



I'm sorry

Ruto apologises to Kenyan Gen Z

News: Page 2



Plan B

Gachagua summons crisis meeting over failed launch

News: Page 6

FRESH, INDEPENDENT, DIFFERENT

NO. 5439
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025
www.the-star.co.ke

Ksh60/00 (Tsh1,000 Ush2,000)

theSTAR

Lawmakers caught in tight knot of legal and political dilemmas

IEBC CRISIS DEEPENS AS VETTING STALLS

STORY PAGE 4-5

Police: How MP Koimburi abduction was staged



ORCHESTRATED? Juja MP George Koimburi at a coffee plantation in Kiambu county where he was rescued on Monday. Koimburi admitted at Karen Hospital. Police IG Douglas Kanja and DCI Mohammed Amin inspect a Subaru with altered registration numbers used in the abduction /HANDOUT/ DENISH OCHIENG/ CYRUS OMBATI /STORY PAGE 2

How proposed Sakaja matatu rules will affect your daily commute

News: Page 10



Bring out your warm coats and scarves, cold season is here, says weatherman

News: Page 3



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto during the annual National Prayer Breakfast at Safari Park hotel /HIRAM OMONDI /PCS

CALLS FOR UNITY

Ruto apologises to Gen Z over killings, abductions

He has urged Kenyans to embrace unity and shun fault-finding, build bridges

LUKE AWICH
@AchiaAwich

PRESIDENT William Ruto has issued heartfelt apologies to the country's Gen Z during this year's national prayer breakfast.

He reached out to the youth, who have increasingly been vocally anti-government, telling them to embrace building bridges.

There has been growing frustrations among young Kenyans over the past one year, leading to a deadly breach of Parliament on June 25.

The demonstrations forced Ruto to dissolve his Cabinet and form a broad-based government that included opposition leaders to stabilise the country.

Since then, his administration has faced mounting pressure to meaningfully include youth in decision-making processes.

"To our children if there is any mistake, we apologise," Ruto said.

The President urged Kenyans to embrace unity and shun fault-finding, build bridges and bring everybody on board.

"I want to ask us as a nation and as a people to work together. To do less of finding fault and do more of building bridges that can make us even a greater nation," Ruto said.

Guest speaker and former NFL star Rickey Allen Bolden had challenged leaders to consider reaching out to the young generation.

"One of the things I prayed for is I said, here is my prayer, I said, Lord, I pray the adults would apologise to our Gen Z. I pray, see, it is like African-Americans, we live in America, but a lot of times we don't feel respected," bolden said.

"I just want to suggest to you, that when we are talking about relationships and we are talking about really rebuilding relationships, wouldn't it be beautiful if leaders would stand up and say to our Gen Z, we had you arrested and traumatised. We are sorry."

Ruto's Kenya Kwanza administration has been under fire for its combative nature against Gen-Z, including arbitrary arrests, alleged abductions and killings during the youth-led demonstrations.

This is the first time the President is offering an apology to the critical Kenyans. The Gen-Z issue dominated morning prayers meeting with each leader calling for a better approach in handling them.

"Even as we respect them, hear them and apologise when we are wrong, they should equally respect older people even if not for any other reason, simply because they are older because there are things you will not learn in any college but the school of life," Kindiki said.

"We need our children who are adults to be a little more respect-

ful, listen to them and where we go wrong there's no harm in acknowledging that we have not treated them the way they expected. However, we respectfully request our children to respect authority and agree to be mentored and supported," said Dagoretti North MP Beatrice Elachi.

"Our youth are hopeless, and we pray that the spirit of social media running our country is dealt with. May we stand for what is best for our nation and future generations."

"We want to confess, as legislators, that we must indeed address that sector. We shall have the courage to stand and believe in what is good for our country. Father, forgive us," the MP said.

Ruto apologised to Tanzania and Uganda for any action by Kenyans that might not sit well with them.

He said his administration is keen on cultivating a cordial relationship with all neighbours. "Our neighbours from Tanzania, if we have wronged you in any way forgive us. Our friends from Uganda if there is anything that Kenyans have done which is not right we apologise."

“

PRESIDENT RUTO

I want to ask us as a nation and as a people to work together. To do less of finding fault and do more of building bridges

BOTCHED PLAN

How Koimburi's abduction was staged – police

CYRUS OMBATI

POLICE have arrested three suspects and demonstrated how Juja MP George Koimburi staged his abduction in Kiambu.

The MP is admitted in hospital where police say he is enjoying a five-course meal to avoid being questioned and arrested.

"The whole drama was staged for political gains and to avoid being arrested over a land fraud matter that is under investigation," said DCI boss Mohamed Amin.

Amin with Inspector General of police Douglas Kanja and his deputies Eliud Lagat and Gilbert Masengeli addressed a media conference to explain how the drama began on Sunday and ended the following day.

They said the MP was not abducted neither was he tortured as he claimed.

Those arrested are PK, CKM and KG.

According to Kanja, PK attended a church service at Full Gospel Church, Mugutha, with the MP.

"As they were leaving, a silver Subaru Forester approached the main entrance and two heavily built men bundled the MP into the vehicle. He reported the incident at Mugutha Police Station," Kanja said.

"Additionally, on May 26, he received a call from the MP's daughter, Wanjiru, informing him that the MP had been found in a coffee farm in Juja. They then took the MP to Plainsview Hospital, Ruiru, for first aid before he was referred to Karen Hospital for further treatment."

CKM said on May 24, he received a call from PK requesting the use of his Subaru Forester registration number KDG 803B to transport additional security personnel for the MP during an event at Full Gospel Church, Mugutha, and he agreed.

"On 25 May, PK instructed him to go to his home-stand in Mugutha, where he met a man named Gatana (driving PK's vehicle, Reg. No. KBP 096W) Honda CRV, and alongside three unknown men, they proceeded to the church to familiarise themselves with the route before returning."

Later, according to Kanja, PK called and instructed him to drive his Subaru Forester with two men towards the church.

"Upon arrival, the two men exited quickly and he heard screams as the MP was forced into the vehicle. They drove towards Jacaranda Coffee Research via Kambogo Road, where the MP instructed them to stop near a waiting Honda CRV (Reg. No. KBP 096W), belonging to PK."

"CKM was left with the two men, who warned him not to disclose any information to the police," Kanja said.

The police have managed to recover the two vehicles used in the operation.

Additionally, one suspect, KG, allegedly admitted to dropping the MP at a hotel where he had refreshments and spent the night with the two abductors on May 25.

The suspect said on May 26, while using PK's vehicle, he picked up the MP from the hotel and took him to the scene where they claimed he had been dumped.

"Before the MP exited the vehicle, he helped him tear his clothes to fake evidence of torture by the alleged abductors," Kanja said. The police have interrogated the management of the hotel and visited the room where he spent as part of the probe into the issue.



IG Douglas Kanja and DCI Mohammed Amin /CYRUS OMBATI

STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you believe Ruto's apology to Gen Z is genuine?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Do you believe Juja MP Koimburi abducted himself?

YES 80%



NO 20%



CHILLY WEATHER

Cold season slowly settling in, says Met

Night temperatures will fall below 10°C – dipping to 6-8°C in Nairobi, Mt Kenya

JOHN MUCHANGI
@Jomunji

RESIDENTS of Nairobi and the surrounding highlands will experience a noticeable chill as the cold season sets in.

The weatherman has said the cold season is slowly settling over Nairobi and around Mt Kenya.

Dr David Gikungu, the director of meteorological services, said night-time temperatures will fall below 10°C – dipping to around 6-8°C in Nairobi and counties around Mt Kenya – so residents should prepare for cold nights and misty mornings.

Days will be mild to warm, with highs of around 20°C; many mornings will start cloudy before breaking into sunshine. There is a chance of light showers or drizzles in the late afternoons or evenings in some days.

“Rainfall is expected to continue over some parts of the highlands east and west of Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the central Rift Valley and the Coast,” he said in a forecast that ends on Madaraka Day.

This region comprises Nairobi, Nyandarua, Laikipia, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang’a, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, and Tharaka counties.

Traditionally, the cold season begins in June and strengthens in July, which is the coldest month in Kenya.

Across the western Kenya highlands and around Lake Victoria, wet weather will continue through the weekend.



Motorists drive on a flooded road following heavy rainfall in Nairobi /XINHUA

Showers and thunderstorms are expected in several afternoons, though there will be some dry periods with sunny intervals. The official forecast indicates rainfall will continue over the highland regions and the Lake Victoria Basin.

This region comprises Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Nyamira, Trans Nzoia, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Nakuru, Narok, Kericho, Bomet, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Busia and West Pokot counties.

Daytime highs here will be high around 28-30°C, while nighttime lows stay cool, roughly 10-13°C.

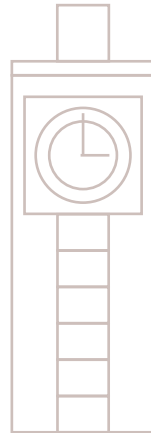
This means western Kenya will see a mix of sun and frequent rain, so farmers and outdoor workers

should watch the skies. By contrast, northwestern counties like Turkana and Samburu will remain mostly dry and sunny.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The forecast comes a day after public beaches in Mombasa county reopened following a three-day closure over adverse weather conditions, including strong winds and high waves. Governor Abdulswamad Nassir said reopening followed a review by the County Directorate of Meteorological Services, indicating a significant reduction in wind speeds to a maximum of 16 knots, and a gradual decline in wave heights.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



★ **A ONCE-VIBRANT INSTITUTION**, highly regarded among state agencies, faces an uncertain future due to escalating tensions between its leadership and external powers. An insider whispers to Corridors of Power that a prime asset may have fuelled the animosity, with allegations that certain officials refused to cooperate on a critical matter. A prominent figure has vowed to “shake the agency’s foundations until every bad apple falls,” signalling a deepening rift. Whether this mission succeeds remains to be seen, but those aware of the goings-on contend that the conflict threatens to destabilise the institution further.

★ **MEMBERS OF A** powerful county assembly committee have been accused of betrayal after failing to table a long-awaited impeachment report. Tasked with investigating a top county officer, the team has delayed submissions for two weeks, sparking frustration. Rumours suggest the report may never be debated, amid claims that the targeted official allegedly bribed the concerned MCAs and another top official at the regional assembly. The events, it is feared, could undermine accountability efforts. Already, members of the public are questioning the integrity of the assembly’s processes.

★ **A DIPLOMAT FROM** a major democracy is reportedly furious. He accuses a prominent lawyer—who kept millions for undelivered legal work—of corrupting every authority that could discipline him. After the lawyer refused to pay him back, he reported to the professional body that dismissed it, and the media blacked out the story. The diplomat has enlisted the help of a renowned female blogger. His new strategy is to take the fight to social media, where the lawyer lacks sway.

★ **A SECOND-TERM OPPOSITION** law-maker has purportedly become the subject of hushed gossip at a popular address due to his apparent financial struggles. The fellow has been frequently seen lingering near a senior ruling party leader’s office, allegedly to seek financial aid in an ironic twist for a vocal government critic. A fly on the wall intimates that the man recently waited for over three hours for an audience, drawing puzzled glances from colleagues. The spectacle is said to have raised questions about his motives and the contradictions of a fierce critic quietly seeking help from the very establishment he condemns.

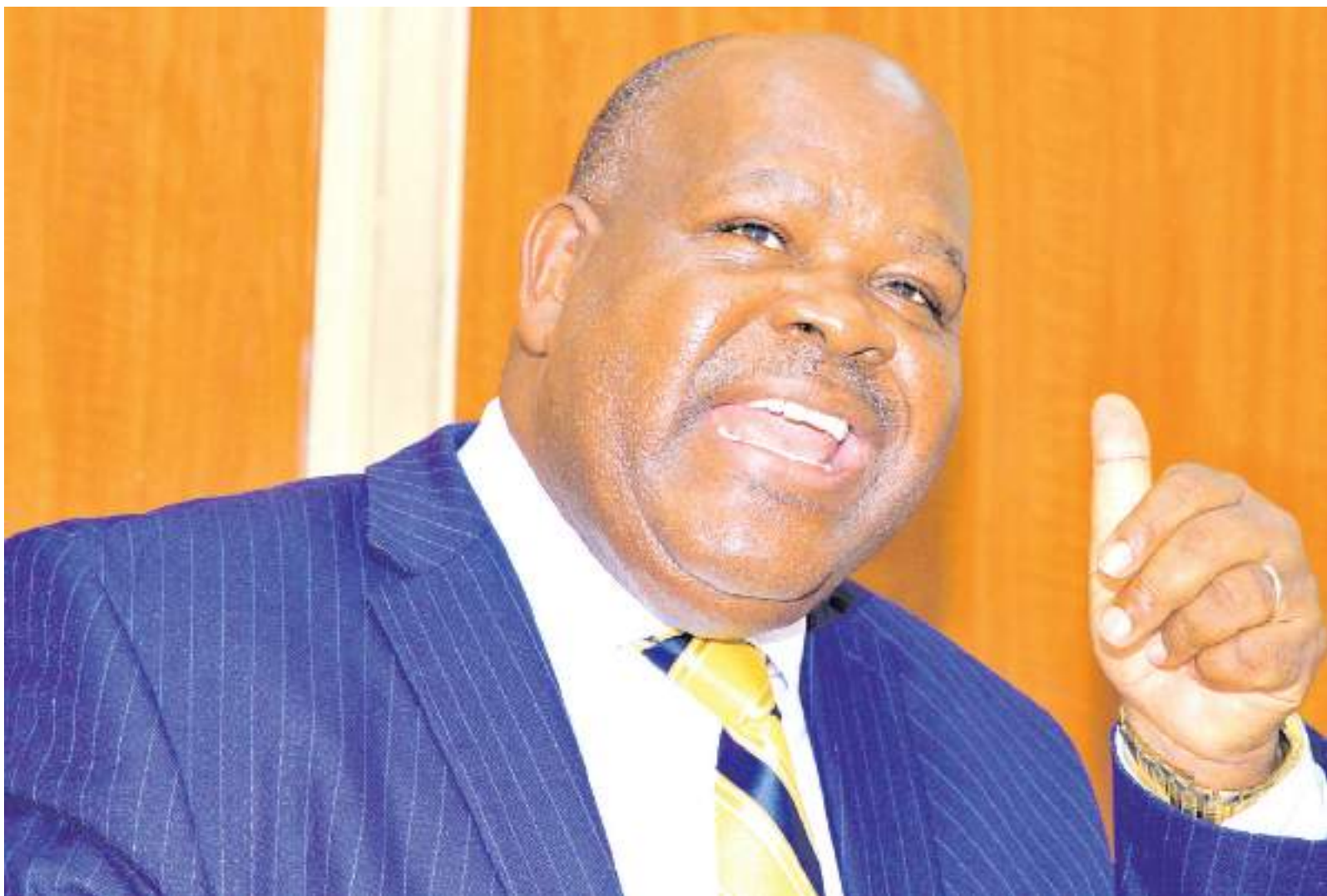
If you have any tips send them to
Tips@the-star.co.ke

CARTOON



LIMBO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UNABLE TO MOVE FORWARD AS TIME SLIPS

Justice and
Legal Affairs
committee
chairman
George
Murugara /FILE



IEBC crisis deepens as nominees vetting stalls

LUKE AWICH
@AchiaAwich

UNCERTAINTY hangs thick in the air of Parliament as lawmakers find themselves caught in a tight knot of legal and political dilemmas.

The High Court injunction freezing the vetting of President Ruto's IEBC nominees has left the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee in limbo.

The committee is unable to move forward and vet the team led by proposed chairman Erastus Edung, yet it is acutely aware that time is slipping away.

Other nominees to the helm of the electoral management agency are Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu, Moses Mukhwana, Mary Sorobit, Hassan Noor, Francis Odhiambo and Fahima Abdallah.

With each passing day, the IEBC crisis festers, sending the signal that Kenyans could go to yet another election with an unprepared electoral commission.

The wait for the court's final ruling, expected today, has only deepened the paralysis.

Should MPs defy the injunction and proceed with the vetting, they risk plunging the country into a fresh constitutional crisis, one where Parliament and the Judiciary

stand in open confrontation.

Yet, if they wait indefinitely, the IEBC, already reeling from the negative implications of the delayed appointments, will remain leaderless and unprepared for the looming 2027 elections.

In an appeal, the National Assembly stated that since the vetting had been entrusted to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, the court lacks authority.

The august House said the court's injunction was premature and injurious to the process and the right to public participation.

Despite the position, the committee chaired by Tharaka MP Gitonga Murugara did not conduct the vetting as scheduled and advertised.

The nominees were to face the committee on Tuesday, after which the committee was expected to issue a report for debate in plenary on Wednesday.

Speaker Moses Wetang'ula's silence, after promising to give directions on the matter, has only added to the tension.

Rarieda MP Otiende Amolo had implored the Speaker to declare the fate of the vetting process.

Otiende, a member of JLAC, warned of deeper uncertainty. "You may have to give further guidance to us as to whether, given the word-

ing of that decision, the entire process is suspended until determined," Otiende said.

"Whether time stopped running from the time that order was issued so that the 14 days are extended and whether, depending on the decision made within the time limit, that process can still be undertaken."

Wetang'ula's failure to issue clear guidance by press time yesterday

has left MPs adrift, torn between legal obedience and political urgency.

The delayed reconstitution of the electoral body has worsened fears about the country's preparedness for the 2027 general elections.

Elections Observation Group national coordinator Mule Musau told the Star the delay is a great concern, especially for the pending electoral processes.

"It is a big concern to us; we are very worried as it hurts the electoral processes to be conducted by the commission," he said.

Musau faulted the petitioners for jumping the gun, arguing their issues could have been handled during the vetting process.

"However much it is legitimate, it serves to delay the appointment process. I think the petitioners should have waited for the process in Parliament and lodged their concerns."

The court's decision can be viewed as a setback to the long-delayed process of reconstituting the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, which has remained incomplete for two years.

A number of constitutional lawyers have weighed in on the matter, saying the courts cannot stop House proceedings.

Constitutional lawyer Ekuru Aukot, while admitting that Parlia-

“

However much it is legitimate, it serves to delay the appointment process. I think the petitioners should have waited for the process in Parliament and lodged their concerns



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



AWAY; COURT’S FINAL RULING EXPECTED TODAY

ment cannot be enjoined, said the courts can only come in depending on the gravity of injustice.

“Ideally, courts cannot enjoin Parliament, but if there is, for example, an injustice that has been presented and that depends on evidence – I have not read the affidavits of the petitioners so, I don’t know the evidence they have presented to the court,” Aukot said.

“I think one of the arguments that can fly is the idea of the state officer, which does not concern other nominees apart from Anne Nderitu. Nderitu is a state officer by virtue of the fact that the constitution says that a state officer cannot run for such an office constitutionally or even if it is created by an Act of Parliament.”

Lawyer Abdikadir Mohammed agreed, stating that courts can only review the outcome of a parliamentary process.

Abdikadir, who served as adviser to retired President Uhuru Kenyatta on constitutional and legal matters, argued that under the doctrine of separation of powers no branch of the government can dictate to the other on how to conduct its business.

“Courts cannot enjoin Parliament. They can decide whether what Parliament has done is not right at the end of process. They can decide if the product is constitutional or not but they cannot stop the process,” Abdikadir told the Star on the phone.

“The courts are not superior to any of the other arms of government.”

In 2014, then National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi warned courts of judicial overreach, saying Parliament cannot be enjoined by any arm of the government.

“Parliament’s very cardinal role of oversight is being faced with a great threat, and I speak without any fear of contradiction, this threat comes from the Judiciary,” Muturi stated.

“The courts, like I said, should remember that Parliament has its constitutional mandate and should be left to perform its functions.”

The IEBC process has been bogged down by legal bottlenecks from the setting up of the selection panel, the shortlisting of applicants, to now the vetting process of the nominees.

In the current case, activists Boniface Mwangi and Kelvin Omondi want the nominations halted on allegations that some of the proposed names are ineligible.

They allege that the nominations were made without proper public participation as outlined in the Nandico report.

The activists allege that some of the names were added unconstitutionally, citing interference by the Executive.

The decision to be rendered today will be crucial in determining how soon the country will have a fully constituted electoral body.

Meanwhile, the opposition is watching with sharpened scrutiny, ready to pounce on any misstep, as civil society warns of a deliberate erosion of electoral integrity.

And beneath it all, the clock ticks. The longer the standoff drags on, the more the public’s faith in the electoral system frays.



Ann Nderitu



Hassan Noor



Moses Mukhwana



Fahima Abdallah



Francis Odhiambo



Mary Sorobit



Proposed chairman Erastus Edung

IEBC Nominees vetting timeline

May 6

President Ruto receives IEBC nominee report

May 10

Ruto sends list to Parliament

May 11

Wetang’ula refers nominees to JLAC for vetting

May 12

Parliament invites public views on the nominees

May 19

Court suspends vetting

May 26

Vetting fails to take off

May 29

High Court to give ruling on case

NEWS GENERAL

PHOTO STORY



Defence CS Soipan Tuyu, President William Ruto, Chief of the Defence Forces General Charles Kahariri, US Africa Command Commander General Michael Langley and Chief of the National Guard Bureau, US General Steven Nordhaus during the 2025 African Chiefs of Defence Conference at Radison Hotel in Nairobi. Ruto says Africa's stability is essential to collective development /JELLY OKWARE /PCS

IRON OUT LOGISTICS

Gachagua summons crisis meeting over botched DCP launch

His allies blame their woes on President Ruto's administration

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

FORMER Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has summoned a high-level meeting to chart the way forward for the launch of his newly-founded DCP party.

The meeting follows the abrupt cancellation of Gachagua's booking at Kasarani.

The launch, which was scheduled for next Tuesday, has been postponed after Sports Kenya revoked DCP's reservation of the Kasarani Indoor Arena.

Party sources told the Star that Gachagua has called the meeting, to be attended by top DCP officials early next week to settle on a new venue and iron out logistics for the rescheduled event.

Among the alternatives under consideration are private venues and county-owned stadiums in the Mt Kenya region, with Kirigiti and Thika stadiums reportedly on the shortlist.

The former DP's allies have blamed their woes squarely on President William Ruto's administration.

The cancellation has sparked a political uproar, with Gachagua's allies accusing the government of deliberate sabotage.

"We are in the process of identifying a suitable venue in a private facility, as it is clear the government will not allow DCP to use its facilities," DCP

secretary general Hezron Obaga said.

The event was expected to be Gachagua's political re-entry, with the party projecting it as a "mega" launch drawing at least 5,000 attendees, including supporters, party officials, elders, youth representatives, and members of the press.

The programme featured carefully curated performances and symbolic presentations meant to portray Gachagua not only as a Mt Kenya political heavyweight but also as a viable contender for the 2027 presidency.

A letter to Sports Kenya from DCP outlined the scope of the event and its expected impact, underscoring the significance of the cancelled booking.

A senator aligned with Gachagua accused the state of engineering the cancellation to disrupt the party's momentum.

