



Mt Kenya was split into two by two strangers, and Gachagua won

Mwangi Muiruri / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua insists that he is bound by the truth and aspires to remain so in his utterances.

But political pundits are now worried that while it is good for him to remain truthful, it is not clear who will tell him the truth about himself.

Mr Gachagua, 57, has inherited the seat of Mt Kenya kingpin in an abrupt and unexpected feat.

It is the first time the region is getting a political kingpin whose political experience is less than five years as a first-time MP.

Before Mr Gachagua, this position of influence was previously held by Dedan Kimathi (pre-freedom era), Mzee Jomo Kenyatta (1963-1978), Njenga Karume (1978-1992) Kenneth Matiba (1993-1997), Mwai Kibaki (1997-2013) and Uhuru Kenyatta (2013-2022).

Read: Gachagua: I don't regret telling off Uhuru in front of dignitaries

On September 13 at the Kasarani International Sports Centre, Mr Gachagua took his oath as the second most powerful man in Kenya. Before God and man, from 12.53pm to 13.03pm, Mr Gachagua, swore allegiance to his country, raising the Bible high in his right hand with his left on the Constitution held for him by his wife.

While many were yet to come to terms with his phenomenal rise, he was more shocked, as he could not hide his bewilderment when he alighted from his vehicle at the stadium at 11.28am to a rousing welcome from tens of thousands of supporters, who needed a remote control to be muted from wild ululations.

Hypnotised, Mr Gachagua stood rooted, appearing not to know how to behave under such circumstances. But his political and administrative instincts came to his rescue, and he smiled in a manner never witnessed before.

He was to relish a similar moment at 11.53am, when he hugged Dr Ruto into the stadium amid wilder cheers from fans.

It was hard to imagine that this man now being escorted by a dozen security officers to take his oath was the same one arrested at 5am on July 22 last year over corruption allegations and spent the weekend on the hard and cold cement of police cells until Monday, when he was released on a pretrial bond.

He was to detail the arrest as "the most humiliating, where they plucked me from my bed, frog-marched me naked in front of my children so as to take me to Nairobi to humiliate me in the name of politics.

Read: Adios Jayden... Enter Riggy G, Kenya's new meme king

Mr Gachagua jumped the queue to beat accomplished political talents like Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri, former National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi and even Prof Kithure Kindiki.

It is hard to understand how our Mt Kenya people defied President Uhuru Kenyatta in the August 9 General Election", said Jubilee secretary-general Jeremiah Kioni, adding that "we made a mistake that might take time to rectify".

He said that "those of us with a conviction will never abandon the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition Party aspirations and we shall remain true to that cause".

Mr Kioni's stand is the elephant in Mr Gachaguan's house, said Mt Kenya political analyst Prof Ngugi Njoroge.

Read: Election shows who regional kingmakers are, with Roba the new kid on the block

"Mr Gachagua will have to work for Mt Kenya unity. If Azimio's running mate [Martha] Karua and Mr Kioni's statements of remaining outside the majority formation that voted for Dr William Ruto as President are anything to go by, then Gachagua has a journey to walk in uniting the region, he said.

It "is the first time that the Mountain has been split by two strangers and that in itself is a challenge", said career administrator Mr Joseph Kaguthi.

Mr Gachagua, he added, must remain cognisant that for the first time, the Mountain is not united by one of its own or by a political party based in the region.

"More importantly, it is well for Mr Gachagua to know that for the first time, the Mountain giving Mr Odinga more than 800,000 votes is a major [event] that cannot be wished away," he said.

While Mr Gachagua insists that he and some Mt Kenya rebels including Kandara MP Alice Wahome, Naivasha's Jayne Kihara, Kikuyu's Kimani Ichung'wa, Gatundu South ex-MP Moses Kuria and Kiharu's Ndindi Nyoro whipped the Mountain to vote for Dr Ruto, there are many residents who believe Dr Ruto won acceptance on his own and he would



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have still bagged the region even if he had campaigned alone.

"This is one election where our people behaved in a very new manner. They had followed Dr Ruto on their own and they were the ones who exerted pressure on their politicians to follow them to support him. This time round, they were not herded by their politicians ... it was the other way round," Prof Njoroge said.

But Mr Gachagua believes that Mt Kenya followed him to Dr Ruto, which raises the question that analysts are posing: Would he have succeeded in telling the region not to vote for Dr Ruto if he had attempted it?

Read: Mt Kenya bigwigs who paid the price for sticking with Uhuru

On August 25, Mr Gachagua attempted to answer that question when he attended the swearing-in of Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga.

"You people of Mt Kenya and Nyeri do not know what you have done to me. I will forever remain indebted to you, he said.

I came here to beg you not to shame me as your son in the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) supporting Dr Ruto. I begged you to dress me up with respect so that I could stand boldly in our politics and declare I have the people behind me.

You did not betray me, because you voted for our candidates."

In a speech heavily laden with affectionate emotions, many fearing that Mr Gachagua would break down and wail, he said: "I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for not leaving me naked."

On Sunday night, Mr Gachagua said on KTN that "we in Mt Kenya gave the Dr Ruto presidency about 47 percent of total votes".

Mr Gachagua insisted that the sharing of power will be commensurate with that strength, prompting analysts to ask whether he appreciates that he is a national Deputy President who should be pursuing a national healing and unifying cause than being fixated on a 'power grab' by Mt Kenya.

Mr Kaguthi fears that "such pressures on a sworn-in President that President being the witty fox that is Dr Ruto will not attract negative engagements bound to breed a counter-attack".

He said that "boardroom haggling for power based on rewards should stick away from the public domain as opposed to the current situation when Mr Gachagua is taking every other opportunity to talk of percentages and sharing of power".

While Mt Kenya and the Rift Valley were important in the numbers game, he said, other regions that rejected Mr Odinga and instead became battlegrounds greatly helped Dr Ruto to win in the first round.

"This is an election where every single vote was important. All votes in Dr Ruto's win were important, including the very few he got in Luo Nyanza, Mr Kaguthi said.

He added that we should give Dr Ruto the latitude to form his government without appearing to hold him hostage, in a manner that can lead him to unite the 53 percent votes to block our capture mentality".

Murang'a Council of Elders chairman Rugami Chombou said "we are giving Mr Gachagua and his troops time to simmer and erupt".

He said it is too early to start running to Gachagua's camp when it has not even become clear how he intends to lead Mt Kenya".

He added that "Mt Kenya stands divided along the Kenyatta and Gachagua lines and the first task is to pursue that line that unites the region as well as remaining nationalistic on how to make the nation remain glued together".

The greatest test for Mr Gachagua is how to unite the region, said Nominated MP Sabina Chege.

"It won't be easy ... it might sound populist to say there are no divisions since Dr Ruto's United Democratic Alliance (UDA) swept nearly all seats in the region, Ms Chege told Inooro TV immediately after she was nominated to Parliament, one of only three Jubilee legislators in Mt Kenya.

But the truth of the matter is that the votes that Azimio received, the serious camps that were in Azimio campaigns ... leave us scattered. He must pursue our unity."

Besides Ms Chege, the other two Jubilee lawmakers are David Kiaraho (Olkalou) and Mr Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop).



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Ms Chege said "respect, dialogue and concessions are the only hope for area unity".

Mr Gachagua is the eighth-born in a family of nine. His parents live in Hiriga village, Nyeri County, a walking distance from the Sagana State Lodge. They fought in the Mau Mau and his father built and serviced guns for freedom fighters. Mr Gachagua must have inherited their willpower.

Described by his close allies as a man of raw instincts when it comes to forging alliances, hard to please and who never forgives betrayal and handsomely rewards loyalty, Mr Gachagua is married to Mathira-based Pastor Dorcas Wanjiku and together they have two adult sons.

In 1985, Mr Gachagua joined the University of Nairobi (UoN), graduating with a degree in political science and literature in 1988. At UoN, he was a leader of the Nyeri District University Students Association (Ndusa), and chairman of the Association of Literature Students.

He attended Kabiruini Primary School from 1971 to 1977 before proceeding to Kianyaga High School for his O-levels and A-levels. He underwent paramilitary training at the Administration Police Institute in 1990.

After graduating from university, Mr Gachagua worked at the ministry of home affairs and national heritage before he joined the Administration Police Institute in 1990. After leaving the police college, he was posted to the Office of the President as a district officer cadet, serving between 1991 and 1992.

Mr Gachagua then went on to serve as a district officer in Kakamega, Ng'arua and Laikipia districts. Between 1999 and 2000, he was at the Kenya School of Government, graduating with a diploma in advanced public administration.

Between 2001 and 2006, he was a personal assistant to Mr Kenyatta. From 2007 to 2017, he remained behind the scenes, running his businesses before he contested the Mathira seat in 2017 and won.

End of Mt Kenya was split into two by two strangers, and Gachagua won



Without a trace: Puzzle of missing academic writer, IT consultant and MCAs husband

Steve Otieno / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

When Martin Mungai left his house in Roysambu on June 30 to meet a friend in Ruiru, his family did not know that they would soon be looking for him as a missing person.

The 29-year-old, who made a living from online academic writing, had informed his people, including his mother, about the meeting, and that he would be back in the evening.

However, when his friend called his mother a few hours later asking about Mungai, his mother, Mary Mungai, knew something was wrong.

I told her that Mungai had left Roysambu much earlier and it was puzzling that he had not arrived in Ruiru. When I tried calling him, his phone was off. I sensed something wasn't right. However, I told myself that his phone's battery might have died and calmed myself, Ms Mungai said.

When Mungai failed to show up that night, his mother reported the matter to Kasarani Police Station. The family is yet to get any feedback from police.

Read: Families ask courts to help find abducted relatives

Mungai's phone has never been switched on, its silence adding to the suffering of his family, which has been looking for him since.

How can my son just disappear and no one, not even the police, have been able to find any clue as to his whereabouts? Ms Mungai posed adding, This feeling of helplessness is tormenting me.

Mungai's mysterious disappearance is similar to that of Vincent Owino, 35, an IT consultant who went missing last Tuesday. His family believes he was abducted.

Security guards at his office block in Milimani said five people—two women in hijab and three men—arrived in a white Prado and picked him up last week. The strangers identified themselves as police officers.

They handcuffed Owino, bundled him into their car, and sped off along Rose Avenue. The matter was reported to Kilimani Police Station. His wife, Lisper Murugi, said she can't imagine anyone wanting to harm her husband.

Read: Puzzle as six men vanish without trace

I just want my husband and father of my two children back. How can the police not have anything to tell us when all roads in Milimani have CCTV cameras? she asked. The children are under three.

Mr Owino's sister, Mercy Owuor, said: Our mother fell ill after being told that Vincent is missing. Her condition worsens with every passing day, she said.

James Muthee's family is also in tears. Their son, husband to recently elected Mlango Kubwa Ward Rep Susan Makungu, vanished on July 14.

Witnesses say Muthee was arrested at Kamakis area by six people who identified themselves as police after blocking his car. They bundled him into one of their two vehicles and sped off with him. One of the abductors drove away in Muthee's car.

Read: Families visit mortuaries in search of missing kin

His father, John Mwangi, could not hide his grief as he appealed to the state to intervene.

John is my first child, my first son. I do not know if they have killed him. I don't want to imagine that. All I want is to be told where my son is, he said. His sister, Agnes Mwangi, wondered why police investigations have not yielded new information.

The family has sought the assistance of human rights pressure group Haki Africa. The lobby's Executive Director Hussein Khaleed expressed concern at the lacklustre performance of the police in tracing people who have disappeared.

We call on the new regime, led by President William Ruto, to treat this matter of enforced abductions and disappearances with the urgency it deserves, he said.

End of Without a trace: Puzzle of missing academic writer, IT consultant and MCAs husband



MPs seek to be paid more than Court of Appeal judges, want sitting allowance back

David Mwere / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

MPs will be paid more than a judge of the Court of Appeal if the parliamentary leadership manages to push the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) to reinstate the plenary sitting allowance.

The 416 MPs in the two Houses of Parliament National Assembly (349) and Senate (67) in the 11th and 12th Parliament had been pocketing Sh5,000 in plenary sitting allowance.

However, on July 28, SRC Chairperson Lyn Mengich published a gazette notice abolishing the allowance even as she introduced Sh150,000 in house allowance, setting their monthly pay at Sh710,000 and upgraded their job group. The notice came into force on August 9.

Other than the house allowance, the monthly remuneration for the lawmakers includes Sh426,000 in basic salary and Sh134,000 in salary market adjustment. The monthly pay does not include the allowances they pocket when attending House committee meetings.

Read: Changes that await the new MPs in Parliament

The scrapping of the plenary sitting allowance was so that the MPs monthly pay does not exceed that of Court of Appeal judges, who are superior in the pay grade. But this has not gone down well with the newly inaugurated MPs who are yet to start discharging their mandate.

