



News

I'm not a bishop! Ruto lightly corrects Uganda's Museveni during address

Official visit: Page 3



News

Sorry, you cannot recall your MPs just yet, IEBC dashes hopes

Unhappy voters: Page 7

FRESH, INDEPENDENT, DIFFERENT

NO. 5492
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025
www.the-star.co.ke

KSh60/00 (Tsh1,000, Ush2,000)

theSTAR

Industry insiders say the move will also undercut the digital economy

ALCOHOL BAN PLAN TO STRIKE TRADERS, JOBS HARD

Story PG 2



AREAS WHERE BOOZE COULD BE BANNED

- Supermarkets
- Home deliveries and couriers
- Residential premises and areas
- Online (sale of alcohol)
- Restaurants
- Basic education, tertiary, higher learning institutions
- Public beaches, public parks, amusement parks, recreation facilities
- Medical facilities, sports facilities
- Bus parks, bus stops
- Petrol stations
- Public transport (trains, railways stations, ferry)
- Outlets selling children-related product such as toy shops
- Hawking
- Vending machines

ODM 'splinter' group now plans parallel activities PG 4-5



Edwin Sifuna



Babu Owino



Caleb Amisi



Wilberforce Oundo



Anthony Kibagendi



Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen (C) with Nacada CEO Anthony Omerikwa (L) and chairperson Stephen Mairori (R), among other officials, during the launch of Nacada National Policy for the Prevention, Management and Control of Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse yesterday /MINA

UPROAR

State bans alcohol sales in homes, online, restaurants

The legal age for drinking, selling or handling liquor has been raised from 18 to 21 years

VICTOR AMADALA AND
GILBERT KOECH
@TheStarKenya

The sweeping ban to the sale of alcohol in supermarkets, petrol stations and restaurants has triggered a storm, with traders protesting the decision will destroy jobs and create a thriving bootleg market.

The proposed embargo also cuts out online orders and sales in residential areas, a move most believe targets Gen Zs who do not patronise bars but instead enjoy their trifle in vehicles after making orders online.

The controversial move, unveiled with the launch of the National Pol-

icy for the Prevention, Management and Control of Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse, has sparked outrage among business leaders and drawn legal questions from stakeholders.

Under the new rules, the legal age for drinking, selling or handling alcohol has also been raised from 18 to 21 years, a decision the government says is based on science about adolescent brain development and public health risks.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen said the crackdown targets not only illicit brews but also legal alcohol outlets that fail to meet strict zoning and licensing rules.

Alcohol consumption is now banned in public beaches, parks, medical facilities, sports grounds, petrol stations and public transport hubs.

Delivery of liquor to homes has also been outlawed, along with all volume-based sales promotions, discount offers, or giveaways.

But critics say the government is going too far. The Small and Medium Liquor Traders Association (Melta) warned the measures could wipe out thousands of jobs and devastate small businesses.

Melta chairman Frank Mbogo described the new policy as well-intentioned but economically reckless, arguing that raising the drinking age would displace more than two million young adults working in the hospitality and liquor sectors.

"These are Kenyans who make a living in this space. Raising the age limit will not only deny them income but will also fuel black market alcohol consumption," he said in a statement. The ban on alcohol out-

“

Raising the age limit will not only deny them income but will also fuel black market alcohol consumption

lets within 300 metres of schools, churches and residential areas is particularly alarming for traders in dense urban centres.

"Where will these outlets move to? Nairobi doesn't have the space for that kind of separation," the statement added.

Industry insiders also say the move undercuts the digital economy.

Samuel Ndunda, head of e-commerce at East African Breweries, termed the policy "regressive", especially the prohibition of online alcohol sales.

He said digital platforms now account for more than five per cent of their total revenue—up from less than one per cent in 2020—and are driven by consumer preferences for home-hosting and convenience.

"The modern consumer isn't necessarily drinking more, but they're drinking differently. We're punishing innovation," Ndunda said.

Restaurant owners echoed similar frustrations, accusing the government of blindsiding businesses that are already struggling under high taxes, inflation and political instability.

"Alcohol is a legitimate part of

our business model. We don't serve minors, and we follow the law. But this policy could force many of us to shut down," a Westlands-based restaurant owner said.

A manager at one of Kenya's top supermarket chains added, "We've invested millions into controlled liquor stores and employed hundreds of young people. The sale of alcohol in supermarkets is heavily regulated. Banning it is punitive."

The policy's health rationale is backed by sobering data. Alcohol remains Kenya's most abused substance.

Government surveys show one in every eight Kenyans (3.2 million) drinks alcohol, while one in every six (4.7 million) uses at least one drug or substance.

Among youth aged 15–24, substance abuse is rising fast, with more than 630,000 using drugs and nearly 370,000 consuming alcohol.

Nacada CEO Anthony Omerikwa defended the reforms, citing global best practices and research showing that the brain continues developing until age 25.

He said youth between 18 and 20 are at the highest risk of alcohol-related accidents, unsafe sex, violence and academic failure.

"This is a public health crisis. We cannot pretend it's business as usual," Omerikwa said.

In a statement to newsroom, Omerikwa said the communication is part of a national policy, contrary to media reports that it had imposed ban. He clarified that the next step for policy document is being subjected to a multi-sectoral implementation framework, which comprises of the government, civil society, industry and the public.

Omerikwa said the policy is a roadmap, not an enforcement measure.

Interior CS Murkomen went further, declaring war on drug barons and rogue alcohol producers.

He said the government would now partner with the Assets Recovery Agency to seize vehicles, equipment and bank accounts linked to illegal alcohol trade. "Lenient court fines aren't working. We need to hit offenders where it hurts—take their assets, their vehicles, their businesses," Murkomen said.

He proposed redirecting recovered funds to build rehabilitation centres and public awareness campaigns.

Despite the public health urgency, questions persist about the legality, enforceability and economic impact of the new directives.

Many fear the sweeping bans could backfire, pushing alcohol trade underground and reducing tax revenues from one of Kenya's highest-yielding sectors.

The policy's stated aim is to reduce alcohol-related harm, protect young people and address the rising burden of non-communicable diseases, which now account for 33 per cent of deaths in Kenya—up from 27 per cent in 2014.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Kenya's sweeping alcohol reform aims to tackle substance abuse by banning sales in supermarkets, petrol stations, online platforms and near schools or churches, while raising the legal drinking age to 21. The state frames it as a public health initiative, citing rising alcohol use and brain development science.

STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

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

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Do you support plan to recall Passaris as an MP?

YES 70%



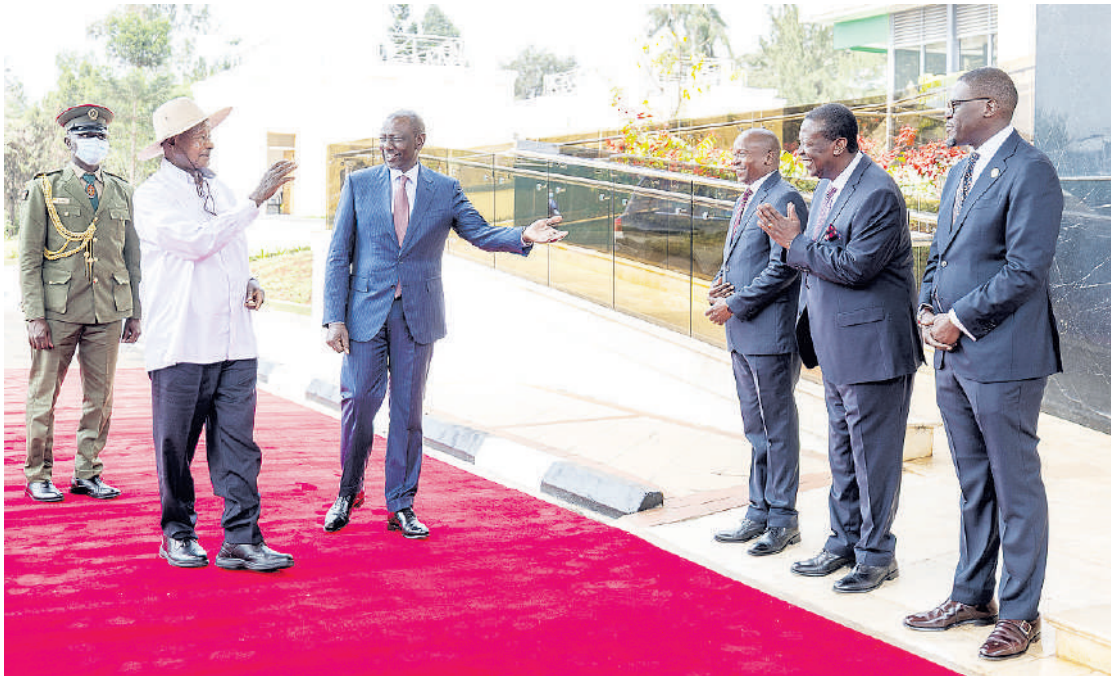
NO 30%



GOOD CHRISTIANS

I'm not a bishop! Ruto lightly corrects Museveni at briefing

Uganda leader not sure where biblical reference he used was found



President William Ruto introduces Deputy President Prof Kindiki Kithure, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja to his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni at State House, Nairobi, yesterday
/HIRAM OMONDI/PCS

BRIAN ORUTA
@TheStarKenya

THERE was a light moment at State House, Nairobi, during a visit by Uganda's president Yoweri Museveni yesterday.

Museveni, when making a joint address with President William Ruto following closed door bilateral meetings, used a biblical reference, but was not sure where the words were found.

"They left undone what they ought to have done and they did that which they ought not to have done and there is no truth in them," Museveni said.

As he sought to clarify where the words were written, Ruto said it

was from the bible. It is then that the Ugandan president referred to him as 'bishop'.

"It's in the bible also. The bishop has told you," he said as officials present burst into laughter.

Museveni's words, from Matthew 23: 23, were in rebuke to the current generation of young people.

The verse reads: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

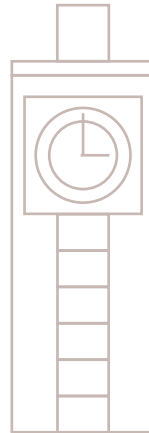
In response, Ruto clarified that he is not a bishop but is keen to take up evangelism after his retirement.

"And just to make a small correction, I am not a bishop. But I have made a commitment that when I'm done being President, I will become an evangelist."

Ruto commended Museveni for living out his strong Christian values, saying he has witnessed the leader practice it during a previous visit to Uganda.

"I know that you have a serious grounding as a Christian. I came to see you and you prayed for food in Kinyankole. I asked why and you said that is how you were taught when you were young," Ruto said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



★ **A VOCAL GOVERNOR** is now said to be among the largest landowners in his county, having reportedly acquired over 1,000 acres to add to his existing holdings. This development has raised eyebrows among residents, who view it as a possible indication of corruption. The massive land purchase has cast a spotlight on allegations of money laundering, with claims that illicit funds were seemingly used to finance the acquisition. Rumours are swirling that the governor plans to venture into large-scale cattle ranching on the newly acquired land.

★ **SOME MPS ALLIED** to the administration are discreetly planning their exit from government, in what sources describe as a calculated move for political survival ahead of the 2027 general election. While the MPs continue to publicly criticise the opposition and downplay its chances of scuttling the current administration's re-election, behind the scenes they are said to be laying the groundwork for defection. According to insiders, the lawmakers are weighing their options carefully, with one of the main concerns being the choice of a viable political party that is both popular in their respective regions and guarantees them a ticket.

★ **OUT IN THE** counties, a first-term governor is making waves—not for service delivery, but for the staggering speed at which he has accumulated wealth. In less than three years, he has reportedly outpaced his predecessor, who took a decade to build a similar fortune. Locals say the county government now runs more like a family business than public office, with the governor's relatives allegedly entrenched in every stage of the procurement process. From lucrative tenders to key appointments, it appears the family's grip is firm—and growing.

★ **DOES A TOP** power man have a role in the eminent collapse of a renowned private facility in the capital? Well, this column is informed that all roads lead to the occupant of the well-known address, as he is allegedly keen to instal cronies in the board of the facility and have an absolute say in its affairs. Those in the know say that, with other investments in key sectors of the economy, the personality is keen to diversify into the business and the facility was an easy target. It is alleged that he instigated infighting in the board, leading to systematic deterioration of services.

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

CARTOON



FRESH CRACKS THE MAINLY YOUTHFUL MPs ACCUSE THE PARTY OF “BETRAYING THE STRUGGLE”



ODM ‘splinter’ group now plans series of parallel activities

LUKE AWICH
@AchiaAwich

Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga's ODM party is facing fresh cracks as a hardline faction opposed to the deal with President William Ruto quietly mobilises across the country.

The group, composed mainly of youthful MPs, accuses the party of “betraying the struggle” by cozying up to Ruto's administration.

Led by Secretary General Edwin Sifuna, the faction has defied the political truce and is openly rallying for countrywide events packaged as empowerment forums.

This Sunday, the team will pitch camp in Saboti constituency, Trans Nzoia county, for a meeting dubbed the Women Empowerment Programme.

Members who have publicly aligned with the splinter group include MPs Babu Owino (Embakasi East), Antony Kibagendi (Kitutu

Chache), Caleb Amisi (Saboti), and Wilberforce Oundo (Funyula).

They are backed by other vocal leaders such as Muthoni Wamuchomba (Githunguri), Jack Wamboka (Bumula), Majimbo Kalasinga (Kabuchai), Dick Maungu (Luanda), Peter Salasya (Mumias East), Patrick Simiyu (Cherangany), Clive Gisairo (Kitutu Masaba) and Mohamed Ali (Nyali).

The group's association with some MPs allied to the Opposition team of Rigathi Gachagua has raised eyebrows.

The end game of their political strategy however remains to be seen.

Though loosely knit, the group is gaining momentum. It has vowed to hold regional consultative forums and hinted at forming a breakaway movement ahead of the 2027 election. After Saboti, the team plans another meeting in Busia later in August.

“The team is bigger than you can imagine. What you are seeing is just

the tip of the iceberg. Busia is next,” a member of the group told the Star on condition of anonymity.

But insiders say there is more to

these forums than meets the eye.

Speaking to the Star by phone, Amisi confirmed the team is charting a different path.

“Something is cooking. This is a team coming to save Kenya. That's it,” he said. “People want something new, something awakening.”

This will be the second public engagement by the group.

On July 13, they held a similar forum in Kabuchai.

Sources say several ODM lawmakers support the group privately but have adopted a wait-and-see strategy.

“It's not just me who objects to most of these things. The bad people are just louder than us, but they don't scare me,” Sifuna said during an interview with Citizen TV, alluding to silent dissent within ODM.

Owino has publicly declared he will run for Nairobi governor in 2027 with or without ODM's backing.

Amisi, the host of Sunday's meet-

“

CALEB AMISI

Something is cooking. This is a team coming to save Kenya. That's it,” he said. “People want something new, something awakening



For more news on our website. Scan this quick response code using your smartphone.



GLE” BY COZYING UP TO RUTO’S ADMINISTRATION



ODM leader Raila Odinga, secretary general Edwin Sifuna and members of the party's central committee /EMMANUEL WANSON

ing, has warned he will leave ODM if it backs Ruto for re-election.

“I was elected on an ODM ticket for five years. But if the party continues collaborating with Ruto, I won’t seek re-election on that ticket,” he said. “If it retraces its steps and returns to its roots, then we can talk.”

Amisi says ODM’s new direction undermines years of political sacrifice.

“ODM must decide now. There’s confusion even among supporters. Some disagree with the broad-based agreement, while others say we have finally gotten into government and should enjoy it. I don’t know what they are enjoying.”

He argues the deal has diluted the party’s ideals and long-held struggle for justice.

Political analyst Javas Bigambo, however, believes the dissent is a calculated move by individuals to craft personal political brands ahead of 2027.

“They are trying to popularise themselves outside the party to build their own identity,” Bigambo told the Star.

He noted that such ambitions often collapse when faced with political reality, though he acknowledged that some rebels have influence.

“The weight is there. But significance matters. A kilo of cotton and

a kilo of stone weigh the same, but the perceived impact is different,” he said. “Politically, some of them are like cotton—they weigh something but have little force.”

The fallout comes as Raila moves to calm tensions in ODM over the rapprochement with Ruto.

On Tuesday, Raila rallied the party’s Central Committee to endorse cooperation with the government, catching many loyalists off guard.

“The party supports the position of the party leader Raila Odinga to work with the Kenya Kwanza administration to stabilise the country and create an enabling environment for Kenyans to address their concerns through democratic and constitutional means,” Sifuna said while reading the resolution.

Despite the endorsement, Sifuna remained the lone dissenting voice during the meeting, backed by a few members including Governors Anyang’ Nyong’o (Kisumu), Abdulswamad Nassir (Mombasa), and Senator Godfrey Osotsi (Vihiga).

“THE PARTY SUPPORTS THE POSITION OF THE PARTY LEADER RAILA ODINGA TO WORK WITH THE KENYA KWANZA ADMINISTRATION TO STABILISE THE COUNTRY AND CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR KENYANS TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS THROUGH DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS,”



Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Nassir /FILE



Kisumu Governor Anyang' Nyong'o /FILE

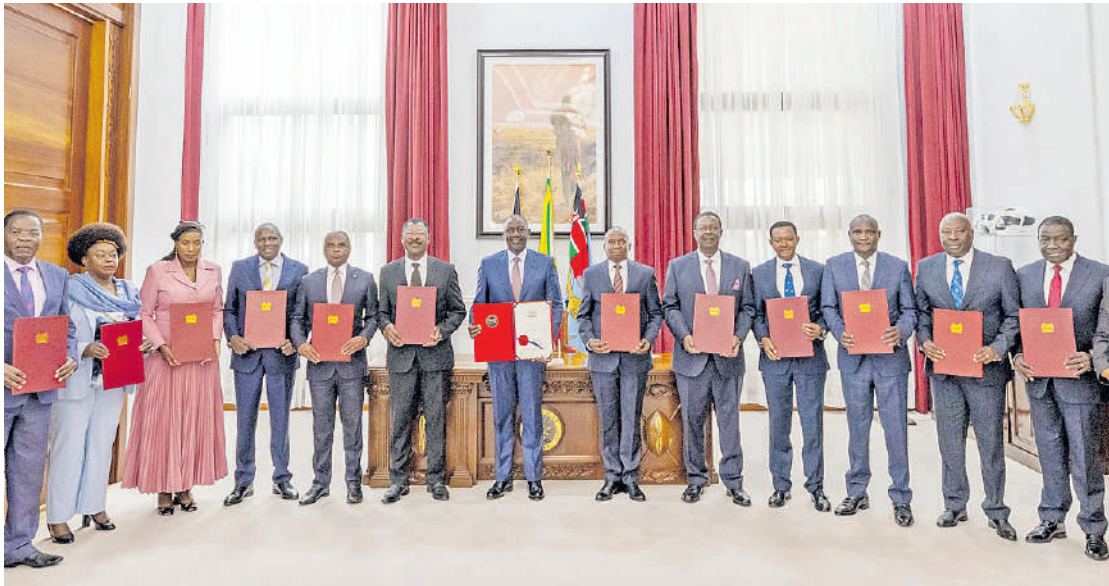


Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi /FILE

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

With 2027 still over two years away, the emerging rebellion could redraw the opposition’s political map and complicate matters for President William Ruto, who is keen on retaining his seat in 2027 riding on ODM’s support.

NEWS GENERAL



President William Ruto, Deputy President Kindiki Kithure, senior members of the Executive and MPs hold copies of the signed Conflict of Interest Act and The Social Protection Act at State House, Nairobi, yesterday /SUE NYAMASEGE /PCS

ANTI-GRAFT FIGHT

Ruto deals blow to civil servants trading with state in new law

President declares an end to officials awarding themselves tenders

MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses

PRESIDENT William Ruto struck a major blow to civil servants and public officials, signing into law a bill which bars them from conducting business with the government.

At a ceremony at State House, Nairobi, flanked by anti-corruption officials and lawmakers, Ruto declared an end to the era of civil servants awarding themselves tenders while serving in government.

“We have stepped up the fight against corruption by passing this law that now gives power to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to take charge of all matters of corruption,” he said.

EACC would thus have exclusive authority on matters of corruption, and has its enforcement capabilities strengthened in the new legislation.

The commission would also now institute forfeiture proceedings against public officers, without having to rely on the Assets Recovery Agency.

The new law also strengthens regulations of gifts, with civil servants now required to not only declare gifts they receive personally but also those accepted by family members or relatives, and other third parties.

Government agencies would, going forward, be required to maintain gift registers covering all recipients, not just public officers.

Public officers have also been barred from holding an interest in entities doing business with any government agency, not just those under their purview.

In the new law, MPs and MCAs are also barred from participating in

debates where they have a conflict of interest.

The lawmakers would be subject to the same recusal requirements as other public officials, while civil servants would have to immediately declare any material change to their assets.

He said there was no room for civil and public servants to abuse the offices they hold, as well as the resources under their custody.

“This is a very consequential moment in Kenya. We are stepping up the use of resources and making it difficult for people to take advantage of the offices they occupy.”

President Ruto went on, “It is significant that Kenyans can participate in making sure they hold public offices to account in their exercise of the authority and power they have. This moment is significant.”

The law aims to ensure that no public servant competes with hustlers for government business, and for those employed to serve the people to be content with their salary.

The President said he was elated that the law was in place, saying the delays in passage of the law were caused by the very conflict of interest the law was addressing.

“We will now deal decisively with conflict of interest in every part of government,” President Ruto said.

The new law provides for a total ban on civil servants from meddling in government business.

As such, civil servants, state officers and their immediate families are prohibited from bidding for or supplying goods/services to the government.

Family is now defined in law to include spouses, dependent children, parents, and parents of a spouse, while relative covers anyone related

to an officer by birth, marriage, or adoption.

It also provides for mandatory asset declaration by public officials, as well as their businesses and any conflicts will lead to automatic disqualification.

It also sets stiffer penalties with violators facing jail terms of up to 10 years, hefty fines and mandatory forfeiture of illegally acquired wealth. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said the coming into force of the Conflict of Interest Act, ‘strikes a phenomenal blow for the fight against corruption’.

“The new law not only closes the loopholes corrupt officials have been exploiting to steal money from public coffers, it also makes it much more difficult for them to use proxies to advance corruption,” the DP said.

He added, “The EACC now has the levers to advance the fight against graft, abuse of power and the manipulation of public trust for private gain.”

The law empowers the commission to investigate and prosecute those using relatives, friends, or shell companies to bypass the rules.

For years, corrupt civil servants have exploited loopholes to award themselves lucrative tenders, diverting funds meant for public projects into private pockets.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

As the law takes effect, all eyes will be on enforcement by the EACC and the other responsible agencies. But one thing is clear: Ruto has drawn a red line—public service is no longer a gateway to self-enrichment.