"The government will never give us police protection. And even if they do, it will be to shield the goons they send to disrupt us. Ruto is keen to crack down on the party," the senator said.

Gatanga MP Edward Muriu confirmed that Gachagua has called for a meeting of the party officials to agree on the alternative venue.

As political temperatures rise, Gachagua's allies have framed the Kasarani setback as part of a wider crackdown by the Kenya Kwanza regime on dissenting voices within its former ranks.

Muriu did not mince words, accusing President Ruto of resorting

to dictatorial tactics. "We didn't expect to get approval to use Kasarani. That's Ruto for you—predictable. But in politics, negative attention can still work in your favour," he said.

"He may be trying to suppress us, but it's earning us public sympathy—and sympathy is a powerful currency in politics."

Muriu claimed the government's actions have unintentionally revealed a pattern of intolerance.

"These actions show just how undemocratic this administration is. I was one of the UDA founders, and not once did President Uhuru Kenyatta block our meetings," he said.

"In fact, we used public spaces—including the official residence of the Deputy President. Uhuru could have kicked Ruto out, but he never did."

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Two weeks ago, Gachagua unveiled the interim officials of the party. Former UDA secretary general Cleophas Malala was named as deputy party leader, former CS Mithika Linturi was named interim national organising secretary, while ex-Starehe MP Maina Kamanda will chair the caucus of eminent persons. Ex-Laikipia Woman Rep Catherine Waruguru is the national women's leader, while David Mingati from Kajiado is the national chairperson.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Kenya wins tea and coffee export deal with Morocco after Saharawi policy shift

ELIUD KIBII

KENYA is poised to reap significant economic benefits after securing expanded access for its tea and coffee exports to Morocco, following its recent decision to support Rabat's position on the disputed Western Sahara territory.

Foreign Affairs CS Musalia Mudavadi announced the breakthrough during official talks in Morocco, where both countries agreed to deepen trade ties that have historically favoured the North African nation.

"In a productive meeting with Ryad Mezzour, Morocco's minister of Industry and Trade, we reached a mutual understanding to expand the importation of Kenyan farm produce, an important step towards rebalancing trade, which has long tilted in Morocco's favour," Mudavadi said.

The discussions yielded concrete commitments, with Moroccan Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch pledging to prioritise Kenyan tea and coffee imports.

Mudavadi said the agreement marks a crucial step towards rebalancing bilateral trade, while also paving the way for enhanced cooperation in tourism, agriculture, infrastructure and education.

"We also agreed to commence immediate bilateral engagements aimed at unlocking Morocco's full market potential for Kenyan products and expertise," he added.

Mudavadi said their bilateral talks centered on deepening cooperation across tourism, agriculture, trade, industry and education sectors.

Among the immediate benefits is the planned resumption of direct flights between Nairobi and Morocco's major cities, a move expected to boost business and tourism links between the two nations.

This development comes after Kenya's significant diplomatic shift regarding Western Sahara, where it now endorses Morocco's autonomy plan as the "only credible and realistic solution" to the decades-old conflict.

The policy reversal aligns with President William Ruto's long-held stance, contrasting with former President Uhuru Kenyatta's support for a UN-backed independence referendum for the territory.

Since taking office, Ruto has moved

decisively to strengthen ties with Morocco, including withdrawing Kenya's ambassador to Algeria's dual accreditation over Western Sahara and establishing a Kenyan embassy in Rabat.

The Western Sahara dispute remains one of Africa's most protracted conflicts, with Morocco controlling 80 per cent of the territory while the Algeria-backed Polisario Front seeks independence.

Kenya's new position reflects Rabat's growing diplomatic influence across the continent and underscores the increasing role of economic pragmatism in shaping Nairobi's foreign policy decisions.

While the move secures immediate trade advantages for Kenya, particularly in agricultural exports and fertiliser imports, it also carries potential diplomatic costs in relations with Algeria and other African nations that recognise the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

Beyond agricultural trade, the burgeoning Kenya-Morocco partnership now encompasses cooperation in renewable energy, fisheries, and security.

Morocco has also committed to accelerating fertiliser exports to Kenya, leveraging its position as the world's second-largest phosphate producer.

The comprehensive nature of these agreements suggests both nations are positioning themselves as strategic partners in their respective regions, with economic considerations increasingly taking precedence over traditional diplomatic alignments.

Kenya on Monday officially backed Morocco's autonomy plan for Western Sahara, calling it the only credible and realistic path to resolving the decades-long conflict.

A communication publicised by the Moroccan Foreign ministry said Kenya considers the autonomy plan as the only sustainable approach to the resolution of the Sahara issue, and intends to co-operate with like-minded states to foster its realisation.

"The Republic of Kenya welcomes the growing international consensus and the momentum led by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in favour of the autonomy plan presented by the Kingdom of Morocco as the only credible and realistic solution to the Sahara dispute," the communication said.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Morocco's Minister of Industry and Trade Ryad Mezzour during a meeting in Morocco /HANDOUT

NEWS GENERAL

PERSISTENT PROBLEMS

Gathungu exposes fiscal flaws in Ruto's Sh4.24 trillion budget

Auditor general says revenue gaps and wasted funds threaten country's stability

MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses

AUDITOR General Nancy Gathungu has delivered a bold assessment on the 2025-26 budget proposals, warning that mismanagement, unrealistic revenue targets and chronic under-performance in development risk plunging the country deeper into debt.

She said aspects characterising President William Ruto's administration's second budget also risk undermining critical public services.

In a 24-page presentation to Parliament's Budget and Appropriations Committee, Gathungu said a pattern of fiscal indiscipline casts doubt on the government's ability to achieve Ruto's much-touted "economic transformation" agenda.

At the heart of Gathungu's critique before the Alego Usonga MP Sam Atandi-led committee is the National Treasury's over-optimistic revenue strategy.

The proposed budget projects ordinary revenue at Sh2.76 trillion up from Sh2.58 trillion in financial year 2024-25.

However, the amount falls short of the World Bank's recommended 15 per cent tax-to-GDP threshold. The auditor general linked the gap to weak enforcement, evasion and poor forecasting.

Historical data shared by the auditor general reveals a five-year trend of missed targets.

In the fiscal year 2023-24 alone, revenue collections fell short by Sh170 billion (6.9 per cent), while tax arrears ballooned to Sh2.33 trillion by June 20 last year, translating to a 133 per cent spike from 2023.

"The KRA's targets are disconnected from reality," Gathungu said, noting that uncollected arrears for 2023-24 alone amounted to 91.8 per cent of total Treasury revenue. "When projections are inflated, borrowing becomes inevitable."



Auditor General Nancy Gathungu / ENOS TECHE

The consequences are dire. With public debt already at Sh11.1 trillion, Gathungu warned that persistent revenue gaps could force Kenya to take on costly loans to fund the Sh4.24 trillion budget, further straining

taxpayers. She urged the Treasury to adopt "cautious, evidence-based forecasts" and modernise tax systems to curb evasion.

While the budget allocates Sh643.9 billion to development—25.8 per cent

of national expenditure—Gathungu revealed that poor execution and delayed funding have rendered such allocations largely symbolic.

Audits show Kenya has consistently failed to meet the legal requirement of dedicating 30 per cent of budgets to development, with absorption rates worsening yearly.

In the year 2023-24, only Sh500.2 billion of Sh708.8 billion (29 per cent) was spent, leaving projects half-built and objectives unmet, while some have pending bills.

Donor-funded initiatives fared no better. Fourteen projects worth Sh515 billion had Sh304 billion (59 per cent) unused by mid last year, triggering a penalty charge of Sh6.57 billion for undrawn loans since 2020.

"Some of the projects have clauses where they attract commitment fees for any undrawn amounts leading to wastage of funds and lack of value for money," the auditor said. Among the worst performers include the Mombasa Gate Bridge which had 98 per cent undrawn funds. The project has consumed Sh938 million.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The presentation signals a stark message; that without credible revenue strategies, efficient spending and empowered oversight, Ruto's budget risks entrenching fiscal instability rather than delivering its promised "economic transformation."



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

ZERO INTEREST! PENALTIES!



100% WAIVER ON LAND RATES INTEREST & PENALTIES

This is to notify all land and plot owners in Kiambu County who have defaulted on payment of land rates that the County Government of Kiambu, under the leadership of **H.E. Dr. Kimani Wamatangi**, has granted a **100% waiver** on interest and penalties accrued on unpaid land rates.

Your payments will enable the County Government to continue delivering development projects that include:

Farm Input Support Programs



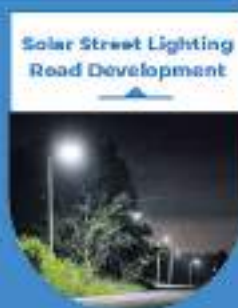
312 Completed Ecde Centres



6 Level IV And 26 Level III Hospitals



Modern Hospital Equipment Acquired



Solar Street Lighting Road Development

Other projects and services include:

construction of markets, sports stadiums, water connections, and garbage collection.



H.E. (Dr) Kimani Wamatangi CBS, EGH Governor, Kiambu County

To make your payment, please visit the Municipality office where your property is located. Carry the following documents: a copy of your land ownership documents and your last land rates payment slip.

To qualify for the waiver, land/plot owners must clear the outstanding principal amount within the waiver period.

Payments should be made directly to the County's bank account:
Cooperative Bank, Kiambu Branch
Account Number: 01103715435001



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION (2025)

IN THE MATTER OF ARTICLE 118(1)(B) OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 50(1) OF THE PUBLIC BENEFITS ORGANIZATIONS ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL) ACT (CAP. 7F)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PERSONS NOMINATED FOR
APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BENEFITS ORGANIZATIONS DISPUTES
TRIBUNAL

NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL HEARINGS AND
INVITATION TO SUBMIT MEMORANDA

WHEREAS, in accordance with provisions of Section 50(1) of the Public Benefits Organizations Act, 2013, the Honourable Chief Justice is empowered to nominate and, with the approval of the National Assembly, appoint the Chairperson and Members of the Public Benefits Organizations Disputes Tribunal. In exercise of the said powers, the Honourable Chief Justice has nominated the following persons for appointment as Chairperson and Members of the Public Benefits Organizations Disputes Tribunal—

S/No.	NOMINEE	POSITION
1.	Ms. Eunice Adoyo Otieno Arwa	Chairperson
2.	Ms. Christabel Mideva Eboso	Member
3.	Ms. Elizabeth Mbithe Mulwa	Member
4.	Dr. Leonard Kinyulusi	Member
5.	Mr. Mohamed Sheikh Noor	Member

AND WHEREAS, following receipt of the nominations from the Honourable Chief Justice, the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly vide a Notification made on **Tuesday 27th May 2025** conveyed the Message to the Members of the National Assembly and referred the names and curricula vitae of the nominees to the **Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs** for consideration and reporting to the House;

IT IS NOTIFIED to the general public that pursuant to **Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution** and **section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F)**, the **Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs** shall conduct Approval Hearings (Vetting) of the nominees on **Friday, 13th June 2025** in the **Mini Chamber, First Floor, County Hall, Parliament Buildings** as per the schedule below—

S/No.	NOMINEE	POSITION	TIME
1.	Ms. Eunice Adoyo Otieno Arwa	Chairperson	10.30 am
2.	Ms. Christabel Mideva Eboso	Member	11.30 am
3.	Ms. Elizabeth Mbithe Mulwa	Member	12.30 pm
4.	Dr. Leonard Kinyulusi	Member	2.30 pm
5.	Mr. Mohamed Sheikh Noor	Member	3.30 pm

AND WHEREAS, section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F) provides that **“any person may prior to the approval hearing and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated”**.

IN COMPLIANCE with Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution and section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), the Clerk of the National Assembly hereby invites members of the public to submit any representations they may have, by way of **written statements on oath (affidavits) with supporting evidence contesting the suitability of the candidates** for appointment to the offices they have been nominated to.

The memoranda may be forwarded to the **Clerk of the National Assembly, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi**; hand-delivered to the **Office of the Clerk, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi**; or emailed to **cna@parliament.go.ke** to be received **on or before Tuesday, 10th June 2025 by 5.00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT the nominees are required to—

- (1) Appear for the approval hearings with their original identity cards, academic and professional certificates and other relevant testimonials; and
- (2) Obtain letters/certificates of compliance from the following institutions—
 - (a) The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission;
 - (b) The Kenya Revenue Authority;
 - (c) The Higher Education Loans Board;
 - (d) The Directorate of Criminal Investigations;
 - (e) The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties; and
 - (f) A Credit Reference Bureau.

S. NJOROGI, CBS
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Thursday, 29th May 2025



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION (2025)

IN THE MATTER OF ARTICLES 118(1)(B), 246 (2) AND 250(2) OF THE
CONSTITUTION
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY
APPROVAL) ACT (CAP. 7F)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 6(5) OF THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE
COMMISSION ACT (CAP. 85)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
PERSONS NOMINATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL HEARINGS AND INVITATION TO SUBMIT
MEMORANDA

WHEREAS, in accordance with provisions of Articles 246(2) and 250(2) of the Constitution and Section 6(5) of the National Police Service Commission Act (Cap. 85), His Excellency the President is empowered to nominate and with the approval of the National Assembly, appoint Members of the National Police Service Commission. In exercise of the said powers, His Excellency the President nominated the following persons for appointment to the Commission—

S/No.	NOMINEE	POSITION
1.	Ms. Peris Muthoni Kimani	Member
2.	Mr. Benjamin Juma Imai	Member
3.	Prof. Collette A. Suda, PhD	Member

AND WHEREAS, following receipt of the nominations from H.E. the President, the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly vide a Communication made on **Tuesday, 27th May, 2025** conveyed the Message to the National Assembly and referred the names and curricula vitae of the nominees to the **Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security** for consideration and reporting to the House;

IT IS NOTIFIED to the general public that pursuant to Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution and Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), the Departmental Committee shall conduct Approval Hearings (Vetting) of the nominees on **Monday, 9th June 2025** in **Committee Room 18/19, 3rd Floor, Bunge Tower** as per the schedule below—

S/No.	NOMINEE	POSITION	TIME
1.	Ms. Peris Muthoni Kimani	Member	10.00 am
2.	Mr. Benjamin Juma Imai	Member	11.00 am
3.	Prof. Collette A. Suda, PhD	Member	12.00 noon

AND WHEREAS, Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F) provides that **“any person may prior to the approval hearing and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated”**;

IN COMPLIANCE with Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution and Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap. 7F), the Clerk of the National Assembly hereby invites members of the public to submit any representations they may have, by way of **written statements on oath (affidavits) with supporting evidence contesting the suitability of the candidates** for appointment to the offices they have been nominated to.

The memoranda may be forwarded to the **Clerk of the National Assembly, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi**; hand-delivered to the **Office of the Clerk, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi**; or emailed to **cna@parliament.go.ke** to be received **on or before Thursday, 5th June, 2025 by 5.00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT the nominees are required to—

- (1) Appear for the approval hearings with their original identity cards, academic and professional certificates and other relevant testimonials; and
- (2) Obtain letters/certificates of compliance from the following institutions—
 - (a) The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission;
 - (b) The Kenya Revenue Authority;
 - (c) The Higher Education Loans Board;
 - (d) The Directorate of Criminal Investigations;
 - (e) The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties; and
 - (f) A Credit Reference Bureau.

S. NJOROGI, CBS
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Thursday, 29th May, 2025



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAMU

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAMU

COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD

Telephone: +254-722268540, P.O. Box 374-80500 Lamu, Email: lamuassembly@gmail.com



ADVERTISEMENT FOR VACANCIES

The County Assembly Service Board (CASB) invites applications from suitable and qualified candidates to fill the following positions on permanent and pensionable terms within the County Assembly of Lamu establishment.

1. INTERNAL AUDITOR – Job Group K

a) Duties and Responsibilities

1. Develop and implement risk-based annual audit
2. Conduct internal audits to assess the effectiveness of internal control systems
3. preparing audit reports to management and follow up on action taken
4. Setting and agreeing on performance targets
5. Completeness and accuracy of records and reports
6. Verifying existence and safety of Government Assets
7. Examine financial records and transaction to ensure accuracy and integrity

b) Requirement for appointment: for appointment to this grade an officer must have

1. Bachelor's degree in any of the following disciplines, Commerce (Accounting/Finance option), Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, CPA part three section five or its equivalent qualification from a recognized institution;
2. Served as Internal Auditor for a minimum period of three (3) years;
3. Membership of a recognized professional body and of good standing;
4. Proficiency in computer applications

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Job Group K

a) Duties and Responsibilities

1. Assist with day-to-day administrative tasks, including filing, data entry, and recordkeeping.
2. Manage calendars, schedule appointments, and coordinate meetings.
3. Prepare and distribute correspondence, memos, and reports.
4. Handle incoming calls and emails, and respond to inquiries.
5. Coordinate travel arrangements and accommodations for speaker, members, clerk and senior staff.
6. Assist with event planning and coordination.
7. Order office supplies and maintain inventory levels.
8. Assist with project management tasks, such as tracking deadlines and deliverables.
9. Provide support to clerk and employees as needed.
10. Perform other administrative duties as assigned.

b). Requirement for appointment: for appointment to this grade an officer must have

1. Degree in Human resource, administration, management, strategic management and secretarial studies or equivalent.
2. Proficiency in MS Office (MS Excel and MS PowerPoint, in particular)
3. Excellent communication and interpersonal abilities.

3. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT – Job Group J

a).Duties and Responsibilities

1. preparing stores requisitions
2. Updating the stores/stocks cards;
3. Checking the stationery issues against requisition made
4. Ensuring goods delivered by suppliers are of the right/required quality and quantity;
5. Delivering stores to other departments/divisions
6. Preparing payment vouchers for suppliers
7. Distributing quotations requests.

b). Requirement for appointment: for appointment to this grade an officer must have

1. Diploma in Supply Chain Management/Diploma in procurement and materials management or its equivalent qualification from a recognized institution;
2. Certificate in computer application skill
3. Demonstrated integrity and professional competence as reflected in work performance and results

4. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – Job Group J (male and female)

a) Duties and Responsibilities

1. Ensure safe custody of the mace inside the chambers and outside;
2. Preparing and maintaining members attendance registers in the plenary;
3. Deploy measures to ensure safety of the facilities;
4. Undertaking security surveys and coordinate security matters including fire prevention
5. Controlling admission of visitors, contractors and suppliers to assembly premises
6. Undertake access control duties - receiving visitors and suppliers to the assembly and directing them to the respective staff or department in the county assembly
7. Perform duties towards maintenance of decorum, law and order within the precincts of the Assembly including crowd management duties;
8. Controlling of authorized parking to ensure order and security in the county assembly Premises and ensuring that CCTV cameras are functional and are well manned; and
9. Ensuring that conference facilitation is availed and secured especially when committee go out of the assembly

b). Requirement for appointment: for appointment to this grade an officer must have

1. Kenya certificate of secondary education (KCSE) mean grade D or its equivalent
2. Served in the grade of Sergeant-At-Arms for at least three (3) years OR in the disciplined forces for a period of not less than five (5) years
3. Certificate in fire-fighting or first aid
4. Basic Paramilitary/Military Training
5. Certificate of discharge for non-serving officers

5. ELECTRICIAN/PLUMBING TECHNICIAN – Job Group J

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Preparing designs, bills of quantities and other contract documents for development and other capital projects
2. Supervising repairs and renovations of buildings, plant and equipment and painting as performed by Artisans
3. Monitoring implementation of capital and development projects

Requirement for appointment: for appointment to this grade an officer must have;

1. Kenya Certificate of secondary Education (KCSE) mean grade of D

2. Certificate in any of the following electrical or plumbing or any other equivalent qualification from a recognized institution;
3. Proficiency in computer application

COXSWAIN – Job Group H

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Steer the vessel safely, ensuring correct course and maneuvering
2. Ensure the vessel complies with all safety regulations
3. Conduct safety checks, emergency drills and respond to emergencies
4. Maintain communication with other vessels, coastguards using radios or signaling systems
5. Conduct pre-departure checks on engines, fuel, safety gear and navigational equipment
6. Log trips, incidents maintenance checks and fuel usage,

Requirement for appointment: for appointment to this grade an officer must have;

1. Minimum of KCSE certificate mean grade of D or equivalent
2. Five years' experience on boats or vessels preferably in a crew or deckhand role
3. Coxswain certificate or license
4. Demonstrated professional competence

DRIVER – Job Group H

a) Duties and Responsibilities

1. Driving vehicles as authorized
2. Carrying out routine checks on the vehicles cooling oil, electrical and brake systems, tyre pressure etc; detecting malfunctioning of vehicles system
3. Maintenance of work tickets for vehicles assigned
4. Ensuring security and safety of the vehicle on and off the road
5. Overseeing safety of the passengers and/ or goods therein
6. Maintaining cleanliness of the vehicle; and ensuring adherence to or observations of traffic laws

b) Requirement for appointment: for appointment to this grade an officer must have;

1. Minimum of KCSE certificate mean grade of D or equivalent
2. Valid driving license free from any current endorsements and valid for any of the classes of vehicles which the officer is required to drive
3. First -Aid Certificate Course lasting not less than one (1) week from St. John Ambulance or Kenya Institute of Highway and Building Technology (KIHB) or any other recognized institution;
4. Demonstrated professional competence

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Section 155 (5) of the Public Finance management Act, 2012 and Regulations 167, 168, 169 and 170 of the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations 2015 requires each public entity to establish an Audit committee whose responsibilities and roles are as spelt out by Regulations. County Assembly of Lamu hereby invites applications from suitably qualified interested candidates for the position of;

1. Chairperson of Audit committee (1 post)
2. Member Audit committee (3 posts)

Requirements for the position

1. Be Kenyan Citizen
2. Have Bachelor's degree in any of the following; Accounting, Auditing, Finance, Economics, Risk Management, Law or any other relevant field.
3. Be a member of a professional body
4. Have a knowledge and experience of ten (10) years for chairperson and five (5) years for member in relevant field

Terms of Service

1. Contract of three (3) years renewable
2. The Committee will be meeting on a quarterly basis
3. Members will be entitled to allowances which will be determined by Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

Criteria.

Interested persons are invited to apply for the positions by providing the following documents:

- a. Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- b. Academic certificates and
- c. Other relevant testimonials and supporting documents

The aforementioned documents can be sent by mail to lamuassembly@gmail.com or hand delivered to office of the clerk at the County Assembly Buildings in Mokowe or delivered to the address below to be received on or before **Friday 13th June, 2025 at 5:00PM**

Successful candidate will be required to provide Clearance Certificates from:

- Ethics and Anti – Corruption Commission
- Directorate of Criminal Investigations (Certificate of Good Conduct)
- Credit Reference Bureau (CRB)
- Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)
- Higher Education Loans Board (HELB)
- validation from Commission for University Education (applicable to those with foreign degrees only)

The County Assembly of Lamu is an equal opportunity employer, female candidates and persons with disability are strongly encouraged to apply

The Secretary,
County Assembly Service Board,
County Assembly of Lamu,
P.O. Box 374– 80500
LAMU

NEWSGENERAL

SOLUTION-BASED APPROACH

Stop unlawful arrests of fishermen – CS Joho

ROBERT OMOLLO

CABINET Secretary for Mining and Blue Economy Hassan Joho has urged law enforcers to stop harassing fishermen in Lake Victoria.

