



Revealed: How top CS, PS and Raila aide bungled Azimio's election plan

Mercy Simiyu / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

As the bitter blame game rages within the Azimio One Kenya coalition on the reasons its presidential candidate was defeated, one official who worked closely with agents, who were deployed at polling stations, has spoken out on how the process was bungled.

The official claims the agents had been identified, given a down payment and trained, ready for deployment, only for a top official in the coalition to present a new list of agents on the eve of election day. And that was how things began to go awry, adding to a string of failures that once again undermined Mr Raila Odinga's State House bid. The official, who sought anonymity, spoke to Mercy Simiyu

I was among the county liaison officers and I worked with the Azimio Secretariat. We had 57 people in charge of the election and they were to manage agents across the country. We have 47 counties, but big counties like Nairobi and Kakamega required two or three people managing the election there.

We had a good programme for the agents, money was available for them. We had structures. Actually, for the chief agents, we employed lawyers to be the constituency and county chief agents. We had 290 lawyers as constituency chief agents and 47 lawyers as county chief agents, and we had the polling agents.

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Unlike the previous elections, this time we were more organised and we covered a lot of ground during the campaigns more than we did in 2017. The messaging was good, and, generally, the management of the campaign was okay.

But many things transpired because it is a scenario where our candidate was working with the President. And Azimio had many parties 26.

Initially, we had an office in Lavington, then three days to elections, we were offered another office in Westlands the entire third floor of the office block by one of the Presidents closest aides. It was the best office, with good equipment.

We had a good programme before it backfired. We trained the agents and prepared them on how to handle the elections. We even made the down payment of Sh1,500, and we were to pay them Sh5,000 each.

Top officials

But on the eve of the elections, one of the top officials, a close ally of Mr Odinga, messed up the agents plan. It was a scenario where you have trained people, let's say 1,500 in a constituency, then he comes and asks how did you find these people?.

Then he gives you a different list and says Work with these people; and it is hours to the election, you don't know who they are, you don't know where they came from and then you are being instructed to send the letters to people who are not trained.

We messed up with the agents. He (the Odinga ally) did not misappropriate the money, because he was not handling the money for the agents, but he came with a different list and instructed us to use that list, yet we had four hours to opening of the polling stations.

How would we have started sending those letters? How were we to train the newcomers?

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In the end, the agents were changed at 2am and there was not enough time to ensure all the logistics were in place, including having their introductory letters ready and accreditation as agents.

As a consequence, on election day, we did not have presidential agents in some areas, including Kisii, Kajiado, Narok, some counties in North-Eastern and Coast. How do you start calling 1,000 people to start going to those constituencies?

(A Nation analysis of the results posted on the electoral commissions portal confirms this. For instance, Form 34A from Chepkisa Primary Schools stream 1 in Emurua Dikirr constituency in Narok is only signed by a UDA agent. Here, Raila got four votes, Mwaure Waihiga had one, and William Ruto had 285 of the 290 valid votes cast.)

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We did not have agents because of those issues. People are saying we did not pay agents. In this scenario, whom were we going to pay? You have two lists the trained and the untrained.

So, in the morning, the ones we trained reported to their respective polling centres but were not allowed to access polling



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stations because they did not have letters of appointment. So getting Form 34As became a problem because we did not have agents.

State House

We worked with a Cabinet secretary. The team from State House spent time at the command centre our office in Lavington. Two days to election, you would find the two, the CS and a PS, staying up to 3am.

We asked them how safe we were but they said kila kitu kiko sawa (everything is okay).

They even said we had a parallel tallying system but they never showed it to us.

They only promised us we would win the election.

For me, Raila was lied to and misled by these people. When I asked him Mzee, is everything okay? he would say everything is under control. The PS and the CS gave Mzee false hope. We lost because of our ignorance.

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Raila tried in this election, but he was let down by his closest allies and maybe he also relaxed, thinking the government would play a big role in this election. I asked the PS, when the results were about to be declared at Bomas, on whose instructions the police officers were working.

He said everything was under control and if you have government goodwill all indications are that it should work in your favour.

They were there physically but their hearts were elsewhere. After the results were announced, they all disappeared. Only the CS came once.

Even one of Raila's closest advisers, the only thing he kept saying was pima suti (make yourself a suit, ostensibly, for Mr Odinga's swearing-in), the official concluded.

End of Revealed: How top CS, PS and Raila aide bungled Azimio's election plan



Blame game over Raila Odinga's 2022 presidential election loss

Justus Ochieng' / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

As Azimio la Umoja One Kenya leader Raila Odinga's supporters come to terms with his presidential loss, blame games have ensued on how his campaigns and vote protection strategies were handled.

