto	Male	Nyamira
78.	Onyango Ondeng	Male	Not Indicated
79.	Godfrey Irungu Njenga	Male	Nyandarua
80.	Mohamed Abdullahi Abayle	Male	Wajir
81.	Ahmed Osman	Male	Marsabit
82.	Chelang'a L. R. Maiyo	Male	E/Marakwet
83.	Joshua E. Turuga	Male	Not Indicated
84.	Michael H. Mwasho Mwakodi	Male	Taita Taveta
85.	Mohamed Dahir Noor	Male	Garissa
86.	Mwereria Victor Munene	Male	Meru
87.	Lemashon Nicholas Meyoki	Male	Narok
88.	Regina Mutiru Mwendwa	Female	Kirinyaga
89.	Julius Okoth Nudi	Male	Siaya
90.	Samuel Mwachiro Mwawasi	Male	Taita Taveta
91.	Anisetu Rugendo Justus Makunyi	Male	Meru
92.	Catherine Chepkemioi Mukenyang	Female	West Pokot
93.	Jire Siyat Mohamed	Male	Tana River
94.	Benard Krade Yaite	Male	Busia
95.	Jane Wanjiru Njuguna (PWD)	Female	Kiambu
96.	Winnie Jeptum Bargaroria	Female	Uasin Gishu
97.	Issa Ahmed Abdi	Male	Wajir
98.	Fred Lekoren Lengees	Male	Samburu
99.	Andrew Okwach Ayarah	Male	Kisumu
100.	Moses Ekai Erus	Male	Turkana
101.	Issa Garore Irobe	Male	Wajir
102.	Maureen Keeru M'iti	Female	Meru
103.	Razoa M. Kereda-Vitisia	Female	Not Indicated
104.	Kibiwot Tanui	Male	Not Indicated
105.	William Otieno Oketch	Male	Homa Bay
106.	Abdi Ahmed Madey	Male	Mandera
107.	Johnson Mwirigi Rithaa	Male	Meru
108.	Philip Mbaji Kaulu	Male	Kilifi
109.	Simon Kipchirchir Toroitich	Male	Trans Nzoia
110.	Fredrick J. Kibuti Nyagah	Male	Embu
111.	Florence Chemtai-Tirop	Female	Uasin Gishu
112.	Casty Kaimuri Micheni	Female	Meru
113.	Tiffany Ndanu Ndunda	Female	Machakos
114.	Isaac Kipkorir Cherutoi	Male	Baringo
115.	Mourice Otieno Achola (PWD)	Male	Siaya
116.	Kennedy Omoro Mosoti	Male	Nyamira
117.	Julius Muga Ogayo (PWD)	Male	Homa Bay

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118.	Kipyegon Keronei Cherutich	Male	Baringo
119.	Bruce Collins Nyaruri Nyagaka	Male	Trans Nzoia
120.	Nancy Wanjiku Kariuki	Female	Laikipia
121.	Nelson Kiogora Gituma	Male	Meru
122.	Jackson Pchuma Alukusia	Male	West Pokot
123.	Dorothy Moirana Mwenchi	Female	Kajiado
124.	Peter Kiplimo Chorwa	Male	Uasin Gishu
125.	Johnston Nyongesa Aromo	Male	Bungoma
126.	Pius Wamalwa Munialo	Male	Trans Nzoia
127.	Kipkoech Mutai Gideon	Male	Kericho
128.	Ngairah James Liguyani	Male	Kakamega
129.	Joyce Akai Emanikor (PWD)	Female	Turkana
130.	Mohamed Barre Muhumed	Male	Garissa
131.	Alex Cleland Atingo	Male	Vihiga
132.	Margert Iyasi Lesuuda	Female	Laikipia
133.	Hussein Bare Aden	Male	Garissa
134.	Patrick Wakaba Mathu	Male	Kiambu
135.	Mohamed Khalif Abdirahman	Male	Garissa
136.	Jackson Ndere Kiboro	Male	Tharaka Nithi
137.	Elizabeth Cirindi Kirema	Female	Meru
138.	Dennis Kipkirui Koech	Male	Bomet
139.	Bruce Kiprotich Chtalu	Male	Bomet
140.	Boniface Kalinda Mulli	Male	Machakos
141.	Bartoo Jelagat Francisca	Female	E/Marakwet
142.	Kebene Francis Mangiteni	Male	Migori
143.	Suleman Buko Yesse	Male	Tana River
144.	Jephthan Njagi Karingo	Male	Kirinyaga
145.	Khalid Ashur Mahmud	Male	Kitui
146.	Agnes Waitihira Ibara	Female	Embu
147.	Roney Mayow Yussuf	Female	Wajir
148.	Mohamed Abdullahi Abdi	Male	Wajir
149.	Salim Mohamed Ibrahim	Male	Mandera
150.	Caroline Wanjiru Kinyanjui	Female	Nyandarua
151.	Bosco Mutegi Kiura	Male	Embu
152.	Emily Cherono Mosenik Sawe	Female	Bomet
153.	Hassan Sheikh Mohamed	Male	Not Indicated
154.	Irene Chepoisho Tulel	Female	West Pokot
155.	Evanson Kimayo Maiyo	Male	Trans Nzoia
156.	Vincent Kinasa Makokha	Male	Trans Nzoia
157.	Ogweyo Peter Ogalo	Male	Siaya
158.	Wilfred Yano Chepkole	Male	West Pokot
159.	Aruasa Chepkirui Evalyn	Female	Bomet
160.	Brian Bwire Juma	Male	Busia
161.	Pamela E. Ayieko Otenyo	Female	Vihiga
162.	Joyce Wanjiru Munyua	Female	Nyandarua
163.	Pauline Petro Mukasa	Female	Kwale
164.	Morris Mung'oma Malaba, (PWD)	Male	Bungoma
165.	Walter Jabali Jilani	Male	Lamu
166.	Kibugi Joel Ngugi	Male	Kiambu
167.	David Ojwang Oti	Male	Homa Bay
168.	Mark Muma Arbelle	Male	Marsabit
169.	David Ouma Ochieng	Male	Siaya
170.	Laura Nyangasi Kainga	Female	West Pokot
171.	Charity Boke Chacha	Female	Migori
172.	Joseph Kyavoa	Male	Kitui
173.	Saadi Noor Odowa	Male	Garissa
174.	Esther Kalunda Ndile	Female	Kitui
175.	Samson Aliton Okello	Male	Not Indicated
176.	Linet Jessica Kohanya-Amollo	Male	Siaya
177.	Mohamed Mahmoud Idow	Male	Mandera
178.	Emmanuel Mutisya Mulu	Male	Makueni
179.	Hassan Abdi Abdille	Male	Mandera
180.	Elizabeth Atieno Ayoo	Male	Kisumu
181.	Stephen Kapkwang Cheboi	Male	Nakuru
182.	Adan Barreh Dahir	Male	Wajir
183.	Nyabira Ben Christopher	Male	Nakuru
184.	Chepkiong Kurui Elias	Male	E/Marakwet
185.	Jayne Ndegi Mugambi	Female	Embu
186.	Austine Ochieng Diato	Male	Siaya
187.	John Kipkemai Koskei	Male	Kericho
188.	Abdirahim Mohamed	Male	Mandera
189.	Daniel Chebukati Wafula	Male	Trans Nzoia
190.	Faith Norah Lukosi	Female	Trans Nzoia
191.	Peter Kamau Munyua	Male	Nyandarua
192.	Martin Juma Achola	Male	Not Indicated
193.	Timothy Kipkoge Kiptum	Male	E/Marakwet
194.	Kennedy Ole Kerei Maapta	Male	Kajiado
195.	Elvira Namenge Lwanga	Female	Trans Nzoia
196.	Daisy Akinyi Ochoro	Female	Not Indicated
197.	Daniel Nakeor Losiru	Male	Turkana
198.	Judy Mwende Mutunga	Female	Makueni
199.	Zeinab Mohamed Jirma	Female	Isiolo
200.	Zahra Tume Abduda	Female	Marsabit
201.	Bernard Monga're Mogesa	Male	Nyamira
202.	Edward Obudo Ogutu	Male	Siaya
203.	Nasra Muktar Maalim Ibrahim	Female	Mandera
204.	Anne Kathure Ntoiti	Female	Meru
205.	Lul Abdwahid	Female	Garissa
206.	Zeth Ouma Omollo	Male	Nyamira
207.	Philip Arthur Njuguna Mwanika	Male	Kiambu
208.	Abdilatif Maalim Adan	Male	Mandera
209.	John Lodepe Nakara	Male	Turkana
210.	Robert Okelo Arunga	Male	Homa Bay
211.	Alexander Ldisiyon Labarakwa	Male	Marsabit
212.	Enock Kibet Ngeno	Male	Bomet
213.	Augustine Lojau	Male	Turkana
214.	Felista Nasiandi Lekaram	Male	Samburu
215.	Deka Ibrahim Mohamed	Female	Wajir
216.	Nancy Oundo Dalla	Female	Taita Taveta
217.	Racheal Wangui Mugane	Female	Kirinyaga
218.	Josiah Musili Kang'ulyu	Male	Kitui
219.	Osicho John Oluo	Male	Migori
220.	Nasoore Soloi Seet	Male	Kajiado
221.	Joyce Murugi Njane	Female	Tharaka Nithi
222.	Walter Malongo Bulimu	Male	Nandi
223.	Rachel Wanjiku Maina	Female	Nakuru
224.	Muronga Kadurenge Benard	Male	Vihiga
225.	Alice Manyange Abuki	Female	Kisii
226.	Christine Chepkurui Rotich	Female	Nakuru
227.	Ambrose Lkusulan Lochokwe	Male	Laikipia
228.	Grace Wanjira Ndirangu (PWD)	Female	Trans Nzoia
229.	Geoffrey Kebut Kosgei	Male	Baringo
230.	Hibo Yussuf Hussein	Female	Not Indicated
231.	Ali Nur Hussein	Male	Wajir
232.	Robert Gesanda Momanyi	Male	Uasin Gishu
233.	Mary Chebet Panga	Female	Baringo
234.	Alex Shiiyia Lekaram	Male	Samburu
235.	Shukri Ibrahim Ali	Male	Marsabit
236.	Victor Ijaika Bulemi	Male	West Pokot
237.	Philip Poghisyo Ptiso	Male	West Pokot
238.	Samuel Mwakio Mnjau	Male	Taita Taveta
239.	Emmanuel Lokicha Kaliakamur	Male	West Pokot
240.	Bilhah Muthoni Ng'ang'a	Female	Nyandarua
241.	Veronica Muthoni Mwirichia	Female	Meru
242.	Gordon Onyango Akongo	Male	Homa Bay
243.	Gideon Maritim K. Birech	Male	Nakuru
244.	Khasandi Tebla Amukanga	Female	Kakamega
245.	Joseph Kipkirui Rono	Male	Bomet
246.	Adhan Nuri Berhe	Male	Tana River
247.	Joel Mwita Daniel	Male	Migori
248.	Stanley Kamau Maina	Male	Murang'a
249.	Josephine Apondi Opiyo	Female	Migori
250.	Duke Ontiro Mobegi	Male	Kisii
251.	Silvester Wanjohi Wambugu	Male	Nyeri
252.	Susan Wanjiru Gitari	Female	Embu
253.	Oguda Bruno Obodha	Male	Migori
254.	Fred Juma Wasilwa	Male	Bungoma
255.	Florence Wairimu Muturi	Female	Nakuru
256.	Festus Mukoya	Male	Bungoma
257.	Purity Kithiru Gitonga	Female	Meru
258.	Winrose Chepkoech Rono	Female	Kericho
259.	Anthony Kiura Ndwiwa	Male	Embu
260.	Alfred Mulwa Mueke	Male	Kitui
261.	Nixon Atieno Onde	Male	Kisumu
262.	Margaret Wairimu Chege	Female	Nyandarua
263.	Lilian Akinyi Okumu-Obuo	Female	Siaya
264.	Jason Kerandi Nyantino	Male	Kisii
265.	Moses Somoine Ole Sakuda	Male	Kajiado
266.	Philomena Chenangat Loitarangan	Female	West Pokot
267.	Papa Ben Osukuku	Male	Busia
268.	Hezron Cotts Masitsa	Male	Kakamega
269.	Princeley Chepkorir Koech	Female	Bomet
270.	Issa Mohamed Ahmed	Male	Garissa
271.	David Omondi Ondiki	Male	Kisumu
272.	Gertrude Musuruve Inimah (PWD)	Female	Vihiga
273.	Humphrey Tirima Mokaya	Male	Kisii
274.	Hussein Sheikh Muhammad	Male	Wajir
275.	Susan Kajuju Iringo Laimaru	Female	Meru
276.	Nahum Jelagat Tirop	Female	Uasin Gishu
277.	Festus Mutegi M. Marangu	Male	Meru
278.	Japheth Cheruiyot Arap Yegon	Male	Kericho
279.	Abdulaziz Hussein Mohamed	Male	Garissa
280.	Heather Eddah Kipchumba	Female	E/Marakwet
281.	Nasir Matano Ngala	Male	Kwale
282.	Fredrick Odemba	Male	Migori
283.	Catherine Nyaguthii Githae	Female	Nyeri
284.	Susan Chepkisur Chongo-Nakoru	Female	Baringo
285.	Abdiaziz Mohamed Issack	Male	Mandera
286.	Malika Ali Omar	Female	Mombasa
287.	Charles Mureithi Mwaniki	Male	Laikipia
288.	Hardlyne Lusui	Female	Vihiga
289.	Augustine Tioko Logiron	Male	Turkana
290.	Martin Odhiambo Ouma	Male	Homa Bay
291.	Mary Ciambaka Mwiandi	Female	Tharaka Nithi
292.	Gabriel Melita Ndilay	Male	Not Indicated
293.	Eunice Mukami Kiguru	Female	Not Indicated
294.	Hajila Venita Wario	Female	Tana River
295.	Joseph Leboo Masindet	Male	Narok
296.	Peter Mawaitho	Male	Samburu
297.	Yufnalis Ndege Okubo	Male	Busia
298.	Ann Njeri Kioi	Female	Kajiado
299.	Sylvia Jebet Tuikong	Female	Baringo
300.	Ramla Abbas Sheikh	Female	Wajir
301.	Fardosa Abdi Ali Abdulle	Female	Kisumu
302.	Hassan Hussein Abdi	Male	Tana River
303.	Winnie Nyambura Macharia	Female	Murang'a
304.	Pamella Minayo Mackenzie	Female	Vihiga
305.	Anita Cherop Toritich	Female	E/Marakwet
306.	Areba Omwoyo Samba	Male	Nyamira
307.	Grace Ngani Tsuma	Female	Kwale
308.	Mathew Etobo Edung	Male	Turkana
309.	Fredrick Kiriri Gitundu	Male	Tharaka Nithi
310.	Susan Kipketer Chebet	Female	E/Marakwet
311.	Kenton Mutethia Muthaura	Male	Meru
312.	Daniel Jeryot Kirui	Male	Bomet
313.	Dakane Maalim Mohamed	Male	Mandera
314.	Joshua Maboko Echoka	Male	Vihiga
315.	Maruta Abraham Kirema	Male	Tharaka Nithi
316.	Raphael Lakalei Letimalo	Male	Samburu
317.	Terry Mukonza Jillani	Female	Kilifi
318.	Mercy Kalondu Wambua	Female	Machakos
319.	Dennis Banda Aroka	Male	Homa Bay
320.	Maurice Ooko Otsieno	Male	Siaya
321.	Juma Nyunso Budugu	Male	Kwale
322.	Isacko Diba Yattani	Male	Marsabit
323.	Abdirizak Mohamed Abdille	Male	Mandera
324.	Charles Kimiri Mwai	Male	Kiambu
325.	Fridah Jepkoech Lotuiya	Male	Baringo
326.	Ahmed Mohamed Abdi	Male	Not Indicated
327.	Tumaini Victoria	Female	Tana River
328.	Robert Rachami Gutwa	Male	Kisii
329.	Philip Amukoa Owasi	Male	Vihiga
330.	James Kiproo Tuitoek	Male	Baringo
331.	Victor Musyoka Volisi	Male	Kitui
332.	Hassan Mohamed Mutubwa	Male	Kitui
333.	Winnie Atieno Miseda	Female	Siaya
334.	Abdirizak Hussein Shafat	Male	Garissa
335.	Cyrus Kabui Mageria	Male	Nyeri
336.	Osman Hassan Alasow	Male	Wajir
337.	Geoffrey Muneria Cherongis	Male	Bungoma
338.	Stephen Achola Asol Kapinde	Male	Siaya
339.	Dominic Obunga Mitimbo	Male	Homa Bay
340.	Philemon Kipkogei Samoie	Male	Trans Nzoia
341.	Hassein Ahmed Wethow	Male	Mandera
342.	Christopher Galgalo Ali	Male	Marsabit
343.	Richard Mativu Musau, (PWD)	Male	Makueni
344.	Michael Adipo Oyugi, MBS	Male	Kisumu
345.	Kapolon Kaikai Ezekiel	Male	Turkana
346.	Celestine Chepchichirp Mutai	Female	Uasin Gishu
347.	Ali Hussein Abdi	Male	Garissa
348.	Esther Waitihira Chege	Female	Murang'a
349.	John Kihara Mwangi	Male	Trans Nzoia
350.	Consolata Adhiambo Owino Onguto	Female	Siaya
351.	Charity Rebecca Wako Kagwi	Female	Kiambu
352.	Joseph Njonjo Nkamasai	Male	Narok
353.	Mohamed Bunow Korani	Male	Garissa
354.	Ken Njogu Mwangi	Male	Nyeri
355.	Rehana Gobu Bute	Female	Lamu
356.	Zilphah Kageha Andiva	Female	Vihiga
357.	Brian Orieny Oyollo	Male	Kisumu
358.	Emmanuel Kipchirchir	Male	Nandi
359.	Abdikarim Mohamed Abdi	Male	Mandera
360.	Maureen Jemutai Rotich	Female	Baringo
361.	Dickson Lesanayo Keis	Male	Baringo
362.	Fred Wekesa Wafula	Male	Bungoma
363.	Joseph Gathara Mbugua	Male	Kiambu
364.	Rose Njeri Mwangi	Female	Nyeri
365.	Kiambi Stephen	Male	Isiolo
366.	Abdinoor Mohamed Abdi	Male	Wajir
367.	Beatrice Wairimi Gicheha	Female	Murang'a
368.	Abdullahi Siyad Adan	Male	Mandera
369.	Edward Nyongesa Wafula	Male	Bungoma
370.	Graham Amakanji Oluteyo	Male	Kakamega
371.	Samuel Maina Macharia	Male	Murang'a
372.	Dennis Muwira Limungi	Male	Not Indicated
373.	Abduba Mollu Ido	Male	Isiolo
374.	Pascalyn Ntang'noi Kimirri	Female	Laikipia
375.	Vincent Ongato Rapando	Male	Kakamega
376.	Gilbert William Opanga	Male	Vihiga
377.	Murej Otieno Mak'ochieng	Male	Bungoma
378.	Paul Kimutai Kibet	Male	Uasin Gishu
379.	Micah Pkopus Powon	Male	West Pokot
380.	Abubakar Mohamed Adan	Male	Garissa
381.	Lemarron Kaanto	Male	Kajiado
382.	Polly Lilian Wamaita Jessee	Male	Nyeri
383.	Jennings Kipkoech	Male	Kericho
384.	Raffaella Adiyakhiso Bulyaar	Female	Marsabit
385.	Asha Osman Aden	Female	Wajir
386.	Solomon Lucas Lemunen	Male	Samburu
387.	Leonard Njenga	Male	Kiambu
388.	Nelson Marwa Sospeter	Male	Migori
389.	Abdul Kakim Aboud Bwana	Male	Lamu

