

DAILY NATION

You must prove your contribution to claim matrimonial assets, judge tells spouses P.3

HEALTHY NATION

'We defied death'



When political seats become a family affair
Leaders perpetuating politics of inheritance **P.7**

Courts The government has been accused of weaponising the justice system to intimidate and silence dissent

Eyes on Judiciary as State turns up the heat on critics

Scales of justice Judicial independence in the country is facing a litmus test following calls by the Executive to mete out harsh penalties on opposition politicians, anti-government protesters and civil society activists, some of who are facing terrorism charges and have been slapped with hefty bail and bond terms over their alleged involvement in recent youth-led protests. Will the Judiciary succumb to this push or abide by the law and the Constitution?

See Stories on Pages 4&5



Mr Boniface Mwangi at the Kahawa Law Courts yesterday where he was charged with unlawful possession of ammunition. He was granted a Sh1 million personal bond. The matter will be mentioned on August 19 for directions. BILLY OGADA | NATION

Ministry raises concern as 'working-class' mothers avoid breastfeeding

Three out of ten mothers in Kenya are not breastfeeding their babies at all, instead relying entirely on bottle-feeding, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Health. The State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards reports that bottle-feeding has increased by 12 percentage points, rising from 22 per cent in 2022 to 34 per cent in 2025. And this worrying trend is primarily driven by working-class mothers.

SEE PAGE 8

Shakahola II? Cult horror resurfaces in Kilifi

Detectives in Kilifi County are investigating whether a suspected cult uncovered in the Binzaro area is linked to the infamous Shakahola cult, which is blamed for the deaths of over 400 people. A visit to the homestead in the vast Chakama location—where one man was found dead while four others were rescued on Saturday in frail condition—revealed what at first appeared to be a remote, rural settlement. The property is surrounded by thorny shrubs and has a single main entrance.

SEE PAGE 2



A police officer at the home in Binzaro, Chakama, where a man's body was found. WACHIRA MWANGI | NATION

400

People feared dead in the Shakahola tragedy in which cult followers were encouraged to starve themselves to death to get to heaven.

National News

Probe Shakahola leader Paul Mackenzie had also bought land here, allegedly subdividing it among his followers

Cult horror resurfaces in Kilifi County

The Chakama homestead has now officially been declared a crime scene amid suspicions of cult-related activities

BY MAUREEN ONGALA

Detectives in Kilifi County are investigating whether a suspected cult uncovered last weekend in Binzaro has links to the infamous Shakahola tragedy, which led to the deaths of over 400 people.

A visit to the homestead in Chakama location—where one man was found dead and four others were rescued in frail condition on Saturday—revealed what at first appeared to be a remote, rural settlement.

The property is surrounded by thorny shrubs and has a single main entrance. It lies about seven kilometres off the Malindi-Sala Gate highway.

Inside the compound, there were three mud-walled houses with iron sheet roofs but no windows, a half-completed water pan, a makeshift chicken coop and an outdoor cooking area.

Though on a smaller scale, the setup bore disturbing similarities to the village in Shakahola where Paul Mackenzie and his followers had established a base.

The homestead also contained dozens of 20-litre jerry cans and solar lamps. There were no beds, indicating that the occupants likely slept on the ground. A rudimentary toilet, hidden in the thickets near the entrance, hinted at the isolation and harsh conditions endured by the residents.

Sections of the ground appeared disturbed, raising suspicions of unmarked graves. Police



A police officer patrols a home in Binzaro, Chakama, in Kilifi County, where the body of a middle-aged man was found. WACHIRA MWANGI / NATION

are currently working to confirm this. Kilifi-based detectives arrested the prime suspect on Sunday.

County Commissioner Josephat Biwott said the female suspect, whose identity has not been made public, was arrested in Kisauni, Mombasa County, bringing the total number of people in custody to 11.

These include the four people rescued from the homestead, four others arrested in Kisauni, and three people believed to have sold land to the main sus-

pect. Mr Biwott told *Nation* the suspects are in the custody of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

"The DCI is moving to court to seek conservatory orders to secure the site and obtain time for further investigations and potential exhumations," Mr Biwott said.

The administrator added that those rescued will be required to shed more light on the fate of children who were reportedly living with them at the homestead.

Residents of Binzaro village de-

scribed the homestead's owner as a stranger who had recently been scouting for land. In March, she approached a local villager seeking to purchase property.

Ms Sara Thoya, a resident, recounted how her husband sold a portion of their five-acre plot for Sh18,000 to the woman.

"I was at home when my husband called to tell me about a woman who wanted to buy land and asked if he could sell part of my share. I told him to sell his portion. We offered her lunch,

NOT AGAIN...

Shakahola cult horror rears its ugly head inside remote village

Residents now suspect the forest behind the land may hold more dark secrets.

As of Monday, access to the area was restricted to authorised security personnel only.

Detectives later confirmed that the body found at the site belonged to a 50-year-old man whose legs were tied with rope and covered with a mattress.

Kilifi County Commissioner Josephat Biwott said the government is laying out strategies to address the security risks tied to the 50,000-acre Chakama area.

but she declined saying she was fasting," she said.

Ms Kanze Kenga, another villager, recalled an encounter with Mr Jairus Otieno, a man who turned out to be a victim of the cult. He had come to her home on Friday to borrow a phone and contact his family, an act that exposed the hidden tragedy behind the thorny shrubs.

Mr Otieno, who had been reported missing in Siaya County in April, had moved to Binzaro with his wife and six children. The whereabouts of the children remain unknown.

"He dialled two numbers, but they didn't go through. The third

one connected and he managed to speak to someone," Ms Kenga said adding she grew concerned about Mr Otieno's distressed demeanour.

"He said he was coming from the forest and was waiting for his brother to pick him up. He was emaciated. I gave him food, but he refused to eat," she added.

Mr Otieno's brother later called Ms Kenga's phone and she says the conversation deeply unsettled her.

"His brother asked, 'Is Jairus still there or has he left?' I said he had left. He then said, 'He was in serious trouble, but did not tell me.' When I asked what kind of trouble, he said people were chasing him from Shakahola," she explained.

The phone call triggered a swift community response, with residents detaining two women who later confessed they had escaped from the suspect's homestead.

Mr Kahindi Beja, a local elder, said the community had long suspected mysterious deaths in the area's nearby forest.

"We always thought the people were killed by elephants, but we were wrong," he said.

He added that Mr Otieno's revelation about his six missing children raised serious alarm.

'His youngest child'

"It was his youngest child that made him seek help. He said the child was taken at night and he feared he would be killed. The child cried out for his father as he was dragged into the forest. When he followed, men blocked his path. He has not seen the child since," Mr Beja said.

Residents now suspect the forest behind the land may hold more dark secrets.

As of Monday, access to the area was restricted to authorised security personnel only.

Detectives later confirmed that the body found at the site belonged to a 50-year-old man whose legs were tied with rope and covered with a mattress. The Chakama homestead has now officially been declared a crime scene amid suspicions of cult-related activities that are possibly linked to a broader network of religious extremism and murder.

Mr Biwott said the government is laying out strategies to address the security risks tied to the 50,000-acre Chakama area. Paul Mackenzie had in the past also purchased land within this expanse, allegedly subdividing it among his followers.

"The land has been idle for a long time, and as a government, we believe it poses serious risks. Chakama is not community land—it is privately owned, and the title deeds exist," he said.

He confirmed that landowners have been summoned for discussions on the way forward.

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Detectives seek to detain KNH murder suspect

BY RICHARD MUNGUTI

A man accused of killing a patient at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) on Friday last week appeared at the Kibera Law Courts yesterday.

Kennedy Kalombotole appeared before Magistrate Daizy Muthahi in a miscellaneous application in which the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) is seeking 21 days to complete investigations.

The prosecution told the court that the alleged offence was committed in a ward at the country's largest referral hospital.

Kalombotole, the court heard, had earlier been admitted at KNH and discharged, but was being held pending the conclusion of similar case that occurred on the night of February 6-7, 2025.

The suspect was taken to Kilimani Police Station and booked under OB No. 02/18/07/25.

Request to detain suspect

The investigating officer Corporal Bernard Muange of the Homicide Investigations Department asked the court to detain the suspect for 21 days to enable a postmortem to establish the cause of Edward Maingi Ndegwa's death.

Muange further requested the court's permission to collect DNA samples from the suspect for forensic analysis.

"On July 17, the deceased Ndegwa was found murdered in his hospital bed at KNH Level 7B, Ward C, where he had been admitted on July 12," said Muange.

He informed the court that KNH administrators had reported the murder to the DCI on the same day, prompting the start of investigations.

Fingerprints have also been taken from the suspect to determine if he is linked to other criminal activities.

The prosecution stated that thorough investigations are necessary to establish if the suspect is involvement in the crime, then the case file will be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions for review.

The court was also informed that Kalombotole is yet to undergo a mental assessment to determine his fitness to stand trial. The magistrate will make a ruling on the prosecution's application on July 24.

Law It is possible for spouses to own property but not necessarily in equal shares, judge says

Prove your contribution to claim matrimonial assets, spouses told

Upon divorce, each party must prove his or her contribution to the property's acquisition

BY JOSEPH WANGUI

Spouses do not automatically hold equal rights or beneficial interests to their matrimonial property even if they are registered as joint owners, the High Court has ruled.

According to Justice Reuben Nyakundi, upon dissolution of the marriage, a party must prove his or her contribution to the property's acquisition to enable the court determine the percentage available to him or her.

"In the division of matrimonial property, contribution of either spouse is the key consideration, as marriage does not interfere with the proprietary rights of an individual. The court, in each case, has to properly evaluate the evidence and determine the level of contribution of each spouse towards the acquisition and/or the development of the matrimonial property in question," said Justice Nyakundi.

While determining a matrimonial property dispute between a couple divorcing after seven years in marriage, the court said where there is joint registration of ownership, a spouse is entitled to lead evidence to show that the beneficial interest is not equal.

"That his/her contribution is such that, although the property was registered jointly, he/she was the owner of the property, or the contribution was much more than that of the other spouse," Justice Nyakundi said.

The case subject to the findings involved Mr HMN and Ms EIK, who got married in 2015 and dissolved their marriage in 2022 through divorce.

The couple had two children. Mr HMN filed an application in court asking the judge to fairly divide their two matrimonial properties — a house in Bustani Gardens in Nairobi and a piece of land in Kajado/Lorngosua. He asked the court to split the property, which they acquired during their union and was jointly registered in their names, in line with the contribution made by each party.

He argued that he bought the Bustani Gardens property using proceeds from his employment and took out a mortgage facility in 2021 for the construction of the property. He registered his ex-wife as a joint owner.

Mr HMN said that, despite Ms EIK being gainfully employed, she did not contribute financially to-



Spouses do not automatically hold equal rights or beneficial interests to their matrimonial property even if they are registered as joint owners, the High Court has ruled. PHOTO | SHUTTERSTOCK

wards the purchase of the property. He produced bank documents showing deposit of the purchase price, bank statements showing that he had been paying the loan and statements of accounts on what he spent to build their matrimonial home.

He stated that the Kajado land was acquired by Ms EIK together with two his sister-in-laws during pendency of the marriage and the property was owned in equal shares by the three.

Mr HMN argued that, during their union and after their separation, he contributed towards household expenses including rent, food, utilities, medical needs, entertainment, holidays, school fees for their two minors and school related expenses. Ms EIK did not respond to the suit and hence it proceeded undefended.

The court declared that the man was entitled to 100 percent share of the Bustani Gardens property noting that Ms EIK had not laid a claim to the same. The court said that the Kajado land was not matrimonial property.

"The applicant has not demonstrated his contribution or otherwise towards the acquisition of property Kajado/Lorngosua and that the parties intended for it to be recognised as matrimonial property. I therefore decline to

Contribution of either spouse is the key consideration, as marriage does not interfere with the proprietary rights of an individual.

Justice Reuben Nyakundi



2015

The year when Mr HMN and Ms EIK got married, with their union surviving till 2022 when they filed for divorce.

Justice Nyakundi cited Section 7 of the Matrimonial Property Act, which provides that "...ownership of matrimonial property vests in the spouses according to the contribution of either spouse towards its acquisition, and shall be divided between the spouses if they divorce or their marriage is otherwise dissolved".

He explained that it was possible for spouses to own property but not necessarily in equal shares. According to the Act, he said, presumptions may be that property acquired during marriage in the name of one spouse is held in trust for the other spouse.

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National News

Scales of justice Hundreds of youths in custody after being charged with various crimes over anti-government demos

BY COLLINS OMULO

The independence of the Judiciary is facing a litmus test following calls by the Executive to mete out harsh penalties on opposition politicians, anti-government protesters and human rights activists.

This follows the recent wave of arrests and arraignment of tens of State critics at the Kahawa Law Court, which is designated to handle terrorism suspects.

"We note that while visiting the Kikuyu Law Courts after they were burnt down during demonstrations, Her Ladyship the Chief Justice (Martha Koome) made a sensational remark that the burning down of the court was an act of terrorism," stated the Law Society of Kenya President Faith Odhiambo in a statement last evening. "While we joined the Judiciary in condemning the burning and vandalism of courts, we must recognise the responsibility borne by the justice sector in how we call for law and order. Evidently, our law enforcement institutions appear to have taken cue from the Chief Justice and are flagrantly abusing the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, whose threshold is distinct and intended for exceptional circumstances. We call upon law enforcement to desist from this emergent trend."

Activist Boniface Mwangi was yesterday charged in the anti-terrorism court for being in possession of two teargas canisters and a blank bullet while without a firearms certificate. He was ordered to execute a personal bond of Sh1 million after denying the charges, having spent two nights in police custody.

Trial magistrate Gideon Kiage directed the matter would be mentioned on August 21 for directions.

Mr Mwangi's relatively high personal bond was set days after Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen called on the Judiciary to collaborate with the Executive in holding the arrested individuals accountable.

The minister said the Judiciary needs to impose stiff punishment against the individuals suspected of being involved in the recent violent anti-government protests.

He criticised a Sh50,000 cash bail set for a suspect accused of storming a hospital in Kitengela and causing destruction during the Saba Saba Day demonstrations.

"After invading a hospital and interrupting a Caesarean section operation, only Sh50,000 was granted as cash bail. These lenient bail terms are unacceptable. I look forward to successful prosecutions and convictions," said Mr Murkomen.

Article 49(1)(h) of the Constitution states that an arrested person has the right to be released on bond or bail, on reasonable conditions, pending a charge or trial, unless there are compelling reasons not to be released.

Hundreds of youths are in custody after being arrested and charged with various crimes following anti-government demonstrations between June 25 and Ju-



Activist Boniface Mwangi (centre) addresses journalists while flanked by his wife Njeri Mwangi (right) and lawyer Njanja Maina outside the Kahawa Law Courts yesterday. BILLY OGADA | NATION

Eyes on Judiciary as State turns up the heat on critics

Concern over calls by the Executive to mete out harsh penalties on arrested opposition politicians, anti-government protesters and human rights activists, against constitutional provisions allowing for the release of suspects on reasonable bail and bond terms

WARNING

Judicial officers 'follow law when setting bail terms'

In a statement by the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, Ms Winfridah Mokaya, the Judiciary argued that the bail and bond determinations are not made arbitrarily but informed by the Constitution, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Judiciary's Bail and Bond Policy Guidelines. Ms Mokaya warned the public from resorting to personal attacks against judicial officers, saying that Kenya's legal architecture provides legitimate and structured

tion. Each accused individual will be accorded a fair trial, legal representation and full access to due process in line with the Bill of Rights under the Constitution," he said.

He cited the statement by CJ Koome following the torching of Kikuyu Law Courts by demonstrators last month, who equated the act to "terrorism and not a mere act perpetrated by criminal elements".

While appearing at the Kahawa Law Courts in solidarity with several youth arrested during the June 25 protests in Gilgil and other areas last week, former Chief Justice David Maraga accused President William Ruto's administration of weaponising the criminal justice system to intimidate and silence dissent by terrorising the arrested youth and their families.

He pleaded with the court to consider the economic hardships faced by the arrested youth, most of who he said have irregular incomes.

Mr Maraga's plea came after the court granted varying bail and bond terms across three related cases, ranging from a bond of Sh200,000 to a cash bail of Sh50,000.

A coalition of pan-African organisations and human rights defenders has said more than 150 young Kenyans have been wrong-

fully charged and are facing cash bail demands ranging between Sh30,000 and Sh300,000.

More than 1,500 individuals have been arrested across the country, facing various charges, including terrorism, murder, robbery with violence, sexual assault, arson and malicious damage to property in relation to the June 25 and Saba Saba Day protests.

The cases have attracted widespread public criticism, with civil society and human rights groups raising concerns over what they term as the misuse of anti-terror laws to silence dissent.

Last week, however, the Judiciary came out to defend itself against vilification over its bail and bond decisions.

In a statement by the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, Ms Winfridah Mokaya, the Judiciary argued that the bail and bond determinations are not made arbitrarily but informed by the Constitution, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Judiciary's Bail and Bond Policy Guidelines.

She observed that the above-mentioned instruments provide a structured legal framework and clearly articulated criteria to guide the exercise of judicial discretion, taking into account the specific facts and circumstances of each case.

Ms Mokaya cited a reaction to bail and bond decisions issued

by the Nanyuki and Kahawa Law Courts, which she said is part of an escalating trend of public vilification and unwarranted personal attacks directed at judicial officers in the discharge of their functions.

She warned the public from resorting to personal attacks against judicial officers, saying that Kenya's legal architecture provides legitimate and structured mechanisms for recourse.

"Any party aggrieved by a judicial decision whether relating to bail, bond, or any other matter has an unfettered right to seek redress through appeals or reviews in accordance with the law," said Ms Mokaya in the statement dated July 17, 2025.

"Resorting to personal attacks against judicial officers not only subverts due process but also imperils the sanctity and independence of the Judiciary."

She said the Judicial Service Commission will not waver in defending the decisional independence of all judicial officers and judges from any form of undue pressure, interference, or intimidation as well as safeguarding the integrity of judicial processes.

"The Commission calls upon all members of the public, civic leaders and institutional stakeholders to respect the dignity of judicial institutions. Engagement with the Judiciary must be grounded in civility, constructive dialogue and an unyielding respect for the rule of law," added Ms Mokaya.

President William Ruto's administration has of late launched a systematic crackdown on dissenting voices in the country with opposition politicians, human rights activists as well as hundreds of young Kenyans detained on fabricated terrorism charges.

For instance, Mr Mwangi was arrested by the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) detectives for allegedly "facilitating terror during the June 25 protests" witnessed across the country.

DCI boss Amin Mohammed confirmed the arrest of the activist, saying it is linked to allegations of facilitating terrorist activities during the protests.

Meanwhile, Gatanga MP Edward Muriu has hit out at the government for "terrorising" its citizens for raising issues they promised to address.

"Anti-terror laws cannot be meted out against citizens for expressing their democratic rights guaranteed in the Constitution. It is an abuse of power. Worse still, the message being sent out there is that Kenya is a terrorist country worse than Syria and Afghanistan," said Mr Muriu.

Former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi added: "They (the charges) are nothing more than pure intimidation with a view to silencing government critics. They are a prelude to more atrocities being meted on the opposition, especially not to speak about the runaway corruption in government."

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Additional reporting by Nicholas Njoroge

Repression Rights defenders are no longer just chroniclers of State repression but they are also becoming its victims

Rights activists dread new 'State of terror'

Government is not only seeking to silence their voices, but also cripple their finances

BY DANIEL OGETTA
AND JUSTUS OCHIENG'

With the arrest and arraignment of activist Boniface Mwangi, civil society organisations — long regarded as the guardians of justice and democracy — now feel the walls closing in. The democratic space, they warn, is shrinking fast, with the State not only seeking to silence their voices, but also cripple their finances.

Beyond their growing concern for the country, a deeper, more personal fear is setting in: human rights defenders are no longer just chroniclers of State repression but they are also becoming its victims.

Mr Mwangi's arrest is the latest in a string of State action taken against activists in the wake of widespread protests. Yesterday, he was charged with unlawful possession of ammunition — two unused tear gas canisters and one blank bullet — and was granted Sh1 million personal bond. But the story of State repres-

sion bears tell-tale signs. It all began when President William Ruto publicly accused the Ford Foundation of funding anarchists in Kenya. What followed was Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Sing'oei writing the organisation seeking an explanation on their funding of civil society organisations across the country.

Dr Sing'oei singled out 16 rights groups that received over Sh800 million from the foundation and linked this to the June 2024 anti-Finance Bill protests. But it did not end there.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) also swung into action, writing to several civil rights groups inquiring about their sources of funds.

"This office is inquiring into allegations that your institution received grants from the Ford Foundation, which were allegedly utilised to fund and mobilise protests during the Anti Finance Bill 2024 and as a result led to loss of lives and massive destruction of properties as well as comprising



A contingent of police officers stand guard outside the gate of Pangani Police Station in Nairobi where activist Boniface Mwangi was being held on Sunday. BILLY OGADA / NATION

peace and security of the country," reads one of the DCI letters. And things have gotten worse, according to activists, and they are now warning that the country is regressing into authoritari-

an rule. Mr Wilfred Olal, convener of the Social Justice Centres Working Group, sees this as a systematic erosion of constitutional rights. He points to clear signs: clamp-downs on freedom of expression

The country is really clawing back to dictatorship that we passed a long time ago during the rule of former President Daniel Arap Moi.

Mr Wilfred Olal



and the right to protest.

"The country is really clawing back to dictatorship that we passed a long time ago during the rule of former President Daniel Arap Moi" he says, citing the arrest of Grace Njoki after she expressed frustration with the Ministry of Health.

"Instead of responding to the issues she raised as a patient, they responded by trying to arrest her. And look at the issue of the right to protest, which Kenya had clearly indicated in the 2010 Constitution that we have a right to protest, to picket, to present a petition," says Mr Olal.

Kenya National Civil Society

Centre Suba Churchill Executive Director said "the civic space is shrinking under the Kenya Kwanza government".

"It has not helped that those suspected to be responsible for these acts of violations and abuses, seem to enjoy supernumerary powers that not even the Inspector-General of the Police and other security agents established under the law can question," Mr Churchill says.

Yet, amid this repression, there is hope. The resilience of young people is growing, not diminishing, and Mr Olal sees this as a turning point. Mr Churchill says concerns have been raised about instances of threatening phone messages being made and of surveillance, physical or sexual assaults as has happened to a number of perceived government critics.

"Smear campaigns labelling civil society actors as 'enemies of the State', 'traitors', or as working for 'foreign interests or masters' as did happen to Ford Foundation, forced disappearances, torture, and extra-judicial killings," are serious concerns, he says.

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APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR AVIATION AND AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT, MS. TERESIA MBAIKA, CBS, AS A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This announcement is made pursuant to the Capital Markets (Securities) (Public Offers, Listing and Disclosures) Regulations 2023, promulgated under the Capital Markets Act.

The Board of Directors of Kenya Airways Plc ("KQ") hereby announces the appointment of the Principal Secretary, State Department for Aviation and Aerospace Development, Ms. Teresia Mbaika, CBS, as a director of the Company (being the representative of the Ministry of Roads and Transport, on the Board) with effect from 18th July 2025. This appointment is an institutional / corporate directorship replacing the position on the board currently being held by the Principal Secretary State Department for Transport, Mr. Mohamed Daghar.



PS TERESIA MBAIKA, CBS

Ms. Mbaika previously served as the Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution. She brings to the Board over a decade of experience in corporate governance, resource mobilization, strategic management, leadership, and public finance management. In her distinguished career, she has served as a director at the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA), and the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA). She has also served as the Secretary to the National Government Constituency Development Fund Board (NG-CDF), Kaiti Constituency, where she provided strategic leadership in financial management and governance oversight of the Fund.

PS Mbaika holds a Master of Science Degree in Health Economics and Policy from The University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Health from Kenyatta University. The Board, Management and Staff of Kenya Airways Plc congratulates PS Mbaika on her appointment, and sincerely thanks PS. Mohamed Daghar, who now exits the Board for his invaluable contributions, professionalism and dedication, shown during his tenure.

By order of the Board

Habil A. Waswani
Company Secretary
22nd July 2025

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National News

Dispute County chiefs wonder why health, water or agriculture were not selected 'yet there has been much progress'

Why governors oppose audit of bursary funds

Council of Governors says it goes against the constitutional and statutory timelines

BY WINNIE ATIENO

The Council of Governors has opposed a planned performance audit of education funds in six counties.

The Chairperson of the Council of Governors, Ahmed Abdullahi, criticised a plan by the Office of the Auditor-General to scrutinise bursaries, scholarships, and Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres in select counties.

The Wajir governor said the audit as outside the constitutional and statutory timelines outlined in Article 229 of the Constitution and Section 36 of the Public Audit Act.

The Council of Governors also questioned the criteria used to select the six counties, terming the process opaque and lacking in transparency.

"There has been politicisation of the bursaries matter. I do not know who is so determined to ensure counties are barred from giving out bursaries. Why select the six counties? Why audit the last four years?" He asked.

He said the Office of the Auditor-General wants to audit bursaries which go back to 2021 yet some of the governors were not in office. Mr Abdullahi said the issue should have been discussed with governors first.

He said the audit was conceptualised without any engagement with the Council of Governors nor the affected counties.

"This results in a process that lacks critical input for a comprehensive and context-specific audit in a devolved system. The criteria for selection of the counties under review remain unexplained and, therefore, opaque,"

said Mr Abdullahi.

The Council of Governors said counties have already been audited for the said financial years, and any repeat exercise risks being prejudicial and duplicative.

"Any audit exercise that is not anchored in the legal framework, including those initiated outside the timelines prescribed under Article 229 of the Constitution and the Public Audit Act, is irregular, unconstitutional, and therefore null and void," he added.

Mr Abdullahi urged the Auditor-General to conduct performance audits within legal parameters and prescribed timelines.

"You must uphold the rule of

6 Counties in which the Office of the Auditor-General wants to scrutinise bursary, scholarships and ECDC funds.

law and mutual institutional respect is essential to maintaining the integrity of the audit process and safeguarding the principles of devolution. The Council of Governors remains fully committed to accountability, transparency, and responsible governance in service delivery," he said.

However, the council said it welcomes constructive, lawful audit processes that are done in the spirit of collaboration, fairness, and respect for devolved governance.

The Council of Governors Vice Chairperson Mutahi Kahiga also weighed in on the matter.

"As a council, we stand firmly with the Constitution and the law, which states that audits must be conducted within six months of the end of the financial year. Unfortunately, we've received word that six counties are now being targeted for re-audit," said the Nyeri governor.

Mr Kahiga said that counties have made major progress in devolved functions such as health,



Council of Governors Chairperson Ahmed Abdullahi. DENNIS ONSONGO | NATION

water, and agriculture. He questioned why the Auditor-General was targeting bursaries.

"Counties step in to provide bursaries because there is a need. Why re-audit the performance of bursaries and ECDEs alone? What about health, agriculture, and water, where counties have

also excelled?" He asked.

Mr Kahiga said that counties have employed ECDE teachers, built infrastructure for pre-primary learners, and are now focusing on school feeding programmes.

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Analysis Trend a self-serving tactic aimed at keeping power and influence within a few families

Creating political dynasties: When elective seats are preserve of a few

Kenyans have grown accustomed to a familiar trend where relatives seek to inherit seats left vacant by their dead kin

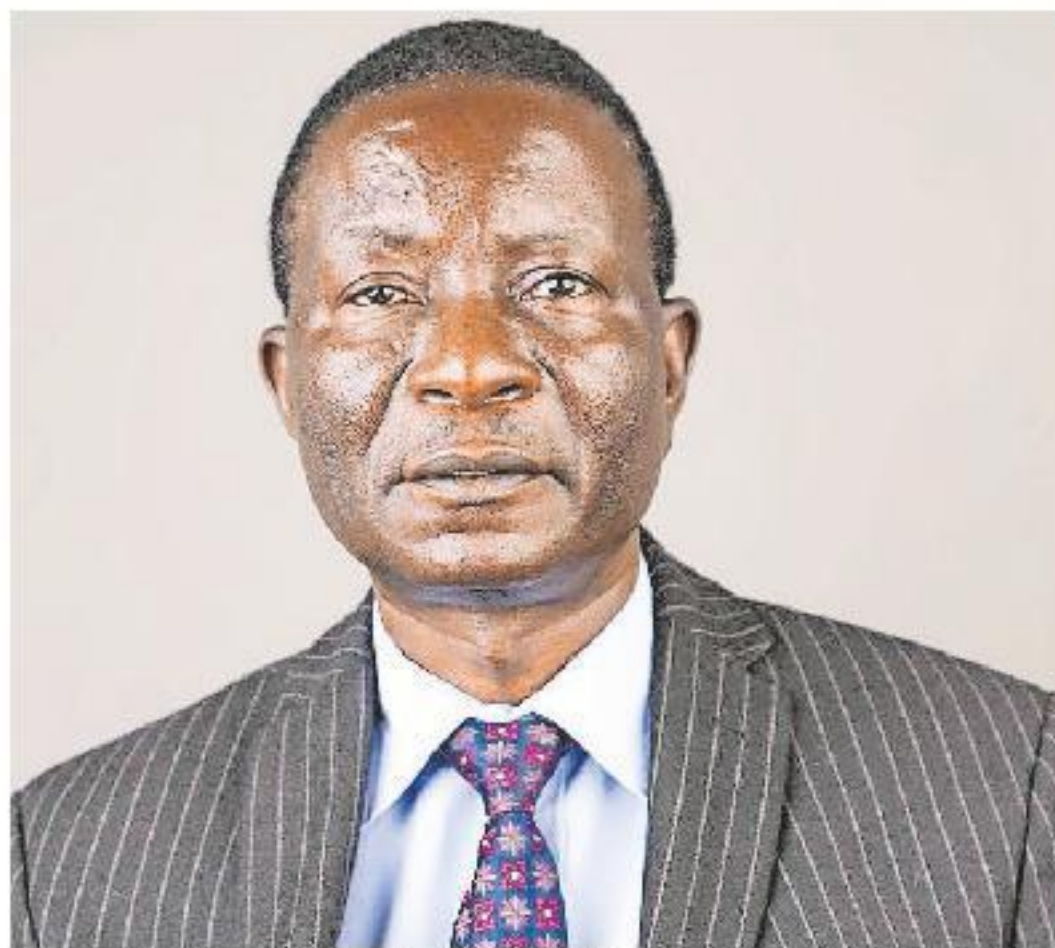
BY MOSES NYAMORI

The endorsements of Boyd Were and Rhyen Injendi as possible successors to their late fathers in Kasipul and Malava constituencies respectively have once again shone a spotlight on how the political class continues to perpetuate the idea that elective seats can be passed down to leaders' offspring.

In by-elections, Kenyans have grown accustomed to a familiar trend where relatives seek to inherit seats left vacant by their dead kin. Voters are often asked to elect the relatives or surrogates of politicians who died while in office, under the pretext that they will carry on their legacies or fulfil their visions. In most cases, this has amounted to politicians riding on public sympathy.

Analysts view this trend as a self-serving tactic aimed at keeping power and influence within a few families, with political dynasties often quick to nominate their kin to inherit elective seats.

In Kasipul Constituency, Boyd Were has emerged as the preferred Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) candidate to succeed his slain father, Charles Ong'ondo Were, following the endorsement by the party's National Youth League Executive Council last Thursday. ODM national chairperson and Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga, along with Homa Bay Town MP Peter Kaluma, also appear to be backing Boyd's candidacy—this even before the party has conducted its primaries.



Former Kasipul MP Charles Ong'ondo Were.

"The family of Were should not vanish from the political scene. Discussions on who will receive the party certificate will be held at a later date," Mr Kaluma said during the burial.