Yesterday, National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula gave the clearest indication that the abolished sitting allowance will be restored. While addressing lawmakers during their induction at a city hotel, Mr Wetangula assured the MPs that they have no reason to worry as he has already initiated talks with SRC.

We live incrementally and not by reduction, Mr Wetangula told the MPs just hours after a meeting with SRC. The Speaker of the National Assembly chairs the Parliamentary Service Commission, which is in charge of the welfare of MPs and parliamentary staff.

We must have an equitable approach where MPs are clearly facilitated to do their work... Comparisons between Parliament and other departments of government have been made and distinctions drawn. I am sure that there will be no scandal, the Speaker said.

Last month, Ms Mengich said that the decision to abolish the Sh5,000 plenary sitting allowance for MPs and Sh3,000 for MCAs will save the taxpayer Sh8.2 billion over five years.

Read: SRC keeps President salary at Sh1.4m, DP Sh1.2m as MPs lose sitting allowances

We looked at the pay of the state officers from an equity and fairness perspective, which is equal pay for work of equal value. It is what we used to evaluate all the jobs and determine relative job worth for all the state officers in the executive and legislature at the national and county levels, the SRC chairperson said.

An MP at the national and county level discharges their role through plenary sittings. If you then are paid an allowance for plenary sitting and you are still getting a full time pay it amounts to double compensation, the SRC boss added.

But yesterday, Mr Wetangula said: Our engagement with the SRC is to remind them that as they go about their constitutional mandate, they should be alive to the fact that issues that are available to members like perks that they have been enjoying in the last parliaments should not be unnecessarily or unreasonably interfered with.

Earlier, the MPs had booed National Assembly Acting Clerk Serah Kioko after she mentioned the SRC chairperson as among those scheduled to make presentations to the MPs during the five-day induction.

The National Assembly has four sittings a week when in session Tuesday afternoon, whole day Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. The Senate sits on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

Before the plenary sitting allowance was abolished, an MP would pocket about Sh80,000 assuming that they attended all the plenary sittings in a month. On the other hand, senators would get Sh60,000 in plenary sitting allowance per month if they attended all the sessions in a month.

In the July 28 gazette notice, SRC also capped the committee sitting allowance. The committee chairperson is now entitled to Sh15,000 per sitting up to a maximum of Sh240,000 per month, vice-chairperson Sh12,000 per sitting up to a maximum of Sh192,000 per month and members Sh7,500 per sitting up to a maximum of Sh120,000 per month after tax.



News

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Should the MPs have their way in the push for the return of the plenary sitting allowance, they will earn more than Sh1.2 million per month inclusive of mileage claims in the case of a member who does not chair a House committee, which is more than the Court of Appeal judge. The mileage claim is only enjoyed by members of the National Assembly.

In December 2021, SRC reviewed the salaries of Court of Appeal judges to Sh1,156,108 up from Sh1,122,759.

Mr Wetangula further faulted SRC for limiting the engine capacity of cars the MPs are required to use.

Setting the engine capacity for MPs at no more than 3000cc is not right. You cannot constrain a member in the manner he serves his people who live hundreds of kilometres apart, he said.

End of MPs seek to be paid more than Court of Appeal judges, want sitting allowance back



President Ruto to rally African leaders on climate change

Aggrey Mutambo / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Kenya's President William Ruto will use his maiden trip to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York to rally African peers to raise their voice on the danger of climate change.

Africa is expected to take the biggest hit from climate change.

Dr Ruto is expected in New York on Tuesday afternoon to attend the 77th UN General Assembly. He will be travelling from London where he had attended the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II on Monday.

A tentative programme from the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Ruto will meet African heads of state to discuss climate change and its effects, including the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa and flooding in Sudan.

In his capacity as Coordinator, President Dr Ruto will also chair a meeting of the Conference of African Heads of State on Climate Crisis (CAHOSCC), said a dispatch from the Ministry on Monday.

The 77th UNGA coincides with the worst drought in the Horn of Africa with many countries in the region, including Kenya, are experiencing unprecedented effects in the last forty years.

At the United Nations Headquarters, Kenya will seek to promote its foreign policy at the multilateral system including enhancing participation in the quest for realisation of SDGs and global leadership in emerging issues including climate change.

Dr Ruto is scheduled to address the General Assembly for the first time as Head of State, although he had given a speech here in 2016 then as Deputy President representing President Uhuru Kenyatta.

According to the schedule of speeches publicised by the UN, he will speak in the afternoon on Wednesday just after the Slovenian representative.

US President Joe Biden will kick off the speeches and will be followed by representatives from Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Zambia, Libya and Moldova.

As is tradition, leaders converge in New York every September for the UNGA where they give speeches, hold bilateral meetings and attend mini conferences on issues important to their countries.

This year's UNGA theme is A watershed moment: Transformative solutions to interlocking challenges, under which leaders are expected to discuss the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the global energy crisis, climate change, and the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his inauguration speech last week, Dr Ruto promised to place climate change among priority items to deal with.

Among the central concerns of my government will be climate change. In our country, women and men, young people, farmers, workers and local communities suffer the consequences of climate emergency, he said, suggesting he will encourage alternatives to fossil fuels. Africa has the opportunity to lead the world. We have immense potential for renewable energy. Reducing costs of renewable energy technologies make these the most viable energy source. We call on all African states to join us in this journey.

Egypt is due to host the upcoming UN Conference of Parties (COP27) on climate change in November. And African countries have demanded financial backing to pledges meant to lower temperature rise and for technological transfer to help adapt to changes.

At the UN, Kenya is finishing its final year as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and Dr Ruto is expected to meet with various leaders whose countries sit on the Council.

End of President Ruto to rally African leaders on climate change



News

PSC extends application deadline for PS positions

Ndubi Moturi / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The government extended application deadline for principal secretaries positions by seven days.

The deadline, which was set to expire on September 20, 2022, has been pushed to September 27, 2022.

According to Public Service Commission CEO Simon Rotich, the extension will offer interested applicants time to submit their applications.

PSC is expected to recommend persons to be appointed to the President who will then nominate candidates for the posts. The names of the candidates will then be forwarded to the Parliament for approval.

Principal Secretaries are usually involved in the coordination and implementation of government projects in State departments. They also oversee the allocation of resources in the counties.

Currently, there are 44 Principal Secretaries serving in different State departments. Their term is expected to lapse immediately after new ones are appointed by President William Ruto.

End of PSC extends application deadline for PS positions



Tales from Saudi: Its like a little prison

Winnie Onyando / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

When Diana Chepkemai recently returned to the country from Saudi Arabia where she had suffered ill-health and was stranded for several months, she was not alone.

About 20 other Kenyan women were aboard the flight that brought Ms Chepkemai home. The women lived in the same Some of these young women have shared their spine-chilling experiences while working in the Middle East with Nation.Africa. They were together at an accommodation where Saudi domestic workers live before they are dispatched to different employers. They open up on the dark sexual harassment, torture and donkey work they were subjected to.

Joy Simiyu, Peris Maciko, Faith Jumwa and Nelly Jelagat all left the country for Saudi Arabia with the hopes of earning a decent living. Unfortunately, they found themselves enslaved and trapped in the Gulf nation.

Read also: MPs urged to end abuse of Kenyans in the Middle East

Ms Jumwa, who hails from Kilifi County, says she went to Saudi Arabia in December last year, seeking employment as a domestic worker through a local agency.

I was excited to be in a new country. I didnt know what was in store for me, she tells Nation.Africa.

It wasnt long before reality hit her hard. Things got bad pretty fast with her employer threatening to kill her.

I called the Kenyan agency to inform them of the threats, but I never got any help from them. I decided to leave the house, she recounts.

During her stay in Saudi Arabia, she says she only survived on one meal a day.

Employer's relatives

My employer would overwork me despite feeding me just one meal a day. She used to offer me some hard stuff that looks like chapati, she says.

Apart from day to day duties in the employers house, Ms Jumwa also worked for her employers relatives.

Whenever I complained, my employer would hear none of it. It was a difficult time for me. My employer even took away my phone, she says.

She was later arrested and taken to an accommodation for domestic workers in Saudi Arabia where she met the others including Ms Chepkemai.

More revelations have recently come to light on the awful treatment Kenyan domestic workers are subjected to by their employers in Saudi Arabia.

It is among the worlds most known countries for importing labour. For years, Kenya has exported labour to this Gulf nation through recruitment agencies, with majority securing jobs as nannies, security guards, waiters, cooks, clerks and constructors.

It is, however, unfortunate that there are millions of Kenyans in Saudi Arabia whose working conditions the government does not know.

Only the survivors live to tell stories of the harsh treatment they experience in the hands of their Saudi employers.

The story is not different for Ms Simiyu who says she landed her job through Makungu Company. While in Saudi, she was forced to work in three houses, contrary to the agreement she had signed.

She complained to the Kenyan agent but no action was taken.

I would sleep for only four hours. It was a lot of work, she recalls.

At some point, her boss refused to give her food and started threatening to kill her.

Detainees

She hardly came to the kitchen. So on one particular day, my instincts sensed her presence and when I turned, I was shocked to see her next to me holding a knife. I fled, she says.

She later contacted the employment agency in Saudi Arabia telling them of her wish to return home.

I was, however, taken to a nearby accommodation and promised a new job. Inside the accommodation are several detainees, some battling mental issues. We only ate one meal a day. There was no water and we were also not allowed to go past the gate. It is like a little prison, she says.



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She also recalls how some girls were sexually abused in their efforts to get other jobs.

She pleads with the government to rescue other Kenyan women who are still trapped in Saudi Arabia.

For Ms Maciko, unfortunately, she landed in the hands of someone who had been barred by the Saudi government from having an employee.

I refused to work in that house because I was not sure why there were restrictions against him. I called the police and I was taken to the Kenyan Embassy, she recounts.

She was later transferred to a shelter where she met two women who she only identifies as Trizer and Florence. They were agents from the company that took her to Saudi Arabia.

The two are like monsters. They don't care about their people. They even allowed their clients to be sexually exploited in order to return to Kenya, or get new jobs, the 35-year-old says.

All three women say they will never go back to the Middle East country and warn anyone seeking domestic jobs in the Gulf nation, against it.

It is better to earn Sh10 in your home country than suffer in the hands of strangers, Ms Maciko says.

Haki Africa Executive Director Hussein Khalid speaks to Nation.Africa at his offices in Mbagathi, Nairobi on September 7, 2022, on the plight of Kenyans working in Saudi Arabia.

Ms Jelagat who caused a scene at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport after she met the agent who took her to Saudi Arabia, learnt about Gulf jobs in June last year.

Her neighbour approached her with an offer as a domestic worker in Qatar, and she grabbed the opportunity since she was jobless.

Her goal was to start saving money early to take her only daughter to high school.

When the man approached me saying an opportunity had presented itself in Qatar, I just thought about my daughter, who is in Grade Seven now, says the single mother from Mosop in Nandi North.

Her Kenyan agent sent her, together with seven other women, to Qatar.

In the first two months, her boss treated her well. Things, however, began changing in the third month when her boss started overworking her.

The family I worked for lived with the extended family. I would wash the whole house, which had 38 rooms, daily. I would also wash another one with more than 30 rooms. I tried to complain to my boss, but nothing changed, she says.

I saw people dying at the holding facility, people were sick but no one was taken to hospital. You are just left on your own. I was beaten like a child, but I am happy to be alive, she says.

I was in pain when I saw my agent at the airport to receive me, yet she never bothered to help when I needed it. She blocked me and told the agents I should not be deported, narrates Ms Jelagat.

The National Assembly Committee on Labour and Social Welfare report says 89 Kenyan domestic workers died in Saudi Arabia between 2019 and 2021.

This year, more than five Kenyan returned home lifeless.

According to Haki Africa, a human rights organization, there are more than 200,000 Kenyans in Saudi Arabia as of now. They are employed in different companies and homes, where they work under inhumane conditions.

End of Tales from Saudi: Its like a little prison



Counties

Raila man carries the day in Kisumu after brief scare

Rushdie Oudia / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Mr Elisha Oraro who was being backed by the ODM leader Raila Odinga in the race for speaker of the Kisumu County Assembly narrowly carried the day after a spirited fight by his opponent Samuel Ongow.

He garnered 25 votes against Mr Ongow's 22 in a duel decided in a second round of voting. The first round saw Mr Oraro get 24 votes against 23 votes cast for his opponent.

The other contestants attracted no votes.

Mr Oraro was the speaker of the last assembly, a house that impeached his two predecessors.

When nominations closed at noon on September 19, seven people had submitted their papers for the Speaker race.

They included Mr Oraro, Mr Ongow who is also a former majority in the same House, lawyer Kenneth Oduor Amondi, James Kounah Ochieng, Victor Otieno Odongo, Linda Ogweni Atieno and Nelson Lennoa Jalango Adul.

Of these, only four met the threshold required for the position. They were Mr Oraro, Mr Ongow, Mr Amondi and Mr Kounah. The other three were not proposed and seconded by any of the elected MCAs.

