



Innovation

Filmmaker Sally using her camera to spotlight climate justice in Kenya

Storyteller: Page 2



Fredrick Okango

How MPs reconfigured public funds, strained constitution

Voices: Page 16

FRESH, INDEPENDENT, DIFFERENT

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theSTAR

Ghosts of River Yala, Ruaraka land saga return to haunt him

WILL MATIANG'I PAST HURT 2027 DREAM?

Story Page 4-5

Belgians fined Sh1 million for trafficking garden ants

Two Belgians who last month pleaded guilty to illegally trafficking ants and biopiracy, have each been fined Sh1 million or they serve one year in jail. Senior principal magistrate Njeri Thuku of the JKIA law courts ordered the convicts be deported upon payment of the fines. Vietnamese Duh Hung Nguyen and Kenyan Dennis Ng'ang'a, who were charged with illegal possession and trade of 400 live queen ants, were also handed the same sentence.

STORY PAGE 3

Parastatals gobbled up Sh1.2tn in unpaid loans

Details have emerged revealing the amount of money the government has lent struggling state corporations and agencies, with little to no repayment in sight. As of June 30, 2024, the total outstanding loans to the referenced entities stood at Sh1.197 trillion, casting serious doubts on whether taxpayers will ever see a return on these massive investments.

STORY PAGE 7

Parastatal board member held in MP Were murder



SOMBRE: Clockwise; Energy CS Opiyo Wandayi, Homa Bay Town MP Peter Kaluma and members of Parliament during the requiem mass of slain Kasipul MP Charles Were at Consolata Shrine in Westlands, Nairobi, yesterday. Were's children. The guns police believe were used to kill the MP and boots recovered from a suspect. Suspects (From L) William Imoli Shighali, Juma Ali Hakika, Douglas Muchiri Wambugu and David Mihigo Kagame at the JKIA law courts /EZEKIEL AMING'A / HANDOUT / STORY PAGE 7



KICK ASS FILMS

Sally Ngoiri points camera, spotlights climate injustice

She seeks to unpack recycling, which has become a buzzword

JOYCE KIMANI
@TheStarKenya

SALLY Ngoiri was born a storyteller. She loved, from a young age, using the power she had to amplify community voices.

It was this love that she carried into adulthood, so that when she walks through Nairobi's overflowing dumpsites or into makeshift recycling yards tucked behind city estates, she doesn't just see trash, she sees stories waiting to be told.

Stories of survival, innovation, injustice, displacement, resilience and hope. While others turn away from the mess, Ngoiri picks up her camera, determined to be the voice that spotlights any kind of story that emerges.

Film, she believes, can be a mirror and a hammer. It can reflect what is happening and smash silence around climate change issues.

However, she did not want to write the stories alone. She began a mentorship programme, Kick Ass Films, which mentors women aged from 15 to 25 on using film for change.

She focuses on Nairobi women whom she invites into the fellowship that tells stories, especially in informal settlements.

"I am a product of scholarships, having attended many international universities, thanks to people who believe in my craft," Ngoiri told the Star. "I want to extend possibilities to someone else and this production helps me do it," she says.

This conviction led her to the Green Media Accelerator (GMA) Bootcamp, an initiative that supports African filmmakers telling urgent environmental stories.

It was developed by three organisations in Africa: Wits Centre for Journalism, the Fojo Institute and Magamba network, through the

Consortium for Human Rights and Media (Charm).

It seeks to empower five media actors across Sub-Saharan Africa to better tell climate-change stories through mentorship and grants. For Ngoiri, the bootcamp felt like stepping into a space that finally spoke her language.

"This was the opportunity I'd been waiting for. To tell stories that don't just entertain but also push people to think and act, especially on something as urgent as our planet," she said.

Through her company, Kick Ass Films, Ngoiri entered the GMA competition with a bold idea: investigate Kenya's waste management systems.

Her project aims to uncover how waste is handled, whether companies are truly recycling, as they claim and what policies govern these systems.

She seeks to unpack recycling, which has become a buzzword and check whether it is working or if it is just another corporate green-washing tactic.

An upcoming documentary celebrates local innovation. Ngoiri shines light on ordinary citizens using creativity to tackle environmental issues at the grassroots.

"We are featuring a fashion designer who creates runway pieces entirely out of trash. It's not just about pointing out what's wrong. It's about showing what's possible."

Beyond her GMA project, Ngoiri is already carving out a name for herself in environmental storytelling.

Her feature film, The Greenhouse, currently streaming on Showmax, follows a family's fight to protect forest land in Kenya.

She is also developing two other films: Waste Land, which explores the systemic failures in urban waste management and Wild at Heart, a



Sally Ngoiri
/JOYCE KIMANI

virtual reality (VR) experience that takes viewers deep into the ethical dilemmas of wildlife rehabilitation.

"I want to build stories that create impact. Stories that move from the screen into policy, from entertainment into action," she says.

As the world grapples with the effects of climate change, Ngoiri believes filmmakers like herself have a unique role in putting faces, voices and context to what is often seen as a distant, technical issue.

"Climate action doesn't start in boardrooms, it starts with the stories we choose to tell," she says.

And if Ngoiri has anything to do with it, those stories will be bold, beautiful and impossible to ignore.

HIGH NUMBERS

Popular: Nursing leads KMTC enrolment again

JOHN MUCHANGI

NURSING recorded the highest enrolment at the Kenya Medical Training College for the fifth consecutive year, according to the 2025 Kenya Economic Survey report.

The report shows that out of the total 29,326 middle-level medical trainees enrolled last year, diploma nursing students formed the largest single group.

Specifically, in the 2023/24 academic year, there were 4,825 diploma Community Health Nursing students.

The second most enrolled diploma course was Clinical Medicine and Surgery with 2,567 students; followed by Health Records and Information Technology (2,016); Community Health (1,832); and Orthopaedic and Trauma Medicine with 1,615 students.

However, at certificate level, the course with the highest enrolment was Orthopaedic Plaster Technology (1,696 students), followed by Community Health Assistant (1,645), Health Records and Information Technology (1,623), Emergency Medical Technician (1,539), then Community Nursing (1,409).

"The overall number of middle-level medical trainees increased from 26,830 in the 2020/21 academic year to 29,326 in the 2023/24 academic year," notes the survey.

It was released in Nairobi on May 6, by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Higher diploma courses, however, accounted for the smallest share of trainees – just 702 students across various specialisations, including pharmacy, nursing, medical engineering and clinical medicine and surgery.

High enrolment in a course does not necessarily mean it is the most popular, because enrolment numbers often reflect available training slots or national workforce needs.

To correctly measure popularity based on student choice or preference, you would need data on which courses are most over-applied for, where competition for limited slots is fiercest and where students prefer to go when given free choice.

Kenya has a total of 64,449 registered nurses, according to the survey. Those with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree number 7,874, while 49,871 have diplomas and 6,704 have certificates.

For clinical officers, the total is 30,800, comprising 28,712 diploma holders and 2,154 degree holders.

KMTC is the most sought-after mid-level medical training institution in Kenya.

Some 56,516 Kenyans applied for various diploma courses at KMTC in 2024, but only about 19,000 were admitted, meaning that 36,863, or 65 per cent, of applicants were unsuccessful.

"With regard to the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC), 56,516 individuals applied and 19,653 were placed as per available slots," said former Education CS Ezekiel Machogu during the 2024 Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service stakeholder forum in May last year in Nairobi.

KUCCPS noted that the number of qualified applicants for KMTC programmes was significantly higher than the available capacities provided by the institution. Despite the strong enrolment trends, the number of graduates declined in the most recent academic year.

According to the Economic Survey report, "In the 2023/24 academic year, the number of middle-level medical graduates declined by 6.8 per cent to 21,147."

In December 2024, about 21,147 students graduated from the college.

Female students, however, continued to outnumber their male counterparts, accounting for 67.2 per cent of total graduates.



President William Ruto interacts with students at Kenya Medical Training College Narok Campus when he officially opened the facility. /PCS

STAR SURVEY

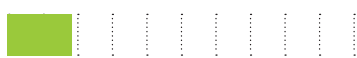
TODAY'S QUESTION

Can Kalonzo floor Ruto without Uhuru's support?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

Do you believe Ruto government has created 700,000 jobs?

YES 19%



NO 81%

COOPERATION IMPACT

Tifa poll: Ruto-Raila deal no guarantee of effective IEBC

JAMES MBAKA

THIRTY six per cent of Kenyans do not believe that the cooperation between President William Ruto and ODM leader Raila Odinga warrants an effective electoral commission in 2027, a national survey by Tifa shows.

According to the poll released on May 7, only 21 per cent of respondents said the working relationship would make it more likely that the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission would conduct itself above reproach. "Opinion among Kenyans is quite divided as to the perceived impact of the 'broad-based' cooperation arrangement between President Ruto and ODM

leader Raila Odinga on the capacity of the IEBC to oversee the next elections in a manner that meets approval across the political spectrum," the report states.

While many believe this cooperation makes a credible election much less likely, a significant proportion expects it to have a positive impact, with 30 per cent saying it makes such an outcome either "much more" or "somewhat more" likely.

Specifically, nine per cent of respondents said the cooperation would have a "somewhat" positive impact, while 18 per cent believe it will make no difference.

Another nine per cent said the cooperation is "somewhat unlikely" to have any positive effect.



Belgians Lornoy David and Seppe Lodewijckx at the JKIA law courts /HANDOUT



Vietnamese Duh Hung and Kenyan Dennis Ng'ang'a at the JKIA law courts /HANDOUT

FIGHTING BIOPIRACY

Belgian ants traffickers fined Sh1m, to be deported

They got least sentence because they pleaded guilty and saved court time

PETER OBUYA
@Pobuya

TWO Belgians who last month pleaded guilty to charges of illegally trafficking ants and biopiracy have each been fined Sh1 million or they serve one year in jail.

Senior principal magistrate Njeri Thuku of the JKIA law courts also ordered that the convicts be deported to their country upon payment of the court fines.

Vietnamese Duh Hung Nguyen and Kenyan Dennis Ng'ang'a, who were separately charged with illegal possession and trade of about 400 live queen ants valued at Sh200,000, were also handed the same sentence.

The sentence is the least for those found dealing in wildlife trophies or possession. It is also the least sentence for a person who kills or injures, tortures or molests or attempts to kill or injure any wildlife species.

The court said it opted for the

least sentence because the accused persons pleaded guilty, thus saving the court's time.

"Although a person is entitled not to admit the offence and to put the prosecution to proof of its case, an acceptance of guilt, reflected in a guilty plea normally, reduces the impact of the crime upon the victims and saves victims and witnesses from having to testify."

However, in the case of a mandatory minimum sentence, the court cannot go below the minimum term set by the statute.

"The principle in this section is that the court is called upon to take into account the benefits that accrue to the court when an accused person pleads guilty, however, where a mandatory minimum sentence is provided for, the court cannot go below what is stipulated in the statute," the magistrate said.

She said Lornoy David and Seppe Lodewijck, the Belgians, have shown remorse and pleaded with the court to put the case be-



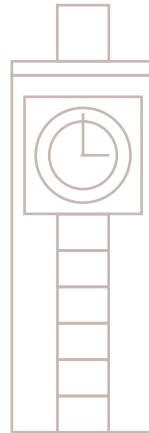
Garden ants packed in tubes intercepted at JKIA /HANDOUT

hind them so they can proceed with their lives.

"In conclusion, Lornoy and Sepp are sentenced to pay a fine of Sh1 million each and in default, they will serve 12 months in prison each," the court said.

The state had pushed for harsher sentences for the duo but the court said it was worth extending grace to those who slip and fall in life. "They deserve another chance in life to do better and be better."

CORRIDORS OF POWER



POLITICAL GOSSIP

Who is doing what and where in the world of politics



★ **WE RECENTLY TOLD** you of a youthful MP from "politically turbulent region" who has in recent days intensified activities in his constituency as well as appearances on TV under the sponsorship of the powers that be. The purse seems to have reportedly opened wider in recognition of his ground work and the MP recently joined the "Sky Team". He has also made his rural home a supposed hub where he has been receiving top political figures, pushing against another popular politico in the region.

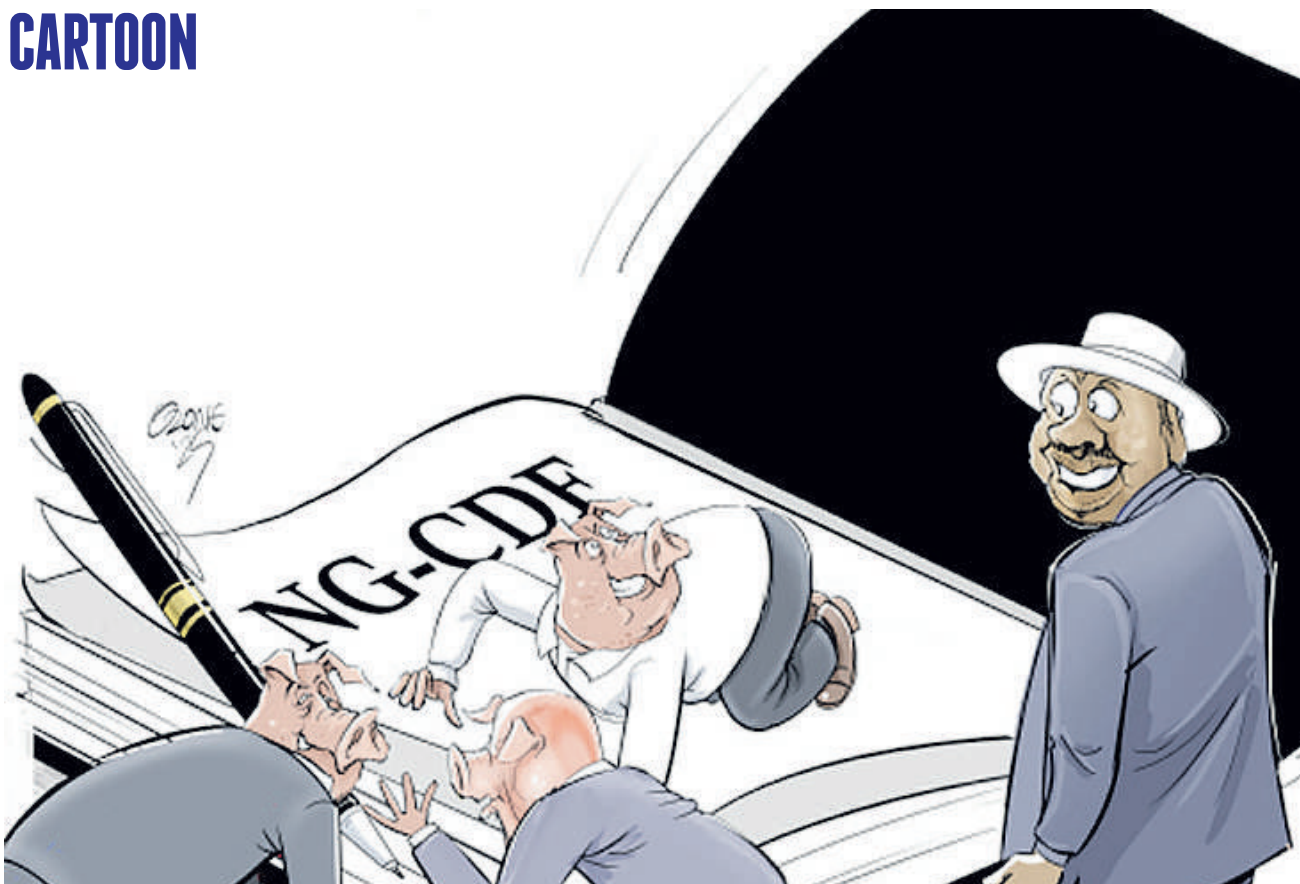
★ **IT SEEMS A** newbie in the ranks of state power has allegedly taken his duties seriously, hitting the road earlier than those who have been on the path before. The man has not missed any occasion to preach the agenda of the government of the day. Some passersby at a forum the fellow attended were reportedly overheard marveling at the man's zeal and what the team he joined had lacked over time. His mastery of the agenda has left many bewildered, the nitpickers asserted. Speak of getting the right hands at the convenient time.

★ **WHAT ARE SO** many foreigners doing in one of the constituencies in Eastlands, Nairobi? And how were so many of them allowed into the country, to begin with? Do they have proper documents or someone is sleeping on the job? These are the questions some residents are reportedly asking. The foreigners, many of them from South Asia, are now living with their families comfortably with no qualms. Interestingly, some claim to have come to Kenya as refugees. Many are now engaged in local gigs, including working in car washes.

★ **THE WIFE OF** a first-term lawmaker from central Kenya is on the spot for allegedly 'terrorising' her employees. The woman runs a salon in the capital's CBD, where she has employed several workers. However, the employees are said to be going through hell in the hands of the woman. They work seven days a week. Any absence, for whatever reason, even sickness, attracts a salary deduction. If a worker reports to work late by a minute she orders him or her back home for the entire day. No salary for that day. Worse still, we are told she purportedly neither pays to NSSF or SHA for her employees.

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

CARTOON



SCRUTINY FORMER CS SEEN AS 'A PROJECT' OF EX-PRESIDENT KENYATTA, WITH SOME CRITICS



Will Matiang'i past return to haunt his State House dream?

JULIUS OTIENO
AND ELIUD KIBII
@TheStarKenya

A controversial past looms over former powerful Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i's presidential bid as the 2027 race for the country's top seat takes shape.

Controversies—including the deportation of lawyer Miguna Miguna, alleged involvement in the Sh1.5 billion Ruaraka land saga, and accusations of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances during his tenure—have resurfaced and threaten to overshadow his ambitions.

The former CS is also seen as “a project” of former President Uhuru Kenyatta, with some critics claiming the new political move is a ploy to propel the former head of state

back to power through proxy.

Uhuru's Jubilee Party has announced Matiang'i as its presidential candidate.

Matiang'i is viewed as a formidable force within the opposition, with his credentials as a reformer being touted.

A section of the former CS's allies have dismissed accusations against him, describing the other presidential contenders as “crooks”.

“We must understand that we do not have angels. We must stop pontificating as if we are looking for Jesus Christ,” Kisii Senator Richard Onyonka said, while admitting that Matiang'i indeed made some mistakes, including the brutal deportation of Miguna.

Matiang'i faces mounting scrutiny over past allegations of human rights abuses – including torture

and killings – and governance failures.

Political observers warn that these controversies may weigh heavily on his campaign, especially as human rights defenders and political rivals begin to take aim.

Political analyst Martin Andati argues that Matiang'i's record raises serious concerns about his integrity, as outlined under Chapter Six of the constitution.

“If we are to follow Chapter Six [of the constitution] as it was envisaged, we wouldn't have such candidates. Kenyans are not scrutinising those in power,” Andati said.

He added that Matiang'i must come clean on his role in the controversies to avoid carrying the burden of others.

Justice and Freedom Party deputy party leader Reuben Kigame was

“

REUBEN KIGAME

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



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ICS CLAIMING MOVE A PLOY TO PROPEL KENYATTA BACK TO POWER THROUGH PROXY



Former Interior CS Fred Matiang'i during his home coming in Kisii town
/ANGWENYI GICHANA



even more direct.

"He oversaw the mistreatment, abduction, and brutal deportation of Miguna Miguna—a citizen and legal mind from our country," said Kigame, a former presidential candidate.

Kigame also criticised Matiang'i's leadership in rolling out the Sh6 billion Huduma Namba project, which was later declared unconstitutional.

"...then just come back and tell the same citizens that you want to be the next president? There are many things I do not see, but these?" he added.

In August 2018, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission implicated Matiang'i and then Education PS Belio Kipsang in the Sh1.5 billion Ruaraka land scandal.

The commission faulted the two for disregarding a quality assurance report that found the land—where Ruaraka High School and Drive-Inn Primary School stand—was public property.

Businessman Francis Mburu was reportedly paid Sh1.5 billion for the land, which had been under government use for decades.

The Senate County Public Accounts and Investments Committee also linked Matiang'i, Kipsang, and then National Land Commission chairman Mohammed Swazuri to the scandal.

"The CS and PS be held responsible and further investigated, and if found culpable be prosecuted for occasioning the loss of Sh1.5 billion in line with Article 226(5) of the Constitution," reads part of the report.

The Senator Moses Kajwang'-led committee criticised Matiang'i and Kipsang for ignoring the recommendations of a report of the ministry's Quality Assurance and Standards Assessment that established the land was public.

However, the committee report was defeated on the floor.

Matiang'i also played a central role in the 2018 deportation of Mi-

Lawyer and activist Miguna Miguna at the Dubai International Airport following his deportation, on March 28, 2018 /KAMANDA MUCHEKE

guna following the contested 2017 election and the symbolic swearing-in of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga as the "People's President."

A declaration signed by Matiang'i on February 6, 2018, authorised Miguna's detention and deportation to Canada—despite several court orders against the move.

Justice George Odunga found Matiang'i, then Inspector General Joseph Boinnet, and Immigration chief Gordon Kihlangwa guilty of contempt for defying court orders.

"There is no immunity for impunity. No man is above the law. They cannot be allowed to catwalk around while disobeying court orders," Justice Odunga said.

Matiang'i, once dubbed "Mr Fix-It" during President Uhuru Kenyatta's administration, is also under fire for the extrajudicial killings and

enforced disappearances that happened during his tenure as Interior CS.

Several Kenyans went missing under his watch, with mutilated bodies later found in forests and rivers—including the notorious River Yala in Siaya county.

Two Indian nationals and a Kenyan linked to Ruto's presidential campaign also disappeared during the elections.

They were reportedly abducted on July 24, 2022, on Mombasa Road near Ole Sereni Hotel and driven away in a vehicle that did not have registration plates.

The Indian nationals were said to have been in the country as part of Ruto's IT team ahead of the August 9, 2022 general election.

According to a March 2023 report by Missing Voices, at least 40 bodies were retrieved from River Yala.

However, they were not included in the 152 recorded police killings in 2022, as investigations were still ongoing.

In January 2023, Amnesty International Kenya called for the urgent identification of 21 of those bodies.

President Ruto, in his early days in office, admitted the existence of a police unit that allegedly executed murders.