"I was involved in nominating Moses Kajwang in the Senate by-election in 2016. During our discussions, we settled on him, and he has managed to perform. Do not hold discussions on who will take over after Were without involving me," he added.

Governor Wanga has, however, stated that all aspirants, especially those seeking the ODM ticket, will be given a fair chance to campaign and seek support from the

electorate. Addressing journalists on Thursday, ODM Youth League President John Ketora said the interests of the people of Kasipul would be best served by a family member of the late MP.

"When that time comes, the family should consider nominating someone who can continue the legacy of his father," he said.

In Malava, Rhyen Injendi began attracting endorsements during the burial of his father, with leaders including Central Organisation of Trade Unions (Cotu) Secretary General Francis Atwoli calling on him to inherit the seat.

During a prayer service for his late father in April, Rhyen made



Ex-Malava Constituency legislator Malulu Injendi.

Kenyans have grown accustomed to a familiar trend where relatives seek to inherit seats left vacant by their dead kin.

Homa Bay MP Peter Kaluma



his strongest indication yet of his ambition to succeed his father.

"People of Malava, when a par-

ent is a teacher, he or she will be proud when their children follow in their footsteps. Even a police officer takes pride when their children do the same. So, for me, would there be a problem if I seek to inherit the seat held by my father, who was an MP?" Mr Injendi posed.

These recent endorsements add to a growing list of cases where the political elite rally behind relatives of deceased politicians. Garissa Senator Abdul Haji, now in his second term, was first elected following the death of his father Yusuf Haji in February 2021.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi was elected unop-

posed to the Sabatia parliamentary seat in 1989 following the death of his father, Moses Mudavadi—a former powerful Cabinet minister in President Daniel Moi's administration.

Since then, he has remained a key political figure having served as Cabinet Minister, Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister among other roles. The late Bomet Governor Joyce Laboso succeeded her sister Lorna Laboso as Sotik MP in 2008 after the latter died in a plane crash.

Similarly, Beatrice Kones was first elected MP following the death of her husband, former Cabinet minister Kipkalya Kones, who also died in the same plane crash as Lorna Laboso in Enosupukia, Narok. In Homa Bay County, Senator Moses Kajwang secured the ODM party's endorsement to succeed his brother, Otieno Kajwang, who died in 2014.

In Kitui, Edith Nyenze was nominated by the Wiper party and later elected to succeed her husband, Francis Nyenze, the former Kitui West MP who died of cancer at the age of 60 in 2017.

Former Vihiga Senator George Khaniri was picked in 1996 by President Moi to succeed his father as MP for Hamisi Constituency in a by-election, at just 21 years old, on a Kanu ticket. He remained active in politics until 2022 when he lost his gubernatorial bid for Vihiga.

Makueni Senator Mutula Kilonzo Jr succeeded his father, Mutula Kilonzo, as senator of Makueni after his death in 2013. Mr Kilonzo Jr went on to serve two terms before being elected governor.

Former Labour Minister Ahmed Mohamed Khalif, who died in a 2003 plane crash, was also succeeded by his son, Mohamed Khalif. In Kibra, former MP Imran Okoth succeeded his late brother Ken Okoth in 2019. However, Imran lost his seat in the 2022 General Election.

Additional reporting by Kevin Cheruiyot

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Isiolo leaders blame woes rocking the county on 'outside forces'

BY DANIEL OGETTA AND COLLINS OMULO

The political fallout in Isiolo County has taken a fresh twist with a section of county leaders now accusing external forces of fuelling tensions in the troubled North Eastern region.

The devolved unit has witnessed ongoing political chaos following the unsuccessful impeachment of Governor Abdi Goyo. Last week, Governor Goyo extended an olive branch to his political rivals after surviving the impeachment motion at the Senate, calling for unity among county leaders.

Addressing journalists in Nairobi yesterday, a group of Isiolo leaders accused the United Democratic Movement (UDM) party leadership and politicians from neighbouring counties of sowing discord and instability in the county.

Led by Woman Representative Mumi-

na Bonaya and former Governor Godana Doyo, the leaders pointed fingers at UDM party leader and Mandera Senator Ali Roba, as well as Marsabit Governor Mohamud Mohamed, accusing them of fuelling unrest.

Ms Bonaya alleged that the chaos being witnessed in the county was "sponsored" by external forces intent on destabilising the current administration.

She claimed that the UDM party was heavily involved in attempts to oust Governor Goyo, including allegedly financing Members of County Assembly (MCAs) who were part of the failed impeachment effort.

She also accused UDM of threatening nominated MCAs who supported reconciliation with the governor, warning them of expulsion from the party.

"You cannot force us to be in UDM. You cannot impeach our governor just because we do not want to join your par-



Assembly Speaker Abdullahi Banticha Jaldesa. EVANS HABIL / NATION

ty," said Ms Bonaya. She went on to name several civil servants—some from Isiolo and others from neighbouring counties—whom she accused of engaging in

partisan political activities instead of serving the public.

"These are people appointed by the President, and we thank him. But unfortunately, they are not doing their jobs. They are busy sponsoring impeachment motions and instigating political chaos in Isiolo," she said.

Attempts to reach the named officials for comment were unsuccessful, as calls and text messages went unanswered.

The Woman Rep appealed to President William Ruto to rein in the officials.

"We will not fight because of a few individuals with tribal interests. We will maintain peace and follow the law. We will not allow our people to be incited against one another. Isiolo is home to all 42 tribes," she said.

Also present at the press conference were Isiolo County Assembly Speaker Abdullahi Banticha, former Isiolo South MP Abdi Koropu, and several profession-

als representing various communities residing in Isiolo.

Mr Banticha said the Borana community was firmly behind Governor Goyo and President Ruto, dismissing claims that the community was planning to abandon the current administration. He said the Borana community—present in Isiolo, Tana River, and Marsabit counties—remains loyal to the Head of State.

In Isiolo, he noted, the Borana were represented by Governor Goyo, Ms. Bonaya, and former Governor Doyo. In Marsabit, he cited Saku MP Dido Rasso, Moyale MP Jaldesa Goyo, and Senator Mohammed Chute. In Tana River, he named Senator Danson Mungatana, former Governor Hussein Dado, and County Assembly Speaker Osman Noor.

"I want to assure the President that the Borana community, led by Governor Goyo, MP Rasso, and Hussein Dado, stands with him," said Mr Banticha.

National News

Trend Bottle-feeding has increased by 12 percentage points, rising from 22 per cent in 2022 to 34 per cent in 2025

BY LEON LIDIGU

Three out of ten mothers in Kenya are not breastfeeding their babies at all, instead relying entirely on bottle-feeding, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Health.

The State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards reports that bottle-feeding has increased by 12 percentage points, rising from 22 per cent in 2022 to 34 per cent in 2025.

This worrying trend, according to Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni, is primarily driven by working-class mothers who lack time to breastfeed due to tight work schedules and demanding supervisors who pressure them to prioritise productivity over maternal needs.

Employers have also failed to create conducive breastfeeding environments, including dedicated lactation rooms or breastfeeding stations that nursing mothers can use during work hours, PS Muthoni adds.

"Breastfeeding should be one of the joys of motherhood. It should be a time when a mother is not only bonding with her child, but the nutritional aspect of breast milk is also important in preventing diseases and infections that may potentially harm the young one by helping the baby develop immunity," she told *Nation* in an interview yesterday.

State raises concern as more mothers avoid breastfeeding

The worrying trend is primarily driven by working-class mothers who lack time to breastfeed

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) aligns with the health ministry's position, advocating for breastfeeding as the optimal feeding method for infants while guiding safe and responsive bottle-feeding when breastfeeding is not possible or chosen.

Unicef emphasises the importance of responding to a baby's feeding cues, maintaining close bonding during feeding, and introducing complementary foods appropriately when needed.

"From birth to six months of age, feeding infants nothing but breast milk guarantees them a food source that is uniquely adapted to their nutrient needs, while also being safe, clean, healthy and accessible, no matter where they live," Unicef's 2025 global breastfeeding report states.

The report highlights that putting newborns to the breast within the first hour of life—known



Employers have also failed to create conducive breastfeeding environments, including dedicated lactation rooms or breastfeeding stations. PHOTO | SHUTTERSTOCK

as early initiation of breastfeeding, is critical to newborn survival and establishing long-term breastfeeding success.

"When breastfeeding is delayed after birth, the consequences can be life-threatening, and the longer newborns are left waiting, the greater their risk of death," the report warns.

Kenya is currently grappling with a triple burden of malnutrition, under-nutrition, and micro-nutrient deficiencies, according to Ms Muthoni.

Since 2022, 18 percent of children under five are stunted, five percent are wasted, and three percent are overweight, while 43 per cent of adolescent boys are undernourished.

When it comes to micro-nutrient deficiencies, according to data findings, anaemia affects 42 per cent of pregnant women, 22 per cent of non-pregnant women and 26 per cent of pre-school children, while Zinc deficiency af-

fects over 80 per cent of both children and women, and 75 per cent of men," she said.

As a result, the Ministry of Health says, constant bottle-feeding is having a negative effect on babies which includes a potential lack of natural antibodies present in breast milk, which may increase the baby's susceptibility to infections and the possibility of digestive issues or allergies associated with formula feeding.

This is why the ministry is urging employers to implement supportive workplace policies and set up breastfeeding stations in workplaces. Under the Health Act, 2017, Section 71, all employers are required to establish lactation stations, equipped with a clean and private space for breastfeeding or expressing milk, along with storage facilities.

"The Act also requires that flexible nursing breaks be provided for lactating employees, without loss of remuneration or benefits. It also provides for three months of paid maternity leave for female employees, and two weeks of paid paternity leave for male employees," Ms Muthoni told *Nation*. She further explained that these legal provisions are critical to ensuring that mothers can successfully breastfeed while they return to work at the end of their maternity leaves.

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National News

Laying the groundwork LSK president warns politicians against making claims or jokes about rigging

CJ Koome: Judiciary prepared for 2027 election dispute cases

Supreme Court Judge Ndung'u officially takes over as chairperson of the Judiciary Committee on Elections

BY SAM KIPLAGAT

Chief Justice Martha Koome has said that the Judiciary is prepared to adjudicate electoral disputes fairly.

The CJ spoke during the launch of the Judiciary Committee on Elections Operational Plan 2025-2028. She pledged full support for the committee as it works toward an effective electoral dispute resolution process for the 2027 election cycle.

Drawing from past experience, Justice Koome underscored the need for adequate resourcing. She said previous limited funding had affected the scale of Judiciary training programmes and logistical support for electoral courts—particularly for High Court judges deployed outside their regular duty stations.

Ms Koome stressed that electoral justice is a shared responsibility, and that sustained collaboration among all stakeholders is necessary to achieve a peaceful and transparent process that upholds the constitutional vision of free and fair elections.

"I also call upon all our partners—the Law Society of Kenya, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, other electoral stakeholders, and our development partners—to continue walking this journey with us," she said.

CJ Koome commended the

committee on elections for confronting systemic challenges such as the need for timely electoral law reforms, continuous capacity building for judicial officers and fostering stronger synergies with other actors in the electoral process.

"Particularly commendable is the proactive approach towards public engagement aimed at countering disinformation and building public trust in the Judiciary's handling of electoral disputes," she said.

Law Society of Kenya (LSK) President Faith Odhiambo, who also spoke at the event, warned politicians against making claims or jokes about rigging the 2027 General Election. She said that such utterances pose a threat to constitutional order.

"It is unfortunate when leaders entrusted with legislative power speak of rigging elections—whether in jest or in seriousness," she said.

Ms Odhiambo further noted that when such leaders treat constitutional term limits as optional and mock the democratic process, they erode public trust and risk ushering in authoritarianism.

"As a legal profession, we must remind our leaders: the Constitution is not a buffet. You don't pick the clauses that please you and discard the rest like food leftovers at a political rally," she said.



Chief Justice Martha Koome. BONFACE BOGITA | NATION

Ms Odhiambo added that the committee on elections must anticipate judicial workload not only after the elections but also in the lead-up to the ballot.

She said there is a need for the Judiciary to integrate technological awareness into its training and operational frameworks.

"In the age of Artificial Intelligence, deepfakes, digital disinformation, and algorithmic opacity, the law must evolve to protect the truth—not lag behind it. It's not enough to be legally prepared; we must also be technologically literate," she said.

Ms Odhiambo urged the Judiciary

to not only interpret the law but to also serve as a stabilising force in the democratic process through timely, authoritative, and principled adjudication.

She further challenged legal practitioners to be ready to support, critique, and contribute to the jurisprudence emerging from future electoral litigation.

Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya said that the Judiciary embraces its constitutional duty, not just as an arbiter of disputes, but as a guarantor of electoral credibility.

She said the Judiciary Committee on Elections Operation-

It (plan) reflects a Judiciary that is not reactive but anticipatory—one that is deliberately planning, innovating, and investing in institutional excellence

Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya



al Plan outlines a roadmap for strengthening electoral dispute resolution, building internal capacity, fostering inter-agency coordination, and deepening public trust.

"It reflects a Judiciary that is not reactive but anticipatory—one that is deliberately planning, innovating, and investing in institutional excellence," Ms Mokaya said.

Supreme Court Judge Njoki Ndung'u officially took over as chairperson of the Judiciary Committee on Elections, succeeding fellow Supreme Court Judge Mohammed Ibrahim.

skiplagat@ke.nationmedia.com

By-elections

IEBC eyes green light to conduct 7 mini polls

BY COLLINS OMULO

All eyes are on Parliament as the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) awaits new writs declaring vacancies in seven parliamentary seats to prepare for the pending by-elections.

A writ is a formal written order issued by a Speaker communicating a vacancy in a parliamentary seat to trigger a by-election.

Some of the vacant seats have been without Members of Parliament for more than two years.

IEBC Chairperson Erastus Etheke said the agency is waiting for National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula to issue new writs declaring vacancies in six constituencies after the previous ones expired.

On the other hand, Senate Speaker Amason Kingi is also expected to issue such a formal communication declaring vacancy in the Baringo senatorial seat.

Under Article 101(4)(b) of the Constitution, by-elections must be held within 90 days of issuance of a writ by the speaker declaring a parliamentary seat vacant—unless the vacancy occurs within six months of a General Election.

Mr Etheke said the previous writs issued by Speaker Wetang'ula had expired as the Commission could not act on them because it had not been reconstituted after the exit of the previous team in January 2023.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO INTERVIEWS FOR THE ADVERTISED VACANCIES

The Kitui County Assembly Service Board wishes to notify all applicants for the various positions advertised in the local dailies on 5th May, 2025 that the shortlisting exercise has been concluded and interviews will be held from 28th - 31st July, 2025 and from 4th - 8th August, 2025 at the County Assembly Boardroom. The names of the shortlisted candidates and the interview schedule are available on the County Assembly's website www.kituiassembly.go.ke.

Shortlisted candidates are invited for the interviews as per the dates and time indicated against their names. Those whose names do not appear in the list should consider themselves unsuccessful.

Shortlisted candidates are required to bring along their original identification card/ passport, academic certificates and professional certificates as well as relevant testimonials on the day of interviews.

Ag. CLERK/SECRETARY

KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD

nation@daily



TOP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN EAST AFRICA



Previously, premium-level international schools would attract mainly foreign diplomats and expatriates. In recent times, more locals are enrolling their children in such schools, which today number at least 60 in Kenya alone, from just a handful a few years ago.

With these widening options, it is important that parents and guardians are well-informed about what each international school in the region offers:

- Which curriculum?
- What virtues?
- What kind of learning environment?
- Which extracurricular activities?

The EastAfrican regional weekly has scheduled a special feature on the growth of the international education industry in the region, and is offering space to international schools to profile their institutions. The special feature will run in the **July 26-August 1 2025** edition.

For your school to be featured, kindly contact any of the following:

Martin: +254723383744 mwachira@ke.nationmedia.com
 Mohammed: +254722158059 mlugey@ke.nationmedia.com
 Wambui: +254722 898323 wkariuki@ke.nationmedia.com



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF ISIOLO

THE CLERK, COUNTY ASSEMBLY



VACANCIES

The Isiolo County Assembly Service Board invites applications from qualified and experienced individuals for the following positions:

1. FIRST CLERK ASSISTANT, JOB GRADE "K"/ CASB 9

Requirement

- (i) Served in the grade of Second Clerk Assistant or in comparable position for a minimum period of three (3) years;
- (ii) Bachelor's degree in Economics, Public Administration, Human Resource Management, Law, Communication, Business Administration, Education, Commerce or its equivalent qualification from a recognized institution;
- (iii) Certificate in computer application skills; and
- (iv) Shown merit and ability as reflected in work performance and results.

2. SENIOR CLERK ASSISTANT, JOB GRADE "L"/CASB 8

Requirements

- (i) Served in the grade of First Clerk Assistant or in comparable position for a minimum period of three (3) years;
- (ii) Bachelor's degree in Economics, Public Administration, Human Resource Management, Law, Communication, Business Administration, Education, Commerce or its equivalent qualification from a recognized institution;
- (iii) Certificate in computer application skills; and
- (iv) Shown merit and ability as reflected in work performance and results.

3. CHIEF CLERK ASSISTANT, JOB GRADE "M"/ CASB 7

Requirements

- (i) Served in the grade of Senior Clerk Assistant or in comparable position for a minimum period of three (3) years;
- (ii) Bachelor's degree in Economics, Public Administration, Human Resource Management, Law, Communication, Business Administration, Education, Commerce or its equivalent qualification from a recognized institution;
- (iii) Certificate in Senior Management Course lasting not less than four (4) weeks from a recognized institution;
- (iv) Certificate in computer application skills; and
- (v) Shown merit and ability as reflected in work performance and results.

4. DIRECTOR - LEGISLATIVE, PROCEDURAL AND COMMITTEE SERVICES, JOB GRADE "R"/ CASB 3

Requirement

- (i) Served in the grade of Deputy Director - Legislative, Procedure and Committee Services, or in comparable position for a minimum period of three (3) years;
- (ii) Bachelor's degree in Economics, Public Administration, Human Resource Management, Law, Communication, Business Administration, Education, Commerce or its equivalent qualification from a recognized institution;
- (iii) Master degree in Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Public Administration, Law, Business Administration, Education or its equivalent from a recognized institution;
- (iv) Certificate in Strategic Leadership Development Programme lasting not less than six weeks;
- (v) Registration with a relevant professional body recognized in Kenya with a membership of good standing;
- (vi) Certificate in Senior Management Course lasting not less than four (4) weeks from a recognized institution;
- (vii) Certificate in computer application skills; and
- (viii) Demonstration of managerial, administrative, integrity and professional competence in work performance and results.

5. SERJEANT-AT-ARM'S II, JOB GRADE "K"/ CASB 9

Requirement

- (i) Served in the disciplined forces for a period of not less than five (5) years
- (ii) Certificate in supervisory skills course lasting not less than (2) weeks from a recognized institution;
- (iii) Certificate in fire-fighting and first aid;
- (iv) A valid certificate of good conduct; and
- (v) An exemplary service certificates.
- (vi) A Paramilitary/Military Training qualification; and
- (vii) Shown merit and ability as reflected in work performance and results.

6. SERJEANT-AT-ARM'S II, JOB GRADE "L"/ CASB 8

Requirement

- (i) Served in the disciplined forces for a period of not less than five (5) years
- (ii) Certificate in fire-fighting and first aid;
- (iii) Certificate in supervisory skills course lasting not less than (2) weeks from a recognized institution;
- (iv) A Paramilitary/Military Training qualifications; and
- (v) Shown merit and ability as reflected in work performance and results.

7. SENIOR HANSARD REPORTER, JOB GRADE "K"/CASB 9

Requirement

- (i) Served in the grade of Hansard Reporter I or in a comparable position for a minimum period of three (3) years;
- (ii) Bachelor degree in Mass Communication Art Degree in Linguistics, Majoring in English and Kiswahili or any other equivalent qualification from a recognized institution;
- (iii) Be in possession of Typing II (50 w.p.m) and/or Audio Typing I and II
- (iv) Proficiency in computer application; and
- (v) Shown merit and ability as reflected in work performance and results.

8. INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER I, JOB GRADE "K" / CASB 9

Requirement

- (i) Served in the grade of Information Communication Technology Officer II for a minimum period of three (3) years;
- (ii) Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Business Information Technology or any other equivalent qualification from recognized institution;
- (iii) Certificate in MCSE/MCITP (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer/Microsoft Certified IT Professional).
- (iv) Demonstrated merit and ability as reflected in work performance and results.

9. CHIEF ACCOUNTANT, JOB GROUP "M" / CASB 7

Requirement;

- (i) Served in the grade of Accountant I or in a comparable and relevant position in the public service for a minimum period of three (3) years;
- (ii) Bachelor's degree in Commerce, Finance, Economics, Business Administration/Business Management or any other equivalent qualification;
- (iii) Passed part III of Certified Public Accountants (CPA) examination or its recognized equivalent;
- (iv) Senior Management Course from a recognized institution lasting not less than four weeks;
- (v) Proficiency in computer application and
- (vi) Shown merit and ability as reflected in work performance and results.

Interested and qualified persons should make the applications online to clerkisiolo@gmail.com or hand delivered to Clerk's Office on or before **Thursday 30th July 2025, at 5.00 pm.**

The application must include copies of the following documents;

- National ID or Passport
- Copy of academic and professional certificates, Curriculum Vitae and any other relevant testimonials
- Attach certificate of Clearance from the following institutions;
 - Kenya Revenue Authority (K.R.A)
 - Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (E.A.C.C)
 - Criminal investigation department (C.I.D)
 - Higher Education Loans Board (HELB)
 - Credit Reference Bureau (CRB)

The applications are addressed to;

S. B. Guracha
The Secretary
County Assembly Service Board
County Assembly of Isiolo
P. O. Box 195 - 60300
Isiolo

Note: Isiolo County Assembly Service Board is an equal opportunity employer. Women, people living with disability and serving County Assembly Staff are encouraged to apply. Canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification.

Only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.

National News

Court

Rex Masai inquest: DPP requests time to study arms register

BY RICHARD MUNGUTI

Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Renson Ingonga has requested the court for more time to study the arms movement register from Central Police Station for June 18 and 20, 2024 before leading further evidence in Rex Masai inquest.

Through Mr Jalson Makori, a Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Ingonga asked Magistrate Geoffrey Onsarigo for an adjournment to familiarise himself with the newly received records.

"I have just been supplied with the arms movement register from the investigating agency. I need time to peruse and closely study the data contained in the register," Mr Makori told the court.

He requested the court to defer proceedings until July 22, 2025 when he intends to place the custodian of the arms register in the witness box to clarify how many firearms and rounds of ammunition were issued to police officers assigned to cover the Gen Z anti-government protests—during which Masai was fatally shot.

Last week, Mr Makori had applied for a court order compelling the officer in charge of the armoury at Central Police Station to appear and produce the arms movement register.

The custodian is expected to shed light on the number and types of weapons and ammunition issued to officers deployed during the June 18–20, 2024 protests, which were sparked by the controversial Finance Bill 2024 which was later withdrawn.

'No live bullets fired'

So far, both senior and junior police officers who have testified before Mr Onsarigo have denied firing live bullets at protesters.

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) represented by lawyer Mwangi Chege has questioned who shot Masai if the police are denying responsibility.

When he testified on July 17, 2025, the main suspect, Police Constable Isaiah Murangiri, told the court he was only issued with a teargas launcher.

However, photographs displayed during the hearing showed him with an anti-riot gun tucked under his left armpit while observing arrested demonstrators boarding a police Land Cruiser. Mr Murangiri denied shooting Masai on June 20, 2024.



Rex Masai.

He told the court that he was part of the Alfarmine Squad deployed to respond to the protests and that he was dressed in civilian clothes and wore a cap on that day.

Photos presented in court by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (Ipoa), which investigated the killing of over 60 protesters, showed a man resembling Mr Murangiri—with a birthmark on his left cheek and a bracelet on his wrist. Mr Murangiri displayed the same birthmark in court to Magistrate Onsarigo.

In a brief ruling, the magistrate granted the DPP's request to review the arms register before proceeding with the examination of the armoury custodian.

Location of shooting

"This matter is stood over to July 22, 2025, when the custodian of the armoury and arms movement register will testify," the magistrate ruled.

The armoury keeper was directed to return on that date to give a detailed account of the weapons and ammunition issued on June 18 and 20, 2024.

Meanwhile, former Officer Commanding Police Division at Central Police Station, Nairobi—Tiberious Ekisa—who was in charge of all units during the protests, surprised the court by stating that "nobody knows the exact location where Masai activist was fatally shot."

Mr Ekisa testified that members of the public, including security guards along Moi Avenue, were uncooperative when asked whether they witnessed the shooting of Masai.

He also said that the National Police Service CCTV Command Centre at Jogoo House was not operational at the time of the incident.

As a result, Mr Ekisa said that the exact location where Masai was fatally wounded remains unknown.

Justice Court documents show 1,000 youths defrauded of over Sh200m

Property linked to suspect in Eldoret jobs scam frozen

Court gives Assets Recovery Agency green light to seize Judy Jepchirchir's cars, buildings

BY SAM KIPLAGAT

The High Court has allowed a State agency to seize luxury vehicles and properties linked to a businesswoman accused of defrauding hundreds of youths through a fake Qatar jobs scheme.

The two high-end vehicles, an apartment in Athi River and a four-storey building in Eldoret town are linked to Judy Jepchirchir, who is suspected of defrauding hundreds of youths of millions of shillings.

The Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) stated in court documents that more than 1,000 youths were defrauded of over Sh200 million under the pretense of securing employment opportunities ahead of the 2022 Fifa World Cup in Qatar and other lucrative jobs abroad.

Justice Lucy Njuguna directed the businesswoman to surrender the logbooks of the two vehicles to ARA, failure to which the agency would seize them. The judge ordered her to surrender the logbooks within 14 days of the ruling.

"In the event she fails to surrender them, the agency is at liberty to seize, detain, and take custody of the said motor vehicles," said the judge.

The court also prohibited Ms Jepchirchir from selling, transferring or disposing of the Eldoret and Athi River buildings.

Additionally, the court directed the Director General of the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to register a caveat against each of the vehicles.

The Assets Recovery Agency said that it was investigating Ms Jepchirchir and her companies on suspicion of obtaining money by false pretenses and money laundering. The agency said that and is working to trace the proceeds of the alleged crimes.

Ms Jepchirchir's company—First Choice Recruitment and Consultancy Ltd—was allegedly used to solicit funds from young Kenyans under the false promise of World Cup jobs.

The ARA said that Ms Jepchirchir and her company operated 14 bank accounts. One account was opened at Diamond Trust Bank on January 20, 2020 in which Sh193.5 million was transacted between January and May 17, 2023.

Ms Jepchirchir is suspected to have used the money from the account to buy one of the ve-



First Choice Recruitment and Consultancy Ltd owner Judy Jepchirchir speaks during a past interview. WILFRED NYANGARESINIATION

hicles and to pay Sh1.9 million to Erdermann Property Ltd in May 2022 for the Athi River apartment.

Another account at NCBA, where Ms Jepchirchir is a signatory, reportedly saw transactions amounting to Sh16.5 million. From this account, she allegedly paid Sh5.9 million for the second car.

The suspect is also said to have bought two plots from a Mr Isaac Kipkemei Terer in July 2022 for Sh27.5 million, although she is yet to clear a balance of Sh10 million. Mr Terer has since registered a caution on the parcels, claiming interest.

The respondent incorporated First Choice Recruitment and Consultancy Agency as a special-purpose vehicle to fraudulently obtain money

Assets Recovery Agency



Ms Jepchirchir allegedly bought the incomplete four-storey building in July 2022 and has since made improvements. The structure was about 80 per cent complete at the time it was bought. The ARA estimates the building's rental income to be between Sh22,000 and Sh25,000 per unit, potentially generating Sh289,000 per month.

"The respondent incorporated First Choice Recruitment and Consultancy Agency as a special-purpose vehicle to fraudulently obtain money from the public under the guise of offering employment opportunities abroad," the agency stated.

ARA added that the case has generated significant public interest and was discussed by the Senate Committee on Labour and Social Welfare, which tabled a report on October 17, 2023. The Uasin Gishu County Assembly also released a report on the matter on September 24, 2023. The number of people defrauded is estimated at 1,022.

"There are reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent, who is a director of First Choice Recruitment and Consultancy Agency, is the ultimate beneficiary of the funds deposited in the special-purpose vehicle bank accounts, which served as conduits for money laundering," said investigator Alfred Musalia.

skiplagat@ke.nationmedia.com

Mystery deepens in Likoni Ferry deaths of mother, daughter

BY BRIAN OCHARO

Kenya Ferry Services (KFS) officials and senior police officers have been summoned to court over missing CCTV footage of the 2019 Likoni tragedy that claimed the lives of Mariam Kigenda and her daughter Amanda Muthu.

KFS General Manager Bakari Gowa, the Likoni Sub-County Directorate of Criminal Investigations Officer and Corporal Moses Mahiuha are required to appear in court on July 24 to explain their handling of the crucial CCTV footage in the ongoing inquest into the deaths of the two.

Mombasa Chief Magistrate Alex Ithuku issued the summons following concerns over the integrity of the video evidence which has

been deemed incomplete.

The footage pertains to the September 29, 2019 incident in which Ms Kigenda, 35, and her four-year-old daughter drowned after their vehicle plunged into the ocean after slipping off MV Harambee.

Principal Prosecution Counsel Alex Ndiema requested the court to compel the three officials to appear in person to clarify the chain of custody of the CCTV footage.

It is alleged that the original investigating officer handed the footage directly to KFS management instead of formally submitting it as part of the official evidence.

The issue of the incomplete footage came to light during the inquest after Mr Bob Otieno, the current investigating officer, presented a brief video clip showing the vehicle slipping

off the ferry into the ocean. However, the clip was described as too short and lacking the full sequence of events leading to the tragedy.

The complete footage is reported to show the moment when the victims' vehicle, a Toyota Isis, registration number KCB 289C, reversed and plunged into the ocean.

Following this development, Mr Otieno was stood down from testifying after the video he produced failed to depict the full chain of events surrounding the incident.

The magistrate raised concern over the legality and credibility of how the footage was handled casting doubt on the integrity of the investigation led by Corporal Mahiuha. The court was informed that Mr Mahiuha had handed over the raw footage to KFS management instead of preserving it.

National News

Intense training Out of 2,000 recruits who begin the six-month programme, only about 100 manage to graduate



SOG operatives perform a drill at the NIS training camp in the North Rift. PHOTOS | NDUBI MOTURI | NATION

Special Operations Group: Inside one of Kenya's most elite, covert security forces

Team has recovered 1,445 rounds of ammunition, IED-making materials, medical supplies, militant maps, GPS devices, and water caches

BY NDUBI MOTURI

They train in silence, operate in shadows and vanish before dawn.

In a world where the line between safety and chaos narrows by the day, Kenya's Special Operations Group (SOG) stands as the last invisible line of defence for a squad only spoken of in hushed tones and classified briefings.

The *Nation* team was recently granted access to the elite team's training grounds in a remote location tucked away in the rugged terrain of the North Rift that is surrounded by jagged hills and rarely seen by civilians.

One by one, the officers slid across thick ropes strung between two wooden towers—bodies tense with effort, faces tight with focus.

The drill looked simple, just holding the rope and sliding across, but every movement tested core strength, balance and control. The instructors were unrelenting, shouting and pushing them to complete the gruelling exercise. A group of SOG officers stood waiting, clad in full tactical gear and their faces unreadable behind dark lenses and balaclavas.

At first, the word jungle startled us. But the team soon realised we had landed not in a polished military base, but on a miniature battlefield. Rugged, sun-scorched and unforgiving, the terrain mimics the conditions where operatives are deployed, particularly in northern Kenya and along border points.