He said fishermen in violation of marine laws should be given appropriate tools to continue with their work.

Joho said giving the fishermen appropriate gear will help protect the marine and at the same time empower them.

“Law enforcers should be ready to provide solutions to the problems Kenyan fishermen face. I want maritime officials to prioritise replacing illegal fishing gear with the required one for those found in violation,” Joho said.

He spoke during distribution of gear to fishermen at Achich beach in Homa Bay Town constituency.

The cabinet secretary argued that there are cases of violations that can be solved by reaching out to his office.

He said the ministry is ready to

support fishermen to get materials.

The CS was hosted by Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga, Deputy Governor Oyugi Magwanga, MP Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town), Adipo Okuome (Karachuonyo) and Homa Bay fisheries executive member Sarah Malit.

“Instead of arresting them for having illegal nets, come to my office to get recommended nets and give them. We need to understand that the fishermen source their livelihoods from the lake,” he said.

According to the CS, it is the responsibility of the government to help its people including fishermen when they engage in their normal activities.

The leaders also held discussions with fisher folk at a conference.

“The discussion forms what we will talk about regarding the blue economy and maritime affairs on Madaraka Day,” Joho said.

The CS announced that the government has set aside a budget of Sh300 million for purchasing rescue boats.

Matatus parked at Koja terminus in Nairobi /FILE



SH100,000 FINES

Nairobi's new matatu rules to bring back order

To cut number of vehicles, enforce cashless payments

GORDON OSEN
@gordon_osen

NAIROBI Governor Johnson Sakaja has come up with new regulations that could slash the number of vehicles per route.

The draft Nairobi City County Permit to Operate Regulations, 2025, seeks to cut the number of vehicles per route, enforce cashless payments and regulate fare pricing.

Under the proposed guidelines, the county official responsible for public transport will have the authority to decide how many matatus can operate on a given route.

These decisions will be based on actual passenger demand, updated annually. If no fresh data is available, City Hall will use population growth rates to estimate needs.

Operators will be allowed to adjust their fleet sizes, but only slightly — by up to 10 per cent of the authorised capacity.

Any increase or decrease beyond that will require formal approval from the executive in charge of transport.

“Any operator shall be allowed to vary the number of vehicles up to a variance of 10 per cent of the authorised route capacity. Any variation beyond 10 per cent must be authorised by the CEC,” the document says.

Another key aspect of the proposed law is the shift to electronic fare payments. All matatus will be required to install cashless payment systems, allowing passengers to pay via mobile money or card.

This move is meant to reduce corruption, simplify fare collection and improve transparency across the sector.

In addition, matatu Saccos and companies will need to submit de-

tailed fare schedules to the county.

These must specify pricing based on time of day, type of passenger and whether they are seated or standing.

Notably, children in school uniforms and infants riding on a guardian's lap will be allowed to travel for free within Nairobi.

But it doesn't stop there.

The draft rules also take aim at poor passenger service and rogue practices. Matatus will only be allowed to pick up and drop off passengers at designated public transport terminals. Picking up people at petrol stations, touting for passengers, or waiting for more than 40 minutes at a stop will be banned.

Violators could face fines of up to Sh100,000 and even lose their operating permits.

As expected, these sweeping changes have not been welcomed by all.

During a tense public participation forum at Greenpark terminus, matatu operators voiced their frustrations, accusing City Hall of sidelining them in the decision-making process.

“We have not been involved at all. Gone are the days when policies were made in boardrooms. We want inclusive participation,” said Wilfred Bosire, secretary general of the Mass Mobility Operators Association.

Despite the pushback, county officials say the new regulations are about fairness and structure.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

City Hall's proposed matatu reforms aim to bring long-overdue order to Nairobi's chaotic transport system. While promising for commuters, resistance from operators signals a bumpy road ahead.

PICKING UP PEOPLE AT PETROL STATIONS, TOUTING FOR PASSENGERS, OR WAITING FOR MORE THAN 40 MINUTES AT A STOP WILL BE BANNED



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI
THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THIRD ASSEMBLY- FOURTH SESSION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORUMS ON THE KITUI COUNTY ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2025-2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 196 (1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Sections 91 (c) and 105 (1)(d) of the County Governments Act, 2012, and the Kitui County Assembly Standing Orders, the County Assembly of Kitui invites members of the public to attend the upcoming public participation forums and give their views on the **Kitui County Annual Budget Estimates for 2025/2026 Financial Year**. The dates, time and venue for the meetings are as indicated below: -

DAY/DATE	TIME	SUB-COUNTY	VENUE
Thursday, 5th June, 2025	10.00 a.m.	Kitui Central	Kyangwithya West Ward – Kavuta Honey Plant Grounds
	10.00 a.m.	Kitui Rural	Kanyangi Ward – A.I.C Kanyangi
	10.00 a.m.	Kitui East	Nzambani Ward - A.I. C Chuluni
DAY/DATE	TIME	SUB-COUNTY	VENUE
Friday, 6th June, 2025	10.00 a.m.	Kitui South	Kanziko Ward – A.I.C Kanziko
	10.00 a.m.	Kitui West	Mutonguni Ward – Mutonguni Social Hall
	10.00 a.m.	Mwingi West	Migwani Ward – Migwani TSC Hall
DAY/DATE	TIME	SUB-COUNTY	VENUE
Monday, 9th June, 2025	10.00 a.m.	Mwingi Central	Kivou Ward- Ikuuni Vocational Training Centre
	10.00 a.m.	Mwingi North	Tharaka Ward- Kamayagi Market Shed

One may as well submit a written memorandum with his/her views to the Office of the Clerk of Assembly or email us at kituiassembly@gmail.com or info@kituiassembly.go.ke, on or before **Monday, 9th June 2025**, during working hours.

Copies of 2025/2026 FY Budget Estimates can be downloaded from the County Assembly website www.kituiassembly.go.ke

Members of the public are also invited to make their submissions during an interactive virtual meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, 10th June, 2025**, from **9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.** on the Google Meet platform via this link: <https://meet.google.com/wxq-xoqc-fnq>

Ag. Clerk of Assembly
County Assembly of Kitui

PLAN

State revisits “Mwananchi gas project” in clean energy drive

MARTIN MWITA

THE government is committed to increase cooking gas consumption in the country, Energy CS Opiyo Wandaïi has said, with a target of achieving a per capita consumption of 15kg per year by 2030.

This is up from the consumption of 7.5kg per year recorded in 2021, and remains below 10kg as at this year.

The growth, the CS said, will be driven by a robust LPG growth strategy that includes the provision of affordable clean cooking gas to low-income households through the distribution of 6kg gas cylinders and seed gas to public institutions, which has been developed.

This sets the government on the path for a second shot at offering poor households cheaper cooking gas after the Mwananchi Gas Project, launched in 2016 to provide affordable cooking gas to Kenyans, failed.

The project was marred with corruption, bureaucratic hurdles and the delivery of faulty gas cylinders, leading to its suspension in 2019, despite initial investments of over Sh1 billion.

Under the Sh3 billion ‘Mwananchi Gas Project’ (Gas Yetu), households were to receive 6kgcooking gas cylinders and burners at a discounted price.

Speaking at the commissioning of the LPG for Public Institutions of Learning Project at Isiolo Girls High School, the Energy and Petroleum CS said the new strategy is anchored on five pillars which will ensure the success of growing LPG penetration.

These include developing bulk LPG import, storage and handling infrastructure, reviewing of the LPG policy, legal and regulatory framework, offering cheaper LPG to households and implementing other LPG initiatives including autogas, which will transform the availability and reticulation of LPG in the country. “Our resolve to transition from reliance on fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources is irreversible and the goal is to be carbon free by 2030 as envisaged,” Wandaïi said.

In December, government identified 20 schools nationwide to pilot the LPG for public institutions programme which is among key initiatives under the broader National LPG Growth Strategy. The plan seeks

to ensure that institutions, households and communities access cleaner, safer and more sustainable cooking fuel.

To make the sector robust, safe and resilient, the Ministry in collaboration with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) have formulate the Kenya Standards 3014:2025, that guides the installation of LPG systems in learning institutions. “The standard will ensure that schools and other institutions adopting LPG as an alternative do so in a manner that prioritises the safety and well-being of both the students and staff,” Wandaïi said.

As part of the institutional reforms and to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework, the Legal Notice No.100 of 2019 has been reviewed to pave way for the development of Petroleum (Liquified Petroleum Gas) Regulations 2025.

The CS also singled out the zero rating of LPG and locally manufactured cylinders and tanks as part of the wider scheme by the government to accelerate the usage of LPG in the country. Present during the function were the Petroleum PS Mohamed Liban, Commissioner for Petroleum



Energy and Petroleum CS Opiyo Wandaïi /ENOS TECHE

Joseph Otieno, EPRA director for petroleum Edward Kinyua, among other leaders. The government’s LPG agenda seeks to enhance penetration from the current 24 per cent to 70 per cent by 2028. In 2023, the government exempted cooking gas from Value Added Tax, the 3.5 per cent Import Declaration Fee (IDF) and the two per cent Railway Development Levy (RDL) to promote its use and reduce reliance on charcoal. LPG consumption has since increased to 414,861 metric tonnes, latest EPRA data shows.

CONCERN

Kenya’s shaky fiscal status to hurt poverty war – World Bank

The Covid pandemic reversed many gains, pushing poverty rate to 42.9% in 2020



A section of Nairobi’s Mathare slum /VICTOR IMBOTO

VICTOR AMADALA
@itsAmadala

KENYA’S economic growth has not sufficiently cut poverty, with the World Bank concerned that rising debt levels, constrained public finances, and declining household welfare could worsen the situation.

According to the global lender, Kenya’s robust economic growth, marked by a 40 per cent increase in per capita GDP between 2005 and 2022, was accompanied by an incommensurate seven-percentage point reduction in the poverty rate, underscoring the uneven distribution of the benefits of growth.

“Since attaining lower-middle-income status in 2014, the economy has expanded, yet poverty has become less responsive to growth. Between

2005 and 2019, poverty rate fell from 46.7 per cent to 33.6 per cent, with most gains occurring between 2005 and 2015, partly due to favorable agricultural conditions,” World Bank says in its report released Tuesday.

The report shows that between 2005 and 2019, poverty rate fell from 46.7 per cent to 33.6 per cent, with most gains occurring between 2005 and 2015, partly due to favourable agricultural conditions.

It further shows that the Covid-19 pandemic reversed many gains, pushing poverty to rate 42.9 percent in 2020, with urban areas hit hardest.

While there was a partial recovery to 38.6 per cent in 2021, poverty stagnated at 39.8 per cent in 2022, reflecting the compounded effects of drought and global inflation.

An increase in both the poverty

rate and population growth saw the number of poor people grow from 15.8 million in 2019 to 19.1 million in 2022.

“Regional disparities remain stark, with rural and arid areas, especially the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), bearing the highest poverty levels. These gaps reflect structural inequalities and uneven access to services, underscoring the need for more inclusive growth.”

Although some progress has been made in reducing inequality, the World Bank says it remains relatively high, weakening the connection between growth and poverty reduction.

Kenya’s Gini index24 fell from 47 in 2005/06 to 35.8 in 2020 but rose to 38.9 in 2021 due to the pandemic, easing slightly to 38.4 in 2022. Inequality is closely linked to geography, with access to healthcare, education, electricity, and clean water still uneven. According to the report, Kenya’s fiscal system reduces inequality, but its impact on poverty remains limited.

In 2022, the country’s tax and transfer system reduced income inequality, measured by the Gini index, by 4.6 points, largely due to in-kind benefits in health and education.

However, the system’s effect on poverty is less favourable: the net impact of taxes, subsidies, and transfers increases poverty by 2.7 percentage points. This is primarily because the limited coverage and value of cash transfers fail to offset the tax burden borne by poor and vulnerable

households. The World Bank says that expanding the coverage and adequacy of cash transfers is essential to strengthening the poverty and inequality-reducing impact of Kenya’s fiscal policy. Reducing untargeted and inefficient subsidies, which disproportionately benefit wealthier households, can help create fiscal space for this expansion. “At the same time, strategic value-added tax (VAT) reforms, when paired with complementary social protection measures, can raise additional revenue without harming the welfare of the poor.” It adds that continued investment in health and education remains essential to support long-term equity and economic mobility.

“When combined with inclusive growth, these reforms can transform fiscal policy into a powerful instrument for reducing poverty, lowering inequality, and building a fairer and more resilient Kenyan economy.”

Even so, the bank warns that the country now faces a challenge to make growth more inclusive.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

In 2022, Kenya's overall poverty headcount rate was 39.8%, meaning over 20 million individuals were below the poverty line. Food poverty was also a significant issue, with 31.7% of the population (over 16 million) unable to meet their basic food needs.

THE DATA

129.29

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

Kenya’s shilling remained stable against the US dollar on Wednesday buoyed by strong diaspora remittances and export earnings

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.2949
EURO	146.0968
STG POUND	174.1085
SA RAND	7.1944
KES / USHS	28.2223
KES / TSHS	20.8632
IND RUPEE	1.5100
AE DIRHAM	35.2014
JPY (100)	89.4310
CHINESE YUAN	17.9616

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
STANDARD GROUP	6.20	9.15
SAMEER	3.29	7.52
CENTUM	11.60	3.57
SANLAM	6.40	3.56
OLYMPIA CAPITAL	3.83	3.51

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
E.A CABLES	1.72	8.99
EXPRESS KENYA	3.01	8.79
TP SERENA	14.30	7.74
PORTLAND CENTURY	32.55	6.20
TRANS-CENTURY	1.22	3.94

TIP OF THE DAY

HOW TO DELEGATE ACROSS, NOT DOWN

Delegating laterally requires nuance, not just authority. Here's how to do it effectively.

Choose the right tasks to delegate.

Only delegate work that fits your peer's domain, advances their goals, or uses their existing tools. Misaligned asks feel like favors and are likely to get a quick "no."

Frame it as a shared opportunity.

Start with context, not commands.

Acknowledge their expertise and position

the work as a mutual win: "Would it make sense for your team to own this going forward?" Keep the tone collaborative.

Create accountability together.

Get clear on timelines and roles. Ask, "What check-ins work for you?" or "What's a realistic timeline?" When needed, be up front about hard deadlines. After the conversation, follow up with an email summarizing the agreements you've made.

Address pushback with curiosity.

If you hear hesitation, ask why: "What concerns do you have?" or "What's your team juggling right now?" Use their input to revise scope or timing without forcing the issue.

Follow up without overstepping.

Instead of "Is this done?" which can make them feel like you're checking up on them, ask "What obstacles can we help clear?"

Revisit shared agreements if needed, and keep things moving—respectfully.

NEWS BUSINESS

PROPOSAL

Accountants want key taxes lowered to boost investments

Proposes reduction of corporate tax from 30% to 28%, income tax cut to increase takehomes



ICPAK director public policy and research Hillary Onami, public finance and tax committee member Erastus Kwaka and the committee convenor Robert Waruiru during Finance Bill 2025 proposals submission /HANDOUT

MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin

THE Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya has proposed several tax cuts and scrapping of others to stimulate industrial growth and boost household earnings.

This comes as the Finance Bill 2025, currently under the public participation stage, shows a move away from the tax incentives that have previously distorted the market, with no clear output registered in the economy, in a tough balancing act by Treasury that has seen it go slow on imposing major taxes.

Among taxes the accountants body wants streamlined includes VAT, corporate and excise tax on key locally produced products which they either want reduced or completely removed.

In its submission to the National Assembly on the Finance Bill 2025,

ICPAK recommends a reduction of the corporate income tax rate from 30 per cent to 28 per cent, saying it ensure Kenya aligns its tax rate with global and regional trends.

Presently, the average global corporate tax rate is 23.51 per cent, while in Africa, it is 27.28 per cent.

“...Enhance Kenya’s strategic position as an investment hub; and to deter aggressive tax planning and lobbying strategies aimed at reducing corporate tax liability, a reduced corporate tax rate would be beneficial and encourage more taxpayers to voluntarily comply with their tax obligations,” said ICPAK led by director Public Policy and Research Hillary Onami, Public Finance and Tax committee member FCPA Erastus Kwaka and the Committee convenor FCPA Robert Waruiru.

Further, noting that recent measures undertaken by the government to boost tax compliance, such as eTIMS, have had less than opti-

mal impact on revenue collection, encouraging voluntary tax compliance may be the key to shoring up revenue mobilisation, it said. Accountants also want the proposed introduction of a five-year cap on deductibility of tax losses reviewed upwards to 15 years. Currently, the law permits taxpayers to carry for-

ward losses indefinitely where its removal was based on introduction of minimum tax. Tax loss carry forward is a tax provision that allows firms to carry forward losses from prior years to offset future profits, and, therefore, lower future income taxes.

Since the current practice is that tax losses can be carried forward indefinitely, introducing a 15-year cap would be more reasonable since some of the tax losses arise from the investment allowances legitimately provided for under the Income Tax Act, according to ICPAK.

“By the time the investment allowance is utilised fully, a company would have likely not exhausted the tax losses because five years is too short for capital-intensive projects,” ICPAK has noted.

It further wants a framework put in place to implement the proposed Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) for non-residents to effectively promotes tax certainty and minimises disputes.

This is an ahead-of-time deal between a company and a tax authority that predetermines the method for pricing transactions between related parties, such as different branches or subsidiaries of the same company operating in various countries.

If implemented, Kenya would join regional counterparts such as Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda, which already have provisions for APAs in their tax laws. However, regional experience shows that only a limited number of APAs have been finalized so far, largely due to administrative capacity constraints,

unclear procedures and limited interest from taxpayers. The Bill also proposes to amend the Income Tax Act by extending the period of approval of income tax exemption applications from 60 days to 90 days, with the institute recommending the current provision retained.

It further proposes to repeal the preferential income tax rate of 15 per cent to companies that construct 100 residential units.

On this, ICPAK recommends the retention of the current provision in the Act saying the repeal of the incentive goes against the housing agenda which is a key economic agenda under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

“The proposed amendment will disincentivise investment in the real estate sector. The incentive was designed to encourage developers to build at least 100 residential units annually, supporting Kenya’s affordable housing agenda. Removing this incentive may reduce the financial attractiveness of such projects, potentially leading to fewer large-scale developments and slowing the supply of affordable housing,” it said.

Other recommendations by ICPAK includes reduction of VAT rate to 15 per cent in first year and then gradually to 14 per cent.

“The 16 per cent VAT rate in the current stressed economy and high living cost has not only reduced consumption levels but also limited revenue potential for the government. The medium-term revenue strategy anticipates an eventual lower rate of 14 per cent to cushion the economy and improve purchasing power after increased disposable income,” it said.

To promote local industries, accountants want tax incentives on local vehicle assemblers retained, excise duty on locally manufactured articles of plastics removed and harmonisation of key tax policies including in health, energy sectors and motorcycle assembly and removal of excise duties and other domestic taxes on locally produced or imported industrial inputs.



ICPAK

A reduced corporate tax rate would be beneficial and encourage more taxpayers to voluntarily comply

REBOUND

TransCentury back to profitability after 12 years with Sh580m net earnings in 2024

VICTOR AMADALA

LISTED infrastructure investment firm, TransCentury is back to profitability after a 12-year hiatus, underscoring a successful business turnaround started in 2022.

On Wednesday, the firm announced a Sh580 million profit for the financial year ended December 31, 2024, from a loss of Sh3.2 billion the previous year, attributed to sustained revenue growth momentum, profit and balance sheet improvement, more specifically on sound currency and credit management.

The firm last posted a net profit of Sh857 million in 2013.

The revenue grew by two per cent, driven by strong brand positioning, demand in core markets, strategic market focus, capital allocation prioritisation to demand fulfilment, as well as innovation. The Group’s gross profits rose by 27 per cent to

Sh2.3 billion from Sh1.9 billion due to improved gross margins as a result of focus on high-margin products and efficient procurement and project management.

In a year to December 2024, the infrastructure investor saw its operating expenses decline marginally from Sh1.67 billion to Sh1.62 billion. As a result, operating profit improved to Sh715 million from a loss of Sh371 million.

During the year, the firm’s forex gains amounted to Sh1.23 billion from a loss of Sh1.49 billion.

The firm has achieved profitability just three years after adopting Ahidi +32 per cent strategy in 2022 which focuses on its core – Investments to drive sustainable, organic growth, innovation and diversification guided by internal and external data and emerging trends, investing and developing strong brands that will deliver superior value to shareholders and

entrenching a culture of execution and accountability.

Commenting on the results, TransCentury PLC Group chairman, Shaka Kariuki, said they are excited to see operational results bolstering our restructuring efforts to materially reverse our balance sheet in the next reporting period. He added that strong performance in P&L supports the Group’s efforts in ongoing balance sheet improvement efforts.

“FY2024 marks a defining chapter in TransCentury’s turnaround journey. As the Board, we are proud of the decisive actions taken to restore stakeholder confidence and reposition the Group for return to profitability. Our stakeholders have been supportive and patient, and for those having concerns, we assure them that normalising relations continues to be a key focus for us.” Shaka Kariuki, Group chairman, TransCentury PLC. According to him, the performance

underscores the successful execution of the firm’s turnaround strategy, hailing the team for delivering a remarkable turnaround in an incredibly challenging environment and significant headwinds in the past few years.

“The return to profitability is not just a financial milestone but also a testament to the resilience of our people, the strength of our strategy, and our unwavering commitment to sustainable value creation,” Nganga Njiru, Group CEO, TransCentury PLC,

said. “Our next steps are focused are capitalising on the significant growth opportunities we have created, capital structure optimisation, and continuing balance sheet improvement.”

In March last year, Kuramo acquired additional shares in the Kenyan-based firm after pumping in Sh1.1 billion in the rights issue. The Mauritius-based private equity firm already owned 25 per cent stake in a 2016 deal that gave it access to 93.7 million shares.



TransCentury CEO Ng'ang'a Njiru, chairman Shaka Kariuki and company secretary Virginia Ndunge during a past Annual General Meeting in Nairobi /FILE



#MBUSIINALIONTEKETEKE

MBUSII NA LION TEKE TEKE

EVERY WEEKDAY
3PM - 7PM



RADIO
JAMBO

www.radiojambo.co.ke

BIG READ / UNSUNG HEROES

KENYANS WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WARS RECOGNISED

Sacrifice by 4,000 soldiers feted by Commonwealth initiative

Commonwealth War Graves Commission researchers, namely education lead Carol Maina, heritage supervisor Mercy Gakii and Africa and Asia heritage manager Patrick Abungu, at the Nairobi War Cemetery on Ngong Road on Monday
/JACK OWUOR



JACK OWUOR
@TheStarKenya

More than a century after the First World War, and nearly 80 years since the second, the long shadow of colonial erasure is finally beginning to lift.

