



## Free country

Court bars police from blocking roads during protests

Conservatory orders: Page 9



## Brain Obara

The heartless triumph of killing your own citizens

Comment: Page 16

FRESH, INDEPENDENT, DIFFERENT

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# theSTAR

# RUTO: I DARE YOU TO OVERTHROW ME

Gachagua hits back, tells him to arrest those he believes are behind unrest



President William Ruto meets construction workers during inspection of the 540 housing units project at Kilimani police station, Dagoretti North, Nairobi /PCS, STORY PG 4-5

## Saba Saba: Families allege foul play over delayed autopsies



ANGUISH: Mary Wambui, mother-in-law to Elvis Musafi, who was shot by police on Monday, at Nairobi Funeral Home yesterday /DOUGLAS OKIDDY



FRIENDS TO THE END: Youths carry the body of one of their own killed on Monday at Nairobi Funeral Home yesterday /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

RIGHTS groups have accused authorities of stalling investigations into police killings as families wait in anguish at the Nairobi Funeral Home. The families had hoped postmortems would be conducted as agreed.

STORY ON PAGE 2



BLAME GAME

# Families allege foul play as postmortems delayed

Families, activists suspect foul play after government pathologist said he is busy



Catherine Njoki Musafi, wife of Elvis Musafi, who was shot by police during Saba Saba demonstrations, outside Nairobi Funeral Home yesterday /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

AGATHA NGOTHO

RIGHTS groups have accused authorities of stalling investigations into police killings as families wait in anguish at the Nairobi Funeral Home.

Odhiambo Ojiro, a rapid response officer from Vocal Africa, said since Tuesday, they have been working closely with families of victims killed during the Saba Saba protests.

Ojiro said families of Elvis Musafi and Paul Makori were present, hoping postmortems would be conducted as agreed.

“On Tuesday, we reached an agreement with government Chief

Pathologist Dr Johansen Oduor that his officers would carry out the postmortems today (Wednesday),” said Ojiro.

“We also coordinated with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations in Kangemi and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority, but all of them now claim to be very busy,” he said.

Ojiro accused the government of deliberately delaying the process. “These families are grieving, but the government is employing delay tactics. We’ve seen this before, where delays lead to decomposition, destroying critical evidence.”

The activist referenced the June 25 demonstrations, where bodies of young men bearing gunshot wounds were later found to have

exit wounds during autopsies, raising suspicion of foul play. “This is a calculated move. If these were the President’s children or those of senior government officials, would doctors still be ‘too busy’ to act?” he asked.

Ojiro demanded justice and an end to police killings, urging authorities to act with urgency.

According to a report by the Kenya Human Rights Commission, 31 people were killed during Monday’s Saba Saba protests, with 15 from Nairobi and its environs

“The death toll is staggering. No responsible government should kill more than 30 people in one day and remain silent. We want postmortems conducted before the bodies are tampered with,” he said.

Ojirosaid despite arrangements with police leadership, the chief pathologist and Ipoa, no official assistance materialised as of Wednesday morning.

“The families arrived at 8 am. No one has helped them. Ipoa is blaming the police and the police are blaming the pathologist. If the government is blaming itself, who should the citizens turn to?” he asked.

Ojiro accused top government officials of obstructing justice. “We’re being killed by bullets bought with our own taxes. The President can’t even facilitate investigations into the deaths of his citizens,” he said.

He said the President’s silence and inaction is alarming. “If you can’t do the job, resign and go home. It’s clear the young people were killed by police bullets. We just need a forensic investigation to confirm it. We demand accountability.”

Mary Wambui, whose son was shot in Kangemi, tearfully appealed for justice. “He has left behind a young wife and a six-month-old baby. Please stop killing our children,” she pleaded.

“We’ve waited at the City Mortuary since morning, as instructed. Nothing has happened. We don’t know what to do. We just want to bury our son.”

Catherine Njoki, the widow of Elvis, who was shot in Kangemi while returning from work, expressed her anguish.

“He was our breadwinner. I now have to raise our six-month-old child alone. He left for work and never came back. I just want justice for my husband,” she said.

**(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS**

The National Police Service said at least 11 deaths, 52 injured police officers and 567 arrests during the Saba Saba Day protests. The Kenya Human Rights Commission, however, in a report said 31 people were killed, 107 injured, two two forced disappearances, 532 arrests and destruction of property of unknown value.

Saba Saba arrests		
AREA	CRIME	NUMBER
Embu Meru	Financing protests	MP and 2 others
	Arson	50 arrested
	Robbery with violence	
Machakos Mwea	Looting	
	Arson	66 arrested
	Vandalism	21 arrested
Kerugoya	Looting	
	Looting	14 arrested
	Vandalism	2 arrested
Muranga Nyandarua Nairobi	Looting	
	Vandalism	7 arrested
	Vandalism	11 arrested
	Looting	

**STAR SURVEY**

**TODAY'S QUESTION**

Do you believe Saba Saba demos were part of a coup plot?

**YESTERDAY'S QUESTION**

Do you believe Saba Saba protesters were shot by police?

**YES 90%**

**NO 10%**

**LOOMING CLASH**

## Ruto criticises court order blocking use of roadblocks

**EMMANUEL WANJALA**

PRESIDENT William Ruto has criticised those who moved to court and obtained conservatory orders barring the Inspector General of Police from erecting roadblocks within Nairobi and its environs during protests.

The Katiba Institute moved to court citing unlawful suspension of fundamental human rights.

On July, police barricaded major roads leading into Nairobi to prevent Saba Saba protesters from accessing the central business district.

Delivering his ruling on Wednesday, Justice Lawrence Mugambi

found that actions of the National Police Service infringed on key constitutional rights, including freedom of movement, assembly and protest as provided under Articles 37 and 39 of the constitution.

“Pending the hearing of the application, a conservatory order is hereby issued restraining the 1st Respondent, the Inspector General of the National Police Service or any officer subordinate to him, from suspending Articles 37 and 39 of the constitution by cancelling, disrupting or interfering in any way with the right to assemble, protest, or picket while peaceful and unarmed,” the judge ruled.

**President William Ruto during inspection of 540 housing units project at Kilimani police station in Dagoretti North, Nairobi county /PCS**

Speaking at State House on Wednesday, Ruto said Kenyans need to understand that their democratic rights end where another person’s rights begin — including the right to own property.

He said just as the constitution protects the right to assemble and demonstrate, it also provides for the protection of other people’s property.



13% INCREASE

# More Kenyans dying abroad, shows report

*There is a growing concern over the welfare of Kenyans working overseas*

GORDON OSEN  
@gordon\_osen

THE number of Kenyans who died outside the country increased from 270 in 2023 to 305 in 2024, a Kenya National Bureau of Statistics report released yesterday shows.

This represents a 13 per cent increase.

Data from the KNBS's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System shows of the number, 184 (60.3 per cent) were male and 121 (39.7 per cent) female.

The highest number of deaths were reported in the US (71), followed by India (50) and Uganda (22). Other countries included the UK with 19 deaths, Tanzania (18), Saudi Arabia (15), South Africa (15), United Arab Emirates (14), Qatar (12) and Canada (eight). A combined 61 deaths were reported from other countries.

The report also showed the age group with the highest number of deaths was 50–54 years, accounting for 38 cases.

The lowest was the 20–24 age group, with just two registered deaths. No deaths were reported in the five–nine and 10–19 age brackets.

While male deaths outnumbered those of female in most categories, exceptions were observed in three age groups: 30–34 (13 males vs 17 females), 50–54 (18 males vs 20 females), and 65–69 (11 males vs 15 females).

“These figures help us understand our population trends and inform key decisions in public health and planning,” said the statement



from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. The report is part of an annual release covering births, deaths, marriages, and adoptions.

The growing number of deaths abroad has drawn further attention amid concerns over the welfare of Kenyans working overseas, particularly in the Gulf states.

Appearing before the Senate plenary yesterday Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi revealed that at least 316 Kenyans have died while working in Gulf nations since 2022.

“The records we have show that the total number of Kenyans who have lost their lives in the Gulf region is 316,” Mudavadi said.

Saudi Arabia accounted for the highest number with 166 deaths, followed by Qatar (58), UAE (51), Iraq (25), Bahrain (10), and Kuwait (6). Oman and Iran reported no

deaths. According to Mudavadi, an estimated 416,548 Kenyans are currently working across these countries, with Saudi Arabia hosting the largest number at 310,266. Qatar has 66,025 Kenyan workers, while the UAE has 23,000. Other states include Bahrain (8,000), Oman (5,392), Kuwait (3,515), Iran (200), and Iraq (150).

However, Mudavadi acknowledged that maintaining accurate records remains a challenge.

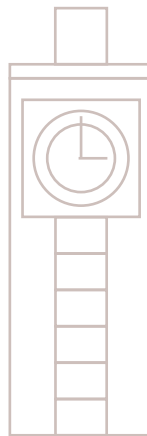
“Kenyans in these territories exhibit high movement between various states,” he said.

“The numbers given constitute periodic statistics derived from our missions in these countries, further corroborated through official sources of the host governments.”

He said many Kenyans fail to register with embassies despite continued sensitisation efforts.

Kenyans queue to be interviewed for job opportunities abroad at KICC on October 25 last year  
/ENOS TECHE

## CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



★ **A SECOND-TERM GOVERNOR** has triggered a political storm in a constituency in his county. The man, whose term ends with the 2027 election, has ignited political activity in the constituency, with reports indicating he's planning to run for MP. The move has sparked a fierce confrontation with the current legislator. Recently, the two had a bitter exchange during a public event where the MP verbally attacked the county boss for 'fighting him for a seat that does not befit his status'.

★ **IS A NEWLY** unveiled political slogan starting to take root in unfamiliar quarters? Well, some staff within a government agency are openly embracing it without fear. We are told they have aligned themselves with the call and are very passionate about it. Our mole whispers that some of them, who are from a particular ethnic origin, even turn wild whenever anyone challenges the slogan. Their exact motivation, however, is what remains unclear.

★ **A TUSSLE HAS** ensued at a popular address over a heavily publicised initiative. A section of officials in the ranking of state want it dropped, arguing it is causing animosity. Proponents, however, refuse to back down, insisting the initiative is vital for progress. The critics warn of deepening divisions, while supporters highlight its potential to change the stories of those touched by the same. The tension is said to be rising in the corridors of the popular address over the matter.

★ **A BIG MAN** is under pressure to vanish from the public eye, and observe up to three weeks of silence. The situation has split his inner circle—some demand he stays out of sight, while others push for more photo ops and public appearances. Behind closed doors, tensions simmer as advisers clash over strategy. A fly on the wall overheard heated debates with one side warning of fading influence, and others arguing that staying hidden avoids further scrutiny. The decision could redefine the man's future with the sides wondering whether will he retreat and reappear to reclaim the spotlight.

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

## CARTOON





## CRYING WOLF? PRESIDENT QUESTIONS WHY SIMILAR OPPOSITION WAS NOT DIRECTED AT H



# Try to overthrow me, Ruto warns as Rigathi fires back

STAR TEAM  
@TheStarKenya

PRESIDENT William Ruto has issued a bold challenge to political opponents he accuses of attempting to destabilise his administration through orchestrated chaos and mass protests.

Speaking in Nairobi during the launch of an affordable housing project, Ruto declared, “I dare you to overthrow me,” in reference to what he called reckless political maneuvers masked as demonstrations.

“I am not a coward. If you want to remove me, don’t hide behind young people or rent goons. Come face me directly,” the President said, lashing out at unnamed political figures he believes are inciting unrest.

Just hours later, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua re-

sponded sharply, urging Ruto to restrain his anger and instead focus on the grievances driving the protests.

“Ruto, I say this with a lot of humility—anger will not help you,” Gachagua said. “The people of Kenya are angrier than you are. You need to know what to do.”

The protests, largely led by Kenya’s Gen Z youth, have rocked the country in recent weeks.

Triggered by the controversial Housing Levy, economic hardship and the death of blogger Albert Ojwang’ in police custody, the demonstrations have drawn thousands of young people into the streets.

Many of these youth, born after 2000, have no memory of the single-party rule and are more willing to question authority.

“They have no memory of the

“

REUBEN KIGAME

*He oversaw the mistreatment, abduction and brutal deportation of Miguna Miguna—a citizen and legal mind from our country*

rough times,” said Prof Macharia Munene of USIU. “But they have learned how to ask questions.”

According to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, at least 31 people have died in the most recent unrest, in addition to 19 killed during demonstrations on June 25.

Anger over police brutality is at a boiling point. Police stations in Nyamira, Homa Bay, Kiambu, and Nyandarua have been torched by protesters, who accuse officers of targeting civilians. Journalists covering the demonstrations have also faced violence and harassment.

Gachagua criticised the government’s response and listed the drivers of discontent: high taxes, corruption, extrajudicial killings, abductions, and ethnic profiling.

“If you want to be calm, abolish



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# IS PREDECESSORS, KIBAKI AND UHURU



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addresses the media at Karen yesterday /LEAH MUKANGAI

the Housing Levy and give dignity to the pay slips,” he said. “Restore the capacity of the middle class. They will create jobs for the youth.”

He further defended the Gen Z protesters against allegations of being used by political forces. “These young people are not sponsored. They are victims. You cannot bully them into silence,” Gachagua said.

Meanwhile, the opposition denied plotting a coup and challenged Ruto to arrest those he believes are behind the unrest. “There is no coup. What we are seeing is a popular uprising against a regime that has lost touch with its people,” said an opposition MP.

President Ruto escalated the rhetoric, warning that attempts to unseat him through violence would not succeed. “We cannot change the regime through violence. That is not going to happen in this country,” he said.

He questioned why similar opposition was not directed at his predecessors, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta. “Hii fujo yote wanani-letea ni ya nini? Mbona hawakuletea Uhuru, mbona hawakuletea Kibaki?” (Why cause all this chaos during my time? Why didn’t they do the same to Kibaki or Uhuru?)

Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen recently claimed that the protests resembled an attempted coup, pointing to attacks on Parliament, State House and police stations as evidence of a coordinated plan.

Ruto’s allies say the unrest is ethnically motivated and meant to delegitimise his presidency. Tiaty MP William Kamket commented, “Mt Kenya people don’t imagine themselves out of power.”

Gachagua, speaking from his Karen residence, accused the government of targeting Kikuyus economically and politically. “The targeted profiling of the Kikuyu community is an economic sabotage not new to William Ruto,” he said.

He further alleged state-backed goons were destroying businesses in Mt Kenya.

“No one wants to overthrow your government through unlawful means,” he told Ruto. “Stop crying wolf. There is no leader here planning a coup.”

Gachagua warned that the President was embracing authoritarianism: “He is dismantling democratic institutions. He is employing the machinery of outright dictatorship.”

He added: “We cannot buy the fear you are selling,” and announced plans to travel to the United States, hinting at international engagement.

Opposition figures like Martha Karua have joined the chorus demanding Ruto’s resignation. “Ruto must go,” Karua said. “If he cannot govern in accordance with the law, the people have the power to tell him to go.”

She proposed non-violent resistance including tax boycotts and economic pressure. “There are many ways of bringing this rogue regime to its knees without offering more blood,” Karua said.

Lands CS Alice Wahome urged for calm and condemned the destruction. “We must reject the spirit of destruction,” she said, but acknowledged the unrest in Mt Kenya.

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen during a press address on the state of security at Harambee House, Nairobi on June 26 /LEAH MUKANGAI



As the political crisis deepens, Kenya faces an uncertain future. According to police, 567 people have been arrested, including an MP. More than 100 civilians and 52 police officers have been injured. Over 200 vehicles and numerous businesses have been damaged or destroyed. Civil society groups say more than 140 people have died

since 2023 during protests, with the latest toll standing at 31 from the Saba Saba demonstrations.

As both Ruto and Gachagua double down on their positions, analysts warn the country risks sliding into deeper unrest unless meaningful dialogue and reform take place.

“This isn’t just a political standoff. It’s a social reckoning,” said po-

litical analyst Sylvia Wambui. “Kenya’s leadership must stop shouting at each other and start listening to the people.”

With 2027 fast approaching, the stakes have never been higher. The battle lines are drawn—between a President defending his mandate and former allies seeking a new direction.



President William Ruto inspects the 540 housing units project at Kilimani police station in Dagoretti North, Nairobi /PCS



## NEWS GENERAL



Moses Kuria, former presidential senior economic adviser /FILE

## BACKLASH?

# Kuria's resignation signals trouble for Ruto in Mt Kenya

*Exit comes as President faces youth-led revolt, nationwide protests*

STAR TEAM  
@TheStarKenya

THE sudden resignation of Moses Kuria as President William Ruto's economic advisor is the clearest sign yet of growing political turbulence for the head of state in the influential Mt Kenya region.

Kuria, who served as senior advisor on Economic affairs for 10 months, resigned abruptly on Tuesday - delivering a significant political blow to a President already grappling with mounting pressure from multiple fronts.

"This evening, I have met my boss and my friend, President William Ruto. The President has graciously accepted my decision to resign from government," Kuria said in a statement. Although he cited "personal interests" as the reason for his departure, the move is widely interpreted as a strategic step to position himself for the 2027 general election.

"He could be preparing to run for a political seat, but whether he will have influence in that region is debatable," said political analyst Martin Andati.

Kuria's resignation also comes at a time when the President is facing a youth-led revolt and nationwide anti-government protests.

Simultaneously, he appears to be losing grip on Mt Kenya, a region that was instrumental to his 2022

presidential win. A former Trade and Public Service CS, Kuria was one of Ruto's most vocal and experienced allies from Mt Kenya.

His bold, combative political style made him a valuable asset in defending the administration and consolidating support in the vote-rich region.

Additionally, his exit comes at a time of escalating political tensions, as Ruto faces an intensifying backlash in Mt Kenya.

Tellingly, Kuria recently posted on his X handle depicting himself as secretary general of the Jubilee Party. Some analysts see this as a calculated move to take over the powerful party from Jeremiah Kioni and realign himself ahead of 2027.

"There are serious indications that he could be taking over the position of secretary general of Jubilee. Uhuru Kenyatta is making changes to his party," Andati said.

At the heart of the Mt Kenya rebellion is Ruto's estranged deputy, Rigathi Gachagua, who has mounted a bold political offensive to reclaim regional dominance.

The former DP is increasingly seen as a potential contender or kingmaker in 2027.

Kuria's departure further weakens Ruto's grip on the region where frustration is now rising over unfulfilled promises and perceived marginalisation.

Currently, Interior CS Kithure Kiniki and National Assembly majority

leader Kimani Ichung'wah are among Ruto's remaining lieutenants in the region - but their efforts to hold the fort have yielded limited success.

In a bid to bolster his standing, Ruto last year brought in political heavyweights, including former Nyeri Senator Mutahi Kagwe, ex-Nakuru Governor Lee Kinyanjui and former Kiambu Governor William Kabogo, appointing them to Cabinet positions.

Yet, this strategy has shown little political return, as the trio has had minimal visible impact on local dynamics. Gachagua's grip on the region appears to be tightening.

At the national level, Ruto's administration is battling intensifying anti-government protests, which have paralysed major towns, led to police killings, enforced disappearances and caused widespread economic disruptions.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Moses Kuria's resignation reflects a widening political crisis for President William Ruto in Mt Kenya. However, analysts are divided on whether he's breaking ranks or repositioning strategically. Ruto now faces an uphill battle to stabilise Mt Kenya, manage internal rebellion, and calm nationwide unrest. As the country heads towards 2027, Ruto will have to re-strategise to get a slice of the mountain votes.

## AGEING CRISIS

## Over 30,000 teachers near retirement, remain unemployed, says TSC

LUKE AWICH

A record 39,017 registered teachers aged 45 years and above are yet to be hired by the Teachers Service Commission, MPs heard yesterday.

The registered teachers, who are about to retire, according to documents tabled before a Parliamentary committee, were born between 1966 and 1978. The data is as at June 2025. TSC was appearing before the National Assembly's Education committee chaired by Tinderet MP Julius Melly to appraise the lawmakers on the plight of the registered but unemployed aged teachers.

The commission's acting CEO, Evleen Mitei, however, clarified that some of the teachers are engaged elsewhere.

"I wish to clarify the fact that the teachers are indicated as unemployed by the commission does not necessarily mean that the said teachers are available in the job market. Majority of these teachers have pursued different career paths in the various sectors of our economy including teaching in private schools," Mitei said.

But Melly sought that the commission sieve through the database to establish those who are still not employed from those engaged.

"The fact that you are employers of primary and secondary schools, we do not want Early Childhood Development teachers, give us clear data on those aged 45 and above and are not employed," Melly said.

The Tinderet MP also directed TSC to furnish the committee with a policy paper on how it would handle the affirmative action if an employment opportunity arose, since some of them could have since pursued other interests.

"The aim of the statement sought was to see how we can have affirmative action to get them employed, give us the list of all people in two weeks," Melly stated.

Mitei asked for time to have the

affirmative action deliberated before reporting back to the committee on how the cases of aged tutors will be handled.

She explained that the TSC database shows that out of the 39,017 teachers, only 2,837 disclosed their counties and subcounties, while 36,180 did not provide this information. "Accordingly, the commission is not able to analyse with accuracy the counties the said teachers hail from. Out of the 2,837, 56 are from Uasin Gishu, 10 from Homa Bay, 8 from Migori and 7 from Nandi," she said.

Further told the committee that during the Financial Year 2024/25, the commission received a total of 1,264 applications from teachers who are above 45 years.

Out of the number, the Commission recruited a total of 516 teachers aged between 45 to 59, distributed across the country.

In cases where two or more candidates score equally after all parameters are considered, age is used as a tie-breaker, with preference given to the older applicant.

To adjust the current recruitment framework, with the aim of discouraging prolonged delays in employment and late entry into the profession, Mitei told the MPs that it has been seeking an enhanced budget.

"The commission has consistently appealed to the National Assembly for an enhanced budget for recruitment of teachers.

"Recruitment of teachers across the country is premised on availability of funds and existence of vacancies in authorised establishments. The commission has placed its case for more funds to facilitate recruitment of teachers," she said.

Mitei also said that the commission is implementing a scoring criterion that accords more marks based on age and the year of graduation, with the oldest getting more marks, as part of adjusting the current recruitment framework.



National Assembly Education committee chairman Julius Melly /ENOS TECHE



## NEWS GENERAL

### SURVIVED IMPEACHMENT

# Assembly in crisis: Guyo says focus on unity, development

JULIUS OTIENO

ISIOLO Governor Abdi Guyo has said he is now turning his attention to unity and development, following the failed attempt to remove him from office.

The failed ouster attempt has, however, laid bare deep-rooted dysfunction within the Isiolo county assembly.

Guyo survived the impeachment bid on Tuesday after the Senate dismissed the case on a technicality.

Senators upheld a preliminary objection raised by the governor's legal team, noting that no valid impeachment had occurred at the county assembly and there was an active court order halting the process.

The Senate decision not only saved Guyo's political career but also exposed severe institutional paralysis and internal strife within the assembly that has crippled governance in the county.

"With this chapter behind us, we now refocus our energy on what truly matters: driving meaningful development, fostering unity, and fulfilling our shared vision of a thriving Isiolo," he said after the ruling.

"The journey ahead continues with greater resolve, renewed purpose, and an unshakable commitment to serve with integrity and dignity."

Despite the legal victory, the Senate's deliberations revealed glaring cracks in Isiolo's leadership.

Sixteen out of 18 senators voted in favour of removing the governor—a rare and telling signal of the strained relationship between the executive and the assembly.

Senate Speaker Amason Kingi, in his communication after the vote, advised Governor Guyo to urgently mend ties with county leaders.

