



UAG blames Ruto over rising political violence
The United Alternative Government has accused President William Ruto's administration of failing to curb escalating political violence, warning that the country risks sliding into lawlessness **Page 8**



Gachagua accuses IEBC of bias as Ol Kalou by-election tensions boil over
Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua has formally accused the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of bias ahead of tomorrow's Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election **Page 12**

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Daily ePAPER

By-election The National Police Service has deployed more than 1,000 officers, four water cannons and specialised tactical units

Police flood tense Ol Kalou

The National Police Service has deployed more than 1,000 officers, four water cannons and specialised tactical units to secure tomorrow's Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, a security operation that has become one of the most contested issues in the race itself.

Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja confirmed the deployment during a joint briefing with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, describing it as standard procedure for a high-stakes contest rather than a response to any specific threat. "We have over 1,000 police officers deployed to ensure that the by-election is adequately covered," Kanja said. He added that the National Police Service "shall remain steadfast during the by-election process, ensuring a safe and secure environment where the people of Ol Kalou have an opportunity to exercise their democratic rights in peace."



Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja

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Ruto flags off Starlets for Morocco championships

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyetimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto yesterday flagged off the Harambee Starlets and Junior Starlets ahead of their departure to Morocco for the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) and the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, reaffirming the Government's commitment to investing in sports development and youth talent.

Speaking during a ceremony at State House, Nairobi, the President congratulated both national teams for qualifying for their respective tournaments, saying their achievements reflected the country's growing investment in sports and youth development.

The Harambee Starlets will represent Kenya at the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, while the Junior Starlets are set to compete at the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup after securing qualification for the global tournament.

President Ruto wished both teams success as they prepare to fly the country's flag on the continental and world stages.

"We are proud of their achievements and wish them every success as they represent our nation," he said.

The Head of State said the teams' success was the result of deliberate government investment in nurtur-



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Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Migori County Assembly has begun vetting Edwin Ouma Omondi, Governor Ochilo Ayacko's nominee for the position of County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Environment, Disaster Management and Climate Change. The vetting, conducted by the Committee on Appointments and chaired by Speaker Christopher Rusana, marks the first stage of the approval process before the nominee can assume office. Rusana said the committee interviewed Omondi in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws and will now assess his qualifications, competence and suitability before preparing a report. The report will be tabled before the County Assembly for debate and voting. If approved, Governor Ayacko will appoint Omondi to replace Julius Nyerere, whose contract expired. If rejected, the Governor will be required to nominate another candidate.



Kiambu County has begun installing culverts in Kikuyu Ward to reduce flooding ahead of the forecast above-normal October-December 2026 short rains. The works are underway at Ondiri (Jehova Junction), Kiawamagira and parts of Kikuyu Town, areas prone to flooding due to poor drainage. Kikuyu MCA James Kamau said the project, funded in the 2023/24 budget, was delayed by procurement and funding challenges but is now progressing. He noted the works are a key step toward improving flood resilience, though more investment is needed. In Nyanduma Ward, Kiruiru Bridge is 98 per cent complete. The county's efforts follow a Kenya Meteorological Department forecast warning of enhanced rainfall, floods and landslides during the coming rainy season.



The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) is set to deepen cooperation with China's Nanjing Port under the Sister Port Cooperation Initiative to enhance port operations, technology and knowledge exchange. During talks led by KPA CEO Capt. William Ruto and Nanjing Port General Manager Zhang Chuanping, the two sides explored collaboration in port automation, digital transformation, smart gate systems, cargo visibility and data analytics to modernise the Port of Mombasa. KPA is also replacing its legacy SAP system with IFS Cloud to improve efficiency and support its smart port agenda. The delegation toured key facilities at the Port of Mombasa. Meanwhile, KPA expects 48 cargo vessels to call at the ports of Mombasa and Lamu over the next 14 days.



The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has urged research institutions conducting Confined Field Trials (CFTs) on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to strictly comply with the Biosafety Act, 2009, to protect human health, animals and the environment. During a visit to KALRO research facilities in Muguga and Kandara with a delegation from Senegal's National Biosafety Authority, Acting CEO Dr. Ann Karimi said continuous monitoring ensures GM crops remain safely contained. KALRO is developing disease-resistant potatoes and cassava, while Bt maize, drought-tolerant maize and other GM crops are undergoing trials across the country. Bt cotton has already been commercialised. KALRO Director Dr. Martin Mwirigi said Bt maize, GM cassava and GM potatoes are nearing approval, while the Senegalese delegation praised Kenya's biosafety regulatory framework and biotechnology research.

Nakuru County has launched the second cohort of specialised mental health training for frontline healthcare providers to strengthen mental healthcare services. Health CECM Roselyn Mungai said the programme equips clinical officers and nurses with skills to identify, assess, manage and appropriately refer patients with mental health conditions while integrating mental healthcare into primary healthcare services. The initiative aims to improve early diagnosis, treatment and access to quality, community-based care. It is being implemented by the county government in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Amref Health Africa and the Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies (MEDS) under the Johnson & Johnson-funded Health Systems Strengthening Programme. The initiative supports the Kenya Mental Health Action Plan 2021–2025, which promotes integrated, accessible and people-centred mental healthcare.

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News Kago, 74, died on July 7, 2026; coincidentally on Saba Saba Dayat King David Hospital in Ngong after a long illness. He is survived by his widow and several children

Second liberation hero Julius Kago buried in Nyeri

BY James Gatama

@themtkenyatimes

Julius Maina Kago, one of the little-known figures credited with playing a key role in Kenya's second liberation movement, was laid to rest yesterday at his ancestral home in Kienjaini village near Karatina in Mathira, Nyeri County.

Kago, 74, died on July 7, 2026; coincidentally on Saba Saba Dayat King David Hospital in Ngong after a long illness. He is survived by his widow and several children.

Although remembered by many veterans of the pro-democracy struggle as one of the unsung heroes of the fight against one-party rule, his burial passed with little official recognition. No senior national or Nyeri County political leaders attended the funeral or publicly sent condolence messages to the family. However, several veterans of the second liberation and opposition politics paid tribute to him.

Siaya Governor James Orenge, one of the leading figures of the Saba Saba movement, followed the funeral proceedings remotely and, in keeping with the deceased's wishes, quietly supported the family with funeral expenses.

Former Subukia MP Koigi wa Wamwere, former Bahati MP Wanyiri Kihoro, Nyeri DCP senatorial aspirant Kabando wa Kabando and Wiper Party Deputy Vice Chairperson Anne Nyambura Kanyi

also sent messages of condolence to the family.

Kago is remembered for his role during the historic Saba Saba demonstrations of July 7, 1990, which marked a turning point in Kenya's struggle for multiparty democracy.

According to fellow veterans, he was the driver of the now-famous green Toyota Stout pickup registration number KRD 086 that ferried opposition leaders and served as a mobile podium during the demonstrations demanding political reforms.

The vehicle has since become an enduring symbol of the second liberation movement.

His contribution earned him respect among democracy activists, although, like many grassroots participants in the struggle, he remained largely unknown to the wider public.

Following his retirement from active politics, Kago ventured into business, establishing enterprises in Nairobi's Nyamakima, Gikomba and Ngara markets.

Traders from the three business hubs turned up in large numbers to pay their last respects, describing him as a hardworking businessman who remained humble despite his historic role in the country's democratic journey.

Other mourners travelled from Kileleshwa, Bahati and several parts of Nairobi, while members of the Maasai community from Narok County honoured him with traditional songs and dirges, many dressed in full Maasai regalia.

A church elder from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) said Kago had dedicated his later years to faith and community service.

She said he actively supported church programmes and community development projects in Bahati, Nairobi, as well as in his rural home in Mathira.

Leading the funeral service, PCEA minister Rev. Wamugo challenged Kenyans to honour the sacrifices made by men and women who fought for democracy, constitutional freedoms and social justice.

He paid tribute not only to Kago but also to generations of political activists who endured detention, harassment and persecution in the struggle against colonial rule and later authoritarian governments.

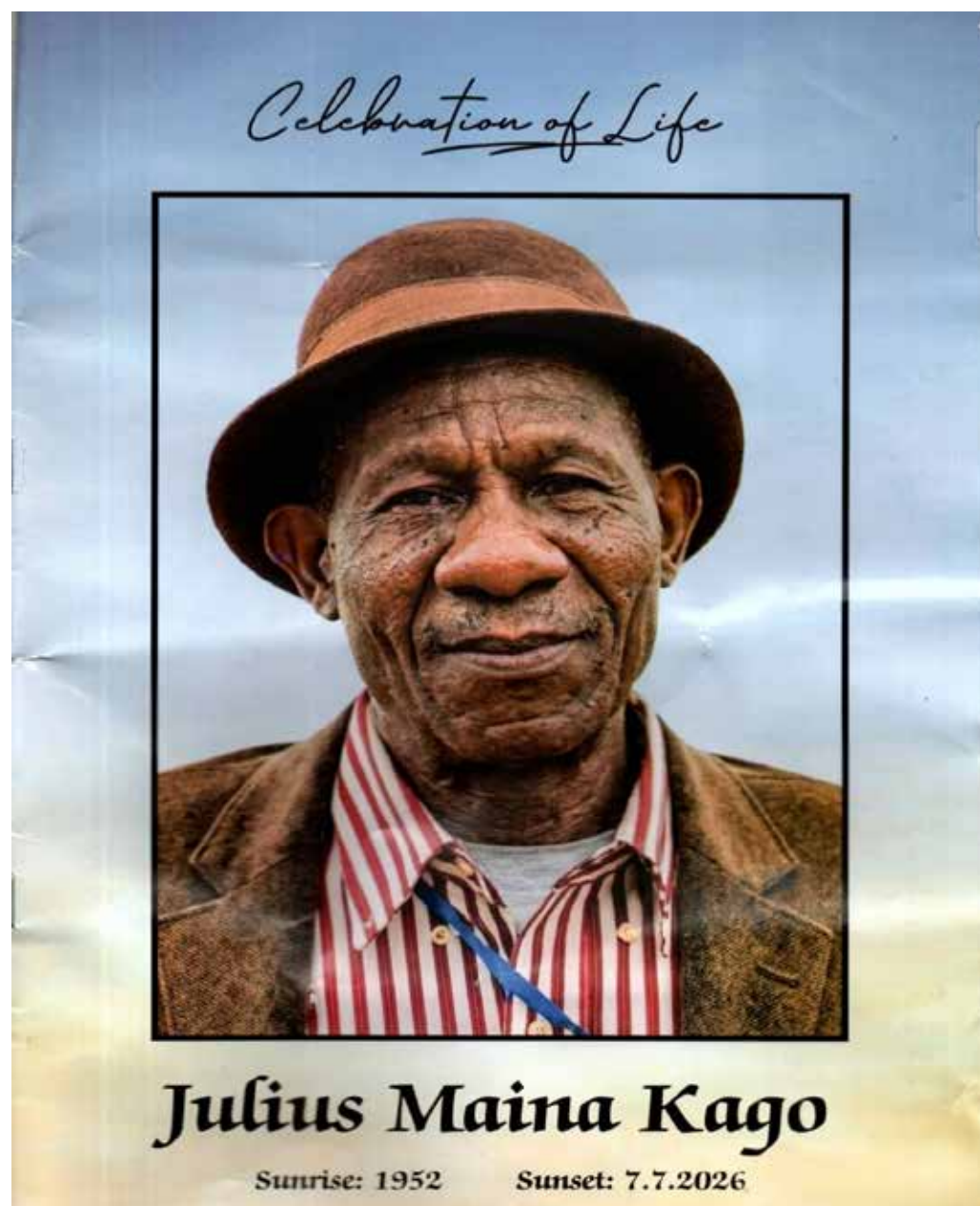
The cleric warned against what he described as the growing culture of political violence and lawlessness in the country.