Thousands of African soldiers

fought and died in wars not their own, and now their names are at last being unearthed from forgotten ledgers and hidden archives.

Among them are some 4,000 Kenyans whose sacrifices, until recently, went unrecognised.

This breakthrough is part of a broader initiative by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The CWGC has identified more than 11,600 non-commemorated African servicemen across Commonwealth countries.

This is according to the Fourth Annual Review Report of its Non-Commemorations Programme, covering April 2024 to March 2025.

The soldiers were omitted from official war records not by oversight but

through deliberate acts of omission.

Colonial administrators repeatedly misled the CWGC, claiming that African military records did not exist.

In truth, many of these men served with distinction, endured unimaginable hardship and died far from home, only to be forgotten by the

very empire they defended.

A turning point came when Kenya's Department of Defence granted CWGC researchers access to its archives, revealing conscription documents dating as far back as 1897.

These meticulously preserved files have become vital tools in the ongoing mission to document, commemorate and dignify the lives lost in both World Wars.

"This facilitation has helped us find well-kept details of servicemen who died or got lost and never returned," says Patrick Abungu, CWGC Africa and Asia heritage manager.

"We can now hope for their inclusion in commemoration and give closure to existing family members."

“

MERCY GAKII

These men deserve the same recognition as their British counterparts. Their graves, stories and sacrifices should be known, seen and respected

DIGNITY DENIED

For Abungu, this work is not just professional, it is personal. Among the thousands of unrecorded names, he is searching for his great uncle, Ogoyi Ogunde, who was conscripted from Ndwaru village during the First World War.

Ogunde was one of five young men taken to Maseno for recruitment. Three briefly fled upon hearing of the conscription, but returned when they learned their parents could be jailed for their absence. Ogunde, however, never came back. His fate remains unknown.



Research supervisor
Josephat Sande
/JACKSON
MWANGI/ CWGC

Abungu has retraced the route his uncle may have taken following the railway lines laid by the British.

This would take him from Mase-no to Kisumu, through Kipkelion, Kariokor in Nairobi, Voi and Bura in Mwatate.

“Even though the search is tedious and complex, finding others who served gives me some comfort,” he says. “That’s what I do.”

For decades, the final resting places of African soldiers were disregarded. While British soldiers were buried with honour, often by African troops, African servicemen were left to decay where they fell, under a colonial policy that advocated “letting nature reclaim them”.

This directive starkly contradicted imperial policy, which claimed all war dead would be treated equally.

“That policy was breached,” Abungu says, “and the result was a systemic denial of dignity in death.”

RECOVERING HISTORY

The consequences stretched beyond military records.

Without marked graves or memorials, countless African families have lived in generational uncertainty, never knowing what became of their fathers, brothers or grandfathers.

CWGC researchers are now working with local communities to recover this lost history.

Through digitised military files, oral testimonies and advanced tools, such as drones and ground-penetrating radar, they are slowly piecing together where these men fell, and where they now rest.

The sites under investigation — some remote, others barely marked — bear silent witness to a forgotten past.

Locations such as Lotima, Riata, Sori in Karungu and Salaita (dubbed ‘Slaughter Hill’ by British troops) tell stories of immense sacrifice. In Taita Taveta county, near Voi’s railway bridge, researchers scour overgrown graveyards and colonial battlefields for clues.

These are not just remnants of past wars; they are sacred spaces demanding remembrance.

Dr George Hay, a historian and research fellow at the CWGC’s Non-Commemorations Programme, estimates that at least 88,000 East Africans served and died in the wars.

“One of the programme’s key objectives has been to produce the most accurate estimate of casualties,” Dr Hay notes in the report.

“Allowing us to go some way to restoring recognition to all those who lost their lives in British military service.”

That staggering number underscores just how profoundly African contributions have been minimised. These soldiers died from bullets, disease, snakebites, starvation, exhaustion and exposure.

Many never even fired a weapon. They hauled supplies, built roads and served in brutal conditions as essential yet invisible support.

Not all tragedy came from battle. At City Park Cemetery, six white soldiers — survivors of war — died in a celebratory flight that crashed on the day peace was declared.

At the Nairobi War Cemetery on Ngong Road, the gravestone of a young British nurse speaks to women’s roles in wartime.

Interwoven with African stories,



King Charles III and Queen Camilla meet war veterans at the Commonwealth war graves in Kariokor on November 1 2023 /EZEKIEL AMING'A

these episodes reflect a complex tapestry of shared sacrifice and forgotten histories.

NEW MEMORIAL

Mercy Gakii, CWGC heritage supervisor, sees this work as both a professional duty and a national imperative.

“These men deserve the same recognition as their British counterparts,” she says.

“Their graves, stories and sacrifices should be known, seen and respected.”

To that end, plans are underway for a new memorial site at Kariokor War Cemetery in Nairobi.

The envisioned site will not only serve as a place of remembrance but also as a cultural and educational hub.

A space where future generations can learn about the wars, their global impact and the Africans who bore their burden.

CWGC education lead Carol Maina encourages schools to go beyond textbooks and give their students exposure.

“Visiting war graves gives students a practical experience of what the World Wars were like,” she says.

“It expands their understanding and appreciation of the role Africans played.”

Abungu echoes this call to action. “This was not just a European war, as the narrative often suggests. It was also our war. Too many Africans served and died, so it is our war,” he says.

“If anyone has heard the phrase alienda na hakurudi (he went and never returned), reach out to us. We will help you find information about your kin and possibly where he was buried.”

Across Kenya, 38 known war cem-

eteries stand as solemn markers of this legacy.

From Nanyuki to Mombasa, Gilgil to Kisumu, these sites are not relics of colonial memory; they are Kenyan heritage.

They stand as evidence that Africans were not passive bystanders but central players in the global conflicts that shaped the modern world.

In uncovering these lost soldiers, Kenya is not merely righting a historical wrong; it is reclaiming a legacy.

The effort to remember them reminds us that history must be inclusive to be truthful.

The wars may have ended long ago, but the battle for memory, justice and dignity continues.

And in that battle, the forgotten soldiers of Africa are finally being seen — not as just footnotes but as heroes.

1922 East African landscape map used by the research team /CWGC



★comment

THE STAR

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

Involve the public more in yearly national prayer

A national prayer is a noble and uplifting solemn pursuit meant to foster unity and focus the entire nation in building a cohesive and united country.

It's meant to build bridges across national fissures, be it ethnic or political and even religious misunderstanding.

Praying together strengthens the bond between families and strengthens deeper family connections and the glue that binds.

Yesterday marked the 20th national prayer day (the first held in 2005) but it now calls for broader involvement of the public.

But as with every endeavour in the hands of politicians, the focus can quite easily drift away from reconciliation and forgiveness into brazen hypocrisy.

The opposition, a very vibrant political grouping in our young democracy, was conspicuous by its absence from yesterday's summit at the Safari Park hotel because they were likely not invited.

Organisers went out of their way to invite an inspiring preacher from the United States in pastor Ricky Bolden who in our view had the most uplifting prayer and summon about how we ought, as a nation, to treat Gen Z in light of last year's protests.

It's time the repertoire of clergy was broadened and the venue changed to a national stadium.

Quote of the day: *"We cannot build the future by avenging the past."* —English writer T H White died on May 29, 1906

THE STAR

WWW.THE-STAR.CO.KE

f THESTARKENYA i THESTARKENYA t @THESTARKENYA

Lion Place, Waiyaki Way, Westlands
PO Box 74497-00200, Nairobi, Kenya
+254 20 424 4000 | 0711046 000

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

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

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

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

The Star is published by the Star Publications



POLITICAL LEADERS NEED TO GROW UP, BE RESPONSIBLE

By Brian Obara

We must stop electing showmen and demand grown-ups who understand that leadership means less applause, more accountability



In a recent visit to Nairobi, Vietnam Gas president Doanh Chau met with top Kenyan officials, including President William Ruto and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi. What should have been a high-level meeting to discuss opportunity and investment became, instead, a moment of indictment.

After taking the measure of Kenya's leaders, Chau came away with a sobering assessment that he posted on LinkedIn for all the world to see: Kenya's current leaders, he seemed to say, are good at talking but piss poor at execution.

One stark comparison drove his point home; Vietnam, a country of 100 million people, generates over 70 gigawatts of electricity. Kenya, with half the population, manages barely 4 gigawatts. Electricity, as we all know, is not a luxury. It is the foundation of modern economies, the starting point for manufacturing, job creation and wealth generation. No investor builds a manufacturing facility where power flickers and outages are routine.

As refreshing as it was to hear an outsider's take on our made-for-entertainment governance style, our Vietnamese friend was not telling us anything we didn't already know. Our leaders talk a lot. About housing, about agriculture, about the "digital economy". But what they consistently fail to do is follow through. There is no culture of execution and

no commitment to measurable outcomes.

Vietnam and other fast-growing Asian nations understood early that policy is not a PowerPoint deck or a speech. It is action. It is systems. It is getting up at 5 am, not for a press conference or to galavant around the country on a "development tour", but to ensure power plants work, investors are heard, hospitals are stocked and ports are running efficiently. At least that's what grown-up leaders do.

In contrast, Kenya's leadership remains locked in a doom loop—playing to donors, tweeting for clout, commissioning studies that are never implemented and launching programmes that collapse after the first budget cycle. There is, simply put, no grown-up in the room. That's why, as evidenced by the viral LinkedIn post by the Vietnamese executive, we have become a global punchline. And justifiably so.

Our Gen Z are in on the joke and have created a cot-

tage industry that now thrives on lampooning the absurdity of our self-serious but mediocre leaders. As a general rule, when satire and reality are indistinguishable, something has gone terribly wrong.

Governance is the domain of adults. Not just in age, but in mindset. It's not about how many speeches you give or how many projects you launch with ribbon-cutting ceremonies. It's about outcomes. Are more children in school? Are expectant mothers receiving prenatal care? Do farmers have reliable inputs and access to markets? Can new parents access vaccines for their babies?

We must therefore begin to see grand corruption not just as a failure of enforcement, but as a failure of political maturity. If that seems harsh, consider this: what do we call a senior government official who steals public money to build a garish nightclub or splurges on an overpriced watch just to outshine old

college rivals? Infantile is the only word that fits.

The late Rasna Warah, a journalist of uncommon moral courage, warned us about this trajectory. "One day," she said, "someone will look at Kenya and say, here lie the ruins of a country destroyed by greed." We are inching ever closer to making that prophecy reality, not because we lack talent, but because those in power refuse to grow up.

Vietnam built energy infrastructure before free trade zones. Singapore aligned incentives with performance and built an economy on integrity and execution. These countries are not magical, they simply chose maturity over melodrama and systems over made-for-TV political entertainment.

Kenya is not a poor country. It is a badly mismanaged one. And mismanagement, at its core, is immaturity, an inability to delay gratification, to think long-term, to serve others before oneself. Our leaders need to put down the microphones and pick up the responsibility of nation-building.

We must stop electing showmen and start demanding grown-ups. Grown-ups who understand that real leadership means less applause and more accountability. Less promise and more delivery. Until then, we remain governed by children.

The writer is a lawyer and media practitioner

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

VOICES

COMPLEXITIES OF KENYAN DEMOCRATIC QUOTIENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

NO sooner had ink dried on the Kenya Gazette official notification of Sessional Paper Number 1 of 2025, ushering in a new foreign policy for the country, had local activists already found grounds to test its functionality within the East African regional integration context.

Following the court appearance of the main opposition leader Tundu Lissu, Kenyan lawyers and activists have come face to face with the iron fist that is always hidden under the velvet glove of Swahili mannerisms or hospitality in Tanzania.

As Kenya's constitutional democratic quotient comes to life in its regional, continental and global relations, the international political character of what Kenya stands for is beginning to take shape in so far as the balance between state and non-state actors is concerned.

On one hand, the state, in its traditional realism posture as the responsible custodian of sovereignty, stability and safety, must now face contestation from more modernist perspectives of non-state actors with valid but autonomous ideas of global self, sentiment, plus situations.

By Leonard Wanyama

Sovereignty will be continually pitted against solidarity in so far as state actor objectives are not aligned with those of non-state actors



That has implications for diplomatic conduct in so far as domestic sense and sensibility applies in foreign countries within a context of competition, collaboration or possible conflict in relation to Kenyan interests for both parties.

Consequently, while different expectations on how to go about matters in foreign spaces will clash, as seen in the case of Kenyan civil society involvement in Tanzania and Uganda, the matter of sovereignty will be continually pitted against solidarity in so far as state actor objectives are not aligned with those of non-state actors.

While Kenyan citizens may see the national interest as a black letter application of rights and responsibilities, the Kenyan

government may have to ask itself critical and broader strategic questions.

For example, what implication do these events mean for the forthcoming Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) Heads of State Summit to be held in Nairobi later this year.

Understanding different contexts in other African countries, should other presidents and leaders be afraid to come engage on trade or peace in Nairobi on account of the country's cacophonous outspokenness and over the top caricaturing of every public issue?

Subsequently, most observers would therefore ask, so what really are these national interests that are so spoken about, especially if individuals do not

see themselves in them? In no particular order, these would be maintaining democratic consensus; integrity of Kenyan borders; internal countrywide stability; economic productive capacity; global cooperation; and promotion of citizen success.

Broadly, therefore, there are two schools of thought in which, the first high political concerns popularly referred to as Usirikali would prefer to view these through the prism of a hierarchy of interests in which sovereignty is very important in relation to the traditions of international sensibility.

Meanwhile low politics – herein referred to as Ujirani – demands for sanctity of the individual.

IF KENYA DOES NOT TAKE UP THE BOLD INTELLECTUAL WORK OF DOCTRINALLY DECLARING ITSELF TO THE WORLD, IN RELATION TO THESE NECESSARY BALANCING ACTS, IT WILL BE OVERWHELMED BY A SMORGASBORD OF CRISIS

This would best be placed in advocating solidarity with others through a balance of interests via democratic engagements between institutions.

These checks and balances would not only apply domestically but internationally as well in so far as the democratic commitments to human rights through the East African Community treaty, African Union and United Nations charters.

Kenya has an opportunity to build on its pragmatism by expounding further on its 'World Bridge Doctrine', which President William Ruto inadvertently stumbled into when putting forward the idea that Kenya could serve as the bridge to the North, South, East and West in his China speech at Peking University.

If it does not take up the bold intellectual work of doctrinally declaring itself to the world, in relation to these necessary balancing acts, it will be overwhelmed by a smorgasbord of crisis.

Chief executive of the International Relations Society of Kenya and regional coordinator of the East African Tax and Governance Network. @lennwanyama

EA regimes mirror each other in political repression

EAST African regimes are increasingly resorting to the same security playbook to repress opposition leaders and dissenting voices through state-sanctioned abuse.

Authorities have been implicated in unlawful detentions, sham prosecutions and, in extreme cases, assassination of opposition supporters, activists and civilians.

The ordeal currently facing Tanzania's opposition leader Tundu Lissu mirrors long-standing tactics also deployed in Uganda and Kenya.

In Uganda, for instance, Edward Sebuufu, a bodyguard to opposition leader Bobi Wine, was forcibly disappeared this year, later resurfacing with signs of torture, electrocution and severe beatings.

Shockingly, General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, President Yoweri Museveni's son and army chief, openly admitted responsibility, even boasting about shaving and planning to castrate Sebuufu.

In November 2024, Kizza Besigye, another major Ugandan

By Annet Nerima

Suluhu appears to be following Museveni's playbook by denying the opposition a fair contest, which will lead to a fair, transparent and credible election that respects the people's sovereignty



opposition figure, was abducted in Nairobi and taken to military custody in Uganda, where he now faces a treason charge that carries the death penalty. His trial has been widely condemned as a farce.

A disturbing pattern emerges when you look back four years to the death of Daniel Apedel, a 21-year-old supporter of Uganda's National Unity Platform. Wine leads NUP.

Apedel, who had reported being followed and threatened after rejecting government offers, was found dead with signs of torture.

His death is one among many targeting NUP supporters under constant surveillance.

Tanzania shows a similar trend. This month, Chadema activist Mdude Nyangali Mpauka was kidnapped, and his fate remains unknown. Since 2016, he has faced repeated arrests, torture and imprisonment.

In 2021, Freeman Mbowe of Chadema faced terrorism charges and endured torture over seven months in detention.

Now, Lissu, Chadema's top figure, is also facing treason

charges that could lead to a death sentence, in a trial that, like Besigye's, bears all the signs of being politically motivated.

These politically charged arrests and abuses typically intensify around election periods.

Uganda's next election, scheduled for January 2026, will see Museveni attempt to extend his near 40-year rule. His regime has escalated its crackdown on opposition figures such as Besigye and Wine's supporters, aiming to weaken resistance ahead of the polls.

Meanwhile, in Tanzania, the ruling CCM party, led by President Samia Suluhu, has held power since 1977 and plans to field her for the October 2025 election.

The electoral commission, under government influence, disqualified Chadema from participating on procedural grounds, claiming the party failed to sign a code of conduct, despite Chadema's calls for electoral reform.

REAL TRANSFORMATION WOULD MEAN ELECTING LEADERS WHO UPHOLD CONSTITUTIONALISM, THE RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS, QUALITIES BOTH MUSEVENI AND SULUHU HAVE CONSISTENTLY LACKED

You can see that Suluhu appears to be following Museveni's playbook by denying the opposition a fair contest, which will lead to a fair, transparent and credible election that respects the people's sovereignty.

This broader context explains why Tanzanian and Ugandan regimes are wary of Kenyan activists who travel to observe and expose political repression in neighbouring countries. They fear such solidarity could awaken local populations to resist authoritarianism and push for democratic change.

Real transformation would mean electing leaders who uphold constitutionalism, the rule of law and human rights, qualities both Museveni and Suluhu have consistently lacked.

For this reason, Kenyan citizens must continue demanding justice across the region, including accountability for those who tortured Boniface Mwangi and those responsible for the brutalisation and rape of Agather Atuhair.

Like Willy Mutunga, Hanifa Adan, Martha Karua and Hussein Khalid, who were all deported for seeking justice for Lissu, these activists represent a growing movement that authoritarian leaders cannot silence.

Manager for Inclusion and Political Justice 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 Fax 4447410.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Negotiated democracy has reshaped Garissa politics for the better

EALA legislative member Falhada Dekow Iman, who hails from Garissa county, recently hinted at this political remodelling in her cryptic and yet provocative post on Facebook where she wrote: “Allegedly the so-called ‘owners’ of Garissa are now guest in their own ‘home’”.

Beyond the shade of odium that her remark exuded, and for which she was called out, her statement was in a way a meaningfully blunt realism of Garissa’s altered political landscape and whose strongest intimation is the fact that the predominant elites of the Rer-Yahye sub-clan of Authaq clan are no longer as authoritative and fully in charge of the area’s broad politics as they once were, thanks also partly to their own in-house bloopers.

Garissa county has become an open field that promotes multiplicity of political actors not only through representation but also in the elevation of the diverse influences of different local elites and major clans along with minority groups.

This has helped make it run resourcefully in such a way that only the electorally shrewder and more inclusive assemblage of top-drawers could carry the day in elections and as well sit at the centre of county political decision-making on account of their positively strategic, multisided and dominance-checking pre-election pacts and concessions.

Equally, this diverse political embroidery has made residents to interestedly undertake scrutiny and comparative appraisals on the distinct models of negotiated democracy that are practised among the three major Ogaden clans in the county.

The Auliyahan clan has for instance appeared as more democratic in its negotiated democracy approach, particularly for rapidly rotating parliamentary seats within their clan members, an advantage that has made it to produce the



longest list of MPs compared to the others.

Also its model, through repeated synergy with the Samawadhal clan, has efficaciously empowered the Auliyahan’s small sub-clan of Rer-Kassim to successfully foist Nathif Jama Adam as the first two-term governor of Garissa.

On its part, the Samawadhal clan has played a crucial swing vote role in the county politics through its negotiated democracy arrangement that has chiefly galvanised political power and community stewardship around the indomitable and funky fresh Hajis, with Senator Abdul now aiming higher to replace Nathif as Garissa governor in 2027.

However, for the Authaq clan, which houses my Rer-Yahye sub-clan and elites, disquiet is ever-increasing on how its negotiated democracy is undermined by its elite’s zero-sum arrogance, greed and selfishness that has destabilised the clan’s unity and honour, besides sinking its politi-

cal and bargaining edge in the county. Things even worsened in 2022 when the throne-house of the clan’s Sultan Dekow Maalim Sambul was shockingly and insultingly desecrated by goons sent by some of those hubristic and power-hungry elites.

All things considered, Garissa county is evidently on a new dawn in politics.

*Hassan Malik
Political analyst in Garissa county*



Garissa county has become an open field that promotes multiplicity of political actors not only through representation but also in the elevation of the diverse influences of different local elites and major clans along with minority groups.

Bidan Mashauri of Hotpoint (L) and Emmanuel Njeru of LG Electronics EA (R) award Adam Mcloude, winner of the gaming tournament held at the inaugural Screen and Sound Festival by LG Electronics in partnership with Hotpoint /HANDOUT

COMPILED BY GEORGE OWITI



Yes. It's theatrics. The abduction was staged and looks nothing like those we are used to. It is suspicious. The DCI has, in the past days, been looking for him for questioning in connection with alleged criminal activities. His alleged abduction is political theatrics meant to gain sympathy and evade arrest.

CHRISTOPHER MUTHINI
Resident, Machakos



No. I believe he was abducted. And I believe those who abducted him are his rivals in land deals gone sour. That said, in the current political environment, Wamunyoro is taking advantage of every bad thing that he can link to President Ruto. You have to admit some of the abduction of Ruto's enemies are suspect.

GIDEON MUTHOKA
Resident, Machakos

Do you believe Juja MP Koimburi abducted himself?



★ Neutral. The situation warrants careful consideration of all facts. The police have cast doubt on the abduction claim but Koimburi has not publicly addressed the matter, and some allies suggest the possibility of political persecution. Until all investigations are concluded and both sides are heard, it is premature to conclude the abduction was genuine or staged. A balanced approach demands allowing legal and investigative processes to run their course.



PIUS MULATYA
Resident, Machakos county



Yes. He vanished when he was reportedly facing arrest over serious land fraud allegations and later reappeared claiming to have been abducted. This appears to be a strategy to present himself as a victim of political persecution to divert public attention from the legal issues he is facing and get sympathy and political support.

RENCY LOPEZ
Resident, Nairobi



No. While the sequence of events involving MP Koimburi has been dramatic and politically charged, there is no verified information to support the claim that he orchestrated his own abduction. The allegations appear to be part of the broader political narrative rather than a factual account of events.

Bonface Maeke
Kalama MCA, Machakos

★society...

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

TRACY MUTHONI'S FATHER IS LAID TO REST IN EMBU

THE Star video journalist **Tracy Muthoni**'s father, the late **John Ngari**, was laid to rest at Mitheru, Embu county on Tuesday.

Friends and family gathered to pay their respects and last tributes to Ngari.