Some of the members of the Raila Odinga presidential secretariat, which was tasked with implementing strategic and key decisions, have come under sharp focus as Azimio devotees lick their wounds following the shock loss of the election to President William Ruto. Further still, some key lieutenants of Mr Odinga have pointed the finger at the coalition party's top decision-making organ The Council, chaired by former President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Following the former Prime Minister's defeat, bitter exchanges have dominated his camp. Some of the key figures who have suffered attacks, mainly on social media, are Suna East MP Junet Mohamed, who is also the Azimio secretary-general, former Mombasa governor Hassan Joho and Azimio Secretariat CEO Elizabeth Meyo.

Some have also laid blame on Mr Kenyatta, accusing him of being a lame duck and failing to secure victory for Mr Odinga, with some faulting the candidate's daughter, Winnie Odinga, for allegedly bungling the campaign.

Read: Junet did not squander Azimio agents' cash, says Raila

Mr Odinga, however, insisted that the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) did not conduct a free and fair election. He also argues that the Supreme Court judgment was not based on facts and law, even though they accepted it. For these reasons, the outcome of the election remains indeterminate.

Former Jubilee nominated MP Maina Kamanda believes Mr Kenyatta did little to salvage Mr Odinga's sinking ship, with the Azimio flag-bearer virtually playing catch-up with his opponent Dr Ruto.

But a close ally of Mr Odinga who did not wish to be named, defended the former President, saying he was simply a victim of unfaithful lieutenants.

President Kenyatta did all he could, gave Raila the goodwill and even funded his campaigns, including giving cash for voter mobilisation in his Nyanza stronghold, but what did we witness? Nearly 700,000 registered voters who did not turn up to vote.

The blame game has also not spared his presidential chief agent Saitabao ole Kanchory and head of ICT George Njoroge. A key figure in Mr Odinga's secretariat has lamented that all members of the team were being accused.

The term secretariat has now become amorphous – all and sundry now stand accused. What then gets lost is why WSR (the President) was able to outmanoeuvre and outflank the system, the official told the Nation. The rigging and theft witnessed by those of us who spent Wednesday to Monday in Bomas was so comprehensive, yet it succeeded right under the eyes of the system. The only plausible explanation is that part or parts of the system enabled it.

Read: Karua mulls moving to EA court for review of Supreme Court judgment

The official, however, defended the team, saying it contributed a lot in enabling Mr Odinga to close the gap between him and Dr Ruto, despite the fraud that disadvantaged the Azimio flag-bearer.

He also questioned why the IEBC and Dr Ruto's camp made lack of agents their defence, yet the commission is under obligation to ensure a free and fair election.

We were tasked with building Jakobs (Mr Odinga's) publicity; the rallies; public statements; billboards; radio and TV ads etc. The results of this is what made the candidate close the gap between him and William.

The official also confessed that Azimio lacked agents, largely in Mt Kenya and Rift Valley because of open hostility and intimidation.

The truth is we were never ever going to have agents in Rift Valley and parts of Mt Kenya. This has been the norm since 2002 when even Narc couldn't have agents in Kalenjin land; in the 2005 referendum, even the YES side couldn't have agents in Kalenjin land. In 2007 PNU couldn't have agents in Kalenjin land. Same trend in 2013 and 2017 when we (Cord/Nasa) were unable to place agents.

But a barrage of accusations has been levelled against Mr Mohamed, Mr Joho and Ms Meyo, who have been faulted for failing to deploy enough agents across the country, in what the secretariat, however, said were lies and borders on defamation.

Mr Odinga, through his presidential campaign spokesperson, Prof Makau Mutua, said his team delivered on their



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mandate and should not be attacked for his presidential loss. The Azimio official said the election was mismanaged by the electoral agency, hence the issue of agent deployment does not hold much water. For now, I want to address one particular issue that has been misunderstood and is being used maliciously. This is the matter of the recruitment and management of agents. The issue was managed by a dedicated and hardworking team. Our view is that the staff did a largely successful job in a challenging environment.

...the issue of agents was not the cause of a bungled election. We must appreciate that it is not the responsibility of candidates to protect the vote, or conduct a free and fair election. That constitutional duty lies squarely with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission working in concert with relevant institutions. No one should blame Azimio or our candidates for stolen votes or a fatally flawed election," said Prof Mutua in a statement.

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He added that at no point did the Suna East lawmaker handle funds meant for agents as he was with Mr Odinga on the campaign trail throughout. We have seen shameful and disgusting attacks on some members of our campaign on the question of agents. Defamatory and obviously false allegations of the misappropriation of campaign funds are flying on social media. Specifically, I have seen scurrilous attacks on Junet Mohamed, accusing him of misappropriating funds meant for agents.

Let me state without equivocation that Mr Mohamed was a campaign lead in the field supporting Raila Odinga. He, at no time, handled funds meant for agents. Nor did he have anything whatsoever to do with the management of agents," said Prof Mutua.

