



UDM legislators protest Registrars move linking them to Azimio

Justus Ochieng' / Monday, September 19, 2022

United Democratic Movement (UDM) party legislators have protested to National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula against the move by Registrar of Political Parties to link them to Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition.

The 11 legislators, including UDM party leader Ali Roba, who is also the Mandera Senator, have taken issue with a letter by the Registrar Ms Anne Nderitu informing Parliament of the party's connection to Raila Odinga-led Azimio.

They have instead insisted they belong to President William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza Alliance pursuant to a post-election agreement signed between UDM and the President's coalition.

It is indeed baffling that despite the Post-Election Coalition Agreement that was signed between our Party and the Kenya Kwanza Coalition under the Political Parties Act, 2011, the Registrar of Political Parties knowingly disregarded the law and has unlawfully associated ourselves and indeed our Party with a non-existent coalition agreement with the Azimio Coalition, they said in the letter dated September 16.

Also Read: Ruto goes for regional kingpins in bid to weaken Raila

The legislators include; Mr Roba, Senators; Mohamed Abbas (Wajir) and Mariam Omar and MPs; Bashir Abdullahi (Mandera North), Hassan Maalim (Banisa), Haro Abdul (Mandera South), Mangale Chiforomodo (Lungalunga), Yusuf Haji (Mandera West), Joseph Lekuton (Laisamis), Umulkheir Kassim (Mandera Woman Rep) and Sulekha Harun (nominated).

They noted that Article 38 of the Constitution recognizes political rights including the freedom to make political choices. They also pointed out that the constitution embodies freedom of association that is guaranteed in Article 36 of the Constitution.

Also Read: Defections, bitter exchanges rock Ruto, Raila coalitions

These two fundamental rights cannot be negated by the alleged misrepresentation of facts and law by the Register of Political Parties which seeks to place us in a coalition agreement that we are not party to.

We therefore protest against such actions and note that Article 10 of the constitution which outlines the national values and principles of governance, behooves upon you Honourable Speaker in making any decision affecting the Members of the House in particular the Members of the UDM Party to make such decisions in a manner that promotes and advances the rule of law, good governance and human rights.

Also Read: Why the 13th Parliament is unique

The legislators insisted that any continued association with Azimio coalition is not only contrary to the Political Parties Act, 2011 but also Articles 10, 36 and 38 of the constitution.

On Monday, sources at the Registrars office told Nation that as per their records, UDM still remains a bonafide member of Azimio coalition.

They have not triggered any exit clauses of the Azimio coalition and therefore according to our record, they are still members of the coalition, the source revealed.

We go with what is in the record and until now they have not been able to finish this matter, the source added.

President-elect William Ruto welcomes UDM party leaders to Kenya Kwanza at his Karen residence in Nairobi.

But UDM Secretary General David Ohito insisted that the office of the Registrar was duly aware of the move by the party to exit Azimio.

We have done so as much and she is in copy of our letters. We haven't even seen the Azimio documents whose last page they gave us to sign. So we don't know what we are exiting from, said Mr Ohito.

We disown that relationship and coalition in the strongest terms possible with no intention and just regrets of having associated with them in the past.

He said the party, through Lungalunga MP Mr Chiforomodo, had already filed a constitutional petition before Mombasa High court, dissociating with Azimio coalition.

End of UDM legislators protest Registrars move linking them to Azimio



Ruto among African leaders ferried on buses to Queen Elizabeth II burial

Kevin Cheruiyot / Monday, September 19, 2022

Photos of African leaders have surfaced, showing them being transported on a coach provided by the United Kingdom government for the leaders attending the burial ceremony of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey.

The UK government had issued travel guidelines to the heads of states attending the Monday event, where they were asked to park their vehicles at a site in west London.

Due to the VIP travel arrangements, President William Ruto and the First Lady Rachel Ruto arrived for the event, and boarded the coach together with other African leaders.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania also boarded the coach.

The move has, however, been heavily criticized by the G7 countries, including the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan.

The G7 diplomats insisted that their leaders must be accorded the VIP reception, including traveling using their vehicles as part of security enforcement to them.

US President Joe Biden is expected to arrive at the event with his full security details using his armored limousine, which is referred to as 'the beast.'

Also, the move has been criticized in Africa as it appeared that only leaders from the African continent have followed the guidelines.

Africa is leading in its membership to the Commonwealth with 21 memberships.

The Commonwealth of nations refers to a political association of 56 member states, the vast majority of which are former territories of the British Empire.

The Commonwealth dates back to the first half of the 20th century with the decolonisation of the British Empire through increased self-governance of its territories.

Apart from Kenya, other Commonwealth nation members in Africa include Tanzania, Togo, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Botswana, Cameroon, Gabon, Gambia, and Ghana.

Elizabeth II was announced dead on September 8 at the age of 96.

End of Ruto among African leaders ferried on buses to Queen Elizabeth II burial



How two Kenyan nurses swindled Boston City out of Sh12 billion

John Kamau / Monday, September 19, 2022

Before the law caught up with them, Winnie Waruru, 42, and Faith Newton, 52, lived large in America.

One drove a Maserati, an Italian luxury brand known for its exclusive styling, and the other one a Range Rover.

As dollar millionaires, they kept their lives private and few Kenyans had heard about the two nurses whose fortunes seemed endless.

In addition to their lavish lifestyles, they had five properties in the US and operated 40 bank accounts.

The US government now claims that the two Kenyans swindled Boston City of Massachusetts State, out of \$100 million (Sh12 billion) in healthcare fraud.

They are alleged to have paid kickbacks to obtain referrals and retain patients over a five-year period.

Also Read: Kenyan sisters who scammed American taxpayers out of millions

Also Read: How members of Kenyan family stole Sh2bn from taxpayers in US

US detectives watched their transactions that ran into millions of dollars for many months.

Last week, Waruru pleaded guilty before US Senior District Court Judge George A. OToole Jr, who has scheduled sentencing for January 12, 2023, according to a release by US Attorney Rachael Rollins. Newtons case will continue.

Detectives allege that between January 2013 and January 2017, the two used Arbor Homecare Services LLC as a conduit to siphon \$100 million from MassHealth and Medicare a programme that provides health coverage primarily for people with low incomes by claiming refunds and filing false statements. They then closed down the company.

With a budget running into billions of dollars, MassHealth, which pays for personal care attendants, medical equipment, and specific prescription, has been a target of swindlers who first apply to become providers through registered companies. The healthcare company nurses are supposed to attend to vulnerable members and then bill the programme for reimbursement.

Both Waruru and Newton were accused of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and for billing for healthcare services that they never provided. They are also charged with making false statements to MassHealth.

Also Read: How Kenyan in Sh2.5bn fraud was lured by FBI

Read: Wash-wash paradise: Where fraudsters thrive, roam freely

The federal government has filed a civil action to seize the duos properties and freeze their bank accounts, which held millions of dollars.

The court papers say that Newton was part-owner and operator of Arbor Homecare Services LLC, while Waruru was a licensed practical nurse.

On paper, Waruru was employed by Arbor Care Homecare Services, but, according to court records, she was more than that.

Read: How Kenyan in Sh2.5bn fraud was lured by FBI

To get more money, they are said to have entered into sham employment relationships with family members of MassHealth patients and purported to provide unnecessary medical care, billed as visits.

For example, Arbor would reimburse a relative staying with a relative member for fictitious nurse visits in a scheme that went undetected between January 2013 and January 2017. It would then make claims to MassHealth.

The two are also said to have been paying kickbacks to patients under their care to retain them as part of Arbor Homecare Services LLC. Detectives alleged that Waruru caused Arbor to bill MassHealth over \$1.2 million (Sh120 million) in fraudulent nursing visits and passed money from Newton to two Arbor patients in order to retain them.

Read: How members of Kenyan family stole Sh2bn from taxpayers in US

By luring the patients into the scheme, the two billed for services that were neither rendered nor needed.

According to the prosecutor, Arbor, through Newton and others, developed employment relationships with patients relatives who purported to offer services.

They would also pay kickbacks for patient referrals, regardless of medical necessity requirements, in a scheme that saw Arbors income run into millions.



How two Kenyan nurses swindled Boston City out of Sh12 billion

John Kamau / Monday, September 19, 2022

By entering into sham employment relationships with patients family members, according to the prosecution, it was easy for Arbor to purport to provide home health aide services that were not medically necessary and routinely billed for fictitious visits that did not occur.

For instance, said the charge sheet, Waruru and Arbor billed MassHealth for Warurus skilled nursing visits, many of which she did not perform, were medically unnecessary, or were not approved by a physician.

Read: Kenyan sisters who scammed American taxpayers out of millions

According to the civil complaint, Newton targeted low-income, disabled, and/or people with mental health issues. Additionally, Newton is alleged to have laundered the illegally acquired wealth.

The court records indicate that Arbor was registered by a Mr Njoroge Muiruri, a registered nurse, and it ceased to exist in 2017 after he filed a certificate of cancellation with the Massachusetts Secretary of State. It is not clear whether the company folded due to the investigations.

The indictments of health care fraud, conspiracy to commit health care fraud, money laundering conspiracy, and money laundering each offer a jail term of up to 10 years, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000 or twice the amount of the money involved in the laundering.

The conspiracy to pay kickbacks, make false statements, and make a false statement in health care matters each provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

End of How two Kenyan nurses swindled Boston City out of Sh12 billion



Britain and the world bid adieu to Queen Elizabeth II

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

Britain said farewell to Queen Elizabeth II on Monday at a historic state funeral attended by world leaders, before a ceremonial journey past hundreds of thousands of mourners to her final place of rest.

Huge crowds gathered in London to watch as the queen's flag-draped coffin, topped with the Imperial State Crown, her orb and sceptre, was carried slowly to a gun carriage from parliament's Westminster Hall where it had lain in state since Wednesday.

To the tune of pipes and drums, the gun carriage -- used at every state funeral since Queen Victoria's in 1901 -- was then drawn by 142 junior enlisted sailors in the Royal Navy to Westminster Abbey.

The thousand-year-old church's tenor bell tolled 96 times at one-minute intervals -- one for every year of her life -- and stopped a minute before the service began at 11:00 am (1000 GMT).

In his funeral sermon, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby praised the queen's life of duty and service to the UK and Commonwealth.

"People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer," he told the 2,000 guests, who included US President Joe Biden and Japan's Emperor Naruhito.

Britain's King Charles III (left) and members of the Royal family follow a gun carriage carrying the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II during her funeral service in Westminster Abbey in central London on September 19, 2022.

The coffin was then borne, to the rhythmic strains of funeral marches, on a three-hour journey through the streets of London to Windsor Castle, west of the capital.

All along the route, a sea of arms were raised aloft, clutching mobile phones, to record the choreographed display of military precision.

The last chants of "God save the queen" were heard as onlookers scattered flowers on the road, and muffled church bells rang in the distance.

Also read: The white, lost magic of monarchy as Queen Elizabeth II is laid to rest

Army veteran Robert MacDonald, 48, was among the dense crowd lining the three-mile (five-kilometre) Long Walk leading up to Windsor Castle.

"I was in the infantry for 26 years, so the queen was my boss," he said, adding he wanted to "salute one last time as the hearse passed by".

President William Ruto (right) arrives at the residence of Britain's High Commissioner Jane Marriot to pay his respects following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, in Nairobi, on September 14, 2022.

On the Long Walk, the military cortege passed by the late queen's Fell pony, Carltonima Emma, standing without a rider. It was met at the castle by her last two corgi dogs, Muick and Sandy.

The queen -- the longest-serving monarch in British history -- died at Balmoral, her Scottish Highland retreat, on September 8 after a year of declining health.

Her eldest son and successor, King Charles III, dressed in ceremonial military uniform, followed the solemn processions in London, alongside his three siblings.

They were accompanied by Charles's eldest son Prince William, William's estranged brother, Prince Harry, and other senior royals.

William's two eldest children, George, aged nine, and Charlotte, aged seven, who are next in line to the throne, also walked behind the coffin in Westminster Abbey.

Late Sunday, Charles, 73, and his wife, Queen Consort Camilla, 75, said they had been "deeply touched" by the public's flood of messages.

"I wanted simply to take this opportunity to say thank you," he said.

Britain, a country much changed since the queen's coronation in the same abbey in 1953, has dug deep into its centuries of tradition to honour the only monarch that most of its people have ever known.

"It's once in a lifetime," said student Naomi Thompson, 22, camped out in the crowds at London's Hyde Park.

"It's a moment of history," said engineer Alice Garret, 28.



Britain and the world bid adieu to Queen Elizabeth II

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

John MacKinnon, a 49-year-old insurance broker from London, added: "The ceremony was perfect in every way.

Very spectacular

"Very spectacular, as it should be for a great queen."

Others unable to be in London gathered in cinemas and churches around England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to watch the service and procession on big screens.

Auto engineer Jamie Page, a 41-year-old former soldier, stood on Whitehall to observe the funeral procession, wearing his military medals from service in the Iraq war.

"She means everything, she was like a gift from God," he said.

But on Charles, the oldest person yet to ascend the British throne, Page added: "Who knows, time will tell."

Members of the public capture images as they attend the coffin Procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch in London on September 19, 2022, after the State Funeral Service of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

The funeral -- watched by the crowds in silence -- lasted just under an hour.

It ended with trumpeters playing "The Last Post", two minutes of silence in memory of the queen and the reworded national anthem, "God Save the King".

Oscar-winning actor and Royal Shakespeare Company veteran Kenneth Branagh was in attendance, telling AFP it was "very solemn and done with great compassion".

"The music was very beautiful. It felt beautifully judged, respectful and sensitive," he said.

Driven to Windsor

The long procession filed past Downing Street, government buildings in Whitehall, through Horse Guards Parade and up The Mall, the tree-lined avenue that leads to Buckingham Palace decked out in red, white and blue.

At nearby Wellington Arch, 6,000 members of the armed forces who had marched in hypnotic lockstep halted and the coffin was transferred to the royal hearse.

Charles saluted and the national anthem played again before the hearse headed by road to Windsor Castle.

The Bearer Party take the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II, from the State Hearse, into St George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle on September 19, 2022, for the Committal Service for Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

The queen will be buried alongside her father king George VI, her mother queen Elizabeth and sister princess Margaret, reuniting in death the family who once called themselves "us four".

The coffin of her husband, Prince Philip, who died last year aged 99, will also be transferred to lie alongside her.

Also read: The day socialites and divorcees were banned from Nairobi's State House

Elizabeth's funeral could not be more different from Philip's at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in April 2021.

Coronavirus restrictions limited mourners to just 30, led by the queen, a solitary figure in mourning black and a matching facemask.

In contrast on Monday, the abbey was packed with dignitaries and some ordinary Britons who were honoured for their military or community service, especially during the Covid pandemic.

Prince William, Prince of Wales, King Charles III, David Armstrong-Jones, 2nd Earl of Snowdon, Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, and Anne, Princess Royal walk behind the State Hearse ahead of the Committal Service for Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle on September 19, 2022 in Windsor, England.

"You were fortunate to have had her for 70 years; we all were," Biden said on Sunday after signing a book of condolence. "The world is better for her."

In the abbey pews was Liz Truss, whom the queen appointed as the 15th British prime minister of her reign just two days before her death, in her last major ceremonial duty.

All of Truss's living predecessors were there plus her counterparts and representatives from the 14 Commonwealth countries outside Britain where Charles is also head of state.

Whether they remain constitutional monarchies or become republics is likely to be the defining feature of Charles's



Britain and the world bid adieu to Queen Elizabeth II

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

reign.

Royal Vault

The queen's death has prompted deep reflection about the Britain she reigned over, the legacy of its past, its present state and what the future might hold, as well as the values of lifelong service and duty she came to represent during her 70-year reign.

Hundreds of thousands of people are estimated to have queued, sometimes for up to 25 hours and overnight, to file past the queen's coffin as it lay in state.

Chrissy Heerey, a serving member of the Royal Air Force who joined the marathon queue twice, was the last person through the doors early Monday and described the experience as "amazing".

Also read: Crowds gather as queen's coffin to go on display in London

Throughout the procession after the funeral, Big Ben, the giant bell atop the Elizabeth Tower at one end of the Houses of Parliament, tolled and military guns fired at one-minute intervals.

At Windsor, the Sebastopol Bell -- captured in Crimea in 1856 -- and the Curfew Tower Bell also sounded.

A vast television audience had been expected to watch the funeral worldwide and online, in a sign of the enduring fascination with the woman once described as "the last global monarch".

At Windsor, the queen's crown, orb and sceptre were removed and placed on the altar at a committal service.

The most senior officer of the royal household, the lord chamberlain, broke his "wand of office" and placed it on the coffin, symbolising the end of her reign.

The lead-lined oak casket, draped with the queen's colours, was then lowered into the Royal Vault.

A lone bagpiper played a lament, the mournful tune fading as he walked away.

A private interment ceremony took place at the adjoining King George VI Memorial Chapel at 1830 GMT.

End of Britain and the world bid adieu to Queen Elizabeth II



Sudi, President Rutos power broker

Onyango K'Onyango / Monday, September 19, 2022

Just behind President William Ruto on Tuesday, Kapseret MP Oscar Sudi was in deep confab with a white man, signalling the role the third-term legislator will play in this administration.

Mr Sudi and Farouk Kibet will be the Presidents blue-eyed boys wielding immense powers at State House.

The Kapseret MP has always fashioned himself as the leader who will not make any contribution in the National Assembly, but calls himself mkarabati (a deal broker), where a lot of money is involved.

Also Read: Oscar Sudi - Brave soldier or just a paperless tiger?

Earlier this year, he told off his critics that he only speaks English when money is involved, and perhaps that is why he has always featured in Dr Rutos business meetings.

I listen to people saying that Sudi didn't go to school, that Sudi can't communicate in English. I challenge them to bring business deals worth not less than Sh5 million, they will see me speak fluent English. You can't speak English yet there is no serious business unless you are mad, he said.

Also Read: Rutos meteoric rise to become Kenyas fifth President

Before Dr Ruto was elected and when his relationship with former President Uhuru Kenyatta appeared beyond repair, he used to go on business trips with Mr Sudi, including a controversial trip to Uganda last year that was cancelled.

When Dr Ruto was blocked from travelling to Uganda in August 2021, Mr Sudi was in the delegation, which also had the likes of businessmen David Lagat, Harun Aydin (Turkish), David Muge, Simon Mogun and Nelson Kisalit.

Mr Sudi later told the Nation that they had a three-item agenda in their private mission to Kampala that he said should not have raised eyebrows at State House, noting that it was purely business.

According to Mr Sudi, Mr Aydin was a private investor who was planning to assess fruit farms in Uganda. Both President Museveni and DP Ruto were to benefit from the farms, whose locations were not revealed.

We were travelling to Uganda for almost three issues. The most important one was about farming and we were with fruit investors, he told the Nation, without detailing what the investment was worth.

This is a big farm, it is a large fruit farming of which the Ugandan government can take some shares, investors and us also. It is a business.

Also Read: Mr President, spare us the Sudis and Echesas in your Cabinet

In January this year, Mr Sudi was also embroiled in a fracas at Wilson Airport in Nairobi. He was with two foreigners who were linked to funding Dr Rutos campaigns British businessman Michael Spencer and Mr Lazaro Nyalandu, the former Tanzanian minister for natural resources and tourism.

With Dr Rutos election, Mr Sudis influence has gone a notch higher.

Already some of those who lost in the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) primaries and were promised state jobs are crying that the outspoken legislator had not picked up their calls since September 5, when the Supreme Court upheld Dr Rutos victory.

This means that his political rating has increased and anyone who wants to meet President Ruto for whatever reason will have to pass through Mr Sudi.

To illustrate that Mr Sudi is now a powerful MP with the ear of President Ruto, on Tuesday, when Kenya Kwanza leaders were trooping to the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, for Dr Rutos swearing-in, the MP was in Karen, Nairobi, with the head of state.

Kapseret MP Oscar Sudi addresses a press conference at his home in Kapseret, Uasin Gishu County.

The kind of power Mr Sudi now wields regarding backroom dealings did not start the other day. It was conspicuous in UDA nominations when he disclosed that he was the person behind the downfall of former Nandi Hills MP Alfred Keter and his Mosop counterpart Vincent Tuwei.

Also Read: Ruto must rein in lynch mobs

In Uasin Gishu, he also campaigned against Senator Jackson Mandago, pushing for the candidacy of Kipchumba Karori and arguing that a person who had been governor for two terms should retire from active politics.

Mr Sudi won Dr Rutos trust because he always defended the UDA leader, sometimes to great controversy.



News

Sudi, President Rutos power broker

Onyango K'Onyango / Monday, September 19, 2022

If he is not on the wrong side of the law with his toxic tongue, he is in trouble with his academic credentials.

The lawmaker always spoke his mind whenever he felt Dr Ruto was being frustrated in politics.

Mr Sudi, who rose from a matatu tout to an influential and wealthy politician, has made friends and enemies in his political journal, occasionally landing him on the wrong side of the law.

To his constituents, Mr Sudi is a philanthropist who has empowered many, but to his political foes, he is a warmonger who spews ethnic hatred.

For the better part of the last decade, his popularity was confined to the southern part of Eldoret, where he once worked as a tout on a neighbours matatus before becoming a car salesman and land dealer.

Also Read: Mr Fix it - Power behind the throne

Mr Sudi came to the political limelight in 2002 when he campaigned for David Koros for the Eldoret South parliamentary seat against Jesse Mais. Mr Koros won, but Mr Sudi shifted his allegiance in 2007 to Peris Simam, accusing Mr Koros of abandoning those who played a key role in his election.

The legislator, a renowned political acrobat, declared his interest in the Kapseret seat after Eldoret South constituency was split into two Kapseret and Kesses. He then established himself as the region's political kingpin and ardent defender of Dr Ruto.

End of Sudi, President Rutos power broker



Juliana Cherera: IEBC staff booed us in front of 'mum' Chebukati

Kennedy Kimanthi / Monday, September 19, 2022

A retreat to evaluate the performance of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) ended up in a further split as mistrust among the commissioners played out.

The retreat at Mombasa Pride Inn Hotel last week, was also marred by claims of infiltration by political forces. All cadres of IEBC staff, including all the commissioners, attended the meeting part of whose agenda was to discuss the management of the August 9 elections.

Read: We did a good job, Wafula Chebukati tells critics

The divisions that emerged among the commissioners before the final presidential election results were announced appear to be deeply entrenched, with some of the staff taking a partisan stand. The Nation learnt that there was jeering and cheering of some of the commissioners when they addressed the meeting.

The four who disowned the presidential results declared by Chairman Wafula Chebukati Vice-Chairperson Juliana Cherera and commissioners Justus Nyangaya, Irene Masit, and Francis Wanderi attended. Mr Chebukati and the other two commissioners, Abdi Guliye and Boya Molu, were also present.

Read: Chebukati: The former Raila loyalist who walked into the electoral furnace

Ms Cherera yesterday confirmed that emotions ran high during the three-day meeting.

Yes, I was booed by a group that was in attendance. This was done in the presence of the chairman and he did not raise a finger to stop them. But there are those that cheered when I addressed the meeting.

-Ms Cherera.

According to sources, so pronounced was the fallout that the two opposing factions did not share a boardroom, with each booking a different holding room. Ms Chereras group was in Witu boardroom while Mr Chebukatis was in the Tana room.

The Nation also learnt that there is a push to have the dissenting commissioners resign from IEBC, but they have vowed to remain.

Read: Four breakaway IEBC officials change tune

The Farmers Party affiliated to President William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza Alliance - has petitioned the National Assembly to remove the commissioners for gross violation and breach of their oath of office.

In a statement issued last week, Mr Chebukati commended the commission on its management of the presidential election, insisting that the August 9 elections were free, fair and credible despite working in a hostile environment.

He denied the claims of the four dissenting commissioners that he had sidelined them during the tallying of the presidential votes, saying, each one of them was assigned duties to manage critical components of the election.

End of Juliana Cherera: IEBC staff booed us in front of 'mum' Chebukati



Cabinet approved Sh3.5bn Anglo-Leasing security projects, court told

Richard Munguti / Monday, September 19, 2022

A suppliers credit financing which forms the base of the multi-billion Anglo-Leasing trial was approved by Cabinet, a witness has said.

Mr Ignatius Wekesa, the investigating officer in the case, in cross examination, said that the government gave the nod for the supplies of security items on the strength of the Cabinet approval.

He told trial magistrate Felix Kombo that a look at the documentation, mainly, correspondences between the concerned parties at the Office of the President, Treasury and respective security agencies do not show any evidence of conspiracy.

The witness was cross examined by lawyer Edward Oonge .

In the case former senior government officials Joseph Magari, Joseph Onyonka and Dave Mwangi are charged alongside Deepak and Rashmi Kamani with conspiracy to defraud the government over Sh3.5bn through the Anglo Leasing contracts.

Mr Oonge asked the witness to verify the authenticity of the documents exchanged between the parties and explain what inferences he drew as an investigator.

Also read: How Anglo Leasing scandal soiled Kibaki legacy, anti-graft campaign

They (parties) are being informed of funding and the approvals for direct procurement as sought, up to this level I cannot see any conspiracy, he said.

He also confirmed that the firm at the centre of the trial-Sound Day Corporation, was well known to the Government of Kenya and had dealings since 1993 as it had supplied surveillance equipment before.

Mr Wekesa said since the nature of transaction related to security, it had a limited tender regime.

It was not for open tenders, he explained.

He told court that the controversial project was initiated by the then Internal Minister Chris Murungaru.

Legal opinion

Asked whether he was aware that the then Attorney General (AG) gave an affirmative legal opinion on the transaction, the witness said I am aware the former AG gave a legal opinion.

The AG gave a positive legal opinion on contract following which project started, Wekesa added.

In the case the Kamanis, former PSs Joseph Magari, Dave Mwangi and David Onyonka are facing charges of conspiracy to defraud the government of Sh3.5 billion. Wekesa is the last prosecution witness.