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390	Samuel Gacheru Gitonga	Male	Nyeri
391	Edward Ekadali Lokidor	Male	Turkana
392	Hillary Kiprof Rutto Marrirmoi	Male	E/Marakwet
393	Kelly Nandasaba Watimah	Male	Not Indicated
394	Benjamin Kiptanui Rop	Male	Uasin Gishu
395	Korow Dahir Issak	Male	Wajir
396	Cherotich Irene	Female	Kericho
397	Praxedes Chepkoech Tororey	Female	Laikipia
398	Ivy Wambui Muchoki	Female	Nyeri
399	Tonia Adhiambo Ochieng	Female	Homa Bay
400	Stephen Omondi Ochieng	Male	Kisumu
401	Stephen Simiyu Namanda	Male	Bungoma
402	Samow Jamal Abdi	Male	Wajir
403	Oscar Kimani Gathura	Male	Murang'a
404	Josephine Kirion Eregae	Female	Isiolo
405	Timothy Ndiritu Waihura	Male	Nyeri
406	Perminus Nyaga Ndimitu	Male	Embu
407	Linet Mosa Mavu	Female	Taita Taveta
408	Ahmed Kanyara Bishar	Male	Wajir
409	Yaqub Gurre Ahmed	Male	Lamu
410.	Yiega Julius	Male	Homa Bay
411.	Rukia Ahmed Sheikh	Female	Wajir
412.	Shadrack Kipyegon Tonui	Male	Bomet
413.	Hassan Omar Guyo	Male	Marsabit
414.	Everlyne Chepkurui Milgo Koske	Male	Nakuru
415.	Pius Onguso Nyakundi	Male	Nyamira
416.	Sarah Pango Mwea	Male	Nyeri
417.	Vincent Kipronoh	Male	Kericho
418.	Margaret Nyakoboke Ogega	Female	Kisii
419.	Patrick Muthomi M'auta	Male	Meru
420.	Thomas Ewoi	Male	Turkana
421.	Adan Dube Hassan	Male	Mandera
422.	Maaruf Abdullahi Ismail	Male	Garissa
423.	John Mwangi Munyiri	Male	Nyeri
424.	Lilian Cheronu Kerich	Female	Uasin Gishu
425.	Timothy Kariuki Mwangi	Male	Kirinyaga
426.	Lula Abdulkadir	Female	Isiolo
427.	David Kipsang Bett	Male	Bomet
428.	Rebecca Khakai Atego	Male	Bungoma
429.	James Ibrae Abudho	Male	Marsabit
430.	Rebecca Chepkemboi	Female	Uasin Gishu
431.	Hussein Abdullah Mahmud	Male	Marsabit
432.	Paul Chemjor	Male	Baringo
433.	Jacob Waweru Macharia	Male	Nakuru
434.	Bett Kipng'etich Elon (PWD)	Male	Narok
435.	Omino Joel	Male	Kisumu
436.	Fidel Ochieng Oduol	Male	Homa Bay
437.	Antony Murakaru Wahome	Male	Kiambu
438.	Daniel Issaacko Bonaya	Male	Marsabit
439.	Wilson Kiptanui Soy	Male	Kericho
440.	Clara Samiji Momanyi	Female	Taita Taveta
441.	Isaac Juma Mwanzo Matayo	Male	Kakamega
442.	Sarah Fedha Barasa	Female	Kakamega
443.	Daniel Juma Omondi	Male	Siaya
444.	Stephanie Marigu Mbogo	Female	Embu
445.	Jarso James Galgalo	Male	Marsabit
446.	Eunice Wangui Karanja	Male	Kirinyaga
447.	Jackline Saleiyen Dorcas	Female	Kajiado
448.	Alois Musa Lentoimaga	Male	Samburu
449.	Brian Ochieng Waswa	Male	Homa Bay
450.	Gethia Adan Mamo	Female	Marsabit
451.	Yunia Jilo Josiah	Female	Tana River
452.	Guyo Guracha Molu	Male	Marsabit
453.	Gloria Edna Wawira	Female	Taita Taveta
454.	Farhiya Mohamed Farah	Female	Wajir
455.	Elias Jama Noor	Male	Wajir
456.	Arabu Metrine Nekesa	Female	Bungoma
457.	Halima Ali Omar	Female	Wajir
458.	Hussein Adan Haji	Male	Mandera
459.	Elijah Kiprof Kipkoros	Male	Baringo
460.	Stanley Kiplagat Rotich	Male	Baringo
461.	Adam Mwenda Hamisi Mwamburi	Male	Taita Taveta
462.	Jane Njeri Mwangi	Female	Murang'a
463.	Mercy Esther Muleshe	Female	Kakamega
464.	Julius Ouma Jwan	Male	Homa Bay
465.	Halima Urgo Omar	Female	Marsabit
466.	Carolyn Namarome Muyila	Female	Uasin Gishu
467.	Hassan Ahmed Billow	Male	Wajir
468.	David Muema Wambua	Male	Machakos
469.	Mohammed Hussein Gabbow	Male	Marsabit
470.	Vincent Kimutai Kimosop	Male	Baringo
471.	Francis Anyona	Male	Not Indicated
472.	Evans Makori Ombongi	Male	Kisii
473.	Joseph Kaberia Arimba	Male	Meru
474.	Qalicha Gufu Wario	Male	Marsabit
475.	Wilson Kuria Thuita	Male	Murang'a
476.	Anne Jekoech Sumbeiywo	Female	Trans Nzoia
477.	Rachael Adhiambo Omollo	Female	Siaya
478.	Josephine Anyango Oduol	Female	Siaya
479.	Manasses Sumbi Nthuku	Male	Makueni
480.	Ephraim Waweru Ngare	Male	Nyeri

481.	Priscilla Chepkurgat Simatwo	Female	Nandi
482.	Omar Hassan Mohamed	Male	Isiolo
483.	Bishar Maalim Abdullahi	Male	Mandera
484.	Lynette Wanjiru Ochieng'	Female	Siaya
485.	Javan Ddaddah Bonaya	Male	Tana River
486.	Anthony Kipkoech Koskei	Male	Not Indicated
487.	Gloria Karambu Nthiga	Male	Tharaka Nithi
488.	Alfrique Otieno Mwana	Male	Kakamega
489.	Mohamed Ahmed Arai	Male	Mandera
490.	Abdirahman Mohamed Adan	Male	Mandera
491.	Lewis Shadrack Kario	Male	Busia
492.	Felix Etyang	Male	Busia
493.	Fatma Mohamed Haji	Female	Mombasa
494.	Benson Kairichi Marimba	Male	Meru
495.	Abdiaziz Abdullahi Ali	Male	Wajir
496.	Edwin Chumo Kimutai	Male	Nandi
497.	Abdikheir Sheikh Ahmed Barrow	Male	Mandera
498.	Shale Ibrahim Abdile	Male	Mandera
499.	Joachim Njui Gachigwa	Male	Nakuru
500.	Douglas Maraga Mang'era	Male	Kisii
501.	Nancy Shinina Wotune	Male	Narok
502.	Beatrice Karwitha Kiragu	Female	Meru
503.	Bilha Nyawira Kamuhia	Female	Nyeri
504.	Lucy Muthoni Wachira Njora	Female	Nakuru
505.	Karen Waithe Saidi	Female	Embu
506.	Samuel Nakope	Male	Samburu
507.	Jillo Alexi Kasse	Male	Tana River
508.	Fredrick Omondi Oyaroh	Male	Siaya
509.	Ivy Wanjiku Muruga	Female	Kiambu
510.	Andrew Baicha Galgidele	Male	Marsabit
511.	Dennis Kiprotich Bii (PWD)	Male	Bomet
512.	Alice Atieno Otswala	Female	Siaya
513.	Laura Hope Lime	Female	Kakamega
514.	Imano Karu Guleid	Male	Not Indicated
515.	Noel Kitoipet Taiyiai	Male	Kajiado
516.	Inyanji Mmasava	Female	Kakamega
517.	Mohamed Abdi Farah	Male	Wajir
518.	Lemargeroi Patrick Saruni	Male	Narok
519.	Abdikani Hassan Gedi	Male	Garissa
520.	Grace Wairimu Mwangi	Female	Nyandarua
521.	Joseph Kiprotich Ng'etich	Male	Uasin Gishu
522.	Bonface Okhiya Otsiula	Male	Bungoma
523.	Laurance Kiboi Kimutai	Male	Bungoma
524.	Masayo Pelela	Male	Narok
525.	Cleophas Ondieki Nyachieo	Male	Kisii
526.	Maryam Dubow Dahir	Female	Mandera
527.	Edward Odhiambo Okello	Male	Kisumu
528.	Faaizah Mohamed Okash	Female	Mandera
529.	Andrew Cherogony Yatich	Male	Baringo
530.	Philip Mutooni Mwangangi	Male	Machakos
531.	Tecla Naitore Lekhale	Female	Samburu
532.	Charles Muriuki Njagagua	Male	Embu
533.	John Mutegi Muriungi	Male	Tharaka Nithi
534.	Silas Malemo Juma	Male	Bungoma
535.	Mohamed Bagajo Duba	Male	Marsabit
536.	Fridah Gacheri Kimaita	Female	Nairobi
537.	Halima Gurai Saney Sheikh	Male	Wajir
538.	Jonah Majau Gaicima	Male	Tharaka Nithi
539.	Emmanuel Nashon Owaga	Male	Homa Bay
540.	Valary Akinyi Otieno	Female	Kisumu
541.	James Wambua Kiilu	Male	Makueni
542.	Mary Kalewa Mutungi	Female	Makueni
543.	Julius Chacha Maroa	Male	Migori
544.	Abdi Osman Abdullahi	Male	Isiolo
545.	Stella Kagendo Ndwiga Ndung'u	Female	Embu
546.	Kezzy Ray Oluoch	Male	Migori
547.	Abdi Ahmed Hassan	Male	Not Indicated
548.	Netty Jemutai	Female	E/Marakwet
549.	Abdi Adan Roba Boyante	Male	Isiolo
550.	Sylas Kipkoech Tochim	Male	Baringo
551.	Alex Kenan Joel Manyasi	Male	Bungoma
552.	Flaura Kidere Mappinga	Female	Taita Taveta
553.	William Kamau Ngoru	Male	Murang'a
554.	Grace Chumba	Female	Nandi
555.	Abdulqani Ibrahim Saytun	Male	Garissa
556.	Yussuf Ahmed Osman	Male	Wajir
557.	Saadia Abdi Kontoma	Female	Wajir
558.	Daisy Cheronu Cheruiyot	Female	Bomet
559.	Guyo Liban Dadacha	Male	Marsabit
560.	Samuel Kurenja Ole Nairoshi	Male	Narok
561.	Amina Challa Abdi	Female	Marsabit
562.	Fatuma Nur Ibrahim	Female	Marsabit
563.	Redempta Kavindu	Female	Makueni
564.	Hassan Mahmoud Haji	Male	Garissa
565.	Faith Ngwetwa Kimanzi	Female	Kitui
566.	Shadrack Kimanzi Musee	Male	Kitui
567.	Geoffrey Kipng'etich Korir	Male	Kericho
568.	Roselyn Chepogeno Langat	Female	Kericho
569.	Peter Kelvin Kiilu	Male	Machakos
570.	George Morara Monyoncho	Male	Kisii
571.	Samuel Auchi Ngonela	Male	Trans Nzoia

572.	Erick Ndemange Muthoka	Male	Kitui
573.	Usuba Abbas Ahmed	Female	Mandera
574.	Ignazia Karigu Kaimba	Female	Tharaka Nithi
575.	Faiza Hussein Dahir	Female	Busia
576.	Angeline Atieno Oduor	Female	Siaya
577.	Lamech Odiwuor Ang'ila	Male	Migori
578.	John Wanjau Njoki	Male	Nyeri
579.	Tom Muindi Peter	Male	Machakos
580.	Rose Mumbua Musyoka (PWD)	Female	Makueni
581.	John Oloishuru Konchallah	Male	Narok
582.	Jacob Muriithi	Male	Tharaka Nithi
583.	Samuel Kamau Gitaka	Male	Nyandarua
584.	Jane Apetet Nashida	Female	Turkana
585.	John Otieno Ondego	Male	Kisumu
586.	Shanu Bashuna Abudho	Female	Marsabit
587.	Jeruto Barbengi	Female	Uasin Gishu
588.	Noor Dahir Yussuf	Male	Wajir
589.	Issack Mohamed Alio	Male	Mandera
590.	Philip Santamo Wuantai	Male	Kajiado
591.	Gladys Andya Bogonko Momanyi	Female	Kisii
592.	Essy Jemutai Mugushia	Female	Baringo
593.	Abdinasiir Hussein Madey	Male	Wajir
594.	Martin Mungai Ndung'u	Male	Kiambu
595.	Polycarp J. O. Omolo Ochilo	Male	Migori
596.	Musa Bashir Ali	Male	Wajir
597.	Mohamed Mahat Gurhan	Male	Garissa
598.	Bellinda Akoth Akello	Female	Siaya
599.	Pamela Awino Akello	Female	Homa Bay
600.	Sadiki Mohamed Bakari	Male	Kilifi
601.	Joseph Owuor Otieno	Male	Migori
602.	Judith Alice Makwali	Male	Kakamega
603.	Kennedy O. Onyonyi	Male	Homa Bay
604.	Beverly Cherop Moss	Female	Bungoma
605.	Juliah Nyokabi Chege	Female	Murang'a
606.	Safia Abdi	Female	Isiolo
607.	Emma Adikento Alyaro	Female	Marsabit
608.	Samuel N. Musumba	Male	Bungoma
609.	Haron Rutto Siwatum	Male	West Pokot
610.	Jaldesa Mohamed	Male	Isiolo
611.	Elijah Leiro Letangule	Male	Baringo
612.	Nelly Ilongo	Female	Taita Taveta
613.	Allan Chacha Mang'era	Male	Migori
614.	Geoffrey Otieno Mboya	Male	Homa Bay
615.	Rodgers Omondi Osingo	Male	Homa Bay
616.	Norah Lokwakol Dowan	Female	Turkana
617.	Gargule Andrew Achiba	Female	Marsabit
618.	Tom Shavisa	Male	Vihiga
619.	Ali Abdikadir Bulle	Male	Garissa
620.	Peter Kibet Goin	Male	Nandi
621.	Grace Wagaki Wairagu	Female	Nyeri
622.	Isaiah Kiprono Byegon	Male	Bomet
623.	Joshua Imadi Ekuleu	Male	Turkana
624.	Joyline Chepkemoi Mabwai	Female	Nakuru
625.	Grace Muthoni Mwenda	Female	Tharaka Nithi
626.	Hellen Wangare Ngige	Female	Trans Nzoia
627.	Francisco Kalu Kadowe	Male	Kilifi
628.	Ibrahim M. H. Bulushi	Male	Mombasa
629.	Teresia Chepkirui	Female	Kericho
630.	Beatrice Mugeni Meso	Female	Busia
631.	Jackson Mengich Rerimoi	Male	Baringo
632.	Isaac Kennedy Kunani	Male	Kakamega
633.	Eliizabeth J. Maina Mukonye (PWD)	Female	Kakamega
634.	Vincent Muyela Omutamba	Male	Vihiga
635.	Kiplangat Shadrack Kirui	Male	Bomet
636.	Edwin Gichangi	Male	Nairobi
637.	Zephaniah Daniel Kipkurui	Male	Baringo
638.	Pamela Auma Ahago	Female	Siaya
639.	Joshua Kirwa Sanga	Male	Trans Nzoia
640.	Sunjeev Kaur Birdi	Female	Nairobi

**B. SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES AND INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

The Selection panel considered and shortlisted candidates for the positions of Chairperson and Members as shown in the interview schedule below:

**(i) CHAIRPERSON**

**Interview Date: Monday 2nd March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Patrick Ayiecho Olweny	Male	Kisumu	10.00 a.m.
2.	Mohamud Ali Saleh	Male	Wajir	10.45 a.m.
3.	Pamela Awino Akello (PWD)	Female	Siaya	11.30 a.m.
4.	Yufnalis Ndege Okubo	Male	Busia	12.15 p.m.
5.	Abdirizak Hussein Shafat	Male	Garissa	2.00 p.m.
6.	Charity Kagwi-Ndungu	Female	Kiambu	2.45 p.m.