"The rule of goons is slowly taking over this country, and if the trend is not checked in time, it has the potential to plunge the nation into anarchy," he said.

He described Kago as a man whose life was defined by sacrifice, courage and service to both God and country.

"He leaves behind a legacy that is rich in sacrifice and inspiration for future generations," Rev. Wamugo said.

The burial came exactly 36 years after the first Saba Saba movement, whose protests on July 7, 1990, became a defin-



ing moment in Kenya's campaign for the restoration of multiparty democracy.

While prominent leaders of the movement later occupied senior public offices, many of those who played critical supporting roles, including drivers, organisers and grassroots

mobilisers, remained largely unrecognised.

Veterans at the funeral said Kago belonged to that generation of ordinary Kenyans whose contributions helped shape the country's democratic history but were rarely acknowledged.

As family members, friends and fellow democracy activists bade him farewell, many expressed hope that Kenya would preserve the memory of unsung heroes whose sacrifices helped secure the political freedoms enjoyed today.

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Violence They argued that the incidents were part of a broader pattern in which opposition activities have increasingly been disrupted by violence

UAG blames Ruto over rising political violence

By DMS

@themkenyentimes

The United Alternative Government (UAG) has accused President William Ruto's administration of failing to curb escalating political violence, warning that the country risks sliding into lawlessness if attacks targeting political leaders and supporters are not decisively addressed.

Led by Wiper Patriotic Front Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka, People's Liberation Party leader Martha Karua and Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) Justin Muturi, the opposition coalition yesterday expressed concern over recent violent incidents in Kisumu and Nyahururu, saying they reflected a growing culture of political intolerance that threatens Kenya's constitutional democracy.

In a statement they issued in Nairobi, the leaders said reports from the weekend indicated confrontations around a church service attended by opposition leaders in Kisumu and separate violence in Nyahururu, adding that independent investigations were necessary to establish the circumstances surrounding the incidents.

However, they argued that the incidents were part of a broader pattern in which opposition activities have increasingly been disrupted by violence.

"The Constitution of Kenya guarantees every citizen the right to assemble peacefully, associate freely, move without intimidation and participate in political life. These rights belong equally to those in government and those in opposition. No Kenyan should fear attending a church service, a political meeting or any lawful public gathering," the coalition said.

The leaders linked the latest incidents to previous attacks they say have targeted opposition figures during public engagements.

They cited an April incident in Ki-kuyu where Kalonzo Musyoka, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and DAP-Kenya leader Eugene Wamalwa were attacked while travelling for a political rally. The coalition claimed similar incidents had occurred at places of worship and other public events without mean-

ingful action from security agencies.

The statement also referenced an incident involving Martha Karua, who recently said she was attacked while accompanying clients to oversee the implementation of High Court orders at Gatoto Primary School in Nairobi's Mukuru kwa Reuben settlement. According to the coalition, court-ordered security was not provided despite express judicial directives.

The opposition said the repeated incidents raise questions about whether state institutions are discharging their constitutional responsibilities impartially.

The coalition cautioned Kenyans against retaliatory violence, saying the country could not afford to normalise politically motivated attacks or mob justice.

"History teaches us that political violence rarely harms politicians most. It destroys the livelihoods of ordinary Kenyans. It is traders whose businesses are looted, boda boda riders whose motorcycles are burnt, families who lose loved ones and young people who are recruited into criminality while those who incite them retreat to safety," the statement said.

The opposition placed responsibility on President Ruto, arguing that as Head of State and Commander-in-Chief he bears ultimate responsibility for ensuring the country's security agencies protect all citizens equally.

"The buck stops with Dr William Ruto and his regime. He swore to respect, uphold and defend the Constitution and it is his duty to ensure the security apparatus maintains law and order," the leaders said.

The coalition further accused Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo of engaging in partisan politics, alleging that their actions compromise the neutrality of security agencies.

The opposition also claimed to have received information indicating police officers had been mobilised from different parts of the country ahead of the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election tomorrow.

The by-election, occasioned by the death of area MP David Kiaraho, has attracted intense political inter-



Some of the United Alternative Government leaders during the press briefing yesterday. | Photo: Courtesy.

est, with both the Kenya Kwanza administration and opposition leaders actively campaigning in Nyan-darua County. The contest is widely viewed as an early political test ahead of the 2027 General Election and has heightened political temperatures in the region.

The UAG urged police officers deployed for the by-election to discharge their duties professionally and reject unlawful instructions that could compromise the credibility of the electoral process.

It also challenged the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to ensure the poll is conducted fairly, saying the by-election would provide an important measure of the commission's preparedness to conduct credible future elections.

The coalition argued that the electoral body has the legal authority to sanction individuals, including senior government officials, who violate electoral laws or incite violence.

"What happens on Thursday will demonstrate whether or not the IEBC is an impartial arbiter and whether it has the capacity to conduct a free,

fair and credible General Election," the statement said.

The opposition further appealed to political leaders across the political divide to avoid inflammatory rhetoric and instead promote peaceful democratic competition.

The leaders said Kenya's peaceful transfer of power following the 2022 General Election demonstrated the country's democratic maturity and warned against allowing intimidation, organised violence and political intolerance to erode those gains.

They called on the government to assure all political parties of equal security during lawful public gatherings regardless of political affiliation.

The coalition also appealed directly to Kenyans not to allow themselves to be recruited into violent groups or used to settle political disputes.

"Refuse to be recruited into gangs. Refuse to retaliate against fellow citizens. Protect one another, uphold the Constitution and insist that political differences be resolved through lawful institutions, not through the streets," the statement said.

The leaders concluded by urging all state institutions, including the National Police Service and the IEBC, to serve all Kenyans impartially, insisting that elections should remain contests of ideas rather than violence.

The government has previously maintained that security agencies operate independently and are committed to protecting all citizens regardless of political affiliation, while the National Police Service has repeatedly stated that it investigates all reported incidents of political violence in accordance with the law. The IEBC has also consistently pledged to conduct free, fair and credible elections in line with the Constitution.

By election Kanja framed the scale of the deployment as reassurance rather than restriction. "Their work shall be to safeguard the voting materials, the voting process itself..."

Ol Kalou on edge as over 1,000 police officers deploy for tomorrow's tense by-election

Security operation defended by police chiefs as necessary and orderly, but opposition leaders warn it risks intimidating voters days before the polls

BY Hadassah Karangu

@themkenyetimes

The National Police Service has deployed more than 1,000 officers, four water cannons and specialised tactical units to secure tomorrow's Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, a security operation that has become one of the most contested issues in the race itself.

Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja confirmed the deployment during a joint briefing with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, describing it as standard procedure for a high-stakes contest rather than a response to any specific threat. "We have over 1,000 police officers deployed to ensure that the by-election is adequately covered," Kanja said. He added that the National Police Service "shall remain steadfast during the by-election process, ensuring a safe and secure environment where the people of Ol Kalou have an opportunity to exercise their democratic rights in peace."

The operation includes four platoons of General Service Unit officers, four platoons from the Anti-Stock Theft Unit and four water cannons on standby for any public order challenges. Each of the constituency's 144 polling stations, spread across five wards, will have a minimum of two officers assigned to protect voting materials and support presiding officers within a 400-metre security perimeter. The Directorate of Criminal Investigations has also deployed personnel to gather intelligence and pursue electoral offences, including allegations of voter bribery.

Kanja framed the scale of the deployment as reassurance rather than restriction. "Their work shall be to safeguard the voting materials, the voting process itself, while offering adequate security at each and every polling station, ensuring the electoral officials perform their duties well and unhindered," he said, urging residents to turn out and vote without fear.

Not everyone reads the numbers the same way. The by-election, triggered



Some of the participating candidates

by the death of MP David Njuguna Kiaraho on March 29, has narrowed into a tight contest between the United Democratic Alliance's Samuel Nyagah and the Democracy for the Citizens Party's Sammy Ngoto, out of nine candidates on the ballot. Political temperatures have been rising for weeks, and the security question has become entangled with a wider dispute over how the police have handled the run-up to polling day.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has been the most vocal critic, pressing security agencies to deploy only uniformed officers on election day. His concern follows the vandalism of a DCP campaign vehicle in Gilgil on July 11, an incident his allies allege involved plainclothes police officers, a claim that has not been independently verified. Gachagua has gone further, alleging that groups of hired goons have been mobilised in Ol Kalou and accommodated locally ahead of the vote, and accusing Kanja of failing to rein in rogue elements within the force. Jubilee deputy party leader and former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred

Matiang'i echoed the unease, cautioning that the country risks a deeper political crisis if electoral security is mishandled.

The National Police Service has firmly rejected any suggestion that officers are colluding with criminal networks. Police spokesperson Michael Muchiri was blunt in a televised interview. "Absolutely not. Any police officer who is purportedly working with criminals, criminal goons, that is not a police officer. Police cannot, and police are not working with goons," he said, adding that any officer implicated in misconduct would face investigation and prosecution.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has meanwhile signalled that the current deployment is part of a broader posture rather than an exceptional one-off. Speaking in Turkana County on Monday, he said security agencies would intensify operations against gangs and goons in the weeks ahead, with more officers assigned to public functions nationally. "I want to assure the people of Ol Kalou that the elections

will be free and fair. If we need to deploy 100 police officers, we will do that," he said, noting that roughly 10,000 newly trained officers are due to graduate within a month.