RESOURCE SHARING

Kenya-Uganda deal to end Karamojong, Turkana tensions

FELIX KIPKEMOI

THE perennial cross-border conflict between Turkana community and Uganda’s Karamojong is now set to ease following a renewed diplomatic push by Presidents William Ruto and Yoweri Museveni.

During a meeting at State House, Nairobi Tuesday, the two leaders agreed to fast-track the signing of a landmark cross-border resource-sharing agreement aimed at resolving decades of tension between the pastoralist communities living along the northern Kenya-Uganda border.

Museveni is on an official visit to the country.

Ruto who spoke after a closed-door meeting with Museveni, hailed the agreement as a major step toward long-term peace and cooperation.

“I appreciate that, following consultations, we will shortly be signing the agreement on sharing of resources between the Karamojong and Turkana communities in the northern part of Kenya and Uganda,” Ruto said.

“This will facilitate greater harmony between the communities living in that area.” The head of state further thanked Museveni for considering Kenya’s request regarding citizens currently detained in Uganda.

“On behalf of the people and Government of Kenya and particularly on behalf of Turkana county, I sincerely appreciate your consideration of some of our Kenyans incarcerated in Uganda,” he said.

“We look forward to having a conversation on how this can be resolved, both at the government level and the cultural level.”

The agreement, which is in its final stages, will allow communities from both countries to access shared natural resources, such as water and pasture, under structured arrangements that promote peace and sustainable coexistence.

The Turkana-Karamojong border corridor has historically witnessed

armed cattle raids and resource-based clashes with cases of arrest and detention of Turkana pastoralists in Uganda.

The planned agreement is now expected to provide a framework for peaceful coexistence and end years of hostility.

In April 2023, at least 32 Kenyan pastoralists from Urum and Lokiria villages in Turkana were arrested by Ugandan authorities before being tried and later sentenced to 20 years in jail.

They were, however, released after a year.

The pastoralists are said to have been arrested by Uganda People’s Defence Force and the police, in the guise of disarmament operation.

The recurring droughts in the area have severely impacted the availability of pasture and water for their livestock forcing them to cross to Uganda in search of it.

There have been previous attempts by leaders from Turkana and Karamojong to develop a joint agreement aimed at promoting peaceful sharing of cross-border resources.

In a meeting held in February, 2023 chaired by Uganda’s senior presidential adviser on Defence, Salim Saleh, the leaders acknowledged the need for a formal resource-sharing pact to address rising conflicts and ensure the continued grazing of livestock in Uganda by Turkana pastoralists.

Ruto said the deal represents more than a diplomatic gesture.

“These agreements signify our joint resolve to turn our cooperation into practical results that will directly uplift the lives of both our peoples,” he added.

The two countries are also working on other bilateral instruments, with Ruto expressing hope that the resource-sharing framework will be concluded before the end of the year.

Ruto and Museveni also discussed regional security, trade and infrastructure.



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Kenya's William Ruto at State House, Nairobi, yesterday. Museveni is on an official visit to Kenya /HIRAM OMONDI /PCS

NEWS GENERAL

FIGHTING CANCER

Tobacco products to display graphic images to curb use

Tough regulations seek to reinforce Control Act, 2007, which set up smoking zones

LUKE AWICH
@AchiaAwich

IT will soon be mandatory for tobacco manufacturers to display graphic health warnings on all tobacco product packaging, as the government moves to expose the health risks linked to the substance.

Health CS Aden Duale presented a raft of proposed laws before MPs, requiring that cigarettes must carry large, visible images illustrating the devastating health effects of smoking, including lung cancer, mouth disease and infertility.

Duale said tobacco packages will be required to carry disturbing images showing severe health effects of smoking, including rotting lungs, throat cancer and decaying teeth, in a bold move to deter people from smoking.

The images will cover at least 80 per cent of the front and back of each package—30 per cent on the front and 50 per cent on the back. Duale said the move follows alarming data showing a sharp rise in tobacco-related illnesses, particularly cancers of the throat, lungs, and mouth.

The tough regulations seek to reinforce the Tobacco Control Act, 2007, which only set up designated smoking zones.

“The 2025 Graphic Health Warnings (GHWs) for tobacco products



Health PS Mary Muthoni and CS Aden Duale before the National Assembly's Delegated Legislation Committee yesterday /ENOS TECHE

are designed to address current and emerging nicotine and tobacco products that were not covered by previous sets of warnings,” Duale said.

“The objective is to deter initiation of tobacco use, particularly among the young people and reduce consumption and encourage cessation among users.”

The new regulations further aim

to use impactful visuals to bridge literacy barriers. With cancer now among the top causes of death in the country, the Ministry of Health insists the new packaging policy is just the beginning of a broader crackdown on tobacco use.

“Tobacco is one of the world’s biggest health threats; currently it kills 8 million smokers and 1.2 million

partial smokers—those who sit next to the smokers,” Duale told MPs.

The CS was appearing before the National Assembly’s committee on Delegated Legislation to defend the ministry’s proposed regulations on tobacco use. The committee is chaired by Ainabkoi MP Samuel Chepkonga.

He was accompanied by director general of Health Patrick Amoth

during the afternoon session. Amoth said the move is in line with global events.

“Tobacco is one of the substances that have been proven to be a risk factor for a various number of diseases, including cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular diseases like hypertension and chronic renal diseases amongst others,” he said.

Duale also blamed unnamed powerful cartels, whom he accused of fuelling the importation of unregulated tobacco products into the country.

Containers bearing harmful tobacco products have been seized at various ports of entry, he added.

“The 2025 graphic health warnings are designed to address the current and very emerging nicotine and tobacco products that were not covered by the previous sets of warnings which we had,” the CS said.

“But that does not stop me. We have public health officers at the point of entry because we have said we will not allow harmful products. There are some connected to very powerful people in the country and there is a lot of unregulated stuff in the name of tobacco. That is why we see many of our young people fall victims so we are under obligation to protect the next generation.”

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Tobacco Control Act, 2007, is the primary law governing tobacco control in Kenya. It aims to regulate the production, manufacture, sale, advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products. The Act also established the Tobacco Control Board to advise the Minister of Health on tobacco-related policies.

SAFE FOR NOW

Sorry, you cannot recall leaders just yet, says IEBC, dashes hope

JULIUS OTIENO

KENYANS hoping to recall underperforming Members of Parliament or Senators will have to wait longer.

This is after the electoral agency confirmed that a legal vacuum currently makes the process impossible, despite the constitutional right provided under Article 104.

In a detailed statement, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission chairperson Erastus Etheke said the agency supports citizens’ right to initiate recalls.

However, he clarified that there is no enabling legislation to facilitate the removal of MPs—a term that includes both National Assembly and Senate members.

“The commission stands ready to facilitate the process without fear, favour, or hindrance,” Etheke said. “But for MPs and Senators, the situation is different.”

While Article 104 of the constitution empowers voters to recall their representatives, Parliament is mandated to pass laws defining the

process—something it has failed to do since a 2017 High Court decision invalidated key sections of the Elections Act governing recalls.

The court found the provisions unconstitutional and discriminatory, suspending the recall mechanism. Although lawmakers amended the law to provide for the recall of MCAs, no similar legislation has been enacted for MPs and Senators.

Etheke confirmed that while the commission is processing valid recall petitions for MCAs, it cannot act on four recently received submissions seeking the removal of MPs and Senators.

This revelation has reignited criticism of Parliament’s prolonged inaction.

The Law Society of Kenya said the legal gap has rendered Article 104 unenforceable, undermining public accountability and citizens’ sovereignty under Article 1.

“Unfortunately, the necessary legal reconciliation was never done,” LSK president Faith Odhiambo said. “As a result, the right has

been suspended both in law and practice.”

Efforts to close the gap rest on the Elections (Amendment) Bill, Senate Bill No 29 of 2024, which is pending its second reading in the National Assembly.

The Bill aims to bring the Elections Act in line with the 2017 court ruling by removing unconstitutional provisions and outlining fairer grounds and procedures for recall.

However, the LSK has raised concerns that the Bill may overly restrict the recall process, rather than empower voters.

“Parliament must uphold the true spirit and intent of Article 104 and Chapter Six of the constitution on leadership and integrity,” Odhiambo said.

In the meantime, the Senate’s Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights committee, chaired by Bomet Senator Hillary Sigei, has initiated efforts to develop a comprehensive policy and legal framework. The committee has

called on state agencies—including the Attorney General’s office, IEBC, Kenya Law Reform Commission and the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties—to collaborate on reforms that will enable the recall of both directly elected and specially nominated lawmakers.

“Submit the policy framework and any draft Bills thereon for consideration by Parliament,” the report adds.

The committee has given the rele-

vant agencies six months to present their status reports—including a draft policy and accompanying Bill—to Parliament.

Legislation should be introduced in Parliament no later than February 26, 2026, whether or not the policy framework has been submitted. This effort follows a petition by Nairobi-based activist Laban Omusundi, who called for a clear recall process for nominated MCAs.



IEBC chairman Erastus Etheke /HANDOUT

NEWS GENERAL

BREACHES OF LAW

NCIC chiefs earn illegally amid multiple audit queries

MOSES OGADA

THE National Cohesion and Integration Commission is under scrutiny after an audit report revealed that its commissioners have been drawing salaries and benefits illegally.

The report by Auditor General Nancy Gathungu for the year ending June 30, 2024, also highlights other serious breaches of law and financial mismanagement.

It exposes a pattern of irregularities that raise questions about the legitimacy of the commission's leadership and its adherence to

legal and financial regulations. At the heart of the controversy highlighted in the audit is the illegal appointment and remuneration of NCIC commissioners.

The audit reveals that the current team of commissioners was appointed in April 2020 under terms that directly contravene a court judgment delivered on January 14, 2019. In that judgment, the High Court declared the appointment process outlined in Section 17(1)(a) and (b) of the National Cohesion and Integration Act unconstitutional, null and void.

However, despite the ruling, the commissioners were appointed and have since been drawing salaries and benefits reserved for constitutional commissions and independent offices.

As per the audit, the letters of appointment falsely designated them as full-time officials serving a single six-year term.

The auditor argues that the privilege is exclusively granted to members of constitutional commissions appointed under Article 250(6)(a) of the Constitution.

The audit notes that no explanation was provided for this blatant disregard of the court's decision, casting doubt on the legality of their tenure and the financial benefits they have accrued.

A circular from the head of public service in April 2015 also directed that the provisions of Mwongozo Code be complied with by all state



NCIC chairman Samuel Kobia during an interview with the Star in his office in Nairobi on July 21
/LEAH MUKANGAI

agencies in regards to appointment of chairpersons, board members and CEOs of state corporations.

"In the circumstances, the legal existence of the commissioners under the current terms could not

be confirmed," Gathungu said.

The audit further highlights the commission's failure to comply with public finance laws, pointing to possible misuse of confidential expenditure votes.

LACK OF QUORUM

Senate session flops as legislators skip sitting

CSs Ogamba, Tuya and Miano were scheduled to address urgent national matters



Education CS Julius Ogamba



Tourism and Wildlife CS Rebecca Miano



Defence CS Soipan Tuya

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

AFTER repeatedly censuring Cabinet secretaries for snubbing parliamentary summons, senators themselves failed to show up for a key Senate session yesterday—prompting an abrupt adjournment in a striking twist of irony.

The session, during which three Cabinet secretaries were scheduled to address urgent national matters—including the escalating crisis in the education sector—was called off after the Senate failed to meet the minimum quorum.

Temporary Speaker Hillary Sigei rang the quorum bell for more than 20 minutes, but only a handful of senators turned up. The House requires at least 15 of its 47 members to begin official business—a threshold that was not met.

Cabinet secretaries Julius Ogamba (Education), Rebecca Miano (Tourism and Wildlife) and Soipan Tuya (Defence) had been scheduled to appear before the plenary to answer questions raised by the lawmakers.

The no-show by senators comes in sharp contrast to their recent hardline stance against Cabinet secretaries who have failed to appear before the House, drawing accusations of double standards.

Their absence has raised fresh concerns over Parliament's own accountability, with critics questioning whether lawmakers are truly committed to the oversight role they so often demand of others.

Sources indicate a significant number of senators were attending a function at State House, where President William Ruto was signing the Conflict of Interest Bill into law—a landmark legislation aimed

at curbing graft and promoting transparency in public service.

Yesterday, CS Ogamba was scheduled to respond to a myriad of questions regarding the troubles in the education sector.

He was expected to explain the ministry's plan to accelerate the construction of 18,000 Grade 9 classrooms nationwide.

"What other interventions is the ministry considering to ensure there are adequate learning spaces in schools countrywide?" a question by Senator Karen Nyamu reads.

In another question, Nyamu wanted the CS to state the interventions the ministry is implementing to address the looming crisis caused by the Sh43.4 billion budget shortfall in the sector.

The shortage, Nyamu argues, is threatening free primary and secondary education.

Ogamba was expected to explain immediate measures being implemented to ensure critical programmes such as capitation and national examinations are not disrupted.

"How is the ministry managing the impact of the current teacher shortages and delayed recruitment on the quality of education, especially in underserved and marginalised areas?" Nyamu posed.

He was also expected to address whether urgent steps are in place to ensure all schools have adequate and qualified teaching staff.

Ogamba was also supposed to explain measures taken by the ministry to prevent schools from withholding KCPE and KCSE certificates.

The CS was also scheduled to explain why junior secondary school teachers are being assigned subjects

outside their areas of specialisation in the question posed by Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu.

"What measures has the ministry put in place to ensure clear role definition and manageable workloads for JSS teachers, who are currently compelled to also teach in the primary section, despite the already high demands at JSS level?" the question states.

For CS Tuya, she was supposed to state the whereabouts and condition of a sergeant, who has been missing since 2016.

"What was the justification for the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) issuing Certificates of Presumption of Death to the families of missing KDF soldiers, particularly in light of the recent emergence of videos of two officers indicating that they could be alive in captivity?" a question by Wajir Senator Abass Sheikh states.

CS Miano was expected to explain the current status of the tourism sector in Kenya and how recent trends in tourist arrivals compare between domestic and international visitors. "What factors have contributed to the recent decline in international tourist arrivals, particularly in contrast with the performance of other East African destinations?" a question by nominated Senator Joyce Korir reads.

Previously, senators have severely criticised the CSs for skipping their invites to respond to their questions.

Among the CSs who have run into trouble with the senators for their no-show are Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, Miano, Deborah Barasa (Environment), John Mbadi (National Treasury) and Davis Chirchir (Transport).

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

In March 2023, MPs adopted a report of the Committee on Procedure and House Rules seeking to amend Standing Order 25A. It allowed CSs an opportunity to expound on government policy, reply to questions and provide reports concerning matters under their control. It also allowed them to appear on the aforementioned days after the adoption of amendments to Standing Order 40. The constitution only gave room for the CSs to appear before Parliamentary committees.

NEWS GENERAL



PHOTO STORY

M-Pesa Foundation Safaricom PLC Trustee Patricia Ithau and Ushiriki Wema Foundation chairperson Tessie Musalia with Derrick Musonye, a Grade 7 pupil at Chekombero Special School for the Hearing Impaired in Vihiga county. The school was renovated and refurbished at a cost of Sh50 million by Safaricom Foundation in partnership with Mudavadi Memorial Foundation Trust. Tessie urged the government to consider making basic sign language a subject in schools /HANDOUT

NYAMIRA

Two captured on video throwing man into fire arrested

BOSCO MARITA

Two of the suspects linked to an incident where a 40-year-old man was stoned before being tossed into a fire in Matongo village, Nyamira county, were on Tuesday arrested.

Police said they are looking for more suspects in connection with the murder of Calvin Makori on July 26.

The drama was captured on a video that went viral, prompting police action.

Police said on Wednesday that they acted on intelligence and arrested two men who were seen in the video dragging Makori into the fire.

Many condemned the action online, demanding that the police take action.

Makori was accused of being a habitual thief and of burglary incidents in the area.

He was later stoned and his body thrown into a fire, killing him.

Police later arrested two men aged 50 and 47, adding that they were looking for more suspects.

Such incidents are common in the larger Gusii region, with vigilante groups being linked to the trend.

Police in some areas are aware of the practices but turn a blind eye.

Police discourage mob lynching and term it criminal. The police want suspects to be surrendered to authorities for action.

According to police, cases of mob lynching have been on the rise in the country.

READY FOR TRIAL

15 people to testify against cop charged with killing colleague

Limo was in April charged with Muga's murder following an altercation in a city bar

PETER OBUYA
@Pobuya

THE state has line up 15 witnesses, including police officers, to testify against Constable Kipkosgey Limo who has been charged with the murder of his colleague.

Limo was in April charged with the murder of Eric Muga following an altercation in a bar in Nairobi's Gigiri area on March 9.

Another police officer, Corporal Philip Kae, was seriously wounded and remains hospitalised.

Kae is one of the key witnesses who will testify for the state.

The prosecution on Wednesday told Justice Kimondo that all witness statements and exhibits that will be relied upon during trial have been supplied to the defence.

Defence lawyer Kimani Wachira confirmed receipt of the documents except the witness statement of Kae who is still in hospital and is yet to record his statement.

"His statement is key for the defence given he is the only eye-witness going by the documents we have received. We urge that the same be supplied as soon as possible," Wachira said.

Others who will testify include the pathologist and the crime scene officer who is also the investigator in the case.

Justice Kimondo certified the matter ready for trial and fixed the hearing for February 9 and 10, 2026.

Meanwhile, Limo has made a

second application to be released on bond or bail.

The application follows Justice Kimondo's ruling on July 1 in which the court declined to grant bond to the accused.

Limo's application to be granted bond had been opposed by the Director of Public Prosecutions, who cited the likelihood of interfering with witnesses.

The state also warned that Limo was likely to abscond from court sessions, saying it was difficult to have him arrested after he committed the offence.

In his ruling on July 1, Justice Kimondo said he was satisfied that a number of witnesses will be police officers who used to work with the accused.

"I thus find that the likelihood of interference with evidence or the witnesses is not farfetched," he said.

The court also noted that the accused did not surrender to authorities and it took the efforts of a team of officers to have him smoked out from under a car where he was hiding.

Limo has admitted to the court that he took cover under a car as he was attacked by people unknown to him. He said he had no option but to take cover under the vehicle to protect himself from harm.

However, investigators said Limo failed to surrender even after officers had asked him to and that it took the concerted efforts of a team of officers to smoke him

out of his cover using teargas canisters.

Justice Kimondo noted that while the accused may not have fled far from the scene, he did not surrender to the police. "On the totality of the materials in the deposition filed by the republic and based on admissions by the accused, I find that the likelihood of absconding is thus high," the judge ruled.

He said as such, the attendance of the accused at his trial has been cast into some doubt.

"The upshot is that there are strong and compelling reasons for the denial of bail and I accordingly decline to grant bail at this stage," Justice Kimondo ruled.

However, Limo through lawyer Kimani Wachira, asked the judge to review the ruling saying he cannot interfere with witnesses given he has since been interdicted.

The lawyer argued that the interdiction has changed various dynamics including the accused working relationship with the witnesses.

"The accused is ready to abide by any conditions the court will set. He has a fixed abode and known family links. Bail will allow him to properly prepare for his defence," Wachira submitted.

The prosecution however maintained its opposition to the accused being released on bail or bond, saying the interdiction is a normal procedure for all police officers charged with murder.

Justice Kimondo will deliver a ruling on the second bid for bond on September 30.

DAYLIFF

Dependable Quality

NI YETU

NOBODY

Knows More About

PUMPS

The Brand of

DAVIS & SHIRTLIFF

know H₂O through experience

Dayliff.com

AVAILABLE FROM BRANCHES AND STOCKISTS COUNTRYWIDE

NEWS GENERAL

EXCEPTIONAL WORK

Conservation is about people, says ranger Edward Nderitu

GILBERT KOECH

AS the global community commemorates World Ranger Day today, one figure stands out: Edward Nderitu, head of the anti-poaching unit at

the Lewa Wildlife conservancy. The conservancy has lauded Nderitu's exceptional work in the lead-up to the day.

"He (Nderitu) joined Lewa in around 1997 as a rhino monitor,

at a time when Kenya's black rhino population had plummeted from 20,000 to fewer than 300. He has been promoted through the ranks; he became head of Anti-Poaching in 2012, overseeing security operations across Lewa," the conservancy stated.

Nderitu is a distinguished member of the Kenya Wildlife Rangers Association board and holds a position on the Game Ranger Association of Africa Leadership Council.

His primary duty is to provide

guidance to organisations that support rangers' welfare across Africa. He leads a highly trained unit of armed rangers safeguarding over 60,000 acres of vital wildlife habitat.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Nderitu was honoured with the inaugural Tusk Wildlife Ranger Award by Prince William in 2015, acknowledging his leadership, bravery and unwavering commitment to wildlife and community security.

Beyond his direct conservation

work, Nderitu is an advocate for ranger welfare. He participated in the 2024 London Marathon to raise funds for rangers and is preparing for Namibia's challenging seven-day, 250 km desert ultramarathon.

He is set to host the African Rangers Congress 2025 at Lewa in September.

Nderitu believes that people are at the heart of conservation, stating that communities serve as the first line of defence against wildlife crime.

CLEANUP

Sewer project to revive Nairobi River underway

Efforts to turn river into urban waterfront that supports biodiversity



Ongoing works at Lucky Summer /HANDOUT

GILBERT KOECH
@KoechJunior_1

THE Nairobi River is currently undergoing a significant transformation as the government intensifies its efforts to clean and restore the 27-kilometre stretch of the heavily polluted river corridor.

This initiative, spearheaded by the Nairobi Rivers Commission, includes the alignment of a new trunk sewer line as part of a broader endeavour to reclaim the river and convert it into a clean, green and vibrant urban space.

On Wednesday, commission CEO Brigadier Joseph Muracia announced that projects are already in progress, including vital river engineering works downstream near Lucky Summer.

"For decades, the river has been choked by solid waste, ageing sewer infrastructure, and untreated industrial and institutional waste. This project aims to change that," Muracia said.

The overarching vision is to redefine the Nairobi River as a crucial public asset—an urban waterfront that enhances quality of life, supports biodiversity and provides sustainable water resources.

The regeneration efforts are being implemented through the Nairobi River Regeneration and Engineering Works Programme, which was

launched in March by President William Ruto. Key components of the plan include a new sewer system, wastewater treatment plants, pedestrian bridges, cycle lanes, landscaping and affordable housing along the reclaimed corridor. At Kamukunji, the construction of a football pitch and a community hall is already underway.

The Ministry of Defence is overseeing the design and execution of the project, collaborating with government agencies including the commission, Nairobi county, the State Department for Housing, Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company and Energy China.

According to Muracia, more than 35,000 young people have been involved in cleanup efforts, with an additional 5,000 expected to join soon. These youth are part of the Climate WorX initiative, which aims to empower communities while tackling climate and environmental challenges.