Read: Shock as prominent Embu businessman shot in night ambush

On Monday, almost half of the elected MCAs boycotted a meeting attended by Mr Odinga, a gathering whose agenda was to rally the lawmakers into voting for Mr Oraro.

It was the highest level of defiance so far to the opposition leader that has annoyed the rank and file of the ODM party.

For the position of deputy Speaker, only two candidates Vincent Odhiambo Obuya and Nereah Akoth Okombo had been cleared, leaving out Joachim Oketch, who held the seat when the last assembly dissolved.

More than a week ago, Mr Oraro got a major boost when ODM nominated him as its candidate for the seat for a second time.

Mr Oraro had a foot in as he sought to keep the seat he inherited after the previous assembly impeached Onyango Oloo over corruption claims.

Kisumu County Assembly building. The MCAs last evening snubbed a meeting called by ODM leader Raila Odinga to lobby for his choice of speaker ahead of the elections.

In a September 8 letter, ODM secretary-general Edwin Sifuna notified assembly Clerk Owen Ojuok of the party's notice about picking Mr Oraro as its preferred candidate.

Before the vote was cast, the Nation had it on good authority that the number of MCAs supporting Mr Oraro and Mr Ong'ow, the two main contenders, was a tight 23-24, and that the race could go either way. In the end, Mr Oraro carried the day.

Only 24 elected MCAs attended a dinner meeting held at the Grand Royal Swiss Hotel, as the others allied to Mr Ong'ow skipped it, the result of serious lobbying that could embarrass Mr Odinga if MCAs from his Kisumu backyard reject his candidate and elect someone else.

The Kisumu assembly has 47 MCAs 35 elected and 12 nominated.

Bribery claims

A source at the meeting said: "I was surprised, even some four nominated MCAs who have not even taken the oath of office can skip a meeting called by their party leader because of money being given to them."

Mr Odinga, who was with Governor Anyang Nyong'o, his deputy Mathews Owili and Nyakach MP Aduma Owuor, is said to have sat waiting for the rest of the ward representatives to arrive before the meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Some of the members who attended the meeting told the Nation that Mr Odinga had asked them to support Mr Oraro.

"I believe that whether one did not support the party's choice, they could have just attended the meeting and listened to what the party leader had to tell them," said Milimani Market ward MCA Seth Adui Kanga.

Also read: How Legio Maria church decided to build own hospital

There were claims that Mr Ong'ow was getting considerable support from Kisumu Senator Tom Ojienda.

His name is said to have featured prominently in the discussions during the Monday night meeting.

Though Mr Odinga did not show his disappointment openly, sources close to him revealed that he was not impressed.



Counties

Raila man carries the day in Kisumu after brief scare

Rushdie Oudia / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

He also took his time to revisit last months controversial presidential election, saying the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and the Supreme Court presided over what he called a sham electoral process that declared United Democratic Alliance (UDA) presidential candidate William Ruto winner.

It was a night of drama that involved serious lobbying, nominated MCAs hiding, money changing hands and phones being switched off by both camps to try to sway members to their side.

Both sides also engaged in serious heated social media campaigns that saw bloggers and influencers deployed by both sides to outwit each other and rally MCAs to their side.

Neither Mr Oraro nor Mr Ong'ow could be seen in the vicinity of the assembly, while Mr Amondi paced up and down and talked on his mobile phone, possibly attempting last-minute lobbying for more votes.

End of Raila man carries the day in Kisumu after brief scare



Counties

How Legio Maria church decided to build own hospital

Rushdie Oudia / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Three years ago, a group of young people from the Legion Maria of African Mission Church ventured into uncharted waters.

They decided to ask the church's leadership to build a hospital.

The idea was inspired by the hospitalisation of Pope Raphael Otieno Adika at M.P. Shah Hospital in Nairobi.

The project's strategic manager George William said: We decided to construct a mission hospital and that is why we went on and hired a consultant to do a feasibility study so that we could build a facility like no other.

And on Saturday last week, they kick-started the journey by laying the foundation stone for St Marys Legion Maria Mission Hospital in a colourful ceremony presided over by Pope Adika.

For a long time, people believed that Legion Maria adherents did not go to hospital or seek medical care and that instead they depended on prayers or spiritual water for healing, earning them the tag of a cult.

They have also been accused by authorities of preventing their children from going to school and not allowing them to get modern medical care and some vaccines.

Read: River Yala: Dumped bodies back as six men, woman retrieved from water

To debunk the myth, the church is building a Sh200 million Level Four hospital in Marera, Kisumu West, where members of the church and non-members can get medical care.

The project has four phases and will take three years to complete, said Mr Paul Opondo, the contractor working with Cilneod Kenya Limited.

The hospital will be a three-storey 70-bed building, but in the first phase, they are putting up a community health centre, Mr Opondo said.

This will be a simple structure to roll out the project comprising a pharmacy, consultancy room, waiting area and examination rooms, he said.

The second phase will be setting up an outpatient hospital, female and male wards, a pharmacy and a restaurant. In the third phase, they will set up an accidents and emergency unit and maternity and paediatrics wards, and dental, optical and gynaecology units.

Last phase

In the last phase, they will set up a radiology unit, including X-ray, cardiology, MRI, CT Scan and laundry sections.

The issue of health is important for the church and the public, said Archbishop Peter Onyango Abuto, the Legion Maria administrative secretary.

This is an issue that made our founder father brush shoulders with the colonialists, who felt that we were against everything their administration was pushing, Archbishop Abuto said.

We had instances where people were concerned that patients could be removed from hospitals in order to attend church and be healed through prayer.

The church has been fighting off claims that its members do not go to hospital when they fall ill.

Church leaders insist that the founder, Simeo Melkio Ondeto, himself was treated in hospital when he was allegedly poisoned.

Also read: Poor sanitation at Homa Bay key fish market sparks disease fear

He is said to have been at the forefront teaching people suffering from HIV and syphilis that they had to go to hospital for treatment.

Pope Timothy Atila is also said to have gone to hospital often and even died in a health facility, as did Pope Chiaji Lawrence.

We know that we are prayerful, but there are diseases that no matter how prayerful we are, require physicians. What the Pope is doing today is making it clear that we support health institutions, and that is why we are building this hospital in line with vision 2030 and the Big Four agenda, Archbishop Abuto said.

He said they were impressed with M.P. Shah Hospital, which they said occupies a small space but offers excellent services.



Counties

How Legio Maria church decided to build own hospital

Rushdie Oudia / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The project started with a contribution of Sh8 million from congregants, but church leaders plan to work with the county government and like-minded non-governmental organisations to raise more money to complete it.

They are starting small but will complete the project and change the public's perception of the church, said Bishop Wycliffe Nyaperah of Lugari, the director of youth affairs.

This was the brainchild of the youth in this church. We are only fulfilling the prophecy of our founding father, who believed that it was the coming generations who would build this church, Bishop Nyaperah said.

The project is good for the community, said Pope Adika.

With time, the project will pick up, I am very certain. Many people will be brought here for treatment, he said.

He asked national government officials to ensure the project is protected.

He also hinted that the church may go further and build a home for orphans in future.

The area chiefs and the ward administrator asked the contractor to hire locals for unskilled jobs.

The church also asked the county government to include the hospital in the technical working group so that they can benefit from initiatives surrounding health.

End of How Legio Maria church decided to build own hospital



Counties

Shock as prominent Embu businessman shot in night ambush

George Munene / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

A prominent businessman is fighting for his life in hospital after he was shot and wounded by gangsters in Thumari, Embu County.

Geoffrey Mwangi was travelling home from Embu town at around 9m on Monday after closing his business when five suspected gangsters aboard a pickup truck struck.

Read: Mt Kenya was split into two by two strangers, and Gachagua won

They blocked his car and sprayed it with bullets, leaving him with serious injuries in an attack that sent shock waves across the area.

The gangsters then escaped, leaving Mr Mwangi unconscious in his car.

A friend who was with him in the car escaped unhurt.

Mr Mwangi was rushed to Embu Referral Hospital with injuries in his neck and hands and bullets lodged in his body.

He was later transferred to Nairobi for specialised treatment after his condition worsened.

Embu West sub-county police boss Julius Kyumbule said they were pursuing the gangsters.

Embu Teaching and Referral Hospital where a prominent businessman Geoffrey Mwangi was taken after he was shot and wounded by gangsters at Thumari.

He said the motive of the attack could not be immediately established.

Commenced investigations

"The gangsters left without stealing anything from the trader and we have commenced investigations to establish why the victim was shot," he said.

Traders condemned the attack and called on the police to investigate the shooting.

"We want to know those who attacked our colleagues and the reasons behind it," Mr Kanyi Maina said.

They lamented that security has deteriorated in the area and accused police of sleeping on the job.

Also read: Brad Osumo: I am the small fish selling 'Big Fish

The traders demanded the arrest and prosecution of the wrongdoers, saying the attack was of grave concern.

"Crime is on the rise in the area and the police are not doing anything about it," Mr Maina added.

John Mate, the chairman of the Embu branch of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called on the police to beef up security.

"Everyone is living in fear following the invasion of the region by criminals. Shops have been raided and property looted. The situation is serious and security officers should wake up and do their job," he said.

The traders warned that investors may flee the area because of insecurity.

End of Shock as prominent Embu businessman shot in night ambush



Counties

Nairobi crime map: City residents at the mercy of miscreants

Nyaboga Kiage / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

In the British series *Midsomer Murders*, directed by Anthony Horowitz and Douglas Watkinson, it is all about several mystery murders that take place in a crime-infested town in the county of Midsomer.

Every episode has a high number of body counts and when they are discovered, police go out promising to find out who is behind the deaths, in vain.

But it is clear that the culprit is not a serial killer and the person doing it succeeds in compounding their crimes as they go on with the killing ways.

It is reminiscent of the way many young people have been killed across Nairobi and their bodies dumped in rivers or forests.

And just like in the TV series, the police have not managed to get to the bottom of the cases that leave families in pain and the public shocked, wondering who might be the next target.

Interestingly, most of the victims whose bodies are found dumped in various parts of the country usually have criminal records.

When Mr Samuel Mugo Mugota was shot dead on Mirema Drive in Roysambu, Nairobi County, police said they were investigating the killing, which was captured on a video that made the rounds on social media. He was shot six times by unknown assailants but his killers have not been arrested.

Samuel Mugo Mugota who was shot six times by unknown assailant in Mirema, Kasarani.

A few weeks later, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) boss revealed that Mr Mugota, whom they linked to a series of robberies in the city, was a wanted man and had several cases in court.

According to the police, Mr Mugota was a suspected criminal who led a secret life and he was probably killed by his fellow gangsters over a business deal gone sour.

To back their execution theory, detectives said that nothing was stolen from his car. A laptop, five mobile phones and nine identity cards were found in his Honda CRV.

Just like in Mr Mugotas case, three weeks ago, four men disappeared from Kasarani in Nairobi, only for their bodies to be found dumped in different parts of the country.

Read: Miracle babies preacher Deya has case to answer

The bodies of Fred Obare, Frank Obegi, Moses Nyachae and Elijah Omeka were found in Kijabe forest and Magadi amid claims that they were involved in a cash and cryptocurrency scam.

Will one day get justice

Police said they were investigating the matter but they have not said what they uncovered, with the mens families hoping that they will one day get justice.

Police records and data from other agencies show that Nairobi had the highest number of reported crimes, including murder, in the past three years.

Research by the Nation on the number of crimes reported across the country compared with Nairobi shows that a person is more likely to become a victim of crime in the city.

Other counties that have recorded a large number of crimes are Kiambu and Meru, and the cases increased especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Data from the 2021 Kenya Economic Survey showed that the three counties accounted for over a quarter of the 81,272 crimes reported in the last year.

Nairobi topped the list, recording a total of 6,686 crimes, followed by Kiambu (5,715) and Meru (5,032 cases).

Nairobi City police command station accounted for the highest number of persons reported to have committed crime at 8.5 percent, Kiambu and Meru at 6.7 percent and 6.1 percent, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) said in the report.

A report from the National Police Service reveals that in the last five years, Nairobi residents reported criminal cases to police stations as follows: in 2017, a total of 7,434 cases; in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, the cases were 7,128, 8,246, 5,844, 6,686, respectively.



Counties

Nairobi crime map: City residents at the mercy of miscreants

Nyaboga Kiage / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

It has also emerged that the majority of the cases are reported by men.

The total number of people reported to have committed homicide went up by 9.3 percent from 2,494 cases in 2020 to 2,726 cases in 2021, the report said.

A person is more likely to be robbed, mugged, raped or killed in Nairobi than in any other part of the country.

Also read: Farm-hand suspected to have murdered his employer in Ngong

Research conducted in 2021 by the National Crime Research Centre, a government body that keeps data and records on crime rates, showed that mugging topped the list of crimes in the country.

Muggings accounted for 68.8 percent of crimes in Nairobi compared with the national percentage of 19.1. Second on the list for the city was theft (54.9 percent), while the national average was 40.4 percent.