"We expect, as the top leader in Isiolo county, that you will sit down with your senator—even if through a third party—and reconcile with the county assembly," Kingi said.

The impeachment saga also unearthed a troubling power struggle within the county assembly, where it was revealed that two speakers and two clerks currently claim legitimacy—an extraordinary situation that shocked the Senate.

In a recent Gazette notice, Salad Guracha, signing off as clerk, declared Abdullahi Jaldesa as the new assembly speaker, replacing Mohamed Koto—the same speaker who presided over the impeachment sitting.

Yet, earlier, Koto had suspended Guracha from office and appointed a temporary replacement. A court later reinstated Guracha, further fuelling the legitimacy crisis.

Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo revealed that Jaldesa was allegedly elected speaker by just two MCAs, yet the appointment was gazetted by the Government Printer.

"The Government Printer, a very sensitive department in this country, gazetted a speaker elected by only two members of the Assembly," Dullo said on the Senate floor.

The unfolding confusion has drawn concern over the stability of county governance, with calls intensifying for institutional reform, reconciliation, and renewed focus on service delivery.

On Wednesday, fresh details emerged on the strategy the governor employed to survive the political storm.

Besides assembling a formidable legal team led by former LSK president Eric Theuri, alongside Elias Mutuma and Elisha Ongoya, the governor is said to have personally taken charge of the political fightback.



Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo and his lawyers Eric Theuri and Elisha Ongoya in Senate on Tuesday /ENOS TECHE

Senate Committee on Finance and Budget chairman Ali Roba /FILE



### EQUALISATION FUND

# How 34 counties will share Sh16.8 billion

*Initially, fund targeted 14 devolved units, mainly in arid and semi-arid areas*

JULIUS OTIENO  
@JuliusOtieno04

THIRTY-FOUR counties are set to receive Sh16.8 billion from the Equalisation Fund to support delivery of basic services such as water, roads, health facilities and electricity in marginalised areas.

The allocation is provided for in the Equalisation Fund Bill, 2025, which outlines disbursements for the 2025–26 financial year.

"The Bill proposes a legal framework for the issuance of monies out of the Equalisation Fund to counties in which marginalised areas fall for the provision of crucial basic services," the Bill reads.

Sponsored by Senate Finance and Budget Committee chairperson Ali Roba (Mandera), the Bill seeks to operationalise Article 204(1) of the Constitution, which establishes the Equalisation Fund.

The article stipulates that 0.5 per cent of all national revenue be allocated to this fund to uplift marginalised areas by improving access to essential services.

Initially, the fund targeted 14 of the least developed counties, mainly in arid and semi-arid regions.

However, the Commission on Revenue Allocation revised the formula, expanding the number of beneficiary counties to 34.

The new model identifies specific sublocations and wards considered marginalised across these counties.

Areas earmarked for development are Baringo North, Baringo South, Mogotio and Tiaty, which will get a total of Sh967.68 million.

Chepalungu constituency in Bomet will get Sh31.24 million to imple-

ment development projects in Nyan-gores, Chebunyo and Sigor areas.

In Bungoma, Mt Elgon constituency will get Sh95.59 million to implement development in Chepyuk, Elgon and Kapkateny.

Budalang'i and Teso North constituencies in Busia will receive a total of Sh29.23 million to do development in Bunyala South, Angurai South and Malaba North areas.

In Elgeyo Marakwet, Keiyo South and Marakwet East will receive Sh105.89 million to improve roads, water and health services in Embobut, Endo, Kapyego, Sambirir and Lelan.

All the six constituencies in Garissa will get Sh1.02 billion. They are Balambala, Dadaab, Fafi, Garissa Township, Ijara and Lagdera.

Among the areas earmarked for development in the county Danyere, Jarajara, Saka, Sankuri, Fafi, Liboi, Banane, Goreale, Sangailu, Dertu, Bura, Dekaharia and Nanighi.

In Homa Bay; Homa Bay Town, Ndihiwa Suba North and Suba South will get a total of Sh214.02 million.

In Isiolo; Isiolo North and Isiolo South will get Sh223.47 million, while Kajiado South and Kajiado West will receive Sh270.21 million.

In Kajiado; Kajiado North, Kajiado Central and Kajiado West will receive Sh99.01 million million.

In Kericho; Bureti, Kipkelion West and Sigoet/Soin will get Sh81.88 million.

Ganze, Kaloleni, Kilifi North, Magarini, Rabai and Malindi in Kilifi will get Sh878.03 million.

In Kisumu; Muhoroni and Nyando will get Sh39.57 million while Kitui South, Kitui East, Mwingi Central and Mwingi North in Kitui will re-

ceive Sh646.40 million,

In Kwale; Kinango, Lunga Lunga, Matuga and Mswambweni will get Sh475.83 million while Laikipia North and Laikipia West consistencies in Laikipia will receive Sh194.02 million for two constituencies.

Other counties that will benefit from the funds are Lamu (Sh93.69 million), Machakos (Sh21.06 million), Mandera (1.22 billion) and Marsabit (Sh763.77 million).

Others are Meru (Sh48.66 million), Migori (Sh289.09 million), Murang'a (Sh9.23 million), Nakuru (Sh10.46 million), Nandi (Sh189.86 million), Narok (Sh1.25 billion) and Samburu (Sh1.05 billion).

Also in the list are Siaya (Sh51.99 million), Taita Taveta (Sh21.68 million), Tana River (Sh719.01 million), Tharaka Nithi (Sh71.56 million), Trans Nzoia (Sh12.16 million), Turkana (Sh1.86 billion), Wajir (Sh1.18 billion) and West Pokot (Sh1.66 billion).

### (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Bill seeks to provide for the issuance out of the Equalisation Fund monies to provide certain services in marginalised areas. These services include water services, roads and health services, which are county functions as designated under Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution. It a Bill concerning county governments in terms of Article 110(1) (a) of the Constitution as its provisions affect the functions and powers of county governments as set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution.



## NEWS GENERAL

## RISING CONCERNS

# Kenya on global spotlight as UN agency offers support to investigate police killings

ELIUD KIBII

INVESTIGATIONS into police killings and human rights violations could gain international backing after the UN human rights office offered support for probe.

On Tuesday, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed readiness to assist Kenyan authorities in investigating alleged police abuse.

OHCHR spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said the agency took note of reports indicating at least

11 deaths, 52 injured police officers and 567 arrests during the Saba Saba Day protests.

However, an updated tally by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights puts the figures at 31 deaths, 107 injuries, two disappearances, 532 arrests and destruction of property of unknown value.

In its statement, the UN also raised concern over delayed investigations into protest-related killings, especially those that occurred on June 25, during the

commemoration of last year's Gen Z demonstrations. Shamdasani said while the Kenya Police announced its own investigation into the June 25 incidents, the UN human rights office remains ready to support national authorities in their efforts, including on the investigative front.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk called for thorough and prompt investigation of killings and other alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law.

He also renewed his call for calm, restraint and full respect for the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

Shamdasani said under international law, law enforcement may only use lethal force when strictly necessary to protect life from an imminent threat.

"It is essential that legitimate grievances at the root of these



Susan Wanjiku, sister of victim of police brutality Moses Mwangi, is consoled by friends at the Nairobi Funeral Home /ENOS TECHE

protests are addressed," Shamdasani said.

Investigative institutions mandated by the Human Rights Council have taken numerous forms since the council was created in 2006, including fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry. Most have

been established to investigate alleged violations in specific countries such as Burundi, Sudan, Ethiopia, Congo, Belarus, Ukraine and Nicaragua.

Despite Kenyan authorities promising probe into the police excesses during demonstrations, only two police officers are in court.

## ROAD SAFETY

# Zero alcohol, annual car inspections in NTSA rules

*Measures seek to curb proliferation of unsafe vehicles and fatal road accidents*



Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir /FILE

MOSES OGADA  
@AliwaMoses

MOTORISTS face a stringent regulatory landscape as the government rolls out a series of new tough rules to enhance road safety and compliance.

The proposed regulations, to be reinforced by the National Transport and Safety Authority, cover vehicle inspections, commercial operations, school transport and drunk-driving.

They introduce sweeping changes that will significantly impact drivers, vehicle owners and transport operators across the country.

In the works, are rigorous compliance requirements that will reshape how vehicles are maintained, operated and monitored across the country.

Under the Traffic (Motor Vehicle Inspection) Rules, 2025, all privately owned vehicles older than four years will be required to undergo annual inspections to ensure roadworthiness.

Public service vehicles, commercial trucks and school buses will be subjected to mandatory pre-registration checks and yearly re-inspections.

If approved by MPs, motorists caught driving without valid

inspection stickers will face fines of up to Sh20,000 or six months in jail.

Vehicle testing centres and inspectors found issuing fraudulent certificates would also be subjected to hefty punishments, including license revocation.

The rules, drawn by CS Davis Chirchir, and of which Kenyans are to give their views by July 22, also mandate that vehicles involved in accidents must undergo fresh inspections.

Any structural modifications, such as changes to a car's dimensions, engine or colour, would also require recertification.

These measures seek to curb proliferation of unsafe vehicles, particularly in the public transport sector, authorities say.

Poorly maintained matatus and trucks have contributed to numerous fatal crashes, causing loss of lives.

The National Transport and Safety Authority (Operation of Commercial Service Vehicles) Regulations, 2025 impose strict operational requirements on trucks, trailers and other heavy-duty vehicles.

Operators would be required to install speed limiters, telematic tracking systems and retro-reflective markings to improve visibility.

Cargo must be securely covered to prevent spillage, with specific rules for transporting loose materials such as sand, gravel and scrap metal.

Any uncovered loads risk fines and drivers must place reflective warning triangles at least 50 metres from stalled vehicles to alert oncoming traffic.

Commercial vehicle owners must also maintain detailed maintenance logs for at least two years and report fatal accidents to the NTSA within 20 hours, including driver details and vehicle condition.

NTSA will conduct random safety audits, checking driver qualifications, working hours and maintenance records.

Non-compliant operators risk license suspension or revocation, with penalties of up to Sh20,000 or six months' imprisonment for violations.

These rules seek to address frequent accidents involving overloaded or poorly maintained trucks, which have been a major contributor to road fatalities.

The Traffic (School Transport) Rules, 2025, introduce some of the most detailed safety measures yet for vehicles transporting children.

All school buses must now be painted in a standardised yellow colour (Pantone 012C) and fitted with stop-signal arms, flashing red lights and seat belts designed for children.

Each bus must carry a fire extinguisher and elementary school vehicles must employ an attendant to help children board and disembark safely.

Drivers and attendants will undergo annual criminal background checks, with those convicted of child abuse or drunk driving permanently barred from working in school transport.

Medical fitness tests will also be mandatory and drivers must conduct pre-trip inspections to ensure no child is left onboard.

In the proposed rules, crossing guards, equipped with reflective jackets and stop signs, will be deployed near schools to manage traffic.

Motorists who ignore their signals risk six-month license suspensions, the regulations read in part.

The regulations also ban school buses from operating outside designated hours (5am to 10pm) and prohibit passengers other than students, teachers, or authorised staff.

Vehicles must have functioning telematics systems with passenger-facing cameras. Operators would be required to submit accident reports within 24 hours if a fatality occurs.

The country has in the past experienced tragedies where poorly regulated school vans were involved in deadly crashes, leaving families devastated. The Traffic (Drink-Driving) Rules, 2025, introduce a near-zero alcohol limit for drivers of public service vehicles, commercial trucks and school buses.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

While the rules aim to reduce the high road fatality rate, which claims thousands annually, motorists and transport businesses will need to invest in upgrades to meet the new standards. These stand to place a significant burden on the operators and car owners. NTSA's emphasis on digital record-keeping, telematics tracking, and standardised testing, albeit, suggests a more systematic approach.



## NEWS GENERAL

'BARBED-WIRE STATE'

# High Court bars police from blocking roads during demos

*Limiting access to CBD without notice amounts to unjustified limitation of rights*



Police officers barricade a section of Thika highway ahead of the Saba Saba Day protests on Monday /VICTOR IMBOTO

JAMES GICHIGI  
@TheStarKenya

THE High Court has issued conservatory orders restraining Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja from erecting roadblocks, barricades, or barbed wire within the Nairobi central business district during peaceful demonstrations.

Justice Lawrence Mugambi made the ruling in response to a petition filed by Katiba Institute, which argued that the National Police Service was unlawfully restricting constitutional rights by blocking roads and limiting access to the CBD without notice.

The court found the actions by the police amounted to an unjustified limitation of the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of movement.

"Pending the hearing of the application, a conservatory order is hereby issued requiring the 1st Respondent, the Inspector General of the National Police Service, or any officer under his command, to remove the barbed wires, barricades and police blocks that are preventing citizens from accessing the Central Business District

and its streets, except for reasonable and limited perimeters around protected areas," Justice Mugambi ruled on Wednesday.

In its petition, Katiba Institute argued that recent actions by the police, including blocking access to Nairobi's streets on protest days, were a violation of Articles 37 and 39 of the constitution, which protect the rights to assemble and to move freely.

The institute said these measures were imposed without proper notice or legal justification, and in defiance of previous court rulings that upheld the right to protest.

The petition detailed how Kenyans had been attempting to exercise their right to protest peacefully over issues, citing the Finance Bill 2024 and recent protests, only to be met with excessive police presence, road closures, and physical barricades, including barbed wire.

Katiba Institute warned that such trends risked turning Kenya into a "police barbed-wire state," reminiscent of past eras when public dissent was suppressed.

"It is in the public interest that people be allowed to exercise their right to demonstrate peacefully and unarmed, and that the police serve the people who assemble by protecting them and not using excessive force against them," Katiba Institute, represented by lawyer Joshua Malidzo Nyawa, argued.

"It is equally in the public interest that the public be allowed to move around Nairobi. If such a right is to be limited, the limitation must follow due process and not see the public waking up to streets blocked by barbed wire."

## LIVING SINGLE

## Fewer women getting married, divorce rises

SHARON MWENDE

THE number of married women in Kenya is declining, while the rates of divorce and separation are increasing.

This is according to the Kenya Vital Statistics Report 2024, released by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

"Most of the children born each year are born to married women, thus underscoring the role of marriage in population increase. However, some marriages end up in separation and/or divorce," the report states.

According to the report, in 1989, approximately 63.1 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 were married. By 2022, this figure had fallen to 48.1 per cent, demonstrating a consistent decrease in marriage rates over the years. Concurrently, the number of divorced or separated women doubled. In 1989, 4.6 per cent of women in this age group were divorced or separated. By 2022, this figure had climbed to 9.3 per cent.

In 1993, the number rose to 5.3 per cent. The trend saw a slight dip to 4.9 per cent in 1998, but rose again to 5.9 per cent in 2003. In 2008/09, divorces and separations increased to 6.1 per cent, reaching 7.7 per cent in 2014 and further to 9.3 per cent in 2022.

Simultaneously, marriage rates

dropped from 63.1 per cent in 1989 to 58.3 per cent in 1993. The rates saw a small increase to 58.8 per cent in 1998 but declined again to 54.5 per cent in 2003.

In 2008-09, marriages decreased to 54.2 per cent before showing a slight rebound in 2014, with 54.6 per cent. However, by 2022, the percentage had significantly fallen to 48.1 per cent.

The report highlights the importance of family formation through marriage in supporting population increase.

The 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey also examined marriage registration. It revealed that only 19.3 per cent of married women aged 15 to 49 had registered their current marriage with civil authorities. Even fewer – 15.6 per cent – possessed a marriage certificate for their current union.

The report clarifies that once a marriage is solemnised, a marriage certificate is issued and a copy is filed with the Registrar of Marriages within 14 days.

The Registrar then enters the data into a register and records it in an Excel sheet with a scanned copy attached. For divorces, one must file a case at the Resident Magistrate's Court, KQRS says.

## KILLER DISEASE

## Pneumonia leading cause of death in men in 2024 – report

BRIAN ORUTA

MORE men died of pneumonia than any other cause, the Kenya Vital Statistics Report released yesterday has revealed.

While the number of cases has

been gradually decreasing, pneumonia took the lead, followed by cancer the report indicates.

In 2024, it was reported that 5,244 men died from pneumonia, compared to 5,404 in 2023. Cancer deaths in men increased to 4,456 from 3,758

in 2023. Among women, cancer remains the biggest killer disease, with 4,498 deaths recorded in 2024.

This was an increase from 3,940 recorded in 2023.

However, pneumonia – the second highest death-causing disease in women – decreased, with 4,438 cases reported, down from 4,562 recorded in 2023.

Overall, pneumonia, cancer and cardiovascular diseases were the leading causes of registered deaths in health facilities in 2023 and 2024.

Pneumonia recorded 9,682 deaths, cancer (8,954) and cardiovascular diseases (7,478). Hypertension accounted for 5,035 deaths, injuries (4,574), anaemia (4,572), kidney diseases (4,247), prematurity and birth asphyxia (4,223), diabetes (3,822) and heart disease (3,730), closing the top 10 leading causes of deaths in hospitals.

Pneumonia has remained the top leading cause of health facility deaths since 2021. The report indicates that cancer rose from the fifth leading cause of registered deaths in health facilities in 2021 to fourth in 2022 and second in the years 2023 and 2024. These deaths were certified by a medical practitioner, accounting for 54.9 per cent of the total registered deaths (206,417) in 2024.



An illustration showing inflamed lungs and fluid buildup characterised by pneumonia /GEMINI AI



## NEWS GENERAL

## SETBACK

# City traders decry loss of livelihoods in Gen Z demos

*Say most of looted stock was from loans secured from friends, financial institutions*



Trader Yvonne Atieno in her shop / GILBERT KOECH

GILBERT KOECH  
@Koechjunior01

YVONNE Atieno holds her chin in disappointment, having lost stock of shoes worth about Sh2 million during the June 25 demonstrations.

"It is disheartening to lose my livelihood. Some of us do not know where to start," the Nairobi Bus Station shop owner said.

Atieno sold women's official wear. She has since managed to buy a little stock from funds raised on social media after her video went viral.

"I still need a lot of money to boost my my business," Atieno said.

The businesswoman said part of the looted stock was secured through a loan from different financial institutions.

After her husband passed in November last year, she was left with the responsibility of raising her children alone.

"This business has helped me pay school fees for them," Atieno said.

She said one of the students she is supporting is a third-year learner pursuing electrical engineering at the University of Nairobi, while the other one is in Grade 9.

The businesswoman hoped she would get help when Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen passed by her stall and assessed the impact of the demonstration.

"The CS told those affected to go and register at Kamukunji police station. Days later, officers from DCI came to access the area before collecting information, but there has been no help," Atieno said.

She has urged the state to beef up security to secure businesses.

A few metres from Atieno is Samson Ndambuki, who lost stock of clothes worth more than Sh700,000.

Ndambuki said his shop, which is a few metres from Atieno, was also looted on the same day.

"They broke the door and looted everything," he said.

Ndambuki said the looted stock was secured from a loan he had taken from friends.

He is currently restocking again using loans from friends.

The businessman urged the government to boost security, saying those looting are not necessarily those engaged picketing.

Simon Maina, a clothes seller at Bus Station, said he lost stock worth Sh335,000.

He said he has since repaired the door and other damaged areas, costing him Sh35,000.

Maina said most shops were not looted during the Saba Saba Day protest, as most people did not access the city centre.

Within the Koja, Alex Mutinda lost shoes worth Sh400,000.

He said he has had to secure loans for restocking.

Old Mithoo House was the most affected, as 38 shops were looted.

James Mwangi, who sells cake accessories and disposable packages, had his shop looted on June 25.

Mwangi lost stock worth 525,000.

Within the CBD, most shops are either repainting or enhancing security.

The demonstrations also affected the transport sector.

Matatu Owners Association president Albert Karakacha said the sector lost Sh2 billion during Saba Saba Day demonstrations.

"In Nairobi, we transport six million Kenyans daily. Across the country, 30 million people travel daily," he said.

Karakacha said apart from transporting people, the sector also offers other services, such as courier.

Lack of movement cost the sector.

"There is a need for the government to call all partners and come up with solutions to challenges facing the country," Karakacha said.

He said some of the matatu owners have loans that need to be settled.

Trucks ferrying goods within the country and also across the borders were impacted.

Kenya Long Distance Truck Drivers and Allied Workers secretary general Nicholas Mbugua said a circular was issued urging drivers not to go to the roads.

"We issued a circular telling our drivers to avoid coming onto the roads because we feared the trucks would be torched," Mbugua said.

During the demonstrations, all activities in markets were also affected.

Uhuru Market chairman James Maigwa said even though the premises were not affected by demonstrations, there has been slow business.

"We have been losing revenue. Things have not picked up well even today," he said.

Murkomen said traders will not be compensated.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Matatu Owners Association president Albert Karakacha said the sector lost Sh2 billion during Saba Saba Day demonstrations. Trucks ferrying goods within the country and also across the borders were impacted. Kenya Long Distance Truck Drivers and Allied Workers secretary general Nicholas Mbugua said a circular was issued urging drivers not to work.

## CALL FOR RESTRAIN

# Kirinyaga leaders condemn violence, looting of properties during protests

ALICE WAITHERA

LEADERS and residents of Kirinyaga county have condemned destruction of properties during Sabasaba protests on Monday.

Two youths were also shot dead during the mayhem.

Emilio Kabiru says his brother Edward Ndambiri, 25, was shot in the head at Kutus and was pronounced dead upon arrival at Kerugoya County Referral Hospital.

Margaret Wainoi said her son Peter Macharia, 21, died while receiving treatment at the same facility on the same day.

As the two families castigated security officers for using excessive force on protestors, leaders called for an end to destruction of property witnessed in many parts of Mt Kenya.

Governor Anne Waiguru termed the loss of lives and destruction of properties a tragedy that calls for serious introspection.

"The demonstrations led to massive destruction of businesses and properties and left traders counting huge losses".

While emphasising that there is no place for police brutality and abductions, Waiguru underscored the need for citizens to picket responsibly.

Kirinyaga is among counties worse affected by street protests with supermarkets, shops and other businesses looted and set ablaze.

"What we witnessed is massive destruction of businesses and properties. Whether executed by locals or imported goons, this is a tragedy that calls for serious introspection," she said.

The governor said the goons

reigned terror on people in Wang'uru, Kagio, Sagana, Kerugoya, Kutus, Kagumo among other towns.

"The looting and destruction of properties distracts and delegitimises genuine concerns that Gen Z have raised. We must not allow goons to destroy businesses," she said.

Waiguru said there is an urgency for the state to listen to genuine concerns to end demonstrations but urged residents to desist from engaging in activities that devastate the local economy.

"Why would locals participate in or watch others destroying their brothers' and sisters' livelihoods? Why are we destroying our future, our dignity and our economic backbone?" she asked.

Bisilio Murimi, the ational youth league chairperson of People's Liberation Party, said the police should



Nice Digital City premises, which was vandalised by goons in Kirinyaga county during Saba Saba demonstrations /ALICE WAITHERA

have done more to protect businesses and lives.

He said activities that occurred on Monday dragged the region backwards, saying they should not be allowed to happen in future.

Kirinyaga Central MP Gachoki Gitari condemned the burning down of the local NGCDF office in Kerugoya

town. The goons made away with furniture, computers, TV monitors and speakers, before setting the office on fire.

"They also destroyed an ICT hub that was established to empower them," he said. Nice Digital City in Ndurubani incurred losses worth Sh50 million.



PHOTO STORY

CPA Ephantus Kimotho, principal secretary, State Department for Irrigation, presents the Top Performing Private Utility Award to Caroline Cheptoo, Water Infrastructure manager at Tatu City, and Alex Kahu, head of Utilities at Tatu City. Tatu City Water and Sanitation Company was recognized as the Best Private Utility Company of the Year and awarded for Excellence in Corporate Governance during the release of the 2024 Performance Report of Kenya Water Services Providers.