"The moment I assumed office, I disbanded the police squad that was carrying out these atrocities because I could not allow a situation where innocent Kenyans continued to be abducted and executed without ac-

countability, and that is why I took action immediately," he said.

Another controversy dogging Matiang'i is the rollout of the Huduma Namba, a digital identity programme later declared unconstitutional by the courts.

Though the government spent billions on the initiative, it was criticised as a white elephant project.

At the time, Matiang'i faulted the court, arguing the Huduma Card was essentially a collation of different identity documents already issued and certified by the government and its agencies.

"The decision to appeal is informed by the conviction that the High Court decision is based on a wrong interpretation of the essence and the practical intentions of Huduma Card," Matiang'i said.

Despite the allegations, some observers believe the intense scrutiny could ironically fuel Matiang'i's momentum.

University don Macharia Munene said, "If he is considered viable to run for president, then there will be even more accusations as the heat intensifies."

However, former Mukurweini MP Kabando Wa Kabando said while Kenyans are hungry for truly national political parties, they are yet to get a truly transformational national leader embodying the values and ethos ascribed in the constitution.

"Even the 2024 bold Gen Z uprising has not produced such a leader yet," Kabando said.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

Fred Matiang'i draws admiration and criticism arguably in equal measure. He came into the limelight in April 2013, when President Uhuru Kenyatta tapped him from the Centre for International Development and named him a minister in his first administration. He served as minister for ICT, Education and Interior. He would emerge as Uhuru's 'Mr Fix It' and a "Bulldozer" ending up as the chairperson of the National Development Implementation and Communication Cabinet Committee: an almost 'Super Minister' position. Whereas he was credited with reforms in the ICT and Education sectors, he was accused of arrogance, abrasiveness, high-handedness amid questions around abductions and extrajudicial killings.



Bodies recovered at Yala River in Siaya county /FILE

NEWS GENERAL

PHOTO STORY



President William Ruto issues title deeds to residents of Enkoireroi-Olderkesi in Narok West constituency during his development tour of Narok county. RIGHT: President Ruto addresses residents of Enkoireroi-Olderkesi yesterday. He also launched the construction of the Ngoswani-Morijo Road that will boost tourism in the county /HIRAM OMONDI/PCS

NO REPAYMENT

Bailout mess: How state entities milked Sh1.2tn dry

Treasury dossier shows of Sh1.26tn disbursed, only Sh64.5bn has been repaid

MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses

DETAILS have emerged of the huge amount of money the government has lent struggling state corporations and agencies, with little to no repayment in sight.

As of June 30, 2024, the total outstanding loans to the referenced entities stood at Sh1.197 trillion, casting serious doubts on whether taxpayers will ever see a return on these massive investments.

The repayment rate is alarming, with the National Treasury dossier detailing that out of Sh1.26 trillion disbursed, only Sh64.5 billion — about five per cent — has been repaid.

At the top of the list is the Kenya Railways Corporation, which owes Sh737.5 billion.

Not a single shilling has been repaid by KRC.

Similarly, Kenya Airways PLC, another perennial loss-maker entity until this year, owes Sh99.9 billion, with zero repayments made.

The two entities alone account for nearly 70 per cent of the total outstanding loans, yet there is no clear plan for repayment.

Abraham Rugo, the executive director for the International Budget Partnership-Kenya, observed that the situation may not change for the better. “A lot of the institutions are not performing, and thus it is hard to see how this will ever be paid. Note that they are the ones with a majority of pending bills,” he told the Star on Wednesday.

The energy sector is another major concern, with KenGen having an out-

standing loan of Sh78.6 billion while Kenya Power owes Sh71.3 billion.

Chronic financial struggles of the country’s power companies have seen them repeatedly rely on government bailouts. The Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation, with an unpaid loan of Sh13.6 billion, further underscore the inefficiencies in the recovery.

Water agencies are not spared among the worst offenders, the National Treasury data reveals.

In the list, Athi Water Works Development Agency leads with an outstanding loan of Sh55.1 billion, followed by the Coast Water Works Development Agency at Sh20.6 billion.

Other water-related entities with huge debts to taxpayers, among them the Lake Victoria North and South Water Works Development Agency,

owe a combined Sh28.4 billion.

The grand question is why the entities have been allowed to operate with impunity and why there is no urgency in reclaiming these debts.

Recent reviews by Auditor General Nancy Gathungu on the matter have pointed to systemic negligence in recovering public funds.

She said the scale of the unpaid loans raises concerns about mismanagement and service delivery failures.

Gathungu revealed that during the year under review, the affected institutions did not make any repayment against their respective loan balances.

The auditor, sounding the alarm of possible loss of funds, observed that some of the entities continue to perform dismally and require constant government bailouts.

“Non-repayment of the loans has led to the write-offs of the loans as bad debts; opportunity costs in funding other critical areas and eventual loss of public fund,” she said in a recent report.

In the agricultural sector, Agro-chemical & Food Company Ltd owes Sh2.9 billion, while Mumias Sugar Company Limited and Kenya Meat Commission are yet to repay Sh3 billion and Sh940 million respectively.

These entities have long been plagued by inefficiency, yet they continue receiving taxpayer-funded loans with no consequences for defaulting.

In the audit, Gathungu cited Mumias for not confirming the loan balance with the auditors. Loans to various local authorities of Sh7.5 billion were also not disclosed.

Even educational institutions are

yet it has remained profitable over the years. Audit details showed that some institutions, including Agro-Chemical, Water Conservation and Pipeline Company, Irrigation Authority, Warma and Utalii College, have requested write-offs.

Taxpayers may also lose shares of Sh114 million that were invested in five non-performing entities, among them Kenya Farmers Association, Nyari Estate Ltd, Kenya Poultry Limited, Ken-Ren Chemicals and National Agricultural Chemical and Fertiliser Limited.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

The government is struggling to get resources to fund critical services like healthcare, education and infrastructure. This has been worsened by the animosity around tax-raising measures, especially after the 2024 tax bill debacle. This begs the question as to why the government has not held the defaulters accountable. Without action, there is a high chance ordinary Kenyans will have to bear the burden indefinitely.

“

ABRAHAM RUGO

A lot of the institutions are not performing, and it is hard to see how this will ever be paid. Note they are the ones with a majority of pending bills



Auditor General Nancy Gathungu on September 4, 2024 /ENOS TECHE

NEWS GENERAL



National Treasury CS John Mbadi before Debt and Privatisation Committee at the Continental House in Nairobi on September 24 last year
/ENOS TECHE

ATTEMPT BLOCKED

Treasury axes MPs' Sh7bn controversial budget raise

CS Mbadi cites budget constraints and the need to maintain Kenya's fiscal targets

MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses

THE National Treasury has blocked an attempt by MPs to increase their budget allocation by Sh7 billion for the upcoming financial year as the government moves to enforce stricter fiscal discipline.

While the Treasury's original Budget Policy Statement had proposed Sh42.4 billion for Parliament, lawmakers had unilaterally approved a higher figure of Sh49.4 billion during

their review of the document.

The CS John Mbadi-led National Treasury has reversed the self-awarded increase, citing budget constraints and the need to maintain Kenya's fiscal targets.

In their revised version of the budget, MPs had also allocated Sh26.7 billion to the Judiciary and Sh2.44 trillion to the Executive, forming part of a Sh2.57 trillion national government budget.

The legislators additionally set aside Sh405 billion for county gov-

ernments and Sh3 billion for public participation initiatives, intending the figures to guide spending limits for fiscal year starting July 1.

However, these increases have been largely rejected in the Treasury's final budget estimates for 2025-26.

Mbadi in a brief to the National Assembly, explained that the additional funding approved by Parliament could not be accommodated within the current fiscal framework.

He cited the Cabinet's directive to maintain the budget deficit at 4.5 per

cent of Gross Domestic Product as the primary reason for the spending cuts.

As a result, the Executive's allocation has been reduced by Sh18.8 billion to Sh2.42 trillion, while Parliament's budget has been maintained at the original Sh42.5 billion proposal rather than the increased Sh49.4 billion that lawmakers had sought.

The Judiciary saw a minor reduction of Sh87 million from its proposed allocation, settling at Sh26.6 billion.

The National Government Constit-

uency Development Fund (NG-CDF) was allocated Sh58.8 billion, which the Treasury noted complies with the legal requirement that it not exceed 2.5 per cent of ordinary revenue.

The Sh3 billion originally earmarked for public participation initiatives has been slashed to just Sh2.5 billion in the final budget.

This standoff tells of the growing tension between parliamentary spending ambitions and the government's need to maintain fiscal discipline.

With the lawmakers having the final say on the estimates, it remains to be seen if they would defy the Executive and push through their desired allocations.

Even so, Kenya's Parliament is touted as one of the best funded despite the tough economic times that has constrained government spending.

The substantial public debt burden – Sh11 trillion, and commitments to international lenders have forced tough choices in budget allocations.

President William Ruto has instilled far-reaching austerity measures, with the government aiming to control expenditures across all sectors.

Treasury says it aims to reduce the annual growth in public debt and "implement a robust liability management strategy."

Mbadi said while at it, the government is keen on striking a balance to ensure 'service delivery to citizens remains unaffected'.

"The goal is to enhance the country's debt position," the Treasury boss said, adding that the situation would be reversed if more revenue is netted.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

With economic growth still fragile and debt levels high, the Treasury's actions demonstrate the difficult choices required to keep the country's finances on a sustainable path. As the budget process moves forward, the focus will remain on how these fiscal constraints affect service delivery and development projects.

NEW SUSPECTS

Parastatal board member arrested in MP Were murder investigations

CYRUS OMBATI

A board member of a parastatal is among three new suspects arrested in connection with the murder of Kasipul MP Ong'ondo Were.

The board member was picked up from the road in Nakuru and driven to Nairobi for grilling.

This is after he was adversely mentioned in the saga. Also arrested was the bodyguard and driver to Were.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen confirmed the developments.

"It is shocking that some suspects should have taken good care of him," CS Murkomen revealed investigations have linked members of Were's close circle to the murder.

Director of DCI Mohamed Amin said one of the two guns recovered in

an operation on Tuesday night was used in the murder.

"Ballistics tests have confirmed one of the guns is the one that was used in the murder," he said.

The bodyguard and driver were detained by detectives handling the matter after they gave inconsistent statements on what they knew or did not know about the murder.

They were not hurt when a gunman opened fire at a traffic jam in Nairobi killing Were on the spot.

A postmortem has shown he was shot five times and that the bullets ruptured vital organs including his heart.

Were who was serving his second term in Parliament, was shot and killed on April 30 along Valley Road near the City Mortuary.

His driver together with the body-

guard who was seated on the backseat escaped unhurt.

The bodyguard jumped out of the car as the gunman had hoped onto a getaway motorcycle.

Witnesses said he chased the motorcycle for a short distance before he raced back to the car to join the driver and rushed the bleeding MP to then nearby Nairobi Hospital.

The detectives handling the matter have been moving around with the two to reconstruct scenes where the MP was before he was trailed and shot dead.

This came as police on Tuesday raided houses in Kayole's Chokaa area and recovered a pistol that was used in the murder.

The team also found a second pistol that is now under tests to confirm if it had been used in any crimes.



MPs carry the casket bearing the body of Ong'ondo Were during the requiem mass at Consolata Shrine Catholic Church in Westlands yesterday
/EZEKIEL AMING'A

Ballistic tests show the weapon that killed Were had been used to commit crimes in three incidents in Kayole, Komarocks and Ndumberi in Kiambu county.

This followed an analysis on spent bullets that were recovered from the scene of the shooting and the

deceased's body. The police also recovered shoes and a bag that the killer had on the day the MP was killed.

The man was captured on camera wearing the same shoes.

He also carried the bag that is believed to have contained the gun used in the murder.

NEWS GENERAL

CONSUMER DEMAND

Agriculture sector struggled in past year – Economic survey

AGATHA NGOTHO

AGRICULTURE recorded mixed performance over the past year, driven by external market conditions and internal challenges such as weather variability, regulatory constraints, and logistical setbacks, according to the Economic Survey 2025.

Kenya's export of fresh horticultural products including cut flowers, fruits, and fresh vegetables declined in 2024. The survey shows export volumes dropped by 14.1 per cent, from 468.4 thousand tons in 2023 to 402.2 thousand tons in 2024.

Export earnings fell by 12.8 per cent, from Sh156.7 billion to Sh136.6 billion. It attributed the decline largely to air cargo export restrictions at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, which led to increased freight costs due to high demand for limited cargo space.

"Earnings for cut flowers decreased slightly from Sh73.5 billion in 2023 to Sh72.1 billion in 2024. This marginal decline was influenced by stringent European Union regulations on False Codling Moth, leading to higher rejection and interception rates," the survey says.

"Revenue for fresh vegetables declined sharply from Sh50.9 billion to Sh23.4 billion due to interceptions related to Maximum Residue Levels. EU concerns over pesticide residues in beans and peas further hampered export volumes."

But fruit exports grew by 26.5 per cent, with earnings increasing from Sh32.4 billion in 2023 to Sh41 billion in 2024, as a result of strong demand and improved compliance with market standards.

The sugarcane sector saw a notable recovery in 2024, following disruptions from mill closures between July and November 2023. The area under cultivation expanded by 13.2 per cent to 293.3 thousand hectares, while the harvested area surged by 62.1 per cent to 134.9 thousand hectares.

"Total cane production rose from 5.6 million tons in 2023 to 9.4 million tons in 2024, almost doubling due to the availability of mature cane and favourable weather conditions," the report states.

"The average yield increased from 56.9 tons per hectare to 61 tons per hectare, underscoring improved agronomic practices and better weather."

Production of dry flowers pyrethrum declined by 2.7 per cent to 1,634.0 tonnes in 2024 due to erratic weather, seedling distribution challenges, and reduced farmer participation. "Despite a slight 1.0 per cent increase in the average price per kilogramme, to Sh308, earnings from dry pyrethrum dropped from Sh512.4 million in 2023 to Sh503.4 million in 2024."

The Economic Survey 2025 shows that rice production benefited from expanded irrigation infrastructure, particularly in schemes supported by the National Irrigation Authority.

"The area under cultivation grew from 38,942 hectares in 2022-23 to 43,057 hectares in 2023-24, leading to a 23.2 per cent increase in paddy production to 282.2 thousand tons. New clusters of irrigation schemes such as Taveta, Anyiko, Kimira, Oluch, and Nanundu Manyara were integrated into rice production."

Bura and Tana irrigation schemes experienced production declines of 38 per cent and 30.4 per cent respectively due to severe drought that disrupted water supply from River Tana.

Kenya's dairy sector is on the upward trend. The survey showed a 17 per cent increase in milk production, prices, and processing, which is driven by higher farm-gate prices and growing consumer demand.

The livestock sector recorded a strong rebound in 2024, with total earnings rising by 17.2 per cent to Sh235 billion. The total milk production rose slightly by 1.0 per cent to reach 5.33 billion litres in 2024.

PHOTO STORY



Education CS Julius Ogamba signs a collaboration agreement with Lipton Teas and Infusions company, marking the official launch of the Tea Academy at the University of Kabianga in Kericho county. Looking on is Governor Eric Mutai /KNA

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION SOUGHT

343,000 teachers jobless as shortage hits public schools

TSC's Nancy Macharia attributes the shortfall in recruitment to inadequate budgetary allocations

JULIUS OTIENO
@JuliusOtieno04

MORE than 343,485 registered teachers remain unemployed by the government, even as Kenya faces a critical shortage of tutors in public schools across the country.

This revelation comes as Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba came under fire from senators over the skewed recruitment process, where graduates from recent years are being hired ahead of those who completed their training over a decade ago.

According to data presented to the Senate, of the 343,485 unemployed teachers, 134,914 are trained in Early Childhood Development Education, 124,061 for primary schools, and 84,510 for post-primary institutions.

While ECDE teacher employment is a responsibility of county governments and not the Teachers Service Commission, at least 208,571 teachers qualified for primary and post-primary schools remain jobless under the commission's jurisdiction.

In a report compiled by TSC CEO Nancy Macharia and presented by CS Ogamba, it was revealed that the country is currently facing a shortage of 98,261 teachers, a number expected to rise with the rollout of senior secondary schools next year.

Macharia attributed the shortfall in teacher recruitment to inadequate budgetary allocations, despite increasing classroom demand.

Speaking before the Senate plenary

on Wednesday, CS Ogamba said TSC had established an online teacher registration portal to streamline and enhance the efficiency of teacher registration and data management.

He emphasised that recruitment is subject to availability of funding and existing vacancies within authorised staffing structures. "An analysis of the teacher register indicates that 343,485 registered teachers are not employed by TSC. This number includes those working in private institutions or those who have pursued alternative careers," Ogamba stated.

He admitted TSC has yet to compile comprehensive data on ECDE teachers employed by counties or provide a county-by-county breakdown of unemployed registered teachers, but said the process was underway. However, senators challenged Ogamba over the lack of transparency and fairness in recruitment, noting that some teachers who graduated over 10 years ago remain unemployed while recent graduates have already secured positions.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

TSC is facing a teacher shortage, with the current deficit standing at 98,261, expected to grow by 2026 as the country implements senior secondary schools under the CBC. The situation is worsened by budget constraints that could impede recruitment and promotion of teachers.

UNITED DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

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CHANGE OF UDA PARTY CONSTITUTION

Pursuant to and in accordance with section 20 (2) of the Political Parties Act, 2011, it is hereby notified that The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Party has made amendments to its Constitution.

A copy of the amended Constitution is available at the official Party website <https://uda.ke/download/4479/?tmstv=1746631140>

Any member with written Submissions concerning the amendment to the Constitution is invited to make their written submissions to the Party using its official email hello@uda.ke

SEN. HASSAN OMAR HASSAN
UDA SECRETARY GENERAL

UDA
KAZI NI KAZI

PARTY OFFICES

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SOME
UNEMPLOYED
TEACHERS
WERE
NEARING
RETIREMENT
AGE WITHOUT
EVER
SECURING
A TEACHING
POST

NEWS GENERAL

PHOTO STORY



Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen (in purple shirt) and National Government Administrators display their service provision charters during the Jukwaa la Usalama Meru county edition at Kinoru stadium /MINA

STONE WALL

Ipoa ‘helpless’ as police block probe of rogue cops

Investigators severely understaffed, with under 80 personnel against approved 700

GORDON OSEN
@gordon_osen

DESPITE most Kenyans wanting killer police officers brought to justice, a lack of cooperation from the police and friction between the Independent Police Oversight Authority and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions are undermining these efforts, it has emerged.

Ipoa boss Issack Hassan highlighted the difficulties the agency faces in holding rogue police officers accountable.

He complained that the police have become adept at stonewalling, preventing Ipoa from accessing crucial resources needed to complete investigations.

Speaking at the launch of the

Missing Voices report at ICJ Kenya offices on Wednesday, Hassan stated that the police have refused to cooperate with their investigations.

The agency is denied access to firearm registers, deployment details and order documents, he said, adding that accused officers sometimes refuse to honour summons for interrogation.

“It is a case of a lack of or outright non-cooperation by the police.” Hassan also lamented that his investigators are severely understaffed, with just under 80 personnel against an approved establishment of over 700.

Furthermore, the ODPP has not been proactive in handling the files Ipoa sends them. He cited cases arising from the Gen Z protests that Ipoa has handled. “We have so

far opened 60 files and completed investigations on 22, which have been sent to the ODPP. A number of them have been returned for various reasons,” he said.

Missing Voices is a coalition of human rights agencies campaigning against extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

The report shows that there were 104 incidents of extrajudicial killings in 2024, a 12 per cent decrease from the 118 recorded in the previous year.

However, enforced disappearance is seemingly becoming the police’s preferred tactic against their targets, as it leaves no traces that Ipoa can follow.

Disappearances are shown to have risen by 450 per cent over the period, with 55 incidents recorded compared

to just 10 in the previous year. The agencies involved include Haki Africa, Defenders Coalition, IJM, IMLU, ICJ Kenya and the Kenya Human Rights Commission, among others.

Law Society of Kenya president Fath Odhiambo said the law should be amended to require officers implicated in abuse of power to step down from policing duties while facing legal proceedings.

“These officers still go to police stations, access records, arms and interfere with investigations. Even public officers step down once they are charged with criminal cases. We demand that police officers implicated step down,” she said.

The lobbies, in a statement read by the IJM Kenya country director, said despite the high number of enforced

disappearances over the last year, no officer has been taken to court and charged with these crimes.

“The challenges of investigating and prosecuting cases emanating from protests have necessitated the doctrine of command responsibility, which Missing Voices partners are pursuing in the Baby Pendo case,” they said.

“We are concerned that the DPP dropped charges against eight senior commanders who had been lined up for prosecution. Even more worrying was the move by the DPP to expose witnesses in the charge sheet, endangering their lives,” they added.

The entities expressed concern that the majority of cases forwarded to the ODPP arising from protests have either been returned for further investigation or closed, making it difficult to hold officers accountable.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

A culture of impunity persists within the police force, shielded by systemic resistance and institutional dysfunction. Without reform and cooperation between oversight bodies, justice will remain elusive.

CLAMPDOWN

104 extrajudicial killings recorded in a year – report

ELIUD KIBII

A damning global human rights report has revealed that 104 cases of extrajudicial killings were recorded in the past year.

These killings are among widespread human rights violations in Kenya cited in the State of the World’s Human Rights: April 2025, particularly during and after the Gen Z protests in June last year.

The report accuses Kenya, a member of the UN Human Rights Council, of violations ranging from extrajudicial killings and the excessive

and unnecessary use of force by security agents, to the clamping down on rights and freedoms, arbitrary arrests, detentions and enforced disappearances.

The international NGO further criticises the state for evictions and limiting Kenyans’ right to health and privacy.

Sixty people were killed and hundreds injured when police used excessive and unnecessary force against protesters in June, it states.

During the invasion of Parliament, Amnesty International – citing the Kenya National Commission on

Human Rights – said at least six protesters were shot dead, while hundreds sustained bullet wounds and soft tissue injuries caused by batons and teargas canisters.

One protester lost three fingers when a teargas canister hit him.

Between June and August, more than 600 protesters were arbitrarily arrested and detained and dozens forcibly disappeared.

“Extrajudicial executions continued to be reported,” the report notes.

At least 72 people, including human rights defenders and activists, were forcibly disappeared in connection with the protests.

