



Broad-based

Big split in Raila camp over Ruto 2027 election deal

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the STAR

SAFARICOM HITS 50M USERS 25 YEARS ON

Story Page 2



Safaricom Group CEO Peter Ndegwa interacts with Syprose Atieno, a Safaricom customer in Eldoret town, as part of M-Pesa at 18 celebrations /HANDOUT

Women endure forced C-section and sterilisation during childbirth

WHEN FW was delivering her first-born daughter in 2015, she walked into a city hospital with a well-padded insurance card, ready for childbirth. But the moment the front office saw her limit, she overheard one of the attendants tell a nurse that she was a caesarean section candidate. In pain, FW did not question how such a decision could be made even before a doctor examined her.

PAGE 10

Sh44 billion Talanta stadium bond lists on NSE



Defence CS Soipan Tuya, Treasury CS John Mbadi, President William Ruto and Nairobi Securities Exchange chairman Kiprono Kittony arrive at the NSE in Nairobi yesterday /ELLY OKWARE /PCS/ STORY PAGE 12

BIGGEST MOBILE NETWORK

Safaricom reaches 50 million customers in major milestone

The company says success highlights the trust, loyalty and partnership of Kenyans



Safaricom Group CEO Dr Peter Ndegwa with Syprose Atieno, a Safaricom customer in Eldoret town, as part of M-Pesa at 18 celebrations /HANDOUT

VICTOR AMADALA
@ItsAmadala

SAFARICOM Plc has exerted its command as the biggest mobile network in the country, surpassing 50 million customers across all platforms.

The company says the milestone highlights the trust, loyalty and partnership of Kenyans over the last two and a half decades even as the company plans to celebrate its silver jubilee in October.

Safaricom Group CEO Peter

Ndegwa has attributed the success to a yearlong customer engagement drive which started last year and will culminate in its 25th anniversary celebrations, marking a quarter century of innovating around customer needs, transforming lives and building inclusive digital and financial ecosystems across Kenya.

“We are honoured by the trust that over 50 million Kenyans have placed in us. This milestone reflects the deep connection we have built with Kenyans over the past two and a half decades,” Ndegwa said.

Over the past year, Safaricom

has accelerated its focus on customer engagement and experience, through initiatives such as Sambaza Furaha and M-Pesa Sokoni, which have taken services, rewards and joy directly to customers across the country.

From just 17,000 customers when it began in 2000 to now serving over 50 million, Safaricom’s journey is deeply intertwined with the story of modern Kenya, one of innovation, resilience and progress.

The telco reported Sh69.8 billion in net income for the full-year ending March 31, 2025, as it registered double-digit growth in both mobile money and broadband.

The Kenyan unit delivered a strong performance with total revenues hitting Sh381.2 billion, up 11.4 per cent compared to last year.

Beyond Kenya, Safaricom has successfully expanded its operations to Ethiopia, where it has also recently achieved a significant milestone, surpassing 10 million customers as of July 2025.

This rapid growth in a new market underscores Safaricom’s vision to become Africa’s leading purpose-led technology company by 2030. “Our journey has always been about putting customers first, and this achievement is a direct reflection of that dedication. Looking ahead, our next chapter will be about deepening impact, personalising customer experiences, and driving Kenya’s digital transformation agenda,” Ndegwa said.

Since it began operations, Safaricom has pioneered transformative innovations such as M-Pesa, which

has evolved into a comprehensive digital financial ecosystem.

The mobile money transfer platform generated Sh161 billion of Safaricom Kenya’s service revenue in the end-of-year financial results, representing a 44.2 per cent contribution to the service in Kenya alone.

The platform’s 15.2 per cent year-on-year growth was crucial in propelling the company’s total revenue past the \$3 billion (Sh388 billion) mark, a first in the region.

The company has also invested heavily in connectivity by pioneering 3G, 4G and 5G networks as well as availing high-speed internet to homes and businesses.

The latest data from the Communications Authority shows that the telco has tightened its grip on the fixed internet market in Kenya, pulling further ahead of its competitors

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PETER NDEGWA

As part of our ongoing commitment to Sustainable Development Goals, we continue to work towards improving resource efficiency in our network

as more Kenyans turn to the telco for home internet.

According to CA, Safaricom now boasts of 678,118 fixed internet customers, an increase from 621,149 in the last quarter.

That growth has pushed the telco’s market share up to 36.5 per cent, strengthening its position as the country’s undisputed leader in the provision of home internet services.

This rise is being driven by the growing popularity of Safaricom’s Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) service, which has become the go-to solution for urban households and small businesses looking for seamless, high-speed connectivity.

With homes increasingly relying on the internet for work, school, streaming and business, Safaricom has placed itself as the most trusted and widely available option in Kenya.

Beyond connectivity and financial services, Safaricom continues to play a critical role in Kenya’s economic and social development. In the last financial year, the company contributed Sh722 billion to the Kenyan economy, sustaining over 1.28 million jobs.

Additionally, more than eight million Kenyans have benefitted from community projects delivered through the Safaricom and M-Pesa Foundations, which continue to drive access to education, healthcare, and economic empowerment opportunities.

“As part of our ongoing commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, we continue to work towards improving energy and resource efficiency in our network and facilities to reduce carbon emissions and our fuel consumption. We remain committed to becoming a Net Zero carbon-emitting company by 2050,” Ndegwa said.

Early this month, Safaricom announced that it now serves 10 million 90-day active customers in Ethiopia, a major milestone achieved within four years of acquiring its operational license.

It said the development signals the rapid adoption of its mobile and digital services across the country, highlighting the firm’s strong market presence in Ethiopia.

The company views this milestone as a sign of growing consumer trust and a step toward its broader vision of supporting Ethiopia’s digital transformation through inclusive and high-quality connectivity.

“Behind each SIM card there is an individual, a family, a business and a future,” said Wim Vanhelleputte, Chief Executive Officer of Safaricom Ethiopia

M-Pesa, Kenya’s leading mobile money platform, was officially launched in Ethiopia on August 16, 2023. This move came seven months after Safaricom Ethiopia began offering telecommunication services. By December 2024, M-Pesa had already attracted 10.8 million customers. The platform aims to solve digital payment challenges in Ethiopia, particularly addressing issues related to the bulky Ethiopian Birr currency.

Its focus on Ethiopia is to make financial transactions easier and more efficient. The majority of users access the service through USSD, though there is a growing push to encourage app-based usage. Plans include introducing services like Fuliza, which offers short-term loans.

STAR SURVEY

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should Maraga quit and support Kalonzo for presidency?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Should Matiang’i run for Nairobi governor?

YES 10%



NO 90%





PHOTO STORY

Kenya's consul general in Haiti Noor Gabow meets MSS force commander Godfrey Otunge in the capital Port-au-Prince /HANDOUT

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP



Who is doing what and where in the world of politics

JUSTICE DELAYED

Baby Pendo case victims push for officer's arrest

Three judges have issued warrants for Baa's arrest but he's still at large

JAMES GICHIGI
@TheStarKenya

VICTIMS in the Baby Samantha Pendo murder case, through their lawyer Willis Otieno, have renewed their push to have the court compel law enforcement agencies to take active steps to apprehend police officer Mohammed Baa.

This was after the court heard that three judges of the High Court had issued arrest warrants in prior decisions regarding him.

The counsel noted the officer is to face trial over the murder case of the six-month-old who died in 2017 after a blunt object hit her as anti-riot police officers pursued protesters in their compound.

In a heated session before Justice Margaret Muigai on Wednesday, Otieno made an oral application urging the court to direct the

National Police Service or the Inspector General of Police to either apprehend Baa or supply victims with his image so they can publish a public notice to seek assistance from Kenyans in locating the officer.

"In alternative, we seek the IG and DPP to supply victims with photographic image of said Baa to enable victims taking out public notice in media to seek public assistance on his whereabouts, and that anybody who may know his whereabouts to share information with nearest police officer/station or with victims' counsels to facilitate his apprehension and arraignment before the court," the lawyer stated.

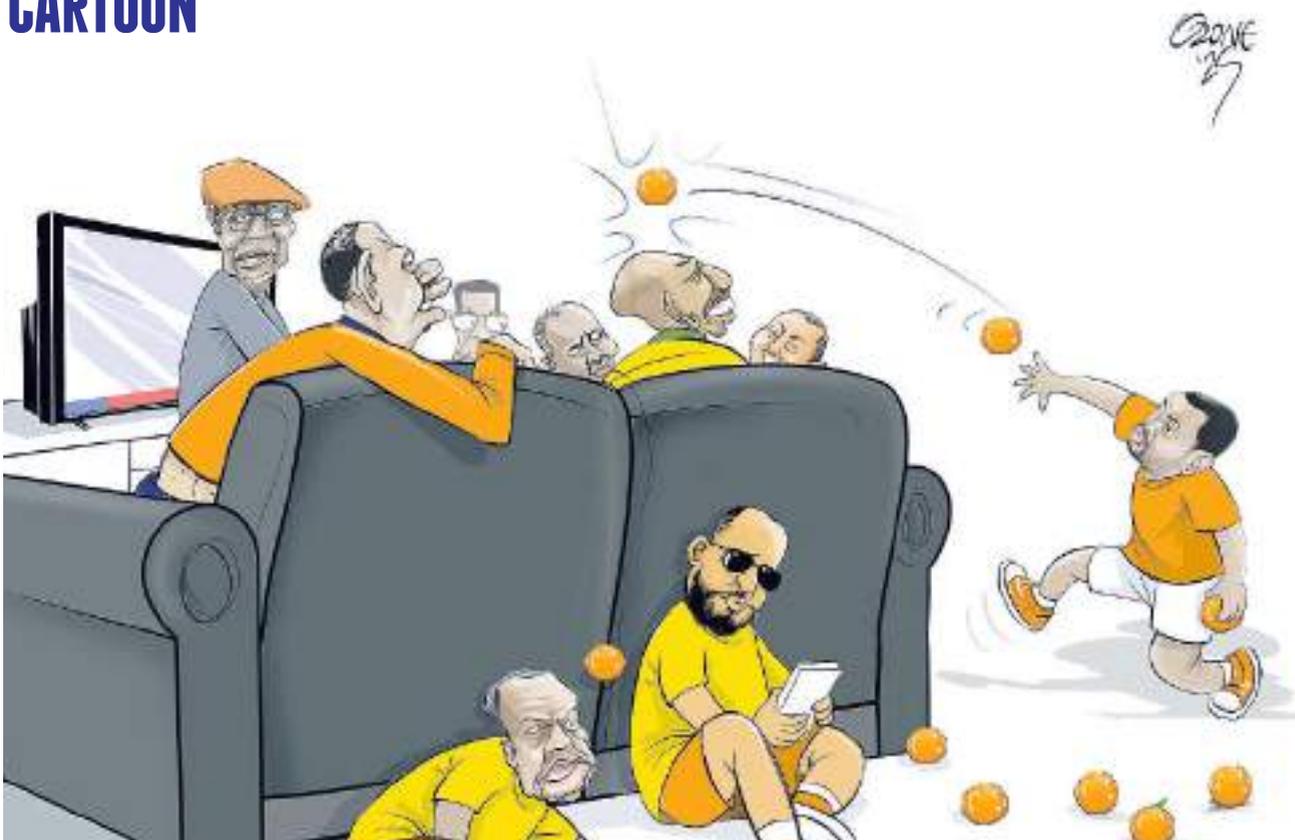
Otieno said Baa's continued evasion of arrest, despite valid court orders, has shaken the confidence of the victims and the broader community in the justice process, especially as the case edges closer



Six-month-old Samantha Pendo who died during protests in Kisumu in August 2017 /FILE

to trial. The proposal aims to raise public awareness in tracing the officer, underscoring the victims' proactive stance in ensuring the complete implementation of court directives. However, the application met resistance from from the National Police Service.

CARTOON



★ **DID A POLITICIAN** who recently gave a fiery media interview on the state of the nation meet with his political godfather beforehand? Well, sources with authoritative knowledge of the goings on tell this column that the outspoken man reportedly met with the supremo and briefed him on the appearance and the hard-hitting approach he planned to take—an approach that was reportedly given the nod. Days before the interview, a soft-spoken official from the MP's political outfit had appeared on a TV channel's morning show delivering similarly tough sentiments. However, it remains unclear what game plan is afoot, as top voices within the entity continue to send mixed signals.

★ **CAN'T HE LEARN?** That is the question on the lips of associates of a talkative opposition politician, who are increasingly frustrated by his supposed inconsistent, self-inflicted blunders. Associates—including progressive voices and MPs who wish to publicly support his cause—whisper that the man's open bias for his ethnic community, and his apparent refusal to assume a national posture, is shaking their confidence. They complain that he can't claim to represent a different brand of politics if he cannot stop preaching about the interests of one group.

★ **THE CHAIRMAN OF** a key committee in Parliament is the talk of both his colleagues and witnesses who appear before him. The colleagues complain that the man is colourless and lacks the gravitas to bring the weight and authority of the panel to bear on pushing for oversight in the public interest. At times, he is reportedly openly protective of witnesses when members fire sharp questions. At other times, he allegedly admonishes members who ask probing questions that put the witnesses in uncomfortable positions. Sources allege that were it not for his godfathers in high places, the man wouldn't even be a member of the committee.

★ **STILL IN PARLIAMENT**, sources at another panel whisper about discomfort among members over the ease with which the chairman supposedly berates witnesses appearing before the committee. The man, who holds a single degree, is reportedly fond of dismissing individuals with multiple degrees and professors as incompetent, unknowledgeable and undeserving of their positions. The tough chairman is reputed for holding the powerful to account vigorously, but concerns remain that he often goes overboard, crossing professional lines.

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IDEOLOGICAL RIFT ONE CAMP IS PUSHING FOR FORMAL COOPERATION WITH RUTO; THE OTHER



Split in Raila's camp over Ruto 2027 deal

LUKE AWICH
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FORMER Prime Minister Raila Odinga's ODM party is battling internal unrest as sharp divisions emerge over a potential political alliance with President William Ruto in the 2027 General Election.

Although some of Raila's loyalists initially pushed for a sixth stab at the presidency, recent developments suggest the ODM leader could be warming up to a 2027 power-sharing deal with Ruto—an arrangement that is now rocking the party to its core.

Once hailed for its ironclad unity, ODM is now gripped by suspicion, rebellion and a growing ideological rift.

Top party officials and grassroots mobilisers have turned on each other, openly questioning Raila's political direction and accusing him of betraying the party's founding ideals.

Insiders say ODM is split down the middle. One camp is pushing for formal cooperation with Ruto, citing the promise of national unity and development, while the other views the move as a betrayal of the opposition's legacy and a dangerous political gamble.

"The Ruto administration is deeply unpopular. Associating with it could destroy the careers of many within the party," a senior party figure warned.

The fallout has laid bare ODM's fragile internal cohesion and raised uncomfortable questions about Raila's political endgame, whether it marks a statesman's final act or a retreat from decades of fierce opposition politics.

Party secretary general Edwin Sifuna has emerged as one of the most vocal critics of the emerging alliance.

During an interview on Citizen TV on Tuesday, Sifuna made a

rare public admission of the turmoil threatening to tear the party apart.

“

Businesses, supermarkets, stalls and public infrastructure were looted or destroyed, particularly in Kiambu, Murang'a, Meru and Kirinyaga counties

"This relationship [with Ruto] is hurting our political party," Sifuna said. "It is not just Sifuna who objects to most of these things."

He is joined by fellow ODM lawmakers Caleb Amisi (Saboti), Babu Owino (Embakasi East), and Antony Kibagendi (Kitutu Chache South), whom have voiced strong opposition to any deal with Ruto.

Adding to the complications, nearly all elected ODM MPs from Kisii have thrown their weight behind former Interior CS Fred Matiang'i's presidential bid. Most have skipped meetings attended by the President.

Saboti MP Amisi, in a phone interview with the Star, warned that endorsement of Ruto in 2027 would be the final blow to ODM.

"I am one of the people against any deal with Ruto. Supporting his reelection will tear ODM apart, if it hasn't already," Amisi said. "We are worlds apart. We



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R VIEWS THE MOVE AS A BETRAYAL OF PARTY'S LEGACY AND RISKY GAMBLE



don't share any ideology. Those of us who are progressive will distance ourselves, and that will be the breaking point."

There are also growing fears that continued flirtation with the ruling coalition could weaken Raila's influence in key support zones like Kisii, where competing presidential ambitions are already shaping local alliances.

Many disgruntled political leaders within ODM have, however, adopted a wait-and-see stance.

The overall impact of the squabbles in ODM's traditional bases of Nyanza, Western, Coast, Maasai and parts of North Eastern is yet to be determined.

Amisi admitted to internal disquiet over continued yoking with President Ruto's UDA.

The Saboti lawmaker said any attempt to back Ruto's reelection would be the breaking point of the 20-year-old party.

MPs loyal to the broad-based arrangement have, however, defended it, arguing that cooperation could unlock national development, secure Raila's legacy, and usher in a united nation.

Makadara MP George Aladwa – also the chairman of ODM in Nairobi – downplayed any rift in the party, arguing that everyone is free to express his or her opinion.

The Nairobi ODM chairman insisted the Orange party is intact and what is being created does not

ODM leader Raila Odinga and President William Ruto at Kirembe grounds in Kisumu where they broke ground for the construction of the LV Marina Housing Project
/HIRAM OMONDI /PCS

reflect the situation on the ground. "There is no problem in the party. Those who support broad-based government and those are against should be free to express themselves," Aladwa told the Star.

"There is no confusion in ODM, everyone has the right to express himself or herself. You cannot gag anybody from making public his or her views.

"We are guided by the directions given by the party leader Raila Odinga. Those talking on television are allowed to talk. We are not leaving the broad-based government."

ODM executive director Oduor Ong'wen, too, dismissed claims that the party is embroiled in deep confusion, saying the matters being raised are currently being handled by the appropriate party organ.

He also defended the broad-based arrangement, insisting it was not made to save Ruto but the country, which was on the edge.

Ong'wen dismissed Sifuna's claims that there was confusion, including ideological uncertainty around key issues ODM has always stood for.

"The party is not in confusion. The party leader has explained repeatedly that the decision was about Kenya not Ruto."

As the rift widens, ODM has moved to do an audit of the implementation of its MoU with Ruto with a view to guiding its next course of action.

Raila chaired ODM's Central Committee meeting last week where the decision to form a task force was reached.

Whether Raila will contain the rebellion—or whether it explodes into a full-scale party rupture—may define not just his legacy, but also the future of opposition politics in Kenya.

Why defiant Sifuna could be on his way out of ODM

STAR REPORTER/ ODM secretary general Edwin Sifuna is increasingly painting a portrait of a man edging out of the Orange Democratic Movement—whether by force or by choice.

Once a firebrand voice of the opposition and one of Raila Odinga's most loyal lieutenants, Sifuna now carries the air of a man who no longer feels at home in the ODM fold.

His recent utterances, marked by blunt honesty and flashes of defiance, have fueled speculation that his days at the party's helm are numbered.

Though he still wears the mantle of SG, observers believe Sifuna is already halfway out the door politically and emotionally.

"For any politician who wants political survival, they have to prepare to leave if they are inside. I think Sifuna made the decision long time ago because of the ground. He doesn't want to be part of it if Raila still wants to stay there – but I predict even Raila will leave," political analyst Prof Gitile Naituli said.

Sifuna's blunt criticism of the broad-based government despite backing from his boss and unapologetic scathing attack against President William Ruto have not sat well with party's oligarchs, who see him as waging an indirect war against Raila.

Raila signed a memorandum of understanding with Ruto in March that saw top-ranking members of the ODM party co-opted into Ruto's broad-based government.

The cracks widened during a popular talk show on Citizen TV on Tuesday night, where the ODM spokesman not only said the partnership with Ruto was hurting the party but also threatened to disengage should the party back the President for reelection in 2027.

In the late-night interview, Sifuna publicly declared that he would resign as the SG should the party formally decide to support President Ruto's reelection.

"I have not yet resigned from the

party as the SG because I still believe there is some glimmer of hope, and my party will eventually see the merger as untenable and will be back to defend and protect the people, the ground on which the party was built," Sifuna said.

"If the party decides to go ahead with the merger in 2027, then I will have no option but to resign as the SG."

He was responding to calls from the public to resign from the position if he thinks that the merger between ODM and UDA was not for the public good. He said the MoU they signed is "dead".

Some party stalwarts however accuse him of growing too big for his boots and pursuing a political path that is now seen as veering off the ODM script.

National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadia – one of the co-opted ministers – fired back at Sifuna, terming his outbursts personal opinion which does not reflect ODM's position.

"Between the party leader and the secretary general, whose decision is final?" posed Mbadia. "I am glad he clarified that those are his personal opinions."

The sentiments were echoed Makadara MP George Aladwa, who added that ODM gets direction only from Raila and not anybody else "talking on TV."

"That was his (Sifuna's) opinion; we are guided by the directions given by the party leader Raila Odinga. Those talking on television are allowed to talk. We are not leaving the broad-based government," Aladwa said.

"He (Sifuna) is my boss in the party, but as the chair of ODM in Nairobi I am saying we are guided by the agreement signed at KICC."

Some are even speculating that Sifuna could be eyeing a bigger role on the national stage, possibly aligning with the nascent coalition led by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Wiper boss Kalonzo Musyoka.

Yesterday, there was an uptick of online criticism targeting the Nairobi senator, some of it orchestrated by shadowy forces within ODM.

Kileleshwa MCA Robert Alai said it was about time Sifuna crossed over to the united opposition team. "Sifuna now the greatest supporter of Gachagua in ODM," Alai alleged. Sifuna has, however, maintained he is loyal to the Orange party.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

With the 2027 politics already heating up, Raila's camp stands at a crossroads: embrace a new alliance with a former rival or stay the course as the face of Kenya's opposition. Either way, the fallout could redefine the country's political landscape and fracture one of its most enduring political movements.



Nairobi senator Edwin Sifuna
/FILE

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna has been consistently firing anti-Ruto sentiments since the opposition party signed a pact with the President. The incessant criticism, despite a significant number of ODM stalwarts supporting the ODM-UDA relationship, is seen as the clearest indication that the Nairobi senator could be on his way out of the party.

NEWS GENERAL

MASSIVE IRREGULARITIES, MISMANAGEMENT

Report reveals rot in Ruto's fertiliser subsidy programme

Report exposes how the infractions left farmers with substandard inputs, hurting harvests

MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses

DETAILS have emerged of massive irregularities, mismanagement and systemic failures in President William Ruto's flagship fertiliser subsidy programme.

A report by Auditor General Nancy Gathungu has exposed how the infractions left farmers with substandard inputs, crippling their harvests.

The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) report for June 30, 2024, has cast doubt on the Sh31.5 billion in taxpayer funds spent in the programme during the year.

One of the most shocking findings was the payment of Sh240.4 million to a supplier that did not legally exist at the time of the contract.

Fifty-One Capital African Diatomite Industries was supposed to provide organic fertiliser (GPC Original Plus), but instead delivered products that failed Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) tests.

Kebs later suspended the product's permit after tests confirmed it violated safety standards, forcing a recall.