Those attacking in such brazen and false propaganda must cease and desist forthwith. We acknowledge there is disappointment about how the election was conducted by the IEBC and with the decision of the Supreme Court, but malicious allegations against Mr Mohamed and any of the secretariat staff, including CEO Elizabeth Moyo, who worked so hard and selflessly, should be beneath the dignity of every person. Let us get back to the business of protecting our democracy.

Activist Boniface Mwangi, an ally of Mr Odinga's running mate Martha Karua, who was a volunteer in the campaigns, said Azimio had too many self-important people doing no work. It had sycophants, the presidential candidates family, and incompetent people in critical roles. They behaved as if we had won and failed to carry out their assigned roles diligently. They trashed feedback, ignored messages, and never returned calls. The Kenya Kwanza team capitalised on our hubris, organised better, worked harder, and got the controversial win, Mr Mwangi argued.

Azimio's overconfidence and grossly underestimating its opponent, he argued, cost it the presidential election. We failed to do the hard work of strategising, organising, and mobilising our base to come out and vote, especially in our strongholds. We failed to protect our agents from the temptation of easy bribes from our opponents. We allowed them to be compromised at the polling stations. We also failed to protect our votes because we had too much faith that the IEBC would conduct a credible, free and fair election.

Another Azimio official told the Nation that it was not easy to deal with an opponent who had the support of the electoral body.

Read: Raila takes swipe at the Supreme Court as Nassir is sworn into office

The challenge we have is when the referee conspires with opposing team to fix a match and then expects you to confront them with the evidence that they know you can't access, he said. Even with a bungled election because of compromised institutions, we did extremely well, and ought to be very proud of our supporters and Kenyans who campaigned across the land and those who voted for us.

Prof Mutua yesterday said: Now more than ever, the work of protecting and deepening our democracy must be sustained and heightened. In particular, we must work to clean up and transform institutions that are tasked with safeguarding our democracy. We will be saying more about this in the near future.

Big egos

However, lawyer Donald Kipkorir insists that Azimio volunteers who would have performed a sterling job were not given the opportunity to do so. Truth be said, Azimio was a hotchpotch of big egos, buccaneers, opportunists and



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pickpockets that built a bubble around Baba (Odinga). Volunteers weren't called even one day to the secretariat. We never asked for any money nor given any, tweeted Mr Kipkorir, an ally of Mr Odinga.

The ODM primaries, particularly in Mr Odinga's Nyanza backyard, have also been said to have had a bearing on the poor turnout in the region. While Dr Ruto united opponents who had faced off in primaries, Azimio, and particularly in Nyanza, went ahead to attack its own members who were running on coalition tickets outside ODM. This led to voter apathy, said former Alego Usonga MP Omondi Mulwan, who ran on a Dap-K ticket in the August 9 General Election.

Mr Mulwan lamented that whereas they were all mobilising votes for the presidential candidate, most of them were attacked and fear was sold to their supporters. Former Rarieda MP Nicholas Gumbo, who contested the Siaya governor seat on a United Democratic Movement (UDM) ticket, had his vehicles pelted with stones when he attempted to attend Mr Odinga's rally in Bondo in the run-up to the August polls. His allies believe such attacks had a negative bearing on the voter turnout.

End of Blame game over Raila Odinga's 2022 presidential election loss



How Raila lost: Why Odingas fifth stab at the presidency flopped

Onyango K'Onyango / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Failure by former President Uhuru Kenyatta and Narc Kenya leader Martha Karua to deliver sufficient votes in Mt Kenya and President William Ruto's inroads in Western are among the reasons why Raila Odinga lost the presidency.

Matters were compounded by the strange turnaround that saw the veteran opposition leader lose his traditional base by running as the establishment candidate, while Dr Ruto disowned Jubilee government failures and successfully cast himself as the change champion and voice of the marginalised.

Mr Odinga's fifth stab at the presidency was also jeopardised by failure to have agents in certain zones, a situation an official in his campaign team blamed on last minute interference with arrangements to deploy agents across the over 46,000 polling stations.

There was also lack of coordination among the campaign team's board chaired by former Laikipia Governor Ndiritu Muriithi and the secretariat headed by Elizabeth Moyo.

Mr Muriithi's team had governors Anyang Nyong'o (Kisumu) and Charity Ngilu (Kitui) and professors Peter Wanyande, Makau Mutua and Karuti Kanyinga.

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Others were business mogul Samuel Macharia, former Nyeri Woman Rep Priscilla Nyokabi, Seth Kakusye, Betty Montet, Kanchory Saitaboi and veteran journalist Ben Agina.

Their task was to draft strategies and a manifesto and forward them to Ms Meyos team, which included former Jubilee secretary-general Raphael Tuju, Prof Mutua and journalist Dennis Onsario, who were charged with executing the plans developed by the board.

Wait-and-see attitude

Some leaders felt that their opinions were not considered and chose a wait-and-see attitude, with a member of Mr Odinga's family accused of dictating to the strategists.

Sources told the Nation yesterday that the lack of coordination between the two campaign teams resulted in Mr Odinga's loss.