“The whereabouts and fate of some of them remained unknown at the end of the year.

“On August 30, President [William] Ruto publicly denied any knowledge of the disappearances,” the report states.

Some among those arrested were

held beyond the legal limit of 24 hours. Others were presented to court on trumped-up charges, it adds.

“Security forces arrested some medical personnel who responded to injured protesters. Detainees’ lawyers were frequently denied access to their clients and some were arrested or intimidated to pressure them into dropping cases.”

Regarding the clamping down on freedoms of expression, association and assembly, the report found that the state moved to deliberately prevent people from enjoying their constitutional guarantees.

A bill proposed by former Mbeere North MP Godfrey Ruku caught Amnesty’s attention.

“A government-supported draft law aimed to counter dissent which, if passed, would threaten the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. This included the Assembly and Demonstrations Bill, 2024.

“If enacted, it would expand police powers to restrict, disperse and limit protests; and change notification provisions as provided in the Public Order Act 3 to require police permission for a protest to proceed.

The bill prescribed a one-year prison term for organisers of ‘unlawful protests’ without defining what constitutes an unlawful assembly.”

The report also cited the deployment of the military as one of the ways the state moved to control the protests.

While Amnesty acknowledges that the High Court on June 27, approved the deployment, it notes that it directed the government to define and publish a timescale for the duration of the operation, which it failed to do.

“The Law Society of Kenya described the deployment as an intimidatory tactic,” the report states.

NEWS GENERAL



Turkana South residents in Simailele village draw water from a borehole
/FILE

LARGEST SHARE

Private sector leads in borehole drilling – study

GILBERT KOECH

BOREHOLES drilled by the private sector in the country account for the largest share, a survey has shown.

“The number of boreholes drilled increased by 2.9 per cent to 47,199 in 2024-25, with those drilled by the private sector accounting for the largest share,” part of the Economic Survey 2025 shows.

The survey which was released on Tuesday by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics shows that 20,409 boreholes were drilled in 2020-21, 39,163 (2021-22), 45,086 (2022-23), 45,856 (2023-24) and 47,199 in 2024-25.

It shows that 2,455 boreholes were drilled in 2020-21 by the public sector and a further 3,859 in 2021-22.

The public sector also drilled a

further 4,323 boreholes in 2022-23, 4,348 in 2023-24 and 4,408 in 2024-25.

The private sector drilled 17,954 boreholes in 2020-21, 35,304 in 2021-22, 40,763 in 2022-23, 41,508 in 2023-24 and 42,791 in 2024-25.

The total development expenditure on water supply and related services is expected to reduce by 4.1 per cent to Sh64.3 billion in 2024/25.

The total volume of water abstracted increased from 32.5 billion cubic metres in 2023 to 32.7 billion cubic metres in 2024.

Surface water abstractions accounted for 99.3 per cent of the total volume of water abstracted in the year under review.

Abstraction from groundwater increased to 244.1 million cubic metres in 2024 from 243.9 million

cubic metres in 2023.

The number of water purification points is projected to increase from 376 in 2023-24 to 380 in 2024-25.

The total quantity of fish landed increased by 4.4 per cent to 168.4 thousand tonnes in 2024.

Overall, the total value of fish landed increased from Sh35.9 billion in 2023 to Sh39.6 billion in 2024.

The net stocked plantation area increased from 144.8 thousand hectares in 2023 to 147.0 thousand hectares in 2024.

The total earnings from mineral production recorded a decline of 24.4 per cent from Sh33.8 billion in 2023 to Sh25.5 billion in 2024.

The funding for rural water supplies is expected to decrease by 24.3 per cent to Sh5 billion in 2024-25.

COSTLY UGALI

Prices of maize surge from regional shortage

To stabilise market, state will release produce from strategic food reserve

AGATHA NGOTHO
@AgathaNgotho

KENYANS should brace for more hardship at the dinner table, as the price of maize keeps rising.

Consumers will soon be forced to dig deeper into their pockets or face empty shelves, as maize prices continue climbing due to regional shortages, rising demand and logistical hurdles.

Millers and grain industry stakeholders say the cost of maize is being pushed higher due to declining regional supply, cross-border trade disruptions and competition from domestic industries in neighbouring countries.

Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) executive director Gerald Masila said Kenya traditionally imports maize from Uganda and Tanzania. However, prices are already high, particularly in Ugandan regions such as Kampala, where maize is now more expensive than in Kenya.

In Kenya, a 90kg bag of maize is currently selling at around Sh4,700.

“We’ve observed a consistent rise in market prices, a clear sign of growing scarcity. The situation is worsened by cross-border trade challenges,” he said.

Masila said importing maize from Ethiopia isn’t a viable alternative, as a 90kg bag attracts an import duty of Sh930. The last time Kenya brought in maize from Ethiopia was in 2017, when duties and taxes were temporarily waived.

He also said Uganda’s rapidly expanding agro-processing sector is consuming more of its own maize.

“Over the last few years, Uganda has significantly increased its milling and animal feed production capacity. As a result, there’s less maize available



Kenyans shop for unga in Kangemi on August 1, 2022
/FILE

for export to Kenya,” he said.

Ugandan media has recently reported that local manufacturers under the Uganda Manufacturers Association have pushed for a ban on the export of unprocessed grain, or the introduction of a 25 per cent export levy. These measures, they said, would protect their industries from raw material shortages.

Tanzania also recently imposed a temporary maize export ban, which created uncertainty and further tightened supplies.

However, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the Kenyan government is engaging with Tanzanian authorities to ensure maize continues flowing into Kenya.

“We trade maize freely within the East African Community and we are confident that imports from Tanzania will resume,” he said.

INSTANT ANALYSIS

Kenyans are set to face tougher times as maize prices continue to rise due to a regional shortage. State plans to release reserves and encourage yellow maize farming to reduce food prices. Reasons for the price increase include reduced supply from traditional exporters.

RECOGNITION

State set to issue 15m certificates to skilled artisans

MATHEWS NDANYI

THE government is targeting to issue certificates to more than 15 million artisans under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme being implemented mainly through the Tvet sector.

RPL director Stanley Maindi said the country has a huge number of skilled workers in all sectors but they lack certificates to advance their skills and qualify to access jobs.

Maindi said so far, more than 5,100 artisans have already been assessed through Tvet colleges and issued with certificates while another 700,000 will be certified by end of the year.

“Currently this is a trending initiative because we have a huge population of youth who are skilled and doing good work in the Jua Kali sector and we need to assess them and issue the certificates to recognise their skills,” Maindi said.

He was speaking at the Eldoret National Polytechnic (TENP) during a training for RPL trainers from 20 Tvet colleges in the region.

He was with TNEP chief principal Dr Charles Koech and director of Tvet Meshack Obwora.

TNEP is an RPL certification centre and Dr Koech said the college would go out of its way to ensure many artisans in the region benefit from the programme. “We are happy with the support we have always received from the government and we are committed to have the RPL initiative reach as many of our youth as possible,” said Dr Koech.

Maindi said the Tvet institutions had over 7,000 tutors who would be retrained and sensitised under the programme.

He said all Tvet colleges would be assessment centers where artisans can walk in any time to be assessed for certification.

Maindi said they were working with the Kenya National Federation of Jua Kali to help identify the artisans and refer them to Tvet colleges for assessment and certification.

Maindi said the government was giving emphasis on the RPL initiative as part of the bottom up economic programme which aims to benefit those in lower sectors of the economy.

He said the artisans will also be assessed at the work places and that over 240 Tvet colleges would support the plan.

Maindi said the training programme for trainers will take place in all parts of the country.

SURVEY

Money supply in economy grew at slowest pace in a decade in 2024

VICTOR AMADALA

THE supply of money in the Kenyan economy grew at the slowest pace in a decade in history despite increased lending to both the government and the private sector.

This perhaps explains why households registered a decline of 1.5 percent in the overall consumer-spending index during the year under review, according to the ILAM Consumer Spending Index.

Retail business sales trends remained flat between the first and second quarters of 2024, but large and medium-sized businesses saw an improvement in sales during the second quarter. The Economic Survey, 2025, released Tuesday by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows that Broad Money supply (M3) expanded by a single percentage point to Sh6.1 trillion from Sh6.04 trillion recorded in 2023.

This is the slowest growth recorded in history, with data from Focus economics indicating that the Kenyan economy recorded an average money supply growth rate of 9.5 per cent in

the decade to 2022.

In 2023, the total amount of money in supply rose by 12.9 per cent.

M3 money supply represents the broadest measure of the money supply, including all components of M2 plus large time deposits and other liquid instruments.

It provides a comprehensive view of an economy's liquidity and financial health, helping policymakers gauge economic vitality, forecast inflation, and understand the impact of digital and interconnected financial systems.

Equally, M2 money supply, a measure of the total amount of money circulating in an economy, declined from Sh4.4 trillion in 2023 to Sh4.3 trillion during the year under review.

It includes M1, which is cash, checking accounts, and other highly liquid assets, plus savings accounts, money market funds, and other liquid assets that are easily convertible into cash.

In essence, M2 provides a broader view of the money supply than M1, encompassing a wider range of readily available funds.

Even so, credit advanced to the

national government increased by 6.3 per cent to Sh2.4 trillion as at December 2024 while credit advanced to the private sector increased by 0.9 per cent to Sh4.75 trillion as at December 2024.

According to the report, commercial banks' credit real value to the private sector decreased to Sh2.84 trillion in 2024, down from Sh2.96 trillion in 2023, while the total commercial bank credit increased by 1.5 per cent to stand at Sh4.5 trillion. The real value of commercial banks' deposit Liabilities declined to Sh3.6 trillion during the period.

The total assets and liabilities of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) grew by a percentage from Sh2.09 trillion in 2023 to Sh2.11 trillion.

Assets held with external banks increased by more than half to Sh509.9 billion.

Advances and discounts to banks as well as direct advances and overdraft to the Government reduced from Sh246.1 billion and Sh610.8 billion in 2023 to Sh126.9 billion and Sh571.7 billion in 2024.

Total deposit liabilities grew by



Kenya shilling notes /FILE

22.8 per cent to Sh1.13 trillion, with the government and IMF deposits increasing by Sh110.9 billion and Sh88.3 billion, respectively, over the review period.

CBK's paid-up share capital increased by 20 per cent to Sh60 billion while the General Reserve Fund (GRF) declined by 12.7 per cent to Sh310 billion as at December 2024.

Overall, the financial and insurance sector recorded a growth of 7.6 per cent in 2024 compared to 10.1 per cent growth in 2023.

THE DATA

129.34

The indicative value of the shilling to the dollar

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

FINANCIAL MARKET

FOREX EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	Mean
US DOLLAR12	9.2508
EURO	146.7514
STG POUND	172.5692
JPY (100)	90.2589
CHINESE YUAN	17.8863
SA RAND	7.0920
KES / USHS	28.3016
KES / TSHS	20.8703
IND RUPEE	1.5271
SAUDI RIYAL	34.4572

NSE BIGGEST WINNERS

	Price	Change (%)
EA CABLES	2.07	8.95
FLAME TREE GROUP	1.20	4.35
KENYA REINSURANCE	1.68	3.70
EQUITY GROUP	47.75	2.69
NAIROBI BVV	2.02	2.02

NSE BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	Change (%)
EVEREADY	0.75	9.64%
NATION MEDIA	10.95	8.75%
SANLAM KENYA	6.50	7.41%
EAAGADS	12.00	5.88%
HOME AFRICA	0.71	4.05%



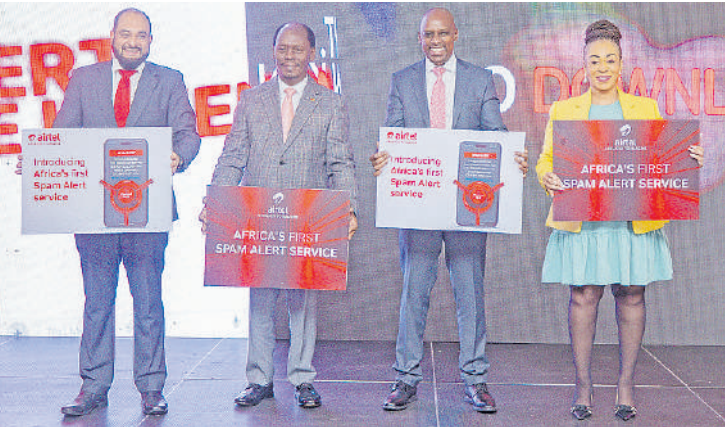
TIP OF THE DAY
HELP YOUR NEW
MANAGER HIT THE
GROUND RUNNING

A If you're reporting to a new manager, it's in your best interest to help them succeed. Here's how to offer your support. Start by determining what information is most important for them to learn quickly, whether that's technical (understanding customers, products, technologies, and systems), cultural (understanding "how we do things here"), or political (understanding how decisions are made and who the key stakeholders are). Then identify how you can communicate this information and get them up to speed. To assist with technical learning, ask yourself: **What reports or product information would be helpful?** What data would give them a strong understanding of the history and current state of the business? What should they know about internal technologies and systems? Or, if cultural learning is the priority, ask yourself: **What are the unwritten rules of our team?** What acronyms or jargon are commonly used in our company that they might not know? Finally, to be helpful with political learning, ask yourself: **Is there anything I can share about key stakeholders or internal dynamics that would be helpful for the new leader to know?** Who are the partners the new manager will need to work with to move strategic initiatives forward? Once you identify these pieces of information, you'll be able to help your manager ascend up the learning curve.

TECHNOLOGY

Mobile users to receive instant alerts on dubious phone texts

Kenya is grappling with a wave of spam messages including job offers



Airtel Kenya MD, Ashish Malhotra, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT & the Digital Economy William Kabogo, Communications Authority director general David Mugonyi and Airtel Kenya Customer Experience director, Goldermier Opiyo at Airtel's launch of its Spam Alert Service /HANDOUT

JACKTONE LAWI
@jacktonelawi

MOBILE phone users will now be notified when suspected spam messages are sent to their phones following the roll out of a new artificial intelligence (AI)-powered Spam Alert Service.

Kenya is grappling with an escalating wave of spam messages, including fraudulent job offers, phishing scams, and fake investment schemes, as cybercriminals exploit the country's growing digital adoption.

According to Communications Authority, Kenya ranks among the top three nations globally for spam text reception, with mobile users facing an increasing barrage of unsolicited

and often malicious messages

Mobile phone users in Kenya receive an average of 102 unsolicited texts per month, according to data from Truecaller, a Stockholm-based caller identification app.

Airtel Kenya Managing Director, Ashish Malhotra, said that the roll-out of the feature by Airtel Kenya, will grant smartphone and feature phone customers real-time alerts for suspected spam SMS messages.

"With the new AI-powered spam alert, we are enabling our customers to be more vigilant to fraud attempts on their phones and to have a better experience of our services," said Malhotra.

With Kenya's mobile phone pene-

tration on the increase, spam messages have become a widespread issue, targeting an expanding demography of unsuspecting individuals.

Hundreds of thousands of Kenyans often receive unsolicited nagging promotional SMS or calls.

According to TransUnion's H2 2024 Omnichannel Fraud Report, 80 per cent of Kenyan consumers were targeted by fraud attempts, with 8 per cent falling victims.

Among the leading scams in Kenya are fake job offers, loan frauds, and impersonation of banks or government agencies.

Fraudsters often send SMS or WhatsApp messages with malicious links, tricking victims into revealing personal or financial information.

In these communications, users are asked to click on links and provide personal information which could end up leading to them being defrauded.

Currently, customers have to rely on third party software to flag spam messages.

CA director general David Mugonyi said that the Authority continues to review regulatory frameworks on a regular basis to ensure they are fit for purpose and align with the realities of a dynamic ICT landscape.

"We have developed comprehensive consumer protection guidelines and consumer care standards that ensure that every complaint is addressed, every dispute is resolved, and every consumer is informed and empowered,"

said Mugonyi.

In response to growing concerns over data privacy, Kenya enacted a data protection law in 2020 and appointed its first Data Commissioner, Immaculate Kassait.

These measures aim to restrict the handling of personal information by the state and private entities, thereby preventing its misuse for marketing and research purposes.

Malhotra said that the AI engine works in real time, analyzing over 250 indicators such as the frequency of messages sent and the geographical distribution of recipients.

This allows the system to detect unusual patterns often associated with fraudulent activity.

To enhance user protection, all SMS traffic is filtered through a two-layer defense mechanism—one embedded at the network level and another within Airtel's IT infrastructure. This setup enables the system to scan and process over 18 million messages at a speed of just two milliseconds per message.

(+) INSTANT ANALYSIS

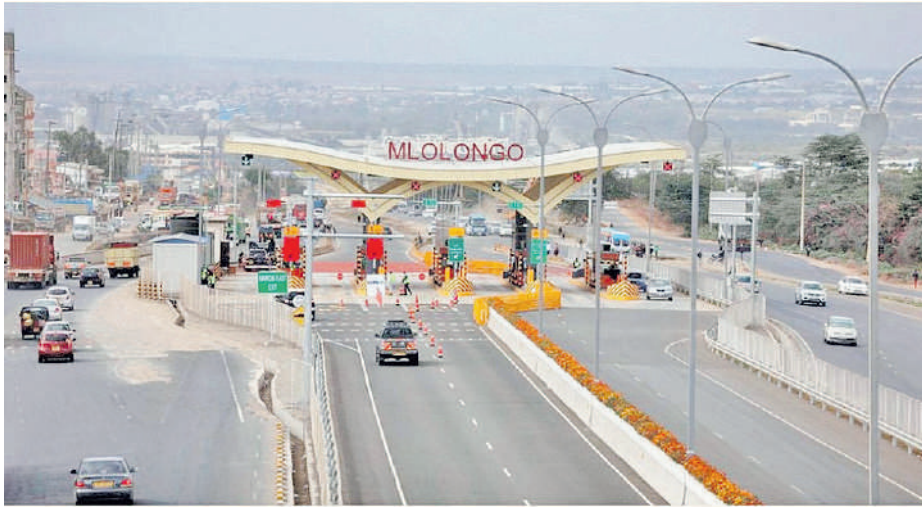
The service also identifies and warns users about malicious web links embedded in SMS texts. A central blacklist of known harmful URLs is continuously updated, and every incoming messages scanned to detect potential threats

NEWS BUSINESS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction of Nairobi-MSA Expressway target for 2026

The US based contractor, Everstrong Capital submitted a feasibility study to KeNHA on Monday



A view of the Nairobi Expressway Mlolongo Toll Station /FILE

MARTIN MWITA
@MwitaMartin

US private equity firm—Everstrong Capital targets to break ground for the 459 kilometre—464.8 billion Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway in quarter one of 2026 subject to the project's timely approval.

The American company with presence in Kenya formally submitted a comprehensive feasibility study to KeNHA on Monday evening, affirming the Usahihi Nairobi to Mombasa Expressway's full readiness for investment and execution. Of the \$3.6 billion (Sh464.8 billion) needed to finance the project, \$1 billion (Sh 129.1 billion) will be raised locally by pension funds, fund managers, investment banks, insurance companies and commercial banks. CPF Capital & Advisory Ltd., a subsidiary of CPF Group is leading the fundraising

for the Usahihi Expressway Project through the PACK Hunters Club (PHC). PHC is described as an innovative consortium that brings together the Association of Pension Trustees and Administrators of Kenya (Aptak), the Fund Managers Association (FMA) and the Kenya Association of Stockbrokers and Investment Banks (Kasib).

The consortium aims to raise capital through the financial markets, setting a model for future infrastructure financing in Kenya and the region.

"This expressway is more than just a road. It is a promise of opportunity, safety and national growth, serving as a model of a public-private-partnership done right in line with Kenya's leadership's commitment to not burden the taxpayers with more debt," CPF managing director and CEO Hosea Kili said.

The Usahihi Expressway—

named after the Kiswahili word for "done correctly" is a four-lane dual carriageway linking Nairobi and the port city of Mombasa.

As a PPP, the road will be tolled hence no financial risks for the government and the public, with



KYLE McCARTER

We expect to finish the PPP process and approvals in two months and hope to get financial close by end of this year

the developers overseeing financing, construction, tolling, operation and maintenance for a 30-year concession period, including a construction time of 3-4 years.

"We expect to get through with the PPP process and approvals in the next two months and hope to get financial close by end of this year to pave way for the ground breaking in early 2026," former US Ambassador to Kenya, Kyle McCarter, said.

McCarter who is also partner at Everstrong Capital and chairman, Usahihi Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway, said five contractors have already been identified for the project which will include land acquisition with about \$100 million (Sh12.9 billion) going into purchases and compensation.

The expressway which is designed to have seven toll stations will see motorists pay between Sh12 and Sh13 per kilometre.

This means it would cost a motorist an upward of about Sh5,967 to use the road from end-to-end.

Logistics firms hauling cargo between the Port of Mombasa and Nairobi will have direct accounts where they can pay in US dollar monthly. The current Mombasa-Nairobi Highway will remain operational for those who don't wish to use the toll road, which is expected to cut the transit time between the two cities from about 10 hours 30 minutes to about four hours and thirty minutes.

The expressway will also feature rest stops, wildlife observation points and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

EXPIATE

Human-wildlife conflict compensation hits Sh4.8bn

JACKTONE LAWI

THE Ministry of Tourism spent Sh2.8 billion in the past two years to compensate casualties of human wildlife conflicts, according to new data released by the ministry of Tourism and wildlife.

This even as the total compensation since 2018 hit Sh4.8 billion, as the human-wildlife conflict incidents for 15-year period, specifically from 2009 to 2024 rose to a total of 57,006 incidents reported.

According to the Cabinet secretary for tourism and wildlife Rebecca Miano, Kenya's outstanding Human-Wildlife Conflict compensation claims stood at over Sh4.16 billion as of February 2023.

"The government has so far paid out Sh2.8 billion in compensation since the current administration took office, leaving a balance of Sh1.36 billion yet to be disbursed. However, challenges such as funding shortfalls, manual claim verification delays, and unresolved legacy claims dating back to 2014 have hampered faster resolution," said CS Miano.

The payments were made across two financial years — Sh908 million in 2023/24 financial year and Sh950 million in the 2024/25 financial year with an estimated 20,000 claims currently held at the county level, awaiting processing.