**Interview Date: Tuesday 3rd March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Kepha Nyamweya Omae	Male		9.00 a.m.
2.	Praxedes Chepkoech Tororey	Female	Nandi	9.45 a.m.
3.	Lul Abdiwahid	Female	Garissa	10.30 a.m.
4.	Julius Yiega (PWD)	Male	Homa Bay	11.30 a.m.
5.	Alice Atieno Otswala	Female	Siaya	12.15 p.m.
6.	John O. Konchellah	Male	Narok	2.00 p.m.
7.	Betty Addero Radier	Female	Kisumu	2.45 p.m.

**(ii) MEMBER****Interview Date: Wednesday 4th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Joseph K. Nguyo	Male	Nyeri	10.00 a.m.
2.	Justine Anyango Ochieng'	Female	Homa Bay	10.30 a.m.
3.	Elkana Kathie Nyaga	Male	Embu	11.00 a.m.
4.	Ruth Jelagat Tubey	Female	Nandi	11.30 a.m.
5.	Lucy Wanja Julius	Female	Meru	12.00 noon
6.	Nixon Gecheo Mageka	Male	Kisii	12.30 p.m.
7.	Margaret W. Naserian Gakami	Female	Kajiado	2.00 p.m.
8.	Kauma Jim Gitonga	Male	Embu	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Thursday 5th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	John Kibaso Warioba	Male	Migori	9.00 a.m.
2.	Jackson Swadi Kedogo	Male	Nandi	9.30 a.m.
3.	Winnie Jeptum Bargoria	Female	Uasin Gishu	10.00 a.m.
4.	Simon Owawa Nyamolo (PWD)	Male	Homa Bay	11.00 a.m.
5.	Anne Lanoi Pertet	Female	Narok	11.30 a.m.
6.	Washington Opiyo Sati (PWD)	Male	Kisumu	12.00 noon
7.	Teresia Jerusah Mwaathime Michael	Female	Kitui	12.30 p.m.
8.	Jonathan Rutto Tyno Rotino	Male	West Pokot	2.00 p.m.
9.	Godfrey Irungu Njenga	Male	Nyandarua	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Friday 6th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Ahmed Osman	Male	Marsabit	9.00 a.m.
2.	Fred Lengees	Male	Samburu	9.30 a.m.
3.	Samuel Mwachiro Mwawasi	Male	Taita Taveta	10.00 a.m.
4.	Jane Wanjiru Njuguna (PWD)	Female	Kiambu	11.00 a.m.
5.	Issa Garore Irobe	Male	Wajir	11.30 a.m.
6.	Florence Chemtai Tirop	Female	Uasin Gishu	12.00 noon
7.	Fredrick Nyagah J. Kibuti	Male	Embu	12.30 p.m.
8.	Margaret Iyasi Lesuuda	Female	Laikipia	2.00 p.m.
9.	Isaac Kipkorir Cherutoi	Male	Baringo	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Monday 9th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Ngairah James Liguyani	Male	Kakamega	9.00 a.m.
2.	Joyce Akai Emanikor, PWD	Female	Turkana	9.30 a.m.
3.	Mohamed Barre Muhumed	Male	Garissa	10.00 a.m.
4.	Jackson Ndere Kiboro	Male	Tharaka Nithi	11.00 a.m.
5.	Suleman Yesse Buko	Male	Tana River	11.30 a.m.
6.	Emily Cherono Mosonik	Female	Bomet	12.00 noon
7.	Vincent Kinas Makokha	Male	Trans Nzoia	12.30 p.m.
8.	Deka Ibrahim M.	Female	Wajir	2.00 p.m.
9.	John Kipkemai Koskei	Male	Kericho	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Tuesday 10th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Mohamed Mahamoud Idow	Male	Mandera	9.00 a.m.
2.	Irene Chepoisho Tulal	Female	West Pokot	9.30 a.m.
3.	Walter Jabali Jilani	Male	Lamu	10.00 a.m.

4.	Pauline Petro Mukasa	Female	Mombasa	11.00 a.m.
5.	Zeth Ouma Omollo	Male	Nyamira	11.30 a.m.
6.	Josiah K. Musili	Male	Kitui	12.00 noon
7.	Christine Chepkurui Rotich	Female	Nakuru	12.30 p.m.
8.	Alex Shiiya Lekaram	Male	Samburu	2.00 p.m.
9.	Ambrose Lkusulan Lochokwe	Male	Marsabit	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Wednesday 11th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Adhan Nuri Berhe	Male	Tana River	9.00 a.m.
2.	Rachel W. Maina	Female	Nakuru	9.30 a.m.
3.	Joel Mwita Daniel	Male	Migori	10.00 a.m.
4.	Stanley Kamau Maina	Male	Murangá	11.00 a.m.
5.	Obodha Oguda Bruno	Male	Migori	11.30 a.m.
6.	Florence Wairimu Muturi	Female	Nyeri	12.00 noon
7.	Moses Ngemu S. Ole Sakuda	Male	Kajiado	12.30 p.m.
8.	Purity Kithiru Gitonga	Female	Meru	2.00 p.m.
9.	Papa Ben Osukuku	Male	Busia	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Thursday 12th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Hezron Cotts Masitsa	Male	Kakamega	9.00 a.m.
2.	Winrose Chepkoech Rono	Female	Kericho	9.30 a.m.
3.	Nasir Matano Ngala	Male	Kwale	10.00 a.m.
4.	Philomena Chenangat Loitarengan	Female	West Pokot	11.00 a.m.
5.	Juma Nyundo Budugu	Male	Kwale	11.30 a.m.
6.	Heather Eddah Kipchumba	Female	Elgeyo Marakwet	12.00 noon
7.	John Kihara Mwangi	Male	Trans Nzoia	12.30 p.m.
8.	Mary Ciambaka Mwiandi	Female	Tharaka Nithi	2.00 p.m.
9.	Areba Omwoyo Samba	Male	Nyamira	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Friday 13th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Daniel Jeryot Kirui	Male	Bomet	9.00 a.m.
2.	Sylvia Jebet Tuikong	Female	Baringo	9.30 a.m.
3.	Christopher Galgalo Ali	Male	Marsabit	10.00 a.m.
4.	Mativu Richard Musau (PWD)	Male	Makueni	11.00 a.m.
5.	Susan Kajuju Iringo Laimaru	Female	Meru	11.30 a.m.
6.	Michael Odipo Okoth Oyugi	Male	Kisumu	12.00 noon
7.	Hardlyne Lusui	Female	Vihiga	12.30 p.m.
8.	Joseph Ole Nkamasiai	Male	Narok	2.00 p.m.
9.	Joseph Gathara	Male	Kiambu	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Monday 16th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Edward Nyongesa Wafula	Male	Bungoma	9.00 a.m.
2.	Rehana Gobu	Female	Lamu	9.30 a.m.
3.	Nelson Marwa Sospeter	Male	Migori	10.00 a.m.
4.	Consolata Adhiambo Onguto	Female	Siaya	11.00 a.m.
5.	Benjamin Kiptanui Rop	Male	Uasin Gishu	11.30 a.m.
6.	Josphine Kirion Eragae	Female	Isiolo	12.00 noon
7.	Waihura Timothy Ndiritu	Male	Nyeri	12.30 p.m.
8.	Stephanie Marigu Mbogo	Female	Embu	2.00 p.m.
9.	Wilson Kiptanui Soi	Male	Kericho	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Tuesday 17th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Julius Ouma Jwan,	Male	Homa Bay	9.00 a.m.
2.	Hassan Billow Ahmed	Male	Wajir	9.30 a.m.
3.	Gloria Edna Wawira	Female	Taita Taveta	10.00 a.m.
4.	Mohammed Hussein Gabbow (PWD)	Male	Marsabit	11.00 a.m.
5.	Jillo A Kasse	Male	Tana River	11.30 a.m.

6.	Pamela E. Ayieko Otenyo	Female	Vihiga	12.00 noon
7.	Bonface Okhiya Otsiula	Male	Bungoma	12.30 p.m.
8.	Lucy Muthoni Wachira Njora	Female	Nakuru	2.00 p.m.
9.	Masayo Pelela	Male	Narok	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Wednesday 18th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	John Mutegi Muriungi	Male	Tharaka Nithi	9.00 a.m.
2.	Sylas Kipkoech Tochim	Male	Baringo	9.30 a.m.
3.	Flaura Kidere Mapinga	Female	Taita Taveta	10.00 a.m.
4.	Abdulqani Saytun	Male	Garissa	11.00 a.m.
5.	Guyo Liban Dadacha	Male	Marsabit	11.30 a.m.
6.	Angeline Atieno Oduor	Female	Siaya	12.00 noon
7.	Philip Santamo Wuantai	Male	Kajiado	12.30 p.m.
8.	Bellinda Akoth Akello	Female	Siaya	2.00 p.m.
9.	Sadiki Mohamed Bakari (PWD)	Male	Kilifi	2.30 p.m.

**Interview Date: Thursday 19th March, 2026**

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Elijah Leiro Letangule	Male	Baringo	9.00 a.m.
2.	Beverly C. Moss	Female	Bungoma	9.30 a.m.
3.	Ahago Pamela Auma	Female	Siaya	10.00 a.m.
4.	Sunjeev Kaur Birdi	Female	Nairobi	11.00 a.m.
5.	Pascalyné Ntang'eno Kimirri	Female	Laikipia	11.30 a.m.
6.	Joshua Kirwa Sang	Male	Trans Nzoia	12.00 noon
7.	Maryam Dubow Dahir	Female	Mandera	12.30 p.m.
8.	Alois Musa Lentoimaga	Male	Samburu	2.00 p.m.

The Selection Panel informs the shortlisted candidates that the interviews will be conducted on the date and time indicated above at the Public Service Commission, Harambee Avenue, Nairobi. The candidates should be at the venue at least **twenty (20) minutes** before their scheduled time.

Shortlisted candidates should bring originals of the following documents during the interview:

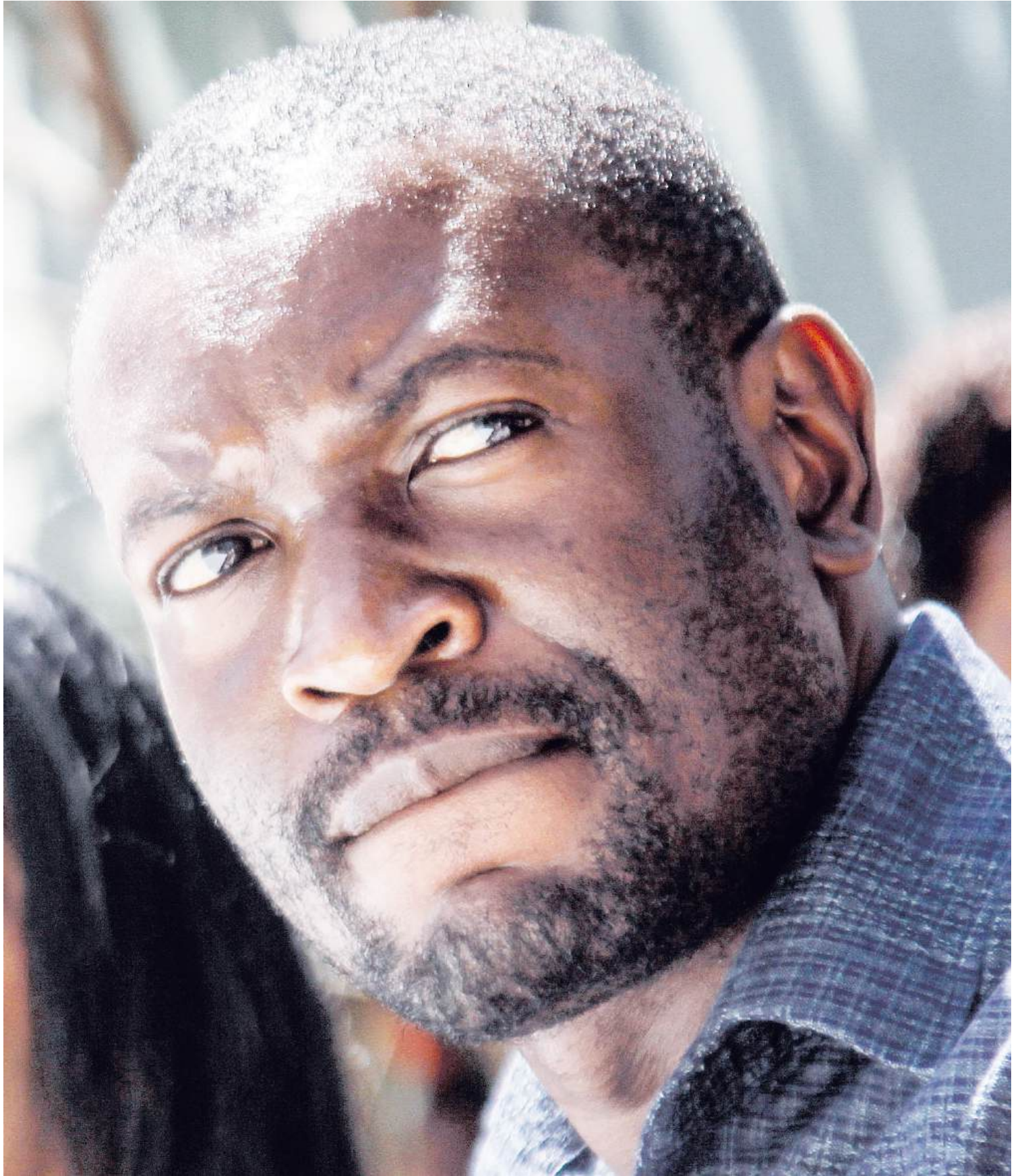
- National Identity Card;
- Academic and professional certificates and transcripts;
- Any other supporting documents and testimonials; and
- Valid and current clearances from the following bodies:
  - Kenya Revenue Authority;
  - Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission;
  - Higher Education Loans Board;
  - Any of the Registered Credit Reference Bureaus;
  - Directorate of Criminal Investigations (Police Clearance Certificate).
- Letter of recognition of qualifications from the Commission of University Education (CUE) for any degree obtained from foreign universities; and
- Recommendations from relevant professional bodies (where applicable).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public are invited to avail any credible information of interest relating to any of the shortlisted candidates through **sworn affidavits** via email [ncicselectionpanel@publicservice.go.ke](mailto:ncicselectionpanel@publicservice.go.ke) or hand delivered to the Office of the Secretary/CEO, Public Service Commission situated on 4th floor Commission House, Harambee Avenue, Nairobi on or before **27th February, 2026**.

**DR. REUBEN CHIRCHIR, MBS****CHAIRPERSON****SELECTION PANEL FOR THE SELECTION OF NOMINEES FOR THE NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION**

**Sifuna**



# The rise of Sifuna: Case of conviction or calculated politics?

While observers liken him to modern-day Masinde Muliro and Kijana Wamalwa, his fierce critics charge that he's a political novice with no grassroots following and financial muscle



**COVER STORY** **PASSING CLOUD?**

Masinde Muliro /FILE



Kijana Wamalwa /FILE

# The rise of Edwin Sifuna: Case of conviction or calculated politics?

While observers liken him to a modern-day Muliro and Wamalwa, his critics insist he's a political novice with no grassroots support



**ALLAN KISIA**  
@TheStarKenya  
Political writer

**T**he The political profile of Edwin Sifuna is rising fast, igniting debate across western Kenya and beyond over whether he is the next great unifying figure or simply a passing cloud.

Some observers have already begun drawing parallels with Western's political icons such as Masinde Muliro and Wamalwa Kijana.

In recent months, the Nairobi senator has positioned himself as one of the most vocal critics of President William Ruto's administration.

His combative style, sharp wit and unapologetic messaging have earned him renewed attention across the country.