In attendance were Muthoni's colleagues led by Radio Africa Group digital head **Francis Mureithi** and the Star deputy digital editor **Nancy Agutu**.



1



3



4



2



5



6



7



8

1. Close family members during the prayers 2. John Ngari's gravesite 3. John Ngari's uncle Seth Ojiro 4. Mourners read the eulogy 5. Francis Mureithi speaks 6. Cousin Ken Mureithi, the Star video journalist Tracy Muthoni and Radio Africa Group stations YouTube manager Ivy Muthoni 7. Brothers and sisters of John Ngari lay a wreath on his grave 8. Radio Africa Group team poses for a group photo with Tracy Muthoni's family /LEAH MUKANGAI



1



2



3

DAMARIS KIILU FETED FOR AJEA AWARD WIN

RADIO Africa Group last Tuesday held a celebration at Lion Place to honour Star digital sub editor **Damaris Kiilu** for winning an Ajea award (sports category) for a story on a disabled tennis player.

Also recognised was fellow sub editor **Bosco Marita**, who was a runner-up in the gender category.

In attendance were Radio Africa Group CEO **Martin Khafafa**, human resource manager **Jemima Ngode**, group digital editor **Francis Mureithi** and associate editor **Joseph Olweny**.



4

1. Jemima Ngode speaks 2. Joseph Olweny 3. The Star writer Felix Kipkemai receives a piece of cake from Damaris Kiilu 4. Francis Mureithi, Martin Khafafa, Damaris Kiilu, Joseph Olweny and Bosco Marita 5. Damaris Kiilu speaks 6. Staff during the celebrations /LEAH MUKANGAI



5



6

NEWS COUNTIES

HEAD INJURY

Man arrested over death of girlfriend in Nairobi

CYRUS OMBATI

A man has been arrested over the death of his girlfriend in Githurai 44, Nairobi.

The suspect took the woman to a hospital in the area on Tuesday, where she died while undergoing treatment.

Police said the body of Josephine Wanjala had an injury on the head.

A hammer and iron bar that had blood stains and believed to have been used in the murder, were recovered in their house, police said.

Nairobi police commander George Sedah said the suspect had rushed the woman to hospital, saying she was injured in an altercation in the house.

She died while being attended to and police were called to the facility.

Police said blood was oozing from her nose and ears.

The suspect later led police to the house where they found blood on the floor near the bed.

Police said the bed and bedding had blood stains.

The body was moved to the City mortuary, while the suspect was detained pending further processing.

In Kariobangi, Nairobi, a man

was killed in a fight over the control of a water vending shed.

Elvis Oloo, 27, died from injuries inflicted in the clash with a group over the shed.

Police said the assailant escaped the scene. Efforts to trace the assailant are ongoing, police said.

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

SELF-TAUGHT VISUAL ARTIST

Nard's art a brush of hope for young people in Kibera

He believes art is not only just self-expression but also a force for transformation



Bernard Maingi,
the founder of
an arts training
centre in Kibera
/JOYCE KIMANI

JOYCE KIMANI
@TheStarKenya

EVERY Saturday, children as young as three years stream into Bernard Maingi's art space in the heart of Kibera.

Armed with curiosity, excitement and a heart that won't quit, they reflect on what they learned the previous weekend. As the air hums with creativity, they gather around canvases, crayons, pencils, paper and clay, diving into bold strokes of colour, intricate sketches, and richly textured palettes.

At the centre of it all is a man better known by his artistic name, Nard, a self-taught visual artist, who has turned his personal passion into a powerful lifeline for young people in one of Nairobi's largest informal settlements.

Nard believes that art is not only just self-expression but also a force for transformation.

"Art is the only way to transform the youth and the entire nation at large. This is my calling, to help green artists

explore their skills and to give them a platform to express themselves," he said during an interview with the Star.

What started in 2018 as a small experiment has since evolved into a full-fledged community initiative.

Nard officially launched his art teaching programme during the Covid-19 pandemic, when schools were closed indefinitely and the future felt uncertain. With children and their parents confined at home, a deep sense of hopelessness gripped the community.

His greatest fear was that young people would be lured into gangs, or fall prey to drugs and alcohol, something he had witnessed while growing up in Kibera. It was also a deep concern for parents and the entire community in the area. "So many parents had lost their jobs, and others had loved ones battling the disease, and people were sinking into depression at an alarming rate," he says.

"I felt I could give them a break by taking in their kids, keeping them oc-

cupied and helping them learn a skill that could one day put food on the table. We were selling hope and many of them really needed it."

Since then, Nard has mentored more than 10 cohorts, each with no fewer than 10 students. His classes run Monday through Saturday during school holidays, and on weekends when school is in session.

The young learners explore a variety of visual art forms ranging from pencil work and painting to modelling, pottery, and textured impressionism techniques using palette knives.

For older students, sessions often stretch into the evening, offering ample time to truly immerse themselves in their craft.

Though Nard runs the programme independently, he receives vital support from the Kibera Art District and the broader community, which has welcomed his work wholeheartedly.

The students paint murals throughout Kibera, often bold, visual statements carrying powerful social messages. The community now regularly refers talented children to his space whenever they spot one.

"Parents walk in and tell me that the children have a certain artistic talent and ask me to help hone it," he adds.

One of the programme's most defining moments came at the height of the pandemic. Nard and his students created Kenya's first Covid-themed mural, a striking, message-laden piece

that quickly went viral and was picked up by media outlets around the world. It was a wake-up call for Nard.

"That's when I realised that art could pay and it can speak volumes. It can move people far beyond our borders."

Still, the challenges are real.

"Materials and rent are the biggest struggles. Every time I sell a piece, I have to divide the money between my family's needs and the art space. And we constantly need supplies to keep the classes going, brushes, paint, paper. It all adds up," Nard admits.

Despite the hurdles, his impact is visible. Several of his former students have secured positions with NGOs, while others are now earning income through commissioned art. One student has even opened an art space of their own — living proof that creativity can indeed pave the way to opportunity.

"I focus on young adults because many organisations stop at childhood. Once these kids grow older, they're left on their own," he explains.

"I want to build an informal school: a full creative hub with visual and performing arts studios, where musicians and actors can come to learn, grow and become masters of their craft."

In a place too often stereotyped by poverty and crime, Nard's art space paints a very different picture, one filled with resilience, potential and transformation.



Bernard Maingi leads youth to paint a Huru Butterfly peace mural in Mukuru /JOYCE KIMANI

NEWS COUNTIES

WORKS TO START SOON

State allocates Sh5bn for Murang'a roads, says DP

They include the controversial Mau road project that traverses five counties

ALICE WAITHERA
@Alicewangechi

DEPUTY President Kithure Kindiki has told Murang'a residents that the government has allocated Sh5 billion to construct local roads.

Kindiki, who spoke while attending an empowerment forum at Kamune in Mathioya, Murang'a county, said the funds have already been set aside and the projects will soon start.

On top of the list is the controversial Mau Mau roads project that has caused residents living near the Aberdare forest misery since it stalled in 2022.

The 540km project starts from Kiambu county and traverses Murang'a and Nyandarua counties before finally ending in Nyeri county.

It follows the routes used by Mau Mau fighters as they went in and out of the Aberdare forest to fight colonialists, and incorporates other feeder roads.

"We have allocated Sh2 billion for Mau Mau Lot 2 that connects Kangema and Mathioya subcounties and the contractors should be back on site soon," he said.

Two weeks ago, residents of Kiruri area in Kangema demanded the reconstruction of the Kiruri-Kanyenya-ini road, which had started developing rough patches barely a month after it was constructed.

Kindiki, who has been a frequent visitor in the county, said Sh1.5 billion had been allocated to recarpet the 35km Murang'a-Gitugi road that connects Murang'a town to Nyeri county.

Another Sh1.5 billion, he said, will be used to construct Murang'a-Gatheru-Gitige road, which is 45km long.

Further, the Deputy President said



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Mathioya residents and local leaders in Kamune, Mathioya /ALICE WAITHERA

the government will help construct a 1,250-bed hostel at Michuki National Polytechnic and another hostel with the capacity to accommodate 580 learners will be constructed at Mathioya Technical Training Institute.

"All these projects will be done by local youths as a source of employment. In the affordable housing project, we have employed over 200,000 youths," he said, urging youths to take advantage of such projects to empower themselves.

He pledged that the government will also construct a Sh350 million market at the busy Kiria-ini shopping centre that is on the boundary of Murang'a and Nyeri counties.

The Kenya Kwanza government, Kindiki said, has been working tirelessly to ensure the economy is sta-

bilised and the cost of living reduced.

Although it has not fully succeeded, the strides made have seen the cost of essential commodities reduced, like the cost of petrol that has dropped from Sh217 to Sh174 per litre while the cost of maize flour has reduced from Sh250 per 2kg packet to Sh150.

"The Covid-19 pandemic devastated the economy in a major way. We were in lockdown for one and a half years. This lessened economic activities and almost collapsed the economy".

Since then, Kindiki said, the government has managed to strengthen the value of the shilling against the dollar from Sh177 to Sh129. He said the government has chosen to focus on growth while disregarding naysayers inciting disquiet among Kenyans.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The DP has visited Murang'a five times since last month in what is being seen as a renewed attempt to recapture the region. The county, formerly a strong UDA stronghold, has since turned into an opposition zone, with increasing disquiet fuelled by the high cost of living. Political occurrences have seen leaders split, with MP Ndindi Nyoro, formerly a strong ally of the President, cutting ties with the ruling party. Nyoro was replaced as the chairperson of the budget team in the National Assembly in a purge against allies of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

END CONGESTION

Kiambu Town CDF to build 400-bed dorm at Riabai High

KNA

RIABAI High School will benefit from a modern 400-bed dormitory built by Kiambu Town NG-CDF.

The project aims to solve congestion and improve the overall academic environment at the school.

Speaking during the ground-breaking ceremony, MP Machua Waithaka emphasised the need for quality infrastructure in schools, saying proper accommodation plays a vital role in academic performance and student wellbeing.

"Today marks a new chapter for Riabai High School. For too long, our children have studied in overcrowded spaces. This dormitory will not only provide comfort but also restore dignity to our learners," he said.

The dormitory will significantly ease the strain on existing facilities, with limited boarding space often forcing students to sleep in crowded conditions, a situation the MP said will soon be a thing of the past.

"Our commitment is to ensure no child is left behind because of poor infrastructure. This is not just about a building, it's about investing in the future."

Riabai High School principal Grace Wanjiru praised the initiative, saying, "We are grateful to MP Waithaka for prioritising the needs of our students. This new dormitory will enhance discipline, learning, and overall student morale."

The dormitory will feature amenities, including study areas, proper ventilation, and adequate sanitation facilities, aligning with the Ministry of Education's vision for holistic student support.

James Mwangi, chairperson of the Parents Teachers Association, said, "This dormitory is a dream come true. It shows our leaders are listening and taking action."

Construction is expected to be completed in the next eight months, with the facility opening its doors to students in the next academic year.

MANY CASES GO UNREPORTED

Stigma hampering fight against GBV in flower farms



Nancy Baraza, the chairperson of the technical working group on GBV, during an awareness forum in Nanyuki town /ALICE WAITHERA

ALICE WAITHERA

WORKERS in flower farms have been urged to report cases of gender-based violence.

Nancy Baraza, the chairperson of the Technical Working Group on Gender Based Violence including Femicide, said reports indicate a high prevalence of GBV in flower farms. She expressed concerns that many of the cases go unreported, making it impossible for the authorities to bring the culprits to book.

Women make up about 70 per cent of the workforce in the flower farms and often report power imbalances, job insecurity and limited reporting avenues, making them vulnerable to exploitation amid the high levels of joblessness in the country.

Kenyan flower farms are some of the largest globally, estimated to contribute around one per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product.

Research conducted in 2022 indicated that female floriculture workers experience high rates of sexual

harassment and other forms of workplace violence.

"Sexual violence is deeply rooted in power imbalances between parties involved and can impact victims' ability to resist or expressly indicate that the conduct is unwelcome".

Such power imbalances can threaten victims into silence, resulting in incidents going unreported.

Baraza, who spoke in Nanyuki town during a GBV awareness forum organized in partnership with the Agriculture Employers Association, underscored the need for culprits to be prosecuted to set a precedent.

She said that culture is one of the main contributors to GBV and femicide, and that stern action needs to be taken to reduce the incidents.

The team established by President William Ruto to look into the high cases of GBV is going round the country creating awareness and getting public views.

"We are looking at institutional structures, legal and policy frameworks, and identifying gaps in the way GBV issues are being handled," Baraza said.

NEWS COUNTIES



Kilifi tourism promotion chief officer Herbert Mwachiro and senior tourism officer Adrian Baya at Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo 2025 in Uganda /CHARLES MGHENYI

27% INCREASE

Miano: Kenya eyes 300,000 Ugandan tourists by year-end

Coast remains top attraction for visitors from the neighbouring state

CHARLES MGHENYI
@CharlesMghenyi

KENYA is leveraging improved infrastructure, enhanced connectivity and deeper regional integration to strengthen its position as a premier tourism destination in East Africa, Tourism CS Rebecca Miano has said.

The country is targeting a 27 per cent increase in Ugandan visitors this year, aiming to record 300,000 arrivals by the end of the year.

The Kenyan Coast remains the top attraction for Ugandan tourists, drawn by its pristine beaches and unique experiences.

Last week, the national government sent a delegation to the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo (POATE) held at Speke Resort and Convention Centre in Munyonyo, Kampala.

The team promoted Kenya as a key tourism hub in the region.

CS Miano said expanded air routes and ongoing road infrastructure development have significantly boosted tourism and trade.

“By enhancing connectivity between Kenya and our East African neighbours, through expanded air routes, improved infrastructure, and simplified visa processes, we are not only increasing visitor numbers but also enriching the overall travel experience,” she said.

Miano said continued government

investment in air connectivity and infrastructure is already yielding positive results, with rising tourist arrivals and growing interest in investment and trade opportunities.

Africa remains Kenya’s largest source market, contributing 975,883 tourist arrivals in 2024, representing 40.8 per cent of all international visitors.

Within the East African Community, Uganda leads as the top African source market, accounting for 31.7 per cent of African arrivals, followed by Tanzania (28.5 per cent), Somalia (11.4 per cent) and Rwanda (9.2 per cent).

Miano said Kenya is committed to increasing the number of Ugandan visitors, and POATE offered a vital platform to advocate policies that simplify travel, promote intra-African tourism and boost the global appeal of the East African tourism experience.

Business travel, conferences and visits to friends and relatives make up 77.3 per cent of EAC arrivals.

However, the Cabinet secretary highlighted the potential to diversify into more leisure-oriented tourism.

Kilifi tourism promotion chief officer Herbert Mwachiro, said Uganda’s preference for the Kenyan coast stems largely from its beach offerings.

He said weddings and honeymoons have become a major pull factors for Ugandan travellers.

“Our current strategy is to connect local tour operators with their counterparts in Uganda to expand marketing opportunities in both countries and foster complementarity,” Mwachiro said.

He said Ugandans are increasingly drawn to golf tourism, particularly the experience at Vipingo Ridge, the only PGA-accredited golf course in Africa.

To further cement this growing relationship, Kilifi county will host the Uganda-Kenya Coast Tourism Conference in October, aimed at showcasing the region’s diverse tourism offerings.

At POATE, Kenya was among more than 260 exhibitors. The event attracted at least 70 international buyers, more than 5,000 trade visitors, and top industry professionals from across the region and beyond.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Uganda remains Kenya's top African source market for tourism, contributing nearly a third of regional arrivals. With more than 31.7 per cent of African tourists to Kenya coming from Uganda, the country's proximity, shared culture and ease of movement under the East African Community make it a low-hanging fruit in regional tourism growth.

SICK DAY COST HIM FREEDOM

Man denies stealing Sh6.9m from employer, to spend eight days in Shimo la Tewa

CHARLES MGHENYI

SHAKIL Mohamed, an employee of Gateway Marine Services in Mombasa, will remain in custody for eight days over allegations of stealing Sh6.9 million from his employer.

Shakil on Tuesday denied charges of allegedly stealing property valued at Sh6,952,610. He appeared before Mombasa senior resident magistrate Gladys Olimo.

The property is said to have come into his possession by virtue of his employment at the company.

Shakil was arrested on March 27 this year, and later released on Sh50,000 bond.

He was scheduled to be formally charged on May 23, but his lawyer, Ouma Otieno, informed the court that Shakil and his family had been admitted to Beyond Scope Hospital in Kisauni with dengue fever.

Otieno submitted medical documents to support his claim.

The court deferred the plea to May 27.

However, state counsel Judy Ogada, representing the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), accused Shakil of misleading the court about his illness.

She claimed Shakil was seen at the Mombasa law courts on May 23, attending a separate case in Court 13.

“Last Friday, we did not oppose the deferment on grounds that the accused was sick and on bed rest. However, at around 12:30pm the same day, I was informed, and later confirmed, that he was present in Court 13, appearing fit and healthy,” Ogada said.

She urged the court to detain Shakil while police verify the authenticity of the medical documents submitted, saying it would be inappropriate to grant bond or bail before that verification.

Ogada further asked the court to summon the doctor who issued the documents and requested a pre-bail report to assess Shakil’s social stand-

ing in the community.

In response, Otieno opposed the application, insisting his client was indeed ill and only appeared in court after the plea had already been deferred.

He emphasised that Shakil’s daughter was also hospitalised and that the entire household was under treatment.

“There is no doubt that my client was sick. The court documents are authentic,” Otieno argued.

“This is a misdemeanour charge and does not warrant detention. The fact that he later appeared in court should not be used against him.”

He also told the court that Shakil is a single father and the primary caregiver of his sick child.

Ogada, however, clarified that the matter is a felony, not a misdemeanour, and questioned why Shakil did not present himself in Court 5 if he was well enough to be in Court 13.

Magistrate Olimo noted it was undisputed Shakil was seen in Court 13 on May 23, the same day the court was served with a medical report dated May 22 stating he was on a five-day bed rest.

“Clearly, the accused is being economical with the truth. The court must treat the medical evidence presented with caution,” she said.

She said if the plea postponement had been made in good faith, Shakil should have presented himself before her court.

“In view of the foregoing, this court agrees with the prosecution. The medical documents presented on May 23, 2025, must be verified for authenticity,” Olimo said.

She directed the investigating officer to confirm the legitimacy of the documents, including the sick sheet and accompanying records from Beyond Scope Hospital.

“In the interim, the accused shall be remanded at Shimo la Tewa Prison pending verification. The matter will be mentioned on June 5,” she concluded.



Lawyer Ouma Otieno and his client Shakil Mohamed in a Mombasa court on Tuesday /CHARLES MGHENYI

NEWS COUNTIES

ONE-OF-A-KIND

MTRH performs non-invasive surgery on 4-year-old child



Medics perform laparoscopic surgery at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret /HANDOUT

MATHEWS NDANYI
@Alicewangechi

THE Shoe4Africa Children's Hospital at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital has performed its first-ever laparoscopic surgery.

Laparoscopic surgery is a technique in which short, narrow tubes are inserted into the abdomen through small incisions.

In the procedure the long, narrow instruments are then used by the surgeon to manipulate, cut and sew tissue.

The procedure was done on a

four-year-old boy with undescended testicles.

Using minimally invasive techniques, the surgical team completed a first-stage laparoscopic orchidopexy.

Doctors said what would have required a large abdominal incision was instead completed through a single five millimetre port and two three millimetre instrument sites.

The child was awake and ready for discharge shortly after the operation.

This was made possible through the leadership and support of CEO

Dr Philip Kirwa and Dr Peter Saula, head of paediatric surgery.

"We are especially grateful to the anaesthesia, nursing, biomedical, supply chain and cleaning teams who all contributed to making this surgery successful," he said.

The operating theatre team led by Herbert Oloo, ensured seamless planning and coordination during the surgery.

"As we look ahead, we hope to build on this foundation to increase access to minimally invasive surgery for children in our region," Kirwa said.

This comes just weeks after MTRH successfully conducted its first brain cancer treatment through the Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) on a 51-year-old female patient who has now attained remarkable improvement.

SRS is a precise form of therapeutic radiation that can be used to treat abnormalities in the brain and spine, including cancer, epilepsy, trigeminal neuralgia and arteriovenous malformations.

It's a system that uses non-invasive tumour-destroying radiation to treat cancers throughout the body as it minimises exposure to the surrounding healthy tissue.

The TrueBeam technology is precise, accurate and fast, with most treatments taking five to 10 minutes and patients requiring between one and five treatments.

Two months ago, the hospi-

tal also made another advance in highly specialised services and care after it successfully carried out the first 10 pace-maker surgeries.

"We are once again proud of this latest achievement for MTR as we strive to continue offering world class medical services for our people," Kirwa said.

The hospital has achieved a lot in terms of expansion of facilities because of support from the government.

A section of Eldoret residents led by Benjamin Leting praised Kirwa and the hospital staff for working hard to maintain quality services for patients.

"We are happy with the work being done by Kirwa and his team and we ask the government to increase support to the hospital," he said.

Many Kenyans are benefiting from specialised services at the hospital, which were previously done outside the country at an expensive cost.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Laparoscopic surgery, also known as minimally invasive surgery or keyhole surgery, involves performing operations through small incisions rather than the larger cuts used in traditional surgery.

CHANGE OF GUARD

Bii fires CECs in changes to his cabinet

BY KNA

UASIN Gishu Governor Jonathan Bii has replaced two executives as part of changes to his cabinet.

Former Kass FM Journalist Robert Kemei has been nominated as executive for sports and youth affairs while Janet Kurgat has been nominated as executive for public service management.

Those removed are Elijah Kosgey, who was in the education executive and Janet Kosgey who formerly served in the lands docket.

Abraham Serem, who headed the health docket has now been moved to roads, transport and public works department.

He swapped places with Joseph Lagat who now moves to the health department.

Lucy Ng'endo, who served in the sports and youth docket has been moved to the education docket that was being held by Elijah Kosgey.

"The changes are intended to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services," the governor said.

Since he took over the governor has not made extensive changes to his cabinet, except last year when Deputy Governor John Barorot resigned and was replaced by former MCA Evans Kapkea.

HIGH SENSITISATION

Jua kali youth set to receive certification

MATHEWS NDANYI

THE Eldoret National Polytechnic has stepped up youth sensitisation forums on the Recognition of Prior Learning programme being implemented through technical institutions.

Chief principal Charles Koech says they will work with all partners to ensure the programme succeeds.

Community leaders led by Benjamin Leting have praised efforts to ensure youth benefit from the RPL programme and other courses.

"We are happy with the work being done by Koech and the polytechnic staff to ensure many youth benefit from quality training programmes," he said.

"Under the leadership of Koech we have seen expansion of facilities at the Eldoret polytechnic and as a community we will always support the work being done to ensure our youth have skills to access employment."

The International Labour Organization and Master Card Foundation are also among organisations supporting the programme at the polytechnic.

OUTRAGE

Cops intensify hunt for suspects in priest's murder

MATHEWS NDANYI

POLICE in Kerio Valley have intensified hunt for four suspects linked to the murder of Catholic priest Alois Bett who was serving at the St Mulumba's Church near Tot area.