/HANDOUT



SHAKE-UP

# State to change import rules to lower production costs

The reforms are expected to make it easier for imported raw materials to enter the country

JACKTONE LAWI  
@jacktonelawi

MANUFACTURERS could be staring at cheaper raw materials should the government forge ahead with proposed reforms on the Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) exemption framework.

Under the proposal by Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, Lee Kinyanjui, the government is considering reforms aimed at strengthening the Kenya Bureau of Standards' PVoC exemption framework in a bid to ease access to duty-free raw materials for local manufacturers.

This initiative targets the smoother importation of raw materials, industrial machinery, and spare parts, aiming to reduce costs and lead times for manufacturers.

The PVoC programme is a quality inspection system used to ensure imports meet Kenya's standards before they arrive at local ports.

"By easing regulatory bottlenecks and prioritising quality as a national goal, we aim to create a supportive environment for local businesses, drive innovation, and promote inclusive economic growth," said Kinyanjui.

While the exemption is intended to facilitate legitimate importers, especially manufacturers, industry players have complained about inefficiencies and inconsistent application.

The planned changes are expected to streamline the exemption process, reducing delays and costs that have long frustrated industrial players seeking to import critical inputs for production.

The CS challenged local manufac-

turers to adopt higher quality standards through the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)' Diamond Mark of Quality, positioning it as a gateway to improved market competitiveness and expanded trade opportunities.

"Through the quality management frameworks of the Kenya Bureau of Standards, we empower Kenyan industries to compete on a global scale. This, in turn, attracts foreign investment and positions Kenya as a hub for quality-driven development in Africa" he added.

The Cabinet Secretary urged local manufacturers to work closely with KEBS to align their quality and capacity so that they can take advantage of the vast trade opportunities within the ACFTA.

KEBS Managing Director Esther Ngari said since KEBS introduced the Diamond Mark of Quality in 1996,

some 1,263 products, both local and international, have been awarded the Mark.

She however pointed out that achieving the Diamond Mark was not an end in itself and there was a need to continue strengthening our certification process by aligning it to the best global practices, including ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

Surveillance, compliance audits, and performance monitoring which are integral to preserving the integrity of the Diamond Mark of Quality.

Principal Secretary in the State Department of Industry, Juma Mukhwana, said harmonization of regional quality standards had made it easier for local products to penetrate regional markets with products bearing the Diamond Mark of Quality enjoying a competitive edge.

ADVICE

## Equity Bank boss asks counties to effectively monetise natural resources to be self-sufficient

VICTOR AMADALA

EFFECTIVE monetisation of the various resources in countries can turn around fortunes and make them self-sufficient, Equity Bank Group MD, James Mwangi, has said.

He made the remarks at the just concluded Murang'a Investment Conference 2025, a forum that brought together business leaders, investors, government officials, and industry experts with a common goal to catalyse investments in the county. These include royalties from resource extraction, taxes on resource-related activities, and potentially even revenue-sharing agreements related to resource

development. He said that counties must transition from primary production to value addition and industrialisation. Murang'a County stands out as a region richly endowed with both natural and strategic assets. It boasts fertile soils, numerous rivers, a favourable climate, and breathtaking scenic landscapes that offer significant agricultural and tourism potential.

"Murang'a's agricultural strength gives it a natural edge in industrialization. The County leads in tea and avocado production and ranks second nationally in macadamia and coffee, all with high export and value addition potential," James Mwangi said.

He illustrated the economic loss



President William Ruto is received at the Murang'a Investment Conference by Equity Group managing director and chief executive officer James Mwangi

/HANDOUT

in Kenya's raw export model with a striking example of how a kilo of raw tea leaves earns a farmer about Sh75, but when processed into 10-gram sachets, it can fetch over Sh156,000 in global markets.

"Why do we allow Sh155,925 in value to slip away? Imagine the tax potential if that wealth remained within our economy," he added, making a powerful argument for local processing and value retention. On investment incentives, Mwangi hailed Murang'a County for rolling out pro-business policies, including tax holidays, investment deductions, and streamlined licensing processes.

THE DATA

129.23

### The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

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

## FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES	
Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.2371
EURO	151.3948
STG POUND	175.6138
SA RAND	7.2703
KES / USHS	27.7939
KES / TSHS	20.4663
JPY (100)	87.9194
CHINESE YUAN	17.9993
IND RUPEE	1.5052
SAUDI RIYAL	34.4568

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS		
	Price	Change (%)
OLYMPIA CAPITAL	4.14	9.52
EXPRESS GROUP	4.20	7.97
KAPCHORUA TEA	320.00	6.31
CIC GROUP	3.57	6.25
EAAGADS	13.10	5.22

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS		
	Price	Change (%)
CROWN PAINTS	37.15	9.28
SERENA	14.05	7.87
SAMEER AFRICA	6.62	6.76
UMEME	22.10	6.75
SCANGROUP	2.65	3.64



### TIP OF THE DAY

#### 5 RED FLAGS OF A TRULY TOXIC BOSS

While some bosses can be annoying, dismissive, or frustrating at times, it doesn't necessarily mean they're toxic. But if their behavior is bringing you down and affecting your well-being, there are a few red flags to watch out for.

They lack self-awareness. Toxic bosses lack the ability to recognize and control their emotions. They tend to think that they're right about everything, which inhibits their ability to create resonance with teams and makes them resistant to feedback. They lack empathy. Toxic bosses don't invest time or energy in building relationships to understand how their communication approach may impact others. They struggle to relate to team members' challenges, perspectives, and emotions—and this in turn leads to low trust. They're only motivated by self-interest. Toxic bosses make everything about themselves and seek to take credit for others' work. They're more likely to make risky, attention-grabbing strategic moves, often at the expense of long-term team stability. They demonstrate inconsistent behavior. Toxic bosses are unpredictable, and employees may find it difficult to decipher what's expected of them from one day to the next. These bosses are unclear in their communication, often displaying favoritism—or even discrimination.



## NEWS BUSINESS

## FINANCE

## Digital loans push up borrowers' social economic capital – study

VICTOR AMADALA

DIGITAL lending is boosting financial outcomes for Kenyans, including larger mobile money balances, higher income, better employment prospects, and even an expansion in their social networks.

The research, co-authored by academics from Harvard Business School, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of British Columbia, and Northwestern University, challenges conventional wisdom that suggests that these borrowers would be more likely to misuse credit.

“Conventional wisdom would suggest that these borrowers would be more likely to misuse credit”, but instead, we found that they experienced signifi-

cant improvements in financial well-being,” said Harvard Business School Assistant Professor, Jung Koo Kang.

According to him, this may suggest that traditional cutoffs for creditworthiness can potentially be conservative in emerging markets, where access to even small amounts of credit can unlock meaningful economic opportunities for these borrowers.

The study, titled ‘Digital Lending and Financial Well-Being: Through the Lens of Mobile Phone Data’, utilised fully de-identified and anonymised datasets provided by Tala, a prominent digital lender in Kenya.

Researchers conducted a rigorous causal inference analysis on a sample of 20,092 borrowers, specifically focusing on individuals who were randomly approved for

Professor Omri Even-Tov, a co-author of the new Harvard-UC Berkeley study on digital lending /FILE



loans despite their credit profiles suggesting rejection.

This unique methodological approach allowed the team to isolate the direct impact of digital credit, mitigating concerns about selection bias inherent in traditional lending. The findings reveal a profound positive shift in borrowers' financial standing. Those granted digital loans were nearly 24 per cent more likely to be employed or self-employed compared to a control group of rejected applicants.

Their self-reported monthly

income increased by 21 per cent. This directly addresses a key debate surrounding high-interest digital loans, often criticised for potentially exacerbating financial hardship.

Furthermore, approved borrowers travelled to 9.4 per cent more cities, suggesting heightened economic activity and mobility.

They also sent 27 per cent more text messages, indicating an expansion of their social and business networks, and saw their average spending per financial transaction rise by 15 per cent.

## POLICY

## National Statistical System switch to cost taxpayers close to Sh19bn

*Over the next five years, public institutions will be the primary data collection points*



KNBS director general, Macdonald Obudho at a past event / FILE

JACKTONE LAWI  
@jacktonelawi

MINISTRIES, Departments and Agencies will now be required to allocate funds for data collection and statistics in their annual budgets, a slight shift away from the current format where the mandate falls squarely on the National Treasury.

Under the new plan that will cost the government an estimated Sh19 billion, over the next five years, public institutions will be the primary data collection points.

The details contained in the Second Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KSDS II) for the period 2023/24 – 2027/28, shows that the first phase, in this

2025-26 financial year will cost an estimated Sh5.8 billion.

Principal Secretary for Economic Planning Bonface Makokha defended the new framework, noting that it will strengthen Kenya's national statistical system (NSS) by ensuring that ministries, departments, agencies, and county governments (MDACs) integrate statistical planning into their core operations.

“Statistics is a public good. The responsibility for producing and disseminating quality data lies squarely with the institutions that generate it,” said Makokha.

“All MDACs will be expected to develop statistics plans aligned to the KSDS II and embed the cost of implementation within their insti-

tutional budgets.”

The strategy aims to address long-standing funding gaps in the country's data ecosystem.

“The underutilization of these emerging data sources, limitations in data disaggregation and inadequate investment in statistical infrastructure have underscored the urgency for a more transformative, agile, integrated and demand-driven statistical system,” added Makokha.

For instance, in the 2024/25 financial year, KNBS received approximately Sh867 million for general statistical operations, with another Sh119 million allocated for census and survey evaluations.

PS Makokha said that, while government allocations will fund part of the initiative, partnerships with development agencies will be needed to close resource shortfalls.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) will also lead efforts to mobilise additional resources across the NSS.

He added that the long-term goal is to establish a dedicated National Statistics Fund, as recommended in the African Charter on Statistics, to provide sustainable financing for the sector.

“KSDS II fosters enhanced utilization of administrative data across governments and businesses, integrates key advancements such as adopting a data maturity model, advancing innovation in data science, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML) to align with Kenya's AI readi-

ness,” said KNBS Director General, Macdonald Obudho.

The new report embraces emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science, to improve the accuracy, relevance, and timeliness of official statistics.

The framework emphasizes integration of economic, social, and environmental data to inform policy and development planning.

Makokha also reiterated the government's commitment to reforms that will enhance statistical quality, including better coordination across agencies, legal reforms, and expanded investment in statistical infrastructure.

In conclusion, he called on civil society, private sector, and international partners to support the strategy and treat data as a national asset.

“Let us take ownership of this data, invest in it, and ensure it reflects the realities and aspirations of all Kenyans,” he said.

### (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

This Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics is the second after the implementation of the first KSDS, 2019 – 2023. The development of KSDS II adopts a top-down approach where members of the NSS and stakeholders of the data ecosystem identify the high-level priority areas of the statistical system and how they will be achieved.

By Enock Bii

## EXPERT OPINION



## Kenya's sustainability journey demands more than ambition

Kenya's pursuit of sustainability is not just a policy matter; it is a moral and strategic imperative.

From Nairobi's boardrooms to the arid plains of Turkana, the question of how to grow without destroying, how to build without excluding, and how to prepare for the future without repeating past mistakes is now central to our national discourse.

At the heart of this effort are two key blueprints: Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together, they reflect Kenya's ambition to lift millions out of poverty, achieve sustainable development, ensure equitable growth, and protect its natural heritage.

In many ways, Kenya has taken visible strides. We lead Africa in geothermal energy production. Our wind and solar potential is being tapped at an increasing scale. National Tree Growing Days have become civic rituals, mobilizing millions to restore forests. Through innovations like the JazaMiti app, reforestation is becoming a coordinated, digital national effort.

But while the ambition is clear, the results remain uneven.

Official reviews suggest Kenya is on track for some goals, particularly in education, gender equality, and clean energy. Yet others, like poverty reduction, water and sanitation, decent work, and justice, remain slow or stagnant. The financing gap is a major constraint. Kenya's tax-to-GDP ratio remains below 20 percent, making it difficult to sustainably fund critical programs without overreliance on external donors. Turning policy into practice remains the greatest test.


It is one thing to launch a national campaign. It is another to ensure its long-term impact. Trees must be monitored, not just planted. Solar access must be scaled equitably, not piloted selectively. Frameworks must lead to functioning systems, not sit in file cabinets. The disconnect often lies in institutional capacity. Many countries lack the resources, personnel, or data systems to implement sustainability plans effectively. Bureaucratic delays and uneven funding only deepen the gap between strategy and service delivery.

But sustainability cannot live on paper alone. It must be rooted in systems that citizens trust—systems that deliver results they can see and feel.

Trust is built when a youth sees real prospects for green employment. When a farmer has access to clean water year-round. When an informal worker earns a living wage. These are the everyday indicators of sustainability, not just reports or pledges.

The Writer is the founder and CEO of ClimaVox Consult





# National Environment Management Authority

Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, P O BOX 67839-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.  
Tel: 0724253398, 0735013046, Email: [info@nema.go.ke](mailto:info@nema.go.ke) Website: [www.nema.go.ke](http://www.nema.go.ke)

## RE: ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ASBESTOS DISPOSAL SITE NO.2018/KALUMANI/MNYENZENI ADJUDICATION COUNTY.

Pursuant to Section 59 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act 1999, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has received an Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for the above proposed project.

The proponent, **Asbe Contractors Limited**, proposes to construction of an asbestos disposal facility with a boundary wall and disposal pits on Plot L.r. No.2018/Kalumani/Mnyenzeni adjudication Section in Kilifi County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures:

Impacts	Mitigation measures
<b>Effects to flora and fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minimize site clearance to only areas needed for excavations</li><li>Plant trees around the perimeter fence and within some section of the site</li><li>Cover any asbestos pit that is not full with polythene sheet and soil 1m above the buried asbestos and seal the cell with concrete material as it awaits more asbestos materials to be concluded as full</li></ul>
<b>Occupational Safety &amp; health risks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The design of the landfill shall be in compliance with the NEMA National Guidelines on Safe Management and disposal of Asbestos containing materials.</li><li>The sight should be fitted with appropriate signages for process and safety</li><li>Training the workers on the potential health risk caused by exposure to asbestos and how to reduce these risks</li><li>The asbestos removal and disposal workers shall be trained on safe asbestos handling techniques.</li><li>Notify workers about the upcoming disposal activity and the Safety requirements</li><li>Prepare and provide appropriate PPE i.e overalls, gumboots and PVC gloves</li><li>PPEs shall be of single use and shall be used once and disposed with asbestos materials</li><li>Post appropriate signpost of the site that will inform the workers of key rules to follow</li><li>Put in place an appropriate emergency and incident response plan</li><li>All personnel involved with the asbestos disposal process will be subjected to periodic medical surveillance</li></ul>
<b>Waste Generation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The asbestos contaminated soil, materials and other hazardous waste from the asbestos clean-up will be disposed in the same asbestos landfill</li><li>General waste will be segregated and handled by a NEMA licensed waste handler.</li><li>Ablution facilities with running water and shower cubes shall be provided workers/staff</li></ul>
<b>Dust Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide workers with personal protective equipment including dust masks, overalls and eye goggles Apply water sprays on all exposed earth surface frequently</li><li>Appoint a dust monitoring agent/lab or internally monitor and analyze dust and air quality periodically.</li></ul>
<b>Exhaust Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensure all fuel powered construction equipment are serviced and maintained regularly</li><li>Unnecessary reversing and idling should be discouraged</li></ul>
<b>Soil contamination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Backfill areas which have undergone a substantial amount of excavation with stones or soil</li></ul>
<b>Truck cleaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide a truck cleaning shade for cleaning asbestos transportation trucks after offloading</li><li>The shade should be fitted with fiber waste interceptor to collect any asbestos fiber realized from cleaning process and bury with the asbestos materials.</li></ul>

The full report of the proposed project is available for inspection during working hours at:

1. Principal Secretary,  
State Department of Environment and Climate Change,  
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry,  
NHIF Building, 12th Floor  
Ragati Road, Upper Hill,  
P.O. BOX 30126-00100  
**NAIROBI**

2. Director General.  
National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA)  
Popo Road, off Mombasa Road  
P. O. Box 67839-00200,  
**NAIROBI**

3. County Director of Environment,  
**KILIFI COUNTY**

A copy or the EIA report can be downloaded at [www.nema.go.ke](http://www.nema.go.ke).

NEMA invites members of the public to submit oral or written comments within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice to the Director General, NEMA to assist the Authority in the decision making process for this project. Kindly quote ref. No. **NEMA/EIA/5/2/2346**

Comments can also be e-mailed to [info@nema.go.ke](mailto:info@nema.go.ke)

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

*This advertisement is sponsored by the proponent.*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS DEVELOPMENT ON PLOT TITLE NO. NAIROBI/BLOCK 34/562 (Original L.R. No. 209/1875/2), ALONG WESTLANDS ROAD, WESTLANDS, NAIROBI COUNTY.

Pursuant to regulation 17 of the environmental management and coordination (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2003, the proponent, **Novolumen Nairobi Limited**, proposes to develop a residential block of two basements, ground and two Mezzanine (podium) floors for parking spaces, and twenty seven floors comprising of three hundred twenty four Residential units (108No. one bedroom, 108No. one bedroom with study, 108No. two bedroom units) and other associated amenities and facilities on plot Title No. Nairobi/Block 34/562 (Original L.R. No. 209/1875/2) along Westlands Road, in Westlands, Nairobi County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures and anticipated benefits of the project

Impacts	Proposed mitigation measures
<b>Soil Erosion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Control earthworks.</li><li>Install drainage structures to control flow of storm water.</li><li>Ensure and management of excavation activities</li><li>Landscaping shall be done on project completion</li><li>Control and manage excavation soils</li><li>Control activities especially during rainy conditions</li><li>Provide soil erosion control and conservation structures</li></ul>
<b>Loss of Vegetation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only area earmarked for development shall be cleared.</li><li>Plant trees, shrubs and flowers on remaining open spaces.</li></ul>
<b>Changes in hydrology/ impended drainage/deep excavations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>proper Installation of drainage structures</li><li>Install cascades to break the impact of water flowing in the drains</li><li>Ensure efficiency of drainage structures through proper design and maintenance</li><li>Provide gratings to the drainage channels</li><li>A geotechnical survey shall be conducted and the recommendations thereof followed. There shall be no blasting during excavation</li><li>A methodology for excavation shall be generated as required by NCA</li></ul>
<b>Changes in land use- extent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The project shall be approved by the relevant government bodies before commencement</li></ul>
<b>Air pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stockpiles of earth should be sprayed with water or covered during dry seasons</li><li>Enclose the site with dust-proof nets during construction.</li><li>Water shall be sprayed during the construction phase of excavated areas during dry conditions.</li><li>Provide dust masks for personnel in dusty areas</li><li>Sensitize construction workers on pollution control measures</li><li>Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials</li><li>The developer shall use a humidifier to control residual dust</li></ul>
<b>Noise pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Install suitable barriers to shield compressors and other small stationary equipment where necessary</li><li>Display signs to indicate construction activities</li><li>Maintain all equipment</li><li>Adhere to provisions of Noise Prevention and Control Rules 2005, Legal Notice no. 24 regarding noise limits at the workplace as well as NEMA Noise Excessive Vibration Pollution Control Regulations, 2000</li><li>The project will follow the approved work timings only</li></ul>
<b>Public health, occupational health and safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Train staff/workers on occupational health and safety.</li><li>Provide full protective gear &amp; workmen's compensation cover in addition to the right tools and operational instructions &amp; manuals during construction.</li><li>Design of sewerage system should be as provided in the plans and should be constructed to approved size and design, standard and of approved materials.</li><li>Ensure use of standard construction materials and to the specifications. Avoid undesirable, substandard, hazardous or unauthorized materials during construction &amp; maintenance.</li><li>Sensitized staff on social/health issues such as drugs</li><li>Portable sanitation facilities shall be provided during construction</li></ul>
<b>Road traffic disruption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No overloading of trucks and good driving practices to be practiced.</li><li>Suitable junction/access point to be provided.</li><li>Use of appropriate &amp; legible signage.</li><li>Employment of formal flagmen/ women to ensure the public safety.</li><li>The proponent shall conduct a traffic Impact Assessment and generate a traffic management plan</li><li>The Traffic management plan shall be followed throughout the project cycle</li><li>The road network shall regularly repaired during the construction period</li><li>Construction trucks shall be parked at designated location to avoid traffic congestion during project implementation stage</li></ul>
<b>Water Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An alternative water source shall be provided. The proponent shall drill a borehole at the proposed site upon obtaining all approvals</li><li>Management of water usage. Avoid unnecessary wastage.</li><li>Recycling of water at the construction phase where possible.</li><li>Make use of roof catchments to provide water i.e. for general purpose.</li></ul>
<b>Security and social impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provision of security guards, CCTV cameras, security lights and other security apparatus during the entire project cycle.</li><li>Construction work timings shall only in line with the NEMA licensing conditions</li></ul>
<b>Water quality and sewerage infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The design of the entire sewerage system shall consider the estimate discharges from individual sources and the cumulative discharge of the entire project even during peak volumes.</li><li>Provide for adequate drainage systems.</li><li>Ensure effluents are discharged responsibly to the sewerage system.</li><li>The proponent shall seek approval from NWSC before re-connecting to the existing public mains</li><li>Monitor quality of wastewater to ensure compliance with the Environmental Management &amp; Coordination (Water Quality) Regulations, 2006 and other relevant Laws.</li></ul>
<b>Power sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Power supply requirements shall be calculated and shared with KPLC as is the requirement. A dedicated transformer for the entire project shall be a consideration.</li><li>Alternative power sources (solar) shall also be installed for lighting and heating</li></ul>
<b>Increases generation of waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adopt waste minimization at source.</li><li>Monitoring the fate of disposed wastes to ensure they are legally land filled at a recognized controlled site.</li><li>Adhering to waste management regulations of 2006</li><li>Only registered waste transporter shall be engaged</li><li>Construction / demolition waste shall be regularly disposed during project implementation</li></ul>

### ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

<b>Provision of housing and income generation</b>	Housing is a basic good and a major contributor to productivity. Supply of standard and affordable housing has always lagged behind demand for the same and the proposed project has a contribution towards reduction of the deficit.
<b>Promotion of healthy competition, convenience and uniformity in land use</b>	The area has been for a long time restricted to low rise units but this has now changed and housing demand has opened up the area for high rise multi-dwellings.
<b>Optimal utilization of the land</b>	The proposed site has been with a single dwelling for some time but the proposed project shall accommodate more families thus raising the utility of the land. The proposed use also conforms to the area's land use and is not unique in the general Westlands area
<b>Employment</b>	The proposed project will provide direct and indirect job opportunities to a significant number of the population during construction and occupational phases thus reducing the unemployment and in the process provide livelihood.
<b>Promotion of development</b>	The proposed project shall contribute in overcoming the challenges of today's life including strategies for alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development.
<b>Increase government revenue</b>	The proposed project shall generate tax revenue for the government directly and indirectly
<b>Creation of market for goods and services and secondary businesses</b>	The proposed project shall consume various materials during construction such as stones, cement, sand, glass, steel products, wood products, PVC products, ceramic products etc. Those doing commercial activities in the neighborhood shall also have their market widened by the occupants and workers.

