

PD

People Daily

Reprieve as State releases Sh34b for fuel subsidy PG 6



Aspirant killed 3 days to party primaries

PG 5: Kisii ODM politician attacked at home in the night



Murder attempt case for Raila 17

Violence: Group to spend week in custody as detectives summon Junet, Babu Owino and Mandago over Eldoret chopper attack **PAGE 2**



Some of the 17 suspects who appeared in court yesterday over the attack on ODM leader Raila Odinga's convoy during Mzee Jackson Kibor's burial at his Kabenas home in Uasin-Gishu County on Friday. The court ordered them to be detained for a week to allow police to conclude investigations. PD / WYCLIFF KIPSANG

UDA party primaries litmus test for Ruto PG 4

Graft war victory as Kenya gets back stolen loot PG 7



POINTERS



PEOPLE SPEAK PAGE 11

Whence the threat to global food security?



WORLD NEWS PAGE 18

South Sudan's Kiir, Machar agree to resume unity talks

WEATHER TODAY

| | | | |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|
| Nairobi | 28° | Nyeri | 27° |
| Mombasa | 32° | Kitui | 31° |
| Kisumu | 31° | Wajir | 39° |

17 face murder attempt charges over Raila attack

MPs Junet Mohammed and Babu Owino are expected to record statements today in relation to the incident

by Wycliff Kipsang
@wksang08

Seventeen people suspected to have taken part in an attack on former Prime Minister's Raila Odinga's helicopter in Kabenas, Uasin Gishu county, will face attempted murder charges.

The suspects, who yesterday appeared before Eldoret Senior Resident Magistrate Emily Kigen, will also face charges of malicious damage to property, incitement to violence and creating disturbance on April 1. Investigations were yesterday taken over by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations headquarters where Suna East Member of Parliament Junet Mohammed and his Embakasi East counterpart Babu Owino are expected to record statements today after being summoned.

Legislators were at the scene of the attack and sources say they will be among key prosecution witnesses.

Uasin Gishu Governor Jackson Mandago is also expected to record a statement after his car was damaged during

the chaos. Prosecution, through Jamleck Mureithi, had requested for 14 days to enable police conclude investigations, but the magistrate reduced it to a week following an appeal by the suspects' lawyer Titus Bitok.

Prosecution argued that some of the suspects were ferried from elsewhere and were, therefore, likely to abscond and interfere with collection of evidence if released.

"This matter is of public interest considering that it happened during the election period. Where most of the suspects live is also not known and it will be difficult to trace them if released. Some of them are students who are set to fly out and may do so before this matter is concluded if released," said Mureithi.

Public interest

But the defence team opposed the application, arguing that police had already resolved to prosecute the accused by the time they arrested them.

"The right to fair hearing is enshrined in the Constitution. The veracity of an offence is not weighted down upon by the number of suspects," argued Bitok. He dismissed claims by the prosecution that some of the suspects had no fixed abode, noting that their parents were in court and are well known.

"Right to fair hearing is being violated by the prosecution. This issue has been blown out of proportion as if the world is coming to an end. These are common incidences all over the country. Fourteen days is way too excessive," argued Bitok.

In her ruling, Kigen granted the prosecution's request for time to conclude investigations, noting that it was also for the good of the suspects.

She also said the number of suspects to be charged with the offences will depend on the outcome of ongoing investigations. "This will also give the court a clearer picture to make a determination whether to charge the suspects or not. It is for their



Some of the suspects believed to be behind the attack on ODM leader Raila Odinga's chopper. They appeared before Eldoret Resident Magistrate's Court, yesterday.
PD/WYCLIFF KIPSANG

common good as some of them may be exonerated of the offence," said the magistrate.

Suspects will be detained at Eldoret Police Station until April 14 when the case will come up for hearing. During the incident on Friday, a chopper which had ferried Raila and other Azimio La Umoja dignitaries was damaged after it was pelted with stones by a group of rowdy youth.

Raila had just attended the burial of prominent Eldoret farmer cum businessman Jackson Kibor at his Kabenas farm in Soy constituency.

DCI detectives have already interrogated Kapsaret MP Oscar Sudi, his Soy counterpart Caleb Kositany and Uasin Gishu Assembly Speaker David Kiplagat.

According to a preliminary report by DCI, the politicians were the main planners and financiers of the attack on Raila's entourage.

Rowdy youth

On Sunday, President Uhuru Kenyatta waded into the incident, warning that it could have set the country on fire.

The President said it was only by the grace of God that the stones aimed at Raila did not hit him, otherwise the incident would have created chaos in the country.

President Uhuru, while condemning politics of chaos and violence, implored political leaders to conduct their campaigns in a peaceful manner devoid of pitting Kenyans against each other.

Regarding the case of Sudi and two of his colleagues, detectives are waiting for a forensic analysis report on their phones to

determine their communication with the 14 people in custody before they forward the file to Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji.

Forensic experts are also examining the politicians' mobile phones to determine money transactions they made either on the actual day or the day before the violence. Police have also recorded a statement from the pilot of the chopper, Colonel (Rtd) Paul Ndege.

The politicians were grilled by detectives from Uasin Gishu and their counterparts at the Nakuru regional headquarters and later ordered to be on standby for further interrogations.

Speaking in Nakuru after the grilling, Sudi denied any involvement in the incident, saying the move is politically instigated.

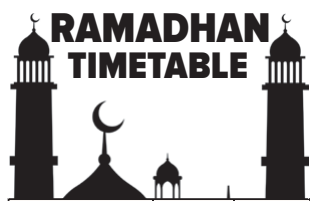
Sudi, who termed the incident as "childish," said he respects Raila, saying he cannot plan such an act for political mileage.

"Whatever happened is regrettable and we do not want to wish anyone any ills. We urge security agencies to fully investigate the matter," he said.

Kositany on the other hand said they are willing and ready to cooperate with detectives on the matter and regretted the incident.

He confirmed that detectives had seized their phones for data analysis, adding that they had been requested to be ready for further summons.

Sources within DCI intimated to People Daily that detectives have strong reasons to believe the three leaders organised and coordinated the violence.



| COUNTY | Suhoor | Iftar |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Thika | 05:22 AM | 06:39 PM |
| Malindi | 05:11 AM | 06:26 PM |
| Mombasa | 05:13 AM | 06:27 PM |
| Nairobi | 05:23 AM | 06:40 PM |
| Garissa | 05:12 AM | 06:29 PM |
| Kisumu | 05:31 AM | 06:49 PM |
| Eldoret | 05:29 AM | 06:47 PM |
| Kitale | 05:30 AM | 06:48 PM |
| Nakuru | 05:26 AM | 06:43 PM |
| Kakamega | 05:31 AM | 06:49 PM |

IEBC barred from hearing Sabina's rigging claims

by Bernice Mbugua
@BerniceMuhindi

Murang'a Woman Rep Sabina Chege got a reprieve yesterday after the High Court quashed summons issued by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission over her vote rigging claims.

Justice Anthony Mrima ruled



that the electoral body does not have powers to issue summons and that the IEBC Code of Conduct does not apply because candidates are yet to be determined.

Chege (pictured), through her lawyers James Orenge and Otiende Omollo had sued IEBC, claiming the proceedings were in bad faith. IEBC Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement Com-

mittee on February 15, dismissed the objections raised by Chege's lawyers and directed the case to proceed to full hearing.

In her suit papers, Chege claimed IEBC declined to name the complainant in the matter despite indicating that it had in its possession a video/audio clip forming the crux of the complaint against her.

Grammys: Top music stars burn up the red carpet

On a night when Jon Baptiste walked home with five accolades, the designs and fashionista's stole the show strutting their stuff



Music's biggest night is the awards season event with the boldest looks, and moving the Grammys to Sin City certainly amped up the edginess -- the industry's top names sizzled Sunday on the red carpet, showing lots of skin.

Some of the most iconic fashion looks ever have emerged at the Grammy Awards, like Jennifer Lopez's dramatic plunging green Versace gown in 2000 or Cardi B's vintage Thierry Mugler "Venus" gown in 2019.

On Sunday, there was more Versace -- and even Donatella herself on stage at the MGM Grand. The naked dress trend that emerged a week earlier at the Oscars was in full effect, and funky gowns in basic

black had their place.

For the men, the memo obviously called for brash statements and loads of bright colors.

Olivia Rodrigo made her Grammys debut, and her arrival was memorable.

The 19-year-old, who won three awards including Best New Artist, went for a body-conscious 90s look in a figure-hugging black Vivienne Westwood gown with pink accents and a choker, finished off with



Spice



Jon Baptiste



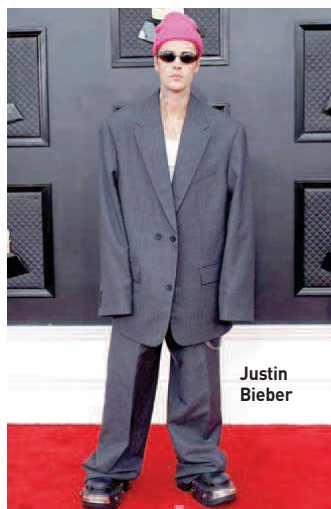
Lenny Kravitz



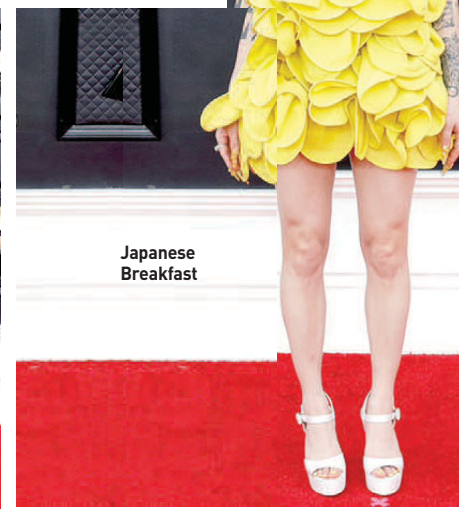
Bomba Estero



Doechii



Justin Bieber



Japanese Breakfast

black gown from John Galliano with smoky plum makeup and bright purple hair.

On the red carpet, Megan Thee Stallion did not go for a see-through dress, but her slinky leopard print one-shoulder gown with a high leg slit certainly bared some skin.

Rapper Saweetie, who was up for two awards, knows how to work a pop of color.

She paid tribute to Madonna's "Material Girl" look in a bright fuchsia Valentino ensemble -- a daring bikini top, full ball gown skirt and elbow-length gloves, accessorised with a huge diamond choker.

But the men also brought some eye-popping color to their fashion game at the MGM Grand.

Jon Baptiste -- the big winner of the night with five awards -- was a whirling catwalk show, changing outfits multiple times and bringing the swagger in Dolce & Gabbana.

He wore a shiny suit with yellow checks at the pre-gala ceremony, a shimmering powder blue suit for his high-energy performance and a sweeping blinged-out cape to accept his awards.

Drummer Travis Barker, who performed with H.E.R. and Lenny Kravitz, arrived in a bright pink coat -- the color of the night, for sure -- over a black vest and trousers.

Justin Bieber, one of the top nominees, arrived in a fuchsia knit hat that nearly matched Saweetie's dress.

DJ Diplo and Colombian singer J Balvin both went for bright blue hair, while Australian rapper The Kid Laro showed up with flowing pink locks.

-AFP

long gloves. Grammys darling Billie Eilish, who gave a stunning performance of her hit "Happier Than Ever," but didn't win a trophy, rocked a deconstructed black suit jacket fashioned into a cape to match her hair and square sunglasses.

And then there were the matching dresses: Dua Lipa and Megan Thee Stallion came out to present an award, seemingly in the same black dress... until designer Donatella Versace stepped up on stage to make a few changes. Bingo: two outfits.

Singer-rapper Doja Cat, who won her first ever Grammy for best pop duo/group performance with SZA on "Kiss Me More," embraced the current naked dress trend: Her sheer sea-foam green Versace gown with a plunging neckline stunned fashionistas.

Actress Laverne Cox went for a goth lingerie look, in a filmy

Acid test for Ruto in UDA outfit primaries



Deputy President William Ruto addresses a Kenya Kwanza Alliance press briefing in Nairobi, yesterday. DPPS

DP says the exercise is crucial and monumental for his presidential bid and he will ensure it is above board

by Jeremiah Kiplang'at and Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Deputy President William Ruto has promised to take personal responsibility for the planned UDA nominations set for April 14, putting his presidential ambitions on the line in case the exercise fails to deliver credible results.

Although the DP exuded confidence that the party will conduct foolproof primaries, the possibility of external interference could jeopardise the party's ambitious plans to ensure free and fair polls.

UDA maintains it has attracted more than 6,000 aspirants, a huge number for a party that is barely a year old. It is aiming to ensure most of them go through the same nomination procedure, which is expected to attract thousands of voters, on a single day.

Yesterday, the party said it was aware of plans by some state agencies and their competitors to infiltrate the primaries and cause mayhem but played them down, revealing they had put in place mechanisms to ensure their detractors do not succeed.

Despite the fears, the DP, who termed the coming exercise as "crucial and monumental", said he would be in the forefront to ensure the nominations, that are normally chaotic whichever party is involved, are above board and produce deserving candidates to fly the outfit's flag in the August 9 General Election.

"We are fully aware of the importance of this exercise and as I told our members, I will personally supervise them to ensure that our exercise is above board and every member gets an opportunity to be voted for and to win or not win fairly," he said during a function at his Karen residence.

Troublesome nominations

He added: "I have personally been supervising that exercise for the last two days and we have printed close to 30 million ballots already and we are concluding 15 million ballots that are still outstanding in the next three days; so that we can be ready by this weekend to run the nomina-

tions across the country."

Yesterday, UDA National Elections Board chairman Anthony Mwaura said they would be on the lookout for those who might be out to create chaos on the appointed date. "We are aware there are those planning some of the things to interfere with our nominations. These are people who do not have anything to offer Kenyans so they are trying to mess with our nominations," Mwaura said.

He, however, added that they had made the party members and aspirants aware of the planned infiltration. "Our members will deter any attempts to interfere with the nominations," he said.

The party polls are set to present a litmus test to the young outfit that will be seeking to avoid the troubles that have always been associated with primaries.

The other parties are trying as much to avoid the troublesome nominations with Orange Democratic Movement and Jubilee exploring friendlier ways to pick candidates.

Mwaura said they were ready to conduct the primaries, adding that they will recruit competent polling agents to oversee the exercise.

"The board will recruit a total of 47 returning officers, 128 presiding officers and 100,000 polling clerks to conduct this exercise. Hustlers are encouraged to visit the party portal UDA.ke to apply," he said during a press conference at Hustlers' Centre in Nairobi.

Mwaura said the Ministry of Education had allowed them to use primary schools as polling centres.

For the governor's seat, the outfit will conduct primaries in 12 counties while for the Senate it will be in 19 counties. For the Woman Representative position, it will be in 27 counties, for MP, 128 constituencies and 892 wards for the MCA race.

Ruto spoke as he announced that Am-

RUTO

I have personally been supervising that exercise for the last two days and we have printed close to 30 million ballots already. We are concluding 15 million ballots that are still outstanding in the next three days

ani National Congress governor candidate for Kisii Chweya Matoke had stepped down for UDA's Ezekiel Machogu in what the DP described as a result of extensive consultations between Kenya Kwanza Alliance teams in the county.

The move, according to Ruto, had resulted in the consolidation and realignment of Kenya Kwanza candidates so that "we can face our competitors in a much more efficient and effective way".

"I want to congratulate our teams in Kisii County, who have tirelessly worked to ensure that we have a seamless working relationship between the different parties in our team," he said. "I want to specifically thank the party leader of ANC Musalia Mudavadi for providing leadership in this consensus process that today brings us to this press briefing," he added.

Matoke stepped down for Machogu, who is among the six candidates seeking to succeed Governor James Ongwae. "I take this opportunity to thank Charles Matoke for his gracious gesture and for agreeing to build the Kisii team by ceding ground, this time round so that he can work on consolidating his base and building better networks for him to pursue his political career in the near future."

Ongoing talks

Ruto also announced that Joel Nyamabane had stepped down for Kisii Deputy Governor Joash Maangi who will now vie for the county's senate seat.

According to ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi, the move would help the Kenya Kwanza Alliance secure assured wins in the coming polls.

Last week, the UDA National Elections Board announced that it would hold its nomination on the same day, across the country.

Ruto has encouraged political arrangements where aspirants agree on a lineup and avoid contested primaries that risk causing disaffection and possible fallout.

This has been employed in Nyeri, Narok, Kakamega, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Trans Nzoia, Kilifi, Turkana, Tana River, Kwale and Bungoma counties where the governorship and senate seats were settled through consensus.

There are similar and ongoing talks for consensus and political deals in Nairobi and Embu counties where the DP's allies have locked horns for the coveted county seats.

Delays, mix-up of registers mar ODM primaries in Kwale

by Munira Mandano and Yusuf Masibo

Aspirants for various seats in Kwale have raised the alarm over a mix-up of names in the voters' register during nominations in Matuga and Lunga-lunga constituencies.

Many ODM members in Msambweni constituency also cried foul over these anomalies at various voting stations.

Led by voter Shaban Luchesi, they said electronic voting gadgets (tablets) have the same names of party candidates and members despite the different wards in Msambweni constituency. "We have identified a serious problem with the electronic gadgets. There are four wards in Msambweni and we expected that each gadget for a certain ward would have the names of people from that specific ward. But we are shocked that someone from Ramisi ward will have his or her name in a voting gadget at Ukunda ward. It's a mess," Luchesi said.

He said some party members had voted even thrice. "I heard people discussing this mess and I went to test it. I have voted in three stations and my name has read all through without any indication in the gadget that I had already voted," Luchesi said.

Other challenges experienced earlier were delays in opening most polling stations in Msambweni constituency in Kwale county. Many

party members expected the exercise to start at 6am as indicated earlier but it delayed until 8:30am.

Shee Mahmoud Abdulrahman, a candidate for Msambweni MP seat, said most of his supporters went to the stations early enough but the officials had not arrived for the exercise. "It was disappointing that even party officials did not arrive in time."

He said the previous day the party officials had said they would start from 6am to 5pm. "We hope the officials will compensate for this time they have delayed. We want the exercise to be done freely and fairly for all the five parliamentary aspirants."

Left without voting

Iddi Said, an ODM member from Mwamambi, expressed disappointment on the delays, saying most people left the booths without voting.

"It is Ramadhan and people wanted to vote early and return home," Said explained.

The five candidates for MP are Sharlet Mariam Akinyi, Charles Bilali, Hassan Mwakulonda, Shee Mahmoud Abdulrahman and Bashir Kilalo.

In Kwale county, ODM secretary general James Nyakiti urged voters to remain calm, saying the lost time would be compensated at all stations.

Separately, ODM announced it would not hold nominations in Bungoma county but would agree on a consensus.



ODM polls at Mwakigwena, Msambweni. PD/MUNIRA MANDANO

BRIEFLY

Pope Francis appoints Mbinda as Bishop of Lodwar Catholic diocese

Pope Francis has appointed Fr John Mbinda as Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lodwar. According to the Kenya Catholic Media Network, Fr Mbinda's appointment was officially published in 'L'Osservatore Romano' in Rome yesterday. The Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan, Archbishop Bert Van Megen, also sent an official communication to the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops to inform them of the appointment. "The Bishop-elect belongs to the Congregation of Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans)," reads the Nuncio's letter. Mbinda was an Assistant Priest of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Parish, and assisting at St Edward Parish in Chiswick, Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster, UK. He was born on May 5, 1973, in Kanzalu Parish, Machakos, and joined the congregation in 1993 at Spiritan Missionary Seminary in Tanzania.

— Irene Githinji

Aspirant killed three days to primaries

Bombaba Borabu ward candidate in the ODM nominations was attacked at his home at night

by Robert Ochoro
@PeopleDailyKe

Igorera village, Bomachoge Borabu Constituency in Kisii County was thrown into mourning yesterday after an Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) aspirant for Bombaba Borabu Ward died following a night attack at his home.

Thomas Okari Ontweka, alias Sundowner, died just three days to the party's nominations.

Ontweka, a Nairobi-based businessman, is said to have arrived home from the city on Friday to prepare for the party primaries.

At around 4am on Monday, he was attacked by unknown assailants who hit him in the head and neck with pangas and seriously injured him.

He was rushed to Oasis Hospital in Kisii town by neighbours, who responded to a distress call, but died while undergoing treatment.

Pool of blood

The attackers had already fled by the time the neighbours arrived at politician's home.

Ontweka's uncle Joseph Marube said they heard screams from his house and when neighbours responded to the dis-



stress call, they found him seriously injured and lying in a pool of blood. The attackers had fled.

They took him to the hospital where he succumbed to the injuries.

The body was taken to Ram Hospital Morgue for postmortem.

"We are shocked by the incident. He was a humble person who wanted to vie for the seat just like any other person. We do not know why they killed him," Marube, who is also a village elder, said.

ODM aspirant for Bombaba Borabu Ward Thomas Okari Ontweka who died after a night attack at his home. PD/FILE

Marube said Ontweka was alone at home as he had left his wife, Lillian Omondi, and three children in Nairobi when he travelled to Kisii County for his political mission.

Marube said area Chief Henry Mageto and his assistant Henry Moturi informed the family and the officer in charge of Magena police about the incident.

Bomachoge Borabu ODM parliamentary aspirant Machoka Kimori linked the murder to politics.

"The killing is linked to the party's politics. I feel that my life is also in danger," Machoka said in Kisii town yesterday.

Machoka said he had talked to Kisii County Police commander who, he said, had assured him that police had started investigations to arrest the culprits.

Panga cuts

He said cases of violence related to politics were on the rise, citing last week's incident in which Azimio la Umoja presidential candidate Raila Odinga's chopper was stoned in Soy, Uasin Gishu County.

Josephat Ombaso, a neighbour who visited the hospital said Ontweka suffered panga cuts in the neck leading to heavy bleeding.

"This is a heinous act. The government must ensure such a thing should never happen again to election aspirants and their supporters," he said.

Speaking to the press in Kisii town yesterday, he appealed to investigators to move swiftly and probe the incident and arrest the perpetrators.

MURDER MOST FOUL

● Sub-County Police Commander Philp Oyugi the officer said the attackers broke into the aspirants's house at Gesabakwa in Igorera sub-location.

● Josephat Ombaso, a neighbour who visited the hospital said Ontweka suffered panga cuts in the neck leading to heavy bleeding.

● Bomachoge Borabu ODM parliamentary aspirant Machoka Kimori linked the murder to politics.

"The assailants timed when people were asleep, broke into his house, attacked him and fled before neighbours could respond to the distress call," Ombaso said.

Sub-County Police Commander Philp Oyugi urged members of the public to volunteer information to investigators that can help to identify the attackers.

Speaking to People Daily on phone yesterday, the officer said the attackers broke into the aspirants's house at Gesabakwa in Igorera sub-location.

"We visited the scene and the investigation has begun. It is a bad thing. We do not expect people of Kenya to behave like that," Oyugi said, adding that police were looking for the suspects.

He appealed to residents to remain calm as the officers conduct the probe, stressing that those culpable will be arrested and face the law.

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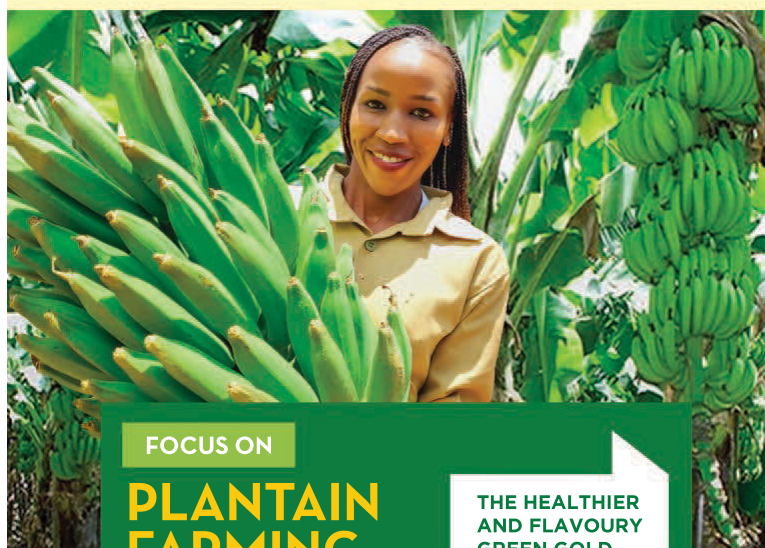


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24
it's what's on



IEBC chief executive Marjan Hussein Marjan (left) and Dan Kagwe, the Postmaster General, sign a deal for provision of logistics services during the August elections at IEBC offices yesterday. COURTESY

IEBC, Posta ink Sh700m deal on polls logistics

by Noel Wandera
@NoelWandera

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK) have signed a Sh700 million deal that will see the latter provide logistics services during the upcoming 2022 General Election.

Under the three-year agreement, PCK will be charged with transportation of election materials countrywide to designated IEBC offices, warehouses, polling centres and to any other IEBC stakeholder.

Speaking during the signing, Marjan Hussein Marjan, the IEBC Chief Executive said PCK would be the logistics

partner for the 2022 General Election, emphasizing that "efficient logistics services were key to a credible electoral process."

Marjan said the contract will go beyond the 2022 General Election adding that IEBC "would use PCK's services should it require conveyance of elections material from one location to another."

Tracking mechanism

Speaking during the signing of the agreement at IEBC offices in Nairobi, Dan Kagwe-PCK chief executive and Postmaster General said the corporation would "put in place a tracking mechanism that notifies IEBC officials on the status of the materials at

any given point."

Posta currently runs a customer web-based portal that allows capturing the details of materials at every station of collection to the point of delivery.

In the agreement, Posta will also be expected to ensure confidentiality in handling IEBC materials and any other related information within PCK custody for security and credibility of processes.