In a bid to modernise and streamline the process, the government launched a Digital Compensation Scheme in 2024. Piloted in six counties, the initiative uses a digital platform for collecting and processing data. Small-scale payments, capped at Sh 100,000, are being disbursed through M-Pesa.

ECONOMIC SURVEY

Growth in re-exports helps Kenya cut trade deficit by Sh113bn - KNBS

VICTOR AMADALA

EXPORTS growth, largely driven by re-exports of kerosene-type jet fuel to neighbouring countries, saw Kenya cut on trade deficit in 2024, which played a major role in stabilising the shilling.

The local currency, which held strong against major international legal tenders, averaged 129.45 units during the year under review against the US dollar after falling to an all-time low of 160.18 units against the greenback on January 12, 2024.

According to the Kenya Economic Survey released on Tuesday, total exports rose to Sh1.12 trillion from Sh1.007 trillion the previous year, with re-exports growing 77.3 percent to Sh180.2 billion, primarily due to increased re-exports of kerosene-type jet fuel.

The growth in total exports,

which outpaced the increase in imports, led to an improvement in the balance of trade deficit from Sh1.6 trillion in 2023 to Sh1.59 trillion in the year under review.

Moreover, the export-to-import cover ratio improved from 38.6 per cent in 2023 to 41.1 per cent in 2024. Kenya's targeted exports to imports ratio, when considering goods and services as a percentage of GDP, is roughly 12.22 per cent for exports and 21.51 per cent for imports.

The improvement in general merchandise trade resulted in the narrowing of the Current Account balance from a deficit of Sh382.7 billion in 2023 to Sh208.9 billion in 2024.

Increased inflows from services, remittances, and interest receipts further contributed to the narrowing of the current account deficit during 2024.

There was a marked increase in inflows of reserve assets during 2024, largely arising from increased multilateral disbursements, causing a rise in the stock of official reserves from Sh1.15 trillion at the end of 2023 to Sh1.3 trillion at the end of 2024.

The stock of external financial assets rose from Sh4.09 trillion at the end of 2023 to Sh4.12 trillion at the end of 2024. Conversely, the stock of external liabilities declined by 9.2 per cent to Sh12.04 trillion at the end of the financial year.

This translated to a 13.7 per cent improvement in the net borrowing position to Sh7.92 trillion at the end of 2024.

A high export ratio generally suggests a healthy economy capable of generating foreign currency through exports, potentially reducing the need for external borrowing. However, a trade deficit, where

imports exceed exports, can lead to increased borrowing to finance those imports.

Kenya's debt service to export ratio was 39.2 per cent in 2024. This means that almost Sh4 out of Sh10 of the country's export earnings were used to service its debt.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommends a debt service-to-Although exports outpaced imports, the value of imports in the year under review went up to

Sh2.71 trillion from Sh2.61 trillion in the previous financial year.

According to KNBS, import expenditure went up from Sh2.61 trillion in 2023 to Sh2.7 trillion in 2024.

Notable increases were recorded in imports of rice (23.9 per cent), telecommunication equipment and parts (30.1 per cent), plastics (14.3 per cent), industrial machinery (eight per cent), and aircraft and associated equipment (98.1 per cent).



A cargo ship docking at the Port of Mombasa /FILE



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BIG READ / BUDGETED CORRUPTION



STUDENTS MISS BURSARIES AS POLITICIANS DIVERT CASH

As they queue in vain, funds are sent to ghost students and pocketed by conspirators

CLARET ADHIAMBO
@TheStarKenya

Images of parents queuing for bursary funds under the hot, scorching sun are common across the country.

Politicians exploit these parents, claiming to be helping them. However, the images are self-serving. In many cases, only half or a quarter of the applicants get the help.

Also, unknown to them, their data is used to divert the funds into the politicians' pockets.

A former worker at the Koro-gocho ward office says her former boss mostly used driving schools, hair-dressing schools and underdeveloped local secondary schools to steal bursaries.

While some of the beneficiaries from the specific institutions are genuine, many are fictitious, enabling the plundering of public money.

"The MCA would send us as emissaries to the specific institutions to build trust," she says.

"We posed as individuals, making deals with this specific institution for safety purposes, and also to avoid being recorded."

Once the deal is struck, the specific

institutions created fake student profiles using stolen data, complete with admission numbers for disbursement of money.

"Agreements are then made on what is the school's cut from the stolen money because cheques are sent to the institution's account before they are withdrawn," he says.

"This was usually done in three or four institutions."

For instance, in 2018, the ward awarded bursaries worth Sh260,000 to more than 30 beneficiaries to two driving schools. The institutions charge Sh5,000 for Class B learners and Sh10,000 for Class A learners.

HARAMBEES AND HUSTLING

Fidel Otieno, an orphan from Homa Bay county, has had to spend most of the second term at home due to lack of school fees.

The Form 2 student at Oriwo Boys' Secondary School has been applying for bursaries in vain since he joined Form 1.

His guardian, Hellen Arum, has been unable to secure bursary funding from his home constituency in Kisumu county and his current residence in Homa Bay.

“Agreements are made on what is the school's cut from the stolen money because cheques are sent to the institution's account before they are withdrawn. This was usually done in three or four institutions

"Unfortunately, Otieno has never received a single cent despite the numerous applications we have made since he joined Form 1," the stay-at-home mum says.

"The two counties have been taking us in circles. They bring up all manner of excuses every time I apply. One said since Otieno no longer lives in Kisumu, he should apply for bursary in Homa Bay. But the other county says he is best fit to get a bursary from his birth county."

Otieno is among hundreds of students who have resorted to creating WhatsApp groups for school fees harambees.

Out of the target of Sh60,000, he had only managed to raise Sh14,000 by the end of April.

Francis Obiri, a student from Kibra, is working at a construction firm to raise university school fees. This is after he unsuccessfully applied for bursaries.

Obiri, who is studying economics at Maseno University, was forced to defer his studies.

He says he has given up hope of getting bursary cash.

"They keep telling me that my documents don't match and yet these are

the same documents I used to apply for bursary when I was in high school," he said.

ROBBING KENYA'S FUTURE

MCAs across the country receive about Sh3.5 million bursaries every year.

A report by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations in 2020 put a number of MCAs on the spot over theft of millions of public funds.

One of the fictitious companies, Kobudho Institute, had an MCA's personal assistant, his wife and the personal assistant's wife as directors of a fictitious company used to steal bursaries.

The investigations showed how, in a seemingly coordinated manner, the directors withdrew Sh449,000, Sh624,000 and Sh900,000 from different bank branches in Nairobi.

The report also implicated Kitisuru MCA Alvin Palapala. It said he alongside James Momita and Tabitha Luchesa created a shell company, NR Talvo Limited, and used it to divert bursaries.

Investigators recorded more than



Students scramble for bursary funds /AI GENERATION

77 forged bursary cheques and 129 imaged cheques, amounting to Sh4.9 million.

One of the directors withdrew Sh200,000 from a local bank in Kahawa, Sh600,000 from a bank at Ongata Rongai and Sh225,000 from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Palapala denied links to the company, blaming his woes on his differences with the then Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko.

“I am not aware of that company and that is why I am telling you that Nairobi bursaries are paid to schools and not the limited companies. Number two, I am not a signatory to the company,” he said.

“My people have already planned a demonstration because they have been receiving the bursaries, which I have been giving them. Sonko should come out clearly and say why he is fighting with an MCA. I am a very small person the governor should be fighting.”

Uraia executive director Oliver Waindi describes the embezzlement of bursaries as not only robbing a generation but also the entire nation of its future.

“This is very annoying and is actually the height of lack of love for your country,” he said.

“We can afford to do with bad roads, we can afford to do with bad buildings, but we actually cannot afford to have an education system that has been robbed of resources.”

Waindi said it is worse that many investigations are gathering dust on shelves just because there are no proper mechanisms to hold the culprits accountable.

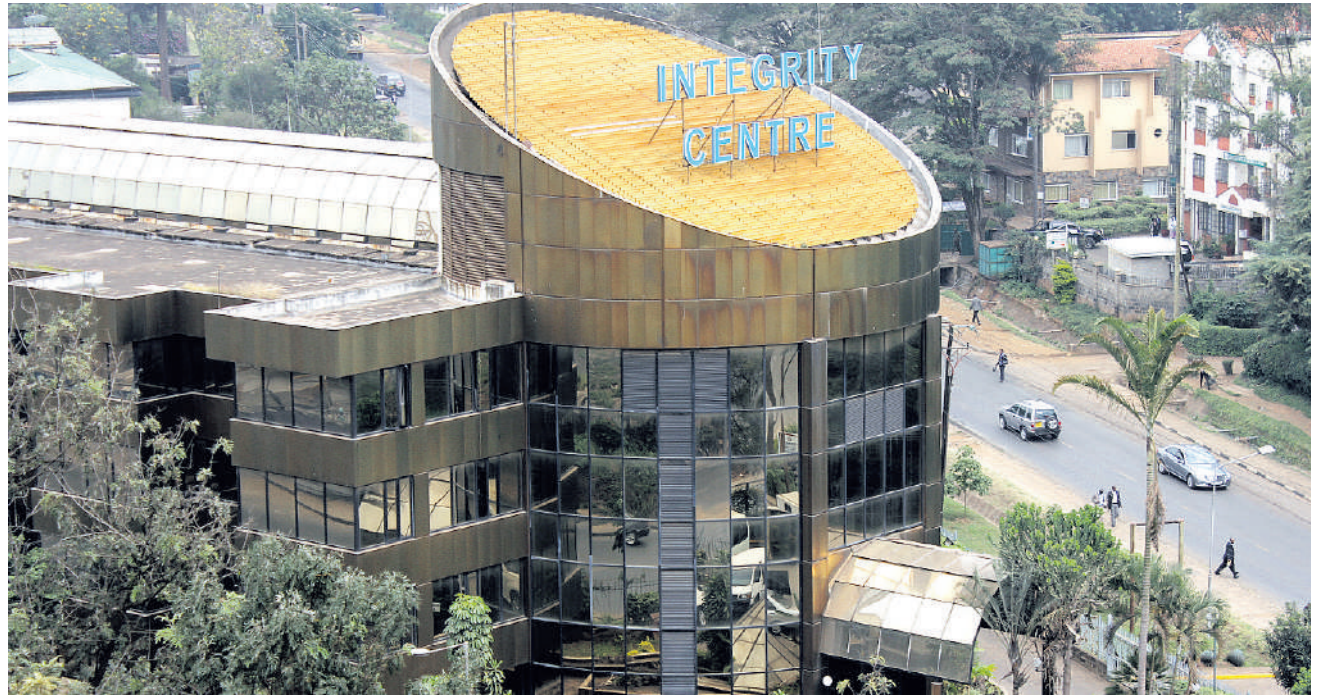
“The same people who embezzled bursaries at ward levels are elevated to positions of governors in the next elections to manage bigger budgets, and the cycle of theft of public money continues,” he said.

SLOW PROSECUTIONS

Flywheel Advisory, a consultancy specialising in forensic accounting and financial crime investigations, says perpetrators of illicit financial flows have devised many ways of committing the crime.

“It’s a major threat because enormous amounts of money can move at the touch of a button,” Flywheel executive director Grace Mburu said.

She added that it is essential to raise awareness, educate regulators



The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission headquarters at Integrity Centre, Nairobi / FILE

and enhance the ability to track transactions. Kenya currently has more than 10 pieces of legislation that are supposed to tackle corruption.

While this may seem as a good impetus, the over-legislation has hampered

the prosecution of corruption cases.

A report by Transparency International found that a lack of proper coordination among institutions tasked with fighting corruption is also another reason the fight against corruption has been a mirage.

This, coupled with the underfunding of independent institutions that are supposed to supervise budgets, have helped corruption thrive.

The report, which was released early this month, says the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions only finalised one corruption case in

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO EMBEZZLED BURSARIES AT WARD LEVELS ARE ELEVATED TO POSITIONS OF GOVERNORS IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS TO MANAGE BIGGER BUDGETS, AND THE CYCLE OF THEFT OF PUBLIC MONEY CONTINUES – OLIVER WAINDI

the 2014-15 financial year.

In the 2022-23 financial year, the department made progress and finalised the prosecution of 75 cases, but with a conviction rate of only 36 per cent.

The control of county bursary funds has recently sparked a row between county governments and the Controller of Budgets.

While CoB insists it is not the mandate of the county to issue bursaries to primary and secondary school students, governors insist it is a noble gesture that has secured the future of many needy students.

Transparency International Kenya executive director Sheila Masinde said the government’s continuous funding of these institutions despite knowing of ongoing embezzlement amounts to budgeted corruption.

“The Auditor General and the Controller of Budget are unable to

address these issues of budgeted corruption because they are underfunded and also because the current law governing public finance management is very weak,” she said.

Masinde called for implementing the Whistleblower Protection Bill to help fight corruption.

The project received support from the Thomson Reuters Foundation through the Media Foundation for West Africa, as part of its global work aiming to strengthen free, fair and informed societies. Any financial assistance or support provided to the journalist has no editorial influence.

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Kenya slow at convicting corruption cases

Many cases finalised but conviction rate remains steadily low

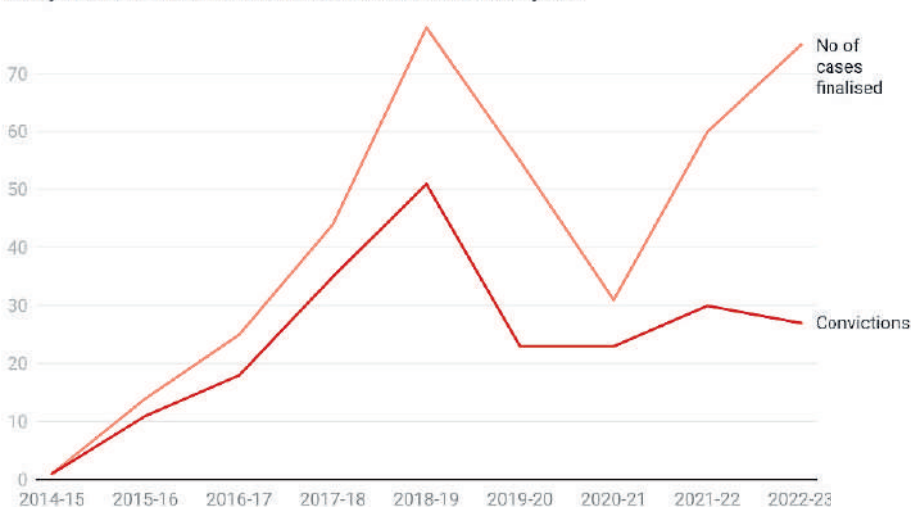


Chart: Claret Adhiambo • Source: Transparency International • Created with Datawrapper



Transparency International executive director Sheila Masinda / COURTESY

★comment

THE STAR

Lion Place, Waiyaki Way
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Nairobi, Kenya

Ipoa, ODPP must send firm warning to cops

Missing Voices, a human rights watchdog, with impeccable credentials tracking police atrocities, especially extra-judicial killings, have released a spine-chilling report revealing police officers resorting to forced disappearances as a way of evading scrutiny.

In 2023 the report reveals 118 people, mainly youths, were killed by rogue police officers while 10 youths disappeared without trace.

But in a horrifying escalation, the number of disappearances shot up dramatically from 10 in 2023 to 55 in 2024.

The figures will obviously include the kidnappings and abductions that followed in the aftermath of the Gen Z demos last year.

And in an infuriating turn of events, the Independent Police Oversight Authority blamed the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions as the weakest link in the arrest and prosecution of police officers suspected of running execution squads.

Ipoa and the ODPP must work as a team, as a matter of necessity, to send a strong and unequivocal message to rogue police officers that murder under the flimsy guise of enforcing the law will never be tolerated.

Besides, the youth they target have broken no law other than to exercise their constitutional right to express themselves and to point out ills in government.

Quote of the day: *"In the end, more than freedom, they wanted security."* —

Renowned historian and scholar Edward Gibbon was born on May 8, 1737.

THE STAR

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HOW MPS RECONFIGURED FUNDS, STRAINED THE LAW

By Fredrick Okango

Devolution was designed to empower county governments to drive development based on community priorities.



Kenya's devolution framework, a cornerstone of the 2010 Constitution intended to decentralise power and promote equitable development, faces a significant test. The National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF), conceived to address grassroots needs, has evolved into a mechanism whose current application risks undermining county governments and straining constitutional order.

Article 6(2) of the constitution provides for two levels of government—national and county. However, the operationalisation of NG-CDF has inadvertently introduced a quasi-third tier, characterised by distinct budgeting, procurement and implementation systems. This has created a governance arrangement that diverges from the constitutional architecture. Notably, in 2024, the High Court ruled the NG-CDF unconstitutional for effectively establishing a parallel administrative structure. Despite this, the fund continues to be administered by MPs, raising concerns about the continued disregard for constitutional supremacy and judicial pronouncements.

Devolution was designed to empower county governments to drive localised development based on community priorities.

However, with MPs exercising significant control over NG-CDF resources, the delineation between legislative and executive functions has been blurred. These funds, directed to constituencies outside the purview of county planning frameworks, risk bypassing established structures and fostering disjointed development. The execution of projects through MPs, often without coordination with county governments, diminishes the effectiveness of devolution and raises questions about the fidelity to constitutional intent.

The deployment of NG-CDF has increasingly taken on a political character. Rather than reinforcing institutional collaboration, the fund has become an instrument of political influence, with MPs utilising development projects to consolidate electoral support. This has unintentionally mar-

ginalised county governments, whose mandate is to provide services. The public perception that MPs, rather than county executives, are the primary agents of development erodes the legitimacy of devolved governance. The allocation of funds based on political expediency risks distorting long-term planning and undermines equitable development.

In the fiscal year 2023, NG-CDF was allocated Sh44 billion—resources that could have been channelled through county governments to support devolved functions.

Audit findings highlight systemic inefficiencies: the 2023 auditor general's report revealed 62 per cent of NG-CDF projects lacked proper documentation, compared to 22 per cent of those implemented by counties. Approximately 30 per cent of NG-CDF allocations were consumed by

administrative costs, significantly higher than the 12 per cent reported in county operations. These inefficiencies raise important questions about value-for-money, accountability and the optimal deployment of resources.

The consequences of parallel project implementation are evident. Redundancies and overlaps between NG-CDF and county initiatives lead to inefficient use of public funds and create confusion among citizens regarding responsibility for service delivery. This fragmentation weakens both levels of government, limiting their capacity to provide coherent and integrated development solutions.

To realign NG-CDF with the spirit and letter of the constitution, a series of reforms is imperative. First, the High Court's 2024 decision must be upheld, with the NG-CDF either abolished or restructured to limit its scope to functions reserved for the national government.

Second, financial allocations targeting devolved functions should be administered through county governments. Third, county assemblies should be empowered to oversee public expenditure, enhancing local accountability.

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

Okango is a political strategist and commentator

VOICES

COUNTIES MUST ADOPT SOLAR ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

When devolution was introduced after the promulgation of the new constitution, it carried the great promise of bringing services closer to the people. Indeed, counties across Kenya have made commendable strides in health, education, infrastructure and economic empowerment. However, one persistent and growing threat that continues to undermine these efforts is the unsustainable cost of grid-powered electricity, particularly for public utilities like street lighting.

Today, darkness has engulfed towns, trading centres and villages across our country. The once brightly lit streets and pathways that symbolised progress have gone dim, not because counties are unwilling, but because they are grappling with astronomical power bills that have become simply unmanageable. In some counties, unpaid electricity bills have ballooned into hundreds of millions of shillings, forcing power disconnections.

Historically, Kiambu has struggled with unsustainable power bills amounting to close to a billion shillings annually, often leading to significant disruptions due to disconnection from the national grid over unpaid bills.

This situation not only hampers development but also opens the floodgates for insecurity, economic downturns and a reversal of hard-

By Kimani Wamatangi

Once installed, solar-powered streetlights come with virtually no recurring costs. They operate automatically, switching on at dusk.



won gains in devolved governance.

This situation calls for introspection and a complete paradigm shift to ensure devolved governments do not throw out the baby with the bathwater. I believe that embracing alternative sources of energy is the way out of this mess. The time has come for counties, and the country as a whole, to adopt a proven, clean and sustainable solution, which is solar street lighting.

Solar energy offers independence, reliability and affordability.

Once installed, solar-powered streetlights come with virtually no recurring costs. They operate automatically, switching on at dusk and off at dawn, and require minimal maintenance. Their lifespan stretches to two decades or more. Compare this to the endless mounting bills that come with grid power and the choice become crystal clear.

Under my leadership, Kiambu county has taken the lead in this

necessary shift. In our journey to brighten rural trading centres and our urban hubs, my administration made a bold decision to shift to solar.

Today, in all 60 wards of Kiambu, solar streetlights are a visible sign to this change.

Residents have warmly welcomed this move, with many expressing their appreciation for safer places and thriving night economies. Another 8,000 solar streetlights will be installed before the end of this

year. By switching to solar power, Kiambu county hopes to eliminate electricity bills and drastically reduce maintenance costs. Solar systems are known for their durability and low maintenance requirements.

Solar-powered streetlights have also enabled us to instal lights even in rural areas that do not have national grid connection.

Recognising the transformative power of solar energy, we have expanded this approach to other critical sectors. Health facilities like Gatundu Level 5 Hospital now have solar backup systems, ensuring essential services such as laundry and sterilisation continue uninterrupted, even during blackouts. Some boreholes are powered by solar.

To make a case for solar energy, our experience reflects global trends. Around the world, countries have embraced solar power. In India, rural electrification

programmes have used solar energy to light up entire villages.

In California, the world's fifth-largest economy, cities are increasingly shifting street lighting to solar to save costs and reduce carbon footprints. Closer to home, countries like Rwanda have successfully deployed solar energy in rural health centres, bringing critical services within reach for millions.

This transition is also a global obligation. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Number 7 calls for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

By embracing solar energy, counties will be fulfilling their part in Kenya's commitment to sustainable development.

From our experience, it is clear solar power is transformative as it eliminates the crippling electricity bills that are slowly choking counties. It provides clean energy, thereby reducing carbon emissions and helping in the fight against climate change. It also ensures reliability, being immune to national grid failures and the constant threat of blackouts.