For any enquiries/comments please contact:-

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## BIG READ / CLIMATE ADAPTATION

# HARDY GRASS, WATER PANS HELP FARMER BEAT DROUGHT



Juncao Napier grass /KNA

*Prof Kinyanjui Mwangi says cows do not always have to die when droughts hit*

SHARON KIBURI  
@TheStarKenya

On the drive down to a vast farm in Namanga, a semi-arid area in Kajiado county, the temperature shifts notably, making visitors sweat under the relentless sun.

Yet to residents, the weather feels refreshingly cool. Many were even wearing jackets. This showed how accustomed they were to the environment.

Namanga, an area characterised by large ranches of semi-dry land, is about 170km southeast of Nairobi, near the border of Kenya and Tanzania.

Prof Kinyanjui Mwangi, a climate change expert, has undertaken a significant farming project to cultivate

a type of Napier grass from China called Juncao.

"Climate-smart agriculture involves growing drought-resistant crops that can mature within very short periods," he explained as we walked into the land.

Juncao Napier grass thrives in the warm Namanga climate due to effective climate change adaptation techniques.

"The fascinating character about Juncao is that it thrives well even in drought seasons," Mwangi said.

The communities in Namanga are large livestock keepers, a custom largely influenced by the lack of access to water that can enable farming.

They are not alone. In Kenya, more than nine million people depend on pastoralism for their livelihood.

Most nomadic pastoralist communities struggle with access to water, and the dry season claims a lot of their livestock.

Climate change exacerbates these challenges, leading to prolonged droughts, reduced water supplies and intensified competition for resources.

Mwangi also breeds goats, which feed on the Juncao, and is exploring fruit planting, focusing on lemons and oranges. Lemons are proving to be more resilient.

But a vast portion of his farm is occupied by the Juncao grass.

"Juncao Napier grass can provide an alternative, nutritious food source for livestock, and it can also be a significant source of profit if produced on a large scale," Mwangi said.

**NUTRITIONAL POWERHOUSE**  
Juncao grass has significantly higher

“

*Juncao Napier grass can provide an alternative, nutritious food source for livestock, and it can also be a significant source of profit if produced on a large scale*

crude protein content compared to traditional Napier grass varieties, offering a cost-effective solution for livestock feed.

While ordinary Napier grass typically has 8-12 per cent crude protein, Juncao can reach up to 18.6 per cent.

This high protein level means that livestock, particularly dairy cattle, can meet most of their protein requirements from the grass, reducing the need for expensive supplementary commercial feeds.

Beyond protein, Juncao grass is a nutritional powerhouse, providing essential minerals and vitamins that are vital for the health and well-being of livestock.

It is a good source of essential minerals, including calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium and zinc, all of which are crucial for maintaining healthy bones and teeth in animals.

It also contains a good balance of essential amino acids and a range of vitamins crucial for proper bodily function and immune system support.

These include vitamin A, B1, B2, B3, B6, C, E, K and folate.

The grass features soft, juicy stems and wider, smoother, greener leaves, making it highly attractive and palatable to livestock.

This high palatability ensures animals consume it readily, maximis-

ing nutrient intake. Juncao Napier grass is a hybrid variety, often a cross between African elephant grass and bamboo or pearl millet.

It produces a deep and robust root system. This extensive root network allows the plant to access water from deeper soil layers, making it much more tolerant to dry conditions than many other forage crops.

It is well-suited for cultivation in arid and semi-arid regions and can thrive even in low-fertility soils and under rain-fed conditions after the initial establishment phase.

The establishment phase involves careful soil preparation, planting and initial watering to ensure the grass establishes a strong root system. This makes it an ideal choice for farmers facing unpredictable rainfall and prolonged dry seasons.

Juncao Napier grass grows rapidly and can be harvested multiple times a year (typically three to six times).

Its vigorous root system allows it to regenerate quickly after cutting, providing a consistent source of fodder even during dry periods.

This high yield potential, combined with the reduced need for supplementary feeds, can lead to significant cost savings for farmers.

Its drought-resistant traits and wide adaptability contribute to its climate resilience, providing a buffer



against the effects of climate change and minimising soil degradation.

WATER SUPPLY

Even with a drought-resistant crop, water is still essential to life. To secure this resource, Mwangi dug a well and stored water in water pans.

The well works by accessing groundwater stored in underground aquifers, while the water pan collects runoff water.

The water is stored for extended periods beyond the rainy season.

“This enables storage for future irrigation or domestic use,” the professor said.

His farm supplies water to local communities free of charge.

In Namanga, access to water has always been a significant challenge. Hence, when a well was dug on Prof Mwangi’s farm, it provided a much-needed solution for the community.

Repaia Mutede, a member of the Oololarroi community, expressed her gratitude for the water supply.

“Before, we used to walk for nearly four hours to fetch water,” the resident said.

“Now, Mwangi’s farm is just a 20-minute walk from my home, which makes life much easier for us.”

She added that both the animals and the community are thankful for access to water.

Mwangi says the bigger picture he is trying to achieve is to show the com-

**IN THE PAST, WE USED TO WALK FOR NEARLY FOUR HOURS TO FETCH WATER. BUT NOW, MWANGI’S FARM IS JUST A 20-MINUTE WALK FROM MY HOME, WHICH MAKES LIFE MUCH EASIER FOR US**  
— REPAIA MUTEDE



Climate change expert Prof Kinjanjui Mwangi on his farm in Namanga, Kajiado county /SHARON KIBURI



Repaia Mutede gets water from one of the water pans in Mwangi's farm /SHARON KIBURI

munities around that cows should not always die during droughts.

“Having been able to dig a well, I share water with the surrounding communities for their livestock, their domestic uses and for irrigation for a few people in the community,” Mwangi said.

“Water is a free resource that I am happy to share.”

According to the report ‘State of the Climate Kenya’, in 2023, the country experienced higher-than-normal temperatures in most regions, continuing a long-term trend of warming.

Last year became the hottest on



A water well /PIXABAY

record for Kenya, reflecting the global rise in temperatures.

Like many other tropical regions and the rest of East Africa, Kenya is vulnerable to climate extremes, such as floods, landslides and droughts.

Over the past decade, the frequency and severity of these climate extremes

have become increasingly apparent as the global climate warms.

Acknowledging the impact of these rising challenges on the quality of life for countless individuals is critical.

Juncao grass is emerging as one of the solutions that can help to address this.

# Bees, jumbos halt Namanga class

*Pupils and teachers are haunted by dual menace*

SHARON KIBURI

NEXT to a farm doing wonders with Juncao grass in Namanga, Kajiado county, is Oololarroi Primary School.

It was around midday when we noticed the students were out of class for longer than the expected break time.

We decided to visit the school, and upon getting closer, we saw that the teachers and pupils were building beehives as part of an effort to address the bees’ predicament.

The bees’ invasion had driven them out of class, halting formal scheduled learning for the day.

They were getting a different kind of learning, one which included how to survive a bee invasion, as well as practical skills on how to remove bees from classrooms and attract them into beehives.

A few pupils were stung by bees, as well as a teacher, Clare, who teaches the lower classes.

Immanuel Lechi, a seventh-grader

with a passion for agriculture, was among the pupils stung.

“It is painful, and my face is swollen on one side,” he said.

Despite the discomfort, he remains optimistic about his future.

“When I grow up, I want to farm so I can help my family and sell the produce as a successful businessman,” he said enthusiastically.

Teacher Clare said the bees disturb their peace.

“As we speak, Grade 3 is displaced because the bees have occupied the entire classroom,” she said.

She said they have been struggling with bees and elephants invading the school for the past two years.

Education had come to a halt here, as the teachers and pupils alike worked on a way to drive the bees away from the classrooms and ultimately the school.

The hot weather is conducive to bee breeding. This could have contributed to the school’s catastrophic bee invasion.

The headmaster, Frederick M, said the problem goes beyond displacing the learners from their classes.

“Our offices have also not been spared,” he said.

In addition to conflicts with bees, other animal encounters also impact Oololarroi Primary School.

“Buffaloes, snakes and elephants regularly visit the school, disrupting the learning schedule nearly every day,” Fredrick said.

He said the school is situated in the bush, where snakebites are an everyday reality.

This puts both pupils and teachers at risk of being attacked by these wild animals during their commutes to and from school.

“High temperatures, which sometimes can range from 36 to 39 degrees Celsius, also influence learning,” Fredrick said.

He believes the pupils and the school’s overall performance outcomes can improve if the harsh conditions are alleviated.



Lower class teacher Clare, whose arm was bitten by a bee and was swollen. Below, pupils build beehives /SHARON KIBURI





# ★comment

## THE STAR

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

### Kenya needs dialogue, not dangerous rhetoric

**P**RESIDENT William Ruto's claim of an attempted coup during Monday's violent protests has escalated an already tense political climate. At least 31 lives were lost, and property worth billions destroyed.

The President has issued a stern warning to those he believes are plotting to overthrow his administration.

In turn, the united opposition has strongly denied the allegations and dared him to arrest them.

This back-and-forth is dangerous and unproductive. It pushes the country further into a zero-sum political game where no one wins—and ordinary Kenyans lose the most.

The current posturing and hardened rhetoric risk plunging the nation into deeper unrest and division. We urge all leaders to tone down their statements and prioritise the country's stability above personal or political interests.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga has proposed an intergenerational dialogue. It is a commendable idea—one that should be expanded upon and supported by other leaders across the political divide.

Kenya stands at a crossroads. Only inclusive, honest and forward-looking dialogue can break this deadlock and prevent further bloodshed. Let the focus shift from power struggles to solutions. The country cannot afford another day of violence.

**Quote of the day: "The torture of a bad conscience is the hell of a living soul."**

—Protestant religious reformer and theologian John Calvin was born on July 10, 1509

**THE STAR**

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## THE HEARTLESS TRIUMPH OF KILLING YOUR OWN CITIZENS

By Brian Obara

*Never mind what the pesky constitution says: in today's Kenya, lawful dissent is no longer a right but a crime punishable by death*



**T**HERE are too many tears. They stream down the cheeks of mothers like Ann Nyawira, who spent the night guarding the bullet-ridden corpse of her 21-year-old son, Brian Kimutai, so that the police officers who shot him would not tamper with the evidence.

On July 7, as Kenyans poured into the streets to mark Saba Saba while demanding a better future, the state answered with live bullets. Whispers swirl of "goons" deployed alongside officers to terrorise unarmed civilians. At last count, the Kenya Human Rights Commission had tallied 31 dead, 107 injured, two enforced disappearances and 532 arrests nationwide. The toll may still rise as more families come forward.

The names of all the departed should never leave us. Bridgit Njoki, just 12, was watching television in her living room when a bullet tore through her. Also among the dead is 18-year-old Kevin Muiruri, who was reportedly left bleeding in the street until strangers carried him to the hospital.

History will weep for what we are doing to these families. Their stories should trouble the political class. But they won't. Our leaders are content to walk among us wearing the faces of monsters. They have decided it is easier to kill our children and call it peace than to confront their legitimate grievances. This is a cold and deliberate choice by the so-called broad-based

government that is stuffed to the gills with law professors. Never mind what the pesky constitution says: in today's Kenya, lawful dissent is no longer a right but a crime punishable by death.

The cruelty of this dark moment in our history is captured in a now viral clip: a heavily armed police officer, chest puffed with unaccountability, tells an unarmed civilian, "Niko na ruhusa ya kukuua... Utalala kwa fridge (I have permission to kill you... You will sleep in a fridge)."

This is no longer, as has been the convenient excuse deployed before, the rogue behaviour of a few bad apples. This is police impunity run amok. It is also grim confirmation, if any were still needed after the brutal killings of teacher Albert Ojwang and vendor Boniface Kariuki, that state-sanctioned murder has become routine business for our men and women in uniform.

President William Ruto once loudly condemned

the excesses of the Uhuru Kenyatta administration, which he served as deputy for a decade. He vowed that his government would not leave bodies floating in River Yala. He kept his promise. Now, the bodies of those needlessly shot dead by the police bleed on pavements, alleyways, behind market stalls and, in the case of 12-year-old Brigit Njoki, in living rooms. An administration unaccustomed to delivering efficiency everywhere else has become disturbingly adept at manufacturing death, even from the innocence of a childhood afternoon.

There is no "moving on" from this moment. Just as with Albert Ojwang, the dead will not be buried quietly. Their blood must mark a turning point. We must

**WHO ARE YOU REALLY GOVERNING, IF YOUR LEGITIMACY IS SO FRAGILE THAT YOU HAVE TO KILL CHILDREN TO MAINTAIN IT?**

demand a full, independent commission of inquiry into who gave the orders. We must insist on transparent investigations, full reparations for the families, and the immediate disarmament and prosecution of every officer with innocent blood on their hands.

Kenya's ruling class must summon whatever enlightened self-interest it has left and confront these existential questions: What kind of country do you think will emerge from this crucible? What future can we promise our children when the state finds their idealism (which is grounded in the 2010 constitution) so offensive? Who are you really governing, if your legitimacy is so fragile that you have to kill children to maintain it?

The political class will, in all likelihood, gamble that naked tribal loyalty, fear, polished propaganda, and the support of soulless political mercenaries will shield them from real accountability. But that is a temporary refuge. History always delivers its verdict and this time, it will be written by the comrades of the young people this government is killing today. Their memory will outlast your power.

To govern wisely is not to terrorise or suppress. To govern is to protect even those who disagree with you. Especially those who disagree with you. Kenya cannot build its future on the backs of murdered children. If we try, the centre will not hold.

Is he right? Tell us what YOU think.  
email [opinion@radioafricagroup.co.ke](mailto:opinion@radioafricagroup.co.ke)

The writer is a lawyer and media practitioner



## VOICES

# IN MODERN KENYA, WE CAN NO LONGER IGNORE SOCIAL MEDIA

One are the days when social media was regarded as a pastime for idle teenagers and unfocused millennials. Today, social media is part of our daily lives, shaping how we think, communicate and navigate the world.

If the recent events in Kenya of mobilisation and protests for the call for justice and an inquest into the death of Albert Ojwang' are anything to go by, we are in an era where social media has already taken centre stage in our lives. This transformation calls for us to change our view of it. Now, it must not be viewed as just an entertainment platform, but as a force that will influence change, whether positive or negative.

In Kenya, when millennials were growing up, the only place they could access social media, mainly Facebook in those days, was in an overcrowded cybercafé. Those who were slightly well off had bulky laptops and modems. Internet speed was slow, one had to wait a couple of minutes for a video to load or a post to be shared.

Currently, social media platforms have multiplied. Their access has been made easier and their power has grown a thousand times, attracting billions of people.

A number of world events have cemented the importance of social

By Morris Makabe

*The challenge should never be whether social media can be used, but how it will be used for the transformation of Kenya's democracy and development*



media, including US President Donald Trump's 2024 win, which was credited to a massive and effective use of social media.

Besides this, the world has continued to get informed through social media and other platforms about some of the happenings in the world, where access to information is not guaranteed—in cases such as the Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine and Israel-Iran conflicts.

A recent report by GSMA reveals that there has been an increase in mobile internet adoption, leading to 57 per cent of the world's population, which is about 4.6 billion people, having access to mobile internet. This global trend is mirrored in Kenya as more people get connected to the internet.

A majority of these are young people who have grown up in the age of internet revolution and innovations that have made access to the internet easier, mobile

devices cheaper and availability of information. Thanks to artificial intelligence, creating content and sharing are easier every day.

Among the fastest-growing social media platforms is TikTok, which hit over a billion users in 2021 and has continued to increase in popularity ever since. TikTok is currently the fifth most popular social media platform in the world, coming after Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Instagram, according to Meltwater, a digital monitoring firm. Together with X, which is also the most preferred in Kenya for news and information, these two platforms are completely transforming the political environment.

In Kenya, the use of social media continues to rise. Last year's mobilisation of Gen Z against the controversial Finance Bill, 2024, was almost entirely done on X. Besides this, and beyond the

protests, these platforms have led to a rise in digital entrepreneurs, comedians and influencers who tap them as a source of income.

As Kenya's digital revolution gains momentum, there will be a rise in the use of social media, which will not only shape conversations but real-life actions; and the youth will be at the heart of this transformation. What, then, must be done?

All stakeholders – policymakers, all levels of governments, the private sector and the people, and – must come together to create supportive policies that will support social media growth and usage while also protecting users. There is also a critical and urgent need to invest in data protection and privacy, and digital literacy. Besides this, there must be a balance in regulation and rights, in such a way as to enable the law to protect citizens from online harm without stifling their freedom of expression.

The challenge should never be whether social media can be used, but how it will be used for the transformation of Kenya's democracy and development. Social media will continue to grow throughout the world, attracting usage from people from all generations.

The writer is a communication specialist

JASON TINEGA

## Lest we forget pain violence inflicts on kids

In the wake of recent violent crackdowns across Kenya, the disturbing consequences of state-led violence have begun to reveal themselves not only in bloodshed and destruction but in the invisible wounds carried by children. While much of the public discourse has focused on the political and economic implications, an overlooked tragedy is quietly unfolding—the emotional and psychological trauma inflicted on young, innocent minds.

When protests turned violent in mid-2024 and again this year, Kenyan security forces responded with disproportionate force, including the use of live ammunition and tear gas in densely populated residential areas. Reports from human rights organisations and citizen journalists painted a grim picture: homes raided, schools disrupted, families separated and, in some cases, children killed or wounded by stray bullets.

There have been heartbreaking cases where children were shot while playing near their homes and others hospitalised after tear gas canisters exploded inside their classrooms. Although these incidents sparked brief outrage on social media, they barely touch the surface of the deep, long-lasting psychological trauma experienced by the affected children.

Explosive violence—whether from bullets, tear gas or armed raids—inflicts emotional wounds that are often invisible. Children exposed to such violence commonly suffer from chronic fear and anxiety. Every day sounds, like a car backfiring or a door slamming, can trigger intense panic. Many also experience sleep disturbances and recurring nightmares, often reliving the traumatic events in their dreams, which can lead to insomnia or fear of the dark.

Learning becomes difficult when the mind is preoccupied with survival. With the current protests, schools have witnessed closure and studies have been paralysed. Violent protests create a stop-start pattern in learning that affects concentration and academic continuity. Learners may struggle to catch up, especially those preparing for national exams.

If the government fails to address the underlying issues that lead to protests, there is a risk that young students will begin to adopt the same protest mentality in their schools whenever they feel unheard. When children see that protests are the only way to gain attention or action, they may resort to similar behaviour. This not only disrupts learning but also normalises disorder as a means of problem-solving.

If the trend continues, the long-term consequence could be national instability—a future where potential leaders are shaped by chaos rather than constructive dialogue, ultimately threatening the foundation of the country itself.

# Pheroze's legacy faces its toughest test yet

TODAY at 3 pm, we gather at the National Museums of Kenya to celebrate the life and legacy of Senior Counsel Pheroze Nowrojee, who passed away in the US on April 5, 2025, at the age of 84.

Pheroze is now resting in power, where people like him belong, because he spent his life challenging injustice and upholding the constitution, even in Kenya's most turbulent political seasons.

He believed that the law must serve the people, not oppress them. In his hands, the constitution became a sword and a shield, wielded in defence of the oppressed and in resistance against authoritarianism.

His memorial could not come at a more oppressive political moment. As we reflect on Pheroze's towering contributions to the legal profession and human rights, we must also confront the unsettling escalation of state intimidation and repression under William Ruto's regime. The regime has waged an assault on the very ideals Pheroze dedicated his life to defending.

On June 26, three activists—Francis Mutunge, John Mulingwa and Mark Amiani—were arbitrarily arrested and slapped with trumped-up charges. Just days later, on July 5, Martin Mavunjina of the Kenya Human Rights Commission was detained upon arrival

By Ernest Cornel

*As we reflect on his towering contributions to the legal profession and human rights, we must also confront the unsettling escalation of state intimidation and repression under Ruto*



at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport from South Africa and was extraordinarily and illegally renditioned to Uganda in a blatant violation of his rights.

Then on Sunday, at 2.08 pm, as Kenyan women prepared to address the press on extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests during protests, state-hired militia violently stormed the KHRC offices in Nairobi and attacked those inside, stealing valuable items.

I know without a doubt what Pheroze would have done. He would have stood firmly on the side of justice and reminded us, as he often did, that "history is society's early warning system." He would have recognised these patterns of repression, having lived and fought through Kenya's darkest political chapters, particularly

during the one-party dictatorship of the 1980s and 1990s.

Back then, he took up the legal defence of political prisoners, activists, journalists and opposition figures at great personal risk. He practised law and weaponised it in the service of freedom and justice. As Gina Din rightly said, "When the law was being weaponised against the people, Pheroze chose to wield it in their defence."

If he were here, Pheroze would be in court, where he had set landmark precedents, holding the regime accountable for these atrocities and forcing the law to live up to its promise.

His legendary 40-minute submission during the 2017 presidential petition, which led to the Supreme Court annulling the presidential election, a first in Africa, remains a masterclass in constitutional

fidelity and civic courage. It's a lesson we must revisit, especially as the next general election looms amid evidence of authoritarian backsliding.

But Pheroze did not leave us unprepared. He foresaw the ongoing struggles and deliberately cultivated a generation of progressive lawyers and human rights defenders to carry the torch forward.

He generously mentored judges, scholars and advocates, many of whom now occupy influential positions within Kenya's legal and civic landscape. For Pheroze, mentorship was a duty he discharged with humility, generosity and fierce conviction.

Today, we, the people Pheroze inspired, mentored and fought for, are gathering to celebrate his legacy. To celebrate a brilliant legal mind, a fearless public intellectual and a principled dissenter who stood tall when it mattered most.

As we honour him, let us commit to defending the ideals he stood for and to resisting the injustice he warned us about. The baton has been passed. May we run this race with the courage and clarity that Pheroze demonstrated.

Senior communications officer at the Kenya Human Rights Commission



# ★ letters

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

## Gen Z must take rightful space at corporate table

THERE'S a saying that if you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu.

Over the past year, I've watched Kenya's Gen Z rise – bold, unapologetic and plugged into a level of civic consciousness we've not witnessed in decades.

They've shown they are no longer content to be spectators of national discourse. They want to be heard, seen and counted. And rightly so.

As someone who has spent the better part of two decades in business and recently completed my memoir *Taking Up Space*, I've come to appreciate a simple truth: no one really hands you a seat at the table. You carve it. You earn it. You insist on it.

Gen Z, while your energy in demanding a political seat at the table is admirable, don't stop there. Take that same fire to the corporate and entrepreneurial arenas.

Kenya is hungry for your innovation, your digital fluency, your refusal to play by tired rules. But don't expect space to be handed to you. Take it.

The boardrooms are calling. So are the studios, the construction sites, the venture capital tables and the coding labs. The corporate Kenya of today is not what it was 10 years ago. It's more open, more vulnerable to disruption and more desperate for fresh thinking than ever before. That's your cue.

Let's face it: some of us in the older generation are becoming too comfortable. We hide behind old models and resist discomfort. We use phrases like "this is how we've always done it" as shields against change.

But Gen Z, with their savviness,

impatience and global outlook, are the necessary disruption.

So, here's the deal: don't just tweet and protest. Build. Build startups that will render old models obsolete.

Use your coding skills to create platforms that disintermediate middlemen. Use your design thinking to reshape how we deliver services. Use your data fluency to unlock market insights that most boardrooms haven't even dreamt of.

But – and this is important – don't come in entitled. Come in ready to prove yourselves. Innovation is not a right; it's a responsibility. The table isn't a free buffet. It's a potluck. Bring something of value.

Don't wait to be employed. Employ yourself – and others. Don't wait to be told the rules. Write your own. Don't shrink yourself to fit into boardrooms. Redesign the boardroom.

There is opportunity in every sector—whether it's fintech, real estate, agriculture, media, or the creative economy.