During the project's launch, President Ruto described the Sh50 billion regeneration initiative as transformative, promising cleaner living environments, safer transportation corridors, and improved livelihoods for thousands of residents. The project is anticipated to create 40,000 jobs, significantly expanding on the 22,000 previously generated under the Climate WorX Mtaani initiative.

"This initiative will ensure digni-

fied living, sustainable transport, and economic empowerment," Ruto said. "In 24 months, Kenyans will begin to see a transformed Nairobi River."

Stretching beyond the city's boundaries into Kiambu, Kajiado, Machakos, Murang'a and Makueni counties, the programme will address issues such as river pollution, flood mitigation, urban resilience, and public health risks. It includes the construction of a 60km sewer line and 50,000 affordable housing units in reclaimed areas.

In the 2025/26 national budget, Treasury CS John Mbadi allocated Sh26.8 billion to water and sewerage infrastructure, Sh16.5 billion to water resource management and Sh1.9 billion to flood control and water storage. These funds will support both the river regeneration and other national water projects.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Nairobi River regeneration marks a bold shift in urban environmental policy, combining infrastructure overhaul, community involvement, and climate resilience. With Sh50 billion allocated, the project aims to transform the polluted river into a vibrant urban corridor, integrating social housing, sewer systems and public spaces.

MORE THAN 35,000 YOUTH HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CLEANUP EFFORTS

GUARDIANS OF HERITAGE

Rangers honoured amidst rising threats

GILBERT KOECH

AT the forefront of conservation efforts are a group of people who undertake critical duties such as wildlife and forest protection, environmental law enforcement, community education, fire management, disease outbreak prevention and the promotion of sustainable resource use.

Rangers' work is essential for maintaining ecological balance and preserving natural habitats for future generations.

Kenya will join the global community today to commemorate World Ranger Day today, an annual observance dedicated to honouring the committed guardians of natural heritage worldwide.

This year's theme, "Rangers, powering transformative conservation," underscores the vital role rangers play in protecting the environment and local communities.

Kenya Forest Service rangers patrol vast forested areas, plant trees, combat illegal logging and wildfires, educate local communities, and enforce environmental laws. Despite facing dangerous and demanding conditions, these men and women remain steadfast in their mission.

"Whether patrolling remote forests, reforesting degraded areas, or confronting illegal activities, our rangers embody a deep commitment to preserving Kenya's invaluable forest resources for future generations," KFS said. They emphasise that behind every thriving forest stands a dedicated ranger.

In the fiscal year 2023-2024 alone, KFS recorded 33 ranger injuries and lost 16 officers in the line of duty. To enhance ranger welfare and operational effectiveness, KFS has committed to improving working conditions through comprehensive medical cover, performance recognition programmes, housing provision, and timely promotions.

The Kenya Wildlife Service acknowledges its rangers as frontline defenders of Kenya's wildlife and natural spaces.

They are responsible for safeguarding national parks, managing human-wildlife conflict, enforcing anti-poaching laws and engaging with communities to foster co-existence.

World Ranger Day also serves as a solemn occasion to remember rangers who have been injured or lost their lives while serving in often perilous conditions.

Ahead of this year's commemoration, International Ranger Federation president Chris Galliers called for increased recognition and support for these unsung heroes.

"Let us take this World Ranger Day to be inspired by the extraordinary work rangers do. Let us honour these brave individuals and work collectively to improve their safety, effectiveness and recognition—because if they don't protect our natural world, who will?" Galliers said.



Kenya Forest Service Chief Conservator Alex Lemarkoko during a past passing out parade of rangers /HANDOUT

NEWS BUSINESS

BANKING

Regulator asks banks to budget more for cybersecurity threats

Banks currently spend upto Sh600 million annually to safeguard themselves against the vice



A security officer walks past a poster of Cyber Crime containment poster at KICC during the Cyber Security conference in Nairobi /FILE

JACKTONE LAWI
@jacksonelawi

BANKS need to increase their cybersecurity investments to tackle emerging new threats among them artificial intelligence, according to a new report by the Central Bank of Kenya.

This is among the issues raised by the banking sector regulator in its planned overhaul of the 2017 Cybersecurity Guidance to counter emerging threats.

CBK argues that issues such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, application programming interfaces, and mobile money fraud—were not adequately addressed in the current (2017) framework.

Currently the Commercial banks

budget between Sh2.5 million and Sh600 million annually towards cybersecurity.

The regulator says that despite a growing awareness of the risks posed by sophisticated cyberattacks, the budget was dependent on the cost of annual license fees of cybersecurity solutions implemented by the commercial banks.

“As cyber threats evolve in scale and sophistication, updated guidance from central banks plays a critical role in safeguarding the stability, trust, and integrity of the financial system,” CBK said in its latest Cybersecurity survey.

CBK has embarked on updating the 2017 CBK Guidance on Cybersecurity to commercial banks.

The regulator argues that, while the

current framework has significantly improved the industry’s cyber posture, the rapid evolution of cyber threats has outpaced the regulatory model.

The findings covering 37 commercial banks and one mortgage shows that 95 percent of lenders have a cybersecurity budget.

Conversely, five percent indicated that they do not have a cybersecurity budget and that funds are availed on a need basis. While commercial banks have largely embraced the existing framework, the expansion of mandatory requirements is expected to stretch cybersecurity budgets further.

These funds cover expenses such as software licensing, staff training, penetration testing, and establishing Security Operations Centres (SOCs).

“About one-third of the surveyed banks reported relying heavily on manual monitoring tools, which are often insufficient in detecting real-time threats. CBK’s expected update may push more banks toward adopting automated threat detection and response systems,” the report reads in part.

THE DATA

95%

The percentage of banks with cybersecurity budgets

The local banks are calling for updated cybersecurity guidelines that reflect emerging digital risks and technologies, amid growing concerns over data protection, cybercrime, and evolving financial platforms.

CBK says in recent submissions to the regulator, financial institutions recommended that upcoming cybersecurity guidance incorporate several key areas currently not covered in detail. These include Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), cloud computing, and application programming interface (API) security—technologies that are increasingly central to banking operations.

Further the financial institutions want cyber risk insurance and risk transfer mechanisms, enhanced controls to curb mobile money fraud, data protection and privacy risk management and threat intelligence sharing frameworks, particularly mechanisms that allow for anonymised information exchange between institutions. The proposed updates come as the financial sector rapidly digitises and faces sophisticated cyber threats.

Mobile money platforms, which now dominate daily transactions, have become a major target for fraud, prompting calls for stricter detection controls. Banking leaders argue that incorporating these emerging concerns into regulatory frameworks will bolster sector-wide resilience and better safeguard customers.

THE DATA

129.23

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

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

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.2401
STG POUND	172.5291
EURO	149.3240
SA RAND	7.2314
KES / USHS	27.7391
KES / TSHS	19.8855
CHINESE YUAN	18.0127
JPY (100)	87.3746
IND RUPEE	1.4818
AE DIRHAM	35.1860

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
SAMEER AFRICA	7.76	9.60
SKL	6.26	6.10
KPLC	11.35	3.18
JUBILEE	239.00	3.13
PORTLAND CEMENT	44.60	3.12

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
LONGHORN	2.46	8.21%
EAAGADS	11.70	5.65%
FLAME TREE GROUP	1.20	4.76%
BK GROUP	35.90	3.23%
HOME AFRICA	0.61	3.17%



Harvard Business Review

TIP OF THE DAY

SIGNAL POWER THROUGH LANGUAGE

Strong leadership isn't just about your presence; it's about how you speak. To convey power, use these five techniques to elevate your communication, establish your authority, and command respect.

Focus on action. When explaining decisions, choose language that drives forward momentum. Instead of listing options, state your choice and outline next steps. Clear direction signals confidence and decisiveness.

Think big. Don't get stuck in metrics. Step back and connect details to a larger purpose. Speaking abstractly—about trust, growth, or impact—helps others see you as a visionary, not just an operator. Take the hit. Deflecting blame weakens your credibility. When things go wrong, own the outcome and explain how you'll fix it. Accountability shows strength and builds trust.

Assess others. Ask thoughtful questions in interviews, pitches, or meetings. Demonstrating discernment positions you as a leader with options.

Direct the spotlight. In meetings, don't default to imposing your perspective on the team. Instead, guide the conversation, ask strategic questions, and synthesize decisions. Leading requires steering the conversation, not simply speaking the most.

TRADE

Kenya yet to be impacted by Trump tariffs but must diversify export markets- Kepsa

MARTIN MWITA

TRUMP’S punitive tariffs are yet to hit Kenya, according to the the private sector leadership but say the country must diversify its export markets including tapping opportunities in Africa.

This comes as the US moves to send tariff letters after the expiry of the 90-day freeze that was imposed on April 10, to allow talks with the different markets on the new US tariffs.

Kenya Private Sector Alliance (Kepsa) yesterday said no major impact has been felt on the country’s export to the US despite a 10 per cent export tax by the US.

Kepsa CEO Carole Kariuki, said most of Kenyan exports are still accessing the US market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which has given Kenya and other eligible sub-Saharan countries up to 6,400 product lines

duty-free access to the US for the last 25 years.

“Kenya has not had an impact yet because it only takes 10 per cent but we are still operating under AGOA, once AGOA goes, then we will see what happens,” Kariuki told the Star during an interview yesterday.

Agoo expires in September this year and there has been a push to extend it by at least 16 years, with KLenya also pushing for a strategic trade deal; with the US amid a push for removal of the 10 per cent tariff.

While most countries have been slapped with a 10 per cent rate on their exports to the US, including Kenya, some have been hit with tariffs as high as 50 per cent.

Kenya’s textile and apparel industry is expected to take the biggest hit. Other exports to be affected include macadamia, coffee, black tea and organic coffee.

To evade future impacts from

tariff changes, Kepsa has called on the country’s industries and traders to seek other markets and tap more opportunities in existing ones, with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) pact providing the country with more export options.

“We should be able to remain competitive. Part of being strategic is not only attracting the new businesses here, it is also diversifying the markets. If this is costly, which other market needs it? and moving there,” Kariuki said.

Her sentiments echoes those of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which has called on member states, and by extension the continent, to increase intra-Africa trade to cushion the region from the Trump tariffs.

Speaking during the 41st Comesa trade and customs committee meeting in Nairobi, Director for Trade and Customs, Christopher

Onyango, said countries must speed up implementation of the Simplified Trade Regime (STR) aimed at simplifying customs procedures and reducing trade barriers.

This is in addition to the comprehensive commerce strategy for implementing the AfCFTA, which is being modelled to prioritise regional value chain development, digital trade infrastructure harmonisation and governance.

This includes establishing regional manufacturing hubs, accelerating the adoption of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) and enhancing the AfCFTA Secretariat’s monitoring capabilities.



Kepsa CEO Carole Kariuki /FILE

NEWS BUSINESS

REVENUE

KRA raises Sh86.5bn billion through alternative dispute resolution route

JACKTONE LAWI

KENYA Revenue Authority (KRA) facilitated the collection of Sh86.518 billion through its Tax Dispute Resolution program.

This is an increase from the Sh21.9 billion that was realised in the 2023-2024 financial year.

The Authority utilises Independent Review of Objections, their Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism and Litigation, resulting in significantly enhanced revenue collection.

During the period review, Sh18.898 billion was released for collection through KRA's alternative dispute resolution mechanism, while Sh67.620 billion was released for collection as a result of 2,389 successful outcomes in the courts.

The taxman says through its Independent Review of Objections

Section, KRA undertook independent reviews of 3,594 objection cases as part of its broader Tax Dispute Resolution framework.

These reviews aim to prevent escalation into litigation processes which can be lengthy and costly to the parties.

"Furthermore, during the financial year, KRA concluded 1,152 cases through its ADR mechanism. This outstanding performance demonstrates that Taxpayers have embraced the Tax Dispute Resolution programme, particularly ADR, which continues to gain preference as a method for resolving tax disputes," read a statement from KRA.

The taxman says that being a voluntary and participatory process, it allows parties not only to choose the forum but also to control the process.

It is also less formal than court

Taxpayers at KRA head offices /FILE



proceedings, offering greater flexibility. In addition, ADR is confidential, cost-effective, and often results in quicker settlements.

"KRA urges all parties involved in tax disputes to consider ADR as a viable, cost-effective and efficient resolution mechanism. Additionally, KRA encourages Taxpayers to remain compliant to avoid future disputes,"

Kenya first ushered in ADR in April 2015 with the Tax Procedures Act, No. 29 of 2015, paving

the way for the resolution of tax disputes between the Commissioner and taxpayers outside the traditional court systems.

The process was instituted as an alternative to the legal mechanism under the Tax Appeals Tribunal Act, 2013 which was enforced as part of the business reforms aimed at boosting the country's investment climate.

Some of these methods include mediation, arbitration, and negotiation.

ENERGY

Kenya banks on batteries to boost power

VICTOR AMADALA

THE Kenya Electricity Generating Company is piloting use of a Battery Energy Storage System for uninterrupted renewable power, marking a new frontier in Kenya's green energy strategy.

On Tuesday, Kengen announced the installation of a 1.16 megawatt-hour (MWh) BESS to serve the company's 52- 52-kilowatt Modular Data Center (MDC) at its head offices in Nairobi, a facility comprising 356 U-spaces, purpose-built to support the firm's growing digital infrastructure. The storage system is designed to guarantee stable electricity even during periods of low grid demand, underscoring the role of battery technology in enhancing energy resilience. The initiative is part of the company's Good to Great (G2G) 2034 strategic blueprint, which targets the rollout of 500MWh of energy storage capacity over the next decade.

The country is in need of said energy storage facilities to enable the national electricity grid to cope with an increase in power plants that use energy sources such as wind and solar, which are not available in the evenings when there is a surge in power consumption.

The battery will store excess energy from its geothermal power plants in Olkaria to be used when demand goes up.

"This commissioning marks a crucial step in our journey toward a low-carbon, digitally resilient future," said Peter Njenga, KenGen's managing Director and CEO.

"By integrating battery storage into our data infrastructure, we are not only reducing our carbon footprint but also showcasing how energy utilities can lead in sustainable innovation."

KenGen emphasized that the BESS offers multiple advantages, including improved grid stability, energy independence, cost efficiencies, and seamless backup capabilities.

"This initiative is more than a technological upgrade. It is a commitment to Kenya's green transition and to ensuring that our digital economy is powered by sustainable, reliable energy."

While Kenya has significantly increased its installed capacity, it has also resulted in a paradox — excess capacity that has seen the country suffer financial losses. Kenya's current installed (grid-connected) electricity capacity is 2,651 MW, with peak demand of 1,912 MW. Demand rises at an average rate of 3.6 per cent annually. The high generation means that at least 700MW goes to waste, with power users forced to shoulder the burden. In June, Energy cabinet secretary Opiyo Wandayi revealed that Kenya Power spent a total of Sh151.7 billion in the 2023/24 financial year, including billions paid for electricity that was generated but not used—costs he said were necessary to ensure a stable power supply.

FORECAST

IMF adjusts global economic growth upwards to 3% in 2025

The momentum is expected to continue into next year but uncertainties still linger

VICTOR AMADALA
@itsAmadala

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised upwards its earlier global economic forecast by 20 basis points on easing cost of living and relative calmness in global trade after the US paused heightened tariffs for 90 days.

According to the World Economic Outlook report released on Tuesday evening, the lender now forecasts the global economic growth to expand by three per cent from an earlier projection of 2.8 per cent.

The growth momentum is expected to continue into 2026, with the economy expected to expand marginally to 3.1 per cent

"The modest decline in trade tensions, however fragile, has contributed to the resilience of the global economy so far," the lender says in the report.

The lender says that most regions are experiencing modest growth upgrades this year and next, with Sub-Saharan Africa's growth expected to expand four per cent in 2025 and 4.3 per cent in 2026.

Economic growth in advanced countries is expected to expand by 1.5 and 1.6 per cent, respectively, this year and next year, while that of emerging markets and developing economies is projected to grow by 4.1 per cent in 2025.

"This resilience is welcome, but it is also tenuous. While the trade



IMF's Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva / FILE

shock could turn out to be less severe than initially feared, it is still sizeable, and evidence is mounting that it is hurting the global economy," IMF says.

The anticipated growth is, however, still below pre-COVID levels. For instance, compared to the pre-April 2 forecast, global growth is revised downwards by 0.2 percentage points this year. At around three per cent, global growth remains disappointingly below the pre-COVID average.

It has projected a persistent decline in global trade as a share of output despite the recent front-loading, from 57 per cent in 2024 to 53 per cent in 2030.

The multilateral lender warns

that the current trade environment remains precarious.

"Tariffs could well reset at much higher levels once the 'pause' expires on August 1 or if existing deals unravel. If this were the case, model-based simulations suggest global output would be 0.3 per cent lower in 2026."

It adds that without comprehensive agreements, the ongoing trade uncertainty could increasingly weigh on investment and activity.

Further, while export front-loading has supported global activity so far, firms could become vulnerable if the demand for stockpiled goods does not materialize.

Although the War between Israel and Iran has de-escalated, the IMF warns that the geopolitical environment remains fragile, with a potential for more negative supply disruptions.

Moreover, while global inflation continues to decline, the latest price data suggests that inflation pressures are building gradually in the US.

Overall, US import prices in dollars have remained largely unchanged or even increased this year, suggesting that the cost of tariffs will be borne by US retailers and, eventually, as firms start to pass through higher costs into their prices.

In too many countries, the combination of high public debt and still elevated public deficits continues to be a cause for concern.

The lack of fiscal space makes these countries especially vulnerable to a sudden tightening in financial conditions that increases term premia.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Global trade developments continue to shape the outlook. Following an escalation in tariffs imposed on the rest of the world in April, the US partly reversed course, pausing the higher tariffs for most of its trading partners. This, and a de-escalation of trade tensions with China in May, modestly reduced the US effective tariff rate from 24% to about 17%.



#MBUSIINALIONTEKETEK

MBUSII NA LION TEKE TEKE

EVERY WEEKDAY
3PM - 7PM



RADIO
JAMBO

www.radiojambo.co.ke

BIG READ / SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING

An ambulance
at Rabuor
Subcounty
Hospital in
Kisumu county
/CLARET
ADHIAMBO



A SOFTER APPROACH TO THE TEENAGE PREGNANCY CRISIS

Shaming girls who ask for contraceptives backfires, hence idea of a counselling centre



Mary James* (not her real name) during an interview with the Star at Rabuor Subcounty Hospital in Kisumu county /CLARET ADHIAMBO

CLARET ADHIAMBO
@ClaretAdhiambo

Young women seeking contraception services in public hospitals are often met with rude statements that keep them off. For example, “Unamalizia wama dawa. Familia gani msichana mdogo kama wewe anapanga? (You are finishing medicine for mothers. Which family is a young girl like you planning?)”

This is despite the government publicising family planning services as free of charge in public hospitals.

June Zomo* (not her real name) was publicly humiliated by a medic at a public hospital in Nairobi, when the nurse loudly asked her when she last had her periods and why she was sexually active.

The humiliation permanently drove her out of the public hospital to a private facility.

Unfortunately, the then 19-year-old girl became pregnant. But how did this happen despite being on pills?

“I asked myself this question over and over again. Until I went to a different clinic and was asked to bring the medicines on the next visit,” Zomo says.

Upon examination, the nurse said

the pills could not serve their purpose.

Distraught, Zomo almost sunk into depression. Being pregnant meant she had to drop out of school to do menial jobs, such as washing clothes and cleaning houses for Somali women in Eastleigh, to take care of herself and her child.

“
EMILY OMEDO

In 2022, Kobura ward, where Rabuor Subcounty Hospital is, had the highest number of teenage pregnancies in Kisumu county. This triggered an alarm

“I could not continue with my education and every day, I have to make the hard choice of either giving up or working hard to provide for my child,” she says.

Zomo lives in a mabati structure in Mathare 4B. To do the jobs, she has to look for a volunteer to take care of her child. And on days she does not get one, it means they go hungry.

“Life has not easy because even Eastleigh is a gamble. You are not guaranteed a job, and most of the people who are available to take care of your child for free are drunkards or hooked on drugs. But what choice do I have?” she asks.

“It further pains me that this could have been prevented had I been served well in the public hospital and not driven to a facility offering substandard family planning pills.”

A study by the Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network found disturbing trends of verbal and physical abuse of teenage mothers aged between 15 and 19 in hospitals.

The report, released last week, says older mothers, unlike their younger counterparts, are ignored by nurses and subjected to pain to “teach them a lesson”. “Adolescent mothers face unique challenges, including a higher risk of mistreatment and abuse

during facility-based childbirth, compared to adult mothers,” it notes. “This increased risk is likely due to their intersecting identities.”

The most affected are girls from informal settlements and rural areas, especially those with little or no formal education.

ERASING IGNORANCE

For Mary James*, life was equally shattered when she became pregnant. Her boyfriend not only abandoned her but also infected her with HIV.

James, who became sexually active while still in high school, became suicidal, knowing how tough life would be after she fell pregnant.

Not knowing what to do, the orphaned girl, aged 19 at the time, turned to a friend, who referred her to Rabuor Subcounty Hospital in Kisumu county.

“My mother died when I was only six years old, and my father when I was in Form 2, leaving my brother and I under the care of our grandparents,” she says.

At Rabuor, James was immediately put on ARVs and a counselling programme. “It is unfortunate that I did not know much about contraceptives until I came into this facility,” she says.

The hospital medics first gave her lessons on how to take care of herself during pregnancy. Then as time progressed, they took her through lessons on different methods of family planning.

Rabuor Subcounty Hospital is one of the many facilities across the country that have partnered with Marie Stopes International to educate and empower young women on safe sex and the use of contraceptives.

Emily Omedo, the nurse in charge at the hospital, says the high number of teenage pregnancies previously reported in the area informed the partnership.

“In 2022, Kobura ward, where Rabuor Subcounty Hospital is, had the highest number of teenage pregnancies in Kisumu county. This triggered an alarm,” she says.

YOUTH CENTRE

The hospital held consultations with parents, teachers and government officials. This informed its decision to establish a Youth and Adolescent Centre.

It then created awareness in the villages and set aside a special corner for the centre, which now conducts counselling services every Wednesday morning.

“We put up a signpost at the entrance to attract clients, but we conduct the sessions privately because youths and adolescents are very delicate people,” Omedo says.

“If you want them to open up, you first must create a secure and comfortable environment.”

Apart from counselling, the hospital also gives the youth different types of contraceptives, post-abortion care, pre-exposure prophylaxis and anti-retroviral medicines.

Some of the contraceptives include implants, intrauterine devices, injections, pills, vaginal rings, condoms, tubal ligation and vasectomy.

Omedo says pills and injectables are the most consumed forms of contraceptives among the youths visiting the centre.