Whether on the floor of the Senate, at political rallies, or during prime-time television interviews, Sifuna has demonstrated an ability to command attention and set the agenda.

His declaration that he would not support President Ruto's reelection bid marked a turning point in his political trajectory.

To his supporters, it was proof of conviction. To his critics, it was political brinkmanship.

Sifuna's popularity seemed to surge further after ODM removed him as secretary general over what the party termed "indiscipline," a decision later suspended by the court.

Rather than weakening him, the move appeared to embolden his

base. At subsequent rallies, supporters portrayed him as a leader being punished for speaking truth to power.

"No amount of intimidation or political threats will force me to retreat from criticising the government," Sifuna declared at a rally in Kitengela recently.

Thousands of supporters turned up for the rally, signalling growing enthusiasm around his political message. The atmosphere was electric, with chants of the now-viral slogan "Mimi ndio Sifuna" echoing through the crowd. The phrase, loosely translated as "I am Sifuna," has quickly evolved into a badge of

Ousted ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna is during 'Linda Mwananchi' rally in Kitengela, Kajiado county  
**/EZEKIEL AMING'A**

identification among his supporters.

A similar show of numbers was witnessed in Busia, where another rally attracted a large crowd of enthusiastic supporters.

His allies have also amplified the momentum. Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi has declared that the upcoming Kakamega meeting will be the "mother of all rallies."

Boda boda riders in the county have publicly vowed to provide security for Sifuna and his team during the rally planned for Saturday, February 21, even issuing





warnings following chaotic scenes at previous events. All eyes now turn to Kakamega. Fresh from a tense tour in Kitengela where a supporter was tragically shot, Sifuna has promised to continue his “Linda Mwananchi” tours across the country.

The rally is widely seen as a litmus test of his influence in Western, a region long grappling with fragmented political loyalties.

Historically, the region has produced towering political figures. Muliro was a central figure in Kenya’s struggle for multiparty democracy and a unifying voice within the Luhya community.

Decades later, Wamalwa’s charisma and statesmanship helped propel the opposition to victory in 2002 and significantly elevated the region’s bargaining power in national politics. Both leaders managed to transcend sub-ethnic divisions and rally the region behind a broader cause.

Political analyst Fred Sasia said Sifuna may not be a replica of Muliro or Wamalwa but he embodies elements of their spirit, courage, clarity of conviction and an unwavering call for an empowered Kenya where citizens live free from fear.

“His voice, firm and unflinching, has increasingly positioned him as a defining figure in contemporary opposition politics,” he said.

Sasia added that even before the passing of former ODM leader Raila Odinga, the Nairobi senator had distinguished himself through bold and confident articulation of issues, demonstrating what many view as the essence of political resilience.

“In moments when caution would have been politically convenient, he chose candour. That resolve has only intensified, signaling that while leaders may depart, their ideological spirit can endure through those willing to carry it forward.”

Kakamega Deputy Governor Ayub Savula, who doubles up as the deputy coordinator of President William

Embattled ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna (centre), accompanied by party members (From L) Wilberforce Oundo, Winnie Odinga, Godfrey Osotsi, James Orengo and Babu Owino, among others, addresses journalists at Savora Panafric Hotel in Nairobi on February 12  
/DOUGLAS OKIDY

Ruto’s reelection campaign team in Western, argues that the senator lacks the organic roots and financial muscle required to lead the Luhya community.

“Sifuna is not himself, he is a creation of the late Baba and ODM. his popularity is just a passing cloud because he is running an event, not a programme,” Savula said.

Savula points to the transient nature of current political realignments, questioning the longevity of the Nairobi senator’s influence once the 2027 election is over.

“The controversy about the formation of a coalition between UDA and ODM will end after 2027 elections, but what is Sifuna’s big agenda? What is his end game?” he said.

Savula further highlighted the disparity in political experience between Sifuna and the current power players. He warned that the senator is stepping into a lion’s den, ill-prepared for the machinations at the highest level.

“Edwin Sifuna is fighting against the President; a politician who has won elections six times, he has more than 30 years experience in politics,” he said.

Caleb Burudi, the Western regional coordinator of the Democratic Action Party-Kenya cautioned against prematurely elevating Sifuna to the status once held by Muliro or Wamalwa.

Burudi acknowledged that Sifuna is currently drawing impressive crowds to his rallies but argued that the enthusiasm may be misleading. According to him, it is difficult to determine the true motivation behind the cheers and large turnouts.

He suggested that some supporters could be rallying behind Sifuna not necessarily out of deep political conviction, but because they oppose his rivals or appreciate his confrontational stance against certain leaders. However, Burudi said that the ousted ODM secretary-general has

the potential to harness his growing influence if he plays his cards right. He likened him to DAP-K deputy leader George Nitembeya, who has recently gained popularity in Western due to his firm positions on governance and accountability issues.

“If he vies for president now, Sifu-

“

*His declaration that he would not support President Ruto’s reelection bid marked a turning point. To his supporters, it was proof of conviction. To his critics, it was political brinkmanship*

na will be surprised by the very few votes he will get. People cheering him just want him to finish somebody else,” he said.

He maintained that while the senator’s political future appears promising, it will largely depend on how he manages his current momentum and builds lasting structures.

For now, Burudi argued, Sifuna’s influence may be better suited to shaping alliances and playing the role of a kingmaker rather than positioning himself as the region’s undisputed political kingpin.

While noting that the Mulembe nation has historically produced formidable leaders, Sasia said it

has been some time since a figure of outspoken national prominence has commanded the stage with such assertiveness.

“Like Wamalwa, whose charisma and stellar oratory marked a generational shift toward multi-party democracy and constitutional reform in the 1990s and early 2000s, Sifuna projects a similar magnetism amplified for a new political era. The popular rallying call ‘Sisi ndio Sifuna’ reflects the growing aura and identification many supporters associate with him,” he added.

He highlighted that Muliro was revered for maintaining firm principles even when politically inconvenient, standing against authoritarian tendencies during the one-party era.

“That same strain of principle appears evident in Sifuna’s posture particularly in his outspoken positions on governance arrangements and internal party direction, even at personal political cost,” he said.

Savula’s critique on the other hand extends to Sifuna’s political track record and economic standing. He argues that a leader who cannot fund a movement cannot unite a community historically starved of a single, powerful voice since the days of Wamalwa

“Going by history, Sifuna lost in parliamentary nominations in Kanduyi constituency, in 2017 he couldn’t win the Nairobi senatorial elections, until the late Raila came to his rescue, “ the deputy governor said. “The same Sifuna has no money to fund his activities, and he is not a businessman, so how is he going to sustain his activities?”

He contrasted the senator’s financial standing with the economic might required to hold the Western bloc together, citing failed fundraising attempts by more seasoned politicians.

While Savula sees a “passing cloud,” Sifuna’s supporters see a generational shift.

## COMMENTARY **TROUBLING CALCULUS**



**AMOS NJAU**  
@Njaumburuh

The writer is a political commentator

**P**resident William Ruto is facing mounting pressure from a group of Mt Kenya leaders to retain Deputy President Kithure Kindiki as his running mate in the 2027 general election.

The push comes as the Orange Democratic Movement has signalled its intention to negotiate for top positions in any future arrangement with Ruto's United Democratic Alliance.

Speaking during a party delegates' meeting in Mombasa on February 12, senior ODM leader Oburu Oginga said the party was "targeting very strongly" the DP's seat as its "fair share" in government.

The choice is far from a done deal. Choosing Kindiki could lose some Mt Kenya votes, some analysts say. There's also talk of ODM figures: Oburu, Mining CS Hassan Joho, Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga, among others.

The remarks have rattled leaders in Kindiki's Mt Kenya East backyard, triggering a flurry of political activity aimed at protecting his position and prospects. Influential figures and close regional allies of the DP are said to be holding strategy meetings, urging the President to keep him on the ticket.

They argue that dropping Kindiki would weaken Ruto's grip on Mt Kenya, a region that played a decisive role in his 2022 victory.

Njuri Ncheke secretary-general Josphat Murangiri, during an interview with the Star, warned that sidelining Kindiki in 2027 would have serious negative political consequences for the Kenya Kwanza administration.

"This would amount to betrayal. The deputy president slot is the highest our region has ever held since independence. Mt Kenya West (Kiambu, Nyeri and Murang'a) has historically benefited from power, and we have supported them through Jomo Kenyatta, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta," he said. Murangiri insisted the DP's position is not open for negotiation, saying Ruto's made a deliberate decision to appoint Kindiki after former DP Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment.

"I want to tell the people from Nyanza region, look for any other seat and not that of our son, Kindiki. His appointment was a reward to the people of Mau Mau from whom he has roots," he said.

Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri said Mt Kenya leaders would rally behind a Ruto-Kindiki ticket.

"We will defend Kindiki as well as the seat he holds as Deputy President," Kiunjuri said. "We will not entertain ODM confusion. We will speak with one voice and support his candidature."

The MP said that the region will not discuss or debate the DP's seat, adding that Kindiki has served the people with care and dignity.

"There is absolutely no discussion about the status of the deputy president's position in 2027. Kindiki has already occupied it and will continue holding it to enhance the

# Ruto headache as Mt Kenya leaders push Kindiki as his 2027 running mate



free reelection of the Kenya Kwanza administration."

Kiunjuri urged residents to reject divisive politics, warning that internal wrangles could stall development in the region.

Kikuyu Council of Elders national chairman Wachira Kiago, however, has cautioned leaders against allowing succession debates to overshadow governance.

He pleaded with leaders to focus on service delivery and shun politics that are likely to derail development and divide the people.

"Leaders should focus on service delivery. Positions of power are personal, not communal," Kiago said. "Kindiki is currently holding the seat of deputy president; the debate over who should deputise whom should not distract from governance."

Political analyst Albert Kasembeli argued the Mt Kenya region played a decisive role in Ruto's 2022 victory, but warned that voting patterns can change depending on economic conditions, internal rivalries and shifting alliances.

He said the growing debate around the DP's slot reflects deeper anxieties within the ruling coalition about succession politics and regional influence.

"The Mt Kenya bloc has historically delivered votes, but political loyalty is fluid. Ruto has to balance

President William Ruto (centre) flanked with Deputy President Kithure Kindiki and Prime CS Musalia Mudavadi during the UDA National Governing Council meeting at State House in Nairobi on January 26  
/EDWARD ALUSA /PCS

regional expectations with national strategy. Even strong backing from elders and MPs may not be enough if public sentiment shifts," he said.

Speaking during a week ago during a political function in Meru, leaders allied to Kindiki pushed for his retaining his position, saying the President should reward his deputy for supporting him.

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki told ODM leaders the DP position should not be a bargaining chip in coalition talks.

"There is no tangible reason why Prof Kindiki's position should be an agenda item," Njuki said. ODM should focus on fixing its fragmented party. If demands persist, UDA should simply ensure Kindiki remains as deputy president."

UDA legislator Mugambi Rindiki-ri for Buuri in Meru county said Mt Kenya voters' support is guaranteed if the President and his deputy work as a team. "Prof Kindiki will remain deputy president in 2027 and beyond," he said. "That seat is heavily guarded by the votes we delivered for President Ruto in the 2022."

Igembe South MP John Mwirigi argued that the position of the DP will not be bargained because it is already occupied. Central Imenti MP Moses Kirima emphasised that while political alliances are welcome, ODM must respect established regional boundaries.

Sabina Chege also dismissed ODM's push for the DP position as unrealistic, asserting that Kindiki will remain in office after 2027 and is positioned to eventually succeed Ruto in 2032. "Kindiki is not go-

ing anywhere. He will continue," Chege said during a road inspection at Maragua-Kigumo last Saturday, February 14.

Despite the speculation, Kindiki on February 14 reassured his supporters to be calm and not worry about Kenya's political developments. The DP has often praised President Ruto for according him the chance to help in service delivery.

In his maiden speech at KICC following his inauguration, Kindiki promised loyalty and support to the President.

"I want to commit to you before this congregation and the Almighty God that I will serve under you and provide the assistance you require to take this country to the next level. I commit to be loyal and faithful. I will try my best to work with my colleagues to lighten the burden you carry on your shoulders," he said.

Also, during his recent visit to Kindiki's home county of Tharaka Nithi, Ruto praised his deputy, terming him as a development leader.

"If you want to succeed, get a deputy who is more learned than you. You will be praised for his success," he said.

The President contrasted Kindiki with former DP, now bitter rival Gachagua, saying past leadership challenges had slowed national development.

"I don't want to say much, but the other one [Gachagua] was not competent. Now I have a highly educated deputy who is equal to the task, who delivers and helps me implement development projects for Kenyans," the President said.

**INFLUENTIAL FIGURES AND CLOSE REGIONAL ALLIES OF THE DP ARE SAID TO BE HOLDING STRATEGY MEETINGS, URGING THE PRESIDENT TO KEEP HIM ON THE 2027 POLLS TICKET**

COMMENTARY **GROWTH DIVIDENDS**

ADHERE CAVINCE

@Cavinceworld

Scholar of international relations with a focus on China-Africa development cooperation

# Africa's trade future shifts East with Beijing's zero-tariff move

Last week, as African leaders gathered in Addis Ababa for the African Union Summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a message that resonated across the continent. Starting May, China will grant zero-tariff treatment to 100 per cent of tariff lines from the 53 African countries with which it maintains diplomatic relations. The announcement came just days after the United States extended the African Growth and Opportunity Act for a single year, until December 2026.

Agoa, launched in 2000, was once hailed as a cornerstone of US-Africa engagement. It granted duty-free access to more than 1,800 product lines for eligible sub-Saharan countries, aiming to spur export-led growth and integration into global value chains. In practice, however, its impact has been narrow and fragile.

Benefits have concentrated in a handful of sectors and countries such as oil from Nigeria, vehicles and components from South Africa and apparel from Kenya. Non-oil Agoa imports in 2024 totalled roughly \$6 billion (about Sh772.9 billion), with apparel at \$1.2 billion and agriculture far smaller. Overall US imports under Agoa have declined in recent years, and the programme's share of African exports has remained modest.

More damaging has been Agoa's conditional nature and the unpredictability of US politics. Eligibility is reviewed annually and tied to governance, human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption benchmarks defined in Washington. Several countries have been suspended or threatened with removal, disrupting supply chains and deterring investment.

By contrast, China's partnership



rests on three pillars that align more closely with African priorities: infrastructure first, market access without political strings and policy predictability. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, launched in 2000 and held every three years, provides a structured, summit-driven framework that has consistently expanded cooperation.

The 2024 Focac summit, for instance, built on earlier commitments by pledging further market opening; the 2026 zero-tariff decision is the

latest step. Unlike Agoa's unilateral conditions, China's approach emphasises non-interference in internal affairs and win-win cooperation. African governments retain sovereignty over how they use Chinese financing and trade preferences. This pragmatism has allowed rapid scaling of projects that Western donors, burdened by governance checklists often delay for years.

Since 2013, when China rolled out the Belt and Road Initiative, African countries have signed on enthusias-

tically. China has financed and built thousands of kilometres of railways, highways, ports, airports and power plants. In 2023 alone, African BRI deals reached \$21.7 billion, making the continent the largest recipient that year. Cumulative Chinese loans to Africa exceed \$170 billion since 2000, the bulk directed at economic infrastructure; experiencing the \$130-170 billion annual gaps that Western financing has never fully closed. Infrastructure is the foundation for trade. Once goods can move cheaply and reliably, exports rise. China's zero-tariff policy now supercharges this dynamic. African producers of agricultural goods, minerals, textiles, light manufactures and processed foods gain duty-free entry into the world's second-largest and fastest-growing major consumer market.

Previous zero-tariff schemes for least-developed countries already boosted certain exports; the new measure extends full coverage to the entire continent, Eswatini excepted. While Africa's exports to China remain dominated by raw materials and that Beijing still runs a large trade surplus, the policy removes a key barrier to diversification. African governments and firms now have stronger incentives to invest in value addition, knowing the Chinese market is open. Complementary measures, such as simplified customs green channels and joint economic partnership pacts, further lower transaction costs.

Last year, China-Africa trade reached a record \$348 billion, dwarfing US-Africa flows. China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 16 consecutive years. While the US debates one-year extensions and reciprocal tariffs, Beijing is removing barriers and financing the connective tissue that makes trade possible.

## ODM's internal cannibalism betrayal of Odinga's legacy

DR PHILIP PANDE

@TheStarKenya

The writer is a former Raila Odinga surrogate and 2022 youth presidential campaign lead

That the ODM party would face turbulence upon Raila Odinga's exit was an inevitability. What is grossly disappointing is the manner in which it is fast degenerating. The movement today is not the ODM Raila built. What was once an embodiment of resilience, principle, negotiation mastery and unwavering stand against authoritarianism has fast evolved into a battlefield of internal cannibalism.

Sadly, those enjoying the warmer side have dropped the ball on the party's founding philosophy. Instead of sharpening its claws against external rivals, aggressively mobilising for the next general election, the party is obsessed with temporary power trappings, constantly devouring its own, silencing dissent and dismantling the very machinery that gave it national relevance. Effectively, the party has

lost vision of the presidency and even publicly denounced the possibility of negotiating for the deputy president's role. This is happening even as the ODM-UDA merger continues to disenfranchise the real critical mass behind Baba's legacy.