But it will not yield itself passively. You will have to demand it with your excellence. With your consistency. With your work ethic. And with your refusal to settle for mediocre mentorship.

Kenya's future does not belong to those with the loudest slogans, but to those with the most sustainable solutions.

So if you are young and talented, don't sit on the sidelines waiting to be recognised. Claim your space. Build your legacy. Don't just take up space – transform it.

**Mwenda Thurairia**  
CEO of MySpace Properties

## PICTURE OF THE DAY



Radio Africa Group Editorial Director Paul Ilado and Events Manager Somoima Kimojino with I&M Foundation head James Gatere at Lion's Place, Westlands, yesterday /LEAH MUKANGAI

## LETTER OF THE DAY

### Protests have a place, but is there another way?

**M**ComMy Dear Children,  
As a mother who has watched you grow with pride, I speak to you not with judgment, but with love and deep concern.

I see your pain. I see your frustration. I hear your cries for justice, for dignity, for a better Kenya. Your voices are powerful and your desire for change is valid. You are the heartbeat of a new generation – bold, brave and unafraid to speak truth to power.

But today, I ask you to pause and reflect.

The streets have become a place of sorrow – tear gas, bullets, blood. I watch the news with a heavy heart, praying none of you are among the fallen.

Protests have their place in history, but when lives are lost and hope is dimmed, we must ask ourselves: Is there another way?

You are smart. You are tech-savvy. You are connected like no generation before. Use your minds and your digital tools to organise, to advocate, to build.

Demand accountability – not just with chants and placards, but with strategy, with unity, with vision.

Kenya needs you alive. Kenya needs your ideas, your energy, your leadership – not your blood on her soil.

Speak, but also listen. Fight, but also think. Be angry, but be wise.

I urge you to channel your passion into change that lasts beyond a single moment – into policy, into leadership, into the ballot box. Build movements, not just moments.

My children, your future is worth fighting for – but please, don't lose yourselves in the fire.

**With love,**  
**A Kenyan Mother**



Maybe. I am not in a position to tell whether it's the police or not. During protests, a lot of things happen and the police are there to protect the lives and property of citizens. But in the protests, we have criminals who take advantage to engage in criminal activities. While chances are high that it's the police who were involved in the shooting, I cannot rule out criminal elements being involved.

**MAHBOOB MOHAMED**  
Elder, Garissa



Yes. It is the police who shot at the protesters. Who else will do that? A civilian cannot – it has never happened. As a mother, it pains me to see innocent young Kenyans killed by the officers who are supposed to protect them. I think we will not see more protests because it has become obvious that as long as they occur, lives will be lost at the hands of officers.

**WINNIE MUSYOKA**  
Businesswoman, Modogashe

## Do you believe Saba Saba protesters were shot by police?

**★new voices**

**★STAR COMMENT** Yes. It's obvious the police were the ones who shot at the protesters. I thought they had been trained not to use excessive force. Unfortunately, what we saw was the use of force. In fact,

during Saba Saba demos, it's like they were under clear instructions to shoot and kill because how do you explain a situation where we lost more than 30 lives through bullets? Do you want to tell me that was the only option that was available for the officers to use?

**ANZAR MOHAMED**  
Human rights activist, Garissa



Maybe. I might not authoritatively say yes, but chances are high it's the police who did this, because you and I know who handles guns. We know who is mandated to use guns; it's the police. So most likely, they are the ones who shot the protesters. But they should not have killed them. That was wrong. It is unfortunate that many were killed in the process.

**HAMDHI BISHAR**  
Freelance journalist



Yes. 100% I think it is the police. Who else carries guns? Since the protests began, it has been a trend to see police officers using excessive force to disperse crowds. While I am against the actions by the goons who looted and burnt government buildings and people's property, the actions by police to shoot and kill were uncalled for. If they had to use a gun, why didn't they shoot somewhere else, like in the leg?

**ABDI MOHAMED**  
Youth leader, Garissa



# GOLF UNITES AVIATION, HOSPITALITY PLAYERS

A golf tournament was held on Saturday at The Sigona Golf Club in Kikuyu. Its main objective was to strengthen ties with key partners, including aviation authorities, hospitality players and top-tier customers, and informal yet meaningful engagement through golf, a sport related to discipline, precision, and excellence. The best players were later awarded. In attendance were Jambojet CEO **Karanja Ndegwa**, Kenya Airways e-commerce senior manager **Daniel Salaton** and Brigadier **John Waweru**.



1. 40 points winner Michael Ngigi and Division B winner Juliet Muthoni 2. Training captain Daniel Njuguna and Karanja Ndegwa 3. Flight attendant Eoin Ogao, sales director Cynthia Otoro and lead cabin attendant Janet Sophie 4. Sponsor Award runners-up Deep Bid /HANDOUT

## AFMASS EXPO WOOS FOODIES TO CAPITAL CITY

THE 10th edition of the Afmass Food Manufacturing Expo was recently held in Nairobi. It featured displays of various food products. Below is a roundup of the exhibition.



1. An exhibitor serves a hot dog to a visitor  
2. Visitors look at a display of food products  
3. An exhibitor attends to visitors  
4. An exhibitor serves a food product to a visitor  
/XINHUA

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION CENTRE SET FOR KENYA

THE Kenya School of Government in Lower Kabete, Nairobi, recently hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the dual headquarters of the 'Global Centre on Adaptation'. In attendance were President **William Ruto**, former Senegalese President **Macky Sall**, former United Nations secretary general **Ban Ki-moon** and University of Nairobi chancellor Prof **Patrick Verkooijen**. President Ruto said the new headquarters will bring together researchers, practitioners, policymakers and development agencies to design and deliver practical solutions. "We aim to place climate adaptation at the heart of public service training, performance management and leadership development," he said.



1. President Ruto drives a grader  
2. Ruto greets Ban Ki-moon  
3. Prof Patrick Verkooijen, Macky Sall, Ruto and Ban Ki-moon  
/JELLY OKWARE /PCS



## NEWS COUNTIES



Nairobi's Mathare slum /FILE



Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja /EZEKIEL AMING'A

## RAISING REVENUE

## Sakaja eyes Sh5bn under new law on irregular buildings

GORDON OSEN

A new law targeting irregular buildings and informal settlements in Nairobi is expected to unlock over Sh5 billion in revenue, forming part of an ambitious plan by City Hall to raise Sh20.9 billion in the 2025-26 financial year without introducing new taxes.

The implementation of the Nairobi City County Regularisation of Unauthorised Developments Act, 2025,

marks a pivotal moment in the city's quest for structured urban planning, financial sustainability, and formalisation of thousands of properties that were previously unregulated.

The law is part of the aggressive push by City Hall to have land owners pay up their rates to fund the current financial year's budget without raising taxes.

Signed into law earlier this year, the act allows developers and property owners to seek retrospective approval

for buildings that were erected without necessary permits or that deviated from approved plans—for example, owners adding extra floors without clearance.

The approvals, however, are not automatic. Applicants must undergo technical compliance checks, pay penalties, and submit documentation prepared by licensed professionals.

Patrick Analo, Nairobi's chief officer for urban planning, said the process could potentially affect close

to two million residents living in informal or irregularly developed areas.

"Our focus is on areas like Embakasi East, West, North and South, Ruai, Kasarani, Mwiki, and Roysambu," Analo said during a presentation to the Nairobi county assembly planning committee.

"These are neighbourhoods that originated through land-buying companies or squatter settlements on public land, many of which have been in and out of court."

## SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION

## KWS mulls relocation as rhino numbers overrun Nairobi park

*National park's carrying capacity is 90 to 100 but the species has shot up to about 175*

GILBERT KOECH  
@KoechJunior\_1

RHINOS in Nairobi National Park have made a remarkable recovery and are now above the carrying capacity of the conservancy.

The carrying capacity is the maximum number of individuals of a species that an environment can support.

Kenya Wildlife Service Director General Erastus Kanga says the park can ecologically accommodate about 90 to 100 rhinos.

"We started with a population of less than 10, and with translocation and births right now we are enjoying 49 white rhinos and 126 black rhinos. The rhino population in this park is about 175. That is a big population," he said.

The park is over and above the carrying capacity by 70 or 80 rhinos. "Now we are suffering because of our success."

Kanga said there are challenges when rhinos are overcrowded in one area. They will fight for territory, forcing some to move out to community areas.

Rhino fights are often deadly. "A few months ago, there was a male black rhino that went out of Nairobi National Park three times in a week. So, we went to translocate it into Tsavo West because that has huge space."

Kanga said rhinos also suppress their birth rate when they are overcrowded.

The increase in the rhino population within Nairobi National Park is one of the successes of conservation efforts.

It is projected that there will be an annual five per cent increase in black rhino numbers in the country from the current base of 1,059. It is crucial that new secure spaces are established and rhinos translocated to the new suitable habitats.

"Our rhino population has reached the optimal level, and what we are doing now, the government is supporting us, is a huge programme that we are calling the Kenya Rhino Range Expansion. We are rebuilding not just Nairobi National Park but also Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary by expanding it from 92 square kilometres to 3,000 square kilometres," Kanga said.

Rhinos in Kenya, especially the black rhinos, have grown from just 384 individuals in the late 1980s to the current population of 1,059.

Authorities attribute the resurgence largely to strategic national conservation efforts, with the Wildlife Research and Training Institute playing a pivotal role in providing the scientific data that informs these initiatives.

"The rhino was declared a pro-

tected species by our late President Daniel Moi around 1986. When that declaration was made, the rhino population had seriously declined. We were coming from a high population of about 20,000, particularly black rhinos to about 384. That time we had about 50 white rhinos," Kanga said.

The Kenya Wildlife Service started rebuilding the population to prevent the species from becoming extinct.

"We have created about 19 rhino sanctuaries. Nairobi National Park happens to be one of them, along with Nakuru and Ngulia," Kanga said.

"The white rhinos have also shot up, as they have increased from a mere 50 to now 1,048. We are holding the third-largest rhino population in Africa."

Translocating rhinos to new habitats is a complex process that requires meticulous planning and data-driven decision-making.

The Wildlife Research and Training Institute's research efforts are instrumental as they offer insights into habitat suitability, carrying capacities, and the health of rhino populations before, during and after the exercise.

Already, KWS has launched the stakeholder engagement for the Tsavo West Rhino Sanctuary expansion project at Tsavo West National Park.

Spearheaded by the Kenya Rhino Range Expansion programme, the initiative seeks to transform the current 92 km<sup>2</sup> Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary into a vast 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> Tsavo West Rhino Sanctuary.

The project seeks to address critical conservation challenges and promote community development by enhancing habitat for the critically endangered eastern black rhino.

Established in 1986, the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary was designed to protect the eastern black rhino, but it now faces serious challenges due to overpopulation, hosting over 140 rhinos against a recommended capacity of 60.

Kanga said other interventions include engaging private landowners and community conservancies within Laikipia so that they can create homes and habitats for rhinos.

## (+ ) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Translocating rhinos to new habitats is a complex process that requires meticulous planning. The Wildlife Research and Training Institute's efforts are instrumental as they offer insights into habitat suitability, carrying capacities and the health of rhino populations.





## NEWS COUNTIES

## TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

## I lost Sh50m in Saba Saba chaos – Nice City owner

ALICE WAITHERA

THE proprietor of Nice Digital City, Njiru Mkombozi, has said goons caused damages worth Sh50 million after breaking into his business premises in Ngurubani, Kirinyaga county.

He said the youths arrived at 9.00 am and broke windows and doors before being repelled by police officers.

The attackers engaged the police in running battles for nearly two hours and eventually overpowered them at 11.00 am, forcing their way into the Supermarket.

Others stormed one of the three hotels on the premises.

“They were so many and very violent. Police officers exhausted all the

tear gas they had and were chased away. That’s when the youths accessed my businesses,” Mkombozi said.

Inside the hotel, the attackers ate goat meat, chicken, beef and other meals that had been prepared.

They remained there for a while until a special police squad was dispatched from Nairobi to stop them from accessing the other two hotels.

When reinforcement arrived, the youths fled, leaving behind a trail of destruction. The police secured the premises and kept guard overnight.

“Were it not for the special squad, my entire business worth around Sh2 billion would have gone up in flames,” Mkombozi said.

The destruction has left more than 1,000 employees jobless.

Mkombozi, who recently acquired a Sh50 million loan to restock his business, said he will now be forced to seek more funds for repairs and restart operations.

He called on fellow traders to unite and find ways to protect their investments during nationwide protests, warning that such losses could lead to poverty.

“This business employs people from the local community. Why destroy it?” the businessman asked.

“I was once a village boy myself. You don’t need to steal to succeed.”

So far, police have arrested 30 suspects in connection with the attack.

They are expected to be charged with robbery with violence.

Mkombozi also suggested that business rivalry could have been a

factor, accusing competitors of using criminal tactics to bring down others.

Tebere MCA Peter Karinga condemned the incident, saying most of the attackers were from outside the area.

He warned that traders would not hesitate to protect their premises in future.

“As the Ngurubani community, we now know these protests are not genuine. We will deal with goons. We will not allow this to happen again,” Karinga said.

Police reported 11 deaths across the country following Monday’s protests while the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights reported 31. NPS said 52 police officers sustained injuries.

## CALLS FOR DIALOGUE

## Talk to Gen Z to end political tension, Echesa tells President

HITON OTENYO

THE National Council for Occupational Safety and Health chairman Rashid Echesa has urged the government to engage youths in dialogue to come up with a solution to their problems.

Echesa said the current situation is not good for the country and dialogue between the government and young people will cool the current tensions.

“These are our children, we cannot kill them but listen to them and agree on how issues they are agitating for can be addressed. Dialogue is the way to go,” he said.

Echesa said hooligans took advantage of protests to loot.



National Council for Occupational Safety and Health chairman Rashid Echesa /HILTON OTENYO

## LAWLESSNESS

## Gachagua accuses state of sponsoring Mt Kenya looting

Opposition figures say goons were sent in areas perceived unfriendly to government



Former Interior CS Fred Matiang'i, DP leader Justin Muturi, PLP's Martha Karua and DCP's Rigathi Gachagua at SKM Command Centre on Tuesday /HANDOUT

LUKE AWICH  
@AchiaAwich

THE opposition now claims there was deliberate target on people from Mt Kenya during Saba Saba Day protests that saw lives lost and properties destroyed.

Former Deputy President and Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka claimed there was deployment of goons in unmarked vehicles by the state to areas perceived as unfriendly to the current administration.

The goons, operating in police vehicles, were under instructions to loot, destroy specific businesses and kill peaceful protesters, they said.

“These state-sponsored militias worked closely with the police and meted senseless violence – shooting aimlessly at people’s homes and

attacking innocent bystanders,” former Unctad secretary general Mukhisa Kituyi said. “Specific businesses, including supermarkets, were outrightly vandalised and goods worth millions of shillings looted while the police stood by and watched.”

The briefing at SKM Command Center in Karen, Nairobi was also attended by Martha Karua (PLP), Justin Muturi (DP), Saitoti Torome (Jubilee), Eugene Wamalwa (DAP-K) and ex-Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i.

The National Police Service reported 11 deaths across the country following Monday’s protests while the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights reported 31.

According to NPS 52 police officers sustained injuries, while 114 civilians were injured. It also reported that 125 police vehicles, 36

government vehicles and 47 civilian vehicles belonging to civilians were damaged.

The leaders described President William Ruto’s administration as ‘hostile’, threatening to lead Kenyans in boycotting select business enterprises of ‘enablers’ of the regime.

“We put the regime on notice: The architects, enablers, financiers and executors of this regime’s violence will be held personally liable—locally and internationally. The day of reckoning is coming. No badge, no title and no political alliance will shield you from justice,” the joint statement said.

“We will publicise a list of shame and ask the public to share any information on businesses affiliated to this list of shame.”

The opposition also asked Kenyans to reject any events or forums

organised by those who defend state violence. “We cannot continue like it is business as usual. Too much blood has been spilled with zero accountability,” Kituyi said.

The leaders spoke a day after the deadly protests that saw unprecedented road blockade, keeping motorists and Kenyans from accessing Nairobi Central Business District.

Eralier, MPs, led by John Kaguchia (Mukurweini), Jane Kihara (Naivasha) and Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North) claimed the goons were procured by lawmakers loyal to Ruto.

“These goons were deployed by the government past midnight and then roadblocks mounted by the police. In non-opposition zones, to some extent, demonstrations were peaceful and there was no looting or destruction of property because the government did not plan and deploy goons,” Ngogoyo said.

“This points to a clear plan of an economic sabotage and purge on people.

The lawmakers have asked the international community to take note of the happenings in the country with a view of taking action against Ruto.

## (+ ) INSTANT ANALYSIS

What started as morning march to commemorate Saba Saba Day took a violent turn after goons took advantage of the situation to break into shops and supermarkets, looting everything in sight. Traders, big and small, were on Tuesday left counting huge losses, with leaders engaged in blame game over who was responsible.

## EXPANSION

## Stop blocking emergency response cars, protesters told

KNA

MURANG'A medics have appealed to protesters to give way to ambulances and emergency vehicles during demonstrations to prevent avoidable deaths.

Director of health Dr James Mburu condemned recent incidents where protesters barricaded roads, hindering emergency response efforts and denying patients access to life-saving care.

He also condemned storming of hospitals to see injured colleagues, warning that such actions will disrupt medical procedures and pose a risk to patients and healthcare workers.

“When injured protesters are brought to the hospital, we urge the public to allow medics to do their work without threats or interference,” Mburu said. “We have witnessed large groups forcing their way into hospitals. We are asking them to remain calm and allow doctors to attend to the injured.



## NEWS COUNTIES

## DIFFUSE THE ANGER

# Coast women to lead peace campaigns across the country

BRIAN OTIENO

WOMEN will determine whether the country will have peace or chaos, a group in Mombasa has said.

The group, known as Mama Kenya Movement, wants to sensitise youth and women across the Coast and the entire country on the path to sustainable peace.

Director Amina Ridhwani said the youth are an educated lot, who need a listening ear from the government.

“Peace is not the absence of war. Peace entails many things and to build peace, everyone must feel they are heard by the government,” she said.

Ridhwani spoke during the launch of Mama Kenya Movement peace ambassadors at the Mombasa Women Hall in Kizingo on Tuesday.

The movement works in partnership with other organisations in Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

“We have to search for peace in

Kenya, come what may. Without peace, nothing will move forward,” Ridhwani said.

She said the peace ambassadors will move door-to-door amid the rising tension between Gen Z and the leadership to try and diffuse the anger that many harbour in their hearts.

The campaigns will ensure political, social, community and religious leaders sign peace contracts, which they will have to religiously adhere to.

Kenya, she said, was once seen as the beacon of peace in the Horn of Africa, East Africa and East and Central Africa.

“But that image is now slowly disappearing, giving room for an unpleasant image that might potentially scare investors away,” Ridhwani said.

The deaths and injuries witnessed recently during protests are unnecessary, she said. “These could have been avoided had there been



The unveiling of Mama Kenya Movement peace ambassadors at Mombasa Women Hall on Tuesday /BRIAN OTIENO

sobriety on both the authorities and the protesters,” she said.

Ridhwani said the most important thing is information, which she said is not being given to the youth properly as it should be. She said the government could be doing a lot of things that would benefit the women and youth in Kenya, but

that information does not reach the grassroots people in good time and in the right language.

“Things like SHA are working but who is there to explain how SHA works? Yes, at first there were teething problems but these are being addressed but who is there to explain this to the people?” she said.

## SABA SABA DEMOS

# Murang'a traders incurred Sh500m losses in protests

*Businesses were looted, property destroyed and income lost due to hours of closure*



Looters at County Supermarket in Kabati town, Murang'a county /ALICE WAITHERA



Murang'a County Business Community Forum chairperson James Waweru /ALICE WAITHERA

ALICE WAITHERA  
@Alicewangechi

BUSINESSES in Murang'a county incurred losses of more than Sh500 million following Monday violent protests that erupted in several towns, traders have said.

James Waweru, the chairperson of Murang'a County Business Forum, told journalists on Tuesday that apart from the destruction of property and theft, businesses incurred huge losses just from the hours-long closure.

Hundreds of youths targeted County supermarkets in Kabati and Kenol towns. They broke into them and looted. “Our preliminary findings indicate that the destruction that occurred in Murang'a was perpetrated by youths who are not residents,” Waweru said.

“How can residents of Kabati town destroy the one business that can offer them employment? Can

an ordinary person just break into a supermarket?”

He condemned the violence, noting that goons seemed to target major businesses in specific towns.

Waweru said they were caught off-guard, adding they will be prepared to protect their businesses in future.

The county, he said, has more than 40,000 small-medium enterprises that have a big enough workforce to guard their businesses.

“Let me be very clear, we have no issues with Gen Z protesting. It's their constitutional right. What we are against are the goons targeting our businesses”.

Habire Chege, a resident of Murang'a town, claimed some unnamed people had previously demanded Sh2 million from major businesses for their premises not to be attacked.

The businesses attacked, he said, were the ones whose owners refused

to part with the money, forcing some to reinforce their entrances with steel.

Chege said the demands indicate the protests were hijacked by unscrupulous individuals seeking to make a killing from desperate traders.

“They camped at one of the supermarkets in Murang'a town until the wee hours of Tuesday morning trying to access it,” he said.

A group of the goons positioned in Sagana town in Kirinyaga county blocked the Sagana-Murang'a road and demanded Sh200 from passersby, reports indicate.

At some point, reports claim the goons would flag down motorists and ask them to transfer all they had on the M-Pesa accounts to be allowed to pass.

Boniface Maina, a business owner in Murang'a town, wondered why the National Intelligence Service (NIS) was not able to detect the plans being made to disrupt peace in the region.

While underscoring the need to uphold peace for businesses to thrive, he underscored the need for the state to listen to Kenyans' grievances and make attempts to address them.

“It's important that leaders stop chest-thumping because these conflicts are dampening the economy and affecting us all,” Maina said.

He also condemned the use of live bullets on protesting Kenyans by police officers.

Murathi Magochi, the proprietor of a retail shop in the town, said the goons seemed to have had their sights on businesses owned by prominent businesspersons.

“They targeted Magunas supermarkets in Murang'a and ended up burning one branch in Meru. They looted four branches of County supermarket and looted Nice Digital City in Kirinyaga. All these are businesses that employ thousands of local youth,” he said.

Murathi said the destruction has worsened joblessness as many youth were unable to resume their jobs on Tuesday after the looting.

“If there were 1,000 jobless youths in Central by Monday, the number has now risen significantly. This can't have been done by residents. How can one destroy a business that employs their parents or siblings?” he asked.

Murathi said they are waiting for the government to disclose who were behind the mayhem, saying the CCTV cameras installed in most businesses should help identify the looters so they can point out their facilitators.

He said most Mt Kenya residents rely on businesses to supplement their income and targeting their enterprises weakens the economy of the region.

Annabel Njambi, the proprietor of County Supermarket, said the goons even made away with shelves, trolleys and commodities.

“Where would a demonstrator take shelves? Isn't that someone planning to destroy me financially?” she posed.

Njambi said her business incurred losses amounting to Sh100 million, with Kabati and Kenol branches in Murang'a, and Kagio and Kagumo in Kirinyaga, being looted.

“I have employed about 300 youths from local communities. Some will have to go home now. Some have been destroyed too much and have to be repaired. What will we do with these children?” she asked, breaking down in tears.

In Kirinyaga county, the proprietor of Nice City Digital said his business complex incurred losses worth Sh50 million after goons broke into a supermarket and one hotel where they ate the ready food and destroyed furniture.