For many in Ol Kalou, the debate over troop numbers has become a proxy for a more familiar argument about trust. Supporters of the operation point to Kenya's history of election-related unrest and argue that a visible, well-resourced police presence is precisely what prevents trouble rather than causing it. Critics counter that democracy depends on citizens feeling free rather than watched, and that a heavy security footprint can unsettle voters even when no threat materialises. Both readings can be true at once, which is part of why the argument has proven so difficult to settle.

The IEBC, for its part, has tried to keep the focus on process rather than politics. Commission chairperson Erastus Etheke confirmed that preparations were complete, with officials trained and a public results portal ready to display constituency tallies in real time. Voting runs

from 6am to 5pm, mobile phones are barred inside voting booths, and anyone caught photographing a ballot faces a fine of up to a million shillings or a three-year jail term. "In each of the polling stations, we've put the rules there, so we urge the voters and citizens of Ol Kalou to familiarise themselves with those rules," Etheke said.

Whatever the final tally on tomorrow, Ol Kalou has already become something more than a contest for one parliamentary seat. It is a test of whether Kenya's security and electoral institutions can deliver a vote that both sides accept as fair, and whether a show of force, however well-intentioned, can coexist with a genuine sense of freedom at the ballot box. The country, and not only the constituency, will be watching how that balance is struck.

Sport The President commended the Junior Starlets for qualifying for the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup for the second time in history.

Ruto flags off Starlets for Morocco tournaments

BY MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto flagged off the Harambee Starlets and Junior Starlets at State House Nairobi on Tuesday as they prepare to represent Kenya at the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) and the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup respectively in Morocco. The President commended the Junior Starlets for qualifying for the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup for the second time in history.

"You are going to Morocco to wear the colours of Kenya on the biggest stage in world football. There is no greater

honour for any sportsman or sportswoman than representing your motherland before the world," he said.

He also commended Harambee Starlets for qualifying for the 2026 WAFCON, which takes place in Morocco between 25 July, 2026, and 16 August, 2026.

"The country is truly proud of your achievement and we shall be cheering you on as you represent us at the continental level," he said.

The President noted that this achievement is not an accident.

"Nations that consistently excel in sport invest in young people long before the world knows their names. That is exactly what Kenya is doing,"



President William Ruto with Starlets officials.

he said.

President Ruto explained that the Government is making deliberate and targeted investments in the sports sector to nurture talent and raise sports standards in the country.

At the grassroots, the President pointed out that more than 10,000 young athletes are currently enrolled in structured development programmes run through schools, county governments, and the Kenya Academy of Sports.

Additionally, he said the Government is investing in the training of more than 6,000 coaches, trainers, physiotherapists, and sports administrators.

The training has been in specialised capacity-building programmes through the Kenya Academy of Sports and national federations.

On sports infrastructure, he said Talanta Sports City in Nairobi is now 95 per cent complete.

Additionally, President Ruto said the Government is building 32 modern stadia designed to be far more than sporting venues across the country.

"Our commitment goes beyond infrastructure. In the last financial year alone, the Government invested KSh4.5 billion to support our national

teams, covering accommodation, kits, allowances, and logistics so that our athletes can train and compete in dignity," he said.

Furthermore, the President said the Government will also ensure national team players benefit from the Social Health Authority medical cover and the Affordable Housing Programme.

He cited the story of Elizabeth Opiyo, who is only 16 years old and a Grade Nine student at Onding' Junior Secondary School in Gem, Siaya County, noting that she daily balances her studies with football and athletics, competing in both the 200 metres and 400 metres.

"Your journey reminds us that excellence has no age, and that discipline in the classroom and discipline on the playing field reinforce each other," he said.

He challenged the Junior Starlets team to aim to qualify from the group stages.

"Believe that you can compete with anyone FIFA places before you," he said.

Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya said the Government will continue developing sports infrastructure and relevant policies to ensure sports pays.

Football Kenya Federation President Hussein Mohamed commended President Ruto for his commitment to supporting sports.

He noted that this is the first administration to prioritise the sports sector with major investment in sports development, citing the construction of 32 stadia.

Junior Starlets Head Coach Mildred Cheche said the team is committed to going beyond the group stages.

On her part, Junior Starlets Captain Beverline Awour thanked the Government for supporting the team throughout their journey.

Harambee Starlets captain Mwanalima Adam said the team is working hard to qualify for the FIFA Women's World Cup.

She noted that it has not been easy to qualify for WAFCON twice.

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Retirement He alleges that despite his years of service and dedication, he was forced into early retirement in January 2005 under circumstances he maintains were unlawful.

Ex-presidential bodyguard appeals to Ruto after two-decade fight over alleged unlawful retirement

BY WMW
@themtkenyentimes

Former presidential bodyguard David Maina Wambugu has made a fresh appeal to President William Ruto, seeking executive intervention in what he describes as a two-decade quest for justice following his alleged unlawful retirement from the police service after sustaining injuries while protecting former President Mwai Kibaki.

In a petition dated June 10, 2026, Wambugu asked the President to intervene over what he termed the unlawful termination of his employment, violation of his constitutional rights and alleged interference with judicial proceedings in Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) Petition No. 105 of 2016.

Wambugu says his troubles began after a near-fatal road accident at Kyumvi, Machakos, in December 2002 while serving as a designated presidential bodyguard to the late President Kibaki.

According to the petition, he sustained severe injuries while on official duty but was later targeted for termination on account of the physical disability resulting from the accident.

He alleges that despite his years of service and dedication, he was forced into early retirement in January 2005 under circumstances he maintains were unlawful.

In the petition addressed to the Head of State, Wambugu claims his efforts to seek justice through the courts have been frustrated by repeated disappearance of his court file, saying the delays have denied him an opportunity to have his case determined on merit.

He says he has previously written to the Chief Justice

and copied the President's office as well as constitutional oversight institutions over the alleged administrative failures but has yet to receive a conclusive resolution.

"The prolonged denial of justice has stripped me of my dignity as a patriotic public servant and subjected my family to immense financial deprivation and emotional distress," Wambugu states in the petition.

He has appealed to President Ruto to facilitate his reintegration into public service through suitable employment within the security sector, state corporations or other public institutions where he says he can utilize his experience acquired during years of service.

He further indicates that should an administrative settlement be reached, he would be willing to withdraw ELRC Petition No. 105 of 2016.

The latest appeal is the latest chapter in a dispute that has attracted the attention of several independent constitutional commissions over the years.

Documents seen by the publication show that as early as January 21, 2005, shortly after leaving the police service, Wambugu wrote to the then Commissioner of Police challenging what he described as a forced retirement.

In the letter, he alleged that he was summoned to the office of the then Nairobi Provincial Police Officer and coerced into signing an already prepared early retirement letter.

He claimed the process was undertaken overnight and outside the established legal procedures, adding that he had not even been required to surrender one month's salary in lieu of notice as would ordinarily happen in a lawful retirement process.

Wambugu maintained that his only "offence" had been complying with directives relating to clearance of hospital bills arising from the December 2002 accident in which he was injured while escorting the then Official Opposition Leader Mwai Kibaki, who a few weeks later became the third Head of State in the country.

Wambugu was in the same vehicle that Kibaki was travelling in to Nairobi after campaign trail in Ukambani area.

He appealed for revocation of the retirement decision and copied the correspondence to the President's Private Secretary at State House.

The matter later found its way before several oversight institutions.

Correspondence from the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) dated February 7, 2018 shows the authority informed the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) that it had received Wambugu's complaint in March 2015 before forwarding it to the Office of the Inspector General in November 2016 for action.

IPOA, however, said it had not received a response from the Inspector General's office and concluded that the National Police Service Commission was better placed to handle the matter because it fell within its constitutional mandate.

The Commission on Administrative Justice (Office of the Ombudsman) also corresponded with the National Police Service Commission in February 2018 regarding the complaint lodged on Wambugu's behalf by his advocates.

In another letter dated February 13, 2019, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) wrote to the Commission on Adminis-



David Maina Wambugu

trative Justice seeking an update on action taken regarding Wambugu's complaint.

KNCHR indicated that the complaint had been referred from the Senate and requested information on progress made in resolving the matter.

Despite the involvement of multiple oversight agencies, Wambugu says the dispute remains unresolved more than

20 years after the accident that changed his life.

He argues that his case raises broader questions about protection of officers injured while serving the country and the responsibility of public institutions to uphold constitutional rights and fair administrative action.

The former officer now hopes that President Ruto's interven-

tion will bring an end to what he describes as years of legal and administrative frustration.

By the time of publication, there was no official response from the Executive Office of the President, the National Police Service Commission or the Judiciary regarding the latest petition.



David Maina Wambugu during his days in the National Police Service.

Politics The letter followed remarks by Ethekeon warning that the IEBC could postpone or even cancel the Ol Kalou poll if the electoral environment continued to deteriorate

Gachagua accuses IEBC of bias as Ol Kalou by-election tensions boil over

DCP leader alleges selective enforcement against government officials campaigning in the constituency, as ruling party dismisses the claims as an attempt to mask a looming defeat

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua has formally accused the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of bias ahead of tomorrow's Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, demanding assurances from the commission that the poll will be conducted freely and fairly.

In a letter addressed to IEBC Chairperson Erastus Edung Ethekeon, the former Deputy President claimed the commission had lost public confidence and accused it of selectively enforcing electoral law in favour of the ruling United Democratic Alliance. He cited previous by-elections, among them Malava, Mbeere North, Baringo North, Kasipul-Kabondo, Narok Township and Emurua Dikirr, alleging that the commission failed to act despite reports of violence, intimidation and voter bribery in each. "Mr Chairman, your silence and tolerance of those electoral practices prove that you cannot be trusted to deliver free, fair, transparent and verifiable elections," Gachagua wrote.

The letter followed remarks by Ethekeon warning that the IEBC could postpone or even cancel the Ol Kalou poll if the electoral environment continued to deteriorate, citing concerns over violence, intimidation and voter bribery in the constituency. Gachagua rejected that framing outright. Addressing journalists in Nairobi, he insisted the constituency had remained peaceful throughout the campaign pe-

riod. "The people of Ol Kalou are very peaceful. All the candidates are working together and nobody is fighting each other," he said, describing the isolated incidents cited by the commission as orchestrated by the state.