“Those who are below the legal age of acquiring the services have to get consent from their parents,” the



medic says.

The hospital staff was trained on how to administer different forms of contraceptive.

Marie Stopes also provided the hospital with instruments and supplies used to administer IUDs, such as a speculum, tenaculum, uterine sound, antiseptic solution and the IUDs.

“Before this project, we only had one medic who had the skills to administer the IUD, and this led to long queues that made many clients turn back,” Omedo says.

“The challenge with this was that there was a very high possibility that the client will come back pregnant.”

The medics were also given skills on how to handle youths and adolescents. Some of the young women who have successfully undergone the counselling programme are also turned into peer counsellors and are earning stipends.

“We realised some unfriendly lan-

Rabuor Subcounty Hospital nurse in charge Emily Omedo /CLARET ADHIAMBO

guage used on the youths seeking family planning services also made them shy away,” Omedo said.

Such language, she said, included asking, for example, “Kwani wewe pia ushanza hizi vitu? [You mean you have also started having sex?]”

LAWMAKERS DIFFER

The Kenya Demographic Health Survey says more unmarried women use contraceptives compared to their married counterparts aged between 15 and 49.

The report also shows a decline in the rate of unmet need of family planning, putting it at 15 per cent among women aged between 15 and 49.

The United Nations Populations Fund says barriers to access to family planning include cost, access to facilities, politics, culture, religion and provider hostility.

Misconceptions, and unclear policy documents on service delivery, such as service provision to sexually active adolescents, have also been cited as some of the barriers that continue to underpin an individual’s choice of use of contraceptives.

While the constitution guarantees the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes reproductive healthcare, it is silent on contraception provision to minors.

The National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy suggests the need for parental or guardian consent for minors seeking contraceptives.

Experts, including lawmakers, have also differed on the issue.

Nairobi Woman Representative Esther Passaris has openly advocated for putting sexually active young girls on contraceptives.

In 2019, she openly admitted to putting her 16-year-old daughter on contraceptives.

She said her move was not to en-

courage her daughter to engage in sexual activities but to ensure she did not get pregnant at an early age.

“Her friends were already having sex. I had it at a later age, my mother didn’t know about it and at the end of the day, I felt that it was important to take my daughter to a gynae,” Passaris said back then.

She urged parents to be realistic and understand that their children might be engaging in sex.

Her counterpart, Suba MP Millie Odhiambo, however, says contraceptives should be given to young girls of legal age, which is 18.

She attributed the poor treatment of young girls seeking contraceptives in public facilities to the scarcity of the services and unempowered human resources.

“Denying an 18-year-old girl contraceptive is like denying Millie Odhiambo contraceptives. Now why would a trained medic with my proper medical history deny me contraceptives?” she asks.

In 2023, the then Health CS Susan Nakhumicha said she would not issue contraceptives to underage girls.

The CS said by virtue of her faith, which teaches abstinence, young people should be taught to abstain.

As the debate on issuing contraceptives to girls rages on, more young women are subjected to untold suffering of having to drop out of school and take care of children born on unplanned pregnancies.

Meanwhile, Rabuor is already experiencing a decline in the number of new teenage pregnancies. Omedo credits this development to the counselling programme at the youth centre.

The nurse in charge says the hospital, which previously only received one or two people seeking family planning services per day, now sees at least 40 youths a week.

A signpost of the Adolescent and Youth Centre at Rabuor Subcounty Hospital in Kisumu county /CLARET ADHIAMBO



★comment

THE STAR

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

IG Kanja must hand over power to NPSC

AT face value, Inspector General Douglas Kanja looks like a decent man capable of enforcing the law. But behind the amiable façade lives a man who has grave disdain for the very law he swore to uphold and defend.

In any civilised society, Kanja would have resigned by now.

To our audacious police top brass, the dictates of the constitution apply to the rest of us mere mortals.

Kanja and his police establishment have declined to hand over the powers of hiring and deploying the police to the National Police Service Commission.

The supreme law is clear in Article 246 (3), the NPSC shall recruit and appoint police officers as well as manage their perks.

Kanja, no doubt egged on by his fellow seniors and even high-ranking members of the executive, have unconstitutionally and irregularly made every effort to cling to powers they exercise illegally for reasons best known to themselves.

The high echelons of the police force have enjoyed unfettered power for so long that it has gone to their heads.

But luckily, MPs have come to the rescue and ordered Kanja and his team to hand over to the NPSC within one week.

Hope he will listen.

Quote of the day: “A Hell hath no fury like a bureaucrat scorned.” —American economist and statistician Milton Friedman was born on July 31, 1912

THE STAR

WWW.THE-STAR.CO.KE

f THESTARKENYA i THESTARKENYA t @THESTARKENYA

Lion Place, Waiyaki Way, Westlands
PO Box 74497-00200, Nairobi, Kenya
+254 20 424 4000 | 0711 046 000

opinion@radioafricagroup.co.ke | newsdesk@the-star.co.ke

Group Editorial Director **Paul Ilado** News Editor **Jillo Kadida** Associate Editor, Daily **Joseph Olweny**

Business & Weekend Editor **Francis Openda** Political Editor **Felix Olick** Photo Editor **Jack Owuor**

Chief Subeditor **Josephine Mayuya** Digital Editor **Francis Mureithi** Sports Editor **Chris Mbaisi**

The Star is published by the Star Publications



THE AFRICAN COURT CAN REDEFINE CLIMATE JUSTICE

By Nzau Musau

States are violating their commitments to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights by taking unilateral, haphazard actions on climate change mitigation



IN May, environmental justice campaigners delivered a petition calling for the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights to clarify the obligations of states regarding the climate crisis.

As it stands, states are violating their commitments to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights by taking unilateral, haphazard and disconnected actions on climate-change mitigation that undermine the collective good of the continent.

This is also the case with the unjust carbon offset deals devoid of transparency, forced onto people without their participation, consent or goodwill. The deals have obscured and ignored the interests of Africa's future generations, who have a far greater stake in these issues than the people making them.

The petition for an advisory opinion is the first relating to climate change to go before the African Court. It was submitted by the Pan African Lawyers Union in collaboration with the African Climate Platform, Environmental Lawyers Collective for Africa, Natural Justice and Resilient40.

The court is widely expected to hear the petition, though its pace of processing advisory opinion requests has tended to vary depending on the complexity and urgency of the matter. Of the four that have been admitted, the quickest turnaround was less than a month, while the longest took two-and-a-half years.

But this is an urgent matter. Advisory or not, the opinion could frame a shared African position – one rooted in justice, grounded in human rights and shaped by the people themselves. If taken seriously, it could be a turning point for climate justice in Africa. If ignored, it will be yet another lost moment.

As early as 2006, the UN Climate Change Conference in Nairobi had declared Africa “the continent most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change”. These impacts, it was said, would have a disproportionate impact on Africa's vulnerable groups, including women, children and Indigenous communities. Now, the ground is shifting fast, and some of the predictions made in 2006 have been realised.

With temperature in Africa increasing slightly faster than the global average, it is estimated that by 2030, up to 118 million people categorised as “extremely poor” in Africa

will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat unless adequate action is taken.

The impact of these events will, and is already, seriously undermining their basic human rights including the rights to life, a healthy environment and security of person, as expressed in the African Charter and other relevant legal instruments already recognised by the court.

The petition now awaiting consideration by the African Court draws its arguments from these various charters, conventions, protocols and other relevant legal instruments already recognised by the court.

The court is the appropriate forum to birth, grow and enforce continental commitments to promote and protect human rights. How it considers a matter tends to receive attention from policymakers and other actors, providing a chance for positive action in the domestic jurisdiction of member states.

The African Court is also appropriate for another

reason. While it was designed principally to be accessed by states and state-aligned institutions, the charter gives states the option to allow hearings from individuals and non-state actors such as NGOs.

Of the 372 cases filed with the court so far, 331 are from individuals, 22 from NGOs, three from the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, and only one from a state. One could therefore say that the peoples' agenda, driven by the people themselves, is dominating the African Court.

Advisory opinions are nonbinding, which severely limits their efficacy. States can essentially ignore them, and the current wave of states turning away from multilateralism does not help their cause.

However, they do offer an opportunity to rally around a positive cause. With appropriate goodwill and pressure from the people, advisory opinions offer the best chance to grow good habits away from the force of law. They have been described as “contentious proceedings in disguise” that “constitute a ‘soft’ litigation strategy” and a “particularly useful tool” for small states or non-state actors such as Pan African Lawyers Union and its collaborating institutions.

Senior Project Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Member, Media Complaints Commission, and Advocate of the High Court

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

VOICES

DECRIMINALISING ACTIVISM IN E AFRICA: THE URGENT CALL TO PROTECT DISSENT

In Eastern Africa today, activism is under siege. Brave individuals who dare to speak truth to power, demand justice and amplify the cries of the oppressed are being harassed, abducted, detained and even tortured, not for committing crimes but for dreaming of a freer, fairer region. Governments that ought to protect civic space are instead tightening the noose around it. The trend is not only dangerous, it is anti-democratic and counterproductive. Activism is not a threat to national security. It is a lifeline to democracy.

Last week, Mwabili Mwagodi, a Kenyan activist and human rights defender, was abducted while in employment in Tanzania. Mwabili had worked in Tanzania for years and was there lawfully with a work permit. On July 23, he was seized, held incommunicado, tortured physically and mentally, then later handed over to Kenyan officers in a remote forest in Kwale county. He was denied legal recourse, had his documents and phones taken and continues to face threats to his life. His crime? Daring to speak against injustice.

A few months earlier, in May, Boniface Mwangi, a celebrated Kenyan photojournalist and long-time activist, together with Agather Atuhaire, a prominent Ugandan lawyer and anti-corruption crusader, were also detained in Tanzania. The two had travelled to attend a court case involving the Tanzanian opposition leader

By Hussein Khalid

Activists provide what governments often fail to offer—truth, resistance, hope and a mirror to power. They are the bridge between the people and the state, the whistleblowers of abuse, guardians of public interest



Tundu Lissu. Instead of being welcomed as regional voices for democracy, they were targeted, isolated, tortured and deported. These arrests had nothing to do with immigration. They were acts of state intimidation.

Around the same time, I was also deported from Tanzania under murky circumstances. Alongside Chief Justice Emeritus Dr Willy Mutunga and activist Hanifa Adan, we had travelled in solidarity with fellow defenders. We were received not as partners in democratic growth, but as suspects to be silenced.

These incidents are not isolated. They reflect a broader pattern of shrinking civic space and the deliberate criminalisation of activism across the region.

Activism is the heartbeat of democratic development. It challenges impunity, amplifies marginalised voices and keeps governments accountable to their people. Every major democratic gain in Eastern Africa – from

multiparty reforms to the fall of dictatorships – has been championed by bold activists and movements of activists who refused to be silenced.

Activists provide what governments often fail to offer—truth, resistance, hope and a mirror to power. They are the bridge between the people and the state, the whistleblowers of abuse, the guardians of public interest. To criminalise their work is to sabotage democracy from within.

Yet across East Africa, we are witnessing an aggressive backlash against activism. Peaceful protestors are shot in the streets. Community organisers are disappeared without a trace. Journalists exposing corruption are branded as “foreign agents”. The state, in many instances, has declared war on conscience.

Perhaps the most alarming trend is the misuse of anti-terrorism laws to target activists. These laws, originally designed to combat violent extremism, are now being

twisted to punish civil dissent. In Uganda, journalists like Agather Atuhaire have been surveilled and intimidated under the pretext of national security.

In Kenya, activists have been slapped with charges under the Prevention of Terrorism Act simply for participating in protests. In Tanzania, counterterrorism units have been deployed to monitor student organisers and grassroots campaigners.

This weaponisation is profoundly dangerous. It undermines the legitimacy of real counterterrorism efforts, erodes public trust in law enforcement and violates the rights to expression, association and peaceful assembly. Worst of all, it sends an unfair message that to challenge the state is to risk your life. This approach is not only repressive, it is counterproductive. Silencing activism breeds resentment, not loyalty. It fuels instability, not peace, and it isolates governments from the very citizens they claim to serve.

It is time to decriminalise activism in Eastern Africa. We must repeal laws and policies that

ACTIVISM IS NOT TREASON. DISSENT IS NOT TERRORISM, AND PATRIOTISM DOES NOT MEAN SILENCE IN THE FACE OF INJUSTICE

target defenders for doing their work. Governments must protect, not prosecute, those who speak out. Regional bodies such as the East African Community must hold member states accountable for cross-border violations of civic freedoms. The judiciary must shield human rights defenders, not rubber-stamp their persecution.

Moreover, we must end the culture of impunity that allows state agents to abduct and torture activists with no consequences. Transparency, due process and constitutional safeguards must be non-negotiable. Activism is not treason. Dissent is not terrorism, and patriotism does not mean silence in the face of injustice.

To the human rights defenders, community organisers, journalists, artists, students and freedom fighters across Eastern Africa, remain steadfast, refuse to be intimidated, refuse to be divided, refuse to be silenced. Continue to call out the presidents and regimes of East Africa for the transgressions committed against their people.

East Africans, let us stand united in the face of repression. Let us defend the right to dream, to speak, to assemble and to act. Because a region that criminalises its activists is not secure. It is unstable, and a state that fears its citizens is not strong, it is fragile.

Human rights activist, lawyer and CEO of @VOCALAfrica

Misusing terror laws reopens old wounds among Muslims

When the ODPP and DCI moved to press terror-related charges against protesters and activists following the June 25 anniversary demonstrations, it desecrated the painful history of real terrorism in Kenya.

The state trivialised the suffering of hundreds who lost lives, limbs and loved ones in actual terror attacks, while simultaneously reopening the wounds endured by Kenya's Muslim community, the primary victims of terrorism and the state's heavy-handed counterterrorism responses.

To understand the gravity of this moment, one must revisit the origins and impact of the so-called “war on terror”, particularly its consequences on Kenyan soil.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks in the US, then-President George Bush declared it an act of war, unleashing a global campaign that normalised torture, indefinite

By Annet Nerima

The state trivialised the suffering of hundreds who lost lives, limbs and loved ones in actual terror attacks, while simultaneously reopening the wounds endured by Kenya's Muslim community



detention and mass surveillance. Nations were invaded, civil liberties curtailed and Muslims across the globe found themselves caught in the crosshairs of suspicion.

In Kenya, terrorism predated 9/11. In 1975, a group calling itself the Maskini Liberation Front launched attacks that were, according to some accounts, state-sponsored operations to eliminate opposition figure JM Kariuki.

But it was the 1980 bombing of the Israeli-owned Norfolk Hotel in

Nairobi that marked the beginning of Kenya's entanglement in the US's post-colonial war hostility towards the Muslim world.

The 1998 bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi, the 2002 Paradise Hotel attack in Mombasa and later assaults at Westgate Mall in 2013, Mpeketoni in 2014, Garissa University College in 2015 and DusitD2 in 2019, all had intended targets as Americans or Israelis, but the overwhelming casualties were Kenyan civilians—

mostly Muslims, all innocents.

What these attacks left behind was a wave of state-sanctioned violence in the name of counterterrorism. Kenya's Muslim communities, in the Coast, Northeastern, and even parts of Nairobi, became subject to arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and endless surveillance.

Draconian drafts like the Suppression of Terrorism Bill and the Kenya Anti-Terrorism Bill of 2006 widened the scope of what could be labelled as terrorism, threatening to collapse the difference between dissent and danger, until the Prevention of Terrorism Act (2012) was passed, but not without opposition.

This historical backdrop makes the ODPP's decision to press terrorism charges against activists all the more outrageous.

The recent protests, however politically inconvenient, were acts of civic expression, not terror. To equate placard-waving youth with armed militants who massacre civilians is legally unsound and morally obscene.

Moreover, the misuse of terror laws for political ends has dangerous implications. It undermines the credibility of counterterrorism frameworks and makes it harder to build public trust, especially

among communities already stigmatised and brutalised in the name of security.

In places like Mpeketoni, where terrorism fed off historical injustices like land dispossession, ethnic tensions took on religious dimensions. The 2014 attack in the area was shaped by global jihadist ideologies and decades of marginalisation and unresolved grievances. These are complex dynamics that require nuance, not the lazy, politicised labelling of any resistance as “terror.”

When the state invokes terror laws to silence critics, it erodes the very foundations of justice it claims to protect. Worse, it desecrates the memory of those who perished in actual acts of terror. It turns the profound pain of communities that have lived through bombings, gunfire, and grief into a political tool.

Kenya must resist the temptation to weaponise trauma. If the regime truly respects the sacrifices made in the fight against terrorism, it must treat terror laws with the gravity they deserve, not as a convenient tool to stifle protesters and activists.

Programme Manager for Inclusion and Political Justice at Kenya Human Rights Commission

★ letters

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

CHAN a golden chance to live Jumuiya dream

WHEN the kick-off whistle echoes through Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow, it will signify more than just the start of the 2025 African Nations Championship (CHAN). It will also kick off the best opportunity of our lifetime to turn the East African unity dream into reality.

Jointly hosted by Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, CHAN shows what we can achieve together through unity. The tournament brings us closer far more tangibly than any treaty ever could. Here is our chance not only to celebrate football, but also to deepen the cultural, social, and economic bonds among our peoples.

Despite the immense challenges each of our countries faces, we can take pride in our collective will that has made this possible. CHAN offers a chance to enjoy the moment, reflect and recharge for the challenges ahead. The solidarity we forge now can lay a solid foundation for tackling those challenges together.

This is our moment to show the rest of Africa and the world who we truly are. A people rich in cultural diversity, yet deeply united across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania by our shared history, heritage and aspirations. The colonial borders imposed by the 1885 Berlin Conference to divide, rule and exploit us should not define us any longer because we were never meant to be divided.

One powerful symbol of that shared heritage is Kiswahili. There's an old joke that Kiswahili was born in Zanzibar,

grew up in Tanzania, fell ill in Kenya and died in Uganda. But CHAN offers a chance to celebrate and reinvigorate our lingua franca across East Africa, to strengthen it in Tanzania, nurse it back to full health in Kenya and resurrect it in Uganda.

Through music, chants, commentaries, memes and teaching visitors new phrases, we can demonstrate the linguistic sophistication of Kiswahili, its maturity in the science of sports and its unifying power in Africa. Let CHAN be where our shared language speaks loudest and proudest.

This tournament offers a unique opportunity to deconstruct whatever prejudices or stereotypes East Africans might still harbour about each other. When a Kenyan trader chats with a Tanzanian Uber driver, or a Ugandan fan shares a laugh with new friends from Nairobi or Zanzibar, barriers break down.

In stadium stands and fan zones, we can unite in common cause, recognising our common heritage and shared future. Some fans might forge cross-border friendships and business partnerships or even find love. I can easily imagine local youths "adopting" visiting fans, helping them around as their guides and guardians. The bonds formed during these games will leave a lasting impression well after the trophy is lifted.

Away from the stadiums lies a chance for a tourism bonanza, tapping into our region's

rich and unique tourist attractions. The East African Community has already developed a strategy to market the region as a single tourist destination. Now is the time to put it into life ahead of the 2027 AFCON games.

From the white sand beaches of Zanzibar and Diani, to hiking adventures on Kilimanjaro and Mt Kenya. From Kampala's vibrant party life to road trips through the dramatic sand dunes of Marsabit and Turkana. Why fly to the Middle East when the desert thrill is right here? Uganda's historical kingdoms offer deep dives into our pre-colonial heritage and African values. Every local who rediscovers a neighbouring country's beauty, and every tourist who falls in love with our region becomes an ambassador

for a shared Jumuiya future.

Beyond its sociocultural significance, CHAN is also a test run for East Africa's political and economic integration. After endless high-level discussions about the Monetary Union and Common Market, this is a chance to see them in practice.

Can our security and emergency management agencies coordinate seamlessly? Do cross-border payments operate effectively? Can a small-scale Kenyan vendor sell merchandise in Dar es Salaam, or can a Tanzanian farmer supply fresh produce across borders without red tape? Can a Ugandan tour operator freely bring fans to Nairobi? Can travellers move across borders using just national IDs?

If we get this right, CHAN can give us a glimpse of a truly border-

less East Africa, with free movement of people, goods and services. Today it might be football, but tomorrow it might be joint ventures in business, science, research, technology and innovation. Tearing down barriers lifts us all.

The EAC Secretariat must seize this moment to promote the integration agenda and demonstrate its relevance to ordinary citizens. Let CHAN be more than just football. Let it be our declaration to the world that we are not just Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania existing side by side. We are one united East African family, and we are bringing that trophy home.

Mugendi Nyaga
Actuary, management consultant and public policy analyst

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Kenya Accreditation Service CEO Dr Walter Ongeti (second left) hands Kebs managing director Esther Ngari (second right) a certificate of accreditation. They are with Kenas chief manager, inspection and certification Michael Talam (left) and Kebs director of standards development & trade Zacharia Lukorito. Kebs received four accreditations that cover agriculture, food products, textiles and manufacturing, which are expected to boost acceptance to global markets for Kenyan products /HANDOUT



Yes. She has betrayed Kenyans by supporting laws that, if implemented, would go against the constitution. As an elected leader, she is supposed to defend the rights of the people, not side with the oppressive government. It's like she forgot who put her in office. Instead of standing with struggling citizens, she's backing policies that will make life even harder.

JOSEPHINE ODANGA
Mama Mboga, Nairobi



No. Her support for actions that have led to police brutality and her silence on the inhumane treatment of citizens are concerning. Furthermore, she has not showcased any tangible projects or initiatives funded by the NGAAF. While the recall process is a drastic measure, I believe it underscores a larger issue: the need for our leaders to be accountable and responsive.

JOSHUA OMONDI
Chair, United Future Alliance Kenya

Do you support plan to recall Passaris as an MP?

★ new voices

★STAR COMMENT Yes. She has failed to understand her mandate as a lawmaker. Instead of representing the people, she acts like the government's spokesperson. It's like she forgot who sent her to Parliament. She's no longer fighting for the rights of Nairobi, especially women and youth, but is busy defending the government, even when it's wrong. That's not what we elected her for.

She was supposed to be our voice, not the voice of those in power. We need leaders who are brave enough to speak the truth and protect the citizens, not those who keep quiet or side with oppression. That's why I support the plan to recall her.



ELISHA SHIKUKU
Nairobi



Yes. First, she supported legislation that restricts protests, an attack on our democratic rights. A leader should be a voice for the people, not a tool for silencing them. Second, as a woman rep, she has been notably silent on matters that affect women, when her voice was most needed. Lastly, I just don't like her leadership style—she seems disconnected from the struggles of citizens.

LEE MARWA
Nairobi



No. People might be upset with some of the things she has said or done, but that alone should not be a reason to kick her out. Unless there's proof that she has completely failed in her duties or misused public funds, we should hold her accountable in the right way, like through public forums or just vote her out in the next election if we're not happy with her.