Kagwe said PCK has capacity to handle distribution and logistical services for IEBC and that the partnership would ease customer experience. He asserted that PCK's long-established national network of over 600 branches country-wide will be an added advantage.

Reprieve as fuel marketers get Sh34b subsidy

Treasury is to release lump some amounts to help contain the situation as Kenya Kwanza blames crisis on monopolistic cartels

by Anthony Mwangi and Roy Lumbe
@PeopleDailyKe

The National Treasury will today release Sh34.4 billion for fuel stabilisation to cushion Kenyans from the high cost of the product amid the ongoing fuel crisis across the globe.

President Uhuru Kenyatta assented to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill yesterday that allows the Treasury to withdraw Sh139.7 billion from the Consolidated Fund.

The amount comprises Sh104.5 billion and Sh35.2 billion funded under the Appropriations in-Aid.

Last Thursday, Parliament approved the appropriation of Sh10 billion for the stabilisation of fuel prices.

Moving the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, Budget and Appropriation Committee chairman Kanini Kega said the shortage has been unprecedented and asked members to approve the allocation without delay.

Monopolistic cartels

"The crisis that we see in the world has not spared Kenya. Fuel prices in Kenya are a bit lower than in Uganda due to the fuel subsidy. In Uganda, a litre goes for Sh160 while in Kenya at Sh134," Kega said.

Supplementary Budget has been occasioned by the need for funding towards drought related interventions, security operations, election preparedness, fuel stabilisation and pending bills.

Treasury will pay oil marketers billions of shillings over the next two months to keep pump prices stable despite a jump in the global cost of the commodity.

By passing the Supplementary Appropriation bill, parliament authorised the

issue of Sh139 billion out of the Consolidated Fund and their application towards the service of the year ending June 30 and to appropriate the money for certain public services and purposes.

But speaking at this Karen residence, Deputy President (DP) William Ruto maintained that the government had created an artificial fuel shortage that had put the nation in an economic distress.

He said millions of Kenyans were in agony as fuel pumps run dry and queues grow longer due to the shortage that has already disrupted the transport sector and hospitals, which rely on the crucial commodity.

"The government knows that millions of households cannot cope with these prices and are now forced to dig deeper into their pockets for bus-fare and boda-boda operators are being driven out of business," said Ruto.

Ruto, who was flanked by Amani National Congress (ANC) leader Musalia Mudavadi and Garissa Township MP Aden Duale, demanded that the National Treasury and the ministries of energy, petroleum and that of agriculture invoke the consumer protection mechanism to cushion Kenyans from adverse fluctuations in fuel prices.

"This mechanism is financed by the taxpayer at the pump through the fuel levy. Where is the Sh39 billion Petroleum Development Fund meant for the fuel subsidy programme? The Auditor General has already raised queries on the irregular and illegal diversion of this consumer protection funds to State agencies and unnamed private entities," said Ruto.

He noted that the Auditor General had also decried abuses on the petroleum import systems in favour of some preferred and politically connected oil marketers deliberately depriving Kenyans of the subsidy mechanism.

"Can the ministry list the import quotas that have been allocated to oil marketers over the last one year by name? The Petroleum Products (Taxes and Levies) (Amendment) Bill, 2021, whose passage has been frustrated, should be processed in parliament as a matter of national emergency," he added.

According to the DP, there is a collusion between monopolistic cartels and



Motorists and motorcyclists scramble for fuel at a Shell petrol station in Nyahururu town, yesterday.

PD/DAVID MACHARIA

IN THE DEMAND LIST

● The escalating fuel shortage in the country forced the government to summon oil marketers for a week-end-long meeting in a bid to resolve the stalemate

● Oil marketers have presented several demands to the government, including the immediate release of the Sh13 billion oil subsidy fund owed to them since January

economic saboteurs on the one hand and incompetent public officials on the other.

The supplementary budget allocated an additional allocation of Sh950 million towards the recruitment of police to boost the numbers in the country ahead of the general elections. The mini budget has also allocated Sh8.8 billion to IEBC to enable it sufficiently prepare for the polls.

In addition, the budget has allocated Sh4.9 billion to NG-CDF. In the light of the CBC education system being rolled out in the country, the mini budget has allocated Sh6.9 billion to the Teachers Service Commission to cater for salaries and another Sh2 billion for the construction of additional classrooms.

Kega said the NG-CDF money will assist in the completion of stalled projects in constituencies as the current term comes to an end.

Huge amount

To cushion Kenyans against the biting drought, Sh15 billion has been appropriated to purchase food aid and buy starving livestock from the affected people.

Kega said in its intentions to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, 50 new Level 3 hospitals will be constructed in all the 47 counties.

"The initiative has been a success in Nairobi County where over 20 Level 4 hospitals have been put up. This has helped to ease pressure on the Kenyatta National

Hospital, we want the same to happen in other counties," Kega said.

Money has also been appropriated to address the issue of pending bills that have been outstanding for many years.

The Kieni MP, however, did not disclose the amount set aside to pay pending bills.

As at September 2020, pending bills stood at Sh28.3 billion most of it going to infrastructure and supplies.

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro dismissed the move to allocate money to settle pending bills which he said has been a promise for many years under the Jubilee administration but has not been fulfilled.

"The issue of pending bills has been a song here in Parliament, President Kenyatta himself has been on record directing that the bills be settled but nothing has been done. We need to be truthful to our people, businesses have gone down as the government holds their dues," Nyoro said.

Nyoro also protested the huge amount of money allocated to Security and Defence dockets even as Kenyans beg for money to be set aside for the purchase of fertiliser.

The National Treasury is the biggest beneficiary with an allocation of Sh20.7 billion followed by the Defence ministry (Sh14.2 billion) and the Energy ministry with Sh9.2 billion for power transmission and distribution.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Mining has been allocated Sh6.7 billion for exploration and distribution of oil and gas.

Kisii governor hopeful finds new home after ditching UDA

by Robert Ochoro
@PeopleDailyKe

Racheal Otundo, a Kisii County governor aspirant, who defected from United Democratic Alliance (UDA), citing frustrations has joined the Progressive Party of Kenya.

Otundo appealed to women aspirants who feel frustrated in bigger parties to join smaller entities or vie as Independent candidates to enable them realise their political dreams.

She said precedence had shown that voters elect leaders based on their policies and not political parties.

"I appeal to women not to give up.

We are the majority and we can use our numbers to propel us to various elective seats," Otundo yesterday told People Daily in Kisii town.

Separately, UDA co-ordinators have endorsed Maureen Moraa Obino as the party's the Woman Rep candidate in the August 9 election.

Party County co-ordinator Hezekiah Bosire said aspirants had mandated the coordinators to pick one of the three aspirants, namely Moraa, Lucy Gitoi and Gladys Aunga.

He said they picked Moraa after her rivals failed to turn up at a meeting held at a Nyamache sub-county hotel in Kisii on Sunday.

Guarantee fair primaries, Kalonzo told

by Mutuku Mwangangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka has been challenged to ensure the party carries out free and fair nominations for the Machakos County governor candidate.

Kalonzo's close allies, former Transport CAS Wavinya Ndeti and Mavoko MP Patrick Makau, want Wiper's nomination.

Makau and Wavinya have refused to yield ground in negotiations mediated by Kalonzo.

Makau is a second-term Mavoko MP while Wavinya served as a one-term Kathiani MP.



Yesterday, Makau (pictured) claimed Wavinya was lobbying for a direct ticket.

"Wavinya has refused to undergo nominations claiming she is popular," said Makau who urged Kalonzo to guarantee free and fair nominations slated for April 13.

He added: "Kalonzo is an advocate of democracy and I want

to appeal that he respects democracy and not interfere in the nominations or favour anyone. At the same time, I want to challenge my competitor to respect the will of the people if I defeat her in the primaries," he said.

If elected, Makau pledged to support farmers cooperatives, agro-processing, accelerate infrastructure development and proper healthcare systems.

"I call upon my party leader, my supporters and election board to be sensitive on how to conduct primaries. I assure Kenyans that Wiper will carry the Machakos Governor seat," said Makau.

Anti-graft agency pursuing Sh21b stolen public assets

Head of State witnesses ceremonial handover of Sh450 million repatriated to Kenya from new Jersey

by Eric Wainaina
@EWainaina

Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) is pursuing more than Sh21.6 billion worth of public assets, including land and money believed to have been grabbed from national and county governments by public officials.

Revelations came even as President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday called for concerted efforts to scale up the war against corruption, saying the country cannot afford to rest on its laurels until the vice is eradicated.

"We must all work together, that is, all arms of government, the business community, media, religious institutions, non-governmental organisations and ordinary Kenyans to fight this noble war. We must raise the bar even higher, if we are serious about the Sustainable Development Goals and our very own Vision 2030," Uhuru said.

Uhuru spoke at State House, Nairobi, when he witnessed the ceremonial handing over of Sh450 million repatriated to Kenya from Jersey island following the conviction of Windward Trading Limited for money laundering.

International space

The Sh450 million had been stolen by Samuel Gichuru, a former boss of Kenya Power and one time Finance Minister Chris Okemo, who were accused of taking kickbacks from British, Norwegian and German engineering firms, as well as a US communications giant, which they sent to a Jersey-registered company.

British High Commissioner to Kenya Jane Marriot, who attended the State House ceremony, pledged her country's continued support to Kenya in the recovery of illegally acquired assets stashed abroad.

"The Framework for the Return of Assets from Crime and Corruption signed on March 28 sends a clear signal to those who wish to steal from the State that they will ultimately not succeed. It provides a framework for future recovery of assets in international space," the envoy said.



President Uhuru Kenyatta (left) hands over title deeds to Kisii Governor James Ong'wa after a successful recovery of grabbed public land through a process spearheaded by EACC. PSCU

During the meeting, EACC chief executive Twalib Mbarak revealed that in the last 10 years, the commission had recovered corruptly acquired assets in cash, movable and immovable assets valued at approximately Sh23.2 billion in cases that have seen some former powerful government officials convicted.

He said his officers were pursuing 357 civil cases filed in various courts across the country seeking to recover public assets valued at approximately Sh14 billion.

Twalib said EACC is pursuing in court forfeiture of unexplained wealth valued at approximately Sh7.6 billion from persons alleged to own assets disproportionate to their known legitimate sources of income.

Among the recovered properties handed over back to government institutions included 14 properties valued at approximately Sh603 million, a parcel of land measuring approx. 227.9 Ha belonging to Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) valued at approximately Sh2 billion.

Also handed back was a parcel of land measuring approx. 69.2 Ha belonging to Kenya Railways Corporation valued at approximately Sh2 billion and three properties registered in favour of County Government of Uasin Gishu valued at approximately Sh570 million, 14 properties

registered in favour of County Government of Kisii valued at approximately Sh64 million and a piece of land registered in favour of County Government of Nakuru valued at approximately Sh30 million.

"The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has put in place elaborate strategies and policy framework to trace, preserve and recover public assets. Some of the asset recovery mechanisms that we are employing include; civil proceedings, use of alternative dispute resolutions and forfeiture of unexplained wealth," Twalib said.

Anti-graft army

The President emphasised that although corruption has deep roots and its axis keeps on regrouping and fighting back, the government will not be swayed by naysayers or misdirected by those who relish negativity and resentment.

He commended EACC for the hard work that had resulted in the restitution of illegally acquired land titles back to their original public sector owners.

The EACC boss said the organisation had adopted new strategies to fight corruption. "Together with all the representative investigative, prosecutorial and oversight bodies present today who I describe as our 'Anti-Corruption Army', we continue to see the fruits of our collective labour to curtail corruption and minimise opportunities for its occurrence," Twalib said.

Further, according to him, there are 24 other parcels of lands which have been recovered and are pending registration of title deeds at various stages worth approximately Sh6.1 billion.

Among the properties pending registration of titles is a 21.04 Ha land belonging to the Kenya Meteorological Department located in Nairobi's Industrial Area valued at approximately Sh5 billion. The land is earmarked for construction of affordable houses to benefit low-income citizens.

Besides successfully asking the court to have former public officials and tenderpreneurs to forfeit ill-gotten wealth, the commission is currently pursuing multi-billion-shilling assets linked to former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko, former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu, Murang'a Governor Mwangi wa Iria, Okoth Obado (Migori) and Moses Lenolkulal (Samburu), all of who are facing corruption charges in court.

Relief for job seekers on clearance papers rule

by Jeremiah Kiplang'at
@PeopleDailyKe

Potential employers are now barred from demanding clearance certificates from job seekers before they recruit them.

A new law that was assented to by President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday states that an employer will be expected to hire a person first before demanding such documents from State agencies like the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Credit Reference Bureau, the Kenya Revenue Authority or the Higher Education and Loans Board.

The Employment (amendment) Bill, 2019 was sponsored by Nominated MP Gideon Keter who has been pushing for abolition of this requirement saying it was too costly for graduates to raise the amount of money required to acquire the certificates.

The President welcomed the law.

"The new Employment (Amendment) Act gives reprieve to job seekers by requiring employers to only ask for clearance or compliance certificates "upon granting an offer of employment to a prospective employee." Previously, prospective employees were required to avail such documentation during job application," a State House communiqué said.

Recently, Keter said the government agencies should not treat job seeking as a revenue generating venture.

"The issuance of clearance certificates ought not to be treated as a revenue stream by public entities mandated to issue the same. The CRB charges Sh2,200 while DCI charges Sh1,050 for a Certificate of Good Conduct," he said.

The MP added that those who suffered most because of the requirements were young people.

"They are mostly first-time job seekers who are unable to pay for the clearance certificates required by employers. The Bill seeks to cure this by providing that employers may only request for any clearance or compliance certificates only upon granting an offer of employment," he added.

Hurdles scaled in bits for Thursday Budget Speech

Speaker says event will go on since President has assented to Division of Revenue Bill as required

by Anthony Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKE

Presentation of this year's Budget Estimates will proceed on Thursday as planned after Parliament and the National Treasury reached a consensus.

Parliament had written to National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani informing him that he would not be allowed to present the Budget on April 7 before passage of two crucial Bills.

But yesterday, Speaker Justin Muturi said the presentation would be done since the President had assented to the Division of Revenue Bill as required by law.

"I will be traveling to Uganda but before then I will present the DoRB to the President for signing today (Tuesday)," Muturi told 'People Daily' on phone.

He, however, said Yatani would walk a tightrope as he is required to table the Finance Bill and the Budget Estimates first before he reads the Budget highlights and revenue-raising measures.

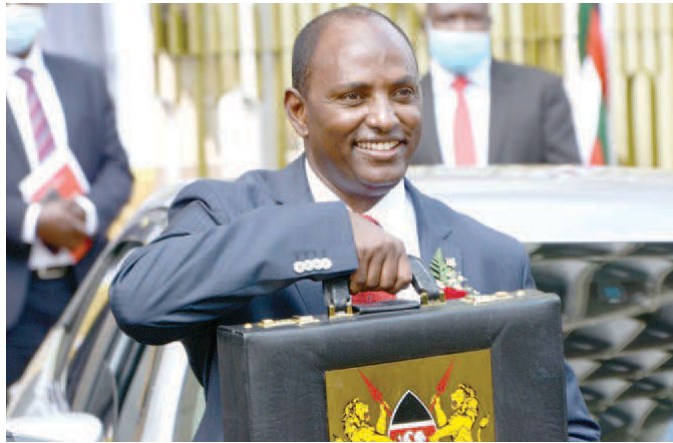
Moving against headwinds

Added Muturi: "If he doesn't table these instruments, he may find himself moving against headwinds. But then, it is a very untidy process we find ourselves in. The highlights he is going to read ought to be based on the estimates that have not been presented. These estimates must be based on the resolution of the House when it passed the Budget Policy Statement (BPS)."

The Speaker, Leaders of Majority and Minority — Amos Kimunya and John Mbadia, respectively — will leave the country on Wednesday to attend the State funeral of the Uganda Parliament Speaker. But they will return the same day. The Clerk of the National Assembly, Machel Sialai, said the DoRB has already been forwarded to his office from the Senate without amendments.

"The Bill will be assented to by the President tomorrow and, during the afternoon session, the Speaker will inform the House after which the CS will be free to present the Budget Estimates," Sialai explained.

However, Mbadia differed with the position taken by parliament, saying: "I don't expect the CS to come and read the Budget highlights and revenue-raising measures before the Budget estimates have been tabled and approved by the National Assembly. That will be unprocedural. Budget highlights and revenue-raising measures



Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani. He is required to table the Finance Bill and the Budget Estimates first before he reads the Budget highlights. PD/FILE

must follow the approved estimates."

In the letter to Treasury, the House Business Committee (HBC) said it would be unconstitutional to present the Budget estimates without passage of the Division of Revenue Bill and the Finance Bill.

The House business committee is charged with planning business to be transacted by the House without which Parliament is paralysed. "The committee appreciated that the proposed dates are in keeping with the practice set in 2016/17 with respect to processing of Budget-related matters during an election year. The committee however asked that you be notified that the two Bills must be passed before then," reads the letter signed by Serah Kioko for the Clerk of the National Assembly, which is also copied to Principal Secretary Julius Muia.

"This is to acknowledge receipt of the said letter conveying the proposed date of 7th April 2022 for the public pronouncement of the 2022/23 Budget Highlights and revenue-raising measures. We brought the request to the attention of the House Business Committee during its last meeting," Kioko wrote.

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

● Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani will walk a tightrope as he is required to table the Finance Bill and the Budget Estimates first before he reads the Budget highlights and revenue-raising measures.

● The highlights he is going to read ought to be based on estimates that have not been presented yet to the House.

The committee noted that provisions of section 39 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, as read together with the High Court Ruling of 11th December 2020 (Constitutional Petition No. 232 of 2019, as consolidated with Petition No. 277 of 2019), now imply that presentation of the Budget Policy Highlights (Budget Speech), the consideration of Budget Estimates and the subsequent Appropriation Bill are to be preceded by passage of the annual Division of Revenue Bill by Parliament (both Houses).

"The Division of Revenue Bill 2022 is currently in the Senate, having been passed by the National Assembly. Sections 39A and 40 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, presupposes the presentation of the Budget and the annual Finance Bill after submission of the National Government's Budget Estimates to the National Assembly," states the committee.

The committee, which is chaired by Speaker Justin Muturi, further states: "It is therefore hoped that the foregoing matters will have been fulfilled before 7th April 2022. If not, the House is available between 7th April 2022 and 14th April 2022, and between 10th May 2022 and 9th June 2022, for purposes of presentation of the 2022/23 Budget Highlights and revenue-raising measures."

Meanwhile, Garissa Township MP Aden Duale raised the matter of constitutionality on the budget process. He wanted the Speaker to rule whether the CS violated the Constitution by publishing the date for the Budget Statement, especially in view of all the pending issues.

BRIEFLY

Sh233m graft case against Korane pushed to May 9

A Nairobi court yesterday postponed the hearing of a Sh233 million graft case against Garissa Governor Ali Korane (right) and three others after the trial magistrate was said to be bereaved.

The case was to be heard for three days this week but the parties were informed by Magistrate Thomas Nzioki that magistrate Elizabeth Juma of the Anti-Corruption Court was in mourning.

"The case will be mentioned on May 9," Nzioki said. The prosecution was yesterday expected to call the second witness from a bank in Garissa. The Governor and the three co-accused — Abdi Bulee



Ibrahim Shurie and Ahmed Abdullahi — are charged with misappropriating Sh233 million from the county between February 25 and September 30, 2019.

They had challenged their prosecution on account that the money was refunded. But High Court Judge Esther Maina said they must face the full trial for other charges, such as conspiracy to defraud. - Nancy Gitonga

Fishermen seek soft loans to expand revenue streams

Fishermen in Busia County want the County and National governments to assist them with soft loans to cushion them from high competition and wrangles with Ugandan authorities. Busia County Chairman of Beach Management Unit (BMU) network, Sylvester Kaywa, said the fishermen have for long been at loggerheads with Ugandan officials patrolling the lake, who accuse them of illegal fishing. He added: "They are ready to abandon il-

legal fishing but they need economic empowerment". Kaywa pointed out that sectors such as coffee and sugarcane have been received grants from the government.

He urged the government to invest in cage-fish farming and asked Kenya Wildlife Service to compensate families who have lost their kin to human-wildlife conflicts, especially hippos.

Osebat Okeyo, chairman of Matolo BMU in Uganda, said they need legal nets and other fishing gear. - KNA

Isinya rider dies, passenger hurt in double road accident

A boda boda rider died on the spot while his passenger was wounded in an accident at Kisajayo area, Isinya, on Sunday at 11 pm.

The rider was heading towards Kitegela from Isinya and is said to have been overtaking when the head-on collision with a car occurred. In a double tragedy, the rider was also knocked down by a hit-and-run car.

The accident brings to six the number of passengers who have died on that spot

in two months.

Sub-county police commander Ancient Kaloki warned against speeding and careless driving. "The passenger is in critical condition at Kajiado Referral Hospital," said Kaloki.

"This road has many trucks ferrying goods to and from Tanzania. Don't assume it has less vehicles. Avoid driving on the wrong lane," he said. He called for erection of cautionary road signs. - Christine Musa

Fast-track construction of CBC classrooms, Magoha orders contractors

by Mathew Ndong'u

Concern has been raised over the slow pace that private schools are putting up new classrooms for the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), even as the government intensifies construction of new blocks and infrastructure.

Yesterday, Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha (right) said private schools have nothing to show in terms of new classrooms just months before Grade Six pupils transit to junior secondary schools. He spoke in Gatundu South constituency, Kiambu County, after inspecting construction of CBC classrooms at Ituru, Kahuguini and Gathage secondary schools.

"Private schools should get more serious and

invest in junior secondary schools. I'm not seeing much construction; they only need to construct one extra classroom because they already have two; but even that one I'm not seeing it," he said. The facilities should be ready before July.

Few private secondary schools

"Do it on time so that we are able to inspect it. Specifically in urban areas like Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, and Eldoret, where we have many private primary schools and very few secondary institutions," he added.

Magoha said close to 5,000 classrooms out of 6,497 to be constructed in phase one, in line with CBC requirements, have been completed.

"The northern region is leading with 100 per-

cent completion, Nyanza is at 97 percent and generally we are approaching 90 percent. We were slowed down by national examinations; which are now over. We want to marshal everybody so that we deliver the 6,497 classrooms before the end of April," he said. He maintained that the 10,000 classrooms that President Uhuru Kenyatta promised — and set aside Sh8 billion funding — will be ready by July this year.

He added that training of junior secondary school teachers has commenced and will continue until December. Marking of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exams, he said, has commenced smoothly. The results will be released before the end of this month.



How election will impact growth rate

The national budgeting process in an election year presents a tough balancing act for the government due to the immediate financing needs and the normal annual budgetary needs.

Notably, during an election year there is increased pressure to facilitate election-related expenditure.

Budgetary pressures are compounded by reduced investor confidence due to the uncertainty associated with a General Election. This negatively affects economic growth.

The National Treasury projects that the economy will grow by 5.9 per cent in the 2021/22 and 5.8 per cent in 2022/23 financial years. This is, however, premised on several factors which could have an impact on economic performance.

A slow pace of economic recovery, the effects of the drought in parts of the country and depressed private investment are likely to affect the projected growth. This is also tied with other aspects that are hinged on how the country manoeuvres through the elections.

Revenue collection

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has in the recent past managed to meet or exceed its target collections. For instance, KRA collected Sh976.7 billion in the first half of the 2021/22 financial year against a target of Sh929.1 billion. This is a great performance more so coming in the midst of a pandemic.

But this may be affected by the elections if there is a disruption in business activities. The National Treasury must, therefore, factor in the impact of the likely depressed revenue collections on the implementation of government projects.

Tax exemptions, incentives

The government employs various policy tools to encourage investment which is a major source of growth. These tools are also, in some instances, used to alleviate the cost of living through the reduction of taxes or tax rates as well as extension of tax rebates and exemptions.

Value Added Tax (VAT) status of basic commodities has over the years oscillated between exempt and zero-rated. This has an impact on the final price of these commodities since when goods are exempt, any related input VAT is absorbed as part of the cost of these goods while manufacturers of zero-rated goods are entitled to claim the related input VAT and offset it against output VAT.



ROBERT MAINA

It is common for the government to introduce populist policies such as tax exemptions and rebates in an election year

It is common for the government to introduce populist policies such as tax exemptions, rebates and similar incentives in an election year. This has a positive impact on the cost of living but has a negative effect on tax collections.

Investor confidence

The uncertainty associated with an election reduces investor appetite and most of them adopt a wait and see attitude until the elections are concluded and the next government is established. The economic approach that is adopted by the new administration is also a key area of interest that deters investors from making long-term investment decisions. It is thus likely that over the next financial year the country may experience a reduction in private investment.

This year's Budget must, therefore, allocate sufficient resources to critical economic sectors to support the economy in times of reduced private investment.

Service payments

Some of the current MPs, MCAs and other elected officials will vacate office. This is accompanied by payment of their final dues among other related payments. This requires higher budgetary allocations to cater for these costs.

Also notable is that the absorption of funds allocated to various ministries, counties, departments and agencies is affected by changes in the holders of political office. This leads to delays in the implementation of projects which has a knock-on effect on the overall economic output.

By and large, this year's Budget will have nuances to cater for the impact of the election.

— The writer is a Senior Tax Manager at Ernst & Young LLP (EY). The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of EY.

Why this year's Budget will be presented early



GRACE MUCHIRI

The Budget will be the last under President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Policy Statement.

In line with the above, the National Treasury CS has indicated that he will present the Budget Statement for the 2022/23 financial year to Parliament on April 7, which is two months earlier than what has been the tradition.

In a press statement issued at the beginning of March, the National Treasury also called on the public to share contributions on policy and tax measures for Treasury's consideration in its preparation of the Budget. The deadline for the submissions was

March 22.