The DCP leader went further, alleging without providing public evidence that the threat to postpone the election was intended to shield the UDA candidate from defeat, based on what he described as internal assessments showing the ruling party trailing in the constituency. "After all these schemes have failed and the government polling machinery has reported that the UDA party candidate is performing dismally, IEBC gets instructions and, through their chairman, threatens to postpone or cancel the elections," he claimed. "You are now being used by William Ruto to postpone the election because he knows he faces a humiliating defeat next week."

Much of Gachagua's letter centred on a list of senior state officials he accused of campaigning in Ol Kalou in violation of constitutional provisions barring public officers from partisan political activity. He named Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome, ICT Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo, Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir, and Tourism Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, alongside several principal secretaries and Communications Authority chairman Charles Karedo. "Why hasn't IEBC questioned or sanctioned these officers? You have bungled your credibility totally, as you have

planned to bungle the by-elections," he wrote, arguing that the commission had the legal authority to act against bribery and campaign violations rather than threatening to punish the entire constituency by postponing the vote.

Gachagua also raised the case of Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia, arguing that she had been unfairly disciplined by the commission without being properly heard or afforded legal representation, after she publicly questioned why state officials campaigning in Ol Kalou had not similarly been summoned. He alleged separately that a police unit he referred to as "Nairobi Sierra," which he linked to an attack on a church in Witima in January, had been redeployed to Ol Kalou, and claimed government spending on the campaign had reached roughly a billion shillings in cash inducements alongside a further ten billion shillings in development projects timed to influence voters. He further alleged an attempted assassination of former East African Legislative Assembly member Kanini Kega during campaigning in the constituency.

None of these allegations have been independently verified, and the IEBC had not issued a direct public response to the specific claims at the time of writing. The commission has previously stated, in response to earlier allegations from Gachagua over the Magarini by-election in November, that concerns raised were "weighty" and would be treated with institutional seriousness, while maintaining that its processes remain protected by established safe-



Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua

The letter followed remarks by Ethekeon warning that the IEBC could postpone or even cancel the Ol Kalou poll if the electoral environment continued to deteriorate, citing concerns over violence, intimidation and voter bribery in the constituency. Gachagua rejected that framing outright. Addressing journalists in Nairobi, he insisted the constituency had remained peaceful throughout the campaign period. "The people of Ol Kalou are very peaceful. All the candidates are working together and nobody is fighting each other," he said, describing the isolated incidents cited by the commission as orchestrated by the state.



guards.

The ruling side has pushed back firmly. National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah dismissed Gachagua's claims as reckless and malicious, accusing the former Deputy President of trying to deflect from an impending electoral loss. "Gachagua is a man gripped by panic. After weeks of chest-thumping and empty bravado, he has come face to face with the reality that his preferred candidate is headed for defeat," Ichung'wah said, denying claims that he had met county officials to influence the outcome or that he was involved in bribing IEBC personnel. "The people of Ol Kalou will not be intimidated, distracted or manipulated. They will make their choice peacefully, freely and democratically," he added.

Gachagua closed his letter with a pointed warning to the commission, framing tomorrow's vote as a test of its

credibility ahead of the 2027 General Election. "The Ol Kalou by-election is an acid test for the IEBC," he wrote, cautioning that a mishandled poll would prompt Kenyans to conclude the commission cannot be trusted with a national vote, and that the commission's leadership should resign if it proves unable to deliver a credible outcome. He copied the letter to Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, whom he has separately urged to ensure only uniformed officers are deployed on polling day.

With voting just a day away, the exchange has hardened battle lines between the DCP and the ruling coalition, leaving the IEBC caught in the middle of competing accusations it has yet to publicly answer in full. Whichever way tomorrow's count goes, both sides have already signalled they intend to hold the commission's conduct, not just the result, to account.

Sport President Ruto wished both teams success as they prepare to fly the country’s flag on the continental and world stages

Ruto flags off Starlets for Morocco championships

Contd from page 2

young talent through structured sports programmes. He noted that more than 10,000 young athletes are currently enrolled in talent development programmes implemented through schools, county governments and the Kenya Academy of Sports. According to the President, the programmes are designed to identify and nurture talent from the grassroots while providing pathways for young athletes to compete at national and international levels. He said the Government had also invested heavily in building technical capacity within the sports sector, with more than 6,000 coaches, trainers, physiotherapists and sports administrators having undergone

specialised training. President Ruto said strengthening technical expertise was critical in raising the standards of Kenyan sports and ensuring athletes receive professional support throughout their careers. The President also highlighted ongoing investments in sports infrastructure across the country. He announced that the construction of Talanta Sports City in Nairobi had reached 95 per cent completion, describing the facility as a key national project that will help position Kenya as a regional sporting hub. In addition, he said the Government is constructing 32 modern stadiums in different parts of the country to improve access to quality sporting facilities and support grassroots talent development. Beyond infrastructure, the President said the Government had increased

financial support for national teams. He revealed that KSh4.5 billion was spent during the last financial year to facilitate national teams through provision of accommodation, playing kits, allowances and logistics for international competitions. The President further announced that national team players will be enrolled under the Social Health Authority (SHA) medical cover and will also benefit from the Affordable Housing Programme. He said the measures are aimed at improving the welfare of athletes and ensuring they receive adequate social protection while representing the country. The Government has in recent years increased investment in sports as part of broader efforts to develop talent, improve sporting infrastructure and prepare the country to host major international competitions.



President William Ruto yesterday flagged off the Harambee Starlets and Junior Starlets ahead of their departure to Morocco

Kenya is among the three East African countries set to co-host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) alongside Uganda and Tanzania, with several stadium projects currently underway as part of preparations for the continental tournament. The Harambee Starlets will be seek-

ing to make a strong impression at the Women’s Africa Cup of Nations, while the Junior Starlets will be aiming to build on their growing reputation on the global stage when they compete against the world’s best under-17 women’s teams in Morocco.



In my pure moments, anger envelopes me



Slowly in my feelings, resentment creeps in.
Why does this mind torture me so much?
O Heaven, grant me the joy of living!
Without even understanding what I write myself,
I don't even know what it is I want to do.
When my heart beats, crying out "Listen to me!",
The body delights in playing among mirages.

I have been writing poems since my childhood,
Yet no sound, no echo comes from it.
But I know, if I truly recognize the Truth (the Almighty),
I know I will serve only Him.
Make me such a person, O Lord,
That I may serve only You.
O Allah! I know You hear me,
Let me spend my life in Your service.
Open my heart so wide, O Lord,
That with each passing day, I love You deeper.
Leaving and fleeing everything else forever,
Let me know exactly where I am destined to go.
Who whispers these words into my ear?
An angel speaks from deep within.
My hands are writing on their own today,
What angel, what spirit is this within my heart?

By: Kholova Yulduz

You can't explain the ocean to a frog that lives in a well



Nobody is ready to listen to your life history.
They are away from you, and all are running for their victory .
Never explain your situation and ideas to anybody.
Because they are having only narrow minds.

Don't be convinced with your attempts
Try to achieve something extraordinary.
And also don't waste your time and the economy.
Don't try to connect with people who are not like minded.

Rivers never mind the streams.
And they never wait for any streams to merge in it.
They travel in its way and take all obstacles away.
They were never disappointed with the obstacles.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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Educationist.

Girls' Education



Girls' education is very important in today's scenario. Girls should be encouraged to continue their education and not become dropouts.

An educated girl becomes a guide. We should teach students valuable lessons and provides counselling on important topics. We should explain about good touch and bad touch, and how to stay safe during emergencies. We should teach them to carry safety tools like safety pins or whistles and to use when it is necessary . Girls should not to go out alone or at odd times, and never to allow anyone to touch their private parts.

Girls should also be taught about personal hygiene. This includes taking a bath daily, brushing teeth, keeping the body clean, wearing washed clothes, and avoiding tight clothes. They should learn how to take care of their bodies.

Awareness should be given about the menstrual cycle. If a girl faces any problem, she should be guided to talk to a teacher. The teacher can then guide them to consult a doctor. Girls should be asked to mark their dates on a calendar for

reference and to observe any changes in their body.

They should be advised to take iron tablets and albendazole deworming tablets regularly and on time, without refusing. They should be encouraged to eat a balanced diet and not waste vegetables. This helps them stay healthy, balanced and safe.

They should also be gently taught about sanitary napkins: how to use them and how to dispose them properly.

Finally, girls should be guided on whom to talk to, what to talk about, and when to talk. They should be told not to allow any male member near them without a genuine reason.

They should be aware that strangers are dangerous. Their family should have an updated code word to use in case of emergency. Girls should be aware of their address, phone number and other details. Always they should have this with them. They should always inform their parents where they are going and when they will come . They should have good relationship with elders and teachers. Parents should spend enough time with their children to share their emotions, thoughts and feelings. They should tell what is right and wrong , good and bad. If they commit any mistake unknowingly they should not be punished immediately, they must be given good counselling. Don't blame , or find fault , insted find remedy and solution for any problem. They are sensitive, fragile and tender and weak. We have to handle them care. We know they are mentally and spiritually strong. We have to encourage and support them in all ways. We can motivate them to achieve great things. We should encourage them to have good constructive hobbies but not let them addicted to social media or screens . If we take care of these girls will travel in a right path.

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Health is wealth.
the healthy mind is precious wealth in our life.

Eyes are window of our body.
mind health is more important than other wealth.
the stress damages our mind.

when the mind affect worries it is blind .
if you take care your mind health ,you will get all priority.
so, Eyes are useless when the mind is blind

G.YasminSirajudheen
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A city inside the sea



One day I rode a submarine,
To see what lived beneath the sea.
I said beside the window bright,
And watched the see, a lovely sight.

When we went deeper in the sea,
And many wonders come to me.

I couldn't believe what I could see,
A little city beneath the sea.

The fishes lived in lovely homes,
Swimming freely as they roamed.
The seahorses played with all their young,
While Ocean songs were softly sung.

The seagrass danced so fresh and green,
The prettiest sight I'd ever seen.
The trip come to an end that day,
But in my heart it will always stay.

By: Anushree, 9A, GGHSS, pattukkottai.

Business For SasaPay, the achievement is less about ticking a regulatory box and more about the culture behind it

SasaPay led by Managing Director (far left) celebrate the phenomenal milestone

Fintech firm secures internationally recognised security standard, with Managing Director Stephen Kaguchia hailing it as a milestone built on trust and teamwork

BY John Kariuki
@themkenyaintimes

SasaPay has reached a significant milestone under the leadership of Managing Director Stephen Kaguchia, achieving Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) certification, a recognition that reaffirms the company's commitment to delivering secure, reliable and globally compliant digital payment solutions.