Investigations showed the Kenya Revenue Authority PIN used in the contract belonged to an entirely different firm.

Auditors established the firm's KRA PIN belonged to Fifty-One (K) Capital Limited, registered in 2020, with no evidence of a name change.

Gathungu has raised serious questions about NCPB's dealings with the firm, saying the engagement bordered on fraudulent activities.

"It was not clear how NCPB board got into an agency contract with 51 Capital, African Diatomite Industries," the report reads.

The management has been put on the spot for transacting with a non-existent company contrary to the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2015.

"Value for money of Sh240 million and integrity of the entire procurement process couldn't be confirmed. Also, this borders on fraudulent activities," the auditor general said.

The report is the first since the fertiliser scandal that nearly cost Mithika Linturi his Agriculture CS job - before he was eventually kicked out at the height protracted Gen Z protests.

It paints a grim picture of how the scheme meant to cushion struggling farmers instead became a conduit for embezzlement and negligence.

While some farmers who bought the defective fertiliser were later offered replacements, many never received compensation to recover the said losses.

In Bungoma, Kakamega and Kitale, 1,960 bags of KEL fertiliser had to be swapped, but farmers were not required to return the original bags, raising concerns about accountability. Also queried is the haphazard man-



President William Ruto when he made an impromptu visit to the National Cereals and Produce Board depot in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu county, on April 8 last year /FILE

ner in which this was done, with no strict verification process, deepening suspicions of further mismanagement.

The audit flagged another Sh139.7 million paid to KEL Chemicals for NPK fertilisers labelled as "planting fertiliser," which Kebs later declared unsafe for public use.

Despite the red flag, Sh98.5 million worth of fertiliser had already been sold to farmers by the time the government halted distribution.

"In the circumstances, the value for money of Sh139.7 million and integrity of the entire procurement process could not be confirmed. It also borders on fraudulent activities," Gathungu reports.

The report further reveals that Sh241.8 million worth of fertiliser and cereals for Western and Nyanza, where food production is critical, simply vanished.

The supplies, as per the audit seen by the Star, never reached the depots they were destined for.

The worst-hit areas included Kisii (Sh142.5 million), Malaba (Sh47.9 million), Bungoma (Sh34.4 million), Kakamega (Sh9.6 million), Kitale (Sh4.9 million) and Webuye (Sh2.4 million).

Possibly, the farmers were forced to buy fertiliser at exorbitant market prices, diminishing their hopes of profit.

A 50kg bag of fertiliser costs about Sh6,000 at market prices, far above the subsidised rate of Sh2,500-Sh3,500.

"No explanation was provided as to whether a follow-up had been made with the suppliers to ensure that the fertilisers and cereals not delivered were actually delivered."

In a bizarre twist, 981 bags (worth Sh1.57 million) of fertiliser supplied by the nonexistent 51 Capital were seized by the DCI but left to rot in NCPB stores.

Gathungu flagged the situation, pointing out that no action was taken to destroy or replace them, wasting public funds.

A procurement process for Urea has also been flagged by the auditor for disregarding the law.

Gathungu cited a Sh2.49 billion tender for urea fertiliser that was awarded in its entirety to a single supplier, MEMS Distributors.

This was despite two firms tying in the bidding process; hence were required to share the supplies in

agreed proportions. It emerged the NCPB's managing director and head of procurement overruled the tender committee's recommendation to split the contract.

The consequences were immediate as some regions faced artificial shortages, driving desperate farmers to pay nearly double the subsidised price for fertiliser.

"The award of tender to one supplier shows impartiality in the award of the tender and as a result, litigation may be instituted by the other supplier, leading to the government losing money on legal fees," the auditor general said.

She concluded that in the circumstances, value for money and integrity

of the procurement process were in doubt.

President Ruto's fertiliser subsidy programme was meant to boost food security and cut costs for farmers.

Instead, it became a breeding ground for corruption, leaving farmers with failed crops due to fake fertiliser.

Gathungu further highlights loss of stock at the NCPB stores and in transit between Mombasa port and the stores.

Review of the records provided for audit by the purchases section of NCPB head office revealed loss of various stock by NCPB officers totalling Sh2,613,414.

At least 20 bags of Russian-donated fertiliser were lost during the transfer of stocks (34,000 tonnes) from Kenya National Trading Corporation to NCPB.

KNTC had received instructions after consultations that the NCPB be mandated to oversee procurement, blending and distribution of the Russian fertiliser donation.

Reports indicated there was a shortage of 20 bags from the SGR dispatch and quantity received at Maisha Minerals - the firm which was to blend the fertiliser.

Further, it was also noted there was an excess of 50 bags in the dispatch from Mombasa and received at SGR Athi River.

"No explanation was offered on the variances noted, and accordingly, the recoverability of lost fertiliser and reconciliations of the fertiliser products could not be ascertained."

The audit further reveals the financial mess at the cereals board amid a negative working capital of Sh3.1 billion.

The board made a loss of Sh992 million, albeit Sh800 million less than the Sh1.7 billion that was reported in the year to June 30, 2023.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Fertiliser subsidy is at the heart of President William Ruto's administration's economic revival plan. The government has been positioning it as one of its success stories. With the new audit findings, the gains now hang in the balance, to the woe of farmers seeking to change their stories through the plan.

Auditor General Nancy Gathungu /FILE





Million Kenyans 1 Network



NEWS GENERAL

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Counties to blame for garbage crisis – CS

State agencies yet to comply with directive to remove cancerous asbestos



Asbestos at the Kang'oki dumpsite in Thika, on March 29 /FILE

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

A looming clash between the national and county governments is unfolding over heaps of uncollected garbage scattered along roadsides, estates and unauthorised dumping sites.

The Ministry of Environment has blamed counties for ignoring its advice and statutory notices on waste management, resulting in growing mountains of trash.

“Counties are adamant about undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments and Annual Environmental Audits, making it very hard for Nema to regulate them,” Environment CS Debora Barasa told the Senate plenary.

It has also emerged that several state agencies are yet to comply with a government directive to remove cancerous asbestos roofing from their buildings – more than a year after the directive was issued. Barasa

revealed that national and county agencies are still struggling to remove the hazardous roofs, despite a three-month ultimatum issued last year.

“We issued a gazette notice on the safe removal and disposal of asbestos in Kenya. But, cognizant of fiscal constraints, only a few have complied,” she said.

Her ministry is now engaging the National Treasury to secure funds to fast-track the removal due to the serious public health risks posed by asbestos exposure.

In a direct indictment of the devolved units, the CS said counties have failed to license their waste transportation trucks with Nema. This makes it impossible to track transporters – many of whom are accused of illegal dumping.

“Counties are slow to embrace waste segregation at source and have shown poor enforcement of related regulations,” she said.

Additionally, most counties have

neglected their dumpsites and failed to maintain access roads to waste yards, making it difficult for garbage trucks to reach them. This has led to widespread illegal dumping.

Barasa also lamented the lack of proper waste management infrastructure in counties, including material recovery facilities, incinerators, landfills and recycling plants.

Across towns, cities and urban centres, garbage has become an eyesore – piling up on roadsides, in estates, markets and even near schools and hospitals, posing severe health risks.

Available data shows Kenya generates between 3,000 and 4,000 tonnes of waste daily, most of which originates from urban areas. Barasa said the government is exploring ways of converting waste into usable products, noting that 60 per cent of Kenya's waste is organic.

“The focus should mostly be on fertiliser production, which accounts for 60 per cent of the waste. Around 30 per cent comprises plastics and other recyclable materials and just five per cent is viable for energy conversion,” the CS said. In August last year, then-CS Aden Duale ordered all public institutions to remove asbestos roofing within three months.



COUNTIES
FAILED TO
LICENSE
THEIR WASTE
TRANSPORTATION
TRUCKS WITH
NEMA

Environment CS
Deborah Barasa
/HANDOUT

NO IRREGULARITY

Legal battle brewing over Foreign Service Academy leadership appointments

ELIUD KIBII

THE constitution of the Foreign Service Academy Council hangs in the balance ahead of a High Court decision on a petition seeking the nullification of the appointment of three council members.

In the suit against the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and its top leadership, advocate Karanja Kamotho argues the appointment of the members was unlawful, unreasonable and procedurally unfair. The three include Beatrice Kituyi, Dr Kenneth Mutuma and Dr Patrick Maluki. The matter was mentioned in court on Tuesday and judgment will be delivered on November 14, 2025.

FSA undertakes diplomatic training and capacity building for the Foreign Service and the wider public service. It also undertakes Foreign Policy research and consultancy. Maluki, Kituyi and Mutuma were appointed as council members for three years starting August 9, 2024.

At the heart of the dispute is the re-advertisement of the positions long after the first recruitment and shortlisting. The petition says Prof Maria Nzomo, Maluki and Dr Owiso Owiso – listed as “Interested Parties” – were among 26 applicants who were shortlisted to be interviewed for the positions between September 11-14, 2023. While no communication was forthcoming from the ministry two months after the interview, Kamotho says he learnt of Nzomo, Maluki and Owiso's selection from the Star newspaper in November 2023.

However, the ministry declined to appoint them and ordered the positions to be re-advertised without reasons. A recruitment report by the selection panel chaired by Prof Chweya Ludeki shortlisted the top five candidates as Maluki (89.5%), Prof Peter Kagwanja (83.6%), Amb Robert Ngesu (83.4%), Nzomo (79.6%) and Owiso (77.4%). Considering order of performance, gender, merit and the face of Kenya, the panel recommended Maluki, Nzomo and Owiso.

Shortly after, court documents show PS Korir Sing'Oei sent appointments to a new selection panel on December 19. In their defence, the ministry, Mudavadi and Sing'Oei submit that re-advertisement was to enhance inclusivity and ensure regional and gender representation. There is no allegation that the recruitment process was irregular or illegal, they said, and the decision to widen the applicant pool was reasonable and to improve competitiveness and inclusivity.

The petitioner has asked the court to rule that the ministry, Mudavadi and Sing'Oei be bound by the outcome of the first interviews and immediately appoint them to the council. He argued that by ignoring the outcome of the initial recruitment, re-advertising the positions and by failure to communicate, the ministry acted contrary to the principles of public service.

HIJACKED

Senators clash over fund meant for marginalised counties

JULIUS OTIENO

A dispute has erupted in the Senate over the Sh16.8 billion Equalisation Fund, as lawmakers disagreed on which counties should benefit from the fund earmarked for marginalised regions.

The conflict emerged after the number of beneficiary counties was controversially increased from the original 14 to 34 devolved units.

During a heated debate in the House, senators accused each other of manipulating the fund for local gain, undermining the original intent of the constitutional provision.

“How did you, as senators,

increase the number of beneficiary counties from 14 to 34?” posed Kakamega's Boni Khalwale. Originally, the fund targeted counties primarily in Northeastern.

However, the Commission on Revenue Allocation and the previous Parliament revised the framework to include 34 counties, identifying marginalised sublocations and wards. The standoff threatens to derail the passage of the Equalisation Fund Appropriation, 2025 to unlock Sh16.8 billion allocated to the kitty in the current fiscal year. Khalwale criticised the then-Finance committee for its recommendation to expand the list,



Boni Khalwale (Kakamega)



Mohamed Faki (Mombasa)



Aaron Cheruiyot (Kericho)



Edwin Sifuna (Nairobi)

saying it unfairly included well-off regions. “Among the counties added was Kericho, which enjoys rainfall 11 months in a year. They want to fight with Turkana over

money meant to provide water for its people,” he said. Kericho Senator Aaron Cheruiyot, who was part of the committee that expanded the list, defended the move, saying

it was based on broader criteria of inequality. Edwin Sifuna (Nairobi) however, rejected the expansion, terming it a betrayal of the constitution and the spirit of the fund.

NEWS GENERAL



PHOTO STORY

Juja MP George Koimuri at Milimani law courts on Wednesday / EZEKIEL AMING'A

SIDING WITH CRIMINALS

Murkomen tells off LSK boss over terror charges on protesters

MATHEWS NDANYI

INTERIOR CS Kipchumba Murkomen has told off LSK President Faith Odhiambo over her opposition to terror charges against some of the youth alleged to have been involved in recent violent protests.

Murkomen has accused Odhiambo of siding with criminals instead of being on the side of Kenyans affected by the violent protests.

The CS defended the government application of the Anti-Terrorism Act to deal with those he says were found to have engaged in burning courts, vehicles, police stations and stealing guns.

"I disagree with the LSK president and those who want to make the crimes lighter. People burning courts and police stations using petrol bombs are properly defined to be terrorists because they have committed acts of terror," Murkomen said.

The LSK boss has criticised the government for applying the Act arguing that those charged were people engaging in peaceful protests.

Odhiambo had in a TV interview said it would be difficult for the government to prove the terror charges and noted that the charges were being used to muzzle freedoms enshrined in the constitution. "I want to tell Odhiambo who is my former student that on this one she is wrong and must work to redeem her image damaged by siding with criminals," Murkomen said.

He was speaking at the Uasin Gishu county commissioner's office in Eldoret before proceeding for a security forum at Gulab Lochab Hall.

Murkomen held his 18th Jukwaa la Usalama grassroots engagements in the county and will be in the region to visit five other counties.

Murkomen said the Judiciary should not be intimidated to climb down on hefty bail terms for those charged with the terrorism offenses. He said it was wrong for the LSK to clam it would be difficult to prove the terror charges because the issue was a court process.



Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen and Rift Valley regional commissioner Abdi Mohammed in Eldoret /MATHEWS NDANYI

SUBMISSIONS

MP Muchai murder: Five suspects seek acquittal

The plea comes after state closed its case after presenting 37 witnesses

PETER OBUYA @Pobuya

FIVE of the seven suspects charged with the murder of Kabete MP George Muchai in February 2015, have asked the High Court to find that they have no case to answer and accordingly acquit them.

Their pleas are contained in submissions they made to the court following the close of the prosecution's case.

The seven accused are Eric Muyera Isabwa alias chairman, Raphael Kimani alias Kim Butcher, Mustapha Kimani alias Musto, Stephen Astiva alias Chokore, Jane Wanjiru alias Shiro, Margaret Njeri and Simon Wambugu.

They were all charged with the murder of then Kabete MP George Muchai, his two bodyguards Samuel Kailikia and Samuel Matanta and his driver Stephen Wambugu.

They were shot dead on the morning of February 7, 2015, along

Kenyatta Avenue in Nairobi's central business district.

In his testimony, Government pathologist Johansen Oduor told trial judge Kanyi Kimondo that Muchai was killed by gangsters using a high velocity weapon. Oduor was the prosecution's 35th witness.

The state has since closed its case after presenting 37 witnesses.

Justice Kimondo had directed the parties to make their final submissions before he rules on whether the accused have a case to answer.

During a mention on Wednesday to confirm compliance, the court confirmed having received the written submissions from the parties except from Astiva and Njeri whose lawyer said they would not file any submissions.

In their submissions, the other five suspects have sought to be acquitted saying the prosecution has failed to link them to the murder.

Mustapha Kimani who is the third suspect through his lawyer

Stephen Ongaro said the prosecution's case cannot stand, citing inconsistencies from the evidence presented.

Ongaro said while the victims had bullet exit wounds, there were no corresponding bullet exit holes on the vehicle in which they were shot.

The lawyer questioned the fact that there were no corresponding holes on the body of the vehicle yet the shots were fired from a high-velocity gun at close range.

Ongaro argued that it did not make sense that no bullets were recovered from the vehicle.

He said the claim that the gunshots were discharged from a close range was not proved.

"There is no evidence of murder at the time, place and manner stated and it is my submission that the third accused merits an acquittal at this stage of the trial," Ongaro said.

The other accused persons chose not to highlight their submissions.

THEIR PLEAS ARE CONTAINED IN SUBMISSIONS THEY MADE TO THE COURT FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE PROSECUTION'S CASE

NEW MARKET

Kenya secures miraa export deal with Djibouti after successful trade talks

AGATHA NGOTHO

KENYA has received the green light to begin exporting miraa (khat) to Djibouti, opening a new market for the stimulant crop.

The Agriculture and Food Authority on Tuesday announced that Kenya's miraa has been cleared for entry into the Djibouti market following successful bilateral engagements.

"We wish to notify the public and stakeholders of new export opportunities for Kenyan miraa to Djibouti," AFA director general Dr Bruno Linyiru said.

He attributed the breakthrough to a trade mission to Djibouti in October 2024, followed by a reciprocal visit by a Djiboutian delegation to Kenya in November 2024. "The move has now paved the way for formal trade, subject to regulatory compliance between the two nations," he said.

Linyiru however noted that exporters interested to access this market must comply with Djibouti's import regulations including obtaining necessary permits and adhering to product standards.

"Additionally, the traders must comply with requirements by rel-

evant regulatory and government institutions in Kenya. This is to ensure smooth traded operations," he said.

The DG said the new development marks a major milestone in diversifying Kenya's miraa export markets. He encouraged traders to take advantage of the new commercial opportunity and link up with buyers in Djibouti for business engagements.

Kenya's main export destination is Somalia, Israel and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Miraa was declared as a scheduled crop in November 2016

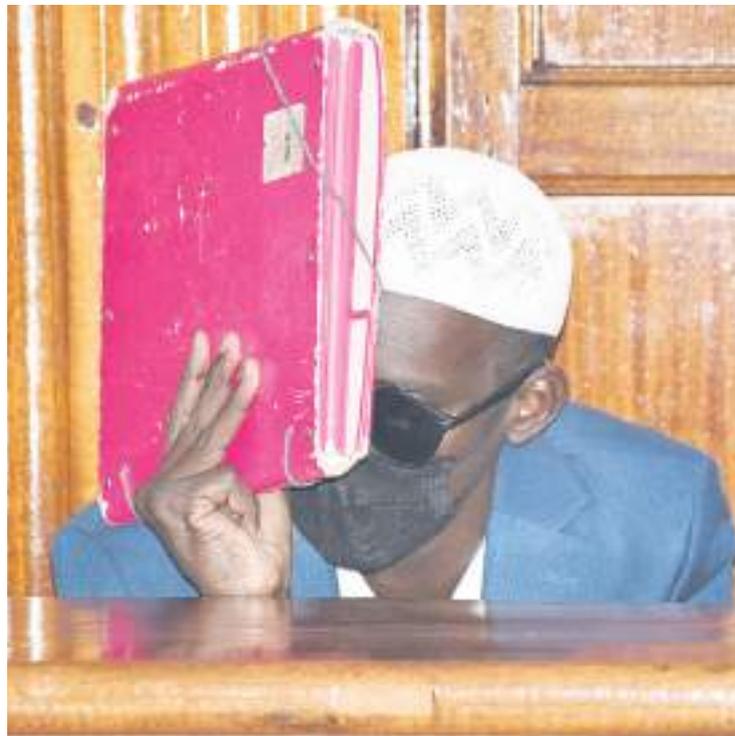
through an amendment to the Crops Act (2013). Scheduling of the crop allowed the government intervention in the value chain with a view of development, promotion and regulation. AFA has since developed Crops (Miraa) Regulations 2023 and Miraa (Khat) Industry Codes of practice (KNWA 2940: 2021) to boost production and productivity of the subsector.

According to AFA, this has seen the industry progress towards an orderly sub sector and acquisition of external markets that are contributing to revenues of about Sh13 billion annually. Additional-

ly, the sector reforms have led to increased earnings from the value chain. Currently, there are over 25 licensed miraa exporters in the country.

AFA quarterly e-bulletin for 2024-25, shows that miraa exports rose by 5.12 per cent to reach 795,688kgs, driven by increased demand and growing consumer preference. During the period under review, 795,668kgs of miraa was exported to its primary market, Somalia, representing a 4.7 per cent rise compared to the 762,007kgs exported during the same quarter in 2024.

NEWS GENERAL



Mohamed Abdi /ODPP

12-YEAR JAIL TERM

ODPP wants release of bioterrorist convict blocked

GORDON OSEN

THE Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has filed an urgent application at the High Court seeking to block the release of a terror convict.

It also seeks to have a lower court compelled to transmit crucial documents necessary for the prosecution's appeal.

In court papers, including an affidavit filed by prosecution counsel Marcellar Odero, the ODPP is asking the court to issue interim orders staying the release of Mohamed Ali, also known by aliases Abu Fidaa, Abu Shuhadaa and Abu Ramzi, pending the hearing of an appeal against his sentence.

Ali was convicted in early 2024 and sentenced to 12 years in jail.

Ali, his wife Nuseiba Hajji, alias Umm Fidaa; Abdirahman Hassan,

alias Zakariya, and Salah Khalif, alias Salahudin, were charged with plotting to carry out a large-scale biological attack in the country using anthrax.

When he was sentenced, he had already spent eight years in remand since his arrest in 2016 over terrorism-related activities. Then 34 years, he was arrested at a medical facility in Wote, Makeni county, where he was working as an intern medic having completed his studies at the Kampala International University between 2010 and 2015.

The ODPP warns that such a release would significantly undermine the pending appeal and jeopardise national security.

The application also targets the delayed transmission of certified court proceedings from Milimani chief magistrate's court, which has yet to furnish the High Court with

key documents over a year after the prosecution filed the appeal.

The ODPP filed its appeal on April 30, 2024, citing seven substantive grounds, including concerns over acquittals and the handling of terrorism-related evidence.

Despite multiple formal requests dating back to April 2024 and follow-up letters by the High Court deputy registrar in May, June 2024, and again in June 2025, the magistrate's court has not transmitted the full record, including the charge sheet, witness lists, exhibits and proceedings.

Odero argues that without the complete lower court record, the High Court cannot admit or schedule the appeal, thereby prejudicing the prosecution and frustrating the public's interest in justice and accountability.

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS

Women endure forced C-section, says report

More gravely, it says obstetric violence sometimes crosses into sexual violence

GORDON OSEN
@gordon_osen

WHEN FW was delivering her first-born daughter in 2015, she walked into a city hospital with a well-padded insurance card, ready for childbirth.

But the moment the front office saw the extent of her cover, she overheard one of the attendants telling a nurse that she was a caesarean section candidate.

Overwhelmed by the physical toll of pregnancy and the faint pain of early labour, FW did not question how such a decision could be made even before a doctor examined her.

She was admitted immediately and wheeled to theatre. Although her baby was safely delivered through C-section, she remained in the hospital for four days—left with lingering questions about whether the procedure was truly necessary.

A report by KELIN titled 'Litigating Obstetric Violence to Enhance Access to Effective Maternal Healthcare Services in Kenya', shows FW's experience is not isolated. The report finds that many private hospitals in Nairobi and other urban areas are pushing women into expensive procedures such as caesarean sections and sterilisation—often without medical justification and in violation of the women's rights to informed consent.

The motivation, the report alleges, is largely financial. With commercial targets to meet, some private health institutions appear to prioritise profit over proper medical ethics. Procedures like C-section bring in more revenue, making them more likely to be recommended—regardless of medical necessity.



A mother holds her newborn shortly after delivery /FILE

Women with HIV are especially vulnerable. The report notes that some are forcibly sterilised during caesarean sections, without their consent, under the misguided notion of preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. These actions violate reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, the report stresses.

Other documented cases of obstetric violence include pinching, slapping, shoving, being left unattended for hours and verbal abuse during labour.