A person is more likely to be robbed, mugged, raped or killed in Nairobi than in any other part of the country.

Robbery with violence

Third on the list is burglary and break-ins, which recorded 51.1 percent in Nairobi, compared with 42 percent nationally.

Robbery with violence and possession of narcotic drugs came in fourth and fifth, recorded 30.2 and 30.1 in the city.

Robbery without violence was sixth (30.2 percent), compared with 10.6 percent nationally.

The seventh, eighth and ninth positions were taken by murder (13 percent), assault causing bodily harm (9.8 percent) and rape (9.7 percent).

Other crimes reported in the city included drunkenness (5 percent) and disorderly conduct (4.9 percent), and gender-based violence (4.5 percent).

The high crime rate in the city and fears that one may be attacked or robbed were cited in a survey conducted by Numbeo, which ranks countries by various strata.

Most Nairobi residents fear walking alone at night.

Also read: British national loses Sh4 million in Nairobi

Other crimes listed by the organisation include assault, armed robbery, vandalism and theft.

The others are muggings and car break-ins.

Various forms of crime

Security experts say various forms of crime increased, especially after the Covid-19 period.

The rate of crime is high in Nairobi because many people usually flock there to find jobs and earn an income, said Mr Kevin Moenga, a security analyst based in the city.

He said that the high number of people in the city was a contributing factor to the increase in crime.

Most people also lost jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic and this saw many engage in deals or crimes that can see them survive until they get other jobs, he said.

Crimes like mugging, he said, are on the increase because perpetrators do not need to use force or weapons.

He also said that when courts release offenders on bond, they go back to society and continue committing crimes as their cases drag on.

A study conducted by Dr John Ndikaru of the Technical University of Kenya (TUK) shows that controlling crime is a big problem.

Kenya has shown a marked increase in the contemporary years in the occurrences of lawbreaking and violations. The rate is alarming and has attained an epidemic proportion, he said.

He said most of the crimes happen in major towns, especially Nairobi.

When crimes are not reported to the police, victims may not be able to get necessary services to cope. Offenders may go scot-free, and law [enforcement] and community resources may be misdirected due to a lack of precise information about local crime complications, he said.

Dr Ndikaru said that the common motivations for reporting a crime include punishing the offender and discouraging potential offenders.



Counties

Nairobi crime map: City residents at the mercy of miscreants

Nyaboga Kiage / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

End of Nairobi crime map: City residents at the mercy of miscreants



Counties

River Yala: Dumped bodies back as six men, woman retrieved from water

Kassim Adinasi / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Yala Sub-County Hospital administrators have called on families with missing relatives to visit its morgue to find out whether they are among seven unidentified bodies lying there.

The bodies of six males and one female were retrieved from the River Yala in the past two months.

Medical superintendent Bruno Okal said the bodies were collected from different spots in the river.

We call upon members of the public to visit and establish whether their missing kin are among the bodies. Three of the bodies were retrieved from water while four were found along the banks, according to the police who brought them, Dr Okal said.

He added: The hospital administration is making this call in order to ease the strain that is currently experienced in the facility. We can only handle a maximum of 16 bodies. Secondly, relatives of the deceased persons should give them a decent send-off.

Some of the seven bodies had begun decomposing, just like 32 others retrieved from the same river in January.

Our mortuary is relatively small. Bodies retrieved from water are often in bad shape and require specialised handling our facility is strained beyond limit, he added.

Of those retrieved in January, 13 were positively identified by relatives through DNA analysis and were subsequently collected and buried.

At the time, the news of unclaimed bodies retrieved from the River Yala and piled up at the Yala hospital mortuary shocked the country, with media reports suggesting that they were extrajudicial killings possibly carried out by state security agencies.

In an earlier interview, Mr Nicholas Okero, who helped the police retrieve bodies from the river, said some bodies were stuffed in sacks before being discarded into the river.

Some had deep cuts and their faces [were] totally disfigured. Some bodies had also stayed in water for long and [had] begun decomposing, Mr Okero said.

He also said some had their faces tied with polythene bags and their hands tied to their backs.

He speculated that some of those bodies might have been dumped upstream and driven downstream by currents to the Ndanu falls, where they were found.

Government chief pathologist Johansen Oduor, who led the postmortem examinations on the 32 bodies, said at the time that some of them were skeletal.

He said others had disfigured faces and could not be identified unless through DNA sampling.

Police spokesman Bruno Shioso said the police would investigate what led to their deaths.

As the police, we shall leave no stone unturned. All the bodies will be identified and we shall ensure justice is served. We shall arrest all the perpetrators and bring them to face the law, he said.

End of River Yala: Dumped bodies back as six men, woman retrieved from water



Counties

People with disabilities protest omission from nomination list

Oscar Kakai / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

People with disabilities in West Pokot have protested their exclusion from the final list of nominees to the county assembly.

They complained that they have been sidelined from county affairs.

They urged the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to de-gazette the names of nominated MCAs, arguing that genuine nominees were expunged from the final list.

We are disappointed that political parties, including UDA, Kanu and KUP, did not include any of us in their nomination lists. I personally applied and was shortlisted but my name was missing in the final list, said Selina Longiro (UDA).

She urged Governor Simon Kachapin and local lawmakers to intervene ahead of the swearing-in slated for Wednesday September 21, 2022.

If we miss in the assembly, how will we be recognised in employment by the county government as required under the law to get 30 percent? We are being stigmatised yet this is the hustler government and we are the hustlers, she said.

Also read: Activist wants four nominees to Meru assembly quashed

A disabled member of UDA said that many disabled children in the county are in school but they lack representation.

The swearing-in of MCAs should be put on hold until the nomination issue is resolved, said Benjamin Lopuoyang, who is disabled.

The IEBC gazetted 12 people to be sworn in as nominated MCAs alongside 20 elected ward representatives in the West Pokot County Assembly.

The 12 were nominated by UDA, Kanu and KUP.

Eric Kalikwan, another disabled person, said it is against the Constitution to discriminate against them in elective and appointive positions.

I was number five on the list but my name was removed. We must go to court, he said.

Constitutional requirement

Lawyer Kevin Kachapin said that the nomination of people with disabilities to county assemblies is a constitutional requirement. They represent the interests of the marginalised group.

The challenges faced by [the disabled] are immeasurable. The alleged failure to nominate them to 21 county assemblies was a brazen disregard of the law and the threshold of equal representation, he said.

He said political parties and the IEBC had disregarded laid-down procedures and provisions of the law, arguing that skewed selections will erode the confidence and integrity of the nomination process.

End of People with disabilities protest omission from nomination list



Counties

Teacher from music festival, two others die in Kisumu road accident

Elizabeth Ojina / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Three people have died in a road accident involving a pickup truck and a matatu in Luanda on Kisumu-Nairobi highway. The Monday evening misfortune claimed the life of a teacher, who had participated in the ongoing National Music Festival in Kisumu.

The teacher and the driver of the pickup truck perished on the spot while the third victim died on arrival at a hospital. Nine passengers were rushed to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital nursing various injuries. Police reports said the driver of the pickup was trying to overtake a lorry when he hit an oncoming matatu heading to Ahero.

Plea to observe traffic rules

Sending a message of condolence to the affected families, Kisumu Governor Anyang Nyong'o asked motorists to observe traffic rules.

"I have received with shock reports of a fatal road accident that occurred at Luanda Rabuor along the Kisumu-Ahero road, involving two vehicles, a Nissan matatu and a pickup truck, on Monday evening," said Governor Nyong'o in a statement.

He added: I take this opportunity to send my heartfelt condolences to the families and colleagues of those killed in the accident and wish quick recovery to the injured who are recuperating in hospital.

The bodies of the deceased passengers were taken to the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital mortuary.

End of Teacher from music festival, two others die in Kisumu road accident



Counties

Samburu leaders seek state intervention to return stolen livestock

Geoffrey Ondieki / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Samburu leaders have demanded the unconditional return of animals stolen by suspected thieves from neighbouring Isiolo County.

Samburu Governor Jonathan Lelelit, Senator Steve Lelegwe, Samburu East MP Jackson Lentoijoni and village elders want the government to ensure that about 700 animals are returned.

They said returning the animals, the main source of residents livelihoods, was the only way of avoiding retaliation.

On Monday, rustlers stormed Kom, on the Samburu-Isiolo border, and drove away hundreds of cattle. Governor Lelelit said dozens of families were left destitute by the loss of the animals.

"We just ask the government to help return the livestock to owners here. They are reeling under the shock of losing all livestock because they entirely depend on them for a living," the governor said, as he asked herders not to retaliate.

"We have asked our people not to retaliate because we are peace-loving citizens. We just ask the government to intervene and help locals get back their livestock."

The leaders said they will pursue peaceful methods of recovering the animals. Senator Lelegwe asked acting Inspector-General of Police Noor Gabow to help recover the animals, arguing that the government has the machinery to do so.

"We are therefore asking the acting Inspector-General to send troops to recover the livestock. Tens of families here do not know their fate, because they entirely depend on these animals for a living," Dr Lelegwe said.

Mr Lentoijoni asked the government to reinstate Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) to help combat cattle rustling. He argued that police reservists would help respond to attacks alongside mainstream security agencies like the Anti Stock Theft Unit.

Armed police drive 400 head of cattle past Archers Post in Samburu East on March 5 during an operation to recover animals. Photo/ FILE

"We need the reservists back to help these police officers because they are not enough, he said, adding that bandit attacks went down when reservists were armed.

He urged the national government to find a long-term solution to endemic cattle theft in Samburu County.

Last month, President William Ruto claimed that elaborate mechanisms were in place to end banditry in parts of northern Kenya. He spoke to the media after being announced winner of the presidential election.

He lamented that thousands of people had been affected over the years by insecurity in Baringo, the Kerio Valley, Samburu, Turkana and Marsabit.

"We have a time-bound plan to secure bandit-prone areas. We will shortly let the country know what we have in place to secure the lives and protect the people of Kenya," Dr Ruto said.

Dr Ruto had earlier alleged that the Jubilee administration's move to withdraw NPRs from bandit-prone areas of the Rift Valley was a ploy to punish him. He spoke during the presidential debate on 26 July and claimed that the 2019 decision was politically motivated.

"I have even used my personal resources to deal with that situation because I know it was a political agenda. The withdrawal of NPR was an unfortunate act but because it was intended to punish William Ruto, he alleged.

End of Samburu leaders seek state intervention to return stolen livestock



Counties

Tea workers renew fight against harvesting machines

Tom Matoke / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Tea workers have revived their push for mechanised tea harvesting to be abolished, citing massive job losses and claims that the quality of Kenyan tea has been compromised on the international market.

They appealed to President William Ruto to direct multinational tea companies to stop importing and using harvesting machines, in keeping with his bottom-up economic plans that he promised on the campaign trail.

They claim thousands have lost jobs in the tea sector since the machines were introduced, urging the President to protect jobs.

More than 70,000 tea pickers have lost their jobs in the last 10 years, with companies citing high operational costs, says the Kenya Plantation and Agriculture Workers Union (KPAWU).

Business dynamics

Tea workers say one tea machine can do the work of 2,000 people a day, while Kenya Tea Growers Association CEO Apolo Kiarie explains that tea companies had to seek ways of remaining in business and mechanical tea picking was one of them.

KPAWU leaders argue that for the economy to grow, the large number of tea workers that companies replaced with tea machines must be reinstated.

Also read: Tea picking machines remain a sticky issue in Rift Valley politics

Many tea workers struggle to make ends meet, and the harvesting machines have not made it any easier, said KPAWU national chairman Eliakim Ochieng.

The workers reminded Dr Ruto about his election campaign promises, saying he and his Kenya Kwanza brigade pledged to address the issues of tea companies.

As tea workers, we are asking President Ruto's government to ban the use of harvesting machines by tea companies to protect millions of families in Kenya and those that directly or indirectly rely on the tea industry for survival, he said.

Catch-22

The workers' demands put the President in a catch-22 situation: he has to balance the expectations to protect local jobs and the need to keep investors in the tea industry happy.

During the election campaigns, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya also promised to ban tea companies from importing tea machines, accusing them of creating an unemployment crisis in Kenya and citing the need to maintain the quality of Kenyan tea.

Mr Ochieng, the KPAWU chairman, claimed the machines had compromised the quality of Kenyan tea.

The workers said tea picking should be done with human hands to maintain quality.

Other presidents from eastern Africa have banned tea machines and given priority to the employment of their own people, he said.

Some of the multinational tea companies in Kenya are Eastern Produce Kenya (EPK), Williamson, James Finely and Nandi Tea.

End of Tea workers renew fight against harvesting machines



Counties

Former MP Teddy Mwambire wins Kilifi Speaker seat

Nation Reporter / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Former Ganze MP Ganze Teddy Mwambire has been elected the new Kilifi Speaker after garnering 37 out of 51 votes.