Access to the area is deliberately difficult. Other than a single dirt road winding through the bushes, the outpost is served by a small, unmarked airstrip several kilometres away—used only in emergencies or for flying in high-ranking officials.

For many years, the unit operated

mainly as a collector and disseminator of intelligence. But in recent years, its doctrine has quietly shifted.

The group is tasked with acting swiftly and decisively on intelligence, especially in hard-to-reach areas where conventional forces struggle to operate.

Commander of the group Pharies Emitundo is tasked with leading the simulations and providing insight into their operations. The training ground in the north is designed to reflect the harsh realities these officers face.

"We train them to hunt and neutralise threats ranging from heavily armed bandits in the north, to al-Shabaab militants along the border, as well as drug traffickers and smugglers," Mr Emitundo says.

"SOG operatives are inserted where the state's presence is weakest and are expected to operate where diplomacy, policing, and even the military fall short."

As we drove through narrow dirt roads flanked by dense bush and steep hillsides, our escort remained tight-lipped. The armoured vehicles the team members drive in are anything but comfortable. The road grew rougher the deeper we went—an intentional obstacle for those who might attempt to access the site uninvited.

Mr Emitundo, who has led several high-risk operations, says this training ground is where the elite begin their journey. The men and women of the SOG operate in the space between intelligence and action. Unlike conventional military units, their work never appears in the news and their names are never mentioned.

"They are Kenya's silent sentinels. Moulded in the hills and trained to leave no trace," he explained.

Atop a small hill, commanding a view of the entire basin below, operatives undergo advanced shooting drills and



Items recovered from al-Shabaab militants are displayed at a training camp in the North Rift.

Summary

At one end of the training field stands a windowless room inside a nondescript building: the Operations Support Centre.

Inside, screens line the walls, showing live feeds, satellite imagery and digital overlays and an officer in full tactical gear begins the briefing at the centre, which is the digital nerve centre of the SOG. Here, intelligence is processed, analysed and acted upon.

Surveillance teams work side by side with technical experts to track and monitor targets and operations are only greenlit after extensive reconnaissance.

The support centre coordinates operations for several other elite camps stationed strategically at border points.

marksman training under real terrain conditions.

The ground is littered with spent cartridges—a silent testament to the live-fire exercises carried out almost daily.

For two hours, the air thudded with the sound of automatic rifles, sniper fir and grenade simulators. Echoes bounced off the hills—each round a reminder of how real these simulations are meant to feel. Snipers use the elevation for long-range shots, while others crawl through thorny bush and red earth, engaging in stealth tactics that make them nearly invisible in daylight.

Beyond the shooting drills, officers also undergo rigorous physical training. The regimen includes navigating 17 demanding obstacles—parallel bars to build upper-body strength, the Berlin Wall for climbing, crawling courses, and rope transfers—all designed to prepare them physically for the battlefield.

The team has also deployed cutting-edge technology.

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Inside, screens line the walls, showing live feeds, satellite imagery and dig-

We operate in high-intensity environments and the stakes are extremely high. The aircraft can fly non-stop for 24 to 48 hours

Pharies Emitundo



ital overlays and an officer in full tactical gear begins the briefing at the centre, which is the digital nerve centre of the SOG. It is here that intelligence from across the country is processed, analysed and acted upon.

Surveillance teams work side by side with technical experts to track and monitor targets and operations are only greenlit after extensive reconnaissance.

The support centre coordinates operations for several other elite camps stationed strategically at border points. Once deployed, SOG operatives enter the field with helmet-mounted cameras, transmitting real-time video back to the Operations Centre. This gives commanders a full, live view of the battlefield.

The centre also monitors small aircraft—fitted with high-resolution cameras—flying at 18,000 feet, quietly mapping terrain and tracking movement.

"We operate in high-intensity environments and the stakes are extremely high. The aircraft can fly nonstop for 24 to 48 hours," Mr Emitundo says.

This technology has helped track bandits in the North Rift. SOG teams regularly use aerial surveillance to follow stolen livestock in real time. In one illustration, officers showed a video of bandits walking with cattle. Sophisticated geospatial tools can pinpoint their exact location, allowing security forces to plan counter-attacks. The same technology has been used in coordinated assaults on al-Shabaab cells in Lamu's Boni Forest.

The unit also boasts its own Research and Development Team responsible for building locally engineered solutions, with its surveillance aircraft designed and assembled in Kenya.

The operatives are also rigorously trained in tactical combat healthcare—a critical survival skill.

Battlefield injuries

Beyond basic first aid, the team is also taught to respond to battlefield injuries, perform life-saving interventions under fire, and stabilise wounded comrades for extraction. They are also schooled in the tactics of the enemy, particularly the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Training covers everything from detonation nodes and command wires to pressure-activated mines and booby-trapped grenades.

"If you did not drop it, you have no business picking it up," warns one instructor, adding that assailants often disguise explosives as harmless objects to lure soldiers into deadly traps.

According to Mr Emitundo, operations by the elite group have recovered 1,445 rounds of ammunition, IED-making materials and medical supplies. Militant maps, GPS devices, communication tools, buried food and water caches have also been seized.

Due to the intense training regimen, few recruits make it through. Out of 2,000 who begin the six-month programme, only about 100 graduate.

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OPINION

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Disability law heralds new chapter of a better society

In May, President William Ruto assented to the Persons with Disabilities Bill. The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025, provides fresh hope to persons with disabilities for a better society that levels the playing field by eliminating barriers that hold them back from enjoying their rights as citizens. Martin Luther King Jr said that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." The journey of more than two decades of advocating a review of the law to reflect present realities – coupled with efforts of persons with disabilities and their organisations – culminated in that moment when the President's pen met the paper, marking a new historic milestone.

On the continent and abroad, Kenya continues to punch above its weight on disability inclusion. This is why the first disability law – the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2003, signed by President Mwai Kibaki was not meant to be the last. Instead, it was the first legislative cornerstone for millions of persons with disabilities to build their hopes and push for a more inclusive Kenya. At the time, I was not a person with disability, so I could not understand what it meant for many Kenyans with disabilities from towns to villages.

The newly assented law aligns with Article 54 of the Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Kenya ratified in 2008, effectively granting a broader scope of rights to persons with disabilities. These rights span a wide range, from the right to equality and non-discrimination and the right to legal capacity, to rights to documentation of identification, education, work and employment, civil and political rights, protection from abuse and exploitation, and access to justice, among others.

The Act provides solutions that touch the lives of many persons with disabilities and their families. To the parents and guardians who over the years encountered hardships acquiring birth certificates and national identification cards for their children with disabilities, sometimes being discouraged that it was 'unnecessary', the new law accords them the right to be issued with birth certificates, national IDs, passports, disability registration and other forms of registration free of charge. To those who could not afford the costs of undergoing a disability medical assessment for registration as persons with disabilities, the new law states that these assessments shall be done at no costs in public health facilities. To those who decent work has been elusive for so long, the

On the continent and abroad, Kenya continues to punch above its weight on disability inclusion



Harun M Hassan | Inclusion

new law mandates every public and private employer with at least 20 employees to reserve five per cent of job slots to candidates with disabilities. To those who aspire to become home-owners, the new law directs the government entities building residential and commercial premises to reserve at least five per cent of the residences for persons with disabilities, including privileges such as financial aid offered at interest-free and longer periods of repayment.

To the needy parents and guardians of children with disabilities who have had to make huge sacrifices to provide round-the-clock care for their children with disabilities, the new law prescribes income tax exemption to them to ease their financial burden. And for those who always wondered why they would be subjected to fresh income tax exemption vetting exercises every five years despite having permanent disabilities, the new law exempts such from future vetting processes.

A great disservice of the previous disability law was that it had been passed way before the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, hence didn't envision devolution and the role of county governments in promoting disability inclusion. Gladly, the new law stipulates obligations of the counties in promoting disability mainstreaming, which includes allocating adequate resources to disability-related programmes, ensuring inclusion in county programmes, and developing structures for identification of persons with disabilities residing in the counties for proper planning. At the national level, counties are also represented in the Board of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities through a representative nominated by the Council of Governors.

Mr Hassan serves as a commissioner of the Public Service Commission, and is an author. He writes in his personal capacity. harunassan@gmail.com

Activism is not terrorism

In yet another disturbing turn of events, renowned Kenyan activist Boniface Mwangi has been arrested under murky circumstances. Plainclothes police officers raided his home and office, confiscated personal belongings, including phones and laptops, and whisked him away to an undisclosed location. According to reports, he is being accused of being behind recent Gen Z protests that echoed the frustrations and hopes of a generation longing to be heard.

It is painful to witness a Kenyan who has consistently used his voice to stand up for truth and justice consistently being treated like a criminal. Boniface has not incited violence. He has not broken the law. He has simply asked questions on behalf of the many who cannot. Questions about fairness, leadership, and the future of this nation. This isn't about defiance or disobedience. It's about exercising the freedoms our Constitution grants each of us: the right to speak, to question, to seek answers, and to hold power accountable in peacefully and respectfully.

The arrest, especially following his recent petition at the East African Court of Justice, is worrying. If a Kenyan can be taken in such a manner simply for expressing concern or seeking justice, what message does that send to the rest of us? Are we to remain si-

Are we to remain silent, even when something feels deeply wrong?



Rose Murugi | Human rights

lent, even when something feels deeply wrong? To detain someone without proper legal procedure, to ransack their home without a valid warrant, and to mask it all under vague "terrorism" allegations is a blatant abuse of power. It's an erosion of our constitutional rights. If our law enforcement institutions can be weaponised against those who speak out, then no one is truly safe.

Boniface Mwangi is not a threat, he is a citizen who believes in a better Kenya, as many of us do. His passion for justice and human dignity should not be met with fear and silence but with understanding and the rule of law.

Ms Murugi is a writer and media practitioner. rosemurugi28@gmail.com

Kenya Power's recent announcement to roll out 45 charging stations is a significant milestone



Moses Nderitu | Electric vehicles

Kenya's e-mobility revolution starts with infrastructure

You've probably heard of the classic paradox: the chicken and the egg. Which came first? It's a timeless question but one that perfectly illustrates the challenge facing Kenya's electric mobility transition.

There is a hesitance to buy electric vehicles (EVs) without readily accessible charging infrastructure, yet investment often lags until there is sufficient demand for electric vehicles. According to the Electric Mobility Association of Kenya, 9,047 EVs are currently registered in the country, up from 2,694 in 2023 and 5,294 in 2024. The figures reflect encouraging momentum in EV adoption. However, the number of charging stations remains modest, especially when compared to fossil fuel infrastructure that has benefitted from over a century of development. That historical advantage has made fossil fuel stations a ubiquitous presence, giving confidence to manufacturers, customers, and institutions that fuel will be available at anytime, anywhere. For Kenya's EV market to thrive, it requires a similar foundation: access to reliable, affordable, and high-speed charging. Only then will EVs become an option for everyday consumers.

Kenya Power's recent announcement to roll out 45 charging stations is a significant milestone. Made during the third Annual E-Mobility Stakeholders Conference and Expo in Nairobi, it signals a welcome shift: public utilities are stepping up as critical enablers of the EV ecosystem. Further, the government, through the Treasury, has awarded contracts for the leasing of 3,000 EVs under its official vehicle leasing programme, an influx expected to further drive the expansion of charging infrastructure nationwide. At the same time, private sector players like BasiGo are scaling their charging stations alongside growing EV fleets. This dual approach, with public and private investment, is essential to creating a reliable national charging backbone.

Setbacks

However, deploying infrastructure at scale doesn't come without challenges. Chief among them is the high upfront cost of infrastructure upgrades required to support new high-power loads, such as EV chargers, and securing suitable land for charging depots. Leasing land is costly and requires extensive due diligence and negotiation. For many startups in the e-mobility space, purchasing land is not yet financially viable, even if it may be the smarter long-term strategy. However, start-ups are also partnering up with companies to instal chargers in facilities such as malls and gas stations.

It is important to note that Kenya's electricity is generated almost entirely from clean, renewable sources, with geothermal accounting for over 40 per cent of the supply. Yet this clean power is underutilised at night. This is where electric public service vehicles come in. These vehicles primarily charge overnight, utilising the excess clean power. Not only does this boost grid use and reduce waste, but it also increases revenue for the utility without any additional investment in new generation capacity. With this in mind, the government has several ways to support the growth of e-mobility. A key area is addressing the high cost of infrastructure for charger installation.

Mr Nderitu is the BasiGo Managing Director for Kenya

Send your opinion article to: dnopinion@ke.nationmedia.com or write to The Editor, Daily Nation, P. O. Box 49010, Nairobi 00100.

DAILY NATION

Harness royalties to boost county revenues

The many bad things happening in the country today, including sharp political divisions, tend to totally overshadow any positive developments. A lot of success has been registered in the 47 counties, boosting the people's well-being.

Indeed, there is positive competition between the counties to explore the means to generate own revenue and complement the financial allocations from the Exchequer. It will be better for counties in the same regions to form blocs to enable the exploitation of common resources.

Today, the mineral-rich counties are awaiting a Sh3 billion windfall in royalties. Mining Principal Secretary Harry Kimtai says the devolved units will, from next month begin receiving their share of the dues being held by the National Treasury. This is also a wake-up call to them to forge closer ties to enable the joint exploitation of the mineral resources. The economies of scale are beckoning them to co-operate and enjoy the benefits.

Pressure from senators over the delay in disbursing the royalties to the counties and mining communities has yielded fruit. The delays date as far back as 2016. Had the counties rallied together, the legislative and other hitches could have been resolved. At least 32 counties, including Kwale, Kajiado, Kilifi, Makueni, Taita-Taveta, Homa Bay, West Pokot, Kericho, Kakamega, and Elgeyo-Marakwet, have yet to receive their royalties. Kwale, for instance, would be doing much better had it received its Sh1.38 billion.

The Mining Act, 2016 stipulates that royalties be shared among the national and county governments and communities. New royalty-sharing regulations are awaiting the Attorney-General's approval. The delay in disbursing Sh7.5 billion in mineral royalties is the cause of hostility towards mining firms.

Tourism is another area where the counties hosting game parks and reserves, and the coastal beaches, also deserve royalties to fully support this revenue-generating industry. The Lake Victoria basin counties are also staring at huge potential waiting to be jointly tapped.

The authorities should speed up the disbursement of the mineral royalties and other benefits to boost regional development.

End soldiers' meals saga

When the military recently scrapped its free meals system, there was disquiet as this has been one of the most cherished and long-running traditions directly benefitting members of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). However, the decision has since been readjusted, to the joy of the service men and women.

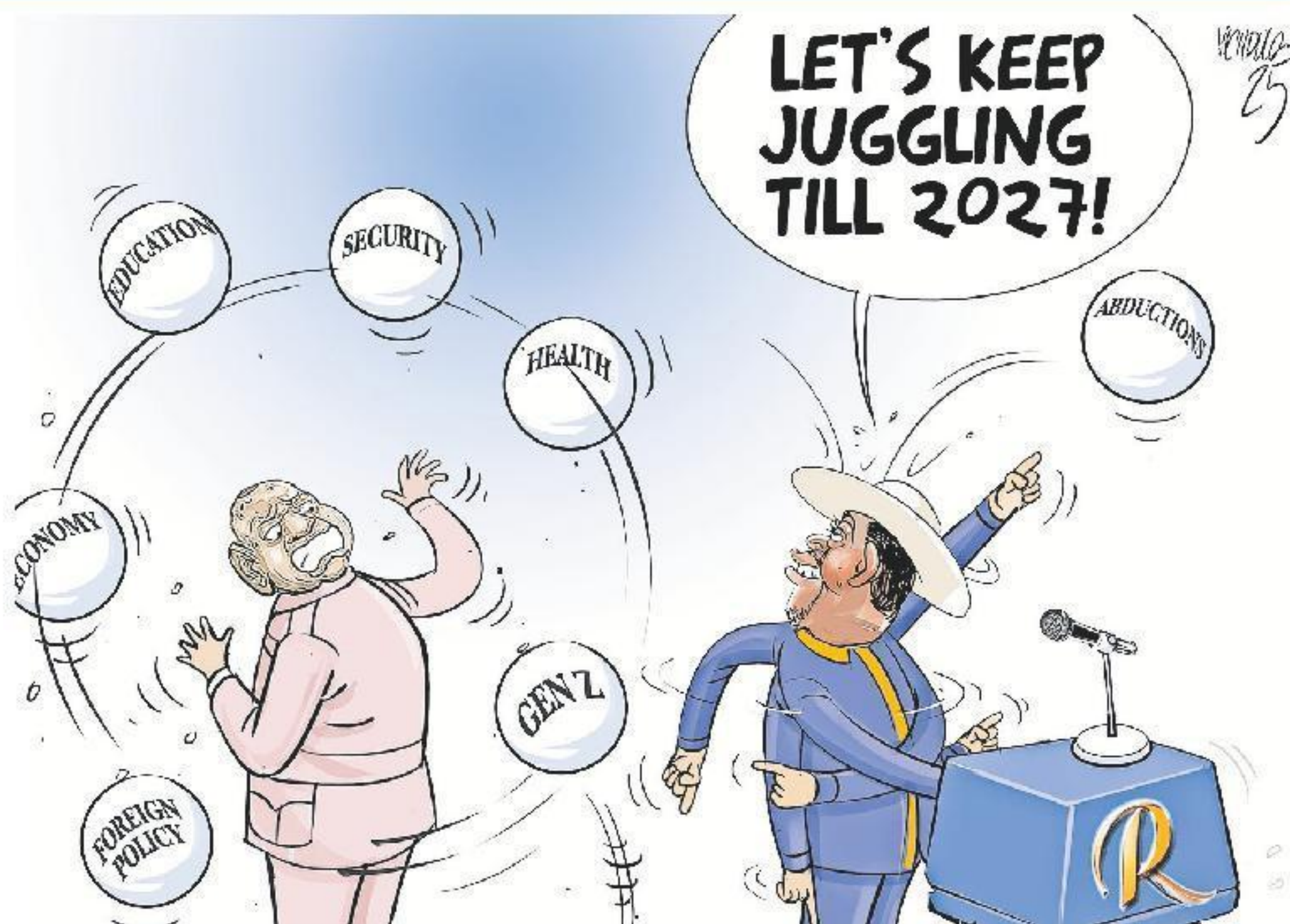
Some soldiers had reportedly been going without meals since the scrapping of the food subsidy programme. The allowance introduced in 2000 and reviewed and increased over the years was meant to cushion service members against inflation. However, since the meal allowance forms part of gross pay, some soldiers have been using it to secure loans.

The military dropped the Exchequer-funded lunch programme and introduced a new scheme effective from July 1. However, the new Pay-As-You-Eat scheme has come with a directive to prevent service members from abusing it. They will no longer use the meal allowances as collateral for loans. The KDF is thus ring-fencing the cash to protect the soldiers' pay slips.

Under the new scheme, the soldiers will no longer be allowed to directly access and withdraw their meal cash allowances. According to an internal memo, the allowance will be paid through the Defence Savings and Credit Co-operatives Society, and partially locked within the KDF Booking Meal App to prevent its misuse.

This is a welcome move, but it is feared that it may reduce the take-home pay, especially for junior officers, who rely heavily on this allowance. The Ministry of Defence says this change will streamline operations and eliminate the wastage that characterised the old meals system.

The current tough economic times call for austerity measures. The government has been forced to effect budget cuts. Change can be beneficial, but it must be properly managed to minimise disruption. Clear communication with those affected can help to mitigate resistance and enable a smooth transition.



Crushing legal dissent real terrorism

Kenya is officially a terrorist State. Across a large swathe of eastern and northern Kenya—what used to be known as the North Eastern Province and Contiguous Districts in the Coast and Eastern Province—al-Shabaab terrorists run free.

From Lamu and Tana River counties in the Coast region, northwards to Garissa, Wajir and Mandera counties in the northern tip, heavily armed terrorists roam unchallenged. We can no longer pretend that al-Shabaab is a problem of incursions from neighbouring Somalia. The murderous group is now well encamped in Kenya where local cells operate with impunity.

Then in the northern regions abutting Ethiopia, the counties of Mandera and Wajir and westward to the expansive Marsabit County, and further west still to Turkana County bordering both South Sudan and Uganda, assorted bandits, battle rustlers and ethnic militias have the freedom to roam, plunder, rape and kill. Much of the terror visited on the people include cross-border incursion from various armed bands in neighbouring countries who find Kenya a convenient place to carry out their activities.

Then from Turkana in Kenya's north west corner, it's a sweep southwards across West Pokot, Samburu and all the way down to Elgeyo-Marakwet, Baringo, Laikipia and Isiolo counties, parts of which even security forces fear to tread as brigands have been given freedom to terrorise the vast terrain.

The terror, by the way, is not limited to the country's remote extremities. It spreads right down to regions that we often do not recognise actually make the geographical centre of Kenya. When we talk of Central region, we often think of Murang'a, Nyeri and maybe even Nakuru, but the real centre is actually around regions we mistakenly take as parts of far north, such as Baringo and Isiolo counties.

So why are our vaunted security forces

This new breed of terrorist is youthful, tech-savvy and based in the capital city of Nairobi and towns in adjacent regions



Macharia Gaitho |
Right to picket

es who have cut the head of al-Shabaab in Somalia, decimated criminal gangs as far away as Haiti and ended civil wars in Sierra Leone, Liberia and the former Yugoslavia, been unable to contain terror groups wreaking havoc across more than half of Kenya's land mass? Because they have been diverted to tackle a new vastly more dangerous breed of terrorism which isn't limited to blowing up Kenya Defence Forces armoured car patrols with roadside bombs, shooting up remote police stations or fighting rival ethnic group and stealing cattle in ungoverned outpost.

This new breed of terrorist is youthful, tech-savvy and based in the capital city of Nairobi and towns in adjacent regions. He is not armed with suicide vests, assault rifles, missile launchers, grenades or improvised explosive devices.

His weapon of the choice is mobile phone or laptop on which he shares dangerous ideology on social media. The mobile phone also comes in handy as he takes selfies while chanting slogans and taunting police in the streets.

He is not interested in armed raids at shopping malls or frontal attacks on secu-

rity forces. He prefers transparent actions rather than stealth and violence, making a carnival of song and dance in street protests dedicated to calling out government excesses. The new terrorist has found a ready ally in the political opposition, civil society, religious organisations and other groupings that support constitutional safeguards for free speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of association and the right to picket.

The government of President William Ruto and Orange Democratic Movement leader Raila Odinga has declared practice of all those supposed constitutional rights to be terrorist offences. It is a terrorist act to imagine, encompass, devise or otherwise think of ousting the President at the next elections.

It is a terrorist offence of the highest magnitude to post dangerous social media messages advocating the same. It is the height of terrorism to march in the streets protesting corruption, police abductions and extrajudicial executions, the cost of living or the primitive accumulation excesses of the parasitic classes.

Those offences, especially where provoking the fragile sensibilities of police officers by abusive taunts aggressive behaviour, are punishable by a bullet to the head. But feeling a bit charitable, the President recently suggested kneecapping as a more lenient alternative, a concession roundly rejected by some of his more rabid, bloodthirsty mouthpieces.

It is only insecure leaders afraid of their own people who will apply anti-terrorism laws to suppress legitimate dissent, or declare as "satanic" church leaders who side with the people.

It is only outright dictatorships where the entire national security apparatus and the criminal justice system can be subverted to defend the Deep State against the citizens. That is the real terrorism.

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Letters

THE CUTTING EDGE by THE WATCHMAN

Send an e-mail to the watchman@ke.nationmedia.com or write to The Watchman, PO BOX 49010, Nairobi 00100

Terrorism Act • The Prevention of Terrorism Act shouldn't be used "to limit the democratic space", says Jimmy Thumbi, alarmed at the arrests of youth over demonstrations and destruction of property. "This law was enacted to counter foreign terrorism. It shouldn't be used against our young people expressing their views on what is going wrong in the country." His contact is jimmythumbi16@gmail.com.

Noisy bars • Residents of Uhuru Gardens Phase 2 Estate at Lang'ata, Nairobi, have complained about mushrooming kiosks, noisy bars, and shady eateries, but there has been deafening silence from the city county government, says Job Otieno. "Another structure has just come up at the gate, and it has a butchery. Who approves these structures? Remove the eyesores." (jobo2021@yahoo.com)

SHA scam • On the reported mega scandal in which the Social Health Authority (SHA) is said to have been defrauded by some public hospitals in 13 counties in a multimillion-shilling scam, Evans Macharia Mwangi says Health CS Aden Duale "shouldn't be economical with the truth". He wonders why the CS has not named any of the allegedly corrupt hospitals. His contact is evans_macharia@yahoo.com.

Graft • The government should develop a comprehensive programme to fight corruption in traffic police operations, says Jerry Kenyansa. "Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen should lead the campaign to implement ethical standards for traffic policing. The officers should use traffic policing technology such as electronic ticketing to eliminate graft." His contact is kenyansajerry@gmail.com.

Supermarket staff • People working in supermarkets are often looked down upon, says Frederick Imani. "This is seen as a low-level or temporary job. But behind the uniforms and name tags are individuals with dreams, education, and families to care for. Some are professional diploma holders, who took up the jobs for survival. Let's respect workers irrespective of what they do." His contact is fredabuti@gmail.com. Have a respectful day, won't you!

LETTERS

Sh2.5m fine for Facebook post harsh

I refer to the article published in the *Sunday Nation*, July 20, 2025, titled "Teacher ordered to pay Sh2.5m for Facebook post". The ruling by a Siaya court that fined a high school teacher Sh2.5 million for allegedly defaming a political aspirant on Facebook is not only harsh but also dangerously veers into censorship territory. This judgment appears punitive, chilling, and ill-informed—particularly in a democratic society that claims to uphold freedom of expression as enshrined in Article 33 of the Constitution. Let the courts protect reputations where necessary, yes—but let them also guard the democratic right to speak truth to power. Because when speaking out becomes too risky, we won't have justice—we'll have silence.

Newton Maneno, Tana River County

Dialogue good, but address Gen Z concerns

Raila Odinga's Sunday interview reveals a familiar pattern of advocating dialogue, now rebranded as a "conclave" in 2025. Past initiatives like National Dialogue Committee (Nadco) and Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) that failed to deliver meaningful change. Raila and President William Ruto may see this as a solution. However, Gen Z's concerns such as governance failures, police brutality, enforced disappearances, corruption, and arrogance by the political class need action.

Eric Ndungu

Delaying funds impedes devolution

Perhaps the drafters of the 2010 Constitution overlooked a key aspect. Allocation of 15 per cent is not good enough if counties still have to go on their knees to get money from the national government. For devolution to succeed, just like statutory remittance to KRA on PAYE, counties should receive the money on or before 9th of every month. If there are no sufficient funds, they should borrow.

David Okello, Nairobi

Prepaid meters: Hustlers feel the pinch

The recent hike for conversion of postpaid metres to prepaid token meters from Sh6,500 to Sh21,000 is a sign that the Kenya Kwanza government is no longer interested in hustlers, and is in reality only for the rich. Postpaid meters owners paid a whopping Sh35,000 for single phase installation and Sh45,000 for three phase installation. The same Kenya Power charges Sh15,000 for single phase installation in the last mile programme. Many postpaid customers are slowly switching which will eventually make Kenya power irrelevant.

Robert Musamali, Nairobi

Ruto's perspective seems different

I heard President William Ruto on Sunday defend himself, saying that he did not overpromise but that what he is doing is meant to take Kenya to another level. He also clarified how the police operate. I think the President should speak to his people more frequently, because it is now clear that his perspective may be different from that of many others. And perhaps, if people are guided on how to interpret certain things, the doubting Thomases might have their eyes opened.

Githuku Mungai, Nairobi

Mail your letters to: The Editor, Daily Nation, P.O. Box 49010, Nairobi 00100 or email mailbox@ke.nationmedia.com

TODAY IN HISTORY



June 22, 1970: Kenyan legend Kipchoge Keino, who ignored threats to his life to win the 1,500 metres title, receives the gold medal from Queen Elizabeth during the Commonwealth Games held in Edinburgh, Scotland. Before the race an anonymous telephone call and two unsigned letters were received at the athletes' village in Edinburgh threatening that Keino, 30, would be killed if he competed.

COMPILED BY ANNIEL NJOKA

LETTER OF THE DAY

Kenyans require accountable leaders

Kenyans are growing weary of leaders who overpromise and underdeliver. Parliamentarians, in particular, must be reminded that they are servants of the people, not untouchable elites. It is unacceptable that some Members of Parliament disappear after elections, only to reappear during campaigns, having failed to address the very issues they swore to solve. The law provides for a recall process—but that process must be made more accessible to the public and insulated from political interference. Public participation must be the heart of every democratic process,

including impeachment or recall. As things stand, political interference makes it nearly impossible for citizens to hold leaders accountable. The will of the people is often hijacked by party politics and backroom deals. To restore faith in our institutions, impeachment processes should be transparent, simple, and genuinely reflective of public will, not political interests. If we are to move forward as a nation, then political responsibility must no longer be optional—it must be demanded. MPs who fail to attend sittings, ignore constituency needs, or vote against the

interests of Kenyans should face consequences. The country cannot afford to keep funding absentee leaders who treat public service like a retirement plan. At the same time, we are increasingly witnessing a dangerous trend where leaders resort to threats and divisive language when challenged. This is not leadership—it is intimidation. Kenya's hard-won peace should not be gambled with for political gain. Leaders must be held responsible for any reckless statements that could incite violence or widen divisions. Public office comes with the responsibility to

unite, not divide. At a time when our youth are unemployed, the cost of living is rising, and public services are stretched, we need leaders who bring people together—not those who threaten to plunge the nation into chaos whenever their authority is questioned. These threats must be condemned by all Kenyans. We must also reflect deeply on what kind of future we are building. A country where leaders are immune to criticism and citizens are punished for demanding accountability is a country heading backwards.

Joseph Katiku Kioko, Nairobi



County News

Narok Land dispute: Court allows trader to collect Mara cash **P.18**

Meru Kawira keeps it in the family as she unveils her new party **P.18**

Inclusion There will be a shift from a humanitarian to a development approach, Murkomen says

BY SAMMY LUTTA

Since President William Ruto launched the Shirika Plan on March 28, local communities and other stakeholders have said they do not fully understand the initiative.

Shirika Plan is a programme aimed at integrating refugees into local host communities. Ultimately, it seeks to promote socio-economic inclusion of refugees by transforming camps into integrated settlements.

Civil society actors say that one of the biggest challenges is the lack of public participation in Turkana West Sub-County, where Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement are located.

"In Turkana West, the process should have started at the village level. Even I, as someone who works in advocacy, I don't fully understand it. If the civil society doesn't understand it, then who does?" Asked Ms Eunice Ateyo.

Her concerns were echoed by locals and refugees during a Bunge la Wananchi forum held in Kakuma, Turkana County on June 26.

"We need serious engagement with local leaders because we

Residents in the dark on refugee integration plan

Locals seek public participation forum on Shirika Plan to know what it means to the community

do not understand the plan. We need to have forums so that residents are informed about the document's details. That will also be a chance for residents to give suggestions on changes," Ms Ateyo said.

She said policies have previously been created but were not implemented, and feared the Shirika Plan could face the same fate.

"If the relevant stakeholders are not serious about the plan, we will take it to court," Ms Ateyo said.

Refugees said that they are concerned about the plan's intentions and its impact on their lives.

"We came here as visitors and once things settle in our countries, we will return. Since this plan was introduced, it has

caused many problems. I ask leaders to give us clear direction," said Ms Lucia Okello, a refugee.

Other refugees said that there was rising insecurity due to dwindling humanitarian support. They said that the situation worsened after the plan was launched, triggering protests in Kakuma.

Last week, Interior Cabinet Sec-

retary Kipchumba Murkomen attributed the tension to lack of information and communication about the Shirika Plan. He said there had been an earlier public participation session when the plan was introduced.