Patients report being denied anaesthesia or pain relievers during labour and surgery. "Women are left unattended for long periods while in labour. They are also denied anaesthesia or pain relief during labour and even during caesarean section due to resource constraints in some cases,

but this may also stem from attitudes that pain is a normal or deserved part of childbirth," the report notes.

"This neglect often leads to physical and emotional distress and can result in severe complications for both mother and baby, including obstetric fistula and even death."

More gravely, the report says obstetric violence sometimes crosses into sexual violence.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The KELIN report exposes a disturbing pattern where profit motives, systemic neglect, and deep-rooted gender biases converge to endanger maternal healthcare in Kenya.

VIA GAZETTE NOTICE

Supreme Court to rule on Treasury powers to grant tax exemptions

JAMES GICHIGI

THE Supreme Court is poised to give the final word on the legality of the National Treasury's powers to grant tax exemptions through Gazette notices.

The issue has already seen the High Court strike out a fresh petition on similar grounds.

This came after a judgment delivered by Justice Chacha Mwita on July 22, struck out a challenge filed by Magare Gikenyi, who had sought to question the constitutionality of Section 13(2) of the Income Tax Act. The provision allows the Treasury to exempt certain incomes from taxation through a Gazette notice.

Mwita said the issue is pending before the Supreme Court in Petition E006 of 2025, which arose from an earlier case where the Court of Appeal upheld the validity of the law.

Justice Mwita told the parties the High Court could not pronounce itself on a matter that is actively being considered by a superior court.

While agreeing that the challenge raised serious constitutional issues on public finance management and the limits of executive power, Mwita said it would be inappropriate for his court to make any determination while the country's highest court is seized of the dispute.

He emphasised the need for judicial consistency and respect for the hierarchy of courts, noting that a contrary ruling would only cause complications.

The judge said his decision to strike out, rather than dismiss the petition, was deliberate, to ensure the petitioner could return to court should the Supreme Court deliver a decision that reopens the door for further challenges.

"Once the Supreme Court renders its decision, you can always file another petition. That's why I did not dismiss the petition but struck it out — to enable the party to come back should circumstances change, rather than making the matter res judicata," the judge told Gikenyi.

The ruling also came before an attempt by the petitioner to orally apply for a review of the judgment, citing alleged errors and new evidence.

However, the Attorney General's counsel, Kaumba, opposed the application, clarifying that while the Court of Appeal had upheld Section 13(2), the matter is now fully before the Supreme Court.

"The petition of appeal is pending determination before the Supreme Court, parties have filed their responses, and we are awaiting a hearing date before the Supreme Court," the lawyer stated.

NEWS BUSINESS

CHALLENGES

Wilson expansion faces safety risks over land grab, towers

The airport has come under scrutiny over the quality of its runway, highrise buildings



A section of the Wilson Airport in Nairobi /HANDOUT

JACKTONE LAWI
@jacksonlawi

THE Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) is pushing ahead with plans for a major upgrade of Wilson Airport, one of East Africa's busiest domestic air transport hubs, even as concerns rise over unchecked highrise buildings and land encroachment.

The airport, which is mainly used for domestic flights, has lately come under scrutiny over the quality of its runway and mushrooming private developments on its land.

During a high-level stakeholder engagement held at the airport, senior officials from KAA, the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), and the Kenya Association of Air Operators (KAAO) discussed the proposed reha-

ilitation of both runways and associated infrastructure, amid concerns over safety, capacity, and regulatory compliance.

The discussions come as high-rise buildings and other developments continue to encroach on the airport's safety buffer zones—contrary to aviation laws and international safety standards.

According to KAA an aerial inspection of Nairobi's skyline has been conducted to assess the extent of encroachment and its impact on airspace safety.

"This inspection demonstrates our shared commitment to rehabilitating and modernising Wilson Airport to meet present and future demands. We are focused on delivering infrastructure that matches Kenya's ambitions

as a regional aviation leader," said KAA Board Chair Caleb Kositany.

Wilson Airport handles over 120,000 aircraft movements annually and is a key node in Kenya's domestic and regional aviation network.

However, its location within a rapidly urbanising part of Nairobi has in the recent past been a concern among aviation experts over increasing risks to flight operations.

Without disclosing the fate of the properties that have encroached on the land, KAA said the rehabilitation project will proceed in close coordination with aviation regulators, local authorities, and private operators to ensure compliance with safety standards and sustainable urban development practices.

The scope of the upgrade includes runway rehabilitation, expansion of airside operations, and improved safety infrastructure.

A 2024 report showed that state-owned airports are facing a Sh260 billion shortfall in development funding to bring their operations up to date.

Half of the amount (\$1 billion; Sh130 billion) is projected to be what the country's main airport, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) requires to become a competitive hub in the region.

In the Aviation Policy for Kenya, a document that received Cabinet approval in 2024, the government said it would explore different financing and funding options to accelerate airport expansion.

"It is considered that current infrastructure is not adequate to handle passenger and cargo operations at most airports. In this manner, it is estimated that KAA's aerodrome network requires an investment of approximately \$2 (Sh258 billion) for the mentioned period, including both expansion/compliance as well as major maintenance and replacement investments," says the aviation policy.

"Jomo Kenyatta International Airport is the main driver of the mentioned investment plan, accounting for approximately \$1 billion (Sh129 billion) to increase its current capacity and be able to accommodate the forecasted demand."

The meeting brought together KAA Board Chair Caleb Kositany, KCAA Board Chair Brown Ondego, KAAO Vice Chair Jimmy Kibati, and senior officials from the Nairobi City County Government.

Also present were KAA Acting Managing Director Mohamud Gedi, KCAA Director General Emile Arao, and KAAO CEO Liz Aluvanze.

THE DATA

120,000

The average annual aircraft movements at Wilson Airport

THE DATA

129.24

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

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

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR	129.2495
EURO	151.6614
STG POUND	174.8487
CHINESE YUAN	18.0472
SA RAND	7.3615
KES / USHS	27.7757
KES / TSHS	20.1161
JPY (100)	87.9129
IND RUPEE	1.4969
SAUDI RIYAL	34.4537

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
AMAC	61.50	9.82
CROWN PAINTS	44.90	8.19
LIBERTY KENYA	11.00	5.77
STANDARDS GROUP	6.36	3.58
UNGA GROUP	19.55	3.17

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
OLYMPIA CAPITAL	3.64	9.00
PORTLAND CEMENT	45.00	8.07
UMEME	11.55	5.71
KQ	5.20	2.99
HOME AFRICA	0.65	2.99



TIP OF THE DAY

GIVING FEEDBACK AS A NEW LEADER

Giving feedback to your team members early in a new leadership role can feel risky.

After all, you haven't had time to establish credibility. But when done right, it can build trust and momentum. Here's how to deliver feedback thoughtfully.

Assess the landscape. Before acting, learn the technical, interpersonal, cultural, and political dynamics of your team. Ask questions about the past, present, and future. Listen for patterns and triangulate insights. Once you understand the full context, your feedback becomes more accurate, constructive, and credible.

Build trust fast. Trust requires intention. Model vulnerability by naming both your strengths and their potential downsides—for example, maybe your decisiveness comes through as impatience. This signals self-awareness and creates psychological safety, making your feedback easier to receive.

Link feedback to personal aspirations. In early one-on-ones, ask team members about their goals and motivations. Then connect your feedback to what they want to achieve. When people see how feedback helps them grow, they're more likely to act on it.

Balance candor with care. You don't have to choose between being kind or direct. Know your default style—whether you lean empathetic or assertive—and calibrate accordingly. Deliver feedback that's clear, respectful, and rooted in shared goals.

AUTOMOTIVE

New vehicle sales surge 25 per cent in early 2025, fuelled by affordable credit

MARTIN MWITA

DEALERS of new vehicles have had a good half-year run in 2025, as sales for the year-to-June jumped 25 per cent compared to last year.

Latest industry numbers by the Kenya Motor Industry Association (KMIA) shows the 11 local dealers also serving regional markets, sold 6,360 units in the six months, compared to 5,086 sold over same period last year.

The Kenyan market took the lion share of these units where 6,254 vehicles were sold locally up from 4,982 same period last year, a 25.5 per cent growth.

The strong performance has since been pegged on the stable interest rates and strong performance in key sectors of the economy, mainly agriculture, building and construction, transport and logistics and service sectors. This is reflected on the vehicle categories most sought where trucks composed the highest

number of unit sales during the period (2,577), followed by pick-ups (1,344 units comprising 830 single cabins and 514 double cabins).

Dealers also sold 686 buses during the period with the matatu industry remaining a major off-taker while prime movers sold totaled 432 units. Isuzu East Africa retained its dominance with a total of 3,075 units sold (43.3% of the total industry sales). CFAO accounted for 31.7 per cent with 2,017 units with Simba Corporation (ex-Simba Colt Motors) closing the top three in dealership with 547 units.

"Call stable interest rates, agriculture growing because of increased productivity and affordable fertiliser. Construction projects creating demand for sand and building materials," Isuzu East Africa managing director, Rita Kavashe, told the Star.

CFAO Mobility Kenya managing director Arvinder Reel also pegged the firm's sales on a rebound in key sectors of the economy. "The market

has bounced back and we at CFAO have had a very good first half on the account of Landcruiser and HiAce sales," Reel told the Star.

Central bank of Kenya has since June last year been making downwards adjustments on the banking sector base-lending rates to spur credit to private sector and households. The rate has since dropped to a two-year of 9.75 per cent from a high of 13 per cent in June last year.

Growth in commercial bank lending to the private sector stood at two per cent in May 2025 compared to 0.4 per cent in April, and -2.9 per cent in January 2025, according to CBK.

"This reflects improved demand in line with the declining lending interest rates. Average commercial banks' lending rates declined to 15.4 per cent in May 2025, from 15.7 per cent in April and 17.2 per cent in November 2024," governor Kamau Thugge said. Second-hand imports however remain the most

preferred vehicles in Kenya, mainly by households, due to their affordability compared to new ones.

Monthly imports range between 8,000 and 12,000 with Japan accounting for about 80 per cent of these units. Other key sources are UAE, UK, Singapore and South Africa. According to the Car Importers Association of Kenya (CIAK), new units which are locally assembled or full-built imports are expensive by more than Sh600,000, compared to imported used cars where some are even more superior than the new ones.

The country imports about 130,000 second-hand vehicles annually at about Sh60 billion, with used cars enjoying 85 per cent of the market share.



A Mercedes Benz at a Showroom /FILE

NEWS BUSINESS

CONFIDENCE

Kenya's economy on track, NSE tells the story – Ruto

VICTOR AMADALA

PRESIDENT William Ruto sees increased activity in the country's capital markets, especially the rebound of the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), as a critical gauge of sound economic health.

Speaking at the bell ringing ceremony for the listing of the Linzi 003 Infrastructure Asset-Backed Security, the first of its kind in the region at NSE on Wednesday, Ruto said that NSE's market capitalisation of Sh2.5 trillion reflects the soundness and consistency of his economic policies. "Some of the choices we have made have not been easy and, at times, not popular. But they have been necessary, strategic, and forward-looking. These decisions have helped us stabilise the economy, restore investor confidence, and lay a firm founda-

tion for sustained growth," Ruto said. He added that both local and international investors are looking at Kenya with fresh optimism and renewed trust. The NSE lost Sh610 billion in investor wealth to hit below Sh2 trillion mark since 2020 in the quarter ended December 2022, months after Ruto came to power as investors sought safer investments following a bearish run at the Nairobi bourse.

According to the CMA Q4 Statistical bulletin, NSE market capitalisation stood at Sh1.96 trillion as at December 2022, a 23.40 per cent decrease from Sh2.59 trillion in December 2021. During the session, the head of state revealed that he hopes the cabinet to approve the Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Kenya Pipeline Company before the end of the month, after which it will be submitted to the National As-



President William Ruto (C) rings the bell to launch the listing of the Linzi Asset-Backed Security. He is flanked by NSE chair Kiprono Kittony, Defence CS Soipan Tuya, Treasury CS John Mbadi, Liason Group CEO Tom Mulwa, CMA chairman Ugas Sheikh Mohamed and NSE CEO Frank Mwitwi /HANDOUT

sembly for consideration. Early this month, while on an official trip to the U, Ruto announced that KPC's listing is among his government's plans to widen the local stock market while opening several state corporations to foreign investment.

His focus to ensure increased activities in the country's capital markets stems from his 2022 promise to ensure eight to 10 companies are listed at NSE, ending more than a decade-long listing dry spell. He said that his government is keen on

listing more companies on the NSE, effectively stimulating liquidity and allowing shareholders to realise the value of their investments. "In the next 12 months, we will have between six and ten companies listed in the Stock Exchange. I promise we will deliver on that commitment," Ruto said.

No firm has issued an IPO at the Nairobi bourse since then. Yesterday, Ruto termed the raising of over Sh44 billion by Linzi as a landmark achievement.

PROPERTY

Land prices in city's suburbs now outpaces

VICTOR AMADALA

LAND indices in Nairobi's suburbs outpaced its satellite towns in price growth for the first time in five years, as places like Mlolongo, Ruaka, Kitengela and Rongai overtook.

Both property and land prices in towns neighbouring Kenya's capital city have been on non-stop hike for the past decade as dwellers escape congestion and noise pollution in city estates.

Improved infrastructure like the Thika Super Highway, Southern Bypass, Western Bypass, Eastern Bypass, Nairobi Express Way and the Standard Gauge Railway also fueled price surge in satellite towns.

According to Hass Consult, tough economic conditions have affected demand for land by the middle class, leading to lower growth in areas such as Kiserian, Kitengela, Ngong, Ongata Rongai, Juja, and Thika.

Hass Land price indices for the second quarter of 2025 for the second quarter of 2025 shows that land price per acre in Nairobi's suburbs rose by 1.6 per cent in the second quarter, slightly slower compared to a growth of 1.7 per cent in quarter one, while the satellite towns saw their prices appreciate by 1.25 per cent, slowing down from a growth of 2.4 per cent seen in the previous period.

All 18 suburbs surveyed in Nairobi returned positive price movement in the quarter. However, Spring Valley (2.3 per cent) and Parklands (2.2 per cent) were the only two suburbs with a price gain of more than two per cent.

An acre piece of land now retails for Sh295.3 million in Spring Valley, having gone up by 2.3 per cent in the past three months and grown twofold in the past 10 years. The prices in the area have increased by 11.5 per cent in the past 12 months.

Land prices have also skyrocketed in Parklands, with an acre now going for Sh463.6 million, 2.2 per cent growth in the past three months and 10.4 per cent in the past decade. Upper Hill has, however, maintained the crown as the most expensive in the city, with an acre piece of land now going for Sh545.8 million, a quarterly increase of 1.5 per cent and 9.2 per cent growth in the past 12 months.

"The Nairobi suburbs have shown consistency in price movement, allowing them to overtake satellite towns in quarterly price growth for the first time in five years.

Demand for standalone house units also bodes well for land prices in low-density estates, complementing the city's bright apartment development hotspots," said Sakina Hassanali, Co-CEO & Creative Director at HassConsult.

Nairobi's satellite towns, meanwhile, recorded their slowest expansion in two years, largely due to slower gains.

INDEX

Kenya's passport power holds firm in Africa despite global dip

Ranked eighth behind Seychelles, Mauritius and South Africa by Henley Passport Index



The Kenyan e-passport / FILE

VICTOR AMADALA
@itsAmadala

KENYA'S passport strength ranking has dropped two steps globally from 67 to 69 in 2024, with only 71 visa-free entries in the latest Henley Passport Index.

Although it improved six steps last year from its previous position of 73, the country's passport has lost almost 20 positions over the past 20 years, dropping from position 51 in 2005.

It ranked lowest at position 77 globally in 2021 following Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from visa-free entry to East Africa Community (EAC) member states including Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo and South Sudan, most

Southern Africa states among them South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Madagascar, Zambia and Namibia, grant Kenyans entry without restrictive conditions.

Several other countries within the continent, Asia and a few states in North America allow Kenyans to obtain visas on arrival.

Kenya allows visa-free travel for citizens of more than 40 countries with most of the nationalities enjoying stay without a visa for up to 90 days. South African and Malaysian passport holders are limited to a maximum stay of 30 days.

The number is expected to rise after last week's announcement by Kenya eliminating the need for Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) and visas for all African countries, allowing nationals to

enter visa-free (Visa Exempt) for up to 90 days, with no forms, no online approvals and no \$30 fee required.

Kenya's passport is, however, ranked among the strongest in Africa, ranking at position eight behind Seychelles, Mauritius and South Africa, which rank positions 25, 29 and 48 globally, with visa-free destinations to 156, 151 and 106 states in that order.

Other South African countries that dominate the top list in Africa include Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Malawi.

Globally, Singapore holds the crown as the world's most powerful passport, with visa-free access to 193 destinations out of 227.

The index is powered by exclusive Timatic data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and ranks the entire world's passports based on the number of destinations their holders can enter without a prior visa.

Asian nations continue to lead the global mobility race, with Japan and South Korea sharing 2nd place, each granting their citizens access to 190 destinations visa-free.

A strong European contingent occupies the rest of the Top 5. Seven EU passports share 3rd place — Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Spain, all with access to 189 destinations. Another seven-nation European cohort, with visa-free entry to 188 destinations, is joint 4th — Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden — while New Zealand,

the only nation to challenge the regional dominance, ties in 5th place with Greece and Switzerland.

The UK and US have each dropped a place in the global passport rankings since January, continuing a long-term downward trend. Once the most powerful passports in the world — the UK in 2015 and the US in 2014 — they now rank 6th and 10th, respectively. The UK currently has visa-free access to 186 destinations, while the US trails with 182. Notably, the US is now on the brink of exiting the Top 10 altogether for the first time in the index's 20-year history.

According to Dr. Christian Kaelin, the inventor of the passport index concept says that the latest index reveals an increasingly competitive landscape in global mobility.

"The consolidation we are seeing at the top underscores that access is earned and must be maintained through active and strategic diplomacy. Nations that proactively negotiate visa waivers and nurture reciprocal agreements continue to rise, while the opposite applies to those that are less engaged in such efforts," Kaelin said.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The Kenyan government issues ePassports to her citizens valid for 10 years, in compliance with ICAO document 9303 and the East African Community Summit resolution, to enable them to travel abroad.



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BIG READ / SILENT CRISIS



A pregnant woman at home /AI ILLUSTRATION

SEEKING POST-ABORTION CARE AGONISES IN KENYA, TANZANIA

Restrictive abortion laws inflict deadly cost on fearful patients

NELLY MADEGWA AND
REHEMA MPEMBA
@TheStarKenya

In a small clinic on the outskirts of Nairobi, a young woman lies unconscious on a hospital bed, her body weakened by severe bleeding.

Two days earlier, she had taken pills from an unlicensed chemist in a desperate attempt to terminate her pregnancy.

In Dar es Salaam, another woman fights for her life after consuming a dangerous herbal mixture meant to induce abortion.

Their stories are not unique. They represent thousands of women across Kenya and Tanzania who risk their lives each year due to restrictive abortion laws that push them towards unsafe procedures.

Despite both countries signing the Maputo Protocol, a treaty advocating

for reproductive rights, Kenya and Tanzania continue to criminalise abortion, creating a paradox where women are denied safe healthcare even when their lives are at risk.

The result? Hundreds of thousands of unsafe abortions, thousands of preventable deaths and countless women left with lifelong health complications.

This investigation by Nelly Madegwa and Rehema Mpeмба delves into the harsh reality faced by women seeking post-abortion care and the legal contradictions that leave them vulnerable, exposing the hidden crisis threatening women's lives in Kenya and Tanzania and the urgent need for reform.

DESPERATE CHOICE

The pain had started two days earlier, but Akinyi ignored it. She had no choice. A second-year university student in Nairobi, she knew she

couldn't afford a visit to a private hospital. Public hospitals were out of the question; too many questions, too much judgement.

She had been raped by a relative. When she realised she was pregnant,

panic set in. She couldn't tell her parents. She couldn't tell anyone.

Desperate, she visited a backstreet chemist and bought pills that promised to 'fix' the problem. But instead of relief, she was met with unbearable

cramps and relentless bleeding.

By the time her roommate found her curled up in bed, barely able to speak, her sheets were soaked in blood. Rushed to the emergency room, Akinyi faced another nightmare.

"The nurse kept asking where I got the pills," she recalled. "She said they could call the police. I was so scared."

In Dar es Salaam, Zainabu, 19, made a different choice but faced the same devastating outcome. She had been assaulted by a customer at the shop where she worked.

When she discovered she was pregnant, she knew the law wouldn't protect her. In Tanzania, where abortion is illegal in almost all cases, she had no safe options.

She turned to an old remedy whispered among women: herbs mixed with detergent. She drank the bitter mixture, hoping it would end the pregnancy. But the pain didn't stop.

“

Some health workers refuse to provide post-abortion care simply because they think it is illegal. Others are unsure about the limits of the law, which results in unnecessary delays in treatment and sometimes the death of the patient Dr Daniel Oketch

For days, she bled, hiding her suffering until she collapsed at work.

“I didn’t want to go to the hospital,” she said. “Everyone knows the doctors can report you.”

Both women had nowhere to turn, trapped between laws that punish abortion and a healthcare system that fails them.

THE LEGAL PARADOX

In 2010, Kenya ratified the Maputo Protocol, an African Union treaty designed to protect women’s reproductive rights. Tanzania had signed it three years earlier, but both nations maintained a glaring contradiction: their laws still criminalised abortion.

Under Article 14(2)(c) of the protocol, African nations are encouraged to allow abortion in cases of rape, incest or when a pregnancy endangers a woman’s health. Neither Kenya nor Tanzania has fully implemented these provisions.

In Kenya, the 2010 Constitution offers limited protection, allowing abortion when a trained health professional determines that a woman’s life or health is at risk. However, an outdated Penal Code inherited from colonial rule continues to criminalise most abortions, creating fear and uncertainty among doctors.

“The law is unclear, and that means many healthcare providers refuse to offer abortion services or even post-abortion care,” says Ngina Muyanga, an advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

“Most women arrested for abortion-related offences are from low-income areas. Nobody in Runda or Karen is getting arrested.”

In Tanzania, the law is even stricter. The Penal Code only permits abortion when the mother’s life is at risk, offering no exceptions for rape, incest or mental health concerns. The penalties are severe: seven years in prison for women who have an abortion, 14 years for those who attempt to induce one and three years for anyone assisting in an abortion.

“The law contradicts the Maputo

Protocol, which Tanzania signed without reservations,” said Gertrude Dyabene, senior gender officer at the Legal and Human Rights Centre. “By criminalising abortion, the law forces women to seek unsafe procedures. It leads to unnecessary deaths, lifelong health complications and a society that punishes victims of sexual violence by forcing them to give birth to children conceived in trauma.”

THE HUMAN COST

The consequences of these policies are staggering. In Kenya, more than 14 per cent of pregnancies result in unsafe abortions annually.

More than 260,000 women who are hospitalised each year due to obstetric complications do not receive proper care, which represents 60 per cent of all women who present with obstetric complications. And unsafe abortions account for 17 per cent of all maternal deaths.