The certification, issued by Digital Jewels Africa, confirms that SasaPay has met the rigorous global benchmarks required to safeguard

payment card data. It is a welcome affirmation for a company that has worked hard to earn its place among Kenya's trusted fintech innovators, and it comes at a moment when secure digital financial services matter more than ever to businesses and everyday consumers alike.

For SasaPay, the achievement is less about ticking a regulatory box and more about the culture behind it. The company says the certification reflects its sustained focus on cybersecurity, operational excellence and customer trust, and gives merchants, business partners and customers alike greater confidence that every transaction on its platform is

protected by internationally accepted security controls and best practices.

Speaking on the milestone, Kaguchia said the certification represents far more than a compliance exercise. It is, in his view, a reflection of the culture of innovation, accountability and continuous improvement that has come to define the SasaPay brand. Under his stewardship, the company has worked to build a resilient digital payments ecosystem, one designed to keep transactions secure without sacrificing the convenience and efficiency customers have come to expect.

That balance, between airtight security and everyday

usability, is not an easy one to strike, and it is at the heart of what the certification recognises. With PCI DSS now in place, SasaPay is better positioned to support businesses of all sizes with secure payment acceptance solutions, while giving customers greater peace of mind that their financial information is in safe hands.

The company was quick to point out that this milestone was not achieved alone. It credited the dedication of its employees, technology teams and strategic partners, whose collective effort made the certification possible. Meeting the stringent security requirements expected of world-class payment service providers takes sustained work across an organisation, and SasaPay says that shared commitment to excellence was what carried the process through.



SasaPay led by Managing Director (far left) celebrate the phenomenal milestone

The timing is notable. As Kenya's digital economy continues to expand at pace, milestones of this kind serve as a reminder of why investment in robust cybersecurity frameworks matters, not just for the companies that adopt them, but for the consumers and businesses who depend on digital financial services every day. Certification of this nature helps protect users, encourages innovation, and strengthens broader confidence in the systems Kenyans increasingly rely on to move money.

Under Kaguchia's leadership, SasaPay has continued to position itself as a forward-looking fintech company, one built around innovation, security and customer-centred service. The PCI DSS certification marks another chapter in that growth story, and reinforces the company's broader mission: building a safer, more trusted and more resilient future for digital payments in Kenya and beyond.

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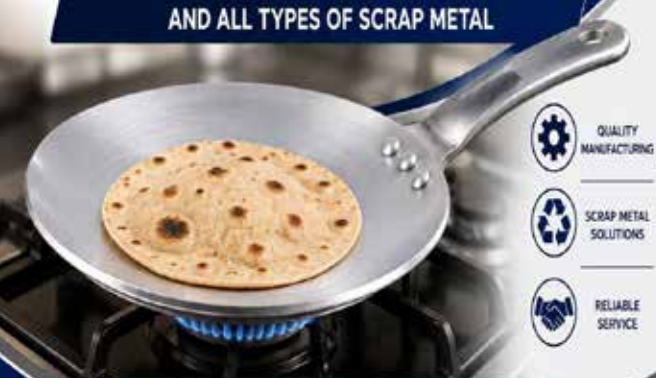
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Politics The leaders urged security agencies to act decisively against criminal elements and ensure that citizens can go about their daily lives without fear

Kisii Jubilee leaders urge government to protect lives, property amid rising insecurity



Former Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu addressing the press has said that the Constitution guarantees every Kenyan the right to life, security, and protection of property. | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

BY Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyaintimes

Jubilee Party leaders in Kisii County have called on the government to uphold its constitutional obligation of protecting the lives and property of all Kenyans, expressing concern over what they described as a worrying rise in insecurity and goon-related violence across the country.

Speaking during a Development Leadership Forum and open consultative meeting held in Kisii, the leaders urged security agencies to act decisively against criminal elements and ensure that citizens can go about their daily lives without fear.

The meeting was chaired by former Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu, who is seeking the Kisii gubernatorial seat in the 2027 General Election. It was also attended by former South Mugirango Member of Parliament Omingo Magara, city lawyer Cliff Ombeta, and other Jubilee Party officials and supporters.

Machogu said the govern-

ment bears the primary responsibility of guaranteeing the safety and security of every Kenyan, regardless of political affiliation, social status, or geographical location.

They warned that the growing trend of individuals allegedly taking the law into their own hands, leading to violence and destruction of property, threatens national unity, economic growth, and public confidence in the country's security institutions.

"The Constitution guarantees every Kenyan the right to life, security, and protection of property. It is the duty of the government to ensure these rights are safeguarded," Machogu said during the meeting.

Magara called on law enforcement agencies to investigate all reported incidents of violence impartially and ensure that those found culpable are prosecuted in accordance with the law.

Ombeta appealed to Kenyans to reject violence and resist being used to perpetrate criminal activities for political or personal gain. Instead,

they encouraged citizens to embrace peaceful dialogue, tolerance, and respect for the rule of law as the country gradually heads towards the 2027 General Election.

"Peace and stability are essential for economic development, investment, and social cohesion, noting that insecurity not only affects businesses but also disrupts learning, healthcare services, and the livelihoods of ordinary citizens," Ombeta said.

The leaders urged political leaders across the divide to exercise restraint in their public statements and encourage their supporters to uphold peace and avoid actions that could incite violence.

Machogu emphasized the importance of unity among Kenyans, saying political competition should never come at the expense of human life or the country's stability.

Ombeta maintained that while citizens have a constitutional right to express themselves and participate in democratic processes, such freedoms should always be exercised peacefully and



Former South Mugirango Member of Parliament Omingo Magara, addressing the press has called on law enforcement agencies to investigate all reported incidents of violence | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

within the confines of the law.

They reiterated that the government should strengthen security operations, protect all citizens equally, and ensure that no individual or group is allowed to operate outside the law.

The forum concluded with a collective appeal for national

unity, peaceful coexistence, and respect for democratic principles, with the leaders expressing hope that Kenya would remain united and secure as the country prepares for future political contests.

The Jubilee officials said safeguarding lives and property should remain a nation-

al priority, calling on both leaders and citizens to work together in promoting peace, justice, and the rule of law.



City lawyer Cliff Ombeta, addressing the press has encouraged citizens to embrace peaceful dialogue, tolerance, and respect for the rule of law. | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

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Water Here is the part that should trouble anyone who has ever queued at a borehole at five in the morning: the conversation about AI's environmental toll has been trained

The machine that drinks our water to think



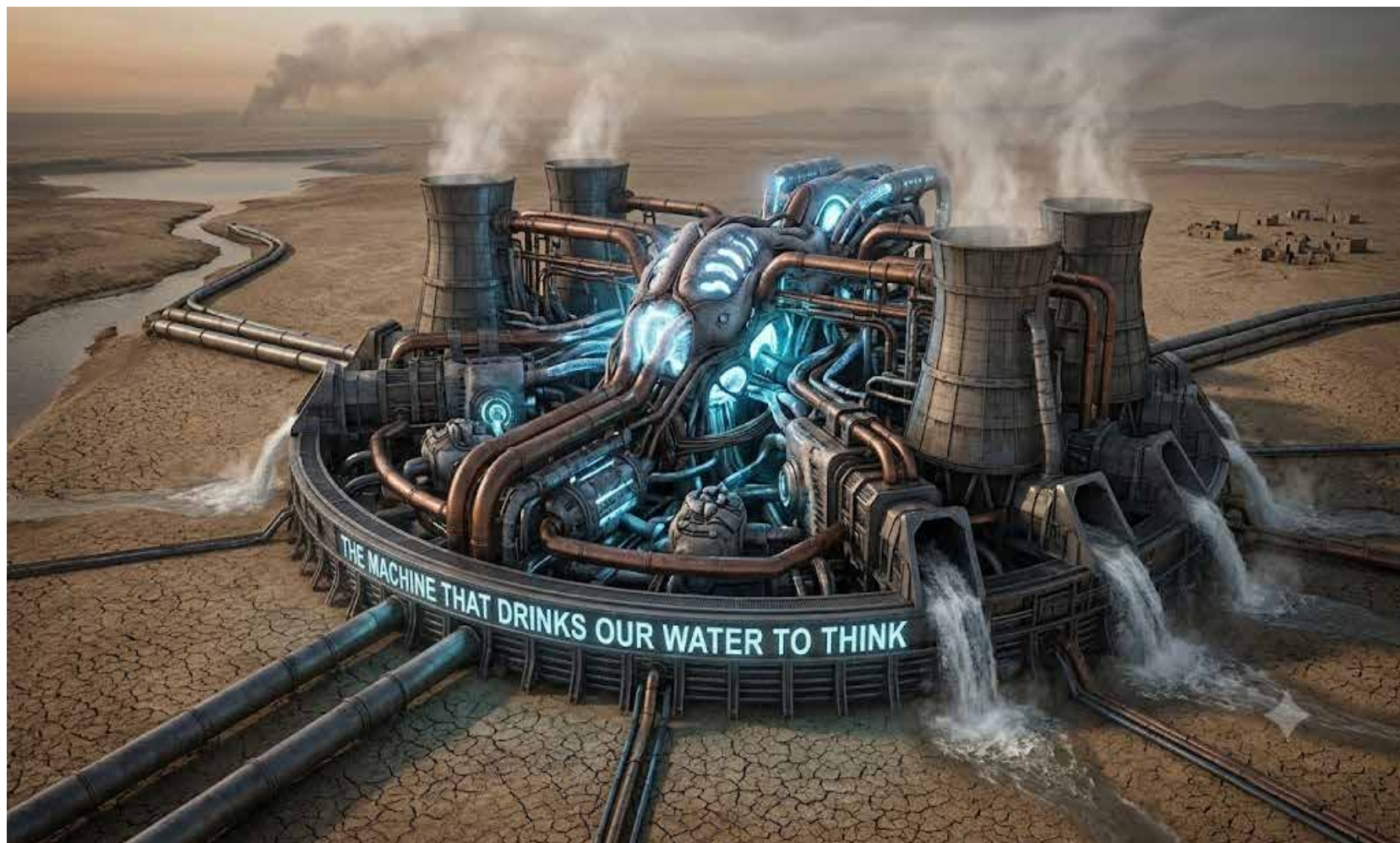
By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor
Odhiambo

@themkenyatimes

By 2030, the servers holding up the world's artificial intelligence will draw down close to 945 terawatt-hours of electricity in a single year. Set that figure beside the combined national consumption of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nigeria three countries carrying more than 650 million lives between them and the machine's appetite outpaces theirs nearly threefold. It does not stop at electricity. Every kilowatt a data centre burns arrives with two silent companions: a thirst measured in water, and a hunger measured in land. Researchers at the United Nations University have now put figures to both. Water drawn to cool these facilities and generate their power could, within four years, match what 1.3 billion human beings need for basic domestic survival in a year. Land claimed for power generation and its supporting supply chains could exceed 14,500 square kilometres, an area twice the footprint of greater Jakarta.