The case was adjourned to November 15 2022 for further cross-examination of the investigating officer.

The accused have denied charges preferred against them and are out on bond.

End of Cabinet approved Sh3.5bn Anglo-Leasing security projects, court told



News

Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II | Nation

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

The State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II takes place today Monday 19th September at Westminster Abbey. Prior to the State Funeral, The Queen Laid-in-State in Westminster Hall for four days, to allow the public to pay their respects.

President William Ruto flew out to attend the state burial, leaving behind his second in command Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in charge of the country in his absence.

This will be the Presidents first official visit, which comes barely a week after his inauguration as Head of State.

Also read;

Rigathi now in charge as Ruto leaves for the Queens funeral in UK

The white, lost magic of monarchy as Queen Elizabeth II is laid to rest

Five things to know about the queen's coffin procession

British citizens in Kenya hold requiem mass for the Queen at All Saints Cathedral

Ruto flies out in maiden trip as Head of State

National mourning highlights Queens personal popularity

Queen leaves UK still divided by class and with Kenyan blood on its hands

Special memorial service held in Nyeri church where Queen Elizabeth II worshipped

A monarch of contradictions, but above all an impressive woman

Queen Elizabeth must be smiling up yonder due to Safaris success

King Charles III faces a home-front reshuffle

Its because of Queen Elizabeth that the iconic Safari Rally exists

End of Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II | Nation



Rigathi now in charge as Ruto leaves for the Queens funeral in UK

David Mwere / Monday, September 19, 2022

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is in charge of the country after President William Ruto flew out to attend the state burial of Queen Elizabeth II in the UK.

The second-in-command was at the airport on Sunday to see off his boss for today's burial ceremony. This will be the President's first official visit, which comes barely a week after his inauguration as Head of State.

Upon arrival, President Ruto is expected to dine with King Charles III, who took up the mantle of leadership following his mother's passing. He will afterwards join other foreign dignitaries in paying their last respects to the longest-serving monarch in UK history.

Strengthening ties with the international community will catalyse the transformation of our country. Departed for London, UK to attend Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's burial, the President said on Twitter yesterday.

Strengthening ties with the international community will catalyse the transformation of our country. Departed for London, UK to attend Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's burial. Later I will join world leaders for the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly, New York. pic.twitter.com/tlMosZ8mRy

After the queen's burial, the President is expected to proceed to the United States (US), where he is set to meet President Joe Biden and other world leaders for the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (Ungass).

He is also scheduled to meet officials from the American Chamber of Commerce to discuss trade matters on the sidelines of the Ungass, which has been convened by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Social protection

The world leaders will further hold roundtable discussions about climate change, just before the UN Security Council holds talks about Ukraine.

The leaders will also engage on accelerating jobs and social protection and ending the Covid-19 pandemic, before holding a high level plenary meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on September 26.

Read: Ruto's tough balancing act on Cabinet

But even as the President left the country, a careful balancing act awaits as he prepares to assign roles to DP Gachagua and his Kenya Kwanza Alliance co-principal, Amani National Congress (ANC) leader Musalia Mudavadi, hoping that the mandates of the two powerful offices don't clash.

The Nation is reliably informed that the two will occupy Harambee House Annex, the building that housed Dr Ruto for 10 years as he deputised former President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Read: Key faces eyeing William Ruto's Cabinet positions

While assigning duties to his two key allies, President Ruto will be hoping that the two, critical to his victory, will work mutually towards achieving the promises made to Kenyans as detailed in Kenya Kwanza manifesto. Mr Gachagua is constitutionally the principal assistant to the President. In the Kenya Kwanza agreement, Mr Mudavadi was to be named Prime Cabinet Secretary, a post similar to a Prime Minister but with limited powers.

During one of his campaign rallies ahead of the August 9 elections, President Ruto pledged to, on his first day in office, sign an executive order outlining the roles of his deputy, which, he said, would include coordinating Cabinet affairs. He made the undertaking to avoid his deputy being subjected to the same experience he went through in the hands of his juniors under Mr Kenyatta, where he didn't have clear roles and the ones he was given were taken away by Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi.

The President also promised to issue an executive order to create the post of Prime Cabinet Secretary and assign the office holder clear duties. Almost a week after he was sworn in as President, the Head of State Ruto is yet to issue the orders as he promised.

Two offices

Governance expert Barasa Nyukuri said the President must ensure that the two offices don't clash while assigning duties to them.

The least he can expect in his administration as it takes shape is a clash of roles by two of his most powerful men at this



Rigathi now in charge as Ruto leaves for the Queens funeral in UK

David Mwere / Monday, September 19, 2022

point. He must be clear that the two will work to achieve what they promised to Kenyans, Mr Nyukuri told the Nation.

While Dr Matiangis role in the Jubilee administration edged out Dr Ruto as Deputy President in the Cabinet, the proposal in the Kenya Kwanza government, according to an official in the alliance who helped draft the agreement, will not affect or appear to nudge out DP Gachagua.

The proposal was well-thought out before it was put to paper. It will in no way antagonise DP Gachagua as happened with Dr Ruto. Mr Gachagua remains the principal assistant to his boss, the President, the Kenya Kwanza official, who did not want to be named, said.

The creation of Mr Mudavadi's office will, however, come to pass if President Ruto honours the Kenya Kwanza coalition agreement that was signed by 15 political parties, among them his United Democratic Alliance (UDA), ANC, Democratic Party of Kenya, Ford- Kenya and The Service Party ahead of the General Election.

Article 21 (k) of the Kenya Kwanza coalition pact on sharing national government responsibilities outlines the modalities of crafting Mr Mudavadi's responsibilities in the new government.

Within 30 days following the General Election, the coalition shall introduce in parliament legislation that shall provide greater legal clarity on the position, roles and functions of Prime Cabinet Secretary, the coalition agreement reads.

The legislation ... shall amend the National Government Coordination Act to include the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and incorporate and align the functions of the Prime Cabinet Secretary as proposed herein to the existing structures under the aforesaid Act, it adds.

While the position of Speaker of the National Assembly went to Ford Kenya leader Moses Wetangula as provided for in the Kenya Kwanza coalition agreement, the ANC leader will have to wait a little longer.

The President of the republic elected under the coalitions ticket shall accept Ford-Kenyas nominee to the post of Speaker of the National Assembly, the coalition agreement reads.

Already lapsed

This is notwithstanding that the process of creating the Prime Cabinet Secretary post was to start within 30 days of the August 9 General Election, a period that has already lapsed.

Mr Mudavadi's only consolation, perhaps, is that the new Parliament is yet to start its sittings within which the 30 days period of introducing the new legislation is to start counting.

However, the Kenya Kwanza official said, the article of the coalition agreement was erroneously drafted.

It is a drafting issue. It should have read 30 days upon the start of business of the new Parliament, the official said.

The National Government Coordination (NGC) Act, which is set for amendment, establishes an administrative and institutional framework for coordination of national government functions at the national and county levels.

This is so as to give effect to Article 132 of the Constitution on the functions of the President.

Article 132 (3) (b) of the Constitution stipulates that the President shall be responsible for the co-ordination of functions of ministries, state and government departments.

Section 7 (1) of the NGC Act states that the President may, for purposes of directing and coordinating the functions of the national government departments, assign through the respective Cabinet secretaries the responsibility of discharging any function of the national executive to any person in accordance with the Constitution.

The Cabinet coordinates the functions of the national government at the national level.

Then President Uhuru Kenyatta created the positions of Chief Administrative Secretaries (CAS) just after the 2017 General Election specifically to accommodate his allies who had lost in the poll.

It's likely that Dr Ruto will go the same way in creating the Prime Cabinet Secretary post.

Mr Kenyatta did this on the strength of Article 132 (4) (a) of the Constitution. The Article provides that the President may establish an office in the public service in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Service Commission (PSC).

However, on April 20, 2021, High Court Judge Antony Muma ruled that the creation of the CAS positions was unconstitutional.



News

Rigathi now in charge as Ruto leaves for the Queens funeral in UK

David Mwere / Monday, September 19, 2022

The ruling was appealed by Attorney-General Kihara Kariuki but is yet to be determined.

Big Four Agenda

Through Executive Order No 1 of 2019, Mr Kenyatta created the National Development Implementation and Communication Cabinet Committee and appointed Dr Fred Matiangi to chair it.

This effectively diminished DP Rutos roles in the Kenyatta Cabinet.

The committee was mandated to supervise all government projects including the Jubilee governments legacy-driven Big Four Agenda.

It was also to provide solutions to challenges affecting delivery of various government projects.

End of Rigathi now in charge as Ruto leaves for the Queens funeral in UK



More by-elections loom as MPs eye Cabinet positions

Onyango K'Onyango / Monday, September 19, 2022

President William Ruto is likely to cause more than five by-elections when he unveils his Cabinet.

Already, residents of Bungoma County are gearing up for a mini-poll before the end of the year after Ford Kenya leader Moses Wetangula resigned as senator and was later elected Speaker of the National Assembly.

With Dr Ruto expected to pick some of his confidantes to join the Executive, he will be increasing the number of by-elections the electoral agency is likely to conduct by the end of this year or early 2023.

On Saturday in Naivasha, President Ruto's Kenya Kwanza revealed its National Assembly and Senate leadership, which set tongues wagging after senior members of the coalition were left out of the plum jobs.

Word has it that some of the senior members of the coalition left out of the positions will resign and join the Cabinet.

Read: 11 salivating for Bungoma senatorial seat after Wetangula's exit

Having served as Majority Leader in the 12th Parliament, Garissa Township MP Aden Duale told the Nation that he did not go for the position because he is likely to be in Dr Ruto's Cabinet.

I am going to be in the Executive, the MP wrote in a terse WhatsApp response.

Elgeyo-Marakwet Senator Kipchumba Murkomen, who served as Senate Majority Leader before being kicked out in 2020, is also expected to resign and join the Cabinet.

Since September 5, when the Supreme Court upheld President Ruto's electoral victory, there has been vigorous lobbying in the Kenya Kwanza camp.

Sources told the Nation that between Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro and his Kandara counterpart Alice Wahome, one of them will also resign and join the Cabinet.

It is correct that Duale and Murkomen are going to join the Cabinet. One of the constituencies in Muranga County will also have a by-election but Kenyans should relax and wait, said Kimilili MP Didmus Barasa.

Others who are eagerly waiting Cabinet positions include former Turkana Governor Josaphat Nanok, UDA chairman Johnson Muthama, Mr Ababu Namwamba, Maendeleo Chap Chap leader Alfred Mutua, Chama Cha Kazi boss Moses Kuria, former Kwale Governor Salim Mvurya, former National Speaker Justin Muturi and Mr Eliud Owalo.

Mr Kuria is optimistic that he will land either the Transport and Infrastructure or Trade and Industry docket.

We serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. It is not something a person eyes, said the former Gatundu South MP.

With President Ruto having promised that his Cabinet will have 50 per cent women, it is not clear how he will fulfil this without causing dissatisfaction within Kenya Kwanza.

Read: Ruto's tough balancing act on Cabinet

On the matter of gender parity, I am committed to the two-thirds gender rule as enshrined in our constitution. I will work with Parliament to fast track various legislative proposals and establish a framework that will resolve this matter expeditiously as promised in our manifesto, he said in his inauguration speech at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani in Nairobi last week.

President Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua are faced with a delicate balance between giving Kenyans competent people who will work towards realising his campaign promises and rewarding his political cronies without disadvantaging any region.

End of More by-elections loom as MPs eye Cabinet positions



Sibling rivalry: Mudavadi, Wetangula fight for third in command

Oscar Obonyo / Monday, September 19, 2022

In one of the most discrete political plots ahead of this year's elections, President Uhuru Kenyatta's handlers first identified Amani National Congress (ANC) party leader Musalia Mudavadi as his preferred successor.

Midway through the execution of their scheme in 2019, however, they shifted attention to Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leader Raila Odinga because he best suited their interests.

David Murathe, the outgoing President's close ally and one of the transition schemers, says the initial decision to back the ANC leader as heir to the throne was persuaded by his political experience and national stature.

Mudavadi was further adjudged favourably as a compromise candidate who enjoyed political chemistry and a long-standing relationship with Kenyatta.

In their assessment, though, Mudavadi's Mr Nice outlook and his gentlemanly political mien were not enough to crack the quandary at hand, which was to stop Kenyatta's deputy William Samoei Ruto from ascending to the presidency.

Behind-the-scenes manoeuvres opted for Odinga, a seasoned politician and four-time presidential contender, whom Murathe says was solidly grounded and therefore the only one capable of stopping Ruto.

Read: Wetangula wins Speaker race after Marende concedes

In retrospection, Murathe may well have been correct about Mudavadi when he pointed out that he was incapable of stopping Ruto. This is because he actually just succeeded in doing the opposite – enabling a Ruto presidency.

Alongside his Ford-Kenya counterpart, Moses Wetangula, who was recently elected Speaker of the National Assembly, Mudavadi is basking in the glory of scorning Kenyatta's plea to support Odinga's candidature.

In a highly dramatised protest move, dubbed Earthquake, Mudavadi instead threw his support behind Ruto. Today, he peers into his political future and that of his western Kenya backyard with hope.

With the election of Wetangula as Speaker and his own nomination as Prime Cabinet Secretary on the cards, the excitement among voters in western Kenya is understandable.

While Mudavadi and Wetangula secured less votes for Kenya Kwanza in the region than Odinga's (besides bagging fewer elective seats in the gubernatorial and parliamentary races), Ruto's ultimate victory is a most welcome development for the two.

It has catapulted them to senior national positions and given them a great opportunity to charm the ground to their side.

Exciting battle ahead

Under the emerging circumstances, a political battle with Odinga is inevitable.

As ODM's deputy party leader, immediate former Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya is primarily the custodian of the Odinga support base in the region and will put up a spirited fight to guard what he worked so hard to achieve.

Besides securing 10 out of 12 parliamentary seats for Azimio in Kakamega County, Oparanya, who spearheaded the coalitions campaign in the region, also ensured a resounding victory in Busia, and in Mudavadi's home county of Vihiga, where Azimio won the gubernatorial and senatorial slots. Going forward, these are gains that Mudavadi and Wetangula will want to wrestle from Oparanya, and by extension Odinga, which makes for an exciting political battle ahead.

Read: Ruto's tough balancing act on Cabinet

But perhaps the most vicious and less talked about the battle is going to come from right within – between the two political brothers.

Henry Wabwire, a commentator on political affairs, argues that Mudavadi and Wetangula cannot be Ruto's joint pointmen in the region as well as joint leaders of the Luhya nation, or joint presidential candidates in the next elections.

At the risk of being accused of wedging a rift between them, I have to mention it plainly that the two will naturally clash in their pursuit for political influence and repositioning ahead of the next General Election. It is just the nature of politics, opines Wabwire.

Already, Wetangula and Mudavadi separately consider themselves as third in command in political influence and power after President Ruto and DP Rigathi Gachagua. Internal political competition is one great hurdle that the two leaders will have to overcome if they are to avoid the same pitfalls as their predecessors.

Unlike the neighbouring Luo community, or the Kikuyu and Kalenjin, who ordinarily rally their support behind one



Sibling rivalry: Mudavadi, Wetangula fight for third in command

Oscar Obonyo / Monday, September 19, 2022

leader at a time, Luhya politics has over the years been characterised by intense rivalry between leaders from the community.

In 2002, for instance, when President Daniel arap Moi of the then ruling Kanu party appointed Mudavadi as the vice-president the first from the community he received strong opposition from Michael Kijana Wamalwa of Ford-Kenya. Wamalwa went ahead to vanquish Mudavadi and Kenyatta at the ballot to become the eighth VP.

Read: ANC nominates Mudavadi for Prime Cabinet Secretary position

Wamalwa passed on in August 2003, and although President Mwai Kibaki replaced him with another Luhya Moody Awori the move was resisted by leaders from present-day Bungoma and Trans Nzoia counties.

Musikari Kombo, who replaced Wamalwa as Ford-Kenya party boss, led protests to Kibaki, saying they wanted a new VP appointed from either of the two counties and from the Ford-Kenya fraternity. Awori, from Busia County, was then allied to Odingas Liberal Democratic Party.

The disagreements are reminiscent of the political supremacy battles witnessed in the 1970s and 1980s between ex-Cabinet minister in the Jomo Kenyatta government Masinde Muliro and Musalias father, Moses Mudavadi, who was a powerful Local Government minister in Moisi government.

The stars of other influential politicians of the time, including Butere MP Martin Shikuku and his Kimilili counterpart, Elijah Mwangale, similarly failed to shine on the national stage.

Shikuku, for instance, vied for the presidency in 1997 under the Ford-Asili party, garnering a paltry 36,302 votes that represented 0.60 per cent of the votes cast.

Campaign pledges

Their numbers notwithstanding, Wabwire surmises that the political leaders of the Luhya the second largest community after the Kikuyu have over the decades lacked unity and coordinated focus.

While, for instance, the senior Mudavadi is credited for fostering development, including securing employment for residents from the region, Muliro focused more on political unity as a means of securing power.

Read: Mudavadi's fortunes dip as ANC performs dismally in Western

Wabwire, nonetheless, hails the long-standing cordial relations witnessed between Mudavadi and Wetangula.

The two Kenya Kwanza principals now shoulder the political dream of most western Kenya residents, who are fixated with the notion of occupying the countrys top seat. While all Luhya political players agree that one of the two should rise to the helm of the countrys leadership, the avenue of realising this goal remains a major source of debate and disagreement.

Wetangula, for instance, holds that locals must first politically free themselves from Odingas stranglehold, which explains his decision late last year to defect from the defunct National Super Alliance to team up with Ruto.

The next step, according to him, is to win over the ODM leaders supporters in the region before seeking backing from other Kenyans.

But Oparanya considers such an approach simplistic and a product of siege mentality. The former governor believes the region can only make an impact on the national stage by teaming up with neighbouring communities under the old Kavirondo arrangement, and not through the exclusion of other communities.

As the Mudavadi-Wetangula pair settles down in the new political dispensation under Ruto, observers and pundits will be on the alert, monitoring how they balance between executing their campaign pledges and manoeuvring their way on the political chessboard towards the coveted prize in 2027, and beyond.

End of Sibling rivalry: Mudavadi, Wetangula fight for third in command



Standoff as Raila Odinga, William Ruto teams claim majority side in House

Sunday Nation Team / Sunday, September 18, 2022

President William Ruto and Azimio leader Raila Odinga are spoiling for a supremacy contest after their two political coalitions picked House majority leaders to preside over the business in the National Assembly.

Azimio yesterday held that they are legally and legitimately the majority coalition in the National Assembly, while President Ruto's Kenya Kwanza dismissed the assertion.

Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition, as per the outcome of the August 9 General Election, has a slim majority of 173 seats over Kenya Kwanza Alliances 164 members in the National Assembly. The other 12 MPs of the 349-member House are independents.

Kenya Kwanza has, however, signed post-election agreements with Azimio-affiliated parties that have on paper increased their National Assembly membership to 175, against Azimio's 162. The post-election agreements are, however, not legally binding since a political party can only enter into a new coalition agreement after formally exiting an existing one.

The majority side is essentially the side that takes control of all House departmental committees like Finance and National Planning, Health, Education, Land, Labour, Trade, Industry and Cooperatives among others, making it the key facilitator of parliamentary business.

Oversight committees

The coalition or party that does not form the government, on the other hand, is the one that takes up leadership of oversight committees; the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Public Investment Committee (PIC). If this tradition has to be adhered to, it means that Azimio will take up both House departmental and oversight committees.

The implication of having a majority to us will mean that we will be chairing nearly all the committees. Oversight committees are chaired by the coalition not forming the government. This is why they are doing all manner of things including buying MPs to justify their numbers, said Kitui Central MP, Makali Mulu.

The leadership of the two coalitions yesterday traded barbs over the matter, with each party seeking to justify their positions.

This is not a matter for determination by any individual or office; it is simple arithmetic. Members of Parliament belonging to the Azimio-OKA coalition have been properly advised to take up majority roles and responsibilities in and out of the National Assembly chamber, said Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka at a media briefing in Nairobi.

Speaking in Naivasha, however, President Ruto said Kenya Kwanza has the majority members since MPs who defected to the alliance just before and after elections had severed their relations with the Azimio coalition.

President Ruto signed pacts with Senate Speaker Amason Kingi's Pamoja African Alliance, ex-Machakos governor Alfred Mutua's Maendeleo Chap Chap, Mandera Senator Ali Robas' United Democratic Movement, and Ugenya MP Dave Ochieng's Movement for Democratic Growth.

I have heard them try to say they have some numbers, if you cannot even raise a candidate for the Speaker of the Senate what numbers do you really have? Let's be honest with ourselves, there is no need to bring a contest where there is none, said President Ruto while addressing Kenya Kwanza lawmakers in a retreat in Naivasasha. We're going to have the leadership of the House. We are going to (deliberate) on who will be the leaders of the majority in the National Assembly and Senate, he added.

Read: Cracks emerge in Azimio over House leadership

President Ruto picked Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichungwa as the National Assembly Majority Leader deputised by Owen Baya (Kilifi North) with South Mugirango MP Sylvanus Osoro taking up the Majority Whip and will be deputised by Marsabit Woman representative Naomi Waqo.

In the Senate, the President rewarded his close ally and Kericho Senator Aaron Cheruiyot by naming him as the Senate Majority Leader. Mr Cheruiyot will be deputised by Tabitha Karanja (Nakuru).

Kakamega Senator Boni Khalwale was picked as the Senate Majority Whip, with Samburu Senator Steve Lelegwe deputising him. The President handed all the House leadership positions to members of his United Democratic Alliance (UDA).

Lucrative positions



Standoff as Raila Odinga, William Ruto teams claim majority side in House

Sunday Nation Team / Sunday, September 18, 2022

The Sunday Nation established that the names which were presented for endorsement by the lawmakers were prepared by the Head of State, despite many individuals expressing interests for various positions. None of the MPs from Musalia Mudavadi's Amani National Congress (ANC), Moses Wetangula's Ford Kenya and other affiliate parties were picked for the lucrative positions.

In Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition, ODM chairman John Mbadi protested the lineup after Mr Odinga dropped him from the list.

Mr Mbadi had been mentioned as a preferred candidate for the National Assembly Majority Leader under the coalition and was on Friday endorsed by a group of ODM members for the plum position.

I am disappointed by the decision of my party leader and the coalition. I never thought that this is how loyalty is rewarded. I am not taking this lying down, said Mbadi, who told the Sunday Nation that he will issue a comprehensive statement later.

In the lineup released yesterday, Azimio named Ugunja MP Opiyo Wandayi (ODM) as its Majority Leader in the National Assembly, with Kathiani MP Robert Mbui (Wiper) as his deputy.

Suna East MP Junet Mohammed (ODM) was named as Chief Whip, with nominated MP Sabina Chege (Jubilee) taking up the deputy whip slot.

In the Senate, Azimio picked Kilifi Senator Stewart Madzayo (ODM) as the Minority Leader, with Kitui Senator Enoch Wambua (Wiper) as the deputy. Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dhulo (Jubilee) has been picked as the Senate Minority Whip and will be deputised by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna (ODM).

Mr Sifuna had initially been proposed as the Senate Minority Whip before he was dropped and handed the lesser plum deputy slot.

Read: MPs retreat to share House leadership

Mr Mohammed was also initially angling for the National Assembly Majority Leader but was handed the Majority Whip amid sustained opposition by a section of the lawmakers under the coalition.

I must have done a good job in the previous parliament to be retained in this position. I am very grateful for my coalition and my party leader, said Mr Mohammed.

Asked why Mr Odinga settled on him, Mr Wandayi said he was equally surprised like the rest of the coalition members. I am also surprised like anybody else. I have no idea how the decision to pick me was arrived at. I'm just grateful that he identified me. I want to thank the party leader for identifying me to lead the Azimio troops in parliament and I want to promise that I will not disappoint him and my colleagues, said Mr Wandayi.

An MP serving his third term said Mr Mbadi was dropped because he had already been given a nomination slot hence it was going to be too much to again be given the leadership slot.

"Had the decision been subjected to voting among members, the results would have been different. Some of those announced cannot lead the aspirations of Azimio," said another MP.

Regional balance

The lawmaker disclosed that the Maanzoni meeting failed to reach a conclusion on the line up hence the party leaders were given the mandate, with different names, to settle on the final list. Interviews with Kenya Kwanza MPs who attended the Naivasha retreat described the naming of the lineup as a delicate balancing act that required having leaders picked from various regions.

President Ruto looked at the regional balance as well as loyalty to the coalition. Competence also played a key role in arriving at the list. He told us that Parliament will be the fulcrum of his administration's development agenda, said Nandi Hills MP Bernard Kitur.

Belgut MP Nelson Koech added that: We were looking at the regional balance with our House leadership.

It has also emerged that those who have been given House leadership, their counties will not get Cabinet slots with some of the senior UDA leaders such as Elgeyo Marakwet Kipchumba Murkomen, Aden Duale (Garissa Township) and Alice Wahome (Kandara) left out of the plum jobs could be heading to the Cabinet.



Standoff as Raila Odinga, William Ruto teams claim majority side in House

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We are a coalition which prides itself in consultation and we want the interests of every region catered for. Those who have featured in the House leadership, their home counties might miss a Cabinet slot and that will be regional balance, said an MP from Western.

President Ruto has formed a special committee of Kenya Kwanza headed by his deputy Rigathi Gachagua to look at the issue of who will be in the House committees.

The head of state told his team that those who will have expressed interest in being chairperson and vice chairpersons of various committees will not be allowed to be in more than one committee noting that everyone has to benefit.

The boss told those who are eyeing the position of chairs of various committees that they will not be allowed to be in more than one committee so that everyone gets a premium committee. The special committee formed and will be chaired by the deputy president has been given the mandate to place people in committees and we have already filled forms, said another MP.

Fridays day-long Azimio retreat at Stoni Athi Resort in Machakos resolved not to cede ground on the coalitions position as the majority in the National Assembly.

Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu yesterday appeared to have withdrawn herself from the looming dispute by tossing the responsibility to Speaker Moses Wetangula, who is a member of Kenya Kwanza.

Ms Nderitu yesterday told the Sunday Nation that the discussion on which coalition forms the Majority and Minority was now beyond her office and can only be resolved on the floor of the House.

It is the speaker of that House to determine. Let them have that discussion on the floor of the House. They already have a speaker who is the head of Parliament, Ms Nderitu said.

Speaking in Mombasa after closing the Council of Governors conference, Speaker Wetangula said he would rule impartially on the dispute between Azimio and Kenya Kwanza.

Garissa Township MP Aden Duale was bullish yesterday, telling Azimio to forget the Majority side and instead take up the minority.

Let them take the minority. They better accept it. That matter will be decided by the speaker. We have the numbers and they know that, said Mr Duale.

Senators Moses Kajwang (Homa Bay) and Godfrey Osotsi (Vihiga) said there was nothing to be decided by the Speaker on the matter as it is about numbers and not someones opinion.

We are not going to cede. Standing orders are on our side. The speaker will have no basis to rule otherwise because he will be guided by the House standing order, said Mr Osotsi.

Reporting by Moses Nyamori, Onyango Konyango, Samwel Owino, Nicholas Komu, Macharia Mwangi and Stella Cherono

End of Standoff as Raila Odinga, William Ruto teams claim majority side in House



News

Ruto flies out in maiden trip as Head of State

Mercy Chelangat / Sunday, September 18, 2022

President William Ruto leaves the country on first trip abroad

President William Ruto has flown out of the country today to attend the state burial of Queen Elizabeth II, that will be conducted on September 19. This, will be the Presidents first official visit, which comes barely a week after his inauguration as head of state.

Upon arrival, Dr Ruto is expected to dine with King Charles III, who took up the mantle of leadership following his mothers passing. He will then join other foreign dignitaries in paying their last respects to the longest serving monarch in the UKs history.

In a tweet, the President announced his travel saying: Strengthening ties with the international community will catalyse the transformation of our country. Departed for London, UK to attend Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth IIs burial. Later I will join world leaders for the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly, New York.

After the burial, the President is expected to proceed to the United States(US), where he is set to US president Joe Biden and officials from American Chamber of Commerce to possibly discuss trade matters.

The President will also attend the 77th United Nations General Assembly meeting that will be taking place in New York City. The meeting, which will be convened by the UN Secretary General, will address sustainable development goals(SDGs), transforming education and commemoration of the 30th anniversary of Declaration on the Rights of Minorities on September 21.

The leaders will also hold roundtable discussions about climate change, just before the UN Security Council holds talks about Ukraine.

The leaders will also engage on how to accelerate jobs and social protection and ending the Covid-19 pandemic, before holding a high level plenary meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total elimination of nuclear weapons on September 26,

End of Ruto flies out in maiden trip as Head of State



The day socialites and divorcees were banned from Nairobi's State House

John Kamau / Sunday, September 18, 2022

You have heard President William Ruto talk of training his MPs on etiquette and behaviour. Forget that. Once upon a time, Britain's Queen Mary, wife of King George V, issued a royal proclamation banning socialites and divorcees from State House (then known as Government House) grounds.

According to memoirs of then Governor Edward Griggs, Queen Mary called Nairobi in mid 1920s and asked the governor's wife to ensure that Government House was out of bounds for socialites and divorcees during the royal family's visit.

Queen Mary's hatred for divorcees and socialites was epic. Still, the irony is that later her son, King Edward VIII, who ascended the throne in 1936, abdicated the same year to marry twice-divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson. She, however, supported her second son, Prince Albert, to become King George VI the father to Queen Elizabeth II.

There was a reason behind that. In 1928, Queen Mary's son Edward Prince of Wales had been embarrassed by a Nairobi socialite, who later became Lady Delamere, in an episode at Nairobi's Muthaiga Club recounted by Karen Blixen. "Lady Delamere behaved scandalously at supper, I thought; she bombarded The Prince of Wales with big pieces of bread and finished up by rushing at him, overturning his chair and rolling him around on the floor." There was the other unconfirmed story of sex in the bush with a Nairobi socialite, Beryl Markham.

Read: How the capital city has always made the wrong choices

Nairobi had, by then, earned its reputation as the carefree colony of aristocrats, rogues, and uncouth settlers. The fear then was that the Nairobi farmers might appear in dressing gowns and pajamas during the royal family's dinner. That explains why the future King, by then Prince of Wales, had instructed the governor on how the guests should wear.

In his memoir, *Kenya's Opportunity*, Governor Griggs recalled this early etiquette practice that was practised inside Government House for ages: "Queen Mary showed herself equally well-informed and clear in her wishes regarding the conduct of Government House. Her Majesty spoke to my wife of the irresponsible group in Kenya, which disregarded all convention and restraint, especially the marriage tie. The queen said that we should invite no divorced person to Government House and none was ever invited in our day."

Read: Queen Elizabeth II: trouble, strife and family life

But if the governor thought that the Nairobi socialites and divorces never found their way into Government House he was mistaken. In her book *Out in the Midday Sun*, Elspeth Huxley claims that divorcees were sneaked to the compound by Tich Miles, the man the governor trusted most. How did Elspeth know? "I asked (Edward Griggs's) widow about it. She laughed and said, 'Nonsense!' Perhaps some divorcees slipped in while he was away."

Gwladys Lady Delamere, the Mayor of Nairobi in 1935.

To Huxley, adultery in Nairobi was a bit exaggerated: "Those were the days of 'guilty parties' taken in adultery by a hotel chambermaid bringing in the early morning tea; the wronged spouse was perhaps exempted from the royal ban. But Happy Valley-ites were not invited to Government House, despite their high rating in Debrett's."

Debrett has been an authority on etiquette and behaviour since 1770 but whether Tich Miles followed that etiquette is a different story.

Governor Griggs

Governor Griggs had hired Tich Miles to manage Government House in a position akin to today's Comptroller of State House. "Tich Miles was a creature of irresistible charm. What I most deeply admired in him was that despite appalling health, he never showed a sign of ill-humour or strain. He did so much for my spirits when I was feeling rotten that he was, in truth, a human elixir. His way of running Government House was not only masterful but magnificent; he was a Michael Angelo of hospitality, vivid with imagination and quite indifferent to cost."

Read: Kenya's lengthy dalliance with Queen Elizabeth II

It is said that when the Prince of Wales visited Kenya, Tich Miles "made a contract with a settler in Nyeri area to catch a basket of trout every morning and fly it to Nairobi before noon." Such was the extravagance of Government House, regarded as the place of endless parties. But Government House was living to the expectations of Governor Griggs. In his memoirs, he says that when he decided to build a new Government House after he arrived in Nairobi in 1925, it was because Kenya "deserved and needed beauty and dignity."



The day socialites and divorcees were banned from Nairobi's State House

John Kamau / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Before Governor Griggs modernised Government House, there used to stand another structure during the reign of Sir James Hayes-Sadler, described by haters as a "portly man with a face like that of a surprised sheep. Then came Edward Northey who kept a zoo inside Government House. He also allowed his wife, Lady Northey, to raise chickens in the attics. Unfortunately, it was also the place of parties with cheetahs roaming the ground.

Read: Britain's Prince Louis christened without Queen

A story is told that Northey's successor, Sir Robert Coryndon, did not know what to do with the animals, consuming a considerable percentage of the Government House budget. His successor later took them to London, and the Governor called the Nairobi medical officer to clean the attics, which were a foot deep with chicken droppings.

That is why Nairobi deserved another building for the governor. According to colonial memoirist Elspeth Huxley, Griggs constructed the modern-day structure after a federation proposal to unite Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar. The reasoning was that the old bijou residence in stockbrokers black-and-white that had hitherto (housed) the King's representative was clearly no place for a Governor-General."

Passed the vote

Griggs arrived in Nairobi when the legislative council (LegCo) had passed the vote: "I was met on arrival in Kenya with an agreement already signed and sealed between the colonial office and the European elected members that £80,000 out of the new Kenya loan should be devoted to building a Governor's residence worthy of a city which aspired to become the capital of an East African confederation," wrote Governor Higgs in his book, *Kenya's Opportunity*.

Read: Out with the old: The history Kenya rejected

Griggs invited Hubert Baker, the great imperial architect, to design the new Government House in Nairobi and a smaller version in Mombasa. He also commissioned the High Court and a new block of government offices.

This move encouraged private entrepreneurs to start building permanent houses such as the National Bank of India, now housing the Kenya National Archives in place of the timber structures.

Sir Baker's "stately white columns and imposing portico arose a splendid edifice, which swallowed the old one like a whale ingesting a krill," wrote Huxley. However, there was a complaint in the colony after a large ballroom was added to the extravagant building it had consumed £80,000. "Their anger rose to a boiling point when a large ballroom was added at top speed to be ready for a visit by the then Prince of Wales." Col Ewart Grogan raised questions in Parliament, albeit as a scandal, and Lord Delamere, who had initially supported the extension switched sides. Newspapers reported that the governor wanted to enlarge the building "to entertain all sorts of people.

Read: The British monarchy and why Kenya's Lake Victoria is named after former queen

Government House was also the place for picketing. In January 1953, with the Mau Mau outbreak and Roger Ruck's killing, more than 1,000 settlers invaded Government House after breaking through a police cordon to protest the government's incapacity. They only dispersed after Michael Blundel assured them that the government would heighten the campaign against the freedom fighters. But three months later, the colonial government said it had arrested six Government House employees for being members of Mau Mau. Soon Governor Evelyn Baring had to have an armed policeman outside his bedroom door just in case the Mau Mau came knocking.

State House gardens parties

State House gardens parties have a long history too and are as colonial as the institution they represent. Colonial-era Governor Evelyn Baring was known to throw tea parties on the extensive lawns and was one of the first governors to invite a mixture of all races. At one point, some conservatives felt that the governor was committing an offence by letting Africans take whisky. Some of those usually invited included Chief Njiri the man who gave Princess Margaret a spear tipped with a ball of ostrich feathers. Njiri's legacy is retained in the school he built on his farm Njiiri High School in Murang'a.

The legacy of the Barings inside Government House is that his wife planted the Naivasha thorn trees within the compound. But he was always frightened that of the decisions he took on Kenya when he was still newly arrived in 1952. He not only declared a State of Emergency but also had political leaders detained. One day after independence, he met Jomo Kenyatta, in a State House meeting organised by Charles Njonjo and Bruce Mackenzie. Mzee Kenyatta was



The day socialites and divorcees were banned from Nairobi's State House

John Kamau / Sunday, September 18, 2022

now the president. "By the way, I was sitting at that actual desk when I signed your detention order 20 years ago," said Baring.

Mzee Kenyatta replied, "I know. If I had been in your shoes at that time, I would have done exactly the same."

According to Griggs, he built such a large structure, hoping "it would someday become a viceregal residence." However, he later worried that his successors turned Government House to be "only for the comfort and seclusion of governors," which he considered "an indefensible waste of public money."

And for the record, State House used to have a quarry whose stones were used by Architect Temple Moore to build the All Saints Cathedral in Nairobi.

 Twitter: @johnkamau1

End of The day socialites and divorcees were banned from Nairobi's State House



President William Ruto readies House troops for radical reform agenda

Macharia Mwangi / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Ruto readies House troops for radical reform agenda

President William Ruto yesterday marshalled his troops in Parliament to rally around his agenda during a two-day retreat that was also addressed by experts.

Dr Ruto said the discussions were informed by the desire to execute an agenda that would reverse the high cost of living. We have to do necessary reforms in all sectors to ensure that we save appropriately and use the available resources well. It not only secures the future, but it also gets us the resources Dr Ruto said.

The reforms, he said, would touch on all sectors, including housing, health, manufacturing and agriculture.

Housing plan is not just about building houses. It's the whole concept of transforming communities and transforming our nation as a whole. Getting the people in slums, living in decent habitat, making sure that we create more homeowners than rent-payers, Dr Ruto said.

Taking them through the programme was Housing Permanent Secretary Charles Hinga, with the Head of State passionate about the project that seemed to run into headwinds towards the end of the Jubilee administration.

Read: Kenya Kwanza picks Kimani Ichung'wah, Aaron Cheruiyot for top House leadership posts

We want to ensure the people living in slums have a decent habitat and making sure there are more homeowners than rent payers, said the President.

He said housing plans were designed to help millions of young people have jobs and, to some extent, spur industrial growth through the standardisation of building materials so that it is possible to produce building materials in large quantities.

Dr Ruto explained that several reforms in the agricultural sector may not have an impact immediately but will eventually and sustainably lift the economy. We can increase productivity without necessarily increasing the acreage through these plans.

He termed Universal Health Coverage a possibility in the near future, saying every year one million Kenyans run the risk of being destitute because of ill health.

The Head of State also lamented Kenyans saving culture, terming it poor and the lowest in East Africa.

It is not possible for us to continue contributing Sh200 and pretending that we are doing OK. It is not safe...It is a joke, he said.

Read: 'No jobs for you in my government': Ruto rules out appointments for opposition members

The Head of State who had a busy schedule, chairing some of the sessions was also appalled by what he described as poor saving culture among the Kenyan people, terming it the lowest in the East African countries.

He pointed out that countries like Tanzania and Uganda had a better saving culture compared to Kenya as he called on the citizenry to develop a robust saving culture.

I think we've also agreed that we have among the lowest savings as a percentage of GDP in our region. It is not possible for us to continue contributing Sh200 and pretending that we are doing ok. It is not safeIt is a joke, said Dr Ruto.

Read: Cracks emerge in Azimio over House leadership

Adding: We have agreed and have been taken through the numbers here what savings can do for our country. In fact, savings is biblical.

Quoting from the Holy Scriptures, the Head of State: a good man leaves an inheritance for his children.

So good people. We have to do the necessary reforms. Change the law and amend the regulations so that we can save appropriately. We've all been given the benefits of saving. It not only secures our future, it gets us the resources to implement and grow our country to implement our plans to fund our development, noted the Head of State.

End of President William Ruto readies House troops for radical reform agenda



Hurdles in President Ruto's journey to fulfil promises

Nation Team / Sunday, September 18, 2022

President William Ruto faces a mountain of hurdles in his journey to fulfil the promises he made to Kenyans. The biggest challenge yet being how he will balance populist promises he has made with the reality that is the actual state of affairs.

There is also the law and international obligations which may stand in the way of implementing his manifesto or slow the timeline in which he can implement them.

There is also the opposition Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition, which has slammed Dr Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua over road side declarations saying the country risks having an imperial president, who makes radical declarations without engaging relevant institutions.

Read: Taxpayers to foot SGR bill after Ruto's port order

The President made various promises to his supporters during campaigns, some of which he committed to implement after he was sworn in on Tuesday.

Juicy promises

The work required to implement the juicy promises, however, may not be as easy as they came since interests including budgeting for them, legal issues and government obligations will be standing in the way.

Dr Ruto, for instance, said the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) is reviewing banking regulations to loosen scrutiny on cash transactions starting Sh1 million (\$10,000) by raising the limit, to address complaints by businesses that the requirement for them to indicate source of funds and usage has caused unnecessary delays and affected their operations.

The practice, where financial institutions are required to get details on source of funds when a client is depositing or purpose when transferring or withdrawing of cash valued at least \$10,000 then report to the Financial Reporting Centre (FCR), is applied internationally to help authorities detect illicit financial flows.

Read: President Ruto's pledges to Kenyans

The promise is meant to appease his business supporters. Kenya, however, does not act alone in implementing the law, applied internationally under the United Nations Security Councils (UNSC) anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism framework, to which Kenya is a signatory. The law allows authorities across the world to share information and detect movement of cash that could be used to fund terrorism or sourced from illegal activities.

Lack of CBK guidelines

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta attempted to increase the limit to Sh5 million last year, but banks have been unable to implement his order due to lack of guidelines from CBK to effect it.

Dr Ruto is now faced with the dilemma to either raise the limit, appease businesses but risk isolating Kenya from the pool of countries it could benefit with information on illicit financial flows, or keep it and risk losing support of the traders he promised.

The President also promised to review Credit Reference Bureau (CRB) framework that had listed over 14 million Kenyans by last year, as way to open up Kenyas credit market and reduce cost of loans.

Read: Ruto's 13 key directives on first day as President

We shall take measures to drive down the cost of credit. Our starting point is to shift the CRB framework from its current practice of arbitrary, punitive and all or nothing blacklisting of borrowers, which denies many credit, he said, arguing that a new system of credit score rating was the solution.

Credit history

Banks rely on information on a person or a business credit history to make judgments on whether to lend to them and how to price loans and it is not clear review of the CRB framework will open up the credit market.

A governments move to suspend CRB listing in the country last year backfired causing banks to go slow on lending due to lack of credit information about borrowers and its not clear how changing the framework will affect the credit market.

Read: Huge expectations as Ruto tenure begins with goodies

The ultimate test for President Ruto, however, will be how he manages the cost of living, having rose to State House on the platform of defending the interests of the poor.



Hurdles in President Ruto's journey to fulfil promises

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Additional taxes coming

Commodity prices in the country are at highest levels, fuel and electricity prices have shot by at least 15 per cent this month and additional taxes await next month, when Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) adjusts excise duty on key commodities.

While the President's first action was to scrap subsidies faulting them for distorting markets and being prone to abuse, what matters to poor households is prices at which they buy essential goods when they go to the market.

The interventions in place have not borne any fruit. In addition to being very costly, consumption subsidy interventions are prone to abuse, they distort markets and create uncertainty, including artificial shortages of the very products being subsidized, Dr Ruto said in his inauguration speech.

Eliminate subsidies

As a condition to Kenya under the 38-month Extended Credit Facility programme, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in July asked Kenya to eliminate subsidies. The government finds itself making uncomfortable policy actions on IMF directives, a reality that is also expected to stand in his way.

Read: Why Ruto will struggle to keep his promises to the Hustler Nation

The authorities intend to continue gradually realigning domestic to global fuel prices in FY2022/23 to eliminate the fuel subsidy by October 2022. They are committed to preserve achievement of FY2022/23 fiscal objectives by aligning the pace of the domestic price adjustment to reduce the cost of subsidies and identifying budgetary offsets through rephrasing of domestic, non-priority capital spending to keep the net cost of subsidies within available fiscal space, the IMF report stated.

Read: IMF's bitter pill for Uhuru successor

Players in different sectors have expressed various views on the removal of subsidies but all agree that consumers will suffer high prices in the short-term, urging the government to lower taxes to cushion the economy.

It's true the subsidies were becoming unsustainable for the government and so while in the short term prices will increase, in the long run they will stabilise as global prices come down. But the government should consider eliminating or reducing some of the taxes on fuel which contribute to the high prices, while eliminating the subsidies, says Mr Rajan Shah, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers chairman.

Liquidity challenges

With the government faced by liquidity challenges, there is little room, if any, to reduce any taxes.

It is not clear yet whether the current fertiliser subsidy, expected to lower prices to Sh3,500 for a 50kg bag, will lead to actual low food prices, considering that the country this year has continued to witness poor rains, with the agriculture sector having contracted between January and June.

We urgently need to expand our tax base. We will make KRA more professional, efficient, responsive and people-friendly. I urge taxpayers to respond by undertaking their patriotic duty and pay taxes, Dr Ruto said in his inauguration speech.

Public debt

The government desperately needs the taxes to settle debts, including the public debt, which hit Sh8.5 trillion in June, pending bills valued over Sh600 billion and stalled projects that were valued at Sh9 trillion by Parliament last year.

Dr Ruto has also committed to allocate Sh50 billion from the budget into the hustler fund, a key promise to the youth during campaigns and he may have to divert funds from other functions, with the government currently running on a tight budget and the current fiscal year budget already planned.

The President's plan is to capitalise the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) by availing funds for on-lending cheaply to chamas, sacco and cooperatives.

To implement all these interventions, we shall establish a Ministry of Cooperatives and SME Development mandated to ensure that every small business has secure property rights, access to finance and a supportive regulatory framework, he said.



Hurdles in President Ruto's journey to fulfil promises

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Hustlers fund

A promise looked up by millions of small business owners mostly informal and unregistered to ensure they benefit the intended, the new ministry will have a huge task to get and keep their records while ensuring they pay back loans, or could end up like many other funds that have not made an impact.

The Hustlers fund would join others such as Youth, Women and Uwezo. Critics see creation of such funds as reactionary measures from the political class that rarely resolve challenges in the sector.

But Kenya Kwanza allied MPs say the fund will be modelled in a way that it will be administered by the national government at the ward level for ease of access.

Garissa Township MP Aden Duale said they are determined to ensure that the fund achieves its purpose of helping the intended recipients.

Clear road map

Mr Duale disclosed that President Ruto during his first address to Parliament will also present a clear road map on how the fund will be administered.

However, Kitui Central MP Makali Mulu said the fund will flop just like others created before.

We have had many funds before but what have they achieved? The challenge we have had is that once you give people funds, especially money from the government, they think it's their right and should not therefore pay it back, Dr Mulu said.

Most of those so-called hustlers may not access the fund due to the legal requirements hence it may end up not serving the intended purpose, he added.

While politically it could give him a mileage at the Coast, the President's promise to revert port operations to Mombasa from Nairobi and Naivasha could portend death of the standard gauge railway (SGR) line, or reduce its revenues going forward if it is reduced to compete with trucks.

Port operations

In Mombasa, the port operations are expected to return jobs and boost the county's revenues, but for the national government, the SGR's economic burden will just get worse since nearly 90 per cent of the line's revenues come from cargo and the government had to force traders to use it before clearing goods in Nairobi and Naivasha, to boost its operations.

Read: Ruto port directive raises hope in Mombasa, worry in Nairobi, Naivasha

Some truckers have already said they will be returning to road haulage. The Azimio coalition has slammed Dr Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua over the many road side declarations, among them the decision to revert port operations from Naivasha to Mombasa, increase of budgetary allocation of the Judiciary by Sh3 billion and the scrapping of the fuel subsidy.

Lawyer Danstan Omari told the Nation that some of the declarations fly in the face of the rule of law and normal way of running of the government.

Mr Omari argues that the government is run collectively through decisions by the Cabinet as well as other government institutions like Parliament.

Read: Sahrawi gaffe hands Ruto first diplomatic dilemma

Ruto seems not to have come to terms that campaigns are over. Issues to do with diplomatic severance must go through the Cabinet because there is a possibility that Uhuru Cabinet discussed the issue, said Mr Omari.

Appointing the Inspector-General to be in-charge of the police budget is within his rights. But it requires putting in place infrastructure like the accounting and audit units; modalities of how that money is going to be accounted for. It is the same issue with the relocation of the port operations. Other than Kenya there are other countries that entered agreement to use the facility, he added.

Go slow on some declarations

Similar views were shared by constitutional lawyer Bobby Mkangi, who said Dr Ruto may be required to go slow on



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some of the declarations until having his Cabinet in place for executive decision.

There is prudence for him to slow down to have institutions responsible in place so that such decisions stand the test of time, said lawyer Mkangi.

Azimio Saturday said the order by Mr Gachagua for the Directorate of Criminal Investigative (DCI) officers to keep off government offices was against the independence of the institution.

Budget approval

The coalition said Budget approval is the function of the National Assembly. The Cabinet through the National Treasury prepares budget policy for subsequent approval by Members of Parliament.

He has purported to allocate the Judiciary some token funds. This is a mockery of the basic intelligence of consumers of justice and must be seen for what it is. Financial and operational autonomy of the Judiciary cannot and will not be guaranteed by tokenism, said the coalition in a statement Saturday.

Reporting by Peter Mburu, Moses Nyamori and Samwel Owino

End of Hurdles in President Rutos journey to fulfil promises



Counties

Man gets custody of child despite protests about unpaid dowry

Brian Ocharo / Monday, September 19, 2022

A family court in Mombasa has granted a man physical custody of his child after a two-year legal battle with his mother-in-law over who should live with the child.

Justice John Onyiego ruled in favour of the man despite protests from the child's maternal grandmother, who wanted custody, claiming that the man and her deceased daughter were not married.

The judge said that the question of marriage was not before the court.

The allegation that the deceased [woman] and the man were not married under Kamba customary law hence the father cannot claim custody is not tenable, Justice Onyiego said.

We are not dealing with the issue of marriage in this case in which the man claimed that he was married to the deceased customarily.

He noted that under Section 6 (1) of the Children Act, a child has the right to live with and to be cared for by his or her parents.

The court also observed that it appeared that the child's grandmother was more interested in accessing the benefits of the minor's mother using guardianship proceedings.

I do not find any specific reason to deny the father custody to his baby, the judge said.

The dispute began in 2020 following the demise of the child's mother. Its grandmother moved to the Tononoka Children's Court and asked for a certificate appointing her guardian.

She argued that the child had been under her care since its mother died and therefore she was the only person fit to be granted guardianship.

Even before its mother's death, I was the guardian hence the desire to look after the child and its estate, she said.

The woman told the court that her daughter was just a girlfriend of the man and that the child was an offspring of their cohabitation.

She added that her daughter and the minor went to live with her at her house when she fell sick.

When the child's mother died, it remained in my custody to date. As the next of kin to my late daughter, I am entitled to pursue her benefits hence the need for a guardianship certificate, she said.

The woman also told the court that the man had not paid any dowry and thus was not legally married to her daughter.

Her statements were echoed by the child's grandfather, who said that his late daughter had cohabited with the man but their relationship was acrimonious, resulting in their separation.

The child's father responded that they had been married customarily and that the child had been withdrawn from his custody after its mother died.

He also called his friend as a witness, who confirmed that he was married to the deceased woman and that he was the godfather of the child when it was baptized.

The man lamented that the child's grandmother, who he claimed was the cause of his separation from the deceased woman, had unjustly denied him access to the child.

The guardianship of the minor was filed without my knowledge hence the proceedings were made in bad faith, he said.

After hearing both parties, the children's court granted custody to the man with unlimited access for the grandmother.