The election is scheduled for August 9. It will therefore be paramount to have the planned expenditures and revenues of the government go through the Parliamentary process and presidential consent before the House breaks for the elections.

This year's Budget will be the last one under President Uhuru Kenyatta. The expected Budget of Sh3.3 trillion will be read early to allow time for members of Parliament to deliberate on the main component of the Budget which

include proposed revenue sources and expenditure plans for the financial year commencing July 2022.

It is also necessary for this year's Budget to be tabled early in order to allow time for the preparation of the Appropriation Bill which provides the mandate to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund.

This will be important to run the day-to-day activities of the government including judicial processes that are key in any election process. This will also enable the utilisation of funds towards the running of the August elections.

— The writer is a senior tax consultant with Ernst & Young. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of EY

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QUOTED TODAY



“We know that thousands of people have been killed and tortured with extremities cut off, women raped and children killed. These are war crimes which will be recognised by the world as genocide.”
UKRAINE PRESIDENT
VOLODYMYR
ZELENSKY



“There is need for relevant agencies to work together. No one succeeds alone, no one has all the answers. We will facilitate IEBG on issue of network coverage for the transmission of results.”
CA CHIEF EXECUTIVE
EZRA CHILOBA



“Framework for the Return of Assets from Crime and Corruption, sends a clear signal to those who wish to steal from the State that they will not succeed. It provides a framework for future assets recovery in international space.”
BRITAIN ENVOY TO
KENYA JANE MARRIOT

Resolve fuel crisis once and for all

Wrangles pitting the Ministry of Energy and oil marketers have hit consumers hard as the ongoing artificial fuel shortage continues to bite.

While the government says it has sufficient reserves and that marketers should set the value chain free, a quick solution is required to sort out the problem. Among the key issues in contention in the current stand-off is the close to Sh13 billion fuel subsidy from the government that marketers claim has not been released.

However, the elephant in the room is the government's stand on the review of fuel prices twice a month, which marketers say would shield them from the so-called mid-month fluctuation.

But the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) says the current monthly review is best suited for price certainty. The regulator also says the monthly reviews give the government sufficient time to respond effectively to any market fluctuation.

However, marketers contend that a bi-monthly review would boost their cash flows, and increase certainty on prices. The marketers further say this would also allow them to sell available stock without waiting for a month to get new prices.

Early this year, some marketers agreed that they are at times forced to hoard fuel until the price review is out. The problem with these uncertainties is that Kenya is a diesel-driven economy, a bi-monthly fuel price review would increase administrative costs since the regulator would use half of the shipped fuel to set the prices, with a serious impact on the cost of living.

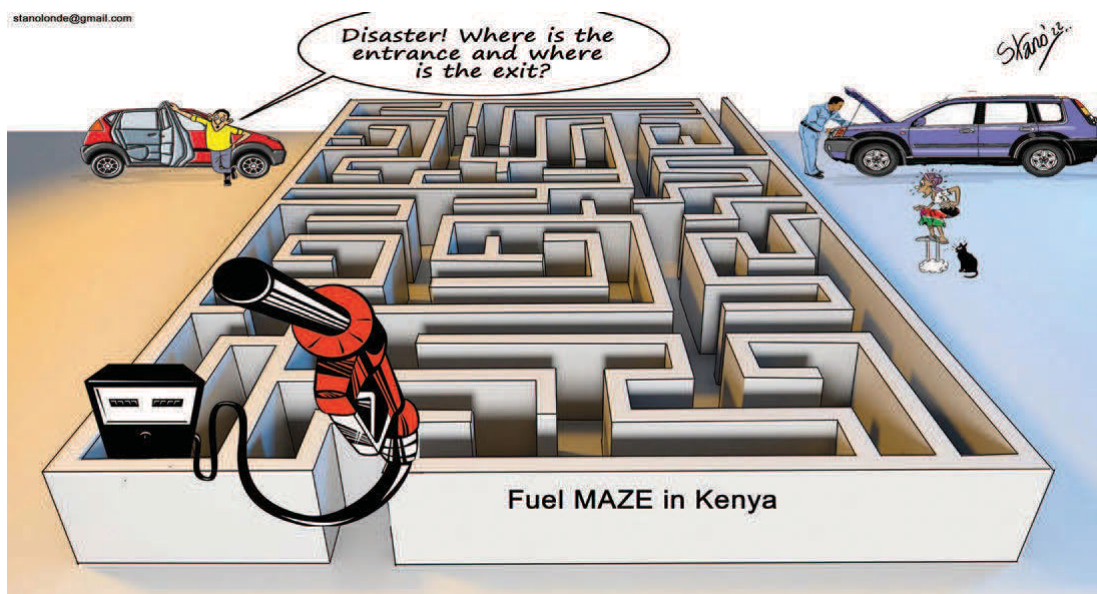
This would not only have a direct knock-on effect on the cost of goods and services, the government would be forced to increase compensation for the ensuing surge in buying and shipping costs. However, for consumers, questions abound. Why was a kitty set aside from taxpayers' money and it is not being used for the reason it was created?

Last year, for example, the national Treasury was put on the spot for diverting Sh18.1 billion from the Fund, to take care of the Standard Gauge Railway costs in September last year.

This prompted fuel prices to hit historic highs in October. The signing of the fuel subsidy yesterday should have been done before the crisis. Did it have to take a go-slow on the part of marketers for government to react?

As we head towards elections amid an international crisis in the value chain due to the war in Ukraine, this fuel dilemma must be sorted out quickly to help the economy regenerate.

stanolond@gmail.com



Toxic politics dangerous for national cohesion

Last Friday's attack on Azimio la Umoja-One Kenya coalition presidential candidate Raila Odinga demonstrates how dangerously deep, toxic political rhetoric has permeated our society.

The race to State House has apparently become a mortal obsession for some political aspirants and their allies, willing to achieve their ambitions "by any means necessary".

Democracy has been relegated to the periphery, freedom of speech and expression turned into a weapon to demonise opponents with denigrating public utterances, potential voters unwitting pawns in the manipulated political chessboard.

Not even the Head of State who deserves respect and moderated criticism as a symbol of national stability, is spared a torrent of insults and vile insinuations.

Merely because he disentangled a close associate to back an erstwhile rival hitherto political nemesis. His personal reasons for this unprecedented choice borne from experience in the Executive, and democratic right as a citizen notwithstanding.

Yes, he may have imperfections, not least bellicose politicians including those in the same Executive who must equally shoulder his flaws and successes, even as they turn the heat on him and his choice with all manner of accusations.

The Bible, in Matthew 7:5, tells us: "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine



ALBERTO LENY

“Those who want to take us back to that ominous past must be condemned and held to account”

own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye".

To advance cleverly convoluted ambitions in a deceitful futile bid to downgrade opponents, politicians are spewing vitriolic public statements harming national cohesion and inciting a gullible public into violent actions; in the name of ascending to power at all costs.

We cannot afford to walk a path of bitterness, recrimination and foul language promoting political zoning that spark ethnic conflict every election season.

The 2007/2008 post-election violence nearly plunged the Kenyan nation into a catastrophe and prospects of targeted ethnic violence hang on our neck and national conscience like an albatross - fueled by hate speech.

Sadly, the scary incident that threatened the lives of Raila and other leaders during the burial of a respected community and national leader, happened at a location synonymous with the epicenter of the tragic mayhem in this dark period of Kenya's history.

Those who want to take us back to that ominous past must be condemned and held to account for inciteful toxic public pronouncements and conspiracies that could easily drag us into bloodshed.

Of late attacks against the President and his preferred successor from the other side of the political divide have reached a curiously obsessive crescendo, heightened after the Supreme Court delivered the judgement that outlawed the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI).

Though they championed BBI as an antidote to national discord, the Handshake partners did not interfere with the exhaustive judicial process that exposed the constitutional flaws in the process leading to its collapse, yet also offered a compass for its reincarnation - after the 9 August election.

Political wisdom teaches that even as you remain watchful, you do not respond to detractors in kind.

Kenyans are yearning for unity and a solution to the myriad economic challenges facing them, some caused by the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Azimio leader should seize the BBI lesson to forge a national unity agenda that could steal the thunder from opponents, with a robust national economic recovery plan and a communication strategy strengthening inclusion, devolution and social protection. Four months is enough time to turn the tide.

—albertoleny@gmail.com

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

THOMAS A. EDISON

“Many of life's failures are people who did not realise how close they were to success when they gave up”

Why Moses Kuria is likely to keep exploding

Gatundu South MP Moses Kuria has made unprovoked attacks targeting Raila Odinga. He is understandably bitter. He is likely to lash out at anyone he feels is responsible for his aborted Mt Kenya coup plot. His outbursts are not simply to seek political relevance but also a personal quest to seek closure over this crushing disappointment.

To get a clear understanding, Kuria's actions should be viewed from a broader political lens of the intense jostling among Central MPs drooling to inherit the region's political kingpin crown after President Uhuru Kenyatta quits active politics.

President's looming retirement has lit bonfires of anticipation among a section of Mt Kenya leaders who feel the vote-rich mountain bloc will be up for grabs. They hope the millions of votes will gravitate towards them as they woo the region with promises of protected interests in post-Uhuru's presidency era.

The political matrix of Central is complicated. Uhuru's retirement is not just an issue of leaving a public office; it is another historic 2013-Kibaki moment. This critical transition is being viewed as a point for transfer of influence and power.

This is the logic adopted by UDA-allied Central MPs. They are outraged the president still holds massive sway with his voters.

ISAM LATOTI

With expected more outbursts and name-calling, Kuria has been exposed as a mere Trojan horse for UDA in Mt Kenya

Kuria, more than any other leader, has been disturbingly vocal in pushing the narrative on how Uhuru should retire. This isn't mere politics. It's a subtle message intended to prime voters of the impending transition. It is meant to sow low-level disquiet in their minds by warning them their interests are no longer safe with an outgoing president. This is time for Central to settle on a capable replacement.

In Kuria's scheming world, he fits the bill. The mission was to overthrow Uhuru and forcefully take his support base. He has constantly declared the Jubilee Party dead. High profile defections by self-seeking leaders from Uhuru's backyard and defeat of a few motions in Parliament gave credence to this narrative.

Kuria's bile against Jubilee is a byproduct of the Handshake. With ODM working with Jubilee, Raila did not need a chaperone to campaign in Mt Kenya. Jubilee supporters willingly welcomed him.

The death of Jubilee in Central offered an excellent opportunity for Kuria to reap massively. Through his

Chama Cha Kazi party, he hoped to absorb all Jubilee orphans. To give it local flavour, the party was projected as Mt Kenya thing. Millions of voters in the region now had a political vehicle they could identify with.

However, Kuria's move faced headwinds from UDA. Deputy President William Ruto viewed Mt Kenya as UDA region. Smaller parties would complicate matters and deny UDA the national look he craved for.

However, Kuria stuck to his guns. He had a bigger dream that went beyond the 2022 contest. His sight was on voters who were likely to be disillusioned if they believed Jubilee was dead. Disillusioned voters are easy prey. If they flocked into his party, even Ruto would be forced to negotiate with him as a partner in a coalition. His confidence and stature got a moderate boost after the Juja by-election where his candidate won.

His dream was simple. As the undisputed Central kingpin, he would wield massive power and influence. Presidential aspirants, particularly Raila, would have been forced to kneel and grovel before this king-

maker seeking access to Mt Kenya. This never happened to the MP's shocked dismay.

Kuria's was a hut of hope built on fleeting assumptions. The first assumption, that Jubilee is dead, has been debunked. Uhuru himself took charge of revamping the party in a flawless execution that put to shame MPs who had written epitaphs for the party.

The second assumption, that aspirants would avoid Jubilee, is equally dead. Thousands of aspirants have expressed wish to ride on the party to vie for various posts countrywide. In Mt Kenya, Jubilee aspirants have simply overwhelmed opponents.

Ironically, members of Kuria's party have been scrambling for this Jubilee's pie.

This turn of events has understandably left the MP sore. His coup aborted; his well-laid plans have come a cropper. The dream of inheriting the mountain lies in cold tatters.

After failing, the MP has finally retreated to UDA; his true home. With expected more outbursts and name-calling, Kuria has been exposed as a mere Trojan horse for UDA in Mt Kenya region.

— The writer comments on topical issues

ODDLY ENOUGH



Wayward seal detained after bid to evade capture

The Southampton Town Police Department of Long Island, New York, apprehended a wayward seal that initially evaded capture. The seal was captured Sunday morning after police received a call about a loose seal that was roaming the parking lot of a beverage store. The mammal, identified as a juvenile harbor seal, fled southwest towards the Budget Host Inn after police arrived. Authorities were then able to detain and capture the seal until it was taken into custody by the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation, the Southampton Town Police Department said on Facebook. Police uploaded photos of the seal laying in the middle of the road and near a police car.

—Agencies

Whence the threat to global food security?

Global food crisis is at the doorstep of Africa. It is a real issue, and a matter for serious concern for all the poorer and economically vulnerable countries. Of course, there is always an easy explanation for all the woes of the world: Russia! And this is precisely what you get 24/7 from the 'international mainstream' propaganda machine outlets.

But I would like to share with my Kenyan friends a wider political economy perspective. If we are honest, we will have to admit the problem started long before the Ukrainian events. And its root cause is the overall systemic crisis of modern global economy. Liberal capitalism has simply exhausted its creative potential, which is manifested in perennial global economic imbalances, increasing trade distortions, rise of protectionism, rapid increase of inequalities among and within countries, phantasmagoric debt crisis, erosion of the middle class, social unrest, racism and violence.

The last attempt by the UN to address the situation in a fair way through the Sustainable Development Goals was sabotaged by the global ruling class aka former colonial rulers of the world and self-proclaimed "democracies" because of greed and fear of a more equitable



DMITRY MAKISIMYCHEV

What happens when you pump trillions of empty dollars into economies? Inflation!

redistribution of wealth among countries and people.

The global ruling class is losing its competitive advantage to the new emerging economic powers that can offer better productivity, technological solutions and quality of everything the world needs. And the only response they are capable of producing is protectionism, "sanctions" and brutal pressure. The cases of repressions against Huawei's 5G technology and Russia's international media RT and Sputnik are very telling.

Is it the behaviour you would expect from someone strong and self-confident? No, this is a reaction of someone who feels weak and scared of honest competition and freedom of expression.

To understand the origins of the current food crisis, let us take a step back and look how the global ruling class reacted to the 2008-9 financial crisis and Covid pandemic. Their response has always been distressingly primitive, short-sighted and destructive. All they did was printing

money and suppressing competition. What are they doing now? They are printing money and suppressing competition.

What happens when you pump trillions of empty dollars into economies and monopolise the markets? Inflation! That means everything people need, everything that has real consumer value (food first) becomes very expensive to the consumer.

Now, on the Ukraine-related situation. What happens when you take a key international producer and supplier of food and fertilisers, Russia for that matter, and try to isolate it from the global financial system, steal its sovereign reserves and other assets, impose a trade blockade, illegal restrictions on its capacity to pay and receive payments, to deliver its produce to the consumer, when you prevent its ships from leaving ports and entering others' ports, etc?

Right, the offer in the global food market shrinks, and the prices go up. And if you add to that a global campaign of intimidation and politi-

cal and economic coercion to scare whole countries from cooperating with us, the prices soar.

It is disturbing that they are doing exactly the same thing to global energy. And this leaves very little hope that they will ever comprehend what they are doing, and the world will soon see a global energy crisis as well, which probably will degenerate into all-out global economic meltdown.

What is remarkable is that they are hurting themselves (it's all right, they are adults free to engage in any activities they have an inclination to), but in the process they really endanger the lives of millions of people around the world. And this is serious.

What is the solution? I have no easy answers. I would only recommend to my Kenyan friends to think independently, be creative, and try to figure out how to do away with the neo-colonialist, highly dysfunctional and, to be frank, dishonest structure that is the western financial system, which stands between Russia who wants to trade with Africa and Africa who wants to trade with Russia.

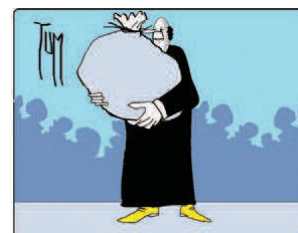
And, as a matter of mental and intellectual hygiene, please, turn off western propaganda.

— The writer is Russian ambassador to Kenya

Man wins Sh7m accidental lottery

A man from Missouri won \$77,777 (Sh7.8 million) from a scratch-off lottery ticket that he did not intend to buy. The unidentified lottery player accidentally selected a Hot 7s ticket when he meant to purchase a different scratch-off game. "I wasn't paying attention when I was selecting the ticket. It was a fluke," he said, adding that he is still processing the win and did not specify how he will use his winnings. "The fact it happened at all is pretty crazy. It hasn't sunk in yet," he continued. The Hot 7s scratch-off was launched in February, and has a grand prize of \$777,777.

—Agencies



TRUTHIS: Contentment is realising that God has already given you all you need.

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



Shortage has no Ukraine relation

@aomenya: #FuelShortage is not a supply vs demand issue. It is a governance issue. GoK, get your act together. The usual cartels will kill mwananchi with price hikes under the guise of war in Ukraine.

Is Uhuru playing chess with Raila?

@GunnerAfrican: Do you think Uhuru is genuinely supporting Raila to be the next President or he is playing a political chess and buying time to turn round tomorrow and say Satan tempted him as he once said?

Ruto's hands aren't clean either!

@ProudKenyan_: During the Moi era, DP Ruto supported the torture of political opponents such as Kenneth Matiba and crack-down on protesters who were pushing for multiparty removal of Section 2A.

Dreadlocks were Muthoni legacy!

@WMutunga: Did Fld Marshal Muthoni Kirima consent to dreadlock's cutting? They were her legacy as a revolutionary. It reminds me of the humiliation meted out to Wangari Maathai in prison when her dreadlocks were cut off.

BALLOT 2022

FOR MORE NEWS VISIT: www.pd.co.ke / www.epaper.pd.co.ke

Ngirici asks residents to embrace women leadership

Kirinyaga Woman Rep Wangui Ngirici has appealed to residents to stop the ongoing narrative of rejecting women leaders in future.

Ngirici said it had come to her attention that due to the prolonged battle that was witnessed between Governor Anne Waiguru and Ward Reps a while back, residents have since resolved to shun women leadership.

She said such a resolution would not be not fair at all, given that leaders should be judged on their personal capabilities and never on gender basis.

Ngirici was addressing her supporters at Gakoigo in Kirinyaga Central during her campaign trails that saw her visit other places including Thiba North in Mwea.

"My manifesto will be giving priority to improvement of the health standard unlike what is happening now where most hospitals lack essential drugs," she said.

Ngirici took a swipe at Waiguru for allegedly inflating the cost of refurbishing Kerugoya Hospital to a whopping Sh1.2 billion, while in her own estimation, the governor just spent about 400 million.

"When you vote me as your next governor, Waiguru will have to tell us where they took the rest of the money she claims to have used in putting up the facility," Ngirici said.

Ngirici is seeking to unseat Waiguru on an Independent ticket.

-KNA

Ex-Speaker in race to oust Wamunyinyi

by Titus Oteba
@PeopleDailyKe

Former Bungoma county Assembly Speaker John Makali has ditched ODM for Ford Kenya in his quest to unseat Kanduyi MP Wafula Wamunyinyi.

Speaking in Bungoma town at the Weekend, Makali said he is ready to take over the mantle from Wamunyinyi.

"From today henceforth, I will be campaigning to ensure I send Wamunyinyi home. He has failed this constituency. Those labelling me as a coward are in for a rude shock," said Makali.

He added: "I decided to join Ford Kenya because it is a party with an overwhelming grassroots



support in Bungoma. This is the party of our forefathers and it is our heritage," he said.

Makali warned his rivals to prepare for a tough political dwell that has never been seen before.

Makali, a lawyer, noted that he is ready to lead Kanduyi constituency and bring the needed changes that have been missing for a long time.

"I want good utilisation of

the National Government Constituencies Development Fund, claiming the current leadership has totally failed. We want to see changes that will benefit everyone," he said.

Kanduyi Ford Kenya secretary Tobias Khisa said that the meeting was meant to familiarise their new candidates with the party structures.

"We are not here to endorse Makali but to welcome him to our party. He will still have to face other structures," he said.

Makali will face two other aspirants in the Ford Kenya primaries.

They are youthful Wafula Wankoli and Nairobi-based businessman Wafula Wambanda.

Officers undergo training on poll-crime prosecution

Over 100 prosecutors will also receive lessons on handling hate speech cases

by Zaddock Angira
@PeopleDailyKe

Over 100 prosecutors and stakeholders have started a one-week training on prosecution of election offences and hate speech during this electioneering period.

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) had last month launched Guidelines on Electoral Justice, which was yesterday followed up by the training at the Kenya School of Government, which will close on Saturday.

The guidelines are intended to standardise and ensure consistency in the prosecution of election-related offences, economic crimes committed in the context of elections, hate speech, sexual and gender based violence, cybercrime and computer misuse.

Speaking during the launch yesterday, Communications Authority (CA) chief executive Ezra Chiloba said there were 40,000 polling stations and that they expected that the nature of offences may vary.

Chiloba said there was need for relevant agencies to work together.

"No one succeeds alone. No one has all the answers. We will facilitate IEBC on the issue of network coverage for transmission of results," he said.

Technical committee

Chiloba said CA had set up a technical committee that brings together members of the mobile network providers, electoral agency and CA to review and provide evidence based advice on the extent of 3G and 4G network coverage across the country.

Chiloba revealed that 96 per cent of the population was covered by 3G and 4G network compared to 78 per



Chief Justice Martha Koome, DPP Noordin Haji and IEBC chair Wafula Chebukati at the Kenya School of Government, yesterday. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

THOSE WHO ATTENDED

● CJ Martha Koome, IEBC chairman Wafula Chebukati, Ghana DPP Yvonne Ateko Oboobisa, Ghana Head of Electoral Commission procurement Kofi Kyedoudu and Principal State Attorney of Ghana Richard Ansah among others.

cent in 2017.

Witness Protection Agency CEO Alice Ondieki said witnesses who are intimidated, threatened or at risk due to the vital information they have will be protected.

Ondieki said her agency expects an upsurge in applications and that it has the requisite capability to adequately admit and provide special protection.

Judiciary should prioritise cases where witnesses are protected to limit the pressure the witnesses go through.

Chief Justice Martha Koome said fair, efficient and timely prosecution of election disputes is a crucial component of achieving a successful election process.

She said petitions were very expensive and reminded the returning officers to do their work according to the law. Koome said magistrates from the 120 special courts will also be trained so that they read from the same script.

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights boss Dr Bernard Moga said the commission had set up an election hub to collect evidence on election related offences to ensure electoral justice and political

accountability.

IEBC chairman Wafula Chebukati on the other hand noted that they were prepared and had formed a team of investigators, which was also boosted by officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations.

Unnecessary tension

DPP Noordin Haji said development of the guidelines was due to an analysis of cases handled by ODPP in the last elections.

Haji said they had adopted principles of international criminal law such as the doctrine of command or superior responsibility that stipulates that a superior person can be held criminally responsible when their subordinates commit crimes.

He emphasised that effective and expeditious prosecution of such offences was necessary in quelling unnecessary tension.

She further urged the media to play a key role by accurate election reportage devoid of hate speech and subjective opinions.

After launch of the Compendium, ODPP will embark on a countrywide sensitisation of various stakeholders including members of public on election and hate speech offences.



Aspirant accuses JP of dishonesty over direct ticket claims

by Roy Lumbe
@PeopleDailyKe

Disquiet has rocked Jubilee party in Nakuru over an alleged move to hand a direct ticket to Nakuru Governor Lee Kinyanjui for the governorship race.

The uproar follows announcement by Kinyanjui last week that he would defend his seat on Jubilee ticket after consultations with the party's top leadership.

Governor, in his statement, had said the move was meant to consolidate Azimio La Umoja support base ahead of the August 9, polls which he intends to lead.

"A decision has been made that I defend my seat on Jubilee. I, therefore, wish to state that I will defend my seat as Nakuru Governor on the Jubilee ticket," Kinyanjui said.

Move, however, sparked protests from governor aspirant Dr Stanley Karanja (pictured), who accused the party of dishonesty and miscommunication over the same.

He lamented that despite being a staunch party member, he was being tactically elbowed out in favor of Kinyanjui without any notice.

"Governor had said he will seek re-election on Ubuntu Peoples Forum party ticket. How that changed and he being issued with the direct ticket still puzzles me," said Karanja.

Speaking in Nakuru yesterday, Karanja said though no formal communication had been issued from the party, it was evident that nominations in the county were already shelved.

"The party needs to showcase fairness and this being a political process we expect democracy, which includes consultations. I was not consulted on anything," he said. Furious Karanja vowed to pull down all his campaign posters and billboards bearing the party's logo today until JP gives clear communication on the issue.

"I have personally spent heavily on billboards, and advertisements trying to sell the party to ensure it captures the seat, this process needs to be clarified before I make my next move," said Karanja.

Insiders who spoke to *People Daily* revealed that President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is also the Jubilee leader, had communicated with Kinyanjui and urged him to consider defending his seat under the party.



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Taxation book launch

Dr Obadiah Njoroge Kimani (centre) flanked by Karen Hospital founders Dr Dan Gikonyo (left) and Dr Betty Gikonyo during the Launch of his Book on Understanding Tax Administration in Kenya at a Nairobi Hotel on Saturday
PD/ALICE MBURU



BRIEFLY

New head named for Holy Spirit church

The Church of the Holy Spirit in East Africa has a new head. Bishop John Timotheo Akhura was installed as the new spiritual leader on Sunday to replace Shem Shamalla who died last year. Akhura becomes the seventh high priest of the church famous with politicians from the Western Kenya and other parts of the country. The ceremony held at their Lugala headquarters in Shinyalu constituency was graced by, among others, Ikolomani MP Benard Shinali and businessman Fred Ikana. The duo used the occasion to call for political tolerance. Shinali endorsed Ikana for the Shinyalu parliamentary seat even though they belong to different parties. Shinali is in ODM under 'Azimio La Umoja' movement while Ikana is allied to ANC of the 'Kenya Kwanza Coalition.