OTIENO DENNIS
Nairobi

COMPILED BY JOB OBANDA

★society...

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

GLEE HOTEL HOSTS MEDIA AND INFLUENCERS' NIGHT

GLEE Hotel officially introduced itself to Nairobi's hospitality landscape on Friday with an exclusive soft launch event, bringing together media and influencers for a preview of what promises to be a defining addition to the city's luxury hotel scene.

The evening highlighted Glee Hotel's culinary programme under executive chef **Luca Pintus**. The invitation-only event at the hotel's signature Peacock Restaurant showcased Glee Hotel's commitment to creating "moments worth remembering" through exceptional culinary experiences.

In attendance were Glee Nairobi GM **Javier Sanchez** and media influencers **Maureen Waititu**, **Phoina Tosha** and **Kalondur Musyimi**.



1. Kalondur Musyimi and Javier Sanchez 2. Alice Wambui serves delicacies 3. Celebrity make-up artist Phoina Tosha dances to a saxophonist's music 4. Businesswoman and content creator Maureen Waititu 5. Executive chef Luca Pintus demonstrates culinary skills 6. Nicole Nyoero and Judy Shine 7. Content creators Diane Nthuri and Linda Alexette /MOSES MWANGI

ACROBAT TRAINS YOUTHS ON ART LEARNED IN CHINA

ACROBAT **Mathias Kavita** beams with pride when recalling his 41-year bond with China, one that has transcended time and geography to flourish.

Slightly before his 12th birthday in 1983, **Kavita** travelled to China to study acrobatics under a government scholarship at the *Guangzhou Acrobatic Troupe*, where he and 23 compatriots underwent rigorous training.

Shortly after completing the programme, **Kavita** returned to his homeland, worked as an acrobatic coach for a private company and later founded his own company in the mid-1990s to nurture the next generation of acrobats. More than 1,000 youths have passed through his training.



1. A child performs a handstand in Thika under instruction from acrobat Mathias Kavita 2. Kavita helps a trainee perform a tripod 3. and 4. Kavita (R) leads sessions instructing a child 5. and 6. Kavita instructs a child /XINHUA

NEWS COUNTIES



PHOTO STORY

Kerarapon Secondary School principal Joseph Kamaki, Rotary district governor Wairimu Njage, Rotary Club of Ngong Hills president Reginald Mahonga and Oloolua Secondary School principal Grace Kimani. The clubs in partnership with Oxford University Press presented 3,500 books to the two schools in Kajiado North, and Mrabani Primary School in Taita Taveta on Tuesday /HANDOUT

MODERN HOUSING WOES

Goons terrorise Woodley tenants amid demolition battle with county

Residents accuse the Nairobi administration of flouting High Court order

GORDON OSEN
@gordon_osen

A section of residents of Nairobi's Woodley estate are living on edge, having to contend with marauding hooded goons.

They claim the goons enter their homes, steal household items and issue warnings that they vacate the place or City Hall bulldozers will flatten the premises.

The residents, who have sought the help of police, say the lawless youths were let loose on them despite obtaining a court order that stopped City Hall's demolition at the estate. City Hall denies links with any goons.

The dispute stems from Nairobi county's plan to demolish the estate's ageing houses and replace them with

affordable housing units. But tenants say the county is sidestepping the law, defying court orders that bar evictions while a legal case is pending.

On July 10, the residents, through their lawyers, wrote to Nairobi regional police commander George Seda, pleading for urgent intervention and increased security.

"Our clients are lawful tenants of county houses in Woodley," the letter stated. "Many are tenant-purchasers who've occupied these homes for decades. Yet they're now facing unlawful break-ins and violent evictions, despite multiple High Court orders."

Trouble began earlier this year when Nairobi county cited rent arrears and moved to repossess the properties. But residents argue those arrears were waived in 2019 by then-Governor Mike Sonko.

In response, the residents—under the Woodley Development Initiative CBO—filed a case in the High Court, Judicial Review No E030 of 2025, to compel the county to honour the waiver and reconcile rent accounts. The court granted temporary orders halting all evictions. The tenants say these orders are being ignored.

"County-enabled goons have broken into homes, stolen property

and intimidated families," the letter claimed. "Residents are living in fear."

Their lawyers have now filed a contempt of court application against chief officer for Housing and Urban Renewal, Lydia Mathia, accusing her of orchestrating the illegal evictions.

The court is expected to rule on the application in early October. In the meantime, the harassment is escalating, as men claiming to have been newly allocated the homes show up.

"They arrive with documents, say the house is now theirs and demand the current occupants leave—despite our clients having legal tenure," the lawyers said. The incidents have been reported at Kibera Police Station and while residents praised officers for their professionalism, they say more support is urgently needed.

Woodley MCA Davidson "DNG" Ngibuini demanded answers.

"What happens to the remaining tenants who've gone to court? Will they be compensated or relocated? And who is behind these illegal evictions?" he asked on the floor of the county assembly.

Initially, only 10 acres of the 100-acre estate were earmarked for redevelopment, affecting 42 homes. About 20 tenants accepted the county's offer

of Sh900,000. The remaining 22 declined, citing unclear relocation plans, slow construction and inflation.

Now, the scope has expanded to cover the entire estate, heightening tensions.

"The county's abrupt shift from 10 acres to the full 100 acres has left hundreds at risk," said Sam Gachago, chair of the residents association.

"We want development, but not at the cost of dignity, due process and the law." While City Hall accuses the residents of living rent-free, they insist the 2019 rent waiver remains valid.

"We're not refusing to pay—we just want fair treatment and legal clarity," Gachago added.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The dispute underscores challenges in balancing affordable housing needs with legal protections for long-term tenants. Allegations of county-linked goons deepen mistrust, while the expansion of redevelopment plans without clear relocation details fuels insecurity. Effective intervention and transparent, lawful negotiations are critical to prevent further unrest.

Woodley estate
/FILE



DROWNING

Boy, 6, found dead in septic tank in Kayole

CYRUS OMBATI

POLICE are investigating an incident where the body of a six-year-old boy was found in a septic tank in Kayole, Nairobi.

The body was floating in the tank long after he had drowned.

Police said the septic tank at a construction site was uncovered.

It was established that the child was playing with other children unsupervised near the scene when he slipped and drowned.

The owners of the site who are neighbours where the boy's family stays were questioned as part of the probe into the tragedy.

The body was retrieved and was moved to Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital mortuary awaiting a postmortem.

His parents were left heartbroken following the discovery of the body.

In Suneka, Kisii county, one Peter Mitunda, 61, was found lying dead along Suneka-Kirwanda road after a sudden death.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the deceased had no underlying medical history.

He is said to have collapsed and died at the scene, police said.

The body was moved to the mortuary pending autopsy and other investigations.

And police are investigating an incident where a 30-year-old man died after being beaten up by a mob on claims of being a thief in Mt Elgon, Bungoma county.

The man succumbed to injuries

in hospital. Police said they were investigating murder.

Police discourage lynching and want suspects to be surrendered for processing.

Up to three people are attacked and killed daily by mobs on claim they are thieves.

According to police, they are investigating dozens of such cases in the country.

In some instances, suspects have been arrested and charged with serious crimes including murder.



NEWS COUNTIES

REPLACEMENT

Kang'ata's PA sworn in as nominated MCA

ALICE WAITHERA

MURANG'A Governor Irungu Kang'ata's personal assistant has been sworn in as a nominated MCA.

Peter Mbogo, who has been serving in the position since 2022, has been nominated to replace Mark Wainaina who died in November last year.

Wainaina died after being hospitalised with severe pulmonary disease and previously served in the ICT and Elections Department of UDA.

Mbogo was sworn in on Monday by speaker Johnson Mukuha, who praised him for his "unwavering commitment to public service,

integrity and leadership". Mukuha said Mbogo is a renowned figure in political spheres, having successfully coordinated Jubilee and UDA party activities within Murang'a and across the country in 2017 and 2022, respectively.

"This is a clear reflection of his dedication to public service and trust," the speaker said as he welcomed him into the assembly.

Leader of majority Francis Kibe, who is also Ithiru MCA, hailed Mbogo for the appointment, describing him as a servant leader, dedicated to the welfare of the general public.

"I invite you to the vibrant debates in this assembly. You now have a

leverage to defend mwananchi. We are happy that we have another representative from Kandara," he said.

Kibe hailed him as a team player, expressing confidence that he will contribute to many debates in the assembly.

Deputy Governor Stephen Munania said Wainaina's death left a gap in the assembly and that Mbogo's nomination would ensure residents are well represented.

"We are happy that nomination has gone to somebody who is well supported by residents and embraced by the MCAs," Munania said.

Anthony Njenga, a party member, said Mbogo's patience had borne fruits and that he had stayed loyal to the party since 2022.

Mbogo lauded residents and both levels of government for expressing their confidence in him through the nomination.

"I have not left. I have just exited the executive and joined the



Nominated MCA Peter Mbogo (holding Bible) takes oath of office in Murang'a county assembly on Tuesday /ALICE WAITHERA

legislature. I will continue following the manifesto of the party and ensure Murang'a people benefit from the government," he said.

Before joining the county assembly, Mbogo served as Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome's personal assistant when she served as Kandara MP.

Following his exit, governor

Kang'ata has appointed Nicholas Ngandu, as his personal assistant.

The 27years old previously served as Kang'ata's driver and has a degree in Business Information Technology.

"He's currently doing a Masters degree in Cyber security. He has good interpersonal skills and is self motivated," Kang'ata said.

PUBLIC LAND

Arrest church arsonists in Kieni, demand clergy

Two churches have been torched since February; clerics raise questions on who is behind it



One of the razed churches in Munyu village, Nyeri county /ALICE WAITHERA

ALICE WAITHERA
@Alicewangechi

CLERGY from Munyu village in Nyeri county have asked the government to investigate the motive behind a spate of arson targeting local churches.

Since February this year, two churches have burnt down under mysterious circumstances, sparking concerns that some unknown individuals are eyeing the land that the churches sit on.

Bishop Moses Riungu from the Gospel Outreach church said about seven churches have pitched camp in a piece of public land after being given the go-ahead by the administration.

The churches settled on the land from as early as 2006 and have not had any conflicts amongst themselves

or with the community. "We were brought here by the provincial administration back then and they showed each of the churches where to set up," he said.

Riungu said it came as a shock when the Gospel Evangelistic church burnt down on February 7 this year and the matter was reported to the police, there after investigations started.

"It was very painful when we lost that church. We have been to many offices seeking to be given ownership documents for the land but are yet to succeed," he added.

Rev Samuel Njuguna from the Gospel Evangelistic church said when their premises went up in flames, they speculated that it was either an accident or some naughty locals.

But when another church, Gospel

Outreach, burnt down on July 17, it became clear that unknown people were targeting them.

"Since we reported the incident to the police after our church burnt down, we are yet to receive any report so we still have no idea who could have been behind it or their motive."

Njuguna said they started rebuilding the church with the support of the community and the neighbouring churches. The other church burnt down before they could complete his church, throwing the community into confusion.

A church, he said, should be a respected place of worship and its uncommon for people to target it for crime.

"These are actions that can bring a curse to the community. We have been praying so that God gives us the



Reverend Samuel Njuguna whose Gospel Evangelistic church was burnt down in February /ALICE WAITHERA

grace to rebuild and also have the culprits uncovered," he said.

"If someone has the intent to take over this land, that's greed because it is public land and it already has others occupying it. A church is not an individual's. It serves the community," he added.

Njuguna said their engagements with the national and county government have not brought to light any reports of individuals laying claim over the land.

Rev Esther Wachira from the neighbouring Christian Outreach Ministries Worldwide said when they settled on the land 19 years ago, elders were involved and gave their blessing.

"We have been working hard to rebuild the church burnt down earlier in the year. Now we have to start

making plans to rebuild the other one. We're wondering where the issue is because this far, we have not encountered any disputes."

She explained that they have frequented the county government and Lands offices seeking help in getting land documents but that pledges to help them have not been fruitful.

Wachira said following the burning down of the first church, they visited the county surveyor and physical planner who indicated that public participation would be conducted before they are officially allocated the land.

"Before that process could even start, the other one went up in flames. The churches work together in harmony and can't be targeting each other," she said.

Archbishop Njoroge Munyori of the Foursquare Gospel Church reiterated calls for the government to investigate and establish the motive behind the arson.

He said the churches hope to know exactly who is targeting them as they make plans to start rebuilding the church burnt down recently.

"We will continue praying for the culprits to come out and seek forgiveness but we wonder if the first investigation has yielded nothing, what will become of the second one?" he posed.

Munyori also appealed to members of the community who may know those behind the arson to volunteer the information to the police saying the destruction is setting the community back.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The churches settled on the land from as early as 2006 and have not had any conflicts amongst themselves or with the community. Two churches have been torched since February this year with the clergy raising questions on who is behind it and their motives. The first church was razed down in February this year and efforts to rebuild it started with the support of the community but another one was burnt down before they could complete the first one, throwing the community into confusion.

NEWS COUNTIES

FIERCE CONTEST

Senator Abdillahi declares bid to unseat Likoni MP Mboko

She accuses some leaders of colluding to exploit residents in land ownership matters



Nominated Senator Miraj Abdillahi at Shika Adabu Primary on Tuesday /BRIAN OTIENO



Likoni MP Mishi Mboko /FILE

BRIAN OTIENO
@Yobramos4

AFTER months of speculation, nominated Senator Miraj Abdillahi has officially declared her intention to run for the Likoni parliamentary seat in the upcoming general election.

The move sets the stage for a fierce contest against incumbent MP Mishi Mboko. Speaking at a public meeting at Shika Adabu Primary School on Tuesday, Abdillahi ended the mystery surrounding her political ambitions, making a passionate appeal to residents to rally behind her.

“I will fight for the people of Likoni, but I cannot do it alone,” she said. “No one else in Likoni is doing what I’m doing because they are too afraid.”

Abdillahi accused certain unnamed leaders and wealthy individuals—whom she referred to as “tycoons”—of colluding to exploit Likoni residents, particularly in matters of land ownership and compensation related to ongoing infrastructure projects.

She claimed that powerful individuals were manipulating development initiatives, like the Dongo Kundu and Visangalaweni road projects, to dispossess residents under the guise of

progress. “In Visangalaweni, there’s a major road project coming up. But they want to give the compensation money to a tycoon because they think we—the people of Likoni—are too stupid to handle it,” she said, criticising the logic behind denying rightful compensation to residents.

Abdillahi challenged claims made by some leaders that no homes would be demolished in the upcoming projects, asking, “If no houses are going, then who will get the millions in compensation? Because someone definitely will.” She argued that despite high-profile projects being initi-

ated in the constituency, the quality of life for Likoni residents has remained stagnant due to corruption and poor representation.

“These projects are not improving our lives because some of our leaders are colluding with tycoons to steal resources meant for us,” she said.

The senator praised former Likoni MPs Masoud Mwahima and Suleiman Shakombo for championing land rights and accused current leaders of abandoning the issue.

She emphasised that many parcels of land in Likoni remain untitled and are wrongly classified as government

land, making them vulnerable to land grabs.

“The wealth of a person lies in land,” she said. “But if all our land is labeled GL [Government Land], we’ll end up selling it for peanuts—Sh50,000 an acre.”

Abdillahi cited a Sh9 billion fund set aside by President William Ruto to buy off land from tycoons, alleging that some Coast leaders were obstructing access to the funds.

She recounted a recent incident in Mtongwe where a wealthy individual allegedly began beaoning community land, forcing residents to pool resources for a court battle.

“Imagine having to raise money to fight for your own land. What madness is this?” she posed.

Calling for unity, Abdillahi urged Likoni residents to stand with her in the fight. “I know I am making enemies with these statements, but I’m tired of watching our land being taken from us,” she said.

However, her combative remarks have drawn backlash from political opponents and local influencers.

Businessman and political activist Mbarak Bashatir, who has declared interest in the Kisauni MP seat, warned Abdillahi against dragging prominent leaders into local disputes.

“Some leaders are above your pay grade,” Bashatir said, referring to former Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho, Mining Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya and Senate Speaker Amason Kingi.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Likoni MP seat has attracted at least six candidates so far including incumbent Mishi Mboko, nominated Senator Miraj Abdillahi and activist Evans Momanyi. The seat has been occupied by ODM MPs for more than 20 years.

ERRATIC BEHAVIOUR

Veteran rights defender calls for toxicology test on activist Mwagodi

BRIAN OTIENO

VETERAN rights defender Khelef Khalifa has urged for a full toxicology examination on activist Mwabili Mwagodi following concerns over his erratic behaviour after being found at Diani police station.

Khalifa, director at Muslims for Human Rights, visited Mwagodi in hospital on Monday and noted that the activist appeared highly agitated when he was initially found.

He suggested that the symptoms might be linked to substances administered to Mwagodi prior to his detention, emphasising the importance of toxicology tests to establish the facts before it is too late.

Mwagodi’s health has reportedly improved under ongoing medical care in Mombasa, and psychiatrists are currently assessing his mental state. Khalifa also highlighted

concerns about Mwagodi’s recent detention, describing what he views as possible coordination between Kenyan and Tanzanian authorities in handling the case.

According to Khalifa, Mwagodi was handed over to Kenyan officials outside of standard official channels, raising questions about the legality of the transfer.

Mwagodi was reportedly held incommunicado for three days in Tanzania before being transferred to Kenya via informal border routes at Lunga Lunga. Upon handover, Mwagodi recognised Kenyan officers by their accents and noted differences in the professionalism between Tanzanian and Kenyan authorities.

During a conversation, Mwagodi shared that Tanzanian authorities were aware of his political activism, including his previous support for President William Ruto during the 2022 election. He explained

that his support waned due to unfulfilled promises and increased repression, prompting him to become more critical on social media.

Khalifa said Mwagodi feels disappointed by the President, having previously campaigned on his behalf in various regions.

Khalifa also revealed warnings Mwagodi received from Tanzanian activists about expressing dissent in Tanzania, where political freedoms are more restricted.

Unlike the case of rights defender Boniface Mwangi, who was reportedly abducted and tortured in Tanzania earlier this year, Khalifa said Mwagodi was not physically harmed while in Tanzanian custody and was eventually handed over to Kenyan authorities.

The incident raises concerns about freedom of expression and cross-border cooperation in addressing political dissent in the region.



Mwabili Mwagodi and Khelef Khalifa at Pandya Hospital in Mombasa on Monday /BRIAN OTIENO

NEWS COUNTIES

SEVERE INJURIES

Two teachers to face charges over death of learner in 2022

The body of Kipkoech was found hanging in a bathroom just hours after he was caned

MATHEWS NDANYI
@TheStarKenya

AN inquest court in Kericho has ruled that two teachers be charged in connection with the death of a pupil at St Teresa Mixed Day and Boarding Primary School, which occurred on September 28, 2022.

The body of 14-year-old Enock Kipkoech, a Grade 8 pupil, was discovered hanging in one of the boys' bathrooms just hours after he was reportedly caned by two teachers.

After hearing testimony from 23 witnesses, senior resident magistrate Japhet Bii on Tuesday concluded that teachers Aaron Koskei and Phillemon Koskei administered excessive punishment that ultimately contributed to the boy's death.

"The body of the deceased had severe injuries on the buttocks. Aaron Koskei, who was his teacher, admitted to having caned the pupil shortly before he was found dead in the bathroom," Magistrate Bii stated.

He further noted the circumstances surrounding the death suggested foul play.

For Kipkoech's parents—Dr Richard Siele, 51, a university lecturer and gospel artist, and Emily Chebet, 50, a pastor—the past two years have been a tormenting pursuit of justice for their third-born child.

The trauma of his sudden and tragic death continues to weigh heavily on the family—emotionally, psychologically and physically.

"Life has never been the same. I never imagined losing my son in school, a place I thought was safe.



Emily Chebet and Richard Siele at the grave of their son on Tuesday /MATHEWS NDANYI

I sent him there to learn, hoping he would come back with a future. Instead, I was called to collect his body," Siele said in a voice laden with grief.

We met the couple at their home as they tended to their son's grave, now blanketed in bright, blooming flowers—a silent yet vivid reminder of the promising young life that was abruptly cut short.

Siele recounted that his son returned to school on September 26 for the third term, full of joy and excitement. Just two days later, on the 28th, he received a phone call from a teacher, who was later identified in the inquest as Aaron Koskei, informing him that his son had fallen ill and had twice been taken to a local hospital.

Later that day, the Siele family was

summoned to the school. On arrival, they were met with silence. No school official came to meet them.

Siele went directly to his son's classroom, where he found Kipkoech's cousin—a fellow student—who tearfully broke the devastating news: Kipkoech had been found hanging in a dormitory bathroom.

The cousin explained he had overheard teacher Aaron instruct Kipkoech to go to the staffroom and lie down.

Kipkoech later returned to class in tears. Not long after, the same teacher allegedly followed him and directed him to the bathroom—where he was found dead.

Shocked and heartbroken, Siele asked the boy and another student to lead him to the scene. On their way, they encountered a group of teach-



Enock Kipkoech /HANDOUT

ers and other individuals returning from the bathroom. From there, Siele accompanied the students to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations offices in Kericho, where he met the school's headteacher Phillip Meto, and teacher Aaron.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Kericho inquest ruling marks a significant step towards accountability in Kenya's education system, highlighting the tragic consequences of unchecked corporal punishment. The court's decision to charge the two teachers sends a clear message that brutality under the guise of discipline will not be tolerated.

AFTER MEETING CS

Ignore rumours, I won't join KK, says Ntembeya

MATHEWS NDANYI

TRANS Nzoia Governor George Ntembeya has assured his supporters he will not join the Kenya Kwanza government.

He dismissed as propaganda speculation that arose after he hosted Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen in county office in Kitale on Monday.

He said Murkomen has been touring all counties and protocol required him to welcome all senior government officials visiting the region and there is nothing wrong with him hosting the CS in his office.

The governor said the CS first paid a courtesy call at the county commissioner's office and protocol required that the commissioner take him to the county government offices to sign the visitors book.

"That is what we did. All the speculation about politics after that is cheap propaganda that does not change my opposition to the Kenya Kwanza regime," Ntembeya said.

He said he is among those seeking to change things in the country, which he said is headed in the wrong direction.



Governor George Ntembeya and Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen in Kitale on Monday /MATHEWS NDANYI

ADJOURNED FIFTH TIME

Judge reprimands DCI over missing suspect in athlete Tirop's murder case



Murder suspect Ibrahim Rotich who went missing after being freed on bail /MATHEWS NDANYI

MATHEWS NDANYI

THE High Court in Eldoret has for the fifth time been forced to adjourn the murder case of slain athlete Agnes Tirop due the absence of prime suspect Ibrahim Rotich.

Rotich went missing three months ago.

Tirop was found dead in her house in Iten town, Elgeyo Marakwet county, on October 13, 2021. The postmortem examination done by a government pathologist at Iten County Referral Hospital mortuary revealed she had suffered neck stabs and was hit on the head with a blunt object.