ODM's underlying strength has always been the party's ability to inspire the decisive youth, recharge the restless and rekindle hope in a feasible political future. Yet post-Raila, the party has turned its arsenal against the very army that has defended and propelled the national movement to the top. Being bold, expressive, decisive and pro-people is now a crime in ODM. Rather, ambition attracts punishment, vocality is crushed and dissenters are branded enemies. This is not a strategy — it is suicide!

ODM is deliberately suffocating its

youth, bleeding away the energy and expressly discarding Baba's call for an intergenerational conclave that could have delivered at least the deputy presidency for the party before finally taking over the top seat in 2032. Sadly, going by the speed of greed, the largest national movement will potentially not see its silver Jubilee coming up in 2030!

It is undeniable that the removal of Edwin Sifuna as secretary-general is nothing short of a catastrophe. A scheme externally executed to split Baba's army down the middle. Sifuna has been a symbol of ODM's aggressive urban pulse, a formidable bridge between the party's liberation history and the aspirations of Kenya's bold youth.

His defining qualification was the fact that he was young and sharp. Baba preferred this to the Luhya connotation. The SG's ouster signals convenience for short-term order. Ultimately, it is a gross loss and deviation from inclusivity, accountability and dynamism puncturing the party at the core. Lang'ata MP Felix Odiwuor, pop-

ularly known as Jalang'o, is a publicly professed admirer of and believer in Babu Owino's inevitable rise and imminent gubernatorial victory. Planting him as Nairobi's senatorial candidate is a declaration of war against both Sifuna and Babu.

It is a direct sabotage of the Embakasi East MP's gubernatorial ambitions. Largely, it is a setup of young people against themselves.

By undermining both the senate and governor races in Nairobi, for the first time in four elections, ODM is effectively ceding two of the most strategic positions in the capital. Thus, it is sacrificing two of its most lethal and promising assets.

This is not tactical politics — it is self-inflicted defeat now and in the future. ODM is publicly eating itself alive! The internal cannibalism is dysfunctional and not rewarding in any way. It is fast depleting the party's popularity. The silencing of dissent, the removal of loyal leaders and the sabotage of youthful ambition are not just tactical blunders but utter betrayals of Raila's vision.

**KATIBA CORNER GOOD GOVERNANCE**

# Buying off opposition: Risks in Nadco's constitutional reforms



JILL COTTREL GHAI  
@TheStarKenya

Jill is a retired law teacher and member of the Katiba Institute Board



Then Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and President William Ruto (both centre) receive Nadco report from co-chairpersons Kimani Ichung'wah (left) and Kalonzo Musyoka and at State House, Nairobi /FILE

**T**his article, which makes points readers may have encountered before, is by way of preparing to send a paper to the Nadco committee in response to their public invitation to us all. My main focus is its proposals to amend the constitution.

**A Prime Minister**

I do not feel strongly about this. We have had the Prime Cabinet Secretary for the last few years without noticing much difference.

This would probably be the weakest “prime ministerial” position in the world. It is fundamentally like the position held by Mr Mudavadi: an opportunity for a President to give special recognition to a politician who has brought substantial benefits in terms of votes.

This person will not be an MP – unlike the PM in Uganda or Tanzania. This would surely make it difficult for our PM to be fully in charge of the legislative agenda of the government. In those countries, the PM is the “Leader of Government Business” in the Legislature. Here, that role belongs to the Majority leader within the National Assembly. That person is best placed to work with the Speaker and the Minority leader to set the legislative timetable. The PM might instead have a role in liaising with ministries and the Attorney-General, whose office puts legislation into legal form, and then with the Majority leader.

While many provisions about Cabinet Secretaries would apply to the PM, the amendment does not describe this as a “Cabinet Secretary” position. However, an officer is not a member of the Cabinet unless Article 152 says so. Is the assumption that, like Mr Mudavadi, the PM would also have a ministerial portfolio?

**Leader of the Opposition (LOO)**

This is even odder. The bill says the LOO would either be the best loser

in the presidential election or would be nominated by a party or coalition (presumably the dominant non-government party or coalition in the National Assembly). The constitution cannot leave matters in such an uncertain state. Again, the amendment would not put the LOO in Parliament after appointment.

A specific bill in the Nadco report would give the LOO functions including providing alternative policy agendas and “constructive criticism of government”, fostering co-operation between government and opposition and promoting good governance. The best place for critique of government policies and proposals is Parliament. However, neither this person nor, presumably, his or her two deputy LOOs would be in Parliament. In Parliament, the relevant role is that of the Leader of the Minority, who is not guaranteed to be from the same party as the LOO.

There is no indication of how the two deputies are to be chosen. Are they supposed to be from different parties from the LOO and from each other? This seems to be a generous package for the best loser, but with no guarantee that he or she would do anything useful. In a parliamentary system, the LOO works as an MP and, in addition, leads the opposition. Can we be sure that this LOO would not simply be a publicly paid agitator against the government? Can they be removed if they do not perform?

**LOO's earnings**

The Nadco Bill says that the salary of the LOO would be “a charge on the Consolidated Fund”. This means that

it would be paid without the necessity for annual approval by Parliament. The national debt is such a charge, as are the salaries of the president and deputy president, judges and holders of independent offices, but not MPs or CSs. Why should the LOO's salary be treated this way?

The Bill would not make the LOO a “state officer”. The Salaries and Remuneration Commission would therefore not fix the salary. Who would?

I understand that some people believe these ideas would reduce post-election strife. What they appear to do is buy off potential promoters of strife in advance. The handshake is constitutionalised. I also wonder whether future “best losers” would be satisfied with the consolation prize of being LOO, or whether they would instead demand inclusion in government.

Arguably, this is a way of neutralising opposition and helping to support “two terms” – or worse. Although the LOO Bill does mention promoting understanding of the role of opposition in a democratic state, the overall effect may be to weaken it.

An alternative might be to allow people to stand for election to the National Assembly as well as for president. If the best loser won a parliamentary seat, he or she would have a job and a salary to fall back on. If supported by most non-government MPs, that person could become Leader of the Minority.

**The two-thirds gender rule**

The Nadco report proposes two approaches.

The first would import the county assembly model: additional women from party lists to achieve the gender objective. A new element is added: preference would be given to candidates who stood for election in a constituency and, within that group, to those who received the most votes. This would require the repeal of section 34(9) of the Elections Act, which provides that “the party list shall not contain the name of a candidate nominated for an election”.

Every suggestion likely to be acceptable to existing MPs would significantly increase the size of the National Assembly. If the top-up approach had been adopted before 2022, there would now be 56 “list women” in Parliament, making a total of 405 members. This number should decline over time as more women are elected for constituencies. The suggested alternative would double the number of county women representatives, with a top-up if necessary. This would permanently increase the size of the National Assembly. The role of women representatives is already unclear, and their existence distorts the relationship between votes cast and seats in Parliament. Twice as many would double that distortion.

Speaking personally (and many women may disagree with me), I would prefer to see the approach in the Katiba Institute 2018 case put into statutory form. At a minimum, this should require every party to nominate women candidates for at least one third of the constituencies it contests. The challenge, of course, is to prevent parties from putting forward women only in unwinnable seats. I believe that, over time, more women will be nominated and more voters will support them. More special seats for women slow that process down.

**EALA members**

Finally, for now, the proposal to amend the constitution to recognise people who represent Kenya in international or regional agencies, notably the East African Legislative Assembly, is rather obscure. The report says that they are “not accorded the same stature” as MPs.

I agree that the public does not attach much importance to the role of an Eala member. This reflects the lack of prominence given to the East African Community in Kenya generally, including by government. It also reflects, I suspect, a public sense that Eala members are not really about the people of Kenya but about Parliament favouring people from its own class. Recent members include Winnie, daughter of Raila Odinga, Kennedy, son of Kalonzo Musyoka and three former legislators.

If greater status is genuinely needed, it could be achieved by including Eala members in the Order of Precedence Bill (and enacting it) and equating them with MPs. A constitutional amendment would be required only if the intention were to make them “state officers”, which would be problematic because state officers' salaries are fixed by the SR, whereas those of Eala members are set by the Assembly.

This proposal appears to fit within a broader pattern in the Nadco report: a focus on the interests of the political class, particularly in the areas discussed here.



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**I DO NOT FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER POST. WE HAVE HAD THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS WITHOUT NOTICING MUCH DIFFERENCE. THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE THE WEAKEST POSITION IN THE WORLD. IT IS FUNDAMENTALLY LIKE THE POSITION HELD BY MR MUDAVADI**

COMMENTARY **EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY**

# Japan steps up ties with Kenya to boost development agenda

**HIROSHI MATSUURA**

@TheStarKenya

Japanese ambassador to Kenya



In Japan, it is a national holiday when we celebrate the birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito. And for all of us who value the long and rich Japan-Kenya partnership, this is a joyous occasion.

On February 23, His Majesty will be 66 years old. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has turned age 65, the republic will be 62 years old this year and I will also be 62 in this April.

In each year, this is an invaluable moment in which all of us sense that we walk together: Tutembe pamoja. It is profoundly meaningful for our bilateral relations that all of us celebrate that day together in one place.

Back in 2010, His Majesty came to Kenya during his first visit to sub-Saharan Africa as Crown Prince. The other day, I saw a video of his speech at the state dinner during his stay in Nairobi. He greeted the audience by saying "Hamjambo?" and "Habari gani?"

He even quoted the famous Kiswahili proverb "Milima haikutani, lakini binadamu hukutana." Also, in the course of the visit, he bought a wooden jigsaw puzzle in the shape of the African continent, with each jigsaw piece in the shape of an African country. That was a souvenir for his beloved daughter, Her Highness Princess Aiko.

Her Highness has grown up by playing this puzzle for the past 16 years, including for the purpose of reviewing her understanding of African geography before tests in school. Thus, Princess Aiko has deepened her affinity for Africa, together with her father, His Majesty the Emperor.

Last year was a momentous year for our Japan-Kenya relations.

First, with President William Ruto's visit to Japan in August, Japan and Kenya achieved the mutual visits by our leaders for three consecutive years. These promoted bilateral

relations very strongly. Kenya was powerfully represented at the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in Yokohama in August 2025, by the team of the President, and other top officials. The Kenya team effectively led the discussion at Ticad-9.

Second, in December, Asahi Group Holdings announced its takeover of the 65 per cent ownership of East African Breweries Limited with a \$2.3 billion (Sh2,967,000,000) investment.

This has been the largest investment by a Japanese business in East Africa. It was big news at the end of the year, but also it demonstrated the great importance and enthusiasm that Japanese businesses attach to the Kenyan and African market.

At the reception I recently held to mark the emperor's birthday, I asked four of such enthusiastic Japanese investors to showcase their products and services.

Asahi Intecc provides catheter and other products for cardiovascular surgery and operates the heart centre for the cardiovascular medicine at the Eldoret hospital.

One of the many products which Sojitz introduces to the Kenyan market with high enthusiasm, is Nala, an instant noodle, readily available nationally at supermarkets.

Pigeon specialises in baby-rearing products, such as bottles for powdered milk.

Maison is the provider of wigs which exclusively use the synthetic hair produced by Kaneka, a Japanese chemical manufacturer.

All in all, the four products capture the changing consumer demand in the changing Kenyan society, which is increasingly busy, increasingly fashionable, nourishing babies with increasing care and increasingly worried about the possibility of heart diseases.

In this way, these companies show

how the Japanese businesses are attentively engaging in the Kenyan market.

Third, last year was the year of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai. Lee Kinyanjui, the Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Investment, attended the Kenyan national Day in June, which gave a strong impression to all the attendees of the power of Kenyan culture.

The total number of the people who visited the Kenya pavilion at the Expo from April to October was 2.3 million. It is a big number, and this number of Japanese were exposed to Kenyan culture and goods.

In September, Kenyan athletes performed superbly at the World Athletic Championship in Tokyo. Under the on-site presence of the Salim Mvurya, the CS for Youth and Sports, they earned 11 medals and broke three records at the championship.

Such names as Beatrice Chebet, Faith Kipyegon and Lilian Odira, have become familiar ones on the lips of Japanese people.

Also in September, we heard the refreshing sound of Nyatiti played by Eriko Mukoyama, also known as Anyango. Despite the fact that she is a Japanese and a woman, she has become an accomplished player of Nyatiti, hitherto preserved for Luo men.

To commemorate the publication of her autobiography Anyango Nyar Siaya (Nyatity Queen,) she gave a performance at the Alliance Francaise.

Put together, the cultural and sport interest and understanding between Japan and Kenya were dramatically expanded and deepened both ways last year.

We need to recognise that the bilateral relationship has entered a qualitatively different stage by now. This year, we should build upon this excellent status, moving from

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Aiko /IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY OF JAPAN

strength to strength. The Japanese public see the dynamic progress of our bilateral relationship as the symbol of the growing Japan-Africa relationship.

I greatly look forward to working closely with Kenyan leaders on this.

I am reminded at this point of a New Year article published in the EastAfrican weekly newspaper, written by the Foreign Affairs CS Mudavadi. In it he emphasised four principles of Kenyan diplomacy, namely the rules-based liberal international order, peace and stability, multilateralism and Pan-Africanism.

Indeed, Kenya is the anchor of the four principles in East Africa, as Japan is the anchor of the four principles in East Asia. We have many tasks ahead of us to advance the Free and Open Indo-Pacific together.

Mudavadi also mentioned in the same article the importance of further integration of the East African Community market. I cannot agree more. I wish to work together with the government of Kenya on this cause as well.

Further to this, allow me to raise the matter of multilateralism again, as the Permanent Representative of Japan at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Last year we had a successful UN Habitat Assembly and a successful UNEA-7 at UNON. Given the fragility of multilateral diplomacy nowadays, these were commendable outcomes.

We are now in the implementation phase of the outcomes. Japan is ready to join forces with other member states to do that. That will show how Japan remains committed to the strengthening of multilateralism.

The re-strengthening of multilateralism should begin here in Nairobi. In the second half of last year, I served as the chair of the Asia-Pacific Group in Nairobi, supported by the members of the group and by UNON director-general Zainab Bangura. I thank you for all the support. This year, I will support the group's current chairman, Ambassador Witjak of Indonesia, and its subsequent chairperson.

To conclude, I come back to the original point of our relations. Japan's wish has always been simple: we hope to see a Kenya that is resilient and navigates its destiny by itself with confidence.

Japan also tries hard to be resilient and navigate our destiny by ourselves. We like to do it together with Kenya, by learning from each other. Because we, Japanese, see many common characteristics with us in Kenyans.

Both of us are optimistic, have an open mind to new things, respect our traditions, work hard and believe in ourselves. In this simple conviction, Japan has been consistent.

We never flip-flop. We never see Africa as a stage for hegemonic competition. We always humbly wish to be trusted by Kenya and the Kenyans as such. That has been the basis of our long friendship and will continue to be so.

Let us continue building mutual trust between our two countries.

**(This is an extract from the speech given by Ambassador Hiroshi Matsuura for the celebration of the Emperor of Japan's Birthday, held in Nairobi on the February 10)**

**COMMENTARY CIVIL RIGHTS ICON**

BBC AFRICA

@TheStarKenya

# How Jesse Jackson paved the way for Obama – and helped change US



**J**esse Jackson, a key figure during the US civil rights movement of the 1960s, was known for being the first African American to make the jump from activism to major-party presidential politics.

A protege of Martin Luther King Jr, Jackson built a career around working to politically organise and improve the lives of African Americans, and became a national force during his two White House campaigns.

While other African Americans sought the US presidency, Jackson was the first to find significant success at the ballot box – which would pave the way for those who came after, including Barack Obama and Kamala Harris. Over the course of his career, Jackson built a movement to bring America's increasingly diverse population together, with a message that centred on poor and working-class Americans.

"No one else in the Democratic Party was talking about a multiracial, multi-ethnic democracy," Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders said at an event in Chicago in August 2024 that celebrated Jackson. "This movement wasn't just about bringing us together, but about bringing us together around a progressive agenda."

A gifted orator, Jackson articulated the frustrations of those who felt like second-class citizens in the world's most prosperous democracy. His speech to the 1988 Democratic National Convention, which ended with the refrain "keep hope alive", would be echoed decades later in the "hope and change" slogan of Obama's successful 2008 presidential campaign.

After his historic run of presidential campaigns, Jackson went on to position himself as an elder statesman within the Democratic Party.

However, Jackson's later years would be punctuated by scandal, including revelations of marital infidelity and financial impropriety involving his son and political heir, Jesse Jackson Jr, who served as a congressman from Illinois.

In 2017, the elder Jackson was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease

and largely withdrew from public life. That diagnosis was subsequently changed to one of progressive supranuclear palsy, a degenerative brain disease with similar symptoms.

Jackson was born Jesse Louis Burns on 8 October 1941 in Greenville, South Carolina – the son of 16-year-old Helen Burns. Unmarried, she was expelled from her local Baptist church after she became pregnant – the result of an affair with a 33-year-old married neighbour, Noah Robinson.

When Jackson was two, his mother married Charles Jackson, who went on to adopt his new stepson. Jesse Jackson remained in touch with Robinson, and regarded both men as his fathers.

Charles Jackson was a religious man, and his son was brought up in the church – a traditional focus for black political resistance since the time of American slavery.

Growing up in South Carolina, Jackson, like all black Americans, was segregated from his white neighbours. He was forced to attend separate schools and allowed only in designated areas in public places, like buses or restaurants.