- Dennis Lumiti

Three days in custody for rider in abduction, rape act

Further tests on boda boda rider accused of taking off with victim before assault on her at Ololua Forest

by Mathew Ndungu
@PeopleDailyKe

The boda boda operator who was arrested after he abducted and raped a foreigner will spend three days in custody as detectives undertake forensic tests on him and the victim.

Protas Onsongo was yesterday paraded before a Ngong' magistrate's court where police made a miscellaneous application to detain him for three days at the Ongata Rongai Police Station.

Detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) are set to take Onsongo's DNA to match it with the semen from his victim. They also intend to take his blood samples to match with the samples collected from the victim's clothes.

Onsongo, a rider is alleged to have abducted the foreigner last Saturday morning before raping her and abandoning her in a forest.

In a statement, the DCI stated Onsongo was seized by police as he attempted to flee from Nairobi to evade arrest.

The youthful woman who was in the company of two friends told police that the rider forced himself on her before leaving her in the dense Ololua forest in Ngong, Kajiado County.

She revealed that they had left, a popular joint along Langata road, after a night of merrymaking and at the parking, the three foreigners sought the services of three motorbikes to drop them at a hotel in Nairobi's Central Business District (CBD), where they had reserved their rooms.

But just after they joined Langata Road headed towards the city centre, the victim's motorbike that was last to leave the parking, made a sudden diversion and sped towards Bomas of Kenya direction.

The victim, according to police, realised that all was not well when she noticed a



Boda Boda rider Protas Onsongo when he was paraded before a Ngong' magistrate's court following allegations of abduction and rape. COURTESY

BODA BODA RAPIST

● Protas Onsongo was yesterday paraded before a Ngong' magistrate's court where police made a miscellaneous application to detain him

● Rider who not only abducted the foreigner last Saturday morning

lot of vegetation that is characteristic of the Ongata Rongai route.

"I tried raising alarm but my efforts were in vain, as the bike sped insecurely towards Ololua Forest," she said.

Digital forensics

Police said they immediately unmasked the identity of the suspected rapist using digital forensics before deployment of officers from the elite Crime Research and Intelligence Bureau (CRIB) was done.

In a well-coordinated operation between DCI Nairobi Regional command officers, their Ongata Rongai counterparts, and the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), the suspect was intercepted in Ngong at around 3pm, as he attempted to flee the city. DCI says it will extract DNA samples from the suspect for a foolproof case against Onsongo who was arraigned yesterday.

The incident comes barely a month after another victim was sexually molested by a group of riders along Wangari Mathai road.

The incident in which 16 suspects were arrested saw a woman who, according to police had hit a pedestrian suffer physical and sexual harassment.

Further, the incident saw major operations done across the country in a bid to root out criminals in the sector before all riders were ordered to register with transport authorities or face sanctions.

Detectives are currently investigating whether the boda boda had complied with the recent requirements and which Sacco the bike was registered under.

On Sunday afternoon in Pipeline, Embakasi, President Uhuru Kenyatta urged the riders to treat women with decency saying the government was committed to supporting their businesses.

Blow to ex-Kebs boss after court declines to stop proceedings

by Nancy Gitonga
@PeopleDailyKe

Former Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) Managing Director Charles Ongwae (pictured) and others facing charges of attempted murder and importation of 5,846,000 bags of fertilizer worth Sh882 million alleged to contain mercury have suffered a major blow after the High Court declined to terminate their criminal case.

In a judgment rendered by Justice Antony Mrima, the court rejected an attempt to stop their prosecution saying the termination of the criminal case will frustrate, instead of advancing, the rule of law.

"I hereby find that the petitioners will, at the trial, also be accorded an opportunity to challenge the veracity of the evidence including whether such evidence was properly obtained. Therefore the three consolidated petitions are hereby dismissed," Mrima ruled.

The judge also threw out the petitions by Ongwae and his co-accused Eric Chesire, Peter Kinyanjui, Martin Nyakiamo, Pole Mwangenji, Benson Oduor Ngesa and Stephen Boaz Oloo saying they have failed to demonstrate how the Director of Public Prosecutions violated the constitution by prosecuting them.

"The petitioners have, once again, not demonstrated how the Prosecutor was in breach of Article 157(11) of the Constitution which gives the DPP prosecutorial mandate. There is no evidence that the decision to charge the accused



persons and the sustenance of the criminal case are contrary to public interest, the interests of the administration of justice and the need to prevent and avoid abuse of the legal process," the judge said.

"Whereas the petitioners have a right not to be subjected to an illegal and/or unwarranted criminal process, the DPP is also under a public duty to ensure that offences are prosecuted and those culpable attended to as law requires. That is the balance created by the law and which this court is called upon to seriously undertake. In fact, that is the essence of the rule of law," he added.

Ongwae and his co-accused had sought to have their criminal case terminated claiming that their right to fair trial had been violated by the DPP through malicious prosecution.

The accused persons are facing several charges among them attempted murder, aiding the commission of a felony, abuse of office, breach of trust and selling substandard fertilizer.

In May 2019, the DPP withdrew charges of attempted murder charges against Malika Karama and Younes Addou, the directors of a Moroccan company known as OCP (K) Ltd that imported fertilizer said to contain excess mercury.

Uhuru leads Kenyans to mourn diplomat Ahenda

Many eulogise fallen ambassador as excellent diplomat, dedicated leader and a friendly family man

by Noven Owiti
@PeopleDailyKe

President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday led the country in mourning Kenya's ambassador to Qatar Paddy Ahenda who died yesterday morning.

Ahenda was appointed Kenya's ambassador to Qatar in 2018 and submitted his credentials to the State of Qatar in 2019.

In his statement, Uhuru eulogised the envoy as a dedicated and committed diplomat who was keen on deepening Kenya's relations with Qatar and the Arab world.

The President said at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the envoy mobilised medical aid from the Arab country to support Kenya's fight against the disease.

He pointed out that the envoy had overseen tremendous growth in trade and people-to-people ties between Nairobi and Doha during his tenure.

Uhuru described the deceased as a patriot loyal and devoted public servant whose focus was service to the country and the betterment of the well-being of the Kenyan nation.

The Head of State noted that Ahenda also foresaw increased trade flows between the two nations with Kenya's exports to Qatar growing to over Sh9 billion annually.

"In addition, Ahenda helped attract a growing number of Qatari investors into Kenya who invested in real estate, manufacturing and other sectors of our economy".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Ahenda passed on at a hospital in Qatar where he had been in ICU for the last five days undergoing treatment.

Family members led by his elder brother Gabriel Ahenda said they received shocking information on the envoy's death early yesterday.

"We are saddened by the news concerning my brother's death. He was in good health and even communicated with some of the family members on Thursday last week," Gabriel said.

Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga also eulogised Ahenda, 69, as a profound and dedicated leader. Raila said he had learnt about his death with shock and disbelief.

"I wish to convey deep condolences to the family of Hon Ambassador Paddy Ahenda. I had the pleasure of meeting



Kenya's ambassador to Qatar Paddy Ahenda who died yesterday after being in the ICU for five days at a hospital in Doha COURTESY

Ahenda about two weeks ago on my way to Nairobi from London. He was in his usual element; jovial, welcoming and friendly. We had a date to return to Qatar soon and Ramadhan for meetings he was working on with the country's leadership and business community. His death has therefore come as an extreme shock to me," Raila said.

Doha, Nairobi ties

The ODM party boss said as a diplomat, Ahenda did much to strengthen the ties between Doha and Nairobi.

"He leaves a strong foundation for our two countries to build on. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time," he added.

On the political arena, Raila remembered Ahenda as a leader who delivered his parliamentary duties with dedication

during his tenure as Kasipul Kabondo MP. "Ahenda served his constituents with dedication. He was also a committed member of the Change Movement in Kenya," the ODM party leader said.

Ahenda becomes the second Kenyan Ambassador to die in office this year after his counterpart to Nigeria the late Dr Wilfred Machage died in February 19 at 65 years.

The late ambassador Ahenda served as Kasipul Kabondo MP between 2005 and 2007. He was elected to parliament in a by-election following the death of former area MP Peter Oidi. Later in 2007, he lost the seat to former MP Oyugi Magwanga.

In 2013, Ahenda unsuccessfully ran for Kabondo Kasipul constituency parliamentary seat after Kasipul Kabondo was subdivided and lost to former MP Silvanse Osele. Before joining politics Ahenda served as a banker and businessman.

Yesterday, family, friends and relatives gathered at Ahenda's home at Nyasore Village, Kasewe Location in Kabondo Kasipul constituency to eulogise him.

Prominent personalities in Homa Bay County led by area Woman Representative Gladys Wanga, deputy governor Hamilton Orata and the Chief Advisor of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Dr Kenneth Kamamba also eulogised Ahenda as a great leader.

MOURNING AMBASSADOR

● The president pointed out that Ahenda had overseen tremendous growth in trade and people-to-people ties between Nairobi and Doha during his tenure.

● The ODM party boss said as a diplomat, Ahenda did much to strengthen the ties between Doha and Nairobi.



Chairman Global healthcare services BS Ajaikumar (right) with CAS Health Mercy Mwangangi (left) and director cancer care Anoo Adamali (centre) during the launch of Elekta Versa HD machine. PD/KUNGU NJENGA

Cancer treatment time set to reduce following unveiling of machine

by George Kebaso
@PeopleDailyKe

Cancer treatment time will narrow to one week from an estimated 37 to 51 days following the unveiling of an advanced machine by the MP Shah Hospital in Nairobi.

Besides reducing treatment time, Elekta's Versa HD, is designed to minimise the burden of radiation in patients by delivering the doses directly to the affected healthy tissues.

Subsequently, Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS), Dr Mercy Mwangangi said this will improve treatment outcomes for patients and reduce radiotherapy side effects.

"The high precision treatment techniques that the new radiotherapy machine we are inaugurating today will offer, will enable better accuracy in tumour targeting by our oncologists with protection of the critical surrounding structures," she said yesterday when she unveiled the machine at the Health Care Global Cancer Care Kenya (HGCKCK) Centre within the hospital.

Observing that cancer treatment is one of the major cost drivers for chronic disease globally, Mwangangi identified the critical role the private sector plays in health care service delivery including for cancer.

"I urge the private sector to help us address the high cost of cancer care in the country to make these services more accessible for the majority," she said noting the government looks forward to the continued collaboration with the private sector in reducing the cancer burden in the

country.

For this to succeed, she called on the hospital to register with the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) by also updating the monthly payments to enable access to the various packages it provides. "The oncology package, for example, has been beneficial for many cancer patients who would otherwise not have been able to access treatment services due to lack of finances," Mwangangi.

The unveiling of the machine will provide clinicians with the dual flexibility to deliver conventional therapies to treat a wide range of tumours, as well as high-precision targeted therapies for treating highly complex cancers.

Dr Manoj Shah, the chairman of MP Shah Hospital the machine will treat a broad spectrum of cancers, and patients in Nairobi can now utilize the service for better treatment outcomes.

"As an integrated treatment system, it helps address the evolving challenges of modern-day cancer management while providing patients with best-in-class treatment and high-quality clinical care," he pointed out as once again the country's profile as a medical tourism destination moved a notch higher.

Others who were present included Dr BS Ajaikumar, the Executive Chairman, Healthcare Global Enterprises Limited, and Habib Nehme, Executive vice president, Elekta.

Nehme said the Elekta Versa HD can treat up to 150 patients in a day.

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PUBLIC AUCTION PUBLIC AUCTION!
Under instructions received from our Client (Principal), we shall sell
by public auction the undermentioned motor vehicles on Thursday
14th April, 2022 at 10.30am at Values Yard Enterprises near
Roosters Inn, Thika Road.

| No. | Name | Motor Vehicle/Make | Reg No. | Colour |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------|------------|--------|
| 1. | Active Credit Ltd | MAZDA 1.7i | MAZDA 1.7i | Blue |
| 2. | Active Credit Ltd | POLO 430P | POLO 430P | Blue |
| 3. | Active Credit Ltd | POLO 1800 | POLO 1800 | White |
| 4. | Active Credit Ltd | POLO 154Y | POLO 154Y | Silver |

CONDITIONS OF SALE
Cash at the fall of the hammer subject to reserve price.

OKUKU AGENCIES AUCTIONEERS
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Jewen Ghant Building, 7th Floor, Marabbee Avenue, P.O. Box
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info@okukuauction.com, www.okukuauction.com

PUBLIC AUCTION
Under instructions received from our Principals,
we shall sell the under mentioned goods by
Public Auction on Wednesday 13th April, 2022 at
11:30 a.m at Pangani Auction Centre.
UNDER THE DISTRESS FOR RENT ACT CAP 283:
LANDLORD -VS- BENEDETTA ACHIENG
3 Seater Sofa Set, 2 Seater sofa set and puff, LG
TV 49" with remote, Fridge, 4 Burner Cooker, K-Gas
13 kg cylinder, Dining table with 6 chairs, Water
dispenser, Zook sound bar system with sub-woofer,
Glass top TV stand, Accenture chair.
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
1. Cash/Electronic Funds Transfer/Bankers Cheque
at the fall of the hammer.
2. Highest bidder shall be declared the purchaser
subject to compliance with the conditions of sale.

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40781-00100, Cell: 0722 488 446, 0722 358 429
Email: iconauctions@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION
Duly instructed by our principals, in exercise
of their statutory powers, we shall sell by
public Auction the under mentioned motor
vehicle on 13th APRIL, 2022 at 10.30am or
soon thereafter AT PANGANI AUCTION
CENTRE.
1. DISTRESS FOR RENT
**LANDLORD -VS- CHINA ROADS &
BRIDGE CORPORATION**
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO:
KKB 2610 - SINO TRUCK CONCRETE
MIXER.
CONDITIONS OF SALE
Cash at the fall of the hammer.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR
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If calling or telephoning ask for:
THE REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS
When replying please quote
BISHOPS ROAD
P.O. BOX 40536-00100
NAIROBI

GAZETTE NOTICE:
THE LABOUR RELATIONS ACT
(NO. 14 OF 2007)
AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND
RULES OF THE UNION
Notice is hereby given to all members of Kenya
National Union of Teachers pursuant to Section 27(4)
of the Labour Relations Act, that a Notice of change
of the Constitution and Rules of the Union has been
received.
Any person or member intending to raise any objection
against the amendments of the constitution is required
to submit in writing any objections within twenty one
(21) days from the date hereof. The amendments are
open for scrutiny from the undersigned office during
working hours.
E.N. OCHERIAI (MRS)
REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS



Japan rejects withdrawal from a joint Russian gas project amid sanctions

INVESTMENT: Japan has no plans to withdraw from a joint Russian oil and gas project, despite joining tough sanctions on Moscow over its Ukraine invasion, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Thursday. Energy resource-poor Japan is attempting to balance its need for fossil fuels with toeing a hard line on Russia, and has faced questions over its continued involvement in the Sakhalin-2 project.

After Russia launched its war in Ukraine last month, oil giant Shell said it would sell its 27.5 percent stake in Sakhalin-2 in Russia's far east.

Energy security

But Kishida said the project was helping to provide "long-term, inexpensive and stable LNG supplies" to Japan. "It is an extremely important project in terms of our energy security," he told a parliamentary session. "Our plan is not to withdraw."

Japan's Mitsui controls a 12.5 percent stake in the project, while Mitsubishi owns 10 percent. It is 50-percent controlled by Russian energy company Gazprom.

Despite the decision, Japan will "continue to make efforts to reduce our energy dependency on Russia" in line with G7 policy, Kishida said.

Series of sanctions

Tokyo has pressured Moscow over the invasion with a series of sanctions on Russian groups and individuals, including President Vladimir Putin.

Japan is heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, in part because many of its nuclear reactors have been offline since the Fukushima meltdown in 2011.

Russia supplies more than eight percent of Japan's LNG demands, with Australian exports accounting for about 40 percent of the Japanese market.

—AFP

Fuel: State faces renewed pressure to reduce taxes

Experts say although landing cost of petrol is about Sh78, taxes push price to almost double

by Herald Aloo
@heraldaloo

As Kenyans stare at a possible full-blown fuel crisis amid costly basic commodities, the National Treasury is under pressure to address the high cost of living ahead of budget reading on Thursday.

The development comes even as cumulative taxes and levies on fuel continue to hurt consumers, a situation analysts say is being worsened by volatility created by the Russia-Ukraine war which has seen oil marketers seek higher margins.

PKF Consulting says the fuel subsidy which attempted to stabilise prices four months to mid-March has weakened, calling upon the government to review existing taxes that account for more than 50 per cent of retail prices.

"These taxes have a huge bearing on the pricing of these (petroleum) products hence the need to reduce and lower the applicable taxes significantly in order to protect the Kenyan economy from an imminent collapse," said Michael Mburugu, regional tax expert at PKF Limited.

High pump prices

Although the landing cost of petrol is about Sh78, various taxes and charges pushes the price to almost double. Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) collects taxes and levies of about Sh59 for every litre of super petrol and Sh47 for diesel which are taken into fuel pricing.

In 2021, Parliament approved the Petroleum Products' (Taxes and Levies) (Amendment) Bill, which sought to reduce the taxes imposed on petroleum products that have led to high pump prices. The Bill, if passed, will however,



Kenya Revenue Authority collects taxes and levies of about Sh59 for every litre of super petrol and Sh47 for diesel which are taken into fuel pricing. FILE

RIPPLE EFFECT

- Cost of energy, basic food commodities and transport significantly eat up a bigger share of the home budget, especially among low-income households.
- High cost of petroleum products has a high ripple effect on cost of foodstuff.

sabotage efforts by Treasury and KRA to cut the budget deficit by increasing taxes across major sectors.

The biggest chunk of taxes and levies arise from the excise duty with a litre of petrol and diesel attracting Sh21.95 and Sh11.37 duty, respectively. If it were not for an active court injunction, the excise duty would have been adjusted upwards by 4.97 per cent from October 2021 to reflect the average annual inflation.

Other taxes include the petroleum development levy (PDL), import declaration fee, and railway development levy. PDL currently charges Sh5.4 per litre on petrol

and Sh2.9 on diesel.

Yet, despite collecting PDL that funds the fuel subsidy, the government is still struggling to compensate oil marketing companies (OMCs) for the high cuts in their margins. This has caused the current oil shortage as OMCs hoard their products in protest over the delay of Sh13 million disbursement since January.

Budget and Appropriation Committee (BAC) has already approved the allocation of Sh10 billion to the fuel subsidy scheme to ease the pressure on households.

Blame games

The surging fuel prices saw the government negotiate with the oil majors over the weekend to end the fuel crisis but with the OMCs holding their ground, households will continue to feel the wrath of the blame games. Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) which is mandated to ensure a steady fuel supply, stated on Saturday that the country has enough fuel stock totalling 69 million litres of petrol and 94 million litres of diesel.

UPS taps Jumia to grow its delivery services in Africa

by Jacktone Lawi
@PeopleDailyKe

Global Shipping logistics services firm United Parcel Service is looking to leverage Jumia's platforms to drive its expansion in the region. This is following a partnership between the two firms that will see Jumia grants UPS access to its last-mile logistics capabilities and infrastructure to grow its delivery services in Africa. The deal will also allow UPS to leverage the extensive network of Jumia drop-off and pick-up stations to expand the UPS reach and coverage across more towns

and cities in Africa. Countries to be initially covered by the collaboration are Kenya, Morocco, and Nigeria, with plans for expansion to Ghana and Ivory Coast, and thereafter to the remaining African countries where Jumia operates. Apoorva Kumar, Senior Vice President of Logistics, Jumia noted that at the beginning of its journey, 10 years ago, logistics infrastructure was one of the most challenging aspects of the firm's operating environment. "This challenge was a catalyst to build an unparalleled logistics platform in Africa offering our sellers and consumers reliable delivery services," he said.

Twitter shares soar as Musk takes 9.2pc stake

by Jacktone Lawi
@PeopleDailyKe

Elon Musk (pictured), Tesla's chief executive and one of the most followed users on Twitter, bought a 9.2 per cent stake in the social media giant, becoming one of its top shareholders, according to a regulatory filing yesterday. The news sent Twitter shares soaring about 25 per cent in pre-market trading. The Tesla founder bought 73,486,938 Twitter shares on March 14, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The stake is worth \$2.89



billion, based on Twitter's closing price on Friday. The stake makes him one of the largest shareholders in the company and is more than four times the 2.25 per cent holding of Twitter founder Jack Dorsey. Musk is a regular Twitter user with more than

80 million followers, although recently he said he is giving "serious thought" to building a new social media platform. Late last month Musk asked his followers whether they thought the social media platform encouraged free speech. "Free speech is essential to a functioning democracy. Do you believe Twitter rigorously adheres to this principle?"

He then asked: "Is a new platform needed?" He regularly uses Twitter to share updates from the companies he owns - including SpaceX and Neuralink. He is also known for sharing memes, adding to his popularity among fans.

Boost for tea farmers as firm gives Sh1.1b to drive activities

CREDIT: Tea farmers are set to benefit from Sh1.1 billion credit to increase access to sustainable agricultural practises.

The funds are to be disbursed through Family Bank with the aim of supporting sustainability-certified companies as well as small-holder farmers through loans.

Jens Mackensen, chairman of the board of directors of the eco-business Fund, an impact investment fund, said the move is expected to bring stability in the tea sector.

"This partnership with Family Bank, we believe can ramp up support to certified agribusiness in Kenya and ensure we contribute to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and mitigation of climate change and adaptation to its impacts," he said.

According to eco.business, supporting certified agricultural producers in agricultural exporting countries such as Kenya, is helping create a stable uptake from developed markets, steering other local

producers towards more sustainable production methods.

Mackensen added that such an initiative will ensure the long-term competitiveness of the agribusiness sector.

Available supply

According to the World Bank Group climate change action plan 2016-2020 the world will need to produce 50 per cent more food by 2050 but estimates that with current practices, there will be a 40 per

cent shortfall between demand and available supply.

Family Bank CEO Rebecca Mbithi (pictured) said the partnership is a testament to the lender's commitment to supporting the growth of local markets, especially critical markets such as tea farming.

"It is through such strategic partnerships that we can support the sustainability and business continuity of SMEs in the agriculture, forestry, fishery and tourism sectors," she said.

— Jacktone Lawi



BRIEFLY



Lancet Kenya picks new chief executive

STRATEGY: Lancet Kenya has confirmed the appointment of Mwende Musunga (pictured) as its Managing Director and CEO.

Musunga will lead a team of 400+ employees across East Africa, delivering quality diagnoses for patients in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda. She will also oversee the growth strategy across the region, where the company aims to increase access to quality diagnostic care by expanding its network. Announcing the appointment, the chair to the board of directors Stéphane Carré said the move is inline with the company's ambition to be the leading pathologist laboratory in the region. Musunga, he added, will be able to transform the company by widening its network even as it strives to give its customers excellent experience. Musunga expressed excitement about "working with the able team" at Pathologists Lancet Kenya. "My goal is to ensure we maintain and grow our positive brand offering as we drive innovation and changes within our organisation to expand our network," she said.

— Bernard Sigei

Sacco eyes SMEs to push up asset base

GROWTH: Tabasuri Saving and Credit Ltd aims to attain an asset base of Sh1 billion by 2023 from the current Sh400 million following massive expansion targeting various economic sectors in the country. Lillian Daudi, Tabasuri Sacco chair said the sacco is working on various products which will be of great benefit to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to meet its ambitious goal.

"Our asset base is about Sh400 million but it's our hope and desire that as we are winding up the 2019 to 2023 strategic plan that we will hit the Sh1 billion asset base mark," she said.

Daudi said the financial agency is embracing technology through the Sacco model to reach more people in the small economies into the sacco sector. She said the sector performance has witnessed improvement from Covid-19 shocks.

— Harrison Kivisu

Hotel industry on way back to pre-Covid days, survey shows

Central Bank says overall employment in sector was at 83pc before pandemic levels in March, up from 80pc in January this year

by John Otini and Jacktone Lawi
@PeopleDailyKe

The level of employment in the hotel industry was at 83 per cent of the pre-Covid levels in March 2022 and is expected to hit 100 per cent by the end of the year, a Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) survey shows.

Conducted between March 15 and 18, the survey says to assess the recovery of the sector following a drop in reported Covid-19 cases, most of the workers who have come on stream during the period are, however, casuals.

The respondents said they reduce the casual employees when the demand declines and hire them as business increases.

Recovery in the hotel industry is being driven largely by domestic tourists with local tourists accounting for over 70 per cent of the visitors, the survey findings show.

Reduced uncertainties

"Forward hotel bookings for the period March to May 2022 are strong indicating reduced uncertainties. Majority of the respondent hotels expect the sector to attain pre-Covid-19 levels of operations before the end of the year," said the survey.

CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge said hotels do not yet feel confident that they can hire people on a permanent basis.

On average, under the prevailing conditions, 21 per cent of respondent hotels have already attained the pre-Covid levels of operations while another 37 per cent expected to attain these levels by the end of the year. According to the survey, respondents were requested to indicate whether their enterprises were operating in February and March 2022. All the respondent hotels reported to have been operating during the period.

While there were a few hotels in Nairobi that remain closed due to reasons unrelated to Covid-19, two key hotels in Nairobi confirmed their plans to reopen in April and May. Njoroge identified major hotels that had shut down and are set to reopen as the Norfolk and Radisson Blue hotels.