Justice Robert Wananda, who is hearing the case, on Tuesday reprimanded the DCI for failing to re-arrest the suspect, who was released on a Sh500,000 bail in

November 2023, before he absconded.

The bond has since been forfeited to the state.

Justice Wananda expressed frustration and anger over the slow pace being taken by the DCI in searching and producing Rotich in court.

"I have adjourned the proceeding of this case for four times on account of officers from DCI headquarters requesting more time to produce the suspect," the judge said.

Rotich was admitted to bail by the same judge after his application to be freed on bail or bond was allowed.

The judge released Rotich on bail on conditions he should not set foot in Iten town, Elgeyo Marakwet county, where the murder occurred.

Wananda barred Rotich from leaving Uasin Gishu county, which is the court's jurisdiction, and to report to the DCI offices at Central police station in Eldoret every Monday. Rotich went missing in February stalling the hearing of the case.

SUSPECT ON THE RUN

Teacher killed in domestic fight in Bomet village

CYRUS OMBATI

A 24-year-old woman was found murdered following a domestic fight at her Kamutari village, Merigi, Bomet county.

Police said the body of Jessica Chelangat was found in her house on Tuesday in Kiromwok village. She was a teacher at a local private school.

Police said the body had deep cuts in the head and hands.

Police said they are looking for her husband, whom they suspect has answers to what happened to her. A hunt for him was ongoing Wednesday, police said as they told him to surrender for questioning.

The body was moved to the mortuary pending postmortem and other investigations.

NEWS COUNTIES



Marsabit
Governor
Mohamud Ali
/STEPHEN
ASTARIKO

ENHANCING EFFICIENCY

Ali reshuffles Marsabit cabinet, names officers

Reorganisation involves re-assignment of executives and chief officers

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@astarikostephen

MARSABIT Governor Mohamud Ali on Tuesday announced a major reshuffle of his administration, aiming to enhance efficiency, strengthen coordination, and improve public service delivery.

The reorganisation involves re-assignment of county executives and chief officers as well as the appointment of new office holders in key leadership positions following retirements.

Halkano Arero has been appointed as acting county secretary while Abdo Gucha takes over as the chief of staff in the governor's office.

Several chief officers were also re-assigned to new portfolios. Among them are Boru Duba (water services), Kabale Adhi (education), Guyatu Wakala (skills development and vo-

cational training), Adan Ali (youth and sports), Pauline Marlen (natural resources and wildlife), and Hitler Rikoi (roads and transport).

Other appointees include Samuel Lolokuru (public works), Alamin Adan (medical services), Omar Boko (public health), Annamaria Qalla (culture, gender and social services), Orge Guyo (food security and crop development), Tache Elema (livestock and veterinary services), Kula Phabbi (fisheries development), Mahad Mohamed (trade and cooperatives development), Guyo Adano (tourism), Ahmed Intalo (economic planning), and Khazali Abdirizack (revenue and resource mobilisation).

Governor Ali described the reshuffle as a "renewed commitment to building a leaner, results-driven county government that delivers timely, accountable, and people-centered services to Marsabit residents."

He emphasised that the changes are based on the principles of meritocracy, integrity, and public interest, and aim to accelerate the county's development agenda.

The governor also announced the appointment of a new municipal manager and board members for Moyale municipality.

Last week, during a meeting with county officers, Governor Ali underscored the importance of maintaining professionalism, integrity, and discipline.

He reminded all officials—whether CEC members, chief officers or directors—of their responsibilities to serve the people effectively. "Each of you has your job cut out. You know what is required at all times and must adhere to high standards," he said.

Ali highlighted the progress made in health, water, education, infrastructure, livestock, and agriculture.

ALI SAID
HE WANTS
TO BUILD
A LEANER,
RESULTS-
DRIVEN
GOVERNMENT

CAMP ATTACKED

Police reservist shot and killed, 4 injured by bandits in Laikipia

CYRUS OMBATI

A member of the National Police Reserve was on Monday shot and killed in an attack by suspected bandits in Doldol, Laikipia county.

The incident at Seeki NPR camp also left four other officers with serious bullet wounds, police said.

The gunmen targeted the camp late on Monday, opening fire in Mukogodo area.

The motive of the attack was not immediately known. The NPR officers fought back, causing a two-hour standoff as they called for reinforcement.

Police from Doldol police station arrived hours later to rescue the NPR. The attackers escaped.

It was then discovered that James Kwale had been fatally wounded.

The other four officers were rescued and rushed to the hospital in serious condition, police said.

This was after more personnel arrived at the scene and engaged the gunmen prompting them to retreat.

Police suspect there were other accomplices who were staging an attack elsewhere or driving away stolen animals.

The body was moved to the mortuary.

The area is among those under a security operation aimed at addressing banditry.

The bandits have rendered much of the North Rift and neighbouring counties unsafe as they attack to steal livestock, which is at times sold in urban areas for meat and other products.

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

The attacks have affected development projects in the areas amid the ongoing operations.

Police say they have mounted more operations to address the menace.

The government has acquired more equipment to enhance the operations amid resistance from the gangs behind the incidents. Statistics show the attacks have reduced.

Besides retributive reaction, strategic investment and sustainable development are among the government's planned crime control interventions for Kenya's Northern frontier and the Kerio Valley belt.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen said the long-term vision is to empower the communities to actively take part in the war against animal rustling and undertake legitimate nation-building activities.

He plans to distribute subsidised agricultural inputs and extension services to area residents in a bid to revive farming activities as a source of livelihood. "We are coming to dismantle not only the criminals themselves but also to bring down the entire chain that has been the cattle and livestock rustling industry."

SOMALI HERITAGE

Garissa's tourism awakens as visitors enjoy culture

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

GARISSA county, long overlooked and often associated with insecurity, is slowly but surely transforming into a promising eco-cultural tourism hotspot.

For decades, the region's rich natural and cultural heritage remained largely untapped. But that is beginning to change.

On Monday, 16 local tourists visited Bulla Adey village in Korakora, about 25km from Garissa town, to enjoy the Bour-Algi Giraffe Sanctuary and immerse themselves in authentic Somali culture.

The community welcomed the visitors with traditional songs, dances, and delicious local foods. Craftspeople displayed their handmade creations, offering the tourists a genuine glimpse into life beyond Kenya's usual coastal and safari destinations.

For many residents, this was a historic moment.

Mohamed Hassan, a 65-year-old village elder, expressed his joy with visible pride. "I have never seen anything like this in our quiet village. Having visitors come just to explore our home is truly special. It shows that we have untapped

tourism potential," he said.

Mohamed Abdullahi, another elder, highlighted the community's unique strengths: "What sets us apart is our focus on cultural heritage and community-led wildlife conservation. We are proud to welcome our brothers and sisters from across the country. This is a great boost for domestic tourism."

Leading the group was Moses Owiti from Bazenga Safaris, who shared his excitement at being part of the first team to explore Garissa's hidden gems. "It's time to break away from the usual tourist circuits," he said.

Here, we've discovered the rich Somali culture, traditional dances, unique artifacts like the collapsible herio huts, the stunning River Tana and its lush thickets, boat rides, herds of reticulated giraffes, and camels roaming freely," he said.

Owiti admitted he had long believed the common narrative about Garissa's insecurity and unfriendly communities but was pleasantly surprised by the warm hospitality he encountered.

His discovery was made possible through Garissa County Ecotourism Conservation, a local organisation promoting tourism.



Elder Mohamed Hassan explains to tourists how fermented milk is prepared /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

NEWS COUNTIES

WAKE-UP CALL

Lake Victoria's pollution threatens over 40m lives

Shores contaminated by untreated sewage, agricultural runoff and solid waste

FAITH MATETE
@faymatete

A scientific study has sounded the alarm over the deteriorating health of Lake Victoria, raising urgent concerns for more than 40 million people who depend on the lake.

Commissioned by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, the month-long regional assessment paints a sobering picture: pollution is rising rapidly—especially around major urban centres in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania—putting livelihoods, food security and public health at growing risk.

The findings, released in Mwanza, Tanzania, reveal dangerous levels of contamination in the lake's nearshore waters. These areas, closest to human activity, are heavily polluted by untreated sewage, agricultural runoff and unmanaged solid waste. Researchers collected

samples from over 44 sites, focusing on cities such as Kisumu, Kampala, Entebbe and Mwanza—where the pressure on the lake is most severe. Water was sampled from both the surface and the depths, with tests conducted in the field and in specialised laboratories.

"We looked at temperature, turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen and photosynthetically active radiation, among others," said Eng Simon Otong, LVBC's water resources management officer.

The results were troubling. Elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorus—nutrients that trigger harmful algal blooms—were found alongside increasing concentrations of silica, alkalinity and suspended solids. Scientists also measured chemical oxygen demand—an indicator of organic pollution—and tested for heavy metals including mercury, arsenic

Kanda Kipkorir
from the
Ministry of
Water,
Sanitation and
Irrigation during
the water
sampling
/FAITH MATETE



and lead in areas deemed pollution hotspots. Microscopic algae, or phytoplankton, were monitored to understand how pollution is affecting the aquatic food chain.

"We're no longer guessing; the data is clear. Now, action must follow," Otong said during the release of the report.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Lake Victoria is in ecological distress. Pollution from urban waste, farms and industry is overwhelming its waters, especially in areas near major cities. The damage threatens fish stocks, biodiversity and lives.

RESTORATION

Maragoli Hills project praised for efforts to fight climate change

KNA

VIHIGA county's Maragoli Hills reforestation initiative is making significant strides, with over 38,500 indigenous tree seedlings now planted across 55 acres.

This project aims to restore degraded land and boost climate resilience, drawing commendation from the directorate of climate change during a recent inspection.

The programme operates under the national Financing Locally-Led Climate Action initiative, which champions community involvement and local leadership in climate change mitigation.

Winstone Atamba from the Department of climate change, who led the inspection team, lauded the progress, describing the initiative as a benchmark for sustainable land use and ecological restoration.

Planting holes were excavated by local labourers and community organisations. The native seedlings, chosen for their ecological significance and ability to adapt. To support the survival of the young trees, ongoing maintenance is being carried out by trained local scouts.

BRIDGE THE GAP

Bid to end shortage of fish as Victory Farms unveils hatchery

FAITH MATETE

VICTORY Farms has established a fish incubation machine that will produce 30 million tilapia fingerlings annually to bridge the fish deficit in Kenya.

Kenya faces a shortage of fish, which data from the directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture development in the Blue Economy ministry puts as 450,000 tonnes.

Victory Farms, an aquaculture company operating at Rowo village in Suba South constituency, has established the ultra-modern fingerlings hatchery to alleviate the tilapia shortage. The hatchery, on the shore of Lake Victoria, is aimed at hatching tilapia eggs.

The company rears tonnes of fish in Lake Victoria through cage fish farming. The eggs obtained from the fish are collected and taken to the hatchery. In the hatchery, the eggs are cleaned and exposed to various machine support processes which hatch them into fingerlings.

The director of aquaculture at Kenya Fisheries Service, Simon Macharia, Homa Bay CEC for Fisheries Sarah Malit and Victory Farms' co-founder Steve Moran, said they intend to boost fish production.

"The establishment of the hatchery machine was done after research findings revealed that there is shortage of tilapia in Kenya. We want to bridge the gap and enhance production of more fish in Kenya,"

Moran said. Tilapia is one of the chief sources of protein locally.

During the commissioning on Tuesday, the officials said the fingerlings will be taken to branches of Victory Farms.

Macharia said the fingerlings will also be used for supporting farmer groups to rear fish through aquaculture projects, to help ease the deficit.

"The country has been faced with a fish deficit of 450,000 tonnes. The government is putting efforts to bridge the gap and one of them is encouraging the private-public partnership which is happening here," Macharia said.

Malit said the county is committed to promoting cage fish farming to reduce fishing pressure on Lake Victoria. Resident Joab Ikawa expressed optimism that the fingerlings production project will create employment for residents.

One of the
cages at
Victory Farms
in Rowo,
Suba South
constituency,
yesterday
/ROBERT OMOLLO



The Star Publications offers the most competitive pricing for newspaper printing on Newsprint and Bond paper from 4 to 64 pages.

Our modern facilities give first class quality colour on every page.

Our prices are good, delivery is quick and service first class.

Contacts;

Maurice Munyao - 0733668366. email: maurice.munyao@radioafricagroup.co.ke

3rd Floor, Lion Place, Waiyaki Way

P.O. Box 74497 - 00200 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: (Office) 254 20 4244 200

Direct: 254 20 444 7410 Fax: 254 20 343755



STAR CLASSIFIED

The star does not endorse the advertised product /service or its quality and value nor does the star endorse the appearance of or any of the claims made in the advertisement by the advertiser. The star shall not be held liable for any claims, loss or liability that arises from the product/service and claims made in the advertisement

OUR OFFICES

NAIROBI HEAD OFFICE:

LION'S PLACE,
3rd floor,
Waiyaki Way,
Westlands,
Box: 74497

Tel: 0711046200,
4246200

NAIROBI CBD OFFICE

Portal Place
House 3rd Floor
Room 310,
Muindi Mbingu
Street
Tel: 0711046300

MOMBASA OFFICE

TSS Towers, 2nd
Floor, Nkrumah
Road Mombasa
City CBD
Tel: 0711046101
0711046529

ELDORET 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



HARIKI AUCTIONEERS

COURT BROKERS, AUCTIONEERS, REPOSSESSORS, INVESTIGATORS, ESTATE & COMMISSION AGENTS
Eastern Bypass next to Afro Sayari Hotel P.O.BOX 51840-00200 Nairobi Email: harikiauctioneers@yahoo.co.ke TEL: 0720-373842 / 020 2540708

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under the instructions received from our principals, we shall sell the under mentioned Motor Vehicles by public Auction.

On FRIDAY 5TH AUGUST 2025 at BLUESHINE DEALERS AND STORAGE YARD, at KANGUNDO ROAD at 10:00 am

1. IN THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT AT THIKA SCCC NO. E644 OF 2023 JOHN NJUGUNA KIRUKU – VS- JOHN NJUMBI NDEGWA
Motor Vehicle Registration number KBM 109Z (Toyota Ipsum)

2. UNDER UNCOLLECTED GOODS ACT, VIDE KENYA GAZETTE NOTICE DATED 27TH JUNE 2025
Motor Vehicle Registration number SSD 874 CN (MERCEDES BENZ)

CONDITION OF SALE
CASH AT THE FALL OF THE HAMMER

BETABASE AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Repossessors, Debt Collectors, Private Investigators, Process Servers and Commission Agents

Development House 2nd Floor Room 211 Moi Avenue P.O. Box 22693-00100 NAIROBI Tel: 0721 959986 Email: velelajael@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by the Chief Magistrate's Court at Milimani respectively, we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicles by public auction: -

ON FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST 2025 AT JOGOO ROAD MOTORS STORAGE AND SALES LIMITED JOGOO ROAD & STARTRUCK AUCTIONEERS INVESTMENT YARD LIMITED ALONG KIAMBU ROAD STARTING FROM 10.30 A.M.

MILIMANI CMCC NO. E9456 OF 2018
MARITAK ENTERPRISES –VERSUS- JOHN MWANGI KABUU

MOTOR VEHICLE	MAKE/MODEL	COLOUR
KBY 121M	TATA LORRY/TRUCK	WHITE

MILIMANI CMCC NO. E7776 OF 2020
EVARLINE ACHIENG OGUTU -VERSUS- TOBIAS BAHBU RUDHAH & FRANCIS NDUNGU OMERI

MOTOR VEHICLE	MAKE/MODEL	COLOUR
KBN 586Y	MERCEDES BENZ-SALOON	SILVER

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

PETFRIEND AUCTIONEERS



NUMA HOUSE, NEXT TO EQUITY BANK, KIKUYU TOWN
P.O. BOX 52071-00200 NAIROBI
Tel: +254 020272079, Mobile 0722 639119,
EMAIL: ngangap34@yahoo.com/ngashpete34@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principles in exercise of their statutory powers, we shall sell the below mentioned property by Public Auction on **16th day of August 2025 at 11:00 a.m.** Auction will be held at our offices **NUMA HOUSE, 1st floor, room A5 Kikuyu Town next to Equity Bank.** This further follows the **ORDERS** issued in the Environment and Land Courts Milimani Courts on **5th day of June 2019 in ELC No. 722 of 2012 (05).**

Tiras Karanja Ngatha Vs Silas Gachungu Ngugi and the Land Registrar Kiambu.

0.5 (Half) an acre of that freehold property land Title LR. No. **LR. NO. KIAMBAA/ KIHARA / 467** within Karura Location, Mahindi Sub Location. The parcel of the land is located along **Gachie / Karura Ka Nyungu road**, directly opposite **Karia Police Post**. Distance to the land from Karura Ka Nyungu shopping Centre is roughly **2.5kms**. The intended portion for land on auction is **0.5 Acres** from the entire/whole parcel of land **LR. NO. KIAMBAA/ KIHARA / 467** on the undeveloped portion along the main road.

The entire property is registered in the name of **Ngugi Weru.**

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All interested bidders/purchases are required to view and verify the details of the good/items as these are NOT warranted by the Auctioneers or our clients herein.
2. A refundable of **kshs. 100,000** in cash or in bankers cheque must be paid at our offices for those interested in order to be allowed to bid.
3. The highest bidder shall be declared the purchase at the fall of the hammer subject to compliance with set conditions of sale.
4. The declared purchaser shall be required to pay 10% of the bid price in cash **EFT/RTGs** or **bankers cheque** to the Auctioneers office on acceptance of the bid by the auctioneers and the balance within **ninety (90) days** failure whereof to the 10% deposit paid shall be forfeited.
5. Sale is subject to a reasonable reserve price and land board consent where applicable.
6. Other conditions of sale are available on request and shall be availed to all the bidders at the auction.
7. The auctioneer reserves the rights to bid.

BUSINESS

CONSULTANT Are you in need of consultancy services? We assist students in preparation of term papers, proposal writing, CVs etc. For more details call 0783007229/0721654622 or email: escatmi2020@gmail.com

BLISS SPAR CBD
0729 677 559/ 0720 493 795

GRAPHIC DESIGN, PRINTING & BRANDING services available at affordable prices. Very good quality work. Call, whatsapp 0740035425

LANGUAGE CONNECTIONS CENTRE. Speak. Write. Refresh. Call 0733128976 / 0725724219 /0721287034

WE ARE A COMPANY(GNS) offering on_time food delivery to customers for various hotels, restaurants etc using bodaboda in kisumu cbd and its environs **DIGITAL CONTENT RE-PURPOSING SERVICES** e.g copywriting, podcast etc **DETAILS CALL TECHNICAL MANAGER 0743249306 0716462733**

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The registered owner of **Plot No. Nairobi/Block 181/2946** situated in Kasarani, within **Nairobi City County** proposes to change the use of the Land from **Commercial to Commercial/Church and Learning Institution**, subject to approval by the Nairobi County Government. Individuals, Institutions, Members of the Public etc. with comments and or objections to the proposal should forward them within **14 days** of this Notice to: -

**CECM-Built Environment and Urban Planning,
Nairobi City County Government,
P.O. Box 30075- 00100,
Nairobi.**



Makuri Auctioneers

Auctioneers, Repossessors, Private Investigators, Business, Consultants & Real Estate Management

Nkrumah Rd., N.S.S.F. Bld., 11th Floor, Mombasa
P.O. Box 87788-80100 GPO Tel: 041 2220238/2012924
Mob: 0720934476 Email: info@makuriauctioneers.co.ke
Website: www.makuriauctioneers.co.ke

PUBLIC AUCTION

1. Under instructions received from the landlord/agent we shall sell by public auction the under-mentioned goods: -

ON THURSDAY THE 7TH DAY OF AUGUST 2025 STARTING AT 10.30AM AT KIHIMJI BUSINESS PARK NEAR GREAT WALL ESTATE WITHIN MAVOKO-ATHI RIVER. GODOWN NO. 30

LANDLORD =VS= MAGHARIBI FRESH LIMITED

Rice Milling Machine, Assorted bags of rice, Motor vehicle KBU778P without engine, Ramtoms fridge, 2 burner Gas cooker, Gas Cylinder, 3 work tables, 2 white tables, 5 office chairs, 2 water dispensers, 1 computer, wooden cabinet, Microwave

Under instructions received from the SMALL CLAIMS COURT at KAJIADO we shall sell by public auction the under-mentioned goods: -

ON THURSDAY THE 7TH DAY OF AUGUST 2025 STARTING AT 10 AM AT BREEZE STORAGE AREA, ALONG EASTERN BYPASS.

SCCCOMM NO. E198 OF 2022 – KAJIADO.

JACOB LETOIYA -VERSUS- JOSEPHINE KITAGA

RAMTOMS 4 BURNER GAS COOKER
LG DVD
TCL TELEVISION
SELIM MICROWAVE.

CONDITIONS OF SALE:

Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.
Viewing can be done during normal working hours with prior arrangement with the office.

WELCOME ALL

HOME_BASED Personal and private tutor in business and computer studies both secondary/colleges in kisumu details 0716462733 0713957136

PERSONAL AND PRIVATE TUTOR in business and computer studies both secondary/colleges in kisumu details 0716462733 071395713

JOBS

TEACHERS, NURSES Lawyers and Accountants earn 60000 part time work 4 only 2hrs aday twice a week From 5pm to 7pm. col 0769150870. Manager.

WANTED: Salonist, hoteliers, house-keeper, maids, cleaners, train& employ Local inter, NBI, MSA, Gilo, NKR Reg fee is a MUST details sms only +254722703706

JOBS APPLY land sales agent's marketers, NKR, Gilgil area REG fee is a MUST SMS only for details 0722703706

TRAINED HOUSE KEEPER house help shamba boy nation wide available part time full time sms 0722115384

JOBS apply land sales agent's marketers, NKR, Gilgil area REG fee MUST SMS only for details 0722703706

SALONIST, hoteliers, housekeeper, maids, cleaners, train& employ Local inter, NBI, MSA, Gilo, NKR Reg fee MUST details sms only +25472270370

MISC

RJT CLEARS SEVERAL CHRONIC DISEASES. Tested & proven. 0722598941

INDIAN PHOTO SHOOT models to

grace your party strictly premiericly members +254722115384

Dr. Mama Bichau from zanzibar back in nairobi to solve problems such as: love issues, infidelity in marriages, lost items, lucky rings, manpower and size, cleansing stars, all protections, infertility, business attraction, addictions, bad omen, job promotion, debts etc. **CALL: 0722591554, 0787969731**

DR. MAMBA kutoka (TZ) Anatibu magonjwa na shida zote. Malipo ni baada ya kufaulu **Piga simu 0715 860148**

WE PROVIDE MOTIVATIONAL, mentoring, coaching, and Home based counseling support at your favorite place for private and confidential. Details call counselor on 0716462733 0743249306

MONEY ISSUES tried prayers, cult, traditionist, loans, failed, Solution REG, consultant fee \$24USD only Change life or choose to continue crying SMS +254722703706

WINTRODUCTION to money oil end your money struggles now sms only for details +254722703706

MOTIVATIONAL speaking for schools, individuals or groups for details call coach 0743249306 0713957136

MONEY PROBLEM tried everything failed relax got solution NO cult sms 0722703706

Manage stress the natural way with ashwagandha. Call/Whatsapp 0712149433. Our Facebook page is Ashwagandha Kenya.