It simplifies maintenance, with modern solar systems requiring little to no attention for many years. Most importantly, it empowers our people by driving a 24-hour economy, which is a desire for many.

Counties must therefore recognise that continuing to depend on grid electricity for public utilities is just unsustainable. Devolution must be about innovation, resilience and smart choices. If we are to achieve the dream of self-sufficient and prosperous devolved units, we must have a paradigm shift in the energy sector.

Wamatangi is the governor of Kiambu county

Ruto should be worried when shoes stop flying

Migori's flying shoe is symbolic and should not be misconstrued as a lack of decorum. Political scientists and historians can draw many governance lessons from similar events worldwide.

The constant factor has been that for every flying shoe, whether thrown in Kenya, Iraq, or elsewhere, the targets have mostly been heads of state.

Footwear has become a symbol of silent defiance, and Migori's reaction won't be the last.

In a 2008 news conference in Baghdad, an Iraqi journalist stood up and hurled his shoe at then-US President George Bush, subsequently shouting: "This is a farewell kiss from the Iraqi people."

Years later, Muntazer al-Zaidi stated that his only regret was having just two shoes.

His protest followed Bush's earlier suggestions that the Iraqi people would welcome US forces with

By Annet Nerima

When videos circulated online showing a shoe being thrown at Ruto, I analysed it as an act of protest launched from deep frustration.



flowers. So, he waited for the perfect moment to deliver an adequate reply—his shoe.

Muntazer became the face of the anger, frustration, and betrayal that many Iraqis experienced during the US invasion of their country.

In September 2014, another shoe was hurled at former President Uhuru Kenyatta while he sat on the presidential dais in Migori.

It must be remembered that at the time, the UhuRuto regime oversaw numerous "counterterrorism" oper-

ations, such as Operation Usalama Watch, which resulted in numerous human rights violations. Likewise, there was brutal suppression of any opposition to their regime.

The interconnectedness of the shoe hurled at Uhuru and these violent operations and responses by his administration must not be overlooked.

Research indicates that there have been at least 67 high-profile instances of shoe throwing at leaders. Therefore, when videos

circulated online showing a shoe being thrown at Ruto, I analysed it as an act of protest launched from deep frustration.

The Ruto regime has subjected Kenyans to excessive suffering that many can no longer endure. The regime is overseeing extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances with no accountability. The economy is failing. Taxes are at an all-time high, purchasing power has diminished, and people can barely afford a meal. Justice has become elusive, and there are far too many empty promises amid a governance culture that no longer serves its people. There are many more transgressions, and despite the public protesting and calling for reforms, the regime has become stone deaf. The Migori flying shoe, therefore, was aimed at a system that has ceased to listen. What is striking

THE RUTO REGIME HAS SUBJECTED KENYANS TO EXCESSIVE SUFFERING THAT MANY CAN NO LONGER ENDURE. THE ECONOMY IS FAILING. TAXES ARE HIGH, PURCHASING POWER HAS DIMINISHED, AND PEOPLE CAN BARELY AFFORD A MEAL.

is how Kenya's leadership reacted with condemnation and legal threats rather than introspection. A wise and intelligent government interprets symbols, and right now, Kenyans are speaking not through their leaders, but through their frustrations.

But let me speak a language Ruto can understand as a self-proclaimed Christian. The Bible says in Proverbs 29:2 that "when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan." At present, that groan is audible everywhere—in classrooms, markets, bus stops, hospital queues, and every place imaginable.

Perhaps the most powerful message from Migori was in what followed—a deafening silence. The kind that serves as a warning, much like a calm sea before a storm.

In political history, silence is often the final breath before collapse. Apathy doesn't imply the populace agrees; rather, they have stopped expecting anything better and are on the brink of lighting a fuse to a powder keg.

The Migori shoe struck a deeper chord—the country's conscience. Leaders should be worried when shoes stop flying.

Manager for Inclusion and Political Justice at the Kenya Human Rights Commission

★ letters

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Breaking the cycle, redefining economic growth: Start-up idea

I started my business because I was tired of not seeing the change I wanted to see and the organisations I believed were driving that change weren't hiring me. In Africa, the narrative is clear: "Take what you can get," "Jobs are scarce," or "You need them more than they need you." Yes, that reflects our reality, many households live below decent standards. But deeper than poverty is a mindset of lack, a scarcity script passed down for generations. It's time for that to stop.

Africa produces some of the brightest minds, yet we remain one of the most dependent continents. Too many young people believe their success lies elsewhere, outside the continent. This perception is reinforced when our governments trade our human capital for short-term gains. What do we get in return? Illusions of development. Modern-day slavery isn't just chains, it's the export of our people, ideas, and resources for deals that rob us of long-term prosperity.

This isn't news, but it's worth repeating. We can no longer afford outsiders chart our future. Our governments are corrupt?



Too many young people believe their success lies elsewhere, outside the continent.

Often, yes. But we're also part of the problem. We bribe our way into jobs, courtrooms and schools. We skip the queue, cheat systems, and then cry foul when justice fails. How do we build a better Africa if we refuse to confront ourselves?

Corruption isn't abstract. It shows up in empty public hospitals, ghost schools, poor infrastructure and injustice. Kenya, for instance, ranks 123rd out of 180 countries on the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index. Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan rank lower. But Botswana proves improvement is possible—ranking 36th globally. Progress can be made.

Corruption hurts the most vulnerable. It drains resources meant for growth and reinforces inequality. These are uncomfortable truths, but silence only fuels stagnation. Real change requires stepping into unfamiliar, sometimes risky spaces. Economies will rise and fall—but the will to act, to dare, is what moves history forward. So, what's my call to Africa? We must stop waiting for saviours. That movie is over. It's time to reskill, upskill and reclaim our power. The world moves fast—it won't slow down for us to get ready. Be excellent, not for validation, but because the world needs you to be prepared when opportunity knocks. Leaving the continent doesn't fix your country. Every nation needs its

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A boda boda rider transports charcoal to the market in Kitale, Trans Nzoia county, on May 3 /XINHUA

human capital. Africa has the numbers—but where are the results?

We must invest in our people: in education, peacebuilding and reconstruction. Ethnic conflicts continue to displace millions. Children grow up in refugee camps, denied education and dignity. Survival becomes the only goal when their potential should be their priority.

In Kenya, the job quality crisis looms large. Despite a low unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent, only 10 per cent of the workforce is in formal employment. The rest are stuck in informal, low-paying, unstable jobs. By 2030, Kenya's youth will number more than 22 million, intensifying the employment challenge. And this isn't just a Kenyan issue. South Africa, Djibouti and

Eswatini face even higher unemployment rates.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, youth are being left behind. In 2023, 21.9 per cent of them were "Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET)"—most of them women. In West Africa, women drive 80 per cent of food production yet lack land rights, credit access and decent wages. We can't talk about progress if we continue to exclude half the population from real opportunity.

But there's hope. Across the continent, start-ups are rising. Young, tech-savvy entrepreneurs are leveraging innovation to solve problems in healthcare, agriculture and finance. These ventures are not just providing jobs—they're shifting mindsets. They're showing what's

possible when we believe in our ability to lead, create and transform. Still, start-ups alone won't fix it all. Systemic change is needed. We must confront corruption, close gender gaps and build infrastructure that supports growth. Blaming government isn't enough—we need to hold ourselves accountable too. Integrity must become our standard, not our exception.

Start-ups symbolise more than business—they represent a shift toward self-reliance, bold imagination, and ownership. They challenge us to believe in our continent again. To stop begging for inclusion and start building what we need.

Hellen Wangui
via email



Yes. President Ruto's government has created thousands of jobs, especially through the affordable housing programme. Construction projects have absorbed many unskilled youth. Beyond that, initiatives like the Ajira Digital programme have provided platforms for many to earn a living.

COLINS DUDI
Resident, Kisumu



No. One of President Ruto's promises was to facilitate job opportunities abroad for the youth, which we haven't seen happen. Many youth are still struggling, hustling with no consistent jobs. While some people are benefitting through tenders or short-term projects, a majority are left doing odd jobs that do not reflect their qualifications.

ONYANGO BRIAN
Resident, Kisumu

Do you believe Ruto government has created 700,000 jobs?

★new voices

★STAR COMMENT No. Many young people in Kisumu and other parts of Kenya have degrees but still end up doing menial work just to survive. Even the much-talked-about online jobs under government programmes like Ajira are inaccessible to most youth because they require high subscription fees or stable internet, which many cannot afford. What we need are well-structured, affordable and inclusive job programmes.



FELLO GOBLIS
Resident, Kisumu



Yes. The government has made an effort, especially in the construction sector. Affordable housing projects have employed thousands of youths through supply and labour. We've also seen small enterprises benefit from these developments. Online jobs are being promoted through government channels.

ODERA WYCLIFFE
Resident, Kisumu



Yes. Through strategic policies like the affordable housing initiative and partnerships with international investors, job opportunities have opened up in construction, supply chains and services. It's important to understand that the government creates an enabling environment rather than employing everyone directly.

NAMAN OSELU
Resident, Kisumu

COMPILED BY FAITH MATETE

★society...

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

GECO TRIBE RAISES FUNDS FOR RHINO CHARGE 2025



Top contenders in the annual *Rhino Charge* 4x4 off-road competition hosted a fundraising event at Lukenya Hills on Sunday.

The event, supported by White Cap, aimed to raise funds for the team's participation in the upcoming Rhino Charge, set for May 31.

Once again, **Mateus Finato** will lead the charge for the team, who will drive Geco Tribe's car No. 46 during the 2025 competition.

A highlight of Geco Tribe's fundraiser was a tree-planting exercise, underscoring the key role environmental sustainability plays in the spirit of the Rhino Charge.



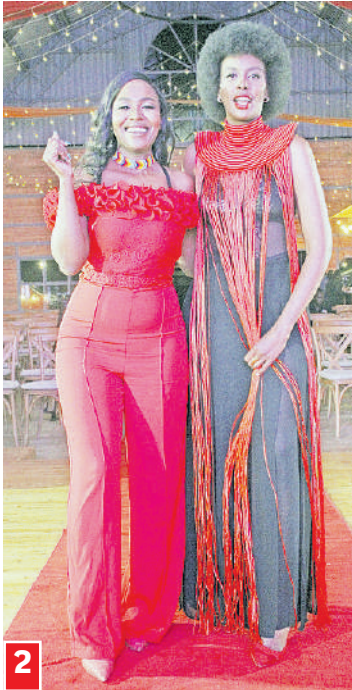
1. MC Amos and DJ Mark Lean 2. Brenda Misiko, Vera Irimbere and Sonia Chiri 3. Fans at the venue 4. Athi Kapiti Wildlife Conservation associates 5. Car no 46 fans Diana Mwangi, Maureen Njeri and Beth Mwangi 6. Euggy the DJ 7. Amapiano lovers groove to the beat 8. Tree planting session /MOSES MWANGI

GLAMOUR AND POMP AT SHANGA 2 AND LULU PREMIERE

TWO exciting shows debuted in style at the Shamba Cafe in Loresho, Nairobi on April 22.

There was the much-anticipated return of ‘*Shanga*’ for a second season and the debut of a thrilling telenovela, ‘*Lulu*’ on Maisha Magic.

Guests and the show's casts turned up on the red carpet dressed in their best outfits.



1. Actresses Nyambu Art Princess and Foi Wambui 2. 'Shanga 2' actresses Zazira Kariuki and Wangu Ndirangu 3. 'Lulu' cast celebrate 4. Actor Ronald Ndubi, stylist and actress Wanjiku Stephens and actor Brian Ogana 5. Fashion stylist Kevin Kaveke 6. Lulu series producer Rashid Abdallah 7. Legendary TV actress Peris Wambui, script writer Effie Mutisya and Joe Makaden /MOSES MWANGI

NEWS COUNTIES

PRIVATELY FINANCED

Usahihi Expressway now takes shape as feasibility study handed to KeNHA

GILBERT KOECH

THE planned construction of a 440km, four-lane dual carriageway linking Nairobi and Mombasa has started taking shape following the official handover of the full feasibility study to the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA).

Everstrong Capital and Usahihi Expressway Limited handed over the study to KeNHA on May 5, clearing the transition from vision to execution.

The two firms said the handover is the result of the most rigorous project preparation processes ever undertaken on a privately financed road project on the African continent.

It said the study has more than 2,300 pages of technical, financial, legal, environmental and economic analysis compiled into a single road

map that outlines not just how to build a road but how to redefine mobility, trade and opportunity across East Africa.

The Sh452 billion project involves the construction of a 419km, four-lane Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway as a greenfield project under a Build-Operate-Transfer contract for a term of 30 years.

Kurrent Technologies' chief operation officer Sanjay Gandhi said they will engage stakeholders in the Usahihi Nairobi to Mombasa Expressway by developing a Local Content Plan and partnering with Tsvets to create opportunities for youth, women and persons with disabilities.

"The project aligns with global sustainability principles and includes Africa's first wildlife connectivity modelling study to protect biodiversity through underpasses and overpass-



The Nairobi Expressway's Mlolongo toll station /FILE

es. We are also conducting a robust public participation process to ensure inclusive stakeholder engagement, especially with vulnerable and marginalised communities."

The handover marks a comprehensive view of the Expressway's technical, financial, legal environmental and social readiness.

This milestone unlocks the next

critical phase of the project: moving towards financial closing with US and global investors and development banks leading to the start of construction in early 2026.

Everstrong Capital, along with lead arrangers JP Morgan and Standard Bank, are organising \$3.5 billion (Sh452 billion) in equity and debt for Usahihi Expressway Limited.

BRIEF REPRIEVE

High Court halts eviction of Ngara estate families

Aging houses for 200 families owned by Kenya Railways that wants to sell the land

GORDON OSEN
@gordon_osen

FOR more than 50 years, the Ngara Railway Estate in Nairobi has been home to retired railway workers and their families, but if the court had not intervened, the houses were to be demolished on May 6, pushing more than 200 families into harsh weather.

The aging houses owned by Kenya Railways for decades have housed old retirees who know them as their only homes since their service years. Generations have grown up here, rooted in a community built on shared history and public service.

The houses are managed by the Railways Retirement Scheme.

Residents say they were not served with a written notice of eviction and there was no formal engagement, just a verbal warning. It was delivered to the residents' association chairman, followed by a newspaper advertisement announcing the sale of the land.

They fear their homes may soon be handed over to private developers to capitalise on the high land value in Ngara, centrally located near Nairobi's CBD.

But on Monday, the High Court stepped in with a temporary reprieve, halting the eviction and sale of the estate, pending a full hearing and determination of a lawsuit/petition filed by residents.

The ruling offers a fragile sense of relief to more than 1,000 residents — many of them elderly and without alternative housing.



Demolition of Ngara Estate in Nairobi on July 1, 2019 /FILE

The residents have always slept with one eye open as they have experienced intermittent demolitions and evictions.

In 2019, at least 200 stalls at Nyayo Market were demolished by a private developer to pave way for high-rise apartments.

A number of residential houses were also demolished that year during the administration of former President Uhuru Kenyatta to pave way for Big 4 affordable housing projects.

The petition against eviction and demolition was filed by the Ngara Railway Southern Zone Residents Association, which represents more than 200 households.

They said the eviction notice — delivered informally on April 16, with

an eviction date of May 6 — violated due process and ignored their rights.

The very next day, on April 17, a newspaper advert confirmed their worst fears: the estate was up for sale.

Justice Judy Omenge certified the matter as urgent and issued the orders.

She directed that the application be served to the respondents and responses be filed within 14 days.

The matter will be heard on June 11. Until then, the sale and eviction process remain suspended.

"These houses were never just property — they were a promise," James Mwangi, 76, said. He had worked as a technician for Kenya Railways.

"We were told, serve your country, and you'll have a roof over your head.

Now that promise is being broken."

The residents say they've lived there for decades — some since the 1970s — and were never included in any discussions about the potential sale or redevelopment of the property.

INSTANT ANALYSIS

High Court's intervention highlights the growing tension between urban development and housing rights for long-serving public workers. This case could set an important precedent for how retirement schemes and public housing estates are handled.



NEWS COUNTIES

CUTTING COSTS

Kuppet rejects state's hardship areas review

Mudavadi presented proposal to National Assembly to reclassify zones and save Sh6 billion, but teachers in Laikipia are unhappy



Laikipia Kuppet secretary general Robert Miano addresses journalists in Nanyuki town /ALICE WAITHERA

ALICE WAITHERA
@Alicewangechi

TEACHERS in Laikipia county have opposed a proposal by the government to review areas that qualify for hardship allowances for civil servants.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi presented a proposal in the National Assembly to reclassify hardship areas.

He explained that improvements in infrastructure, social services, and economic conditions reported in areas that were previously designated as hardship zones necessitated a review and that the move would save the government Sh6 billion annually.

Mudavadi was responding to queries by MPs on why the Teachers Ser-

vice Commission has 44 hardship areas while the Judiciary has 21 and state corporations 16.

But the county secretary general of Kenya Union of Post Primary Teachers Robert Miano said the government should have conducted public participation to determine the areas that have improved and which ones should be struck out.

Laikipia, he noted, still experiences bouts of insecurity, banditry, acute water shortages and poor road connectivity.

"The issues that prompted the inclusion of Laikipia county in hardship areas are yet to be resolved. How can it be declassified yet we're struggling with the same issues?" he said.

Just recently, he said, a teacher was

shot by bandits in Laikipia North and is currently nursing injuries, adding that reports they may be excluded from hardship allowances have been received with shock.

"You can't compare Laikipia to Nyeri or Kiambu counties. The challenges we face here are immense. Laikipia is a dry county with very poor infrastructure. Security in this county is on the same level as Samburu."

He said it was concerning that the people proposing the changes were sitting in comfort and privilege in their offices in Nairobi and were unaware of the challenges those working in hardship areas faced.

Miano said teachers working in the county are forced to face bandits time after time, putting their lives in danger.

"As the government considers reviewing this policy, let it not touch Laikipia. Teachers working here deserve these allowances for the challenges they grapple with daily," he added.

The proposal has classified hardship areas as extreme or moderate, with Mandera, Wajir, Turkana, Garissa, Tana River, Isiolo and West Pokot counties falling under the extreme category.

INSTANT ANALYSIS

Mudavadi's proposal reclassifies hardship areas as extreme or moderate, with Mandera, Wajir, Turkana, Garissa, Tana River, Isiolo and West Pokot counties as extreme. Suba North, Suba South, Narok and parts of Laikipia, Makueni, Kitui, Kajiado, Nyakach, Kilifi and Nyando are moderate.

READY TO ROAR

Kisumu partners with private company to run Ahero rice mill

FAITH MATETE

THE Kisumu government has partnered with Upland Crop Company, a private investor, to run the newly completed rice mill in Ahero, Nyando subcounty.

Agriculture executive Ken Onyango said the move marks a significant milestone in revitalising rice processing in the region.

During the formal signing of a lease agreement, Onyango said the collaboration was a bold step toward commercialising rice production.

"It will spur job creation, stimulate economic growth, and give farmers better access to markets while promoting value addition," he said.

Under the new arrangement, Upland will manage the rice mill as a private investment, injecting capital to ensure its profitability and long-term sustainability.

The mill will provide a competitive processing option for small and medium-scale rice farmers from Western Kenya's irrigation schemes, ultimately improving their earnings and livelihoods.

Onyango said the milling plant would help enhance local rice production and contribute to reducing the country's rice import burden, in line with the President William Ruto's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (Beta).

The modern milling plant

constructed at a cost of Sh30 million by the Kisumu government is a key initiative under Governor Anyang' Nyong'o's development agenda focused on boosting agriculture and improving food security.

It has a processing capacity of 2.5 metric tons per hour or about 60 tons per day and is expected to provide farmers with access to high-quality services, inputs, and improved product value chain opportunities.

As of December 2021, Kisumu recorded a harvest of approximately 19,000 tons of paddy from 6,500 hectares, benefiting nearly 12,000 households.

However, a lack of modern processing facilities meant most of the rice was sold as unprocessed paddy.

"Current one-stage mills cannot meet quality standards. They produce rice that is ungraded, poorly destoned, and with excessive breakage," Onyango said.

To resolve this, the county has invested in a modern, multi-stage mill capable of sorting, grading, and packaging the rice, thus increasing product value and its market appeal.

Rice farmer Jane Achieng' welcomed the initiative, saying it would cut transport costs and improve income for small-scale farmers.

"For years, we have been forced to sell our rice as paddy or transport it far for proper milling, which eats into our profits," she said.



Rice farms in Nyando, Kisumu county /FAITH MATETE

HIGH POTENTIAL

Come to Kirinyaga and make money, Waiguru woos investors



Trade CS Lee Kinyanjui and Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru tour Joy Millers in Kutus town /ALICE WAITHERA

ALICE WAITHERA

KIRINYAGA Governor Anne Waiguru has urged manufacturers to invest in the county, saying it has a rich agricultural heritage that positions it as a premier agro-industrial hub.

The governor spoke in Kutus town during the launch of a new wheat milling equipment at Joy Millers Company with a capacity to mill 600 tonnes of wheat a day. She said the county has the infrastructure and resources required for investments to thrive.

The county has emerged as a leading agricultural producer and her administration is not only focused on production but also on value addition. "The future lies at the intersection of agriculture and industry and we are taking deliberate steps towards becoming an agro-industrial hub," the governor said.

She pointed out that the presence of companies like Joy Millers in value addition translates to higher earnings for farmers and more jobs for youths.

The governor, accompanied by Trade Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui and Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata, praised Joy Millers for its sustained investment and reaffirmed her administration's commitment to driving value addition, job creation, and farmer prosperity. "This new equipment is not just a symbol of expansion but also a celebration of consistent success, local partnership, and the bold future we are building for our people."

The Joy Millers company proprietor Julius Chomba lauded the county government for providing a conducive environment for businesses.

CS Kinyanjui reiterated the government's commitment to support local industries through friendly policies.

"No country can thrive without value addition and agro-processing. Joy Millers Company is a testimony that indigenous industries can thrive," he said.

Kang'ata said his administration has partnered with Joy Millers to buy maize from small-scale farmers in Murang'a, guaranteeing them a consistent income.