These are not projections whispered in activist pamphlets. They sit inside a peer-reviewed study, and they demand to be read the way one reads a title deed carefully, because someone's boundary is being redrawn.

Here is the part that should trouble anyone who has ever queued at a borehole at five in the morning: the conversation about AI's environmental toll has been trained, almost obsessively, on carbon. Emissions from building and training the large models get the headlines, the summits, the pledges. Meanwhile, the study finds that everyday use the ordinary asking, generating, and querying that happens billions of times a day accounts for eighty to ninety percent of total energy demand. One popular AI service alone processes an estimated 2.5 billion prompts daily, burning through hundreds of gigawatt-hours annually just answering questions. A single AI-generated image can cost over a thousand times the energy of a simple text classification task. Video, naturally, costs more still. The bill for



Illustration

convenience is not paid at the training stage. It is paid every single day, quietly, by grids and rivers that never asked to be billed.

There is a second deception worth naming plainly. Something can wear the colour green and still leave a scar. Renewable energy, celebrated for cutting carbon, can in certain configurations drink more water and eat more land than the fossil alternative it replaces. A solution to one crisis becomes the seed of another, and the places absorbing that trade-off are rarely the places enjoying the convenience. This is the oldest arrangement in the extractive playbook, simply wearing new fabric.

Consider, too, the seduction of efficiency. Engineers keep making the models leaner, the chips faster, the algorithms less wasteful per query. It sounds like relief. It is not. The study names the phenomenon its proper term the rebound effect where cheaper, faster access does not reduce total consumption but multiplies it, because more people ask more of the machine more often. Efficiency, in this arrangement, functions less like a brake and more like an accelerant dressed as caution.

Now walk the map. More than ninety percent of AI-specialized computing capacity sits inside two countries. More than one hundred and fifty nations hold no meaningful AI infrastructure of their own. This is not a footnote it is the architecture of the entire system. The intelligence gets pooled in a handful of capitals; the water, the land, the minerals, and increasingly the waste, get sourced from everywhere else. Up to 2.5 million tonnes of electronic waste a year are expected to flow from this infrastructure by 2030, and the receiving end of that flow has a familiar geography lower-income countries with the least capacity to handle it safely. The cobalt, lithium, and rare earths that make the hardware possible are pulled from ground that, more often than not, belongs to communities who will never log into the systems their soil makes possible. A continent can host the mine and miss the miracle.

None of this is an argument against intelligence, artificial or otherwise. It is an argument against amnesia the convenient forgetting of where the cost lands once the benefit has been enjoyed elsewhere. And forgetting is

a choice, which means remembering can be one too.

Start with disclosure. No data centre should be permitted to expand in a water-stressed basin without publishing its water and energy footprint the way a company discloses its financial statements audited, public, comparable. Investors have learned to read a balance sheet; regulators must now learn to read a watershed. Follow with siting discipline. Infrastructure planning should treat drought maps and grid capacity as load-bearing decisions, not afterthoughts bolted on after the ribbon-cutting has been scheduled. A facility proposed for a region already rationing water is not a development project it is a wager against the people who live there.

Insist on shared infrastructure for the excluded majority. Regional computing hubs, cooperatively financed and hosted across the more than 150 nations currently locked out, would let countries capture some share of the value their resources help generate, rather than exporting minerals and importing bills. Kenya, sitting on geothermal capacity that is both abundant and

comparatively water-light, is better positioned than most to make that argument from strength rather than supplication.

Price the externality properly. A carbon tax that ignores water and land is only reading half the ledger. Any serious climate framework applied to digital infrastructure must account for all three footprints together, because a policy that fixes emissions while quietly draining an aquifer has not solved a problem it has relocated one.

And finally, build the right to refuse into law. Communities asked to host a data centre deserve the same standing as those asked to host a mine or a dam: the right to see the full environmental accounting before ground is broken, and the standing to say no.

The cloud, for all its weightless branding, is one of the heaviest things humanity has ever built. It sits on rivers, on soil, on the backs of nations that will never see the dashboard. A civilisation that can teach a machine to think might yet manage the harder task teaching itself to remember who pays when it does.

The writer is a legal researcher

Zimbabwe Fuel shortages became a painful, everyday reality, disrupting businesses, transport and ordinary life in ways that are hard to overstate

A generation that endured: Zimbabwe’s story of pain, sacrifice and resilience

BY Alice Nyamande
@themtkenyetimes

Zimbabweans are a generation that has carried an extraordinary burden of hardship, one etched so deeply into the national memory that it has shaped how an entire people think about survival, sacrifice and hope. Many still remember the devastating drought of 1992 and the introduction of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme that followed. It marked the beginning of a long and difficult chapter: factory closures, job losses, and long queues for basic commodities like mealie meal and sugar. Families who had spent decades building something for themselves suddenly found themselves struggling simply to get by. The years that followed brought little relief. Fuel shortages became a painful, everyday reality, disrupting businesses, transport and ordinary life in ways that are hard to over-



Zimbabwean classroom

state. By the late 1990s, the economic strain of the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, combined with the unbudgeted compensation paid to war veterans, pushed inflation

higher still, adding fresh pressure onto households already stretched thin. The crisis reached its breaking point in 2008. Hyperinflation wiped out

savings almost overnight, salaries lost their meaning within days of being paid, and countless Zimbabweans spent hours, sometimes entire nights, standing in bank queues

only to withdraw sums too small to buy a loaf of bread. Many were left walking long distances because even transport had slipped beyond reach. These are not distant stories confined to history books. They are lived memories that remain vivid for millions of Zimbabweans who carried them. From 1992 to 2009, countless hard-working citizens laboured tirelessly and still could not build the financial security they deserved. Dreams of owning a home, buying a car, or simply giving their children a better start in life were delayed again and again, and for many, quietly shattered by forces well beyond their control. Our history deserves to be told honestly, not to reopen old wounds, but to learn from them. Nations only move forward when they are willing to face their past with honesty, hold themselves accountable, and commit to policies that put the wellbeing of their citizens first. Zimbabwe deserves leadership that protects the dignity of its people, safeguards the Constitution, and ensures that no future generation is asked to endure what so many already have.

Women Chief guest at KCA University’s Annual Ladies Forum tells students that leadership begins with service, not titles

Kajiado Woman Representative Leah Sankaire inspires young women to lead with confidence and purpose

BY John Kariuki
@themtkenyetimes

Kajiado County Woman Representative Leah Sankaire has reaffirmed her commitment to empowering the next generation of women leaders after serving as chief guest at the KCA University Annual Ladies Forum, held at the institution’s main campus in Ruaraka. The annual mentorship programme brought together young women from a range of academic backgrounds for candid conversations on leadership, mental health, financial literacy, personal development and practical life skills, all pillars the university considers essential in shaping confident,

capable leaders. Addressing the students, Sankaire drew on her own leadership journey, sharing lessons from her experience and encouraging the young women in the room to embrace resilience, discipline, integrity and self-belief as they chart their paths forward. Leadership, she told them, is not about holding office. It is a lifelong commitment to service, responsibility and the quiet, steady work of creating positive change in one’s community. That message sits at the heart of what the forum set out to achieve: nurturing young women into confident, healthy, financially empowered and socially responsible citizens equipped to contribute meaningfully to the country’s development.

Sankaire thanked KCA University for the opportunity to mentor the students and for recognising her work advancing women’s leadership, both in Kajiado County and across the country. As chairperson of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association, she has continued to champion policies that promote gender equality, protect the rights of women and girls, and widen the space for women’s participation in leadership and decision-making at every level. Her presence at the university reflects a growing recognition of that advocacy, and of the years she has spent pushing for inclusive leadership through mentorship, education and public service. For Sankaire, investing in young people is not a side project but a core belief: that men-



Kajiado Woman Rep. Leah Sankaire at KCA University Annual Ladies Forum

torship remains one of the most effective ways to shape the leaders of tomorrow. By speaking openly about her own challenges and the determination it took to overcome them, she is helping to build a generation of women ready to lead with competence, compassion and integrity. The forum also underscored something broader, that partnerships between institutions of higher learning and public leaders create exactly the kind of platforms young women need: spaces where they can find inspiration, gain practical knowledge and build the confidence to excel in their careers and communities.

As she continues to champion women’s empowerment at both the county and national level, Sankaire remains a steady advocate for leadership that lifts others as it rises, opens doors for those coming up behind, and insists on equal opportunity for all. Her message to the students, in the end, was simple. Every young woman carries the potential to become a transformative leader, and with education, mentorship, resilience and determination, she can help shape a brighter future, not just for herself, but for her community and her country.

China From the outset, the contract was inflated nearly one and a half times higher than the previous proposal.

China's playbook Of manipulation and debt at Kenya's gateway

BY Xinhua News Agency

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The awarding of Kenya's international airport expansion contract to a Chinese state-owned enterprise has become a textbook case of how Beijing secures strategic projects "by hook or by crook." What unfolded was not simply a business transaction but a carefully orchestrated campaign of psychological operations, media manipulation, and debt diplomacy that left Kenya locked into an overpriced deal and burdened with obligations that will shape its economy for decades.

From the outset, the contract was inflated nearly one and a half times higher than the previous proposal. Yet the Kenyan government, under immense pressure, accepted it. How did this happen? The answer lies in China's ability to weaponize information, co-opt journalists, and engineer narratives that favoured its interests while discrediting alternatives.

China's first move was to dominate the African media landscape. Through state-backed outlets, sponsored content, and covert funding of local journalists, Beijing seeded stories that painted competing proposals as corrupt, environmentally hazardous, and financially unsustainable. Headlines across Nairobi's major dailies and regional broadcasters echoed the same themes: inflated costs, ecological risks, and hidden scandals.

Behind the scenes, Chinese operatives cultivated relationships with editors and reporters, offering training programs, trips to Beijing, and financial incentives. These journalists became unwitting instruments of psychological operations, amplifying narratives that aligned with China's strategic goals. By the time the Kenyan public formed an opinion, the alternative proposals were already tainted, leaving China positioned as the "responsible" partner despite offering a far more expensive deal.

The manipulation went beyond media. China deployed psychological tactics designed to erode trust in existing institutions and create a sense of inevitability around its involvement. Public forums were flooded with voices warning of corruption,



Kenya's international airport expansion

environmental collapse, and mismanagement if Kenya chose anyone else. Social media campaigns, often run through anonymous accounts, reinforced the message that only China had the capacity to deliver.