His closest rival, Mr James Mlewa, got 13 votes while Mr Ian Amani Mkare, who was a candidate for the Kilifi North parliamentary on a Pamoja African Alliance (PAA) party ticket got a vote.

Others in the race but got zero votes are Peter Ziro, Caroline Chilango, Erick Saburi, Gerald Lewa, William Chengo and Chiringa Menza.

There has been a lot of lobbying by the Orange Democratic Party (ODM) which fronted Mr Mwambire.

Mr Mwambire lost the parliamentary seat to former Roads Chief Office Charo Kenneth Kazungu in the August 9 polls.

By law, the election of the 47 county speakers is supposed to be effected immediately once the MCAs are sworn in.

The speaker is the spokesperson of the assembly and must ensure the dignity of the assembly is upheld and presides over debates of the assembly at every sitting.

End of Former MP Teddy Mwambire wins Kilifi Speaker seat



Counties

Push for pardoned convicts to be removed from DCI criminal records

George Munene / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The presidential clemency law should be amended to enable pardoned convicts to secure gainful employment, a task force has been told.

The team, which is reviewing laws relating to the exercise of the power of mercy, sat at Embu Talent Academy and heard that the law should be more friendly to reformed convicts.

The criminal records of a pardoned person should be expunged from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) systems once the person is released through presidential clemency, stakeholders said.

"When convicts are pardoned, their criminal records are still retained by the DCI and when they seek certificates of good conduct so that they can be employed, they can't get them, one of them said.

Therefore, the convicts remain jobless and they can start committing the same crimes for survival."

Also read: Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu pardons 5,001 prisoners

Law Society of Kenya (LSK) Embu branch chairman Duncan Rukwaro underscored the need to amend the law for the benefit of convicts.

"Many of the convicts commit crimes due to poverty. They steal for survival and when they reform in prison and are [pardoned] their criminal records should be erased so that they can access certificates of good conduct from DCI without hindrances, Mr Rukwaro said.

By doing so the government will be helping the convicts who have changed to be good citizens."

The stakeholders also recommended that vulnerable people, including pregnant mothers, the elderly and are terminally ill serving life jail terms should be allowed to serve non-custodial sentences under strict supervision.

"The vulnerable people suffer and there is no need to confine them in cells as long as they have shown remorse," said Mr Ronald Kinyua.

Embu Resident Magistrate Dorcas Endoo thanked the government for coming up with the task force.

"This team is doing a good job. We support it," she said.

Monitor offenders

But she said a multi-sectoral committee where the LSK will have a representative should be put in place to monitor offenders released through the power of mercy and ensure they are reintegrated into the community and don't commit crimes again.

The stakeholders observed that human beings, if mentored well, can change from hardcore criminals to good people and the presidential clemency law should be refined to benefit them.

They also noted that the law, if well applied, will save the government significant resources.

"Prisoners spend Sh12 million daily on food and if more convicts change their behaviour and are released, the government will save funds that can be used in development projects," said task force secretary Stephen Gitau.

Every reformed convict should be freed from prison and be financed by the government to start an income-generating project, stakeholders said.

End of Push for pardoned convicts to be removed from DCI criminal records



Counties

Senate induction conference kicks off in Naivasha

Stella Cherono / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The five-day induction conference for senators has kicked off in Naivasha.

Opening the workshop, Senate Speaker Amason Kingi said its main purpose was to provide the legislators with information essential in discharging their mandate in the Senate and on committees.

The people of Kenya have for a long time been treated to interesting legislative and executive power plays whose outcomes have left the masses with more questions than clear answers on what constitutes the role of legislators in advancing equitable and un-biased development in our country, Mr Kingi said.

He said the workshop will include information on key legislative processes.

The senators will also be told how the Parliamentary Service Commission works and its functions, the Senates role in advancing inter-governmental relations and devolution issues.

Senators follow proceedings during the induction retreat of the 4 th Senate in Naivasha, Nakuru County in this photo taken on September 20, 2022

This should allow senators to start on the right foot, Mr Kingi said, adding that things dont just go wrong, they start wrong.

Kenyans had almost become tired of the casual conduct of the governance business, he said, underscoring the importance of the Senate, which he said ensures principled moderation in the conduct of matters of state and governance.

Senate Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye exuded confidence that the current Senate has what it takes to consolidate the gains made by previous ones, fine-tune existing grey areas and achieve the objectives of devolution.

He noted that the Senate has been at loggerheads with the National Assembly and other arms of Parliament, and that at the end of the conference, the legislators will find a solution to some of the issues they will face.

This is the first time the legislators are converging after their swearing-in on September 9. During their inaugural sitting, the 67 senators picked Mr Kingi as the third Speaker of the Senate and Meru Senator Murungi Kathuri as his deputy.

Nakuru Senator Tabitha Karanja speaks during the induction retreat of the 4 th Senate in Naivasha, Nakuru County in this photo taken on September 20, 2022.

The two leaders are under the Kenya Kwanza coalition.

The Naivasha retreat, whose theme is Understanding the Mandate of the Senate and Strengthening Devolution through Legislative Agenda, will end on Saturday.

Notable speakers will include Chief Justice Martha Koome, Attorney-General Kihara Kariuki, EACC chairperson Eliud Wabukhala, Commission on Revenue Allocation chairperson Jane Kiringai, Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu, and the Cabinet secretaries for the National Treasury, Devolution and Foreign Affairs and others.

End of Senate induction conference kicks off in Naivasha



Counties

Reprieve as Governor Joseph Lenku releases relief food for 20,000 families

Stanley Ngotho / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

More than 110,000 households in Kajiado County are facing starvation as the ongoing drought continues to bite.

School going children are finding it difficult to continue learning with classes recording less than half the pupils, according to a joint report by stakeholders on the mitigation of the growing impact of the drought.

On Tuesday, Governor Joseph Ole Lenku moved in and released an assortment of relief food to the first batch of more than 20,000 households distributed across the sub-counties.

This is about a third of the need as more families continue to slide in hunger after signs of the expected rains continued to diminish.

According to a distribution schedule seen by Nation, the food package includes 6 kilos of rice, 4 kilos of maize floor, 4 kilos of beans and 2 litres of cooking oil.

Also read: Do not scrap CBC, enhance it, private teachers, university dons plead

Although the food was dispatched to all the wards, the need analysis shows Matapato North and South, Lenkisir, Magadi, Loodokilani, Keekonyokie, Kuku, Imbirikani, Ewuaso Inkidong wards as most affected.

The food is also scheduled to benefit low cost estates in the urban and peri-urban areas with the most affected areas being Nonkopir and Kyang'ombe in Oloosirkon Sholinke ward, Kitengela and Kware in Nkaimurunya ward, Gichagi and Mathare slums in Ngong ward and Majengo in Ildamat ward.

The food has been purchased by the county government's emergency fund as well as donations from a consortium of humanitarian agencies convened by the governor three weeks ago.

"We have a food basket where we are putting all the food donations. We have purchased with the little we have. We ask for more food donations because the numbers of needy cases are increasing every day," said governor Lenku.

The governor lamented the situation in the rural areas was dire with communities battling their own hunger and that of their animals.

"It is a battle for survival for both human beings and animals. It calls for very urgent measures as we face a situation where we could lose people due to starvation. The livestock are dying at an alarming rate," said Lenku.

Common approach

Last month, Lenku convened a meeting of 15 humanitarian organisations and elected leaders to forge a common approach to raise food donations and livestock feed for herders.

Among the organisations that have come in handy are Food and Agriculture Organisation, Unicef, Big Life Foundation and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)

Big Life Foundation that operates in Kajiado, has for example, adopted schools where they have launched feeding programmes to keep the pupils in school.

Big Life CEO Benson Leyian said the organisation had already put 29,000 schoolgoing pupils on a fortified porridge programme with a lunch programme for them set to start when schools reopen.

"We are working very closely with our other partners and the County Government to ensure enrollment does not go down due to hunger. We treat the hunger situation as a crisis and we are keen to protect our children not to drop out of school," said Mr Leyian.

A spot check in various primary schools last week in Kajiado Central, East and West indicated many pupils were unable to do their end of term examinations as many had been enlisted by their parents to look for pasture for their dying livestock.

End of Reprieve as Governor Joseph Lenku releases relief food for 20,000 families



Counties

Sakaja pledges to work with Kura to improve city roads

Kevin Cheruiyot / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The Nairobi County Government in collaboration with the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (Kura) will expand the use of technology to manage traffic better, including identifying and fining offenders.

This was agreed upon after Governor Johnson Sakaja hosted Kura Director General Eng Silas Kinoti to discuss ways in which they can enhance partnership to deliver more and better roads for city residents.

Eng Kinoti briefed Governor Sakaja on the various projects that Kura is undertaking in the city, among them the construction of an intelligent transport management command Centre that will be based along Mombasa Road near City Cabanas which is funded by the South Korean Government to a tune of Sh16 billion.

Governor Sakaja said that one of the key pillars of his administration is to bring order to the county.

Smart technology

We want to deploy smart technology to ensure order in our transport sector. It makes no sense to have working traffic lights yet the movement of vehicles is still manually controlled, Mr Sakaja said.

Mr Kinoti expressed concern about vandalism and theft of road infrastructure and called for better enforcement by the police.

Vandalism is one of the biggest challenges to road furniture and we need a team that comprises the police, the county government, Kura and other stakeholders to deal with this, Mr Kinoti said.

The governor added that he would call a multi-sectoral meeting to find ways in which various government agencies can work together to deal with challenges in the transport sector.

Traffic remains the biggest challenge that is facing the county government and the national government.

The motorists in Nairobi are some of the worst hit by traffic in Africa.

The construction of the Nairobi Expressway has not reduced the traffic, but has given motorists an alternative way to escape from the daily traffic jam.

End of Sakaja pledges to work with Kura to improve city roads



Counties

Former CEC member floors ex-MP in Trans Nzoia Speaker seat contest

Gerald Bwisa / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Former Trans Nzoia Finance executive Andrew Wanyonyi is the new county assembly Speaker after defeating former Cherangany MP Wesley Korir in Tuesday's election.

Mr Wanyonyi, a close ally of outgoing Defense Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa, won the highly contested seat with a simple majority of votes against the UDA candidate.

Assembly Clerk Moses Lubao said Mr Wanyonyi garnered 20 votes against Mr Korir's 13.

The race attracted 11 contestants, but only seven were cleared to vie.

Also in the race were former Speakers David Sifuna Mukinisu and Joshua Werunga.

Mr Lubao earlier ordered a rerun after the candidates failed to garner a two-thirds majority. In the initial voting, Mr Wanyonyi received 19 votes against Mr Korir's 14.

All the 33 ward representatives were present and took part in the election.

Mr Korir, a 2012 Boston Marathon winner who lost the Cherangany parliamentary bid to Patrick Simiyu in the August 9 elections, was banking on the majority UDA members to win the Speakers seat.

Also read: Activist wants four nominees to Meru assembly quashed

Voting narrowed down to seven contestants when none failed to meet the two-thirds majority threshold (at least 22 votes) in the first round.

Mr Wanyonyi was subsequently sworn in by the clerk and immediately after his inauguration speech assumed his duties by overseeing the election of his deputy.

"Top on our agenda will be integration of our people. We hope to demonstrate this in our mandate as the third assembly," he said.

Matisi ward MCA Obed Mwale was elected deputy Speaker unopposed because he was the only one who applied.

The 25 elected and eight nominated MCAs took the oath of office on Tuesday morning, with the Clerk Lupao presiding.

End of Former CEC member floors ex-MP in Trans Nzoia Speaker seat contest



Counties

Protests as aspirants barred from Homa Bay Speaker race

George Odiwuor / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Several aspirants for the Homa Bay County Assembly Speakers position have protested being locked out of the race in a scheme they claim is meant to favour a preferred individual.

Six candidates will battle it out for the seat after they met all the requirements enumerated in a newspaper advertisement last week.

One of the requirements was to have all applications in by 9.30am on Monday for clearance ahead of voting on Wednesday.

Now those locked out claim the information about the deadline and other requirements were deliberately made available late.

Assembly Clerk Faith Apuko rejected the papers of aspirants who submitted their papers even one minute after the deadline.

The strict deadline prevented seven people from submitting their documents.

The seven had last week notified the House of their interest in contesting the Speakers seat and collected nomination forms.

Ms Zilper Opapo and Polycup Otieno, who were among those locked out, said they had invested time holding meetings with MCAs to sell their agenda hoping they would be elected Speaker.

They castigated the process as fraudulent.

"We had one day, Friday, to do everything. Unfortunately, some of the requirements could only be [met] if we had more time," Ms Opapo said.

Another requirement was that applicants had to get clearance from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

Ms Opapo said that is where the problem started.

Short notice

At the IEBC office, contenders were asked to get clearance from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) office located in Kisii town.

She said the advert for the position should have been made a week earlier to allow interested individuals to get their credentials ready.

Ms Apuko advertised the Speaker's position on Thursday, with applicants saying they had only one day, Friday, to gather their documents.