In Meru county, goods worth millions went up in flames when goons looted Magunas supermarket before burning it down at Makutano.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

James Waweru, the chairperson of Murang'a County Business Forum, told journalists on Tuesday that apart from the destruction, businesses incurred huge losses for closing for long hours. The county has more than 40,000 small and medium enterprises that have a big enough workforce to guard their businesses.



## NEWS COUNTIES

## HUB OF PROSPERITY

# Governors plan to rebuild Kerio Valley after banditry menace

*Potential in agriculture and minerals can benefit the country, hence calls for peace*

MATHEWS NDANYI  
@TheStarkenya

GOVERNORS in the North Rift region have put forward a plan to advance peace and development in the Kerio Valley region, which has been ravaged by many years of banditry.

The governors, through the North Rift Economic Bloc, contend that the region possesses significant potential and resources that can be harnessed to transform it into a hub of prosperity.

Nandi Governor Stephen Sang, who also chairs Noreb, said for long-term peace and stability, there must be an endeavour to address the underlying issues that ignite banditry.

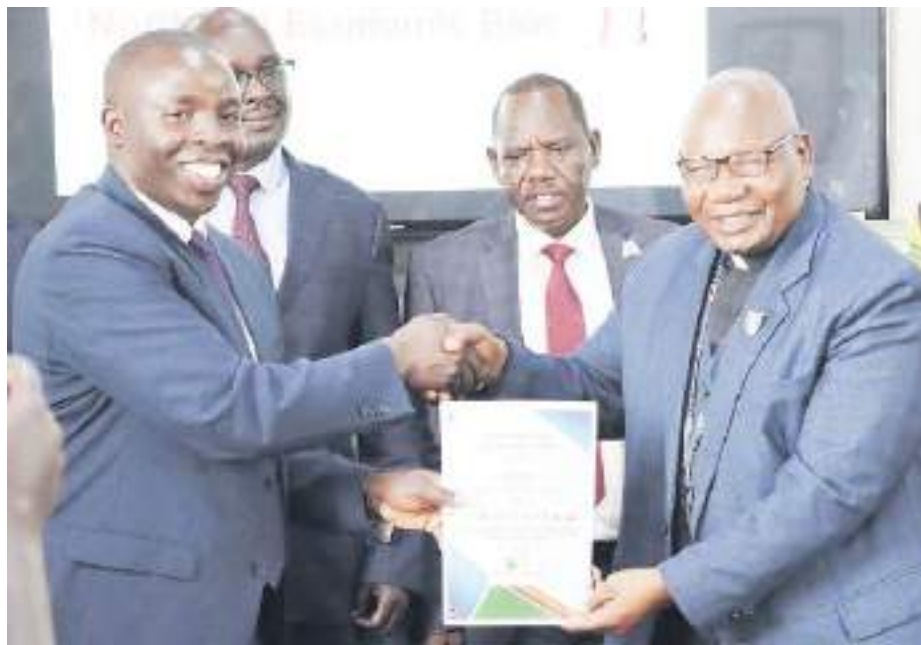
"There is need to have a development marshal plan for the region and we are working with partners to see the intervention that will help us exploit the potential in that region," Sang said.

The existing potential in agriculture and minerals and the mining sector has the capacity to benefit the entire country, he said.

"That is why we are seeking to work with all development partners and the national government to exploit the potentials that can sustain peace and stability."

Sang noted that the government had made efforts to stabilise the region, where the situation had deteriorated following the killing of Catholic priest Ambrose Bett two months ago.

The governor said banditry had hindered development, adversely affecting residents and therefore, methods must be found to implement



Nandi Governor and chairperson of Noreb Stephen Sang and NCCK chairman Rev Elias Agola during the signing of an agreement at the Uasin Gishu county governor's office /KNA

sustainable development and peace.

"We must work to silence the guns in that region and stop the bleeding because when Kerio Valley is hurting then all of us and neighbouring counties are also hurting."

Sang spoke in Eldoret after a Noreb meeting where the group signed new MoUs with Kerio Valley Development Authority and National Council of Churches of Kenya, focusing on development and peace initiatives.

Sang had led county chiefs from the region who signed the agreements in Eldoret, where they were hosted by Uasin Gishu Governor Jonathan Bii. West Pokot Governor Simon Kachapin and his Elgeyo Marakwet

counterpart Wisley Rotich were also in attendance.

KVDA's mandate covered five of Noreb's eight counties, Sang explained, but they agreed to extend this mandate under the MoU to encompass the entire region.

He mentioned that the partnership would involve collaboration in several areas, including resource mobilisation, agriculture, climate change mitigation and peace efforts.

Sang said although KVDA was among regional bodies earmarked by the government for disbandment, they had proposed that the authority remain operational.

"We want KVDA to continue to

exist but with a wider mandate in many other areas of cooperation."

The authority will serve as the implementing partner, primarily for donor-funded projects and activities, while NCCK was included owing to its role in peace-building and the economic and social transformation of the region.

"We have agreed to a joint cooperation on several programmes coming up and also creating synergy in what we have already been doing with NCCK on the ground," Sang said.

Rotich lauded the government's efforts to restore stability and to roll out the implementation of key development programmes.

## LOOTING

## Nyamira police base torched in protests against teen's shooting

CYRUS OMBATI

A mob attacked and burnt a police station in Bonyunyu, Nyamira county, in protest against the shooting of a 19-year-old man.

Itibo patrol base was looted and set on fire on Tuesday, officers said.

Police houses were also vandalised and looted, but the firearms at the armoury remained safe.

A group of students had laid siege to the local MCA offices over unknown reasons.

An anti-riot team was mobilised to quell the group, which had been joined by locals.

According to police, it was then that a man was shot in the stomach. Angered, the mob marched to the police base and set it on fire.

They vandalised police houses. More officers were mobilised to help manage the scene.

Subcounty police commander Elizabeth Wakuloba who visited the scene, said investigations have been launched.

The injured man was admitted at a local hospital in critical condition.



Itibo patrol base in Nyamira that was razed by a mob /CYRUS OMBATI

## STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

## Regulator gathers public views to reform and tackle briefcase NGOs



Public Benefits Organisations Regulatory Authority chairman Mwamba Mabonga and CEO Laxamana Kiptoo in Eldoret /MATHEWS NDANYI

MATHEWS NDANYI

THE Public Benefits Organisations Regulatory Authority has embarked on the collection of views that will lead to the operationalisation of the PBOs Act of 2013.

CEO of the authority, Laxamana Kiptoo, said they are mandated to handle registration and regulation of the NGOs sector and will go round the counties to collect the views until July 25.

"The act goes a long way to streamline the PBOs sector and make it better in terms of serving Kenyans in a more transparent and accountable manner," Kiptoo said.

Public participation exercises to collect the views on the regulations required for the operationalisation of the PBO Act of 2013 have already been carried out, he said.

Kiptoo spoke in Eldoret during

a public participation exercise for counties in the North Rift. So far, members of the public have given views seeking to get quick services, like on the registration of the PBOs. The Act requires registration of PBOs within 60 days and not 90 days as was previously the case.

It also streamlines filing of returns with KRA for the PBOs, which will now be within six months after the end of the financial year, unlike three months stipulated before.

"The members of the public also want accountability from the NGOs because they receive money from donors but the same does not reflect in what they do," he said.

The regulations will also provide proper mechanisms to control tax amnesty for NGOs carrying out humanitarian work.

He also noted that some PBOs operate without the knowledge of the counties.

"Some of the PBO sign MoUs with counties to get funds and disappear after receiving the donor support yet the entry point must be the same counties to avoid duplication of projects or activities."

## NPR FOUND ALIVE

## Police shoot, kill banditry suspects in Baringo village

CYRUS OMBATI

Two suspected bandits were shot and killed in a clash with police in a village in Loruk, Baringo county.

Police said the incident happened after a failed robbery of livestock.

A member of the National Police Reserve who was missing after the drama was on July 7 found alive. He had been hiding in a thicker after engaging the gunmen in a fierce shootout, police said.

Police said the bodies were taken to Baringo County mortuary awaiting identification and post-mortem.

The other gang members managed to escape without stealing anything from the village amid tension. There are fears of more attacks and retaliations.

The area has experienced a lull of banditry attacks following sustained operations targeting the gangs behind the trend.



## NEWS COUNTIES

## HUGE LOSSES

# Garissa farmers launch plan to stop Tana floods

*They have identified four breaking points of the river they will block to protect farms*

STEPHEN ASTARIKO  
@astarikostephen

FARMERS and development partners in Garissa have launched an initiative to prevent floods from River Tana destroying their crops.

The initiative is spearheaded by Garissa farmers with support from several partners among them Garissa Township MP Dekow Mohamed, the World Food Programme, Kenya Red Cross, Public Works, the county government and the Kenya Forest Research Institute.

Speaking to the press at Bakuyu, one of the areas that is most affected by the perennial floods, Garissa Township MP Dekow Mohamed disclosed that the farmers already identified four major breaking points of the river that once attended to will serve as a major breakthrough in mitigating the floods.

Dekow said trees will be planted along the river and engineers will help with the design.

“We want to see how we can help the communities downstream and those in the villages, so that we try and mitigate these floods and protect the river from eroding and flowing towards Garissa town.”

Dekow regretted that for many years farmers have been incurring huge losses amounting to millions of shillings, with no permanent solution to the perennial problem.

He described the initiative as a game changer.

Over 10,000 residents of Balam-bala, Garissa and Fafi subcounties along River Tana have for years incurred losses following spillage from KenGen’s dams.

Crops, some of which are ready



Farmers from Bakuyu inspect one of the breaking points along River Tana /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

for harvest, are always destroyed and water pumps and pipes to farms are swept away.

It becomes difficult to access the farms to harvest the little left behind due to poor roads.

The MP reiterated that the initiative was not a government project but one which will be spearheaded by Garissa farmers and partners working in the county.

Edger Kandiu, an engineer from the WFP, said restoring the river and

preventing river bank erosion was part of their ecosystem restoration programme.

“We really want to work with the other partners and the MP to see how best we prevent flooding that has been affecting farmers downstream.”

Mohamed Baboya, a farmer from Bakutu, welcomed the initiative, saying it will go along way in solving the perennial flooding problem that affects their farms.

“See, we have abundant arable land and free water. Using a solar-powered pump can help us water our farms at no cost, after we shifted from the costly diesel-powered water pumps. We can feed the entire nation with low-cost farm produce, but we are frequently facing a single threat of the river floods,” the farmer said.

“We are unable to plant crops due to fear of the floods that continue to wreak havoc every rainy season. During the April-May rains last year, we lost several acres of water melons, resulting losses of Sh3 million.”

In a separate interview, Garissa county National Drought Management Authority coordinator Abdinoor Dubow acknowledged the stressful life the local farmers were undergoing as result of the recurring floods.

“The road we have developed is now destroyed, farmers cannot access or transport products. We need to find a lasting solution to mitigate floods,” he said.

## (+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Garissa county National Drought Management Authority coordinator Abdinoor Dubow acknowledged the stressful life local farmers lead as result of recurring flooding. “The road we developed is now destroyed; farmers cannot access or transport products. We need to find a lasting solution to mitigate floods,” he said. Subcounties along River Tana have for years incurred huge losses as a result of flooding.

## FAMILY FEUD

## Chief, cousin shot dead in dawn attack at Wajir home

CYRUS OMBATI

A chief and his cousin were shot and killed at close range in an attack at their home in a village in Wajir county.

Police believe the Tuesday morning killing is linked to a family dispute.

Gunmen struck Qarsa location in Wajir East and killed the chief in the dawn attack.

The chief was killed alongside a civilian believed to be his cousin. Authorities have launched investigations into what they termed as a heinous act. Police identified the deceased administrator as senior chief Adow Ali.

Residents said the attackers ordered him out and when he refused they hurled a grenade into the house, dragged him out and shot him three times.

They then proceeded to the home of Noor Gathuf, his cousin, and killed him as well.

The chief was known for his efforts in maintaining peace and fostering development in Qarsa. Local authorities cordoned off the area where the killing occurred and embarked on conducting a thorough investigation.

## NEEDY LEARNERS

## We fought hard to save county bursaries, says CoG chairman

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

THE Council of Governors fought hard to protect and defend the counties’ role in promoting education and supporting needy children, Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdullahi has said.

Unlike in previous years, this year’s bursary disbursement faced unprecedented challenges.

The delay was caused by a legal and administrative disagreement between the Office of the Controller of Budget and the CoG, disrupting the learning of thousands of students across the country who solely relied on the bursaries.

The Controller of Budget initially maintained that bursary provision is solely a function of the national government.

Speaking in Wajir town during the launch of this year’s Sh130 million county bursary on Wednesday, Abdullahi said their efforts finally bore fruit. “This position led to prolonged consultations and what I would describe as a very tough but necessary engagement between the CoG and the CoB.”

## AUGUST LAUNCH

## Politicians ruining my flagship project – Malombe



Kitui Governor Julius Malombe is received by county assembly speaker Kevin Katisya upon arrival to deliver the state of the county address on Tuesday /MUSEMBI NZENGU

MUSEMBI NZENGU

KITUI Governor Julius Malombe on Tuesday expressed concern that political detractors and development saboteurs were undermining his flagship Kangu-Kangu water project in Kitui South subcounty.

He said the progress of the Sh839.7 million project his administration is implementing in partnership with World Vision is slow due to the ominous work of saboteurs.

He announced that the launch of the stalled but now revived multimillion-shilling project that will serve over 100,000 residents was shifted from June 20 to August 22.

“Regrettably, the implementation of this critical project has been hindered by incidents of vandalism in certain sections,” the governor said.

Malombe spoke in the Kitui county assembly chambers when he delivered the state of the county annual address. He was hosted by speaker Kevin Katisya.

The county chief said the sabotage was perpetrated by individuals acting at the behest of political detractors and development saboteurs wishing to deny beneficiaries access to piped water. “I therefore call upon members of the public, local administrators, and the security agencies to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activities or individuals to the relevant authorities for swift lawful action.”

Malombe said since he assumed office on August 25, 2022, his administration had made substantive and transformative strides in advancing the development agenda of Kitui county.



## NEWS COUNTIES



Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi at Ebwiranyi Israeli Church in Luanda subcounty on Friday /HILTON OTENYO

'NO LONGER TENABLE'

# Vihiga VTCs shut down over 'neglect'

*Managers say capitation per trainee should be reviewed*

HILTON OTENYO  
@HiltonOtenyo

VOCATIONAL Training Centres managers in Vihiga have closed down all the centres over alleged neglect by the county government.

In a letter to Governor Wilber Otichilo dated July 4, they said managing the institutions is no longer tenable.

They cited unrealistic budget cuts, lack of training tools, equipment and instructional materials and under-capitation of the trainees as reasons for the closure of all the 34 VTCs in the county.

The managers want the county government to restore the allocation for vocational training to the Sh138 million as it was in 2021-22 as opposed to the Sh20 million allocated to the department in the current budget.

They also want the county government to immediately release Sh61 million arrears for vocational training institutions for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years.

They said the Sh15,000 annual capitation per trainee, set during former President Mwai Kibaki's tenure should be reviewed upwards taking into account the dynamics of the economy, inflation and high cost of living.

"The county has allocated vocational training Sh20 million in its 2025-26 budget. This implies only 1,333 trainees can benefit from the capitation in the 34 VTCs in accordance to the capitation policy," the letter reads.

"For the above prevailing circumstances, managers in consultation with BoG chairpersons, have unanimously decided to indefinitely close the institutions pending effective resolution of the existing crises."

Reached for comment, county director of communications Frank Matika said the county government has been and continues to fund VTCs fully.

He said the government has not cut

budgetary allocations as claimed by the managers. Matika said the county allocated Sh60 million for vocational training and supplemented with another Sh55 million in 2022-23.

He said the county allocated Sh30 million for the department in 2023-24 and another Sh100 million through supplementary budget, bringing the total allocation to Sh130 million.

"We allocated Sh20 million this current financial year because of the pressure to employ medics and convert ECDE teachers to permanent and pensionable terms. However, the deficit will be addressed through the first supplementary budget," Matika said.

"It's not true that we're not funding CTCs. The only challenge has been delayed disbursements by the exchequer, which is beyond our control."

He said the issue of pending bills should not arise as the county only owes the VTCs Sh5 million for the last financial year.

"The question should be where the money we allocate goes to. We have continued to fund the institutions and even gone further to specialise and acquire the requisite tools and equipment," he said.

Senator Godfrey Osotsi urged the county government to urgently address the worsening state of Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions in the county.

He said it was unfortunate that VTCs managers closed the institutions last week over alleged neglect.

"The closure of Vihiga TVET colleges denies the youths a lifeline to skills, employment and dignity. The youths are our children and must be respected by granting them their rights," Osotsi said.

The senator said investments in youth training are essential for their long-term social and economic development. Osotsi said he, together with other senators, they have pushed for increased allocation to counties and urged the county government to spend the funds on the education, health and water sectors.

STARTING JULY 14

## Agency orders 3-month closure of sugar mills over cane shortage

FAITH MATETE

SUGAR milling in the Lower and Upper Western sugar belt has been suspended for three months beginning July 14, the Kenya Sugar Board has announced.

KSB acting chief executive officer Jude Chesire in the communication dated July 8, cited "acute shortage of mature sugar cane" as the reason for the temporary closure.

The communication was addressed to the managing directors and general managers of West Kenya Sugar Company, Nzoia Sugar, Mumias Sugar (2021) Ltd, Butali Sugar and Busia Sugar Industries.

The move follows a series of stakeholder meetings, the most recent held at Sarova Imperial Hotel in Kisumu on July 8, where industry players acknowledged that immature cane was increasingly being harvested, resulting in poor yields and financial losses to farmers.

"This shortage has led to the harvesting and milling of immature cane, which in turn has caused low sug-

ar yields and economic distress to sugar cane farmers," Chesire said in the notice. To reverse this, he said it was resolved that a temporary halt of milling operations is necessary to allow the cane to mature.

During the three-month shutdown period, the Kenya Sugar Board will conduct a cane availability survey within two months to assess and align factory milling capacities with actual cane supply in each region.

The survey will guide decisions regarding the resumption of milling operations.

"All millers should aggressively embark on cane development to ensure a sustainable supply of raw material going forward," Chesire said.

The decision is expected to significantly impact farmers, factory workers and the local economies that depend on sugar milling.

However, stakeholders argue the long-term benefits of waiting for cane maturity outweigh the short-term disruptions, especially given the current low returns to farmers from immature cane.

THE KENYA SUGAR BOARD WILL CONDUCT A CANE AVAILABILITY SURVEY TO ASSESS AND ALIGN FACTORY MILLING CAPACITIES WITH ACTUAL CANE SUPPLY IN EACH REGION

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**M**  
MURRAY & MURRAY  
AUCTIONEERS

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Duly instructed by the Chief Magistrate's Court at Kakamega, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned Motor Vehicles on **Thursday 17th July, 2025 at SHEWEY STORAGE YARD BEHIND NATIONAL CEREALS BOARD KAKAMEGA at MARABA STARTING FROM 10:00AM**

CMCC MISC. CIVIL APP. NO. E135 OF 2025 - JOHNSTONE SAMUEL IMBUYE T/A SHEWEY STORAGE YARD -VS- COOPERATIVE BANK (K) LIMITED & 2 OTHERS

M/VEHICLE REG.NO.	MODEL
KCV 781D	ISUZU NKR LORRY
KCQ 607A	TOYOTA HIACE MATATU

**CONDITION OF SALE**  
1. All interested buyers are advised to visit and verify the details of the Motor vehicles for themselves as these are not warranted by the principal or the auctioneer  
2. The highest bidder shall be declared the purchaser  
3. Cash at the fall of the hammer

*Welcome All!*

**SURE AUCTIONEERS**  
Auctioneers, Court Brokers, Repossessors, Servers, Estate and Commission Agents  
NSSP Building, South Wing, 4th Floor, Door 418, Nkrumah Road  
P.O. Box 16846 - 80100, Tel: 041-2494910 Cell: 0726-633171  
MOMBASA, E-mail: bernardgichuki@yahoo.com

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Under instructions received from Our Principals/ financiers we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicles by Public Auction on **18th July, 2025 starting from 10:30AM.**

**AT THEIR YARD HAILE SELASIE- MOMBASA:**  
**1. NOBEL TRADING LTD**

NO.	M/V REG. NO	MAKE
1.	KDN380S	TEANA
2.	KDM795C	VANETTE

**2. CHILE KENYA MOTORS NEXT TO MOI UNIVERSITY GANJONI**

NO.	M/V REG. NO	MAKE
1	KDQ662C	WAGON R
2	KDQ996H	SHUTTLE
3	KDM454S	LATIO
4	KDK638C	ALTO

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**  
1. Strictly cash or bankers cheque at the fall of the hammer.

**CHARLTON AUCTIONEERS**  
Tel: 0723276390/0775170680  
SUMMIT PLAZA, 4TH FLOOR, ROOM 404,  
UNIVERSITY WAY,  
P.O. Box 22091-00100,  
Nairobi Kenya

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Under instructions received from our principals the financiers, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned motor vehicles on **THURSDAY 17th JULY 2025 at 10.30 AM AT RIVERLONG.**

REG NO.	MAKE	YOM	CC	RATING	YARD
KCC 217Y	ISUZU	NHR55E	2014	2771CC	RIVERLONG
KCG 505B	MERCEDES BENZ	E300	2009	2990CC	RIVERLONG
KCE 111S	MITSUBISHI	SHOGUN	2014	2972CC	RIVERLONG

**TERMS OF SALE**  
1. Cash at the fall of the hammer.  
2. The sale is subject to a reserve price.  
3. Vehicles are sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".  
Offers should be submitted on <https://autobid.riverlong.com> not later than Thursday, 17th July 2025. For any assistant, please contact 0701689319 or 0701856557 alternatively send an email to [autobid@riverlong.com](mailto:autobid@riverlong.com)

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

Email: [info@charltonauctioneers.com](mailto:info@charltonauctioneers.com)

**Mugema Auctioneers**  
Tel: 0722377411 / 0202377411  
P.O. Box 40679 - 00200, NAIROBI

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Under Instruction received from our principals the chargee, in exercise of statutory power of sale, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned property together with all the improvements erected thereon:

On **Monday 21st July 2025, at 11.00 a.m, in our office, Mombasa, Wakiande house, Meru Road, 4th floor, Door No.1, Mombasa County.**

All that prime property known as **L.R.No. 12192/31(C.R. 15015)**, registered in the name **KENNETH MWABILI ZENGE**, it measures **0.0543Ha or 0.01342** acre-approximately-leasehold Interest for a term of 99 years, with effect from 01/11/1975. The property is situated within Wundanyi town and lies approximately 60 meters south west of Lavender Hotel, Wundanyi. The plot is currently being re-developed with a five storey stepped block. Electricity and water are connected to the property.