In a landmark 2020 High Court ruling, Kenya affirmed that abortion care is a constitutional right and that arbitrary arrests of patients and healthcare providers for abortion services are illegal. However, enforcement remains weak.

In Tanzania, 405,000 women undergo unsafe abortions every year. Shockingly, 61 per cent of those who suffer complications never receive medical care. Every year, more than 66,600 women are treated for complications, but nearly 100,000 others who need care never make it to a health facility. Unsafe abortions account for 30 per cent of all maternal deaths.

“If these services were easily available without stigma or opposition, we would save lives and reduce the financial strain on women and healthcare facilities. The money spent managing complications from unsafe abortions could be redirected to improving maternal healthcare in general,” says Dr Daniel Oketch, a gynaecologist and obstetrician at Marie Stopes.

He says there’s confusion among

medical officers regarding the legality of abortion in Kenya. Many are unaware that the Constitution allows for abortion when a woman’s physical, mental or emotional health is at risk.

“Some health workers refuse to provide post-abortion care simply because they think it is illegal. Others are unsure about the limits of the law, which results in unnecessary delays in treatment and sometimes the death of the patient,” he says.

AFRICAN LESSONS

Some African nations have found ways to balance cultural sensitivities with women’s health. Ethiopia expanded its abortion law in 2005, allowing the procedure in cases of rape, incest, foetal impairment and risks to a woman’s health.

This legal reform, along with improved access to safe abortion services, led to a 30 per cent drop in maternal deaths from unsafe abortions within a decade. The government also trained midwives to provide post-abortion care, especially in rural areas.

Similarly, Mozambique reformed its abortion law in 2014, permitting abortion on request within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and up to 16 weeks in cases of rape or incest. The government worked with religious and community leaders to reduce stigma, leading to a significant decline in unsafe abortion complications.

South Africa, despite having one of Africa’s most liberal abortion laws, still faces challenges with stigma and accessibility. In 2008, the country amended its abortion law to allow trained nurses to provide the procedure, significantly reducing deaths from unsafe abortions.

The government has since introduced telemedicine services for counselling and trained healthcare workers at all levels to provide post-abortion care, ensuring safer reproductive healthcare for women, even in rural areas.



THE WAY FORWARD

For thousands of women in Kenya and Tanzania, access to safe post-abortion care remains a matter of life and death. But change is possible. Across Africa, countries that have embraced legal reforms, improved healthcare access and addressed stig-

ma have seen maternal deaths from unsafe abortions decline.

Legal experts and human rights advocates argue that aligning national laws with the Maputo Protocol is a crucial first step. Removing criminal penalties for women seeking post-abortion care and ensuring that medical professionals can provide care without fear of prosecution would help save lives.

Beyond legal reforms, training healthcare workers, especially midwives and community health providers, is essential. Countries like Ethiopia have successfully trained mid-level providers to offer safe abortion and post-abortion care.

Kenya and Tanzania could adopt similar models to ensure that women, regardless of location, have access to life-saving treatment.

Addressing stigma is equally critical. Public education campaigns, engaging religious and cultural leaders, and introducing comprehensive sexuality education in schools could reshape attitudes and reduce the need for unsafe abortions.

For Akinyi and Zainabu, survival came at the cost of fear, stigma and lasting trauma. But their stories are not unique. Other African nations have shown that change is possible. The question now is, will Kenya and Tanzania act before more women suffer in silence?

This article was produced as part of the Aftershocks Data Fellowship (22-23) with support from the Africa Women’s Journalism Project (AWJP) in partnership with The ONE Campaign and the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ).



Countries that have made legal reforms, improved healthcare access and addressed stigma have seen maternal deaths from unsafe abortions decline /AWJP

★ comment

THE STAR

Lion Place, Waiyaki Way
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Nairobi, Kenya

Labour ward nurses should be humane

AN NGO has shone the torch in the labour ward, a venerated space that only women whisper about to each other as they compare notes about their harrowing ordeals.

It turns out that the very noble chamber in which we usher in our future generations is a space that has been turned into a dehumanising torture chamber from where mothers are traumatised for years after getting their babies.

The staff composition of the labour ward has only recently started to change, with a sprinkling of men venturing into a room that has been exclusively female.

KELIN, the not-for-profit, documents the desperation of pregnant women who, instead of getting help, were met with disapproval, humiliation and even violence, with rogue nurses slapping and pinching instead of providing helpful instructions and guidelines.

Teenage mothers seem to bear the brunt of the contempt most as most of the midwives see them as too young to have babies.

Women – young or old – must never walk into a labour ward anxious about the labour process, and worse, the fear of degrading and inhumane treatment.

Childbirth must be a happy and joyous occasion and not a distressing and harrowing nightmare packed with negative memories.

Quote of the day: “A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.” — Pope Francis arrived in Edmonton, Canada, to begin a penitential trip on July 24, 2022

THE STAR

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WORLD-CLASS TRAINING KEY TO GROWING TOURISM

By Mike Macharia

Investing in people is not charity. It is a strategy. It is the difference between a one-time tourist and a lifelong advocate



FOR decades, Kenya's tourism industry has depended largely on visitors from traditional markets such as the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany. But global travel patterns are changing. Today, Kenya is seeing more tourists from China, India, the Gulf States, Australia and West African countries such as Nigeria and Ghana.

This shift brings new expectations. Travellers are seeking more than game drives and beautiful beach resorts; they are after immersive, meaningful experiences shaped by human interaction. Some want impeccable service and luxury; others seek cultural authenticity. But all are shaped by how they are treated.

This is where Kenya's real competitive edge lies. The hospitality industry rises or falls on the quality of human connection. A well-trained worker can turn a routine trip into a lasting memory. A poor

IF WE ARE TO STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION ON THE CONTINENT AND BEYOND, WE MUST FOCUS NOT ONLY ON WHAT VISITORS SEE, BUT HOW THEY FEEL. THAT FEELING IS SHAPED BY HUMAN INTERACTION

interaction can undo months of investment in infrastructure or branding.

The government's goal of attracting five million international arrivals and 10 million domestic tourists by 2028 may seem ambitious, but it is achievable. Getting there is not just about more flights or hotels. It is about preparing the people who run those hotels, staff those airports and serve those meals.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, Africa welcomed 74 million international tourists last year. Kenya received just over 2.3 million, about three per cent of the total. That puts us behind countries like Egypt, Morocco, and South Africa.

To catch up, Kenya must do more than promote itself. It must differentiate itself through quality of experience. Institutions must respond

to this challenge by offering practical, industry-relevant training.

This matters for more than just the tourism industry. At a time when youth unemployment remains high, the chance to work in a global industry with transferable skills is no small opportunity. A young Kenyan trained in front office operations or culinary arts is not confined to Nairobi or Mombasa; they are part of a global talent pool.

Meanwhile, domestic tourism is becoming a major force in its own right. Over the past four years, local travel has more than doubled. Nairobi alone now has over 285 accredited hotels. Nearly half of all hotel bookings in Kenya come from Kenyans themselves. These travellers are not second-tier customers; they, too, expect good service. And that expectation is raising

standards across the board.

Elsewhere on the continent, untapped destinations from Western Kenya to rural South Africa are sitting on enormous potential. But without trained professionals to tell their stories, curate their experiences and host their visitors, that potential remains just that: potential.

If Kenya is to strengthen its position on the continent and beyond, it must focus not only on what visitors see, but how they feel. That feeling is shaped by human interaction. And that interaction is shaped by training, empathy and professionalism.

Investing in people is not charity. It is a strategy. It is the difference between a one-time tourist and a lifelong advocate. And for a country like Kenya, where tourism touches everything from conservation to community development, it is also an investment in shared prosperity.

When we equip our youth with skills, we are not just opening doors; we are raising the floor. We are saying that Kenya is ready to compete not just with its scenery, but with its service. And in the long run, that may be the more sustainable advantage.

Chairperson of the board, Boma International Hospitality College, and CEO, Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers & Caterers

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

VOICES

LAPSSET CAN UNLOCK NEP POTENTIAL AND DRIVE PAN-AFRICAN PROSPERITY

NORTHERN Kenya, often considered “marginal”, is strategically positioned at the crossroads of a resurgent African continent. It offers the shortest overland link between the Indian Ocean and the landlocked nations of Ethiopia and South Sudan, making it a pivotal region rather than a periphery.

The Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport corridor was conceived to unlock this immense potential. Thirteen years since its inception, Lapsset’s progress has been inconsistent, with only three of Lamu Port’s 23 planned berths operational and most roads still incomplete.

Despite these challenges, the project’s ambition is more relevant than ever. The region is poised to become a gateway not only for Kenya but for the entire African continent. Lapsset is a comprehensive infrastructure initiative encompassing a modern deep-sea port, 3,000 km of standard gauge rail, 2,500 km of highways, oil pipelines, international airports, resort cities and fibre optic links designed to connect Kenya with the heart of Africa.

These are not isolated projects but crucial components of a broader Pan-African renaissance. Across the continent, smart ports are emerging in West Africa, green energy corridors are powering southern economies and tech-enabled logistics zones are developing across borders. Kenya must keep pace with this progress to avoid being left behind in a transformation it helped initiate.

The vision for Lapsset extends

By Imano Guleid

It will not just pave roads; it will pave futures. It can be a magnet for tech, trade and transformation. That will only happen if the project is treated not as an afterthought, but as a national mission



beyond conventional infrastructure; it aims to create a network of opportunities. This aligns with the current Pan-African infrastructure wave, which is precisely what northern Kenya needs. Imagine broadband fibre alongside rail lines, solar mini-grids powering agri-hubs, and logistics parks connected by drone-ready airstrips. A coordinated investment plan integrating roads, power, water, skills and digital infrastructure can enable this region to achieve an economy of scale.

Towns along the corridor, from Lamu to Isiolo, and further branching to Moyale and Nakadok, have the potential to transform into vibrant trade enclaves and innovation labs, fostering future communities. To realise this ambitious vision, security and financing models must evolve. Persistent attacks by non-state actors have inflated project costs and extended timelines. However, retreating is not an option.

Instead, Kenya can innovate through blended finance models that attract ESG-aligned capital, leveraging diaspora bonds and engaging in public-private

partnerships that distribute risk and reward. Beyond these financial innovations, Lapsset offers substantial national defence and security benefits for Kenya and the wider region. Improved infrastructure, particularly the extensive road network and the planned standard-gauge rail, will significantly enhance the mobility and rapid deployment capabilities of security forces.

This allows for quicker response times to threats, including those posed by non-state actors, and better projection of national security across the vast northern frontier. For instance, the ongoing construction of the Lamu-Garissa highway, anticipated for completion by February 2025, is crucial for improving accessibility and security in the region. The ability to swiftly transport personnel and equipment across the corridor will bolster Kenya’s capacity to maintain law and order, counter terrorism and manage cross-border security challenges.

Furthermore, the development of the Lamu Port itself, with its deep-sea capabilities, provides a

strategic maritime asset for naval operations and surveillance in the Indian Ocean, contributing to regional maritime security. By fostering economic development and creating local opportunities, Lapsset can also address root causes of insecurity, such as unemployment and marginalisation, thereby building more resilient communities. This economic uplift can reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies and illicit activities, contributing to long-term stability.

Counties must also play a leading role by zoning land for energy cooperatives, agri-parks and startup zones. Infrastructure should not merely pass through a region; it should firmly root opportunities within it. Local youth must view the corridor not just as a temporary job site but as a springboard for their careers. The interconnectedness of Lapsset with other regional initiatives, such as the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project, further amplifies its impact.

While Lapsset focuses on connecting Kenya’s coast to South Sudan and Ethiopia, HoAGDP aims to enhance regional connectivity, trade and economic integration across the Horn of Africa, often through road networks and trade facilitation measures. The synergistic relationship between these projects means that Lapsset’s developed infrastructure, particularly its roads and logistics hubs, can serve as vital arteries for trade flows initiated or bolstered by HoAGDP.

This creates a more robust and resilient regional supply chain, reducing transit times and costs for goods moving across

multiple borders. The coordinated development of such projects strengthens regional economic blocs and enhances collective security by promoting shared prosperity and interdependence, making the region less susceptible to instability.

Pan-Africanism is no longer merely a political ideal but an economic imperative. Momentum is building across the continent: from integrated transport corridors in Central Africa to AfCFTA-driven trade zones in West Africa. Lapsset is Kenya’s essential contribution to this surge. It can serve as a platform for new special economic zones, where Turkana can lead in renewable energy services, Isiolo can thrive on halal-certified logistics and Lamu can become the heartbeat of a thriving blue economy.

Every component from data cables to drainage should serve a larger mission: regional resilience through local enterprise. By 2027, more than 5.6 million new youth voters will cast their first ballots. They are digital natives, global in outlook and hungry for purpose. What they seek is not charity but challenge, a chance to build, to innovate, to lead.

If Lapsset delivers, it will not just pave roads; it will pave futures. It can be a magnet for tech, trade and transformation. But that will only happen if the project is treated not as an afterthought, but as a national mission. Government must act with urgency, investors must think long-term and communities must be empowered as partners—not bystanders.

Defence and security consultant

Advocates are contemplating death by suicide, this is why

RECENTLY, a young advocate died by suicide. The legal profession in Kenya has witnessed several such cases in recent years. The time is ripe for us to focus and find a lasting solution to the mental health toll on young advocates.

Many who pursue law begin with bright eyes and big dreams, driven by the nobility of helping others achieve justice. But nowhere in law school are we taught how emotionally and mentally taxing this profession can be, especially for those just starting.

The toll begins early. Law school is notoriously gruelling, often filled with long hours, academic pressure and creeping self-doubt. Still, students push on, hoping that life will ease up after graduation.

Then comes the Kenya School of Law and the bar exam, administered by the Council of Legal

By Nelius Njuguna

There is relentless pressure to perform and win, especially in a profession that attracts overachievers and perfectionists. This leads to chronic stress and emotional exhaustion



Education, an exam with pass rates that can dip as low as nine per cent. The pressure is immense, and the journey is far from over.

Securing pupillage is another mountain to climb. For many, it is a profoundly traumatic experience marked by long hours, low or no pay, and a lack of mentorship. Yet even this is not the end. The “holding over” period between pupillage and admission as an advocate is

equally uncertain and often financially and emotionally draining.

Once admitted, many advocates face underemployment or are forced to accept salaries as low as Sh30,000. They wear crisp suits and appear put together, but behind the façade are individuals stretched thin emotionally, mentally and financially.

Joining the legal workforce can feel like the final blow. The

work environment is fast-paced, high-pressure and often unforgiving. Advocates are expected to work long hours, manage extensive research, maintain constant communication with clients and colleagues, and juggle multiple demanding cases.

There is relentless pressure to perform and win, especially in a profession that attracts overachievers and perfectionists. It is no surprise that this environment often leads to chronic stress and emotional exhaustion.

Moreover, many advocates handle deeply traumatic cases. To serve clients effectively, advocates must engage with the most intimate and painful details of their lives. This repeated exposure to trauma can lead to secondary or vicarious trauma, another hidden burden in an advocate’s line of work.

Over time, these compounding stressors can push young advocates toward anxiety, depression, burnout or, worse, suicide.

According to a 2016 study published in the Journal of Addiction Medicine, 28 per cent of lawyers suffer from depression, 19 per cent experience anxiety, and 23 per cent endure chronic stress.

Another survey by LawCare found that 66 per cent of legal professionals said their careers had negatively affected their mental health. Nearly half, at 46 per cent, had considered leaving the profession due to burnout or stress, and nine per cent had contemplated suicide. In the United States, the American Bar Association further reports that one in three lawyers struggles with problematic alcohol use.

It is time we stopped treating this as an individual weakness and started seeing it as a systemic issue. Young advocates must be encouraged and empowered to seek support early. Prioritising mental health is now, more than ever, critical.

Small, intentional habits can offer relief, such as taking breaks during the day, stepping outside for air, speaking to a therapist, or simply setting boundaries around time and expectations. Knowing and honouring your limits is not a failure but a form of self-preservation.

In the end, we only get one life. And it should be lived in a state of thriving, not just surviving.

Legal Advisor 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.

Good governance possible but how bad do we want it?

I have grown up seeing an immense desire for a brighter Kenya. But this national aspiration seems to be often threatened by poor governance, compounded by political dishonesty and lack of willingness by elected leaders to fix key public issues.

Even in the current times of Gen Z-activated discourse on governance, the political leadership across the divide still appears to be absorbed in its usual political manoeuvres, fights and self-preservation tactics than tackling the issues raised by the aggrieved youth, who want a complete paradigm shift in the management of public affairs.

Nonetheless, politicians are not entirely to blame for this problem. The issue is to a great extent also a factual reflection and representation of the poor balloting decisions of the masses over the election cycles. At the end of the day, we are all as good or bad as the representatives we elect. As George Carlin once remarked:

“Now, there’s one thing you might have noticed I don’t complain about: politicians. Everybody complains about politicians. Everybody says they suck. Well, where do people think these politicians come from? They don’t fall out of the sky. They don’t pass through a membrane from another reality...This is the best we can do, folks. This is what we have to offer. It’s what our system produces: Garbage in, garbage out. If you have selfish, ignorant citizens, you’re going to get selfish, ignorant leaders...So, maybe, maybe, maybe, it’s not the politicians who suck. Maybe something else sucks around here...like, the public. Yeah, the public sucks...”

The truth is that nothing much will change in our public governance sphere unless and until the public noises we are witnessing are translated into a complete and positive shift in voter behaviour so that we can have a seriously “issuefied” national and county politics that focuses on choosing the best to deliver the best for the country regardless of tribe, region, gender or creed.

Undesirably, the bad governance culture has patently and demonstrably stayed with a burdensome cost to our national image, resources and potential. For example, there has been an eclipsing of ethical and principled leadership culture, besides a chronic lowering of the country when it comes to its position in the global happiness and corruption indices; while a third of the national budget is officially said to be plundered.

Similarly, the wanton lack of merit and quality in our public governance sphere has caused the country’s deep drop back from its once economic equivalents such as Singapore, Thailand and South Korea, which have transformed into Asian economic tigers as a consequence of good governance.

However, there is still hope if we candidly care to build a better Kenya. All we need is to jointly put that desire for a sunnier country into a genuine tone and approach that aims to address our governance complications in a systematic and successful fashion that would transcend personality politics to systems thinking and progression.

Hassan Malik
Governance analyst, Garissa

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Nuclear Power and Energy Agency CEO Justus Wabuyabo and Radio Africa Group CEO Martin Khafafa at Radio Africa offices in Westlands, Nairobi, yesterday /LEAH MUKANGAI

LETTER OF THE DAY

Empowering Gen Z with AI roadmap to jobs

Africa today stands at the doorstep of an unprecedented digital revolution, and you are perfectly positioned to lead it.

Artificial Intelligence is not just a buzzword—it’s your generation’s gateway to creating sustainable job opportunities, driving innovation, and transforming lives across the continent.

Here’s how you can leverage AI right now: Immerse yourself in virtual sites such as Coursera, Udacity, and edX, or nearby tech hubs and universities teaching. Certifications not only give you the necessary skills but also increase your credibility for a global market that is craving for talent.

Identify everyday African chal-

lenges in healthcare, education, agriculture, or finance, and design AI-driven solutions. Precision farming apps, AI-powered diagnostic healthcare tools, or personalised educational platforms can turn you into tomorrow’s entrepreneurial success stories.

There are no borders for AI. Sell your skills to the rest of the world via freelance websites such as Upwork, Fiverr and Freelancer.

Your AI skills are demanded globally—exploit these websites to work from anywhere and draw globally competitive salaries. Participate in or create local tech and AI communities, including Google Developer Groups, Zindi communities, or Data Science Africa. They are wonderful places where you can network,

collaborate, learn and expand your ideas with peers of similar interest.

Seek collaborations between your universities, governments, and private enterprise. Collaborations can spread your reach, source funding, and provide access to mentorship from working professionals.

Explore open-source AI platforms like TensorFlow, PyTorch, and Hugging Face. Customise these tools to address unique African challenges, such as localising language models or building predictive models for agriculture and health. Join discussions on ethical issues of AI, data privacy, and policy development.

James Rege
IT expert, former Information and Technology PS and former MP



No. Matiangi should run for president. He is, without a doubt, one of the most formidable technocrats this country has ever produced. His record in public service is impressive. He is decisive, methodical and ruthlessly efficient. He should not run for Nairobi governor, that seat is beneath the former super CS.

Josephine Manyanga
Resident, Kitui



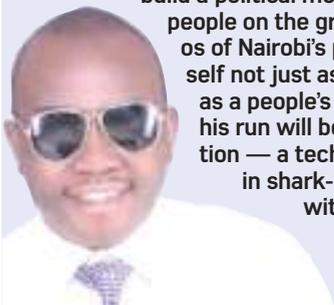
No. Matiangi is above the gubernatorial position. He should run for president. He is a tried, tested and confirmed national leader, having served as Super Cabinet Secretary in the previous administration. The country needs someone who can salvage it from the bad leadership it is now grappling with. We need him to be the next president.

James Nyaga
Resident, Machakos

Should Matiangi run for Nairobi governor?

★ new voices

★ STAR COMMENT No. He has the competence, discipline and brainpower. But Nairobi may not be his ideal battleground; not because he cannot deliver, but because its politics is messy, populist and brutally transactional. If he must enter the ring, he must first build a political movement, engage the people on the ground, embrace the chaos of Nairobi’s politics and rebrand himself not just as an administrator, but as a people’s candidate. Otherwise, his run will be a brilliant miscalculation — a technocrat trying to swim in shark-infested political waters without a life jacket.



Moses Kilonzo
Chairperson for PwDs,
Lower Eastern



No. He should go for nothing less than the presidency. He is the only one who can address the issues raised by Gen Z and challenges faced by Kenyans. Kenya currently lacks someone who can fight for their rights. Our hopes are on Kalonzo and Matiangi. One of these two should be the next president. The country needs them. We want Kalonzo and Matiangi.

Daniel Okusi
Boda boda, Machakos



No. Matiangi has impressed many Kenyans as a national leader, and I believe that with him as the president, the country would transform for the best. We won’t experience many challenges and a lot of opposition to government, as is the case now. He is a leader who listens and who cannot be compromised.

Hillary Macharia
Boda boda, Machakos

COMPILED BY GEORGE OWITI

★ society...

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



SONG AND DANCE IN FIESTA MARKING CHINA-KENYA TIES

THE Kenya National Theatre in Nairobi on Thursday came alive with cultural dances and music during the China-Kenya Cultural and Tourism season exchange.

Guests were served to an hour of performances that drew applause. In attendance were Chinese Ambassador **Guo Haiyan**, State Department for Culture, Arts and Heritage PS **Ummi Bashir**, Kisumu East MP **Shakeel Shabir** and Inner Mongolia Governor **Wang Lixia**.