"Government offices close during weekends. I tried my best to get clearance on Friday but I could not do everything as required, so I had to push everything to Monday," Ms Opapo said.

She added: "I continued with the process on Monday and was a few minutes late. I was told I am locked out."

Ms Opapo was the only female applicant.

She argued that her absence from the contest violates her freedom to vie for an elective position.

"The entire leadership of the county will not have regional balance as some regions are overrepresented," she claimed.

The former Homa Bay municipal board chairperson said some of the regions in the county have at least two elected leaders while others like Homa Bay Town, where she hails from, has its MP as the only political leader.

Mr Otieno said he was disappointed when he was told he could not proceed to the ballot after the House failed to provide him with all information about clearance.

It is as if there is a preferred candidate among those cleared. That is why some of us were locked out, he said.

The six who were cleared included John Apollo, the chief of protocol in Homa Bay County government; former Central Karachuonyo MCA Julius Gaya; and Fredrick Gaya, the director of Youth Empowerment Bridge Organization (YEBO) Africa.

Former Gwasssi North MCA Evans Marieba, Innocent Masara and Pascal Odhiambo also presented their papers on time.



Counties

Protests as aspirants barred from Homa Bay Speaker race

George Odiwuor / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

End of Protests as aspirants barred from Homa Bay Speaker race



Bankелеle: Who owns government officials Tweets?

Bankелеle / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

In the last few days, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i appears to have taken down his verified Twitter account and this has sparked some debate on if it contained information that he should have retained and handed over to be preserved with the National Archives.

Last week, State House had an online transition from President Uhuru Kenyatta to President William Ruto with the profile picture changing to the new President on the day he took the oath of office. The new President's account is still a work in process, changing its tone, subject and authorship. A tweet was put up announcing an about-turn in diplomacy between Morocco and Western Sahara that was later pulled down.

While some commentators and bloggers are deleting tweets created in the heat of the election season, people who serve in government, and who put up content on their official handles, should not have that luxury.

Twitter represents a good source of information as government departments and ministries are not good at maintaining websites. You can search a Twitter timeline and see breaking news and note official events that happened, but which do not appear on the organization's websites.

Matiang'i's tenure as CS had three phases; first from April 2013 to November 2015, when he was the CS for ICT, then at the Education Ministry to January 2018. President Kenyatta appointed him to the Interior Ministry in 2017 when Joseph Ole Nkaisery passed away and held that role until now. Also in January 2019, he was appointed as Chairman of the National Development Cabinet Committee.

Matiang'i joined Twitter in April 2013 and ran his verified account until sometime in September 2022. With a tool like Internet Archive "Wayback Machine," you can observe his tweets on different topics like digital migration, securing national examinations and police reforms and see an evolution of writing styles. It was certainly Matiang'i's Twitter account, but it also represents an in-built archive of his decade heading important dockets in the government. He sent 1,800 tweets, averaging one per day and had 1.3 million followers at the end.

His earlier tweets at the ICT and Education ministries were in a personal style and you feel that he was the one in charge of his account, sending tweets about his daily activities as he also responded to issues raised such as negotiations on teacher salaries, protecting journalists and calling out untruths about leaders.

Later, as Cabinet Secretary for the Interior, his tweets were more comprehensive. You sense that they were done by a professional team capturing his daily activities as the CS, articulating government policies, with multiple pictures, and extracts of his speeches, as they happen, and tying in with activities at other agencies like the National Police Service. The Interior Ministry's Twitter account would have similar content, and the same message, but in a different style, not merely re-tweeting each other, likely by a different author with a more official style for the government.

In exiting from Twitter, CS Matiang'i may be following his boss, President Kenyatta who in March 2019 disconnected from his verified Twitter that had 3.6 million followers as well as other platforms. While State House said it was because of unauthorised access to the account, in later years the President would say it was for peace of mind from the online noise and useless abuse.

But, these days, Twitter has more tools to protect its celebrated authors. He could have made his account private or chosen to filter feedback by blocking users or only allowing people he named to reply.

Finally deactivating a Twitter account makes the account go invisible to readers, but it might not be deleted and remains available only to him as the author. He may have taken his account down to have a break, or for some quiet time perhaps to write a book in peace, by using his Twitter timeline as a good research source. With 1.3 million followers, Matiang'i's verified account will be a useful medium as he shifts to a new life phase or career.

End of Bankелеle: Who owns government officials Tweets?



Blogs-opinion

Learn to eat well, but not our money

Macharia Gaitho / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

It is, indeed, great that President William Ruto recognises the dire need for lessons in etiquette around his dinner table. We do recall that in the early years of Independence, Jeans School, in Kabete, the present-day Kenya School of Government, developed such a programme for wives of the emerging African elite.

After nearly 60 years, we have a whole crop of leaders, and not just their spouses, who still need to be trained on how to handle a fork and knife.

That viral video of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua stuffing cake into his mouth on Inauguration Day obviously was an eye-opener for President Ruto. The DP and other rustic elected leaders aside, we also boast that hustlers and Mama Mboga will be an integral part of the government. Those of wanting social skills will not be admitted to the high table before undergoing a crash course on how to conduct themselves like the hated dynasties.

We have to hope, however, that the curriculum at Kabete will not be limited to table manners, which knife, fork, spoon and glass to use with each course, and how not to drink from the finger bowl or pile the dessert on top of the main dish.

Overflowing plates

The training programme must also encompass gluttony. The Kenya Kwanza leaders around President Ruto must learn not to fill their plates to overflowing levels. Beyond that, they must also learn that grabbing public resources is a criminal offence.

Even before the Cabinet is appointed, we are seeing fellows openly casting covetous glances at the public purse.

The energy parastatals seem to be a particular target for those eyeing lucrative tenders, as is the giant transport, public works and infrastructure sector, which denizens around former President Uhuru Kenyatta had converted into personal piggy banks.

Fellows in the new regime are making all the right noises about dealing decisively with State Capture and the crony capitalism that was the hallmark of the Jubilee government. However, it is all too evident that, for many of them, it is not about ending corruption, but about it being their turn to eat. Again.

All that noise about the blatant corruption all too evident around the family and close confidants of the former president is driven by self-interest. Were not seeing genuine moral outrage about grand corruption at the heart of government but outrage that they were kept off the feeding trough that was the exclusive preserve of a few.

Campaign rhetoric

Those fellows claiming that they were targeted for investigations and prosecution are not saying that they did not steal, but that others who also stole were left untouched.

From campaign rhetoric that now seems to be government policy, we have a genuine fear that a whole crop of politicians under investigation or already indicted for corruption, assault, murder and other serious criminal offences will employ political muscle to have the charges dropped.

We heard just the other day Mr Gachagua warn the police against harassing governors and other elected leaders who were being investigated for corruption.

Director of Criminal Investigations George Kinoti may, indeed, have gone overboard with his theatrics and seeming over-enthusiasm on some investigations. But that cannot provide justification for any policy that makes one law for elected leaders and another for ordinary citizens.

Kenya Kwanza sycophants

Mr Kinoti, an object of hate for Kenya Kwanza sycophants, will presumably be one of the first public officers to be ejected by the new regime. But his successor will be a total and abject failure if they accept that their brief is to turn a blind eye to crime by those who claim that they are close to the President.

One of President Ruto's first executive orders was to grant financial autonomy to the Inspector-General of the National Police Service. Mr Hilary Mutyambai is now the accounting officer rather than some principal secretary in the Office of the President.

That looks like a well-meaning order on the principle that financial autonomy also translates to operational autonomy. The police service is now empowered to operate independently and properly insulated from directions by any other



Blogs-opinion

Learn to eat well, but not our money

Macharia Gaitho / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

power or authority.

That other power or authority that the Constitution and laws bar from interfering with the police starts from the President downwards.

It, therefore, makes it nonsense for President Ruto to grant the police autonomy but, before the ink is dry on the executive order, Deputy President Gachagua is countermanding it with irregular roadside decrees purporting to place elected leaders above the law.

It must be made clear that leaders don't have a licence to eat public resources.

; www.gaitho.co.ke. @MachariaGaitho

End of Learn to eat well, but not our money



Africa

Too weak to cry: Famine looms over Somalia's children

AFP / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

As flies buzz over his tiny body, two-year-old Sadak Ibrahim barely whimpers, too weak to cry or shoo them away -- a heartbreaking glimpse of the hunger crisis gripping Somalia.

The Horn of Africa nation is on the brink of a second famine in just over a decade, enduring its worst drought in 40 years after failed rainy seasons since late 2020 wiped out crops and livestock.

With a fifth monsoon forecast to fail, the United Nations warned this month that time was running out to save lives as it urged donors to contribute more to the relief effort.

Read: President Mohamud: Somalia severely affected by drought

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said the situation was worse than the 2011 famine when 260,000 people died in the country, more than half of them children under the age of six.

Aid is slowly making its way to Somalia following delays caused by the war in Ukraine, which also sent the cost of transport and emergency supplies soaring.

But many fear the help will arrive too late for the country's youngest victims like Sadak, with around 730 children already reported dead in nutrition centres between January and July this year, according to UNICEF.

At De Martino Hospital in the capital Mogadishu, Sadak's anxious mother Fadumo Daud sat vigil by the toddler's bedside, a feeding tube dangling from his face, as she prayed for a miracle.

Also read: 29m people face hunger as drought ravages eastern Africa

"He is the only child I have, and he is very sick as you can see," the young woman told AFP, recounting the three-day journey that brought her to Mogadishu from Baidoa -- one of the epicentres of the crisis.

'Dramatic increase'

In recent years, climate disasters have increasingly become the main driver of migration in Somalia, which is also grappling with a brutal 15-year Islamist insurgency.

Every day, dozens of people stream into camps set up for displaced families in Mogadishu.

Also read: More than 2.73m people in Somalia face food crisis: UN

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) non-profit runs seven health and nutrition centres in and around the capital, but their resources are sharply stretched with the crisis showing no signs of abating.

"The number of new arrivals has increased dramatically starting from June this year," IRC nutrition officer Faisa Ali told AFP.

Most of the children turn up malnourished, she said, with their numbers trebling from a maximum of 13 a day in May to 40 now.

A mother of 10, Nuunay Adan Durow fled her home and travelled 300 kilometres (200 miles) to find medical help for her three-year-old son Hassan Mohamed, his limbs swollen due to severe malnutrition.

Read: Region starves as Tanzania seeks wider market for its surplus food

"For the last three years, we have not harvested anything due to lack of rain," Durow told AFP, describing how she was forced to trek for two hours daily to find water for her family.

"We faced a terrible situation," the 35-year-old said, cradling Hassan in her arms as they awaited medical attention at an IRC centre on the outskirts of Mogadishu.

'The worst cases'

The drought has also affected parts of Kenya and Ethiopia but the risks for Somalia are particularly grave, with 200,000 people in danger of starvation and around 1.5 million children facing acute malnutrition by next month, the UN says.

The crisis has not spared even traditionally fertile regions such as Lower Shabelle, where drought-stricken communities would seek refuge in the past, hoping to find sustenance there.

Also read: Somalia raises alarm over food shortage

"We used to farm and get vegetables to feed our children before the drought affected us," Fadumo Ibrahim Hassan, 35, told AFP.



Africa

Too weak to cry: Famine looms over Somalia's children

AFP / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Now "we live on whatever God gives us", the widowed mother-of-six said.

A recent arrival in Mogadishu, her two-year-old daughter Yusro's condition had deteriorated to the point that the IRC staff could no longer care for her.

Weighing just 5.8 kilogrammes (12.8 pounds) -- half that of a healthy girl the same age -- Yusro was dangerously malnourished, according to the IRC medical team, who told AFP she urgently needed to be admitted to a hospital.

At De Martino Hospital, doctor Fahmo Ali told AFP that each day brought more sick, malnourished children into her care.

Also read: Drought-ravaged Horn of Africa in need of funding to avert crisis: envoy

"The ones we are receiving here are the worst cases with complications," she said.

"Sometimes those we have treated come back to the hospital after getting sick again."

End of Too weak to cry: Famine looms over Somalia's children



Africa

One person dying of hunger every four seconds worldwide- NGOs

AFP / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

One person is estimated to be dying of hunger every four seconds, over 200 NGOs warned Tuesday, urging decisive international action to "end the spiralling global hunger crisis".

In an open letter addressing world leaders gathering in New York for the United Nations General Assembly, 238 organisations from 75 countries, including Oxfam, Save the Children and Plan International expressed outrage at skyrocketing hunger levels.

"A staggering 345 million people are now experiencing acute hunger, a number that has more than doubled since 2019," they said in a statement.

"Despite promises from world leaders to never allow famine again in the 21st century, famine is once more imminent in Somalia. Around the world, 50 million people are on the brink of starvation in 45 countries," they said.

Pointing out that as many as 19,700 people are estimated to be dying of hunger every day, the NGOs said that this translates to one person dying of hunger every four seconds.