NEWS COUNTIES



Fisheries PS Betsy Njagi aboard the Research Vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen on Tuesday /JOHN CHESOLI

RESEARCH CRUISE

Survey results provide fisheries data for Kenya

Aim of the expedition is to evaluate overall ecosystem health

BRIAN OTIENO
@Yobramos4

MORE than 300,000 Kenyans depend directly on fisheries with many more benefiting indirectly, but the resource is threatened by climate change, overfishing and marine pollution.

However, experts are optimistic about potential solutions following the completion of a scientific survey conducted in Kenyan waters as part of a research cruise from April 24 to May 5.

The survey was undertaken via the Norwegian vessel RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen, in partnership with Kenyan scientists.

The primary aim of the expedition was to assess fish biomass, examine oceanographic conditions and evaluate overall ecosystem health.

"This was all done for the sustainable management of fisheries resources. The surveys provided extensive data from the Exclusive Economic Zone, the continental shelf and the slope and will reveal the diversity within our ecosystem," said James Mwaluma, the director general of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute.

He was speaking during the 50th anniversary celebrations of the EAF-Nansen Programme in Mombasa.

The programme encompasses two distinct initiatives: the EAF-Nansen

Programme and the Nansen Initiative. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)-Nansen Programme is a collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization and Norway, focusing on sustainable fisheries.

The Nansen Initiative is a state-led consultative process concerning the protection of populations displaced by climate change and disasters.

Eight scientists were aboard the research vessel.

Betsy Njagi, PS for the Blue Economy and Fisheries, said Kenya is among the countries developing a sustainable ocean plan and participating in the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, leading up to UNOC 3 in France next month.

"Kenya is very keen on ensuring the blue economy space is well utilised sustainably," Njagi said.

Last week, CS Hassan Joho led a Kenyan delegation to South Korea for the 10th 'Our Ocean Conference'. Mombasa will host the 11th edition of the summit – the first to be held in Africa.

The conference will provide an opportunity for Kenya and Africa to highlight their ocean economy agenda.

Njagi, representing CS Joho, noted that Kenyan scientists and resource managers have received training in data-driven, ecosystem-based marine management.

"The partnership has supported Kenyan scientists in collecting data

where knowledge gaps exist and has connected them with international experts for mentorship and skills transfer," Joho said in a speech read by Njagi.

The results of the 2025 survey will aid in planning sustainable management strategies and enhance Kenyans' resilience to climate change and marine biodiversity loss.

Joho called for more surveys across different seasons to provide a clearer understanding of ecosystem health and the environmental dynamics involved.

Tipo Nyabenyi, the ad interim representative of FAO in Kenya, emphasised that the research is particularly crucial for the country and the wider Western Indian Ocean region, where fisheries are a vital source of nutrition, jobs and income for coastal communities.

INSTANT ANALYSIS

Effective management of Kenyan fisheries is crucial for food security, economic development and the livelihoods of coastal communities. Scientific data is essential for formulating protective policies that ensure the sustainable use of available resources. The blue economy has been identified as a key area for Kenya's GDP growth.

VIOLATED LAWS

Mombasa Finance CEC faces summons over flawed budget process

CHARLES MGHENYI

FOLLOWING mounting pressure from civil society groups, the Mombasa county assembly will summon the Finance CEC to explain the failure to conduct proper public participation in the preparation of the 2025-26 budget estimates.

The Coast Civil Society Network for Human Rights (CCSNH) protested at the county assembly for the second time on Tuesday, demanding accountability from MCAs over what they termed a neglect of their oversight duties.

They had first protested at the assembly last Friday.

They want MCAs to uphold their constitutional oversight role and reject the proposed budget until it undergoes proper public scrutiny.

CCSNH chairman Zedekiah Adika presented the network's grievances, accusing the executive of violating budgetary laws and undermining public trust.

Adika said there was a report alleging that public participation for the budget estimates had been conducted, with a notice to that effect dated January 2025.

However, the law does not permit the scrutiny of both the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) and the budget estimates in a single forum or on the same date, as occurred in the January session cited by the Mombasa executive.

"The public was misled. The same forum cannot handle both the CFSP and budget estimates. These are distinct documents that require separate scrutiny," said Adika.

On closer examination of the documents, they established that the estimates were prepared and published before the CFSP 2025-26 was officially passed, violating budget cycle regulations.

"The 2025-26 budget estimates could not have been developed before the approval of the 2025-26 County Fiscal Strategy Paper and the document for the 2025-26 Budget Estimates was not presented for public participation," Adika said.

He urged the assembly to rise to the occasion and perform its role more firmly.

"Beyond the budget, we want this assembly to also demand the governor deliver the State of the County Address, establish an internal audit committee and take action on the increasing insecurity in Mombasa through the County Policing Authority," he said.

Muslims for Human Rights (Muhuri) chairman, Khelef Khalifa, stressed that the budget-making process ought to be transparent.

"Let's not forget, roughly Sh16 billion in budget allocation is passed to Mombasa county each year. Surely, the residents of Mombasa deserve a real voice in how these funds are managed," Khalifa said.

Walid Sketty, another activist who attended the contested January session, also emphasised that their actions were in good faith and aimed at supporting the Assembly.

He said police officers were called to prevent them from accessing the county assembly building.

"We are not here to fight; we are here to help you do your job right," he told the MCAs.

The Tuesday afternoon confrontation led to an urgent consultative meeting at the assembly chambers.

The meeting was chaired by the leader of majority, Athman Mwamwiri and attended by several MCAs, senior assembly staff including the clerk and civil society representatives.

"The Assembly received a formal petition from civil society groups dated April 3, 2025. The petition raised concerns over the timing, transparency and legality of the public participation process concerning the 2025-26 budget," Mwamwiri said.

The county executive had submitted the Programme-Based Budget Estimates to the assembly on April 30 – the legal deadline for tabling budget documents.

The estimates were officially tabled in the House on Tuesday.

The document has since been committed to the Committee on Finance for scrutiny and recommendations.



Activists and youth outside the Mombasa county assembly when they protested over the "flawed" budget-making process /CHARLES MGHENYI

NEWS COUNTIES

ACCUSED OF THEFT

Police probe death of man tortured by mob in Baringo

Njoroge was beaten, tied to a motorbike and dragged on a rough road

MATHEWS NDANYI
@TheStarKenya

POLICE in Eldama Ravine have opened an inquest file on the death of a young man who was allegedly beaten and tortured by a mob at Timboroa market on suspicion of being a thief.

It's alleged Evans Njoroge was extensively beaten and then tied to a motorbike that dragged him on a rough road, causing him severe injuries that led to his death at a local hospital.

The incident sparked tension and anger in the area, where residents and family members have threatened to carry out protests to demand justice for the victim.

Eldama Ravine police boss Joel Chepkwony confirmed the incident and said they had recorded statements from three witnesses as part of investigations.

"The reports we got indicate that he was found with stolen items and attacked by a mob. That action is illegal and we are investigating the incident for further action", he said.

A postmortem was done on the body of the deceased at the Eldama Ravine hospital.

The officer said the attack happened on April 30 around 4pm at Timboroa market.

According to police records, it was reported by Joseph Ngechu, the proprietor of Paradise Hotel, that his hotel entrance metallic stepping ladder valued at Sh10,000 was stolen at night.

He reviewed the CCTV footage and two well-known people were seen carrying it away.

Ngechu mobilised his neighbours and suspects Joseph Gacheru and Evans Njoroge were cornered with the stolen ladder and subjected to thorough beating, sustaining serious injuries.

"They were rescued by police,



rushed to Eldama Ravine subcounty Hospital for treatment", the report says.

At the hospital Njoroge died.

Chepkwony said police are investigating and statements have been recorded to establish how the attack occurred and the perpetrators.

He said once the P3 and the post-mortem forms are completed, plus the statements from eyewitnesses, who the police are pursuing, necessary action would be taken.

The second victim of the attack, Gacheru, was treated and discharged

in fair condition after which his statement was recorded to assist with the investigation.

"Apparently, he was not captured in the CCTV as alleged, therefore he is a witness when the exhibit was recovered from the deceased on that day and handed over to police", the police report says.

Chepkwony said Inquest file No.3/2025 had been opened into the death.

The file will be taken to the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for further action.

Evans Njoroge
/HANDOUT

NEW VENTURE

Uasin Gishu farmers turn to fish as cereal prices decline

MATHEWS NDANYI

MORE farmers are taking up fish farming in Uasin Gishu and neighbouring counties of the region that is popular as the country's grain basket that leads in production of maize and wheat.

More than 4,000 framers are now engaging in fish farming in Uasin Gishu, an increase from less than 2,000 in the last two years amid the ongoing campaign to sensitise farmers on the need to diversify from reliance on grain.

As many farmers venture into high value crops like coffee and avocados, a sizable number have taken up fish farming at a time when a survey indicates that consumption of fish in the region is on the rise.

In a spirited push to scale up fish farming in the region, the county assembly committee for livestock and fisheries conducted extensive field visits to assess the state of aquaculture.

Committee chairman Nicholas Bittok and chief officer Nixon Cheplong led MCAs and senior officials to several fish farms to gain first-hand information about development of fish farming.

"We wanted to see for ourselves how fish farming is being practised across the county and what support our farmers need to thrive," Bittok said.

The MCAs and officials visited successful fish farmers including Imani Farms in Kapsoya area, where fish ponds exemplified sustainable aquaculture techniques.

The team also visited farmer Peter Kattam, who operates four ponds.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

MCAs push for better disaster preparedness in Eldoret city

MATHEWS NDANYI

UASIN Gishu MCAs are pushing for improved facilities for disaster preparedness in Eldoret following its upgrade to a city.

In the first quarter of this year, the region recorded at least 50 disaster incidents, especially fires and drowning accidents.

The MCAs want the county government of Jonathan Bii to invest in more facilities and train additional staff to help handle disasters.

The assembly committee on roads has expressed its commitment to support Governor Bii's administration on all initiatives aimed at enhancing and taking emergency services closer to residents of the new city.

Committee members led by their chairman Gilbert Chepkonga toured the Eldoret City fire station, where they held a meeting with staff on key priority areas that will help improve service delivery by the fire and rescue team.

RESTOCKING

4,000 Turkana families receive free livestock

MATHEWS NDANYI

TURKANA county is implementing an extensive livestock restocking programme that will benefit more than 4,000 households who lost their animals through banditry or other causes like diseases.

The livestock restocking is an economic empowerment scheme being implemented by Governor Jeremiah Lomurukai to enhance the fight against poverty in the region.

He said livestock rearing is the main economic activity for residents of Turkana and the loss of animals usually impacts negatively on the

livelihoods of residents. Lomurukai spoke as residents of Katamanak village in Nakukulas, Lokori/Kochodin ward, expressed joy and relief following a livestock restocking initiative that saw 1,000 goats distributed to 114 vulnerable households.

The restocking exercise is part of the government's ongoing effort to rebuild the livelihoods of pastoralist communities along the Nakukulas-Lopii-Lokwamosing corridor, which is an area frequently targeted by raiders from neighbouring regions.

Among the beneficiaries were two elderly brothers, Lokodos Elipan, 70, and Matakile Elipan, 60, who

previously owned many camels but were rendered destitute after a raid in May 2024.

In a show of solidarity and communal goodwill, the local leadership and residents allocated 20 goats each to the two brothers and eight goats each to other affected households.

Another beneficiary, Nakauron Etiir, 65, who also lost his animals during the same raid, acknowledged the support and said he now feels more hopeful about the future.

Director of livestock Bobby Ekadon led the distribution exercise, saying the county was committed to ensure its success.



County officials deliver goats and sheep as part of the restocking exercise to families in Katamanak on May 2 /MATHEWS NDANYI

NEWS COUNTIES

UP TO THE TASK

Kalonzo can win presidency without Uhuru support – ally

Munyambu says the Wiper leader only needs the votes of Kenyans to get top seat

MUSEMBI NZENGU
@nzengumj

KALONZO Musyoka is not desperate for endorsement and support by former President Uhuru Kenyatta to beat incumbent William Ruto in 2027, a Wiper party leader ally has said.

The coordinator of the larger Mwingi professionals and business community, Campbell Munyambu, said all Kalonzo needs is to galvanise support of majority of Kenyans to dethrone Ruto in 2027.

Munyambu spoke to journalists in Mwingi town, Kitui county on Tuesday.

He dismissed media reports which he said portrayed Kalonzo as hopeless, besieged and in dilemma since he had been denied the backing of Uhuru as the former president preferred the candidature of former CS Fred Matiang'i.

"There should be no illusions. Kalonzo only needs the votes of Kenyans to win the presidency. At the same time Uhuru has the constitutional right to back the candidate he wishes," he said.

Munyambu, however, noted that Uhuru's support was not a straight pass to the presidency recalling that in 2022 he backed Raila Odinga but he ended up being beaten by Ruto.

"Uhuru was a good president. He performed to his best. However, it does not imply that if he does not back Kalonzo, he will not win. He has the backing of Kenyans," Munyambu said.

He said it was overt among Kenyans that Kalonzo was the right man to be president come 2027.

"He is the person who can move the country forward. The appearance of Matiang'i in the scene does not change that equation," he added.

He said Matiang'i could not match



Former Kakamega Senator Cleophas Malala, former CS Fred Matiang'i, ex-DP Rigathi Gachagua, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, People's Liberation Party leader Martha Karua and DAP-K's Eugene Wamalwa, among other leaders, during the interdenominational thanksgiving ceremony at Wamunoro, Nyeri county on Sunday /DENISH OCHIENG'

Kalonzo's popularity. "Kalonzo knows that he only need to lay well thought out strategies to win the hearts of Kenyans without seeking backing or endorsement from any individual leader," he added.

He said Kalonzo has what it takes to save the collapsing economy, medical services and education sectors as well as saving Kenyans from the pain of high taxes.

Munyambu also said it would be prudent for the new opposition alliance to support Kalonzo as their presidential candidate.

He further said despite being more

experienced in national leadership, the country would be in safe hands as Kalonzo is an honest and selfless patriot.

"He is a man of integrity not tainted by corruption. He has previously served in government and showed the highest degree of honesty and selflessness. He is the right person to be the president," Munyambu said.

He added that Kalonzo had experience in both sides of the political divide — in government and opposition — and since he knew what ails the country, he can easily find solutions to fix the issues.

INSTANT ANALYSIS

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka faces an uphill battle and increasingly complex terrain as he aims to topple President William Ruto in 2027. Former President Uhuru Kenyatta's Jubilee Party is now backing former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i. It had earlier been expected that the Kenyatta family would throw their weight behind Kalonzo.

GETTING JOBS

Youths urged to embrace TVETS for self-reliance

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

YOUTH in Garissa have been challenged to embrace Technical Vocational Education and Training as a viable path to getting jobs and self-reliance.

Speaking in Garissa town, county commissioner Mohamed Mwabudzo said there are many colleges in the county offering technical courses that can greatly change the lives of the youth.

He, however, regretted that many still prefer white-collar jobs which he noted are fast diminishing.

Mwabuzo said there is need for attitude change, calling on parents to encourage their children to embrace skilled training.

"I must admit that we are not very well as far enrolling our youth in these technical institutions, this is despite the government investing a lot of money in equipping them as well as employing teachers," he said.

But it starts with attitude change, this can only be achieved if we collectively talk to them," he said.

The county commissioner said he had received numerous requests from parents seeking job opportunities for their children, but was quick to add that majority of them only poses Form 4 certificates, something he noted worked against them.

His comments come barely a week after Garissa Governor Nathif Jama raised similar concern about the youth not embracing technical institutions.

Jama said the government has invested heavily in Tvets and it is unfortunate that the youth still shy away from them.

"It worries me that despite the huge investment in technical training institutes, our numbers remain very low. As a community, we need to change our mindset that the only gainful employment can come from white-collar jobs. The reality is that those jobs are fast diminishing," he said.

ACT ON COMPLAINTS

Stop harassing wananchi for bribes, Duale tells Garissa cops

STEPHEN ASTARIKO

HEALTH CS Aden Duale has accused police officers in Garissa of harassing residents by demanding for bribes.

Speaking in Garissa during the eighth graduation ceremony of Daarul Aafaaq Islamic Education Centre, Duale said he has been receiving complaints from residents about police officers strategically erecting illegal roadblocks in Garissa town and its environs where they collect bribes from pedestrians and motorists.

The CS said it has become increasingly difficult for the residents to go about their businesses for fear of coming across police officers who demand hefty bribes failing which, one is arrested, preferred trumped-up charges or taken to the police cells.

Among the reasons for arrest are failure to carry an ID card. Motorists and boda bodas have also not been spared with those without driving licence and their vehicles don't have insurances paying an even high bribe. Tetu Primary School, County High School, Nasib,

Power lighting company Nasib area, Bula sigara and Garissa University were named as the most notorious places that the police camp.

Duale who was accompanied by Garissa county commissioner Mohamed Mwabudzo and county police commander Amos Ambasa instructed the security chiefs to immediately act on the complaints.

"That [collecting bribes] is not the policy of the National Police Service and neither is it the policy of the government of President William Ruto. I have been receiving numerous calls from our mothers and the youth about this bad habit from our security officers. If you are not satisfied with your salary kindly resign and look for something else to do," he said.

"But you cannot be part of the security agent and still be the one terrorising and tormenting our innocent citizens who are going about their daily businesses. The county security team led by the county commissioner and county police commander must swiftly act stop this business," he added.



Health CS Aden Duale with Garissa health executive Ahmednadir Omar and Garissa county police commander Amos Ambasa /STEPHEN ASTARIKO

NEWS COUNTIES

PHOTO STORY



A man wades through a flooded road at Mogadishu estate in Nyali constituency, Mombasa after a downpour on Tuesday /JOHN CHESOLI

POSSIBLE COLLUSION

Cops grilled after 6 suspects escape from Siaya court

The 13 police officers had been detained for questioning but were later released on bail

CYRUS OMBATI
@CyrusOmbati

THIRTEEN police officers are under investigation following the escape of six high-risk criminal suspects from the Siaya law courts on Monday.

The circumstances surrounding the escape are unclear, police said. The 13 had been detained for questioning but were later released on bail, police said, adding that their mobile phones were confiscated.

The suspects – Fredrick Wafula, John Ngote, Farid Kimtai, John Okumu, Albert Otieno and Kevin Otieno – had appeared in court on charges of robbery with violence.

However, they evaded officers and escaped while being escorted back to remand.

Siaya county police commander, Serah Koki, confirmed that all 13 officers, who were on duty at the time of the incident, are under investigation.

The escapees remain at large and

efforts to locate and re-arrest them are ongoing, Koki said.

Such incidents have been frequent amid an ongoing investigation into possible collusion.

In February, a terror suspect escaped from a police cell in unclear circumstances at Elwak police station, Mandera county.

Muse Abdulle had been detained at the station since February 9, following his arrest on suspicion of terror links, police reported.

He was taken to court and an order was issued for his detention pending investigation and arraignment.

Police said he escaped from their cell in unclear circumstances on February 14. An officer who went to collect him for questioning found he was missing.

The two officers who were on duty when the incident occurred were arrested after it emerged that there was no break-in at the cells, leading to the suspicion that the suspect was allowed to leave.

CANE DEVELOPMENT

Implement sugar levy now, farmers tell board

HILTON OTENYO

THE Kenya National Federation of Sugarcane Farmers has urged the government to immediately implement sections of the Sugar Act that do not require the establishment of further structures.

Federation deputy secretary general Simon Wesechere said the Kenya Sugar Board should implement requirements for sugar research and the Sugar Development Levy.

“This money will support the sensitisation of sugar cane farmers so that we can achieve adequate cane production to sustain local sugar production,” he added.

Speaking in Mumias town, Wesechere said farmers expect a functional Sugar Research Institute to be established to ensure the production of quality seed cane that will enhance overall production.

The federation is also engaging with farmers to ensure they elect trustworthy individuals as directors when elections for the revamped Sugar board are held. KSB is in the process of preparing a register of sugarcane farmers that will be used during the director elections.

He added that farmers feel that the privatisation of state-owned sugar millers was being hurried for selfish reasons and should be slowed down, as they fear losing key stakes.

HEALTH INSPECTION

Shinyalu school closed over safety, sanitation concerns

HILTON OTENYO

PUBLIC health officers have closed Vikutsa Primary School in Shinyalu subcounty for failing to meet safety and sanitation requirements.

Head teacher Godfrey Liula said the 400 pupils have been transferred to nearby schools to ensure continuity of their education.

The closure, on Monday, follows recommendations contained in an inspection report by subcounty public health officer Bramwel Wanyonyi.

The report dated March 20, Wanyonyi stated that the school does not meet the minimum public health requirements stipulated by the Public Health Act.

“In regard to this and prioritising the health and welfare, such as the privacy of the pupils, this office hereby recommends the immediate closure of the school to the court,” the report reads.

Among recommendations highlighted in the report were that the management repair all chipped, cracked and potholed floors and corridors in the classrooms and renovate

two dilapidated blocks. The school administration was also directed to construct nine new latrine doors and a modern urinal for boys, eight new pit latrine doors for girls and two new pit latrine doors for teachers.

Furthermore, the school should replace leaking roofs and provide a compost pit before it can be allowed to reopen.

The headteacher said 200 pupils were transferred to Singila Primary School, 58 to Mukhuyu PEFA, and others to Lubini Primary School.

“We felt that the ECDE learners were too young and moved them to African Neneve Church in the neighbourhood since our secondary counterparts did not want the children to be taken there,” Liula said.

Kakamega Woman representative Elsie Muhanda, had donated Sh250,000, which the school was using to dig two latrines, he added.

Liula said that the school started having challenges after the family that donated land for its establishment decided to exclude the management in the succession of the land and attempted to remove the school.

400 PUPILS
HAVE BEEN
TRANSFERRED
TO NEARBY
SCHOOLS

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

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Floor, Nkrumah
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PUBLIC AUCTION

Under the Instructions received from our Principals, we shall sell the under mentioned motor vehicle by Public Auction to be held on **Saturday 17th May, 2025 at Pangani Auction Centre in Pangani Nairobi starting 10.00am.**

SCCC NO. E3137 OF 2024

PLAINTIFF -VS- NZUKI MWANGI

Motor Vehicle Reg No. KCK 728V MAZDA BONGO

CONDITIONS OF SALE

Cash at the fall of the hammer.