A four-day ultimatum to have the suspects surrendered expires today and a special team of DCI officers have already been deployed to intensify the hunt.

Deputy inspector general of Police Eliud Lagat, who visited the area last weekend, warned that police will use all necessary force to arrest the suspects.

Area elders requested for four days to help find the suspects who shot dead father Bett in Kerio Valley.

"If you will not help us get them then it will not be business as usual," Lagat said.

Governors Stephen Sang of Nandi, Wesley Rotich of Elgeyo Marakwet, Jonathan Bii of Elgeyo Marakwet have also asked Marakwet community members to surrender the criminals.

Eldoret Diocese Bishop Dominic

Kimengich announced that father Bett will be buried on June 3 at the Holy Family Parish Church Olessos in Nandi county.

The priest who was aged 35 years and had served for less than three years. His killing sparked outrage.

Bishop Kimengich has said the church wants justice for the deceased and a clear move to end violence in Kerio Valley.

"What we have seen in Kerio Valley is enough. The killings have to end so that our people can enjoy peace and development," he said.

The governors said members of the community confessed to knowing the killers during a peace meeting last weekend.

They spoke during father Bett's mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral in Eldoret.

Bishop Kimengich and Auxiliary Bishop John Kiplimo arap Lelei presided over the mass.

Nandi Woman Representative Cynthia Muge and Uasin Gishu speaker Phillip Muigei attended the mass.

Rotich apologised to the church,

saying it is not the entire community that is responsible for the killing, but a few individuals.

Sang regretted community's slow response to handing in the killers, despite knowing them.

"We want justice for our late father and those criminals must face the law," he said.

Governor Rotich said the community had agreed to produce the individuals involved in the killing.

"Father died in the line of duty to liberate us and we will not accept that his blood goes in vain," he said.

"We have lost children, parents and progressively the criminals have crossed one line after another."



Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Wesley Rotich and Deputy IG of Police Eliud Lagat during a peace baraza at Chesongoch Primary School /MATHEWS NDANYI

NEWS COUNTIES

BIG BOOST

‘Masinga dam stable water levels a relief’

AGATHA NGOTHO

MASINGA dam, Kenya’s largest hydroelectric reservoir, has defied mounting climate pressures to maintain a stable water level, offering relief to Kenyans from unpredictable rainfall patterns.

KenGen managing director and CEO Peter Njenga said the high level of water is a welcome development at a time when climate change continues to affect hydroelectric power production, putting energy planners under growing pressure to diversify the country’s power sources.

“This kind of stability at Masinga and the other hydro-power stations is welcome, but it is no longer something we can take for granted,” Njenga said. “We are operating in a new reality, and that’s why we are investing heavily in geothermal to shield Kenyans from the vagaries of rain-fed power production.”

Data from the NSE-listed Kenya Electricity Generating Company shows Masinga holding at 1,056.97 meters above sea level, surpassing the maximum level of 1,056.50.

Njenga said this is a big boost to Kenya’s electricity grid, as Masinga dam anchors the Seven Forks cascade, which is a system of five interlinked hydro stations that collectively power a significant share of the nation’s economy. Kamburu, Gitaru, Kindaruma, Kiambere, Turkwel, Sondu, and Sang’oro power stations continue to hold strong, operating at maximum water levels.

Hydroelectricity is Kenya’s cheapest and most established source of power, but it is also the most vulnerable due to shifting rainfall patterns. With droughts in recent years cutting deep into production, the country’s reliance on water-fed dams is being re-evaluated.

Geothermal energy, tapped from deep beneath Kenya’s volcanically active Rift Valley, today accounts for more than 42 per cent of the country’s daily power consumption. Unlike hydropower, it is impervious to weather, giving it a critical edge in times of drought. For planners, it has become the cornerstone of Kenya’s long-term energy resilience strategy.

The Economic Survey 2025 shows that total installed electricity generating capacity declined from 3,243.6 MW in 2023 to 3,235.5 MW in 2024. There was an increase of 36.2 per cent in hydro generation to 3,630.7bGWh in 2024 as a result of favourable rainfall. Consequently, thermal generation declined by 13.5 per cent to 1,129.5Gwh in the review period. Similarly, wind and solar power generation declined by 10.5 per cent and 6.3 per cent to 1,797.7Gwh respectively.

According to the latest data from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority, geothermal accounts for more than 42 per cent of Kenya’s daily energy consumption with KenGen contributing over 33 per cent from its geothermal power plants in Olkaria.

Njenga said the government is currently fast-tracking geothermal expansion projects in Olkaria, Menengai, and other geothermal-active sites with an eye on both domestic stability and regional exports under the Eastern Africa Power Pool. The decision is aimed at making Kenya energy secure.

KenGen has rolled out new real-time monitoring systems across its dams to ensure efficient water use and early warning for potential risks.



Masinga dam /KNA



Women from Mandera county during a consultative peace meeting /KNA

CHANGE-MAKERS

New era as women lead peace events in Mandera

Pawa group conducts economic and financial literacy training workshops

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@astarikosteph

AMID persistent security challenges in Mandera, a group of women has come together to spearhead peace-building initiatives.

Nasin Dakane, the CEO of Pastoralist Women Agency for Sustainable Development, said their coming together was a collective call to action.

This year, a defining moment unfolded for the pastoralist communities of northern Kenya. The Regional Pastoralists Peace Link was awarded the prestigious Carol Bellamy Leadership Award and recognised as a torchbearer in Kenya by the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund.

This milestone underscored not only the importance of grassroots-driven peacebuilding but also the undeniable impact of women-led organisations in securing a stable, inclusive future.

The CBLA was first launched by GCERF in 2022, dedicated to women working at the intersection of women’s empowerment and peace.

It provides funding to its awardees, and supports diverse projects. In particular, the CBLA supports localised solutions to complex needs as regards to women’s empowerment as identified by awardees themselves.

Through a competitive selection process, RPPL entrusted Pawa to implement the CBLA initiative, a transformative programme grounded in the realities of the communities and guided by women’s leadership.

“Ours is a rallying cry for in-

clusive peace, community-driven solutions, and sustained resilience,” Dakane said.

“We empower women to serve as bridge-builders across communities long divided by conflict and extremism by fostering trust, dismantling harmful ideologies, and promoting unity.”

“Through our economic empowerment and financial literacy training workshops, we have united diverse women-led groups under a common vision of self-reliance and peace.”

Nasin said financial independence is a cornerstone of long-term stability, adding that Pawa has been at the

forefront of equipping women with tools, networks and training to access markets, develop sustainable enterprises, and lead their households and communities into prosperity.

“Women are not just participants—they are leaders. Pawa amplifies women’s voices within the women, peace, and security framework, championing their rightful role in policymaking and governance at every level.”

“As a legal and governance professional and as the CEO of Pawa, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible transformation that occurs when women are given space to lead. The recognition of our work through the CBLA and torchbearer honour is not just an accolade—it is an obligation to continue building, to continue empowering, and to ensure that peace in Mandera is not a dream, but a living, thriving reality,” she said.

“

NASIN DAKANE

Through our economic empowerment and financial literacy training workshops, we have united diverse women-led groups under a common vision of self-reliance and peace

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Mandera county in Northeastern Kenya has experienced escalating violence lately, primarily due to cross-border attacks by al Shabaab. The attacks have significantly impacted the region’s security, economy and social services. Women’s involvement in security is not just a matter of fairness or equality—it is essential for achieving sustainable peace and effective governance. Their contribution enhances legitimacy, responsiveness and success of security initiatives.

NEWS COUNTIES

'UNACCEPTABLE, UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Mbadi vows action on counties withholding Sh40bn pension

CS is concerned that counties have withheld employees' retirement benefits

FAITH MATETE
@faymatete

TREASURY and National Planning Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi has criticised county governments for failing to remit pension contributions deducted from employees' salaries, terming the practice illegal and a violation of workers' rights.

Speaking in Kisumu during the 14th annual general meeting of the Local Authorities Provident Fund, Mbadi responded to growing concerns from the Kenya County Government Workers Union that counties have withheld more than Sh40 billion meant for employees' retirement benefits.

"This is not just unacceptable, it is unconstitutional," Mbadi said.

"My office has finalised a report through a task force investigating delayed pension remittances across various schemes, and the findings will be presented to President Ruto this

Wednesday. Thereafter, clear steps for recovery will be outlined."

The CS assured that the report's recommendations will be implemented in full to ensure pension contributions are submitted promptly going forward.

He noted that the delayed payments had severely impacted the sustainability of pension schemes and the financial well-being of retirees.

"The ultimate objective is to permanently resolve the issue of non-remittance, so that our workers retire with dignity and their benefits are secured."

KCGWU secretary general Roba Duba had earlier sounded the alarm over what he described as a long-standing failure by counties to remit funds, with some of the pension arrears dating back over 20 years, well before the onset of devolution.

"It is unlawful for county governments to deduct contributions from workers' pay and then fail to remit those funds," Duba said.



Treasury CS John Mbadi and M-Pesa Foundation chairman Joseph Ogutu during groundbreaking ceremony for construction of Ligongo Primary School tuition and administration blocks in Suba South /HANDOUT

"These deductions are meant to keep Lapfund running and to grow members' retirement savings. Withholding them or redirecting the money elsewhere is a gross injustice."

Duba urged CS Mbadi to take swift action to ensure members' contribu-

tions are safeguarded, warning that the debt continues to grow due to interest and penalties.

He said deductions should be remitted immediately and unions engaged by employers to avoid further losses.

PERENNIAL PROBLEM

End of Nyando flooding in sight as construction of dyke begins

FAITH MATETE

THE government has launched the construction of a 50km dyke in Nyando constituency, Kisumu county, to tackle decades of devastating floods that have uprooted families, destroyed crops, and eroded livelihoods.

Speaking during the ground-breaking ceremony in Nyando, Lake Basin Development Authority managing director Wycliffe Ochiaga confirmed the project had begun with an initial 4km stretch.

"Today we are launching the first 4km of the planned 50km dyke. This is part of a long-term intervention to curb perennial floods in this region," Ochiaga said.

The project was initiated through a collaboration between the authority and area MP Jared Okello, following a visit to the area three months prior that highlighted the urgent need for flood mitigation infrastructure.

POWERFUL CATALYST

Lapfund has immense potential to build counties, says Nyong'o

FAITH MATETE

KISUMU Governor Anyang' Nyong'o has urged the Local Authorities Provident Fund to seize the opportunity presented by devolution to invest strategically in counties, saying the fund holds immense potential to catalyse development across Kenya.

Speaking during the Lapfund annual general meeting in Kisumu, Governor Nyong'o said counties offer a vast investment landscape that could generate sustainable returns for the fund's members while transforming local economies.

"The Lapfund, as a significant institutional investor, has the potential to be a powerful catalyst for development across our counties," Nyong'o said.

In a speech read on his behalf by his deputy Mathews Owili, the governor said that by investing strategically within the devolved units, the Lapfund not only grows its members' wealth but also directly contributes to the socio-economic transformation of the communities its members serve.

The governor identified affordable housing, infrastructure, and green investments as key areas the pension fund could venture into.

Kisumu county is already collaborating with the Lapfund in the housing sector. Nyong'o invited the fund to explore further opportunities, particularly in the city's Lakefront Development Agenda and tourism sector.

"In Kisumu, we are building a mod-

ern convention centre that will realign the tourism space in this region for the foreseeable future. This is the kind of long-term investment Lapfund can be part of."

He also called on the fund to align its investments with sustainable development goals, including renewable energy, eco-tourism, and sustainable agriculture, areas where Kisumu is actively seeking partners.

The governor emphasised the crucial role Lapfund plays in securing the future of public servants, and is the "primary custodian of the promise of a dignified retirement".

Kisumu
Governor
Anyang' Nyong'o
/FAITH MATETE



theSTAR COMMERCIAL PRINTING



The Star Publications offers the most competitive pricing for newspaper printing on Newsprint and Bond paper from 4 to 64 pages.

Our modern facilities give first class quality colour on every page.
Our prices are good, delivery is quick and service first class.

Contacts;

Maurice Munyao - 0733668366. email: maurice.munyao@radioafricagroup.co.ke

3rd Floor, Lion Place, Waiyaki Way

P.O. Box 74497 - 00200 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: (Office) 254 20 4244 200

Direct: 254 20 444 7410 Fax: 254 20 343755



STAR CLASSIFIED

The star does not endorse the advertised product /service or its quality and value nor does the star endorse the appearance of or any of the claims made in the advertisement by the advertiser. The star shall not be held liable for any claims, loss or liability that arises from the product /service and claims made in the advertisement

OUR OFFICES

NAIROBI HEAD OFFICE:

LION'S PLACE,
3rd floor,
Waiyaki Way,
Westlands,
Box: 74497
Tel: 0711046200,
4246200

NAIROBI CBD OFFICE

Portal Place
House 3rd Floor
Room 310,
Muindi Mbingu
Street
Tel: 0711046300

MOMBASA OFFICE

TSS Towers, 2nd
Floor, Nkrumah
Road Mombasa
City CBD
Tel: 0711046101
0711046529

ELDORET OFFICE

Laneens Center,
Ground Floor,
Off Elgeyo Road
Tel: 0790 036671

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday- Friday
8 am to 5 pm
Saturday: 9 am to
12pm

VIEWLINE AUCTIONEERS
Auctioneers, Repossessors, Debt Collectors and Commission Agents

NAIROBI OFFICE
Windsor House, 4th Floor
University Way
P. o. Box 552-00600 Nairobi
Tel.0202670605 / 0763 239340

MERU OFFICE
King'ora Building, 2nd floor,
Mboa Street
P. o. Box 3131-60200, Meru
Tel.064-3130154 fax: 064-3132844
Cell: 0711 239340

E-mail: viewlineauctioneers@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to warrant issued from Chief Magistrate's court at Nairobi, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned motor vehicle. Under the following decree holder Advocate.

ON FRIDAY 6TH JUNE 2025 11.00 A.M AT PANGANI AUCTION CENTRE

WANGAI NYUTHE & COMPANY ADVOCATES

CMCC NO. E11329 OF 2021. AHMED ALIWALLA VS JOY HELLEN AKELLO WAMAMBA

REG	MAKE/MODEL	LOCATION
KCC 314 T	TOYOTA VITZ	PANGANI AUCTION CENTRE

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All intending purchasers are requested to view and verify the details for themselves.
2. Viewing can be done through arrangement with ourselves. 3. Bidders to pay a refundable deposit of **Kshs 50,000.00** to obtain number prior to the Auction. 4. Cash or Bankers cheque at the fall of the hammer.

Giant Auctioneers

Auctioneers, Court Brokers, Bailiffs, Official Broker's Investigators, Repossessors & Commission Agents

EMBU OFFICE: Uphill Hse, 1st Floor, Mama Ngina Street, P.O. Box 2211, Tel: 068-30526, Cell: 0722305599, EMBU. NYERI OFFICE: Sportsview building, 3rd Floor, Gakere Road, Tel: 0614011, Cell: 0724766156, NYERI. EMAIL : giant.auctioneers2@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principals, we shall sell by public auction below mentioned property.

ON FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 2025 AT 12:00 NOON AT MERU MAIN STAGE.

MOMBASA HIGH COURT CIVIL SUIT NO 52 OF 2020 CLAUDIA MUENI MUTUNGI VERSUS FEP SACCO SOCIETY LIMITED, SUSAN KIAMBATI & SACCO SOCIETY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

All that parcel of land known as No **NTIRIMITI SETTLEMENT SCHEME/482** measuring approximately **34.5 Ha** registered in the name of **FEP CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED** situated at Subuigaa area within Ntirimiti Settlement Scheme, about 700 meters off Nanyuki -Isiolo highway and about 2.4 kilometers from the Nanyuki-Meru-Isiolo roads junction, in Kisima Ward, Buuri Sub-County, Meru County .GPS latitude 0.1613749, longitude 37.4757586

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Interested bidders are requested to verify details for themselves as these are not warranted by the principals nor the Auctioneer and sale is subject to reserve price.
2. Deposit of **25%** be paid in cash or bankers cheque by the highest declared bidder and balance within **15** days.

ALFAJIRI AUCTIONEERS
(Public Auctioneers, Debt Collectors, Repossessors Court Process Servers, Court Brokers and Commission Agents)

M-Plaza, 1st Floor, Maungano Road, Opp. Fatemi House
P. O. Box 42164 - 80100 Mombasa, Tel: 0711 245043 / 0734 618777 / 0777 245043, Email: alfajiriauctioneers@yahoo.com / urbkioko89@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

1. Pursuant to court Warrants received from the Chief Magistrates court in Mombasa CMCC NO. E515 OF 2023; JULIUS KAWASI KAYAA t/a VOYAN TIMBER =VS= HAMISI KANUBI, we shall sell by public auction the undermentioned goods

ON Thursday the 5th June, 2025 at 10.00 a.m. at our offices, M-Plaza, 1st floor, Maungano Road, Mombasa
6x1 timber 2002 ft, 300 pcs Trappers

2. Pursuant to court Warrants received from the Chief Magistrates court in Mombasa CMCC NO. E791 OF 2022; SUBIRA SHIPPING CONTRACTORS CO. LIMITED =VS= NYASINGA TRANSPORTERS LIMITED, we shall sell by public auction the undermentioned goods

ON Thursday the 5th June, 2025 at 12.00 p.m. Matriz Moves Kenya LTD, Changamwe in MOMBASA

NO.	MY REG	MAKE
1.	KBB 686M	TRUCK
2.	ZC 7361	TRAILER(TANKER)

3. Duly instructed by our principals we shall sell the following goods by Auction.

IN THE MATTER OF DISTRESS FOR RENT CAP 293 LAWS OF KENYA ON Thursday the 5th June, 2025 at 12.00 p.m. at our offices, M-Plaza, 1st floor, Maungano Road, Mombasa.

LANDLORD V/S GLADYS ALOUCH (AIR BNB PREMISES)

1pc dining table, 1pc 6 sitter sofa set, self-stand gas burner, 1pc music system, 3pcs bed, 2pcs mattress, assorted crockeries

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Cash at the fall of the hammer
2. Sale is subject to Forced Sale Value price
3. Viewing can be done on Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 5.00pm
4. All interested bidders are required to pay a refundable deposit of Ksh. 5,000 to obtain a bidding number

MORAN AUCTIONEERS
COURT BAILIFFS, COURT BROKERS, CIVIL INVESTIGATIONS, PROCESS SERVERS & DEBT COLLECTION
Ktda Plaza, 6th Floor, Moi Avenue - P.O.Box 799-00100, Nairobi - Tel: 0722569022 - Email: 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 **Saturday 7th June, 2025 at Pangani Auction Centre in Pangani Nairobi starting 10.00am.**

DISTRESS FOR RENT

1. LANDLORD -VS- RELIANCE AIR CHARTERS LIMITED.

12 Metallic Office Tables, 4 Long Metallic Office Tables, 7 Extension Desks, 3 Wooden Side Fabinets, Conference Table, Wooden Reception Counter, 4 Wooden Office Shelves, 10 Wooden Pedestals, 2 Konica Photocopier Machine, White Photocopier Machine, Wooden Small Cabinet, 2 Purple, Netback Spring Chairs, 6 Black Netback Chairs, Black Synthetic Rolling Chair, Von Microwave, Metallic Box, 2 Hp CPUs, 3 UPS, Flower Pot, 7 Small Tyres, 3 Stainless Kettles, Redberry Electric Kettle, 2 Wall Clocks, 3 Extension Cables, Advertisement Banner, Inflator Boat, 20pcs Aviation Hydraulic Fluids, Assorted Reflectors, Small Paper Shredder, Malaber Fluids Dispenser, Dustbin, 2 Solar Water Pumps, 4 Tyres, Dell TFT, 2 CPUs, 2 Internet Switches, 4 Complete Keyboards, 2 Brown Desk, Metallic Safe, White Board, Small Metallic Safe, 2 Wall Hangings, 3 Lubricant Cans, Hp Laptop, Dell Laptop, 3 Compaq Laptop.

2. LANDLORD VS. WYCLIFF ODONGO OWUOR.

Glasstop Coffee Table, Grey Wooden Coffee Table, Wooden Shoe Rack, Wooden Kitchen Table, Mengas 6kg Meko, 3pcs 6 Seater Synthetic Leather Brown Sofa Set, 2 Glass Top White Wooden Table, 2 Set Brown 3 Seater Sofa Set, Wooden Tv Stand, Brown Fluffy Carpet, Mat, Sayona Subwoofer+ 2 Speakers, 3 Small Black Puffs, 55" Hisense Tv.

SCCOMM NO. E5351 OF 2023

PLAINTIFF -VS- DAN CRESCENT MEDICAL SUPPLIES AID KENYA LIMITED.

Motor Vehicle Reg No. KBT 670D TOYOTA NOAH

Under the Instructions received from our Principals, we shall sell the under mentioned goods by Public Auction to be held on **Saturday 7th June, 2025 at Matriz Moves Kenya Ltd, in Mombasa starting 10.00am.**

SCCC NO. E396 OF 2024 MOMBASA

PLAINTIFF -VS- DAN STEPHEN OMONDI.

Motor Vehicle Reg No. KBC 082J NISSAN CARAVAN

CONDITIONS OF SALE

Cash at the fall of the hammer.

BETABASE AUCTIONEERS
Auctioneers, Repossessors, Debt Collectors, Private Investigators, Process Servers and Commission Agents

Development House
2nd Floor Room 211
Moi Avenue
P.O. Box 22693-00100 NAIROBI
Tel: 0721 959986
0727 385251
Email: velelajael@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals we shall sell by Public Auction the undermentioned goods at **Startruck Auction Yard situated along Kiambu Road, Fourway Junction on Friday, 6th June 2025 starting from 10.30A.M.**

In the matter of Distress for Rent Cap. 293 Laws of Kenya. Landlord -vs- Meshack Okello Odhiambo

TLC TV set, washing machine, floor carpet, microwave, fridge, coffee table, TV stand, shoe rack, water dispenser, iron bar, gas cooker, gas cylinder, sofa set, assorted cooking appliance.

Conditions of sale

Cash at the fall of the hammer

ALL ARE WELCOME

NGURU AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Process Servers and Repossessors

Zion Place
off Kasarani-Mwili Road
near Kasarani P.C.E.A Church
P.O BOX 58371
00200 City Square
NAIROBI
Mobile: 0725-201344,
0772-040623
Wireless: 020-8016539
Email: nguruent@gmail.com
Website: www.nguruentprises.co.ke

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our client, a **LEADING COMMERCIAL BANK** we shall sell the undermentioned assorted assets on **THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 2025 at SICURO STORAGE YARD** situated next to **MARDE TERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH in ZIMMERMAN** along **KAMITI ROAD** starting from **10.00 A.M.**

Assorted Desks, Cabinets. Office Chairs, Que Stands, Generators, Printers, UPS, Scanners, Fire Extinguishers, Assorted Doors, Cabinets, Air Conditioners, Laminators, Glasses, Microwave, Bullet Proof, Trolley Wheels, Cash Tills, Water Pump, Money Counters, Office Fans and many more.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Viewing will be on **3rd & 4th June 2025** on prior arrangements with our office.
2. Interested bidders must pay a refundable deposit of **Kshs. 10,000/-** in order to obtain a bidding number. Strictly no bidding without a bidding number.
3. Cash to be paid at the fall of the hammer and goods to be removed on the same day failure there will be a storage fee of **Kshs. 1,000/-** per day
4. Sale is subject to a reasonable reserve price
5. For any other details, kindly contact our office during normal working hours.