"It is abysmal that with all the technology in agriculture and harvesting techniques today we are still talking about famine in the 21st century," Mohanna Ahmed Ali Eljabaly from the Yemen Family Care Association, one of the letter's signatories, said in the statement.

"This is not about one country or one continent and hunger never only has one cause. This is about the injustice of the whole of humanity," he said.

"We must not wait a moment longer to focus both on providing immediate lifesaving food and longer-term support so people can take charge of their futures and provide for themselves and their families."

End of One person dying of hunger every four seconds worldwide- NGOs



Africa

Tough rules in Ivory Coast schools: Expelling 'losers' to boost grades

AFP / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Youngsters in Ivory Coast return to school this week with a sword of Damocles above their heads: those with average grades of less than 8.5 out of 10 will be excluded at the end of the year.

The measure is an old one brought back by authorities in the hope of raising the general standard of education in the west African country -- prohibiting any pupil with an unacceptable grade from pursuing their studies.

In the working-class district of Adjame, at the heart of the commercial capital Abidjan, the rule stirs comment at small stalls selling school supplies, where people also exchange secondhand textbooks.

"What are we going to do with the students who will be excluded? It's too drastic!" exclaims Mariam Eid, a mother of three.

Also read: Do not scrap CBC, enhance it, private teachers, university dons plead

"We're going to turn them into bandits. We want the teaching to be up to par, but one step at a time," she adds, while making sure a worn mathematics book has no missing pages before she buys it.

But at the Pierre Amondji college in Adjame -- where the motto "Who seeks perfection obtains excellence" is displayed in capital letters on the walls of the courtyard -- the measure is generally well received among the students.

Redouble efforts

"I find it positive," says Djenebou, who is taking the baccalaureate school leavers' exam at the end of the year.

"It will incite us to redouble our efforts and work harder."

"It's a good measure. The goal is to improve our knowledge so we move on with solid training," adds his classmate Seydou.

But Seydou also hopes the regulation will not encourage fraud, and in particular the blackmailing of students by certain teachers in exchange for good exam grades.

"Some teachers are difficult... The marks are very low and to move on to the next class we have to negotiate with them," the young student says.

The minister of national education, Mariatou Kone, who is seeing in the second new school year of her time in office, defends a regulation that is far from universally welcomed.

"This is a measure that has existed since the 1970s and that we are restoring to encourage students to work and fight against mediocrity," she tells AFP.

Also read: World is off track to meet SDGs, new report finds

"Students will not be barred from the school system. There are bridges between technical education and vocational training," Kone adds, keen "to reassure parents".

The minister says students who don't get the grades will not follow the standard curriculum, but they will be able to learn a trade or different skills.

"We must not leave anybody aside. The state must redirect these students to training in other trades," insists Claude Kadio Aka, president of the Organization of the Parents of Pupils and Students in Ivory Coast (Opeeci).

"All our children are useful in the development of the country," Aka declares.

Measure of averages

Minister Kone stresses the aim of the reform is "to raise the standard" of Ivorian schools and to give diplomas their full worth.

In the past two years, the success rate for the baccalaureate has hovered around 30 percent, compared with 45 percent in previous years.

"Our children are in advanced classes and don't even know how to write an elementary sentence," protests Christelle Okingni, who has four children in school and welcomes the initiative.

But the "measure of averages" will not suffice to improve a school system which is sorely lacking in resources.

"Students regularly rise up to denounce the lack of classrooms and desks," points out a teacher of French from an establishment in Bouake, the country's second city, who prefers to remain anonymous.



Tough rules in Ivory Coast schools: Expelling 'losers' to boost grades

AFP / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

It is not uncommon in Ivory Coast to find classrooms with 60 or even 80 pupils, while a lack of teachers sometimes cuts short the school year by several weeks.

"Last year, we had a mathematics and physics teacher only after the first term, it's not good for us students," laments Aya, a middle-school pupil at a college in Bouake.

The matter of school fees has arisen more than ever at a time when worldwide inflation is not sparing low-income households in Ivory Coast.

Officially, Ivorian state schools are free, but the price of uniforms, satchels and supplies can quickly put a strain on the family budget -- not to mention illegal registration fees sometimes requested by certain establishments.

Last week, the government announced a free distribution of six million textbooks and 5.3 million kits of classroom supplies, as well as the provision of 167,000 tables.

End of Tough rules in Ivory Coast schools: Expelling 'losers' to boost grades



Africa

Death toll from Lassa fever rises to 171 in Nigeria

XINHUA / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Abuja,

The death toll of Lassa fever in Nigeria this year has risen to 171 despite measures by the government to reduce infections across the country, the Nigeria Centers for Disease Control (NCDC) has said.

In its latest Lassa fever situation report, the NCDC says there have been a total of 917 confirmed cases, with 6,660 suspected cases recorded since January 1.

In the week from September 5 to 11 alone, eight new confirmed cases and one death were recorded.

So far, the countrys 25 states have recorded at least one confirmed case across 102 out of the 774 local government areas, the public health agency said in a report dated September 18.

With the death toll rising to 171, the NCDC said the case fatality rate was 18.6 percent, lower than that for the same period last year, which was 23.3 percent.

The agency said the predominant age group affected is 21-30 years, with the male-to-female ratio for confirmed cases being 1:0.8.

According to the World Health Organization, Lassa fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic illness caused by the Lassa virus, a member of the arenavirus family of viruses.

Humans usually become infected with the virus through exposure to food or household items contaminated with urine or faeces of infected mastomys rats.

The disease is endemic in the rodent population in parts of West Africa.

In some cases, Lassa fever has similar symptoms to malaria, appearing between one and three weeks after exposure to the virus.

In mild cases, the disease causes fever, fatigue, weakness, and headache.

The NCDC said it remained committed to supporting state public health teams to achieve the goal of reducing the fevers case fatality rate to a single digit.

The disease control agency said it is currently distributing medical response commodities to states and treatment centres as part of measures to control the spread of the disease.

End of Death toll from Lassa fever rises to 171 in Nigeria



Africa

UN report warns of crimes against humanity in Ethiopia

AFP / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

UN investigators say they believe Ethiopia's government is behind ongoing crimes against humanity in Tigray, and warn the resumption of the conflict there increased the risk of "further atrocity crimes".

In its first report, the Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia on Monday said it had found evidence of widespread violations by all sides since fighting erupted in the northern Tigray region in November 2020.

The commission, created by the UN Human Rights Council last December and made up of three independent rights experts, said it had "reasonable grounds to believe that, in several instances, these violations amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity".

The experts listed a long line of horrific violations, from extrajudicial killings to intentional starvation and rape and sexual violence perpetrated on a "staggering scale".

Read: Ethiopia conflict taking a toll on women, girls

And they highlighted in particular the situation in Tigray, where the government and its allies have denied around six million people access to basic services, including the internet and banking, for more than a year.

Severe restrictions on humanitarian access have left 90 percent of the region's population in dire need of assistance.

The report said there were "reasonable grounds to believe that the Federal Government and allied regional State governments have committed and continue to commit the crimes against humanity of persecution on ethnic grounds and other inhumane acts".

They were "intentionally causing great suffering or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health based on their ongoing denial and obstruction of humanitarian assistance to Tigray", the report said.

In a statement, commission chair Kaari Betty Murungi described the humanitarian crisis in Tigray as "shocking, both in terms of scale and duration".

"The widespread denial and obstruction of access to basic services, food, healthcare, and humanitarian assistance is having a devastating impact on the civilian population," she said.

She condemned likely crimes against humanity and warned that the government appeared to be "using starvation as a method of warfare".

Murungi called on the government to "immediately restore basic services and ensure full and unfettered humanitarian access".

She also urged Tigrayan forces to "ensure that humanitarian agencies are able to operate without impediment".

Since war broke out in November 2020, thousands have died, and many more have been forced to flee their homes as the conflict expanded from Tigray to the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar.

A truce in March had raised hopes for a peaceful resolution of the war, but those were dashed when combat resumed last month.

"With a resumption of hostilities in northern Ethiopia, there is a very real risk of further civilian suffering and further atrocity crimes," Murungi warned.

Even before the fighting resumed, the experts said they had found evidence that rape and sexual violence had been perpetrated on a "staggering scale" since the conflict erupted, especially targeting Tigrayan women and girls.

An earlier joint investigation by the UN rights office and Ethiopia's Human Rights Commission determined that possible war crimes and crimes against humanity had been committed by all sides.

Tigrayan authorities welcomed the report, with a spokesman telling AFP they had "always maintained" that Ethiopia's government was responsible for crimes against humanity in the region.

Monday's report meanwhile also found reasonable grounds to believe that Tigrayan forces had committed war crimes, including large-scale killings of Amhara civilians, rape and sexual violence.

The experts voiced alarm at their findings, which they said "reflect profound polarisation and hatred along ethnic lines in Ethiopia".

"This has created a disturbing cycle of extreme violence and retribution, which raises the imminent threat of further and more pronounced atrocity crimes," their report warned.



Africa

UN report warns of crimes against humanity in Ethiopia

AFP / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The report, due to be presented to the rights council on September 22, made a number of recommendations, including that all parties to the conflict "immediately cease hostilities and violations... including those that might amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity".

It calls on the UN rights office to ensure "full monitoring" of the situation in Ethiopia, and urges the Ethiopian government, its Eritrean ally and authorities in Tigray to investigate and bring all perpetrators of abuses to justice

End of UN report warns of crimes against humanity in Ethiopia



Sports

Golden-girl Angella Okutoyi return home from US

Geoffrey Anene / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Wimbledon junior doubles champion Angella Okutoyi returned home on Monday after a record-breaking year where she competed in the worlds four most important junior tournaments Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon and US Open.

She said she is happy with her performance throughout the year which played a huge part in being awarded five-year full scholarship in US colleges.

The 2021 Africa Under-18 singles winner was offered scholarships by over 30 colleges in the USA. In the company of Tennis Kenya Secretary General Wanjiru Mbugua, she visited the University of Alabama, University of Central Florida, University of North Carolina and California in the last 10 days. She hopes to choose one of them where she will pursue both tennis and a degree in Business Management.

The US has the best colleges for sports. Its really good to have those scholarships. Im sure whichever I choose will help me in the future and in my tennis future. I mean it is good and Im really looking forward to it, said Okutoyi, who got the chance to see the great facilities at the universities they visited.

The 2018 Kenya Open champion is grateful for the opportunity she got to be at the US Open for the first time.

She thanked the International Tennis Federation (ITF), Grand Slam Player Development Programme (GSPDP) and her coach and family and everyone who has supported her.

I enjoyed every single match I played, explained the 18-year-old after her last Grand Slam as a junior where she reached the second round in both singles and doubles at the Flushing Meadows in New York.

Okutoyi, who won the J1 Repentigny doubles title with her partner Malwina Rowinska in Canada just before the US Open, now has a career-high ranking of 49 in ITF junior rankings after she climbed three places on September 12.

Im happy that Im inside the top-50 now which is my career best.

End of Golden-girl Angella Okutoyi return home from US



Sports

Nick Mwendwa, FKF officials return to Kandanda House

Ruth Arege / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Nick Mwendwa, FKF officials return to Kandanda House

Football Kenya Federation President Nick Mwendwa on Tuesday led other officials of the body to the Goal Project, Kandanda House at Kasarani, over 10 months after they were kicked out by Sports Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed.

Mwendwa led FKF Vice President Doris Petra, Secretary General Barry Otieno FKF's Head of Integrity Michael Kamure among others to the facility which had been locked after their unceremonious removal from office.

Together with other FKF National Executive Members, Mwendwa was hounded out of office on November 11, 2021 by Sports CS Amina Mohamed after an audit on the federations accounts alleged misuse of funds.

Having been charged in court with four counts of fraud, Mwendwa - in a November 29 letter addressed to FKF NEC - said he had transferred his functions to his deputy Petra as he sought to clear his name.

Mohamed appointed a FKF Caretaker Committee for an initial six-month tenure before it mutated into the Transition Committee. Amina extended the Transition Committee's term for two months on August 16.

It is not yet clear the fate of the Committee as FKF plans to return to office.

Mwendwa was arrested on several occasions and charged with fraud, but the case was withdrawn under Section 87 of the Penal Code on July 6.

The Director of Public Prosecutions would then charge Mwendwa afresh at Kiambu Law Courts a day later, but the FKF boss would obtain a court order from the High Court to stop any fresh charges against him.

Mwendwa on September 9 wrote to Fifa President Gianni Infantino informing him that he was ready to go back to office after he has stepped aside to deal with his cases.

Lady Justice Esther Maina fixed September 21 as the day of ruling on whether the fresh charges filed against Mwendwa are legal and constitutional.

Reference is made to my letter dated November 29, 2021 with regard to the interim transfer of my powers and responsibilities as FKF President to the FKF Vice president.

In this regard, following the withdrawal of charges by the Director of Public Prosecution on July 8, 2022, I hereby wish to inform your good office that I have resumed my duties as the FKF president, with immediate effect, in accordance with Article 42 of the FKF constitution (2017), said Mwendwa in the letter to Infantino.