But the grandmother appealed against the decision, saying the children's court had not considered the best interests and wishes of the minor.

She also said the court failed to consider the customs of the community to which the child belongs as required by the law.

The magistrate negated the fact that the minor has never lived with its father and the baby does not know him [though he is] the biological father, she said, adding that a children's officer report favouring her was ignored.

She said the court failed to consider Kamba traditions that says a father who had not paid dowry to the deceased wife had no right of custody over the child or children arising out of such relationship.

But the man opposed the appeal, saying he had the right to take custody of his child.



Counties

Man gets custody of child despite protests about unpaid dowry

Brian Ocharo / Monday, September 19, 2022

Its grandmother is only interested in the deceaseds benefits and not the baby, he submitted.

The judge sided with the man in his ruling, noting that in determining guardianship, the issue of marriage or processing terminal benefits is not a key consideration.

Unless there exist exceptional circumstances to warrant exclusion, the man being the surviving parent is deemed and indeed is entitled to assume the role of a guardian to the minor, Justice Onyiego said.

The judge said the appellant had denied the father access to his child and that did not mean that he had neglected it.

End of Man gets custody of child despite protests about unpaid dowry



Counties

Nandi man donates land to Ruto to celebrate his poll victory

Tom Matoke / Monday, September 19, 2022

A 37-year-old man in Nandi has surprised residents by donating a portion of his family land to President William Ruto for construction of a youth empowerment centre, as a gift for his presidential election victory.

On Saturday, Mr Kimutai Choge, a motivational speaker from Kosirai location, invited local government administrators, Kalenjin Myoot Council of Elders chairman Benjamin Kitur and church leaders to witness the handing over ceremony of the half-acre plot on the Eldoret-Kapsabet highway.

He wants the land will be used to put up a youth empowerment and resource centre, which he wants called the Dr William Ruto Empowerment Academy and Resource Centre.

Hustler centre

If established, the centre, which residents and elders further proposed could be called the Hustler centre, will sit a few kilometres from Koitalel Samoei University College near Mosoriot and about 300 metres from the main highway.

The empowerment academy and resource centre is expected to train over 400 youths from across the country.

A banner hoisted during the handover ceremony of the half an acre land donated to President William Ruto by 37-year-old Kimutai Choge, a motivational speaker from Kosirai location, Nandi county. He wants the land used to put up a youth empowerment and resource centre.

Dr Ruto's inspirational journey

Mr Choge said he was prompted to surrender his land to the President because of what he called the Presidents inspirational journey from a common chicken seller to Kenyas helm as President.

The best way to celebrate President Rutos victory is to give out my family land for the construction of the Dr Ruto youth training centre to nurture talent and inspire discouraged youths and mentor those struggling with drug abuse, he stated.

Further, he said whenever youth and womens groups want to meet and discuss their issues such as chamas, they usually encounter challenges because they dont have money to hire meeting halls at hotels or other social places.

Hard work pays

He said Dr Rutos journey had demonstrated that hard work pays, and sent a strong message of hope to struggling youths.

When history is written about Kenyas presidents, he said, Dr Rutos story will be unique and could inspire future generations to dream big in whatever position they aspire for in society regardless of their background.

This was a great inspiration to many youths who may have previously believed things are impossible and that not just anyone could rise to become President unless one came from prominent families, he stated.

Senior Chief David Metto of Kosirai location (in uniform on the right), with the Chairman of Kalenjin Council of Elders Benjamin Kitur (in black cap and suit) and other local leaders when they received land donated by Kimutai Choge towards construction of the proposed Dr William Ruto Empowerment Academy and Resource Centre.

Speakers at the meeting, led by the Kalenjin Council of Elders and government administrators lauded Mr Choge for the gesture. They included Mr Kitur, Kosirai location Senior Chief David Metto and Anglican cleric Hosea Rop.

The leaders pledged to support the project to ensure the envisioned purpose materialises.

Elders blessings

Mr Kitur said Kalenjin elders had given their blessings for the project, noting that Kenya needs selfless leaders willing to sacrifice for the countrys benefit.

And Rev Rop said: "As the Church, we need such facilities that can immensely benefit youths and women.

Emgwen National Government Constituency Development Fund chairman Henry Rono said following Mr Choges initiative, residents were now planning to invite President Ruto to visit the county and launch the planned project before the end of the year.

End of Nandi man donates land to Ruto to celebrate his poll victory



Counties

Farm-hand suspected to have murdered his employer at farm in Ngong

Stanley Ngotho / Monday, September 19, 2022

Detectives have launched a manhunt for a middle aged farm-hand who is alleged to have murdered his 58-year-old boss in Kibiko area, Ngong on Monday afternoon.

The woman who lives in Nairobi with her family is said to have visited their expansive piece of land along Ole Sena road in Kibiko in the morning.

Around noon, the woman is said to have sent an alarming message to her husband saying "I am dying."

After frantic efforts to get his wife on phone, the husband who was in Nairobi by then alerted his neighbours who rushed to the farm to find out what was happening.

A neighbour told Nation that at first they searched the entire land but they could not find the woman though her vehicle, a Toyota voxy, was parked next to the family's incomplete bungalow.

The neighbour said they found the woman's body in one of the rooms where the farm-hand lived. The farm-hand has been identified as Kelvin.

"We found her with a rope on her neck. The rope was tied to the bed. Her legs and arms were also tied with a rope. It was a horrifying scene," she said.

Also read: Miracle babies preacher Deya has case to answer

The woman's phone which has been switched is still missing.

"The farmhand was an introvert. We don't know much about him. We did not hear any distress call from the woman,," said a neighbour.

Kibiko Location Chief James Kariuki said the woman is known in the area as she usually visits the land accompanied by her husband.

He further told Nation the farm-hand is suspected to have taken away his boss' phone after committing the heinous crime. It was not clear if money or any other personal valuables were stolen.

"Immediately I received the distress call, I rushed to the scene. We suspect the farm-hand killed her boss but we did not establish the motive of the killing," said Mr Kariuki.

In the evening, a somber mood engulfed the farm as the husband and relatives tried to come to terms with what had transpired.

The body was moved to Montezuma Mortuary.

End of Farm-hand suspected to have murdered his employer at farm in Ngong



Counties

Nakuru governor Susan Kihika makes changes in four key departments

Joseph Openda / Monday, September 19, 2022

Nakuru governor Susan Kihika has made key changes in her administration in a bid to streamline services.

Ms Kihika on Monday announced the move to restructure her administration in four key areas including the revenue department, Public transport, Public service and the supply chain management which will form the basis of her administration.

During a press briefing, Ms Kihika announced the decision to approve a total overhaul of the revenue department, a move she said is aimed at achieving the revenue targets.

The overhaul will include redeployment and or shuffling of all revenue clerks and officers as well as the appointment of new revenue heads.

In the public transport sector, Ms Kihika announced the appointment of a taskforce that is mandated to look into, among other things, the operational challenges faced by the sector and give appropriate remedies for immediate action.

The task force will be chaired by the county secretary and shall have membership from the public transport and the security sector.

In the same breath, the governor directed a 100 per cent waiver on all unpaid parking charges for the period running up to August amounting to Sh142 million.

This intervention, I have no doubt will afford the sector an opportunity to recover and engage further with my government, said Ms Kihika.

In the public service sector, Ms Kihika announced plans to restructure the human resources function in order to be responsive to the needs of the workforce. This she said will include a re-evaluation of existing policies on hiring, retention and promotion of staff members.

She promised to clean the payroll of all the ghost workers, and illegally hired and promoted staff.

Ms Kihika further directed the county public service board to implement all pending promotions for healthcare workers.

She said a task force will be formed to address the issues of promotion and terms of employment in the health sector.

The taskforce will engage all the stakeholders and recommend policies and guidelines to ensure fair employment terms and promotions, said Ms Kihika.

In the supply chain department, the governor promised to roll out policies geared towards the promotion of a business friendly environment for business to thrive, as well as pay legitimate suppliers and contractors, whom she said, were unfairly treated and discriminated against by the previous regime.

While announcing the plans, Ms Kihika said she is keen on setting up a functional government that will ensure the socio-economic growth and prosperity of the county and help her deliver on her manifesto.

She promised to lead a functional, responsive and accountable government whose leaders are servants to the people of Nakuru.

The unassailable social contract between myself and the people of Nakuru demands astuteness in the management of their resources and prevailed delivery of services, said Ms Kihika.

She promised to move with speed to set up the necessary structures and critical policy papers tabled for approval before the county assembly once it is formed.

End of Nakuru governor Susan Kihika makes changes in four key departments



Counties

Miracle babies preacher Deya has case to answer

Joseph Wangui / Monday, September 19, 2022

Self-styled evangelical preacher Gilbert Juma Deya has a case to answer in the child-trafficking and miracle babies scandal, a Nairobi court ruled yesterday.

Senior Principal Magistrate Robison Ondieki said prosecutors had proved they have a strong case against Mr Deya in the criminal trial that involves allegations that he had stolen five children two decades ago.

Magistrate Ondieki said he was satisfied that a prima facie case has been established against the accused person. I therefore put him on his defence".

Mr Deyas lawyer said Mr Deya will provide sworn evidence and call witnesses. The hearing of the defence case will start on October 4.

Magistrate Ondieki found Mr Deya with a case to answer in five counts of stealing five children, all aged under 14, between 2002 and 2004, in Mountain View estate in Nairobi.

The ruling comes 11 years after a Kibera court convicted his wife, Mary Deya, to three years for stealing a baby on September 10, 2005 at Kenyatta National Hospital and giving false information to Dr James Kiarie that she had given birth to the child.

Also read: Deya is a flight risk, he'll remain in prison: High Court

Mr Deya, who claimed he created miraculous pregnancies, faces five counts of child stealing. His trial started on August 4, 2017 after he was extradited from the United Kingdom.

Mr Deya allegedly committed the offence with others at Mr Deyas house, number 226, in Mountain View between May 20, 2002 and August 19, 2004. He denies the accusations.

Prosecutors Nicholas Mutuku and Hellen Mutellah said they had demonstrated that the children were found at the house. The court heard that the house was jointly owned by Mr Deya and Ms Deya and that the two lived together there as a couple.

They also said birth registration documents for the five children produced in court showed Mr Deya as the father of the children.

The birth registration of these five children were obtained fraudulently, prosecutors said in written documents, adding that the couple were excluded in DNA tests as the biological parents of the children.

Investigations

Mr Lilian Kiamba, a police investigator with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), and a births and deaths registration officer in Nairobi were among prosecution witnesses who testified in the case.

Investigations into the case began following a report in a Kenyan newspaper about a mature couple who claimed that they had delivered miracle babies following prayers by Mr Deya and his wife. The preacher operated Gilbert Deya Ministries.

"The investigations led the team to a house within Komarock Estate, Nairobi, where they traced the couple and 11 children aged below five years, Ms Kiamba testified.

The couple and the said children were detained by the police and blood samples of the children and the couple were thereafter extracted and forwarded to the Government Chemist for DNA analysis"

The couple (names withheld for legal reasons) said the children were born at Lucys Medical Clinic, Huruma Ngomongo Clinic and Gatecha Clinic in Dandora.

Investigators then went to the house in Mountain View that belonged to the Deyas.

At the house, the officers found Ms Deya, Ms Miriam Nyeko (a Ugandan) and Rose Kiserem. They were all interviewed and detained.

"Mary Deya was interviewed but denied there were any miracle babies in the house. She took [investigators] to a room where the team found one child and a lady who introduced herself as Miriam Nyeko, a Ugandan. However, upon search, the team found nine children aged five years and below locked inside one of the rooms, Ms Kiamba told the court.

She also said Ms Mary gave investigators 14 birth certificates for the children. The certificates showed that Mr Deya was the father of the children.



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The birth certificates were confiscated and the 10 children taken to the Kabete Childrens Home in Nairobi. Their blood samples were taken by Dr Moses Njue Gachoka and forwarded to the Government Chemist for DNA analysis.

Two of them were found to be the Deyas biological children, the court heard.

An April 14, 2005 DNA report concluded that the couple were excluded as the biological parents of five of the children.

Also read: Bishop Deya demands VIP treatment in Kamiti

"It is thus clear that the accused person was not the biological father of the five children [that are] the subject matter of this case, Ms Kiamba said.

Therefore, the accused person having harboured these children in his house he had intended to deprive their parents, guardians or lawful care or charge of the same."

As for the other three children, Ms Kiamba said a woman in the Deyas house had claimed to be their mother. But further investigations revealed that she was not their mother and she became the subject of a separate inquiry.

Regarding the birth certificates of the five children in the charge sheet, the court heard that they were issued by three unlicensed medical facilities in Nairobi New Gathecha Estate Nursing & Maternity Home, Ochieng Grace Medical Clinic Maternity, Mimilu Maternity Home and Bungoma.

Irene Friendrike Baumgartner, who was a staffer at the Kabete Children's Home and testified in the case, said the children were troubled that they did not know their biological parents.

The children had asked about their roots, she said and they have been deprived of their rightful parents and the biggest challenge is the trauma and the psychological question of where their parents are".

End of Miracle babies preacher Deya has case to answer



Joseph Wangui / Monday, September 19, 2022

Former Migori Governor Okoth Obado is yet to surrender to the anti-corruption agency the motor vehicles he allegedly acquired using funds embezzled from the county government, the anti-corruption court heard yesterday.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) told Justice Esther Maina that Mr Obado, his son Dan Ochola and businessman Oliver Okeno Odhiambo have not complied with the court orders issued on July 21, 2022.

In the orders, the court had directed them to surrender three motor vehicles to EACC within seven days together with their logbooks pending determination of the forfeiture suit filed by the anti-corruption agency.

"The respondents have only partially complied with the court orders. They have only surrendered one motor vehicle," EACC told court yesterday.

However, Justice Maina told the agency to file a formal application to compel the respondents comply with the orders of the court.

EACC further informed the judge that it had reduced the number of witnesses in the forfeiture suit from 54 to 25.

The witnesses will be adduced in court to prove how the former governor, his children, his aide Peter Odoyo Kwaga and their trading companies acquired Sh73.5 million wealth illegally.

Also read: EACC freezes Governor Obado's assets

Justice Maina also granted the respondents 21 days to file their responses to the forfeiture suit.

The judge questioned why Mr Obado and his co-defendants had not filed their pleadings on time as she declined their argument that the delay was occasioned by the general elections. She fixed the case for hearing from December 6 to 8.

In the case EACC is seeking to seize assets associated with the former governor and his children such as a house in Loresho Ridge Nairobi and three high-end cars. The assets have since been temporarily frozen and the court barred the governor from collecting rent from the residential house.

The court blocked him from selling, charging, leasing or developing the property pending determination of the suit. In addition, he was barred from selling the three vehicles.

"Pending the hearing and determination of this matter an order is granted that the monthly rental income of Sh143,000 deprived from renting out of the Loresho Ridge House in the joint earning accounts in name of EACC and Mr Obado," Justice Maina stated.

The judge also issued orders barring Mr Obado and his four children -Evelyn Adhiambo, Dan Achola Okoth, Scarlet Susan Okoth and Jerry Zachary Okoth- his proxy Jared Peter Odoyo Kwaga, their servants or agents from disposing or transferring the assets.

EACC is seeking to recover the assets on belief that the wealth was allegedly looted from the county coffers through fraudulent contracts.

The Anti-Graft body lodged the suit claiming Mr Obado's luxury cars and property were obtained from proceeds of graft.

According to EACC, several people who are proxies of the governor registered companies with the intention of securing high valued contracts from Migori County government.

Also read : The undesirables: List of political aspirants blacklisted by EACC

EACC said proceeds from the alleged economic criminal activities were channeled into bank accounts of the Migori governor.

The Commission also indicated that a sum of Sh38.9 million was used to pay the university fees of the governors children and their upkeep while part of the remaining money was used to purchase luxury vehicles.

The vehicles were registered under Dan Achola Okoth and Oliver Odhiambo. The court documents also revealed that the remaining Sh34,525,000 was used to purchase a house in Loresho Ridge, Nairobi.

EACC said it instituted the suit after receiving information that a few persons, well known to be proxies of Obado, his four children and 13 firms registered for the sole purpose of procuring high value contracts from the County Government.

The companies are listed in court papers as Misoft limited, Dankey press Limited, Atinus Services limited, Tarchdog



Counties

Joseph Wangui / Monday, September 19, 2022

printers limited, Mactebac Contractors, Selectrack consultants, Joyush Business limited, Swyfcon Engineering, Dolphus Software limited, Kajulu Business limited, Pesulus suppliers limited and Victorious investment limited.

It added that the companies were for acquisition of public funds through fictitious and irregular contracts secured uncompetitively through circumvention of the procurement laws.

EACC claimed that Mr Obado, in abuse of his position of trust and in conflict of interest of his position as Governor, amassed assets valued at Sh73,474,376 procured with proceeds of fictitious contracts with the County Government.

Following the said acts, Governor Obado benefitted from the contracts through monies wired to his children for their school fees and upkeep in Universities, EACC said in the court papers.

End of Ex-governor Okoth Obado yet to obey court order on surrender of three vehicles to EACC



Counties

Police arrest key suspect in Sh100m Kericho airport tender scam

Mary Wambui / Monday, September 19, 2022

Police have arrested the main suspect in a probe into forged documents used to secure a Sh100 million tender to upgrade the Kerenga airstrip to airport standards in Kericho County.

Mr Jonathan Rono, the owner of Jemororan Construction Company Limited was arrested on Saturday evening in Tarakonik village, Njoro, two months after an anti-corruption court in Kericho issued his arrest warrant.

The suspect will spend his third night in custody after failing to take plea on Monday due to a lack of a gazetted magistrate at the Kericho law courts. He will take plea on Tuesday morning at the Nakuru High Court.

Read: Court dismisses suit by man claiming to be Kibakis son

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission began probing the scandal after receiving a complaint that alleged there were procurement irregularities in the evaluation criteria for the tender awarded for the rehabilitation of the airstrip.

The complaint further alleged that the company was awarded the tender using fake documents.

Most responsive bidder

Its detectives raided the county offices in 2018 and carted away documents that established that the tender evaluation process was altered in favour of the company for being the lowest and the most responsive bidder at the tender sum of Sh97.4 million.

Four other bidders were locked out during the evaluation process which was done between April 23 and 25, 2018. The four are Twang Technologies Limited, Noventis Construction Limited, Bestland Enterprises Limited and Trowels and Shovels Limited.

EACC further established that the evaluation committee skewed the report in favour of Jemororan Construction Company Limited by indicating that they visited sites where the company had done construction works, a matter that they knew was false.

It further established that the company had forged documents to show that it had the capacity to undertake the contract.

Also read: Be fast, activists tell KPA on return of port services to Mombasa

The anti-graft body also established that the company was neither registered with the National Construction Authority (NCA) meaning the registration certificate they had attached to their bid documents was forged.

Arrest warrant

Consequently, on July 20 this year, EACC detectives arrested six suspects and charged them at the Kericho Anti-Corruption court with corruption-related offences and forgery. They were released on Sh200,000 bond each and an arrest warrant was issued against the main suspect.

The six include David Rono (director), Joash Chirchir (county engineer), Nelson Ngétich (county procurement officer), John Mibei (county surveyor), Everlyne Morogo (county accountant) and Geoffrey Komen, a government surveyor.

End of Police arrest key suspect in Sh100m Kericho airport tender scam



Counties

NTSA: Kisumu-Busia road notorious for vehicle crash fatalities

Kassim Adinasi / Monday, September 19, 2022

Motorists plying the Kisumu-Busia road are under scrutiny for breaking traffic rules and increasing the number of accidents.

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) reports that 3,358 people died on Kenyan roads between January 1 and September 13.

They included 1,085 pedestrians, 903 motorcyclists, 591 passengers and 44 bicyclists

In the past 10 months, at least 10 people have died on the Kisumu-Busia highway, according to police reports from Kisumu, Vihiga, Siaya and Busia counties, which are served by the same highway.

Most of the accidents involve bodaboda riders, matatus and heavy trucks that ferry goods between Kenya and Uganda.

Other road users blame the accidents on motorists who allegedly drive recklessly on the busy route.

Accidents that occur along this highway can easily be avoided if only the motorists were careful, said Mr Philemon Otieno, a resident of Rangala.

Other than the reported cases, there are several incidents that never reach the police, mostly involving bodaboda operators and public service vehicles.

Hit and run

On June 1, two people died after being hit by a speeding car in Ugunja, on the same highway. The car did not stop.

The motorcyclist and a pillion passenger were heading to Kisumu when they had a head-on crash with a Toyota Probox travelling from the opposite direction, he added.

The two were later buried and we don't know how far the police went with their investigations. There are other people who have also been maimed from the accidents along the same highway.

Drastic action should be taken to restore sanity among motorists using that highway, former Siaya County Sports executive Charles Ogada told the Nation.

It is sad that young people are [dying] prematurely just because someone is not doing his job, he said.

The work of the police is to ensure the people follow the law and not massaging the law-breakers. If we continue with this trend, we will lose many productive youths on this highway.

The police have stepped up patrols along the highway and have made several arrests, said Ugunja sub-county Police Commander Emanuel Rono.

There are a number of rogue drivers who drive carelessly along the highway, especially the Sidindi-Rangala-Ugunja stretch, where we have reported many accidents, which have claimed the lives of some people, he said.

The highway is narrow with heavy trucks using it between Kenya and Uganda.

It is a very busy highway joining two countries, but it is very narrow, especially in the Rangala stretch and there are many trucks that ferry goods to Uganda, he said.

There are also public service vehicles and bodaboda operators who use the same highway, which makes it one of the hotspots.

At least 20 people died on the same highway in an explosion as they tried to siphon fuel from a petrol tanker in the Malanga area of Gem sub-county.

End of NTSA: Kisumu-Busia road notorious for vehicle crash fatalities



Counties

Murangá woman urges Ruto to fulfil promise of house, two dairy cows

Mwangi Muiruri / Monday, September 19, 2022

A Murang'a woman who says President William Ruto promised her a permanent house and two pedigree dairy cows now wants the promise fulfilled.

"Dr Ruto's campaigns were about fulfilling promises. In Mt Kenya region, we were facing the greatest test of our faithfulness to keep our promise of voting for him to succeed President Uhuru Kenyatta. It's now Dr Ruto's turn to keep his promise to me," said 65-year-old Margaret Njambi, from Gikandu village.

The genesis of Dr Ruto's promise dates back to January 12 last year, when Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro held a public function at Gikandu Primary School.

Ms Njambi was there, leading a group of 28 women. She was slotted in the programme to address the gathering on their behalf.

In 12 minutes of broken English, the Standard Seven dropout opposed the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) and the video capturing her presentation went viral.

What is BBI? We do not know what it is! We are supporters of Dr Ruto and he will become President. I will campaign for him and if I meet him face to face I will call him Mr President, she said.

Widowed in 2008

As the cheers became wild, even with the MP clapping all along, the grandma, who was widowed in 2008 and is a mother of nine children (seven sons and two daughters aged between 30 and 46) hit one more high note: Let all of them hear me say this we only know of Dr Ruto and we do not want BBI.

And it reached Dr Ruto, who, through Mr Nyoro, invited Ms Njambi to his Karen residence on February 24.

Ms Njambi reveals that she had a rocky relationship with her husband and the two had lived separate lives since 1995.

I left my home in Gikandu to seek my peace in Muranga town. But when he died in 2018, I went back home to take charge of the 2.5-acre family land, she said.

In a tweet, Dr Ruto notified his followers: I (today) interacted with former quarry worker turned small-scale farmer Margaret Njambi after her video went viral during a Kiharu development meeting where she expressed her interest to meet the Deputy President Macho kwa macho (face to face). I agreed to support her small scale farming.

It is at that meeting with Dr Ruto, she narrates, that she was promised a permanent two-bedroom house on her marital land and two cows one lactating and complete with its calf and the other pregnant.

Modern pen

Ms Njambi now says Dr Ruto gave her the details of the project that the house would be fitted with tiles, a ceiling and a bathroom and be furnished. For the cows, she says she was promised a modern pen for them before they would be delivered.

As we speak, the house is there, yes, but it has stalled at 80 percent. No toilet, no ceiling and no tiles. There is no pen either for the cows, she said.

A call to Dr Ruto's spokesman, David Mugonyi, in July last year was met with the response: I do not speak on behalf of the project or the masons the area MP is the one coordinating it and he is better placed to respond.

United Democratic Alliance (UDA) director of communications Wanjohi Githae referred queries about the project to the head of digital and youth affairs in Dr Ruto campaigns, Mr Dennis Itumbi.

"I am making inquiries and I will revert," Mr Itumbi told Nation.Africa in a WhatsApp message.

Taking the cue from Mr Mugonyi's suggestion that the enquiries be channeled to the masons, we called the contractor Peter Manyeki who said the issue was inadequate funding.

Unexpected celebrity

Besides accusing the grandmother of being disturbed by her unexpected celebrity status, Mr Manyeki said the blame lies with Dr Ruto's team.

He explained that the DP donated Sh500,000 for the house and promised to have the cows delivered to her directly from his dairy ranch.

It is my submission that out of the Sh500,000 Dr Ruto gave her, the house has since exhausted it and Mr Nyoro has



Counties

Murangá woman urges Ruto to fulfil promise of house, two dairy cows

Mwangi Muiruri / Monday, September 19, 2022

topped up with Sh150,000, he said.

The furthest we can go with the resources available cannot include tiles, the toilet and the ceiling. We have done our best with the resources available.

The only people with information about the cows, he said, are from Dr Rutos team because he said that he would direct that they be delivered from his private ranches.

Ms Njambi also says Dr Ruto promised to personally open the house once it was completed.

Go and tell Dr Ruto that I am waiting for him to come and open this house once it is complete. I will never move into it until he guides me into it, she said.

He is my guardian angel and the cause for my anxiety is seeing his trustees in this project take me in circles and social media posts by some of his people lying that the cows have been delivered to me.