Offering motivation speaking for schools, individuals or groups for details call coach 0743249306 0713957136

ARE YOU IN NEED of a personal computer trainer home_based coach, more details call 0788779377 0713957136

Home based counselling support at your favorite residence for private and confidential call lawrence 0716462733 0788779377

Cure INFERTILITY Call/Whatsapp 0712149433. Our Facebook page is Ashwagandha Kenya.

operation for blind eyes to see yes Miracle doctor sms to be connected 0722703706

Oasis spa now open members only euro indian thai arab 0722115384

We install cctv to monitor house girls/boys. Also surveillance gadgets for cars, phones. cal 0732555194

CHERRY SPA... Experienced in several international massage cultures, located in Westlands along ojijo road and open 24/7. 0791491072

RELATIONSHIPS

Canadian Cate Johnson working in Kenya with UNHCR looking



For more classifieds on our website. Scan this quick response code using your smartphone.

PAYMENTS
STRICTLY VIA
MPESA PAYBILL
NUMBER 793601

for marriage partner. Call/SMS +254752609194

Andru, 35 yrs, in Nairobi is looking for a serious lady to settle down with. Age between 22 – 28, loving, caring, faithful, hardworking, honest. Call, Whatsapp 0747117278

Classic Lady, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking For Love 0731990601.

Classic Lady, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking For Love 0731990601.

New arrival vietnamese escort models strictly V.I.P only in call premier members only 0722115384

Enjoy The Company Of Beautiful Housewife massage therapist, Indian,Euro,ASIAN,NBI MSA Tz international Strictly premier members only sms 0722115384

HABIBIYEMENISESCORTMODELS WESTLAND WWW.OASIS-DREAMS.ORG +254722115384

New arrival Euro blonde Indian celeb x-blywd to grace your party strictly premier members and V.I.P.S only 0722115384

End loneliness virtual friend for hire Euro India Thai Arab vietnamese NBI EA international Sms+254722115384

Classic Lady, Wealthy, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking For Love 0703237111.

Classic Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies, Own Business, Professionals,Working Class, Marriage Partners Etc 0731990601

bachelor's hen night parties hill view Indian Arab dancers for entertainment accommodation strictly premier members only sms 0722115384

Hookups For Millionaire Sponsors, Sugar Moms, Sugar Dads, Marriage Partners etc Instant 0703237111

This Wealthy Sugardaddy Is Looking For Good Girl For Good Times.0722114000

Wazungu Looking For Kenyan ladies For Marriage. Sponsors & SugarDads Also Available. Pay 500 To PAYBILL No 948862 Account 1319. Instant Hookup. 0703237111

HABIBI YEMENIS ESCORT WESTLAND 0722115384

Jobs elegant escort models M/F local international reg fee is a MUST sms only +254722115384

BACHELOR'S HEN night parties In-dian Arab dancers for accommodation strictly premier members only sms 0722115384

Hookups For Millionaire Sponsors, Sugar Moms, Sugar Dads, Marriage Partners etc Instant 0703237111

new arrival vietnamese escort models strictly V.I.P only in call premier members only 0722115384

I'm A Classic Lady, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking For Love 0731990601.

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

Wealthy Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies Hookup. 0731990601

Classic Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies, Working Class, Marriage Partners Etc 0703237111

I'm A Classic Lady, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking For Love 0731990601.

This Wealthy Sugardaddy Is Looking For Good Girl For Good Times.0722114000

For newly wedded couples with marriage tides and waves need private and confidential talk call 0716462733 0788779377

THE STAR

PUBLIC AUCTIONS

Enjoy our affordable prices every Friday in your **Weekend Edition**

To place your adverts contact:

NAIROBI
Winnie Wainaina – 0727061122
Jacob Ting'aa – 0722 796 558
Exallenty Wambua – 0700334139
Risper Kinyua – 0724417149
Victor Mujidu – 0717 802211
Joshua Onyango – 0706 958075

ELDORET
Jack Mucheleli – 0115783747

MT KENYA
Mary Mulwa – 0726581185

KISUMU
Alfred Otieno – 0713429336

BUNGOMA
Maurice Awino – 0701345621

MOMBASA
Doracas Rottok – 0794909108
Betty Ngina – 0707268525
Esther Olum – 0724031601
Esther Getuno – 0726618940



For more classifieds on our website. Scan this quick response code using your smartphone.

PAYMENTS STRICTLY VIA MPESA PAYBILL NUMBER 793601



National Environment Management Authority

Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, P O BOX 67839-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: 0724253398, 0735013046, Email: info@nema.go.ke Website: www.nema.go.ke

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS ON PLOT L.R. NO. NAIROBI/BLOCK 25/6, OFF RIVERSIDE DRIVE IN CHIROMO AREA, NAIROBI COUNTY.

Pursuant to Section 59 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act 1999, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has received an Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for the above proposed project.

The proponent, **The Ox Ventures Company Limited**, proposes to develop four (A,B,C,D) 25-Storey residential blocks of (3 basements and ground floors plus 25No. floors each) comprising a total of 743 units (352No. one bedroom and 382No. two bedroom units), parking spaces, lifts, staircases and other associated amenities and facilities on plot Title No. Nairobi/Block 25/6 off Riverside Drive, Chiromo, Nairobi County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures:

Impacts	Proposed mitigation measures
Soil Erosion	• Control earthworks. • Install drainage structures to control flow of storm water. • Ensure and management of excavation activities.
Loss of Vegetation	• Only area earmarked for development should be cleared. • Plant trees, shrubs and flowers on remaining open spaces.
Changes in hydrology/impended drainage/deep excavations	• proper Installation of drainage structures • Install cascades to break the impact of water flowing in the drains • Ensure efficiency of drainage structures through proper design and maintenance • Provide gratings to the drainage channels • A geotechnical survey shall be conducted and the recommendations thereof followed. There shall be no blasting during excavation • A methodology for excavation shall be generated as required by NCA
Air pollution	• Stockpiles of earth should be sprayed with water or covered during dry seasons • Provide dust masks for personnel in dusty areas • Sensitize construction workers on pollution control measures • Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials
Noise pollution	• Install suitable barriers to shield compressors and other small stationary equipment where necessary • Display signs to indicate construction activities • Maintain all equipment • The working hours should be in line with NEMA licensing conditions • Adhere to provisions of Noise Prevention and Control Rules 2005, Legal Notice no. 24 regarding noise limits at the workplace as well as NEMA Noise Excessive Vibration Pollution Control Regulations, 2000
Public health, occupational health and safety	• Train staff/workers on occupational health and safety. • Provide full protective gear & workmen's compensation cover in addition to the right tools and operational instructions & manuals during construction. • Design of sewerage system should be as provided in the plans and should be constructed to approved size and design, standard and of approved materials. • Ensure use of standard construction materials and to the specifications. Avoid undesirable, substandard, hazardous or unauthorized materials during construction & maintenance. • Sensitized staff on social/health issues such as drugs
Road traffic disruption	• No overloading of trucks and good driving practices to be practiced. • Suitable junction/access point to be provided. • Use of appropriate & legible signage. • Employment of formal flagmen/ women to ensure the public safety. • Follow the recommendations of the traffic management plan.
Insecurity and social impacts	• Provision of security guards, CCTV cameras, security lights and other security apparatus during the entire project cycle. • Construction work timings shall only in line with the NEMA licensing conditions
Increased Water Usage	• An alternative water source shall be provided. The proponent shall drill a borehole at the proposed site • Management of water usage. Avoid unnecessary wastage. • Recycling of water at the construction phase where possible. • Make use of roof catchments to provide water i.e. for general purpose.
Increased generation of waste	• Adopt waste minimization at source. • Monitoring the fate of disposed wastes to ensure they are legally land filled at a recognized controlled site. • Adhering to waste management regulations of 2006

A full report of the proposed project is available for inspection during working hours at:

1. **Principal Secretary**,
State Department of Environment and Climate Change,
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry,
NHIF Building, 12th Floor
Ragati Road, Upper Hill,
P.O. BOX 30126-00100
NAIROBI

2. **Director General**, National Environment Management Authority, NEMA
Popo Road, off Mombasa Road,
P.O BOX 67839 -00200,
NAIROBI

3. County Director of Environment
NAIROBI

A copy of the EIA report can be downloaded at www.nema.go.ke.

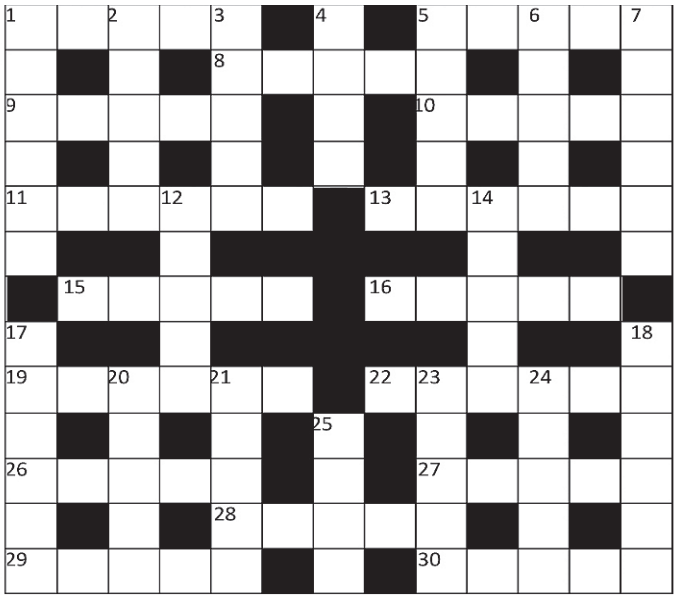
NEMA invites members of the public to submit oral or written comments **within thirty (30) days** from the date of the publication of this notice to the Director General, NEMA, to assist the Authority in the decision making process for this project. Kindly quote ref No. **NEMA/EIA/5/2/2361**

Comments can also be e-mailed to info@nema.go.ke

DIRECTOR GENERAL
This advertisement is sponsored by the proponent

COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD / PUZZLE



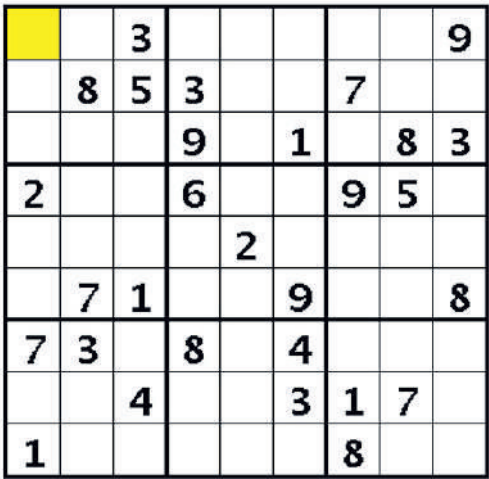
DOWN

- 1. Former Member of Parliament for Tiati constituency (6)
- 2. Member of Parliament for Women in Vihiga County (5)
- 3. Member of Parliament for Turkana West Constituency (5)
- 4. Currency used in Botswana (4)
- 5. Member of Parliament for Kibwezi East constituency (5)
- 6. Inhabitants of Ireland (5)
- 7. Among (6)
- 12. The sense of hearing responds to this (5)
- 14. Water Vapour (5)
- 17. Chemical element with symbol In (6)
- 18. Member of Parliament for Women in Elgeyo Marakwet County (6)
- 20. Member of Parliament for Rongo Constituency (5)
- 21. Former Member of Parliament for Women in Kajiado County (5)
- 23. Former Member of Parliament for Awendo constituency (5)
- 24. Body of salt water (5)
- 25. Currency used in Cambodia (4)

ACROSS

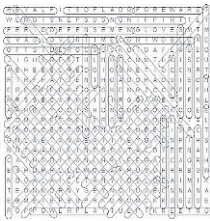
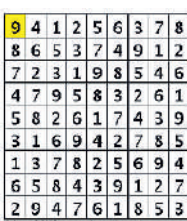
- 1. Currency used in Denmark (5)
- 5. Currency used in Nigeria (5)
- 8. Currency used in United Kingdom (5)
- 9. Member of Parliament for Women in Kilifi County (5)
- 10. Constituency in Migori County (5)
- 11. Member of Parliament for Women in Samburu County (6)
- 13. Jostles (6)
- 15. The scientist who first performed the "double slit" experiment (5)
- 16. Member of Parliament for Naivasha constituency (5)
- 19. Chemical element with symbol Nd (6)
- 22. Currency used in Tajikistan (6)
- 26. Constituency in Garissa County (5)
- 27. Maladroitness (5)
- 28. Former Member of Parliament for Women in Uasin Gishu County (5)
- 29. Member of Parliament for Igembe North constituency (5)
- 30. Member of Parliament for Funyula constituency (5)

SUDOKU / SIMPLE



Fill the grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the sub-grids that compose the grid all contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 one time.

Yesterday solutions



WORD SEARCH

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

T H D R A F T E L L D O R M N G E S T
T H G I R W O S W E R B E E H O L Y R
D I N T H G U A R D S D T H T I A W F
E B A R R E D O E L D S N G L A I R S
H E L A R N B G U L Y G U G A W E G E
G I C E T H G I E W N N U M H E S R P
R U V E M N U S E I D E X O Z M H U G
M U E F I U O M L N S R L E O A U U L
E L O S L P S A O S W L A S T R M R A
M A I L T O E C E R Y E E O E T E C R
O H S C F S W D L O O E I T B I R C W
P S G N I L I E C E R U A V I A U O R
C R S E I T L R R F I R S W E L S U I
S A C S W E H A A X G L O V I R O R T
K M H I H K G Z E C A E P L C E A S E
N E A A A C I E Y D Q W W H E E L E D
I V L R C A E A E B R U I S E N O D W
L A V C K R W M D R A B E S R A O C O
O H E N S A A I B O U G H T O S I S B

AWAY
AWEIGH
BARD
BARRED
BOARD
BORED
BOUGH
BOW
BREWS
BRUISE
CEILING
SEALING
COARSE
COURSE
DRAFT
DRAUGHT
FLOUR
FLOWER
FREES
FREEZE
GRATER
GREATER
GUESSED
GUEST
HALVE
HAVE
HOLY
WHOLLY

HUMERUS
HUMEROUS
LINKS
LYNX
MARSHAL
MARTIAL
MEDALS
MEDDLES
MUSCLE
MUSSEL
PEACE
PIECE
RACKET
RACQUET
RAISE
RAZE
REVIEW
REVUE
RIGHT
WRITE
WAIT
WEIGHT
WAX
WHACKS
WHEELED
WIELD

German zoo culls baboons, feeds bodies to predators

BBC/ A zoo in the southern German city of Nuremberg has culled 12 healthy Guinea baboons due to overcrowding in their enclosure, after which they were fed to predators.

Seven animal rights activists were arrested on Tuesday after they entered the Tiergarten Nürnberg zoo in protest against the decision. One woman glued her hands to the ground near the entrance.

Overcrowding had caused an "increase in conflicts" between the baboons and no alternative for re-housing them could be found, the zoo said. Christoph Maisack, head of the German Legal Association for Animal Protection Law, said letting the animals breed too freely "cannot constitute such a reason" for their killing.

The zoo in Nuremberg had announced plans to kill some Guinea baboons last year, after its population exceeded 40 – more than the 25 that could be housed by a complex completed in 2009. Zoos in other countries that baboons had previously been sent to had also reached capacity and contraception measures had failed to slow the population growth, the zoo said.

On Tuesday morning, the zoo announced that it was closing for "operational reasons", triggering demonstrators to climb over the zoo's fence near the entrance, where they were arrested.

Later, the zoo confirmed that it had killed the baboons – none of which were pregnant females or part of scientific studies. The animals were shot, samples were taken for research purposes, then their bodies were fed to the zoo's predators.

Dag Encke, the zoo's director, said the decision came after "years-long consideration", and that the culling of animals can be a "legitimate last resort to preserve the population".

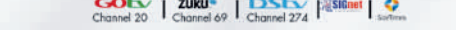
TELEVISION LINEUP – THURSDAY


The Home of *Bahfela, Shiksha*


Daily Report
#TheGreenFix
With Shiksha Arora
Thursday | 9:00pm

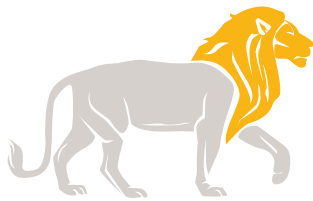



@tv47ke @tv47news TV47Kenya tv47.digital


GOTV Channel 20 | ZUKU Channel 69 | DSTV Channel 274 | iStinet | SatNet

5:00AM	MORNING DECREE	4:30PM	KIKI AND NUNA
5:30AM	TV47 FITNESS	5:00PM	BEATPLUG
6:00AM	MORNING CAFÉ	7:00PM	UPEO WA TV47
10:00AM	BEAT BREAK	7:30PM	MFAHAMU
11:00AM	TV47 MATUKIO	8:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
2:00PM	BAZE 47	8:30PM	NEW LIFE BEGINS
3:00PM	THE DEBATE CYCLE – RPT	9:00PM	THE GREEN FIX WITH SHIKSHA ARORA
4:00PM	TV47 NEWS NOW	11:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
4:15PM	BEAT KIDS	12:00AM	BEATPLUG MIX

ALL IN THE STARS



LEO

July 23 – August 22

Take the loftier approach and encourage others to share your dreams instead of letting them weigh you down.

VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

Let the electricity of the day lighten the atmosphere and give your attitude the jolt it needs to get back on track.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

Make sure you continue at your own pace so you don't get pushed into something you don't want to do.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

Find freedom in the strange and new. Be a pioneer today and venture into the unknown.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

Unexpected ripples of emotion may cause you to go in an unconventional direction.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

Even the smallest event may blossom into a new world of people and situations.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

The energy of the day is "get up and go." So either lead, follow, or get out of the way.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

Make sure you have your internal maelstrom of thoughts settled before you get tangled up in others' affairs.

ARIES

March 21 – April 20

Walk with a lighter step and don't feel like you always need to be in control of every single thing you contact.

TAURUS

April 21– May 21

This is one of those days in which it's simply easier to be you. There's no need to shy away or hide your true desires.

GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

Your plans may be upended today, Gemini, but this doesn't mean that you should give up hope in any way.

CANCER

June 22 – July 22

Don't feel badly if you don't know exactly which way to go. Follow your gut feeling.

ODDLY ENOUGH



SPORTS LOCAL

ATHLETICS

Ng'etich tipped for back-to-back Valencia Half Marathon glory

BY TEDDY MULEI

WORLD 10km road race record holder Agnes Ng'etich hopes to defend the Valencia Half Marathon title on October 26.

Ng'etich won the title on her debut over the distance in October last year, clocking 1:03:04. It will be her second career half marathon race.

In addition to clinching the title, Ng'etich's blistering run was a new national record and made her the second-fastest women's half marathon runner of all time.

Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey holds the world record of 1:02:52 set on the same course in 2021. During last year's race, Ng'etich led Ethiopia's Fotyen Tesfay (1:03:21) and compatriot Lilian Kasait (1:03:32) to the podium. Race organisers have promised another record-chasing edition.

"The organisation's intention is to maintain a very high level of competition by fighting for the best world times of the current year," said the organisers.

Ng'etich, 24, boasts world-beating

credentials on the road. In January 2024, she obliterated the women's 10K world record with a time of 28:46, in Valencia.

She led Immaculate Anyango (28:57) and Kasait (29:32) to the podium. Ng'etich's resume is stacked with high-profile 10K victories, including triumphs in Lille 2023 (29:56) and back-to-back titles at the Adidas Adizero Road to Records races in 2024 (30:03) and 2025 (29:27).

She was third at the 2023 edition of the Adizero (30:27) and runner-up finishes in Brasov 2022 (30:30) and Laredo 2021 (31:20). Ng'etich has impressed over 5km, winning the 2024 Kumamoto Road Race in 14:48 and finishing second at the 2023 Boston 5K (15:02).

Her return to Valencia will come just weeks after the World Championships in Tokyo in September, where she will chase a 5,000m and 10,000m double.

Emerging talent Alex Matata

will lead a formidable Kenyan line-up in the men's division, where they face defending champion Yomif Kejelcha of Ethiopia.

Kejelcha won last year's race in 57:30 ahead of Kenyans Daniel Mateiko (58:17) and Isaia Lasoi (58:21). Joining Matata in the men's assault will be Patrick Mosin, Gideon Kiprotich, Samwel Mailu and Hillary Kipkoech.



Agnes Ng'etich (R) and Janeth Chepng'etich during the national trials / TEDDY MULEI

HIGHLIGHTS

Wekesa, Odongo join next month's French Super 7s

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

KENYA'S Sevens stars Kevin Wekesa and Patrick Odongo are set to feature in the French Super Sevens Championship next month in France.

The duo, who recently made history by becoming the first Kenyan players to compete in the inaugural Indian Premier Rugby League in June, will be hoping to make an instant impact in the three-week tournament, where they will be playing for Monaco.

The Principality outfit will be seeking to reclaim the title from defending champions Barbarian Rugby.

The French Supern Sevens starts on August 16 in Mont-de-Marsan, followed thereafter by the event on August 23 in Dax and the final event in Pau on August 30.

Wekesa, who plays for Kabras, is no stranger to the French Sevens tournament, having competed with the same outfit during the 2024 edition, where they won bronze in Pau and silver in LA Rochelle.

The burly Kenya Sevens forward is anticipating a competitive tournament. "It's an honour to be invited yet again to play in France. I was there last year, and it was an eye-opener on how elite Sevens rugby is played. We play alongside some of the top Sevens talent from the world, and I believe by the end of the tournament, I will have improved," noted Wekesa.

Wekesa and Odongo's participation in the tournament means they will, at the minimum, miss three legs of the National Seven Series, which kicked off last weekend in Mombasa with the Driftwood Sevens.

They will miss the Christie Sevens slated for August 16-17 at the RFUEA ground, Embu Sevens (August 23-24) and Kabeberi Sevens hosted by Mwamba on September 6-7.

Wekesa was a key cog for Kabras in their third-place finish at the Driftwood Sevens, while Odongo's club side, Daystar Falcons, finished 12th.