In high school, Jackson did well – being elected as class president and excelling in nearly every kind of team sport.

A football scholarship to the University of Illinois helped Jackson pursue his ambitions and escape his poor surroundings. But he soon transferred from the predominantly white institution to a historically black college in North Carolina.

He said he left Illinois because his white coaches wouldn't let him play quarterback in American football, although that account is disputed. Records show the team already had a black quarterback and Jackson was on academic probation.

As a student in North Carolina A&T, Jackson gradually became involved with the civil rights movement.

In 1960, he was arrested with seven other students after a silent demonstration in a whites-only public library, which led to the

desegregation of the library. Four years later, Jackson graduated and moved to Chicago, where he trained to become a religious leader and was noticed by King, the country's most famous civil rights leader.

Through the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King founded in 1957 to promote non-violent action to seek social and economic justice, he established Operation Breadbasket. The operation encouraged black men and women to frequent businesses that gave them basic courtesy and job opportunities, and to boycott those that did not.

Still in his 20s, Jackson was first asked to run the Chicago arm of the operation and, before long, to take on the national leadership.

In 1968, Jackson's life changed dramatically. He was with his mentor at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, when King was assassinated. Moments before the fatal shot, King was leaning over a railing in playful conversation with Jackson, who was standing in the parking lot below.

Jackson told reporters that he cradled King's head as he died – although other witnesses did not confirm that account. The next day, Jackson controversially appeared on television with his clothes still stained with King's blood, assuming the mantle of civil rights leadership.

"We were determined we would not let one bullet kill the movement," he later said.

**WHILE OTHER AFRICAN AMERICANS SOUGHT THE US PRESIDENCY, JACKSON WAS THE FIRST TO FIND SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS AT THE BALLOT BOX – WHICH WOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR THOSE WHO CAME AFTER, INCLUDING BARACK OBAMA AND KAMALA HARRIS**

Veteran American civil rights activist Rev Jesse Jackson looks on after being awarded with the Legion of Honour by French president at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, July 19, 2021  
/LUDOVIC MARIN/POOL

Jackson, like King had done in the years before his death, began speaking about America's problems as rooted in class inequality as much as racism. The principal schism, he said, was between the haves and the have-nots.

"When we change the race problem into a class fight," he told the New York Times, "then we are going to have a new ball game."

Three years later, arguments over leadership led Operation Breadbasket to fracture and Jackson to form Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) – a new, wide-ranging civil rights group.

In the years that followed, Jackson became one of the most influential political figures in America.

His PUSH organisation championed inner-city education and affirmative action programmes that saw businesses employing black workers. But he remained a controversial figure, with allegations that he had once made antisemitic remarks, and – as an ordained minister and the result of an unwanted pregnancy – he opposed abortion.

The issue was convulsing US politics after the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v Wade*. Democrats, who traditionally aligned with the civil rights movement, mostly supported keeping abortion legal.

"Human beings cannot give or create life by themselves, it is really a gift from God," he wrote in 1977. "Therefore, one does not have the right to take away that which he does not have the ability to give."

He suggested that Moses and Jesus would not have been born, had abortion been a possibility in biblical times.

In 1983, Jackson travelled to Syria to plead for the release of a captured American pilot, Lt Robert Goodman. His mission was successful, and greatly boosted his national profile.

With black youth unemployment running at around 50%, Jackson then announced a run for president.

His decision caused heartache for some of his natural supporters, including King's widow, Coretta, who feared he would fail to win the Democratic Party's nomination and damage the chances of other progressive candidates.

During the campaign, Jackson spoke about the "rainbow coalition", a broad group of voters from a variety of races and beliefs who were traditionally disadvantaged and who, Jackson said, had been hurt by the policies of then-President Ronald Reagan, a Republican.

"Our flag is red, white, and blue, but our nation is a rainbow – red, yellow, brown, black, and white – and we're all precious in God's sight," he said in a speech at the 1984 Democratic National Convention, where he called for the party to unify.

His presidential bid also had a profound effect on Democrats. By winning more than 3 million votes and coming third during the primaries, he showed that a black candidate could rally nationwide support and possibly take the White House.

# THE WEEK/ WHO RESURFACED, WHO LEFT: WHAT KENYAN LEADERS HAVE BEEN UP TO



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki issues title deeds to victims of Maai Mahiu floods during a ceremony in Naivasha Constituency, Nakuru county /**KEVIN MACHARIA**



Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja second (2nd L) and Prime CS Musalia Mudavadi sign the national-county cooperation agreement as Attorney General Dorcas Oduor looks on at State House, Nairobi, on Tuesday /**PCS**



Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mombasa Martin Kivuva during an Ash Wednesday mass at Holy Ghost Cathedral in Mombasa. This marks the beginning of 40 days of fasting for Christians /**JOHN CHESOLI**



Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku and Türkiye's Ambassador to Kenya Subutay Yuksel during the launch of solar-powered cold storage facility donated by Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency in Nairobi /**KNA**



MPs Kirima Ngushine (Central Imenti), Mwangi Kiunjuri (Laikipia East), and Dorothy Muthoni (nominated) during a community-based organisations' empowerment programme. They declared support for the reelection of President William Ruto /**KNA**



Kaiti MP Joshua Kimilu addresses residents during the issuance of bursary forms for secondary school students at Kyambeke market in Kilungu subcounty on Thursday last week /**KNA**



Lamu Woman Representative Muthoni Marubu, Women Enterprise Fund manager Firdaus Ahmed, National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula, Lamu East MP Ruweida Obo and Budalang'i MP Raphael Wanjala during Pate Girls High School's prize giving day /**KNA**



SNV country director for Kenya and Burundi, Rebecca Hallam and Kisumu Deputy Governor Mathew Owili after signing a memorandum of understanding on climate action, food security, enterprises development and renewable energy on Monday /**KNA**



Baringo Governor Benjamin Cheboi (centre) joins local leaders in displaying the design of Kabarnet ultra-modern market project, which is expected to be completed within a years' time /**KNA**



Energy CS Opiyo Wandayi officially flags off Last Mile Connectivity project in Kamachei ward, Mt Elgon Constituency, aimed at expanding electricity access to households and local businesses /**KNA**

## TOP 4 STORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

### Millions now await retirees as NSSF reforms take shape

A new era has dawned for Kenya's workers, who will now retire with millions of shillings. The NSSF has unveiled higher pension savings after rolling out a new Tier II contribution band and delivering strong investment returns. Under the phased implementation of the NSSF Act of 2013, contribution bands have been expanded each year since 2023. From February 2026, the upper earnings limit rose from Sh72,000 to Sh108,000 per month.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

### Reliable power no longer luxury, says Energy CS Wandayi

As political temperatures rise, Energy CS Opiyo Wandayi says his priority is not politics, but fixing country's power and fuel systems. In an interview with the Star, he addressed persistent electricity outages, rising fuel prices, reforms at Kenya Power, the future of KPC. He also addresses commercialisation of Turkana oil and plans for the first nuclear power plant in Siaya. He said Kenya is undergoing a necessary correction in its energy infrastructure.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

### Why battle for DP job could fracture ODM, UDA poll deal

A fierce political battle over President William Ruto's 2027 running mate is threatening to derail ODM-UDA pre-election negotiations and fracture the broad-based government. Such an outcome could deal Ruto a political blow and hand the Kalonzo Musyoka-Rigathi Gachagua-led united opposition a potent political weapon. In recent days, allies of DP Kithure Kindiki have, vowed it is either their man for the second-highest office or no deal at all with the Orange party.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

### Stray bullets' leave Mathare residents terrified of police

The next time Leila Roba hears protesters singing and chanting slogans along the narrow and dusty streets of Kiamaiko in Nairobi's Huruma estate, she would likely lock herself up indoors for her own safety. The healing wound in her left wrist will promptly remind her not to venture out. The phone technician is nursing a gunshot wound she suffered during a protest on February 10. Three days earlier, police had allegedly shot a first-year KMTCC student.

**COMMENTARY** **SUCCESSION POLITICS**

# How a fragmented opposition is clearing Ruto path to reelection

**OCHIENG KANYADUDI**

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The writer is a political and policy analyst

President William Ruto addresses over 12,000 UDA aspirants for the 2027 general election at State House, Nairobi, on February 4  
/JONAH MWANGI/PCS

**T**he lack of clarity in vision, agenda and strategy has paralysed the people's alternative voices. This has caused the struggles of opposition leaders to inadvertently play into President William Ruto's hands. He has outrun his competitors and currently sets the political agenda of the nation single-handedly.

Tensions within the ODM party have provided their fair share of confusion, which has become a blessing in disguise for Ruto. Factions have emerged over the wisdom and timing of entering into a formal pre-election coalition agreement with UDA. The existing 10-point agenda is a poisoned chalice for the Raila orphans.

The dissenting cleavages within ODM have crystallised too early to be reconciled before the planned NDC in March 2026. The fate of the once-famed largest party appears sealed, with fragmentation now predictable.

This inevitably compels the President to reach out to this constituency directly, without the many court jesters masquerading as gatekeepers of Raila's stronghold. For good measure, it also grants him easier and guaranteed access to a rich voting bloc.

In the midst of this confusion, Ruto has concluded the grassroots elections of his party, UDA. Concurrently, the party advertised opportunities for expressions of interest in joining the ruling party. He has positioned its dominance as unassailable, thereby making it the party of first choice.

In their droves, Kenyans applied to be nominated as candidates for all positions except the presidency. Applicants expressed interest in being MCAs, MPs, senators and governors in large numbers. More interestingly, all regions were represented, with Nyanza taking the third slot. The low numbers from the Central region present a learning curve.

When the 2027 aspirants assembled at State House on January 28, the more than 12,000-strong team demonstrated raw political strength. At the meeting, Ruto cleverly assembled an army of volunteer party cadres for his second presidential bid. The campaign machine has tentacles countrywide and reaches deep into the grassroots. Only a revolution could overrun this behemoth.

Since the death of Raila, the President has become the top dog of Kenya's political chess game. The former Prime Minister had offered a counterbalance to his strategies and tactics. With his demise, the opposition has demonstrated disunity and no visionary alternative to the leadership of the Kenya Kwanza government.

Ruto is now setting the direction and pace of the political marathon

towards the 2027 general election. Under normal circumstances, such a player might be complacent and rest on his laurels. Instead, vintage the President has heightened his activities as though he were facing the test of his political life.

He has been a victim of disputed presidential election outcomes since 2007 due to narrow margins of victory. In his reelection bid, he has resolved to obliterate the opposition through a blistering campaign. He seeks to make history as the first presidential candidate in modern Kenya to secure an outright victory with an overwhelming majority. He has therefore left nothing to chance.

His political experience has been forged under difficult and challenging epochs. In blacksmith's parlance, he is steel hardened in a furnace. He rose from relative obscurity under the Moi, Kibaki and Uhuru administrations, much to the chagrin of seasoned operatives who entered politics early and settled into prime positions at the high table.

He has taken great risks and manoeuvred storms with admirable tact. Steadily, he has built a network of supportive partners, loyal followers, skilled volunteers and seasoned technical advisers.

To his credit, most of Ruto's manifesto platforms are bearing fruit. At the start of his regime, many policies were unpopular. The Finance Bill of 2024 triggered historic Gen Z protests, which became violent and led to fatalities. It later emerged that the President suffered internal sabotage, with elements within government fuelling the rebellion.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua was suspected of inciting the youth. This eventually led to his impeachment and a wider reorganisation of government.

A year later, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi introduced another budget, which Parliament approved. Since then, the country has recorded growth under the Beta economic framework. Affordable housing and agricultural input subsidies have reduced the cost of living through lower rents and food prices.

The ordinary citizen has benefited from increased disposable income, reducing the cost of credit. The income tax exemption bracket has been expanded, placing 1.5 million Kenyans into the savings category and improving living standards.

The government has also injected seed capital into the economy through programmes such as Nyota and Hustler Credit. Ruto understands the central role of infrastructure in economic growth and political optics. A road constructed in a remote village leaves a permanent imprint on rural communities, who will remember it as a gift from Ruto.

The continued fragmentation of the opposition is a boon to the President. While this may appear beneficial to the general population, Ruto was likely to win the 2027 election regardless. Since Gachagua assumed opposition leadership in early last year, more heat than light has emerged from the alternative camp.

The focus has shifted to the search for a single opposition candidate. With ODM joining UDA in a broad-based government, it might have been assumed that Kalonzo Musyoka would succeed Raila. This now appears a long shot.

Gachagua joined the opposition with gusto, fuelled by bitterness after his impeachment. He formed the Democracy for Citizens Party and quickly eclipsed the Azimio old guard. Though largely confined to central Kenya, his activities attract high-octane media attention.

Other opposition leaders have had to adjust to his schedule, mostly centred on church events. Strategically, he appeals to the same emotional ground that framed the devil-versus-angel narrative in the 2022 Ruto-Raila contest. Rather than mobilising hope for change, he stokes hostility towards the government.

Through church platforms, he seeks to guilt his community into voting out the government. Kalonzo and others tolerate these tactics to remain relevant. Late entrants from Kisii struggle to find space in this constellation.

Fred Matiang'i has been forced to rely on the wings of former President Uhuru Kenyatta. Meanwhile, David Maraga has depended on NGO-backed environmental activities to maintain visibility.

**SINCE THE DEATH OF RAILA, RUTO HAS BECOME THE TOP DOG OF KENYA'S POLITICAL CHESS GAME. RAILA HAD OFFERED A COUNTERBALANCE TO HIS STRATEGIES AND TACTICS. WITH HIS DEMISE, THE OPPOSITION HAS DEMONSTRATED DISUNITY AND NO VISIONARY ALTERNATIVE TO THE LEADERSHIP OF KENYA**

COMMENTARY **KITENGELA STAGED**

# Hollow Gen Z rhetoric no substitute for tangible efforts to generate jobs



CALEB MWAMISI

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Political commentator



**T**he violence in Kitengela last Sunday offered a revealing glimpse into a growing pattern in Kenya's political theatre: noise is increasingly mistaken for leadership, disruption for mobilisation and spectacle for substance. Politicians appeared eager to exploit the cosmopolitan character of Kitengela by ferrying in youths from elsewhere and staging unrest that created the impression of local support. Residents, traders and boda boda operators observed unfamiliar faces and organised movement more consistent with mobilisation than spontaneous community protest, turning what should have been an authentic civic expression into a carefully choreographed confrontation.

At the centre of the political noise that followed was the ousted ODM secretary-general Edwin Sifuna, alongside other opposition voices who quickly framed the unrest as evidence of national dissatisfaction. But the choreography felt familiar: amplify discontent, weaponise youthful frustration, then claim moral authority over the resulting disorder. In communities such as Kitengela, where traders depend on daily foot traffic and informal workers live hand to mouth, chaos is not activism. It is economic sabotage.

Kenya has, over time, developed an unfortunate tendency to equate volume with legitimacy. Those who shout the loudest dominate headlines, trend online and position themselves as indispensable national voices.

Measured reasoning and patient policy work rarely generate the same attention. This distortion rewards theatrics over thought and elevates political brinkmanship above governance.

This is why the reassembly of the

so-called united opposition feels less like a renewal of ideas and more like a recycling of familiar scripts. Rigathi Gachagua, Kalonzo Musyoka and Eugene Wamalwa have each held high office or occupied spaces close enough to power to influence national direction. Yet their present messaging leans heavily on grievance and mobilisation rather than a coherent programme for economic revival, institutional reform, or social cohesion.

Kenya's democratic space thrives on dissent, and rightly so. Contestation sharpens policy, exposes excess and keeps power accountable. Yet dissent loses its civic value when it becomes performance rather than principle. In recent seasons, a familiar script has emerged in which some politicians package themselves as ready-made solutions to every prevailing challenge.

They position themselves as the voice of the suffering citizen, the custodian of justice and the lone defender of constitutional order, yet their record in office or proximity to power rarely supports such sweeping claims. What is presented as courage often amounts to calibrated outrage, and what is sold as reform frequently dissolves into slogans once the microphones are switched off.

This is the season for such political theatre. Economic strain, youth anxiety and public frustration create fertile ground for messianic messaging. In these moments, theatrical indignation travels faster than patient policy work.

Press briefings replace programme design. Street optics substitute for institutional reform. The language of rescue is deployed without the discipline of implementation. It is not dissent that is the problem, but dissent emptied of ideas and

repackaged as personal branding.

Yet beneath the theatre lies the real prize: Gen Z. As the country edges towards 2027, young voters have become the most coveted constituency in Kenyan politics. They are digitally connected, politically alert and deeply frustrated by unemployment and limited economic mobility. Every political formation now claims to speak for them. But the clamour for Gen Z support cannot be sustained by rhetoric alone. It must be grounded in immediate, visible solutions.