Ms Njambi is referring to Dr Ruto's photography team, who, a few weeks before the elections, posted on Facebook that the cows had been delivered to her home. The post had a photograph of two Friesian cows, the house under construction and Ms Njambi chatting with Dr Ruto at his Karen home, with the caption reading "promise delivered".

So optimistic was Ms Njambi about a Dr Ruto presidency that she, alongside her two sons, enrolled in a driving school because she believes she will get at least three jobs in his government.

She sums up that never worry that your breakthrough is taking too long God knows at what point to assign you a guardian angel and change your narrative from that of stress to that of relief. In Dr Rutos wing lies my breakthrough and that of my family.

Ms Njambi says she is happy Dr Ruto won the presidency "and I will be patient enough to have him settle down and then remember to fulfil his promise to me".

End of Murangá woman urges Ruto to fulfil promise of house, two dairy cows



Counties

Laikipia traders protest rising insecurity that has left one dead

Mwangi Ndirangu / Monday, September 19, 2022

More than 200 business outlets in Dol Dol Town, Laikipia North remained closed as traders protested rising insecurity which has left one dead and two others nursing gunshot wounds.

The traders sent their representatives to the Laikipia County Commissioners office in Nanyuki, some 60 kilometres away where they accused police officers of turning a blind eye as the armed criminals roamed at night, terrorizing the residents.

The latest attack was on Friday when three shops were looted at gunpoint with one trader, Mr Atanasio Karwithia, 63, sustaining gunshot injuries. He is undergoing treatment at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital after being shot on the right hand.

The midnight attack at Dol Dol Town came a week after another robbery at Zimbabwe Shopping Centre in the neighbouring Segera Ward where a trader, Lawrence Macharia, 66, was shot dead. His colleague Mr Daniel Mberia is nursing a gunshot wound on his right leg.

Both raids bear similarities in that the criminals used unmarked motorcycles to escape from the scene of crime.

Mr Daniel Mberia is comforted by well wishers at his rented room at Zimbabwe Trading Centre in Segera Ward, Laikipia North Sub-county. He was shot on the right leg by armed gangsters who raided and shot dead an elderly shopkeeper.

Laikipia County Commissioner Joseph Kanyiri, while addressing the traders representatives who camped outside his office for four hours, ordered police officers to impound any motorcycle without a registration number and arrest the rider.

We have held talks with traders from Dol Dol, Kiwanja Ndege and Il Polei towns who are complaining of rising insecurity. One of the directives I have issued to law enforcers across the county is that they should move fast and impound any boda boda operator whose motorcycle does not bear registration numbers, said Mr Kanyiri.

Suspected criminals

The administrators said the traders have agreed to cooperate with officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and volunteer names of suspected criminals adding that police would now be patrolling the areas during the day and throughout the night.

These criminals come from within and I believe some of them are known. Even as we heighten police patrols, we are requesting information that would help us apprehend the criminals, said Mr Kanyiri.

He said some of the criminals could be locals but trying to create an impression that migrating armed herders inside Mukogodo forest are behind the frequent night raids aimed at looting the shops.

Mukogodo East MCA-elect Paul Leshuel who accompanied the 32 traders to the county headquarters said any criminal, whether a local or a migrating herder should be dealt with ruthlessly.

No one should complain once criminals are arrested and prosecuted. It is not about tribes or a certain community being targeted but it is about getting rid of criminal elements to restore peace to enable growth of our economy, said the ward representative.

End of Laikipia traders protest rising insecurity that has left one dead



Counties

Ex-ward rep Okero elected Nyamira Speaker

Wycliffe Nyaberi / Monday, September 19, 2022

Former Manga ward representative Enock Okero is the new Speaker of the Nyamira County Assembly.

Mr Okero garnered 26 votes out of 35, defeating outgoing Speaker Moffart Teya, who received only nine in the Monday morning election.

The new Speaker will now return to the assembly after losing his MCA seat to Mr Samuel Ogeto in last months elections.

The Speaker contest had narrowed down to two after a period of intense lobbying.

In his speech after he won, Mr Okero called upon all MCAs to work in unity with him to serve residents.

He added that the assembly and the county executive need to cooperate and work hard in order to make Nyamira a better place for everyone.

"We know as residents of Nyamira [that] this county needs all of us to come together and make it an admirable place for all and future generations," he said.

Neutral

He promised to be neutral in discharging his duties.

He pledged to work closely with the executive to ensure the will of the people of Nyamira is achieved.

The MCAs elected the Speaker after taking their oaths of office. They are now working to pick their majority and minority leaders, and the majority and minority chief whips.

On Sunday, September 18, acting county assembly Clerk Duke Onyari shortlisted five candidates for the Speakers position but only Mr Okero and Mr Teya were voted on.

End of Ex-ward rep Okero elected Nyamira Speaker



Counties

Northern Kenya governors want hunger declared national disaster

Edwin Kipsang / Monday, September 19, 2022

Governors of Northern Kenya counties want hunger in the region declared a national disaster.

Ahmed Abdullahi (Wajir), Mohamud Ali (Marsabit), Nathif Jama (Garissa) Mohamed Aden Khalif (Mandera) spoke after the induction of governors and deputy governors in Mombasa. They were supported by Lamu's Issa Timamy.

They appealed to President William Ruto to declare hunger in the northern region a national disaster and help alleviate locals suffering.

The leaders, representing the Frontier Counties Development Council and arid and semi-arid lands, said they had few resources to address hunger in their areas.

They lamented that their regions had not received rains for several seasons.

Grazing fields for pastoral communities have dried up and there is inadequate water for their livestock. This leads to conflicts among the communities and cattle rustling.

Immediate action

The leaders urged immediate action to protect their people and their livelihoods.

Malnutrition is threatening children and mothers.

Mr Ali said: There are serious malnutrition rates across the counties and cases of malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers in urgent need of treatment and nutritional support."

Mr Abdullahi added that their inability to intervene due to the transition thats happening in the counties has worsened the situation.

The Wajir governor also called on the relevant bodies to help tackle the emergency.

I wish to call upon our development partners and the national government, including the National Drought Management Authority and other relevant agencies, to intervene in order to alleviate the effects of the emergency drought situation being witnessed, he said.

He added that counties have no money to implement any measures to curb the effects of drought.

The National Treasury has not released money to any of these counties and we dont see that happening probably in the next couple of weeks until such a time when the budgeting process is complete, he said.

The governors urged President Ruto to declare the drought a national disaster. We request the President to announce the situation as a national disaster because it is indeed a disaster, said Governor Mohamud.

He thanked NGOs and other partners for supporting the counties and urged them to scale it up.

End of Northern Kenya governors want hunger declared national disaster



Counties

British soldiers in Kenya pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

Mwangi Ndirangu / Monday, September 19, 2022

Tens of British soldiers gathered in Nanyuki Town, Laikipia County on Monday to pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II whose funeral service was taking place at Westminster Abbey in the United Kingdom.

The members of the British Army Training Unit in Kenya (BATUK), their families and selected local leaders and administrators congregated at their military base at Nyati Barracks for a prayer service that lasted slightly over half an hour.

Presiding priest, Padre Andrew Thompson also prayed for King Charles III, the successor to Queen Elizabeth II.

Almighty father, bless our sovereign Lord King Charles, and all those in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom, equity, righteousness to the honour and glory to your name, for the good of your church and people, the priest said in his sermon.

British Army Training Unit in Kenya follow proceedings of Queen Elizabeths burial on the television at their Nyati barracks in Nanyuki town on September 19, 2022.

Col Duncan Mann, the BATUK commander, described the Queen as an exemplary leader who was highly respected not only with the Commonwealth nations but across the globe during her reign which lasted seven decades.

In his speech, Col Mann said Kenya is particularly immensely close to the Queens heart and revisited how the head of the British monarch went to bed as princess at Treetops Hotel in Nyeri in 1952 only to come down as queen following the death of her Father King George VI.

As we stand here today in Kenya, only 30 miles from the place where Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became our monarch has been felt around the globe. The connection between the Royal Family and Kenya has endured, becoming a place that royals love to visit for the warmth of the Kenyan people, the beautiful countryside and the amazing wildlife which many royals have been personally committed to preserving, said Col Mann.

Col Mann termed the departed queen as a resolute supporter of the armed forces she and her family has led, providing unequalled support around the world.

After 70 years of selfless service to our nation and also her unconstrained devotion to her armed forces, I am proud to stand on parade in Kenya, with my Queens commission wearing medals that bear her image to pay my final respect to one of the greatest leaders in our time, said the military commander.

Kenya has a military pact with the United Kingdom where hundreds of soldiers come for training every year, visiting Laikipia and Samburu counties for military drills.

End of British soldiers in Kenya pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II



Counties

Murang'a man kills brother over Sh50 raw matumbo

Mwangi Muiruri / Monday, September 19, 2022

A 30-year-old man suspected of murdering his elder brother in Murang'a on Sunday evening over missing Sh50 matumbo is on the run.

Police said the suspect cut his brother in the head with a machete in Ihumbu village.

Their father, Mr Onesmus Nduati, said he responded to a commotion in his homestead and found the two arguing.

"The elder one was saying that his brother had stolen a package of matumbo from him. The accused denied it. The younger one had a panga in his hand... I tried to urge them to stop quarrelling and instead talk the issue out," Mr Nduati said.

The suspect complained that he had bought the matumbo from a nearby shopping centre and placed the meat on a tree trunk at the family home as he answered the call of nature.

When he came out, he found the meat gone. Because his brother was in the compound, he concluded that he had either stolen the meat or knew where it was.

Their father said the younger son, "who is generally quarrelsome and with an anger as high as Mt Everest, did not want to settle the dispute in peace but attacked his 36-year old brother with the panga.

Murang'a South sub-county police boss Alexander Shikondi said the 6pm incident was reported at the Maragua Police Station by Mr Nduati.

"We received the report that Moses Mwaura had been seriously injured by his brother. We were also notified that the murder suspect had escaped and had also taken off with the weapon he had used in the attack," Mr Shikondi said.

Mr Mwaura was pronounced dead upon arrival at Maragua Level Four Hospital and the body was transferred to the Murang'a Level Five Hospital mortuary.

Mr Shikondi said officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) had visited the scene.

"We are tracking down the suspect. We are also intending to have an autopsy on the body. We are treating the incident as serious crime of murder," Mr Shikondi said.

End of Murang'a man kills brother over Sh50 raw matumbo



Counties

Court dismisses suit by man claiming to be Kibakis son

Mercy Mwende / Monday, September 19, 2022

An application by a man claiming to be former President Mwai Kibakis biological son has been dismissed.

Nyeri High Court Judge Florence Muchemi said Mr Jacob Ochollas plea, which had sought to have Mr Kibakis family disclose his estate, has been overtaken by events because the children have accepted probate by filing a succession suit at the High Courts Family Division in Milimani, Nairobi.

Currently, the citees in the suit Judy Kibaki, Jimmy Kibaki, David Kagai and Anthony Githinji have done what Mr Ocholla wanted them to do, said the judge.

She directed that the matter be heard instead at the Nairobi High Court because Mr Ocholla has filed a response to the succession suit in Nairobi.

Also read: Man gets custody of child despite protests about unpaid dowry

During the session yesterday, Mr Ochollas lawyer, Omoke Morara, requested to have the matter stayed in Nyeri, saying that in his reply to the succession suit in Nairobi, he requested the court to transfer the case to Nyeri.

But Justice Muchemi ruled that even if the matter were moved to Nyeri, it would still be enjoined with Mr Ochollas succession suit.

Therefore, staying the matter by giving it another mention date will not serve any useful purpose as it is already before another court, said the judge.

In her orders last month, Justice Muchemi directed Mr Kibakis family to file a response to Mr Ochollas application within 21 days.

But during Mondays session, the Kibaki familys lawyer, George Ndungu, told the court that the family had not replied to the application because it has a similar succession suit in Nairobi.

Lawyer Ndungu requested the court to withdraw the matter, arguing that the issues raised by Mr Ocholla would be addressed by the Milimani court.

In the suit, the 62-year-old Mr Ocholla demands to know if the former Head of State bequeathed to him any part of his wealth.

Compel the family

He had requested the court to compel the family to recognise him as the firstborn son of Kenyas third President and to give him an equal share of the departed patriarchs wealth.

Born in Kaloleni, Nairobi, in July 1960, Mr Ocholla told the court that Hillary Ocholla, whom he knew as his father, died on January 28, 1981, and that is when his mother told him that he had been adopted.

In court documents, he expressed fears that he might be left out in the succession process, adding that his attempts to contact Mr Kibakis children had failed.

End of Court dismisses suit by man claiming to be Kibakis son



Counties

Governor Barasa gets down to work as CoG fetes him

Benson Amadala / Monday, September 19, 2022

Barely three days after he was sworn in as the second governor of Kakamega, Mr Fernandes Barasa added another feather to his cap by clinching a key position with the Council of Governors CoG).

The former Ketraco managing director will chair the Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee of CoG.

His election to the position has boosted his profile after he succeeded Wycliffe Oparanya, the countys first governor, who is credited with transforming the regions infrastructure and improving services for residents.

When Mr Barasa announced his decision to run for governor, many wrote him off as a political novice who would face a rough time trying to navigate Kakamegas unpredictable political terrain.

At one point in the campaigns, former senator Cleophas Malala appeared set to easily clinch the governors seat.

But Mr Barasas sustained momentum in the campaigns and his calm disposition carried the day.

Voters picked Mr Barasa, who was fresh from the corporate world and boasted impeccable financial management credentials.

The governors race was a contest between the promise of a youthful and vibrant leadership that Mr Malala promised and the experience of a tested corporate manager who had quit his plum position to offer himself for a political seat back home.

Mr Barasa has promised to build on the foundation set by Mr Oparanya and ensure that all the projects he started are completed. He also wants to improve health services and infrastructure in order to attract investors.

The incomplete projects include phase two of the Bukhungu stadium, Kakamega County Teaching and Referral Hospital, a proposed tea factory in Shinyalu, Kakamega East sub-county, and a milk processing plant in Malava town.

There are Level Four hospitals that need to be rehabilitated and equipped to improve services. The health facilities include Matungu and Butere sub-county hospitals and those in Shamakubu in Shinyalu.

Read: Oparanya praised for triumphs as successor Barasa vows autonomy

As Mr Barasa prepares to settle down for the task ahead, expectations are high among residents of Kakamega who would like to see services up and running and improvements in the management of the countys affairs.

Anti-graft campaign

Governor Barasa has pledged to tackle corruption in his administration and crack down on cartels that he accused of stifling health services.

Residents will be closely watching if the new governor will keep his promises to sustain the momentum of transforming Kakamega into an economic hub in the Western region.

The performance of Mr Barasa as county chief will be in the spotlight given his new role at the GoG.

He is expected to pick a team that will complement his vision and ensure that services and other operations have a positive impact on communities in the 12 sub-counties.

During Mr Barasas swearing-in on Thursday last week, Mr Oparanya received accolades over his development record that led to the county being ranked among the best-performing.

Also read: Cabal around Raila is to blame for his election loss, ally now says

Leaders who attended the inauguration at the Bukhungu stadium showered the former Council of Governors chairman with praises as he handed over the instruments of power to his successor.

Out of the 47 counties, Kakamega has been the best-performing county in terms of development, said Defense Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa.

I salute Mr Oparanya for laying the foundation stone and challenge Mr Barasa to emulate the same and take Kakamega to the next level.

Mr Oparanya was first elected governor on March 4, 2013 and was reelected for his second and last term on August 8, 2017.

He prided himself on laying the foundations for the county when there were no structures or guidelines on what to do.

I took over as the first steward of devolution without any guideline about what the county management was, he said at



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Bukhungu stadium on Thursday.

But my experience in the national government, where I served as the minister of Planning, assisted me to know what to do. Today, we are receiving accolades and visitors who come to learn and adopt our devolution move.

For Mr Barasa, the task ahead in the county and at the CoG is monumental as he attempts to fit into the shoes of his predecessor in his first term in office.

Among other functions, the CoG Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee deals with public finance, including reviewing and monitoring policy and legislation on revenue sharing, budget policy statements, the revenue sharing formula, division of revenue bills and county allocation of revenue bills.

The committee also advises the CoG on legislative amendments and intervention areas on sectoral matters such as amendments to the Public Finance Act, Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act and County Governments Public Finance Management (PFM) regulations.

End of Governor Barasa gets down to work as CoG fetes him



Counties

Kakamega residents complain of stench from uncollected garbage

Shaban Makokha / Monday, September 19, 2022

The business community in Kakamega County has raised the alarm over uncollected garbage piling up in major towns and exposing residents to the risk of diseases.

Traders in Kakamega and Mumias towns, including restaurant owners, shopkeepers, bodaboda riders and jua kali sellers, said the trash is an eyesore and a health hazard and the stench unbearable.

In Kakamega town, traders want the county government to relocate a waste dumpsite located near the bus park.

Eatery owners, clothes sellers, fishmongers and hawkers said the site poses a health risk and is scaring away their customers.

Ms Lucy Waithera claimed they had complained to the county government about the dumpsite but little action was taken.

We have been visiting the offices of the county government several times but they only come and pick up some garbage and leave huge chunks that are rotting on the site. We cannot move because this is where we were allocated our stalls, she said.

The garbage has not been uncollected for many days and is decomposing. The smell is unbearable.

Mr Christopher Kanga, another trader, said the garbage had accumulated for more than five years.

We are not doing any business because customers are not able to withstand the bad smell from the dumpsite, yet we are paying full levies to the county government, he lamented.

During the rainy season, stagnated water mixes with the waste, including dead animals.

Read: After bruising Supreme Court defeat, Raila re-emerges to face political foes

Rotten fruits, vegetables and food waste from eateries and markets are dumped at the receptacle.

Roaches

Mr Kanga said the site is a favourite breeding ground for maggots, rats and roaches, to the agony of many people in the town.

We need an urgent solution because our stomachs are bloated from inhaling the bad odour on a daily basis. The dumpsite should be relocated to a remote place, he said.

Waste disposal is a challenge that cuts across many urban centres in Kenya even with devolution, which took services closer to the people.

Also read: Bungomas Mr Moneybags' ditches Raila for Wetangula in Senate race

County governments have failed to overcome the challenge of garbage disposal, with uncollected mounds of garbage in estates and market centres a common feature.

Mr Hudson Kisanga, the sanitation manager in Kakamega town, said that although the county government had designated dumping sites, residents were disposing of garbage carelessly.

The management of Kakamega and Mumias towns is grappling with the haphazard dumping of garbage because citizens have irresponsible disposal behaviour, Mr Kisanga said.

He said the waste is supposed to remain at the holding centres for a maximum of eight hours before it is collected by youth hired by the county government.

In a day, we collect between 120 and 180 tonnes of the garbage but the big towns are still choked because of the exponential growth in urban populations and partly because people don't dispose of waste at designated points, he said.

Kakamega has contractors who collect garbage, but residents feel the contracts need to be reviewed, claiming some of the companies were lazy.

Residents urged the environment watchdog Nema to compel the county government to keep towns clean.

End of Kakamega residents complain of stench from uncollected garbage



Blogs-opinion

Stop attacks on Supreme Court

Kaltum D. Guyo / Monday, September 19, 2022

Just like in 2017, when the presidential election results had to be decided at the Supreme Court, this year was not any different. The similarities did not end there: The final court judgments were met with angst, insults and threats towards the Supreme Court and its judges.

The culture of attacking the courts is not only irresponsible but a dangerous trend that needs to be nipped in the bud now before the judges and the judicial system come under even deadlier attacks, including loss of lives.

Even more troubling is the fact that the attacks are led by senior lawyers and politicians—two groups that should have a better understanding of the role of the courts and what separation of powers means.

Attacks on the courts should really have ceased after the alleged assassination attempts on one of the Supreme Court judges prior to the 2017 elections. .. an act that was clearly set up to intimidate the judges. The behaviour of intimidating, threatening and even ridiculing judges is barbaric and reeks of impunity. These are things only witnessed in a lawless society. It is behaviour that even dying out in Sicily, which used to be the Mafia capital of the world. A decent society cannot be built on a foundation of impunity.

Apex court

As the apex court in the land, the Supreme Court is there to not only rule on cases based on facts but also ensure that the credibility and legitimacy of the Constitution remains intact. Its given the final say on matters of national importance such as those of the presidential election petition because any wrong decision could easily tip the country over the cliff. And we should know, as bad or unpopular presidential results nearly engulfed the country in flames during the post-election violence of 2007/2008, in which over 1,000 people were killed and many more uprooted from their homes.

Senior lawyers and politicians, who were recently aggrieved, were crying foul on political grounds rather than sound legal reasoning. They had taken sides and somehow felt entitled to the results going their way. However, only impunity-leaning individuals would think that way. But then, the court does not work on whims or party loyalties. It must be guided by the law and the facts within the evidence provided.

As many in Kenya now know, some of the evidence presented before the Supreme Court was found to be riddled with inaccuracies and forgeries. Which part of that did the quasi-politician-cum-lawyer counsel of the complainants not understand?

If documents have inaccuracies or are forged, it means they did not meet the evidential threshold. In the latest presidential election petition, they were also heavily laden with criminal elements. Those complaining should be grateful their compatriots are not facing criminal charges over that. Any other *mwananchi* would have been facing the music for perjury.

Another aspect of the Supreme Court judgment that came under attack was the language used by the judges. This was snobbery from most of the old-school lawyers still hung up on Latin. In my school of thought, no legal judgment or medical report should be written in a language that a lay person—anybody who is not conversant with the legal or medical jargon—cannot understand. Latin is pretty much a dead language and it is time we did away with it as the un-African judges wigs.

It was also great to see more judges appointed to bolster the work of the Judiciary. It's a welcome move.

The next step should be focused on lawyers who use big and unnecessary words in the courtroom, more to bamboozle than to herald any new legal jurisprudence.

Most of the so-called senior lawyers win cases not by sticking to the law but by the use of threats, bribes, social media attacks and big-speak (read hot air).

Law Society of Kenya should rein in its lawyers to create a fairer court process. Justice should never be allowed to go the way of the loudest and the most crooked.

Conflict of interest

The era of politicians moonlighting as lawyers must also come to a screeching stop, owing to the conflict of interest. They muddy the waters when it comes to justice. In the recent presidential petition, Azimio la Umoja lawyers were mostly politicians. They were not in court in pursuit of justice but to save their political party. If they had won based on false evidence, it would have been a miscarriage of justice.



Blogs-opinion

Stop attacks on Supreme Court

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The same goes for any other political party risking the use of false evidence in court. Hence the need for the Supreme Court to arbitrate with a view to sifting through the evidence for facts and justice.

The appropriate mechanism of complaints against judges has been established within the Judicial Service Commission (JSC). It was incumbent on the losing party, their lawyers and supporters to follow the official complaints procedure within JSC than run riot on social media to attack the Supreme Court.

Social media is not the right place for the aggrieved parties to discuss legal matters that are or have been in court. Its akin to knocking ones head against a virtual wall.

Ms Guyo is a legal researcher. @kdiguyo

End of Stop attacks on Supreme Court



Presidents decisive moves welcome even in early days

Tom Mshindi / Sunday, September 18, 2022

A tentative conclusion from the early directives given by President William Ruto is that he is a man in a hurry to make an impact and that he probably is going to be a lot more decisive than his immediate predecessor once his mind is made up on what option he chooses to take. These are welcome traits because way too many decisions need to be made in a hurry and indecision is not helpful in dealing with circumstances such as the country is facing.

The day one decision to appoint the six judges recommended for hiring by the Judicial Service Commission more than three years ago was particularly welcome since the former President should not have stood in the way of the recommendation, even disobeying several court orders to effect the JSC decision.

Conflicting emotions

The one to revert goods clearance services to the port of Mombasa has elicited conflicting emotions since as many oppose it as there are those that support it. It is an emotive issue and the President is well aware of the implications. But he had made a promise to the Coast people that he would do it.

Mombasa specifically and the coastal belt applauded heartily, but the move will also certainly hurt those that had honestly invested in opportunities that the inland container clearance infrastructure offered. Few will however sympathise with those who, using powerful offices and connections, had influenced the setting-up of the container depot in what is believed to be private land with the aim of unjustly reaping massive rewards.

All in all, implementation of the directive needs to be sensitive to fair concerns and to the need to limit losses to legitimate businesses and to the public. Serious amounts of taxpayer money have gone into putting up the infrastructure that may be rendered superfluous by the Presidents directive.

The creation of a task force to receive views on the implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum education model is welcome because of the need to clarify many issues and complaints that have been raised about the rollout. Those quick to criticise the directive should pause because no one has said anything about rolling it back.

The fuel subsidy was always going to go and Kenyans must brace for much harder times before things improve. Rather, we should be spending more time proposing and critiquing measures that the new government can introduce quickly to shorten the time Kenyans will suffer.

Cushion wananchi

Is it possible, for instance, for Parliament to be asked to temporarily delay the Kenya Revenue Authority's announced intent from October 1 to adjust upwards by 6.3 per cent the excise duty applicable on a range of products used by the majority of households? I am sure it is possible to do this and cushion wananchi for a while.

Many will commend the decision by the President to reduce the cost of a bag of fertiliser from Sh6,500 to Sh3,000, and also ensure that 1.4 million bags are also immediately available for purchase. But we also know that this is a subsidy-based short-term measure to ease an immediate challenge. It is not sustainable.

It will take a lot more for small-scale agriculture which is what drives more than 85 per cent of the sector to thrive and produce enough to feed the farmer and leave some extra income to fund other needs. The entire value chain from farm preparation, to input, to crop management, to harvesting, post-harvest handling up to the marketing of the produce presents interlinked challenges that must be addressed.

Inimical cultural practices

Climate change uncertainties and inimical cultural practices in some communities simply complicate an already very complex problem. But long-term solutions exist and what has lacked is decisiveness and prioritisation.