HOLDEN AUCTIONEERS
FERRARI HOUSE, P.O. BOX 152 - 00517, NAIROBI
TEL: 0722-833251/0737-312484

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our Principals pursuant to the provisions of the disposal of Uncollected Goods act(Cap.38) of the Laws of Kenya and the advert in Kenya Gazette Vol.CXXVII No.58 , we shall sell the under mentioned Goods,Furniture, Machinery , Electronics and many others on **THURSDAY 15TH MAY, 2025 AT LEAKEYS STORAGE -LUNGALUNGA ROAD NAIROBI STARTING 11.00AM.**

7 Seater sofa set, 2-4 seater sofa set, 2-5 seater sofa set, Coffee tables, Wooden drawers, Wooden stools, Cooler box, Travelling Bags, Metallic stand table, Racks, Assorted wooden shelves, Lamp stands, Workstation, Dining tables with seats, Wall hangings, Boat, Assorted bedding's, shoes, clothes, Assorted household items, Deep freezers, Ice cooler boxes, Reception counter, Assorted cables, Meat cutters & mincers, Weighing scales, saloon chairs, Saloon bench, saloon driers and warmers, Microwaves, Electric kettle, Assorted plastics, Assorted bulbs, Small radio, plastic chair, Cabinet, Mirrors, Assorted beds & mattresses, 6 seater sofa set, Printer, Toaster, Home theatre + 2 speakers, CD/DVD machine, iron boxes & hangers, Air-fan, Carpets, Assorted utensils Assorted wine glasses, Water dispensers, TV stand, Arm sofa seat, satellite dish, Bike, Baby cots, 2 speakers, wall unit, Electric cooker, Gas cooker, 2 door fridge, Mike & components, Sound bar, Assorted pillows & duvets, Assorted sufurias, Meat roaster, Briefcase, Assorted electrical, Assorted cables, Pool table balls, Chopper machine, sofa set and many other items.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Sale is subject to reasonable reserve prices.
2. Cash at the fall of the hammer.
3. Viewing at Leakey's storage lunga lunga from Monday 12th may during normal working hours
4. All interested buyers are required to verify the details as these are not warranted by the auctioneer.

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3rd Floor, Room No 322 Fax: 020-341690
Haile Selassie Avenue Email: kindestauction@yahoo.com
Cell no. 0722515650/0717810606

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals, we shall sell the under mentioned goods by Public Auction on Friday 16th May 2025 at 11.00am at Startuck Auctioneers.

DISTRESS FOR RENT

LANDLORD -VS- MARY MUTHONI NJOROG

1 Von Water Dispenser, 2 13kg Total Gas Cylinders, 13kg G-Gas Cylinder , L.G. Micro-Wave, Wooden Cupboard, Four Burner Cooker, L.G Two Door Fridge, 2 Carpets, 10 Seater leather Sofa Set, 2 Dstv Decorders, Six plastic chairs, Round table With 4 chairs, 3 small wooden stools, Small Fire Extinguisher, Tv Stand, Wooden Coffee Table, Sony "55" inch Tv & Remote, Sony Home Theatre plus 4 Speakers, Metallic Kettle.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Strictly Cash at the fall of the Hammer.
2. For viewing contact 0722 515 650.

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TEL: (+254) 020 - 3743744/020374 345 MOBILE 0722 873 755/0737 873755
Email : wiskamauctioneers@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under Instructions Received from Our Principals the Landlord under Distress for Rent Act Cap 293 Laws of Kenya, We Shall Sell By Public Auction The Below listed Goods at **Startruck Storage yard along Kiambu Road on Friday 16th May 2025 at 10:30am.**

LANDLORD V/S SOLOMON KINYUA MACHARIA

Mika 6 burner gas cooker with its cylinder, 10kg front loader clothe washing machine, 6x6 doctor mattress, bed with mattress, old meat grill, old ps of sofa, chest drawer, 2 mika water dispenser, office desk and its chair, puff, 5 beanbag seats, double door Samsung refrigerator, 4 counter stools (metal), deep freezer, 2 baby car seats, small chest drawer, 10 seater sofaset, TCL 55"colour television, Sony sound bar woofer, 2 floor carpets, fire pot (clayed).

**CONDITIONS OF SALE
CASH AT THE FALL OF THE HAMMER
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PERSONAL AND PRIVATE TUTOR in business and computer studies both secondary/colleges in kisumu details 0716462733 071395713

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM PLUPA/DC/3

(r. 3(3)(xi))

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019) CHANGE OF USE

The Owner of **LR No 1870/V/30** situated along Rhapta Road in Westlands area, proposes to Change the Use of the plot from **Single Dwelling Unit to Multi Dwelling Units (Serviced Apartments)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals, Institutions and Organizations etc with objections/comments to the proposal to forward them in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to:

**The County Secretary Nairobi City County, P.O. Box 30075-00100 Nairobi
Registered Planner No. RPP No. 0302**

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM PLUPA/DC/3

(r. 3(3)(xi))

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019) CHANGE OF USE

The Owner of **LR No NAIROBI/BLOCK 137/490** situated along Karen Road in Karen area, proposes to Change the Use of the plot from **Single Dwelling Unit to Multi Dwelling Units (Town Houses)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals, Institutions and Organizations etc with objections/comments to the proposal to forward them in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to:

**The County Secretary Nairobi City County, P.O. Box 30075-00100 Nairobi
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CHANGE OF USE FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-DWELLING UNIT TO RESIDENTIAL MULTI-DWELLING UNITS (TOWNHOUSES) ON PLOT L.R. NO. 8272/55(NAIROBI/BLOCK218/206)

In pursuant of the provisions of:-
-The County Governments Act, 2012
-The Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2010
-The Physical and Land Use Planning Act, No. 13 of 2019
-The Physical Planners Registration Act (1996), Section 21

The owners of Plot L.R. No. **8272/55(NAIROBI/BLOCK218/206)** situated along **Bendera Lane, off Spring Valley Road, Westlands, Nairobi** propose to change the use from **Residential Single-Dwelling Unit to Residential Multi-Dwelling Units (Townhouses)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals and institutions with any objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within **14 days** from the date of this notice to:

**CECM - Built Environment and Urban Planning Sector,
Nairobi City County
Nairobi City Hall,
City Hall Way, P.O Box 30075-00100
Nairobi, Kenya**

R.P.P Munyua Mwaura - 0101

Dated: 8th May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CHANGE OF USE FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-DWELLING UNIT TO RESIDENTIAL MULTI-DWELLING UNITS (TOWNHOUSES) ON PLOT L.R. NO. 8272/56 (NAIROBI/BLOCK218/207)

In pursuant of the provisions of:-

- The County Governments Act, 2012
- The Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2010
- The Physical and Land Use Planning Act, No. 13 of 2019
- The Physical Planners Registration Act (1996), Section 21

The owners of Plot L.R. No. **8272/56 (NAIROBI/BLOCK218/207)** situated along **Bendera Lane, off Spring Valley Road, Westlands, Nairobi** propose to change the use from **Residential Single-Dwelling Unit to Residential Multi-Dwelling Units (Townhouses)** subject to approval by Nairobi City County. Individuals and institutions with any objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 days from the date of this notice to:-

**CECM - Built Environment and Urban Planning Sector,
Nairobi City County
Nairobi City Hall,
City Hall Way, P.O Box 30075-00100
Nairobi, Kenya**

R.P.P Munyua Mwaura - 0101

Dated: 8th May 2025

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by the Financier we shall sell the listed Motor Vehicle by Public Auction:-

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VEHICLE MODEL	REG. NO.	LOCATION
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MAZDA DEMIO	KDE 148M	THE AUCTION CENTRE (TAC)

TERMS OF SALE

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P.O. Box 51839-00200 Nairobi
Phone no. 0721973704 /0717819961
Email Address: auctioneers.freeman@gmail.com



PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly Instructed By Our Principals We Shall Sell By Public Auction The Under Mentioned ON

1. THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2025 - STARTING AT 11.00 A.M.

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THE ENERGY ACT, 2019 JINYE COMPANY LIMITED

APPLICATION FOR ELECTRIC POWER UNDERTAKING BUSINESS LICENCE

Notice is given that Jinye Company Limited a private company duly incorporated under the laws of the republic of Kenya with registration number PVT-EYUBMBDB having registered office on Lr.No. 1/413, Meteor Garden Building, Kilimani, Chania Avenue, Nairobi Kenya. (the Applicant). Pursuit to section 119 of the Energy (Electricity Licensing) regulations 2012 will after seven (7) days of this notice make application to the energy and petroleum regulatory authority (EPRA) for Electric Power Undertaking Business Licence.

The grant of the licence will not have adverse effect on the public or local authorities, companies, persons or bodies of persons within the area of the undertaking.

A copy of the application to EPRA (subject to confidentiality considerations) will be available (once submitted to EPRA) for inspection to the public at the registered office of the applicant.

Any public or local authority, company, person or body of person, decisions of making any representation on or objection to the application shall do so by letter addressed to EPRA and marked on the outside of the cover enclosing "Electric Power undertaking business licence objection" on or before the expiry of the thirty (30) days from the date of the application as stated in the notice and a copy of such representation of the objection must be forwarded to the registered office of the applicant.

Jinye Company Limited

FORM PLUPA L-2

(r.10)



REPUBLIC OF KENYA THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT, 2019 (No. 13 of 2019)

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF PART DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Title of Development Plan: Regularization of Existing Site for Affordable Housing Program at Gichugu Town
PDP Ref. No. NRB/152/2025/01

NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 13(g) and 69(1 and 4) of the Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019 read together with Legal Notice No. 27 of 2020, the preparation of the above plan was on the 26th March 2025 completed.

The Part Development Plan relates to a site situated in Gichugu/Kiinyaga Town in Kirinyaga County.

Copies of the Part Development Plan as prepared have been deposited for public inspection free of charge at the offices of the **County Commissioner Kirinyaga County, CECM in charge of Physical and Land Use Planning-Kirinyaga County and the National Director of Physical Planning-5th Floor, Ardhi House Building, Nairobi; between the hours of 8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.**

Any interested person who wishes to make any representation in connection with or objection to the above Part Development Plan may send such representation in writing to be received by the National Director of Physical Planning, 1st Ngong' Avenue, Ardhi House Building, P.O. Box 45025-00100, Nairobi or electronically via email: ndpp@ardhi.go.ke not later than 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, and such representation or objection shall state the grounds on which it is made.

DATED the 25th April 2025

Dr. Plan. Peris Mangira, PhD, HSC

NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

State Department for Lands and Physical Planning



To place your adverts contact:

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Mary Awuor – 0723060734	
Jacob Ting'aa – 0722796558	MT KENYA
Exallenty Wambua – 0700334139	Mary Mulwa – 0726581185
Kate Mwangangi – 0721667742	
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Betty Ngina – 0707268525	



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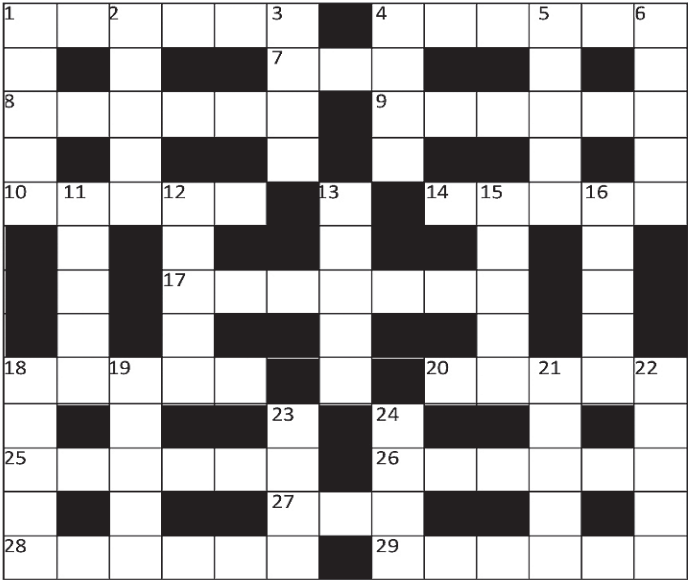
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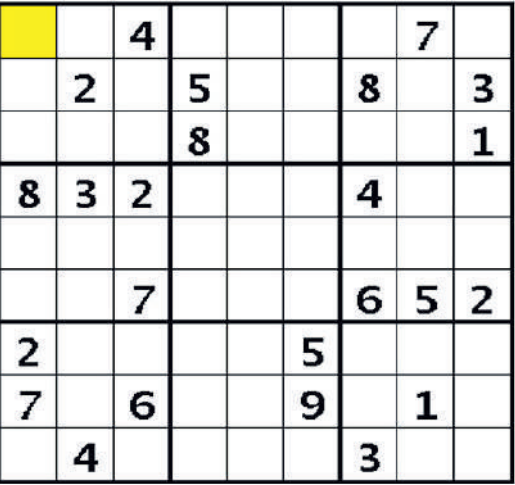
COFFEE BREAK

CROSSWORD / PUZZLE



- DOWN**
1. Country in Europe (5)
2. In Greek mythology, drinking from which river Hades causes people to forget past lives (5)
3. Islamic Republic (4)
4. Country in Oceania with capital city as Suva (4)
5. Point on the celestial sphere immediately below an observer (5)
6. County town of the Irish county of Clare (5)
11. Country with capital city as Damascus (5)
12. The capital city with a game park (5)
13. Former Principal Secretary for Wildlife (5)
15. Former Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs (5)
16. Former Member of Parliament for Bobasi Constituency (5)
18. Former Member of Parliament for women in Kilifi County (5)
19. The sun's most distant planet (5)
21. Large level basalt plains on the surface of the moon (5)
22. Country with Capital city as Nukualofa (5)
23. Former Governor for Tana River County (4)
- ACROSS**
1. Country in SADC (6)
4. West Africa's key colonialist (6)
7. Former Member of Parliament for Kinango constituency (3)
8. Country in Europe with red and white flag (6)
9. Country with capital city as Amman (6)
10. Member of Parliament for Khwisero constituency (5)
14. Former Member of Parliament for Sigowet/Soin constituency (5)
17. Africa's most populous country (7)
18. Industrious country in Asia (5)
20. Celestial body near the sun, has a tail which points away from the sun (5)
25. Former Governor for Kwale County (6)
26. The only known satellite of the planet Pluto (6)
27. Spanish word for day (3)
28. Name used by NASA for its manned lunar project (6)
29. Member of Parliament for Suna West constituency (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

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

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

ACAPELLA
ACID ROCK
ACOUSTIC
AMBIENT
AVANT-GARDE
BIG BAND
BLUEGRASS
BROADWAY
CABARET
CHORAL
CHRISTMAS
CLASSIC ROCK
DANCE
DISCO
ELECTRONICA
FLAMENCO
FOLK
GANGSTA RAP
GOTHIC

HEAVY METAL
HIP HOP
INDIAN
INDIE
JAZZ
LATIN MUSIC
LOUNGE
MERENGUE
MEXICAN
NEW WAVE
POLKA
PSYCHEDELIC
PUNK
ROCKABILLY
SAMBA
SOUL
TANGO
WALTZ
WORLD

Grip strength: The test for your chances of living to 100

BBC/ In a world of technologically-driven longevity clinics with their increasingly sophisticated imaging scans, some of which can cost tens of thousands of dollars, it turns out that one of the best assessments of muscle strength and quality is to simply sit in a chair and squeeze a tennis ball. That's the recommendation offered by Joshua Davidson, a strength and conditioning researcher at the University of Derby who studies hand grip strength, a metric increasingly recognised as one of the most reliable markers of human health. When testing grip strength in clinical trials, scientists typically use a hand dynamometer, a device which you squeeze as hard as possible to measure the force generated by the muscles in your hand and forearm. Several companies are now attempting to take the dynamometer out of the clinic and into the home, combining easy-to-use devices with mobile apps to let anyone chart their grip strength over time. However, according to Davidson, you can still get a decent idea through a simple "squeeze test" with a tennis or stress ball. "All you need is any object that you can grasp and can be deformed without causing pain or discomfort," he says. "Simply squeeze it for as long as you can before your grip fatigues. Being able to maintain a maximal squeeze on something like a tennis ball for 15-30 seconds would be a good standard to strive for." Noting down how long you can squeeze can help you track your grip strength over time.

Of course, as Mark Peterson, a physical medicine and rehabilitation professor at the University of Michigan points out, having a weak grip strength alone will have relatively little impact on your everyday life directly, beyond making it a little bit harder to open cans or jars. But researchers are increasingly using grip strength as a proxy for overall musculoskeletal strength throughout the body.

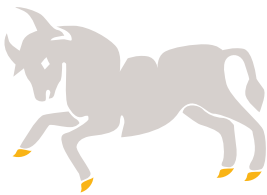
TELEVISION LINEUP – THURSDAY

Daily Report
#TheGreenFix
With Shiksha Arora
Thursday | 9:00pm

MAY 08
GOtv Channel 26 | Zuku Channel 69 | DSTV Channel 204 | tv47digital | i*Africa

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

ALL IN THE STARS



TAURUS

April 21– May 21

You may need a good friend to lean on. Do not force your opinions on others the connections will be short lived.

GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

It might be time to pick up the slack and do your share. You need to get down to basics with regard to yourself.

CANCER

June 22–July 22

Find a way to consolidate. You would be best to work late in order to avoid such disharmony.

LEO

July 23 – August 22

Don't let coworkers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work.

VIRGO

August 23 – September 23

Try making some changes to your appearance and your attitude that will reinforce just that. You may have a problem at work with a female coworker.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

You can make money if you are careful not to let it trickle through your fingers.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

Be cautious handling tools, machinery, or dangerous objects. Socialize with friends. Don't overspend on lavish entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

Your charm and generosity will bring new friends and romantic opportunities. Think twice before you agree on new projects.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

Don't push your mate away. Your relationship appears to be stressed out and depleted.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

Caustic language may cause you to want to get out of the house. Relationships will be erratic today.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

You may have difficulties with someone close to you. Things may not be as they sound.

ARIES

March 21 – April 20

Romance is quite possible if you are willing to approach someone who interests you. Make changes regarding your friendships.

ODDLY ENOUGH





Isaac Omurwa (R) with his elder brother Ferdinand Omanyala in a previous AK meeting /FILE

DREAMING BIG

Omurwa is hoping to step out of his big brother's shadow in Guangzhou, China

BY TEDDY MULEI

ISAAC Omurwa is ready to step out of his big brother's shadow and into the global spotlight when he features in his first international outing at the World Relay Championships in Guangzhou, China, this weekend.

The 21-year-old speedster, younger brother to Africa's sprint king Ferdinand Omanyala, is part of a formidable six-man 4x100m sprint squad unveiled for the global relay showdown.

The team features a mix of experience and raw talent, with Omanyala, Meshack Babu, former national record holder Mark Otieno, Moses Wasike and Steve Onyango completing the lineup.

Omurwa, the youngest member of the 4x100m team, is thrilled to make his first senior outing.

"The camp has been good. The coaches and athletes have been cooperative. I can't com-

plain," Omurwa said.

Despite it being his first international outing, he already has one eye on the World Championships in Tokyo this September.

Training with sprinting old guards has whet his appetite for glory and is already thinking about the September World championships in Tokyo.

"We have hopes that we will bring back good results from China. The target for all the athletes is qualification for the World Championships in Tokyo," he added.

Only the top 14 teams in Guangzhou will earn automatic qualification to Tokyo.

Two more slots will be filled based on global rankings, rounding off the elite 16-team field for the September showdown. Omurwa views his debut as more than just a race—it's a learning curve and a stepping stone.

"This is my first World (Relay) Championships and I am happy

about it. I have a lot of expectations, what to see, what to do," he said.

Omurwa's build-up to the relays has been impressive. He launched his 2025 season with a third-place finish at the second Athletics Kenya weekend meet at Thika Stadium, clocking 10.2 seconds behind Dennis Mwai (10.2) and Boniface Mweresa (10.1) on a marram track.

He followed it up with a win at the Betika BingwaFest Nairobi edition, outsprinting Mwai in 10.2 with Mwai clocking 10.3.

Omurwa continued his fine form with a third-place finish at the Uganda National Trials in Kampala, stopping the clock at 10.62 behind Omanyala (10.09) and Babu (10.41).

He further helped Kenya clinch victory in the 4x100m relay in Uganda, combining with Omanyala, Justine Isaboke and Babu to post 39.50 seconds.

Most recently, he stormed to victory at the fifth AK weekend meet at the Ulinzi Sports Complex, winning the 100m in 10.40 ahead of Elkana Sabila (10.48) and Tyson Juma (10.57).

Kenyans prepare as CAA shift Africa U-18/20 show from Algeria to Nigeria

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

THE African Athletics Confederation (CAA) have announced the change of venue for the third Africa U18/U20 Championships scheduled for July 16 to 20.

The event earlier scheduled for Oran, Algeria, has been moved to Abeokuta, Nigeria. Abeokuta is 40 km from the Nigerian capital, Lagos.

The CAA council meeting will be held on July 13, and the CAA Congress on July 14. Kenya will use the event as part of preparations for the 21st edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships, scheduled for August 4-9, 2026, in Eugene.

Athletics Kenya (AK) Youth Development Committee chairman, Barnaba Korir, confirmed the change of venue from Algeria to Nigeria.

"We received a letter from the CAA to that effect, and our preparations have begun," said Korir.

In an interview, Korir asked athletes who fall under the two age categories to intensify their preparations ahead of the event.

He said AK plans to do inter-camp trials in early June and national trials later that month to select the Nigeria-bound team.

He said AK will thoroughly vet the athletes at the regional level and warned against age cheating. "Camps should ensure that they field athletes within the required age for the event," said Korir.

Riooga Secondary School, AK youth camp coordinator and Principal Haron Onchong'a, on Wednesday, vowed to have at least 10 athletes in the Nigeria-bound team.

He backed three-time national secondary schools champion Brian Okoth to make his international debut in Nigeria.

"He is in top form and I'm confident he will annihilate his competitors at national trains," said Onchong'a.

Eastern Africa 400m champions James Gechuki, Daniel Wasike (100m/200m), Perminus Tinega (3000m) and race walker Ken Mokaya are the other athletes Onchong'a believes will make the team.