1. Nair band performs 2. Radio Africa Group head of electronic news Susan Kimachia and Zee Media Kenya business development manager Seemar Sarkar 3. Dancers Baigelima and Bayindalai lead the team during the performance 4. Guests during the event 5. Amb Guo Haiyan, Governor Wang Lixia and MP Shakeel Shabir 6. Bomas of Kenya assistant production manager Leah Motuka, Ag. marketing manager Gladys Kangethe and Sarakasi Trust MD Lilian Mwari 7. Personal assistant Hafsa Abdikadir, PS Ummi Bashir and Commonwealth Youth Council vice chair Neema Sheikh /LEAH MUKANGAI

SAFARICOM MARKS 18 YEARS OF EXISTENCE



SAFARICOM on Friday held a forum at Boma Inn in Eldoret to celebrate 18 years of existence.

Since its inception in March last year, the Safaricom Business Forum has reached more than 1,000 businesses in the Coast, Nairobi, Greater Western and Mt Kenya regions.

In attendance were **Peter Oyamo**, acting tribe lead for small and micro businesses, and **Frankline Okata**, acting chief enterprise business officer.



1. Cybersecurity expert Dr Bright Gameli 2. Peter Oyamo 3. and 4. Customer interaction moments /HANDOUT

FIRMS PROMOTE HEALTHY LIVING

IT distributor *Hiperdist* on Friday announced a strategic partnership with *Renpho* to drive *Smart Healthy Living* across Africa and select Middle Eastern markets.

The event took place at the Hyatt Regency. In attendance were Renpho regional sales manager **Muhammad Hadayaq**, Novelty Technologies IT partner **Noah Owner** and orthopaedic surgeon **Pareg Jethva**.



1. Muhammad Hadayaq presents 2. Members of the public view the orthopaedic equipment on display 3. Presentation of giveaways 4. Muhammad Hadayaq, orthopaedic surgeon Dr Amir Parikh and Hiperdist lifestyle division's Mohammed Adil /MOSES MWANGI

NEWS COUNTIES



PHOTO STORY
Ushiriki Wema Foundation chairperson Tessie Musalia, Regner Fu Capital Group CEO Kent Joshua, Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja and DCI director Mohamed Amin commission a borehole at AP Embakasi 'A' Campus in Nairobi yesterday /HANDOUT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Owners of idle city land given 60-day ultimatum

They must show proof of planned development or lose the plots

GORDON OSEN
@gordon_osen

DO you own a Nairobi county-issued land parcel you have left idle or which you are using but not remitting the rates to City Hall? You now have 60 days to regularise or risk having it repossessed.

Governor Johnson Sakaja's administration has issued a 60-day ultimatum to plot owners whose parcels remain unpaid for or undeveloped, warning of repossession and reallocation should the owners fail to comply with new settlement directives.

In a public notice, head of county public service Godfrey Akumali said the directive targets land parcels situated in site and service schemes, regularised informal settlements, and various urban infill areas spread across the city.

The county government has observed a growing number of plots that

have remained idle or unpaid for, in clear breach of their allocation terms.

"It has come to the attention of the Nairobi City county government that there are several plots within Nairobi City county site and service schemes, regularised informal settlements and infills which remain unpaid for and undeveloped, contrary to their conditions of offer," he said.

Such parcels were originally allocated to meet specific urban development needs at the time of issuance and were never intended for speculative holding.

Akumali said all county-allotted land is given under clear terms, which require beneficiaries to clear stipulated payments and initiate development within 24 months of being offered the plot.

He warned that the continued failure to fulfill these obligations renders the land economically inefficient and undermines the very purpose of its

allocation. Unutilised land, he said, becomes a setback to Nairobi's urban development and service delivery goals.

Affected plot owners are now re-



Governor Johnson Sakaja /FILE

quired to pay any outstanding dues and demonstrate intent to develop the parcels by submitting building plans for review and approval by the Nairobi City county government. These steps must be completed within the 60-day window to avoid repossession and reallocation without any further warning.

The notice further outlines that this exercise will not spare title holders. Individuals who have already obtained leases or certificates of lease, but whose properties are not listed in the county valuation roll, must report to designated subcounty valuation offices for assistance.

These offices have been set up in various locations including Embakasi Village at Embakasi Social Hall, Spine Road near Kayole 1 stage in Embakasi Central, Umoja I in Embakasi West, the Ruai Customer Care Centre within the Njiru deputy county commissioner's compound in Kasarani, and in Dandora Phase 1 for plot owners in Embakasi North.

In a bid to modernise and streamline land rate billing, the county also announced a shift in how land parcels will be identified for taxation. Beginning January 1, 2026, the use of plot numbers in rate assessments will be discontinued. All billing accounts will instead rely on official land parcel numbers.

To facilitate this transition, the county will deploy technical officers to physically label parcel numbers on the gates or entrances of developed properties. This is aimed at ensuring clarity and consistency in property identification for rate purposes.

The latest directive is part of a campaign by City Hall to recover revenue lost to land rate defaulters and speculative holding.

In recent months, City Hall has launched aggressive recovery drives, placing thousands of landowners on notice and threatening auctions where compliance has failed.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

City Hall's crackdown reflects growing frustration with land hoarding and revenue leakage. Whether the threat of repossession prompts compliance—or ends up in legal wrangles—remains to be seen.

ALARMING REPORT

East Africa faces worsening hunger as food prices soar

Napase Galora prepares a maize and beans meal in Laisamis, Marsabit, on October 26, 2021 /FILE



AGATHA NGOTHO

EAST Africa is grappling with worsening food insecurity between June and September 2025.

The June 2025 Food Security Monitor report by Agra says the crisis is fueled by conflict, erratic weather patterns, and the ongoing lean season. The region is also battling high food prices, rising demand and disrupted agriculture, leaving millions at risk of hunger.

In Kenya, food security conditions vary. Southern regions have benefited from good rains, improving food access. However, the North and East have experienced flooding and insecurity, which have displaced communities and disrupted farming. In Central Kenya, irregular rainfall has led to poor harvests and reduced incomes for smallholder farmers.

The Food Security Monitor report shows that across East Africa, food prices have continued to rise

due to ongoing conflicts, unstable economies, seasonal shifts and weakening currencies.

"Food prices remain high across the region, particularly in Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda, due to structural and economic pressures," the report states.

Since October 2024, the number of people facing hunger has remained high across five East African countries. Compared to the same time last year, the number has risen by 12.3 million people.

"Uganda has seen the sharpest increase, from eight million in June 2024 to 18 million in June 2025, a 125 per cent rise. Rwanda follows with a 38.5 per cent increase, and South Sudan with 36.1 per cent. However, the situation in Kenya and Tanzania has remained largely unchanged year-on-year," the report shows.

Food prices continued to rise across East Africa amid regional demand and supply pressures.



NEWS COUNTIES

DATABASE

Agra's digital catalogue to give farmers seed access

GILBERT KOECH

A transformative digital crop variety catalogue has been launched in the latest bid to enhance access to improved seeds.

Announcing the launch of the African Digital Crop Variety catalogue, Agra called on governments, seed companies, researchers and development partners to adopt and

contribute towards making it a living tool for agricultural resilience.

“The digital seed catalogue is an important milestone to strengthen the seed market and therefore further scale high-yielding and nutrient-dense seed access by smallholder farmers,” said Jonathan Said, vice president, Centre for Technical Expertise, at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. Agra developed the catalogue

in partnership with ministries of agriculture, the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and national regulatory authorities across six countries.

The catalogue provides an interactive and searchable database of released crop varieties for the initial cohort comprising Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Despite hundreds of improved crop varieties being developed and released in Africa over the last decade, no single, up-to-date platform existed where governments, NARS, seed companies and other stakeholders, including non-governmental and farmer organisations, could access comprehensive information on avail-



Evalyne Laipon displays traditional seeds /ALICE WAITHERA

able varieties. Alice Ruhweza, president of Agra, said, “In many African countries, vital data on crop varieties is incomplete, inaccessible, or absent altogether.”

“This has hindered farmers from

accessing resilient, climate-smart and nutrient-dense crop varieties. The Africa Digital Crop Variety catalogue fills this critical gap by offering a centralised and transparent digital resource,” she added.

WRECKED BY FLOODS

Locals risk lives to cross Mathioya River

Without a bridge and tired of repair, they are cut off from villages with which they are interdependent

ALICE WAITHERA
@Alicewangechi

For years, residents of Gathambara village in Mathioya subcounty, trekked for tens of kilometres to access their farms across the Mathioya River.

The vast river, renowned for taking lives during floods, made it a difficult task for them to till their land.

Things got better when a well-wisher helped them establish a temporary bridge – but that collapses every time it rains.

James Kimani, a resident, said rebuilding the bridge has become a daunting task as they are forced to use their resources to put it up time and again.

Without it, they are cut off from the villages across the river, with which they are interdependent.

“We have our farms and family members living in villages across the river. The size of the river makes it impossible to go through the river to the other side,” he said.

The poor state of the bridge puts their lives at risk as they go about their daily activities, Kimani noted, adding that their attempts to reach out to the local leadership for help have been futile.

Kimani said the neglect from the county and national governments has left them to their own means.



Residents of Gathambara village build a gabion to support a makeshift bridge across the vast Mathioya River /ALICE WAITHERA

“It has been very challenging for us yet we have leaders. Without this bridge, the economy of our village is badly devastated. We need to sell and buy farm produce and other commodities.”

The bridge was first put up in 2020, when a resident helped them make a metallic bridge, but it was wrecked by heavy floods the same year.

“This bridge connects Mathioya and Kiharu constituencies. Since

the metallic one was destroyed by rains, we have been remaking it with logs and risking our lives as we cross it daily,” he added.

The residents were reprieved when another well-wisher facilitated them to establish gabions to support the makeshift bridge and sustain it through the coming rain season.

Dickson Muiruri from Njathi Mwinga Foundation said they helped the villagers establish six gabions to

safeguard their lives.

“It would be unfortunate if this bridge collapses and causes loss of life,” he said.

One of the locals, Richard Thuo, said the gabion will support the bridge as they await more help from the government. He observed that the bridge will still not last, challenging both levels of government to come in and help them.

“This hanging bridge provides the

help we need now but it's only temporary. If we can get a bigger bridge that can be used by motorbikes, it would be very helpful to us,” Thuo said. He added that the villagers are apprehensive especially when children use the makeshift bridge due to the risk of falling into the river.

To access any social activities across the river, they are forced to walk for hours to access the village, Thuo told journalists.

“When we have burial ceremonies, the delegation cannot use this flimsy bridge. We also don't trust it enough to use it in large groups,” he added.

Children attending the nearby Kambara Secondary School from the neighbouring Kiharu constituency also face difficulties accessing the school.

Alice Muthoni said, “I had a son schooling at Mukurwe wa Nyagathanga Secondary and eventually, I was forced to get him alternative accommodation because it's too dangerous to cross the river when it rains.”

She said many of the locals have ventured into French beans farming along the river bank, but transporting them to Mukurwe wa Nyagathanga shopping centre – where buyers pitch camp – has been a tall order.

Carrying bulky luggage such as fodder is also difficult because the hanging bridge is too narrow.



Gatundu North MP Elijah Kururia distributes avocado seedlings to members of the public at AIPCA Church Thweri Gakoe /KNA

TIMELY AND VISIONARY

Avocado seedlings drive to boost food security

KNA

The Kiambu government has handed out 5,000 avocado seedlings to farmers and an additional 1,000 to church members at AIPCA Thweri Gakoe, to revitalise local agriculture and enhance food security.

Gatundu North MP Elijah Kururia said the drive actively supports the national agenda, firmly establishing itself as the backbone of the economy.

“As leaders, we must support every initiative that uplifts our people,” Kururia said. “This initiative reaf-

firms our dedication to the government's agricultural transformation journey.”

Avocado farming is one of the agricultural activities that has gained popularity in the region due to access to local and international markets and farmers are being encouraged to plant more trees as a long-term form of investment.

The MP revealed plans to distribute an additional 10,000 seedlings in the coming days across the constituency, aimed at improving livelihoods and positioning avocado farming as a key income-generating venture.

Farmers welcomed the drive, calling it timely and visionary.

“This is a blessing,” said Grace Wanjiku, a small-scale farmer, after receiving her seedlings. “We've been looking for ways to diversify our farming and these avocado seedlings could be the way out for us.”

NEWS COUNTIES

AGE 74 NOT 65

Uasu sues Kemri over retirement age dispute

Scientists serving as lecturers say that their terms of service governed by CBA

CHARLES MGHENYI
@CharlesMghenyi

SOME University Academic Staff Union has sued Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) for enforcing a retirement age of 65 years for its professors and research scientists.

The scientists, who also serve as lecturers, argue that their terms of service are governed by a Collective Bargaining Agreement that places their retirement age at 74 years, and not 65.

Uasu official, Dr Shadrack Muya, who is also the petitioner, filed an urgent application on May 5, 2025 seeking interim orders to block Kemri from retiring scientists involved in a collaborative faculty programme between the institute and the universities.

The petition was filed before Justice Hellen Wasilwa of the Employment and Labour Relations Court in Nairobi.

Muya argued that Kemri recently issued a retirement notice to one of the affected staff, on April 7, 2025.

The notice, based on Kemri's internal Human Resource Manual, cited age as the reason and several other senior academics listed in the petition are expected to receive similar notices before the end of 2025, Muya said.

However, the petitioner argues that the CBA signed by the union, the Inter-Public Universities Council Consultative Forum and the Federation of Kenya Employers on November 23, 2024, provides for a retirement age of 74 for university lecturers and research scientists.



Uasu official Dr Shadrack Muya /FILE

This agreement, Muya said, is legally binding under Section 59(3) of the Labour Relations Act, which mandates that CBA terms be incorporated into individual employment contracts.

Uasu had on April 3, 2025 confirmed that the affected staff are bona fide union members and requested that their union dues be remitted accordingly.

The petitioner believes this underscores the legal weight of the CBA and the legitimacy of their claims.

"The action by the first respondent (Kemri) is discriminatory and violates

the constitutional rights to equality before the law, fair labour practices and the right to collective bargaining," Muya submitted, citing Articles 27, 28, and 41 of the Constitution.

The petitioner wants the court to make a determination that Kemri together with the Public Service Commission, which is listed as the second respondents in the petition, erred in issuing the retirement notices, based on the existence of an active CBA that sets the retirement age of university lecturers and professors at 74 years.

Citing precedents such as the 2024 UASU-MMUST case, where the court

barred a university from retiring lecturers before they turned 74, Muya urged the court to issue a temporary injunction.

He argued that failure to do so would result in irreparable harm to the careers and constitutional rights of the affected staff.

The court also referred to the government's most recent circular dated June 16, 2025, which recognises retirement age flexibility for special categories such as university academic staff and research scientists.

Muya asked the court to preserve the status quo pending the full hearing of the petition.

Justice Wasilwa asked Kemri and the Public Service Commission to file their responses within 14 days.

The matter will come up again on September 29, 2025 for determination.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Dr Shadrack Muya has petitioned the Employment and Labour Relations Court to block Kemri from retiring professors and research scientists at 65, contrary to a CBA that sets retirement at 74. He argues the retirement notices violate constitutional labour rights and the CBA signed by Uasu, IPUCCF, and FKE. Kemri's actions, he claims, threaten academic careers and contravene both national policy and union agreements.

BAD CHEQUES CHARGE

Awiti wins case, declares bid for Nassir's seat

BY KNA

FORMER Nyali MP Hezron Awiti has won a case in which he was accused of issuing bad cheques.

Buoyed by the win, Awiti on Wednesday told the Star the case was political, only meant to malign his name as he was vying for the Mombasa Governor seat then in 2022.

The win has given the Vibrant Democratic Party leader the impetus to now focus on re-invigorating his political career as he sets his eyes on the county's top seat once more. "I hold no grudge against anyone. I understand politics and how it works. But nothing will stop me from my vision," Awiti said.

The former Nyali MP was charged with five counts of issuing bad cheques.

He was said to have issued five cheques, each of Sh500,000, in favour of Jefan General Contractors from his Diamond Trust Bank account while knowing he had instructed the bank not to honour the said cheques.

Jefan General Contractors director Angeline Mwendu said they had been awarded a Sh21 million contract by Awanard Enterprises, associated with Awiti. However, the court confirmed that Awiti does not appear anywhere in the agreement and that the CR12 of Awanard Enterprises does not list the politician as a director.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Wildlife census shows elephants in unexpected areas

GILBERT KOECH

THE Wildlife Research and Training Institute has released preliminary results from the ongoing national wildlife census, highlighting significant findings in elephant populations and conservation efforts.

Dr Patrick Omondi, WRTI director, reported the discovery of 65 elephants in Kipini, a first for the region. To monitor these elephants, plans are underway to fit them with satellite collars to track their movements and determine their origins.

Additionally, the 50 elephants translocated from Mwea National Reserve to Aberdare National Park have been found outside the reserve, indicating successful adaptation to their new environment.

The census has covered 44 blocks across 23,279 square kilometres, including areas in lower Garissa, Lamu and parts of Tana River counties. The analysis aims to assess population trends, species density, migration patterns, habitat status, and potential areas of human-wildlife conflict.

EMPLOY YOUTH

Nyali's damaged Links Road fodder for political rhetoric



A section of Links Road that becomes impassable when it rains /BRIAN OTIENO

BRIAN OTIENO

NYALI'S dilapidated Links Road at Quickmart section has become a hot potato as politicians try to out-muscle each other over the road.

Two political leaders in Nyali now want the announced repair works by the Kenya Urban Roads Authority to employ residents for the casual jobs that would available at the site for six months.

Kadzandani MCA Fatma Kushe and her Ziwa la Ng'ombe counterpart Hamisi Nyota said the works should benefit youths through jobs.

"We don't expect Kura to come with people from other parts of the county to do even the most casual of works here. We are the ones who have suffered and our youth should benefit from those casual jobs," Kushe told the Star on Wednesday.

She said those who have suffered physical injuries because of the poor state of the roads should be compensated by Kura.

"We have a woman who is now blind in one eye because of the road. Her injury could have been avoided by for the negligence of a government entity," she said.

Fatma Osman, a Nyali resident, in May told a public meeting between Kura, the Mombasa county

government, Nyali NG-CDF office and the Nyali residents that she was hit in the eye by something after the tuktuk she was riding in hit a pothole that could not be seen in the floods.

"We pay taxes, we want services. We are tired of this. I have lost an eye. It will never see again and I'm the only person working in my family," Osman said.

On Wednesday, Nyota, in whose ward the road repair works will be done, said Ziwa la Ng'ombe youths have to be empowered through the resources in their neighbourhoods.

"If we see people from other parts of the country and our youth are not taken to work there, there will be problems," he said.

Kura on Monday announced that the less than about 250-metre section will be closed for repair starting August 1 to January 30, 2026.

This is after uproar from motorists, architects, commuters and residents of Nyali who said the road has been dilapidated for over three years, with rainy seasons causing flooding in the neighbouring houses.

NEWS COUNTIES

COLLECTIVE ACTION AWARD

Nashulai Conservancy wins global award

MATHEWS NDANYI

NASHULAI Maasai Conservancy has put Kenya on the global conservation map after being honoured with the inaugural Collective Action Award by the Rights and Resources Initiative.

Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) held its 20th anniversary celebrations in Kathmandu, Nepal, where the award was presented on Monday.

RRI hosted a four-day international summit that brought together more than 200 participants from across the globe to discuss land, forest and resource rights.

The event at the Yak and Yeti Hotel, was inaugurated

by Nepal's Minister for Forests and Environment, Aain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri.

Conservancy CEO Nelson Reiyia received the award and described it as a powerful endorsement of the Maasai community's enduring commitment to protecting nature while preserving cultural heritage.

"This recognition by RRI is not just a win for Nashulai, but a win for every community that believes in the power of indigenous stewardship of natural resources," he said.

Reiyia said they were excited to win the award on behalf of the country.

"It affirms our belief that conservation thrives when rooted in indigenous knowledge and led by the people who call these landscapes home," he said.

Founded in 2016, Nashulai was the first indigenous-owned and managed conservancy in East Africa.

Located in the heart of the world-famous Maasai Mara ecosystem, it has become a global model for balancing wildlife conservation with sustainable community livelihoods.

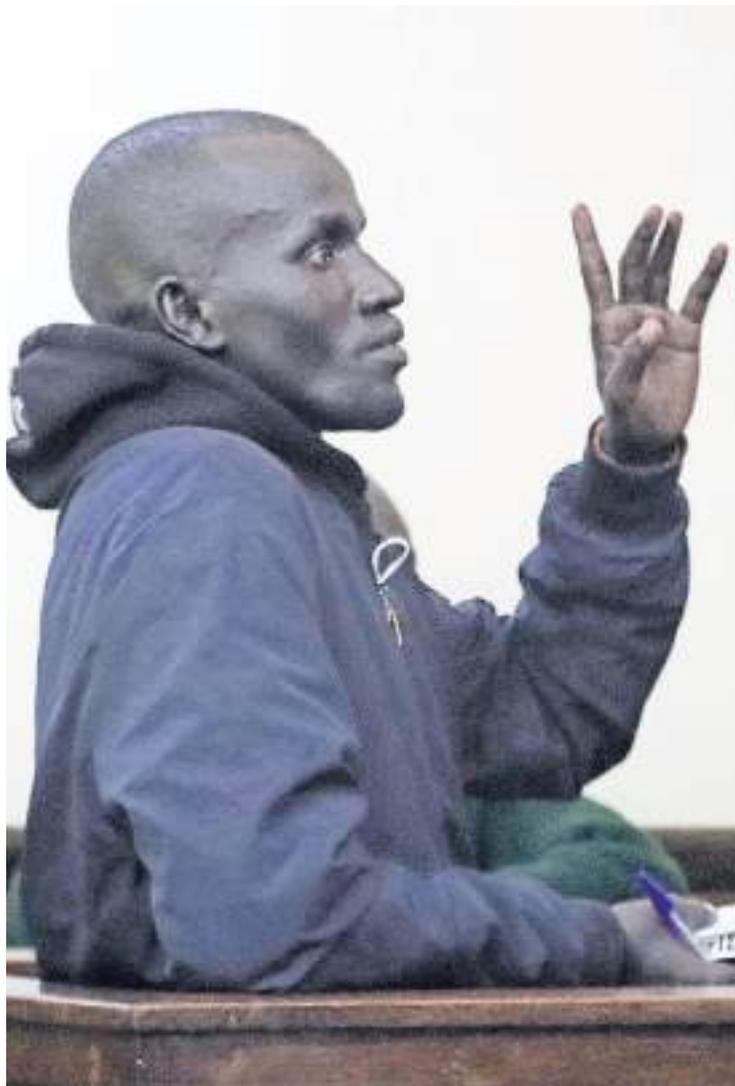


Nashulai Maasai Conservancy CEO Nelson Reiyia (right) and his wife Margaret Reiyia (second left) during the award presentation in Nepal /MATHEWS NDANYI

THREE SUSPECTS DETAINED

Lawyer in athlete's murder case says he fears for his life

Otieno says suspect has tried calling him 11 times



Suspect Jamlik Morgit /MATHEWS NDANYI

MATHEWS NDANYI @TheStarKenya

A lawyer involved in the murder case of athlete Samson Kandie has expressed fear for his life, saying a suspect has been calling him from prison.

Lawyer Jeff Otieno, representing

the family of Kandie in the case, on Tuesday told the High Court he has been receiving persistent calls from one of the suspects in the murder case of the athlete.