"We appreciate that there are some others that are about to open, for instance, the Radisson Blue in Nairobi will be open shortly I believe April to May, and also the Norfolk will be open around that time," said Njoroge while commenting on the



Fairmont The Norfolk porter and Accor Kenya Country general manager Mehdi Morad (right) officially reopens the iconic Nairobi hotel, yesterday. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

STUDY

Majority of hotels expect the sector to attain pre-Covid-19 levels of operations before the end of year.

survey of hotels.

The Nairobi's iconic Fairmont The Norfolk reopened its doors to the public yesterday after the facility shut down for over 21 months amid the coronavirus crisis.

"Employment is edging up, we are in the 80s, but there is some way to go. We shall see these numbers go up in the April Easter holiday, especially by the walk in clients," said Njoroge.

The Norfolk and Radisson Blue were among the major players in the industry that were forced to shut their doors due to the tough business environment caused by the pandemic.

Others that closed were the Intercontinental Hotel, Jacaranda. The survey found that most of the operators in the sector are optimistic of an improving business environment.

The iconic Fairmont The Norfolk hotel officially opened its doors to the public yesterday following months of renovation. The hotel under the Accor Group said it has so far reinstated 70 per cent of its employees whom it had laid off when it shut down two years ago.

Kenya Country General Manager Mehdi Morad (pictured) said they have had to re-

structure the facility to meet new customer demands.

"The hotel and Accor regional team have worked closely together to ensure they provide the guests with exceptional services and facilities in line with the luxe positioning of the Fairmont brand including a new Food and Beverage concept in order to meet with customers evolving needs" he said.

The hotel has often been described as a hidden gem with alluring charm and elegant contemporary design that offers guests a feel of relaxation, sense of belonging, and ownership that is ideal for meetings, chilling, partying and an exceptional culinary experience.

Foreign exchange earners

With Covid-19 epidemic numbers steadily dropping, Kenya expects the tourism sector, one of its top foreign exchange earners to bring in Sh173 billion this year. The notable landmark dating back to 1904 has often played a pivotal role in Kenya's historical legacy and hospitality.

The Norfolk is part of the Fairmont Collection, together with Mount Kenya and Mara.

Paint sector mulls price increase

Manufacturers using derivatives of crude oil alerted of price increase on higher cost of fuel.

by Steve Umidha
@UmidhaSteve

Developers have been warned of a sharp increase in the cost of paint products due to the high cost of crude oil which is causing ripples globally.

Crown Paints Chief executive Rakesh Rao said yesterday the firm will increase the price of its products in the wake of rising prices of crude oil triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"It is a supply problem and as a result we have been compelled to pass on those logistical costs to our consumers by 8 per cent, which will rise to 10 per cent depending on how the situation is managed," said Rao in a telephone interview.

Crude Oil

Prices of crude oil have a bearing on almost everything including the paint, coating and adhesive manufacturing industry which has been rising disturbingly since the war broke out almost two months ago.

Brent futures, which is a global benchmark for crude oil prices, spiked to \$120 (Sh) a barrel just last week as the global market restricted purchases of Russian crude oil and scrambled to source other grades.

Closer home, the impact of the conflict is fast taking a toll on Kenyans daily lives with a growing number of gas stations or petrol stations running empty, while cost of living has stretched millions of

households who are now disenchanted.

The fuel shortage has, however, been blamed on oil marketers hoarding the precious commodity following failure of the state to compensate them for the rising costs of importing oil products through a subsidy scheme.

In its defense over the weekend, the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) confirmed there was sufficient fuel stocks in all its depots across the country.

Independent marketers

This as independent oil marketers yesterday threatened to start exporting their stock to neighbouring countries should the government fail to offset the pending subsidies.

A fuel shortage is being felt in most sectors of the economy especially those that rely on petroleum products. Some players say they now prefer exporting extra stock to neighbouring countries which currently have higher margins and guaranteed payment. Mombasa based Safari Petroleum Company managing director Ali Mbogo said the government must pay in full the pending arrears failure to which the problem may escalate and cause more pain to the public.

DERIVATIVES

● The paint industry uses crude oil derivatives such as titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, solvents like mineral turpentine and resins and additives as raw materials

● Higher fuel prices are contributing to a widening of the current account deficit, which increased to 5.5% of GDP in 2021 from 4.7% in 2020.

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

| HIGH | LOW | SECTOR | VPAP | PREVIOUS | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--|----------|----------|-----------|
| | | AGRICULTURAL | PRICES | | SHARES |
| 15.00 | 10.00 | Eagades Ltd Ord 1.25 | | 12.45 | |
| 425.00 | 340.00 | Kakuti Pic Ord 5.00 | | 424.50 | |
| 101.00 | 80.00 | Kaphorua Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00 | | 99.75 | |
| 350.00 | 240.00 | The Limuru Tea Co. Pic Ord 20.00n | | 320.00 | |
| 22.40 | 16.75 | Sasini Pic Ord 1.00 | | 18.60 | |
| 154.75 | 125.00 | Williamson Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00 | 132.25 | 135.00 | 2,100 |
| AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES | | | | | |
| 76.00 | 20.00 | Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00 | 62.00 | 67.00 | 100 |
| BANKING | | | | | |
| 12.95 | 11.30 | ABSA Bank Kenya Pic Ord 0.50 | 12.35 | 1210 | 70,000 |
| 30.00 | 26.50 | BK Group Pic Ord 0.80 | 29.90 | 29.55 | 10,000 |
| 40.00 | 54.25 | Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00 | 57.75 | 58.75 | 1,400 |
| 53.00 | 49.00 | Equity Group Holdings Pic Ord 0.50 | 49.15 | 49.15 | 69,100 |
| 3.40 | 2.80 | HF Group Pic Ord 5.00 | 3.03 | 3.15 | 19,700 |
| 22.00 | 19.80 | ISAM Group Pic Ord 1.00 | 20.75 | 20.50 | 15,100 |
| 44.00 | 43.00 | KCB Group Pic Ord 1.00 | 43.50 | 44.00 | 250,900 |
| 26.50 | 23.00 | NBSA Group Pic Ord 5.00 | 25.35 | 25.90 | 124,700 |
| 14.00 | 95.00 | Stanbic Holdings Pic Ord 5.00 | 104.00 | 104.75 | 400 |
| 145.00 | 130.75 | Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00 | 143.00 | 143.25 | 8,100 |
| 14.00 | 12.50 | The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00 | 12.75 | 12.60 | 54,800 |
| COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES | | | | | |
| 5.10 | 0.45 | Deacons (East Africa) Pic Ord 2.50 | 0.45 | | |
| 0.90 | 0.81 | Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00 | 0.86 | 0.84 | 5,800 |
| 4.30 | 3.80 | Express Kenya PTE Ord 5.00n | 4.00 | | |
| 0.00 | 0.00 | Homebuy Entertainment Pic Ord 0.50 | 4.40 | | |
| 9.50 | 0.80 | Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00 | 3.83 | | |
| 3.90 | 3.25 | Longhorn Publishers Pic Ord 1.00n | 3.31 | 3.41 | 1,600 |
| 5.10 | 4.20 | Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 0.50 | 4.57 | 4.73 | 6,600 |
| 21.80 | 18.50 | Nation Media Group Pic Ord 2.50 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 5,700 |
| 2.70 | 2.40 | Sameer Africa Pic Ord 5.00 | 2.41 | 2.45 | 26,200 |
| 16.40 | 11.90 | Standard Group Pic Ord 5.00 | 13.40 | | |
| 13.00 | 11.40 | TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00 | 11.70 | 11.70 | 9,300 |
| 0.22 | 0.18 | Uchumi Supermarket Pic Ord 5.00 | 0.20 | 0.19 | 400 |
| 4.37 | 3.75 | WPP Scangroup Pic Ord 1.00 | 3.99 | 4.02 | 9,100 |
| CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED | | | | | |
| 8.35 | 2.40 | ARM Cement Pic Ord 1.00 | 5.55 | | |
| 37.50 | 34.05 | Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00 | 36.00 | 36.00 | 326,000 |
| 39.55 | 34.00 | Crown Paints Kenya Pic Ord 5.00 | 36.00 | | |
| 1.21 | 1.00 | E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50 | 1.09 | 1.02 | 1,600 |
| 7.10 | 6.30 | E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00 | 6.90 | 6.54 | 100 |
| ENERGY & PETROLEUM | | | | | |
| 4.00 | 3.49 | KenGen Co. Pic Ord 2.50 | 3.40 | 89,200 | |
| 1.70 | 1.30 | Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pic Ord 2.50 | 1.45 | 1.38 | 862,400 |
| 5.50 | 4.10 | Kenya Power & Lighting Co 4% Pref 20.00 | 4.11 | | |
| 6.00 | 6.00 | Kenya Power & Lighting Co 7% Pref 20.00 | 6.00 | | |
| 25.00 | 23.00 | TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Pic Ord 5.00 | 24.65 | 24.85 | 400 |
| 7.50 | 5.50 | Umemu Ltd Ord 0.50 | 7.22 | 7.38 | 103,000 |
| INSURANCE | | | | | |
| 7.10 | 6.40 | Britam Holdings Pic Ord 0.10 | 6.60 | 6.68 | 14,700 |
| 2.30 | 1.98 | CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00 | 2.18 | 2.21 | 26,000 |
| 280.00 | 270.00 | Julia Holdings Pic Ord 5.00 | 271.75 | 274.75 | 2,300 |
| 2.30 | 2.15 | Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50 | 2.20 | 2.21 | 2,429,200 |
| 7.18 | 5.64 | Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00 | 5.96 | 5.70 | 1,700 |
| 13.55 | 11.83 | Sanlam Kenya Pic Ord 5.00 | 11.20 | 11.00 | 1,500 |
| INVESTMENT | | | | | |
| 14.40 | 11.70 | Centum Investment Co Pic Ord 0.50 | 1210 | 12.00 | 25,400 |
| 0.39 | 0.33 | Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 6,200 |
| 1500.00 | 1,500.00 | Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00 | 1,500.00 | | |
| 2.25 | 1.90 | Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 300 |
| 1.28 | 1.00 | Trans-Century Pic Ord 0.50 | 1.17 | 1.17 | 5,900 |
| INVESTMENT SERVICES | | | | | |
| 8.10 | 6.90 | Nairobi Securities Exchange Pic Ord 4.00 | 7.88 | 7.76 | 10,400 |
| MANUFACTURING & ALLIED | | | | | |
| 98.00 | 61.25 | B.O.C Kenya Pic Ord 5.00 | 80.00 | | |
| 510.00 | 420.00 | British American Tobacco Kenya Pic Ord 10.00 | 488.75 | 490.00 | 3,000 |
| 13.20 | 10.80 | Carbacid Investments Pic Ord 1.00 | 11.40 | 11.50 | 10,800 |
| 194.00 | 145.00 | East African Breweries Ltd Ord 5.00 | 151.00 | 150.75 | 203,100 |
| 1.45 | 1.10 | Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825 | 1.20 | 1.20 | 300 |
| 14.80 | 10.40 | Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00 | 10.40 | | |
| 0.70 | 0.25 | Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00 | 0.27 | | |
| 36.40 | 26.10 | Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00 | 28.35 | | |
| TELECOMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| 45.25 | 33.50 | Safaricom Pic Ord 0.05 | 35.35 | 34.50 | 3,006,000 |
| REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST | | | | | |
| 7.48 | 5.80 | ILAM FAHARI I-REIT Ord 2.00 | 6.38 | 5.90 | 74,700 |
| EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS | | | | | |
| 2075.00 | 1780.00 | ABSA New Gold ETF | 2106 | 203500 | |

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 2.16 points to close at 158.24

NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 5.82 points to close at 1849.89

NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 30.26 points to close at 3582.15

MARKET WATCH

TREASURY BONDS ISSUE



Central Bank of Kenya

| RESULTS OF 91, 182 & 364 DAYS TREASURY BILLS ISSUE 24/09/21, 24/12/21 & 23/02/22 DATED: 26/11/2021 | 91 DAYS | 182 DAYS | 364 DAYS | TOTAL |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| The auction outcome is summarised in the table below: | | | | |
| Due Date | 24/03/2022 | 24/06/2022 | 24/11/2022 | |
| Amount Offered (Kshs. M) | 4,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 24,000.00 |
| Bids Received (Kshs. M) | 3,936.44 | 3,228.43 | 9,034.53 | 16,199.40 |
| Performance Ratio (%) | 98.42 | 32.28 | 90.35 | 64.85 |
| Total Amount Accepted (Kshs. M) | 3,936.28 | 2,538.19 | 6,547.17 | 13,021.64 |
| Of which: Competitive bids | 3,936.28 | 2,538.19 | 6,000.13 | 12,974.60 |
| Non-competitive bids | 0.00 | 0.00 | 546.90 | 546.90 |
| Bid-to-Cover Ratio | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.38 | 1.19 |
| Purpose / Application of Funds | 1,779.40 | 4,566.90 | 4,285.40 | 10,631.70 |
| Refund / Redemption | 2,156.88 | 2,066.71 | 2,261.77 | |
| New Borrowing/Net Repayment | 7.182% | 7.834% | 8.972% | |
| Market Weighted Average Interest Rate | 7.182% | 7.834% | 8.972% | |
| Weighted Average Interest Rate of accepted bids | 7.182% | 7.834% | 8.972% | |
| Price per Kshs 100 at average interest rate | 98.241 | 96.240 | 91.811 | |

| COMPARATIVE AVERAGE INTEREST RATES OF ACCEPTED BIDS | This Auction | Last Auction | Variance |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 91-day | 7.181 | 7.144 | 0.007 |
| 182-day | 7.835 | 7.547 | 0.008 |
| 364-day | 8.944 | 8.840 | 0.104 |

| NEXT TREASURY BILLS AUCTIONS: ISSUE NO. 24/09/21, 24/12/21 & 23/02/22 DATED 06/12/2021 | 91 DAYS | 182 DAYS | 364 DAYS | TOTAL |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| TENOR | 91 DAYS | 182 DAYS | 364 DAYS | |
| Offer amount (Kshs. M) | 4,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 24,000.00 |
| Auction Dates & Bids Closes | 03/12/2021 | 03/12/2021 | 03/12/2021 | |
| Results Announcement | 03/12/2021 | 03/12/2021 | 03/12/2021 | |
| Redemption | | | | 19,391.48 |
| New Borrowing/Net Repayment | | | | 4,608.52 |

CBK KEY RATES

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------------|
| Central Bank Rate | 7.00% | 29/03/2022 |
| Inter-Bank Rate | 4.81% | 01/04/2022 |
| CBK Discount Window | 13.00% | 29/03/2022 |
| 91-Day T-Bill | 7.302% | 04/04/2022 |
| REPO | 0.00% | 23/03/2022 |
| Inflation Rate | 5.56% | March, 2022 |
| Lending Rate | 12.12% | January, 2022 |
| Savings Rate | 2.55% | January, 2022 |
| Deposit Rate | 6.53% | January, 2022 |
| KBRR | 8.9% | 27/07/2016 |

KEY CBK INDICATIVE EXCHANGE RATES 4/4/2022

| CURRENCY | MEAN | BUY | SELL |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| US DOLLAR | 115.0375 | 114.9375 | 115.1375 |
| SW KRONER | 12.2856 | 12.2730 | 12.2983 |
| STG POUND | 150.8935 | 150.7382 | 151.0488 |
| SINGAPORE DOLLAR | 84.7578 | 84.6810 | 84.8346 |
| SAUDI RIYAL | 30.6660 | 30.6386 | 30.6935 |
| SA RAND | 7.8363 | 7.8255 | 7.8471 |
| S FRANC | 124.1234 | 123.9887 | 124.2580 |
| NOR KRONER | 13.1137 | 13.1001 | 13.1274 |
| KES / USHS | 31.0291 | 30.9543 | 31.1039 |
| KES / TSHS | 20.1761 | 20.1151 | 20.2371 |
| KES / RWF | 8.8406 | 8.7590 | 8.9222 |
| KES / BIF | 17.8361 | 17.4014 | 18.2708 |
| JPY (100) | 93.6292 | 93.5440 | 93.7144 |
| IND RUPEE | 1.5140 | 1.5122 | 1.5159 |
| HONGKONG DOLLAR | 14.6814 | 14.6686 | 14.6942 |
| EURO | 127.1050 | 126.9759 | 127.2341 |
| DAN KRONER | 17.0660 | 17.0505 | 17.0814 |
| CHINESE YUAN | 18.0744 | 18.0575 | 18.0914 |
| CAN \$ | 91.9344 | 91.8398 | 92.0290 |
| AUSTRALIAN \$ | 86.1861 | 86.0997 | 86.2725 |
| AE DIRHAM | 31.3193 | 31.2883 | 31.3504 |

Fitch says fiscal, external risks keep Kenya outlook negative

by John Otini
@PeopleDailyKe

Fitch has assigned Kenya a negative outlook on account of elections, the Russia-Ukraine war and high public debt.

The global rating agency says the economy will slow down from 6.5 per cent in 2021 to 6 per cent in 2022 due to the August General elections.

"Fiscal, external risks keep outlook negative: Kenya's B+ rating is supported by a record of strong growth and relative macroeconomic stability," Fitch said in a report.

The rating agency forecasts a moderate disruption, based on events around the 2017 polls. However, the



report says violence will be below that of the 2007 and 2012 polls.

The US based agency further says the negative outlook reflects uncertainty about planned fiscal consolidation and risks to economic growth around the August 2022 general election.

Pressure on account deficit

Furthermore, the surge in global commodity prices puts upward pressure on inflation and the current account deficit.

Fitch however says the \$2.4 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) funding could help plug the financing gap and reduce pressure in the economy due to the tough funding

landscape caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"These positive factors are balanced against elevated public debt, high net external indebtedness, and GDP per capita and governance indicators that are below the 'B' range median," the agency says.

FITCH DATA

Fitch forecasts general government debt to rise to 69 per cent of GDP in FY22

Fitch expects the government to make some progress on cutting its expenses, but the budget deficit will remain high, adding that tax revenue as a ratio of output will remain below pre-pandemic levels to 2023.

"High levels of tax expenditure and poor compliance have left Kenya with a declining tax base in recent years," Fitch says.

The report forecasts the general government deficit to narrow to 7.8 percent of GDP from 8.2 percent in FY21. The fiscal deficit should narrow further, to 6.8 percent of GDP, as relatively strong growth and improvements in tax administration raise revenue performance.

World News

MARTIN GAMA ABUCHA

We must implement what we say. The people of South Sudan expect that from us



Nigeria's Kaduna train attack: 168 people still missing

■ Kaduna, Monday

Some 168 people are still missing in Nigeria after a deadly attack on a busy train last week, the state rail company says.

It is not clear how many of the 168 have been kidnapped for ransom - some may have gone home without telling the authorities.

Gunmen blew up a section of

track between the capital, Abuja, and the northern city of Kaduna last Monday.

During the ordeal at least eight passengers were killed. One survivor has told the BBC how a decision to change carriage could have saved his life, and the lives of his family.

"I am happy that I am alive and well," he said on condition of anonymity.

"But I feel so sad for those killed and the injured - it could have been me," said the man, who almost missed the train altogether but ran with his wife and two children to catch it just in time.

Once on board, the family walked from one carriage to another after fellow passengers had said they were occupying the wrong seats.

They had been sitting in coach 17, which was one of those attacked, but moved to coach 12.

"We heard a loud explosion at about 19:45 - it shook the train and then the train ground to a halt," he said. Suddenly there was the sound of gunfire coming from different directions as the attackers apparently surrounded the train.

- BBC

South Sudan's Kiir, Machar agree to resume unity talks

The two leaders reach a deal to unify the army's command structure after weeks of escalating conflict

■ Juba, Monday

South Sudan President Salva Kiir and his vice president, Riek Machar, have agreed to resume talks about integrating their rival forces under a unified command after weeks of escalating conflict.

Kiir and Machar's forces signed a peace agreement in 2018 that ended a five-year civil war. But implementation has been slow and the opposing forces have clashed frequently over disagreements about how to share power.

At a signing ceremony on Sunday evening, both parties recommitted to agreeing to abide by the previous ceasefire and speed up the integration of their forces. A representative of neighbouring Sudan's government was also in attendance.

Fighting had increased in recent weeks after Machar's Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) suspended its participation in the peace deal's oversight mechanisms on March 23, citing attacks by government forces.

In the coming week, opposition generals will be appointed to a unified command structure. The sides will then move on to graduating SPLM/A-IO soldiers from training centres to integrate them into the army.

"We must implement what we say. The people of South Sudan expect that from us," said Martin Gama Abucha, an SPLM/A-IO representative, after the signing.

Tut Gatluak Manime, representing Kiir's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) party, thanked Sudan "for standing with us to prevent another escalation into



President Salva Kiir and his rival, Vice President Riek Machar, agreed on the creation of a unified armed forces command, one of several crucial unresolved issues holding up implementation of the 2018 deal to end the country's five-year civil war. AFP

war and supporting the implementation of the peace deal".

Details remain to be worked out, including the precise ratio of pro-Kiir to pro-Machar troops in the unified army. A spokesperson for the SPLM/A-IO said the ratio would be somewhere between 55:45 and 60:40.

South Sudan's civil war from 2013 to 2018, mostly fought along ethnic lines, killed an estimated 400,000 people, trig-

ELUSIVE JUBA PEACE

● South Sudan President Salva Kiir and his vice president, Riek Machar, have agreed to resume talks about integrating their rival forces

● At a signing ceremony on Sunday evening, both parties recommitted to agreeing to abide by the previous ceasefire and speed up the integration of their forces

gered a famine and led to a massive refugee crisis. The United States, the United Kingdom and Norway - the troika supporting South Sudan's peace deal - said recently they were concerned that the new outbreak of fighting threatened to undermine the government's unity.

The world's newest nation has suffered from chronic instability since independence in 2011, with the UN warning last month that it risked a return to war as interethnic violence and political infighting threaten an already fragile peace process.

The UN Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR) in South Sudan released a new report, saying it had "reasonable grounds to believe that members of the Government of South Sudan have engaged in acts ... amounting to war crimes" in the southwestern districts of Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria.

- AFP

BRIEFLY

Russia denies military killed Bucha civilians in Ukraine

The Kremlin has categorically rejected accusations that Russian forces were responsible for killing civilians in Bucha, suggesting images of corpses lining the streets were "fakes". Journalists from international media over the weekend found corpses in civilian clothes - some with their hands bound - in Bucha after Ukrainian forces retook the town on the outskirts of Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, from the Russian army. Ukrainian

authorities said on Sunday they were investigating possible war crimes, while Western leaders erupted in outrage over the deaths. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the facts and chronology of the events in Bucha did not support Ukraine's version of events. He said Russian "experts at the Ministry of Defence have identified signs of video fakes and various fakes", without elaborating.

- Xinhua

Seven al-Shabab fighters felled in central Somalia

The special forces of the Somali National Army (SNA), Danab, killed seven al-Shabab militants and wounded others Sunday during a security operation at an area near Wisil town in Hobyo in Mudug region, central Somalia, a senior army official said. Odowa Yusuf Rage, the SNA chief, said the forces also arrested two wounded militants and recovered weapons and a vehicle during the operation. Our forces recovered weapons, mainly four improvised explosive devices (IEDs), four AK 47 rifles



and a vehicle during a special operation in Mudug region under Galmudug State in central Somalia," Rage said. He stressed the operation targeted the terrorists in the area to reduce their threat in the region, adding that they will continue such operations against the militants until stabilization is restored.

- AFP

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam won't seek second term

Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam announced she would not seek a second term in office after a controversial tenure that has seen many of the territory's civil freedoms eroded. As chief executive, Ms Lam oversaw a turbulent period where massive pro-democracy protests led to greater Chinese control in Hong Kong. Ms Lam, 64,

was Beijing's handpicked choice entering office in 2017. On Monday, she told reporters Beijing had been receptive to her decision. She also revealed she had informed China about her desire to not seek a second term a year ago, despite refusing in recent times to answer questions about her political future.

- AFP

Taliban supreme leader bans poppy cultivation

■ Kabul, Monday

Taliban supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada on Sunday banned in a decree the cultivation of opium poppy and trade of opium in Afghanistan, the Taliban-led caretaker government confirmed. Af-

ghanistan's Taliban supreme leader bans cultivation of poppy and trade of opium in the country. "Enforcement of this decree is mandatory. The violator will be prosecuted and punished by the judiciary," the Taliban-led caretaker government says in a statement. "As

per the decree of the supreme leader of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), all Afghans are informed from now on, cultivation of poppy has been strictly prohibited across the country," the caretaker government said in a statement.

- Xinhua



Spice ▶ Flavour your day

5MINSWITH NOMFUNDO MOH @Alberto_Mwas

PD/MWANGI ALBERTO

BY JASMINE ATIENO

AFRICA'S RISING

Nomfundo Moh is a 21-year-old Afro-pop musician and songwriter from KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. She's the latest Apple Music's Africa Rising Artist, an ongoing artiste development programme. She talks with **Mwami Alberto** on her music, including her latest debut album *Amagama*

You were recently announced as Apple Music's latest Africa Rising Artist. What does this mean to you?

Being the Africa's rising star has boosted my self-confidence. I find myself posting more about my brand and being proud of whom I am. It has made me realise the huge impact my music has on people. The spotlight actually came about after the success of my third single *Phakade Lami* ft Amifaku and Sha Sha, which went Gold. Apple Music gave me an opportunity to do an Apple Music home session with Dolby Atmos, which is available in special audio.

What do you think makes your artistry stand out?

Being a young female artiste who writes her own music that speaks about life, my experiences and observations makes my artistry unique. My pride in African music also makes me stand out.

Any exclusive opportunities that have come your way since being exposed on the Apple Music programme?

Yes, major public relation entities around Africa have also shown a lot of support for me, sharing and acknowledging my music and brand. That has made me feel that people do receive the music and they love my music.

What are some of your favourite songs off the Africa Rising playlist?