ALL ARE WELCOME

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

GRAPHIC DESIGN, PRINTING & BRANDING services available at affordable prices. Very good quality work. Call, whatsapp 0740035425

LANGUAGE CONNECTIONS

CENTRE. Speak. Write. Refresh. Call 0733128976 / 0725724219 / 0721287034

WE ARE A COMPANY(GNS) offering on-time food delivery to customers for various hotels, restaurants etc using bodaboda in kisumu cbd and its environs **DIGITAL CONTENT REPURPOSING SERVICES** e.g copywriting, podcast etc **DETAILS CALL TECHNICAL MANAGER** 0743249306 0716462733



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

PAYMENTS STRICTLY VIA MPESA PAYBILL NUMBER 793601

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF KENYA AT KILIFI
COURT NAME: MALINDI LAW COURT
CASE NUMBER: MCELC/E019/2025
CITATION: WATAMU ASCOT LIMITED VS BORASI PIERO
RULING

This is a ruling in respect to the application dated 10th day of March, 2025 by the Plaintiff/ Applicant and supported by the affidavit of Lucy Wangari Mwangi, learned counsel for the plaintiff that sought the following orders:

1. That the court hereby do grant leave to serve the summons by way of substituted service through advertisement in any one of local Daily newspapers preferable Star newspaper.
2. That the defendant be required to appear in court within 15 days from the date of advertisement.
3. That costs of this application be in the cause.

The Plaintiff/Applicant has stated that the efforts to effect service upon the defendant/ respondents have borne no fruits and unless this application is allowed the plaintiff will be prejudiced.

That summons were served to the defendant through his last known email address borasipiero@gmail.com and the defendant has never entered appearance since 10th day of February, 2025 to date.
That continued delay in effecting proper service upon the defendants is prejudicial to the plaintiff/applicant and the applicant is therefore entitled to make this application for service by way of substituted service.

I have considered the application. Order 5 rule 17 of the Civil Procedure Rules provides for the law on substituted service. The law allows court to grant leave to a party to serve by substituted service if it is satisfied that for any reason the summons cannot be served personally in accordance with the provisions of Order 5. Order 5 Rule 17 (4) provides for substituted service by advertisement as prayed herein by the applicant. Substituted service by way of advertisement in a newspaper shall be deemed as proper service where the same has been allowed by the court.

In this case, the Applicant has stated on oath that the whereabouts of the Defendant is not known to him. I find that the application dated **10/03/2025** merited and I allow the same and grant the following orders:

a) Leave is granted to the Plaintiff/Applicant to effect service of the pleadings herein upon the Defendants/respondent by means of substituted service by advertisement in a newspaper of wide national circulation within 21 days from today's date.
b) Mention on **20.05.2025** to confirm compliance and further directions.
c) Costs shall be in the cause.

RULING DELIVERED, SIGNED AND DATED THIS 16TH DAY OF APRIL, 2025 IN OPEN COURT AT MALINDI

BEFORE: J.S WESONGA - PM

COURT ASSISTANT: M/S ZAITUNI

PLAINTIFF: ABSENT

DEFENDANT: ABSENT

M/S MWANGI FOR PLAINTIFF - ABSENT

SIGNED BY: HON. JOY SHIUNDU WESONGA (PM)/(DR)

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF KENYA AT KILIFI
COURT NAME: MALINDI LAW COURT
CASE NUMBER: MCELC/E020/2025
CITATION: WATAMU ASCOT LIMITED VS ERNESTO CASTELLI
RULING

This is a ruling in respect to the application dated 10th day of March, 2025 by the Plaintiff/ Applicant and supported by the affidavit of Lucy Wangari Mwangi, learned counsel for the plaintiff that sought the following orders:

1. That the court hereby do grant leave to serve the summons by way of substituted service through advertisement in any one of local Daily newspapers preferable Star newspaper.
2. That the defendant be required to appear in court within 15 days from the date of advertisement.
3. That costs of this application be in the cause.

The Plaintiff/Applicant has stated that the efforts to effect service upon the defendant/ respondents have borne no fruits and unless this application is allowed the plaintiff will be prejudiced.

That summons were served to the defendant through his last known email address castelli496@gmail.com and the defendant has never entered appearance since 10th day of February, 2025 to date.

That continued delay in effecting proper service upon the defendants is prejudicial to the plaintiff/applicant and the applicant is therefore entitled to make this application for service by way of substituted service.

I have considered the application. Order 5 rule 17 of the Civil Procedure Rules provides for the law on substituted service. The law allows court to grant leave to a party to serve by substituted service if it is satisfied that for any reason the summons cannot be served personally in accordance with the provisions of Order 5. Order 5 Rule 17 (4) provides for substituted service by advertisement as prayed herein by the applicant. Substituted service by way of advertisement in a newspaper shall be deemed as proper service where the same has been allowed by the court.

In this case, the Applicant has stated on oath that the whereabouts of the Defendant is not known to him. I find that the application dated **10/03/2025** merited and I allow the same and grant the following orders:

a) Leave is granted to the Plaintiff/Applicant to effect service of the pleadings herein upon the Defendants/respondent by means of substituted service by advertisement in a newspaper of wide national circulation within 21 days from today's date.
b) Mention on **20.05.2025** to confirm compliance and further directions.
c) Costs shall be in the cause.

RULING DELIVERED, SIGNED AND DATED THIS 16TH DAY OF APRIL, 2025 IN OPEN COURT AT MALINDI

BEFORE: J.S WESONGA-PM

COURT ASSISTANT: M/S ZAITUNI

PLAINTIFF: ABSENT

DEFENDANT: ABSENT

M/S MWANGI FOR PLAINTIFF-ABSENT

SIGNED BY: HON. JOY SHIUNDU WESONGA (PM)/(DR)

HOME_BASED Personal and private tutor in business and computer studies both secondary/colleges in kisumu details 0716462733 0713957136

WEBSITE EDITOR, YouTube manager and videographer, radio ads, Master of Ceremony (MCs) and events planner call gepoch networks services on 071646273ECHANICAL MANAGER 0743249306 0716462733

AM A COIN COLLECTOR in kisumu county any one buying OLD COINS and foreign coins call on 0743249306/0716462733

PERSONAL AND PRIVATE TUTOR in business and computer studies both secondary/colleges in kisumu details 0716462733 071395713

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)

NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED RENEWAL OF EXTENSION OF USER

The registered owner of **Plot Number 4894/10** Situated along 1st Avenue Gardens, Garden Estate, proposes to *Renew it's Extension use* from **Residential to include MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE CENTRE**, subject to the approval of the Nairobi City County. Individual(s), institution(s) etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within **14 days** 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)

CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of this land reference **Juja/Kalimoni Block 22/1553**, located at Witeithie, off Thika super highway, Juja subcounty, intends to change its use from **Single dwelling to Residential Multi dwelling (flats)** subject to approval by Kiambu County Government. Individuals, institutions, etc. with objection(s) to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to:-

THE CECM-LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING
KIAMBU COUNTY GOVERNMENT
P.O. BOX 2344-0090
KIAMBU

Physical Planner
Marvin Mugambi RRP 0323.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)

CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of **Plot No. NAIROBI/BLOCK 136/172812** located in Ruai, off Kangundo road within Nairobi City County proposes to change the use of the Land from **Residential to Commercial**, subject to approval by the Nairobi County Government. Individuals, Institutions, Members of the Public etc. with comments and or objections to the proposal should forward them within **14 days** of this Notice to:-

The CECM-Built Environment and Urban Planning
Nairobi City County Government
P.O Box 30075-00100
Nairobi

JOB

TEACHERS, NURSES Lawyers and Accountants earn 60000 part time work4 only 2hrs aday twice a week From 5pm to 7pm. col0769150870.Manager.

WANTED: Salonist, hoteliers, housekeeper, maids, cleaners, train& employ Local inter, NBI, MSA, Gilo, NKR Reg fee is a MUST details sms only +254722703706

JOB **APPLY** land sales agent's marketers, NKR, Gilgil area REG fee is a MUST SMS only for details 0722703706

TRAINED HOUSE KEEPER house help shamba boy nation wide available part time full time sms 0722115384

JOB apply land sales agent's marketers, NKR,Gilgil area REG fee MUST SMS only for details 0722703706

SALON, hair dressers barber,-beautician, we train& employ Local inter, NBI, MSA, Gilo, NKR Reg fees is a MUST details sms only +254722703706

SALONIST, hoteliers, housekeeper, maids,cleaders, train&employ Local inter,NBI,MSA,Gilo,NKR Reg fee MUST details sms only +25472270370

MISC

INDIAN PHOTO SHOOT models to grace your party strictly premierictly members +254722115384

Dr. Mama Bichau from zanzibar back in nairobi to solve problems such as:love issues, infidelity in marriages,lost items,lucky rings, manpower and size, cleansing stars, all protections, infertility, business attraction, addictions, bad omen, job promotion, debts etc. **CALL: 0722591554, 0787969731**

DR. MAMBA kutoka (TZ) Anati-bu magonjwa na shida zote. Malipo ni baada ya kufaulu **Piga simu 0715 860148**

WE PROVIDE MOTIVATIONAL, mentoring, coaching, and Home based counseling support at your favorite place for private and confidential. Details call counselor on 0716462733 0743249306

MONEY ISSUES tried prayers, cult, traditionist, loans, failed, Solution REG, consultant fee \$24USD only Change life or choose to continue crying SMS +254722703706

WINTRODUCTION to money oil end your money struggles now sms only for details +254722703706

MOTIVATIONAL speaking for schools,individuals or groups for details call coach 0743249306 0713957136

MONEY PROBLEM tried everything failed relax got solution NO cult sms 0722703706

Manage stress the natural way with ashwagandha. Call/Whatsapp 0712149433. Our Facebook page is Ashwagandha Kenya. **Offering motivation** speaking for schools, individuals or groups for details call coach 0743249306 0713957136

ARE YOU IN NEED of a personal computer trainer home_based coach, more details call 0788779377 0713957136

Home based counselling support at your favorite residence for private and confidential call lawrence 0716462733 0788779377

Cure INFERTILITY Call/Whatsapp 0712149433. Our Facebook page is Ashwagandha Kenya.

operation for blind eyes to see yes Miracle doctor sms to be connected 0722703706

Oasis spa now open members only euro indian thai arab 0722115384

We install cctv to monitor house girls/boys. Also surveillance gadgets for cars, phones. cal 0732555194

CHERRY SPA... Experienced in several international massage cultures,located in Westlands along ojiro road and open 24/7. 0791491072

RELATIONSHIPS

Canadian Cate Johnson working in Kenya with UNHCR looking for marriage partner. Call/SMS +254752609194

Andru, 35 yrs, in Nairobi is looking for a serious lady to settle down with. Age between 22 – 28, loving, caring, faithful, hardworking, honest. Call, Whatsapp 0747117278

Classic Lady, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking

STAR

PUBLIC AUCTIONS

Enjoy our affordable prices every Friday in your **Weekend Edition**

To place your adverts contact:

NAIROBI
Winnie Wainaina – 0727061122
Mary Awuor – 0723060734
Jacob Ting'aa – 0722 796 558
Exallenty Wambua – 0700334139
Kate Mwangangi – 0721667742
Victor Mujidu – 0717 802211
Joshua Onyango – 0706 958075

ELDORET
Jack Muchesi – 0115783747

MT KENYA
Mary Mulwa – 0726581185

KISUMU
Alfred Otieno – 0713429336

MOMBASA
Doracas Rottok – 0794909108
Betty Ngina – 0707268525

BUNGOMA
Maurice Awino – 0701345621

For Love 0731990601.

Classic Lady, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking For Love 0731990601.

New arrival vietnamese escort models strictly V.I.P only in call premier members only 0722115384

Enjoy The Company Of Beautiful Housewife massage therapist, Indian,Euro,ASIAN,NBI MSA Tz international Strictly premier members only sms 0722115384

HABIBI YEMENIS ESCORT MODELS WESTLAND WWW.O A S I S – D R E A M S . O R G +254722115384

New arrival Euro blonde Indian celeb x-blywd to grace your party strictly premier members and V.I.P.S only 0722115384

End loneliness virtual friend for hire Euro India Thai Arab vietnamese NBI EA international Sms+254722115384

Classic Lady, Wealthy, Learned, Beautiful, Independent, Smart, Intelligent And Business-minded. Looking For Love 0703237111.

Classic Sugar Ladies And Sugar Daddies, Own Business, Professionals,Working Class, Marriage Partners Etc 0731990601

bachelor's hen night parties hill view Indian Arab dancers for entertainment accommodation strictly premier members only sms 0722115384

Hookups For Millionaire Sponsors, Sugar Moms, Sugar Dads, Marriage Partners etc Instant 0703237111

This Wealthy Sugardaddy Is Looking For Good Girl For Good Times.0722114000

Wazungu Looking For Kenyan ladies For Marriage. Sponsors & SugarDads Also Available. Pay 500 To PAYBILL No 948862 Account 1319. Instant Hookup. 0703237111

THE STAR

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE READERS & ADVERTISERS

You are kindly requested to get appropriate advice before committing yourself to undertaking anything in relation to an advertisement in terms of sending money or incurring expenses. Radio Africa Group shall not be liable to any person(s) for any loss, damage or suffering as a result of accepting any invitation(s) or offer(s) contained in advertisement(s) published in The Star.

CLASSIFIED RATES (KSHS)

SEMI DISPLAY MOTORING/ENTERTAINMENT/AUCTION/ PROPERTY /OBITUARIES.

Semi Display (boxed classified) Mon-Sat 1,200/= + VAT per centimetre column

Per line per day (Mon-Sat) 300/= +VAT

Letters of Admin 800/= +VAT per centimetre column

Voucher fee 2,500/= + VAT

Note: Minimum sized on boxed ads is 4cm

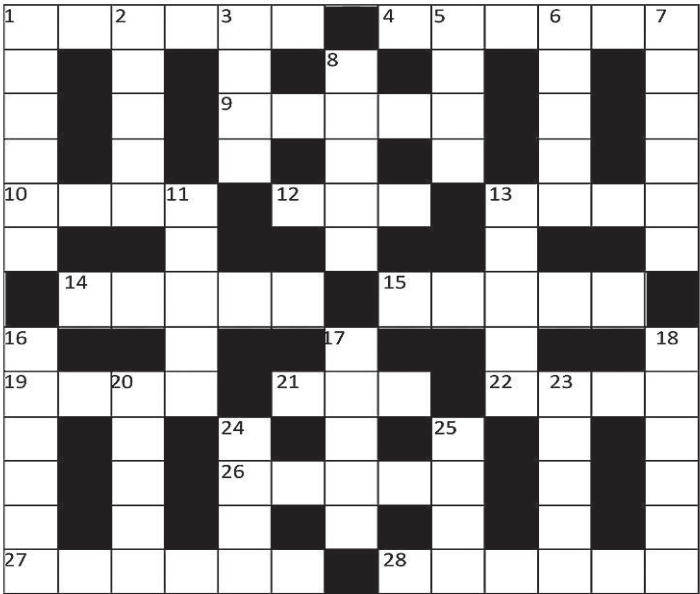
PAYMENT TERMS

Cash payments shall not be accepted. Please note that sales and advertising executives are not authorised to receive any cash payments on behalf of The Star. The Star shall not be held responsible for any loss or liability caused by failure to adhere to these payment terms.

PAYMENTS STRICTLY VIA MPESA PAYBILL NUMBER 793601

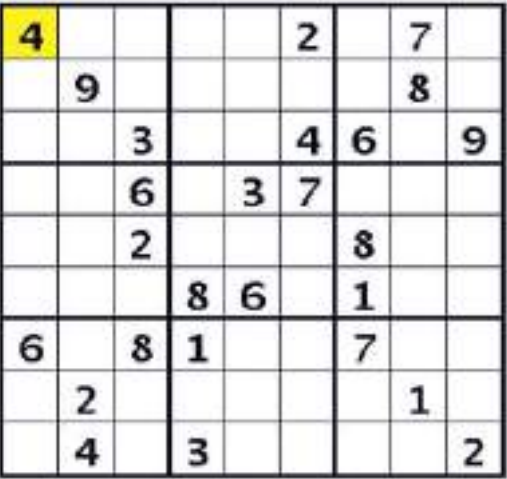
COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD / PUZZLE

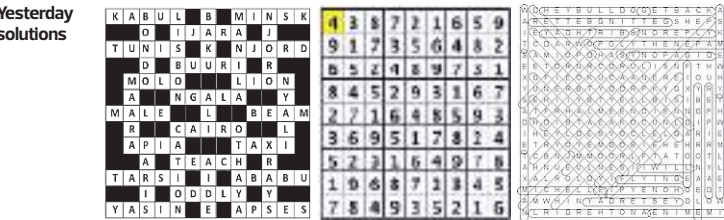


- DOWN**
 - Currency used in Gambia(6)
 - Member of Parliament for Saboti constituency (5)
 - Disease caused by HIV virus (4)
 - Currency used in most European countries (4)
 - Currency used in Nigeria (5)
 - Former Member of Parliament for women in west Pokot County (6)
 - Swahili adjective for a heavy set person (5)
 - Currency used in Sao Tome and Principe (5)
 - Currency used in Sierra Leone (5)
 - Muscular for protection of developing embryo (6)
 - ____ is secreted by goblet cells in the epithelial membrane of the alimentary canal (5)
 - Way in which something is arranged (6)
 - Member of Parliament for Kangundo constituency (5)
 - Former Member of Parliament for Taveta constituency (5)
 - It is the heredity factor which transmits traits from parents to offspring (4)
- ACROSS**
 - Currency used in most North American countries (6)
 - Digests caseinogens protein in milk to casein (6)
 - Currency used in North Macedonia (5)
 - Past tense of say (4)
 - Monad (3)
 - Currency used in Georgia (4)
 - Currency used in Belarus (5)
 - Currency used in Denmark (5)
 - Currency used in Bangladesh (4)
 - Former Member of Parliament for Women in Nandi County (3)
 - ____ parasites live inside the host (4)
 - Member of Parliament for Turkana West constituency (5)
 - Currency used in Israel (6)
 - Currency used in Hungary (6)

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.



WORD SEARCH

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

W K D R E K C E P D O O W H

O W N R S W A N N F O J A Y

R A O U I G M I N G I V M T

C H E R L B T B N O U N U I

P T G E R R K I U L C R C M

E E I O A A M C T D K L O H

L E P M S A P U A E G C A U

I K O W L T R S Y L K I M F

C A L F H E R O N I B E E O

A R L C A R D I N A L V D N

N A U K C U D G C E S O O G

A P G R R O B I N H D D G B

R M A G P I E N E K C I H C

Y N E W R E N T O R R A P I

E R S D D R A V E N A N Y M

BLACKBIRD

BUDGIE

CANARY

CARDINAL

CHICKEN

CRANE

CROW

DODO

DOVE

DUCK

EAGLE

EMU

FALCON

FINCH

FLAMINGO

GOOSE

HAWK

HERON

JAY

MAGPIE

MARTIN

MOCKINGBIRD

MYNA

OSTRICH

OWL

PARAKEET

PARROT

PELICAN

PIGEON

RAVEN

ROBIN

SEAGULL

SPARROW

SWAN

TURKEY

VULTURE

WOODPECKER

WREN

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

Slovakia approves sale of brown bear meat to public

BBC/ The meat of brown bears, a protected species in the EU, could soon be available to eat in Slovakia after the populist government approved plans for sale.

Last month, the cabinet authorised a plan to shoot about a quarter of the country's 1,300 brown bears in response to some recent fatal encounters.

The state- authorised slaughter has been criticised by conservationists and opposition politicians, including in the European Parliament. The brown bear is listed as a "near threatenend" species in the EU by the World Conservation Union. However, Slovakia's government is forging ahead with the plan and this week announced that meat from culled bears would be sold to the public to prevent waste.

From next week, organisations under the environment ministry can offer the meat for sale, provided all legal and hygiene conditions are met.

State Minister Filip Kuffa said it was wasteful that the animals had previously been sent to carcass disposal facilities. "We will release every shot animal that meets certain conditions for consumption. Why? Because bear meat is edible," he said.

Bears have become a political issue in Slovakia after a rising number of encounters with humans, including fatal attacks.

Slovakia ranks second in Europe, behind Romania which is estimated to have about 13,000 brown bears, for the number of attacks.



ODDLY ENOUGH



ALL IN THE STARS



GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

Family matters nor career issues will cloud your spirit, as everything seems to be proceeding smoothly and according to plan.

CANCER

June 22 – July 22

Your core values have stabilized your life, but you may be starting to feel they're less relevant.

LEO

July 23 – August 22

Live for the moment, be in the present, and know that anything is possible in the future.

VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

You have a tendency to run away from conflict in relationships. This can get you into some complicated situations.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

Using power is something that one learns over time. If you let it stagnate, it will create some stubborn obstacles.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

When you're finished analyzing what really drives you, your relationships will seem much simpler.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

Your ego taking a beating will help you mature. Accept being wrong and willingly revise your judgment when necessary.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

You're currently stuck between the desire to create for your own pleasure and the desire to please others.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

You may feel more of an urge than ever to search for your family roots. Your search could be very deep and intense.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

Today you may be impressed by the powers of concentration and self-discipline of one of your friends.

ARIES

March 21 – April 20

You can take advantage of the energy from today's aspects to give your future a gentle nudge in the right direction.

TAURUS

April 21 – May 21

You're well aware of the toll you pay when you try to ignore those nudges of intuition you sometimes feel.

FOOTBALL

Mara Sugar vow to rewrite history by lifting Mozzart Bet Cup title



Dennis Cheruiyot of Mara Sugar in action against Nairobi City Stars at Awendo Stadium /ANGWENYI GICHANA

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

MARA Sugar are keen to rewrite history by lifting the Mozzart Bet Cup.

The Kilgoris-based side became the first team from Narok County to play in the Kenyan Premier League. Team manager Gilbert Ledama said they now want to go a step better and win the League Cup.

Mara face giant killers and newly promoted Premier League side Nairobi United in a Cup semifinal on Sunday at Dandora Stadium.

The game was initially scheduled for the Afraha Stadium.

“Our immediate task is to progress to the final. We know Nairobi United

is a good team, but we have prepared well for the game,” said Ledama.

“They are a good team with experienced players. They eliminated experienced teams, so we cannot underestimate them. We are equally strong because we bundled Kenya Police out of the tournament.”