Speaking at the Jukwaa la Usalama, Turkana Chapter, Mr Murkomen said the plan is not rigid and will be revised based on public input.

"Starting the process was important. Revising the document as we progress—especially when we get proper commitment from development partners—is critical. We want to shift from a humanitarian to a development approach, where the local community benefits. We must also help refugees from the now-stable ar-

reas to return home voluntarily to ease pressure in the camps," he said.

The CS said Shirika Plan responds to long-standing complaints from locals who feel refugees are treated better than them.

"This is a straightforward development document guiding the building of roads, schools and health facilities. Public participation is continuous, and locals will have a say on the type, design, and location of projects," he said.

Mr Murkomen acknowledged locals' fears, but reaffirmed that the plan is government-led and aims to benefit Kenyans. He said that the current humanitarian system is donor-driven and often excludes host communities.

"The Shirika Plan integrates locals into a system that promotes shared development between refugees and hosts," he said.

The minister said development partners had previously been wrongly accused of focusing solely on camps.

"With this plan, partners are willing to fund joint projects for both refugees and hosts," he said.

"Integration doesn't mean refugees will become Kenyan citizens. It means they will access the same services and opportunities—like roads, markets, schools, and hospitals—as local residents," he clarified on the misconception of the plan.

The CS promised to make the plan accessible online to counter misinformation and urged critics not to stall the project under the guise of consultations.

Turkana Governor Jeremiah Lomorukai urged the national government not to rush the Shirika Plan.

"Some leaders understand it, but people in Turkana West are in the dark. We can't say it's a good document when the people don't know its content," he said.

Shirika Plan is expected to serve as a model for refugee integration and development across Africa.

sammylutta@gmail.com

Take action to curb reckless talk by politicians, NCIC urged



Rift Valley Supreme Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya officials alongside Imams from various Mosques in Uasin Gishu County address journalists at Asis Hotel in Eldoret yesterday. They accused the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) of failing to rein in inflammatory talk by reckless politicians ahead of the 2027 General Election. JARED NYATAYA | NATION

Machakos

County, Bamburi Cement give free medical camp

BY SAMMY KIMATU

The Machakos County Government and Bamburi Cement Limited have partnered to give a free medical camp in Mavoko town.

While launching the medical outreach at Ngwata Primary School, Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti said it will enhance the health and wellbeing of locals.

"As a county, we are partnering with Bamburi Cement to improve the health of our people in Machakos," the governor said.

Ms Ndeti expressed her gratitude to Bamburi Cement for going beyond its business mandate to invest in community health.

"We thank Bamburi Cement for the great work it is doing for our people. Residents are being screened for cancer and tuberculosis, there is also maternal and child healthcare services, nutritional support, and counseling,"



Governor Wavinya Ndeti.

the governor said.

Bamburi Cement Chief Executive Officer Mokate Ramafoko, commended the collaboration with the county government.

"As Bamburi Cement, we stand for and campaign for the prosperity of Kenya. We thank God for His grace, the event has started successfully. And we look forward to even more partnerships," said Mr. Mokate.

County News

Turkana

Police: Battling insecurity uphill task on lack of fuel

BY SAMMY LUTTA

A biting fuel shortage is hindering security operations in Turkana County, with local police and administrators blaming the crisis on excessive bureaucracy.

It has emerged that some officers stationed in areas such as Kibish near the Kenya-Ethiopia border are required to travel over 700 kilometres to Kitale to access fuel.

While presenting their challenges to Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, top security officials in the county said fuel supplies often run out in under 15 days due to the vast distances officers must cover. Some police posts serve areas with a radius of up to 120 kilometres.

Speaking on behalf of sub-county police commanders, Turkana South police boss William Adenyo said many stations

lack operational vehicles and the few available are limited by fuel shortages.

Mr Adenyo also noted a staffing challenge, saying, many officers transferred to Turkana fail to report, while those transferred out are often not replaced.

"Due to the vastness of the county, police stations are located far from insecurity-prone villages. Chiefs and assistant chiefs working with a handful of National Police Reservists are often left to deal

with criminals alone," he said.

Hezron Moru, the chief of Oropoi Location near the Uganda border, said his area lacks a police station despite experiencing frequent criminal activities such as cross-border cattle raids.

"I work alone with a few police reservists to recover stolen livestock. I do not have assistant chiefs or police officers nearby to help arrest and prosecute offenders," said Mr Moru.

BRIEFLY

NAIROBI

Police search for parents of child locked in house

Authorities have launched investigations after a two-year-old child was rescued by Nyumba Kumi officials and administrators after being allegedly locked inside a house for two days in Mukuru Kwa Njenga. According to a Nyumba Kumi official, they were called in by neighbours who heard cries from the house.

Sammy Kimatu

Meru

Kawira keeps it in the family as she unveils her new party

BY DAVID MUCHUI

Former Governor Kawira Mwangaza has unveiled a new party, promising to exact political revenge on leaders who supported her impeachment.

Ms Mwangaza and her family recently took over the Umoja na Maendeleo Party (UMP), previously associated with former Embu Governor Martin Wambora, officially marking her transition from independent politics to party leadership.

Addressing supporters at her Ntumburi home during the party's launch last Saturday, Ms Mwangaza announced she will serve as interim party leader, as her son Victor Koome takes charge as deputy party leader, her husband Murega Baichu interim secretary general and her sister Miriam Karwirwa the interim national chairperson.

Close ally

Mr Harisson Gatobu, a former Chief of Staff and close ally, will serve as the party's executive director. A Gazette notice published on July 4 by then Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu confirmed that UMP's headquarters had been moved from Embu to Kamuketha village, the site of Ms Mwangaza's palatial home and ranch.

Known for her strong grassroots mobilisation skills particularly through her charity initiative Okolea, Ms Mwangaza now joins other Meru political heavyweights who lead parties, such as Kiraitu Murungi (Devolution Empowerment Party - DEP), Peter Munya (Party of National Unity) and Mpuru Aburi (National Ordinary People's Empowerment Union).

Ms Mwangaza, who was elected as an independent in 2022, said founding a political party was inspired by the bitter lessons she learnt from her impeachment.

Coast sees rise in traveller numbers as schools close for holidays



Passengers arrive at the Miritini railway station in Mombasa City yesterday. Many people are travelling to the Coast for the August holidays as schools close. KEVIN ODIT I NATION

Bomet

Completion of assembly in doubt as construction cash slashed

BY VITALIS KIMUTAI

Ward representatives have slashed Sh96.6 million from the money they had set aside to fund the completion of the new County Assembly chambers, despite approving it in the 2025/2026 budget estimates.

As a result, several key components of the Sh473.4 million project, such as the installation of lifts, construction of cafeteria sheds, paving of the parking bay, building a perimeter wall, access roads, a clock tower, and health club, and purchase of air conditioners have all been put on hold.

This comes even as the Assembly leadership seeks to have President William Ruto officially open the upgraded facility during his planned tour of the county next month.

"We are awaiting official communication," assembly Speaker Cosmas Korir told *Nation*.

New entrance

Of the Sh798 million allocated to the assembly, the MCAs removed Sh64.3 million originally meant to put up a health club, cafeteria sheds, a new entrance and a boundary wall. Another Sh13 million earmarked for the construction of access roads and cabro-paving a VIP entrance was also scrapped.

Additionally, Sh9.5 million set aside for repair and maintenance of non-residential buildings such as offices, Hansard rooms and lifts was deleted from the approved budget.

Plans to build a Sh1.8 million clock tower and spend Sh6 million on air conditioners, fans and other equipment were also shelved. Another Sh2 million meant for office equipment (including a crèche) was cut as well.

An unspecified amount meant for building a perimeter wall at the Speaker's official residence was among those removed.

Narok Judges have temporarily halted any sale or transfer of the property

Land dispute: Court allows trader to collect Mara cash

Livingstone Kunini Ntutu is fighting the county in court over ownership of the 4,720-acre land

BY ERIC MATARA

The Court of Appeal has allowed businessman Livingstone Kunini Ntutu, who is Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu's brother, to continue collecting tourism revenue from facilities located inside a disputed piece of land within the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Mr Kunini is locked in a protracted legal battle with the Narok County Government over the ownership of the 4,720-acre property.

While the county government maintains that the land is part of the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, Mr Kunini argues that he was lawfully allocated the land in 1997 and that the title deed he holds was rightfully issued in his favour.

In an order issued on July 16,

Justices Mohamed Warsame, Patrick Kiage and John Mativo ruled that Mr Kunini is at liberty to collect revenue from tourism facilities within the property.

"In the event the appeal is successful, he will render an accurate account of all monies collected to the Narok County Government," the judges said.

The court further directed that no party shall interfere with Mr Kunini's possession of the land pending the hearing and determination of the appeal.

The case has now been lined up for priority hearing and both parties have 15 days to file and exchange submissions.

The court also temporarily halted any sale or transfer of the property until the appeal is concluded.

The decades-old dispute over the land, registered as CIS MA-

RA/TALEK 155, resurfaced in court after a group of residents under the auspices of the Resolute Community Based Organisation (CBO) filed an appeal on March 28, 2025, at the Court of Appeal in Nakuru seeking to stay implementation of a judgment delivered on March 6, 2025, in favour of Mr Kunini.

That judgment by the Environment and Land Court handed Mr Kunini ownership of the land after a 20-year legal battle.

The ruling also directed that he be paid billions in tourism revenue. It barred the county government from collecting any future rents, royalties, or fees from the

4,720

The expanse of the land, in acres, that is at the centre of a legal dispute pitting a businessman against the Narok County Government.

land. The ruling triggered protests in Maasai Mara that led to the shooting of two people.

Through Senior Counsel Paul Muite and lawyer Allan Mering'ati, Governor Ntutu filed an appeal to overturn the lower court's decision, with Resolute CBO filing a separate appeal in Nakuru.

In its appeal, the Narok County Government claimed the property is un-adjudicated trust land and no title deed should have been issued to any individual.

The defunct Narok Town Council initiated the legal case more than 25 years ago, contesting Mr Kunini's title deed.

In 2018, the Supreme Court, led by then Chief Justice David Maraga, referred the matter to the Narok Environment and Land Court, which ruled earlier this year in favour of Mr Kunini.

That verdict is now at the centre of the ongoing Court of Appeal proceedings.

Ematara@ke.nationmedia.com

International



Electoral blow leaves Japan's ruling bloc shaky

TOKYO, MONDAY

In a landmark political setback, Japan's ruling coalition has lost its majority in the House of Councillors, signaling deep public dissatisfaction with the government and casting doubts over Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's ability to govern effectively, amid mounting domestic and international pressures.

According to the final vote count completed in the early hours of Monday, the LDP secured only 39 seats of the 125 contested seats while Komeito took eight, below their combined target of 50.

Even with their existing non-contested seats of 75, they now held fewer than the 125 seats needed for a majority in the 248-member upper chamber.

The defeat follows a similar outcome in the 2024 House of Representatives election, leaving the ruling bloc a minority in both chambers of the parliament, a historic first since the LDP's founding in 1955.

The election results underscore the widespread collapse of support for the ruling parties across both urban and rural constituencies.

In Japan's 32 single-member electoral districts, the LDP managed to win only 14 seats, marking a major decline even in traditional conservative bastions such as Tohoku and Shikoku.

Widespread voter dissatisfaction with the government's handling of inflation and economic policy was the dominant theme of the campaign.

Surveys showed that the electorate's top concern was "countermeasures against rising prices," far outranking national security or constitutional reform. Previous controversies, including soaring rice prices, ministerial gaffes, and problematic voucher policies, further eroded public trust in the government.

In contrast, opposition parties successfully appealed to frustrated voters by focusing on bread-and-butter issues. The Democratic Party for the People (DPP) emerged as a surprise success, increasing its seat count from nine to 22. (Xinhua)

Sudanese families displaced by conflict return home



Children look outside from a train window yesterday as Sudanese families displaced by conflict return home voluntarily from Egypt to Sudan, on a special train, coordinated by the Egyptian Government, which is transporting them from Cairo's Ramses Station to Aswan, in Egypt, Cairo. PHOTO | REUTERS

Criticism Statement condemns Israeli government's aid delivery model

Gaza war must end now, 25 Western nations say

This comes amid global concern over deaths at aid sites in the enclave

KHARTOUM, MONDAY

Twenty five countries, including Australia, the UK and France, have demanded an immediate end to the war in Gaza and for Israel to lift aid restrictions.

The joint statement, signed by Foreign Minister Penny Wong, comes amid growing international concern over number of deaths at aid sites in the enclave.

"We, the signatories listed below, come together with a simple, urgent message: the war in Gaza must end now," the foreign ministers of Britain, Australia, France, Italy, Japan, Canada, Denmark and other countries said in a joint statement.

The statement also says the Israeli government's aid delivery model is "dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity".

The statement also includes condemnation for Hamas's

treatment of hostages held captive since the October 7, 2023 attack.

"We condemn their continued detention and call for their immediate and unconditional release. A negotiated ceasefire offers the best hope of bringing them home and ending the agony of their families," it said.

The statement has been signed by the EU commissioner Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, Ms Wong, and the foreign ministers of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

In the statement, the countries say they "strongly oppose any steps towards territorial or demographic change in the Occupied Palestinian Territories".

It says that if the E1 settlement plan, which has been announced by Israel's Civil Administration, was implemented, it would divide a Palestinian state in two.

This would mark a "flagrant breach of international law and critically undermine the two-

state solution," the statement added.

The 25 countries went on to urge other members of the international community to "unite in a common effort to bring this terrible conflict to an end, through an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire".

"Further bloodshed serves no purpose. We reaffirm our complete support to the efforts of the US, Qatar and Egypt to achieve this," it added.

Hours after the joint statement was released, Israel's Foreign ministry spokesperson Oran Marmorstein posted on X that it was "disconnected from reality",

We, the signatories listed below, come together with a simple, urgent message: the war in Gaza must end now

Foreign ministers joint statement



adding that "it is better to avoid statements of this kind".

"All statements and all claims should be directed at the only party responsible for the lack of a deal for the release of hostages and a ceasefire: Hamas, which started this war and is prolonging it," he wrote.

"Instead of agreeing to a ceasefire, Hamas is busy running a campaign to spread lies about Israel. At the same time, Hamas is deliberately acting to increase friction and harm to civilians who come to receive aid."

Mr Marmorstein added that Israel had agreed to "a concrete proposal for a ceasefire deal", while Hamas had not signed it.

"The statement fails to focus the pressure on Hamas and fails to recognise Hamas's role for the situation. Hamas is the sole party responsible for the continuation of the war and the suffering on both sides."

The call for an end to the war and the way Israel delivers aid comes from several countries which are allied with Israel. It is not signed or supported by Israel's most important backer, the United States, however it does feature allies of the US. (Agencies)

BRIEFLY

DHAKA

At least 19 killed as Bangladesh air force jet crashes

At least 19 people were killed and 164 injured as a Bangladesh air force training jet crashed into a college in the capital Dhaka on Monday, after experiencing a technical problem shortly after take-off, a military spokesperson said. The F-7 BGI jet took off at 1:06 p.m. (0706 GMT) from the Bangladesh Air Force base in Kurmitola, Dhaka, as part of a routine training mission, but encountered a mechanical failure, said the spokesperson, Lieutenant Colonel Sami Ud Dowla Chowdhury. "The pilot... made a valiant attempt to divert the aircraft away from densely populated areas. Despite his best efforts, the aircraft... crashed into a two-storey building belonging to Milestone School and College," he said. The pilot was among those killed in the incident, the military said, adding that a committee had been formed to investigate its cause. (Reuters)

KIGALI

Rwanda hails DRC, M23 rebels peace declaration

Rwanda on Saturday welcomed the signing of a declaration of principles between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group in Doha, Qatar, aimed at ending the conflict in eastern DRC. Following months of negotiations mediated by Qatar, the declaration outlines a framework of core issues agreed upon by both parties and sets stage for continued dialogue toward a comprehensive peace deal. "The declaration in Doha is a significant step forward toward the peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern DRC," said a statement from Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Rwanda praised Qatar's mediation efforts, noting they build on the work of the African Union and other regional efforts. The country reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to sustainable peace and development in Great Lakes region. (Xinhua)

Business



87.7%

Increase in public pension bill since the June 2021 FY

KRA misses full-year revenue target by Sh48 billion

BY KEPHA MUIRURI

Kenya Revenue Authority missed the collection target for the ended financial year to June 30, 2025 by Sh48 billion, hurt by a tough economy that cut disposable income among consumers.

New data published by the Treasury on Friday showed that tax receipts stood at Sh2.257 trillion for the full year, compared to a revised estimate of Sh2.305 trillion.

The realised collections are much lower than the original target set at Sh2.745 trillion at the beginning of the fiscal cycle.

The Treasury had already signalled revenue collection would underperform in the financial year, citing disruptions, including street protests that first emerged in June last year during the opposition to the Finance Bill, 2024.

"The revenue shortfalls have resulted from several factors. One is the social unrest that was witnessed between June and August, which affected businesses," National Treasury Director-General for Budget, Fiscal and Economic Affairs Albert Mwenda said previously.

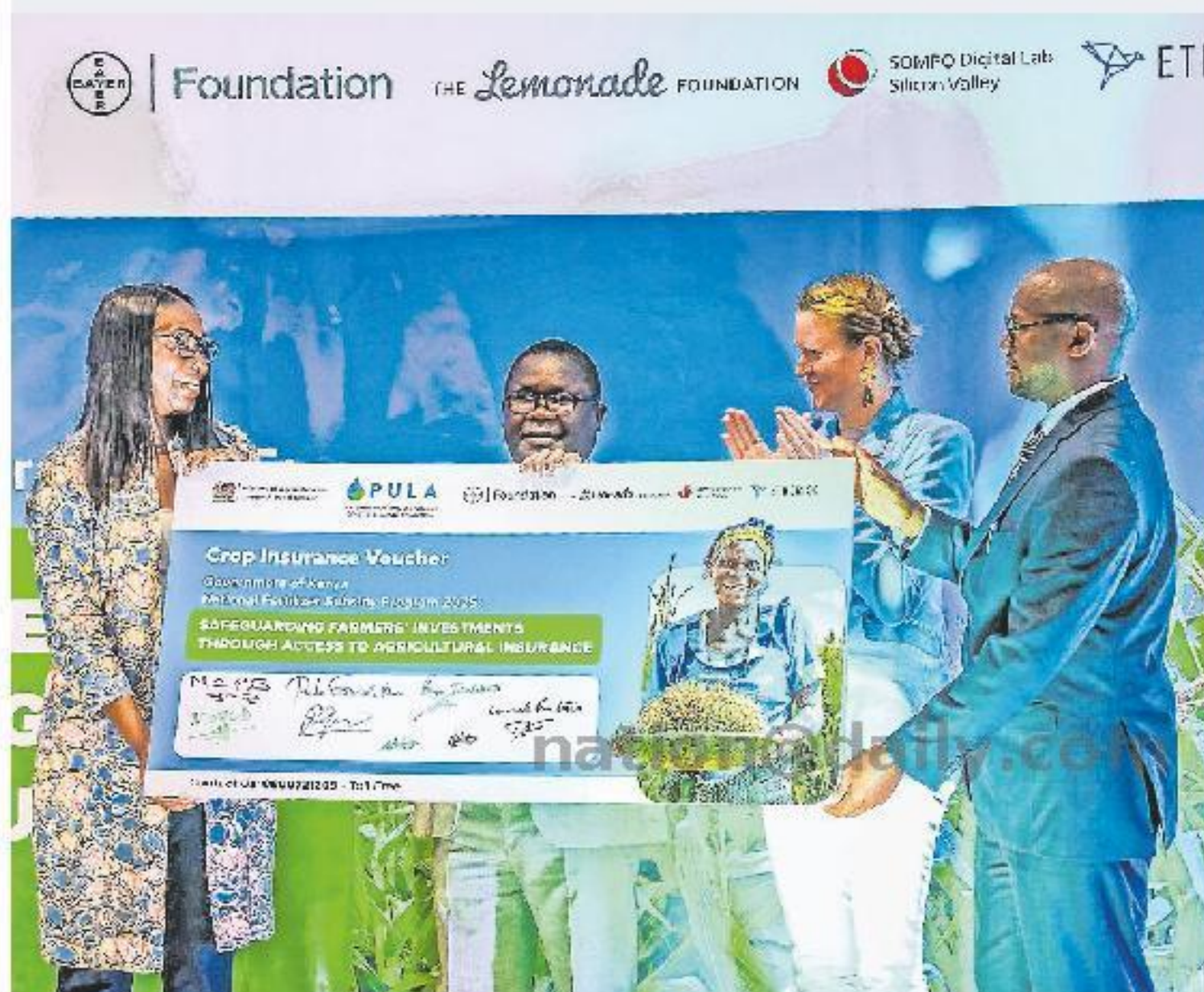
"Second is the withdrawal of the Finance Bill, 2024, from which we expected to collect approximately Sh344.3 billion."

According to the National Treasury statement of actual revenue and net exchequer issues as of June 30, 2025, total receipts, including non-tax revenues, domestic and external revenues, were off the mark by Sh213 billion, mirroring partially unfunded budget items for the fiscal year.

Non-tax revenues, which mainly consist of fines and other penalties, missed the target by Sh19.9 billion after totalling Sh171.1 billion against a revised estimate of Sh191 billion.

Receipts from domestic borrowing, external loans, and grants were meanwhile off the mark by Sh13 billion and Sh20.5 billion respectively at Sh1.07 trillion and Sh481 billion each.

New fertiliser insurance targets climate-shocked farmers



Bayer Head of Public Affairs, Science and Sustainability Africa Mildred Nadah, Ministry of Agriculture Director of Data and Statistics Dr Tom Dienya, PULA President Rose Goslinga and National Cereals and Produce Board Managing Director Samuel Ndung'u during the launch of a fertiliser insurance programme to cushion farmers from climate-related risks. The event was held at Radisson Blu, Nairobi, yesterday.

LUCY WANJIRU | NATION

Finance The item has become one of government's biggest headaches

Public pension bill crosses Sh200bn mark for first time

Treasury faces a cash crunch, forcing the 260,000 retirees to endure long waits

BY JOHN MUTUA

Kenya's public pension bill has crossed the Sh200 billion mark for the first time, highlighting the growing burden on an Exchequer already struggling to make timely payment to retired civil servants.

The Treasury spent Sh207.19 billion on pension and gratuities in the financial year ended June 2025, reflecting a growth of 39 percent from the Sh148.9 billion paid the previous year.

Pension payments now account for 11.6 percent of all payments from the Consolidated Fund Services (CFS), up from the 8.4 percent a year ago.

Pensioners are grappling with delayed pension payment amid a cash crunch even as the number of retirees remains on the rise.

For example, the Treasury failed to wire Sh23 billion to pensioners in the year to June 2024.

"There have been challenges when pensioners leave employment and wait for too long to get their payment, mainly because of system challenges. There are also other issues behind delayed payment of pension," Treasury CS John Mbadi recently said.

The Sh207.19 billion represents 92.8 percent of the Sh223.14 billion that was allocated for pension and gratuities in the year to June 2025, which also marked the first time that the allocation surpassed the Sh200 billion mark.

Pension and gratuities, public debt and salaries of constitutional offices are the three items

KEY FIGURE

39%

Increase in public pension payouts from the previous year

paid from the CFS with public debt gobbling the biggest share at upwards of 85 percent in a financial year.

In the year to June 2025, 87.1 percent (Sh1.59 trillion) of the Sh1.79 trillion CFS budget was used on public debt payment compared to 90.3 percent (Sh1.56 trillion) the previous year when the CFS budget stood at Sh1.766 trillion.

The number of retirees is estimated at over 260,000 and the Treasury is anticipating a surge in these numbers by the end of June next year.

At least 85,000 public servants were expected to exit service between last year and June 2026 after hitting 60.

The growth in the pension bill is one the biggest headaches to the government, given that it has to continually increase the budget for this item amid mounting public debt payment.

The spike in the pension bill prompted the Treasury to reject a proposed law that sought to have pension-adjusted for inflation to cushion public service retirees. The government is however seeking to introduce a cost of living adjustment for judges' pensions.

Expenditure on pension has surged by 87.8 percent in the last four years from Sh110.36 billion that was spent in the year that ended June 2021 as Treasury comes under increased scrutiny over the pain that pensioners endure in getting their dues.

jmutua@ke.nationmedia.com

BRIEFLY

EDUCATION

Secondary school tutors trained on AI to boost STEM

Some 170 secondary school teachers across 35 counties were trained in Artificial Intelligence through the Experience AI programme by Young Scientists Kenya. The initiative, supported by the Raspberry Pi Foundation, equips teachers to introduce AI in classrooms, reaching over 3,400 students nationwide. "By equipping educators with hands-on skills and tools, we ensure they are not just facilitators but active drivers of technological literacy in the classroom," said Dr Victor Mwongera, YSK National Director.

Linnet Owoko

INVESTMENT

Foreigners turn NSE net sellers on profit taking

Foreign investors last week turned net sellers at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) for the first time in six weeks, signalling increased profit taking amid a sharp rally in share prices. The foreigners recorded net exits worth Sh342.4 million last week, the first such movement since the week ending June 6 when they had sold a net of Sh68.2 million worth of shares.

Charles Mwaniki

SURVEY

Kenyan youth favour mobile money wallets

Kenyan youth are favouring mobile money accounts over banks with nearly half of them not holding traditional bank accounts, a World Bank report discloses. Forty-nine percent have only a mobile account compared to 42 percent of older adults in Kenya as per The Global Findex Database. The disclosure puts pressure on banks and other financial institutions to structure products that appeal to the young adults.

George Ngigi

Leisure

TREAT OF THE DAY



NOMA 8:00PM

NOMA is a gripping family drama that delves into the complexities of sibling rivalry, parental expectations, and the struggle for identity within a powerful business family. In the heart of Nairobi, the Mwamba family stands as a beacon of success, with a thriving business empire built by the patriarch, Mzee Amaon Mwamba. However, beneath the surface, the family is fractured by jealousy, unspoken desires, and the weight of expectations.



4:00am Aljazeera
5:00am Off The Hook
6:00am Fixing The Nation
10:00am Your World
12:00pm Flaqa
12:30pm Mikoba ya Demokrasia
1:00pm NTV Adhuhuri
1:30pm Sport On
2:30pm Kwetu Mixx
3:30pm I Got A Rocket
4:00pm Beatz and Buzz
6:30pm NTV Mashinani
7:00pm NTV Jioni
7:30pm Business Redefined
8:00pm Noma
8:30pm You Are The One
9:00pm NTV Tonight
9:30pm The Last Word
11:00pm Fixing The Nation
12:00am Aljazeera

Today's highlight:

FIXING THE NATION @6:00AM

YOU ARE THE ONE @8:30PM



THE LAST WORD 9:30PM

The Last Word- Offers bold, fact-based analysis on national issues with James Smart, Joe Ageyo, Eric Latiff, Zaha Indimuli, and Sharon Momanyi..



NTV JIONI 7:00PM

Evening news focused on accurate reporting, human stories, and impactful analysis of daily national events with Nicholas Wambua and his colleagues.

CINEMA GUIDE



Superman .Now showing in cinema halls across the country.

NAIROBI

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA

I Know What You Did Last Summer 2D 2.45PM, 7.30PM
Jurassic World Rebirth 3D 5PM, 9.45PM,
Saiyaara 2D 12.00PM, 7PM, 9.45PM

Smurfs 2D 1PM
Superman 3D, 12PM, 2.30PM, 5PM, 7.30PM, 10PM

ANGA SKY CINEMA, PANARI CENTRE

F1® The Movie 2D, 2PM
I Know What You Did Last Summer 2D 4.40pm, 9PM

Jurassic World Rebirth 3D 6.40PM,
Smurfs 2D 12.20PM

Superman 3D 12PM, 2.20PM, 4.40PM, 7PM, 9.20PM

WESTGATE CINEMA WESTGATE MALL

Superman: Legacy 3D-SCRN1 & 4(16) 11.10AM, 2.00PM, 4.30PM, 7.00PM & 9.30PM

F1® The Movie 2D-SCRN 2(PG) 3.20PM, 6.15PM & 9.10PM

Smurfs 2D-11.00AM, 2.55PM & 4.55PM

Jurassic World Rebirth 3D-11AM, 4.20PM, 6.55PM & 9.30PM

I Know What You Did Last Summer 2D- 2.10PM, 6.50PM

Saiyaara 2D 11.05AM & 9PM

Jurassic World Rebirth 2D-1.40PM

Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning -2D-6.45PM

How To Train Your Dragon 11.30AM .F1® The Movie 2D 10.50AM

I Know What You Did Last Summer 2D-, 9.55PM

Superman: Legacy 2D-SCRN 5 & 6(16) 6.35PM

Sitaare Zameen Par 9.05PM

Metro...In Dino 3.10PM

CENTURY CINEMAX SARIT CENTRE WESTLANDS

Superman: Legacy 11AM, 1.45PM, 4.30PM, 7.15PM & 10.00PM

How to Train Your Dragon 11.30AM, 2.00PM

Jurassic World Rebirth 3D- 4.30PM, 7.15PM, 10PM

Smurfs 2D- 11.30AM, 1.30PM, 3.30PM & 5.30PM

Jurassic World Rebirth 3D-11AM, 1.45PM, 4.30PM, 7.30PM & 10PM

Superman: Legacy 11AM, 1.45PM, 4.30PM, 7.15PM & 10PM

F1: Formula 1 -- 1PM, 4PM, 7PM & 10PM

How To Train Your Dragon 12PM, 2.30PM.

I Know What You Did Last Summer 2D- 5PM, 7.30PM & 10PM

Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning . 7PM, 10PM

Elio -3D 1PM & 5PM

Lilo & Stitch -3D (PG) 3PM

CENTURY CINEMAX THE JUNCTION MALL- NGONG ROAD

Smurfs 2D- 11.30AM, 1.30PM, 3.30PM & 5.30PM

I Know What You Did Last Summer 7.30PM, 10PM

Superman: Legacy 3D (PG) 11.00AM, 1.45PM, 4.30PM, 7.15PM & 10.00PM

F1: Formula 1 -- 1PM, 4PM, 7PM & 10PM

Elio -3D 11AM

Jurassic World Rebirth 3D- 1.45PM, 4.30PM, 7.30PM & 10PM

CENTURY CINEMAX GARDEN CITY, THIKA ROAD

Jurassic World Rebirth 3D- 11AM, 1.45PM, 4.30PM, 7.30PM & 10PM

Elio -3D 11AM, 3.15PM

Lilo & Stitch -3D (PG) 1PM & 5.30PM

I Know What You Did Last Summer 7.45PM,

F1: Formula 1 -- 10PM

Smurfs 2D-11AM, 1PM, 3PM & 5PM.

Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning . 7PM, 10PM

F1: Formula 1 -- 1PM, 4PM, 7PM

PRESTIGE PLAZA

F1: The Movie , 9PM

TELEVISION

CITIZEN TV

5:00 Pambazuka
5:30 PE @ Home
6:00 Day Break
10:00 Sema Na Citizen
1:00 News @
2:00 Mseto Africa
3:00 PE @ Home Show
4:00 News Briefs
4:15 Kali ni Kali
5:30 Tahidi High
6:00 Kenya's Gold
7:00 Nipashe
7:30 Neema
8:00 Aurora's Quest (El Ángel De Aurora) Juana
9:00 The Explainer
11:00 Fugitives, Seeking Justice
12:00 Afrosinema
1:00 The Explainer Rpt
4:00 Pambazuka

TV47 TV

5:00 Morning Decree
5:30 TV47 Fitness
6:00 Morning Café
10:00 The Grind Rpt
10:30 Beat Break
11:00 TV47 Matukio
2:00- Baze 47 3:00 Ubongo
Kids 3:30 Nuzo and Namia
4:00 TV47 News Now
4:15 Sports Life
4:30 Kiki and Nuna
5:00 Beat Plug -
7:00 Upeo Wa Tv47
7:30 Ukumbi 8:00 DW Docufilm
8:30 Eco Africa
9:00 The Daily Report aith Linda Alela and- Victor Muyakane
11:30 DW Docufilm
12:00 Beatplug Mix

KTN TV

5:30 Command Your Morning
6:00 The Situation Room
10:00 VOA
10:30 Culture Quest
11:00 Yanayojiri
1:00 Newsdesk
2:30 When Love Burns
3:00 Farm Kenya
4:00 Mbiu 4:30 Kids
5:00 Baseline
6:00 Love In 40 Days
7:00 KTN Leo
8:00 The Trading Bell
8:30 The Entrepreneur
9:00 KTN Prime
News 11.00 Movie
12.30 Baseline
1:30 Manspeqtive Africa
2:30 Aljazeera

K24 TV

5:00 Inuka 6.00 New Dawn
8:00 K24 This Morning
9.55 Wisdom Moment
10:00 Inuka
11:00 Mchipuko
1.00 K24 News Cut
1.30 Jungu La Spoti
2.00 Aap Ke Aa Jane Se- Rpt 3.00 Ubongo Kids
3.30 Akili & Me
4.00 K24 Mashinani
4.30 N* Gen 5.00 Beatbox
6.00 Tangled Hearts
7.00 K24 Saa Moja
7:30 Aap Ke Aa Jane
8:00 Brazil Avenue
8:30 BBC- Focu On Africa
9.00 Punchline
10.00 BBC- Dira Ya Dunia
10.30 Beat Box
11:30 Al Jazeera

KBC TV

5:30 Maombi 5:35 Gear Up
6:00 Worship Experience
6:30 Good Morning Kenya
10:00 Newscheck
11.50 Shift
12.00 Kurunzi
12.50 News Feature
1:00 KBC Lunchtime News
2:00 Grapevine Rpt
2:30 National Assembly
4:00 Senate
5:30 Club 1
6.30 Sunshine By My Side
7:00 Darubini
7:30 VOA Feature
8:00 Healthy Living 8:30 Afrimax
9:00 KBC Channel 1 News
11:00 Lotto 1130 CGTN
12:30 France 24

ANDY CAPP



GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

Celebrating the legacy of Jeff Kanake

It is with heavy hearts and profound grief that we announce the sudden passing of our son, brother, and friend, Geoffrey (Jeff) Kanake, in Long Beach, California, USA.

Jeff was a cherished son of the late Francis Kanake Wahome and Grace Watetu Kanake. He was a devoted and loving fiancée of Rita Muthoni Maina.

Jeff was a caring and dear brother of Soni Kanake, Isa Kanake, Wairimu Kanake and Daniel Kanake.

He was an awesome brother-in-law of Dr Edgar Karanjah and Jackline Wachera Ngunjiri, and a doting uncle of Jayden, Neema, and Njeri. He was a beloved nephew, cousin and friend to many.

Jeff was a beloved soul whose presence brought warmth, laughter, and joy of everyone whose lives he touched. He will be deeply missed.

A memorial service in remembrance of Jeff was held at Lifeline Community Fellowship in Cerritos, California, on Saturday, 12th July 2025.

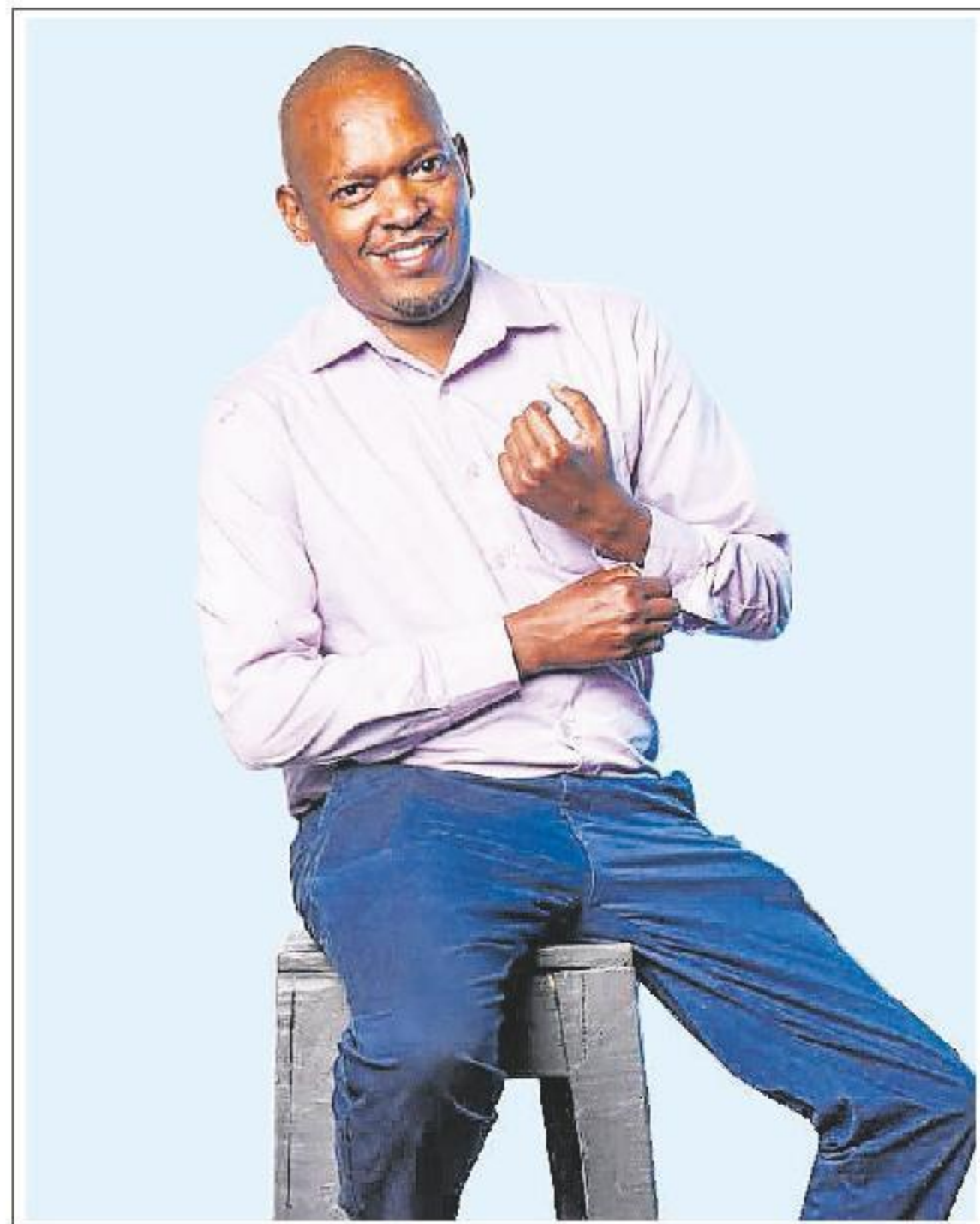
Family and friends are meeting daily from 5.00 pm at the family home in Nyeri.

The cortege will leave Jamii Hospital, Karatina at 8.30 am on Friday, 25th July 2025, for a funeral service at the family's ancestral home: Kibeche Village, Ithekahuno, Tetu Sub-County, Nyeri County. Thereafter, interment to follow.

**Thank you for your love and support,
and may our beloved Jeff rest in perfect peace.**

***"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves
those who are crushed in spirit." - Psalm 34:18***

***Our beloved Jeff, you will be dearly missed and loved eternally.
Soar now among angels and rest in God's arms.***



Geoffrey (Jeff) Wahome Kanake

Born: 8th December 1982 ~ Transitioned: 7th July 2025

Appreciation

We, the family of the late Mwalimu Robert Onyango Obori, sincerely thank you for helping us bury our dad peacefully on 19/7/2025.

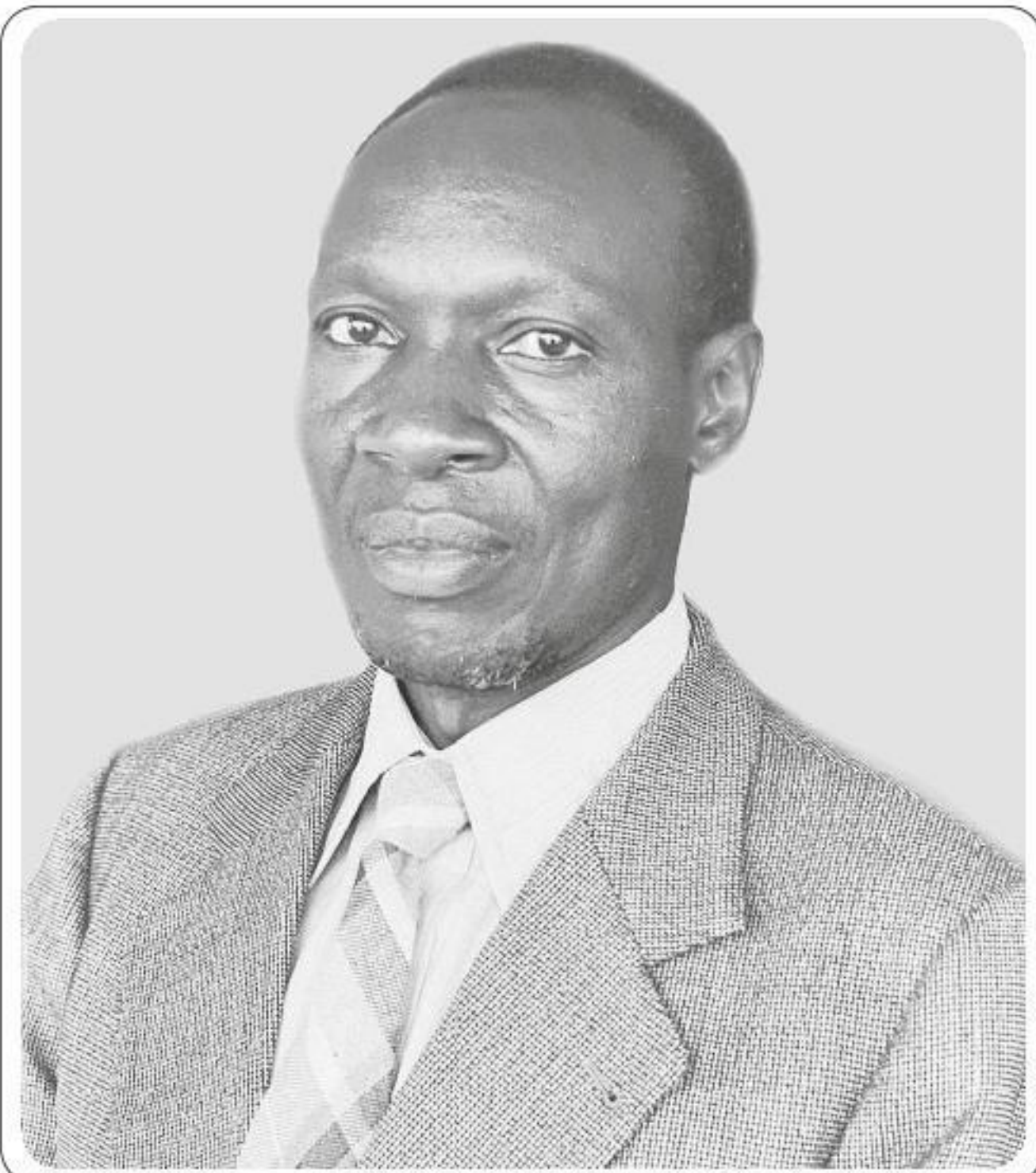
We particularly thank Rev/Fr/Dr. William Fryda, Founder and CEO of St. Mary's and St. Joseph Rift Valley Hospitals, and the hospital staff and Nursing students, for treating Mwalimu as one of their own until his final journey. Thank you Seth and Rose Manera, Principal Francis Muthiri, Francis Wambugu, Dr. Collins & Elizabeth Malalu, Dr. Boniface Mutiso, Ruth Kamau, Mercy Nyambura, Christine Baraza, Silas Odhiambo, Peter Mwaniki, Kamau Miringu, Alex Mambo, John Ndegwa, Elijah Mwangi, Collins Mbinda, Priscah Kamau, and Julia Ekhuya, for coming home. We thank CITAM Nakuru leaders who came led by Beris Odak, Pst. Abel Moriasi, Timothy Rimu, Steve Kibiro, together with the CITAM Nakuru Gilgil Safari Group members led by Josphine Mbaya, Ruth Ondieki, David Chege, Jane Karanja, and Dr. Nicholas & May Auma. Your presence at home spoke more than words.

We thank the Principal Mr. Richard Kenduiwo, and staff of Cheptenye Boys High School and KUPPET Kericho branch, the Principal of Kajiado East TVC Dr. Josyline Nkonge, D/Principal Academics, Mr. Wesley Mosigisi, Mr. Joshua Koyiet and the entire KETVC staff, the Head of Institution Kibos Special School for the blind Madam Carolyne Templer and the entire staff, for coming home. Thank you Parkinson's Support Group Kenya for coming, donating a wheelchair, and supporting our mom who has advanced Parkinson's disease. We thank the medical colleagues who came, including Dr. Loice Sitienei, Prof. Samson Ndege, Dr. Justus Nondi, Dr. Nicodemus Odundo, Dr. Nixon Omulimi, Dr. Dan Ndiwa, Dr. Phillip Owiti, Dr. Hellen Ondeng', Dr. Godfrey & Agatha Maronga, Dr. Alex Makau, Dr. Steve Musyoka, Dr. Oliver Kiaye, and Dr. Phillip Owino. Thank you Dr. Liz Khisa and the 2003 Moi University Med School Alumni group.

We appreciate Mwalimu's siblings led by Mr. Samuel Odima, Elizabeth Ojwang and Pst. Mary Arodi, the in-laws from Kamgan (led by Cpt. Aduong'o), JoKabiengo, JoKano, JoNyamira, JoGem, and JoKendu. Thank you so much for coming. We appreciate the generosity of Mwalimu's and his family's friends, associates and colleagues, especially Soko Alumni group, Dr. Job Mogire (USA), Rev. Habil Ogolla, the Maronga family, the Auma family, Ondulo Marunda family led by Prof. Bernard Otieno Aduda, the Akeyo family, Kogola Clan led by Bernard Ochola; his maternal cousins from Kajimbo led by Samuel Otero and Raphael Owaka; paternal cousins led by Caleb Odede, Fred Abong'o, Amos Ocholla, Seth Ondulo; Mwalimu's elderly friends including Johnson Osumba and Elly Otieno; his nephews led by Kenneth Obori, JokaManga; Nyikwa Obori led by Albert Owino, Michael Owako, Seth Ogutu, Lilly Ojwang, Edwin Odima, Daniel Ogutu, Dr. Kenneth Odhiambo, Julie, Dan, Norma, Eve, Maureen, Pat, Joe, Maryanne, Nelly, Frank, Nahashon, Emily, Winny, Jackie Arodi, Tom, Peres, Betty, Amon, Dorothy, Janet, Job, Rosemary, and others. Mama Lilly-Jane's long term friends including Mrs. Mary Kaluo, Mrs. Phoebe Abonyo, among others, for being physically present for mama.

Thank you Fr. Charles Ouma of St. Christina Kogola Catholic Church, Fr. Paul Ojore of St. Boniface Aluor Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Catholic Church Sondu, Pst. Sylvester Agwambo of Soko AIC, and Rev. Collins Muema, Snr Pastor of CITAM Nakuru. We thank Snr. Chief Alloys Juma and A/Chief Walter Oguiche, Pap Onditi OCS Mr. Bernard Tui for security, Pst. Kevin Jaoko and Falcon Catering Services for your excellent services, and the delegation from Kisumu Governor's office led by Carolyne Agwanda. We thank all the families, friends, colleagues and associates of Mwalimu and his family both within Kenya and abroad (South Africa, USA, Canada, UK, Nigeria, Namibia, and Botswana) for making his burial successful and memorable. You came in your hundreds and hundreds! God bless you!

Mrs. Lilly-Jane Onyango, Anthony Job & Christine Onyango, Dr. Vonwicks C. & Sharon Onyango, Maxson & Tabitha Omondi, Jefferson & Emily Okeyo, and Carolyne Akinyi & Fredrick Otieno.



Mwalimu Robert Onyango Obori

15/01/1948 to 30/06/2025

Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with deep sorrow and acceptance of God's will that we announce the death of George B. A. Moturi an advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

He was the husband of Willofrika Moturi. Father of the late Kwamboka, Moraa, Alex, Rodney and Christine Moturi.

He was the son of the late Zuriel Moturi and the late Mama Ebisiba Moturi.

He was brother of Jemiah Omangi, the late Samson Abincha, the late Elijah Maangi, Martha Okiko, Eunice Onyancha, Francis Moturi, Dr. Charles Moturi, Joshua Ongaro and Alice Nyambane.

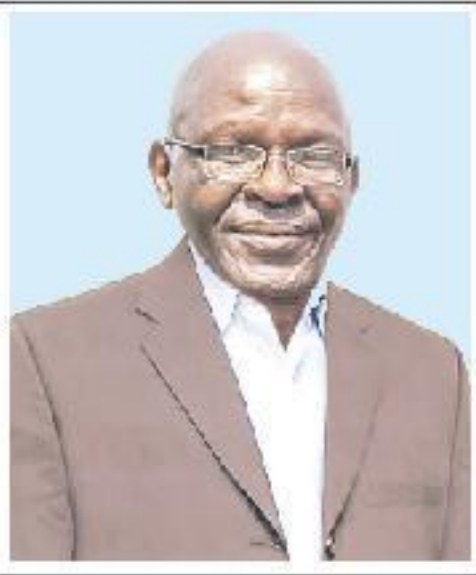
He was son-in-law of the late Gideon Okwiya and late mama Mellisa Okwiya.

He was brother-in-law of the late Anna, Jerusha, Sibia, Alice, Joyce, the late Ethlyne, Dr. Victor Okwiya, Dr. Isaya Okwiya, Ambassador Dr. Samori Okwiya, Nahum Okwiya, the late Omangi, Onyancha, Okiko, Nyambane,

He was an uncle to many. He was a grandfather of Channing and Lilee.

There will be a fund raising today Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at Sagret Hotel at 5.00pm along Jakaya Kiikwete Road Nairobi.

Burial will be held at Monga Village, Bomabacho Sub-location, Nyamaiya Ward Nyamira County on 28th July 2025 from 9.00am.



George B. A. Moturi

Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of Rose Muthoni Maina, a beloved daughter, Mom, sister, aunt, Granny, and friend to many.

Rose was the loving wife of David Maina. A cherished mom of Lorna Njeri (UK) and Njau Kamotho (UK), Nicole Muthoni, Scott Muriithi.

Rose was a daughter of the late Reuben Kiarie and Beatrice Wangithi. Sister of Samuel & Celestina Nganga, Edward & Lucy Maina, Anastasia Wambui, William and Milka Mburu and Josphat Mwangi (Kiro). She was an aunt, cousin, and mentor whose warmth and strength touched the lives of many.

She was working for Micos Limited until her demise. She served her community with dedication and grace, and her kindness will be remembered by all who knew her.

The cortege shall leave Montezuma Monalisa Kabati on Wednesday 23/07/2025.

Burial will take place on Wednesday 23/07/2025, at her family home in Kianjege West Kirinyaga County.

"You fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith." (2 Tim 4:7)



Rose Muthoni Maina

Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with deep sorrow, yet with humble acceptance of God's will, that we announce the passing of our beloved David Gichina Kinyanjui (Slim). Son of the late Stephen Kinyanjui Gichina and the late Jeckelia Njeri Njoroge.

He was a loving husband of the late Sarah Wanjiru and the late Margaret Njeri.

Loving father of Alma Njeri, Jedidah Njeri, Naomi Wanjiku and Jackline Njeri.

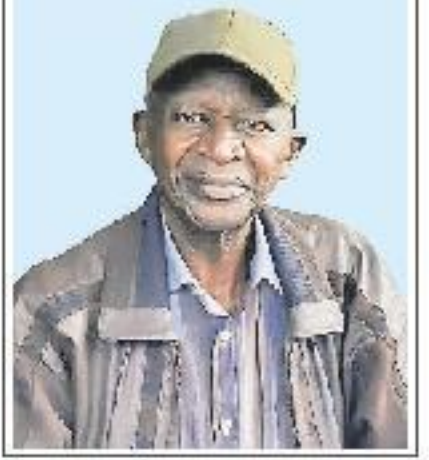
Brother of Grace Pereira, Miriam Wathoni and Caroline Wairimu. Grandfather of Nate, Neil, Noah, TJ, Maxwell, Gabe, Kinyanjui, Maggy, Mina and Munyua.

Father-in-law of Danny Macharia, Anthony Wachira and David Warui. Cousin, uncle and friend to many.

A Prayer Meeting will be held at PCEA St. Andrews Church, on Wednesday 23rd July, 2025 from 5.00 pm.

The cortege will leave Kenyatta Memorial Funeral Home (KU Teaching and Referral Hospital) on Friday 25th July, 2025 at 10.00am, for burial at Langata Cemetery.

Forever in our hearts.



David Gichina Kinyanjui (Slim)
Sunrise: 08th March, 1950
Sunset: 17th July, 2025

Death and Funeral Announcement



Josiah Gicuki Mucungi

Sunrise: 29th March 1950 ~ Sunset: 15th July 2025

It is with profound sadness and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the demise of Mr. Josiah Gicuki Mucungi of Talek and Light Co. Ltd which occurred on Tuesday 15th July, 2025 in Membely Estate after a short illness. He was a director of Talek and Light Co. Ltd.

He was beloved husband of Mary Wajuki Gicuki, father of the late Olivia Wanjira, Timothy Mucungi Gicuki and Faith Wanjira Gicuki.

He was son of the late Timothy Muchungi Gichuki and the late Janet Wanjira Muchungi, brother of Joyce Wakiuru & the late Elder Gideon Waruiru Muiga, Rose Wathika & Simon Mathenge Wagemu, Rtd Elder Alice Nyambura & Edward Ngugi Kairo, Peris Wanjiku, Livingstone Gitonga & Rachel Kahuki Gitonga, Lilian Theru & William Ngara Mwangi and the late Wilson Kibuthu & Elder Florence Kibuthu.

Son-in-law of the late Kimburi Muchemi & Phoebe Wangeshi Kimburi, brother-in-law of Julia Nyakinyua Ngari, Joseph Muchemi Kimburi, Elizabeth Muthoni Mwangi, the late James Ndiritu Kimburi and Rtd Elder Zephania Wamahiga Macharia.

He was beloved uncle and grandfather to many.

Family and friends are meeting daily at his home in Membely Estate, Forest Court.

The cortege leaves KU Referral Hospital Funeral Home (Northern Bypass) on Thursday 24th July 2025 at 7.00am. Funeral service will take place on the same day at his home in Gatura Village, Mukurwe-ini, Nyeri County, starting at 10.30 am and burial at the same place in the afternoon.

Psalms 23:1 ~ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Death and Funeral Announcement



Mzee Momanyi Motari Mokaya

Sunrise: 01/01/1941 ~ Sunset: 14/07/2025

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing on of Mzee Momanyi Motari Mokaya of Nyamakoroto Location, Masaba North Sub-County, Nyamira County on Monday 14th July 2025 at Kenyatta National Hospital.

Mzee was son of the late Mokaya Orina and the late Gechemba. He was husband of Teresa Bonareri.

Mzee was father of Sarah Kemunto Chogo (Nyansira), Victor Momanyi, OGW (Executive Office of the President), Anthony Orina, Esther Momanyi, Walter Nyakui, Vickline Kwamboka, Boston Mururi, Priscilla Mogotu and Nancy Kerubo.

Mzee was grandfather of twenty seven (27) and great grandfather of Seven (7).

Mzee was grandson of Mogina Nyakeri and Nyakeri Obiri of Kebirichi Village.

Mzee was nephew of Obiri Nyakeri, Mogaka Nyakeri and Mabiria Nyakeri.

Mzee was cousin of Machuma Obiri, Annah Metobo, Abuga Obiri, Motari Mogaka, Ongoto Mabiria, Nyangareri Okenya, Orina Mireri, Orina Ondari, Orina Kiriama, Obuga Auchu, Orina Okoko, Orina Onguso, Nyabesi Kiriama among others.

Son-in-law of Methuselah Nyaunchuba, Omboka Nyaunchuba. In-law of the late Otenyo, Otieno, Monchari, Nyaboke, Omwenga, Nyakundi, Nyanchama, Taratio, Timothy, Maturi, Ruth among others. Korera of Nyamberi, Baswati, Moseti, Okionga, Manguti, Luka, Onyari and Oburki. Semo of Nyabinge, Ogato, Ongari among others.

Until his demise, mzee was unwell and hospitalized at Kenyatta National Hospital where he succumbed to his death on 14th July 2025.

A fundraiser to offset the medical and funeral expenses will be held today Tuesday, 22nd July 2025 at Professional Centre, along Parliament Road Nairobi from 5.00 pm. The cortege leaves Umash Funeral Home on Thursday 24th July 2025 for burial on 25th July 2025 at Nyamakoroto Sub-Location, Nyamakoroto Location, Gesima Division, Masaba North Sub-County, Nyamira County.

2nd Timothy 4:7- I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

—Helen Keller.



Celebrating the Life of



Wilson Rienye Gukura

It is with deep sorrow, but with acceptance of God's will, that we announce the passing on of our beloved Wilson Rienye Gukura.

Wilson was the cherished son of Patrick Newton Gukura Muraya and Susan Wamucii Gukura, and a loving brother of Innocent Muraya Gukura and the late Shelmith Njamu Gukura. He was a brother-in-law of Sylvia Wanjiru Muraya, and also a sibling of Anthony, Frida, and Peace.

Professionally, Wilson served diligently as the Logistics and Marketing Director at Patnet Steel Makers Manufacturers.

Wilson was called to eternal rest on Sunday, 13th July 2025, while undergoing treatment for Pituitary Adenoma. We remember Wilson with gratitude, love, and admiration for the life he lived and the light he brought into our lives. His legacy of love, faith, and resilience will forever remain in our hearts. His absence leaves a void that will be deeply felt for years to come.

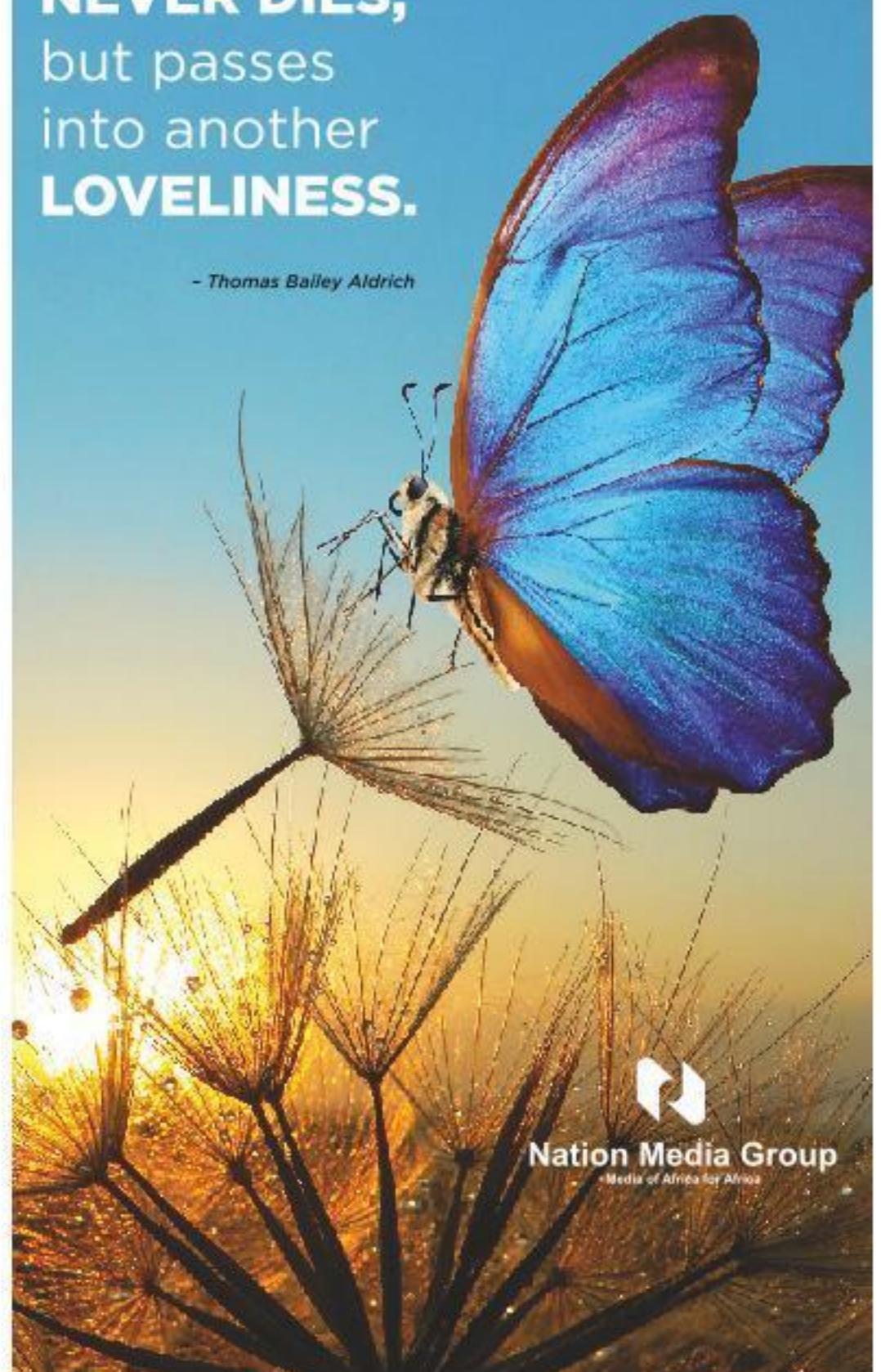
Prayer meetings are going on Daily from 6:00 PM at Kahawa Sukari B, Kiu River Road, Mimosa Court, Kianjogu, Mathira West and PCEA Buru Buru Church. The cortege will leave Kenyatta University Referral Mortuary on Friday 25th July 2025 at 7.00am. Burial ceremony will be held on the same day at Kianjogu, Kirimukuyu Location, Mathira West Constituency, Nyeri County.

"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." — 2 Corinthians 5:8

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

What is lovely
NEVER DIES,
but passes
into another
LOVELINESS.

— Thomas Bailey Aldrich



Nation Media Group
Media of Africa for Africa

Passing on of a Matriarch and Family Pillar



Anna Kasivu Mutie

Sunrise: 1932 - Sunset: July 14 2025

It is with a heavy heart and acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing on of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Anna Kasivu Mutie. – a cherished mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Wife of the late Mutie Kyalo. Daughter of the late Ivuto Nguli and Teresia Syevuo. Mother of the late Charles Muyu, Francis Katua, the late Mwololo, the late Muoti, the late David Kioko, FPRSK Peter Munywoki, Agnes Katunge, Rev. Joseph Mwanza, Danson Ileli and Shadrach Ndambuki.

Sister of the late Serah, the late Loise, the late Mbaika Syeni, the late Grace Musingi, Ruth Munyao and Mutie Ivuto.

Mother-in-law of Teresia Muyu, Vitoria Muyu, Florence Katua, Dr. Ruth Munywoki, Elizabeth Mwanza, Catherine Ileli, Irene Ndambuki and Norman Kyengo. Anna was Grandmother of twenty five (25) grandchildren and great grandmother to many more.

Family and friends are meeting daily at AIC Milimani for funeral arrangements. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, July 24th at AIC Milimani starting 11.00 am.