So far, my favourite song from the playlist has got to be OxLade's *Want You* and of course *Phakade Lami* by Nomfundo Moh ft Sha Sha and Amifaku.

You recently released your first album *Amagama*. Tell us more about its making and the response it has attracted so far?

Recording the *Amagama* album was fun and I explored a lot, as I tried out different concepts with different African sounds, and so far I think my album has been well received by people. I have constantly been receiving constant feedback from people who relate to the music. To some people, it reminds them

of their late loved ones, while to others it's about their lovers who are far away from them. It's just simply amazing.

Phakade Lami ft Sha Sha and Ami Faku has garnered over eight millions views on YouTube so far. Tell us more about this collabo hit?

This collaboration was a surprise to me; it was actually the work and effort of my management going all out and reaching out to the queens—Ami Faku and Sha Sha. And fortunate enough, they were keen to jump on the song and I only got to hear the song when they were already part of the song and I was like; this deserves the green lights. I'm super happy that it is a big hit today.

What influences your striking writing abilities?

I draw inspiration from the storytelling abilities of the likes of Amanda Black and Ami Faku. My background though has got a huge impact on my writing abilities. There are times when life wasn't easy for me and I learnt a lot from those experiences. Some situations made me think how beautiful life would be if the opposite of those situations occurred. Sometimes when I get to write, I reflect on such instances and everything just flows.

So, what's next for Moh?

I plan to do an 'Amagama Tour' to reach out to my fans all over Africa. There's also more music on the way, so I keep on writing. I record whenever I get time so that we don't run out of music. My adorable fans from Kenya might see me soon.

Any special message to share with all the young fans that are inspired by your drive...

My dear brothers and sisters, have dreams and let them drive you to reach greater heights; focus on the positive energy and be patient as you wait to achieve more. So, be positive about life, and hope for the best.



Nomfundo Moh

CHOCOLATE -By Willy Paul

Despite his innumerable controversies, Willy Paul is irrefutably gifted, especially as a lyricist. His newest song *Chocolate* is already a staple in most clubs and on heavy rotation in the mainstream media. *Chocolate* is a love song that praises the musician's love interest by likening her to chocolate, both in colour and taste. It shares that the partner brings to the musician indescribable happiness. The song is poised to become a wedding favourite, much like the musician's previous collaboration with Alaine titled *I Do*. The song has a catchy audio and chorus,

with the video featuring socialite Amber Ray. The video is shot in a wooded area with various set designs to avoid visual fatigue. *Chocolate* is a highly entertaining watch and listen. **SCORE: 8/10**



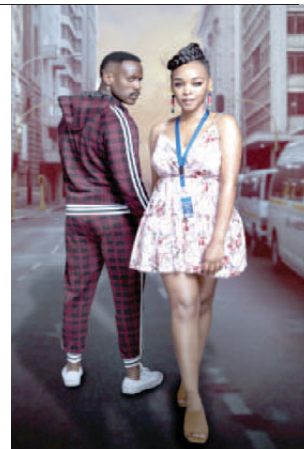
FILM REVIEW

@ArtNorari

THE WIFE

The Wife is a South African drama and telenovela currently airing on Showmax. It is based on South African author Dudu Busani-Dube's best-selling novel series titled *Hlo-mu the Wife*, *Zandile the Resolute* and *Naledi His Love*. The series takes creative license to reveal things not written in the book but maintains most of the material from the book. The series follows the lives of eight brothers as they navigate their taxi business, which is a family business. Love and gunfire are exchanged in equal measure throughout the series, which is currently

in its second season. The telenovela is told through the brothers' wives point of view. The characters are brought to life by some of the best talent that South Africa has to offer. It is mostly in Zulu with a smattering of a few English phrases. It has subtitles, so following the action will not be a problem. You might even learn a few Zulu phrases while at it. If you want a film that will steep you in South African culture, giving you a glimpse in how people live both in the townships and in big cities such as Johannesburg, then *The Wife* is just the film for you. **SCORE: 7.5/10**

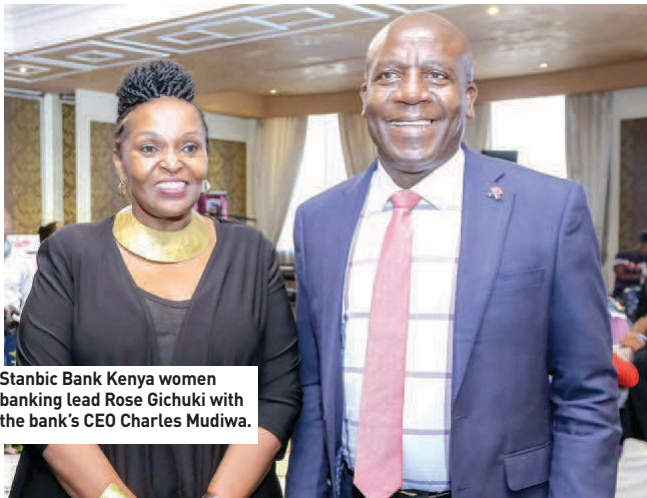


SONG REVIEW

@ArtNorari



Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted



Stanbic Bank Kenya women banking lead Rose Gichuki with the bank's CEO Charles Mudiwa.



Musician June Gachui serenades the guests.



Stanbic Kenya Foundation head Pauline Mbayah with the institution's brand and marketing manager Esther Ndung'u.



Stanbic Bank engineering head Catherine Muraga with former Miss World Kenya 2005 Cecilia Mwangi.

WOMEN TAKE LEAD

■ By Faith Kyomukama

Stanbic Bank Kenya, through its Women Banking Proposition 'Dada' recently held an event in Nairobi to celebrate women and discuss the challenges they face and ways to break gender biases that plague the society. The conversations focused on raising awareness on the hurdles women face that prevent them from achieving their goals. Among those present were Stanbic Bank Kenya CEO Charles Mudiwa, his engineering head Catherine Muraga, TV presenter Yvonne Okwara and former Miss World Kenya 2005 Cecilia Mwangi.

PD/FAITH KYOMUKAMA



TV personality Yvonne Okwara with Stanbic Bank Kenya women banking lead Rose Gichuki.

Aiding the victims

■ By Gerald Ithana

Tatua3 in partnership with Medimax Network recently held a food donation drive at the Usikimye Safe Haven, a refuge and home for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) victims in Kiambu county. The event focused on women and children's well-being by providing them with foodstuffs, water tanks and other home essentials. Present were Tatua3 CEO Joan Mwaura and Usikimye Safe Haven psychologist Jacky Mndora.

PD/GERALD ITHANA



Tatua3 representative Moureen Sia.



GBV survivor Jane Wairimu is supported by Milele FM presenter Chris Da Bass.



Usikimye Safe Haven psychologist Jacky Mndora.



Happy for the guesture: Beneficiary Regina Nasige.



Terry Muia of Usikimye Safe Haven receives a package from Tatua3 CEO Joan Mwaura.

Ten...

Ways to help consumers ease rising inflation pain

The surge in the cost of living has raised a lot of concerns among consumers. Despite attempts by the government to address the situation, the price of basic commodities continues to increase every day and things might get worse as the war between Russia and Ukraine hits the supply chain. Here are some basic ways to cushion against the challenges

Zero in on needs, wants

You don't need to keep money in the bank for big purchases. It is the day-to-day expenses that tend to strain finances. Be ruthless on where you want to spend your hard-earned cash, by distinguishing between things you want and those you actually need. When you're at the store and have an item in hand, ask yourself if you really need it. If you're not sure, leave it in your cart after you finish shopping. Before heading to the till in person or virtually, audit your choices.

Scale back on consumption

After determining your need or want, look for more frugal ways to get it. Scale back the amount of money you consume by committing that before you buy something new, you'll first check what you have at home. Ask friends if they have what you need and aren't using them. Also, look at options to buy used or recycled. This might mean joining your community Facebook group to see who has something available for free, what's on offer at the discount market, or where the garage sales are next weekend.

Draw your budget

It is very hard to manage your spending without a budget, therefore creating a realistic budget for your household accounting for all of your routine spending, monthly bills, irregular expenses and savings. This way, you can control

your expenditure by knowing how much you've planned to spend on each type of expense. The budget will also guide you on how much you can help your family with their expenses. Before you cash out any savings or commit to ongoing support, work through your plans with a qualified professional. The last thing you want is to overspend down the road.

Save on grocery shopping

Groceries take a big chunk of Kenyan consumers' monthly budgets, with prices rising steadily for the last few months. With increases expected for the rest of the year. To save, plan your meals around what's on sale or available at a discount. Buy in bulk when the bigger packages are on for a better price than the smaller ones. If bulk buying is too much for you, shop with a friend and share the items and costs. Also, cook in larger portions and freeze the leftovers for lunches or meals on the days you don't want to cook.

Reduce major expenses

By outlining your budget, you are able to see your biggest expenses every month, whether housing, transportation, groceries or debt payments. Consider every bill in each of those categories carefully to see what can be reduced or eliminated. If you can't give up something, put it on hold for a few months to see if you can't do without it. For instance, consider carpooling to split the bill. If you are indebted you might want to contact each of your creditors and ask to restructure them.

Invest to beat inflation

A good budget gives you a buffer to save, which will allow you to set money aside for investments, and absorb some price rises without changing your spending habits. Several asset classes perform well in inflationary environments. Tangible assets like real estate and commodities are historically seen as inflation hedges. Continue to save and invest your money, especially for retirement, because you do not have control over economic conditions, unlike your spending and saving habits.

Trade down, not up

Finding a roommate to split your rent, especially for students and bachelors can take a big chunk out of your monthly expenses. However, don't forget the most important factor in choosing an apartment: location, location, location. Don't squander your budget trying to live in an exclusive part of the city when you might be able to get something of equal size or bigger for less money in a cheaper neighbourhood.

Staying loyal

You don't always have to forgo services to save money. If you understand a store's policies or are a loyal customer, you might be able to qualify for a discount. Services like dry cleaning will usually deliver and provide a discount for payment upfront. Likewise, liquor stores will offer discounts if purchasing cases – and also deliver. Most convenient stores/ su-

permarkets like Naivas, Quick-mart or Chandarana have loyalty cards. By staying loyal, you might also be able to get a price reduction on purchases if you are a member of social organisations like the rotary club.

Cook for yourself

If you live in an area with numerous restaurants, it can be tempting to eat out frequently. And if you're working long hours or have a long commute, you probably don't feel like cooking every night. The problem is, you could go broke dining out too often. Avoid this by simply making dinner beforehand and meeting your friends when you have already eaten. By planning ahead, you can make cooking for yourself less of a time-consuming chore and more of a cost-saving hobby or lifestyle change. Shop for groceries strategically at farmers' markets and discount chains, taking advantage of sales and app-based coupons whenever possible.

Bottom line

With a rise in the cost of living, more people are tempted to go for readily available mobile credit to pay for everything – from education costs for family and buying basic commodities. Avoid facing drastic consequences by taking control of what you can now. A combination of decreasing your spending and, where possible, increasing your income, will help you weather the financial storm successfully.

A combination of decreasing your spending and, where possible, increasing your income, will help you weather the financial storm successfully.

Agri biz ▶ Smart Way to Grow Money

The farmers have found a niche in growing vegetables as a venture in an area predominantly known for rice cultivation

by Noven Owiti
@PeopleDailyKE

A group of farmers in Kakmie village in Nyando Sub-County, Kisumu County has taken a stab at horticulture farming, an agribusiness, which is giving the area economic impetus.

The farmers who are operating under the name Pamoja Self Help Group have found a niche in growing vegetables as a commercial venture in an area predominantly known for cultivation of rice as a major crop, as well as seasonal flooding and drought. A vast section of farms in the locality is under irrigated rice farming.

However, the 15-member group, comprising six men and nine women, is making a mark over the potentiality of agri-business within the Kano Plains area through growing horticultural crops.

A decade after it was set up in 2010, the group is leading efforts to champion agricultural productivity locally.

Its members are collectively engaged in the activities at the group level besides replicating it at their respective individual farms with the main objective of promoting food sufficiency in the area.

The farmers majorly grow kales, which are periodically rotated with tomatoes and capsicum on selected farms.

Food security

The group uses generator-powered energy to pump water from community water pans adjacent to the farms. Other farms are located along River Nyando where they source water.

Eric Kere, the caucus chairman, says their activities aim not only to improve members' livelihoods, but also to promote food security in the community.

He says their decision to switch to horticulture was informed by years of neglect of rice farmers by the government as they became poorer than even those who didn't till their farms, because it was expensive to buy farm inputs and they lost everything to rich middle-men.

"Rice failed to cushion us from hunger, but today when you look at what we expect to get from vegetable farming, we can say, if we continue, then hunger will be history for us, and not only here, but feed other parts of the country too," he says.

"We have managed to secure the area in terms of food security. There is no more importation of these farm produce from other places and hence 95 per cent of the house-

Kisumu group scales the heights in horticulture farming



Pamoja self-help group members tend to their vegetable farm in Kakmie village, Nyando Sub-County.

PD/NOVEN OWITI

holds in this area feed from our activities," he says.

With about Sh10,000 as seed capital, the group bought farm inputs and the balance went into ploughing their one-acre farm.

To start off, they planted tomatoes that fetched the group averagely Sh120,000. Inspired by the sweet returns, they extended the production to another one acre for tomatoes and another acre of kales in anticipation of raking in increased returns. Eventually, they scaled-up production in subsequent seasons.

"From the impressive sales, we became more charged, having realised the great opportunity that needed to be tapped," explains Kere.

Currently, the group has approximately six acres of farmland under the production of kales at different stages. Some portions are set aside for growing capsicum and tomatoes



Pamoja Self Help Group chairman Eric Kere on the farm.

on a rotational basis.

"We co-opted other members and decided to get more farms to enhance our production and further grow our activities," he adds.

Initially, the members grew vegetables individually in their farms before taking up the venture at the group level.

Making profits

The farmers harvest three times a month (every 10 days). In every harvest, they get between 20 and 30 of 50-kilogramme sacks of vegetables. A sack retails at between Sh800 and Sh1,500 in the local market. This varies from time to time depending on the season. They enjoy a lucrative market, especially during dry spells when the supply of vegetables dwindles translating into high demand in the market.

Specifically, Kere says the season is at its peak between the months of April and December when there is a general drought, leading to corresponding high demand for vegetables.

"This is the time when the kale business is sweeter to the farmer. Most farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture and hence they cannot irrigate their farms. But we have the advantage because of the reliable water sources we have around," he explains.

On a good month, the group earns at least Sh250,000 in profits from selling the vegetables. Its main clients are vegetable traders and households in Nyando area and its environs.

Part of the income is ploughed back to keep

the agribusiness afloat while the remainder is banked and used as table banking kitty for members.

"Kale is a regular meal for nearly every household so there is a ready market. If well managed, the crop can be actively harvested for six months," says Kere.

Kale production starts by raising the seedlings in a well prepared nursery bed.

The seedlings take about three weeks to transplant when they have four true leaves and are about 10 centimetres tall.

The vegetables then mature for harvesting between three and four weeks of growth from transplanting.

The farmer emphasises that maintenance practices, such as regular spraying and weeding are key in keeping the vegetables healthy. This, he says, ensures better yields.

Consequently, the group's farms are sprayed every week to keep pests at bay.

And with reliable source of water, the farmers are able to produce consistently throughout the year. "There is a great potential for commercial agricultural practices in Kano Plains. A long time ago, it was only perceived to be a flood-prone area, but with this initiative we can show the whole World that such activities can thrive well here," he says.

He adds: "Members have made great achievements through our farming activities. This is evident in their improved lives and education of their children."

Violet Kayi, the group treasurer, says the farming activities have turned around members' fortunes. "The farming activities form our main economic mainstay, the lives of members have been transformed as a result," she says.

Further, she points out that the venture is a source of food security and economic empowerment to the members and the entire community.

She notes members are finding the business viable because of access to ready market, adding that similar activities are castigated in the members' individual farms.

Caroline Yula, a member of the group concurs, saying the initiative is a source of economic inspiration to the women who initially struggled to support their families.

Yula says group members and the whole community are direct beneficiaries from the venture in terms of food sufficiency and income generation. "Generally, we have experienced notable transformation in the community. Women here have reliable disposable income to support their families comfortably," she says.

KERE

From the impressive sales, we became more charged, having realised the great opportunity that needed to be tapped.

BRIEFLY

Research shows explosive debate over GMO foods slowing down

by Wahinya Henry
@PeopleDailyKe

The explosive debate that characterises Genetically Modified (GM) products or the science of biotechnology is becoming less polarised, according to a study by United States researchers.

Lead researcher Sara Evanega and three others concluded also that the 'Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) debate - point toward an increasingly

favourable and less polarised media conversation on ag-biotech.

"Overall, results suggest that both social and traditional media may be leaning towards a more favourable and less polarised conversation on ag-biotech," says Evanega.

More than a 100,000 online and print articles and more than a million social media posts were analysed by researchers to determine the volume and

tenor of the GMO conversation from 2018 to 2020.

The study also investigated how the media covers issues about GMOs, and if the former shares the same scientific perception about the latter.

It also helped determine if certain companies influence the tone of conversation, what the roles of bots and cyborgs (Bots and cyborgs are more than tools to better manage content

quality on Wikipedia) are in the conversation, how the volume of coverage has shifted, and what are the attitudes toward emerging ag-biotech tools.

The researchers were able to determine that traditional media tended to be more positive in their coverage than social media in 2018 and 2019, but the gap disappeared in 2020.

Trends toward increasing favourability were also observed in both

traditional and social media, more particularly in social media. Positive favourability observed in Africa may be associated with farmers being able to witness field trials and plant GM seeds, as well as the decrease of activity by anti-GMO activists in areas where GM crops have been adopted.

They also observed a drop in the salience of the GMO debate among the wider population.

You ▶ It's all about Life & Style

Why it's okay to hurt others' feelings

Do you please others at the expense of your happiness? Or you do things out of pity and always make sure no one is upset or displeased with you? This inhibiting of the self can be harmful

by Jasmine Atieno
@sparkleMine

Rine Dama, a 30-year-old Mombasa-based business woman, wishes she was not always trying to be a nice person to everyone because this has had a lot of consequences on both her professional and personal life. She just doesn't know how to say 'no'.

"I have done a couple of businesses. Currently, I'm operating a cosmetics business. You know people and their bargaining tactics. They always want to buy something at a low price. And then there are those who want things on credit —sometimes they are people you know. Trying to balance the account every month is a depressing situation. When it comes to relationship, my sister literally had to save me from a man I accepted to be with out of pity. I just couldn't say 'no' because... that would hurt him. I wasn't in love with him, but more concerned about how he felt," shares the business woman.

Well, not everybody has these pity-tags. For female radio host, Mgheni Shaban, her peace of mind is more important than anything else. "I speak my truth. The wise people say truth is sometimes bitter. And that's how I live my life. I will never let other people's needs drown me. My peace of mind is important as well, so if I evaluate a situation and see that it will go contrary to this peace that I am seriously working towards, then I have

to say 'no' to you. And I also like to be straight forward with it. It is important to learn how to balance life for everyone's good. If I am not honest in decisions, it's like putting myself in a cell. But I try to be wise with my words so it doesn't come out too harsh as well," says Mgheni, popularly known as Sister Shannieez.

Even when it is unintended, some people find it intolerable to hurt someone they love. To experience hurting the other can create shame, guilt and strong "I am a bad person" feelings. As a result, they may avoid saying what is on their mind and put aside their own feelings and needs. This inhibiting of the self can be harmful to their relationships and can create the conditions for developing anxiety and depression.

This inability to tolerate hurting people can also greatly affect our relationships with others. It is important to understand that at some point we will hurt people we love intentionally or unintentionally.

Harm OCD

Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) can involve excessive cleaning, a preoccupation with an order or with avoiding certain numbers, or intrusive thoughts. Harm OCD on the other is a term used to describe when intrusive thoughts focus on the possibility of harming others. The thoughts can take the form of fear you'll harm someone close to you, a fear you'll harm a stranger or a fear you've harmed someone in the past and didn't realise or don't remember it.

What makes these thoughts into obsessions is the meaning we attribute to them. So, why are people afraid of hurting other people's feelings?

As counselling psychologist, Ruth Jebet shares, the first reason is that we recall how hurt we felt as children, forgetting that children and adults have different nervous systems and abilities to regulate and cope with emotions. "As children, the brain is still developing and they cope poorly with hurt feelings because they lack the physiological components to do so. They can't think



Ruth Jebet.



Shannieez Mgheni.

rationally and put what's happening to them into a larger, correct context. Although adults (over 25) have fully developed brains and have every right to expect them to cope with hurt feelings, some can't because they too weren't taught how to do so," says the expert.

Coping mechanism

The other reason people shrink back from hurting someone's feelings, she shares, is that they saw their caretakers retaliate when they were hurt.

"Maybe your rebellious brother got smacked around, your parents punished you unfairly for your childish mistakes, or they said mean, blaming words to you, which have stuck in your head to this day. Perhaps you equate hurting someone with getting hurt back in spades and decided long ago it was better to suffer in silence than at the hands of someone else," she says.

Finally, we feel guilty or uncomfortable hurting others because the people who raised us didn't exhibit effective coping skills. When they were hurt, they resorted to negative coping skills such as use of drugs, projection/displacement in form of yelling, shaming us, or even physically hurting those close to them. If you grew up watching others have difficulty managing emotional pain, you are going to think that all adults can't tolerate it, which is untrue. Many adults do just fine. No one likes being hurt, but the majority of the people manage and soldier on.

When we become overly interested and vigilant about the impact we have on others and design our behaviours to make sure they don't have feelings we can't tolerate, we are putting our authentic selves on hold. However, the focus on pleasing others interferes with developing the ability to consider what would be pleasing to oneself. "This denial of who we are causes us to build up feelings consciously and unconsciously. Preventing ourselves from expressing what we think and feel, and shutting up our true selves puts us at risk for anxiety and depression. If we can learn to become more comfortable with how we impact others, and address what we think our impact is, instead of trying to control the other's feelings, we will be promoting the development of our true selves," she says in ending.



LOVE & LAST
WITH WAITHE OTIEMO

@ntatasiPlay

Anti-seductive traits to avoid

Some people attract and retain the interest of the opposite sex with enviable regularity, while others struggle to get a second date. Here are some anti-seduction characteristics that could be making the dating life of this latter seducer impossible.

Being rigid: Seduction is a game that's meant to be fun. It requires some open mindedness and flexibility. If you appear too stuck to your own ideas 100 per cent of the time, this can be a turn off. Even though you want to operate within basic personal principles and values, don't sweat the small stuff. Relax, and demonstrate respect for your partner's ideas, even if they are not identical to your own.

Being too self-absorbed: You will come off as too self absorbed if you always want to dominate the conversation, talking about yourself all the time. Allow your date to talk about themselves too. Listen to them. Try not to interrupt your date while they are speaking. If your date asks you a question, respond and then ask them to share their own view.

Being cheap: If your date senses that you are stingy, it is a signal that you have something constricted in your character. You cannot let yourself go and take risks. Even if your financial situation may not always allow you to splash money around, but be generous when you can afford to. When you are broke, find creative ways to entertain your date.

Being impatient: Seduction is a process that needs to be enjoyed. When you start dating someone that you really like, think of it as delicious five course meal. You want to take your time to enjoy every bite, each individual food item. Rushing the process is like gulping down the five course meal in five minutes. Be patient, enjoy the seduction journey.

Being overly sensitive: Life doesn't have to be that serious. It's important to be easy-going enough, to be able to laugh at yourself, and this is something over-sensitive types just can't do. They are difficult to be around. They can't take a joke or see the fun side of life. They overreact to the slightest thing, often to the surprise of everyone else and always seem to be on the lookout for things to get offended about. They seem to keep an eye open for little details to pick on which were never meant as offences in the first place, twisting them out of recognition and blowing them way out of proportion.



Take Off

Green Agenda



Humphrey Kariuki, patron a Janus Continental Group and Tourism and Wildlife CS Najib Balala during the official opening of the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary. PD/COURTESY

Safe haven for endangered Mountain Bongo

Kenya has set up world's first sanctuary to protect the rare antelope subspecies, whose population is estimated at less than 100

■ William Murigi
@amillymur1

Kenya, has opened a Mountain Bongo Sanctuary in its bid to help save the animal from extinction. The Mountain Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*) is one of Kenya's most important iconic animals. It is a critically endangered subspecies and can only be found here in Kenya.

Dubbed the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary, the 776-acre sanctuary is located in Nanyuki and is the first-ever Mountain Bongo sanctuary in Africa and the world, marking a historic milestone in the fight for the animal's survival, with less than 100 individuals left in the wild.

Speaking during the official opening of the sanctuary, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife Najib Balala said that already five mountain bongos have been released into the sanctuary. According to him, every subsequent year, an additional 10 animals will be translocated into the sanctuary in groups of five every six months. Individual mountain bongos to join the sanctuary will be selected offspring from the breeding herds and allowed to roam and mate randomly in the sanctuary.

"In July 2019, as a country we launched

the National Mountain Bongo Recovery and Action Plan 2019–2023, in partnership with the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC), Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) and Kenya Forest Services (KFS). The opening of the Mawingu Sanctuary is another critical step forward to help achieve these aims," said Balala.

The critically endangered mountain bongo is one of the largest forest antelopes and is endemic to the equatorial forests of Kenya (Mount Kenya Forest, Eburu, Mau and Aberdares). This subspecies once roamed in large numbers, but has suffered unprecedented population decline since the 1950s due to poaching, live trade, predation, and disease, particularly the rinderpest outbreak in the 1980s.

Reverse extinction

However, it has not yet received the same level of international attention as the 'Big five' safari animals, which in part contributed to the recovery of their numbers. According to the recent National Wildlife Census in Kenya, less than 100 mountain bongos are left in the wild and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) predicts that this number will likely continue to decline unless deliberate actions to address the threats are put in place.