Otieno told the court suspect Jamlik Morgit, who is detained at the Eldoret remand prison along with two others, has tried to call him 11 times.

THE THREE SUSPECTS, WHO WERE DENIED BAIL BY THE COURT, HAVE DENIED KILLING THE MARATHONER

Widow of the slain marathoner, Rose Rotich, is among three people linked to the murder. The third accused person is Vincent Kiprono.

Kandie was killed on October 3, 2024 at his home in Elgon View estate on the outskirts of Eldoret City. His body was found behind a toilet in the compound with hands and legs tied with a rope.

"I wonder how the suspect managed to access a mobile phone he used to call me while inside the highly protected prison facility," Otieno said.

He asked judge Reuben Nyakundi, who is handling the murder case, to order investigations into the matter.

"I'm really concerned about my safety because I do not know how he got my number and why he has been calling me," Otieno said.

The lawyer said he did not pick the calls after True Caller identified the person pestering him with persistent phone calls on his mobile phone as Jamlik.

The lawyer expressed concern over how the suspect knew his phone number, yet he had never shared it or interacted with the suspect at all.

"Your lordship, one of the suspects in this case has persistently tried to call me while at Eldoret GK remand prison but I refused to pick up all the calls," Otieno said.

The judge directed Safaricom to send a data analyst to court to help unravel the saga surrounding the phone calls that were made to the lawyer.

Justice Nyakundi termed the issues raised by the lawyer as serious and said the matter should not be taken casually. "I will issue the necessary orders so that Safaricom and the DCI can prove a report on this matter," Nyakundi said.

The three suspects, who were denied bail by the court, have denied killing the marathoner.

Five witnesses, among them daughter Vienna Chepchirchir and an investigating officer, have testified against the accused persons.

Chepchirchir, who testified against her mother, narrated to the court how her parents used to quarrel and fight in their presence over accusations of extramarital affairs.

She claimed in the court that her mother used to accuse their father of cheating on her with a sex worker in Eldoret town.

Chepchirchir said her mother would engage in vicious quarrels with their father as she accused him of cheating on her.

She said Kandie always denied the accusations.

CUT COSTS BY 50%

Uasin Gishu on course to establish Sh700 million asphalt plant

MATHEWS NDANYI

UASIN Gishu county has acquired part of the machinery required to set up an asphalt plant expected to cost Sh700 million.

By establishing the plant, Governor Jonathan Bii is targeting to reduce by 50 per cent the cost of road construction and maintenance in the county.

Such a plant is used to mix aggregates and bitumen to produce asphalt, which is used in road construction, parking lots and other paved surfaces.

The county has purchased and received key components for the establishment of the plant. They include parts forming the main asphalt unit such as a wet scrubber, fuel tank, road construction machinery, trommel machines, asphalt tanks, mineral filler, and a four-bin feeder.

The asphalt plant will process raw materials like stones and bitumen, heating, drying and cleaning them to remove impurities.

These materials will then be mixed in precise proportions to create high-quality asphalt for road construction and surface paving.

Roads executive Abraham Serem said the move signalled a major step in the road construction and maintenance.

"This development marks a major milestone for Governor Bii's administration, as it aims to cut tarmac road construction costs by about 50 per cent, freeing up funds for other development initiatives," he said.

Governor Bii in his manifesto committed to upgrading and maintaining all county road networks to all-weather standards.

"This plant will be installed in Baharini area and will significantly enhance road construction and maintenance, including gravelling and tarmacking," Serem said.

Roads chief officer Geoffrey Tanui said the project is expected to stimulate local economic activity by creating jobs in plant operations, construction and maintenance.

Additionally, the plant will ensure a consistent supply of asphalt for local projects, reducing dependency on external sources.

Governor Bii said good roads is one of his main development targets and his vision is to deliver high-quality roads that require minimal maintenance.



Machines acquired for the asphalt plant in Uasin Gishu /MATHEWS NDANYI

NEWS COUNTIES

MORE PROBLEMS

MP: Revoke new policy on refugee food distribution

The Fafi lawmaker says decision by UNHCR and WFP is shortsighted and damaging

STEPHEN ASTARIKO
@stephenastariko

FAFI MP Salah Yakub has urgently called on UNHCR and the World Food Programme to revoke their new food-distribution policy, enacted in May, which drastically reduces food rations for refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma camps.

Under this policy, daily rations have dropped to roughly 28 per cent of the recommended 2,100 kilocalorie, down from 40 per cent in February 2025. Moreover, the Bamba Chakula cash/voucher assistance has been suspended.

Speaking to the press in Garissa town while unveiling land for the Fafi Madrasa Waqf, Yakub decried the decision as shortsighted and damaging.

“Today ... refugees don’t have food and water. Healthcare is in a total mess; their education is in big trouble ... We are likely to see an increase in malnutrition and insecurity both in the camps and outside the camps where host communities live.”

He warned that cuts have already triggered a rise in poaching and charcoal burning by desperate refugees—a direct consequence of starvation and loss of support systems.

“We demand the total revocation of the current programme. The food ration should be reinstated to what it was before. The single handed decision made by UNHCR and WFP will backfire on them. They should go back to the drawing board and bring back the previous food ration for refugees,” he added.

Yakub called on the President to



Fafi MP Salah Yakub in Garissa town yesterday /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

look into the issue and hold discussions with those concerned least it leads to more problems for both the refugees and the host communities.

In May, hundreds of refugees from the four camps — Dagahaley, Hagadera, Ifo, and Ifo 2 — gathered at Ifo 2 where they held peaceful demonstrations to raise their voices.

The refugees pleaded with the international community, particularly the United States, to reconsider their po-

sitions and urgently restore life-saving humanitarian aid following the funding cuts.

The crisis started following an executive order issued by US President Donald Trump on January 20, 2025 — the day he assumed office — freezing foreign aid, including USAID programmes.

The move has had far-reaching consequences on the refugees who have lived in the camps for decades.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

These food cuts are not just a policy issue—they’re a crisis in motion. WFP’s reduction to 28 per cent of daily kilocalorie intake and removal of cash aid threaten to deepen malnutrition among refugees. The global acute malnutrition rates is at over 13 per cent.

ROUTINE PHYSICAL EXERCISE

Soldier collapses and dies while jogging in Isiolo

CYRUS OMBATI

A soldier collapsed and died while jogging within a military camp in Isiolo town.

Senior Sergeant Humphrey Opondo, 48, died on Tuesday, officials said.

The military police and those from the regular police were informed of the tragedy that happened at the School of Military Engineering.

Preliminary findings show the soldier was among a group that was on a routine morning physical exercise when he collapsed and died. He was rushed to a local dispensary, where he was pronounced dead.

Police said the cause of the death was not immediately established.

The body was moved to the mortuary pending postmortem and other investigations. The soldier’s family was later informed.

Meanwhile, a passenger died inside a bus as it raced to Nairobi from Mandera town.

The driver of the bus told police he was racing through Rhamu-Elwak-Garissa Road on Tuesday when a passenger requested him to stop for him to go for a call of nature. He stopped, allowed the passenger to get out and he came back minutes later.

And after driving for about an hour, the driver was alerted by other passengers the passenger was unresponsive. The passengers said he was dead. The driver stopped the bus and checked on the passenger, confirming he was dead.

He later drove to Elwak town, where he reported the matter.

It was established the victim had medical documents indicating he was headed for Nairobi for medical attention.

FOR 2027

Clan divisions emerge after elders endorse Korane for governor

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

SHARP divisions have emerged among the Abuduwaq clan following the endorsement of former Garissa county boss Ali Korane as the community candidate for the governorship seat in 2027.

On Tuesday, the Abuduwaq consultative committee that was constituted to come up with one candidate for the seat announced it had settled on Korane.

Making the announcement, Ibrahim Salat, the consultative committee chairman, said the nomination was made after due process and extensive vetting of all the aspiring candidates. “We are gathered here today to unveil a candidate for the Abuduwaq community in the forthcoming governorship elections in 2027 in Garissa county,” he said at the community’s shrine.

“As a committee of 28 highly

esteemed members of the society that was constituted to come up with a suitable candidate, we are glad to announce here today that we have concluded the exercise which involved five candidates. We have unanimously agreed to settle on Korane. This was done after intensive consultations, negotiations and all other factors that we had put in place,” Salat said.

The community’s sultan Dekow Sambul, clan elders, former politicians, religious leaders and members attended the event.

After the endorsement, Korane, who was not at the meeting, quickly took to his Facebook page to thank the elders for appointing him.

“I am deeply grateful to the Abuduwaq sultan Dekow Sambul, the grand council of elders and the consultative committee for endorsing my candidature for the Garissa county gubernatorial position. As we move forward,

our focus will be on engaging and uniting with the broader community across Garissa county,” he said.

However, Kenya’s consul-general in Arusha, Abdi Dubat, distanced himself from this development.

Speaking separately, Dubat, who had two weeks ago held a meeting to celebrate his endorsement by the same elders, promised to go all the way to the ballot.

Flanked by a section of community members, Dubat wondered what had changed since his endorsement as the sole candidate recently.

“A few weeks ago, the sultan of the Abuduwaq family made a clear decision on who should be the family’s flagbearer in the upcoming gubernatorial elections. Since then, a group of individuals acting on behalf of external interests has been working aggressively to overturn that decision,” he said.

They have manipulated the

sultan, intimidated elders, spread propaganda and attempted to divide the family to legitimise a fraudulent, self-serving process,” he said.

“The geed, once a respected platform, has now been hijacked

by a clique bent on imposing their will on the people. This betrayal will leave a permanent stain on the credibility of the geed and further erode public trust in negotiated democracy.”



Abuduwaq consultative committee chairman Ibrahim Salat displays the certificate confirming Ali Korane as the sole candidate /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

NEWS COUNTIES



Public Service Jane Imbunya /KNA

BENEFITS

Support government to unlock development, PS urges Luyhas

HILTON OTENYO

Western region has been urged to unite and rally behind the Kenya Kwanza administration in order to unlock development opportunities and government support. Public Service PS Jane Imbunya said unity and political goodwill would enable the region to fully benefit from ongoing development programmes by the national government.

“We cannot talk about prosperity without peace and unity. I urge the people of Vihiga and the Western region in general to support the Kenya Kwanza administration and work together to achieve development,” she said.

During the distribution of government-donated

essential supplies to learning institutions in Vihiga county on Tuesday, Imbunya said the region is already benefiting from the current regime.

She cited ongoing infrastructure development including tarmacking of roads, construction of markets and revival of the sugar industry and several other projects that have been budgeted for this financial year.

Kaimosi Special School, Imusutsu and Muhudu Secondary Schools benefited from foodstuffs such as rice and beans, as well as mattresses, blankets and sanitary towels, aimed at improving both the nutritional and hygienic well-being of students.

“This is part of the broader Kenya Kwanza agenda on inclusive development, which prioritises women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups through targeted empowerment and social protection programmes,” Imbunya said.

The PS called on local leaders and communities to complement state efforts by promoting peace, accountability and inclusivity at all levels, noting that development is a shared responsibility.

BETTER THAN NAIROBI

Kisumu leads in urban planning, experts now say ahead of summit

Urbanisation and construction failures underscore need for innovative planning

FAITH MATETE @faymatete

THE Architectural Association of Kenya has announced that its 2025 annual convention will be held in Kisumu, marking a return of the event to the lakeside city.

Set for October 1-3, the convention will bring together over 4,000 professionals from the built environment sector to explore solutions for building sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities.

During the official launch in Kisumu, Ruth Wanjiku, a landscape architect and secretary general of AAK, said the city was chosen for its exemplary strides in urban planning and infrastructure.

“We are here to launch the AAK Convention Centre for this year, which returns to Kisumu after over 20 years. The theme, ‘Shaping the urban future’, focuses on how pro-

professionals and stakeholders can work together to create better living spaces for our growing urban population,” Wanjiku said.

This year’s convention comes at a time when rapid urbanisation, climate change and construction failures have underscored the need for bold, innovative planning. She praised Kisumu’s development journey, highlighting its structured master plan, improved pedestrian routes, green infrastructure and efforts to implement smarter mobility systems.

“As an intermediary city, Kisumu plays a key role in showing how upcoming urban areas can develop better than even the capital. Nairobi can learn a thing or two. Kisumu is a model worth building on,” she added.

AAK described the annual convention as its flagship event, drawing together architects, engineers, urban planners, landscape designers, quantity surveyors and construction experts



Built Environment Experts honorary registrar: Eng Nashon Tambo, Linnet Kendi from Crown Paints, Kisumu county planner Robert Rawinji, honorary treasurer QS Diana Musyoka and AAK committee president George Arabbu during the unveiling of the 2025 convention in Kisumu /FAITH MATETE

from Kenya and beyond. “This convention is more than just a meeting. It’s a commitment to action. We’re bringing together government, academia, civil society and industry to find practical solutions for Kenya’s urban future,” Wanjiku said.

The discussion will revolve around four thematic areas which include: ‘From plans to reality’, turning urban strategies into effective systems through policy, data and finance; and ‘Designing spaces for life’, which will see the creation of inclusive, safe and high-quality urban environments.

Others are ‘Building climate resilient cities’ to encourage sustainable

transformation and green growth; and ‘Driving urban innovation’ by promoting cross-sector collaboration for next-generation cities.

The convention will also serve as the official launchpad for AAK’s Western branch, in part of the association’s broader push to decentralise and strengthen its regional presence.

“We’ve had a branch in Mombasa before and this new Western branch is one of our newest babies,” Wanjiku noted. “In the spirit of devolution, we want to ensure professionals across all regions are represented, supported and actively engaged.”

Oscar Ogunde, interim chairperson

of the branch, urged professionals to speak out when urban development is compromised.

“When Lwang’ni Beach was demolished, life in Kisumu changed for the worse. That happened because professionals stayed quiet. We must start calling the political class to order,” Ogunde said, stressing the need for collaboration with counties especially where capacity is low.

“Some counties still don’t have enough skilled personnel. This convention will be an opportunity to address that gap and explore how professionals can better support county development.”

REBRANDING IMAGE

Raila to meet ODM delegates in Kakamega ahead of party elections

HILTON OTENYO

ODM leader Raila Odinga is scheduled to meet new party officials in Kakamega on Friday, bringing together delegates elected at the grassroots during constituency-level polls.

Deputy party leader and Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi said the gathering aims to orient the delegates for the upcoming county and national party elections.

“The meeting will also be used to recognise and welcome the new party officials and prepare them for the task ahead of them,” he said.

Having completed the initial phase – from polling stations to wards and constituencies – Osotsi noted that the next step involves internal elections at both county and national levels.

This is part of ODM’s efforts to rejuvenate itself ahead of the 2027 general election and the forthcom-

ing ODM@20 celebrations, across all counties. The meeting will also settle ongoing leadership tensions in Kakamega county. With Governor Fernandes Barasa serving as acting party chairman, a confirmed election for the position is now underway.

“Kakamega will now elect its chairman... We hope this will strengthen the party,” Osotsi said.

Raila is expected to use the meeting to clarify his proposal for a national

conclave to dialogue around issues affecting the country. The conclave is envisioned to bring together political parties, civil society, faith-based leaders and the youth.

During his Saba Saba Day address, the former Prime Minister proposed that the outcome of the planned national “conclave” be subjected to a vote. While the move is framed as a citizen-driven reform agenda, insiders within ODM say it is part of a

broader strategy to rebrand Raila’s image, rebuild grassroots support and strategically reposition him for a possible sixth run for the presidency.

Unlike the contentious Building Bridges Initiative, Raila is fronting the latest effort as constitutionally grounded and citizen-led.

In 2005, the ODM leader used a referendum as a political springboard, defeating then President Mwai Kibaki’s camp.

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Off Elgeyo Road
Tel: 0790 036671

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

SURE AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Court Brokers, Repossessors, Servers, Estate and Commission Agents
NSSF Building, South Wing, 4th Floor, Door 418, Nkrumah Road
P.O. Box 16846 – 80100, Tel: 041-2494910 Cell: 0726-633171
MOMBASA, E-mail: benardgichuki@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our Principals /financiers , We shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicles by Public Auction on **1st August, 2025 starting from 10:30AM at their yards.**

1. AZAN MOTORS LTD		
NO.	M/V REG. NO	MAKE
1.	KCX 516B	NISSAN CARAVAN
2. IWAKI LIMITED		
NO.	M/V REG. NO	MAKE
1.	KDN 253B	MAZDA DEMIO
3. CAR HOUSE LIMITED		
NO.	M/V REG. NO	MAKE
1.	KDJ 807T	TOYOTA HIACE
2.	KDT 078C	TOYOTA ESQUIRE
4. MOTOROLOGY LTD		
NO.	M/V REG. NO	MAKE
1.	KDS 079V	TOYOTA FIELDER
2.	KDM 907P	TOYOTA HIACE
5. AYAN AUTOMOBILES LTD		
NO.	M/V REG. NO	MAKE
1.	KDS 301A	NISSAN LAFESTA
2.	KDP 946V	TOYOTA FIELDER
3.	KDP 122E	NISSAN NOTE
4.	KDS 812Q	TOYOTA PROBOX
5.	KDS 748Q	TOYOTA PROBOX

CONDITIONS OF SALE
1. Strictly cash or bankers cheque at the fall of the hammer.

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Nairobi Office: Nyambene House, 1st Floor, Rm. 21
Tom Mboya Street
P.O. Box 30825-00100
Nairobi
Mobile: 0721-915848/0731-545400
Email: transfieldauctioneers@gmail.com

Kitui Office: 1st Floor
Kitonga Building
Biashara Street
KITUI
Mobile: 0721-915848

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principals under the Distress for Rent Act (Cap. 293) and under the Auctioneers Act, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned goods on **THURSDAY 31ST DAY OF JULY, 2025 at Kitui Township starting from 10.00 am.**

LANDLORD-VS- AGNES N. MUEKE
147 No. Plastic chairs, 33 No. small plastic chairs, 45 No. mattresses, 89 No. Plastic water buckets, 46 No. Jikos, 6 No. plastic water drums, 13 No. plastic coffee tables, 25 No. Plastic washing basins, 8 No. Plastic Water Jerricans and many more items from our various clients.

TERMS OF SALE
STRICTLY cash at the fall of the hammer.

ALL ARE WELCOME

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL & LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)
RENEWAL OF LEASE

The owner of plot **LR NO: 3671/44** Located in Rumuruti, Laikipia West Sub-County is proposing to **renew the use** subject to approval by the County Government of Laikipia. Individuals, Institution and any other interested parties with any material objection to the proposed development are requested to forward them in Writing within Fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

CECM :INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDS, PUBLIC WORKS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA,
P.O. Box 40-20321,
RUMURUTI.
DANIEL KABIRU-0321

PUBLIC NOTICE

GEOLIL ENTERPRISES

UTAH business park Utawala
TEL:0722156396, 0799881576

Dispose of uncollected goods
Pursuant to the provisions of the Disposal of uncollected goods act(cap 38) laws of Kenya, upon expiry of Gazette Notice No. 7814 Dated 13/06/2025, we shall be disposing via private treaty **M/v Reg KBB 339F Land Rover Freelander**, Maroon in colour on **31/07/2025 at 11:00am** at our promises without any further Notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE LAND REGISTRATION ACT
THE LAND REGISTRATION (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 2017
NOTICE FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF LOST OR DESTROYED LAND REGISTER

WHEREAS KIPROTICH KENEI ID NUMBER 21174644 of post office box **5025 ELDORET** is the registered proprietor of all that property known as **Eldoret Municipality Block 14/900** situated in **Uasin Gishu County AND** WHEREAS the land register in respect thereof is lost/destroyed and efforts made to locate the said land register have failed notice is given that after the expiry of **sixty (60) days** from the date hereof, the land register shall be reconstructed provide that no objection has been received with that period

Dated this 24th day of July 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)
PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of plot number **Gaturi/Githimu/10529** located in Blue valley area off Embu-Kiritiri Road intends to **Change use from Agricultural to Commercial cum Residential** subject to approval by the County Government of Embu. Individuals/organizations with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

The CEC-M – Lands, Mining, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development ,
County Government of Embu
P.O. Box, 36 – 60100 Embu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)
PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of plot number **Kagaari/Kanja/11036 & 11037** located in Runyenjes town along (Embu-Meru highway) intends to **Amalgamate and Change of use from Agricultural to Commercial cum Residential** subject to approval by the County Government of Embu. Individuals/organizations with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

The CEC-M – Lands, Mining, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development ,
County Government of Embu
P.O. Box, 36 – 60100 Embu.

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Tel: 041 2220238/2012924
Email: info@makuriauctioneers.co.ke
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PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from the Chief Magistrate's Court at Milimani we shall sell by public auction the under-mentioned goods: -

ON THURSDAY THE 31st DAY OF JULY 2025 STARTING AT 10.30 AM AT LEAKEY'S STORAGE LTD-LUNGALUNGA ROAD.
CMCC NO. E005 OF 2025 – NAIROBI
NEW JOGOO ROAD HARDWARE LTD -VERSUS- RAHISI PEGRA HARDWARE LTD
98 PCS Assorted metal tubes, 43 assorted ppr pipes, 6 conduit pipes, Twisted bar, 32" TV, Microwave, Weighing scale, 10kg assorted nails, assorted paints, 4 manual covers, 6 ceramic urinals, 8 assorted Cisterns, 85 assorted MDF Boards, A flash door, 5 wash sinks, assorted pipe connectors, 13 cuttons tiles, 15 assorted plyboard, Checked plate, 17 assorted iron sheets and One toilet seat

CONDITIONS OF SALE:
1. Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.
2. Viewing can be done during normal working hours with prior arrangement with the office.

WELCOME ALL

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT AT KAJIADO
ELCOS E002 OF 2024
IN THE MATTER OF THE LIMITATION OF ACTIONS ACT, CAP 22, LAWS OF KENYA
-AND-
IN THE MATTER OF PARCEL OF LAND KNOWN AS TITLE NO. KAJIADO/KAPTEI NORTH/11612 -BETWEEN-

JOSEPHAT TUMATE MAINOYA.....APPLICANT
**=VERSUS=
KONGOACHEKE ENTERPRISES LIMITED.....RESPONDENT**

Substituted service by Advertisement (0.5.r.17)
TO: KONGOACHEKE ENTERPRISES LIMITED
TAKE NOTICE: that pursuant to an order by Hon. Justice M.D. MWANGI issued on the **18th July 2025** in this matter substituted service has been authorized by publication of this Notice by way of advertisement in a newspaper of Nationwide circulation on a week day.
A copy of the Originating Summons, Verifying Affidavit and Supporting documents maybe obtained from Kajiado Environment and Land Court Registry or at Applicant's advocates' office through sifunakinisuaadvocates@gmail.com / kinisudavid@yahoo.com.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: that in default of entering appearance on your part within the next **21 days**, the Plaintiff may proceed to apply for judgement in default against you without further notice.
DATED at NAIROBI this 23rd day of July 2025.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO 13 OF 2019)
PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of plot number **Kagaari/Kigaa/9094 & 9095** located in Runyenjes town along (Embu-Meru highway) intends to **Amalgamate Change use from Agricultural to Commercial cum Residential** subject to approval by the County Government of Embu. Individuals/organizations with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

The CEC-M – Lands, Mining, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development ,
County Government of Embu
P.O. Box, 36 – 60100 Embu.