Some Mt Kenya leaders also cost Mr Odinga the presidency after they refused to campaign for him in his absence. In April, for example, former Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi, whose Devolution Empowerment Party was in the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition, told locals that they could elect whoever they wanted for President.

Vote for whoever you want for President, then vote me as governor. Whoever you [elect] President will allocate me money to develop Meru. If Ruto wins, he will give me money and if it is Raila, he will give me money ..., he said.

A majority of elected leaders were so immersed in their re-election campaigns that depending on them too much hurt Mr Odinga's State House quest, argued Kanu secretary-general Nick Salat.

The current crop of leaders... treat their support for any candidate with a pinch of salt because they will never in any way come out clear and give 100 per cent support, Mr Salat said in April. They will be in and out, but we have looked at Raila as a package to the people of Mt Kenya. What are we packaging him to do?

Countering intimidation

Yesterday, Mr Salat said there were too many centres of power, forcing some leaders not to share their views on how to get to State House. He added that though Azimio had agents across the country, the team had no mechanism for countering intimidation and blackmail in zones dominated by UDA. Everything was done from top down so somehow it fizzled out before it got to the ground, Mr Salat said.

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

When I went to the polling stations, it got to a point that there was fear [about] being an Azimio agent in areas perceived as UDA strongholds. You are the Azimio [agent for] a person who is vying against our own son. Such intimidation which agents went through goes back to the top... Why did they not anticipate such a situation and have a solution on standby? he asked.

But Mr Muriithi told the Nation there was no need for blame games, saying the two teams did an exemplary job.

When the results are not the ones desired, people will tend to point fingers and it's a very unfortunate situation. I'm not



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aware of any push and pull. What I saw was a very large temporary organisation performing superbly, he said.

Isolated, with former allies becoming rivals, Mr Odinga, who was supported by President Kenyatta, gave President Ruto an opportunity to take chunks of votes from the ODM bosses strongholds of Western, Lower Eastern and Coast.

In the six coastal counties of Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu and Taita Taveta, President Ruto garnered 336,478 votes, about 35 per cent, compared to the 287,561 (26 per cent) Jubilee got in the region in 2017.

With the help of the likes of Machakos Governor Alfred Mutua and UDA chairman Johnson Muthama, President Ruto garnered 250,070 votes in Machakos, Kitui and Makueni (24.1 per cent) compared to the 192,646 (16.6 per cent) Jubilee had in 2017.

After ANC party leader Musalia Mudavadi and his Ford Kenya counterpart Moses Wetangula ditched Raila, Ruto made serious inroads in Western, which had voted overwhelmingly for Mr Odinga since 2007.

Ruto received 630,282 votes in the five Western counties of Busia, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma and Trans Nzoia in his presidential bid, an impressive improvement on the 352,877 he garnered with President Kenyatta in 2017.

Read: 'Shame on Judiciary', says Raila in first speech since Supreme Court verdict

Pundits attribute Dr Rutos impressive performance in the Western region to the political divorce between Mr Odinga and his former Nasa co-principals.

Mr Mudavadi and Mr Wetangula told their people that Mr Odinga had always taken their support for granted, citing how their leaders were purged from key positions in the Senate and National Assembly.

The two also accused Mr Odinga of taking all the goodies from the handshake with President Kenyatta to his Nyanza backyard, citing projects like the refurbishment of the Kisumu Port, among others.

ANC national chairman Kelvin Lunani said: We supported Raila through Nasa, he got the cake of the purported Nasa, he never shared it, he only took it to his people. As a leader, you look for space to assist your people. In the last five years, we missed it.

They wanted us to go and beg the President to get development. That is why we want to be in a government where all communities are respected and the national cake shared equitably.

Political pundits also blame Mr Odingas loss on voter apathy in his strongholds, arguing that a better turnout could have reduced the margin between him and Dr Ruto.

Low voter turnout in Mr Odingas Nyanza backyard was his biggest undoing, argued United States International Universitys Prof Macharia Munene.

Read: Junet did not squander Azimio agents cash, says Raila

If we go by what is official, Railas people, whoever they are, did not come out to vote as much as they could, even in his home base, he said. If you look at the turnout, it could have been better. The general turnout across the country was relatively low. That might have cost him.

Dismissive reference

Of the 2,161,262 registered voters in the four Nyanza counties of Migori, Homa Bay, Kisumu and Siaya, only 1,559,244 cast their ballots. The turnout in the Rift Valley and Mt Kenya regions was 75.6 and 66 per cent, respectively, compared with 72 per cent in Nyanza.

Mr Odingas late entry into the Mt Kenya region did little to dent Dr Rutos early capture of the vote-rich region, said Prof Masibo Lumala of Moi University.

The Mount Kenya Foundation, made up of the whos who [in that region] presented a very rosy picture for Raila, that all he needed was 30 per cent ... , Prof Lumala explained.