Dr Robert Aruho, Head of Veterinary Services at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC) said the dwindling numbers of this animal is what motivated MKWC to take a daunting challenge of reversing this inevitable extinction of the Mountain Bongo in 2004 and started the breeding and rewilding programme of the antelope in Kenya. The team in partnership with KWS and KFS, have been leading a breeding and rewilding programme that has taken nearly



A successful release of the Bongo into the sanctuary. PD/COURTESY

20 years to bring the Mountain Bongo back into the wild.

The aim of the programme is to have individuals that are fully rewilded and, therefore, competent to survive in the sanctuary and eventually the wild. According to Aruho, breeding and rewilding of the animals will continue to be done concurrently, thus creating a stream of candidates to support reinforcement of wild mountain bongo populations and re-introduction into the historical ranges.

"MKWC firmly believes that with the collective action of all partners mountain bongo numbers will rise and eventually be removed from the IUCN's critically endangered list," said Aruho.

"Locally, approval has been granted to us to import healthy mountain bongos from suitable sources in Europe and American zoos. This will ensure the breeding and rewilding programme continues to be successful with genetic diversity," he added.

Community support

Balala said the long-term vision of the Government of Kenya's recovery and action plan is to achieve a population of 750 individuals in Kenya by the year 2050. It is also estimated that with the sanctuary now operational, by 2025 it will have 50-70 fully rewilded mountain bongos. The reason is all partners will now have facilities to complete mountain bongo reintroduction end-to-end.

However, Aruho says that long-term success of the programme depends on the communities' support in surrounding areas because most of the threats that caused these subspecies to decline was primarily human-driven. To ensure that this is a success, he reveals that MKWC have set up community conservation, education, and empowerment programmes to create awareness to address these threats.

Apart from that, local communities are also provided with the opportunity for hands-on training on ecosystem restoration. The Conservancy works with the communities to restore degraded areas within Mount Kenya forest through its forest restoration and reforestation programme. Under this partnership, MKWC has involved 3,000 community members in planting over 35,000 indigenous tree species in Mount Kenya Forest. In 2022, MKWC is planning to plant another 5,000 trees with the support of the communities.

"Total weaning of these animals from human dependence is a gradual process requiring technical skill, patience, and commitment to allow the animals to adapt independently," he adds in conclusion.

BRIEFLY

Institute adopts tree-planting drone tech to restore degraded lands

by Mwangi Mumbo
@PeopleDailyKE

The Kenya Forest Research Institute (Kefri) is using drone technology to restore 5.1 million hectares (12.6 million acres) of degraded lands, including grasslands.

In partnership with the Kenya Flying Labs and Seedball Kenya, Kefri is using the drones for aerial seeding – a process where seeds are dropped from the air in degraded areas.

The seeds are procured from Kefri and then processed into balls by Seedball Kenya, which are then loaded into drones.

Kefri director Jane Njuguna said the calibration on seed rates is done before the drones set off.

The seed rates depend of tree species and expected ground cover. One particular drone has a capacity of seven kilogrammes with one flight taking 15 minutes and covering 0.8 hectares (approximately two acres) of land. In one hour, the drone can seed 3.2 hectares (eight acres) of land.

The drones that belong to the Kenya Flying Labs are specialised and fully fitted with seed dispensers that easily, precisely and efficiently drop seed balls with precision.

"This new technology replaces traditional methods, which have been used to regenerate the forest cover in the country," observed Mohammed Akasha, one of the technical team from Kenya Flying Labs during a recent event to demonstrate the use of seeding drones.

Akasha said the technology has been proved very useful for planting trees in large and inaccessible areas, which have not been reached over the years because of various reasons, including harsh weather conditions and fear of being attacked by wild animals.

"This technology offers an affordable method of regenerating forests and making our country greener while curbing global warming effects," shared Njuguna from Kefri.

Kenya's forest cover remains at a dismal 7.2 per cent against the recommended 10 per cent.

In recent years, Kefri has increased its seed production capacity to boost the forest cover in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. In an initiative to be implemented across the 47 counties, a total of two billion tree seedlings are set for planting in the country.

Early last year, the government through Kefri planted more than 40,000 mangrove seedlings in Mida Creek and 60,000 tree cuttings for propagation at Ngomeni, Magarini Sub-County of Kilifi County.

Deforestation through encroachment, charcoal burning and population pressure remains a persistent and imminent threat to forest cover across the country.

People Plus ▶ Tell your Story

Coastal artiste makes soulful music with tinge of Mijikenda sound

by Jasmine Atieno
@PeopleDailyKe

While some people may think culture is inferior, Katoi Wa Tabaka, a singer and song writer brings traditional music to life by fusing Mijikenda tunes with soul and jazz

While Nairobi is considered a musical hub, hosting some of the most popular artistes in the world, the coastal side of the country still stands as one of the strongest when it comes to cultural heritage.

While bongo music has gotten a lot of air-play, genres such as bango still remain highly popular, especially live performances.

Through time, the younger Mijikenda artistes have learned to fuse some of these popular tunes with the traditional Mijikenda beats popularly known as *mwanzele* into a modern Generation Z vibe. Among the artists currently serving good music in the region include the reknowned Katoi Wa Tabaka, who has sent Mijikenda jazz and Kaya hip-hop across the globe.

Katoi's music aims at exploring, explaining, preserving and expanding culture and heritage by voicing real issues that touch the lives of an ordinary person in Kenya.

Young creative

Being the last born son in a family that practiced farming, his role was to look after the family goats with other boys of his age in the plains and valleys of Marafa, in Kilifi county. Even at that tender age, musical sparks had already started forming in his heart. Together with the other boys, they would create all kinds of crude instruments; from one-stringed bow guitars they used to call *kadama* to whistling the *kipopo* and *milozia* and sometimes flutes. Katoi's strength was his powerful vocals and his speed in composing songs.

"Music made my child-

hood crazy, adventurous and beautiful. I sang in our Sunday School choir and later, when I joined primary school, I was part of the school choir and drama and music club. Somehow I was always the lead vocalist. These platforms shaped my career in music. They helped me cultivate confidence and I was able to get over the fear of standing in front of big crowds at a tender age," shares the artiste.

When he joined Town Secondary School in Malindi in 1998, he joined Tabaka Rap Crew, a hip-hop rap group in Malindi, his first and lasting musical family. The band in 1999 produced its first single *Washirika* a song that did well in the local and East African airwaves. Katoi then moved to Europe in 2003 for further studies. Music being his strength, he started going for gigs and organising shows together with other students at the University of Trieste in North Italy. Many of them were from Senegal and Ghana. It was due to the experiences with these

West African musi-



Katoi Wa Tabaka and his band. PD/JASMINE ATIENO

cians that he developed a deep longing for traditional music, as these were mostly DjembeB (West African drum) percussion groups and traditional dancers. The musical culture in Europe also empowered him to treasure his traditional music more.

"Every school in Europe has their own folk music. The Europeans treasure their culture a lot. They treasure their food, their fashion and their art. They work hard to make their culture, traditions and their religion seem like the world culture. They make us view them like they are the best. In Africa, we have a few countries that are trying to enforce their culture, but in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, our culture is not truly embraced. Culture is looked at as inferior. But culture and tradition is the backbone of all progress of a people," says the law graduate.

When he finally came back home in 2015, he joined Malindi District Cultural Association where culture and folk music is abundant and older musicians are the greatest librarians any scholar in music can wish for. That's how Mijikenda jazz came about - Katoi started fusing traditional Mijikenda music with soul, blues and jazz, creating not only a melody so unique, but the sound created also became a new genre of music in the industry. Together with other veteran musicians they formed, the Mijikenda Jazz Band, an ensemble of traditional instrumentalists and modern music equipment players.

"The band has a saxophone player, drummer, two guitarists (bass and acoustic) and keyboardist — the team that make up the modern instrumentalists — and percussionists who play *mabumbumbu*, *mshondo*, *chapuo*, *Ndonga*, *lungo* and *ndema*. I play the *gunda*. I'm also a lead vocalist. Three women form the back ground vocalists. The group has performed at the Safaricom Jazz Festival and the Koroga Festivals in Nairobi several times," he shares about his band.

Currently, it's the home band for Mwembe Resort playing every Saturday, Tamu Beach Resort playing every Friday, and Paparomo Beach Restaurant playing every Sunday. So far, it has recorded one album *Kunani*, which features songs about the

KATOI

Music made my childhood crazy, adventurous and beautiful. I sang in our Sunday School choir and later, when I joined primary school, I was part of the school choir and drama and music club. I was always the lead vocalist.

AT A GLANCE

When Katoi Wa Tabaka went for further studies in Europe to pursue law, he was amazed at how Europeans treasure their culture a lot — from food, fashion and art.

When he finally came back home in 2015, he joined Malindi District Cultural Association where culture and folk music is abundant and older musicians are the greatest librarians any scholar in music could wish for

He fuses traditional Mijikenda music with soul, blues and jazz, creating not only a melody so unique, but a new genre of music in the industry.

Together with other veteran musicians they formed, the Mijikenda Jazz Band, an ensemble of traditional instrumentalists and modern music equipment players.

daily lives of the people of Kenya.

"We live for the day when Mijikenda folk music will play on the world music forum competitively like other folk music from elsewhere. The Mijikenda people have been marginalised for a century now, it's time we use music to explain this rich music culture to the world," Katoi says.

Selling culture

In order to bring these steps to fruition, he has partnered with Sara Brambila, on the #Malindilivevibe, a collaborative project with Barbar Lounge Bar in Malindi where every Tuesday they invite a live performing band to showcase their art and be paid for the work. This is a way of encouraging more musicians to embrace live music, which is the future of music. The band also brings various artists from all over the world to Malindi, thus creating interactive exposure to the local artistes and improving professionalism and networking for the local artistes.

"We are also taking the Mijikenda culture to the world by organising the Pwani life festival, together with Muchigi Kimari of the Chini Ya Mti entertainment company in the Kenyan capital, which has over four million people residents. This event will challenge local coastal artistes to embrace their culture as they will have a national platform to showcase their culture and art," he shares.

"We have just finished the construction of the Wa Tabaka music lab, a professional recording in the heart of Malindi. This studio will be used to record all the traditional mijikenda music genres and document and archive all the music of the mijikenda people. The end result is to then teach these music genres to the future generations hence preserving our culture permanently in the minds of the generations to come," he says.

In addition to these, he is also in talks with the Mijikenda Heritage Trust, to create an online presence and representation of the whole Mijikenda culture - from food to fashion and art.



- 5.00 Inuka
- 5.30 Wake Up, Shape Up!
- 6.00 K24 This Morning
- 9.55 Wisdom Moments
- 10.0 Inuka
- 11.00 Daily Brief
- 1.00 K24 News Cut
- 1.30 Jungu La Spoti
- 2.00 Bongo Movie
- 3.00 Ubongo Kids
- 3.30 Akili & Me
- 4.00 K24 Mashinani
- 4.30 BBC Mitikasi Leo
- 4.50 Akili & Me
- 5.00 Beatbox
- 6.00 Laura
- 7.00 Kikaoni K24
- 8.00 Kura 2022
- 9.00 K24 Evening Edition
- 10.00 Save A Life
- 11.00 Rhumba Oxygen- Rpt
- 01.00 Al Jazeera



- 5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
- 6.00 Rikiritha- Live
- 10.00 Riigu Mix- Rpt
- 10.30 Satai
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodi- Live
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau- Live
- 1.30 Thiririka
- 3.00 Magerio- Rpt
- 3.30 Satai- Rpt
- 4.00 Ririmuka- Live
- 6.00 Maisha Bure- Rpt
- 6.30 Wendo Wa
- Githagathago
- Kameme Maturaini- Live
- Save A Life
- 8.00 Njungwa Ya Muthee Kihenjo
- 8.30 Maisha Bure
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro- Live
- 10.00 Thenema
- 11.30 Ririmuka
- 12.30 DW



- 12.00 Football Review- Rpt
- 6.00 Morning Express
- 08.00 Life N' Style
- 12.00 Documentary
- 4.00 Mbiu-Ya-Ktn
- 5.00 Baseline
- 6.00 Losing Heaven
- 7.00 KTN Leo
- 7.30 Just Kidding
- 8.00 Great Bake Off
- 9.00 KTN Friday Briefing
- 10.20 Movie

TIME OUT!



11:00pm RHUMBA OXYGEN



::IN THEATRES NOW::

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA: 11:30,13:30,15:30,17:30,19:30,12:30: **MORBIUS**
 ANGA SKY PANARI:14:25,16:20,18:35: **MORBIUS**
 ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA:10:30,13:50,18:40,21:30: **ATTACK**
 WESTGATE CINEMA: 11:15,14:00,16:30,19:00,21:00,11:20,19:05: **ATTACK**
 ANGA SKY PANARI:20:35: **ATTACK**



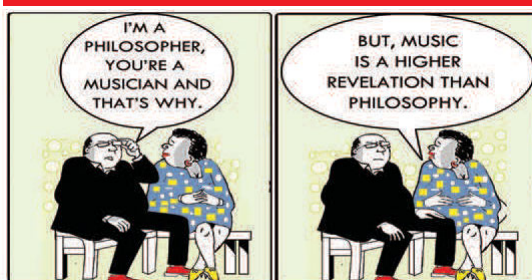
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| | | | | 9 | 6 | | | 1 |
| 9 | | 1 | 4 | | | | 3 | |
| | | | | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | |
| | 9 | 2 | | | | 5 | 8 | |
| | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | | | | |
| | 1 | | | | 8 | 9 | | 5 |
| 2 | | | 7 | 6 | | | | |
| | | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | | |

Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 |

The aim is to fill the grid so that each row, column and every 3x3 shaded box contains only one of the digits 1-9. You need to reason out where to place the missing numbers by using the numbers given in the grid and a process of elimination. It is a game of logic not mathematical ability.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



HOROSCOPES



ARIES (MAR. 21-APRIL 20)
 Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself. Accomplishment is yours if you direct yourself accordingly.

TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)
 Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Those close to your heart may be difficult to reason with. Make sure that new mates live up to your high standards.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)
 Be careful not to show your temper when dealing with the boss. Minor accidents are likely if you take risks.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)
 If you put your energy into physical outlets you will avoid confrontations. Travel and family gatherings should be in order.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)
 Take time to listen to children and help them with projects that seem impossible to them.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)
 Don't let someone try to bully you into doing things their way. Don't be too quick to respond to a plea for help. You may be thinking of starting your own business.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24- OCT. 23)
 Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Make career changes that may increase your income.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24- NOV. 22)
 Limitations at work might set you back. You may have a problem dealing with elders. You could be attracting individuals who are anything but good for you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
 Unexpected bills may set you back. You can beautify your surroundings by renovating or redecorating. You will find that money could slip through your fingers.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22- JAN. 20)
 Children may be less than honest with you. Your mate may want to pick a fight but if you're persistent with your affections their anger should dissipate.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21- FEB. 19)
 Luck is with you, regardless of the financial venture. Travel opportunities should be your first choice. Try to stay calm and do the best you can.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)
 Pay attention to small but important details. Work quietly behind the scenes. Be sure you get accurate information.



- 5:00 BBC
- 5:30 Gear Up
- 6:00 Good Morning Kenya
- 9:00 Layd Back
- 9:30 Animation Time
- 10:30 Jee, huu ni unguwana?
- 11:00 Hypochondriach RR
- 12:00 Afrusion
- 1:00 Lunch
- Time News
- 2:00 IAAF Recorded
- 4:30 Bad Minds Rpt
- 5:00 Club 1
- 6:30 The Great Debators
- 7:00 Taarifa
- 7:30 Grapevine
- 8:00 First Lady
- 9:00 Channel 1 News
- 10:00 Maisha ya mama
- 11:00 CCTV
- 11:30 Layd Back



- 5.00 Password Plus
- 6.00 Am Live
- 8.00 Better Living
- 9.00 On The Wings Of Love
- 10.00 Wild Skin
- 11.00 NTV Today
- 1.00 NTV At1
- 1.30 NTV Sasa
- 3.00 China Wings
- 3.30 Gina D's Kids Club
- 4.00 NTV At 4
- 4.15 Password
- 5.00 The Beat
- 6.00 Be Careful With My Heart
- 7.00 NTV Jioni
- 8.00 Wild Skin
- 9.00 NTV Tonight
- 10.00 Lit 360
- 11.00 World Cup Daily Highlights
- 12.00 CNN

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| 21 | | | | | 22 | |

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1. Geese | 2. Ephemeral |
| 3. Steps | 3. Sale |
| 10. Echelon | 5. Tashkent |
| 11. Skid | 6. Pod |
| 12. Sumo | 7. Vessel |
| 13. Awakened | 8. Knows |
| 16. Lyrics | 9. Feed |
| 17. Enigma | 14. Neglect |
| 20. Salutory | 15. Scuttles |
| 21. Kin | 18. Annoys |
| 23. Level | 19. Truce |
| 25. Cookery | 20. Silk |
| 26. Swash | 22. Toga |
| 27. Waste | 24. Vow |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1. Majestic; wonderful (6) | 18. Radio pioneer (7) |
| 4. Loves dearly (6) | 20. Contradicted; neutralised (7) |
| 9. Deficiency of red blood cells (7) | 21. Showy (6) |
| 10. Persuasive relevance (7) | 21. Insect larvae (6) |
| 11. Brazilian dance (5) | |
| 12. Smell (5) | DOWN |
| 14. Muscular strength (5) | 1. Not dense (6) |
| 15. Simple song (5) | 2. Composer of a sacred song (8) |
| 17. Precious stone (5) | 3. Cuban folk dance (5) |
| | 5. Compel by coercion (7) |

- 6. Destroy (4)
- 7. Wood cutter (6)
- 8. Travelling with a rucksack (11)
- 13. Go beyond a limit (8)
- 14. Past events (7)
- 15. Got rid of (6)
- 16. Swords (6)
- 17. One over par (golf) (5)
- 19. A swamp grass (4)

BD Sport

► The one-stop Sport shop...

FOOTBALL - PAGE 30

Mbappe mum on PSG future after sparking rout of Lorient



Scribes club wins inaugural Guinness 5-a-side tournament

FOOTBALL: Sports Journalists Media Football Club emerged the winners of the inaugural Guinness 5-a-side tournament after putting up a spirited fight to beat a stubborn Digital Influencers Team (DIT) with a narrow 2-1 win during a pulsating match at Ruaraka Grounds, Nairobi on Saturday.

The nail-biting duel which had attracted a sizable crowd was organized by Guinness and saw both teams try their level best to outsmart the other for the bragging rights. The winners were awarded branded jerseys and also got a chance to see Kenya's hip-hop Star Khaligraph Jones perform live in one of Nairobi's restaurants. The 5-a-side tournament is part of Guinness' mission to transform the football experience for consumers and make it bigger, more exciting and scalable. The tournament will continue to be played across various grounds in the country every weekend until the overall winner is crowned with a superb cup and original branded jersey of their favourite English Football clubs.

-Rodgers Ndegwa



Netherlands boss Van Gaal reveals his fight with prostate cancer

FOOTBALL: Former Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal (pictured) says he is receiving treatment for prostate cancer. The Dutchman, currently in charge of the Netherlands national team, announced on Dutch TV programme Humberto on Sunday. Van Gaal, 70, said he had kept the news from his players during the recent international break. "I didn't want to tell it to my players because it could have influenced their performances," he added. Van Gaal is in his third spell as Netherlands head coach, having led them to third place at the 2014 World Cup and now to the 2022 finals in Qatar. He added: "In each period during my time as manager of the national team I had to leave in the night to go to the hospital without the players finding it out until now. While thinking I was healthy, but... I am not." In his two years spell at Manchester United, Van Gaal led them to FA Cup success in 2016 before he was replaced by Jose Mourinho. He has also won league titles with Barcelona, Bayern Munich, AZ Alkmaar and Ajax, where he led the Dutch side to Champions League glory in 1995.

-AFP

Amina thumbs-up to ARC Equator Rally youthful speedsters

by Philip Kamakya
@PeopleDailyKe

Sports Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed has hailed FIA Rally star youngsters for their encouraging performance in the African Rally Championship Equator Rally in Naivasha last weekend.

Amina pledged to support the quartet of Jeremy Wahome, McRae Kimathi, Hamza Anwar and Maxine Wahome which ended the two-day gruelling event in the top ten.

She also praised the Fly540 Racing Team led by 19-year-old Rio Smith, for being among the top 10 finishers in the continental showpiece.

Jeremy was the best-placed young driver in fourth place behind compatriot Jasmeet Chana who sealed a podium finish alongside champion Karan Patel and second-placed Leroy Gomes of Zambia.

Hamza surprised all and sundry in the early morning speed test at Loldia where he set the quickest stage time

ahead of Gomes and Patel.

Speaking during the Ceremonial Finish, Amina said: "Congratulations to the young drivers. They have all our support and we are very proud of them. We are indebted to them. From this event, they have shown us what real talent is all about."

"They have also shown us what resilience is all about. Some of them retired on Saturday and restarted the rally on Sunday on a very high note under the Super Rally rule."

I think we picked a winning team and that's the squad we are going forward with," said Amina.

She also lauded Kimathi for his WRC 3 podium in WRC Rally Sweden where he also finished fourth in the Junior WRC.

Kimathi Junior entered his name in the annals of motorsport history as the first-ever Kenyan to finish a rally on snow. "It's the first time that a Kenyan has completed an all-snow fixture in Europe. It has never happened before."

Women's top league resumes after break

Current leaders Vihiga Queens triumph over Nakuru City as Ulinzi Stars thrash Kangemi in a humiliating 7-0 rout

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

After a two-week break, Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Women's Premier League resumed at the weekend with a number of shocking results.

Kangemi had an outing to forget as they lost 7-0 to Ulinzi Stars who had beaten them 6-2 in the first leg encounter.

Another casualty was Kayole whose hopes of overturning a 2-1 defeat by Thika Queens in the first leg ended in disappointment after slumping to a 2-0 loss.

Just like Kangemi, Kisumu All-Starlets had a nightmarish weekend, losing 3-0 to visiting Gaspo in Kisumu for the latter to win 9-0 on aggregate, having won the first leg 6-0.

Meanwhile, former champions and current leaders Vihiga Queens beat Nakuru City Queens 3-1.

At Mumbaha Stadium, newbies Bunyore Starlets punched above their weight by defeating Wadadia 3-0.

The result came as a shock to many considering that Wadadia had beaten Bunyore by six unanswered goals in the first leg encounter.

Bunyore Team Manager

Zachariah Amakhang'a attributed the defeat to discipline and hard work.

"The girls had shown the desire to win from the word and they deservedly got it. We shall take the remaining matches each at a time and see what happens from there," he said.

In the final match of the weekend, Zetech Sparks drew 1-1 with Transzoia Falcons at GEMS Cambridge Ngong' Road, Nairobi.

The first meeting between the two sides this season saw Transzoia win 2-0.

FKF WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS:

Second Leg, First Fixtures Results:

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Bunyore Starlets 3-0 Wadadia Ladies

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Gaspo Women 3-0

Kisumu All-Starlets

Zetech Sparks 1-1

Transzoia Falcons

4. Kayole Starlets 0-2

Thika Queens

Nakuru City Queens 0-1

Vihiga Queens

Ulinzi Starlets 7-0

Kangemi Ladies



A Kisumu All Star player (left) vies for the ball against her Gaspo counterpart in a past FKF premier league match. PD/GIBO ZACHARY



Jeremiah Wahome navigated by Victor Okundi in action during the Equator Rally Naivasha on Sunday. PD/ PHILIP KAMAKYA



Chepkirui to make debut at BMW Berlin Marathon

by Kiprono Ericson
@PeopleDailyKe

Berlin Half Marathon champion Sheila Chepkirui (pictured) will make her marathon debut during the 48th edition of the BMW Berlin Marathon, Germany in September. Chepkirui broke the course record on Sunday during the 41st edition of the Generali Berlin Half Marathon.

Despite very cold conditions with almost freezing temperatures at the start, she clocked a world-class time of 65:02. It is the 18th fastest half marathon time ever run by a woman. Her compatriots Joyce Chepkemoi and Irene Kimais took second and third with

65:50 and 66:34 respectively. "I am now planning to run my marathon debut later in the year, so I will return to Berlin in September," said Chepkirui.

A total of 33,336 athletes from 121 nations registered for the race. Chepkirui set a new championship record with victory in the women's 5,000m final at the Africa Athletics Championships at Kings Park, Durban South Africa.

The Kenya Defence Forces officer clocked 15 minutes and 05.45 seconds to erase the previous championships record time of 15:32.72 set by Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana during the 2014 event in Marrakech. In 2017, Chepkirui competed at the World Cham-

pionships in London where she clinched position 7 in the 5000 metres race with a PB of 14:54:05.

The 32-year-old hails from Kipchinchim in Ainamoi sub-county, Kericho county and trains at Kericho Athletics camp under the tutelage of coach Gabriel Kiptanui.

In the year 2020 Chepkirui broke the Women's 10km world marathon record in a time of 29:42 in the Valencia Marathon consolidating her position as the second fastest woman of all time, according to the World Athletics. This is the first time a 10km race on the road has happened in under 30 minutes, which takes Chepkirui performance 11 seconds off the PB she set in Prague in 2019.

Rampant Jaguars demobilise Kenya Police at City Park

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

Western Jaguars stunned Kenya Police 2-1 in their men's Kenya Hockey Union Premier League match at the City Park Stadium in Nairobi over the weekend.

The result saw Police suffer their first loss of the season in three matches.

Jaguars took a deserved lead in the first half through Derrick Juma which was cancelled by Titus Kimtai of Kenya Police in the second half. Bethuel Masambu had the last say scoring the winner late in the second half.

Kimtai challenged the law enforcers to rise from the loss and concentrate on coming matches.