“We want to be the first team from Narok County to win silverware and represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup,” added the team manager.

En route to the semis, Nairobi United eliminated, among others, Tusker, Kakamega Homeboyz and KCB. Mara shocked champions Kenya Police 9-8 on post-match penalties.

The millers recently bolstered their squad by hiring experienced Edward Manoah as head coach, alongside Francis Xavier, his assistant.

The winner between Nairobi United and Mara Sugar will face Gor Mahia in the final. The KPL champions beat Murang’a Seal 5-3 on post-match penalties after their semifinal ended in a 2-2 draw.

The winner will represent Kenya in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

Meanwhile, Ledama hopes to end the KPL season on a high as they face Murang’a Seal and Kariobangi Sharks in the final two matches of the season.

RUGBY

MWANJA ON THE WHEEL

KCB turn to Mwanja in quest to return to the top of Kenyan rugby



KCB's Wilhite Mususi (2nd R) challenges Kabras Sugar's George Nyambua during a Kenya Cup encounter at the ASK Showground, Kakamega, on March 8 /HANDOUT

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

KCB RFC have turned to Dennis Mwanja in their bid to reclaim top spot in Kenyan rugby.

Mwanja joins the bankers on an interim capacity, taking over from Oliver Mang’eni, who was fired at the end of the season. Darwin Mukidza, who was appointed backs coach at the beginning of last season, and team manager, Priscilla Ong’ombe, leave the club after the expiry of their contracts.

The bankers ended the season trophyless, falling 31-8 to Menengai Oilers in the Kenya Cup semifinals and 25-21 to Kabras in the Enterprise Cup semis.

Mwanja is not new to KCB, having served as a forwards coach under Curtis Olago and Mang’eni in the past decade.

He is looking forward to the new task.

He said: “I am looking forward towards the new assignment. With everyone on board, I believe we can do reclaim our titles.”

The Kenya Lionesses coach — Sevens and 15s — said his immediate task will be to bolster the squad ahead of the start of the National Sevens Circuit in July. KCB RFC chairman James Mugo hopes to rebuild the outfit in their quest to reclaim their status as the top club in the country.

“We are looking at continually rebuilding the team to get back to winning ways. The club aims to continue making a positive contribution to the game of rugby in Kenya and maintain its position as a top-tier club. Key to this is having a team that is firing on all cylinders,” he said.

“After productive discussions with the

coaching team, we have made a painful but aligned decision to make changes in the tech bench. The club remains a formidable force in the local rugby scene.”

“Our ambition is to reclaim the Kenya Cup and Enterprise Cup titles as well as to continue churning out players for the national team. With that in mind, we have to ensure that we lay the right foundation for a successful future,” he added.

A fortnight ago, Mang’eni was uncertain about his stay after the club ended a fourth consecutive season without silverware.

“I have not received any formal communication from my employer regarding the renewal of my contract. However, we did not have a successful season at KCB rugby and if it means that some restructuring has to happen, it is not (within) my powers,” observed Mang’eni.

Okoth believes KCB can snatch six points in remaining KPL duels

BY TEDDY MULEI

KCB interim boss Samuel ‘Koko’ Okoth believes the bankers can finish the season on a high by winning their two remaining Kenyan Premier League fixtures.

Okoth took charge following the dismissal of the then-head coach Patrick Odhiambo and his assistant Jeffer Odongo, who were shown the door after a torrid run of form.

KCB are without a win in eight outings. Their last victory dates back to March 3, when they edged Ulinzi Stars 2-1 thanks to goals from Kevin Okumu and Francis Kahiro.

Since then, it’s been a downward spiral — two draws, against Kakamega Homeboyz (2-2) and Mara Sugar (1-1), coupled with six defeats, including 1-0 losses to Gor Mahia, FC Talanta, Shabana, Kariobangi Sharks and Bidco United and a 2-1 setback at the hands of Kenya Police.

The poor run left them languishing at ninth place with 41 points, with Mathare United just a point adrift at 10th. Despite the slump, Okoth, who previously served as the club’s goalkeeping coach, is upbeat about a strong finish.

“I am working hard to make sure we fight for every point in the remaining two matches,” he said.

KCB’s final tests will come against Nairobi City Stars and AFC Leopards. The reverse fixture against City Stars ended in a 1-1 stalemate, with Kelvin Etemesi giving City Stars the lead before Philemon Nyakwaka hit back for the bankers to share the spoils.

Against Leopards, KCB endured a bruising 4-2 defeat, with Kelly Madada bagging a brace and Kennedy Owino and Ovella Ochieng adding to the damage. Okoth emphasised the importance of rebuilding the players’ confidence after their dismal run.



KCB interim coach Samuel ‘Koko’ Okoth /HANDOUT



GOLF

Kenyan pros among 90 expected at Thika Greens Sunshine Tour



ELVIS KOILEKEN

KENYAN pros Greg Snow, Dismas Indiza, Jacob Okello, Rizwan Charania and David Wakhu are among 90 golfers expected at the first leg of the Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing on June 3-5 at the Thika Greens Golf Resort.

Uganda's Ronald Rugumayo, Tanzania's Nuru Mollel and Isaac Wanyeché lead the regional charge, whereas South Africa's Travis Ladner, Reece McKain and Jonathan Ackerman take up the invitational slots.

Naivasha Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing-Qualifying School(Q-School) tour winner Celestine Nsanjuwera and Windsor Golf Club's Njoroge Kibugu, the best-placed Kenyan at the final Q-School event in South Africa, are

expected too.

Vipingo Golf Resort's Naomi Wafula, three-time Kenya Ladies Open winner Joyce Wanjiru, and the Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) top three amateurs John Lejirma, Michael Karanga and Elvis Muigua will also grace the tour.

"We are excited to see such great interest from the players around the continent. The entries are encouraging. We look forward to three great days of golf at the Thika Greens Golf Resort, as we tee off the East Africa Swing," said tour promoter Charles Gacheru.

They will play through 54 holes, with a cut after 36 holes to determine who proceeds to the final round.

The winner is set to take home Sh400,000 off the tour's Sh2m prize purse.

Players will gain Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points in addition to Sunshine Development Tour points.

Windsor's Njoroge Kibugu during the EA Swing Q-School tournament /HANDOUT

FOOTBALL

NEW DAWN FOR STARS?

We're ready to exorcise the ghosts haunting Harambee Stars, says McCarthy

BY TONY MBALLA

HARAMBEE Stars' head coach Benni McCarthy has told Kenyan football fans to forget the ghosts of unfulfilled potential, reminding them this is a new dawn.

The South African gaffer pledged to restore faith and ignite a fire that burns bright with the ambition of the nation.

Promising to turn a crucial chapter in Kenya's unfolding football saga, McCarthy said he has his sights firmly trained on clinching the Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) trophy in August.

He described the showpiece as a story waiting to be written in the vibrant colours of Kenyan pride. He tipped his charges to crack a spot in the finals of the eagerly-awaited tournament, a bold declaration that echoes through the heart of listless Kenyan football fans. "Harambee Stars have often grappled with unfulfilled potential, and my leadership heralds a new chapter, one rooted in ambition and a desire to elevate Kenyan football to unprecedented heights," McCarthy said.

"We want to demonstrate our abilities and present a positive image of ourselves at the 2024 CHAN tournament in Kenya. Instead of failing, we want to succeed. We want to advance to the semifinals and possibly the championship game. I think it is possible with enough effort," McCarthy remarked.

The 47-year-old South African, a former assistant coach of Manchester United, is adamant that Harambee Stars will play the appealing style of football that the supporters have been clamouring for.

McCarthy recognises the emotional investment of the fans and the weight of their expectations. "I want to make Kenya the greatest team in East Africa's history. Kenya will succeed if the national team is fixed. It is the passion on people's faces that, in my opinion, demonstrates how much they love their nation. The national team has

not yet met the expectations of the supporters," McCarthy underlined.

"My vision isn't just about winning; it's about igniting a flame, rekindling the love affair between Kenyans and their team," he added.

The upcoming friendlies against Chad, scheduled for June 7 and June 10 in Morocco, will serve as a critical litmus test for the Harambee Stars.

The gaffer said these matches present a pivotal opportunity for him to forge unity and test the mettle of his squad as they gear up for CHAN.

"The friendlies will not only provide a platform for individual players to shine but will also facilitate the development of team chemistry, a crucial ingredient for success in high-stakes matches," he said.



Edward Omondi, Mohammed Bajaber and Farouk Shikhalo during Stars' training session /HANDOUT

HIGHLIGHTS

Loiswell Academy gets new outdoor basketball court

BY ELVIS KOILEKEN

LOISWELL Academy are the latest beneficiary of NBA Africa and Opportunity International in Nairobi after an outdoor court was unveiled on Monday at the school's grounds.

This is in line with the organisation's commitment to the vision of building 1000 courts in Africa in the next decade. Last week, a new court was launched at Highland School in Nyamata, Rwanda. NBA Africa is an affiliate of the National Basketball Association (NBA), a global sports and media organisation with the mission to inspire and connect people everywhere through the power of basketball.

The league's efforts on the continent have focused on increasing access to basketball and the NBA through grassroots and elite development, social responsibility, media distribution, corporate partnerships, NBA Africa Games, NBA Stores and BAL. Opportunity International has developed innovative programs that use financial services, training, and support to address some of the greatest challenges facing those living in poverty around the world.

NBA Africa opened its fifth office on the continent in Nairobi and Michael Finley was named Country Lead on November 29, 2023.



Loiswell Academy players in training /HANDOUT

National event to act as build-up for Africa show

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

THE national long course championships at Kasarani Aquatic Arena this weekend will be a test run for the 10th Africa Aquatics championships set for October 17-19, Kenya Aquatics have revealed.

Secretary general Collins Marigiri said the three-day event is an ideal build-up for the continental event.

"It will be a good test for our system and logistical organisation. The best African swimmers and coaches are coming, and attention to detail will be vital," said Marigiri.

Marigiri said the return of the continental event to Kenya, for the first time since 2012, is a thumbs up to the new administration.

He regretted how the country missed out on hosting top-level championships, spending the better part of the past decade wrangling.

"We have come from a very turbulent period, where our swimmers were competing under a neutral flag," he said. "However, things have stabilised and we can now host some of the big events on the continent."

Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda and Madagascar are expected to arrive on Thursday for the weekend championship.

The event is a qualifier for the World Aquatics Championships slated for Singapore between July 11 and August 3.

Kenya's top competitors include Sara Mose, Haniel Kudwoli, 2019 African Games bronze medallist Maria Brunlehner, Mohammed Ridhwan, Imara Bella-Thorpé, Adam Mensch, Shaka Gikunda, Stephen Ndegwa and Nathan Matimu.

FOOTBALL

Four Bundesliga sides in hunt for new bosses

XINHUA

After Heidenheim survived two energy-sapping relegation games against second-tier SV Elversberg, coach Frank Schmidt said with a great relief: "From tomorrow on, I disappear, don't call me, don't find me."

While the 51-year-old mentioned returning in a few weeks with recharged batteries, four Bundesliga teams are busy looking for a new manager.

After Bayer Leverkusen sealed a deal with former Manchester United coach Erik ten Hag on Monday, the wheel is turning for RB Leipzig, Werder Bremen, VfL Wolfsburg and FC Augsburg.

Jürgen Klopp, Red Bull's "Global Head of Soccer," has reportedly begun direct talks with Como's Cesc Fabregas. Leipzig is currently touring Brazil for a league promotion event, with Klopp absent, as the coaching search appears to be the most pressing issue.

Media reports discuss rapid action in Bremen after Ole Werner turned down a contract extension offer, with several media outlets reporting that the club has sacked its coach and is considering Elversberg's Horst Steffen.

The steering positions in Augsburg and Wolfsburg are still unoccupied for now.

Augsburg fired its Danish coach Jess Thorup immediately after the conclusion of the 2024-25 season last week. Former German national team assistant Sandro Wagner is reported to be the successor, and is expected to make progress and enhance the club's reputation following Augsburg's disappointing season.

While Werner might be a candidate for Wolfsburg, Crystal Palace manager Oliver Glasner, Fabregas and former Benfica coach Roger Schmidt seem to be other contenders.

Everything should be settled for all teams without coaches by mid-July, when the 2025-26 pre-season preparation begins.

Reports suggest that Fabregas declined Leverkusen's offer, and Wagner turned down a contract from Hoffenheim.

Meanwhile, the competition continues in the Bundesliga, with fans eagerly awaiting positive news for their teams.

Heidenheim coach Frank Schmidt / XINHUA

'CUNHA HAS EVERYTHING'

Why does midfielder want Man United and where does he fit?

NEIL JOHNSTON/ BBC

"I've made it clear that I need to take the next step," Matheus Cunha told the Guardian in March. "I want to fight for titles, for big things. I have potential."

The Brazil forward is now set to take that next step but it involves swapping one side who finished in the Premier League's bottom six for another, in moving from Wolves to Manchester United in a £62.5m transfer.

Cunha will arrive at a club that has gone 12 years without winning a league title, having just completed a worst top-flight season since 1973-74, and where morale is at rock bottom. So why is the 26-year-old happy to join a United side that finished a massive 42 points behind champions Liverpool?

United 'lucky' to get Cunha

While Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea, Newcastle and Tottenham are all planning for next season's Champions League, United are unable to offer new recruits any European football - let alone a place in Europe's premier club competition.

Indeed, it is now more than three years since United last played a Champions League knockout tie. Despite a lowly league finish and absence of European football next season, Cunha still views United as a big club - and that the player does not look at it as a risk.

Instead Cunha, who turned 26 on Tuesday and is in peak form, is excited by the enormous challenge of reviving United's fortunes. There is a feeling the move makes sense for all parties. Cunha wants to move to a so-called bigger club, while Wolves get more than £60m to reinvest.

Meanwhile, Wolves have already showed they can win matches without Cunha after securing 10 points from the four Premier League games he missed through suspension following a red card against Bournemouth in the FA Cup in March. United, who are set to allow England forward Marcus Rashford and Argentina winger Alejandro Garnacho to leave this summer, need to boost the options available to boss Ruben Amorim.

His side managed just 44 top-flight goals in 2024-25 - a club-record low in the Premier League era. Ipswich Town forward Liam Delap, and Brentford forward Bryan Mbeumo have also been linked.

Cunha has 27 goals in 65 Premier League appearances over the past two seasons and is regarded

at United as someone who can make an instant impact, while at the same time add experience to the team.

"United are lucky they still have their historic appeal and reputation as a club, so players of the Brazilian's quality and potential want to move there," former England midfielder Fara Williams told BBC Sport. "If he does, there is no doubt he improves the squad."

'Cunha has everything United want'

Creativity, movement and sharp finishing - Cunha's flair and drive have often made the difference in tight games. He has been the heartbeat of Wolves' attacking threat, scoring crucial goals, linking up play and unpicking defences with moments of individual brilliance.

In addition, 2024-25 saw him equal the record for the most goals scored by a Brazilian player in a Premier League season along with Roberto Firmino (2017-18) and Gabriel Martinelli (2022-23).

"Cunha has everything a United team would want,"

added Williams. "You cannot question the qualities he possesses and the attitude he has in-game in terms of wanting to do anything to win."

Cunha spoke about leaving behind the sadness of his time at Atletico Madrid after initially joining Wolves on loan in December 2022 before making the move permanent the following summer. He first played as a number nine at Wolves but those who have watched him regularly over the past couple of years say his best position is as a left-sided number 10.

His natural inclination is to come deep and get the ball, and his strengths include running at defenders and finishing. His 2024-25 numbers match up to those of Bruno Fernandes, arguably United's best player. Cunha scored six times from outside the box - the same number as Fernandes managed in all competitions.

Cunha also registered 51 attempts on target in all competitions - again, the same number as Fernandes managed.

He also, however, spent more of his time on the pitch walking than any other outfield player in the Premier League this season at 77 per cent.



Wolves' midfielder Matheus Cunha/FILE



Mohammed Salah in action with Chelsea's Levi Colwill / XINHUA

I can play until I'm 40, says Mo Salah

BBC

MOHAMED Salah says he can play until he is 40 years old and is still in talks about a possible future move to the Saudi Pro League.

The Liverpool forward, 32, had a superb season, scoring 29 goals and delivering 18 assists as the Reds won the Premier League title.

Sources told BBC Sport that Salah was in line to earn at least £500m in Saudi Arabia before he decided to sign a new contract at Anfield last month after a season of speculation.

Speaking to Egyptian television channel ON Sports, before supporters were injured when a car ploughed into crowds at the club's trophy parade on Monday, Salah said: "I will stop playing when I have that feeling."

"If you ask me for my opinion, I think I

can play until the age of 39 or 40 but if I felt before that I wanted to stop, I would quit. I have achieved a lot of things.

"My contract was up at Liverpool and I would have gone to Saudi but we finalised the deal with Liverpool."

Salah has scored 186 Premier League goals for Liverpool and Chelsea and sits fifth on the all-time list - one goal behind former Newcastle and Manchester United striker Andrew Cole.

The Egypt international has indicated he could still play in the Middle East after his contract at Anfield expires in 2027.

"I still have a good relationship with them and I always stay in contact with them. Yes, we were talking to each other," he added, with reference to clubs in Saudi.

"I don't know what is going to happen but I am happy here in Liverpool and I am staying here for the next two years. Then I will see what I will do next."

RUGBY

KCB turn to Mwanja in quest to return to the top of Kenyan rugby

SEE PAGE 29



THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

starSPORT

ATHLETICS

FEARLESS TEENAGER

South Africa sensation Walaza threatens to upset formbook at Kip Keino Classic

BY TEDDY MULEI

SOUTH Africa's sprint prodigy and double World Under-20 champion Bayanda Walaza has issued an early statement of intent ahead of his blockbuster clash with Africa's fastest man, Ferdinand Omanyala, at Saturday's Kip Keino Classic.

The 19-year-old is brimming with confidence ahead of what promises to be the show-stopper event at the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold meeting at the Ulinzi Sports Complex in Nairobi.

Despite his deep admiration for Omanyala, Walaza has made it clear he's not coming to play second fiddle.

"I've got huge respect for Omanyala, he's a beast and a crowd legend," Walaza told Kip Keino organisers.

"But honestly, I don't line up to come second. I believe in my training, my team and my God-given talent. I'm here to race fearlessly and have fun. If I execute my race, anything can happen."

The teenager made headlines at the 2024 World U-20 Championships in Lima, Peru, by claiming both the 100m and 200m titles. In the 100m, he clocked 10.19 ahead of Thailand's Puripol Boonson (10.22) and compatriot Bradley Nkoana (10.26).

The 200m saw him storm to a 20.52 ahead of Australian teen sprint sensation Gout Gout (20.60) and Great Britain's Jake Odey-Jordan (20.81).

The teenager also featured in South Africa's record-breaking 4x100m relay team at the Paris Olympics, anchoring them to an African record of 37.57 for silver behind Canada's 37.50. Walaza has featured in a couple of 100m and 200m races since the

start of 2025. Earlier this month, he joined forces with Sinesipho Dambile, Nkoana and veteran Akani Simbine to clinch gold in the 4x100m at the World Relay Championships in Guangzhou, China.

Their time of 37.61 edged out the USA (37.66) and Canada (38.11). But it was in Zagreb, Croatia, at the Boris Hanzekovi Memorial where Walaza truly sent shockwaves through the sprinting world, clocking 9.94 to win ahead of Germany's Owen Ansah and Sweden's Henrik Larsson (both 10.20).

Omanyala, by contrast, is still chasing his first sub-10 performance of the season. The 2022 Commonwealth Games champion's best so far is 10.00, set at the Botswana Golden Grand Prix, where he finished behind Simbine (9.90). Walaza, who is making his debut at the Kip Keino Classic, is eager to experience the electrifying Nairobi atmosphere.

"I am psyched up! I've been watching the Kip Keino Classic for a while, and now I finally get to be part of it," he said. "Nairobi's energy is next level, and I'm just excited to experience that vibe, feel the crowd, and give it my all."

He thrives on the roar of the fans, even when they're not cheering for him.

"I feed off the noise—even if it's not for me. It's all energy, and I turn it into fuel. But when I'm in the blocks, it's tunnel vision," he stated. "I think my start can get sharper, and there's always work to do on technique and strength."

"But also, the mental side, learning how to stay locked in no matter what. I'm just staying hungry and focused, one step at a time."



South Africa's World U20 champion Bayanda Walaza during a warm up session at Ulinzi Complex /HANDOUT

★ BOXING

Mugunde keen to sparkle in new season

TONY MBALLA

HIT Squad captain Boniface Mugunde has pledged another season full of pleasant surprises for his adoring fans.

The technically adept pugilist said he is ready to replicate the exploits of the preceding season that steered him to continental glory.

He believes the upcoming season presents a plethora of opportunities for him to solidify his position as a boxing icon.

He has expressed his intention to participate in the upcoming Jamal Cup in Kisumu, noting that his decision to compete in local tournaments is a conscious choice to inspire and create a ripple effect that elevates the sport nationally. "I envision myself as a beacon, guiding others towards their own potential," Mugunde said.

"By competing at home, I can inspire others to pursue their dreams, creating a ripple effect that could elevate the sport across the nation," he added. He promised to garnish his trophy cabinet with more honours this season.

"I'm eager to win more medals for the country. It is something that I can easily achieve with hard work," Mugunde said. "I'll be returning to the local stage in the coming days. Most likely I'll start with the Jamal Cup and look into other avenues to consolidate my position in the national team."

As he prepares for another season, Mugunde has set the stage for a series of promising surprises that could redefine his legacy in the boxing arena. His recent gold medal victory at the Africa Elite Championships in October —Kenya's first in seven years — reignited national pride in the sport.

American McCoy eyes personal best at Kip Keino Classic

BY TEDDY MULEI

THE 2023 African 100m silver medallist, Maia McCoy, has set her sights firmly on victory as she prepares to headline the women's sprint showdown at the Kip Keino Classic this Saturday in Nairobi.

Fresh off a string of strong performances on the Diamond League circuit, the Liberian-born American sprinter arrived in Kenya on Tuesday night and

had her first feel of the Ulinzi Sports Complex track on Wednesday afternoon.

"This is my first time in Kenya and it already feels amazing. I'm really excited to be here," McCoy said.

McCoy is treating the Kip Keino Classic as a launch pad towards her World Championships dream in Tokyo.

"I am aiming for a good time and hopefully a personal best on Saturday. My main goal is to secure a flawless victory," she declared.

McCoy believes her recent international outings

have sharpened her form and boosted her belief. "I have had three solid races coming into this. I made my Diamond League debut in Doha and finished sixth — not bad for a first time," she explained. "Then I went back home, competed in Poland and won, before placing second in Rabat."

In Doha, McCoy clocked 11.10, placing sixth, before storming to victory in Zagreb in 11.35. She then dipped to 11.08 in Rabat, narrowly trailing Jamaica's sprint star Sharicka Jackson (11.04).



Liberian-born American sprinter Maia McCoy (L) with compatriot Bianca Stubler at Ulinzi Complex /HANDOUT