He needed all the votes and he went there when Ruto had gone there over and over ... people had bought Rutos messages much earlier and turning up late was a problem, he added.

In the 10 Mt Kenya counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Muranga, Kiambu, Laikipia, Nyandarua and Nakuru, Mr Odinga garnered 848,205 votes (22.22 per cent), below Azimios 30 per cent target, though a major improvement from 2017, when he received 303,510 votes or 6.9 per cent.



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Prof Munene also points out that certain statements made by Mr Odinga and his allies in the last weeks before the election might have scared voters.

One was the dismissive reference to mitumba as Mr Odinga made the case for reviving the Kenyan textile industry.

Our people are only wearing clothes coming from outside the country that were worn by dead people, he said.

The statement provoked a swift backlash from mitumba traders and the Ruto campaign was quick to exploit the gaffe.

Mr Odinga was forced to quickly embark on damage control.

Mr Odinga, who previously ran as a defender of the oppressed and voiceless, was this time around the establishment candidate, which President Ruto used to great impact.

President Kenyatta came out openly to campaign for Mr Odinga, allowing Dr Ruto's camp to paint him as a project, which would make him a puppet of the retiring Head of State.

Having lost the presidential race from the opposition ranks in four elections, Mr Odinga mistakenly assumed that state support would make him a winner, argued Prof Lumala. Indeed, early in the campaigns, Mr Odinga's elder brother, Oburu Odinga, confidently said that victory was assured because of that factor.

The opposition leader

Instead, this helped Dr Ruto to distance himself from the economic downturn and other failures of the Jubilee administration and project himself as the candidate of change.

Ruto distanced himself from the government that he was serving. He effectively looked like the opposition leader and packaged Raila as the government, Prof Lumala said

Being presented as a project damaged Mr Odinga's bid, said Prof Munene.

He seemed not to have much choice in that because the President kept on saying that he was the one in charge, he said.

End of How Raila lost: Why Odinga's fifth stab at the presidency flopped



AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Forty-seven people in the northern US state of Minnesota have been charged in connection with a \$240 million (Sh30 billion) Covid relief fraud scheme, officials said Tuesday.

"Today's indictments describe an egregious plot to steal public funds meant to care for children in need in what amounts to the largest pandemic relief fraud scheme yet," FBI Director Christopher Wray said.

The Justice Department alleged that the defendants diverted tens of millions of dollars disbursed under the Federal Child Nutrition Program to feed needy children during the Covid pandemic.

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Among those charged is Aimee Bock, 41, the founder and executive director of Feeding Our Future, a non-profit organisation that was a sponsor of the Federal Child Nutrition Program.

"Feeding Our Future employees recruited individuals and entities to open Federal Child Nutrition Program sites throughout the state of Minnesota," the Justice Department said in a statement.

"These sites, created and operated by the defendants and others, fraudulently claimed to be serving meals to thousands of children a day," it said.

Instead, they submitted false invoices and fraudulent meal count sheets using fake names of children.

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

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

According to the Justice Department, Feeding Our Future claimed to have opened more than 250 sites throughout the state of Minnesota during the pandemic.

"The defendants used the proceeds of their fraudulent scheme to purchase luxury vehicles, residential and commercial real estate in Minnesota as well as property in Ohio and Kentucky, real estate in Kenya and Turkey, and to fund international travel," the department said.

The defendants face an array of charges ranging from wire fraud to federal programs bribery to money laundering.

The following defendants are named in the United States v. Aimee Marie Bock, et al. indictment:

Aimee Marie Bock, 41, of Apple Valley, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery. Bock was the founder and executive director of Feeding Our Future. Bock oversaw the \$240 million fraud scheme carried out by sites under Feeding Our Futures sponsorship.

Abdikerm Abdelahi Eidleh, 39, of Burnsville, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Eidleh was an employee of Feeding Our Future who solicited and received bribes and kickbacks from individuals and sites under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future. Eidleh also created his own fraudulent sites.

Salim Ahmed Said, 33, of Plymouth, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Said was an owner and operator of Safari Restaurant, a site that received more than \$16 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Abdulkadir Nur Salah, 36, of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Abdulkadir Salah was an owner and operator of Safari Restaurant, a site that received more than \$16 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Ahmed Sharif Omar-Hashim, 39, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Omar-Hashim created a company called Olive Management Inc., a site that received approximately \$5 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Abdi Nur Salah, 34, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud,



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conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Abdi Salah registered Stigma-Free International, a non-profit entity used to carry out the scheme with sites throughout Minnesota, including in Willmar, Mankato, St. Cloud, Waite Park, and St. Paul.

Abdihakim Ali Ahmed, 36, of Apple Valley, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Abdihakim Ahmed created ASA Limited LLC, a site that received approximately \$5 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Ahmed Mohamed Artan, 37, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Artan registered Stigma-Free International, a non-profit entity used to carry out the scheme with sites throughout Minnesota, including in Willmar, Mankato, St. Cloud, Waite Park, and St. Paul.