The cortege leaves Montezuma Funeral home, Machakos branch on July 25th for a funeral ceremony at AIC Lelanthe church grounds, Kithyoko Location, Masinga Sub county, Machakos County to be followed by interment at her home the same day.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness.

Death and Funeral Announcement



Joash Victor Tindi Mosi

Born: April 1988 - Died: 10th July 2025

It is with profound sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of Joash Victor Tindi Mosi, which occurred on 10th July 2025.

Joash was the beloved son of Mr. Edward Tindi Mosi and Dr. Alice Tindi (USA), and a cherished brother of Paul Mbuya Tindi (Maseno University), Wilson Mosi (USA), and Trizer Smith (USA). He was a loving brother-in-law of Jason Smith (USA) and a devoted Uncle of Mackayla, Jason, and Mackenzie Smith (USA). He was a dedicated Law student at the University of Nairobi - Kisumu Campus.

He was the grandson of the late Mzee Joash Mosi and Marna Damaris Ngere Mosi, also Dorina Nyadewo Mosi all of Konyango Jieri, Kendu Bay, Karachuonyo, Homa Bay County. On the maternal side, he was the grandson of the late Athanasio Ochola and the late Theresa Juma Ochola of Nyakach.

Joash was a nephew of the late Benard Mosi, the late Samson Mosi, Prof. Reuben Mosi (JOUST), Odhiambo Mosi, the late Elizabeth Othim, the late Monica Opiyo, Florence Moronge, the late Jacob Mosi, the late Lawrence Mosi, the late Stephen Mosi, the late Eudia Agin, Peres Ouma, Grace Aringo, Jennifer Atingu, and the late Carnel Adoyo.

His aunts included the late Peres Onduto, Margret Onduto, Salome Mosi, Grace Mosi, Josephine Mosi, Jane Odhiambo, and Dr. Ruth Otiang'a.

On the Maternal Side, Nephew of Monica Nyaoro (USA), the late Dr. Francis Okumu, Susan Ochola, the late Herine Onyango, Amos Ochola/Millicent (USA), Jared Ochola/Marren, Julius Nyerere Ochola, and many other uncles and aunts from Nyakach.

Joash is survived by numerous paternal cousins, including John Ouko (UK), Lorretta Ojukwu, Rose Ochieng, Harry Mosi, Dr. Emmanuel Mosi (USA), Dr. Philip Mosi, James Moronge, Janette Mosi, Mirriam Chacha, Lydia Otero (USA), Joash Mosi, Job Otianga, Eng. Laban Mosi, Treezer Mosi (USA), Eng. Joshua Ouma, Eng. George Ouma, Caroline Othim, Evans Othim among many others.

Maternal cousin of Treza, Clark (USA), Dennis Othim (USA), Nelson Othim (UK), Dr. Mitchell Okumu, Beatrice Atieno, Nancy Aziza, and beloved others.

The cortege leaves JOOTRH Mortuary on Thursday, 24th July 2025, and burial will take place on Friday, 25th July 2025, at his father's home in Kabong'o Village, Konyango Jieri, Kendu Bay.

In Honour of a Life Well Lived



Cllr. Dionisio Gabriel Nduma Minigi

1946 – 2025

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt respect that we announce the passing of Councilor Dionisio Gabriel Nduma Minigi, who departed this life on Wednesday, 9th July 2025, following a prolonged illness bravely borne.

He was the beloved son of the late Stephen Minigi Nyingi and the late Damaris Mwendia Minigi. A devoted husband of Mrs. Josephine Muthoni Nduma, retired Agriculture Extension Officer, and a loving father of Dr. Immaculate Njuthi, Adrian Kinyua, James Muriithi, Peter Mutwari, John Munyi, Lucy Mbuya, Boniface Mwangi, and Grace Njoki. He was a cherished father-in-law of Dr. Harun Maina Warui, Annette Namirembe, Anne Nkirete, Stella Muthoni, Mary Wanjira, Hezekiah Kidali, and Kennedy Banda. He was a proud grandfather of William, David, Lucas, Precious, Peniel, Cyril, Beryl, Benny, Tishina, Immaculate, Tristan, Tiffany, Neema, Bright, Josephine, Ewinnet, Keiza, Briella, Chokhmah, Kyla, Mugezi and Mpagi. Cllr. Dionisio was a loving brother of Margaret Camu, the late Susan Wakere, Andrew Nyaga, Gideon Ngiri, Penina Gaku, and the late Virginia Mbandi. He was also a brother-in-law of the late Benjamin Njuki, the late Njue Gitumbi, Elizepher Nyaga, Justa Ngiri, Benjamin Ireri, and Wilson Njeru. He was a beloved uncle, grandfather, and great-grandfather to many, and was deeply admired by the wider community for his wisdom, humility, selfless leadership, and dedicated service.

The cortege will leave Gakwegori Funeral Home, Embu, on Friday, 25th July 2025, at 9:00 a.m., for burial at his home in Kamarangi, Gicharu Village, Mavuria Ward, Mbeere South Sub-County, Embu County. A Catholic funeral service will be held at the graveside as we honour a life of faith, purpose, and lasting impact.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7
Fare thee well, Councilor D.G. Nduma Minigi.
Your legacy lives on.

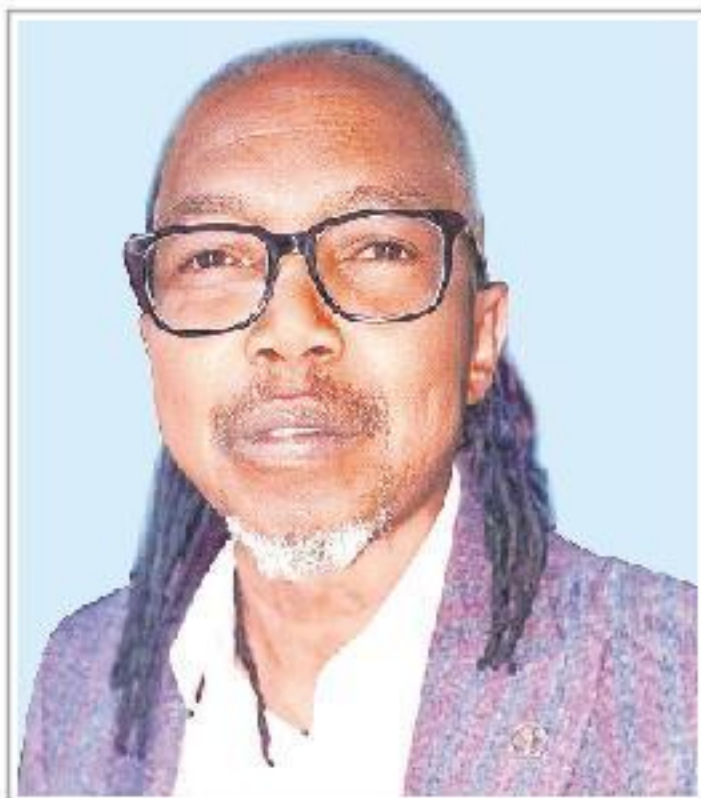


"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."
- Helen Keller -



CHAT WITH US ON
WHATSAPP NUMBER:
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Death and Funeral Announcement



Boniface Maina Mwangi Jasho

D.O.B: August 26th 1969 ~ D.O.D: July 17th 2025

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of Boniface Maina Mwangi Jasho of Bonds Restaurant, who was called to eternal rest.

Boniface was the beloved son of the late James Mwangi Jasho, the late Naomi Njeri Jasho, and the late Joyce Wambui Mwangi. A devoted father, he leaves behind his cherished children: Ian Mwangi Jasho, Nicole Wambui, Alvan Mwangi, and Kristy Njeri.

He was a treasured brother of Esther Mwangi of Bond's Restaurant (Mama Steve - Gikomba), Grace Mwangi Muteithia, George Jasho, Patricia Mathenge, Joseph Maina, Peter Chege, Grace Wairimu, John Maina, Rose Wanjiku, Jimmy Mwangi, Elijah Mwangi, Pauline Njeri, and Mary Wangui.

Brother-in-law of Tom Muteithia, Philomena Karanja, Robert Mathenge, Shiro Maina, Peter Thuo, and Stellamaris Mburu.

A doting uncle of Michelle & Claudio, Andrew & Maureen, Nyaga & Maryanne, Steve, Joe, Diana, Sophie, Mwangi, Randy, Stephanie, Melissa, Tony, Alex, Allan, Chantelle, Jimmy, Heather, Stacy, Rihanna, Tamira, Kelsey, T.G, Bambino, Aaron, Tranel, Tatyana and Jaylah.

He was also a loving cousin and a dear friend to many. Family and friends are meeting daily for prayers and funeral arrangements at Holy Family Basilica from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, beginning Monday, 21st July 2025 to Wednesday, 23rd July 2025 and also at his home in Magiwa Estate.

The cortege will leave Lee Funeral Home on Friday, 25th July 2025 at 8:00 AM, proceeding to the Jasho family home, Ruai for the funeral service and final rites, which will commence at 10:00 AM.

Boniface will be remembered for his warmth, wit, strength, and the unwavering love he extended to his family and community.

May his soul rest in eternal peace. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

Do not go where
the path may

lead, go instead
where there is

no path and
leave a trail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson ~



CHAT WITH US ON
WHATSAPP NUMBER:
0799 61 61 61

In Loving Memory 2nd Anniversary



Philip Halake Dido

Two years without you.

Ba, it's been 2 years since we last heard your voice, yet we still feel the warmth of your love surrounding us. Even though you are no longer here, your presence is still strong in our hearts, and we know you are watching over us.

Thank you for being an amazing Dad.
We miss you Ba and always will, until we meet again.

Philippians 1:3

I thank my Lord upon every remembrance of you.

Sport



NOC-K elections
Judo boss Maluki reads riot act as he takes over as new president of National Olympic Committee of Kenya

← P.31

Football 'Poor conditions' force Kenya out of Cecafta Four Nations Tournament **P.32**



Kenya Police Bullets player Rebecca Okwaro plays in a past match. FILE | NATION

Police tick all the boxes for Africa Cup

BY TOTO AREGE

Kenya Women Premier League team, Police Bullets FC, has been granted a Caf club license by the national federation, making the club eligible to compete in Cecafta Zonal qualifiers of the 2025/2026 Caf Women's Champions League in September.

Cecafta is yet to announce the venue and dates for the eight-club tournament.

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) President Hussein Mohamed on Saturday termed the development "a foundation for real change."

"Club licensing is not a mere formality; it is a foundation for real change. It demands that clubs operate professionally and sustainably, which is essential for long-term growth," Hussein said.

"Kenya Police Bullets FC is a clear example of what a team can achieve when the women's game is taken seriously. It is the only team in Kenya that issues formal contracts to every player, giving them monthly salary. That sets a critical standard for the rest of the league."

The team, coached by Beldine Odemba, secured a place in the tournament after winning their second consecutive FKF Women Premier League title in the ended season. Kenya Police FC ended the season with 14 wins, four draws, and one loss, and boast an impressive record of winning all their home fixtures.

Apart from winning the league title, the team's striker Rebecca Okwaro won the Golden Boot award, scoring 16 goals in 21 matches. The team's goalkeeper, Annelly Kundo, won the Golden Glove award on 13 clean sheets. Kundo finished the season tied on 13 clean sheets with Kibera's Vivian Shiyonzo.

Boost for England ahead of Cup semis

ZURICH

England captain Leah Williamson trained with the team on Monday in a big boost to the squad ahead of their Euro 2025 semi-final against Italy today. Williamson limped off with an ankle injury late in Thursday's dramatic quarter-final victory over Sweden which was decided by a penalty shootout.

Although there had been questions

around Williamson's fitness, England defender Esme Morgan had said the team were very optimistic Leah will be fine. Jess Carter, who on Sunday announced she would be stepping back from social media after she was the target of racist abuse, also trained. Defending champions England are appearing in their sixth consecutive European Championship semi-final.

(Reuters)

FOOTBALL Infantino offers support to England's Carter over racist abuse

Fifa President Gianni Infantino offered the governing body's support to England defender Jess Carter after she revealed she has been the target of racist abuse during Euro 2025.

Carter, who is Black, on Sunday announced she is stepping away from social media for the duration of the tournament. The 27-year-old has started all four of England's games, but struggled in their quarter-final win over Sweden on Thursday as the Lionesses conceded two first-half goals.

Football Association CEO Mark Bullingham condemned the abuse, and said the FA has been in contact with UK police, who are in touch with the relevant social media platform, to "ensure those responsible for this hate crime are brought to justice".

"We stand with Jess. We stand with every player and every individual who has suffered from racist abuse. No player should be discriminated against in any way, they should be free to be at their very best on the pitch," Infantino said in a statement.

"In this instance, we will be offering our support with any further action required, as well as sharing data for appropriate action to be taken against any perpetrators." European soccer's governing body UEFA, Carter's club Gotham FC, the National Women's Soccer League, and the Lionesses are all in support of the player. (Reuters)

Boxing Local federation plans more bouts in the next half of the year

Boxer dreams of world title after home victory

On Saturday, Wanyonyi fought off his challenger to keep national middleweight title



Super middleweight boxer Daniel Wanyonyi during the weigh-in session at Kenya National Archives on July 18 before his Kenya Professional Boxing Commission super middleweight title fight dubbed "Roar in the Ring II".

CHRIS OMOLLO | NATION

BY AYUMBA AYODI

Fresh from retaining the national super middleweight title, boxer Daniel Wanyonyi is back in training as prepares to take a shot at the World Boxing Federation (WBF) title in October in Frankfurt, Germany.

Wanyonyi will fight German boxer and defending champion, Alexander 'The Great' Rigas, in a 12-round bout, which will be the first shot by the Kenyan boxer at a world title.

On Saturday, Wanyonyi needed two minutes and 57 seconds to floor Daniel Owino in the second round of the Kenya Professional Boxing Commission (KPBC) super middleweight title fight. Dubbed "Roar in the Ring II", Saturday's bouts at Charter Hall, Nairobi, were organised by Melk Promotion.

Rigas beat his fellow countryman Benjamin Blindert to win the unified WBF and International Boxing Organisation International super middleweight title on June 22 last year in Hochlandhalle, Weilheim, Germany.

Rigas, 33, has orthodox fighting style and has registered 21 wins and three losses in his career, while Wanyonyi, 42,

has registered 30 wins, 16 losses and two draws.

"I am delighted at the prospect of taking a shot at the world title for the first time. This calls for good preparation on my side," said Wanyonyi.

Last year, Wanyonyi lost the fight for the vacant Universal Boxing Organisation (UBO) world light heavyweight title to Michael Ryba from the Czech Republic on December 21 at Vodova Arena in Brno, Czech Republic.

Wanyonyi's coach, Julius Odhiambo, said the fight against Rigas requires a good strategy.

"He (Wanyonyi) has the experience and trains well without any supervision. This is a big match, and we shall review his opponent's past bouts to see how to approach the assignment," said Odhiambo.

Wanyonyi trains at Palpal Gymnasium in Nairobi.

KPBC chairman Reuben Ndolo, who is in the United Kingdom organising quality bouts for Kenyan boxers, urged former Africa Boxing Union super middleweight champion Wanyonyi to prepare adequately for his fight against Rigas.

FULL RESULTS

- Super Middleweight:** Daniel Wanyonyi vs Daniel Owino Okoth (National Title Fight)
- Wanyonyi won on TKO 2nd round
- Super Featherweight:** Evanson Kiragu v Dennis Ashley
- Ashley won 33-37, 36-38, 35-39
- Featherweight:** Jeremy Munga v Boniface Nazangi
- Nazangi won 36-40, 36-40, 36-40
- Welterweight:** Stanley Museve vs David Kileo
- Museve won 39-36, 39-36, 39-36
- Flyweight:** Victor Komen vs Lawrence Owino
- Owino won 39-34, 40-33, 40-33
- Featherweight:** Fredrick Omondi vs Joshua Mutua
- Omondi won 59-40, 60-54, 69-45
- Lightweight:** Abdulrazack Mweniga (Tz) vs Nick Mwangi
- Draw (73-79, 76-76, 79-73)
- Lightheavy:** Collins Nyakwaka vs David Ochieng
- Nyakwaka won on TKO 2nd round
- Middleweight:** Dennis Okoth vs Amri Omari (Tz)
- Okoth won on TKO 2nd round
- Bantamweight:** Nicholine Achieng vs Samira Kassim (Tz)
- Achieng won 40-35, 40-35, 40-35
- Welterweight:** Owen Isaac Kibira (Ug) vs Mohamed Faki (Tz)
- Kibira won 60-53, 60-53, 60-53
- Middleweight:** James Ssebalumu (Tz) vs Kelvin Masanja (Ug)
- Ssebalumu won on TKO eighth round
- Middleweight:** Stanley Mugerwa (Tz) vs Shafii Idrisa (Ug)
- Mugerwa won on TKO first round
- Bantamweight:** Catherine Nanziri (Uganda) vs Halimah Bandola (TZ)
- Nanziri won on TKO second round
- Para-boxing**
15: George Atito vs Augustus Kamau
- Kamau won 39-36, 36-40, 36-40
16: Emmanuel Agavihi vs Evans Odhiambo
- Draw (20-18-18-20)

Accountants have their day on the golf course

BY LARRY NGALA

A tournament that started as a tightly-knit group of accountants has morphed into an annual Accountants Golf tournament. The competition turned 11 years on Saturday at the par 73 Ruiru Sports Club course, attracting players from all corners of the country.

Besides accountants and the club's general membership, this year's edition not only witnessed a record participation but also saw the debut of the Professional Trophy, a team-based competition contested for by accountants, engineers, and lawyers.

"This tournament reflects the spirit of our profession's precision, resilience and continuous innovation," the chairman of the tournament's organising committee Mike Nyangi observed.

The accountants, hosts of the tournament, emerged victorious in the inaugural professional face-off, scoring 295 points, comfortably ahead of the Engineers (266 points). The lawyers settled for third place.

"While tournament will retain the name 'Accountants golf tournament', we are thinking of adding the clergy and doctors in next year's tournament," Nyangi said.

Adding to the flavour of the day was a mbuzi choma station at the halfway point, where players took a welcome break to refuel. In the evening, the celebration shifted to the club house, where a one-man guitarist lit up the night with song and dance.

In the tournament that brought together 249 golfers in a tightly contested field, Erastus Thoronjo, playing off handicap 19, delivered a steady round of 42 Stableford points to be crowned the new Overall Winner. Finishing closely behind were Armstrong Theuri and Dr. R. T. Kamau who each carded 40 points, with Theuri claiming the men's winner.

"The key was to remain composed. I wasn't chasing big numbers—just hitting fairways and playing my game," said Thoronjo who returned to the podium after some times. Leading the Accountants, was Waithaka Gachiri playing off handicap 19, who carded 41 points to win ahead of Francis Goco who carded 40 points. Meanwhile Lucy Mwangi triumphed in the Ladies section after producing 39 points, beating Tabitha Kiragu by two points.

At Machakos golf Club, the four-ball team of Benjamin Mumo, John Masai, Faustine Maithya, and former captain Leonard Munyao Kamba returned a super aggregated of 141 points to book a slot in the 2025 KCB East Africa Golf Tour grand finale of this year's series.

Sports Administration New officials of National Olympic Committee of Kenya will serve for four years

Judo boss Maluki reads the riot act as he takes over at NOC-K

He garnered 15 votes, beating his closest challenger Mutuku to win the presidency of Kenya's Olympics body

BY AYUMBA AYODI

Kenya Judo Federation boss Shadrack Maluki has read the riot act to wrangling sports federations as he takes over as the new president of National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K).

Speaking yesterday in Nairobi moments after garnering 15 votes to win NOC-K's presidency ahead of Tennis Kenya Vice President Francis Mutuku who polled 12 votes, Maluki extended an olive branch to his opponents and promised to lead with impartiality and humility.

Maluki, who is also the president of Africa Judo Union, promised to put the interests of athletes and grassroots development first, and told local federations that have been wrangling to shape up or ship out.

Maluki acknowledged that some dysfunctional federations are part of the reason NOC-K's elections were postponed twice, and said that federations will serve athletes under his regime and not personal interests.

Among the federations that were barred from voting due to wrangles are Kenya Taekwondo Federation, Kenya Aquatics, Badminton Kenya, Kenya Golf Union, and Kenya Table Tennis Association.

"What I saw during these election upheavals were federation officials putting their interests first. I want to say that it is over and it has to change. It won't be business as usual. We either work for our athletes or get out of these federations and pave the way for good leaders," said Maluki.

Maluki said his first task is to bring NOC-K's affiliates together after protracted campaigns that has left them divided.



National Olympic Committee of Kenya's president-elect, Shadrack Maluki, receives certificate from Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission officer Muthee Gakuru yesterday after NOC-K elections in Nairobi. CHRIS OMOLLO | NATION

NOC-K campaigns were marred by claims of vote-buying and a series of court cases. Maluki takes over from legendary distance runner Paul Tergat, who had served two terms of four years each.

NOC-K elections were postponed twice; on April 24, and on June 19 owing to court injunctions. Yesterday's exercise was presided over by a team from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), led by returning officer Muthie Gakuru.

Although happy that the elections are finally over and a new office is in place, Maluki noted that the exercise has left NOC-K divided. "We now must now work together. There will be no bigger or small-

er federation under my tenure. We shall all sing one song under one unit," Maluki, who is a former international judoka said, adding that he has learnt a lot during his tenure as Tergat's first deputy president.

"I can assure Tergat that he is leaving behind a better NOC-K than we found it, and it is in safe hands. I am determined to take it to the next level," said Maluki.

He envisions an organisation whose affiliates have vibrant age-group development programmes and good facilities that every sportsman and woman will access with ease for training.

"This will only be possible with viable partnership with both the central and county governments and corporates,"

FULL RESULTS

President:
Shadrack Maluki (Judo) 15
Francis Mutuku (Tennis) 12
First deputy president:
Barnaba Korir (Athletics) 15
Anthony Ombok (Boxing) 12
Second deputy president:
Nashon Randiek (Hockey) 14
Anthony Kariuki (Wrestling) 13
Secretary General:
John Ogolla (Weightlifting) (Unopposed)
Deputy Secretary General:
Francis Karugu (Softball) 14
Humphrey Kayange (Rugby) 13
Treasurer:
Fred Chege (Fencing) 14
Moses Mbuthia (Independent) 13
Deputy treasurer:
Charles Mose (Cycling)
Committee members:
Jocylene Nyambura 16
Sasha Mutai 14
Suleiman Sumba 14
Ndirangu Gakuo 13
Nderitu Gikaria 11
Paurvi Rawal 4
Women Representative:
Doreen Okiri (Shooting) 14
Waweru Mududa - (Volleyball) 13
Athletes Representative (Male):
Eliud Kipchoge (Male) Unopposed
Athletes Representative (Female):
Grace Okullu (Rugby) 15
Edith Wisa (Volleyball) 12

Maluki observed, noting that those elected alongside him are federations heads who face pressure to deliver.

Maluki has a full in-tray, as Kenya looks to embark on preparations for 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, and 2026 Dakar Youth Olympics.

Maluki has promised to set the stage for a review of NOC-K's Constitution, particularly clauses touching on elections so as to clear the current ambiguity as to who holds the vote for federations.

Two-time Olympic 10,000m silver medalist Tergat said he is confident that Maluki will deliver on his mandate.

As world championship looms, athletes battle for Team Kenya places

BY BERNARD ROTICH

Athletes will converge on Ulinzi Sports Complex in Nairobi to fight for places in Team Kenya that will compete in the 2025 World Athletics Championships slated for September 13-21 in Tokyo.

Athletics Kenya is keen to select a strong team that will represent Kenya at the 20th edition of the games in Tokyo. Kenya finished fifth with 10 medals at the 2023 World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.

The one-day event has attracted top athletes. Seven athletes were selected to represent Kenya in Tokyo in men's 10,000m race from the 2025 Prefontaine Classic.

US-based athletes Edwin Kurgat and Ishmael Kipkurui and Benson Kiplangat will carry Kenya's flag high in the distance, while defending champion Faith Kipyegon leads Kenya's charge in women's 5,000m race that will also feature Beatrice Chebet, Agnes Jebet Ngetich and Margaret Akidor.

Women's 10,000m race has attracted some of the finest athletes in the distance, what with two world record holders set to do battle.

Ngetich who is the world 10km record holder, is seeking to double in the women's 5,000m and 10,000m races in Tokyo. She will be joined in the 5,000m race by world record holder Beatrice Chebet.

Chebet broke the 10,000m record when she clocked 28:54.14 at the Prefontaine Classic last year before clinching the Olympics titles in the 10,000m and 5,000m races.

Ngetich who has a personal best time of 30 minutes and three seconds, told *Nation Sport* yesterday that she is looking forward to a good race.

"I'm in good shape this year and basically I just want to make the national team, then I can plan from there. But first, I want to earn a place in Team Kenya for the world championships," she said.

Africa Games 10,000m champion, Janeth Chepngetich (30:04.94), the World Road Running Half Marathon bronze medalist Catherine Reline (30:07.42), Africa

Cross Country champion Cintia Chepngeno (30:17.0), Lilian Kasait (29:26.89), Miriam Chebet (30:32.90), Grace Loibach (31:34), Gladys Kwamboka (30:24), Loice Chemnung (29:57) and Rebecca Mwangi (32:28.17) will feature in the race.

In the men's 5,000m race, Olympics 5,000m silver medalist Ronald Kwemoi who has a personal best of 13:02.56 will do battle with Jacob Krop (12:45.71). Krop is seeking to improve on his bronze medal he won at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest.

Others in the race are Nicholas Kipkorir (12:46.33), Benson Kiplangat (12:58.78), Andrew Alamisi (13:03.30), Emmanuel Kiprop (13:06.71), Cornelius Kemboi (13:00.68), Emmanuel Kiplangat (13:00.90), Richard Etir (13:00.17), and Stanley Waithaka (13:05.21).

In the women's 3,000m steeplechase, Olympics bronze medalist Faith Cherotich will be up against US-based Doris Lemngole who has the third fastest this season, Pamela Kosgei who is a student at the University of New Mexico.

Judo boss Maluki reads the riot act to feuding federations as he takes over as NOC-K's new president P.31



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2024 AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP
11 days to go



Kenya gets Caf's final nod for 2024 Chan

But Caf's Secretary-General Veron Mosengo Omba remains non-committal on when tickets for the tournament will go on sale in Nairobi

BY VICTOR OTIENO

With just 11 days before the kick-off of the delayed 2024 African Nations Championship (Chan), Confederation of African Football, better known by its French acronym Caf, has given Kenya the greenlight with regard to facilities for hosting the tournament. Speaking in Nairobi during the final round of inspection of Kenya's venues for the 19-team tournament, CAF General Secretary Veron Mosengo-Omba said he was satisfied with the preparations the country had made towards hosting the tournament. "I can say that I am really satisfied with what I have seen," the Cameroonian said. "We are ready, you can see the

quality of the pitch where we are at. The changing rooms, and everything... we are ready. Of course, there are some things to be fixed, like a chair to be put there rather than here, or one thing to be removed from one place to another, but we are ready to kick-off on August 2," he said in a joint press conference with Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim, Mvurya. Mosengo-Omba thanked the Kenyan government, Football Kenya Federation and the tournament's Local Organising Committee (LOC) for a good job. Teams were expected to start arriving in Nairobi for the tournament today. Mvurya said hosting the 2024 Chan is crucial for Kenya since the country missed an opportunity



Caf's Secretary-General Veron Mosengo-Omba (left) and Sports Administrative Secretary Evans Achora take Caf inspectors on a tour of Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani yesterday. PHOTO: POOL

to host the 1996 Africa Cup of Nations, and 2018 Chan. Kenya was awarded hosting rights for both tournaments, but later lost the hosting rights due to inadequate preparations.

Kenya will co-host the month-long tournament with Uganda and Tanzania from August 2 to 30. The opening ceremony will be held at the 60,000-seater Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, while the final will take place at the 55,000-seater Moi International Sports Centre (MISC),

Kasarani in Nairobi.

As part of Kenya's preparations towards hosting the tournament, Mvurya said there will be a simulation exercise to test Kenya's security preparedness today.

"We will have the security simulation training just basically to ensure we do not take anything for granted. I urge all Kenyans to provide the required support to ensure that we have a great hosting of Chan 2024," said the CS.

After touring the stadiums, Mosengo-Omba paid a courtesy call

on Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya at Talanta Plaza.

But Mosengo-Omba remained noncommittal on when match tickets will go on sale. This comes amid growing concern from football fans on social media over the delay. Pressed for details, Mosengo-Omba said: "Soon, very, very soon. I am happy that you want to buy your ticket."

Nicholas Musonye, chairman of Kenya's LOC for the tournament, had on July 11 told journalists that the tickets were ex-

pected to go on sale on July 11. In Kenya, Musonye announced that the regular tickets will retail at Sh200 while the VIP and VVIP will go for Sh500 and Sh1000 respectively.

However, three days later, Mvurya announced that the tickets would go on sale on July 16 - another date that came and went without the tickets being released.

The tickets are expected to be sold exclusively online, with only those with valid ones granted access to the stadiums to watch the matches.

"When will tickets be available?" asked @KamulegeyaStev3 on X.

"Where are we buying the tickets from?" questioned @Kim_TheCaptain on the same platform. "Link ya kubuy tickets (where is the link to buying tickets?)" asked @RichardAginnga5 also on X.

All Kenya's Group "A" matches will be played at Kasarani. Mosengo-Omba also failed to specify when the promotion of the tournament will start. "People are calling us to ask when they will start buying the tickets. I think everybody on the continent is aware of this competition. They are excited to be part of this from August 2," he said. Regarding Kenya's preparation for the tournament, the Caf General Secretary said he is impressed with the progress made but noted that a few things still remain to be done.

'Unfavourable stadium conditions' forced Stars to withdraw from Four Nations Tournament in Arusha

BY BERTHA MOLLEL, NATION CORRESPONDENT, ARUSHA

Unfavourable conditions forced Kenya's Harambee Stars to withdraw from the Cecafa Four Nations tournament, which was to form part of their preparations for the delayed 2024 African Nations Championships (Chan).

Kenya, coached by Benni McCarthy, withdrew from the tournament yesterday just a few hours before their opening match against hosts Tanzania at Karatu Stadium in Arusha.

Uganda and African giants Senegal are the other teams which had confirmed participation in the tournament.

The four teams were to use the showdown to prepare for Chan to be co-hosted by Kenya,

Uganda and Tanzania from August 2 to 30.

In a statement yesterday, Football Kenya Federation confirmed that the decision was made based on recommendations from the team's technical bench, led by McCarthy.

"This decision was reached following recommendations and advice from the team's technical bench, led by head coach Benni McCarthy, after a thorough assessment of the prevailing conditions in Karatu, which were deemed unsuitable for the team's participation and overall preparations," FKF said in the statement.

Harambee Stars arrived in Arusha on Saturday. Nation Sport established that the Kenyan contingent was unimpressed with the substandard accommodation it was offered. The team was also not impressed with both the poor condition

of the training and playing surface. The guest houses around Karatu Stadium are below standard, with most of the hotels located inside protected areas such as Ngorongoro Conservation, and Lake Manyara National park.

"We are not sure why the matches had to be staged far away, that's in Karatu Stadium located 150 kilometers from the city, when we have the Sheikh Amri Abeid stadium here," Ally Yarro, head coach of Sinon team said. Kenya is the third country to withdraw from the tournament. Sudan was the first to pull out, citing its focus on the newly launched domestic league. They were replaced by Congo Brazzaville as a guest team. But Congo also withdrew a week later due to logistical challenges, and Senegal stepped in as their replacement.