Prioritisation, decisiveness and probably sabotage have also frustrated the implementation of an initiative that could be a game changer in the manufacturing sector. This is creating a legally enabling environment for the implementation of a Local Content Mechanism that could demand that over a period of time, all products manufactured for sale in this country, must contain a specified amount of local content.

Such a plan had been developed and presented to the past government by a local company, but it has never gone beyond positive feedback hence the strong suspicion that sabotage may have a hand here. What is needed is a speedy implementation of the same. It is one solution the Presidents team does not need to overthink and whose results are well documented.



Blogs-opinion

Presidents decisive moves welcome even in early days

Tom Mshindi / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Revive agriculture and boost manufacturing and you will be well on the way to improving the lives of Kenyans. Prioritise, be decisive and make your technocrats work. You cant afford to fail in this, Mr. President.

Mr Mshindi, a former Editor-in-Chief of Nation Media Group, is now consulting. ; @TMshindi

End of Presidents decisive moves welcome even in early days



Nationalism, a danger to democracy

Makau Mutua / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Few forces in history have been more enduring and more destructive than nationalism, or its close derivative, sub-nationalism. Nationalism does not necessarily have negative connotations.

At its core, nationalism can be understood as an ideology that advocates that the nation – the political society and the state – is the locus of sovereignty and self-governance free of external coercion and domination. In this rendering, nationalism sees the nation – meaning the people – as the actual source of power and popular sovereignty.

There is no doubt that nationalism was one of the key ideologies that drove the struggle for self-determination and decolonisation. This was an anti-imperial, liberatory strand of nationalism that sought to reclaim Africa from European political, economic, cultural and intellectual domination.

Exclusionary impulses

It was an affirming nationalism without exclusionary impulses. But there are other forms of nationalism that define themselves as oppositional to the other. One expression of such nationalism would support one's national interests but to the detriment of other nations and peoples.

This has often led to isolationism or imperialism. Perhaps the most toxic forms of nationalism and sub-nationalism are inspired by race, culture and ethnicity. Racial and ethnic nationalism drove the colonial project. The imposition of Christianity as part of the colonial project cannot be isolated from white supremacy. Denys Shropshire, a white missionary in Africa, noted that Africans as a primitive people had not developed the sovereignty of reason.

A. H. Barrow, another European missionary, argued that the mission to Africa was the least that we [Europeans] can do to strive to raise him [the African] in the scale of mankind. By no means have deep-seated racist and ethnically bigoted views been expressed only against Africans – and then used to subject, or attempt, to destroy a whole people.

Racial hatred driven by the supposed superiority of the Aryan race over all others led to the Nazi Holocaust. The enslavement of Africans by Europeans and White Americans is a classic example of white nationalist supremacy.

In the case of Germany, ethnic and racial nationalism exerted itself at home and abroad, and sought global domination. It rejected the liberal constraints of political democracy. In it is the textbook application of the failure of the nation-state, or put differently, the inability of the liberal toolkit to contain the madness of nationalist and sub-nationalist hatreds.

What lends itself in the structure and normative canvas of political democracy in the crucible of the modern state to subvert liberalism? The crisis of liberalism, and its inability to realise the ideal society it imagines, is partially rooted in the problematic relationship between the nation – the people who inhabit the country – and the state, the political instrumentality that governs the nation and the country.

Competing interests

This crisis arises because of the competing interests within the nation between the diverse nationalities to husband resources and political power. There is a natural tension between the nation and the state, and the inability to separate the two, or at least to prevent the capture of the state by the nation, or one or several of its nationalities.

When the state is so captured, it may be rendered a servant of one of the nationalities to the exclusion of others. This nightmare scenario for liberalism can often vanquish the centrality of individual rights and individualism, as opposed to racial or ethnical group consciousness and identities – as the pillar for governance and decision-making.

In other words, benign nationalism, defined as patriotism or commitment to the national polity as a whole, is replaced by pernicious ethnic, religious and racial mass consciousness that sees the other as the enemy against whom power should be exercised by exclusion, marginalisation, demonisation, or even extermination. The state is then untethered from its liberal moors and set adrift in the turbulent seas of xenophobia, racism and ethnic chauvinism. In this climate, the risk of pogroms against minorities, or those without power, is heightened.

Citizen disillusionment

In Europe and the United States, the rise of white nationalism has thrown open many seemingly settled questions about the liberal state, and the values by which it should be governed. Often, white nationalism is couched as populism, or citizen disillusionment with elitist, out-of-touch governments and institutions that threaten national, cultural and traditional heritages from within and without.

The white nationalist sentiment that stokes European hatred of migrants with fears that black and brown refugees and



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Nationalism, a danger to democracy

Makau Mutua / Sunday, September 18, 2022

migrants are a threat to European values and traditions aims to torpedo the liberal values of open society, tolerance, equal protection, the rule of law, multi-culturalism, diversity and anti-discrimination.

Even serene and stereotypically liberal and tolerant Sweden has been no exception. In America, Donald Trump rode on a wave of white xenophobia to the White House. Once in office, Trump waged an unprecedented war against civil liberties, democratic institutions, the judiciary, the press, the notion of separation of powers, immigrants and refugees, and the rule of law in general. In a word, he singlehandedly wrecked long-standing norms and protocols of American democracy. Can democracy in Kenya and elsewhere weather these illiberal fascist tendencies?

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End of Nationalism, a danger to democracy



Queen leaves UK still divided by class and with Kenyan blood on its hands

Gitau Warigi / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Elizabeth Windsor, otherwise known as Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was loved by her subjects. They called her the matriarch of the realm. She lived for so long that the majority of them knew no other sovereign. The story of her life has been told repetitively by fawning British commentators incapable of uttering a critical word about her.

The House of Windsor is the ultimate dynasty. In a modern world which has become egalitarian, the institution of monarchy is an anachronism. That hereditary accidents of birth can determine the destiny of individuals and nations is outdated.

British society has a very rigid class system. That is the most regrettable attribute of that country. Like caste is to India, so is class to Britain. Social status means everything. If you are born of the great aristocratic and landed families, you have a life of privilege as your due.

You will most likely be enrolled in elite Eton or Harrow schools. You stand a far better chance than a commoner of being admitted to Oxford or Cambridge. When you graduate you'll probably be fast-tracked for a prestigious government or diplomatic job, or one in London's financial district. Life is not a lottery for you. It's pre-ordained. From birth to death.

That heredity and birth status can play such an outsized role in a society is antithetical to today's values. It's unfair and entrenches gross inequality. Expansion of higher education and the democratisation of business opportunities certainly have contributed to an improved meritocratic English society, yet the class structure remains stubbornly intact.

House of Lords

In fact the titles of the peerage (the so-called nobility) read like the medieval era: dukes, marquesses, earls, viscounts, barons. These aristocrats and their heirs were entitled to sit in the unelected House of Lords in perpetuity. Until prime minister Tony Blair changed the rules in 1999 in favour of "Life peers," who are appointed by the government but cannot pass on their titles. Mark you, the House of Lords is not impotent. It can amend or delay legislation passed by the House of Commons.

The British monarchy sits at the apex of this overarching class hierarchy. It is both its rock and pillar. In turn the aristocracy is the monarchy's shield and defender. It will do everything to protect royalty and privilege. The monarch is far from just being ceremonial. She has quiet influence over prime ministers and via shadowy state bodies like the Privy Council. Palace courtiers also exert sway across the bureaucracy.

The royal family is of course fabulously wealthy, much as they try to keep that under wraps. Their best-known asset is the Crown Estate, one of the UK's biggest property portfolios (approximate value: £16.5 billion). It's administered by the government on the monarch's behalf. In return, the monarch gets 25 per cent of the estate's annual profits, called the Sovereign Grant.

There's also the Duchy of Lancaster, a private estate held in trust for the reigning sovereign. It consists of 45,550 acres holdings, urban developments and commercial properties, which were last valued at £818 million. There's another trust property called the Duchy of Cornwall which the eldest son of a monarch inherits.

Much of this 135,000-acre estate comprises of farmland, but also includes homes and commercial properties all worth £1 billion. The royal family gets princely incomes from the two duchies, without touching the underlying capital. Only from 1992 did the royals start paying taxes.

Queen's State funeral

The Royal family has many other valuable assets. Of the two dozen or so palaces and royal residences across the UK, Elizabeth counted two as her personal property: Sandringham estate and Balmoral castle (where she died). Never mind that the residences are maintained by taxpayers. The government will foot the cost of the Queen's State funeral, naturally. It also does so for the occasional extravagant royal wedding, even of minor royals.

Elizabeth was known to have a huge portfolio of private investments (some offshore), a treasure of precious jewels (excluding the Crown Jewels), priceless artworks, thoroughbred racehorses, and a £100 million stamp collection. Ah, those horses. And Elizabeth's corgi dogs. They were truly the love of her life.

Charles III, Elizabeth's heir, would do well to copy the relative frugality of Scandinavian royalty and downsize the



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monarchy. This will align better with Britain's diminished economic circumstances. In the past he has hinted he prefers a slimmed down circle of "working" royals rather than the sprawling and expensive establishment his mother kept, comprising her children, grandchildren and cousins. Above all, Charles should modernise the monarchy if he can't scrap it altogether. The stuffiness and archaic pageantry all need to go.

Charles should also discard his late mother's sentimentality over the Commonwealth. The ex-colonies no longer find the body terribly useful. It has lost relevance except perhaps in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Even the Caribbean statelets who looked up to the British monarch as head of state are pulling away. Barbados recently declared itself a republic. Jamaica and Bahamas intend to follow suit. The breakup of the UK itself is possible if a push in Scotland for independence succeeds.

Clueless as ever, Uhuru Kenyatta has lavished praise on Elizabeth, which is okay at a personal level, without any acknowledgement of the horrible atrocities Britain committed in colonial Kenya. You can't separate the empire she represented from its legacy of colonial repression, exploitation and concentration camps. Nine months after Elizabeth first visited Kenya in 1952, a State of Emergency was declared and a period of imperial terror got unleashed.

Supreme Court, stop being prima donnas. Katiba grants freedom to speak, to insult also. Social media regularly roasts presidents and even the Pope. Drop the hubris. Grow thick skins.

End of Queen leaves UK still divided by class and with Kenyan blood on its hands



Profound lessons from William Ruto's arduous path to power

Irungu Kang'ata / Sunday, September 18, 2022

As I sat near the main podium watching Dr William Ruto swearing into the presidency, I could not help but reminisce his long arduous journey to victory. Two deep philosophical queries taxed my mind.

First, why is it that those that desire to succeed must work so hard against great odds? Jesus himself, before facing the cross, desired to avoid the toils. In Luke 22 verse 42, Jesus prayed as follows: Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.

Of course crucifixion was important to his whole endeavour to save mankind, but Jesus was merely appreciating that the odds were heavy. In a nutshell, the struggles people undergo in order to succeed are often too taxing. For Ruto to clinch the presidency, fate required that he be arraigned on false charges in a foreign land (The Hague) in 2011.

This negative fate helped him consolidate his Rift Valley base. Without this odd, there is every likelihood Ruto would not have united with Uhuru. This unity laid the ground for Ruto's eventual conquest of Mt Kenya. The second great odd was Uhuru's onslaught after the 2018 handshake with Raila. This odd of betrayal planted the seeds for sympathy votes, which ultimately helped Ruto.

Read: President Ruto owes his success in politics to his mother

Dr Ruto is not alone in this fate of 'no-gain-without-pain'. Major historical figures have faced great odds as a prerequisite for their eventual success. Kenyatta I had to be imprisoned by the Whiteman to become President. Museveni and Kagame had to endure sleepless nights in the bush to topple dictatorships. Musical group Culture (One Stone) sang "President Mandela was in prison for 27 years, and he came from prison and took the seat of the president".

Suffering

Maybe this is how life was designed to be. Suffering is an antecedent to success. Jesus captures this in a story well explained in the bible; Mark 10.39. Two men desired greatness, James and John. They came forward to Jesus and said to him, Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you. And he said to them, What is it you want me to do for you? And they said to him, Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.

But Jesus said to them, You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with? They replied, We are able. Then Jesus said to them, The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.

When the two heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus said to them, You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognise as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Sacrifice and suffering

Leadership, therefore, must entail sacrifice and suffering. It is never a walk in the park. It, therefore, followed that Ruto had to endure hardships to win.

The second philosophical question that came to my mind as I sat near Dr Ruto was the reverse of the first question. How come tormentors do not see the folly of their actions? How come Uhuru seemed not to countenance the possibility of the loss of his project?

Why did the British fight Mau Mau instead of realising that colonialism was headed for an obvious end? Why did Gaddafi fail to spot the Arab spring and escape?

Read: William Ruto's rise to the pinnacle on first stab sets new high

The Mt Kenya revolt against Kenyatta was a historical moment. There are many historical examples of persons failing to spot historical moments. This phenomenon is called 'sleeping through a revolution'.

When the French revolted in 1792 against the monarchy, it is claimed Queen Marie Antoinette Joséphe Jeanne was so out of touch that she inquired why the people were revolting for bread.

She proposed they eat cake (historians now say this was a false narrative, but the narrative captures the notion of ignorance by persons who are fairly knowledgeable in times of great revolutions like the instant Mt Kenya political



Profound lessons from Wiliam Rutos arduous path to power

Irungu Kang'ata / Sunday, September 18, 2022

upheaval).

The answer to this question lies in the quality of leaders who rise to power. Good leaders need to be philosopher kings, as rightly argued by Plato. The philosopher king is a hypothetical ruler in whom political skill is combined with philosophical knowledge.

The concept is first explored in Plato's Republic, written around 375 BC. Plato argued that the ideal state one which ensured the maximum possible happiness for all its citizens could only be brought into being by a ruler possessed of absolute knowledge, obtained through philosophical study.

Historical foresight

Such leaders are able to decipher where history is heading towards and act accordingly. One such leader was American President Abraham Lincoln (1862-1865). He faced the challenge of the institution of slavery in an era where blacks were viewed as sub-human.

He had the historical foresight of knowing slavery was untenable and despite the great odds, including adverse public opinion, he abolished it. History vindicated him. Another great leader who had the foresight of deciphering historical patterns was Deng Xiaoping of China (1979-1991).

He was a leader of the powerful Communist party but he wisely noted that communism would decay. He quickly pivoted his country towards capitalism and thus planted the seeds of a new prosperous China. His counterpart in Russia failed to follow suit and that country remains economically static.

As Rutos swearing-in ended, I was a glad man. This is because Ruto indeed is a philosopher king. If he deploys the wisdom he displayed in tackling the deep state and the many forces arraigned against him towards economic development, Kenya is headed towards an economic leap forward.

Dr Kangata is the Governor of Muranga County.

End of Profound lessons from Wiliam Rutos arduous path to power



Africa

South Africa plunged into open-ended power crisis

Chris Erasmus / Monday, September 19, 2022

South Africa's electricity crisis has moved to its most severe stage yet, the national grid nearing total collapse and the power utility Eskom urging citizens, businesses and municipalities to cut usage.

Serial failures, even on recently commissioned power units, and planned outages for maintenance sometimes lead to several outages a day.

Previous outages at lower levels than the Stage 6 rolling blackouts declared Sunday morning as five more coal-fired power units failed overnight were estimated to cost the country over \$57 million daily.

The impact on businesses is severe and on households highly disruptive, with all parts of the economy constrained, including education, hit hard.

Eskom's executives, saying some level of load-shedding would be in place likely for the rest of 2022, attempted to calm rising fears that the utility was headed for complete failure.

Also read: Energy-stricken S.Africa weighs need to save climate and keep lights on

The latest extension of blackouts had been forced by a fuel shortage in the strained systems emergency back-up diesel turbines, South Africans were told, with media asking related questions in what amounted to a nationally televised Zoom session.

The problem would take days to rectify as replenishing diesel was by road truck.

Other backup systems had been exhausted, though such systems require about a day to recharge.

It was possible that the current punishing schedule of outages might be improved by one stage by late Sunday if repairs were made by then, but there are no promises being made.

With load-shedding becoming no longer an intermittent inconvenience but a daily and apparently permanent reality for at least another two years, Eskom CEO Andre de Ruyter and his executive team, appointed three years ago, have been urged to sort out the firm's many problems.

Even at South Africa's usually reliable nuclear power plant at Koeberg, near Cape Town, there has been unexpected trouble with equipment controlling one of its two units, which were shut down, though with no danger to the reactor itself.

Eskom has consequently been reduced to pleading with customers to cut their consumption in order to protect the grid from complete collapse.

Eskom, which supplies about 95 percent of South Africa's electricity and over 40 percent of Africa's, has had decades of poor management, inadequate future planning and insufficient maintenance of its existing, mainly coal-fired plants.

Biggest and costliest

South Africa's installed capacity was 51.6GWe as of 2020, of which coal-fired stations accounted for about 38GWe, most of which are aged and requiring much maintenance.

But South Africa also has two of the biggest and costliest coal-fired plants in the world, newly built in Medupi and Kusile. They are also among the most controversial, with enormous cost overruns, extended construction times and costly, post-construction re-engineering of key elements in multiple power-producing units.

The latest cuts have been met with renewed calls for a full replacement of the top executive and management teams at Eskom, but such changes were made previously and the situation has only deteriorated since, energy experts point out.

South Africa needs around 32-33GW at peak times in winter to operate without outages, and is supposed to have around 32GW of available capacity at any time, with around 7GW under planned maintenance and the rest taken up by unplanned outages.

With repair teams working 24 hours a day, Eskom is turning to any suppliers there may be. In due course, ordinary citizens will be allowed to feed back rooftop PV and other self-generated electricity into the grid.

Also read: Arrests at Eskom: Why S. Africa's New Dawn may at last be arriving

As of Monday, September 19, major industrial entities, such as wood pulp and paper producer SAPPI and oil-from-coal maker SASOL, will be able to sell back to the grid any excess energy their co-generational systems may have.

With around 8GW of renewable energy power production mostly PV, some with storage, and wind coming online or



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being set up, South Africa's energy crisis is expected to begin easing about two years out.

In the latest bid window for independent power producers, another 16GW has been allocated, much to solar with storage.

Together, the extra 24GW should sort out the supply-side constraints on the South African electrical grid, though there are other problems looming, including a very old and under-maintained distribution network.

Meanwhile, Eskom will be staggering from crisis to crisis, the intermittent power it supplies gradually degrading everything that relies on electricity, from computer systems and TVs to the electrical supply grid itself.

End of South Africa plunged into open-ended power crisis



Africa

How coastal West Africa can stem the jihadist wave

The Conversation / Monday, September 19, 2022

Jihadist conflicts are now a part of West Africa's political makeup, as militant Islamist groups resist numerous campaigns to counter them.

In 2021, three of the ten countries most affected by terrorism globally were Sahel countries: Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, according to the 2022 Global Terrorism Index.

Similarly, ten of the 20 deadliest attacks of 2021 occurred in the region. In 2022, most member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are dealing with some form of militant Islamist presence.

This presence is strengthening southwards in coastal West African countries, especially those that border the Sahel countries. Benin and Togo, for example, have experienced recent attacks.

These developments come with a staggering cost. Aside from deaths, injuries and displaced persons, confidence is waning in countries' ability to govern and to support healthy economies.

Also read: *The Woman King* is more than an action movie: it shines a light on the women warriors of Benin

Countries have therefore initiated regional programmes to counter terrorism, such as the Accra Initiative (2017), and several national legal and policy frameworks.

These range from border security to intelligence gathering and building community resilience.

These measures are necessary but not enough. Coastal West African countries must think differently to prevent jihadist conflicts from worsening.

They must move away from traditional counter-terrorism practices which respond to the threat in the short term, towards nation building interventions that prevent it in the long term.

There must be a more comprehensive look at the threat, taking into account the governance issues that have led to the present. How did we get here?

Militant Islamist groups have undergone many changes: splits, alliances and shifting allegiances to global projects such as ISIS and Al Qaeda.

Militant Islamist

Between 2010 and 2017, campaigns to counter militant Islamist groups were mainly geographically focused on individual groups such as Boko Haram, Ansar Dine, MUJAO, and al Mourabitoun.

As the threat becomes more regional and less national, there is less mention of individual groups.

Jihadist coalitions such as the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), and Jamaat Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) have become more prominent.

This shows that Islamist militant groups are consolidating their presence. They are defying national boundaries and numerous counter-terrorism efforts.

Moreover, over time, the activities of militant Islamist groups are increasingly presenting them as criminal cells engaging in profiteering and destructive politics.

They act less like grievance-based organisations seeking religious puritanism and alternative politics.

Still, they could continue to strengthen their reach and increase and threaten multiple levels of security. A new approach to violent extremism

West African countries need a different approach to countering violent extremism.

They must see the enablers of terrorism in different shades and degrees.

The ease with which Islamist groups are strengthening across the West African sub-region indicates that coastal countries' socio-political, geographical and historical makeup is not very different from that of Mali, Burkina Faso or Niger, in terms of the conditions that give rise to terrorism.

Countries also need to appreciate that jihadist groups are not all the same as each other. The elements and actors of Islamist militancy differ regarding the type of presence, modus operandi, fundamental and strategic motives and the balance of power between them and others.

Coastal West African countries must therefore disaggregate the threat and respond accordingly. Sustainable and comprehensive counter-terrorism must cover more ground and have short-term, medium-term and long-term measures.



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What works in one place doesn't necessarily work elsewhere. Military campaigns may work in Iraq, but not necessarily in the Sahel. Similarly, coastal West African countries may not need the same prevention measures as Mali.

The days when Islamist groups were simply Islamic, Middle Eastern and anti-West are also over.

Also read: As the world fled Afghanistan, China set up footprint

They are active political actors, even if they are aberrations to the norm. And jihadist and non-jihadist conflicts are more alike than they are different.

Violent Islamist extremist groups are also as African as they are global, if not more so. The Sahel situation challenges claims that jihadist groups are fundamentally external. For this reason, Islamist militancy in coastal West African countries is not a coming threat; it's already here, as part of the present.

Seeing it this way allows countries to look inward rather than outward to counter violent extremism.

It also takes the emphasis away from border security and puts it on human security to prevent groups from growing within countries. Some solutions

Coastal countries must recognise that decisions and statements could be part of the problem. For instance, the dragnet attack on suspected Boko Haram members in 2009, leading to the death of leading member Mohammed Yusuf, pushed the group to become more militant.

Political statements and policies can also fuel Islamophobia and legitimise the rhetoric of militancy.

Surveillance practices can backfire. Certain words can turn counter-extremism insights into insults that undermine national security.

That's why, without careful implementation, even Ghana's See Something, Say Something campaign could create more problems. Security agencies, therefore, require training in cultural diversity, religious sensitivity and national belonging during their work.

Also read: Al-Qaeda mans killing to boost the war on terror

Then there is the need for African leadership in response policies. For example, counterinsurgency by Mozambican forces in conjunction with Rwanda and the Southern African Development Community has resulted in a reduction in terrorism deaths.

In this sense, the Accra Initiative is vital. However, regional power dynamics could also defeat counter-terrorism efforts. This happened in the Lake Chad basin with the Multinational Joint Task Force.

Multilateral partnerships in counter-terrorism are crucial, especially through intergovernmental organisations such as the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS. But actors must acknowledge the different political settings and not impose a universal logic on particular local contexts.

Local grievances and governance deficits are the key causes of political extremism. That's why governments must take some blame for the conditions that foster extremist political sentiments.

It is also why West African countries must not only defeat terrorism, they must also resolve the conditions that produce it.

End of How coastal West Africa can stem the jihadist wave



Sudan-South Sudan border dispute rages on 10 years since war

Fred Oluoch / Monday, September 19, 2022

Eleven years after South Sudan separated from the previous larger Sudan, the two countries are still arguing about where the boundary lies.

While they agreed to open borders in October 2021, they differ on the exact borderline and crossing points are yet to open.

Officials are concerned that despite the agreement to open four border points for free movement of people and goods, communal land issues had blocked cross-border trading.

The two countries are suffering from the effects of not implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. They dispute several border crossing points, undermining trade.

Last years agreement specified that four crossing posts closed when a war broke out in 2013 be opened. They are Jebelain-Renk, Meiram, Buram -Timsah and Kharsana-Panakuac.

Also Read: Rockets fired as Ethiopia, Sudan border clash escalates

But the crossing points remain closed. One of the obstacles is the local population, said Sudans ambassador to South Sudan Jamal Malik.

"It appears that some people do not want those crossing points to be opened due to land disputes, so the two countries must work harder to persuade those people," he said.

Both countries were devastated by the closure of the crossing points. South Sudan is landlocked and relies on crude oil exports through Sudan. For its part, Sudan had relied on fees from South Sudans exports of oil and consumable goods to South Sudan.

There are 11 border states five in South Sudan and six in Sudan. They may constitute roughly half of the population of the two countries. The countries border is neither defined nor delimited.

The Sudan 2005 peace pact established mechanisms for delimiting and demarcating borders. But the process failed because the parties were unable to reach a political agreement on contested border areas.

When South Sudan gained independence in 2011, its border with its northern neighbour was officially established. The two countries went to war in 2012 over the disputed oil-rich area of Heglig, which is on the border. This triggered the closure of the border, disrupting cross-border movement.

Also Read: Blinken, Omamo discuss regional security

Despite the closure, traders and Arab pastoralists devised informal trade and movement routes. The African Union also intervened, mediating a "soft border" agreement, which was signed in 2012.

The two countries also agreed to form high-level committees to address the status of the Abyei area. Because it straddles the border and has rich oil reserves, Abyei is economically desirable for both countries and critical for border stability.

The push to open the borders began in 2019 after a popular uprising in Sudan that ousted Omar al-Bashir in 2019. The new political environment was aided further by Sudan's new leadership, led by former Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, an experienced economist who worked for the UN for over two decades.

The closure of border crossings has significantly disrupted trade and people movement, says Tong Akeen Ngor, governor of Northern Bahr el Ghazal state. For example, he claims that reopening the two roads between Meram and Majok and Gok-Dhein would facilitate the movement of goods and services.