Abdikadir Ainanshe Mohamud, 30, of Fridley, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Mohamud ran the Stigma-Free Willmar site. This site claimed to have served approximately 1.6 million meals and received more than \$4 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Abdinasir Mahamed Abshir, 30, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Abdinasir Abshir ran the Stigma-Free Mankato site. This site claimed to have served more than 1.6 million meals and received approximately \$5 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Asad Mohamed Abshir, 32, of Mankato, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Asad Abshir ran the Stigma-Free Mankato site. This site claimed to have served more than 1.6 million meals and received approximately \$5 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Hamdi Hussein Omar, 26, of St. Paul, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Omar ran the Stigma-Free Waite Park site. This site claimed to have served more than 500,000 meals and received more than \$1 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Ahmed Abdullahi Ghedi, 32, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Ghedi created ASA Limited LLC, a site that received approximately \$5 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Abdirahman Mohamud Ahmed, 54, of Columbus, Ohio, is charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering. Abdirahman Ahmed was an owner and operator of Safari Restaurant, a site that received more than \$16 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

The following defendants are named in the United States v. Abdiaziz Shafii Farah, et al. indictment:

Abdiaziz Shafii Farah, 33, of Savage, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, money laundering, and false statements in a passport application. Abdiaziz Farah was an owner and operator of Empire Cuisine and Market LLC, a for-profit restaurant that participated in the scheme as a site, as a vendor for other sites, and as an entity to launder fraudulent proceeds. Empire Cuisine and Market and other affiliated sites received more than \$28 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Mohamed Jama Ismail, 49, of Savage, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Ismail was an owner and operator of Empire Cuisine and Market LLC, a for-profit restaurant that participated in the scheme as a site, as a vendor for other sites, and as an entity to launder fraudulent proceeds. Empire Cuisine and Market and other affiliated sites received more than \$28 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Mahad Ibrahim, 46, of Lewis Center, Ohio, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Ibrahim was the president and owner of ThinkTechAct Foundation, a



AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Minnesota non-profit organization that also operated under the name Mind Foundry Learning Foundation. ThinkTechAct and Mind Foundry created dozens of sites throughout Minnesota, including in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington, Burnsville, Faribault, Owatonna, Shakopee, Circle Pines, and Willmar. ThinkTechAct received more than \$18 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Abdimajid Mohamed Nur, 21, of Shakopee, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Abdimajid Nur created Nur Consulting LLC to receive and launder Federal Child Nutrition Program funds from Empire Cuisine and Market, ThinkTechAct, and other entities involved in the scheme.

Said Shafii Farah, 40, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Said Farah, the brother of Abdiaziz Farah, was an owner of Bushra Wholesalers LLC, a shell company used to launder fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Abdiwahab Maalim Aftin, 32, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Aftin was an owner of Bushra Wholesalers LLC, a shell company used to launder fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Mukhtar Mohamed Shariff, 31, of Bloomington, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Shariff was the chief executive officer of Afrique Hospitality Group, a shell company used to fraudulent obtain and launder Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Hayat Mohamed Nur, 25, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering. Hayat Nur, the sister of Abdimajid Nur, participated in the scheme by creating and submitting fraudulent meal count sheets, attendance rosters, and invoices.

The following defendants are named in the United States v. Qamar Ahmed Hassan, et al. indictment:

Qamar Ahmed Hassan, 53, of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, money laundering, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Hassan was the owner and operator of S & S Catering Inc., a for-profit restaurant and catering business that participated in the scheme as a distribution site and as a vendor for other sites. S & S Catering received more than \$18 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Sahra Mohamed Nur, 61, of Saint Anthony, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Nur ran a site called Academy For Youth Excellence that used S & S Catering as a vendor.

Abdiwahab Ahmed Mohamud, 32, of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Mohamud ran a site called Academy For Youth Excellence that used S & S Catering as a vendor.

Filsan Mumin Hassan, 28, of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Hassan ran a site called Youth Higher Educational Achievement that falsely claimed to serve up to 4,300 meals a day.

Guhaad Hashi Said, 46, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Hashi ran a site under the name Advance Youth Athletic Development that falsely claimed to serve up to 5,000 meals a day.

Abdullahe Nur Jesow, 62, of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Jesow ran a site called Academy For Youth Excellence that used S & S Catering as a vendor.

Abdul Abubakar Ali, 40, of St. Paul, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Abdul Ali ran a site called Youth Inventors Lab that falsely claimed to have served a total of approximately 1.5 million meals in a seven-month period.



AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Yusuf Bashir Ali, 40, of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Yusuf Ali ran a site called Youth Inventors Lab that falsely claimed to have served a total of approximately 1.5 million meals in a seven-month period.