National Environment Management Authority

Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, P O BOX 67839-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: 0724253398, 0735013046, Email: info@nema.go.ke Website: www.nema.go.ke

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LIMESTONE QUARRY AND GREENFIELD CLINKER PLANT AT INDONYIO OLMOTI VILLAGE, MATAPATO SOUTH WARD, OLOILILEI SUB-COUNTY IN KAJIADO COUNTY.

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

The proponent, Karsan Ramji and Sons Limited, proposes to establish a limestone quarry, install and commission a 600 TPD Greenfield Clinker Plant as well as auxiliary infrastructure (site offices, canteen, first aid center, power and water supply systems (including a borehole), a boundary wall and sanitation facilities). The quarry will ensure reliable supply of 900 TPD of limestone, an essential raw material for clinker production. In addition to limestone, clinker production will require other raw materials such as clay/shale (22 TPD), iron ore (11 TPD), siliceous materials (75 TPD) and coal (80 TPD) which will be procured from both local and international markets.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures:

Impacts	Mitigation
Change in land use	• Apply and obtain a change of user from the County Government of Kajado
Poor access road to the project site	• Widen and tarmac the Ibbisil – Mailuu Road in collaboration with Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) • Erect traffic warning signage and observe speed limits of 40km/hr
Potential conflicts with the local community	• Observe speed limits, employ traffic marshals in high risk areas and sensitize drivers on community safety • Develop and implement a Grievances Redress Mechanism (GRM) for conflict resolution
Environmental risks of obtaining raw materials	• Source raw materials from sites that are licensed as per the Environmental Management and Coordination Act Cap 387 of the Laws of Kenya • Procure quantities of construction materials in line with the Bill of Quantities prepared by a Licensed Quantity Surveyor to reduce wastage • Re-use construction materials such as steel and wood cuttings which can be recovered
Loss of vegetation cover	• Landscaping after completion of project • Tree planting within and around the project site (indigenous tree species are advised)
Land degradation	• Develop a comprehensive Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (MRCP) in line with Section 180 of the Mining Act, 2016 • Implement progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas throughout the quarrying phase
Health and safety risks	• Register the site as a workplace with the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services (DOSHS) • Installation works and supervision should be carried out by registered contractors and engineers/architects • Procure and provide adequate and appropriate Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) to workers and visitors to the site and enforce their use • Provide workers with correct tools for jobs assigned and train on their use • Obtain insurance cover for the workers as per WIBA, 2007 • Ensure moving parts of machines and sharp surfaces are securely protected with guards to avoid unnecessary contacts and injuries • Provide a fully equipped first aid kit and trained personnel at the project site • All accidents should be reported, investigated and corrective action taken to prevent recurrence • Develop and implement an emergency response plan • Access to the facility should be controlled to limit exposure to hazards • Conduct first aid training among the workers • Provide a standby or easy to access ambulance service • Establish and maintain an accident/incident register • Reduce the time required for work in high heat areas and ensure access to drinking water • Shield surfaces where workers come in close contact with hot equipment • Comply with provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), 2007
Fire hazards and emergencies	• Develop and implement a fire and emergency evacuation plan • Procure and install adequate firefighting equipment at appropriate locations within the facility • Ensure firefighting equipment are serviced quarterly by accredited fire service providers • Train employees on the use of fire-fighting equipment • Designate a fire assembly point and clearly display emergency exits • Display fire safety and warning signage at appropriate sections of the facility • Ensure proper handling and storage of flammable materials • Plant operations should be undertaken by authorized personnel only • Regular inspection and maintenance of electrical appliances • Conduct annual fire safety audit and fire drills • Comply with the provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), 2007
Mine blasting impacts	• Inform the local community prior to blasting • Establish a buffer zone between the quarry and nearby sensitive areas • Blasting should only be carried out by qualified personnel • Provide and enforce use of earmuffs to all workers and visitors • Use controlled blasting techniques (e.g., timing delays, smaller charge sizes) to minimize shockwaves and ground vibrations • Install blast mats within the quarry to contain fly rock and reduce noise and dust • Conduct noise and vibrations monitoring in compliance with the Environmental Management and Coordination (Noise and Excessive Vibration Pollution) (Control) Regulations, 2009 • Comply with provisions of the Explosive Act, Cap. 115
Air pollution	• Procure, provide and enforce the use of dust masks to workers • Install dust screens around the project site • Sprinkle water at the unpaved access roads and excavation areas and within the facility to suppress fugitive dust • Use of appropriate air emission control technologies and strategies for the plant in compliance with the Seventh Schedule of Air Quality Regulations, 2024 • Cover stockpiles of construction materials to reduce dust emissions especially during windy conditions • Use servicable machinery/equipment and trucks • Monitor fugitive emissions • Comply with the Provisions of Air Quality Regulations, 2024
Noise pollution	• Procure and provide adequate ear muffs to workers at peak noise producing areas • Delivery of raw materials, installation and fabrication works should be limited to day time hours only between 8am to 5pm • Service machinery and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition • Sensitize truck drivers to avoid unnecessary hooting and running of vehicle engines • Conduct noise and vibrations monitoring • Comply with the provisions of Noise and Excessive Vibration Pollution (Control) Regulations, 2009
Solid waste generation	• Use of overburden in backfilling and landscaping post establishment and installation activities • Procure appropriate infrastructure for solid waste management including receptacles with segregation capacity • Designate a central waste collection area for construction debris and commercial wastes • Recycle kiln dust and fly/bottom ash into the clinker production process • Contract a NEMA licensed handler to dispose-off the solid wastes • Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Management and Coordination (Waste Management) Regulations, 2024 and Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022
Water use and effluent management	• Sensitize the workforce on water conservation and management • Install water saving systems such as self-closing taps and low flush water closets • Regular inspection and maintenance of the water distribution network to ensure zero leaks and damages • Keep water consumption records • Install and commission a bio-digester in place of septic tank and soak pit • Monitor the quality of wastewater discharged from the facility • Apply and ensure timely renewal of EDL from NEMA • Comply with the Water Quality Regulations, 2024
Energy demand	• Apply and obtain license to use/transport coal for energy production from EPRA • Procure plant machinery and equipment that feature the latest technology to ensure power efficiency • Supplement electrical supply from the national grid with renewable energy • Install energy saving bulbs • Keep power consumption records • Create awareness among employees on energy conservation • Conduct energy audits at least once every three years and implement the recommendations • Comply with the Energy Act, 2019
Oil spills	• Develop and implement an oil spill containment plan for the facility • Designate specific, well-contained areas for handling and storing oil, fuel, and hazardous chemicals containers • Conduct regular maintenance checks on equipment/machinery to detect and fix leaks early • Procure and train workers on the use of oil spill response kits • Install oil-water separators in drainage systems to prevent contamination of groundwater
Storm water risks	• Design a storm water management plan that minimizes impervious area runoff • Limit access road gradients to reduce runoff induced erosion
Increased traffic	• Develop and implement a traffic management plan • Offload construction materials on the site and not on the road reserves to ensure smooth flow of traffic • Sensitize drivers to observe the designated speed limit along the road • Comply with the provisions of the Traffic Act, 2016
Labour influx and social concerns	• Prepare a site-specific Labor Influx Management Plan and implementation framework which should be approved by KRSI prior to project commencement • Implement measures to prevent, identify, address, and resolve conflicts before and when they occur at the workplace including anonymous reporting systems • Develop and implement a Grievances Redress Mechanism (GRM) for conflict resolution
Climate change risks	• Prepare annual carbon footprint reports and implement the recommendations • Comply with the Climate Change Act 2023 and National Climate Change Action Plan 2023 - 2027

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

- Principal Secretary,
State Department of Environment and Climate Change,
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry,
NHIF Building, 12th Floor
Ragati Road, Upper Hill,
P.O. BOX 30126-00100
NAIROBI
- Director General,
National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA)
Popo Road, off Mombasa Road
P.O. Box 67839-00200,
NAIROBI
- County Director of Environment,
KAJIADO COUNTY

A copy of the EIA report can be downloaded at www.nema.go.ke.

NEMA invites members of the public to submit oral or written comments within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice to the Director General, NEMA to assist the Authority in the decision making process for this project. Kindly quote ref. No. **NEMA/EIA/5/2/2349**

Comments can also be e-mailed to info@nema.go.ke

MAMO B. MAMO
AG. DIRECTOR GENERAL
This advertisement is sponsored by the proponent.



National Environment Management Authority

Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, P O BOX 67839-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: 0724253398, 0735013046, Email: info@nema.go.ke Website: www.nema.go.ke

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED APARTMENTS ON PLOT L.R NO. NAIROBI/BLOCK 21/28 IN KILELESHA, NAIROBI COUNTY.

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

The proponent, **Nidaam Star Limited**, proposes to construct a 20 block storey building and a 3No. basement comprising a total of 260 units (120 one bedrooms, 120 two bedrooms and 20 four bedrooms with some having a DSQ), a borehole for water supply, gym, swimming pool, garden and kids' playground on plot L.r. No. Nairobi/Block 21/28 in Kileleshwa, Nairobi County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures:

Possible Impacts	Mitigation
Clearance of vegetation	• Only clear what is within the construction area • Tree planting
Introduction of invasive species	• Develop an invasive species management framework and protocol to reduce the risk of introducing invasive species
Water contamination	• Proper waste management • Use of well-maintained construction vehicles and equipment • No servicing of equipment on site • Storing excavated soil and construction materials away from waterways • Proper maintenance of the sewerage system
Solid generation waste	• Provision of bins where waste will be disposed of on-site • Contracting a NEMA licensed waste collection company to collect waste from the site weekly • Preparation of site waste management plan which outlines expected waste streams and modes of disposal • Reduction in the amount of solid waste generated by reducing the packaging of materials • Workers' sensitization on waste management
Excessive noise and vibration	• Reduce the idling time of vehicles. • Construction vehicle drivers should be advised not to hoot unnecessarily. • Construction vehicles, equipment and machinery should be well maintained to reduce their noise levels. Sound-dampening mats may be installed in extremely noisy machinery/equipment. • Working hours should be restricted to day time and a notice served to the neighbours indicating the working hours. • Workers should be provided with earmuffs.
Reduced air quality	• Ensure that construction vehicles and machinery are well-maintained to reduce the volume of exhaust fumes • Encouraging the use of unleaded fuel • Vehicles transporting sand and/or soil/earth spoils should be covered to prevent them from being blown into the air • During construction, dust nets should be placed around the building to trap fugitive dust. • Workers should be issued with dust masks or respirator masks.
Spread of diseases	• Train and sensitize employees and the community on HIV and AIDS. • Have HIV and AIDS educational posters around the site • The Contractor shall, through a qualified and approved HIV/AIDS service provider, undertake measures to reduce the risk of the transfer of the HIV between and among the Contractor's Personnel and the local community; • Programmes should be developed and integrated into the project implementation for sensitizing the local community and project workers on HIV/AIDS and/or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). • Provision of Male or Female Condoms for all Site staff and labour as appropriate. • Integrate monitoring of HIV/AIDS preventive activities as part of the construction supervision.
Occupational Health and Safety	• Prepare and implement an Occupational Health and Safety Management Plan • Train workers on safe work procedures and basics of health and safety in the workplace • Ensure relevant safety signs are erected at the required places • High-risk activities should only be conducted by persons well trained and experienced in the field • Provide the right tools for the right task • Ensure machinery is inspected and maintained regularly • Provide workers with relevant PPE for the different tasks being conducted • Have relevant professionals to assist at the site, such as a health and safety officer, first aider and fire fighters.
Emission of greenhouse gases	• Use materials with lower embodied carbon, such as recycled steel, concrete aggregates, etc • Source materials locally to reduce transportation emissions • Optimize structural design to reduce the overall quantity of materials needed • Install rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate on-site renewable electricity. • Install energy-efficient elevator systems. • Specify high-efficiency lighting (LEDs) and appliances. • Provide facilities and encourage residents to sort and recycle waste
Increased population	• Create awareness on the proper use of resources. • Installation of automatic taps • Consider the use of renewable energy, such as solar
Increased surface runoff	• Stormwater drains should be placed to facilitate stormwater channeling and prevent soil erosion or flooding. • Roof water harvesting should be practiced to reduce stormwater and also as a water conservation technique.

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

- Principal Secretary,
State Department of Environment and Climate Change,
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry,
NHIF Building, 12th Floor
Ragati Road, Upper Hill,
P.O. BOX 30126-00100
NAIROBI
- Director General, NEMA
Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road,
P.O. Box 67839-00200
NAIROBI
- County Director of Environment,
NAIROBI COUNTY

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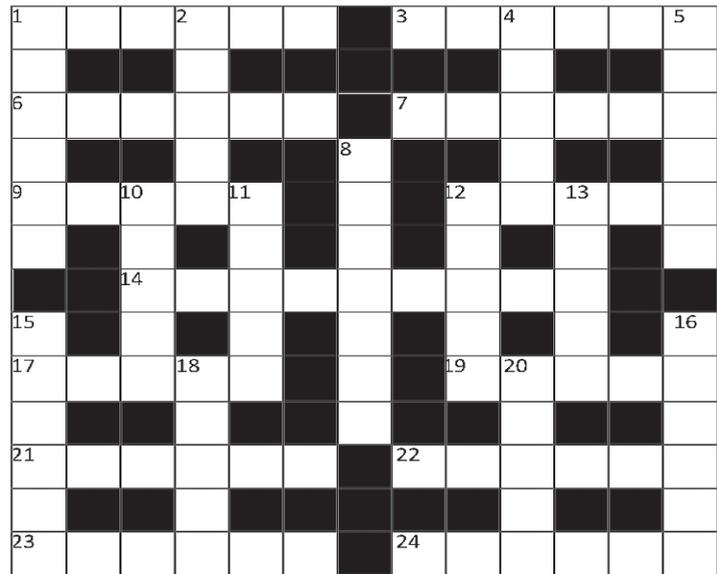
DIRECTOR GENERAL

This advertisement is sponsored by the proponent.

Please accept our apologies for incorrectly publishing the title as "AG Director General" instead of Director General.

COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD / PUZZLE



DOWN

1. A small program used to carry out a particular task, usually on a webpage (6)
2. What is the Latin name of the constellation The Scales(5)
4. Member of parliament for North Imenti constituency(5)
5. Member of parliament for Laisamis constituency (5)
8. The title of a screen displaying the list of accent colors (7)
10. What is the Latin name of the constellation The Dragon (5)
11. Member of parliament for Nambale constituency (5)
12. To terminate abruptly, often used in reference to program or procedure in progress (5)
13. Inclinet/server applications, a process that mediates between the client and the server (5)
15. Member of parliament for Women in Siaya County (6)
16. A location or selection of text in a file that you name for reference purposes (6)
18. Member of parliament for Konoin constituency (5)
20. Constituency in Garissa County (5)

ACROSS

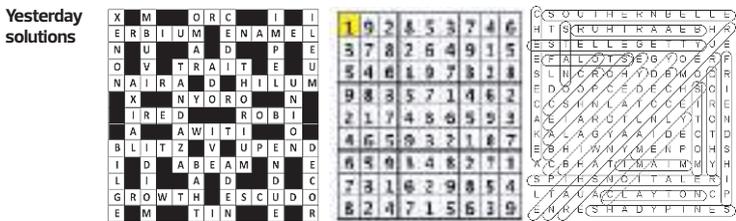
1. Pertaining to the traditional format in which audio and video are transmitted (6)
3. Member of parliament for Banissa constituency (6)
6. The larger of the two moons of mars (6)
7. Club (6)
- 9 Constituency in Wajir County (5)
12. A visual or auditory signal from a computer alerting the user to an error (5)
14. The talus (9)
17. Member of parliament for Nyatike constituency (5)
19. What is the appropriate name of the largest moon of Saturn (5)
21. Point in the orbit of the moon or a satellite which is distant from the earth (6)
22. Visible spirit (6)
23. Former Member of Parliament for Butula constituency (6)
24. Which massive, extremely remote celestial object emits very large amount of energy (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.

Yesterday solutions



WORD SEARCH

Y D S E E R T P G R E E N G E E B
 E E R H O L E S A O T H L R K R A
 F C G A S E L U R C C R A C O O L
 H D I O Z C H I P A I P A E R C L
 F O A L B A T R O S S D S C T S C
 L O L I S O H R P B D U N R S S O
 A W E E H R P R A I O T O A R S U
 G S R S I P E C E H R D E O H O R
 S S O S A N K K B T N G U E K R S
 T B C W N N O U N O A G B A O G E
 I U S I I O L N C U H W I G O F A
 C L T N G C R O E O B D R L H F F
 K C E G W F A I R W A Y D E A O L
 K S N P O E G N A R G N I V I R D
 I N I P S K C A B E G D E W L E E
 D R E T T U P T O V I D R I V E R

Find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

- ALBATROSS
- APPROACH
- BACK NINE
- BACKSPIN
- BALL
- BIRDIE
- BOGEY
- BUNKER
- CADDIE
- CART
- CHIP
- CLUBHOUSE
- CLUBS
- CONDOR
- COURSE
- DIVOT
- DRIVER
- DRIVING RANGE
- EAGLE
- FAIRWAY
- FLAGSTICK
- FORE
- GREEN
- GRIP
- GROSS
- SCORE
- HANDICAP
- HOLE IN ONE
- HOLES
- HOOK
- IRON
- NET SCORE
- PAR
- PUTTER
- ROUGH
- RULES
- SHOT
- SLICE
- STROKE
- SWING
- TEE OFF
- TREES
- WATER
- HAZARD
- WEDGE
- WOOD

ALL IN THE STARS



LEO

July 23 – August 22

Reach for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, Leo. It's closer than you think.

VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

Don't worry if your plan doesn't seem to make rational sense. Worry more about what you want and less about how you're going to get it.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

There's an incredible opportunity opening up in which you can make great strides in a creative realm.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

The more you accept your bizarre feelings and ideas, the more things will fall into place.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

You have nothing to lose by following you heart. Bring more of your fantasy world into your everyday life.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

Combine old traditions with new and innovative techniques. The more imaginative, the better.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

Spend time meditating and clearing your head of daily worries. Relaxing activities are the best way to spend today.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

There's no limit to the things that can be realized on a day like this. Push your limits and test your boundaries.

ARIES

March 21 – April 20

Remember that as you accept praise for success, you also need to be willing to accept the blame of failure.

TAURUS

April 21 – May 21

Don't let indecisiveness hinder you. At the same time, don't view it as something negative. Go with the flow.

GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

The first step is always to believe in yourself and the fact that anything is possible.

CANCER

June 22 – July 22

If people start to hassle you today or give you a hard time about your appearance, pay them no mind.

French cities impose curfews on children after drug violence

BBC/ A number of French cities have imposed night-time curfews on young people following a spate of violence linked to drug trafficking.

Nîmes in the south was the latest to bring in measures, which authorities said were meant to prevent under 16s from being "exposed to violence" and to "contain tensions". Additional police units will also be sent in.

Over the course of the last month several shootings – one in broad daylight – left one person dead and several injured. Last week the body of a 19-year-old man was found partially burned on the outskirts of Nîmes.

Announcing the curfew – in force between 21:00 and 06:00 – mayor Jean-Paul Fournier said the situation had become "untenable" and that drug traffickers had created a "climate of fear and terror".

Deputy mayor Richard Schieven said the curfew would protect minors not involved in the drug trade "but also those aged 12 or 13 who are exploited by drug traffickers".

Béziers, 120km to the south-west, has had a curfew in place for children under 13 between 23:00 and 06:00 since last year and expanded it to under 15s in certain areas last March. "No 10-year-old out on the street at 02:00 is up to anything but mischief," said mayor Robert Ménard in 2024.

Despite the measures, Béziers continues to be plagued by violence. At the weekend balaclava-clad youths lured police and then attacked them with fireworks, local media reported.

A similar incident occurred in Limoges in southwestern France. The city has also imposed curfew measures for under 13s for the duration of the summer holidays – but following violence involving 100 people at the weekend Mayor Émile Roger Lombertie said the results of the measures were "not good".

TELEVISION LINEUP – THURSDAY



5:00AM	MORNING DECREE	4:30PM	KIKI AND NUNA
5:30AM	TV47 FITNESS	5:00PM	BEATPLUG
6:00AM	MORNING CAFÉ	7:00PM	UPEO WA TV47
10:00AM	BEAT BREAK	7:30PM	MFAHAMU
11:00AM	TV47 MATUKIO	8:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
2:00PM	BAZE 47	8:30PM	NEW LIFE BEGINS
3:00PM	THE DEBATE CYCLE - RPT	9:00PM	THE GREEN FIX WITH SHIKSHA ARORA
4:00PM	TV47 NEWS NOW	11:00PM	DW DOCUFILM
4:15PM	BEAT KIDS	12:00AM	BEATPLUG MIX

ODDLY ENOUGH



SPORTS LOCAL

RUGBY



KCB forward Elvis Olukusi in action against Menengai Oilers during a past encounter **HANDOUT**

MWANJA'S MISSION

Four-time champions KCB target National Sevens Series title

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

FOUR-TIME champions KCB target a top-two finish in the 2025/26 National Sevens Series, which starts with the Driftwood 7s in Mombasa this weekend.

Head coach Dennis Mwanja said he believes the target is within reach.

“Our target is to be in the top two. I know the competition is going to be tough. Teams have prepared well, but with the roster we have, we should be able to be in the hunt for all six legs of the series,” said Mwanja.

The bankers endured a trophyless season in the 15s category, having lost to Oilers in the Kenya Cup semis and Kabras in the Enterprise Cup.

The bankers played a mini tournament last weekend at the Lions Den in Ruaraka, where they faced NYS, Northern Suburbs, and Mount Kenya University in a four-team tournament.

“It (the tournament) was an

eye-opener. We established the areas we need to strengthen and tighten to win in Mombasa,” noted Mwanja.

Mwanja’s charges are in Pool ‘C’, where they face a resurgent Nondies side, Daystar Falcons and hosts Mombasa Sports Club.

“I saw them (Nondies) playing in the Ruff and Tuff Sevens event. They are a dangerous side. Daystar always rise to the occasion, and have Shujaa’s Patrick Odiongo in their ranks while Mombasa, playing at home, would like to do well. But we are ready for battle,” noted Mwanja.

The Kenya Lionesses coach said they have had a robust pre-season and believes his charges are up to the task.

“The players are in good shape and from a tactical standpoint, I believe we have ticked all boxes,” he said.

Mwanja has retained the core of the team from last season, and that includes the likes of Kenya Sevens star Samuel Asati, Vincent Onyala,

Festus Shiasi, Elvis Olukusi, Brian Wahinya, Emmanuel Opondo, Levi Amunga and Austin Sikutwa.