**TERMS OF SALE**  
1. All interested buyers are requested to view the property and verify all the details for themselves as these are not warranted by instructing principal or the Auctioneer.  
2. Viewing to be done during official working hours with prior arrangements  
3. A deposit of 25% must be paid in **CASH or BANKERS CHEQUE** by the highest bidder at the fall of the hammer. The balance to be paid within **NINETY (90) DAYS** to the chargee. **PLEASE NOTE THAT, failure to pay the balance by the confirmed purchaser within the stated time, will result in forfeiture of all the deposits paid.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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Repossession | Private Investigators | Commission Agents  
Philadelphia House, Tom Mboya Street, 3rd Floor, Wing B  
Tel: 0723 040 467/0733 388 795  
P.O. Box 22091-00100 NAIROBI  
[mbekiauc@yahoo.com](mailto:mbekiauc@yahoo.com)

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Under instructions received from our principals. We shall sell the under-mentioned goods by public auction on **FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2025, starting at 10.00am at PANGANI AUCTION CENTRE OPPOSITE GURU NANAK HOSPITAL NAIROBI.**

**DISTRESS FOR RENT.**  
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**CONDITIONS OF SALE**  
Cash at the fall of the hammer.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**MORAN AUCTIONEERS**  
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PROCESS SERVERS & DEBT COLLECTION  
Ktda Plaza, 4th Floor, Moi Avenue • P.O.Box 799-00100, Nairobi • Tel: 0722569022 • Email: [moranauc@yahoo.com](mailto:moranauc@yahoo.com)

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Under the Instructions received from our Principals, we shall sell the under mentioned goods by Public Auction to be held on: **Friday 11th July, 2025. IN-SITU at (Kingero Junction, Wangige, Kiambu) starting 10.00am.**

**SCCOMM NO. E971 OF 2024**  
**PLAINTIFF VS. SAMUEL NJORGE NJUGUNA.**

M/V REG NO.	MAKE?MODEL	SALE/VENUE
KBZ 312 S	EICHER	IN-SITU at (Kingero Junction, Wangige, Kiambu)

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**  
Cash at the fall of the hammer.

**KENYA SHIELD AUCTIONEERS**  
"..... Everything must go!"

Head Office: Off Mombasa Road, Nairobi South B Area.  
Towards Railways Training Institute, Next to St. Veronica Church, Aoko Road.  
P.O BOX 40679 - 00200, NAIROBI  
P.O BOX 82711 - 80100 (MOMBASA BRANCH)  
Tel: 0722377411 / 0202377411/  
0790848620/0725890427  
Email: [kenyashield77@yahoo.com](mailto:kenyashield77@yahoo.com)

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Under instructions received from our Principals the CHARGE in exercise of their Statutory Powers of sale conferred upon them, we shall sell by Public Auction the following property together with all the improvements erected thereon.

**A PRIME PROPERTY IN GENERAL MATHENGE ROAD WESTLANDS - NAIROBI COUNTY- TO BE SOLD ON 21ST JULY 2025 - 10:30 am AT OUR OFFICES, KENYA SHIELD AUCTIONEERS - NAIROBI SOUTH B AREA OFF MOMBASA ROAD, TOWARDS RAILWAY TRAINING INSTITUTE NEXT TO ST VERONICA CHURCH ON AOKO ROAD.**

All that piece or parcel of land known as **L.R. NO. 5934/2 (IR. NO.72467), REGISTERED IN THE NAMES OF NINA JAYESH SHANGHAVI & JAYESH UMEDLAL SHANGHAVI -GUARANTORS TO -THE GOOD EARTH (GROUP) LIMITED** measuring approximately 0.3284 Hectares or 0.8115 of an Acre or thereabouts, situated off General Mathenge Road, Westlands, approximately 190 meters due North of General Mathenge Road, and 300 meters North of Lower Kabete Road. Approximately 2.5Km from Westlands Shopping Centre and 5.5 Km due North West of the city Centre of Nairobi. The Title is held on **LEASEHOLD** interest for a term of 99 years with effect from 1st July 1988 at an annual revisable Ground Rent of Kshs 9,260/-. General geographic co-ordinates are **1°14'56.3"S, 36°47'24.8"E.**

**CONDITIONS OF SALE**  
1. All interested purchasers are required to view the property and verify the details themselves as these are not warranted by the Auctioneers and or the chargees.  
2. A deposit of 25% must be paid in **CASH** or by **BANKERS CHEQUE** at the fall of the hammer to **KENYA SHIELD AUCTIONEERS LTD** and the balance to be paid **WITHIN 90 DAYS** from the date of the auction to the chargees.  
3. **Sale is Subject to a Reasonable Reserve Price.**  
4. Interested bidders are required to pay a refundable deposit of **KSHS 25,000,000/=** in Banker's cheque to **KENYA SHIELD AUCTIONEERS LTD** to obtain a bidding Number.  
5. For more details, please contact us: **PHONE No. 0722 377 411**  
NB: Please note the rectification of Auction date- 21st July 2025 and not 27th July 2025

## BUSINESS

**CONSULTANT** Are you in need of consultancy services? We assist students in preparation of term papers, proposal writing, CVs etc. For more details call 0783007229/0721654622 or email: [escatmi2020@gmail.com](mailto:escatmi2020@gmail.com)

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**FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (R.3(3)XI)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)**  
**CHANGE OF USER**

The registered owner(s) of Land Reference No(s), **Kajiado/Kap-North/24997**, situated in **Kitengela Township off Old Namanga road** proposes to **change** its user from **Agricultural to Multi dwelling Residential use (flat)**, subject to the approval by the **County Government of Kajiado**.

Any individual, institution(s) or organization(s) wishing to make any representation or objection to the above proposal is requested to forward the same in writing stating grounds of objections within **14 days** of the publication of this notice to:

**County Executive Committee Member**  
**In charge of:**  
**Land, Physical Planning & Urban Development**  
**County Government of Kajiado**  
**P.O. Box 11 Kajiado**

**Name of Registered Planner:**  
**Kennedy Kaburu Reg.No 0353**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)**  
**NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED EXTENSION OF LEASE**

The registered owners of **Plot LR. Number 209/6829** situated along Jogoo Rd, Makongeni proposes to **Extend its Lease**, subject to approval of the **Nairobi City County**.

Individual(s), institution(s), members of the public etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within **14 days** of publication of this notice to:

**The CECM**  
**Built Environment and Urban Planning**  
**Nairobi City County**  
**P.O. Box 30075-00100 Nairobi**

**Registered Physical Planner: Gitonga Kelvin Ritho, Reg. No 0270**

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA AT ELDORET**  
**INSOLVENCY CAUSE NO. E005 OF 2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF SARAH WANJIRU KARISHO**

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF INSOLVENCY ACT CAP 53 LAWS OF KENYA**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR BANKRUPTCY (PURSUANT TO SECTION 32 (1) AND (4) OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT (CAP. 53))**

**TAKE NOTICE** that **SARAH WANJIRU KARISHO** of P.O BOX 2417-30100 ELDORET residing in Eldoret Municipality within Uasin Gishu County of the Republic of Kenya has on the **17TH** day of **JUNE, 2025** filed an application in the High Court of Kenya at Eldoret for an order adjudging her bankrupt on the grounds that she is unable to pay her debts as and when they fall due vide **ELDORET HCCOMMIC/E005/2025 SARAH WANJIRU KARISHO =VS= MOIBEN CONNECTIONS LIMITED**. A copy of the Application may be obtained from the Eldoret High Court Registry P.O Box 141-30100 ELDORET.

**DATED** at ELDORET this **9TH** day of **JULY, 2025.**

**M/S. MUYALA LAW ASSOCIATES**  
**ADVOCATES FOR THE APPLICANT**  
**P.O BOX 1311-50200 BUNGOMA**

work. Call, whatsapp 0740035425

**LANGUAGE CONNECTIONS CENTRE.** Speak. Write. Refresh. Call 0733128976 / 0725724219 /0721287034

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)**  
**NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE**

The registered owner of **Plot Number MS/1/504** located along Likoni- Ukunda Road in Likoni Ferry wishes to change its use from **Commercial Use to Light Industrial (Petrol station) Use** subject to the approval of the County Government of Mombasa. Individuals, organizations, institutions etc. with comments, recommendations or objections are hereby requested to forward them in writing within **14 days** of this notice to;

**THE CECM; LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING**  
**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MOMBASA**  
**P.O BOX 81599-80100 MOMBASA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)**  
**NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USER**

The registered owner of **Plot Number Nairobi Block 93/1503** situated along Plainsview Road, South B area, proposes to change its use from **Residential to Commercial cum Residential (Shops and Apartments)**, subject to approval of the Nairobi City County Government. Individual(s), institution(s), etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within **14 days** of publication of this notice to:

**The CECM**  
**Built Environment and Urban Planning**  
**Nairobi City County**  
**P.O. Box 30075-00100 Nairobi**

**Registered Physical Planner: Gitonga Kelvin Ritho, Reg. No 0270**



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ges in kisumu details 0716462733  
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mama Recho Cherono Sang



OBITUARY

With humble acceptance of God's will, we announce the promotion to glory of our beloved matriarch, **Mama Recho Cherono Sang**, which occurred on **Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2025** following a short illness bravely borne.

Mama Recho was born in **Kapsogut, Bureti Sub-county, Kericho County**, to the late **Mr. and Mrs. Elijah and Zipporah Maiuwa**.

She was the devoted wife of the late **Mathew Sang**, and a loving mother to: the late **Wilfred Korir (Step Son)**, the late **Florence Sang**, **Bishop Josephine Lang'at**, **Evelyne Sang**, the late **Benard Korir**, **Ken Korir**, the late **Doris Sang**, **Eric Korir**, **Ricky Korir**, and **Vincent Korir**.

A treasured mother-in-law to **Evaline**, **Bishop John**, **Celestine**, **Caroline**, **Anne**, **Diana**, and **Dr. Milka**.

She was a cherished grandmother to: **Zablon and Phidelis**, **Khadija**, **Joy**, the late **Noel**, **Eng. Ean** and **Jacklyn**, **Chris**, **Jackline**, **Ivy** and **Dan**, **Melvin**, **Joy**, **Audrey**, **Florence** and **Sampao**, **Emmanuel**, **Rose**, **Cynthia**, **Martin**, **Natasha**, **Samara**, **Nicole**, **Natalie**, **Cedric**, **Barbara**, and **Mathew**.

Mama Recho was also blessed with **16 great-grandchildren**.

A devoted servant of God who faithfully served in the AIC Church, she stood as a distinguished matriarch, a tireless worker, and a steadfast pillar of faith, wisdom, and strength to her family and community.

Funeral Arrangements

• Fund Drive

Wednesday, 9th July 2025 at AIC Milimani, State House Avenue, Nairobi – starting at **5:30 p.m.**

• Memorial Service:

Thursday, 10th July 2025 at **AIC Milimani**, State House Avenue, Nairobi – starting at **11:00 a.m.**

• Funeral Service & Burial:

Saturday, 12th July 2025 at **Kaminjeiwet Village**, Chemosot Ward, Bureti Sub-county.  
Service begins at **9:30 a.m.**, followed by burial at her home.

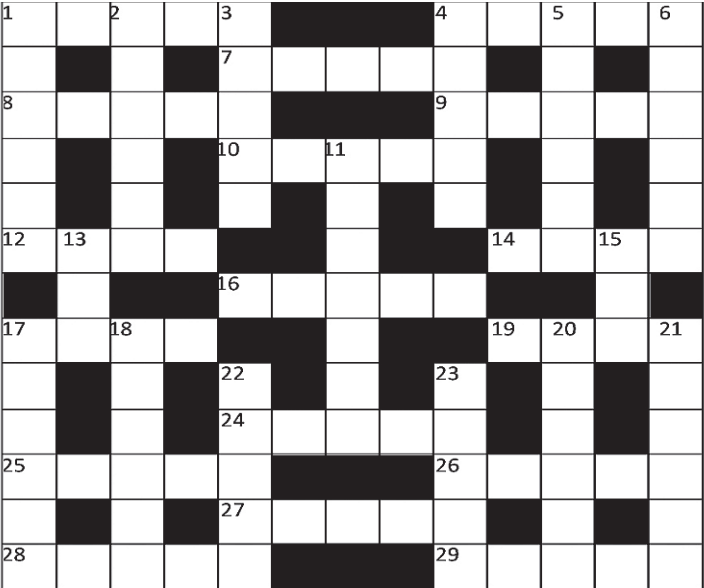
Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things;  
I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness.

-Matthew 25:21-



# COFFEE BREAK

## CROSSWORD / PUZZLE



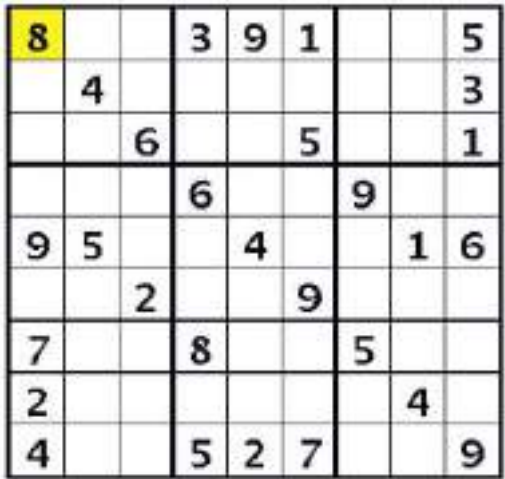
DOWN

- 1. Which of the asteroids the fourth largest in size (6)
- 2. Advice used for generating electric current from mechanical force (6)
- 3. Oxidizing\_\_\_\_\_ is any substance that can bring about the process of oxidation (5)
- 4. A film about Theo, a garden snail obsessed about car racing and being fast. (5)
- 5. Former Governor for Tana River County (6)
- 6. Governor for Kisumu County (6)
- 11. What is the largest planet in the solar system (7)
- 13. Principal Secretary for Labour (3)
- 15. Hawaiian acacia (3)
- 17. Constituency in Nyeri County (6)
- 18. What name did NASA use for their manned lunar project (6)
- 20. Uproar (6)
- 21. Tasmanian capital (6)
- 22. Perhaps (5)
- 23. Principal Secretary for State Department for Regional and Northern Corridor Development (5)

ACROSS

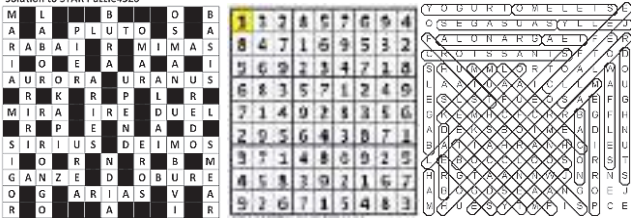
- 1. Which is the largest of the constellations (5)
- 4. The appropriate name of the largest moon of Saturn (5) 7 Chief Administrative secretary state Law Office (5)
- 8. Constituency in Kilifi County (5)
- 9. Constituency in Migori County (5)
- 10. Cabinet secretary for Tourism and Wildlife (5)
- 12. The smallest particle of an element that is capable of taking part in a chemical reaction (4)
- 14. Senator for Busia County
- 16. Give another name for the constellation the ram (5)
- 17. Former senator for the Mombasa county (4)
- 19. Sovereign (4)
- 24. Concur (5)
- 25. It is a uniform mixture of other metal with a metals or non-metals (5)
- 26. What is the Latin name for the constellation the scales (5)
- 27. Constituency in Meru County (5)

## SUDOKU / SIMPLE



Fill the grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the sub-grids that compose the grid all contain all of the numbers from 1 to 9 one time.

Yesterday solutions



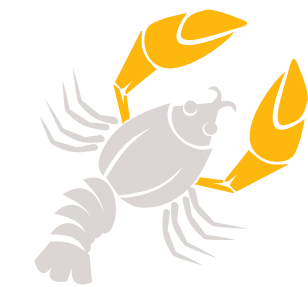
## WORD SEARCH

H A Y E S E E H C B A L E R  
E T U R K E Y S H O R S E L  
N B E S O W I N G S E E D I  
R U C C F E N C E O E W S V  
E T F H U W H S W N D E R E  
M T I E H D U G A O L L E S  
R E C E R O O V U B L L T T  
A R A N H T R R A O H P S O  
F T T B I E I T P A R H O C  
C D A R H A S L R P A T O K  
S R A T A L R V I R W G R L  
N E A I I C E G R Z O O K I  
E E E O R S T O M A E R C M  
W N S D T Y W O T S N R O C  
F R U T S A P S R W F F D S

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

- BALER
- BARN
- BUTTER
- CAT
- CHEESE
- CORN
- COW
- CREAM
- DAIRY
- DOG
- FARMER
- FENCE
- FERTILIZER
- GOATS
- GRAIN
- HARROW
- HARVEST
- HAY
- HEN
- HORSE
- HOUSE
- LIVESTOCK
- MILK
- PASTURE
- PIG
- PLOW
- PRODUCE
- ROOSTER
- SEEDS
- SOIL
- SOWING SEED
- STABLES
- TRACTOR
- TROUGH
- TURKEYS
- WEATHER-VANE
- WEEDS
- WELL
- WHEAT

## ALL IN THE STARS



### CANCER

June 22–July 22

Focus is hard to come by but realize that it is key to getting what you want out of the situation.

### LEO

July 23 – August 22

You could suddenly experience an overwhelming wave of affection for someone you've just met, Leo, perhaps a potential romantic partner.

### VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

Doubts and insecurities could sabotage the plans you were so ready for yesterday. Don't let this happen.

### LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

It seems that someone's belief system is clogging up the works in a negative way. Open the door for dialogue.

### SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

Do your best not to take any stinging comments seriously. Have a little faith and show a little compassion.

### SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

Your sensitivity and compassion may attract more than one unhappy person in need of sympathy and advice.

### CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

If there are genuine concerns, find a way to alleviate them rather than waste energy worrying.

### AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

Does your friend have some worries? That may be why they're out of touch. Worry will only make you feel worse.

### PISCES

February 20 – March 20

You may seek to express your spiritual side through artistic activity, but might not quite have a handle on how to do it.

### ARIES

March 21 – April 20

You'll be able to see if this current relationship is healthy for you or not. It is better to be honest with each other.

### TAURUS

April 21– May 21

Make it clear that you're still there for them. This might alleviate their doubts and yours.

### GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

There's probably nothing to be overly concerned about, but you need to hear this. Keep trying.

## Bee attack injures dozens in France, 3 in critical condition

BBC/ Several dozen people were injured – with three rushed to hospital in a critical condition – in an unusual bee attack in a French town, local authorities said.

Twenty-four passersby were hurt when hundreds of bees suddenly attacked people in the central-southern town of Aurillac on Sunday morning. The three in a critical condition are now stable. According to local media, one of them was a 78-year-old woman who was stung 25 times and had to be resuscitated after a cardiorespiratory arrest.

Police and firefighters fenced off the area and a bee-keeper was called in to smoke out the bees – a safe way to calm the insects.

A local woman called Andrée said she witnessed “very panicked people” trying to bat off the bees. “I could tell they were being attacked by something but I couldn't figure out what,” she told French media.

The mayor of Aurillac, Pierre Mathonier, was reported as saying that Asian hornets threatening a beehive may have been the catalyst for the attack.

But Christian Carrier, the president of the regional beekeepers' union, was sceptical. He told France Info that bees generally avoid leaving their colonies altogether in the presence of Asian hornets.

Instead, he said that the unusual incident may have been due to the bee colony becoming too large for its beehive and becoming “overactive” when the beekeeper handled it. “It may be that [the bees] didn't have enough space and that their colony had no intention of swarming. This can trigger strong aggression.”



## TELEVISION LINEUP – THURSDAY



5:00AM	MORNING DECREE	4:30PM	KIKI AND NUNA
5:30AM	TV47 FITNESS	5:00PM	BEATPLUG
6:00AM	MORNING CAFÉ	7:00PM	UPEO WA TV47
10:00AM	BEAT BREAK	7:30PM	MFAHAMU
11:00AM	TV47 MATUKIO	8:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
2:00PM	BAZE 47	8:30PM	NEW LIFE BEGINS
3:00PM	THE DEBATE CYCLE – RPT	9:00PM	THE GREEN FIX WITH SHIKSHA ARORA
4:00PM	TV47 NEWS NOW	11:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
4:15PM	BEAT KIDS	12:00AM	BEATPLUG MIX

ODDLY ENOUGH





## SPORTS

## SPORTS LOCAL

## SCHOOL GAMES

## Champs Upper Hill face tricky test against Moi Forces and Peter Kibukosya

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

Nairobi Secondary Schools Sevens champions Upper Hill face a tricky test when they meet Moi Forces Academy and Peter Kibukosya Secondary in the regional finals at Nairobi School tomorrow.

Upper School coach Eustace Sifuna believes his charges will step up after winning their two matches in the first round last weekend. They beat Utawala 26-0 and Garden Estate Secondary School 26-19.

"Last week was commendable. The boys navigated the pool well, but now the stakes get higher. Remember, only two teams qualify for the nationals, and therefore, we must be at our best to qualify. We hope to take one game at a time," said Sifuna.

Nairobi School are placed in Pool C, where they face Hospital Hill and Dagoretti mixed. Nairobi School coach Allan Wanjohi is bullish about their chances of qualifying for the final. "The boys are in

good shape, but we will have to step up our efforts and play with intensity after coming through the first," said Wanjohi.

Former champions Lenana headline Pool 'A' and have a date with Jamhuri and Utawala. They will be seeking to go one place better than last year, where they lost in the semi-finals to Upper Hill. Ofafa Jericho will lead the charge in Pool B, where they take on Aquinas and Kibera, while Pool E will feature Dagoretti High, Garden Estate and Kangemi.

The top five teams in each pool, with the three second-placed sides, will qualify for the quarterfinals, with the tournament expected to be played over two days, with the finals scheduled for Saturday.

The two finalists will then proceed to the Term Two ball games slated for Kakamega from July 28 to August 3. In the girls category, Karen will be the team to beat in Pool 'A' as they take on Nembu

and Kibera while Dagoretti Meixed, Kibera GSA, Mbagathi and Garden Estate will form Pool B.



Ofafa's Jeff Andigo is tackled by a Lenana player in a past tie/HANDOUT

## BASKETBALL

## KPA all out to maintain momentum

BY CHARLENE MALWA

Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) coach Sammy Kiki says his side will not take chances as they wrap up their regular season campaign against Strathmore Blades in the Kenya National Basketball Premier League this weekend.

KPA, currently second with 35 points from 19 matches, are keen to polish up their act ahead of the playoffs as they seek to fend off pressure from third-placed Ulinzi Warriors, who also have 35 points but an inferior point tally. "We're taking every game seriously and Strathmore are not a team to underestimate," Kiki said.

"Strathmore play with structure and pace, and their young players are very ambitious. We want to use this game to test our rotation depth and sharpen our execution heading into the playoffs."

Kiki's side head into the fixture buoyed by strong performances throughout the season, having only suffered three losses.

However, their focus remains on finishing the season strong, with table-toppers and defending champions Nairobi City Thunder already having secured a perfect 22-0 record.

Strathmore Blades, on the other hand, are clinging to slim hopes of a playoff berth and must pull off an upset against the Port giants to stay in contention. The students currently have 29 points from 21 games, with eight wins and 12 losses.

Despite mixed results over the weekend, beating NBK Phoenix 70-55 before falling 76-86 to fellow varsity outfit UoN Terror, Blades head coach Tony Ochieng believes they have shown growth in the face of adversity.

"With mixed results that have affected us, I am happy with the progression and how the players have conducted themselves," said Ochieng. "So far, so good, and I'm happy the players brought in some good energy to themselves."

Ochieng is banking on one final push to shock KPA and potentially sneak into the playoffs, depending on results elsewhere.

"We are fixing and rebuilding the team and working on our last game against KPA, with the hope of pulling a surprise victory on them as we wait to know our fate in the playoffs," he added. City Thunder, who finished with 44 points, remain unbeaten for the second season in a row.



Sammy Kiki with his charges/HANDOUT

## KENYANS PLOT BIG

Tokyo-bound Kurgat focuses on speed work in hunt for 10,000m glory



Edwin Kurgat (L) and Jacob Krop at the 2024 Paris Olympics /HANDOUT

BY TEDDY MULEI

After punching a maiden ticket to the Tokyo World Championships in the men's 10,000m, Edwin Kurgat has pointed out a need to sharpen up on his speed before the global showpiece in September.