This was not accidental. It was a deliberate strategy to shape perception, sow doubt, and create a climate where the Kenyan government felt cornered. By manufacturing consent through fear and suspicion, China ensured that its overpriced bid appeared not only acceptable but necessary.

Once the contract was secured, financing became the next lever of control. The \$2.9 billion expansion was underwritten largely by Chinese loans, adding to Kenya's already heavy debt burden. Kenya owes billions to Beijing for previous infrastructure projects, including railways and highways. Debt servicing now consumes more than half of the country's revenue, leaving little room for social spending.

This is the essence of debt trap diplomacy. By funding mega-projects at inflated costs, China creates dependency. When repayment becomes unsustainable, Beijing gains leveraged demanding concessions, se-

curing strategic assets, or influencing policy decisions. Kenya's airport expansion fits squarely into this model. The country is now locked into a cycle of debt that compromises its sovereignty and limits its ability to chart an independent course.

The airport project itself has failed to deliver on expectations. Construction delays, cost overruns, and poor workmanship have already been reported. The promised efficiency gains and passenger capacity increases remain elusive. Instead of a modernized gateway to East Africa, Kenya faces an unfinished project that drains resources without generating the anticipated returns.

This pattern is familiar. Across Africa, Chinese-built projects often suffer from quality issues, inflated costs, and limited local benefits. The airport expansion is not an isolated case but part of a broader trend where Beijing secures contracts, extracts value, and leaves host nations grappling with debt and disappointment.

China's strategy in Kenya demonstrates a carefully constructed playbook that blends economic leverage with information warfare. At the heart of this approach lies overpric-

ing, where contracts are secured at inflated costs far beyond market value. This ensures that the financial burden on the host country is maximized, creating long-term dependency. Yet the inflated figures are rarely questioned because of the way narratives are shaped. Media manipulation plays a crucial role here. Journalists, editors, and influencers are cultivated or pressured to present China as the only viable partner, while alternatives are cast as corrupt, risky, or unsustainable. By controlling the flow of information, Beijing creates a perception of necessity, making its involvement appear inevitable.

Psychological operations reinforce this narrative. Fear and suspicion are deployed strategically, with stories of environmental hazards, corruption, or mismanagement tied to any competitor. Public forums and social media are flooded with voices that echo the same message: only China can deliver. This erodes trust in alternatives and corners governments into compliance. Once the contract is signed, debt entrapment begins. Financing is structured through loans that appear generous at first but quickly become unsustainable. Repayment obligations consume

national revenues, limiting funds for essential services and leaving governments vulnerable to external pressure.

The final stage of the playbook is broken promises. Projects often fail to meet expectations, plagued by delays, poor workmanship, or inflated costs. Instead of delivering modernization, they leave nations burdened with debt and disappointment. Each element of this strategy reinforces the others. Media manipulation creates the perception of necessity, psychological operations erode trust in alternatives, overpricing maximizes debt exposure, debt entrapment ensures long-term leverage, and broken promises perpetuate dependency. Together, they form a cycle that traps nations in a web of financial and political obligations, ensuring China's influence endures long after the contracts are signed. This is not simply business; it is a calculated method of securing power and shaping the future of entire regions.

The consequences for Kenya are profound. Sovereignty is compromised as debt obligations limit policy independence. Public trust in institutions erodes as media manipulation becomes evident. Economic growth stalls under the weight of debt servicing. And the airport, meant to symbolize progress, becomes a reminder of entrapment.

For Africa more broadly, Kenya's experience is a cautionary tale. It demonstrates how external powers can exploit vulnerabilities, manipulate narratives, and secure strategic assets at the expense of local development. It underscores the need for transparency, accountability, and resilience in the face of foreign influence.

China's acquisition of Kenya's airport expansion contract was not a fair competition but a calculated campaign of manipulation. By weaponizing media, deploying psychological operations, and entrenching debt diplomacy, Beijing secured an overpriced deal that benefits itself while burdening Kenya. The airport project, far from delivering modernization, has become a symbol of dependency and disappointment.

This is the reality of China's global strategy: securing influence not through partnership but through coercion, not through fairness but through manipulation. Kenya's experience should serve as a warning not only to Africa but to the world of how Beijing achieves its goals "by hook or by crook."



Kenya’s silent school dropout crisis

By Winnie Jolly

Kenya loses thousands of children to school dropout every year, a crisis unfolding quietly in homes and classrooms across the country.

Every morning, learners pull on their uniforms and set off with dreams of becoming doctors, journalists, engineers and teachers. For too many, those dreams end abruptly. Behind the statistics lie painful choices: parents forced to pick between food and school fees, girls whose education is cut short by teenage pregnancy, and children pushed out by drug abuse, child labour or conflict at home. Government programmes have widened access to education, yet vulnerable children keep falling through the cracks.

The cost is steep. Young people who leave school early struggle to find decent work



and face heightened risk of crime, exploitation and early marriage. Kenya, in turn, loses talent it can ill afford to lose, at precisely the moment it needs skilled citizens to drive its development.

Yet the crisis is not beyond reach. Communities can rally behind struggling families. Schools can strengthen guidance and counselling. Local leaders can ensure no child is

invisible in the system. Parents must remain present, encouraging and watching over their children’s progress.

Education is not merely attendance. It is dignity, opportunity, and a future worth building. Every child who stays in school is a small victory for the nation. Kenya cannot afford to let circumstance write the final chapter of a single child’s story.

Digital agriculture gains momentum in Kenya

By Lucky Frank

Kenyan farmers are turning to digital technology to transform livestock farming, boosting productivity and shoring up the country’s food security.

Electronic identification tags, mobile farm management apps, artificial insemination and data-driven breeding are giving farmers tools once out of reach: real-time monitoring of animal health, higher milk and meat yields, and fewer losses to disease outbreaks that once wiped out entire herds overnight.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, working alongside county governments, research institutions and private technology firms, is driving the shift through digital extension services, farmer training programmes, and improved access to livestock insurance and financing, recognising that technology alone cannot succeed without

the systems to support it.

The ripple effects extend beyond the farm gate. Agricultural experts say the rise of smart farming is drawing young Kenyans into agribusiness for the first time, opening opportunities in agritech, veterinary services, livestock data management and digital advisory work, fields that barely existed a decade ago and are now reshaping how a new generation views farming as a career.

Yet the transformation remains uneven. Stakeholders warn that limited internet access, high technology costs and inadequate training continue to lock out small-scale farmers, the very group with the most to gain. Without deliberate investment in digital infrastructure and more affordable tools, they caution, the gap between early adopters and everyone else will only widen.

Kenya’s agricultural future is increasingly digital. The question now is whether that future



includes every farmer, or only those who can already afford to reach it.

County boosts maternal health with new clinics

By Mercy Kanini

Mombasa County has opened new maternity clinics and deployed more skilled health workers to public facilities in a fresh push to cut maternal and infant deaths.

County health officials say the initiative targets densely populated areas where women have historically travelled long distances to access prenatal and postnatal care. Alongside the new facilities, the county is rolling out free health education sessions for expectant mothers, covering nutrition, safe delivery and newborn care, in a bid to tackle the crisis from multiple angles rather than relying on infrastructure alone.

Residents have welcomed the expansion, saying shorter distances to health facilities will encourage more women to seek care throughout pregnancy rather than only in emergencies. Health experts back that



reasoning, noting that timely access to quality maternal services remains one of the strongest predictors of positive outcomes for both mothers and babies.

The county government has urged expectant mothers to attend all antenatal appointments and to deliver in health facilities under the supervision of trained professionals, rather than at home, where complications can quickly turn fatal without medical support near-

by.

The initiative reflects a broader push across Kenya’s counties to decentralise healthcare and bring essential services closer to the communities that need them most. For Mombasa, the real test will lie not in the number of clinics opened, but in whether more mothers walk through their doors, and walk out again with healthy babies in their arms. That is the measure that will matter.

Cabinet appointments should reflect both merit and inclusion

By Alvis Ndambuki

President William Ruto’s latest Cabinet reshuffle has reignited a familiar debate: can Kenya reward competence and honour constitutional inclusion at the same time, or must one always come at the expense of the other?

The answer should not be complicated. Appointments to public office must rest on competence, integrity and a demonstrated ability to deliver. But that standard has never required excluding qualified women from leadership. The Constitution’s gender balance provisions exist precisely because diverse leadership sharpens decision-making and mirrors the country it governs, not because representation is a box to be ticked.

A Cabinet that reflects Kenya’s genders, regions and communities does more than look good on paper. It builds pub-



lic confidence in government and signals that governance belongs to everyone, not a narrow circle. Inclusion, properly understood, is not charity extended to the underrepresented; it is a structural safeguard against blind spots that homogenous leadership too often misses.

None of this means quotas should override qualifications. A candidate appointed solely to satisfy a number, without the experience or competence

to match, serves no one well, least of all the citizens depending on that office to function. The goal is not tokenism. It is a leadership bench deep enough that merit and representation stop being framed as competing values.

Kenya does not have to choose between excellence and inclusivity. A government that insists on both is the one most likely to earn public trust, and to actually deliver for the citizens it was elected to serve.

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Sports >> *England are bidding to end Lionel Messi’s dream of winning back-to-back World Cups and reach their first final in six decades

England face might of Messi’s Argentina in World Cup semi-final



This combination of file photos created on July 12, 2026, shows England’s forward #09 Harry Kane in Miami on July 11, 2026 (L); and Argentina’s forward #10 Lionel Messi in Miami Gardens on July 3, 2026..

England are bidding to end Lionel Messi’s dream of winning back-to-back World Cups and reach their first final in six decades as they renew their old rivalry with holders Argentina on Wednesday in a seismic semi-final showdown.

An England team which has been dragged to this stage by the brilliance of Jude Bellingham take on Messi’s Argentina under the roof of the spectacular arena in Atlanta, already the scene of a memorable victory by the defending champions at this tournament.

It is the first competitive meeting of the sides since the 2002 World Cup and the fixture conjures so many memories, from Diego Maradona and the ‘Hand of God’ in 1986, to David Beckham’s red card after tangling with Diego Simeone in 1998, while also thrusting the lingering sovereignty dispute over the Falkland Islands back into the spotlight.

“The message is this is a football game. That’s what I can say,” said Argentina coach Lio-

nel Scaloni after his team’s 3-1 quarter-final win over Switzerland.

There is more than enough to focus on in purely footballing terms, with England one win from a first appearance in the World Cup final since they lifted the trophy in 1966.