The bankers have added Kelvin Ochieng and Melvin Mweresa from Northern Suburbs, Collins Oduor from Nondies, Kabras Sugar trio of Biko Brandon, Joseph Wanja and Ian Oduor, Kenya Sevens skipper George ‘Japolo’ Ooro, John Aswani and Steven Osumba from Strathmore Leos, Mike Oduor from Daystar Falcons, Clyde Kimaya, Haffith Muhammad from South Coast Pirates.

Mwanja expects a competitive series, especially with the likes of champions Quins, Kabras and Oilers in the mix.

“The three teams will be the favourites, but as you know, Sevens is unpredictable and there will be twists and turns,” said Mwanja.

TENNIS

Team Kenya enter 10-day camp at Karen Club ahead of Billie Jean Cup tourney

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

TEAM Kenya has embarked on a 10-day camp at the Karen Country Club as they intensify preparations for the Billie Jean King Cup tournament in Namibia, scheduled from August 4 to 11.

Coach Thuku Rogoi said the move from Nairobi Club to Karen aims at helping the players familiarise themselves with a hard court ahead of the Southern Africa encounter.

“The eight to nine days we have before departure will be vital. The duration gives the players an opportunity to adjust. A good number of our players were playing on clay and murrum, so this is good for the team,” said Rogoi.

He is satisfied with the players’ preparations for the week-long tournament. However, the African Games champion Angela Okutoyi will link up with the rest of the team on Saturday after competing at the FISA University Games in Germany.

US-based duo of Alicia Owegi and Cynthia Cheruto are already in camp, buoyed by their performances in the US Collegiate circuit. Melissa Mwakha is playing at the J100 tournaments in Zimbabwe and Namibia, while Stacy Yego played in the just concluded J30 and J60 tournaments, where she reached the quarterfinals.

Rogoi said they will leverage last year’s experience, where Team Kenya finished third.

“We must continue with the same players from last year to capitalise on the gains then. They have polished up the areas they struggled in,” noted Rogoi.

The ITF has changed the promotion rules for this year, with only one slot available. The Group III winners will face the relegated team from Group II, with Rogoi insisting that there will be no margin for error.

“It’s going to be tough now that we have only one slot available, and even if you win, you have to face the relegated team. But we are well prepared for the challenge ahead,” said Rogoi.

There will be three pools of four teams each. Pool

winners proceed to the second, which will be played on a round-robin format. In

addition to Kenya and the hosts Namibia, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Madagascar and Morocco have confirmed their entries.



Angela Okutoyi/**FILE**

Bomet Stadium set for major upgrade ahead of 2025/26 Premier League season



Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen takes a penalty at IAAF Bomet Stadium **/HANDOUT**

ANGWENYI GICHANA

THE IAAF Bomet Stadium will be upgraded to host Kenyan Premier League games next season, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has said.

Murkomen, patron of newly promoted Premier League side Administration Police Service (APS) Bomet, made the announcement when he inspected the facility.

The CS said immediate plans include construction of changing rooms, inner perimeter fence, and drainage system. However, the facility is unlikely to be ready to host KPL matches when the season kicks off on September 20.

“The playing surface, inner perimeter fence, and changing rooms need to be revamped before the stadium can host (KPL) matches. As the club’s patron, I’m mobilising resources to ensure they can compete and win trophies,” said the CS.

The CS said having two teams from the disciplined forces in the country’s top flight is a testament to the hard work, discipline, and professionalism of the police service.

“Investing in them supports talent development and fosters a better police-community relationship,” noted the CS, an avid footballer and a Manchester United fan.

He was accompanied by Bomet County Senator Hillary Sigei,

DIG-APS Gilbert Masengeli, Bomet Deputy Governor Shadrack Rotich and Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund CEO, Nuh Ibrahim.

The club has named Bishop Fred Akama as the chairman, while the management is in the process of assembling a management board.

Meanwhile, former Gor Mahia assistant coach Michael Nam is the new APS head coach. Evans Mafuta, who helped the club qualify for the Premier League, will remain as an assistant coach.

He holds a CAF ‘B’ licence, while FKF regulations require Premier League head coaches to have a CAF ‘A’ licence.



FOOTBALL

ATHLETICS

'REDEFINING SPORTS'

BY TEDDY MULEI

PRESIDENT William Ruto is confident that the Talanta Sports City, currently under construction at the Jamhuri Grounds in Nairobi, will be a game-changer in Kenya's quest to reclaim its place as a sporting powerhouse on the African continent.

The 60,000-seater football-only stadium is one of the flagship venues for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon), which Kenya will co-host alongside Uganda and Tanzania under the Pamoja Bid that triumphed in April 2023.

The project, which started on March 1, 2024, is being executed by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), with a projected completion timeline of two years.

Once complete, it will be the largest purpose-built sports facility in the country since the iconic Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, which opened in 1987 ahead of the All-Africa Games.

Speaking Wednesday at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) during the ceremonial bell-ringing for LINZI FinCo Trusts' Sh44.7 billion Infrastructure Asset-Backed Security (IABS), Ruto underscored the transformative impact of the stadium on Kenya's sporting future.

"With a 60,000-seater capacity, Talanta Sports City is not merely filling that long-standing gap; it is redefining the nation's sporting landscape," Ruto said.

He emphasised that the ultra-modern facility will not only attract top-tier global tournaments but also serve as a cradle for nurturing local talent, reviving Kenya's long-standing reputation as a continental sporting juggernaut.

"This modern, world-class complex is designed to host global tournaments, foster local talent, and restore Kenya's reputation as a sporting powerhouse."

Ruto noted that Talanta Sports City marks a historic return to investment in high-calibre sporting infrastructure, a first in over four decades.

"The Talanta Sports City marks Kenya's first large-scale, purpose-built international stadium project in more than 40 years," he added.

"The last comparable undertaking was the construction of Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, completed in 1987 ahead of the All-Africa Games."

He added that Kenya has since been relying on aged infrastructure. "Since then, Kenya has relied on ageing infrastructure, with no new international-standard stadium built from the

Talanta Stadium to transform Kenya's sporting landscape, says President Ruto



President William Ruto juggles the ball at Kasarani Stadium/ HANDOUT

ground up — until now."

The head of state further lauded the listing of the Linzi 003 IABS on the NSE, describing it as a pivotal step in leveraging capital markets to fund transformative national projects.

"The listing of the Linzi 003 Infrastructure Asset-Backed Security is a landmark achievement. It affirms our confidence in market-based financing and demonstrates how we can sus-

tainably fund large-scale infrastructure through our capital markets.

He confirmed that the funds will go into financing the construction of the Talanta Sports City. "The proceeds from this listing will directly support the construction of the Talanta Sports City Stadium, a compelling example of how financial markets can accelerate national transformation."

Youngster Aluvi targets global glory after historic U20 gold medal in Nigeria



Clinton Aluvi with his parents at the JKIA after returning from the African U18/U20 championships / TEDDY MULEI

BY TEDDY MULEI

CLINTON Aluvi is dreaming bigger and faster after etching his name in the history books as the first Kenyan ever to win gold in the men's 100m at the African Under-20 Championships.

The 19-year-old sprint prodigy stormed to victory in 10.45 seconds during the continental showpiece in Abeokuta, Nigeria, announcing his arrival on the big stage in style.

South Africa's Karabo Letebele placed second in 10.54 with Nigeria's Caleb John clocking 10.61 for third place. Buoyed by his record-breaking feat, Aluvi believes the Abeokuta win is just the beginning of a glittering sprinting journey.

"Going forward, I know I will be representing Kenya in major competitions," Aluvi said.

The Utawala Sprints Club athlete may soon don national colours again after being named in Kenya's 4x100m relay team for the upcoming Tokyo World Championships. He joins a formidable line-up featuring Africa's fastest man Ferdinand Omanyala, alongside Steve Odhiambo, Meshack Babu, Mark Otieno, Dennis Mwai and Isaac Omurwa.

Despite being his debut on the international stage in Nigeria, Aluvi credits his stellar performance to unwavering belief from his coaches and teammates.

"It was my first time representing Kenya at a major competition and I thank God for the performance I was able to deliver. The coaches believed I would deliver, and I am thankful for that. My team, Utawala Sprints Club, also gave me a lot of motivation," he said.

He praised Omanyala for inspiring the squad during their residential camp at Kasarani.

"Omanyala also encouraged us a lot. He came to our residential camp and gave us motivation, which was very crucial," he said. Team Kenya in Nigeria was able to amass 34 medals (13 gold, 12 silver and nine bronze).

He called on Athletics Kenya to channel more support towards women in sprints, noting that female representation remains worryingly low.

"In sprints, we are coming up well. I hope the federation can support us more, especially the female sprinters, because we don't have many in the country," he added.

Aluvi, however, pointed out a few challenges off the track, particularly with the spicy local cuisine.

"The only challenge was the food; it was very spicy, but we spoke to the coaches and adjustments were made," he noted.

AK Youth Secretary Joseph Ilovi hailed the performance of the sprinters as a sign of better things to come.

"We are waking up in terms of sprints.

We were able to get four medals from the Championships, which is very positive," Ilovi noted. "We have a bright future ahead in the sprints."

Brian Okoth clinched bronze in the U20 200m (21.32), while in the U18 category, Simeon Araka won the boys' 400m gold (47.46) with Robert Sang taking bronze (47.89).

GOLF

Sunshine Tour returns with coastal region double-header

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

THE Sunshine Development Tour—East Africa Swing—will resume in August with a double-header in Mombasa and Kwale Counties.

Nyali Golf and Country Club in Mombasa will stage its third leg of the Tour from August 4-6. It will be followed by the fourth leg from August 9-11, at the Diamonds Leisure Beach and Golf Resort on the South Coast.

Each of the Coast legs will be played over three rounds with a total prize purse of Sh2m per event.

Players will also earn Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points and World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points, reinforcing the Tour's role as an exclusive pathway to global golfing opportunities in East Africa.

The tournaments will feature professional and elite amateur male and female golfers, drawn from East Africa, West Africa and from South Africa's Big Easy Tour.

Sunshine Development

Tour's East Africa

Swing promoter,

Charles Gacheru,

said: "We are

excited to take the

tour to the Coast

Region. Both Nyali and

Leisure

are top-rated golf courses, and play-

ing at the Kenyan Coast provides

players with a different experience

and challenge."

He added: "The Tour isn't just

about prize money. It is more about

offering players a clearly defined

pathway to the global world of golf,

and this is the only Tour in East

Africa that provides a structured and

defined pathway to events such as the

Olympic Games."

The Tour is the only pathway in the region that offers official World Golf Ranking points, which are mandatory for Olympic qualification and a clear pathway to one of the world's top golf tours, the Sunshine Tour.

"Members of the Tour in the region have access to playing opportunities on the Big Easy Tour in South Africa, limited invite slots into the Sunshine Tour and the Sunshine Ladies Tour. At the end of the season, our members will have the opportunity to compete for Sunshine Tour cards," Gacheru

remarked.



Njoroge Kibugu/HANDOUT

BOXING

Team Dubois to hold 'internal inquest' after Usyk pre-fight 'gathering'

BBC

DANIEL Dubois' team will hold an "internal inquest" after a video surfaced showing a reported "gathering" at his house just hours before his defeat by Oleksandr Usyk on Saturday.

Dubois, 27, arrived at Wembley Stadium less than two hours before his ring walk.

He was stopped in the fifth round, losing his IBF title as Ukraine's Usyk, 38, became a two-time undisputed heavyweight world champion.

The Londoner's trainer, Don Charles, said he could not confirm the accuracy of the video but admitted that it had taken place, with what he believed to be more than 30 people in attendance.

"I would like to change the word from party to gathering," Charles told BBC Sport. He added an internal review into the

events of fight night is expected, with promoter Frank Warren and his son George set to hold talks with Dubois' team.

"There's a meeting pending," Charles said. "We'll hold an internal inquest on what happened. Questions will be asked by Frank and George Warren."

Charles explained that a similar event had been held before Dubois' shock victory over Anthony Joshua in September, when he knocked out the former champion in the ninth round.

"It's not unusual," he said. "This gathering is the same gathering which was used for the AJ fight day preparation."

"A lot was made of Daniel's ring walk for that fight – how enthusiastic and confident he looked – and people were praising him."

There are unconfirmed reports the gathering was organised by Dubois' father, and suggestions the fighter left during the event to

go for a short drive. Charles rejected claims this was a sign of distress.

"To put logic to it, the father mainly replicated the recipe that worked against AJ to hopefully get a victory last Saturday. And it didn't work. Consequently, there is now a big highlight on this party, which was a gathering," he said.

"Daniel went for a drive, like you do. He's a fighter who's fighting on that day. If he wanted to get some fresh air or whatever, it's not unusual to say 'I'm going for a drive.'"

It is also alleged that some members of Dubois' entourage were refused entry to the venue, contributing to the late arrival.

Charles said he was unaware of that situation but was content with how Dubois presented himself on arrival.



Oleksandr Usyk in action with Daniel Dubois /HANDOUT

FOOTBALL

GUNNERS MUSCLE UP

Mosquera in Arsenal squad ahead of completing Emirates move

SINGAPORE

VALENCIA'S Spain Under-21 defender Cristhian Mosquera is on the verge of signing for Arsenal after joining up with the squad on the club's Asian tour in Singapore.

Mosquera has reportedly agreed a five-year contract, with an option to extend his stay for a further year, with Arsenal paying Valencia an initial fee of 13 million pounds.

21-year-old Mosquera has been one of the few bright spots as Valencia has struggled to avoid relegation from La Liga in the past two seasons, with the youngster missing just two games in the 2023-24 campaign and just one last season, with his power in the air and pace vital factors in keeping the club in the elite.

He will be Arsenal's fifth signing of the summer as the club aims to go one better than last season's second place in the Premier League, with goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga and forward Noni Madueke signing from Chelsea, midfielder Christian Norgaard coming in from Brentford and Martin Zubimendi joining from Real Sociedad.

Arsenal is also believed to be close to finalizing a deal for Swedish striker Viktor Gyokeres, with talks reportedly at an "extremely advanced stage."

Meanwhile Zubimendi gave an interview on the club website explaining that Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta was one reason he had decided to join the north-London outfit.

"I don't know what he saw in me but what I saw in him is that he's a top coach in Europe," Zubimendi said.

"When I wanted to leave (Real Sociedad) I wanted a quality coach. I've seen how obsessive and detailed he is with his game so I think I've found the right one."

"It's a change for me. It's the change I wanted. And since the first day I've been here I've noticed the greatness of this club and I'm adapting," said the Spain international.

Despite following Merino to Emirates Stadium, the pair "didn't speak much" about the prospect of being reunited during their year apart.

"I think we were fighting for big things," said Merino, who also plays alongside Zubimendi with Spain. "For me it was a really tough season last year and he was really focused in Sociedad."

"Even with the national team we didn't touch that subject. I guess I was only focused on my thing. I was asking him how



Valencia's Cristhian Mosquera vies with Vinicio Junior of Real Madrid during a Spanish La Liga match at Santiago Bernabeu on April 5 /XINHUA

he was doing at Sociedad, but we didn't talk about our future."

The signing of Zubimendi alongside Christian Norgaard from Brentford means that Merino will have a bigger battle to get into the starting XI, with Declan Rice and captain Martin Odegaard also playing in the same area of the pitch.

"It's unbelievable the amount of quality and talent that we have, not only in the midfield but in the whole squad," said Merino. "I think this is a great, great thing to have."

"It's not only pushing each other in every training session and every game to get better, but as well, we saw last year, and we have examples now, how important it is to have a long squad with every player available."

"Because injuries can happen, because rotations need to happen. Hopefully this season we can show that we are a strong

squad."

Zubimendi is a statement signing for the Gunners and it is hoped he can be the catalyst to help the club to begin a new era of winning trophies after coming so close in recent seasons.

"I hope so," said Zubimendi. "The most important thing about this club is that they learn from previous seasons."

"I think the lessons they've learned from how last season ended will be key to getting even closer to this year's targets."

"Ultimately, I believe that football comes down to details, especially in the Champions League."

"I feel that Arsenal were the only team in that semi-final who truly stood up to PSG [Paris St-Germain], and they let it slip because of minor details."

"I also agree with Merino that it's a long season, and injuries play an important role, so the fewer we have, the better."

HIGHLIGHTS

Formula 1 on road to zero carbon emissions by 2030

BBC

FORMULA 1 says it is on target to become net zero in the next five years – effectively having zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The sport has delivered a 26 per cent reduction since 2018, from the equivalent of 228,793 tonnes of CO2 a year to 168,720, according to its annual sustainability report.

F1's president Stefano Domenicali said the five-year net zero target was a "concrete goal" and "already visible in the significant reduction of our sport's carbon footprint".

"We are proud of what we have achieved so far and remain determined to continue on this path," he said.

F1 launched its sustainability strategy in 2019 with a long-term commitment to reduce carbon emissions in areas like travel, logistics, and energy use.

Changing the now 24-race calendar, so grands prix are grouped together by region to reduce travel, has also helped F1 in its quest for greater sustainability, with Japan moving to an April slot and Azerbaijan twinning with Singapore in the autumn since the 2024 season.

Team factories are now using more green energy such as wind and solar power, resulting in a 59 per cent reduction in emissions from these facilities compared to seven years ago.

Other initiatives that have contributed include F1 expanding the use of biofuel trucks for transporting freight in Europe, which reduced related carbon emissions by an average of 83 per cent.

Uganda to host Asia/Africa 2027 World Cup play-off

XINHUA

UGANDA will host the Asia/Africa play-off match for the 2027 Rugby World Cup, with Namibia facing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on July 26 at Mandela National Stadium in Kampala.

Namibia, who lost to Zimbabwe in the African qualifiers, will have a second chance to keep their World Cup hopes alive in this decisive encounter against UAE.

"We are happy the Asia/Africa play-off will also come to Uganda," said Rugby Africa president Herbert Mensah. "It's a great opportunity for Uganda to host another major match. We thank the government and the Uganda Rugby Union for making this possible."

The UAE team arrived in Uganda on Tuesday. A win over Namibia would send them to the World Rugby Repechage Tournament, scheduled for November 2025, keeping their path to the 2027 World Cup in Australia alive.

The repechage will be a four-team round-robin tournament featuring the Asia/Africa play-off winner, the fifth-place team from Europe, the third-place team from South America, and the loser of the South America/Pacific play-off.

RUGBY

Four-time champs
KCB target National
Sevens Series title

SEE PAGE 29



THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

starSPORT

Matano confident as KCB rebuilds for Premier League title push

BY TONY MBALLA

KCB head coach Robert Matano is confident in his newly reinforced squad ahead of the 2025/26 Kenyan Premier League season, promising a competitive and exciting campaign.

The veteran tactician spoke following a string of bold moves by the club to revamp its roster, signalling KCB's intent to challenge for top honours in the country's top-flight football league.

"We are building a team that balances experience with emerging talent," Matano said during a training session at the club's Nairobi base. "Our goal is to compete at the highest level, and I'm confident this squad has what it takes."

KCB have brought in a mix of seasoned and rising players to strengthen key areas of the pitch. The new signings include midfield maestro Hemphrey Mieno, striker Gideon Were, creative midfielder Rowland Makati, and versatile defender Kelvin Injili.

Other additions expected to add both depth and dynamism to the squad are Arnold Muhanji, Fortune Omoto, Amatton Samunya, Josephat Andafu and Tedja Wanumbi. With the new season on the horizon, Matano highlighted the importance of integrating the recruits quickly into his system and building chemistry in the squad.

"These players have shown great hunger and attitude in training," said Matano.

"They bring the right mentality and professionalism, and I believe they will play a big role in helping us achieve our objectives."

The club has also made strategic additions to the technical bench, hiring seasoned trainer John Njogu, who's arrival is expected to improve player fitness and conditioning, two aspects Matano insists are critical to success.

Robert Matano /FILE



★FOOTBALL

Baraza ditches KK Homeboyz for Pamba Jiji

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

TANZANIA Premier League side Pamba Jiji FC will camp in Kenya for their pre-season, according to the newly appointed coach Francis Baraza.

Baraza said he has lined up friendly matches against FKF Premier League side Shabana in Kisii, Kaka-mega Homeboyz and other Nairobi-based teams for the visitors.

"We shall be in Kenya for a couple of weeks to prepare for the upcoming season. We have lined up exciting friendly games against Kenya Premier League teams," said Baraza.

Baraza joined the Mwanza-based side on Wednesday after parting ways with Kakamega Homeboyz.

"I want to thank the management of Kakamega Homeboyz for allowing me to join Pamba Jiji. I have heard a good relationship with the management, the players, and other stakeholders," said the CAF-licensed coach.

At Pamba Jiji, he will be re-united with former Shabana striker Mathew Tegisi, who joined the team in January.

Previously, coach Baraza (pictured) coached Musoma-based Biashara United, Kagera Sugar and Dodoma Jiji in Tanzania and helped the teams survive relegation. Pamba Jiji were 11th last season.

"The Tanzanians know how to treat coaches. They give us a free hand to do our work, and the working conditions are better than here at home. It's always a refreshing challenge to work in Tanzania," he remarked.



FOOTBALL

PREPS INTENSIFY

McCarthy's charges confident as Stars target historic CHAN 2024 campaign

BY TONY MBALLA

AS the 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN) fast approaches, Harambee Stars players have exuded confidence in Kenya's readiness to mount a strong campaign in the continental showpiece.

The tournament, featuring 19 teams, kicks off on August 2, with Kenya placed in Group A and set to play all group matches at the Moi International Sports Centre (MISC), Kasarani.

Speaking after a training session at Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi on Wednesday, skipper Abud Omar said the squad is motivated and united ahead of the challenge.

"We are fully focused. The players are giving everything in training, and there's a great sense of purpose in camp. We want to make our nation proud," Omar said.

Head coach Benni McCarthy emphasised that the team will engage in a series of friendly matches to help fine-tune tactics and improve match sharpness ahead of the tournament.

"We need competitive minutes to assess the players under pressure and test different combinations," McCarthy said. "These friendlies are vital to our preparation, and I'm happy with the progress so far."

The former South African international and Uefa Champions League winner expressed satisfaction with the commitment he has seen from the squad.

"There's real hunger in this team. Every player wants to represent Kenya at CHAN, and that competitiveness is healthy."

Midfielder Marvin Nabwire, who has had an impressive domestic season, believes the team is ready to compete at the highest level. "The intensity in training is high, and the coaches have made the tactics clear. We have a plan and we're sticking to it," Nabwire said.

"Our goal is to advance beyond the group stage and make a mark," goalkeeper Farouk Shikhalo echoed the same optimism.

"There's a good vibe in the squad. Everyone is focused. Playing at Kasarani gives us an edge, and we plan to use the home support to our advantage," Shikhalo stated.

With all group stage matches scheduled at Kasarani, Kenya will enjoy home advantage as they face off against their Group A rivals. Coach McCarthy said the first game will be key to setting the tone.

"The first match is always crucial in any tournament. If we start well, we can build momentum. I believe in these boys," he added.

With the clock ticking toward the opening match on August 2, confidence remains high in the Harambee Stars camp. Kenya now eyes a historic breakthrough at CHAN 2024 — one built on belief, hard work, and national pride.



Harambee Stars' Masoud Juma, Farouk Shikhalo and skipper Abud Omar during a training session /HANDOUT