Athletics Kenya held the men's 10,000m and women's 5,000m World Championship trials last weekend at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon. Kurgat placed fourth, clocking 26:46.35 to become the first Kenyan to cross the finish line in the 10,000m, securing his spot for Tokyo. Ishamel Rokito (26:47.72) and Benson Kiplangat (26:50.00) rounded out Kenya's top three.

Meanwhile, Ethiopians dominated the podium places, led by Biniam Mehari, who set a world-leading time of 26:43.82, with Berihu Aregawi (26:43.84) and Selemon Barega (26:44.13)

in second and third place, respectively. Kurgat's mark in Hayward Field was well under the 27:00 entry standard for the Tokyo extravaganza.

After securing his spot in Kenya's team, the 29-year-old is laser-focused on sharpening his speed before the global show kicks off in September. "We have been doing a lot of strength work, and it's just been building up now. It's time for me to focus on my speed work," Kurgat said. In Tokyo, Kenya will be hoping that Kurgat and his teammates can end the country's 24-year drought in the event.

The last Kenyan to win World Championship gold over 10,000m was Charles Kamathi in Edmonton in 2001.

Historically, Kenya has only claimed three world titles in the 10,000m. Kamathi's 2001 gold was preceded by earlier triumphs from Moses Ta-

nui (Tokyo 1991) and the late Paul Kipkoech (Rome 1987). Uganda's world record holder, Joshua Cheptegei, has won the last three world titles in Doha (2019), Eugene (2022), and Budapest (2023).

Kenya has come close in Eugene and Budapest when Stanley Mburu and Daniel Simiu both claimed silver. Kurgat expressed his joy at featuring in his first World Championships. "I feel so good to have booked my place for the Tokyo World Championships."

His Pre-Classic display was a psychological lift after his heartbreak at last year's Olympic trials, where he also finished fourth at Hayward Field.

"After last year's disappointment of finishing fourth and missing my chance in the 10,000m for the Olympics, I knew this time round I had to be mentally tactical and know what I want," he noted.

During last year's Olympic trials, also held at the Pre Classic, Kurgat placed fourth, clocking 26:51.54. Daniel Mateiko (26:50.81), Nicholas Kipkorir (26:50.94) and Benard Koech (26:51.09) claimed Kenya's slots for the Olympics.

However, despite missing the 10,000m team, Kurgat secured his slot in Kenya's 5,000m team for Paris, where he placed seventh in the final in 13:17.18.

Reflecting on his race execution over the weekend, Kurgat said he made his decisive move with six laps to go. "I had to be patient at the start and try to know who is ahead and behind me and what I should do."





## RUGBY

## SIMBAS STAY CAUTIOUS

*Defensive alignment priority as Kenya 15s face Zims in Africa Cup semis*

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

Kenya Simbas are prioritising game management and defensive alignment ahead of the Africa Cup semi-final-cum-World Cup qualifier against Zimbabwe on Sunday in Kampala.

Simbas survived a second-half surge by Uganda to win 32-24 in an entertaining clash to book their spot.

Simbas' coach Jerome Paarwater said the two areas will have to be addressed in the two training sessions before the clash against the reigning holders.

"I was delighted with the victory and felt relieved. We won the match against a quality Uganda opponent, though with proper game management and defence,

we should have been able to see the game through in the final quarter," noted Paarwater.

The Simbas looked on course to score a huge win against their rivals with 15 minutes to go, leading 29-10, but the Ugandans struck back. It was a nervy, tense finish that saw flyhalf Barry Robinson slot home a drop goal to put the game beyond reach for the hosts.

The South African tactician said lapses in concentration and poor decision-making hurt them in the final quarter.

"We had built a good lead, which gave us a good buffer, but we did not play in the right areas and Uganda capitalised on that to make the game very interesting," he added. Paarwater expects a

tough clash against Zimbabwe, who booked their spot in the semis after a 43-8 demolition of Morocco in the first match of the day. "We have always had competitive battles against Zimbabwe for the last couple of years, and on Friday, we will do our video review of their strength and weaknesses and see areas which we can exploit," he said.

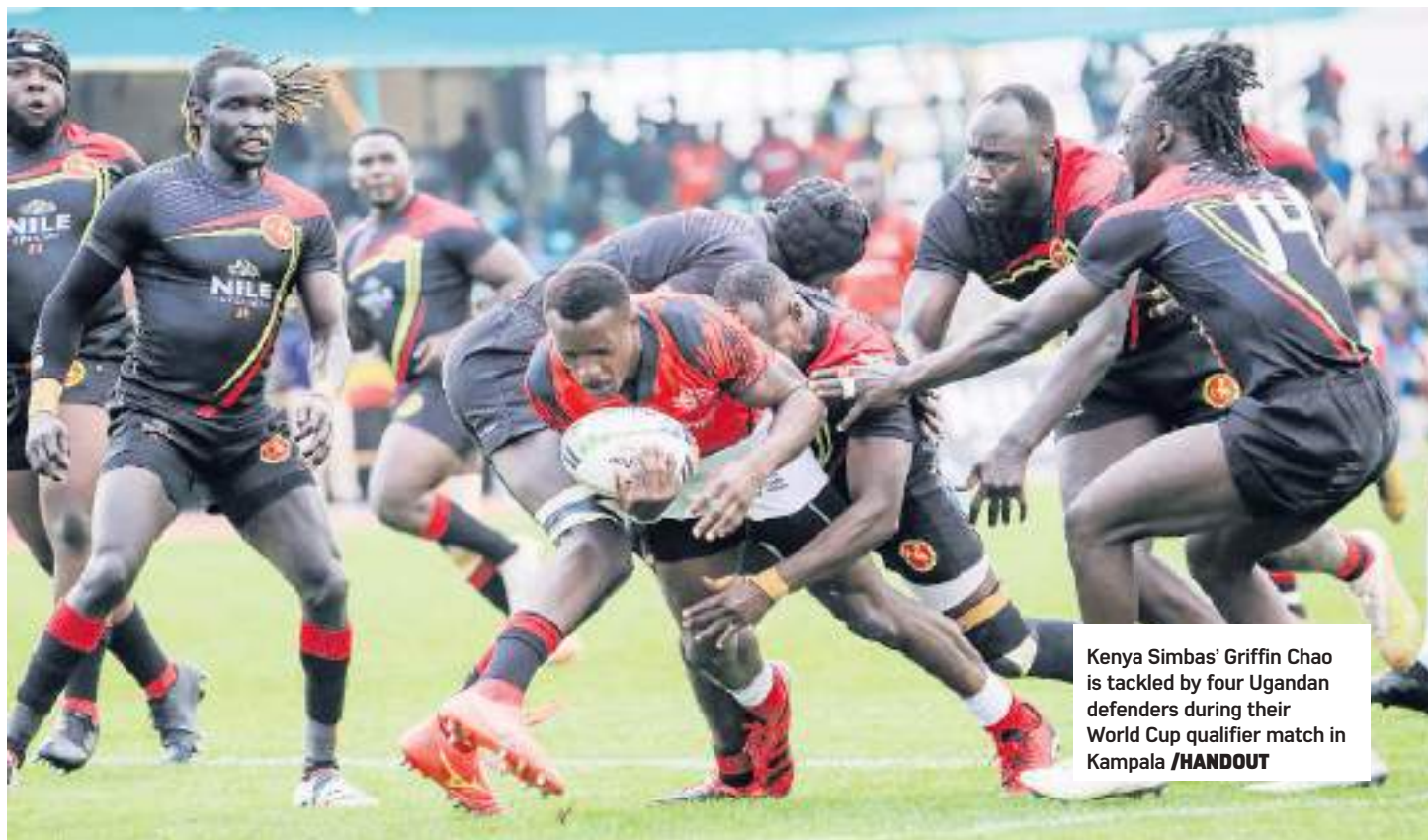
Skipper George Nyambua lauded the resilience of the side following the bruising contest. "The boys showed character, especially in the last ten minutes when we lost momentum, and credit to Barry for slotting the drop goal, which enabled us to get over the line," Nyambua said.

The side will adapt to the intermittent rain and cold conditions

being experienced in Uganda. "The weather is almost like Nairobi, and we have adapted well since we arrived a week ago. I believe it will continue into the weekend when we face Zimbabwe," said Nyambua.

Kabras star winger Griffin Chao scored a brace, with George Nyambua and Barry Young scoring a try each. Young converted one try and kicked two drop goals, as Jones Kubu converted one try. Uganda scored their tries through Aaron Ofoyrwoth, Philip Wokorach and captain Byron Oketayot. Wokorach added a penalty and two conversions.

In other results, Namibia thrashed Senegal 55-17 while Algeria trounced Cote d'Ivoire 41-6 to proceed to the final four.



Kenya Simbas' Griffin Chao is tackled by four Ugandan defenders during their World Cup qualifier match in Kampala /HANDOUT

## ★ SCHOOL GAMES



St Joseph's Ong'icha players celebrate at Gusii Stadium/ANGWENYI GICHANA

## Kisumu City ready to host Nyanza games

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

Nyanza secondary schools converge today in Kisumu City for the regional Term Two Games. Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association (KSSSA) Nyanza region chairman, Otieno Oloo, said it is all systems go for the three-day games.

"We have inspected all the facilities, and everything is in place. We have already vetted teams on the KSSSA portal, and now we are waiting for the physical vetting of the same," he said. "We expect some entertaining games here. Football will be staged at Moi Stadium and Jomo Kenyatta Stadium, and this will help us control crowds," he added.

He confirmed that Agai and Kisumu Boys will represent Kisumu County in boys' football after the disqualification of Kisumu Day, who have been banned for one year.

In boys' football, Friends School Anjengo will make their regional debut against St. Joseph's Ong'icha at Moi Stadium, while newly crowned Kisumu County champions Agai will be up against St. Mary's School, Yala at Jomo Kenyatta Stadium in Kisumu.

In other games, host Kisumu Boys will battle former champions Karabok School, as St. Francis Gekendo face off with St. Joseph's Rapogi. In girls' football, former champions Kobala open their campaign against Mobamba from Kisii as Nyakach clash with Jera. Debutants Raywer and Kudho will battle it out in the other game as Ikonge Girls play Saye.

## FOOTBALL

## Shabana beef up squad as they sign seven players ahead of season

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

FKF Premier League side, Shabana FC, expects to make seven new signings in the current transfer window ahead of the 2025/26 season.

Club secretary general, Elizaphan Kerama, confirmed that more than 10 players will be released following the expiry of their contracts. Speaking on Wednesday, Kerama said they will only reinforce areas where they identified weaknesses in the 2024/25 season.

"We were not 100 per cent last season. There are areas we need to reinforce ahead of next season. We need to conclude the transfer business before we start our pre-season in one week," said Kerama. He

spoke after the club announced their first signing, defensive midfielder Biron Otieno from Kariobangi Sharks.

Shabana beat giants Gor Mahia and newly promoted Nairobi United for his signature. Otieno signed a two-year contract with the Kisii-based side. He added that Shabana will challenge for the FKF Premier League title next season. "Last season, we achieved our target of finishing top five. Next season, with proper pre-season and signings, we can challenge for the title," said Kerama.

He said he was excited about the signing of Otieno, who is popularly known as N'Golo Kante. "Biron is a player I have been following for a long time. He fits our playing style

and will help us achieve our targets," he remarked. The SG added: "He has confirmed that he is coming to Shabana to win trophies. He is a player with a winning mentality."

Speaking after putting pen to paper, Otieno said: "I thank God for the chance to play for Shabana. I love the club and the way its loyal fans push the team. I promise to give my all and help the club win silverware next season."

He will be reunited with his former teammate Keith Imbali, who joined Tore Bobe in the midseason transfer window. He added, "I'm happy to be reunited with my former teammate Keith. He is like my brother. Playing with Justine Omwando in the Shabana midfield will be great."



Midfielder Biron Otieno with Shabana Secretary General Elizaphan Kerama.



SERIE A

WORLD CUP

McTominay is relishing opportunity to play with De Bruyne at Napoli

BBC SPORT

Scott McTominay is relishing the prospect of playing with “incredible” Kevin De Bruyne, as Napoli look to “kick on again” after winning Serie A. The Scotland international scored 13 goals and was named the league’s player of the season as Antonio Conte’s side were crowned champions. Belgium’s De Bruyne moves to Italy after a decade and six Premier League wins with Manchester City. “He’s an incredible player and someone who will bring so much quality to the group,

and for us to have him, it’s amazing,” McTominay told BBC Sport. “Bringing in players of that quality and that nature is very, very important, and we want to kick on again. “We don’t want to be content with what we’ve had.” McTominay believes the move abroad has strengthened his mentality. “The people in Naples are incredible, they’re so passionate and every-

where you go there are people who say ‘Forza Napoli’ and they want to speak to

you and have a conversation and that inspires you every time you go on the pitch because they care,” he said. “It’s different, a different way of life over there — the way you eat, the way you live and all that. It gives you more mental strength. “I’ve always lived very close to my mum, so I could go whenever I wanted. “Whereas now I live 1,500 miles away, so I can’t just go home and see my mum, my family, my sister and my kids, so it’s different, but in life

you sometimes have to take yourself out of your comfort zone, and I’ve always prided myself on that. “I would never want to be in my comfort zone, and if I can go away anywhere and establish myself and do well, why not? Who’s to stop me doing that?” Back at McTominay’s former club, Manchester United, another rebuild is ongoing as they aim to improve on last season’s 15th-placed finish in the Premier League. “I always want the absolute best for United, it’s been my life for 22-23 years,” he added.



Scott Mactominay celebrates s in a past match/HANDOUT

World Cup could be most climate-damaging’ in the event’s history

BBC SPORT

Next year’s Fifa World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico is set to be “the most climate-damaging” in the tournament’s history, according to new research by environmentalists. Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) have calculated the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the tournament, which has been expanded from 32 to 48 teams.

“Driven by a high reliance on air travel and a significant increase in the quantity of matches”, the campaign group claims the expanded 2026 World Cup will generate more than nine million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. SGR says that it is almost double the average for the last four World Cup finals, and significantly more than Qatar 2022, which is estimated to have had a footprint of up to 5.25 million tonnes of CO2e.

It says the predicted 2026 total is “equivalent to nearly 6.5 million— average British cars being driven for an entire year— and will make it the most polluting tournament ever staged. The report was conducted in collaboration with the Environmental Defence Fund and the Sport for Climate Action Network.

Next year’s World Cup will be the first to be held across an entire continent and have 40 more matches (104) than before, although all will be played at existing stadia.

In their original bid book, the three prospective host nations for the 2026 tournament revealed a preliminary estimate of 3.6 million tonnes of CO2e, although at that stage it was expected to stage just 80 matches. They also said the bid “hopes the 2026 World Cup will establish new standards for environmental sustainability in sport and deliver measurable environmental benefits”.

FIFA has been approached for comment. The world governing body has previously committed to reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 and to reaching net-zero by 2040. It has been said that it has developed and implemented sustainability strategies that have allowed it “to be aware of its impact and take adequate action”.

JOAO’S FUTURE BRIGHT

Pedro gets head start over his new attacking colleagues ahead of Sunday final



João Pedro celebrates scoring for Fluminense in the Club World Cup semifinal /HANDOUT

BBC SPORT

With Chelsea set to receive £21.9m for reaching the final, where they will play either Real Madrid or Paris St-Germain, Joao Pedro’s goalscoring exploits on Tuesday mean he has already repaid over a third of his transfer fee.

“It was a dream,” he told DAZN afterwards. “I don’t think it could have gone any better. “I’m happy to have scored my first goals. The Club World Cup would be my first title as well. I only came here a week ago, and now I’m going to play the final.”

Have Chelsea finally found the answer to their centre-forward woes? Enzo Maresca’s side has wasted little time in bolstering their attacking options this summer, bringing in Jamie Gittens from Borussia Dortmund, Ipswich Town’s Liam Delap and Brazilian teenager Estevao Willian from Palmeiras, as well as Joao Pedro.

The former Brighton striker, who scored 30 goals in 70 games for the Seagulls after joining from Watford in 2023, has been signed to provide competition for the number nine and 10 positions.

And he staked his claim for a regular place in Maresca’s team with a superb full debut at New Jersey’s MetLife Stadium.

The Brazilian found the net with two of his three attempts, and with both his efforts on target. Only Christopher Nkunku registered as many shots, while no other Blues player had as many shots on target.

The forward also gave the Blues an attacking focal point, competing in nine duels and four aerial duels before being replaced by Nicolas Jackson on the hour mark.

Only Nkunku and Moises Caicedo— both of whom were on the pitch a lot longer —registered more duels overall, with only Marc Cucurella and Trevoh Chalobah taking part in as many aerial tussles.

“It’s not just the goals,” said ex-Real Madrid winger Gareth Bale on DAZN.

“It’s the link-up play, it’s the passing, it’s the vision. It was a great all-around performance.

“This is the next step up in his career. He’s on the right trajectory.

We can see the ability he’s got and hopefully he can keep kicking on.”

England forward Callum Wilson added: “He’s already a player with confidence, but he will have wanted to hit the ground running straight away, and that’s exactly what he has done. “What a signing he could turn out to be.”

Pedro registered 26 touches of the ball against Fluminense. Of all Chelsea forwards to have started at the Club World Cup, only Jackson has managed as many touches in a match.

Not all of the Brazilians’ touches took place inside the opposition half, however – far from it. He was involved all over the pitch in Tuesday’s semi-final, with seven of his touches coming inside his half.

“The good thing about Joao is that we knew already how good he was,” said Maresca after the game, also revealing he spoke to ex-Brighton manager Roberto de Zerbi before signing him.

“Today he played deep, but we know he can drop deep and link up the play. That’s why we decided to bring him in.”

By contrast, Delap only touched the ball twice inside his half after starting Chelsea’s final group game against Tunis, while only four of Jackson’s touches against Los Angeles FC took place in the Blues’ half of the pitch.

João Pedro also made more of an impact in wide areas, regularly popping up on both flanks to influence Chelsea’s build-up play.

The majority of Delap and Jackson’s touches, meanwhile, were in central areas in the final third of the pitch.

“Every team has a different style to play: Delap has a style, Jackson another, and I have my way,” Joao Pedro said before Tuesday’s game.

“I think whoever brings more good things to the team is going to play.”



FIFA President Gianni Infantino /FILE



## ATHLETICS

Tokyo-bound Kurgat focuses on speed in hunt for 10k glory

SEE PAGE 29



# starSPORT

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025

## Wahome, Balala and Wafula among top names eyeing Barry Cup

CHARLENE MALWA

Andrew Wahome, Adel Balala, William Odek, Mary Kandu and Naomi Wafula are among the over 65 elite amateur golfers set to take part in the 105th edition of the NCBA Coast Open Barry Cup.

The three-day event, one of Kenya's oldest tournaments and a key leg of the Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) Series, will tee off tomorrow through to Sunday at the Mombasa Golf Club. The event will offer a prize purse of Sh 400,000, with the overall winner pocketing Sh 86,800.

Focus will be on the third-placed

Elvis Muigua, who will be seeking to close in on Michael Karanga and potentially climb to second place in the standings, with current series leader John Lejirima missing in action. Lejirima is currently atop the KAGC standings with over 1,720 points, having already secured multiple titles this season, including the Ruiru Open, Windsor Classic and GoldFields Trophy. His dominant run across both stroke play and match play formats continues to cement his status as one of Kenya's top amateur golfers.

NCBA Group managing director, John Gachora, said the Coast Open is an important part of the KAGC Series and reaffirmed the bank's commit-

ment to supporting elite amateurs.

"This historic event is an important part of the KAGC Series. Our continued support for elite amateurs through this series demonstrates our commitment to the full cycle of golf development in Kenya," Gachora said.

Experienced referees Bernard Mwaura and Peter Macharia, appointed by the Kenya Golf Union, will officiate the tournament.



Kiambu's Joyce Wanjiru in a past action/HANDOUT

Meanwhile, the NCBA Golf Series will also make a stop at the Eldoret Golf Club on Saturday, where over 100 golfers are expected to take part in the Monthly Mug.

## ★ ATHLETICS

### Chepkwony, Ngeno keen to earn slots for Tokyo Worlds

BY KNA

Kericho's Laban Kipkorir Chepkwony and Alex Ngeno are keen to make Team Kenya ahead of the 2025 World Athletics Championships. The national trials set for July 22 at the Ulinzi Sports Complex, Nairobi.

Chepkwony, a Kenya Defence Forces athlete, has emerged as a serious contender in the men's 800m after clocking a personal best of 1:43.64 to place second at the National Championships on June 27 at the Ulinzi Complex.

In an interview, Chepkwony expressed confidence in his current form, citing a rigorous training programme that includes strength work, speed intervals and mental conditioning ahead of the trials.

"We are not just preparing to compete, but to win. Our focus is on claiming the top three positions and representing Kenya," he said.

Joining him in the Tokyo quest is 1,500m specialist Ngeno, whose consistent gains in finishing speed and race tactics have earned him a nod from coaches.

According to Kericho Athletics Club head coach Gabriel Kiptanui, Ngeno is deep into tactical drills and race simulations aimed at fine-tuning his performance for a fiercely contested metric mile showdown.

"Our athletes are delivering world-class times on substandard surfaces. Imagine what they could achieve with a proper track. The delay in completing the stadium is costing the country potential medals."

# BRING ON MONACO

Moraa out for revenge as Chepchirchir eyes fifth straight win in Monaco Diamond League



Nelly Chepchirchir /HANDOUT



Mary Moraa / HANDOUT

TEDDY MULEI

World 800m champion Mary Moraa will be out to settle scores when she renews her rivalry with the red-hot Nelly Chepchirchir in a 1,000m showdown at Friday's Monaco Diamond League.

Their last meeting over the distance came at the 2024 Silesia Diamond League, where Chepchirchir proved unstoppable, storming to victory in 2:31.24. Britain's Jemma Reekie followed in 2:32.56, with Moraa settling for third in 2:33.43.

Moraa heads to Monaco with a point to prove, especially after a lacklustre performance at the

Prefontaine Classic in Eugene last weekend. The Olympic bronze medallist faded to ninth place in the 800m, clocking 2:00.51, behind last-placed American Athing Mu, the 2020 Olympic champion, who clocked 2:03.44.

Inform Ethiopian Tsige Duguma stopped the clock in 1:57.10 to claim the title ahead of South Africa's Prudence Sekgodiso (1:57.16) and Uganda's Halimah Nakaayi (1:57.89).

The Eugene result marked a significant dip for Moraa, who dazzled at Hayward Field in 2024 with a 1:56.71 second-place finish behind Britain's Keely Hodgkinson (1:55.78). As she

steps up to the 1,000m, an event she has raced only three times before, the Kenyan speedster is desperate for a morale-boosting result.

Her debut over the distance came in July 2021 in Belgium, where she clocked a commanding 2:34.71 to claim victory. Two months later, in her second outing over 1,000m, the Olympic 800m bronze medallist faded to 10th place, clocking 2:39.47. However, standing in her way is the in-form Chepchirchir, who is eyeing her fifth straight victory of the season.

The rising star kicked off her 2025 campaign with a 4:23.99-

mile win at the Adidas Adizero Road to Records meet before dominating the 1,500m in Doha (4:05.00), Rabat (3:58.04) and most recently in Paris (3:57.02).

Friday's field in Monaco will be stacked with firepower, including Uganda's Nakaayi, Britain's Reekie, Australians Jessica Hull and Sarah Billings, and American prospect Addison Wiley.

Meanwhile, in the men's 3,000m steeplechase, World U20 champion Edmund Serem will be aiming to dip under his 8:07.4 personal best, set earlier this year in Rabat. "I will be featuring in the Monaco meeting. My target is to lower my personal best."