If politicians possess the resources to finance rallies, logistics and mobilisation, then they also possess the capacity to create opportunity. Why not channel those funds into start-up capital for youth enterprises, vocational tools for artisans, innovation hubs and cooperative financing models? Why not support local manufacturing clusters, agribusiness value chains and digital outsourcing centres that can absorb thousands of young people? Youth empowerment cannot wait for campaign seasons; it must begin now. Youth don't care if they are supported by well-wishers, government, opposition or whomever! The opposition must know that they carry a responsibility in this sense, as does the government of the day

**THE EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH ANGER IS PARTICULARLY TROUBLING. YOUNG PEOPLE DESERVE PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION, NOT INDUCEMENTS TO SERVE AS FOOT SOLDIERS IN POLITICAL CONTESTS**

Ousted ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna, accompanied by Siaya Governor James Orengo, Saboti MP Caleb Amisi and Embakasi East MP Babu Owino arrive for 'Linda Mwananchi' rally in Kitengela town, Kajiado county  
**/EZEKIEL AMING'A**

that is doing its part through Nyota and related projects.

There is an uncomfortable contradiction in the current political moment. Some leaders spend heavily to stage demonstrations and maintain political visibility, yet present themselves as champions of the struggling citizen.

Money flows readily for mobilisation but appears scarce when it comes to building enterprises, funding skills training, or supporting community initiatives. The language of solidarity rings hollow when not accompanied by tangible empowerment.

The contrast is particularly stark when placed against ongoing government efforts aimed at youth inclusion through infrastructure expansion, digital economy initiatives, affordable housing projects and labour export programmes designed to widen employment pathways. These initiatives may not be perfect, but they reflect an attempt to create structured opportunity rather than episodic mobilisation. If the urgency expressed in opposition rhetoric is genuine, then constructive engagement with such programmes would strengthen outcomes rather than weaken them.

Opposition politics plays a vital role in democratic governance. It interrogates policy, exposes excess and ensures accountability. However, effective opposition does more than protest; it proposes, negotiates and refines.

If the issues being raised are as urgent as claimed, then constructive engagement with government institutions, parliamentary processes and policy forums becomes a patriotic obligation rather than a political concession.

The exploitation of youth anger is particularly troubling. Young people deserve pathways to employment, entrepreneurship and civic participation, not inducements to serve as foot soldiers in political contests. When demonstrations are populated by individuals transported from Nairobi rather than local residents, the line between genuine civic expression and political staging becomes dangerously blurred.

Kenya stands at a generational crossroads. Gen Z voters are not merely a voting bloc; they are the country's productive future. Winning their trust requires authenticity, measurable action and a willingness to invest in their potential long before ballots are cast.

The politics of volume may dominate the present moment, but the politics of solutions will define the future. Leaders who truly seek the confidence of young Kenyans must move beyond slogans and spectacle to deliver opportunity, dignity, and inclusion now. Anything less is not mobilisation. It is performance. These politicians are moneyed, and they should go to homes where kids lack school fees and support, for inclusion.

## COMMENTARY **DEVOLUTION DENIED**



A litter bin partially vandalised and filled opposite Kencom stage in Nairobi /LEAH MUKANGAI

# Ruto-Sakaja pact is proof of governor's failed leadership



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Once heralded as the 'City in the Sun,' Nairobi, under the tenure of Governor Johnson Sakaja, has deteriorated into a city of filth and broken promises.

Despite the polished rhetoric and the 'Let's Make Nairobi Work' slogan, the reality on the ground depicts a capital in a state of terminal decline.

The recent signing of a Sh80 billion cooperation agreement between Sakaja and President William Ruto is not a lifeline for the city; rather, it is a formal admission of incompetence and an erosion of the hard-won gains of devolution. And the deal has sparked fears of a "stealth takeover" of Nairobi county.

But the evidence of this administrative paralysis is visible at every street corner—the waste management crisis has reached an industrial scale, the collapse of public infrastructure and water services has left millions of residents in despair and the county's fiscal management has been nothing short of disastrous.

Mountains of uncollected garbage have become permanent landmarks in residential estates and the central business district alike.

While the governor claims to have hired a 'Green Army' of 4,000 workers, the city remains choked, with the President himself forced to publicly bemoan the standards of cleanliness.

Persistent water shortages continue to plague estates, even as sewer lines erupt and remain unfixed for days in the heart of the city.

A recent audit uncovered staggering irregularities, including the hiring of more than 3,800 staff without any public advertisement and a payroll system where salaries were inexplicably adjusted up to six times a year.

Reports from the Controller of Budget have previously highlighted periods where the county spent zero shillings on development, further cementing the image of an administration that prioritises recurrent luxuries over service delivery.

This situation draws a haunting parallel to the days of Mike Sonko's governorship.

And just as Sonko's erratic leadership led to the creation of the Nairobi Metropolitan Services in 2020, Sakaja's inability to manage the city has forced a similar "shared responsibility" formula.

Although Sakaja vehemently denies ceding functions, the new deal sees the national government taking the lead on garbage collection, public works and water supply—the very heart of devolved functions.

This pact represents a betrayal of the 2010 Constitution. By allowing the national government to seize control of critical departments through a Joint Steering Committee, Sakaja has reduced the office of the governor to a ceremonial role.

Critics, led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and Embakasi North MP James Gakuya, argue the deal is a "Trojan horse" for recentralising power. Placing the governor in a "subservient" role—deputising the steering committee chaired by Prime CS Musalia Mudavadi—is suspect.

This move erodes the autonomy of the county, making the governor subservient to the Prime CS and turning Nairobi back into an extension of the central government.

It is a dangerous precedent that suggests devolution is only valid as long as a leader is competent, rather than being a protected constitutional right.

Besides, when Sonko found himself in Sakaja's current situation, an impeachment followed swiftly after.

Perhaps this was to be Sakaja's fate and this move is the President's attempt to save him from removal, considering he survived similar motions. A forensic audit of the county's payroll and procurement systems is essential to root out the cartels that have hollowed out City Hall.

Nairobians did not vote for a "deputy governor" to the national government; they voted for a leader to transform their city.

If Sakaja cannot deliver without surrendering his mandate, he must acknowledge that the "experiment" of his leadership has failed.

Nairobi deserves better than to be a political bargaining chip in a deal that sacrifices devolution for administrative convenience.

**THE NEW DEAL WILL SEE THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TAKING THE LEAD ON GARBAGE COLLECTION, PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER SUPPLY**

## DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

# Linda mwananchi: The dangers, opportunities in Sifuna's movement

SAM OMWENGA

The emergence of ousted ODM secretary-general Edwin Sifuna's Linda Mwananchi movement has quickly become one of the most consequential political developments in Kenya's current landscape. This is a genuine, bottom up expression of public frustration — particularly among Gen Z — with President William Ruto's administration. Let no one mistake it as a passing cloud.

At the same time, the movement introduces both opportunities and risks for the broader opposition as it seeks to consolidate a winning strategy for 2027.

Linda Mwananchi did not arise from elite political engineering but from widespread anger and disillusionment among young Kenyans. Gen Z, in particular, has been vocal about economic hardship, governance concerns and unmet expectations. This demographic — digitally savvy, politically assertive and increasingly organised — has found in Sifuna a voice that articulates their frustrations with clarity and boldness.

This authenticity is part of the movement's power. It is not perceived as a traditional party structure but as a civic uprising demanding accountability. That organic energy gives it legitimacy and momentum.

A second factor fuelling the movement is Ruto's obvious efforts to haul ODM into his 2027 strategy. Denials notwithstanding, that perception alone has generated strong resistance within ODM — especially its youth — who reject any cooperation with the Ruto administration. Old hands such as Siaya Governor James Orengo reject the efforts as well. This sentiment has placed Sifuna at the centre of a generational and ideological divide within the opposition. To many young supporters, he represents a refusal to compromise with the government they oppose. That positioning has strengthened his influence but also raised the stakes for how he navigates the coming political realignments.

Despite its authenticity, the movement faces internal risks that could undermine its stated goal of preventing President Ruto's reelection. One concern is the possibility that Sifuna, buoyed by rising popularity, might be tempted to pursue a presidential bid himself. Such a move would fragment the opposition vote while strengthening the incumbent — an outcome directly contrary to the movement's purpose.

Even if the Nairobi senator does not run, the rapid growth of Linda Mwananchi could embolden him to form a "third force" within the opposition. While this might energise supporters, it could also complicate efforts to rally behind a single candidate, a factor historically crucial in Kenyan elections.

For the movement to maintain its impact without destabilising the opposition, it should continue building momentum independently, while avoiding antagonism toward the candidate who currently appears to command broad support among opposition voters: Fred Matiang'i.

From this perspective, the movement's strength lies not in producing its own presidential contender but in shaping public sentiment, mobilising youth and influencing coalition negotiations. A complementary relationship — rather than a competitive one — between Sifuna's movement and the leading opposition candidate maximises the opposition's collective strength.

Coalitions, not parties, define who is sworn as president in Kenya. When party leaders and senior politicians eventually negotiate a pre election alliance, Linda Mwananchi is expected to play a pivotal role. I compare this potential moment to Raila Odinga's historic 'Kibaki Toshi' declaration in 2002, which unified the opposition and reshaped the election.

If Sifuna and the movement were to endorse a candidate, that endorsement would significantly influence public perception and energise the youth vote. Objectively, between the leading opposition figures — Matiang'i and Kalonzo Musyoka — Matiang'i's political style and reformist messaging appear more closely aligned with the ethos of Linda Mwananchi. This alignment makes a Matiang'i Toshi' moment more in line with the movement's base.

The US-based writer is a political commentator

**ONE CONCERN IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SIFUNA, BUOYED BY RISING POPULARITY, MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO PURSUE A PRESIDENTIAL BID AND DIVIDE THE OPPOSITION**



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## COMMENTARY **FABRICATED FALSEHOODS**

# Is 'Ruto Must Go' chant genuine slogan or manufactured rage?

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**T**he anti-government demonstrations that took place in 2024, which saw tens of thousands of Kenyan youths take to the streets to voice their concerns, led to the emergence of a political agenda that has now been adopted by certain politicians as a tool to further their interests in the run-up to the 2027 general election. Its slogan: Ruto Must Go.

While their reasons are based on areas that they believe have not been addressed by President William Ruto and his deputy, Kithure Kindiki, some Kenyans have a different and positive opinion, stating that the situation on the ground speaks for itself.

The opposition side have held on several occasions that their reasons are genuine, based on the three years that the Ruto has served, compared with his achievements. Some of the areas they have criticised include appointments to key government posi-

tions in his administration, claiming the recent appointments favour the President's tribe, the Kalenjin.

They have also criticised the ongoing affordable housing project, claiming that it is being forced upon Kenyans. While they ignore the fact that the living standards of thousands of Kenyans are shifting from slums to modern housing, reality will prevail.

In a visit to Mukuru kwa Njenga in Embakasi South, Arnold Ochieng said he lost his belongings and child just two years ago when fire razed tens of houses. He said that he could not think twice about the idea of moving out of the temporary makeshift houses.

"I was lucky to be among the people who were the first to move to the modern affordable houses. The process was smooth but I wanted this to keep save my remaining children. I lost my firstborn in a fire that gutted the estate," Ochieng said.

Like Ochieng, Sarah Kemunto believes the 'Ruto Must Go' agenda is being engineered by the people who do not have the interests of Kenyans at heart.

"Mimi niko na watoto watatu, Sijawahi hata kaa kwa nyumba mzuri kama hii hapa New Mukuru estate. Hii ni kazi nzuri ya rais na mimi nitampigia kura 2027," she said. Loosely translated, "I have three children. Yet, I have never lived in such a decent house such the one in New Mukuru estate. The President has done well and that's why I will vote for him in the 2027 election."

The youth, who were in the front row of the slogan 'Ruto Must Go' agenda have equally come out to speak their mind.

They said that Ruto's government should prioritise the compensation of the families of the victims of anti-government protest, and that action should be taken against the police officers who were captured on camera shooting the protesters.

However, the compensations committee has faced several challenges, including court cases, in which the government was accused of seeking to use illegal means while the same task could have been accomplished

legally by some of its agencies.

Meanwhile, the victims continue to anguish in pain, waiting for the court cases to be cleared.

The compensation issue was also elaborated upon in the 10-point agenda that was signed by the President Ruto and the former ODM leader Raila Odinga, who died last October.

"We went to protest outside the Supreme Court due to the cartels, which we think have captured the courts. We are now one year to the next election and we are asking the President to come out and pay us at least to earn a living. Where is the opposition now? Why are they silent on this matter? James Wafula asked.

Wafula said the government has expressed its willingness to address the matter, but the courts are now being used by politicians and other cartels to delay their rights.

"I will not go to the street again," he said. "We were genuine when we demonstrated against the high cost of living and the punitive tax that the Kenya Kwanza government was imposing on us. But some people came and hijacked the protests and are now using us as their bait to benefit their interests."

# Kenya-Iran ties in spotlight at 47th anniversary of Iranian Revolution



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**N**airobi played host to a momentous celebration on February 12, as the Embassy of Iran marked the 47th anniversary of the Iranian Revolution. The event served as a powerful testament to the enduring and evolving friendship between Tehran and Nairobi, drawing a distinguished crowd of Kenyan government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and other high-profile guests.

The historical weight of the occasion was set by yours truly, the Iranian Ambassador to Kenya Dr Ali Gholampour. Reflecting on the 1979 milestone, the ambassador described the revolution as the ultimate manifestation of a nation's collective will to dismantle a "pup-

pet dictatorship" that had long prioritised foreign interests over the aspirations of its own citizens.

The celebration highlighted Iran's journey over the last nearly five decades—a period defined by resilience. Guests viewed a video presentation detailing Iran's notable advancements in science and technology. Despite "prolonged illegitimate sanctions and coercive measures", Iran has managed to grow in diverse fields, ranging from advanced medical breakthroughs to the development of nuclear technology for strictly peaceful purposes.

Central to this success has been the "resistance economy", a strategic framework designed to ensure industrial growth and the expansion of non-oil exports in the face

of external pressure. However, the ambassador did not shy away from the challenges, referencing military aggression against Iranian territory by Israel, economic sabotage and attempts to hijack peaceful domestic protests. Through excerpts from a speech by the Supreme Leader, the message remained clear: Iran remains committed to diplomacy rooted in mutual respect, rejecting any progress pursued under the "shadow of threats or bullying".

Relations between Kenya and Iran are currently experiencing a period of renewed growth. Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku, who represented the Kenyan government, said the partnership is anchored in shared values of South-South cooperation, peaceful coexistence and multilateralism. This cooperation now spans key sectors, including health, agriculture, education, trade, culture and technology.

A major boost to this momentum was the seventh session of the Kenya-Iran Joint Commission held in Nairobi in August last year. Both the ambassador and the CS noted the signing of eight new memoranda of understanding. These agreements cover political cooperation, renewable energy, electricity, housing, urban development, investment promotion and higher education.

Economic indicators further underline this progress. Bilateral trade has reached about \$200 million (approximately Sh25.8 billion), with Iranian imports from Kenya doubling over the past three years. A dedicated tea committee is now active, with Kenyan delegations recently visiting Tehran to ensure trade remains a "two-way street"

that benefits both economies.

Perhaps the most tangible impact of this partnership is seen in the health sector. The Iran House of Innovation and Technology has become a vital gateway for Iranian high-tech products, particularly pharmaceuticals, in Kenya, supplying essential treatments for oncology, cardiovascular diseases and liver transplant care. In addition, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has invested more than Sh129 million to upgrade its Nairobi facilities into a twenty-bed hospital and maternity wing, including a new twelve-machine haemodialysis centre. These facilities provide more than 30,000 medical services each month. CS Ruku praised these contributions, noting that they align closely with Kenya's universal health coverage goals. Mobile medical camps have also provided free cataract surgeries, restoring sight to many Kenyans.

As the evening concluded with a showcase of Iran's natural beauty and ancient culture, attention turned to the future. The CS emphasised Kenya's role as a gateway to East and Central Africa through the African Continental Free Trade Area, encouraging further Iranian investment in local manufacturing and technology transfer.

Invoking the words of Imam Khomeini, the ambassador reminded the audience that "true freedom lies in serving humanity". As guests departed after enjoying traditional Iranian cuisine, the message was clear: the forty-seven-year legacy of the Islamic Revolution is not only an Iranian milestone, but also a shared journey of cooperation and prosperity with Kenya.

Public Service  
CS Geoffrey  
Ruku and Iranian  
Ambassador  
to Kenya Dr Ali  
Gholampour  
/IRANIAN  
EMBASSY

## Kenya must live the spirit of Lent, Ramadan daily

**A**s Kenya and the wider world observe Lent and Ramadan simultaneously, the moment presents a profound opportunity for collective reflection.

In Kenya, where Christianity and Islam are the two dominant faiths, these sacred seasons emphasise fasting, sacrifice, repentance, compassion and moral renewal. Ideally, they should inspire both personal and national transformation.

Sadly, a familiar pattern repeats itself every year. Leaders and ordinary citizens alike adopt a temporary 'holier-than-thou' posture—public prayers increase, religious language fills speeches and moral sermons dominate public spaces. Yet once the season passes, corruption, dishonesty, injustice and intolerance resume as if nothing was learned. This pretence is not only sickening; it undermines the very essence of faith.

Lent and Ramadan are not meant to be annual performances. They are meant to shape character and guide daily conduct. Kenya's deep-rooted challenges—corruption, economic inequality, abuse of power and social division—cannot be cured by seasonal piety. They demand consistent integrity, accountability and compassion. If the spirit of these holy seasons were truly lived beyond fasting hours and prayer days, Kenya would be a more humane society.