Kabras will be seeking to go one place better at the Prinsloo Sevens in Nakuru when they face neighbours Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), Impala and Mwamba in Pool D.

KCB winners of Driftwood are in Pool C, where they battle it out against Nondies, Catholic Monks and Kisumu.

Runners up Strathmore Leos have a date with Menengai Oilers, Daystar Falcons, and Zetech Oaks in Pool B. Series holders Quins face a tricky test in the shape of hosts Nakuru, Kabete Stallions and Mombasa RFC.

AK RINGS CHANGES

Athletics Kenya alters cross country calendar with eyes on 2026 show



BY TEDDY MULEI

ATHLETICS Kenya (AK) has revamped the 2025/26 cross-country calendar, with the 2026 World Cross Country Championships scheduled for January 10 in Tallahassee, Florida, USA.

In a statement, the federation said the shake-up aims to ensure that Kenyan athletes are in peak condition for the championships.

"To ensure that Kenyan athletes are well prepared for this important event, AK has adjusted its 2025-2026 cross country calendar," read the statement from the federation.

"The cross country (series) will start earlier than usual to give athletes enough time to train, compete and be selected in good form ahead of the World (Cross Country) Championships."

Under the restructured calendar, the cross country series will start earlier than usual, on August 9 at Machakos Teachers Training College. County championships will follow on August 23, then the second leg of the circuit in Olkalau on September 6.

The regional and affiliate championships are pencilled for September 27, culminating in the national championships on October 25 at the Eldoret Sports Club.

"AK calls upon all athletes, coaches and all athletics stakeholders to take note of these dates and prepare accordingly," the federation added.

In Tallahassee, Kenyan women will seek to extend their grip on the title, a streak that began in 2009 when Florence Kiplagat led a 1-2 Kenyan finish in Amman, Jordan.

Kiplagat clocked 26:13 ahead of

Linet Masai (26:16) and Ethiopia's Meselech Melkamu (26:19).

Since then, the title has never left Kenya, with Beatrice Chebet claiming back-to-back crowns in Bathurst 2023 (33:48) and Belgrade 2024 (31:05).

In Belgrade, Chebet spearheaded a podium sweep alongside Lilian Kasait (31:08) and Margaret Chelimo (31:09).

Kenya will, however, seek to reclaim the men's title from Uganda, who have dominated the last three editions. The last Kenyan man to win it was Geoffrey Kamworor, who won the 2017 edition in Kampala, clocking 28:24.

Ugandan Joshua Cheptegei won in Aarhus 2019 (31:40) with Jacob Kiplimo delivering victories in Bathurst 2023 (29:17) and Belgrade 2024 (28:09).

Athletes compete in a previous cross country event / TEDDY MULEI



Kevin Wekesa in action against South Africa at the Hong Kong Sevens in April 2025/HANDOUT



SCHOOL GAMES

VOLLEYBALL



Lenana School's Koffi Anan (L) in action against Friends School Bwake's Darius Kipsang/ ANGWENYI GICHANA

IT'S A PERFECT START

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

NATIONAL secondary schools rugby 7s champions Friends School Bwake started their title defence on a winning note after beating Lenana School 19-0 at the Bull Ring in Kakamega.

Emmanuel Barasa scored three times for Bwake with Brandon Chesoli converting twice.

Bwake's Director of Rugby, Ben Amboko, said: "We started slow but picked up momentum in the second half. This game was the biggest test in the pool, and we came out victorious."

Former champions Koyonzo needed a last-minute try to beat minnows Friends School Anjengo 10-7 in a game that kept fans on the edge of their seats.

"It was a good game, but the boys made silly mistakes. We would have killed the game in the first half. I hope they will rise to the occasion in the second

7s champions Bwake begin title defence on a high as three-time girls' football winners Butere storm semis

game," said Anjengo coach and principal J.J. Masime.

In a highly entertaining game, Bungoma High School overcame Musingu High 22-17 in a western region derby, while St Mary's School Yala narrowly saw off a stubborn MPesa Foundation Academy 15-14.

Marsabit High upset Kitondo School 14-12 while Laier Hill defeated Gede 38-10. Western region champions St Peter's Muminas saw off Alliance High 34-0.

In girls' football, three-time national champions Butere Girls' qualified for the semifinals after a 2-0 win over Rift Valley's Nasokol. Butere started their campaign with an emphatic 5-0 win over Dr Charles Muli.

Their Western region counterparts, Madira Girls', sailed

through after overcoming Mwamambeyu 2-0 and Kobala Girls' 1-0.

Kobala, from Nyanza, revived their hopes of a semifinal slot with a 1-0 win over Nairobi's Dagoretti while Ruiru and Dr Charles played to a 1-1 draw.

In girls' volleyball, Nyanza's Nyakongo exited the championship after losing their second consecutive match — 3-2 (25-22, 25-17, 12-25, 24-26, 15-12) to Bishop Sulumeti from Western region at Masinde Murilo University of Science and Technology.

East Africa champions Keso-gon progressed to the semifinals after humbling Kinale Girls' 3-0 (25-12, 25-7, 25-12) while national champions Kwanthanze sailed through.

Kwanthanze dispatched North Eastern Region's Eldas Girls' 3-0 (25-1, 25-2, 25-4). In another game, Soweto from Nairobi beat Moi Forces 3-0 (27-25, 25-13, 25-5).

Defending champions Oyugi Ogango from Nyanza qualified for the semis after recording their second consecutive win. They walloped Dr Dorcas 124-1 in the second match following a 79-14 triumph over Kinale Girls'.

Western region's Bukokholo reached the last four after beating Kinale Girls' 60-31 and Dr Dorcas 99-7.

Kaya Tiwi opened their campaign with an emphatic 114-4 win over Hon DM Amin while St Joseph's Kitale defeated Kaji-ampau 96-9.

Malkia Strikers coach to polish up defence ahead of Vietnam friendly duels

BY CHARLENE MALWA

MALKIA Strikers' outside hitter Veronica Adhiambo believes they are steadily building confidence and competition as they intensify preparations for the upcoming FIVB Women's Volleyball World Championship.

She said the goal is to have at least a win in their group during the event scheduled for when the tournament kicks off from August 22 to September 7 in Thailand.

Malkia have been pitted against defending champions Serbia, powerhouse Brazil and European giants Germany, setting the stage for a challenging campaign. "Training so far is not bad," said Adhiambo during a session at Nyayo Stadium.

"We want to give the coach, Geoffrey Omondi, a hard time in selecting players. I help in reception, and I pray to God to help us win. We hope to beat even one team to add more points."

The volleyball Queens are banking on better reception and service stability ahead of the global showpiece. The national team is scheduled to enter residential camp on August 14 before flying out to Vietnam, where they'll play friendly matches against local Vietnamese clubs until August 20. Negotiations are still ongoing for a potential fixture against Spain.

Kenya will use the Vietnam tour to gauge their readiness before naming the final 14-player squad for the World Championship. The provisional list is currently 20 players.

Meanwhile, the junior national women's team is also sharpening up ahead of the FIVB U20 Women's World Championship.

Left attacker Daisy Cheptum, who plays for Kenya Prisons and is a product of Soweto Academy, is confident the team has what it takes to go the distance. "I'm ready for the World Championships," said Cheptum.

"Reception and service used to be a challenge, but not anymore. I've played for five years since Form Two. I joined out of self-interest, and now I look to go and play well. We're targeting the cup."



Kenya Women's U20 national team during a training Nyayo Stadium/ CHARLENE MALWA

ELECTIONS

Ogola's NOCK secretary general seat in jeopardy as High Court halts election victory

BY TEDDY MULEI

NEWLY elected National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) Secretary General John Ogola risks losing his position just days after assuming office, following a court order halting his election.



John Ogola/HANDOUT

Ogola, who was elected unopposed during the July 21 elections at Ole Sereni Hotel, is facing a legal challenge from Kenya Table Tennis Association (KTTA) president Andrew Mudibo, who was barred from contesting the seat by the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT).

In a ruling delivered on June 17, the SDT arbitrator disqualified KTTA from participating in the polls, ruling that the association was not a duly registered sports body under the Sports Act at the time of nominating candidates.

Following the elections, Mudibo moved to the Bomet High Court on Monday to challenge Ogola's election and the SDT's earlier decision.

Justice Julius Ng'arung'ar issued a ruling that temporarily halts Ogola's confirmation as secretary general, pending the determination of the case.

"It is hereby ordered that the

application dated July 28, 2025, is certified urgent," the court papers read.

The court granted leave to the applicant (Mudibo) to seek judicial review orders to quash Ogola's unopposed election as NOCK Secretary General.

"That leave is hereby granted to the applicant to apply for the Judicial Review Order of Certiorari removing to the high court for purposes of quashing the declaration of the 2nd interested party herein, John Ogola, as an unopposed Secretary General candidate in NOCK elections held on July 21st 2025."

"The order further seeks to bar the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) from publishing Ogola as duly elected.

"That leave is hereby granted to the applicant to apply for Judicial Review Orders of Prohibition against the 3rd interested party from publishing the 1st interested party as the newly elected NOCK Secretary General," the court ruling read.

It further seeks to compel IEBC to conduct

fresh elections for the Secretary General position.

"Leave is hereby granted to the applicant to apply for the Judicial Review Order of Andamus compelling the Respondent to conduct the Elections of the position of the Secretary General."

The ruling seeks to overturn the SDT ruling that disqualified Mudibo from participating in the elections.

"That leave is hereby granted to the applicant to apply for the Judicial Review Order Certiorari removing the High Court for purposes of quashing the Ruling and Orders of the respondent dated 17th June, 2025 in SDTSC NO. E038 OF 2025-Daniel Mungai Kimando versus Kenya Table Tennis Association and 3 (three) others."

"The matter is set to be mentioned on September 18, 2025, for further directions. The substantive Judicial Review application is to be filed within 14 days from today's date. This matter be mentioned on September 18, 2025, for further orders/ directions."

SPORTS LOCAL

FOOTBALL

Shaw supports Amorim's tough 'demands' at United

BBC

MANCHESTER United defender Luke Shaw has backed head coach Ruben Amorim's hard-line approach to improving the "toxic" and "unhealthy" culture at the club.

In May, after United's Europa League final defeat by Tottenham, Shaw questioned whether he and his team-mates were good enough to play for the club, comments that drew criticism, external from former captain Gary Neville.

Looking back, Shaw said his damning assessment was triggered by a mixture of the hurt he was feeling at a time when his head was still "hot" as he tried to come to terms with the shattering defeat, which cost United any chance of European qualification after their woeful 15th-placed Premier League finish.

Amorim responded to the loss by resolving to drive up standards inside the dressing room while also excluding five senior players, including Marcus Rashford and Alejandro Garnacho.

"It's not hard to see from the outside what it's been like," said Shaw. "A lot of the time I've been here over the last few years it's been extremely negative."

"It can be quite toxic, the environment, it's not healthy at all. We need an environment that's healthy, that's positive, that's got good energy and happiness. When you have all those things, you feel free and you express yourself more."

"Ruben brings demands. Mentality is a big thing. He talks a lot about it. He demands 100 per cent and doesn't want anything less. If someone's doing 85-90 per cent, it's not enough. I think, especially this year, if you're not doing the right things, you won't play."

Shaw, 30, says the message must be reinforced by United's senior players, including himself.

"The more experienced ones need to be demanding more, day in, day out," he said. "The levels in training, keeping to the times of when we're doing this or that, making sure no-one's coming late."

"The manager's not bothered. He doesn't care who the player is. That's how it should be. Whatever he wants, as players, we have to be delivering – and we are fully behind that."

Shaw did not mention United's 'bomb squad' — Rashford, Garnacho, Jadon Sancho, Tyrell Malacia and Antony — in his assessment and was not placing all the blame on those players, four of whom were not even at United for the second half of last season.

In a separate chat at a Premier League event in Chicago, the England defender did say there are "no stragglers in this group any more" and that Amorim had made it clear "everyone needs to put the team first".

However, United's longest serving player feels the aftermath of the final defeat in Bilbao took the club to such a bad place, it left everyone in Amorim's squad uncertain for what the future held.

"I wouldn't say I regret what I said but straight after the game, your head is hot, you say things and don't think about it," he said.

"A lot of people, after that final, and after that year, didn't know how the next season was going to look, we have to be open and honest about that. None of us were good enough."

"I had such an awful year as well. I was just fully angry about everything. That's why I did the interview and said what I said."



Luke Shaw/HANDOUT

We are running out of time to sign players, says Everton boss Moyes

BBC

EVERTON manager David Moyes says the club are "running out" of time to make the impact they were hoping for in the summer transfer window.

Moyes said his club have money to spend but the deals they were hoping to complete have not materialised.

Club sources have distanced themselves from a potential move for Manchester City's unwanted England midfielder Jack Grealish, while an attempt to lure Kenny Tete north from Fulham floundered when the Dutchman opted to sign a new deal at Craven Cottage.

Everton continue to be linked with numerous players and have signed young left-back Adam Aznou from Bayern Munich.

But Moyes said he could offer no guarantees Aznou, 19, would

be propelled immediately into the senior starting line-up and said bringing experienced players to Everton this summer was proving troublesome.

"The truth is we're not getting a lot of the deals over the line at the moment, that's a fact," he said. "We're desperate to get things moving on because we know time's running out."

By this weekend, it will be nine weeks since Everton ended their season by beating Newcastle at St James' Park to seal a 13th-placed Premier League finish, their best performance since 2021.

With ambitious new owners and a summer move to their magnificent new sta-



Everton manager David Moyes/FILE

dium, it felt as though a reboot of a once mighty club was on the cards. It has not turned out the way Moyes imagined.

Four new players, including Aznou and reserve keeper Mark Travers, does not cover for the loss of five experienced regular starters including Dominic Calvert-Lewin and Abdoulaye Doucoure.

Everton drew with League Two Accrington and lost at Championship side Blackburn before heading to the United States for the Premier League Summer Series.

After Saturday's 3-0 defeat by Bournemouth, Moyes, 62, said he needed six more players.

"The one thing I'll do is I'll tell the fans straight, and I'm telling it straight at the moment, we're having a bit of a struggle getting ones in quickly," said Moyes.

FOOTBALL

'THE RIGHT MOVE'

Chess fan Mbeumo explains how he was sold on Amorim's ambitions for Manchester United

BBC

BRYAN Mbeumo has no problem playing football in front of thousands of people - it's when you sit him in front of a piano with a couple of mates that the nerves kick in.

"It's funny, but it's so different," Manchester United's £65m new signing explains. "Even if I play in front of a couple of friends at home, I'm not exactly shaking but it's 'oh guys, this is kind of hard for me'."

Sitting in front of Mbeumo at United's team hotel in Chicago midway through their pre-season trip is to be presented with a different type of Premier League star. Mbeumo is quiet, relaxed and respectful, completely at odds with the explosive manner in which he plays. He scored 20 Premier League goals last season, which made him a primary target for United head coach Ruben Amorim as he tries to make his formation work.

The Cameroon international says he was sold on the United "project" - there were conversations with other clubs but he wanted to move to Old Trafford and, even as the drawn-out discussions continued, he never really felt the deal would collapse because he trusted the people around him to deliver the move he wanted.

It was the kind of standard question and answer session you expect from a new arrival. But when you get the former Brentford man talking about the piano and his other great passion, chess, that is when his eyes light up.

Unlike Lionesses Euros hero Michelle Agyemang, who took her piano to Switzerland and played in her room every day, Mbeumo has no great desire to widen his audience.

"I'm self-taught," he said. "And I'm not bad. 'The piano is nothing really linked to football."

It just makes me take time for me and relax myself in my free time."

It sounds like the perfect initiation performance in front of his new team-mates but Mbeumo is dubious.

"We will see," he ponders. "The thing is, I don't really like to play in front of people."

Mbeumo says he has heard Dutch forward Joshua Zirkzee likes to play chess so he may take his board on United duty and challenge his team-mate to a game, but for now, most of his chess playing is done anonymously online. Introducing himself as Bryan Mbeumo, Manchester United footballer, to his opponents probably wouldn't deliver the outcome he is looking for.

"I have a user name," he said. "You choose a nickname and just play against random people online. I use my own chess board against them. I'm not that crazy good. But if you know the rating, I'm like 800 on Chess.com."

On the surface, it is hard to think of something more different to football, given the intensity of thought and strategy behind each move. Mbeumo counters that. The similarities, he says, are more striking than you might think. Others clearly think so too.

Crystal Palace and England forward Eberechi Eze won £15,000 in a four-day amateur Pog-Champs tournament, contested by 12 content creators and athletes. The money is a side issue for players with the earning power of Eze and Mbeumo. The attraction comes from the challenge.

"Even if it's not physical, there is a lot of thought in chess," said Mbeumo.

"When you play football you have to think as well. Playing chess you can see some moves ahead because it is a strategy game. In football you have your strategy as well so you can link them together. There was one period where I was really into it. I was watching videos on YouTube and doing training on the app."

"It's really good for the brain and you can develop new skills. Obviously, you're doing football most of the time, every day, so you sometimes you don't really have time to develop on other skills. But I really like the creativity."



Man United forward Bryan Mbeumo/HANDOUT



FOOTBALL

MCCARTHY'S DILEMMA

Harambee Stars' coach spoilt for choice ahead of CHAN opener against DR Congo

BY TEDDY MULEI

HARAMBEE Stars head coach Benni McCarthy admits he's facing a first-11 headache ahead of Kenya's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) opener against DR Congo on Sunday.

Despite expressing confidence in his squad's preparedness for the continental showdown, the South African tactician says trimming down his line-up to a starting 11 has been anything but straightforward.

"Come Sunday, the team will be ready, but I think the headache now lies with me and the technical bench on selecting the best starting 11," McCarthy said.

The former Bafana Bafana striker was full of praise for the spirit and work ethic displayed by his players in camp.

"Everyone has worked hard and well, and it's a little bit unfair that you can only select 11 players to start a match, but those are the rules of the players. So far, everyone has given total respect and hard work and everything you can ask from a player as a coach. It will be a tough job to select the best 11 from the group."

While acknowledging that such decisions are part and parcel of top-level management, McCarthy remains confident he'll get it right when it matters most.

"Come Sunday, me and the technical bench will make the right decision because this nation needs the best possible to go out there and fight for the country and be superior and better than our opponents on Sunday," he noted.

McCarthy also lauded the quality of training facilities and the team's preparations



Harambee Stars players during a training session/HANDOUT

since returning from a build-up tour in Tanzania.

"We still have two more days to tweak some things, prepare and figure out the starting 11 because preparations since coming back from Tanzania have been really good. We can't complain about the training facilities because everything is up to good standards and we have got most of what we needed," he added.

The CHAN squad has seen a few late changes, with Shabana midfielder Brian Michira, Tusker's Chrispin Erambo, and Sofapaka striker Edward Omondi drafted in to replace the injured trio of Mohammed Bajaber, Swaleh Pamba, and Brian Musa. McCarthy said the decision to release Bajaber was in the player's best interest.

"Bajaber has been nothing but loyal to this team, but he suffered a grade two muscle tear. He also got an offer on the table from Simba SC, one of East Africa's biggest clubs. Rather than risk him, we've allowed him to begin his recovery with his prospective new team."

Musa, on the other hand, was ruled out with a hamstring injury. "Brian Musa pulled his hamstring, and though we're still waiting on the scans, we couldn't take any chances. He was pushing hard for a starting place and we're gutted for him."

McCarthy believes Michira, who had a solid domestic campaign, now has a golden opportunity to step up. "Brian Michira, I am happy for him; he had a good season, but I felt that the players I had selected were the

best. But luck favoured him because of player injuries. Now it's his big opportunity to make the opportunity count."

★ STARS SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Faruk Shikhalo, Byrne Omondi, Sebastian Wekesa
Defenders: Siraj Mohammed, Manzur Suleiman, Abud Omar, Alphonce Omija, Sylvester Owino, Mike Kibwage, Daniel Sakari, Lewis Bandi, Kevin Okumu
Midfielders: Chrispin Erambo, Brian Michira, Alpha Onyango, Austin Odhiambo, Ben Stanley, Marvin Nabwire
Forwards: Edward Omondi, Boniface Muchiri, David Sakwa, Ryan Ogam, Masoud Juma, Austin Odongo, Felix Oluoch



Benni McCarthy /HANDOUT

McCarthy shuffles pack as Stars finalise squad

BY TONY MBALLA

WITH just three days to go, the buzz is unmistakable. Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy has reshuffled his final CHAN 2025 squad, injecting fresh blood into Kenya's debut campaign with three late replacements.

In a decisive move, McCarthy named Brian Michira (Shabana FC), Chrispin Erambo (Tusker), and Edward Omondi (Sofapaka) as replacements for Mohammed Bajaber, Swaleh Pamba, and Brian Musa, who will now miss the tournament due to

fitness concerns.

"At this level, you need players who are 100 per cent ready—physically, mentally, tactically. We had to make these changes for the good of the team," McCarthy said. "Michira has shown great vision and control in midfield. Erambo brings incredible balance and mobility, and Omondi gives us a sharp edge up front. They've earned their spots."

The late changes come just as the Stars enter lockdown mode, focusing solely on their high-stakes opener against DR Congo on August 3 at Moi Stadium, Kasarani.

Kenya finds itself in what many have dubbed the "Group of Fire",

alongside Morocco, Angola, Zambia, and DR Congo—a CHAN powerhouse. "We know the challenge. This is not going to be a walk in the park. These are top-level teams, but we're not here to make up the numbers," McCarthy said. "This is a new generation of Harambee Stars—hungry, homegrown, and ready."

The South African tactician emphasised the importance of composure and crowd support as Kenya prepares for its first-ever CHAN appearance. "Playing at home is a privilege. That energy, that roar from Kasarani—it can lift us when our legs are tired and push us when things get tough," he added.

★ ATHLETICS

WA Council approves new eligibility rules for women

WORLD ATHLETICS

THE World Athletics Council has approved new eligibility regulations to compete in the female category for world ranking competitions.

The new regulations come into effect on September 1 and will be applied to the World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25 that begins on September 13.

All athletes wishing to compete in the female category at the World Championships are required to undergo a once-in-a-lifetime test for the SRY gene—a reliable proxy for determining biological sex. This is to be conducted via a cheek swab or blood test, whichever is more convenient.

The testing protocol will be overseen by member federations as they prepare their athletes and teams for the championships in Tokyo.

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said: "The philosophy that we hold dear in World Athletics is the protection and the promotion of the integrity of women's sport. It is really important in a sport that is permanently trying to attract more women that they enter a sport believing there is no biological glass ceiling. The test to confirm biological sex is a very important step in ensuring this is the case."

"We are saying, at the elite level, for you to compete in the female category, you have to be biologically female. It was always very clear to me and the World Athletics Council that gender cannot trump biology. We particularly want to thank our Member Federations for their support and commitment in the implementation of these new regulations."



61660001035702 >