In the women's category, he backed newly crowned Eastern Africa 200m champion Faith Onserio to book a ticket to Nigeria.

The Other probables are Melvin Kireki (100m/200m), Doreen Chepkoech (1,500m) and Ruth Ondara (3000m).



Girls' 5000m action at Kenya Secondary Schools Games at Shanzu TTC /ANGWENYI GICHANA

NYS Spades target Kisii RFC scalp in KRU Nationwide final

BY ANGWENYI GICHANA

NATIONAL Youth Service (NYS) Spades will host Kisii RFC in the KRU Nationwide Grand Finale at NYS headquarters on Thika Road on Saturday.

NYS Spades beat Kenya Prisons 14-12 to qualify for the final, while Kisii RFC overcame Administration Police (AP) Warriors 13-6 in the other semi-final. Both teams booked slots in the KRU Championship league next season.

Spades coach Martin Munga on Wednesday said they want to crown the season by lifting the KRU Nationwide trophy. He admitted Kisii will be a tough

opponent, having played in the Kenya Cup and KRU Championship before.

"I expect a good, exciting, and clinical game against Kisii RFC. It will be a good reward for the boys to lift the title," said Munga.

On the 2024/25 season, Munga said: "This was our second season since the club was founded. It has been long and tough. All in all, it has been a successful season because we have been building on every game, and finally, here we are, the KRU Championship."

He said their main goal next season will be to maintain their second-tier status. "With good preparations, we can qualify

for the Kenya Cup on our first attempt," said a bullish Munga. He said they will start their preparations early, focusing on strength and conditioning.

The tactician further added that they will strengthen the team by adding experienced players in the team ahead of the. On his part, Kisii RFC coach Lee Aristone warned that they are ready to lift the trophy. "We have had a good campaign despite challenges here and there. We aim to finish it with a trophy," said Aristone.

The club's former captain, George Sagini, appealed to well-wishers to help the club honour the game.



Action between Kisii RFC and AP Warriors at Kisii School on Saturday. /ANGWENYI GICHANA



SPORTS LOCAL

KENYA SIMBAS BEEF UP

Wekesa, Shiasi and Mwanji called up to the 15's squad for RWC qualifiers

BY WILLIAM NJUGUNA

KENYA Sevens trio of Kevin Wekesa, William Mwanji and Festus Shiasi have been drafted into a 50-man Simbas training squad for the Rugby World Cup qualifiers in July.

The trio, who played for the Shujaa at the just concluded World Sevens Series tournament, will be assessed alongside the rest of the squad when the team head for a one week residential training camp in Kakamega from May 11-18.

Team manager Jimmi Mnene is optimistic the squad can finally end the years of misses and qualify for the Rugby World Cup in Australia in 2027.

"The squad selected is provisional, but from the two training camps we had in January and March, there is a positive vibe in the team and desire to go all the way and qualify for the global extravaganza," added Mnene.

The initial 50-man squad will undergo intense training and assessment, after which it will be trimmed down to 33 players. The selected 33 will then regroup on May 26th for a short camp before departing on May 28 for a high-performance tour in South Africa.

This South African leg will be split into two key phases. The first phase runs from May 28 to June 22 in Cape Town, in partnership with Western Province.

During this time, Simbas will engage in Saturday fixtures against Currie Cup sides and midweek contact sessions with local clubs and university teams.

The second phase will see the team move to Nylstroom from June 22-27, where they will collaborate with the Blue Bulls.

This camp will include matches on Tuesday and Thursday against the Bulls' Currie Cup squads.

The Simbas will return to Kenya on June 27 for a brief pre-departure camp scheduled for

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Kenya Simbas' Griffin Chao attempts to win the ball in the air against Ugandan opponents during last year's Elgon Cup/ HANDOUT

FKF to take action against hooligans in Gor, Shabana clash



FKF CEO Harold Ndege/HANDOUT

BY TONY MBALA

THE Football Kenya Federation (FKF) have strongly condemned the ugly scenes that marred the high-octane top-flight match pitting record champions Gor Mahia against Shabana at Gusii Stadium on Sunday.

In a bpress briefing at Kandanda House, FKF CEO Harold Ndege said they had launched a probe into the incident that left scores injured and hospitalised. Ndege pledged measures to avert a recurrence of such catastrophes.

"We have received confirmed reports from Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital, RAM Hospital, Hema Hospital, Christamarianne Hospital, and the police, indicating that a total of 72 individuals were treated for injuries. Thankfully, No fatalities have been reported as of now," he added.

"Football must remain a sport that brings people together, not one that puts lives at risk. The safety and well-being of fans, players, and officials remain a top priority for the Federation," he added.

He said they are working closely with the relevant authorities to establish the circumstances that led to the unrest. "Decisive disciplinary measures will be taken upon conclusion of ongoing investigations. We urge members of the public and the media to refrain from circulating unverified reports, particularly claims of fatalities. In the wake of the chaos, Gor's leadership expressed frustration and disappointment, highlighting a breakdown in communication and decision-making that contributed to the unrest.

Gor said in a statement that frantic efforts to have the game called off fell on deaf ears.

"The commissioner, after visiting our bus, which was being held outside the stadium next to the VVIP entrance due to the home team's refusal to open the gate, assured our players and technical bench that the match would not be played given the tense situation," the club said.

★ SQUAD

FORWARDS: Melvin Thairu (Romania) Edward Mwaura (Kabras), Ian Njenga (Romania), Eugene Sifuna (Kabras), Celestine Mboi (Oilers), Teddy Akala (Kabras), Griffin Musila (KCB) Wilhite Mususi (KCB), Vincent Mwikali (Oilers), Ephraim Oduor (Kabras), Desterious Ifedha (Oilers), Hibrhim Ayoo (Oilers), Brian Juma (Kabras), Andycole Omollo (KCB), Hillary Odhiambo (Kabras), Thomas Okeyo (NovaVit Griffons), Emmanuel Silungi (KCB), George Nyambua (Kabras), Patrick Sabatia (Kabras), David Bunduki (Griffons), Kevin Wekesa (Kabras), Elvis Olukusi (KCB), Charles Omondi (Nondies), Elkeans Musonye (Oilers), William Mwanji (Kabras), Bethuel Anami (MLSGP 79), Sheldon Kahi (Harlequin) and Obat Kuke (Blak Blad).

BACKS: Brian Tanga (Kabras), Samson Osonmu (Oiler), Samuel Asati (KCB), Brian Wahinya (KCB), Barry Young (Kabras), Jone Kubu (Kabras), Beldad Ogeta (Oilers), Festus Shiasi (KCB), Griffin Chao (Kabras), Walter Okoth (Kabras), Samuel Ovwamu (Oilers), John Okoth (Oilers), Paul Mutsami (Harlequin), Vincent Onyala (KCB), Bryceson Adaka (Kabras), Tyson Maina (KCB), Charles Odhiambo (Nondies), Austine Sikutwa (KCB), Timothy Omela (Oilers) and Alfred Orege (Kabras), Isaac Njoroge (KCB) and Eric Cantona (Kabras).

VOLLEYBALL

Munala banks on youngsters as KCB seeks to defend title

BYCHARLENE MALWA

YOUNGSTERS Marlene Terry, Sheila Wabwire, Pauline Chemutai and Fridah Boke have been enlisted to turn out for KCB in the Kenya Volleyball Federation (KVF) playoffs scheduled for this weekend at Nyayo Stadium.

The three will feature prominently alongside seasoned

stars including Mercy Moim, Edith Wisah, Juliana Namutira, Belinda Barasa and Lincy Jeruto as they seek to defend their KVF league title.

The bankers will play KDF in the opening round tomorrow before returning to the court on Saturday for their second fixture. Should the match-up end in a tie, the two sides will clash again on Sunday to determine who proceeds to the semi-finals.

"We all know the quality within the KDF squad. This is a team that brings the best out of us, and we expect a very competitive fixture," KCB head coach Japheth Munala said.

He revealed that young players like Terry and Boke will be key in their title defence campaign. "I am extremely confident that my play-

ers will do well in this encounter."

KCB captain Edith Wisah echoed similar sentiments, noting that the team's belief remains intact despite a fourth-place finish at the 2025 African Club Championship in Nigeria.

"We have demonstrated that we are the best volleyball club in the country. Our heads are held so high, and we are beaming with confidence as we take on another good opponent in KDF," Wisah said.

She added: "The players have been training well and are ready for the task ahead. We can not wait to be on that court and play for the badge."

KCB will be hoping to bounce back from continental disappointment by staging a strong playoff run as they target back-to-back

league titles.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), under the guidance of head coach Jackline Barasa, enter the playoffs with five wins and five losses. Team captain Veronica Kilabat said the team is determined to work beyond the limits to secure a podium finish.

"We have worked hard throughout the season, and this is our moment to make an impact. We are more than ready for the challenge."

Elsewhere, the KVF deputy president, Paul Bitok, said National Executive Council officials will meet this weekend to deliberate on the way forward on the play-offs.

The quarter finals will form base for selection of Malkia Strikers that will begin their international assignment in September.



KCB team captain Edith Wisah/HANDOUT

Inter Miami relinquish option to speak to City's De Bruyne

BBC SPORT

INTER Miami have relinquished their option to hold talks with departing Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne — leaving Chicago Fire in pole position to sign him should he decide to move to Major League Soccer.



Kevin De Bruyne/ HANDOUT

Miami had the 33-year-old on their 'discovery list', meaning they were the only MLS team able to negotiate with him in the United States.

They had until mid-July to decide whether to hold talks but sources have told BBC Sport they will not pursue his signing meaning De Bruyne will not link up with Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Sergio Busquets.

Chicago now have the first option to speak to De Bruyne, who announced in April he would be leaving City when his current deal expires at the end of the season.

Sources say De Bruyne's representatives are to meet with Chicago, who are currently 11th in the Eastern Conference.

The Belgian later said he was surprised not to be offered a new contract by the club. De Bruyne has won 16 trophies at Etihad Stadium, including six Premier League titles and the Champions League in 2023.

Real seek to sign Alexander-Arnold for Club World Cup

BBC

Real Madrid are aiming to complete the signing of Trent Alexander-Arnold before the start of the Club World Cup.

The England defender has confirmed he will leave Liverpool when his contract expires this summer and the 26-year-old is expected to join the Spanish club as a free agent.

Alexander-Arnold's contract with Liverpool expires on 30 June but the Club World Cup begins 16 days earlier.

BBC Sport understands Real have approached Liverpool with a view to negotiating a deal to release Alexander-Arnold in time for the full-back to be part of their plans for the Fifa-organised tournament in the United States.

It is understood the Spanish club are considering an offer of about £850,000 to release Alexander-Arnold early from his deal. It has also been suggested Real might be willing to pay the wages Liverpool owe Alexander-Arnold as they seek a solution. Discussions between all parties are described as amicable.



Trent Alexander-Arnold/FILE

GAME LIKE NO OTHER

Why Barcelona versus Inter Milan's 2nd leg semi-final served as 'final before final'

BY NEIL JOHNSON

BBC SPORT

It gave us everything. From start to finish last week to this week, everything about this semi-final has been pure entertainment," said Alan Shearer.

For the second time in six days Inter Milan and Barcelona served up a European classic as the champions of Italy won 4-3 on the night—7-6 on aggregate—to reach the Champions League final.

In a thriller that will be remembered for years to come, Barca had trailed 2-0 and 3-2 in the first leg in Catalonia before salvaging a 3-3 draw.

On Tuesday in Milan, they were then 2-0 behind at half-time—5-3 on aggregate - before scoring three times without reply.

Raphinha's 87th-minute strike was the first time Barca had taken the lead on aggregate but Francesco Acerbi's first European goal at the age of 37 took an utterly absorbing tie into extra time, with substitute Davide Frattesi scoring the winner to send more than 70,000 Inter fans into raptures.

It was the joint highest-scoring Champions League semi-final ever, with the 13 goals equalling the 2018 semi-final when Liverpool also defeated Roma 7-6 on aggregate.

"We didn't expect this, did we?" added former England captain Shearer, who was inside the San Siro for Amazon Prime.

"We expected a good game, but this? Thank you Inter Milan, thank you Barcelona for providing us with incredible entertainment and two great football matches.

"What we have witnessed has been something very special. It's been a pleasure to be here."

'My head was spinning' - Inter ditch clean sheets for goals galore

No neutrals wanted this tie full of twists and turns to end but, when Polish referee Szymon Marciniak sounded the final whistle, Inter Milan's players sank to their knees exhausted but triumphant.

They remained on the pitch for a good 15 to 20 minutes after full-time to show their appreciation to their delirious fans, who can start booking flights and hotels for the final in Munich on 31 May.

"Inter were heading out, they were done,"

added Shearer. "They somehow found a way to get themselves into the final. They deserve to be there."

Inter's success in this season's competition has been built on dogged resilience and clean sheets.

Not against Barcelona.

They conceded more goals against the La Liga leaders over 210 minutes than they had in their opening 12 matches in this season's Champions League put together.

The three-time winners had kept eight clean sheets in all, with Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer recording seven of those.

On Tuesday alone, Barcelona peppered Inter's goal with 22 attempts - 10 on target - and scored three times in the space of 33 minutes.

But Inter dug deep to go through with substitute Davide Frattesi

scoring his side's extra-time winner.

"What happened? I don't know!" he said afterwards. "I celebrated so loudly that my head was spinning."

Will there finally be another Italian winner after 'amazing night'?

It is 15 years since Inter - managed by Jose Mourinho at the time - were crowned champions of Europe. No Italian side has won the Champions League since that victory over Bayern Munich in 2010.

Will that change at the end of the month?

While they weren't necessarily the obvious choice to win this year's competition, before a ball was kicked Opta did rate them as third favourites to go all the way behind Real Madrid and Manchester City. With both of those teams already out, Inter are now in the box seat.

And they went back in time to reach

their second final in three seasons.

The 2023 runners-up to Manchester City are unbeaten in 16 home games in the Champions League - their longest undefeated run on their own turf in Europe since the 1980s.

"It was an amazing night," said Inter boss Simone Inzaghi. "One to share with our fans, our club and our families. The players did something extraordinary."

"We played four amazing games against two world-class teams like Bayern [in the quarter-final] and Barcelona. It was great to celebrate this achievement here with our fans."

Inter's Netherlands defender Denzel Dumfries ended with two goals and three assists over the two legs against Barcelona.

"A crazy match again! Seven goals today... it was incredible," said Dumfries.

Italy midfielder Frattesi added: "After the game in Munich, I thought I would never experience anything like this again in terms of emotions."



Francesco Acerbi of Inter celebrates after scoring / HANDOUT

FOOTBALL

Aston Villa 'not happy' after Spurs fixture is brought forward by two days

BBC SPORT

ASTON Villa are "not happy" their Premier League game against Tottenham has been brought forward two days to May 16 to allow Spurs more time to prepare for their possible appearance in the Europa League final.

Villa's director of football operations Damian Vidagany said there was "clear prejudice" against the club in this decision, but hoped that would be remembered if they needed help with fixture scheduling in the future.

Spurs were due to travel to Villa Park on May 18 but submitted a request to the Premier League for the game to be played earlier in order

for Ange Postecoglou's side to have longer to prepare should they reach the Europa League final on May 21.

"Fixture changed and honestly, not happy," Vidagany posted on social media. "But it could be even worse. We really pushed - everyone in the club at different levels - with solid and fair grounds to protect our fans (our main task and duty) and keep the Spurs match on Sunday.

Nothing against Spurs. "We didn't feel this support last season or this one. European football is not only demanding for English clubs on the

verge of the finals."

Vidagany added that moving the game to the Friday, was the "least damaging" option they could get, with Wednesday or Thursday considered as alternatives.

Villa's director of football Monchi echoed Vidagany's sentiments, saying the switch "was not what they wanted" and that fans "didn't deserve" the disruption.

Tottenham are 3-1 ahead in their semi-final against Bodo/Glimt and could meet Manchester United, who are 3-0 up in their tie with Athletic Bilbao, in the final. Both second legs will be played on Thursday.

The change of date for Spurs' game at Villa will remain even if Postecoglou's side are knocked out and do not reach the final in Bilbao.

Villa objected to the request for the alteration, citing no precedent for the Premier League to move fixtures to help clubs in European competition.

It was pointed out to BBC Sport at the time that Villa had played every three or four days during April as a result of their participation in the Champions League and FA Cup.



Aston Villa players during a past match/ HANDOUT

ATHLETICS

Omurwa hopes to step out of his big brother's shadow in Guangzhou, China

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THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

starSPORT

Nairobi City Thunder eye BAL debut after extending perfect KNBL streak



Thunder coach Brad Ibs instructs his charges in training /FILE

BY CHARLENE MALWA

NAIROBI City Thunder coach Brad Ibs has his sights set on making history for Kenyan basketball as his team debuts in the Basketball Africa League (BAL) in Kigali on Tuesday.

Ibs believes the team is ready for the continental stage, crediting intense preparation behind the scenes. "There has been a massive collective team effort for late nights and early mornings,

and all the contributions add up to the preparations. We look to make the country proud when we go to compete," he said.

Last year, Thunder held off a late surge from Uganda's City Oilers to secure a 72-62 win and punch the final ticket from the East Division Elite 16 to the 2025 Basketball Africa League (BAL). The victory saw Thunder make history as the first Kenyan team to qualify for the BAL, accomplishing the milestone in their debut

appearance on the Road to BAL. Known for their high-end style of play, Thunder has built a system that thrives on quick transitions and bench power.

"We love to be a competitive team that plays fast offensively and defensively. We are excited because we have a versatile team of the first five and the next in line on the bench. I believe we can make adjustments and depth based on the quality of adjustments we have on the team," he said.

★FOOTBALL

Mara Sugar get nod to progress in FKF Cup

BY TONY MBALLA

THE Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Appeals Committee has confirmed Mara Sugar's progression to the Round of 16 in the FKF Cup.

They upheld an earlier decision by the governing body's Leagues and Competitions Committee to disqualify AFC Leopards from the showpiece.

The match was abandoned in the 89th minute after crowd unrest erupted when a penalty decision in favour of AFC was reversed. The incident occurred in Kisumu, with the score tied at 0-0 prior to the abandonment.

The FKF Appeals Committee said it had upheld the decision of the Leagues and Competitions Committee (LCC) regarding the abandoned clash, confirming Mara Sugar's progression to the Round of 16.

The Committee determined that Leopards' fans were responsible for the unrest and ruled in favour of Mara. AFC later challenged the decision to disqualify them from the tournament.

According to FKF regulations, a club must forfeit matches abandoned due to misconduct by its supporters, which was applied in this case.

"Following a review, the LCC ruled that AFC Leopards fans were responsible for the abandonment and, in line with Article 6.4 (IV) of the Mozart Bet Cup Regulations and Article 3.5.6 of the FKF Rules and Regulations governing football in Kenya, awarded the match to Mara Sugar," the federation said.

"The FKF regulations provide that a club will forfeit any match which was abandoned because of the misconduct of their members or supporters."

ATHLETICS

BRING ON RABAT

Wanyonyi, Chebet tipped to rule 4th Diamond League

BY TEDDY MULEI

OLYMPIC 800m champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi and double Olympic gold medallist Beatrice Chebet are set to light up the track once again when they headline the Rabat Diamond League on May 25, as they aim to extend their red-hot form in the 2025 season.

The Kenyan stars have been in scintillating form both on the track and road, laying down a strong marker in the early part of the season with the Tokyo World Championships in focus.

Wanyonyi, 20, kicked off his preparations for the 2025 season by featuring in the Athletics Kenya (AK) Cross Country circuit last year.

He cruised to victory in the 2km loop race at the third leg in Iten on November 2, 2024, clocking 5:50.6 to outkick Kamar Etiang (5:51.0) and Phanuel Koech (5:54.3). He maintained his winning momentum at the National Cross Country Championships earlier this year on February 8 at the Eldoret Sports Club, storming to a 6:14m.

Reynold Cheruiyot (6:16) and Timothy Cheruiyot (6:20) followed closely behind. Transitioning to the track, Wanyonyi sharpened his endurance with a commanding 1,500m victory at the third AK Weekend Meeting on the murram surface of Kapsabet's Eliud Kipchoge Sports Complex, clocking 3:38.1.

Josephat Sang (3:44.1) and Justice Byegon (3:46.4) followed in his wake.

"I took on the 1,500m to gauge my endurance and see how my body responds ahead of a busy season," Wanyonyi said. His first international appearance came at the inaugural Grand Slam Track Meet in Kingston, Jamaica, in April, where he doubled in the 800m and 1,500m.

He stunned a world-class 1,500m field — including Olympic medallists — to win in 3:35.18, ahead of Olympic silver medallist Yared Nuguse (3:35.36) and gold medallist Cole Hocker (3:35.52). In his 800m speciality, Wanyonyi settled for second behind Canadian Olympic silver medallist Marco Arop, who clocked 1:45.13 to Wanyonyi's 1:46.44.

Despite the narrow defeat, Wanyonyi was

crowned overall meet champion and pocketed a whopping Sh12.9 million in prize money. Following a masterclass in Kingston, Wanyonyi revealed plans to feature in the 1,500m in future but reiterated his sole focus on clinching the World 800m title this year in Tokyo.

"Kingston showed me I have potential in the 1,500m, but my focus this year is the 800m at the World Championships in Tokyo," Wanyonyi declared.

During the last edition of the World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Wanyonyi was forced to settle for silver after clocking 1:44.53 behind Arop (1:44.24).

He then flew to Germany, where he showcased his versatility by winning the Mile race at the Adidas Adizero Road to Records event in 3:52.45.

Further, Wanyonyi will be hoping for a flying start in the Diamond League

circuit as he aims to defend his 800m trophy won in Brussels last year when he clocked 1:42.70 to lead Algeria's Djamel Sedjati (1:42.86) and Arop (1:43.25).

Meanwhile, Chebet, who claimed the Olympic 5,000m and 10,000m titles in Paris, began her 2025 season in style by dominating the Elgoibar Cross Country 7km race in Spain, clocking 25:49. Ethiopia's Melknat Wudu (26:31) and Burundi's Francine Niyomukunzi (26:33) followed her home.

She opened her track season in Xiamen, China, at the first Diamond League stop, where she produced a thrilling sprint finish to win the 5,000m in 14:27.12.



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