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Austin Ekesa, a co-founder of Esheria, pictured on July 3, 2025, in Nairobi. The platform is using technology to make legal services in Kenya more accessible and affordable. PHOTO I POOL

Esheria’s AI can analyse contracts, draft legal documents, and provide simplified legal information with step-by-step guidance. Users can also access real-time advice on various legal matters, such as tenant rights, business contracts and family law

BY MARGARET MAINA

The courtroom doors may be open, but for many Kenyans, the path is blocked by towering legal fees, convoluted procedures, and silence in the face of injustice.

When the pursuit of justice feels beyond reach, technology can become the great equaliser. Esheria is making legal knowledge accessible to all, breaking down the walls of Kenya’s legal fortress, the barriers of cost and complexity that have long hindered fair access.

Through innovative use of artificial intelligence, the platform offers instant legal insight, regardless of socio-economic background.

Created to bridge the gap in affordable and accessible legal services, Esheria targets those who lack awareness of their rights and the legal processes, which often leads to exploitation.

“Barriers such as the high cost of legal representation, bureaucratic hurdles, and limited access to legal professionals made it clear that a tech-driven solution was necessary,” says Franklin Sagini, CEO and Head of AI.

His technical expertise, along with the practical insights of ear-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

This disruptive platform aims to make seeking justice simple and accessible



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Through innovative use of machine learning, the platform guarantees access to justice for all, regardless of socio-economic background

AI-Powered platform shakes up legal services, making them accessible to everyone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ly pioneers like Austin Ekesa, Macrine Boisabi, and Maxwell Ochieng, shaped the creation of the platform.

Esheria aims to simplify the process of seeking justice, making legal support more affordable and accessible, while alleviating the burdens on law firms and small businesses.

"Overburdened court systems and limited legal aid services only exacerbate the problem, resulting in justice being delayed or, in

some cases, denied altogether," says Ekesa, one of the founders.

To address these challenges, Esheria developed an AI-powered digital platform that provides instant legal assistance. Its flagship product, LexChat, is an AI-driven chatbot designed to simplify legal information and offer real-time guidance on a wide range of legal topics.

"We have developed a proprietary language model tailored to Kenya's legal framework, enabling LexChat to provide real-time legal updates, interactive

Q&A, and simplified summaries of complex legal issues," he explains.

Esheria's AI can analyse contracts, draft legal documents, and provide simplified legal information with step-by-step guidance. Users can also access real-time advice on various legal matters, such as tenant rights, business contracts, family law, and more.

It also supports in-depth legal research, generates demand letters, reviews contracts, and offers comprehensive legal opinions. This innovation empowers indi-



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PHOTO | POOL

In the beginning, sourcing and structuring Kenya's legal data was a major challenge. Additionally, scaling computing resources and recruiting top talent was costly, while persuading the conservative legal community to adopt their innovative approach took persistent effort.

"Early on, we began generating revenue from enthusiastic early adopters, reinvesting every profit. We believed in the mission so strongly that we embraced stock options," he says, adding that this disciplined, self-reliant approach has allowed them to build and scale the platform. The cost of using Esheria's services includes a standard monthly subscription priced at Sh799, with an advanced plan available for Sh2,999.

For mid- to top-tier law firms, it offers custom enterprise plans tailored to their specific needs. Additionally, partner community organisations receive free access to support legal empowerment initiatives. Ekesa says they regularly retrain their fine-tuned model using the latest open-source advancements to ensure their technology remains cut-

"Our system is updated daily with the latest case laws and legislation to keep the database current. We also use model assessments, statistical evaluations, and user feedback to continuously improve LexChat's reliability"

To maintain ethical and unbiased AI-driven legal advice, a multi-layered approach is employed, including reinforcement learning from human feedback, expert-labelled datasets, and continuous evaluations to ensure accuracy, fairness, and mitigate bias.

Esheria is enhancing legal accessibility through multi-modal AI agents that support voice inputs in vernacular languages, particularly benefiting rural areas. It features a unique AI model fine-tuned on Kenya's legal domain, setting a new standard in legal research.

With tools like assisted case submission, competitive pricing, and fast legal research, it makes legal services more efficient and affordable. Users can access case laws, draft legal documents, and analyse contracts in real-time, empowering both legal professionals and the public.

After logging in, they can chat with up-to-date case laws, request document drafts, and search for legal topics, receiving accurate guidance instantly. LexChat also offers a comprehensive library of legal documents and templates, including affidavits, conveyancing forms, court applications, company documents, copyrights, trademarks, trust deeds, stamp duty forms, and more.

Each template is carefully crafted to meet current legal standards. To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the legal information provided, precision is guaranteed by anchoring every citation with direct source links for easy verification. The platform features a multi-agent workflow, with a secondary model that rigorously reviews and corrects responses before they are delivered.

The system is fine-tuned using advanced models like DeepSeek R1 to ensure every answer is accurate, reliable, and up-to-date. Legal advocates can manage larger workloads more efficiently, resulting in lower billing rates. Community paralegals are empowered with advanced tools.

Esheria partners with organisations like Usikimye to educate gender-based violence victims on their legal rights and assist community paralegals in representing vulnerable groups, such as street children.

In collaboration with Huriya, they help displaced communities defend their land rights and, through grassroots efforts, webinars, and educational resources, they promote legal awareness, simplifying complex issues like the Finance Bill 2024 to empower citizens. The company is also collaborating with the African Union through the African Union Civic Tech Fund, managed by GIZ, CTIN and Ushahidi.

Esheria plans to expand across East Africa, targeting key markets such as Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa. With a 55 per cent AI adoption rate in the legal tech sector, their solutions aim to democratise access to justice. To stay ahead, they are strengthening partnerships and recruiting top talent to maintain their leadership in legal tech innovation.

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Plastic poles are termite proof and are not affected by water, therefore they do not rot

Fencing poles that stand the test of time

Currently, the company has a capacity to manufacture about 120 poles a day, recycling about 30 to 40 tonnes of plastic waste in a month

BY ALBERT MWAZIGHE

After pushing sales at a digital marketing agency for several years, Mugo Gitau began to notice a few things in 2018 that left him feeling conflicted about the work that he was doing.

Even though the waste situation in the country's urban areas kept worsening by the day, the agency pushed for more sales, with seemingly no concern over how the post-consumer waste would be managed.

"I understood the power that brands have to change conversations and shape the world, but we were just pushing people to buy without asking where this stuff would go," said Gitau in an interview with *Powering SMEs*.

This did not sit well with the marketer, therefore, in 2019, Mugo partnered with a friend who had a background in engineering

to start an enterprise that would convert plastic waste into fencing poles. In addition to reducing the amount of plastic waste in the country, this enterprise would also advance environmental conservation efforts by preventing the logging of trees for purposes of producing fencing poles.

"Plastic offered numerous advantages. Plastic poles are very strong, they are termite proof, they are not affected by water, therefore they do not rot, and they cannot be used as firewood," said Gitau.

Leveraging their personal savings, money from people close to them and a bank loan, the duo bought some machines in Kariobangi Light Industries, secured manufacturing space and then registered their company, Noma Green Plastics.

"Our raw materials consisted of post-consumer and post-industrial plastic waste. Sometimes this waste was mixed up



Mugo Gitau, Co-founder of Noma Green Plastics, at their workshop in Thogoto, Kiambu, where the company converts plastic waste into fencing poles. PHOTO: POOL

and it was quite difficult to sort, then find the perfect ratio for our poles to withstand the normal pressures in construction and fencing," said Gitau.

"There is a project we did in Wasini for the Kwale County government, where we built a platform for mangrove viewing using plastics alone,"

Mugo Gitau.

Just as they were beginning to make progress in product development, the Covid-19 pandemic struck in 2020, resulting in a shortage of money and slowing down of their research work.

"By then, I had already quit my job, so it was a very difficult time for us. The money was beginning to dry up but fortunately, in November 2020, we were able to hit on the right ratios and temperatures," said Gitau.

Finally with a product that met industry standards, the entrepreneurs applied for the requisite certification then began looking for customers. In December 2020, they managed to sell their first batch of 20 poles.

"We later increased our production to about 50 poles in a week, then 100 poles by mid of 2021,

and by the end of the year, we were doing 300 poles in a week," stated Gitau.

Again, just when the business was beginning to gain traction in 2021, the entrepreneurs were kicked out of the site where they were conducting their operations, this being a residential area.

"It was a small space, an eighth of an acre, so we had neighbours close by complaining about the noise. We would have wanted to get a more suitable location, but this is what we could afford at the time," explained Gitau.

Since the money they had raised at the time was only enough to secure a site far from the city where rent was cheaper, the entrepreneurs relocated to a site in Thogoto, several kilometres from Kikuyu town.

"Whenever we would take customers to this site, they would question our intentions. I remember one woman saying she couldn't go any further because she had to pick her kid from school. She went and never came back."

To resolve this problem, Mugo opened a retail outlet near town, where customers could easily access the company's products. The firm also began using social media to reach out to more customers.

From two employees, Noma Green Plastics expanded its workforce to six staff, and to position the company for further growth, Mugo signed up for training at the Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC).

"When starting, you think you know what it takes to run a business. When you get into it, you discover you actually don't know. KCIC taught us a lot about running a business, from book keeping, to human resourcing, branding and approaching investors," said Gitau.

This training enabled them to expand their production capacity to about 120 poles in a day, recycling about 30 to 40 tonnes of plastic waste in a month. They also expanded their workforce

from six to 12 staff.

From selling their products to individual customers such as farmers and land owners, the company began targeting institutions such as churches, schools, land selling companies, county and national governments as well.

"There is a project we did in Wasini for the Kwale County government, where we built a platform for mangrove viewing using plastics alone," said Gitau.

Noma Green Plastics also began manufacturing other products, including furniture and road sign poles using plastic, material that could not be vandalised for scrap metal purposes like metal poles.

"Plastic is such a versatile material that can create many products. We plan to venture into producing plastic paving blocks, slabs and other construction materials using machinery we acquired with the support of KCIC," said Gitau.

Since inception, Noma Green Plastics has managed to recycle more than 10,000 tonnes of plastic waste, in the process saving about 4,000 trees from logging, according to Mugo.

The firm wishes to increase the amount of plastic waste they process and sell; however, a number of issues, such as poor government policies, are preventing them from achieving their objectives.

"There was a time when the machines that we use to process plastic waste were exempt from certain taxes, but these were brought back with the current regime, making the machines more expensive," noted Gitau.

And due to the high cost of manufacturing, most of their resources are used in day to day factory operations, therefore, the company also struggles with lack of adequate resources for marketing and distribution.

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We defied death

In a country where 90 per cent of children with sickle cell disease once died before their fifth birthday, Betty, 64, and Enock, 66, stand as living proof that survival is possible. Their stories reveal both Kenya's healthcare gaps and the incredible resilience of those living with this genetic blood disorder. P.4&5

Milestone

Twice-yearly HIV prevention shot approved

BY PAULINE ONGAJI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed the use of the long-acting injectable antiretroviral drug lenacapavir for HIV prevention. This twice-yearly injection is recommended as an additional option for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), offering a long-acting alternative to daily oral medications. It's given once every six months, and according to experts, it offers sustained protection against the virus.

The announcement was made on Monday at the official opening of the 13th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science in Kigali, Rwanda, where the global organisation also unveiled new HIV treatment guidelines. The endorsement of lenacapavir by WHO comes a few weeks after its approval by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"We have the tools and the knowledge to end Aids as a public health threat," said Dr Meg Doherty, director of WHO's Department of Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI Programmes.

"What we need now is bold im-

plementation—rooted in equity and driven by communities."

Echoing this optimism, WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, described lenacapavir as "the next best thing" to a HIV vaccine.

"With the FDA's recent approval and WHO's new guidance, we are taking a crucial step toward expanding access," he said.

Welcoming the decision, Dr Patrick Amoth, director general for Health at the Ministry of Health, noted that the discreet, long-acting formulation of the new injectable PrEP could help address common challenges in HIV prevention such as the burden of taking daily pills, frequent clinic visits, and the stigma linked to PrEP use.

"The challenge with daily PrEP is that missing a dose, even once or twice, can affect its effectiveness," he said. "This new injection offers protection for six months with a single dose, making adherence much easier."

He added: "We're proud that our country is among the first to adopt this breakthrough. The reason we're aiming to roll it out in January is because we need time to update national guide-

lines, train healthcare workers, and set up the logistics around procurement, storage, and distribution. If those systems were already in place, we'd be ready to deploy it immediately."

Long-acting HIV therapies and prevention tools are being hailed as a game-changer, particularly for vulnerable and underserved populations where daily medication can be difficult to maintain. Building on this momentum, the Medicines Patent Pool and Viiv Healthcare also announced an expanded licensing agreement that will open up access to long-acting cabotegravir, another injectable antiretroviral now recommended by WHO for HIV treatment.

"This is a significant step forward for equitable access," said Esteban Burrone, director of Strategy, Policy and Market Access at the Medicines Patent Pool. "Communities have long asked for alternatives to daily pills. This proves that innovation and access can—and must—go hand in hand." Adding to the optimism, pharmaceutical giant MSD presented new Phase 2 trial data for MK-8527, a once-monthly oral pill for HIV prevention.

Hope

Study detects hidden consciousness in brain injury patients

BY MARY WANGARI

People who are in a coma have a hidden consciousness that makes them aware of their surroundings, according to a new landmark scientific discovery.

Scientists have discovered unique brain circuits in comatose patients that enable them to understand and hear their surroundings, in the breakthrough study that sheds a glimmer of hope for brain injury patients.

To test consciousness in comatose patients, medics use a mechanism named electroencephalography (EEG) whose acquisition and analysis "are technically challenging," according to experts.

In the survey, a team of researchers at Columbia University focused on the normal sleep pattern

of comatose patients after a recent brain injury, particularly patterns of the brain waves, by tracking ongoing activities.

According to the experts, the link between sleep and brain circuits is particularly important in explaining motor dissociation – a state where brain scans detect signs of consciousness in unconscious patients who are still incapable of responding to external stimuli such as voices. EEG recordings of 226 comatose patients aged between 46 and 80 years with recent injuries were examined before testing their cognitive motor dissociation, in the nine-year survey between July 2014 – September 2023.

A third of the participants displayed a wave of quick brainwaves (sleep spindles) which indicated a 'normal sleep pattern,' explained the study. This was followed by a sense of awareness (hidden consciousness) in the subjects who were still in a coma. Over half of the participants (87 per cent) showed both cognitive motor dissociation and sleep spindles, of which 76 per cent displayed some consciousness and eventually left the hospital. The study indicates that more than 40 per cent of them regained some neurological functions. A higher likelihood of regaining consciousness was found in individuals with clear sleep spindles signals who were also more likely to recover from severe injuries.



Kenya, like many other countries, faces a growing challenge of diet related non-communicable diseases, driven by changing dietary patterns and lifestyle factors. The consumption of foods high in fats, sugars, and salt has led to an increased prevalence of conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and various cancers.

PS Mary Muthoni, Public Health and Professional Standards PS

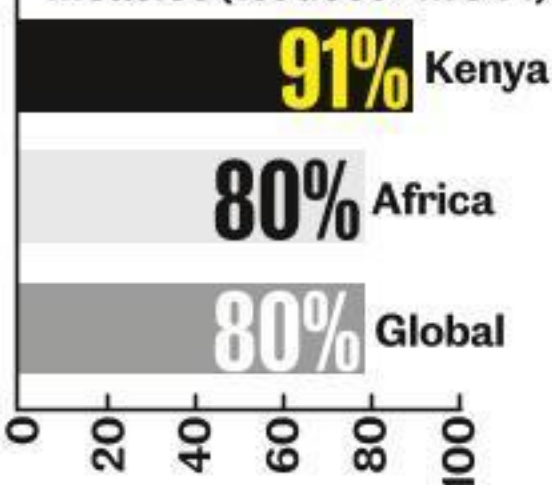


As you may know by now, the 8,571 UHC medics have been earning an average of Sh50,000 each per month. The number of ghost workers, which is 3,000, by Sh50,000 means on a monthly basis Sh150 million is lost, and in five years, which is 60 months, Kenya loses Sh9 billion.

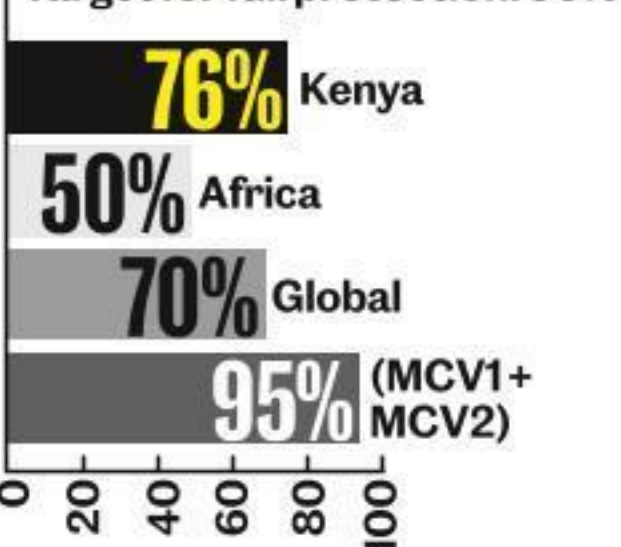
Muthomi Njuki, chair, Council of Governors' Health Committee

Global immunisation coverage (2024)

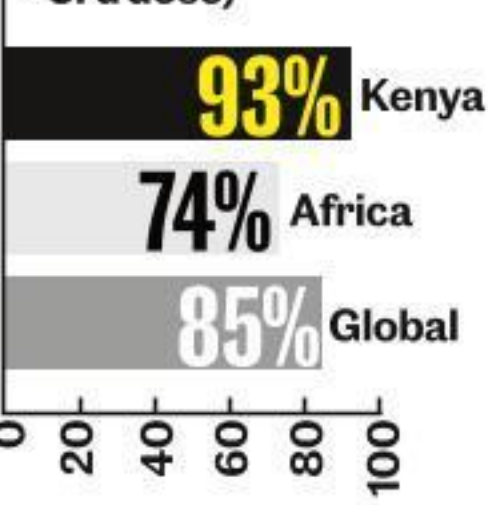
Measles (1st dose - MCV1)



Measles (2nd dose - MCV2)
Target for full protection: 95%



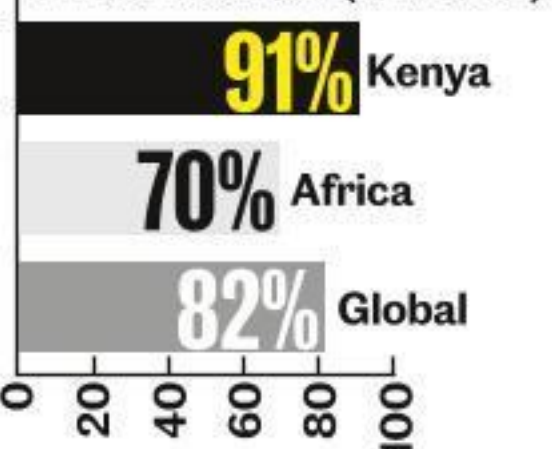
DTP3 (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis - 3rd dose)



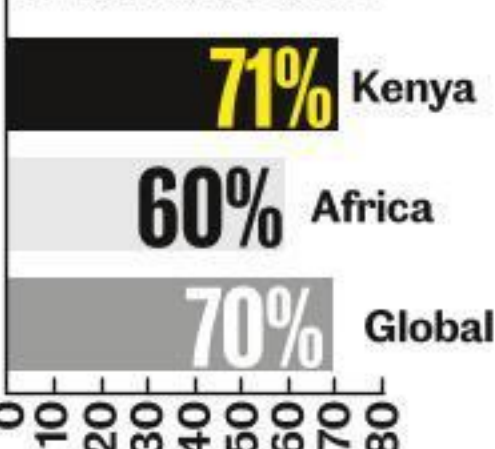
Polio (3rd dose)



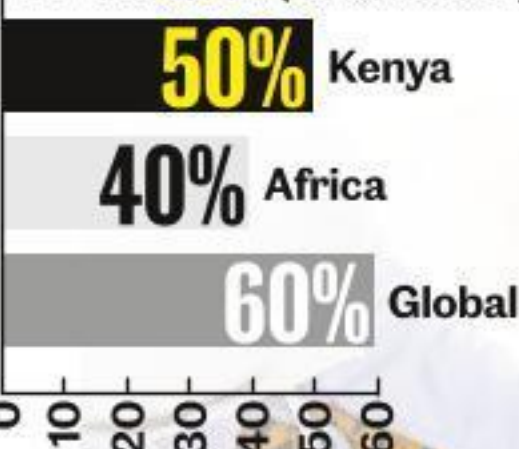
Pneumococcal (3rd dose)



Rotavirus vaccine



HPV vaccine (1st dose for girls)



Children with no vaccines (zero-dose)
Kenya: About 200,000
Africa: About 6 million
Global: 14.3 million

Measles cases (2023-2025)
Kenya
2,900+ cases → 18 deaths

Global

10M+ cases → 100,000+ deaths



Sources: World Health Organization, The United Nations Children's Fund and Ministry of Health. Compiled: Linet Owoko. Graphic: Emmanuel Olulo

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Immunisation

BY LINET OWOKO

Kenya has not met its 95 per cent immunisation goal, which is needed to end measles transmission and attain community protection. This is despite making considerable progress in regular childhood immunisations, a new report has revealed.

According to the latest National Immunisation Coverage report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Unicef, Kenya achieved 91 per cent coverage for the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) by the end of 2024.

However, only 76 per cent of children received the second critical dose (MCV2), which is essential for building full immunity and preventing outbreaks.

Despite significant progress in recent years, gaps in vaccine

coverage continue to leave thousands of children vulnerable to measles.

The 15 per cent drop in coverage between the first and second doses means that a large proportion of children remain susceptible to a disease that is highly contagious and potentially fatal, particularly in communities where health services are inconsistent or difficult to access.

Measles remains an indicator of immunisation performance. According to the WHO report, only 84 per cent of children worldwide received the first measles dose, and just 74 per cent received the second. These disparities fuelled outbreaks in over 60 countries last year, resulting in more than 10 million infections and over 100,000 deaths

worldwide. But all is not doom and gloom. Measles vaccination averted more than 60 million deaths globally between 2000 and 2023, according to WHO.

Kenya's broader immunisation performance remains relatively strong. The country maintains coverage of over 90 per cent for the DTP3, polio and Hib vaccines, and has introduced all of the WHO-recommended childhood vaccines.

"Vaccines save lives, allowing individuals, families, communities, economies and nations to flourish," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "It's encouraging to see a continued increase in the number of children being vaccinated, although we still have a lot of work to do." However, dras-

tic cuts in aid, coupled with misinformation about the safety of vaccines, threaten to undo decades of progress. WHO is committed to working with our partners to help countries develop local solutions and increase domestic investment so that all children can benefit from the lifesaving power of vaccines." Kenya's MCV2

60M

Measles vaccination averted more than 60 million deaths globally between 2000 and 2023.

performance reflects a wider continental challenge. Although MCV1 coverage is improving in many African countries, MCV2 coverage remains uneven and relatively low across the region.

According to the WHO/Unicef estimates, the average across sub-Saharan Africa is just under 50 per cent. Only a few countries such as Algeria, São Tomé and Príncipe have reached or exceeded 90 per cent coverage for both doses.

Kenya's efforts to improve vaccine uptake include participation in the global 'Big Catch-Up' initiative, which aims to vaccinate millions of children who missed out during the Covid-19 pandemic. These efforts have helped Kenya recover much of the ground lost during pandem-

ic-related disruptions. However, logistical bottlenecks, misinformation, vaccine hesitancy and limitations in tracking and follow-up continue to hinder the completion of the full vaccination schedule.

"The good news is that we have managed to reach more children with life-saving vaccines. But millions of children remain without protection against preventable diseases, and that should worry us all," said Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell. "We must act now with determination to overcome barriers such as shrinking health budgets and fragile health systems, as well as misinformation and access constraints due to conflicts. No child should die from a preventable disease."

Commentary

Dear female legislators, stop failing Kenyan women on health issues

We want to see you standing up to defend the health budget from being torn down in favour of building roads, because dead people don't drive

BY DR NELLY BOSIRE

The past few weeks have been rather shocking if media reports are anything to go by. We have seen an unprecedented number of women politicians make public comments that would wake Prof Wangari Maathai from the grave. Even worse is how they have allowed male misogynists to make comments that are disrespectful to them, and to the female population at large on the podium.

For the most part, many women in Parliament have lived out their terms quietly without being seen or heard, wondering what their intended impact in this key decision-making organ is intended to be. In the recent past, the only reason we have heard these women's voices is from a negative perspective, scandal and political sucking up; not only destroying their credibility, but also the credibility of women's voices in decision-making spaces.

How is a female politician supposed to be taken seriously when she takes to the podium and proudly declares how she will willfully desecrate the election process, without an ounce of shame? Or proudly compare a presidential term to sexual performance. Or willingly puts her body on display for the public on a podium at the cue of a man who has no respect for the female gender other than their usefulness in bed.

From the health sector, we have been grossly unsupported by these women walking the halls of our seat of democracy and national decision-making. Let me elucidate the ways in which we had hoped female representation would have brought health equity for all in the August house; had these female politicians made an attempt at

demonstrating leadership.

For the last three Parliaments, there has been a spirited attempt by various members to bring the Reproductive Health Bill to the floor of the House. This bill, which addresses the vast inequities especially facing women, has never seen the light of day as it has faced undue opposition under false pretences by parties interested in driving the disparities that have resulted in poor outcomes for women and girls in healthcare.

Throughout childhood, there is little gender disparity in relation to health for boys and girls. As they get to adolescence, the disparities set in. As we worry about the triple threat to adolescents (HIV, adolescent pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence), the conversation is centered on the girl child, the one truly affected.

With these disparities being normalised at such a young age, the girls grow into women who remain disadvantaged as they don't even realise they deserve better. They survive 40 years of their reproductive age, dodging threats that disproportionately affect them as a result of gender, from maternal mortality, menstrual challenges, uterine fibroids, reproductive tract cancers

and menopause; conditions that men don't experience. From this perspective, you would imagine that our women legislators would be at the forefront advocating for laws that ensure equity in access to healthcare. It is an absolute shame that Millie Odhiambo has been fighting this war single-handedly for years, as if she is the only woman who is cognizant of this gap. When Governor Susan Kihika made a spirited attempt at getting this bill passed into law, the kind of backlash she faced was

enough to make one run for the hills.

Now we have a watered-down version of the bill, talking about family yet the real is-

sues requiring address are reproductive health in nature. Our valiant soldiers have been forced to succumb to pressure in order to make the bill palatable, yet this does not address the issue of quality reproductive health services for all. All this while, the voice of our female representatives is mute.

Away from the reproductive health bill is the whole debacle of primary health care (PHC), social health insurance and emergency and chronic disease funding. The biggest target for primary healthcare services are women and children. This cannot be overstated. The lack of foresight to strengthen these Acts of Parliament to ensure the social protection that they are expected to address is regrettable.

Caesarian section

Not once did female legislator seek to ring-fence financing for PHC, a service that addresses the majority of the needs of women and children. Section 15 of the Primary Healthcare Act is crafted in a manner that makes it optional for the National Government to provide financing for this critical sector, which is implemented by county governments, a major loophole in ever improving quality of services provided to key populations.

It is disheartening that despite the numerous times the Social Health Authority has been summoned to both Houses to respond to queries about the implementation of PHC and the Social Health Insurance Fund, I have never heard one female legislator question how a caesarian section, a major surgical procedure, involving the lives of two humans, where women have been known to die of possible complications, is priced at Sh30,000; yet a myomectomy, a surgery on the woman to remove fibroids, with no involvement of a second life, is priced at Sh120,000.

Our female legislators need to get

their priorities right quite urgently. They are not political flower girls. The presence of 82 female members in the National Assembly is a force to reckon with. We expect a better fight for equity when it matters. The Senate female population may consist of just a third of the membership, but where voting for important issues is called upon, this is enough to sway the votes significantly.

It is time to get off stage if what you are going to say; or allow to be said about you, puts women's autonomy down. What we expect is an amplification of voices such as Gathoni Wamuchomba's when she speaks of obstetric violence; of Millie Odhiambo when she defends the Assisted Reproductive Technologies bill to protect our young girls from exploitation as ovum donors and surrogate mothers, while defending those who need help to start their parenting journey.

We want to see all women legislators standing up to defend the health budget from being torn down in favour of building roads, because dead people don't drive. We want to see the education budget being defended, because the academic accolades the same women hold, which have enabled them to sit on that platform, was a result of a well-funded education system; in a country where education remains a key driver in achieving gender equity.

Our dear female legislators, you are embarrassing the women of Kenya. Take a leaf from your predecessor, Prof Wangari Maathai; or the few among you who have steadfastly remained rooted in the quest for true representation such as Crystal Asige. That Honorable title you love to flash, earn it! Otherwise, you continue to prove every single day why that seat named "Women Representative" is not needed!

Dr Bosire is a gynaecologist/obstetrician



Sickle cell warriors who

The medical textbooks said they wouldn't live past five. Their communities whispered they wouldn't see adolescence. Yet today, Betty and Enock share an extraordinary bond—living miracles in a country where 90 per cent of sickle cell patients once died before adulthood.

BY HELLEN SHIKANDA

The morning air is crisp, carrying a bone-chilling breeze as we arrive at Betty Minayo's home in Vihiga County. The wind whispers through the trees, rustling leaves and swaying the branches where her grandson sits quietly beneath a towering tree. Above him, birds flit in and out of their nests, their melodies weaving a serene welcome.

Despite the cold, Betty's warmth is immediate. A woman whose laughter defies hardship, she greets us with open arms and leads us into her newly built house—a testament to resilience. Before anything else, she insists we join her in prayer, a moment of gratitude and reflection that sets the tone for our visit.

"I put up this house recently. The other one was too cold for my condition. My grandson, the one seated outside, also has sickle cell disease. We needed a warmer house," she explains.

Behind the veil of her joy lies pain that she has endured for almost five decades. She is now 64. Her first recollection of being ill was in 1976, a few years after she was born. Since then, hospital corridors have known her by name.

"No one really knew what I was suffering from. I frequented hospitals, but I did not get a name for my condition. I remember having swollen feet, hands and cheeks. My body would turn pale, sometimes yellow. I never had enough blood," she tells *Healthy Nation*.

When there was no tangible help from the hospital, her parents resorted to traditional medicine and witchcraft.

"The first time I was taken to a traditional healer, the 'doctor' cut parts of my skin, especially around the swollen areas. He told me the blood couldn't flow properly. He rubbed ash into the wounds, promising a cure."

Betty remembers enduring pain so severe that even the simplest acts—like crouching to use a pit latrine—became unbearable.

"The pain was too much. I couldn't do anything. It felt like someone was stabbing me with a needle, over and over, but never breaking through," she recalls.

At 14, hope flickered briefly when her parents took her to an Indian doctor in Kisumu, who diagnosed her with sickle cell disease (SCD)—finally giving a name to her torment.

But that hope was crushed when

her parents, unable to afford treatment, took her back to a witchdoctor.

"It was cheaper because all the witchdoctor needed was a hen," she says.

Betty had the enthusiasm to go to school, but her condition would not allow her to trek long distances to get an education. Her school was about five kilometres from her home, which was a long distance for someone who always had joint pains.

"I tried going to school, but it became unbearable at some point. I dropped out at Form Two," she says. At home, boredom gnawed at her. She found staying at home rather boring. Most of her peers were in school, so she started looking for employment. Eventually, she got a job as a house help in Kisumu.

However, the work was tough, involving heavy household chores, but she managed to navigate the challenges with the help of a neighbour.

First love, first child

In Kisumu, Betty found something beyond pain—love.