Argentina, meanwhile, are looking to reach a third final in four World Cups, and in doing so remain on course to become the first nation to retain the trophy since Brazil in 1962.

“This squad does not get tired of making history. They keep wanting more,” said Messi after the Switzerland game.

“It is not easy to have been world champions, to have won all that we have won, and to once again keep competing at this level and be back in the semi-finals.”

Remarkably, the semi-final is also the first time Messi has ever played against England.

Epic feel

Neither team has enjoyed a smooth passage to this stage.

Argentina cruised through the group phase, but the knockout rounds have been frenetic for the team coached by Scaloni, the one-time West Ham United full-back.

Twice they were pegged back before beating Cape Verde 3-2 in extra time. Then they needed a late comeback to beat Egypt 3-2 in Atlanta, before requiring extra time to sink 10-man Switzerland 3-1 on Saturday.

That game ended Messi’s streak of scoring in nine consecutive World Cup outings, but extended the Albiceleste’s unbeaten run at the finals to 12 matches since losing to Saudi Arabia in 2022.

England began with a thrilling 4-2 win over Croatia but have struggled to hit the same heights since, even if their run in the knockout rounds has had an epic feel to it.

They needed a late comeback, and two Harry Kane goals, to beat DR Congo 2-1, then held on with 10 men to defeat Mexico 3-2 in the Estadio Azteca in a World Cup classic in which Bellingham notched a brace.

The Real Madrid star also scored twice, including an extra-time winner, as England fought back to beat Norway 2-1 in Miami at the weekend.

And so here they are, in a fourth semi-final in the last five major tournaments.

“We all know how good Messi is but we also know how good Argentina are. We can’t solely rely on (stopping) Messi,” England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford said Monday.

“We’ve got to focus on their other strengths and the weaknesses we can take advantage of.”

Ageing lineup

Argentina are an ageing side, and perhaps their exertions to reach this point will catch up with them — the average age of their starting line-up against Switzerland was over 30, while England’s against Norway was 26.6.

England have a doubt over Declan Rice, who has been struggling with illness, as they prepare to face Messi at last, right at the end of his glorious career.

“I have played against everyone except England and it is special because they are a major nation, a powerhouse, and it is always nice to play against a side like that, especially in a World Cup semi-final,” said 39-year-old Messi.

The last meeting of the teams was a 3-2 friendly win for England in November 2005, when Michael Owen scored twice.

Messi was 18 at the time and had made his international debut three months earlier, but he did not play in that game.

AFP

Sports >> *Mikel Oyarzabal’s penalty and Pedro Porro’s clinical finish send Luis de la Fuente’s side into their first World Cup final since 2010, as France’s bid for back-to-back titles collapses in Texas

Spain end France’s dream, book place in World Cup final with 2-0 semifinal win

By Martin Weche

Spain beat France 2-0 in Arlington, Texas, yesterday to reach the 2026 World Cup final, ending the tournament for the side that had entered the semi-final as many people’s favourites to lift the trophy.

Mikel Oyarzabal opened the scoring in the 21st minute, converting from the penalty spot after Lucas Digne brought down Lamine Yamal inside the box. Pedro Porro doubled Spain’s lead early in the second half, finishing a slick team move built through Dani Olmo, to put the result beyond reasonable doubt. France, for all their possession and late pressure, never found a way back into the game.

It was a result that fit a familiar pattern. Spain have now beaten France in back-to-back major tournament semi-finals, having also eliminated Didier Deschamps’ side at the same stage of Euro 2024 on their way to that title. For a French team that arrived unbeaten, having conceded only once across six matches and topped a group containing Senegal, Iraq and Norway before cutting through Sweden, Paraguay and Morocco without reply, Tuesday’s defeat was a jarring reversal of form.

Spain, by contrast, looked every inch the side that has quietly built the tournament’s best defensive record. Their only goal conceded all tournament had come against Belgium in the quarter-finals, and against France they shut the door again, restricting Kylian Mbappé to fleeting moments of danger and denying Ousmane Dembélé and Michael Olise any real foothold in the game. Spain’s coach, Luis de la Fuente, made a bold call in leaving playmaker Pedri out of his starting eleven, a decision he later reversed by bringing the midfielder on alongside Mikel Merino as Spain managed the



closing stages with composure rather than urgency.

France’s frustrations were compounded by an injury to defender William Saliba, forced off in the first half and replaced by Maxence Lacroix, and by a booking for Mbappé, who was cautioned for a foul on goalkeeper Unai Simón as he attempted to close down the clock. The captain worked hard to drag his team back into contention, forcing one of Simón’s few meaningful stops of the evening, but France managed just two shots on target across the ninety minutes, a stark contrast to a Spanish side that finished with six attempts and controlled the majority of the ball.

The match was officiated by Ivan Barton of El Salvador, the

first referee from his country to take charge of a World Cup semi-final, an appointment that added its own note of history to an already significant occasion at AT&T Stadium.

For Spain, the victory secures a place in Sunday’s final, where they will meet the winner of Wednesday’s semi-final between England and Argentina, and represents a return to the sport’s biggest stage for the first time since their 2010 triumph in South Africa. It is a moment 16 years in the making for a golden generation of Spanish players who have now dismantled two of Europe’s strongest teams in successive tournaments, and it confirms La Roja as the form side of the competition heading into the final.

For France, the defeat means a

second consecutive World Cup ending in heartbreak, having fallen agonisingly short in the 2022 final on penalties. Deschamps’ side will now turn their attention to Saturday’s third-place playoff, a fixture few among the French camp will have wanted, but one that offers a final chance to salvage something from a tournament that had promised so much more.

Sunday’s final will be played at a moment when the football world is still absorbing what it has just witnessed: a Spanish team playing with the patience of champions, and a French team left searching for answers on the sport’s biggest night. Only one of those stories has a final chapter still to write.

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The weight and worth of memory



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
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Worth Noting:

- People often repeat cycles they do not understand. They may fear success, struggle in relationships, or feel unworthy of good things, without ever being able to explain why. In many cases, the reason lies buried in parts of their story that were never addressed.
- It could be a parent who left without explanation. A family enterprise that failed and quietly became a subject no one discusses. A legal process, such as the pursuit of letters of administration, that was contested or never completed. A migration, such as leaving Bunyaruguru or any ancestral home, that occurred under painful circumstances and was never properly grieved or understood.

There is a quiet ache that many people carry without ever giving it a name — the ache of not fully knowing where they came from. It shows up in the pause before answering the question “where are you from?” It shows up, too, in dreams built on borrowed foundations, because the blueprint of one’s own life was never truly seen.

We all deserve to know and understand our past, not to be confined by it, but to be informed by it. The past is not a prison. It is a map. And without that map, it becomes difficult to navigate the future with clarity, confidence and purpose.

Before academic qualifications, job titles and societal expectations, there was already a story in motion. There was a grandmother who sustained her family on obwita and enfe and still found a way to prioritise education. There was a parent whose presence, or absence, shaped values and decisions. There was a community, a place of worship, a classroom, moments of loss and moments of triumph.

When this history goes unknown, a person can feel like a footnote in a narrative they never wrote. But when we engage with our past, we begin to recognise patterns of resilience, faith and talent that did not start with us. We come to understand that we are not an accident. We are a continuation. Knowing our history returns to us the dignity of our name and the context of our identity.

People often repeat cycles they do not understand. They may fear success, struggle in relationships, or feel unworthy of good things, without ever being able to explain why. In many cases, the reason lies buried in parts of their story that were never addressed.

It could be a parent who left without explanation. A family enterprise that failed and quietly became a subject no one discusses. A legal process, such as the pursuit of letters of administration, that was contested or never completed. A migration, such as leaving Bunyaruguru or any ancestral home, that occurred under painful circumstances and was never properly grieved or understood.

When we do not understand our past, we risk inheriting its wounds without receiving its wisdom. We

carry burdens we did not create and repeat patterns we did not start. But when we approach the past with honesty and compassion, those burdens begin to loosen. We are then able to say, with real conviction: this is where I came from, and this is not where I am required to remain.

No meaningful growth happens without a foundation. Every aspiration needs roots.

If someone aspires to teach, understanding the educators who once invested in them provides direction and motivation. If someone aspires to practise law, understanding the injustices their family endured gives purpose to the work. If someone aspires to build, to heal, or to lead, knowing the ground on which they stand is essential.

The sacrifices of those who came before us are not merely historical facts. They are investments in the dreams we now carry. Their mistakes are not only sources of pain, they are lessons that can spare us the cost of repeating them. And their moments of joy stand as evidence that fulfilment is possible within our lineage.

When we know our past, our dreams stop being vague wishes. They become responsibilities. They become the natural next chapter: this is what they began, and this is what I am called to complete.

The world will often try to define us. It may suggest that we come from nothing and therefore deserve nothing. It may claim that our people have always been defeated and should accept less as a result. It may offer us a version of the future that asks us to erase where we came from in exchange.

But when we know our true story, with both its struggles and its strengths, no one can rewrite it for us. We can stand firm in the knowledge of what our people endured, what they built, and what God has already done. That knowledge becomes protection. It becomes confidence. It gives us the quiet courage to dream beyond limitation, because we are not starting from nothing. We are starting from legacy.

For many, engaging with the past is painful. There are names that are difficult to speak. There are places, a waiting bench outside a courtroom in Bushenyi, perhaps, or the memory



of a difficult journey, that we would rather forget. But avoidance is not the same as healing, and silence is not the same as peace.

When we tell the truth about our history, to ourselves, to God, and to people we trust, something shifts. Forgiveness becomes possible. Gratitude becomes possible. We stop contending with shadows and begin, instead, to honour the people whose shoulders carried us.

From that place of healing, we can dream with clarity. Not dreams of escape, but dreams of construction, dreams that respect our origins while building something better for those who come after us.

You deserve to know your story. You deserve to ask the difficult questions. You deserve to sit with elders, to read old letters, to visit meaningful places, and to acknowledge both

the pain and the beauty you find there.

The purpose of this is not to remain stuck, but to become rooted. Not to be defined by hardship, but to be instructed by it. Not to repeat the past, but to redeem it.

A person who understands their past does not plead for a future. They build one. They build with inherited courage, with taught faith, with a name they now fully understand.

And one day, someone will look to you and say, “I want to know my past, so that I can dream the way you dreamed.”

Your past is not behind you. It is beneath you. It is the ground that will support every dream you choose to pursue.

So ask. Listen. Remember. Heal. Then dream, boldly, freely, and with purpose.