End of Sudan-South Sudan border dispute rages on 10 years since war



Africa

Zulu king's aide found dead in South Africa

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

An adviser to South Africa's Zulu king, crowned as monarch last month despite a challenge from within the royal family, was killed at the weekend on the sidelines of a traditional ceremony, according to a local official.

Dumisani Blasius Khumalo "was killed by unknown gunmen Saturday night, shortly after attending the Reed Dance in Nongoma", Sihle Zikalala, a member of the regional legislature, said in a statement.

King MisuZulu Zulu confirmed "one of my chiefs has been hurt, Dr Khumalo".

"My heart is very sore that something like this has happened to us," he said.

"Those who committed this crime, I swear to God they will be found."

Also Read: Zulu King in trouble for 'fathering' incestuous children

Some 10,000 people gathered Saturday in the small town of Nongoma, a Zulu stronghold in the southeastern KwaZulu-Natal province, for the traditional "reed dance".

During the centuries-old ritual, the girls present themselves to the king of the country's largest ethnic group, which numbers 11 million Zulus, almost one in five South Africans.

It was the new king's first reed ceremony.

Opponents of the new ruler had issued threats and predicted a "bloodbath" if the celebration went ahead.

Security had been stepped up.

Khumalo, the king's chief advisor, was responsible for settling disputes within the Zulu community.

In South Africa, some communal disputes are settled in traditional courts rather than in a state judicial setting.

"He was very loyal to the royal family and he worked closely with MisuZulu's father before," said Khaya Ndwandwe, a Zulu culture expert.

Since the death of Goodwill Zwelithini last year after a reign of 50 years, a dispute over succession has raged.

In South Africa, traditional rulers and chiefs are recognised by the constitution and exercise significant moral authority.

MisuZulu kaZwelithini, recognised by President Cyril Ramaphosa, was born to the favourite and third wife of Goodwill Zwelithini.

The first wife challenged the succession in court, which rejected the claim.

The late king's eldest son, who was born out of wedlock, filed an emergency lawsuit this week claiming he was the rightful heir.

Brothers of Goodwill Zwelithini also claimed the throne for another contender.

At the ceremony Saturday, the new king called for "peace and unity (to) prevail in the royal house".

End of Zulu king's aide found dead in South Africa



Africa

How Nyege Nyege Festival went down

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

As thousands of revellers grooved to the sounds of Uganda's sold-out Nyege Nyege music festival on the banks of the Nile, relieved organisers said an attempted "immorality" ban had only served to boost sales.

A public outcry forced Ugandan authorities to reverse the ban -- imposed over claims that the four-day extravaganza promoted sex, homosexuality and drug use -- but not before news of the prohibition made international headlines.

Some of the partygoers attending the festival, which brings together artists from across Africa, told AFP they had only heard about the event that ended on Sunday thanks to the ban announced earlier this month.

"I learnt about the festival when the government of Uganda banned it on claims it was promoting immorality", British engineer David Kempson told AFP.

Also Read: Uganda ethics minister 'loses to the devil'

The 31-year-old Londoner had never been to Africa but the news prompted him to book a flight and make his way to Uganda's scenic Itanda Falls, where he joined 12,000 revellers -- including 5,000 foreign tourists.

"It is my first time in Africa. I didn't expect this much, the huge fan presence, the greenery, the waterfalls and hospitality," he said.

It was the second ban slapped on the festival since 2018, when Uganda's former ethics minister Simon Lokodo, an outspoken homophobe, called the event an orgy of homosexuality, nudity and drugs akin to "devil worship".

Then too the ban failed to hold, following a social media outcry.

But this time, the prohibition proved to be an inadvertent publicity bonanza for the festival, organisers said.

"We are headed for a much bigger number (that) we never anticipated," the event's co-founder Arlen Dilsizian told AFP, referring to ticket sales.

The ban "increased vigour and interest in the festival", drawing visitors from the United States, China, Europe and the Middle East, he said.

The festival, which moved to a new, larger outdoor venue this year, began in 2015 but had been on a pandemic-induced hiatus since 2020.

Nyege Nyege means an irresistible urge to dance in the local Luganda language, but it can have a sexual connotation in other languages in the region.

Nyege Nyege festival-goers dance at the Itanda Falls on the second day of Nyege Nyege festival, the annual four-day international music festival, in Jinja, Uganda on September 16, 2022.

Although Dilzianian insisted that "no evidence of sex orgies have been adduced by anybody making the allegations", the festival was held under tight security, following a government directive against "contraband, narcotic drugs, vulgar language, songs, expressions and gestures".

Also Read: All you need to know about the Nyege-Nyege festival

Information Minister Chris Baryomunsi earlier warned that if there were serious breaches such as "sex orgies and nudity", police would halt the event and clear the site.

Despite the presence of a police van outfitted with sensor cameras and remote-controlled drones, fans were unperturbed, determined to savour the buzz and the chance to see celebrated musicians such as 80-year old Cameroonian Eko Roosevelt.

"When I come for Nyege Nyege, I become free, I meet people from all over Africa and beyond, we laugh and dance, stress goes away," Pamela Nyinabangi, a 27-year-old beauty salon owner from the capital Kampala, told AFP.

Another attendee, Kenyan businessman Isaac Odwor, told AFP the festival was "the only event where African music is given prominence and we get to interact with the musicians and artists."

This year's performance is taking place against the backdrop of an economic crisis as the prices of key commodities from fuel to food rise in the wake of the war in Ukraine.

From street food hawkers to makers of handmade jewelry, many Ugandans hoped the festival would lift their fortunes as tourists thronged the premises, listening to music, taking a dip in the Nile or going white water rafting.

After holding Nyege Nyege's first international edition in Paris earlier this year, organisers plan to take it to Cameroon



Africa

How Nyege Nyege Festival went down

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

next year.

"It is one of a kind festival," British visitor Tom Uragallo told AFP.

"You can go for a swim in the Nile in the morning and then dance the night away till the early hours."

End of How Nyege Nyege Festival went down



Sports

Posta hammer Ministry of Transport, Zoo cage CA in Kecoso Games

Bernard Rotich / Monday, September 19, 2022

Postal Corporation of Kenya (CPK) hammered the Ministry of Transport Infrastructure and Urban Development 7-0 goals in the ongoing Kenya Communications Sports Organisation (Kecoso) Games on Monday.

Posta were well organised and superior against the state department at Kericho Green Stadium, with rains pounding the area in the last half hour of the contest.

Timothy Otieno struck a hat-trick fourth, 14th and 28th minutes while Vincent Wasambo struck twice in the 47th and 50th minutes.

Patrick Otieno scored the sixth goal in the 64th minute while Dinklen Mwema netted the last goal of the match in the 87th minute.

We played against an experienced and superior team of players who are in the Kenyan Premier League, yet we are not in any of the ranked leagues in the country, Benard Ramoya, the Ministry of Transport head coach told Nation Sport after the match.

Ramoya said his players most of whom are students at the Kenya Institute of Highway and Building Technology - need exposure to compete at the top.

Kericho is proving very tricky to play in the afternoon with heavy rains. Players slip and fall, but we are grateful there were no injuries, he added.

Pascal Ochieng, Posta assistant coach, said in a post-match interview that he was elated the team had started their campaign on a high note.

I wish to congratulate our players for the performance, but we must remember that every team has its strengths and weaknesses, Ochieng said.

Zoo Kericho beat Communications Authority 2-0 in a match played earlier on in the day at the same venue.

Golola Vummy converted a penalty in the 75th minute while Brian Yakhama scored the second three minutes from time.

"Our opponents came with a lot of power play, but we handled the pressure well. It was a nice game, unfortunately, we lost and we are planning for the next game, Ken Kenyatta, the Communications Authority head coach said.

On Tuesday, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority will play Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Urban Development while Zoo Kericho will be paired with Communications Authority.

In the volleyball match, Kenya Ports Authority started their campaign with a 3-0 (25-11, 25-13, 24-14) win over Kenya Airports Authority.

KPA head coach Sammy Mulinge said: "We have come here to compete well and make sure we win our matches. We don't want to come with the mentality of defending champions but we just want to win again and retain the title. s

In the second match, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) hammered Ministry of Transport in 3-1 (25-13, 21-25, 25-18, 25-16).

In the basketball, KPA humiliated Communications Authority (CA) in 107-41 (23-11, 37-08, 32-16, 15-06).

 and

End of Posta hammer Ministry of Transport, Zoo cage CA in Kecoso Games



School Games: Kwanthanze, Hospital Hill ease to semis in Arusha

Brian Yonga / Monday, September 19, 2022

In Arusha, Tanzania

Kenya's Kwanthanze Secondary School and Hospital Hill High School on Monday booked their semi-final slots on day four of the Federation of East Africa Secondary Schools Sports Association (Feasssa) Games here in Arusha.

Five-time girls' volleyball champions Kwanthanze saw off Uganda's Hilton Secondary School 3-0 (25-19, 25-16, 25-18) in their second pool "B" match at Tanzania Game and Track (TGT) grounds to make it two wins on trot.

The result means the Kenyan queens are on six points ahead of their final pool match against Tanzania's Mkalapa Secondary School on Tuesday.

Kwanthanze, who are eyeing their fourth successive title, had defeated Ugandan side Katikamu SDA Secondary School 3-0 (25-10, 25-10, 26-24) in their opening match last Friday.

Kwanthanze coach Justin Kigwari praised his charges for achieving their first target of reaching the last four, but said there is room for improvement.

"Reaching the semis takes a bit of pressure from us because we are the defending champions, but we are now into the business end of the competition and we cannot afford to make any mistakes," Kigwari said.

"We still have a chance to reach our full potential in our last preliminary match before the semis on Thursday and also make a few changes to ensure that everyone gets to play in this competition," he added.

Kenya's second girls' volleyball team, Kosegon Mixed Secondary School were also in action last evening, where a win would also see them secure their place in the semis.

In boys' handball, Hospital Hill booked their place in the semis after a 22-17 victory over Kilombero Secondary School of Tanzania in their final pool "A" match. The result means they finish second in the pool with four points behind leaders Adegi Secondary School of Rwanda.

Hospital Hill captain Victor Ngoni believes they have hit form at the right time ahead of the semis.

"We started on the wrong footing, but found our form and secured two wins which helped us reach the knockout stage. We want to go all the way to the final and carry the title back to Kenya," the bullish skipper said.

The Kenyan champions started their campaign with a 23-25 loss to Uganda's Gombe Secondary School before they hit Adegi Secondary School 31-28 in their second match.

Kenya's second side Kamito Boys High School saw off Maweni Secondary School of Tanzania 33-18, but it was not enough to secure them a place in the last four after two losses.

In hockey, Kenya's St Anthony's Boys High School, Kitale and Friends School Kamusinga recorded impressive wins to keep their hopes alive of clashing in the final.

Regional champions Kamusinga thrashed Mbarara High School of Uganda 8-0, as Kenyan champions St Anthony's beat another Ugandan side Ntaare Secondary School 4-0 at Twiga Club.

In the Kamusinga-Mbarara match, skipper Mike Oruta led the front with a hat-trick, while Innocent Sangiro grabbed a brace. Arnold Vincent, Roy Ipapo and Eric Kimuru were also on target. Kamusinga had lost 1-2 to Kakungulu Memorial Secondary School on Sunday.

In the second match, six-time winners St Anthony's were too strong for Ntaare as Linton Nayombe sounded the board twice with Norman Lidiga and Fred Ouma also getting their names on the scoresheet.

With the discipline being played in a round-robin format and the top two featuring in the final, competition is stiff. Today, unbeaten St Anthony's face Kakungulu with Kamusinga up against Tanzania's Arusha Meru International School.

In the girls' matches, the Kenyan derby pitting St Mary's Secondary School, Tachasis against Trans Nzoia Mixed Secondary School ended in 1-0 in favour of the former.

Esther Kadenyi settled the tight contest with a brilliant field goal in the 11th minute. It was sweet revenge for 2018 winners Trans Nzoia who lost to Tachasis in the Kenyan final two weeks ago. Tachasis had chances to get back in the game, but failed to make use of the short corners they got in the match.

"We played well and the girls controlled the contest from the onset. We should have won by a bigger margin, but we are



Sports

School Games: Kwanthanze, Hospital Hill ease to semis in Arusha

Brian Yonga / Monday, September 19, 2022

glad we secured the three points and some measure of revenge, said Trans Nzoia coach Joseph Onyango.

His Tachasis counterpart Daniel Kibaba said they will improve in their next matches. "We will work on our mistakes and I am confident that we will be better in our second match. We were just unlucky today and I know we will bounce back," Kibaba said.

End of School Games: Kwanthanze, Hospital Hill ease to semis in Arusha



Wiyeta seek semis slot as Koyonzo falter in rugby sevens

Brian Yonga / Monday, September 19, 2022

in Arusha, Tanzania

Kenyan girls' football champions Wiyeta Secondary School will on Tuesday seek to qualify for the semi-finals on day five of the Federation of East Africa Secondary Schools Sports Association (Feasssa) Games here in Arusha.

The five-time regional champions come up against homeside Isevy Secondary School in their second pool "A" match at Tanzania Game and Track (TGT) grounds at 3pm.

After coming from behind to beat St Noa Girls Secondary School 3-1 in their first match on Saturday, Edgar Manyara's charges will be confident going into this match.

With Dagoretti Mixed Secondary School posting mixed results in the pool, Wiyeta will be keen to clinch their spot in the knockout phase. Coach Manyara told Nation Sport yesterday that they will need to avoid a slow start like they did against St Noa.

"An early goal will settle our nerves and we will try and settle us fast as possible so that we can impose ourselves and get the three points," Manyara noted.

"Every team at this stage is tough and even though our opponents lost their first match, we cannot underestimate them and have to play our best," he added.

Wiyeta will again bank on their prolific striker Shalyene Oposa, who scored a brace in thier first match.

In rugby sevens, the Kenyan sides face an uphill task to retain the title that Upper Hill School won in the 2019 edition.

National champions Koyonzo are currently second on the log behind Uganda's Hannah International School after day two of the action at TGT grounds.

Hannah lead with with nine points same as Koyonzo, but the latter have played four matches to Hannah' three. Kenya's Butula Boys High School is third with six points.

Koyonzo registered mixed results against Ugandan sides going down 15-19 to Hannah before beating Jinja Secondary School 10-7 in Monday's matches.

Butula on the other hand beat Elerai Secondary School of Tanzania 26-5 and Ntare Secondary School of Uganda 25-7.

The discipline resumes on Wednesday with final round of matches. Elsewhere, Kenya will be looking for a good start on the first day of the athletics programme at the Sheikh Abeid Karume Stadium.

Kenya won gold in the discipline at the last championship, but will face stiff competition from Uganda.

End of Wiyeta seek semis slot as Koyonzo falter in rugby sevens



Sports

Luizomar urges caution after Kenya shock Serbia B

Samuel Gacharira / Monday, September 19, 2022

In Belgrade, Serbia

Operating like a well-oiled machine, Malkia Strikers Sunday thrashed Serbia B 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-11) in their last pre-World Championships friendly match here in Belgrade, Serbia.

From services, reception, attack and blocking, all departments worked smoothly.

It was the perfect response from Kenya after going down by a similar margin to Serbian champions on Saturday but head coach Luizomar de Moura insists his team is nowhere near the finished product.

Kenya will be seeking to reach the second round at the World Championships for the first time in the Netherlands and the statistics from Sunday's rout of Serbia B were as encouraging as they were convincing ahead of their Friday opener against the host nation.

While he was impressed by the performance on Sunday, Luizomar has urged his charges not to get carried away saying they are still work in progress.

We can see from the two friendly matches in Serbia that the team is showing different volleyball now. This is what the players need to understand, that they need to bring their best to every match, stated Luizomar.

In our team we will be having players participating in World Championships for the first time and others will be getting their first cap. We have a young team with some experienced players. It will be a tough challenge to play at the World Championships. We are improving but there are many areas that we still need to work on. We want to build a new legacy for Kenyan volleyball, so we still have a long journey ahead of us, he preached caution.

Against Serbia B, the experienced quartet of skipper Mercy Moim, her assistant Noel Murambi, opposite Sharon Chepchumba and Edith Wisa all led from the front registering double digits. Chepchumba returned a game-high 33 points, Moim added 19 points while Murambi and Wisa had 16 and 14 points respectively.

Luizomar was happy that his senior players showed maturity at key moments in the game.

The biggest difference from Saturday's result was we made less mistakes and this is very important as we move closer to the main competition. Its important to know when and where to make important decisions during the match. Its good that players are becoming more confident during such moments, assessed Luizomar.

I expect this team to keep fighting and show a new volleyball spirit to the volleyball community.

Kenya will face European sides namely Netherlands, Italy and Belgium in the first round of the World Championships as well as Cameroon and Puerto Rico.

Luizomar noted that the two friendly matches in Serbia, organised by Malkia Strikers sponsors Mozzart Bet, has placed the team in good stead of facing European opponents.

We played against a great European school of volleyball which is the level we will find at the World Championships. Most of the Kenyan players that played today are almost the same age so its a good sign that they can compete with them. This performance will give us more confidence because our opponents will know this is a completely different Kenyan side, observed the Brazilian coach.

Kenya will leave Serbia for the Netherlands Tuesday afternoon, on time for their Pool A opener against the hosts in Arnhem on Friday.

Kenya line up against Serbia B

Mercy Moim (captain), Noel Murambi, Edith Wisa, Lorine Chebet, Emmaculate Nekesa, Sharon Chepchumba, Aggripina Kundu (libero)

Subs

Veronica Adhiambo, Gladys Ekaru, Yvonne Wavinya (libero), Veronica Kilabat, Belinda Barasa, Violet Makuto, Meldine Sande

End of Luizomar urges caution after Kenya shock Serbia B



Sports

Thuku wins Deour Season title at Thika

Larry Ngala / Monday, September 19, 2022

Thika Sports Clubs Ndegwa Thuku clinched the Detour Season Nine Match Play title at the par 72 Thika Sports Club over the weekend.

Thuku made it to the final after beating Andrew Koech 3-2 in the semi-final match played at his home course. During the weekend final, Thuku took on Jabez Ojowa of Vet Lab, winning 2-1.

Ojowa had fought a close match against former Thika Sports Club chairman Samuel Chege in the second semi-final where he eventually booked a slot in the final winning with a 5-3 margin.

Whilst Koech from Limuru travelled to Ruiru for the third and fourth play-off, Chege did not turn-up thus Koech was awarded the third prize in the event sponsored by Farmers Choice, RH Devani, International PFM Academy and E land, E-Space Tours and Travel, Heritage, Freshly Brewed Africa, and Comztech.

In the Subsidiary event which attracted a big field, Wilfred Oroko and Daniel Mwangi beat Mike Nyangi and Martin Nyaga while Sam Mbinda and Jane Alice Mutuota finished third.

In the main stableford event for the club members and sponsors, lady golfer Julie Wangari produced a fine score of 43 points to claim the overall title with Jessy Ndegwa also with 43 points taking the mens title, beating Benjamin Muchungi by one point.

In the ladies section, Jane Alice Mutuota carded 39 points ahead of Alice Abere, while taking the awards for the nines were Ariithi Gitonga on 23 and Daniel Mwangi who also posted 23 points.

Peter Kiige and Caroline Njeru won the longest drive and the nearest to pin awards went to Ngumo Kingori and Julie Wangari while leading the sponsors was Sam Mbinda with 30 points.

At Thika Sports Club, lady golfer Lucy Maina was in her top form during the weekend as she posted 43 points playing off handicap 21, to claim the Syngenta golf tournament which was sponsored by Syngenta for the seventh year and attracted a field of 201 players.

Taking the mens title with an impressive score of 42 points was Lawson Gachre who won by two points from Hanif Kurji, while Irene Kamutu took the ladies title with a score of 42 points.

Coming home second in the ladies section was Margaret Ngugi on 40 and the B.W Ikua emerged the supplementary winner on 43 points.

Anthony Kiragu and Carol Mueni were the guest and sponsors winners on 37 and 35 points respectively. The nines went to S.M. Kibuiya and Wanjiru Gathecha on 23 and 22 points, with Manaav Shah claiming the junior tiytle with 39 points. At Limuru Country Club, Wambui Gitonga carded a round of 40 points to win the 13th leg of the 2022 NCBA Golf Series.

Gitonga beat club captain Gitau Ngaruiya by one point, while in the second division Gitiria kamau emerged top on 43 points.

In third division, Maria Maali carded a total of 38 points to win ahead of James Kabiru, who managed 37 points, with 12-year-old Mumbi Gatu taking the ladies title after posting 35 points, while the juniors were led by Victory Waiyaki on 36 points.

Meanwhile, Mark Wambugu and Julius Wokabi took top honors in the first and second nine with 22 and 25 points in the first and second nine respectively.

James Mugo emerged the winner in the Staff category having carded a round of 44 points playing off handicap 25. The winners will travel to Muthaiga towards the end of the year for the grand finale where the top four will enjoy a fully-sponsored golf tour at The Fan Court Golf Estate in George South Africa. From Limuru, action now moves to Mombasa on October 8.

Commenting on the Series, NCBA Group Property Finance Manager, Stella Mutai, said: Todays golf was one of the best in the series so far. With over 200 golfers having registered for the event, it just shows the level of acceptance that the series has had so far. As a bank that is interested in the sport, we are proud to see how far the sport of golf has come in this country, and we look forward to seeing even more development in this space in future years."

The Following are summerised results of the weekend golf round:



Sports

Thuku wins Deour Season title at Thika

Larry Ngala / Monday, September 19, 2022

At Nandi Bears Club: CFAO Motors By Toyota Golf Day; Overall winner; Wilson Chepkwony 43 points, cb Jacob Keino. Lady winner- Emmy Suge 38 points. Junior Winner Elvis Kiplimo 35 points.

At Nanyuki Sports Club: Chairmans Prize; Overall winner- James Warui 42 points, Men winner- Joshua Kinoti 40 pts, Patrick Ekwam 39, Lady winner- Jenny achuka 37, Marion Githinji 35, Guest winner- Fred Mugambi 36, Junior- Joseph warui 31, Nines: Joseph Githui 20, Joseph ainaina 20 points.

At Nyali Golf and Country Club: September Mug & Ladies Pendant. Best Gross- Martin Ombura 78, Winner (A) Martin Ombura 70, Lumatete Muchai 71, Vishnu Dhutia 72. Division B- Taib Bajaber 71 cb Ian Marshall 71, Ally Is-Haq 72, (Div C) Fumihiro Obara 67, Sammy Olinda 68, Ijaz Sheikh 70 nett. (Div D) Abraham Kiprotich 73, Shay Chauhan 74.

Pendant Winner- Pauline Gachihi 67 nett, (Div A) Susan Stokes 68, Rasmeet kaur 71, Harsimran kaur 75. Gross- Susan Stokes 77 gross. (Div B) Pauline Gachihi 67, Petronilah Kalee 72 cb Lena Breitner 72. (Div C) Daxaben Vekaria 69, Best Caddy Redemtha Wayua 71 nett

End of Thuku wins Deour Season title at Thika



Brazil football influencer Luva: rich, famous, ready for a rest

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The self-proclaimed "best football influencer in the world," Brazilian internet sensation Luva de Pedreiro, is rich and famous at 20 years old -- but needs a break from his unexpected celebrity, he says.

Known for posting videos of his snazzy juggling skills, ecstatic goal celebrations and other football antics -- so theatrically over-the-top they have won him superstar fans including Neymar, Angel Di Maria and Ronaldinho -- Luva, whose real name is Iran Ferreira, grew up in the poor rural community of Quijingue, in the northeastern state of Bahia.

With little else but a die-hard love of football, outsize personality and a cellphone, he became an overnight sensation in Brazil and beyond, racking up more than 40 million total followers on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.

But in a story that also speaks to the sometimes brutal world of social networks, weeks after signing what he called "the biggest contract of my career" with Adidas, Luva announced Tuesday he was done posting videos online, saying he wants to "live my normal life."

"I'll finish the work I'm contracted for with the brands I've signed with, but after that I'm not going to make any more videos," he said, adding he had deleted dozens of Instagram posts.

When rumors swirled that the move was a marketing ploy or the result of a falling-out with his new manager, Brazilian futsal legend Falcao, Luva went back online Thursday to plead for a reprieve from the spotlight: "I can't get a single minute of peace," he said in an Instagram story.

'Incredible energy'

The news went viral in Brazil, and even drew comments from Spanish giants Barcelona, who said on TikTok they would miss Luva's "incredible energy."

Famous for his ever-present black gloves, or "luvas" in Portuguese -- hence his nickname -- and his favorite catch phrase, "Receba!" -- which roughly translates as "Take that!" -- Luva is perhaps best-loved for his goal celebrations, which have inspired imitations from football stars including Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry and Joshua Kimmich.

In an interview with AFP just two days before announcing his break, Luva sounded happy and proud of his work, declaring: "I'm going to be an influencer for the rest of my life."

He said he was on the verge of releasing two new projects, without giving details.

Advisers said his need to step back was due to overload and unspecified personal problems.

It came just days after he made a commercial tour of Europe and Asia.

Luva had also recently signed a new deal with Falcao, after a break-up with his previous manager, Allan de Jesus, that ended in a messy court battle.

Price of fame

Luva's videos are often shot on the dusty football pitches of his home state, where he shows off his skills, clowns around and cracks jokes in rapid-fire slang.

It turned out to be a magic recipe.

One particularly viral video from March 2021 has racked up more than 100 million views.

It has been a life-changing ride for the once-impoverished Luva, who now lives in a posh neighborhood in Recife, on Brazil's northeastern coast, and travels the world, rubbing shoulders with football royalty.

"Dude, I never expected to make money from this. I thought there was zero future in what I was doing," he told AFP.

"But thank the Lord, I'm enjoying the fame and the work."

Clearly, though, it has not been all fun and games.

It is not an uncommon story among the new stars of social media.

"Young people who get into that world without wanting to, which is Luva de Pedreiro's case, quickly run into the realities of the market, of contracts and advertising deals, which is a lot different from just having fun on social networks," says Issaaf Karhawi, author of the book "From Blogger to Influencer".