At 20, her first relationship brought her the joy of motherhood. "It was a difficult pregnancy. I had to leave work when I was four months pregnant to go and stay with my in-laws. Unfortunately, they chased me from their home because of my condition. They told their son that I would die and leave him to take care of the child alone. I went back to my parents, who accepted me gracefully," she recalls.

After giving birth, she returned to backbreaking work as a house help, her sickle cell pain a constant shadow.

Then came another pregnancy, another abandonment. By her fourth child, Betty had given up on ever having any permanent relationship.

Then, unexpected grace: a man in his fifties—present and supportive—entered her life when she was still in her twenties. He enrolled her in his medical insurance, giving her access to better medical care for some time. "I stayed with him until his death," she adds.

He died at 85 in 2018.

Betty stopped going to the traditional healers when she got married.

"I now stick to conventional medicine. When I am in pain, I just go to the hospital." Sickle cell

disease left Betty with a lifetime of pain, but it also gave her a powerful purpose. Now a Community Health Promoter (CHP), the 64-year-old mother of 10 walks the same villages that once misunderstood her condition; educating, comforting, and saving lives.

As a CHP, she raises awareness about the genetic condition, dispelling myths surrounding it.

Betty says she has convinced a number of parents to enrol their children in sickle cell clinics.

Since her children are carriers of SCD, two of her grandchildren are now living with the condition. She encourages her children, using her life as a testament that they will live long. All they need is to adhere to medication and eat well. "I am alive today because my parents did not give up on me. They tried all means, even the unconventional ones. They never hid me behind the curtains," she says.

"They believed that I'd be healed by the traditional healers, but the truth is, it made things worse. I used to bleed a lot after visiting them."

Even though Kenya now has alternative drug options for sickle cell, Betty says she has never received any of those.

"I once asked a doctor about it and he told me that unlike children, my condition has waned a bit and I may not be affected as much as younger people are," she says.

Nowadays, she uses painkillers to relieve her ache, mostly diclofenac, but she says she was discouraged from using it. Apart from the pain, she tells *Healthy Nation* that she has lived as a normal person would.

She says she is an advocate for sickle cell patients and any chance she

Betty Minayo showing where swelling occurs whenever she falls ill, a lasting effect of living with sickle cell disease. PHOTOS: ALEX ODHIAMBO



Betty Minayo during the interview on July 11, in Gamboji, Vihiga County.

gets to enlighten people about the disease, she does so passionately.

"I have spoken about sickle cell in so many forums. I wonder why we are neglected. If the government can cater for people who have malaria, why not us? If only we could just get drugs. When we go to hospital, we get prescriptions but the drugs are expensive," Betty tells *Healthy Nation*.

"I believe I am here today because of the positive counsel I received from those around me. I also strictly follow my doctor's advice and consciously avoid negative thoughts. Not once did I let myself believe I would die young."

"Sickle cell is not the end of life," she says with conviction.

Enock Mogaka

Growing up, people around

Enock's community waited for his death. With every ticking clock, his life was on the edge, fear crippling his existence every minute he aged. It was only his family members who believed he could live, and

they were right.

At 66 now, with five children and a wife, we find him seated outside a shop in Nyamira town. He is reading a devotional book, extracted from the book of Exodus. His presence there is a testament that has erased everything doomsayers said about his life.

"From an early age, I knew that someone who has sickle cell disease cannot live beyond the age of 20, and should anyone be lucky to live, they could only survive until the age of 25," he says.

When he outlived the age whispered about in hushed tones, the voices that once prophesied his doom fell silent.

In his early years, the weight of those words haunted him—he, too, had braced for an early end. But as time passed and death did not come, his resignation turned to rebellion. The statistics in textbooks no longer defined him. Slowly, he began to believe he would outlive them all.

"I know about miracles from God," he says, a quiet fire in his voice. "I waited for mine. And here it is."

He was born 66 years ago at Kendu Mission Hospital. When he turned five, he constantly felt pain in his leg, shoulders, back and ribs.

"My parents were supportive and they would take me to hospital anytime I was in pain," he recalls.

It was in 1969, at what is now

outlived death predictions

Studies about older adults

Different studies over the years have documented the life expectancy of patients who have sickle cell disease, with the expectancy growing positively in recent years as new therapies join the market.

"The life expectancy in Tanzania is 52 years, and half the African norm will be 21 years. A recent study in a tertiary hospital in Tanzania reported a median survival of 33 years in the SCD population. This suggests that in some areas of Tanzania, there is increasing survival in SCD, which will result in a high population prevalence of SCD," explain scientists in a study published in the journal *Tropical Medicine and International Health* in 2014.

Another study published in 2019 in *The Lancet* shows that despite this high incidence, established life-saving public health programmes for sickle

cell disease have not been implemented in most African countries.

"Childhood mortality due to the disease remains high and estimates suggest that without interventions, up to 90 per cent of individuals with the disease in Africa will not reach 18 years of age," says the study.

A 2018 study published in the journal *American Society of Haematology* explains that there are limited resources and data on healthcare for older sickle cell patients.

"Disease-modifying therapies (hydroxyurea and blood transfusion) should be considered and offered to the older patient if they are eligible. Patients do best when managed in a specialist clinic by a core multidisciplinary team with coordinated review by multiple specialists and supportive input from allied health professionals, including psychology and physiotherapy," explains the study.



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From high mortality to hope

Dr Sophie Uyoga, a research scientist who specialises in sickle cell disease, explains to Healthy Nation that historically, most sickle cell patients died when they were as young as five years old.

"In the past, most people at the time did not have access to testing. So, the condition was generally being managed based on symptoms. If a patient presented with an infection, or jaundice, they would be managed for just that," explains Dr Uyoga, who is also an immunologist working with the Kenya Medical Research Institute.

"With access to diagnosis, that has changed. This means that if they are correctly diagnosed, they will be referred to specialist clinics," she adds.

Dr Uyoga says because of the existing advancements in care, more sickle cell patients are now surviving to adulthood.

She says that for adult patients, clinicians are likely to look out for

specific issues like joint pains, pelvic issues, stroke, and any disability caused by sickle cell-related complications. This is unlike in children where they mostly just have pain.

While some adults like Enock and Betty are not actively taking new therapies like hydroxyurea, Dr Uyoga says it is important they do so because the drug helps in elevating foetal haemoglobin (the primary oxygen-carrying protein in the human foetus) which is critical for sickle cell patients. "The main challenge is access to hydroxyurea and training of healthcare workers, who can be empowered to identify suspected cases," she says.

Dr Uyoga acknowledges that the Health ministry's Non Communicable Disease unit has been helpful to sickle cell patients especially when they rolled out new-born screening.

"That will enable people to have access to genetic counselling and testing patients," she says.

Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital that his parents were first told that Enock had sickle cell disease.

"They had never heard of the condition. Doctors told them that I had to be on medication for the rest of my life," he says.

Even though he was told that his condition could not be treated but only managed, the medics gave him great hope, one that he has held on to for six decades.

Enock's resilience

Enock attended school diligently, though sickle cell often forced him to lag behind. There were days when pain kept him home, but he pushed through the gaps and completed his education.

As a boy, he dreamed of becoming a footballer—his heart raced with the thrill of the game. But his parents, fearful of the strain on his fragile joints, gently steered him away from the pitch. The dream faded, but his resolve didn't. If he couldn't run on the field, he would sprint towards a different future.

After completing school, Enock

enrolled at Shanzu Teachers College, determined to build a stable future. Despite qualifying as a teacher, the path wasn't smooth. "I spent more time at Coast General Hospital than in class. Shanzu's climate helped, but the mosquitoes were relentless."

It was during those years that mosquito nets were first introduced in Kenya; a small but life-changing relief. For 20 years, Enock dedicated himself to teaching; only to be dismissed in 2004 under painful circumstances.

"Other teachers reported me for missing classes during my sickle cell crises," he explains, his voice tinged with frustration. "I was in too much pain to even fight back — let alone appeal to the Teachers Service Commission."

The official dismissal letter, which he showed *Healthy Nation*, cited a shocking accusation: that he had hired an untrained substitute teacher for Sh2,000 to cover his classes.

"The truth is that most schools have teachers who are paid by

Enock Mogaka, a sickle cell warrior, during the interview in Borabu, Nyamira County on July 10.

the board. I did not pay anyone to do that. I have been following up to this day, but I am now getting tired and can no longer make trips to the city to follow up on my dismissal," he says.

He says his dismissal was unfair. It disturbs him to this day. He wishes that TSC would allow him to continue teaching to enable him to pay for drugs and support his family. "Sickle cell disease can put you through a lot of pain. Sometimes it's even hard to eat on your own, or walk briskly," he says.

Dismissal didn't just cost Enock his career; it shattered his spirit. In the years that followed, the pain grew so severe that walking became impossible. He crawled on hands and knees, relying on others to move him like a child.

By 2007, doctors saw only one hope: treatment abroad, but he could not afford it.

His family and friends rallied together, scraping up enough funds to send him to India for a joint replacement surgery.

"The operation cost us nearly

Sh2 million," Enock recalls. "It fixed one leg, but the other still needs the same treatment. I haven't been able to afford it yet."

The Indian doctors were stunned he had survived sickle cell's ravages for so long. "They kept asking if I'd taken some secret traditional remedy," he says with a faint smile.

"I have tried every drug that has come my way. I can't specifically tell which one has helped me to live this long. All I know is that I have been taking pain medication and drugs that boost blood," he says. Yet survival remains a daily battle. Episodic pain still strikes without warning, and he still struggles to get blood when he needs transfusion. "Sometimes, I pay local boys Sh2,000 each to donate blood," he confesses. It's a desperate measure, but without a reliable supply, he has no choice.

Through it all, two lifelines have held firm: "The prayers of those who love me," he says, "and strictly adhering to the doctor's advice."

As an adult sickle cell patient, he feels let down by the government,

especially when he has to dig into his pockets to buy drugs.

"The pharmacists around my home area know me. Sometimes they just give me drugs out of pity, other times they loan me and I have to pay them back," he shares.

"The most important thing is to have courage and hope."

He asks caregivers to be a little patient with their relatives, acknowledging that sometimes the pain can be too much, making the patient get irritated and angry at everyone.

He knows that there are advancements in the care of sickle cell disease, but he cannot afford some of the drugs like Hydroxyurea.

"I have used it only once when a friend bought it for me," he says.

Enock goes to the clinic every month for check-ups.

"What kills most patients is what is in their mind. Sickle cell patients should have a strong will to live, and they will live," he adds.

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Awareness

Grassroots sex education: Breaking taboos to combat STIs and HIV

A community-led initiative is transforming sexual health awareness among Lake Victoria's high-risk populations, dismantling generations of silence

BY ANGELINE OCHIENG

Wooden boats line the shores of Lake Victoria, swaying in rhythmic unison with the waves. A breeze, heavy with the scent of wet nets and distant rain, sweeps over Ugambe Beach in Siaya County.

The morning chaos—fishmongers' haggling and fishermen boasting about their catches—has given way to an unusual sight: dozens of beach dwellers gathered under a towering tree, erupting in laughter and knee-slapping reactions to Mary Nyona's sex education session.

For generations, conversations about HIV/Aids and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have been whispered along these shores, where transient lifestyles have normalised risky sexual behaviours.

But today, Mary's flipchart displays blunt truths: "HIV doesn't care if you paid for it. Syphilis won't ask if it was just this once." Caroline Anywero, 48, has abandoned her prized fish-smoking spot for the first time in memory. "Initially, I was unsure," admits the veteran fishmonger, her hands still smelling of tilapia as she clutches a notebook. "But the trainers answer all our questions without judgment."

She highlights a common barrier to accessing health information and services at local health



centres: lack of time due to job demands. And even at health centres, she says, doctors often have limited time for in-depth patient education due to a high volume of patients.

"These outreaches are important to us—they provide an opportunity to learn collaboratively and engage in one-on-one interactions with experts," says Caroline.

A few metres from the tent, a group of youths aged 19 to 30 sit beneath a tree by the lakeshore, listening to another trainer. Almas Orwa, a young facilitator, educates them on various STIs while

Almas Orwa and Pauline Odhiambo, sex educators, during a learning session at Ugambe Beach, Siaya County, PHOTOS: ANGELINE OCHIENG

discussing preventive measures.

Lucy Atieno, who sat her national form four exams in 2024, is eager to learn and unlearn.

"Speaking about sex education is unheard of in most homes, almost a taboo. All my mother says is that I need to take care but she has never taken time to educate me on how to do it and why," says Lucy, 19.

What excites Lucy is the fact that she gets to attend the training alongside her age mates while expressing herself without fear of being judged by adults.

Almas explains that the trainers

sometimes group learners by age and gender; a practice that helps participants feel more comfortable sharing openly.

"I could never speak freely about these topics in the same session as my sons or daughters. And our children would never share their honest thoughts on sex education if their parents were in the room."

Daniel Okello, Ugambe Beach chairman, Yimbo East, emphasises the importance of such health outreaches for the fisherfolk community, a group considered high risk.

Little time

He explains that many fishermen spend their nights fishing on the lake and their days sleeping at home. After returning to shore in the morning, they supply fishmongers, who then distribute the catch to markets—often leaving the fishermen with little time to return home until the next day.

"As a result, fisherfolk rarely have time to visit health centers, leading to poor health-seeking behaviour."

The chairman further notes that myths and misconceptions about STIs persist as a major concern in the beach community. Some members still believe sexually transmitted infections result from witchcraft, he explains.

"Fishermen are constantly moving between beaches in search of better catches, but they don't bring their spouses along. This often leads to multiple sexual partnerships," says Daniel.

The training programme, led by ABCs of Sex Education (an international NGO), targets hard-to-

reach populations like fishermen, traders, and youth through age- and gender-segregated sessions, fostering openness. Phylis Magina, managing director ABCs of Sex Education, says the organisation has been promoting sex education among adults and adolescents in Siaya County since 2021.

According to Phylis, the ABC approach—standing for Abstinence, Be faithful, and Condom use—is a key strategy in the project's mission to reduce HIV/Aids, STIs, and unintended pregnancies.

The initiative was launched after the organisation secured a global grant from Rotary International in response to 2020 HIV/Aids statistics.

"We are currently working with the Rotary Club of Siaya, who are our host on behalf of Rotary International," says Phylis.

Through collaboration with Siaya County government, the programme has trained 120 Community Health Promoters who act as educators across four sub-counties: Alego Usonga, Bondo, Gem, and Ugunja.

Phylis explains that the educators conduct awareness campaigns targeting women, youth, boda boda riders and fisherfolk communities.

"During our outreaches, we partner with various NGOs to provide comprehensive sexual health services to participants." The managing director emphasises that group-based learning creates a safe space for open discussion without fear of judgment or victimisation.

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Deadly disease

BY DOREEN MAGAK

When Caroline Adhiambo's dog scratched her two months ago, she barely flinched. Assuming it was just a minor wound, she shrugged it off—no hospital visit, no stitches, just painkillers to dull the discomfort.

But what seemed like an ordinary injury would soon spiral into a life-threatening crisis, exposing the hidden dangers of dismissing animal bites and the critical need for immediate medical care.

In a week's time, she started feeling sickly and could no longer engage in her normal duties.

"She started complaining about chest pains, headache and joint discomfort" says her husband, Amon Ndiege. By then,

How a dog scratch claimed a life and exposed Kenya's rabies crisis

the family dog had died and was hastily buried in their compound in Seme, Kisumu County.

Amon says his wife sought medical attention at a nearby health facility, where health workers prescribed malaria drugs.

"Even after finishing the treatment, her symptoms persisted," Amon recounts. Soon, new, terrifying symptoms emerged: saliva flowed uncontrollably from her mouth, and she could no longer walk or stand without support. The once-vibrant woman was now a shadow of herself, her body failing in ways neither she nor her family understood.

As Caroline's condition spiraled beyond control, a desperate Amon rushed her to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, where doctors delivered a chilling verdict: rabies.

Health workers immediately isolated her, while researchers from the Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) collected samples for urgent analysis. The grim diagnosis

explained everything—the drooling, the paralysis, the unrelenting agony. But for Caroline, it may have come too late. The disease had already ravaged her body and mind. She now lay helpless—unable to speak and she could no longer recognise even her closest family members. "She slipped into what seemed like unconsciousness," Amon recalls, his voice breaking. "In those final days, she needed help for everything... even the simplest movements."

Caroline's battle ended before Kemri could complete its tests—a life cut short by rabies,

a disease health experts confirm was fatal due to delayed diagnosis.

In the wake of Caroline's tragic death, health workers sprang into action, launching emergency contact tracing and vaccinating everyone who had interacted with her or her dog. Veterinary teams also descended on the family's home to vaccinate their remaining animals—a bitter-sweet intervention that came too late for Caroline.

Amon reveals his wife's death was not an isolated case. Just weeks earlier, a young boy in their community had similarly succumbed to rabies after a dog bite.

"If only my wife and the young boy knew... if only they got the

anti-rabies shots in time," Amon laments. "These deaths didn't have to happen." The ripple effects of Caroline's death reached deep into Seme's Manywanda Village, where Rose Akinyi found herself among those urgently lining up for rabies vaccines. As Caroline's primary caregiver during her final days, Rose had unknowingly been exposed to the deadly virus.

Dr Vincent Omondi, the medical superintendent at Kombewa Sub-county Hospital, says cases of rabies are common in Seme.

Dr Omondi says the sub-county reported 108 cases of rabies in 2022 and another 152 cases in 2023.

"In 2024, we reported 90 cases," says the medic.



Amon Ndiege, whose wife succumbed to rabies, during the interview in Seme, Kisumu. PHOTO: DOREEN MAGAKNGI

Boost

Kenya to benefit from sickle cell care initiative

BY LINET OWOKO

Kenya is one of the seven sub-Saharan African countries selected for a ground-breaking initiative by global healthcare company Novo Nordisk and the American Society of Haematology (ASH) to strengthen sickle cell disease care through community-based interventions.

The three-year programme, part of the Consortium on Newborn Screening in Africa, will deploy community health promoters to improve follow-up care for SCD patients, bridging the gap between early diagnosis and long-term treatment. This critical intervention aims to reduce preventable complications and premature deaths among children.

Through Reach52, a social enterprise operating in remote areas via a network of digital health workers and community agents, the initiative will implement health campaigns in Siaya, Homa Bay and Kisumu counties.

These campaigns are designed to promote early care-seeking, reduce stigma and improve community understanding of the disease, particularly among caregivers of young children.

"Too many children and families in sub-Saharan Africa don't have access to needed sickle cell disease care. This initiative provides the opportunity to expand ASH's newborn screening efforts to improve consistent access to care, provide education, and help these families through trusted health care professionals," said Belinda Avalos, ASH president.

"We're glad to partner with Novo Nordisk, an organisation that has shown a commitment to prioritising sickle cell disease care in low-access communities." Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder that causes red blood cells, which are usually round and flexible, to become rigid and take on a sickle or crescent shape.

These altered cells can block blood vessels, resulting in severe pain, infections, strokes and organ damage. The disease is inherited and lifelong.

Concern

BY MARY WANGARI

Lack of proper mental health-care interventions affects police officers' performance and judgement during critical moments, endangering the public's safety, a new study has found.

The research, conducted by the University of Technology Sydney, reveals that inadequate mental health support leads to increased sick leaves, reduced job satisfaction, and early retirements among law enforcement officers.

"Police officers' mental health and well-being has emerged as a

Why police officers urgently need mental health support

significant concern globally, with increasing recognition of the challenges posed by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and occupational stressors," the study read. Led by Dr Alan Beckley, a former senior police officer at the United Kingdom and UTS Criminology Industry Fellow, the researchers analysed occupational stressors and exposure to trauma and demographic factors affecting police officers' mental health.

The survey titled: 'Mental health and well-being among

police officers: a three-country comparison through the application of the jobs demand-resources model, focused on Wales, England, New Zealand and Australia.

Across the countries where participants were drawn from, researchers found increasing levels of mental health complications and PTSD as well as extremely high number of early retirements among police.

"The attrition rate — the number of police officers who are retiring early — is very high in all three countries. In some cases, it

is difficult to recruit enough people to even replace those who are leaving," explained Dr Beckley.

The research lead admits that "all police officers have traumatic things in their memory that they would rather they did not experience."

"While some police officers learn to cope with the memories and live with it, others find it very difficult."

The analysis published in the *Forensic Practice Journal* acknowledges that "policing is an inherently dangerous and risky

occupation."

"However, more must be done to reduce mental health injuries. The growing number of police officers medically retired due to mental health underscores the urgent need for effective interventions and support systems."

The researchers further examined key insights and trends as well as how support systems can be enhanced in policing organisations. To arrest the impact, they reiterate the critical need for reinforcing mental health support for the police service.

Negative impact

'Italian Brainrot': AI cartoons are rewiring your child's brain

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BY LEON LIDIGU

Has your child of late been obsessively engaging with AI-generated cartoon content on TikTok, or YouTube — whether it's strange songs, surreal animations, or nonsensical characters?

A ballerina with a cappuccino for a head, a crocodile-pilot that drops bombs over desert land, a violent four-legged fish that has the ability to walk on land or something called chimpanzini bananini doing unspeakable things with fruit and furniture.

Well, according to language experts at the International Centre for Language Studies, these aren't just fever dreams from AI meme pages. They're part of a bizarre and totally addictive trend called 'Italian Brainrot' that targets gen-

The Ballerina Cappuccina, Tralalero Tralala trend is harmful to brain function

eration alpha (born between 2010-2024).

The experts explain that "Italian Brainrot" is a Gen Z meme trend born from Tik Tok and internet forums.

It features absurd, AI-generated characters with names that sound Italian but are mostly just pure phonetic joy. "These characters are more than just viral jokes — they've become mini mythologies complete with families, rivalries, and weird lore. They're chaotic. They're oddly poetic. And,

they're everywhere," the language experts highlight, adding: "It's language acquisition by stealth. You're laughing, scrolling, repeating the names — and your brain is picking up patterns in the background."

Subliminal messaging

But while you may think the AI generated cartoons are only teaching your child Italian language and culture, child psychologists reveal that the brainrot, which has taken most social media platforms, especially TikTok, by storm, is silently reprogramming children to have a skewed view of the world on marriage and dating, values, sexuality, religion as well as the way they feel towards wildlife and environmental conservation.

The subliminal messaging, they say, is harmful at such a tender

developing age. "Working closely with families, I have noticed the nature of some of the content trending among children on platforms like TikTok and YouTube such as the viral and AI-generated song and video trend known broadly as "Italian brainrot" content. While on the surface it appears harmless, even humorous—filled with cartoonish animation and catchy, nonsensical tunes—a closer clinical examination reveals some deeply worrying psychological implications, especially for young minds still in the formative stages of emotional, cognitive, and social development," Joy Maele, a counselling psychologist at The Retreat Limited, told Nation.

She highlighted that it is first important to understand why children are so drawn to musical content. From a developmental perspective, music is more than just entertainment.

It is a key tool in early learning and brain development. Songs stimulate multiple areas of a child's brain simultaneously, including those responsible for emotion, memory, language and motor coordination.

"This explains why nursery rhymes and lullabies have been used for centuries to teach, soothe and connect with children. Music has rhythm, repetition, and melody; elements that not only capture attention but also reinforce learning through emotional and neural pathways."

Because of this neurological stickiness, children are especially susceptible to content delivered in musical form.

"They absorb not just the words, but the tone, rhythm and emotion. They chant along, mimic

behaviour and internalise messages long before they are capable of critically analysing what they mean," she noted while explaining that the Italian brainrot mimics the structure of a children's rhyme but fills it with nonsensical, chaotic and at times violent undertones that are far from age-appropriate.

"While the imagery is intentionally ridiculous, it still carries emotionally and symbolically heavy themes; war, destruction, and aggression, all bundled in cheerful music and bright colours," she said.

The Italian brainrot, the psychologist explained, hooks children with rhythmic language, quirky animations, and shock value, while lacking meaningful or developmentally appropriate narratives.

"Children exposed to this type of content may laugh or mimic what they see, but they are also being subjected to an emotional and cognitive overload that undermines healthy development. It overstimulates the brain's reward systems, promotes poor attention habits, and confuses emotional associations (such as pairing violence with laughter or using cute characters to express rage and jealousy."

"What we are witnessing is a shift from traditional children's media, which was largely curated, intentional and developmentally aligned, to a new era where AI-generated and algorithmically optimised content is made not with children's psychological health in mind, but with one goal: to capture and hold attention. These videos are visually overstimulating, often emotionally incoherent and designed to be watched repeatedly," she highlighted. According to Ms Maele, from a clinical standpoint, this combination poses several risks.

She observed that although AI-generated memes and songs can have educational or social value, one of the primary concerns is cognitive overstimulation.

"Children exposed to fast-paced, high-intensity content frequently may experience reduced attention spans and increased frustration with the slower pace of real-life interactions or learning.

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Conservation

A race against time to save Kenya's last roan antelopes

BY GEORGE ODIWUOR

On August 11, professional athletes, conservationists, and wildlife enthusiasts will gather at Ruma National Park in Homa Bay County for the Roan Antelope Half Marathon—a critical initiative to protect Kenya's most endangered wildlife, particularly the roan antelope, which faces imminent extinction.

Ruma National Park, nestled in Lambwe Valley, is the only habitat for the endangered roan antelope.

Beyond the roan, the park shelters other threatened wildlife, including Rothschild's giraffes, black rhinos, buffalo, and zebras, all facing escalating pressures from human activity and environmental changes.

According to data from Kenya Wildlife Service, the park has witnessed a catastrophic population decline—from hundreds in the 1970s to just 24 antelopes as of June. This alarming drop, which saw numbers plummet to fewer than 10 a decade ago, underscores a conservation crisis fuelled by poaching, habitat loss, and ecological imbalance.

In 2020, the government launched a strategic plan aimed at boosting the roan antelopes' numbers, but the initiative has not picked up as expected as five years later, the population remains perilously low. KWS Deputy Director for Parks Kennedy Ochieng issued a stark warning: the 24 remaining roan antelopes face existential threats, and without immediate intervention, Kenya could lose this iconic species forever.

He noted that the park plays a vital role in conservation of wildlife in the country "and the animals should be protected from any harm that may reduce their population".

"KWS is committed to restore and revamp Ruma National park, which is a lesser visited park to a preferred tourist destination. We plan to develop infrastructure as well as offer investment opportunities for luxury accommodation, hence improve livelihoods of the

community that lives around the park," Ochieng said.

He added that making the park more popular to attract more tourists will help in conservation efforts of animals that face extinction.

Part of the plans for making the park popular and conserving wildlife is hosting the annual roan antelope half marathon. This will be the second edition, the first one having been held in 2023.

Ochieng added that Ruma has significant potential for increased tourism, and efforts are underway to unlock that potential through a partnership between KWS and Homa Bay County government. The collaboration aims to implement mechanisms that will open the park to more visitors and improve the overall experience. The programme aims to relocate some animal species to their former habitats, where they once existed before being wiped out.

Governor Gladys Wanga said her administration is ready to support KWS in protection and conservation of wildlife, adding that the vision is about creating sustainable livelihoods for surrounding communities through wildlife tourism.

Efforts by KWS in protecting wildlife at Ruma, however, face several challenges that threaten to reduce animal populations. Ochieng says tsetse fly infestation is a major issue, particularly affecting the roan antelope population. Tsetse flies are the primary vectors for trypanosomiasis, a parasitic disease that affects both humans and animals. Roan antelopes are known to be highly susceptible to trypanosome infections, which can be fatal.

But KWS is working with other agencies to contain tsetse flies in the park. Other challenges include climate change, specifically reduced rainfall intensity, which limits the growth of vegetation that the animals feed on. Further, inaccessible roads significantly hinder wildlife rangers' ability to protect animals, impacting their mobility and response times to poaching and other threats.



Prof Zhang Xiuxin serving peony flower tea on April 29, 2025 at Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing, China. PHOTO: ILL POOL

Peony plants

Chinese tea culture and farming tech: A blend of tradition, innovation

This ancient tradition thrives through groundbreaking scientific advancements that honour the past while securing tea's future

BY TEBBY OTIENO

Drinking tea in China is not an option; it's a culture that thrives in every household and eatery. Here, a visitor is welcomed with a cup of sugarless tea without milk—just boiled water and tea leaves. It is no wonder scientists keep inventing new farming technologies to ensure that the market always has a new tea brand.

When the *Healthy Nation* team recently visited the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing, the capital of China, we were served peony flower tea. The fragrance of peony flower tea is pleasant, and its taste is pleasing both to the palate and the eye. Its tree is resistant to drought and cold, which is why it blooms only once in a year.

Modern science has redefined traditional uses of the peony flower, transforming it from a purely ornamental treasure into a nutritious, health-boosting tea.

"Tea peony is an important flower in China. In the past, peony flowers were primarily valued for their ornamental beauty, but recent research has revealed that peony petals contain beneficial nutrients like protein, vitamins, and amino acids. This discovery has led to the development of peony petal tea," says Prof Zhang Xiuxin, chief scientist of the peony team at the Institute of Vegetables and Flowers.

Peonies thrive in the cooler temperatures of spring in China, particularly during April and May, with a preference for temperatures between 15-20 degrees Celsius. Prof Zhang highlights the short lifespan of peony flowers, but they are also utilised beyond their decorative value, being fermented for wine and beer in ad-

dition to being used for tea.

"If we keep the plants, they die in seven days. So, we have to harvest all the flowers and send them directly to the factory to make the various products."

While the young Chinese generation enjoys a new peony-flavoured beer, China also exports the tea along with other flower teas like jasmine to other countries. Peony is also a medicinal plant and scientists say its roots are good for blood pressure and women's health, making every part of the plant useful.

Due to the many benefits of peony plants, African agricultural students studying in China are optimistic that through modern technology combined with old agriculture methods, the plant can do well in any African country.

"I hope that through cooperation between China and Africa, we can introduce peony flowers to African countries. Despite the continent having high temperatures, I believe that peonies can be kept in greenhouses and do well," said Ayman Mohamed, a PhD student from Egypt. China's tea market is vast, with numerous companies producing a wide array of tea brands to cater to its large population of 1.4 billion people.

During a seminar organised by the Institute of International Studies and Advanced Training, China International Communications Group, the *Healthy Nation* team visited the biggest tea farm in Hunan province - Jinjing tea.

The farm, located in the Southern part of China, occupies 133 hectares of land. The region is suitable for growing tea because of its high humidity, a 29-degree temperature, and abundant rainfall.

"We have built canals here to drain ex-

cess rainwater during floods and to store and distribute water for irrigation during dry periods," said Wu Lang, head of Jinjing Tea Garden.

The Jinjing Tea Garden stands as a model of modernised tea production, blending biodiversity (100+ tea varieties) with industrial efficiency (10,000+ bags/day packaging).

At the garden, the choice between hand-picking and machine-picking reflects a careful balance between quality, efficiency, and market demand.

"We use two tea harvesting methods: hand-picking and machine-picking. Hand-picking is favoured for tea meant for drinking. Machine-picking is preferred for export tea due to its efficiency and ability to harvest from the original source, extracting beneficial elements. Both methods are followed by automatic packaging," Ms Wu explains.

Chinese farmers, with a history of tea cultivation since 1958, have developed a recurrent farming practice. They replant tea bushes every 15 to 30 years, replacing old, less productive plants with new ones to maintain optimal yields. This practice ensures continued high-quality tea production.

"Since ancient times, ancestors defined different seasons and times for agriculture, including tea farming. They justified tea farming as a culture that is carried to the next generation," she adds.

Hunan province is recognised for its robust agricultural sector, with many families prospering through farming, particularly tea cultivation. The region serves as a model for agricultural development in Kenya and other African nations, with the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, hosted by Hunan every two years, providing a platform for collaboration and showcasing Kenyan produce. This year's expo took place in June.

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A roan antelope at Ruma National Park in Homa Bay County. GEORGE ODIWUOR | NATION