The following defendants are named in the United States v. Haji Osman Salad, et al. indictment:

Haji Osman Salad, 32, of St. Anthony, Minnesota, is charged with wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Salad was the principal of Hajis Kitchen and received approximately \$11.6 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Fahad Nur, 38, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is charged with wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Nur was the principal of The Produce LLC, a vendor and purported food supplier who received more than \$5 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Anab Artan Awad, 52, of Plymouth, Minnesota, is charged with wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Awad was the president of Multiple Community Services, MCA. Awad claimed more than \$11 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Sharmarke Issa, 40, of Edina, Minnesota, is charged with wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Issa created a company called Minnesotas Somali Community and was the manager of Wacan Restaurant LLC. Issa fraudulently caused MDE to pay out more than \$7.4 million in Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Farhiya Mohamud, 63, of Bloomington, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Mohamud was the principal and CEO of Dua Supplies and Distribution Inc., a shell company that laundered millions of dollars of fraudulently obtained Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

The following defendants are named in the United States v. Liban Yasin Alishire, et al. indictment:

Liban Yasin Alishire, 42, of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery, federal programs bribery, and money laundering. Alishire was the president and owner of Community Enhancement Services, Inc., a company located in the JigJiga Business Center in Minneapolis. Community Enhancement Services was a cultural mall owned and operated by Alishire and co-defendant Khadar Jigre Adan. Community Enhancement Services received more than \$1.6 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Ahmed Yasin Ali, 57, of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering. Ali created a second program site, run by Lake Street Kitchen, and located in the JigJiga Business Center in Minneapolis.

Khadar Jigre Adan, 59, of Lakeville, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering. Adan was the CEO of Lake Street Kitchen, which was a program site located in the JigJiga Business Center in Minneapolis.

The following defendants are named in the United States v. Sharmake Jama, et al. indictment:

Sharmake Jama, 34, of Rochester, Minnesota, is charged with wire fraud, federal programs bribery, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Sharmake Jama was a principal of Brava Restaurant and Café LLC. Brava Restaurant received approximately \$4.3 million in fraudulent Federal Child Nutrition Program funds.

Ayan Jama, 43, of Rochester, Minnesota is charged with wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering. Ayan Jama was a principal of Brava Restaurant and Café LLC. Ayan Jama also created shell companies to launder fraudulent proceeds.

Asha Jama, 39, of Lakeville, Minnesota is charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering. Asha Jama worked for Brava Restaurant and created shell companies to launder fraudulent proceeds.

Fartun Jama, 35, of Rosemount, Minnesota is charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering. Fartun Jama worked for Brava Restaurant and created shell companies to launder fraudulent proceeds.

Mustafa Jama, 45, of Rochester, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering. Mustafa Jama worked for Brava Restaurant and created shell companies to launder fraudulent proceeds.



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AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Zamzam Jama, 48, of Rochester, Minnesota, is charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering. Zamzam Jama worked for Brava Restaurant and created shell companies to launder fraudulent proceeds.

Criminal informations:

Bekam Addissu Merdassa, 39, of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Hadith Yusuf Ahmed, 34, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Hanna Marekegn, 40, of Edina, Minnesota, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

End of US charges 47 for using Sh30bn Covid relief fund to buy luxury cars, property in Kenya

David Mwere / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The National Treasury incurred Sh54.68 billion in unbudgeted public expenditure towards the end of President Uhuru Kenyattas term.

This raised questions about the fiscal discipline of a country that is grappling with liquidity issues and a huge public debt, on a day when MPs accused the National Treasury of overstepping its mandate in the budget-making process.

The expenditure worsened the issue of pending bills, making the budget deficit a moving target.

The National Treasury now expects the National Assembly to regularise the expenditure post facto.

Of the amount incurred, Sh23.1 billion has already been disbursed to the various government ministries and state departments, with the balance in the pipeline.

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

A document presented by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) to the MPs during their induction at a city hotel shows the National Treasury has already prepared supplementary estimates I for the 2022/23 financial year to be regularised by the National Assembly in line with Article 223 of the Constitution.

National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani.

The supplementary estimates will be among the first issues to be dealt with by the 13th Parliament when it starts its sittings in the coming days, notwithstanding that it is barely three months since the 2022/23 budget was appropriated by the National Assembly.

The expenditure is therefore over and above the Sh3.33 trillion budget that was passed by Parliament in June this year.

This means the government will have to look for more funds to finance the extra budget, further stretching the countrys public debt that is projected to hit Sh9.4 trillion by June next year.

The countrys public debt stands at Sh8.7 trillion.

Expenditure has not been explained

The document by the PBO, which advises Parliament and its committees on fiscal matters, shows the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining has been allocated an extra Sh16.6 billion for fuel price stabilisation, State Department for Infrastructure Sh11.35 for road construction, State Department for Basic Education Sh8.2 billion for the Kenya primary and secondary education and National Treasury Sh6.1 billion to finance Telkom Kenya, whose expenditure has not been explained.