"Many influencers have to deal with haters, with cancel culture, which can raise various mental health issues," she says.



Sports

Brazil football influencer Luva: rich, famous, ready for a rest

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

"What happened (with Luva) shows it's a lot more complex than just having millions of followers."

End of Brazil football influencer Luva: rich, famous, ready for a rest



Sports

Riddle of unpaid Gor players despite having a new sponsor

Joseph Mboya / Monday, September 19, 2022

I read somewhere early this week that in one Gor Mahia training, only nine players turned up.

Asked to explain the reason why, our always very able team manager Jolawi Obondo said there was no cause for alarm, it was the coach's plan to have a small group of players.

Quite interesting. I am one person who takes everything from our TM with some pinch of salt. Why should we have only nine players out of a registered 30 turning up?

Anyway, it turns out there is a serious go-slow at the club over unpaid salaries.

A few players who I have been in touch with say that they are owed salaries, how much they are owed I may not be privy to.

It is nothing new at Gor Mahia though, players going on go-slow over unpaid salaries and allowances have become a common feature at the club.

But why should we allow this to continue happening.

Gor Mahia has a sponsor in BetAfriq, I am not sure if I have come across this betting company anywhere within our borders. But with all due respect, if we do have a sponsor, why should our players go without salaries?

The question is to the club management, where is the sponsorship money, if at all it comes.

I look back with nostalgia when SportPesa used to sponsor Gor Mahia. In those days, the players were well taken care of.

SportPesa set the bar so high, that no other sponsor of the club has met. In came Betsafe after SportPesa and our woes began and BetAfriq seems to be no better.

I am not a decision maker at Gor Mahia but if I was, I would approach SportPesa to return to the club. SportPesa was a sure bet for us.

SportPesa is now back in the Kenyan market after they won back their operating licence which is good for local sports. They are currently sponsoring Muranga Seal which is a clear show of their intent to support football especially at the grassroots level.

It is my hope that one day they will return to sponsoring the top league, and Gor Mahia. But that is just that, hope.

I have written this because I feel the pain of our players going without pay yet the club is sponsored to a tune of millions. Sad.

End of Riddle of unpaid Gor players despite having a new sponsor



Sports

League start now hide and seek game

Moses Ojuang' / Monday, September 19, 2022

It is fast becoming a joke and it seems the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Transition Committee has smelled the doorway.

We can easily surmise that they are packing their bags and are ready to go. It is a period of uncertainty for them and we would urge them to go away and never show their faces in public again. It is that simple.

The kick-off of the 2022/2023 FKF Premier League was set for August 24, it was postponed to September 10 before being pushed September 24. The reasons given for this hop, skip and jump are rather flimsy and inconsequential.

We are sure it will be pushed ahead again until a new Sports Cabinet Secretary is sworn in.

The league itself is fraught with misgivings; we are still under a Fifa ban and as such, we are going on with football as a hobby. It is not recognised and even the teams that were relegated and those promoted are still in the confusion mode. In short, it is an exercise in vain.

We have made no move to meet the Fifa requirements and the current limbo in Kenyan football is caused mainly by the most indecisive people in office. We had hoped that a Normalisation Committee was going to be set up by the FKF Transition Committee but even that is a pipedream.

We know our country so well and we are sure that as the close cronies of the newly sworn in President of the Republic of Kenya are clamouring under the radar for ministerial positions, very few of them want the Sports docket. They have their eyes on the ministries with larger funding for obvious reasons.

The one that shall have lost out in the scheming will be thrust into the Sports ministry. It will be a sour person feeling wronged and demoted; it shall be a person spending most of his or her energy trying to wheedle his or her way out to higher calling. We are in a fix and we doubt if any change of guard at the ministry will solve the malaise.

Since we are sceptic by experience, we still are a drowning lot and we have the only option of clutching at straws.

It is from this position that we eagerly await for the new minister with the almost impossible hope that it shall be someone who actually wants football to develop in this country. If we get the type we describe above, then we shall have only two options.

We shall only have to form a Normalisation Committee or and God forbid we reinstate the former leadership with all its court cases back into the leadership of FKF!

We are beggars now and choosing is no longer in our ambit. There's no miracle about it. It shall be unfortunate but we must get ourselves out of the Fifa emasculation that is killing our lads. So help us God!

End of League start now hide and seek game



Sports

Clubs eager to get on with fresh season

John Ashihundu / Monday, September 19, 2022

With less than a week left to the new date set for the start of the season, we hope the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Transition Committee will stick to the September 24 kick-off.

According to league organisers led by Maurice Oyugi, who took over from retired Judge Aaron Ringera, the new campaign was initially set to commence on September 10, but was pushed forward for a further two weeks yet clubs continue incurring expenses beyond their budgets.

So far, the Transition Committee has not guided the clubs on the way forward and this has affected the pre-season preparations.

Teams are currently engaged in pre-season preparations every week and they don't expect any changes without the committee giving them a reason for doing so.

When asked to comment on the changes, AFC Leopards coach Patrick Aussems said that, professionally, that is a complete lack of respect.

Complicated situation

This situation is a little more complicated than people think as there could be a fixtures congestion at the end of the season that will result in the delay of the 2023/24 campaign.

That said though, football clubs are still obliged to pay their players in full.

Some teams had taken loans and hoped to service them from gate collections. They had also reached agreements with their broadcast partners, but are now unable to pay them promptly.

Other teams including AFC Leopards had taken payment upfront from their shirt sponsors in exchange to ensure the sponsors' products are displayed for a certain period.

Teams had arrived at short-term agreements with their players, but will now be forced to engage their employers in their individual capacities.

Some players have even agreed to return a portion of their salaries to the clubs in order to help the management to face the crisis and the operational costs involved, while others have agreed to a salary cut until the league starts.

Staff at some clubs appear to have taken leave in order to cushion the financial impact upon their employers. Lower leagues are suffering the most.

End of Clubs eager to get on with fresh season



Sports

Wanyika steps into Bandari captains shoes

Steven Heywood / Monday, September 19, 2022

A successful team is made up of strong leadership at the helm of the club, an efficient technical bench, and team players. In each of these categories, there has to be a leader that will ensure the department is well-run.

Leadership is the engine that drives success when it comes to football both on and off the field.

With proper leadership, a team is more productive, well-disciplined, and well-organised and that has been the Bandari FC way.

Bandari has ensured the smooth-running of almost all its departments and will continue to be a shining example in Kenyan football.

In the case of football players, the team captain is the leader of the locker room; the connection between the players and the technical bench. Wearing the armband is the most prestigious duty for any player and is the reward for exemplary performance and good values.

A winning team needs a strong and commanding captain on the field that will ensure the goals and objectives of the club are achieved. Being a captain means you are the captain of the ship, it symbolises strength and durability.

Won GOTV Shield

This week, veteran defenders Bernard Odhiambo and Felly Mulumba passed the mantle of Bandari captaincy to goalkeeper Michael Wanyika who will be assisted by defender Andrew Juma and Kenyan international forward Abdallah Hassan. Mulumba and Bernard Odhiambo held the position for 10 and five years, respectively.

During their tenure, Mulumba and Odhiambo won the GOTV Shield and had a good run in continental football as well as reaching and SportPesa Super Cup final, just to name a few. The two were a perfect reflection of successful leaders and have retired from the post with a decorated resume and silverware to top it all.

Wanyika is a veteran keeper, a national team player, and a leader in the locker room. He is one of the most disciplined players. Juma brings the much-needed experience to the side.

The change is a positive move towards the growth and development of the players and presents new opportunities. This will encourage other players to step up.

Congratulations to the new captains and we can't wait to see them in action.

End of Wanyika steps into Bandari captains shoes



New IFC podcast promotes women in Africa's renewable energy sector

Unknown Author / Unknown Date

With renewable energy forecast to play a growing role in Africa's energy future, IFC has launched a new podcast series to promote the role of women in the sector as senior executives, engineers and thought leaders.

In the She Powers Africa podcast, host Terryanne Chebet, an entrepreneur and media specialist, speaks with leading women in Africa's renewable energy space to light the path for the next generation of African women leaders into the dynamic sector.

The first three episodes feature Jennifer Boca, Head of Environmental, Social and Governance at Lekela Power; Olaedo Osoka, CEO of Daystar Power in West Africa; and Carol Koech, the Country President for Schneider East Africa.

This engaging podcast is ideal for women interested in working in the renewable energy sector and also for anyone concerned about climate change in Africa and curious about the practical solutions. Renewable energy is Africa's energy future and ensuring more women are part of that future will enhance the sector's success," said Anne Kabugi, IFC's Regional Gender Lead for Africa.

By 2040, renewable energy could account for more than 60 percent of new electricity generation in sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa, according to the Africa Energy Outlook 2019 from the International Energy Agency.

But, despite the sector's importance, women lag behind men in leadership and technical jobs in the renewable energy sector and represent just one third of the renewable energy workforce in Africa, according to research conducted by IFC on women's participation in Africa's renewable energy sector.

The podcast is produced by IFC's Energy2Equal programme and its Women in Renewable Energy in Africa Network (W-REA), which both aim to enhance women's participation in the renewable energy sector.

Listen in.

End of New IFC podcast promotes women in Africa's renewable energy sector



EMTECH to pilot a US CBDC in The Digital Dollar Project Sandbox Programme

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

EMTECH, a first-of-its-kind central banking infrastructure provider, has announced it will take part in the recently introduced Technical Sandbox Programme by The Digital Dollar Project to explore the new possibilities of a US Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) the digital dollar.

As one of the four announced technical vendors, EMTECH will bring its unique API-First and Energy Efficient CBDC Platform to test various use cases for cross-border payments.

The firm is joining a high-profile group of former US regulators and financial services experts. This initiative marks the next step in our effort to convene the private and public sector in a symbiotic exploration of a central bank digital currency in the US, said Jennifer Lassiter, executive director of The Digital Dollar Project.

EMTECH's Founder and CEO, Carmelle Cadet, is a former Global Business and Finance Leader at IBM. In 2021, she was invited by the US Congressional Financial Services Committee to testify on whether the US dollar should be digital. A market leader in central banking infrastructure, EMTECH's mission is to leverage technology to enable access to inclusive and resilient financial ecosystems. It's exciting to be part of the Digital Dollar Project Sandbox, and we are looking forward to collaborating with the federal government, policymakers, and private sector organisations to pilot CBDC options that encompass retail or wholesale models for cross-border payment use cases, said Mrs Cadet.

In her testimony, she highlighted the firm's vision and focus on helping central banks to build modern digital cash infrastructure using blockchain and distributed ledger technology (DLT). A consistent recommendation to the White House and the Congressional Committee is the use of a regulatory sandbox to enable faster and safer innovation from and with the private sector.

The current ecosystem for cross-border payments is a complex nightmare for financial service providers to navigate. EMTECH's CBDC Platform, with its API-First approach and high-performance DLT, is a more modern design that we're excited to bring to the Technical Sandbox Programme, said Tabor Wells, Chief Technology Officer at EMTECH.

Earlier this year, the firm announced its partnership with Hedera Hashgraph to build an energy-efficient CBDC to support its newly announced GREEN CBDC Framework, which is designed to help central banks unlock unprecedented value in deploying a CBDC. A key pillar of the framework is reducing the carbon footprint of financial services, while also limiting energy demand from fragile power structures. You can learn more about the GREEN CBDC Framework at greencbdc.com and emtech.com.

Read more about the technical sandbox in DDP's Press Release.

About EMTECH

EMTECH is building the next generation of central banking Infrastructure to drive inclusive and resilient financial markets. The company provides software solutions and services to connect central banks, other regulators, and financial services providers, in a user and developer-friendly way.

EMTECH's API-First platforms power regulatory data exchange, currency issuance, and currency movement in financial markets. It is a diverse global firm that makes financial ecosystems inclusive and resilient by design. For more information, visit www.emtech.com.

End of EMTECH to pilot a US CBDC in The Digital Dollar Project Sandbox Programme

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

By Evans Ongwae

Kenya performed well in cushioning its citizens against Covid-19 economic shocks, but could have done better. This is the overall scorecard by UN Women, following a study. In particular, the report stresses the importance of ensuring that adopted economic stimulus and recovery packages are gender responsive and address the gender equity gaps.

Titled, *Engendering Fiscal Stimulus Packages and Recovery Efforts Adopted in Response to the Covid-19 Health and Economic Crises*, the report states: Compared to African countries, efforts by Kenya to cushion and promote recovery of citizens and businesses during Covid-19 through Economic Stimulus packages are commendable. However, UN Women points out that the country could have achieved more had it made those fiscal and monetary measures more gender-responsive.

The study is a gender-responsive assessment of the fiscal and economic stimulus package adopted in response to Covid-19 in Kenya. It provides vital recommendations for engendering government measures in response to crises as well as for economic recovery now and in the future. It pinpoints where the governments stimulus packages fell short, and offers suggestions on how to make economic stimulus packages more responsive to the needs of women, men, boys, and girls.

Engendering economic stimulus packages means taking into account the experiences and specific needs of women, men, girls, and boys, as well as the underlying causes of vulnerabilities, including gender gaps or inequalities, gender relationships, power structures, social norms, and leadership. These should count in both the design and implementation of the stimulus measures, the report states.

During the launch of the report last month jointly with Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Gender, Prof Margaret Kobia, the UN Women Kenya Representative Anna Mutavati, reiterated the importance of gender data in ensuring women and girls were not left behind in the development agenda.

We know that gender equality and womens empowerment are prerequisites for strong institutions, stable communities, and economies. Evidence from all around the world shows that investing in womens economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, inclusive economic growth, and wealth creation.

The UN Women study compared Kenyas response with what South Africa and Nigeria did. It recommends some lessons for Kenya to pick from the responses of the two Sub-Saharan African nations.

Consideration of the needs of women, men, boys, and girls in the design and implementation of the economic stimulus packages enhances economic and social inclusion and prospects of achievement of outcomes of cushioning against the shocks as well as recovery from the Covid-19 pandemics, the report offers.

The study is anchored on UN Womens commitment to supporting government efforts that contribute to womens livelihoods and their access to social protection, healthcare, infrastructure, food, and housing, among other sectors that the government has prioritised.

The analysis focused on economic stimulus packages implemented during the financial year 2020/2021. These include cash transfers to vulnerable families; National Hygiene Programme or the Youth Employment Programme; support to the educational sector; support to small and medium-sized enterprises liquidity; support to the construction sector; support to the health sector; support to the agricultural sector; support to the tourism sector; support to the environment; and support to the manufacturing sector.

An important underlying factor in response to and adaptability to changes in times of pandemics and crises is the feminisation of poverty, the UN Women analysis notes.

The study found that women, more than men, were deprived of social economic participation, information, and nutrition, and were generally multi-dimensionally poor. This is a key salient pathway in which gender contributes to disproportionately negative impacts of Covid-19. Women are also, more than men, involved with caregiving activities, including caring for the children, the sick, the elderly, and persons with severe disabilities.

Gender inequalities cause women and men to respond and adjust to pandemics and crises differently. Disasters and pandemics such as Covid-19 disproportionately and negatively affect women and girls when compared to men and boys, because of gender segregation in most economic activities, which is further reinforced by gender inequalities.



Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

Moreover, there has been an increase in gender-based violence, more specifically violence against women and girls.

Following the study, UN Women suggests that in times of crises, such as those comparable to the Covid-19 pandemic, Kenya could:

Consider expanding the sector coverage (of its stimulus package) for better economic recovery outcomes. This includes extending support to sectors such as housing, energy, and transport infrastructure. Temporarily expand social protection coverage during pandemics, through special programmes to reach previously uncovered beneficiaries. Consider extending social protection to practitioners in early childhood development, small-scale farmers and teachers, as well as those in creative, cultural, and sports sectors. Increase the amounts of cash transfers per recipient, for all the existing beneficiaries. Consider establishing a social relief from distress grant for caregivers, aimed at reducing increased unpaid care work during pandemics. Consider targeting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in all sectors of the economy, and not only in certain selected sectors. Consider implementing an unemployment insurance fund and compensation fund for health practitioners, and provide a temporary employee relief scheme for domestic workers. Consider enforcing the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) provisions, or even increasing the proportion reserved for women businesses. Implement special support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and also, in partnership with civil society, establish a mechanism for linking them to shelter houses. This would address some of the challenges related to increased GBV during pandemics.

Overall, the analysis showed that the size of Kenyas provisions regarding various fiscal measures is small, measured by the size of the issues the specific measures target.

End of UN Women to Kenya: You did well in cushioning citizens against Covid-19 economic shocks, but



Life-and-style

Why I am now waiting for a big government job

Mwalimu Andrew / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Despite having taken the school TV out of the staffroom to my office, then to my home; despite having clearly spelt out a tough hundred-days plan ahead of the Presidents Swearing in, I decided to take a reconciliatory tone, and to work on building non-partisan bridges between myself, colleagues and the community at large.

I got convinced on the need to reach out and make up when on Monday evening, I heard that President Uhuru had hosted President Ruto at State House, Nairobi. President Uhuru had even congratulated President Ruto, taken him on a tour around the house on the hill, and sources intimate to the main source told me that they had jovially smiled and laughed like great friends. And they had made merry.

I wished I had known that early enough as I would have tried to see if Bensouda could host me at her place. If you remember, she has hosted me several times before, and all I can say is that it was a wonderful experience and I really look forward to being hosted again in future. I tried calling her, but she did not respond. I did not wish to be taken on a school tour, for I knew the school (like the palm of my hand) better than she did.

I was at Hitlers that evening and I texted Kuya asking where he was. He was not far away, so I invited him to join us at Hitlers. For the first time, I paid for his drinks. Or rather, I took the drinks on credit to be paid for later.

President-elect

That evening, before I went to sleep, I sent each staff member a WhatsApp message: I hope you are doing well. Here is to wishing you a great holiday tomorrow. Please rest well, and come back on Wednesday, fresh and ready to serve the new government. Cheers and good night!

Most responded with a positive message except for Lena, who told me that she did not recognise the president elect. I told her that Kenyans had made a decision, so had the Supreme Court, but she dismissed it, saying that leaders are chosen by God, not judges.

That evening, I passed by Rumonas her husband Kizito away- for dinner. Rumona was visiting from Nairobi and she had many stories. It was very late when I left her place and slowly staggered home, satisfied.

I was up early the next morning as I planned to spend the day at home, following the swearing-in on TV. I invited a few people to join me, including Sapphire, Kuya, Nyayo and his crew.

By 11 am, my house was full to the brim. Rasto, who had once been a watchman at Securicor, and who everyone called Soldier, marvelled at the military parades and explained what they were doing. Wrongly!

As expected, complaints started coming in as the day progressed. Kutembelea Mhuni ni kuharibu wakati, complained Rasto, a few minutes past noon. Adding that had it been at Kizitos, or any other place, the woman of the home would have offered them something even if it was just water.

Hapa hata panya zilihama, hakuna dalili, said Alfayo. He had kept saying he was about to leave but never left. As at 4pm, long after the swearing, he was still there. I sent Nyayo with a bottle to Hitlers, well aware that they were hungry and would not take a lot. I was wrong, they drank as if they were full.

What impressed me most that day was the presidents speech. There was no doubt he had read and copied some elements of my 100 days plan, for there were so many similarities.

Like every other teacher, I was very keen to hear what he would say about the monkey called CBC.

We will form an Education Reform Taskforce to look at CBC and other education matters he said. It did not take long before my brother Pius called.

Bro umesikia kuna kazi ya Education taskforce? he asked and added that if I played my cards well, I would be appointed to serve on the board.

I asked what I needed to do, for I had no connection to the new presidents. Dont worry, I know someone who can assist, he said confidently. He asked me to send him my CV.

I asked him what to do. He told me then he did not know what I could do, but he said I needed not do anything, then added: But when you get something, do not forget us.

Pius called me later on. Are you at a place when we can talk? he asked. I moved from the rest:

What evidence do you have to show that you have been supporting the presidents party? he asked me.



Life-and-style

Why I am now waiting for a big government job

Mwalimu Andrew / Sunday, September 18, 2022

I told him that I had no real evidence of supporting Kenya kwanza, but that there was no evidence of me supporting Azimio either.

Did you congratulate the president when IEBC announced him the winner? he asked. I told him I had. And did you congratulate after the Supreme Court upheld his win? I had not.

What of today? I had not. Pius told me that if I was really keen on any appointment, I needed to congratulate the President as many times as possible.

I immediately went on Facebook and Twitter to type a congratulatory message.

Pius called me the next day to say that my congratulatory message had been seen and had gone down well with a few influential people at State House. In fact, he went on to tell me that I should be ready for something bigger than just the taskforce.

He would later that day inform me that I had been considered to be the Presidents advisor on education.

Its a very senior position, and your name is up there, said Pius. But you have to continue congratulating the president and supporting and sharing the governments new policies. Your posts must have a huge reach, so many likes and comments. Thats the criteria.

With an appointment imminent, I decided to make full peace with teachers. That evening, I called two boys who carried the TV from my home to the school and mounted it back to the staffroom. On Friday, teachers were pleasantly surprised to find the TV back in the staffroom and switched on. I never dictated what time anyone watched the TV, nor did I admonish anyone who missed class.

The teachers were just praising me and, I am sure, when I am appointed to the senior government post, I will not leave any enemies behind!

End of Why I am now waiting for a big government job



Murderers are mostly men who are unmarried, broke

Chris Hart / Sunday, September 18, 2022

You're probably aware that the vast majority of murders are committed by young men. But did you know that their victims are also mostly young men? In general, murder rates are highest where law enforcement is ineffective, which creates what's called a culture of honour, where men fiercely resist even the slightest disrespect.

A killing generally starts over a matter of personal integrity, status, or a woman, usually in front of people that both men know. Neither's willing to back down and a murder results. Mostly, the men involved are defending the only valuable thing they've got. A reputation for refusing to be pushed around. So the vast majority of murders aren't committed by evil people. Much more often, it's just one young man killing another in a violent argument. By comparison, the number of murders committed by women is minimal.

Both young men will also almost always be unmarried and earning very little money. While wealthier, married men hardly take one's life.

Murder rates are also higher whenever there's high-income inequality because a big difference between the haves and the have-nots makes poor men far more aggressive. The same young, unemployed, unmarried men also commit most of society's violent crimes. Why's that?

It's because far more men than women die childless. Very few women have any real difficulty finding a mate, though he might not be the man of her dreams. But many young men can't find a wife at all. It's always been like that because a woman who wants children won't marry a man with no prospects. Even if she has a good job herself. And so, instead, she becomes the second wife, mistress, or girlfriend of a richer man.

So, men who can't find honest work turn to crime, in an attempt to become rich enough to attract a wife. It's not about their morals, or how they were brought up. Wherever young men lose out to richer men in their search for a wife, crime rates are high. And the risk of getting caught and punished is a very little deterrent because having no children is a genetic dead end anyway.

So the instincts that lead young men to risk death in their search for a wife, make all the sense in the world. Others may be deterred by harsh laws and long prison terms. But not young men without wives. So how can societies reduce violent crime?

Passing stricter laws simply makes no difference at all. Neither does moralising. Having an efficient police force does help a little, as does encourage monogamous marriages, though that's never stopped women from becoming rich men's mistresses. Because the real cure is economic policies that create jobs and reduce the differences between rich and poor.

Especially, the sort of jobs that enable a young man to earn a decent honest living, attract a wife and start a family. And as an additional benefit, there'll also be far fewer mistresses and second wives!

End of Murderers are mostly men who are unmarried, broke



Life-and-style

Gain courage to confront the future

CAROLE MANDI / Sunday, September 18, 2022

We don't heal the past by dwelling there, we heal the past by living fully in the present, to quote American author Marianne Williamson.

The first time my grandmother stepped into a plane, she was in her mid 80s. Before that, she had always taken the bus to visit her children and grandchildren in the city. However, as the years wore on, and concerned about the risks of public service vehicles, the family made a decision that air travel was best for her regular medical check-up and family visits.

I mentally prepared myself for a battle, convinced she would not like this change of means. However, when the idea was mooted to her, she was ecstatic in an almost child-like fashion, informing everyone who cared to listen.

We were at the airport to meet her when she arrived. After greeting everyone, she promptly announced that her days of taking the bus were over. I didn't even feel tired, she said, marvelling at the wonder of air travel. How was it that a trip that used to take several hours could be completed in under one hour? She wanted to know.

Plus, the air hostesses were wonderful, offering her a drink and some snacks. And just like that, it was settled. For the remainder of her life, 10 years to be exact, she flew. Not only that, she happily embraced technology, speaking to us via video calls on phone.

Read: Wanted: More old fashioned, drama parents

We often go far to look for exemplary persons, but I'm thinking of my grandmother as yet another larger-than-life figure, Queen Elizabeth of England, is laid to rest. As a woman who had witnessed great changes in her life, from colonialism to independence, to seeing her granddaughters enjoy the women's rights she did not even dream about, she took it all in her stride. She taught me many things, most importantly, to embrace the future, not run from it.

Still recovering from the effects of Covid-19 and economic instability, tomorrow is uncertain. Who can say what the future holds? How do we walk into a world where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is taking over? Best of all, you don't have to feed AI. Some careers are already obsolete, thanks to digital advancements.

Read: Home is where our dreams and loved ones are

There are even robotic pets, if you like, programmed as you like and don't leave nasty, little, smelly surprises behind. The future can look a little scary, especially if you are over 30. Yet it's not all doom and gloom. Tech has made our lives much more efficient in many respects, we can try to enjoy the benefits while minimising the downside. However, we need to shift our perspective and move courageously into the brave new world.

The past is usually a place of nostalgia. We reminisce about the good old days even though they were more of old than good. Yet the past is no place to live. As long as we still have life, there is always one more adventure waiting for us ahead. However, finding it requires letting go of the past and embracing discomfort. My grandmother lived only ten years after that flight. Yet she taught me that one is never too old to try something new.

End of Gain courage to confront the future