"We played badly in my opinion; you can't compare the match to the previous one against Butali where we played to a 2-2 draw. We need to

work on controlling the game more in our subsequent make matches," noted Kimtai

The win was an immediate response from Jaguars, who had started their season poorly losing 3-0 to Sailors on Saturday at the City Park Stadium.

Elsewhere, reigning champions Butali Sugar Warriors extended their unbeaten run to three matches after defeating Parkroad Badgers 2-0 at the City Park Stadium.

Festus Onyango was the hero for the champions after finding the back of the board on both occasions to further add misery to Badgers, who suffered a 1-3 loss to Greensharks in their first match.

In the Super League, Amos Wangwere scored the lone goal as Kisumu Youngstars beat Mvita XI.

Mvita XI now has 4 points after drawing 1-1 against Nakuru 1-1 on Saturday.



Kibera side stun SS Assad with a 5-0 win while Kisumu based 'Otenga' drowned Murang'a Seals at their home ground

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

The pair of Kibera Black Stars FC and Kisumu All-Stars were ruthless at the weekend as the race for honour in the second tier-National Super League builds up steadily.

Black Stars have moved to fourth place and on 29 points after hammering visitors SS Assad FC 5-0 at Camp Toyoyo Grounds Saturday. Three goals in the first half made the work heavily cut out for the league newcomers who are currently 16th on the log and with 20 points.

Two goals apiece from Cliff Kasuti in the 19th and 50th minute, Samuel Kapein in the 33rd and 38th minute and

a 48th minute John Njoroge sole effort was enough to give Paul Ogai his third win as Head Coach of the slum-boys.

"It was a convincing display and surely, we must keep the pressure going forward. We did what was expected in terms of taking chances and I am therefore happy with my players' reaction after the past few games did not work well for us," said Ogai. His side will face lowly Mwatate United next in an away match with all eyes on the premiership promotion challenge.

Missing out

Meanwhile, away at the Lakeside City of Kisumu, hosts Kisumu All-Stars welcomed back Murang'a Seals with a punishing 3-0 defeat at the Moi Stadium.

This was the first match for the central region team after missing out on three games due to challenges with their stadium St. Sebastian Park which does not meet required safety standards. The win pushes the team also known as Otenga to eighth with 26 points after their second consecu-

tive win following last weekend's 2-1 triumph over Muhoroni Youth at the same venue. Away at Mbaraki Stadium, Mombasa Elite FC thumped visiting Gusii FC 4-1 after going two matches without a win. The victory means Elite are in fourth place up to fifth on the log with 29 points off 19 matches.

The team has had a good run with four wins in six matches. Gusii on their part are 17th on the log with 18 points. In other matches played, Shabana are up to third on the log with 31 points after their 2-0 win over Silibwet Leon's FC who are now 13th on the log with 24 points.

Two top sides uncharacteristically dropped points to pile pressure on themselves from the back. At Ruaraka Grounds Saturday, leaders APS Bomet FC tied 1-1 with Mully Children's Family FC where the former are now on 37 points.

A similar result was between Coastal Heroes and Fortune Sacco at Mbaraki. Fortune Sacco remains second on 33 points with the gap at the apex being four points among the leading pack.

Kibera Black Stars Mid-filder Musa Oundo battle SS Assad Winger Ali Juma in NSL Match at Camp Toyoyo on Sunday. PD/DAVID NDOLO



Butali's Festus Onyango dribbles the ball past the reach of Green Sharks defender Benson Mawich in a past match. PD/ALEX NJUE

STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

| Team | GP | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 Man City | 30 | 23 | 4 | 3 | 70 | 18 | 73 |
| 2 Liverpool | 30 | 22 | 6 | 2 | 77 | 20 | 72 |
| 3 Chelsea | 29 | 17 | 8 | 4 | 58 | 23 | 59 |
| 4 Spurs | 30 | 17 | 3 | 10 | 52 | 37 | 54 |
| 5 Arsenal | 28 | 17 | 3 | 8 | 44 | 31 | 54 |
| 6 West Ham | 31 | 15 | 6 | 10 | 51 | 40 | 51 |
| 7 Man Utd | 30 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 49 | 41 | 51 |
| 8 Wolves | 31 | 15 | 4 | 12 | 33 | 27 | 49 |
| 9 Leicester | 28 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 43 | 47 | 37 |
| 10 Aston Villa | 30 | 11 | 3 | 16 | 42 | 62 | 36 |
| 11 Southampton | 30 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 37 | 46 | 36 |
| 12 C Palace | 29 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 39 | 38 | 34 |
| 13 Brighton | 30 | 7 | 13 | 10 | 26 | 36 | 34 |
| 14 Brentford | 31 | 9 | 6 | 16 | 37 | 48 | 33 |
| 15 Newcastle | 30 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 33 | 54 | 31 |
| 16 Leeds | 31 | 7 | 9 | 15 | 35 | 68 | 30 |
| 17 Everton | 28 | 7 | 4 | 17 | 30 | 49 | 25 |
| 18 Watford | 30 | 6 | 4 | 20 | 29 | 57 | 22 |
| 19 Burnley | 28 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 22 | 40 | 21 |
| 20 Norwich | 30 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 18 | 63 | 18 |

SPANISH LA LIGA

| Team | GP | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 Real Madrid | 30 | 21 | 6 | 3 | 61 | 26 | 69 |
| 2 Barcelona | 29 | 16 | 9 | 4 | 57 | 29 | 57 |
| 3 Atlético | 30 | 17 | 6 | 7 | 57 | 37 | 57 |
| 4 Sevilla | 30 | 15 | 12 | 4 | 40 | 20 | 57 |
| 5 Real Betis | 30 | 16 | 5 | 9 | 54 | 36 | 53 |
| 6 R. Sociedad | 29 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 29 | 29 | 48 |
| 7 Villarreal | 30 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 48 | 29 | 45 |
| 8 A. Bilbao | 30 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 35 | 29 | 44 |
| 9 Valencia | 30 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 42 | 43 | 41 |
| 10 Osasuna | 30 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 30 | 40 | 38 |
| 11 Celta Vigo | 30 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 34 | 34 | 36 |
| 12 Espanyol | 29 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 35 | 41 | 36 |
| 13 R. Vallecano | 29 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 31 | 36 | 33 |
| 14 Getafe | 30 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 28 | 33 | 32 |
| 15 Elche | 30 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 31 | 42 | 32 |
| 16 Granada | 30 | 6 | 11 | 13 | 33 | 48 | 29 |
| 17 Cadiz | 30 | 5 | 13 | 12 | 25 | 41 | 28 |
| 18 Mallorca | 30 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 26 | 50 | 26 |
| 19 Levante | 30 | 4 | 10 | 16 | 33 | 58 | 22 |
| 20 Alaves | 30 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 24 | 52 | 22 |

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

| Team | GP | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 Bayern | 28 | 21 | 3 | 4 | 85 | 29 | 66 |
| 2 Dortmund | 28 | 18 | 3 | 7 | 68 | 42 | 57 |
| 3 Leverkusen | 28 | 15 | 6 | 7 | 68 | 42 | 51 |
| 4 RB Leipzig | 28 | 14 | 6 | 8 | 61 | 31 | 48 |
| 5 Freiburg | 28 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 44 | 33 | 45 |
| 6 Hoffenheim | 28 | 13 | 5 | 10 | 50 | 42 | 44 |
| 7 Union Berlin | 28 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 34 | 38 | 41 |
| 8 Cologne | 28 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 41 | 40 | 40 |
| 9 E. Frankfurt | 28 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 39 | 38 | 39 |
| 10 Mainz | 27 | 11 | 5 | 11 | 40 | 31 | 38 |
| 11 VfL Bochum | 28 | 10 | 5 | 13 | 30 | 40 | 35 |
| 12 M'gladbach | 28 | 9 | 7 | 12 | 39 | 52 | 34 |
| 13 Wolfsburg | 28 | 9 | 4 | 15 | 29 | 45 | 31 |
| 14 Augsburg | 27 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 32 | 44 | 29 |
| 15 Stuttgart | 28 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 36 | 51 | 27 |
| 16 A. Bielefeld | 28 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 23 | 39 | 26 |
| 17 Hertha Berlin | 28 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 30 | 62 | 26 |
| 18 G. Furth | 28 | 3 | 7 | 18 | 24 | 70 | 16 |

ITALIA SERIE A

| Team | GP | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 AC Milan | 30 | 20 | 6 | 4 | 56 | 29 | 66 |
| 2 Napoli | 31 | 20 | 6 | 5 | 56 | 23 | 66 |
| 3 Inter | 30 | 18 | 9 | 3 | 63 | 24 | 63 |
| 4 Juventus | 31 | 17 | 8 | 6 | 47 | 27 | 59 |
| 5 Roma | 31 | 16 | 6 | 9 | 51 | 35 | 54 |
| 6 Lazio | 31 | 15 | 7 | 9 | 60 | 46 | 52 |
| 7 Atalanta | 30 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 52 | 34 | 51 |
| 8 Fiorentina | 30 | 15 | 5 | 10 | 49 | 38 | 50 |
| 9 Sassuolo | 31 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 56 | 51 | 43 |
| 10 Verona | 30 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 55 | 47 | 42 |
| 11 Torino | 30 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 35 | 30 | 38 |
| 12 Udinese | 29 | 7 | 12 | 10 | 41 | 47 | 33 |
| 13 Bologna | 29 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 32 | 44 | 33 |
| 14 Empoli | 31 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 41 | 56 | 33 |
| 15 Spezia | 31 | 9 | 5 | 17 | 32 | 54 | 32 |
| 16 Sampdoria | 31 | 8 | 5 | 18 | 39 | 52 | 29 |
| 17 Cagliari | 31 | 5 | 10 | 16 | 29 | 59 | 25 |
| 18 Genoa | 30 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 23 | 47 | 22 |
| 19 Venezia | 30 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 25 | 55 | 22 |
| 20 Salernitana | 29 | 3 | 7 | 19 | 22 | 66 | 16 |

FRENCH LIGUE 1

| Team | GP | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 PSG | 30 | 21 | 5 | 4 | 64 | 28 | 68 |
| 2 Marseille | 30 | 16 | 8 | 6 | 49 | 29 | 56 |
| 3 Rennes | 30 | 16 | 5 | 9 | 64 | 29 | 53 |
| 4 Strasbourg | 30 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 51 | 32 | 51 |
| 5 Nice | 30 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 40 | 24 | 51 |
| 6 Monaco | 30 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 45 | 31 | 47 |
| 7 Lille | 30 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 38 | 35 | 47 |
| 8 Nantes | 30 | 13 | 6 | 11 | 39 | 33 | 45 |
| 9 Lyon | 30 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 43 | 39 | 45 |
| 10 Lens | 30 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 45 | 40 | 44 |
| 11 Montpellier | 30 | 12 | 5 | 13 | 44 | 42 | 41 |
| 12 Brest | 30 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 38 | 44 | 38 |
| 13 Reims | 30 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 32 | 36 | 36 |
| 14 Angers | 30 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 34 | 44 | 32 |
| 15 Troyes | 30 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 28 | 42 | 32 |
| 16 Lorient | 30 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 25 | 48 | 28 |
| 17 C. Foot | 30 | 7 | 7 | 16 | 30 | 54 | 28 |
| 18 St Etienne | 30 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 31 | 55 | 27 |
| 19 Metz | 30 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 27 | 54 | 23 |
| 20 Bordeaux | 30 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 38 | 70 | 23 |



FOOTBALL PAGE 32

Benfica seek to conquer another European powerhouse in six-time former champions Liverpool

Premier League Result

NEWCASTLE
Schar 39

1-5

TOTTENHAM
Davies 43,
Doherty 48,
Son 54,
Emerson 64,
Bergwijn 84



Pedri's magical moment

Pedri masterclass sees off Sevilla and sends Barca second in La Liga first time this season

Barcelona, Monday
@PeopleDailyKe

A wonder goal from Pedri proved the difference for Barcelona over the weekend as a 1-0 win over Sevilla sent Xavi Hernandez's side up to second in La Liga for the first time this season.

Barca missed a string of chances against a dogged Sevilla at Camp Nou before the 19-year-old Pedri settled the contest with a moment of magic, dancing his way into space on the edge of the area before firing into the corner.

Victory continues Barcelona's recent surge as they backed up their 4-0 thrashing of Real Madrid before the international break with a convincing win against the team who have been Madrid's chief title challengers all season.

Madrid edged past Celta Vigo on Saturday to calm suggestions their Clasico nightmare could even prompt a late collapse and let Barca back into the race.

Driving seat

A 12-point advantage means that is surely impossible now but Barcelona are in the driving seat to finish second, which would be a remarkable achievement for a team that only a few months ago had serious concerns about missing out on the top four. When Xavi took over in November, they lay ninth.

The last time the Catalans were second in La Liga after a complete round of fixtures was May 10 last year, three matches before the end of last season.

"We're second but nothing is done," Xavi said. "While it's mathematically possible to fight for La Liga, we will keep fighting."

Ousmane Dembele delivered another excellent display to enhance the growing sense that the Frenchman might yet stay

Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Pedri celebrates scoring the opening goal with Barcelona's French forward Ousmane Dembele (R) during the Spanish League football match between FC Barcelona and Sevilla FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on April 3, 2022. Barcelona won 1-0 AFP

LA LIGA RESULTS:

Athletic Bilbao 2-1 Elche
Real Betis 4-1 Osasuna
Granada 2-2 Rayo Vallecano
Valencia 0-0 Cadiz
Barcelona 1-0 Sevilla

Played Saturday

Atletico Madrid 4-1 Alaves
Celta Vigo 1-2 Real Madrid
Getafe 1-0 Real Mallorca
Levante 2-0 Villarreal

in the summer, even if the club remain pessimistic.

Pedri, though, was the star of the show, a stunning performance in midfield rounded off with a masterful goal that will only further the reputation of one of the world's most exciting young talents.

"I encourage him to shoot," said Xavi. "He always thinks to pass, he's a passer, it's something that happened to me as well. But today he scored a great goal."

"When I say he's an elite player, it's because there is hardly anyone that understands our style as well as him."

Meanwhile, Sevilla, continue to fizzle, have drawn seven out of their previous nine games before this defeat made it two wins from 10.

-AFP

Mbappe silent on future at PSG after thrashing of Lorient



Paris, Monday
@PeopleDailyKe

Kylian Mbappe said he has still yet to decide on his future at Paris Saint-Germain after scoring twice in a sensational display in Sunday's 5-1 demolition of Lorient in Ligue 1.

The France star was in unstoppable form, creating two goals for Neymar and another for Lionel Messi as the trio all scored in the same match for PSG for the first time.

However, the post-match focus again quickly shifted to where Mbappe will be playing next season, with his PSG contract expiring in July.

"I haven't made my choice. I haven't taken my decision, I'm thinking it over, there are new elements and there are loads of factors," Mbappe told Prime Video. "I don't want to be wrong," he added. "I know it's getting a bit late for people; we talk about it every day. 'If I'd taken my decision, I would say it. I don't have

to explain myself to anyone, it's a personal choice. If I'd made my decision I would come and announce it and stand by it."

After three defeats in four games before the international break and a traumatic Champions League exit, PSG began the end-of-season run-in with a crushing win at the Parc des Princes. They lead Marseille by 12 points and need just 13 more from their final eight games to be assured of a record-equalling 10th French title.

Messi and Mbappe combined to set up Neymar for the opening goal in 12 minutes as the Brazilian struck for just the sixth time in another injury-plagued campaign.

Mbappe then doubled the advantage with a neat finish inside the near post, but Terem Moffi gave Lorient hope early in the second half after punishing a defensive mix-up. The Nigerian beat an uncertain Marquinhos to a loose pass from Achraf Hakimi, poking beyond Gianluigi Donnarumma.

-AFP

Kisumu's Winam win KRLF grand finale

by Noel Wandera
@PeopleDailyKe

History was made at the Impala Grounds, Nairobi when Kisumu Winam defeated Rift Valley Ruffians from Nakuru region 34-20, in the first-ever Kenya Rugby League Federation (KRLF) Grand Final.

Back-rower Philemon Olang was the star performer, posting the opening two tries and having a hand in his side's four others, Kisumu leading 16-0 at the break.

Kisumu head coach Antony Lamado, whose side was only formed three months ago, commented: "The boys have shown that they can play at this level and it is a pleasure to make history, that's a real

plus for our side." In the curtain-raiser for third place, Kitengela Sharks - who had topped the table going into the semi-finals defeated Wolves XIII, 36-18. The Kenya championship was made of six sides across the regions, including Rhinos and Administration Police, Utawala among others.

Ruffians, who travelled 450km for the game, had two early opportunities to take the lead, but on both occasions lost the ball over the line and never fully recovered.

Lawrence Okello, head coach of Rift Valley, noted: "We tried our best but made too many mistakes and ended up playing catch up. We will build on this for next season as the game continues to grow

here." Lucky Otieno claimed ten points for his side. The matches were officiated by members of the Middle East Africa technical courses being undertaken in Kenya around the games. They were Marshall Nortey (Ghana) and Kamdem Brice (Cameroon) refereeing a half each of the opening game, with Brian Odiwuory and Esther Nyambura (Kenya) touch judges, while Sarah Brendah (Kenya) and Nuhu Ibrahim (Nigeria) policing the in goals.

For the Grand Final, Warren Pretorius (South Africa) refereed with touch judges Andrew Pilkington (Spain) and Kamdem Brice (Cameroon), with Pascal Inglesis (DR Congo), Danish Ndinya (Kenya) in goal.



Ruffians players (red) defend the ball against Kisumu Winams during their match at Impala Grounds. PD/NOEL WANDERA



Stephen Opoku of Kakamega Homeboyz shields the ball from Fidel Origa of Wazito FC during FKF-PL match played at Utalii grounds, Nairobi last year. P/D RODGERS NDEGWA

Land'. "This is wonderful. There is absolutely no interlude in the search for our first Premier League title. The boys are motivated and ready to maintain their performance until the end of the season," said Shimanyula.

As for Ulinzi, it was an abysmal discharge which left the team just a heartbeat away from fighting relegation.

Placed 15th in the 18 team league, Ulinzi will have to pull up their socks if they are to move away from the dreaded zone, beginning with a mid-week match against Nairobi City Stars tomorrow. In the meantime, Gor Mahia and Posta Rangers, who are fourth and fifth respectively in the chart, both boosted their chances of a respectable finish by securing maximum points.

Huge morale boost

Gor beat Wazito 2-1 to complete a double over the money-bags in a result which gave the former a huge morale boost ahead of an anticipated tough test against the title-chasing Tusker next weekend.

The biggest upset, however, in the weekend came in the form of AFC Leopards tearing Kenya Police into shreds in a convincing 3-0 win in Kasarani and as a result helped the big cats haul themselves from the 11th to the 10th position in the log.

Leopards coach Patrick Ausiemi has rediscovered a winning formula and although winning the league title with Ingwe seems implausible, the best the Belgian can do is to propel the team to be among the top five in the season.

Meanwhile, relegation-threatened Mathare United seems to have perfected the art of taking a lead in a match only to tumble like a pack of cards.

Homeboyz eye crown after mauling Ulinzi

Kakamega side aim to win 10 matches to bag premier league title when season ends

by Charles Thuku
@PeopleDailyKe

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League table-toppers Kakamega Homeboyz are seemingly not intent on having the title chase go down to the wire if their 4-0 massacre of Nairobi City Stars in Kakamega at the weekend is any guide.

Abana Abeingo's surge towards the silverware received a major boost af-

ter their closest challengers in second placed Tusker settled for an uninspiring 1-1 draw with KCB in Ruaraka.

After a 2-1 loss at the hands of Bandari in Mombasa on March 13 which reduced their advantage over Tusker to six points, Homeboyz tilted the statistics in their favour after what looked like a walk in the park against Ulinzi. With Homeboyz's advantage at the top now reading 10, pundits feel a maiden top-tier league is theirs to lose although there is an average of ten matches for all the teams to conclude the season.

Homeboyz founder Cleophas Shimanyula gave plaudits to the players for a job well done while maintaining that he will do all what has to be done for the team to reach the 'Promised

Nyahururu based Njihia wins maiden 10km county contest

by David Macharia
@PeopleDailyKe

Stanley Njihia registered his first major win in athletics when he carried the day in the 10,000 metres race during Nyan-darua County

Track and Field Championships held at the weekend.

Njihia who trains in Nyahururu took control of the race with four laps to go and romped home in 29:10.3 during the competition held at the Ol Joroorok primary school ground.

"The grass track made the race fast. My win is a good build-up towards the central regional Championship and possibly the national event," he said after the victory.

Evans Mayaka was second in 29:33.6 while Stephen Mwangi was third in 29:54.6.

The corresponding event for women was not held after it failed to attract any runners.

In the women's 5,000m, Mary Nyaruai was in a class of her own, winning the event with a huge gap from the runners up. She clocked 16:15.05.

Jacinta Nyokabi 16:46.06, Ann Nabare 17:27.6 and Rosaline Muthoni 18:05.1 finished in that order behind Nyaruai.

John Maina won the 5000m for men clocking 14:14.40, ahead of Francis Abong 14:31.3 and Nicholas Macharia 14:33.4.

Fifty athletes, to represent the County in the Central Regional competition set for mid this month in Nyeri, were selected from the championship

Stanley Njihia leads the 10,000m men at the Nyan-darua County track and field championships, at Ol Joroorok primary school ground last weekend. PD/ DAVID MACHARIA.





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Tiger's fight to play in Masters excites Augusta National

AUGUSTA: Tiger Woods and the possibility of him making an incredible comeback heightened excitement at Augusta National on Monday as the first official practice rounds began for the 86th Masters. A quarter-century after Woods won his first major title by an astonishing 12 strokes at Augusta National and launched "Tigermania", the 15-time major champion is again electrifying the atmosphere at the famed course. Woods suffered severe right leg injuries 14 months ago in a car crash, was hospitalized for weeks and unable to walk for months. After using a cart while playing alongside son Charlie in an event last December, Woods tested his fitness to walk the hilly course last Tuesday with an 18-hole practice round at Augusta National alongside Charlie and friend Justin Thomas. **-AFP**



Injured Gimenez to miss Atletico's trip to Man City for UCL quarter finals

MONACO: Atletico Madrid defender Jose Gimenez will miss the Champions League quarter-final first leg against Manchester City today due to injury, the club have confirmed. Gimenez was forced off in the second half of Atletico's La Liga victory over Alaves on Saturday and has not travelled with the squad to Manchester. Jose Maria Gimenez is not part of the red and white

expedition to Manchester," an Atletico statement read. "The Uruguayan defender went off in the final minutes of the match against Deportivo Alaves due to some discomfort." Gimenez's absence is a major blow for Atletico, who face Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday before the return leg at the Wanda Metropolitano the following week. **-AFP**



David vs Goliath

On-form Benfica seek to conquer another European powerhouse in six-time former champions Liverpool

■ Manchester, Wednesday

@PeopleSports11

Benfica face a gargantuan task in the Champions League quarter-finals today but after already knocking out Barcelona and Ajax, there is a belief they can spring another surprise against Liverpool.

Many circled Benfica as the kindest opponent available when the draw was made in Lyon last month, with this the furthest the Portuguese club have gone in the Champions League in six years.

The last time Benfica made it to the semis, they went on to reach the final, in 1990 when a team coached by Sven-Goran Eriksson lost 1-0 to AC Milan and missed out on lifting their third European Cup.

That was the last time Benfica belonged with Europe's elite and it would be the shock of the round if they were to upset Liverpool, who, along with Manchester City, are sure this year's tournament favourites.

Benfica's impressive run in the Champions League has belied a tumultuous season domestically for the club, who parted ways with Jorge Jesus as coach in December following a 3-0 defeat by Porto and just seven wins out from their first 15 matches.

But their form has not been much better under interim coach Nelson Verissimo, who began with only two wins from his first seven while a 3-2 defeat by Braga on Friday has the team sitting third in the Primeira Liga, 12 points adrift of leaders Porto and six behind Sporting Lisbon.

Third place in Portugal is

only enough to make the Champions League qualifiers.

"We know it's Liverpool, but we have to fight, we can play better," Verissimo said on Friday.

"We always have to work. The Champions League game is different. We can't forget our game today because Liverpool will see it. We have to correct it."

Better performances in Europe have kept Benfica's season alive, with the 3-2 aggregate victory over Ajax in the last 16 as welcome as it was surprising.

They were outplayed by Ajax for large spells in Lisbon but managed to claim a 2-2 draw, before snatching a 1-0 win in Amsterdam to go through.

Darwin Nunez headed in the winner at the Johan Cruyff Arena, the Uruguayan will be well-known to Liverpool given he reportedly has many admirers in the Premier League.

The 22-year-old has 27 goals in 34 games this season, including a brace in Benfica's 3-0 win over Barcelona in the group stage in September.

Jan Vertonghen and Nicolas Otamendi will be familiar faces too, the former Tottenham and Manchester City defenders taking their place at the heart of the Benfica defence.

Another former Spurs player, Adel Taraabt, is now plying his trade in central midfield. Rafa Silva, with his 15 assists in the league, is the team's most creative source.

"People already put us in the semi-finals of the Champions League, I don't see it that way," said Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp on Saturday. "Benfica can be extremely strong if you let them."

Sixteen years ago, Benfica beat Liverpool 2-0 at Anfield to seal a 3-0 aggregate win and reach the quarter-finals.

Simao Sabrosa, now Benfica's director of international relations, fired past Pepe Reina to score the second goal and send Liverpool crashing out. **-AFP**

Sporting Braga's Brazilian goalkeeper Matheus Magalhaes (R) jumps for the ball next to Benfica's Brazilian defender Gilberto Junior during the Portuguese League football match at the Municipal stadium of Braga on April 1, 2022. **-AFP**

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURES:

TODAY
 Benfica vs Liverpool 10:00pm
 Man City vs Atletico Madrid 10:00pm