## HISTORICAL QUOTE

*"We're all imperfect, and life is simply a perpetual, unending struggle against those imperfections."*

**SIDNEY POITIER**

The Bahamian-American actor, film director, activist and diplomat was born on February 20, 1927

## COLUMN KIAMBU SUCCESS

# Counties must take lead in fight against food insecurity



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Kiambu residents receive free maize seeds distributed by Kiambu county on February 9 /KNA

**A**griculture remains the backbone of our country's economy and is essential to food security in Kenya, where millions of families in some famine-stricken regions are in dire need of relief food.

Food insecurity casts a long shadow over a nation's progress, especially in a developing country like Kenya, where it directly affects the energy and productivity of its people.

Even more troubling is that food, which is a basic necessity, has become a political tool with which political aspirants promise to lower food prices and offer free foodstuffs in campaigns to win voters' hearts.

This cycle often results in the election of leaders who vanish after the polls, only to reappear before the next election with the same empty promises, knowing that hunger makes people vulnerable to persuasion.

Robust policies and programmes, particularly by county governments to handle agriculture, are required to ensure sustainable food production countrywide.

Such measures would guarantee food security by keeping granaries stocked with enough food to sustain families until the next harvest season, while economically empowering rural communities through the sale of surplus produce.

When I became governor of Kiambu just over three years ago, we made a decision to put agriculture at the centre of our development agenda, not as tradition, but as strategy.

We prioritised farmer empowerment, income growth and practical support systems that allow agriculture to serve not just as a means of survival but also as a dependable source of livelihood.

Kiambu has always had hard-working farmers and favourable conditions for agricultural production.

What was required was a clear focus on how agriculture could directly improve household incomes

while strengthening food security and creating opportunities for women and young people.

Our approach has therefore been grounded in the daily realities farmers face.

For too long, many smallholder farmers in Kiambu were trapped in a cycle of low productivity, not because they lacked land or effort, but because the cost of fertiliser and quality seeds was beyond their reach. That is why we rolled out a countywide programme to provide free fertiliser, alongside certified maize and bean seeds, to enable households to grow enough food for their own consumption and still have a surplus to sell.

To date, more than 600,000 farmers countywide have directly benefited from this intervention.

The impact has been real and measurable. In areas such as semi-arid Ngoliba and Ndeiya, which in the past depended on relief food during difficult seasons, farmers are now producing their own food.

Families are more secure, resilience has improved and the need for external food assistance has sharply declined.

These changes are not abstract. During my mashinani engagements across the county, farmers often approach me with green maize harvested from their own fields.

On several occasions, women have carried bunches of maize as a simple but powerful gesture of appreciation, and a warning to politicians that come 2027, food scarcity will not be used as a campaigning tool

**ROBUST POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES, PARTICULARLY BY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO HANDLE AGRICULTURE, ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION COUNTRYWIDE**

in Kiambu. Building on this foundation, we have pursued a broader agenda of farmer empowerment and income growth. A central pillar of this effort has been the economic empowerment of women through agriculture.

Across all our 60 wards, we rolled out another programme to support women with improved kienyeji chicken. About 200,000 women have benefited, with each woman receiving 10 chicks.

The results have been consistent across the county. Women have grown their flocks, organised themselves into groups and turned small-scale poultry keeping into a reliable income-generating activity.

Many are now regular suppliers of eggs, supporting their families while gaining greater financial independence.

But production alone is not enough. Without access to markets, even the most productive farmer remains vulnerable. That is why we deliberately linked this initiative to our Early Childhood Development Education feeding programme in which an egg is part of the meal.

We also introduced a livestock programme targeting men and youth through the distribution of piglets to encourage agripreneurship by providing a productive asset that could grow into a sustainable enterprise.

Across Kiambu, what began as rearing a single piglet has blossomed into thriving pig farms, with beneficiaries now supplying pork and launching bustling meat businesses.

In shopping centres, young men who previously had little productive engagement are now actively involved in livestock farming, earning an income and building a stake in the local economy.

Still, if there is one lesson from our experience, it is this: agriculture responds fastest and most decisively when farmers are supported where it matters most — at the level of inputs.

COMMENTARY **RESETTING RELATIONS**

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Journalist and  
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# How Trump's strategy is redrawing the global map

**T**he world is living through a moment of strategic realignment, and much of it can be traced to the revival of unilateral instincts in Washington. Under the leadership of Donald Trump, American foreign policy has increasingly leaned toward go-it-alone decision-making—withdrawals from multilateral agreements, aggressive tariff regimes and a transactional approach to alliances. While supporters argue this restores sovereignty and leverage, the broader effect has been to accelerate a global search for alternatives. In that search, the “Asian Giant”, China is emerging as a central pole of attraction.

Unilateralism is not new in US history, but its contemporary form is distinct in both tone and consequence. The US has long anchored global institutions, from trade regimes to security alliances. When it signals unpredictability, whether by revisiting trade commitments or applying sweeping tariffs, it unsettles not only adversaries but also partners. Markets dislike uncertainty; smaller states fear abandonment; major economies hedge their bets. The result is not a vacuum but a redistribution of trust.

The Asian Giant has positioned itself to absorb that redistribution. Unlike episodic engagement that fluctuates with political cycles elsewhere, Beijing has cultivated an image of long-term planning and policy continuity. Through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, it has embedded itself deeply into infrastructure, logistics and industrial development across Asia, Africa, Latin America and parts of Europe. The scale and ambition of these projects underscore a commitment to connectivity and shared growth. At a time when American policy signals retrenchment or conditional engagement, China's pitch of partnership



US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters before leaving the White House in Washington, DC  
/XINHUA

and development gains resonance.

Trade is the most visible arena of this shift. When tariffs become the preferred instrument of policy, supply chains adapt. Companies diversify away from political risk, and governments accelerate regional trade agreements that exclude the US. Asia's economic architecture increasingly revolves around frameworks where China plays a central role. The message received globally is clear: if access to the American market can be constrained unpredictably, diversification toward Asia becomes not just prudent but necessary.

Financial diplomacy reinforces this dynamic. As Washington tightens sanctions regimes and leverages the dollar-based financial system for geopolitical ends, countries begin exploring complementary arrangements. While the dollar remains dominant, incremental steps—bilateral currency swaps, local-currency settlements, new development finance institutions, reflect a grad-

ual diversification strategy. China's steady advocacy for multipolar financial cooperation aligns with the interests of states seeking greater stability and resilience in global finance.

Security alliances are also feeling the strain. Trump's insistence that allies “pay their share” resonates domestically, but it alters the psychological foundation of alliances. NATO members, East Asian partners and Gulf states are recalibrating. None are abandoning the US outright, but many are expanding diplomatic and economic ties with Beijing as part of a broader strategy of balance and engagement. Strategic autonomy, once a regional slogan, is becoming a global impulse. Importantly, China's growing centrality in global affairs is not merely a byproduct of shifts in Washington; it is also the outcome of decades of domestic transformation. Industrial upgrading, technological innovation and disciplined statecraft have given Beijing the tools to convert opportunity into influence.

From green energy supply chains to digital infrastructure, China offers tangible goods, advanced technology and financing at scale. When combined with rhetoric emphasising sovereignty and non-interference, this approach appeals to governments seeking development without political preconditions. The irony is that unilateralism aimed at restoring American primacy may, in practice, dilute it. Leadership in a complex, interdependent world depends less on coercion than on predictability and coalition-building. When multilateral forums are sidelined or treated as zero-sum arenas, other actors step forward to shape norms and standards. China has been increasingly active in international standard-setting agencies, trade forums and development banks, portraying itself as a defender of globalisation, an inversion of roles that would have seemed improbable two decades ago.

For many countries in the Global South, this shift is less ideological than pragmatic. They seek infrastructure, market access and strategic space. If Washington's approach feels transactional and conditional, while Beijing's appears consistent and development-oriented, alignment follows incentives.

The growing web of Asian-centered trade corridors and financial arrangements reflects this calculus. None of this suggests an inevitable eclipse of American influence. The US retains formidable innovation ecosystems, military reach and cultural capital. Yet influence is relational. It depends on how others perceive reliability and respect. Trump's unilateral style, whatever its domestic appeal, has catalysed a broader reassessment of dependence on US-led systems. History shows that power transitions rarely hinge on dramatic confrontations alone; they unfold through accumulated decisions, hedging behaviours and shifts in confidence. By privileging unilateral leverage over multilateral leadership, Washington has inadvertently hastened the world's tilt toward Asia. In doing so, it has strengthened China's claim to be not merely a rising power, but a central architect of the emerging global order.

## Sifuna ouster by ODM faction illegal and travesty of justice

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High Court of Kenya

**I**n the realm of poetry, the cascade of events leading to the removal of ODM secretary-general Edwin Sifuna can be described as comedy and a travesty. The move has since been suspended by the court and the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal.

Legally, the events amount to a miscarriage of procedural and substantive justice. In biblical terms, what has been meted to Sifuna and other so-called rebels would be meted out by a biased Sanhedrin.

When Kenyans who fund political parties thought they had turned the corner in the pursuit of justice and in furtherance of the rule of law, the troubled history of summary injustice and hostility to dissenting opinion reared its ugly head on Wednesday, February 11, clothed as

a legal move that was a total farce.

In a matter of hours, the equivalent of the Sanhedrin in ODM, comparable to the Kanu disciplinary committee of yore decided that the SG is a dangerous deviant and outcast who should be cast away, without listening to his side of the story. The “jury” in this case acted incestuously, with none among them raising any dissent or circumspection.

They even ‘forgot’ that ODM's constitution recommends alternative dispute resolution as the first line of dispute resolution in the party.

The Oburu Oginga faction of ODM that convened its factional National Executive Council meeting in Mombasa that Wednesday appears to be so self-assured that the party's constitution, due process and

fair administration of justice principles enshrined in Articles 47 and 50 of the Constitution of Kenya do not bother them. Like all overzealous converts to a new religion, this faction has been acting like a zealot willing to self-immolate or explode and tear down the party for the thrill and in order to fulfil the diktat of their new patrons and high priests.

The Oburu-Gladys Wanga-led faction appears hell-bent on forcing its will on the party at any cost. The ODM constitution stipulates that the party chairman is required to give a written three-day's notice to each member - personally to each NEC member - convening such a meeting.

The notice must indicate the agenda and venue of the planned meeting. In this case, these rules were flouted with no rational explanation of the egregious breaches. According to reports in the public domain, the Mombasa meeting was convened by a nocturnal WhatsApp missive on Monday, February 9, through the unilateral action of the chairperson

and her faction members with no indication of what the agenda would be. On the preceding Saturday (February 7) the Oburu wing struck out three members: Kipkorir Menjo, Taita Taveta Senator Jones Mwaruma and Saboti MP Caleb Amisi from NEC without explanation.

By any measure, the removal of the tri and the subsequent recommendation to sack Sifuna amounts to unilateral action and an affront to due process as enshrined the Articles 47 and 50 of the Constitution and the Fair Administrative Action Act.

They require that one cannot be condemned unheard and that the process of any administrative action must be fair and procedurally sound. It matters not what charges one is accused of, as long as the disciplinary process is not tainted with procedural unfairness, bias and illegality.

ODM is a public and parliamentary party funded by taxpayers. Its actions and decisions are, therefore, not a private matter that some officials can tinker with willy-nilly.

## SEASON OF SHARING



Ali Rajab, Ustadh Abdul Abdhalla Omar, Rashid Mfano and Enock Majanga during the distribution of Iftar food staffs at the onset of the Holy Month of Ramadhan /HANDOUT

### COMMENT

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## Why youths are Kenya's gateway to first world country

The talk about Kenya transforming into a first world nation like Singapore has generated a lot of conversation. Some believe Kenya has been on the decline, that the worst is yet to come, that our democracy is withering, and that our economy is getting weaker. Whether one agrees with this situation or not, the key point to reflect on is the need to harness youth power.

Recent reports by the Kenya Human Rights Commission and the Independent Medico-Legal Unit indicate Kenya is doing badly in terms of respect for human freedoms and democracy, observing the rule of law, governance and accountability, and adherence to human rights.

Other studies show the state of the economy and youth unemployment is wanting. Many young people are grappling with harsh realities, including rising unemployment and high cost of living. Moreover, the cancer of corruption is costing the country over 250,000 jobs a year. Kenya needs to do better. There is a reawakening with the Gen Z movement, but still general citizen civic duty is wanting. The need for civic education to get ordinary citizens to acknowledge their inherent human rights and freedoms and take the responsibility of holding their elected leaders accountable through pre-election Memorandums of Understanding and at the ballot is long overdue. Ongoing civic engagement and voter education will go a long way to ensure Kenyans get capable leadership that can reposition the country where it belongs.

Kenya ranks high when compared to other East and Central African countries in terms of GDP per capita, has a favourable climate to support agriculture and a vibrant manufacturing sector.

Besides, the country has an educated and exposed youth bulge that can be useful in ensuring an economic rebound in agriculture, manufacturing and e-commerce. However, there need to be policies that support young people in agribusiness, manufacturing—especially cottage industries and digital skills for e-commerce.

Youth-friendly socioeconomic policies and a favourable tax regime will see Kenya tap the potential of its youth bulge while positioning young people to play a critical role in building the future of the country to ensure economic prosperity and political stability.

However, some of the recent actions that curtail freedom of speech and assembly take the country back to political intolerance, a not-so-good example to young people.

**Policy analyst**

## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### Why microfinance firms need their credibility back

In Kenya's microfinance sector, competition is often framed around interest rates, speed of disbursement, or the size of loan books. But while these factors matter, the strongest competitive advantage is not price or speed alone—it is transparency.

For a long time, transparency in financial services has been treated as a regulatory obligation. We disclose our rates, outline our terms and then consider our duty done. But what if we reframed transparency not as a mandatory footnote, but as the core product itself?

What if, in a sector often shadowed by public scepticism—where whispers of hidden fees, sudden repossession and confusing terms can spread faster than a WhatsApp message, we chose to make clarity our flagship offering?

Kenya's relationship with credit is deeply personal. For many households and small businesses, loans are not abstract financial instruments; they are tied to school fees, medical bills, business survival and family dignity. So, when terms are unclear or processes feel intimidating, customers do not just feel inconvenienced but exposed. That emotional response shapes how lenders are perceived far beyond individual transactions.

This is why transparency should be viewed not as paperwork, but as a promise.

Clear pricing is the most obvious place to start. Customers should not have to decipher complex schedules or discover costs after commitments are made. When interest rates, fees and penalties are explained in plain language, customers gain confidence in their decisions. That confidence lowers anxiety, reduces disputes and creates a sense of fair-

ness—even when the cost of credit is higher than traditional banking alternatives.

This means presenting loan agreements in clear, simple language, not legalese, explaining exactly how a loan's total cost is calculated from the principal amount to the insurance premium, leaving no room for "and other charges" to create fear and doubt.

This level of openness isn't just courteous; it is a strategic commitment to ethical leadership. It signals that we respect our customers' intelligence and value their peace of mind as much as their timely repayment. A tuk tuk rider who fully understands their loan terms becomes a voice that defends our name in their savings group.

But transparency goes beyond pricing. It includes clarity in processes. For example, how approvals are done, why decisions are made, and what customers should realistically expect. In microfinance, speed is often celebrated, but speed without explanation can feel arbitrary. Customers want to know not just how fast, but how and why.

Let's be honest, for many, taking a loan is a decision laced with anxiety. The fear of the unknown — with questions like what if I default? Will they take my car? What are the actual costs? — often holds back potential entrepreneurs from taking the leap that could grow their businesses. When institutions encourage transparency by taking time to explain their processes, they replace uncertainty with understanding.

Transparency also extends to policies—especially those that are emotionally charged, such as collections and asset recovery. These moments often define public perception of lenders. Clear communi-

cation before, during and after such processes can make the difference between reputational damage and reputational resilience. Customers may not always like outcomes, but they are more likely to respect institutions that are upfront, consistent and humane in how they apply their policies.

A mama mboga who felt treated fairly during a tough repayment period will share that experience with her customers. This organic, word-of-mouth credibility is marketing gold—authentic, persuasive, and far more powerful than any billboard slogan.

From a governance perspective, transparency strengthens internal discipline. Institutions that are clear externally are often more straightforward internally. Staff understand expectations, customers receive consistent messages, and leadership decisions are easier to defend. This alignment reduces reputational risk and builds a culture of accountability that regulators, partners, and investors increasingly expect.

In the Kenyan market, where public trust in financial institutions has been tested over time, transparency is also a leadership statement. It signals confidence. It says: "We have nothing to hide, and we are willing to be understood." That posture differentiates serious, long-term players from those focused only on short-term gains.

Essentially, transparency is one of the most effective public relations tools available to financial services companies. Unlike advertising, which invites scepticism, transparency earns trust, turns customers into advocates and staff into ambassadors, and reshapes media narratives from conflict-driven stories to credibility-driven conversations.

**GEORGE KIMANI**

Chief operations officer, Mwananchi Credit Ltd, a Kenyan microfinance company

## WHAT THEY SAID ...



**NSSF deductions**

*I was deducted Sh200 every month for 25 years. I was shocked to find out that my total take-home could not buy me a quarter of an acre of land*

**JARED CHOGO**  
Retiree



*If he [President Ruto] denies Mt Kenya [the DP] position, he stands to lose even the little votes left, if it doesn't go to ODM, he opens another battlefield*

**JAMES GAKUYA**  
Embakasi North MP