The country is serving a suspension imposed by Fifa on February 24 for government interference.

Fifa's conditions before lifting the suspension were for the government to return the running of the sport to FKF and the Goal Project offices to be re-opened.

It remains to be seen if the world football governing body will now lift the suspension in the coming days.

End of Nick Mwendwa, FKF officials return to Kandanda House



Four presidents later, Kipchoge not limited, seeks Berlin encore

Elias Makori / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Eliud Kipchoges international running career has transcended four Kenyan presidents.

When he finished fifth in the junior race at the 2002 IAAF World Cross Country Championships at the Leopardstown Racecourse in Dublin, Ireland, the late Daniel arap Moi was president.

Kipchoges pro career has run astride Mwai Kibakis and Uhuru Kenyattas combined 20-year rule, the distance running G.O.A.T. having launched his marathon career during the late President Kibakis regime and shattering the world marathon record in President Kenyattas final term.

In fact, when Kipchoge made his international debut in Dublin, his teammate in the Global Sports Communication stable, womens metric mile superstar Faith Chepngetich Kipyegon, was an eight-year-old child!

Kipchoges longevity, focus and determination are legendary.

Only Kenenisa Bekele, Ethiopias distance running legend, has stretched his world-class athletics career so long, having won the junior global cross country title in 2001, shattering the world junior 3,000 metres title in August the same year (7:30.69), and most recently finishing third in the Great North Run just a week ago behind Ugandas Jacob Kiplimo and Selemon Barega of Ethiopia.

NN Running Club

Bekeles junior record was subsequently broken three-and-a-half years later by Kenyas Augustine Choge (7:28.78).

Interestingly, Choge, 37, is also still active and, like Kipchoge, Chepngetich and Bekele, also a member of the Jos Hermens-led, Nijmegen (Netherlands) based Global Sports Communication and NN Running Club.

Last year, Choge, who, like Kipchoge, started off as a track specialist, finished 17th overall in the New York City Marathon in a personal best 2:20:53.

Ethiopias Gebre-egziabher Gebremariam, Kenyas Abel Cheruiyot, Ugandas Boniface Kiprop and Kenyas Thomas Kiplitan, who finished ahead of Kipchoge in Dublin 2002, are now long retired from elite athletics.

And now with William Ruto as Kenyas fifth president, Kipchoge, 37, is still going strong and headed for another assault on the world marathon record when he lines up for Sundays Berlin Marathon, seeking to improve on the current record of two hours, one minute and 39 seconds which he set on the same, fast, pancake-flat Berlin course four years ago in 2018.

Sundays race will be a repeat of the rain-affected 2017 edition when Kipchoge (2:03:32), then targeting the world record, was pushed all the way by Ethiopian rookie Guye Adola who clocked the fastest ever time by a debutant (2:03:46).

Adola, winner last year in Berlin, will once again be Kipchoges main challenger in a race the Kenyan legend will be running in the improved version Nike Air Zoom Alphafly NEXT% 2.

These rocket ships are made to help shave precious time off your personal records without surrendering the foundation you need to go the full distance.

Enjoy the greatest energy return of all our racing shoes while you chase your personal bests, reads Nikes review of the latest shoe that retails at about \$317 (approximately Sh38,000 in current exchange rates).

Indeed, as Kipchoges mantra goes, no human is limited. We hope he will slice some digits off the 2:01:39 on Sunday.

How I wish the increasing number of drug cheats in Kenyan athletics could follow the path The Boss Man Kipchoge has charted, and also train hard, win easy, rather than opt for performance-enhancing short-cuts.

As Kipchoge often says, Only the disciplined ones in life are free and anyone can do whatever they want. All they need is to believe!

All the best Eliud! We believe and well be rooting for you on Sunday!

Makori is the Managing Editor (Sports) at Nation Media Group.

Career achievements:

2002 World Cross Country Championships U20 race, 5th;

2003 World Cross Country Championships U20 race, 1st;

2003 World Championships 5,000m, 1st;



Four presidents later, Kipchoge not limited, seeks Berlin encore

Elias Makori / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

2004 World Cross Country Championships senior race, 4th;

2004 Athens Olympic Games 5,000m, 3rd;

2005 World Cross Country Championships senior race, 5th;

2005 World Championships 5,000m, 4th;

2006 World Indoor Championships 3000m, 3rd;

2007 World Championships 5,000m, 2nd;

2008 Beijing Olympic Games 5,000m, 2nd;

2009 World Championships 5,000m, 5th;

2011 World Championships 5,000m, 7th;

2012 World Half Marathon Championships 6th;

2016 Rio Olympic Games marathon, 1st;

2021 Tokyo Olympic Games marathon, 1st;

Marathon career:

1st, 2:05:30 Hamburg, April 2013;

2nd, 2:04:05 Berlin, September 2013;

1st, 2:05:00 Rotterdam, April 2014;

1st, 2:04:11 Chicago, October 2014;

1st, 2:04:42 London, April 2015;

1st, 2:04:00 Berlin, September 2015;

1st, 2:03:05 London, April 2016;

1st, 2:08:44 Rio (Olympics), August 2016;

1st, 2:03:32 Berlin, September 2017;

1st, 2:04:17 London, April 2018;

1st, 2:01:39 Berlin, September 2018;

1st, 2:02:37 London, April 2019;

8th, 2:06:49 London, October 2020;

1st, 2:04:40 Enschede, April 2021;

1st, 2:08:38 Tokyo (Olympics), August 2022;

1st, 2:01:39 Tokyo, March 2022

End of Four presidents later, Kipchoge not limited, seeks Berlin encore



Sports

Amwari banking on Mozzart Bet support to tackle Mombasa Rally

Abdul Sidi / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

With Mozzart Bet Kenya on board as his main sponsors, Issa Amwari is looking for a good result in next months Mombasa Rally.

Im encouraged with the support I am getting from Mozzart Bet Kenya to help me and my team compete in the KNRC events. Im thankful and looking forward to the Mombasa Rally, Amwari told Nation Sport.

The Mombasa Motor Club round of the 2022 Kenya Breweries Limited-sponsored Kenya National Rally Championship will take place on October 15 and 16.

Amwari, whose best result so far is fourth place in the Eldoret Rally, has a new navigator after Job Njiru retired from the competition recently.

The Mitsubishi Lancer Evo10 driver is now co-driven by Edward Njoroge. Amwari won the 2019 Division Two Championship title in one of his major recent achievements.

* * * *

The remaining events of the 2022 Kenya National Rally Championship calendar are: Mombasa Motor Club (October 16-16), Rally Sports Club (November 5-6) and Sikh Union Club (November 26-27).

The remaining African Rally Championship rounds are: Rwanda Rally (September 24-25), Zambia Rally (October 22-23) and Rally of South Africa (November 19-20).

Other calendar events include the National Autocross Championship: Rallye Sports Club (November 5-6), Sikh Union Club (November 26-27), Mombasa Motor Club (October 15-16) and Nanyuki Rally Group (September 10-11).

The Kenya National Karting Championship rounds are: Rift Valley Motor Sports Club (October 1-2 and November 12-13) and Kenya Motor Sports Club (October 29-30).

The Kenya Rally Raid Championship events are: Vintage Classic Car of Kenya (September 10-11) and Rift Valley Motor Sports (October 29-30).

* * * *

Safety is paramount in the sport of rallying. Mid-Point Monitors (MPMs) physically monitor the passage of cars at their allocated points and keep a record of each passing car.

In the event that the electronic tracking system goes on the blink the MPMs are the headquarters eyes and ears on the stage.

At rally speeds, a car will pass an MPM point every five to seven minutes, meaning the Clerk of Course and the Safety Officer can respond appropriately to a situation within minutes of a report of a missing competitor.

Getting all the correct resources in place means planning and the use of a competent Stage Commander.

* * * *

Did you know that...

As a Kenya Motor Sports Federation license holder, one is liable to a massive fine or suspension for going against the Rules on Competitor Conduct or using media for negative publicity?

End of Amwari banking on Mozzart Bet support to tackle Mombasa Rally



New IFC podcast promotes women in Africas 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 sectors 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 womens 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 Africas 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.

EMTECHs 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, EMTECHs mission is to leverage technology to enable access to inclusive and resilient financial ecosystems. Its 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 firms 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. EMTECHs CBDC Platform, with its API-First approach and high-performance DLT, is a more modern design that were 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 DDPs 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.

EMTECHs 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



Digital payments ignite a new era of hope for SMEs in Kenya

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

By Shehryar Ali, East Africa Country Manager, Mastercard

Its no secret that the pandemic was especially tough on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), particularly the many small cash-based businesses that operate in the informal sector. These businesses are the lifeblood of economies, and the fact that they couldnt generate incomes or apply for micro-loans to stay afloat, had a knock-on effect on everything, from employment to general community wellbeing.

In Kenya, SMEs account for 80 percent of jobs. In 2021 alone, an estimated 22 million jobs in Africa were lost, pushing more people into poverty. Its a devastating cycle that can only be broken with multiple actions technology and partnerships being chief among them as this challenge cannot be tackled through a single approach.

This challenging period did not have many silver linings, but one outcome that will have a positive impact on SMEs going forward is the increased rate of digitisation.

During times of limited mobility, more small businesses realised the necessity of selling online and getting paid digitally. This helped to boost cash flow without having to exclusively depend on the much harder and more arduous journey that cash entails to change hands.

The value of light

When I think about the economic strife experienced by so many cash-based SMEs during the pandemic, but also the fortunate acceleration of digitisation, I am reminded of the old Kanga saying: The value of light is noticed when night falls.

By now, the case for digital transformation is well established. Access to digital tools, associated training, credit, and resources, are key, not only to the growth of SMEs, but also integral to their survival. Ensuring that these smaller businesses have access to and benefit from the digital economy, is something that Mastercard is very passionate about.

SMEs are recognising the practical benefits of digitisation in day-to-day operations, as opposed to viewing it as a long-term project for the future. Data shows that 41 percent of SMEs that implemented digitalisation initiatives had stronger revenue growth in 2020 than non-adopters. Thats not the only benefit. Going digital better insulates SMEs against economic shocks, as they can tap into the global economy, reach a wider market, and accept cross-border payments.

Furthermore, as more consumers adopt and use a variety of electronic payments, this two-way digital adoption offers increased benefits for both the business and customers. People do not want to be stuck in a cash economy, which effectively leaves them locked out of many economic activities. They want access to a variety of financial services, and more retail choices.

A digital economy that continues to expand

With every passing day, the digital economy is increasingly becoming the economy. That is why digital inclusion is so critical. We all benefit when more people are connected to the digital economy.

At Mastercard, weve made it both our business strategy and our social responsibility to ensure that people and organisations have access to networks, tools and solutions that could help them reach their full potential and achieve financial security. We have pledged to bring one billion people and 50 million micro and small businesses into the digital economy by 2025, with a direct focus on providing 25 million women entrepreneurs with the solutions they need to grow their business. So how do we do it?

Solutions that support small business resilience

Access to credit is one way, and its something we do with data. Digitalisation of SME operations brings the benefit of generating this helpful data. This same data enables financial institutions to make more informed decisions about extending credit one of the key challenges for small businesses. A digitised record of transactions enables more small businesses to be brought into the financial mainstream, with access to finance solutions that can support their growth.

A great example of Mastercards Track Micro Credit Programme, fuelled by digital transaction data from the beneficiaries themselves, can be seen in Kenyas Jaza Duka initiative. Designed for micro merchants, this inclusive credit ecosystem gives small shop owners short-term credit and digital payment capabilities to help them build their creditworthiness and stock their shelves without having to rely solely on cash. Digitisation is empowering these small



Digital payments ignite a new era of hope for SMEs in Kenya

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

businesses to reach their true potential.

Collaboration brings scale, and wider inclusion

Partnerships are also crucial to ensure scale and impact. Just like Jaza Duka was originally launched with the help of Unilever, KCB and Mastercard, it was further scaled in partnership with Kasha this year. Another 5,000 MSMEs now have access to Jaza Duka through Kasha, a purpose-driven digital retail and distribution platform focused on providing women with affordable health and wellbeing products.

In addition, many of these newly included small businesses are run by women entrepreneurs, who are among Africa's most formidable, but also most marginalised, business owners. So, this is truly inclusion in action, on two key fronts.

Kasha has a long legacy of collaboration with Mastercard, having joined our Start Path engagement programme for start-ups in 2019. We've also invested in the e-commerce platform, and it's great to see this new chapter making such a positive impact on even more businesses.

The journey continues. At Mastercard, we're leveraging our technology, innovation, and solutions beyond payments to help small and medium enterprises get paid, get capital and get digital safely and securely wherever they are. We are dedicated to enabling businesses to survive and thrive stronger than before. This is how we are Empowering Every Business. Everywhere.

End of Digital payments ignite a new era of hope for SMEs in Kenya