There was also Sh4.5 billion for the State Department for Crop Development and Agriculture Research for the maize flour subsidy, Ministry of Defence Sh3.5 billion for the construction of a research hospital and Sh3.77 billion to the Office of the President, whose expenditure has not been explained.

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

The ministries and state departments that have already received the funds include the Ministry of Defence (Sh2.2 billion), National Treasury (Sh6.1 billion), State Department for Infrastructure (Sh9.5 billion), State Department for Crop Development and Agricultural Research (Sh4.5 billion) and Executive Office of the President Sh810 million.

Further, Sh420 million has been allocated to the Ministry of Health for donor-funded projects, Sh139 million to the State Department for University Education for donor-funded projects and Sh125 million to the State Department for Interior for security operations.

On Tuesday, MPs David Mwalika (Kitui Rural), John Kiarie (Dagoreti South) and Shakeel Shabbir (Kisumu Town East) accused the National Treasury of violating the Constitution and turning lawmakers into rubber-stamps.

Paying salaries

The National Treasury has misused the spirit of the supplementary budget to the extent of even paying salaries, said Mr Mwalika as he suggested a legislative mechanism to tame the National Treasurys abuse of the Constitution.

The fact that the items budgeted for in the supplementary budget were not in the budget for the current financial year distorts the budget preparation.

What is emerging is that Kenya has a budgeting problem. By doing this, the National Treasury is showcasing how it has become opaque on a matter that should have a huge input from Kenyans, said Mr Kiarie.



David Mwere / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Article 223 of the Constitution stipulates that the national government may spend money that has not been appropriated by Parliament and seek post-facto approval within two months of the first withdrawal on condition that the amount budgeted is insufficient.

Also read: Raila man carries the day in Kisumu after brief scare

The expenditure must, however, not exceed 10 percent of the appropriated sums.

The government can also spend if a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose for which no amount was appropriated by the National Assembly.

That need may be a natural disaster like floods, drought, a pandemic like Covid-19 or an emergency that cannot wait for Parliament to appropriate resources.

Foreign financing

The current budget has a deficit of more than Sh846 billion that is to be financed through local and in foreign financing.

This includes Sh120 billion that was to be financed through Euro Bond that was however abandoned for domestic borrowing after the National Treasury realised that at 12 per cent, the repayment interest was so high for the country to procure the loan.

The higher interest rate was attributed to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, which has affected the global economy.

But what happens if the National Assembly declines to approve the money already in the hope of a post facto approval by MPs?

As the budget-making House since the 2010 Constitution came into force, members of the National Assembly are yet to shoot down a supplementary budget.

This is definitely an area that requires legislative intervention. We cannot continue abusing the Constitution like this. It has to stop, Mr Mwalika noted.

Although the Constitution and the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act give MPs the powers to make the budget, the country has always ended up with the executive budget largely because of how the numbers in the House have played out.

End of Where did the money go? How Uhuru regime spent Sh55 billion in last days of administration



Uhuru, Michuki and Gumo cleared Aror, Kimwarer dams, court told

Joseph Wangui / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Three cabinet ministers in the then President Mwai Kibaki's administration gave nod to the Kerio Valley Development Authority for construction of Kimwarer and Aror multipurpose dams in 2008 and 2009, the anti-corruption court heard yesterday.

The advertisement for the construction work and issuance of the contract to Italian firm, CMC di Ravenna-Itinera Joint Ventures, was authorised by the KVDA, the court further heard.

Ms Charity Mui, an official at KVDA, said a concept paper for the two botched projects was signed by cabinet ministers Fred Gumo, John Michuki and Uhuru Kenyatta. At the time they were serving in the Grand Coalition Government headed by President Mwai Kibaki.

The court heard that Mr Gumo being the Minister of Regional Development Authorities at the time, signed the concept paper on December 1, 2008 while Mr Michuki (former Minister Finance) signed it on December 3, 2008.

Read: Ruto: I'll build Kimwarer, Aror dams

Also read: Sh63b Aror, Kimwarer dams haunt Rift leaders ahead of polls

The paper was also signed by Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta on August 4, 2009 authorizing KVDA to continue with the planned construction of the dams.

At the time he was the Minister for Finance. He is now the immediate former President.

Ms Mui told Chief Magistrate Lawrence Mugambi that there was a Cabinet memorandum by the Minister of Regional Development Authorities prepared for development of programs and projects in the region.

She was testifying as a Prosecution witness in the Sh63 billion graft trial of former National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich, former managing director of KVDA David Kimosop and seven others.

They include former Chief Economist Kennedy Nyakundi, former National Environment Management Authority Managing Director Geoffrey Wahungu, Kennedy Nyakundi (chief economist, Treasury), Jackson Njau Kinyanjui (director of resource mobilization, Treasury) and Titus Muriithi (the inspector-general of State corporations).

Read: Italian firm contracted to build Itare dam fights tax demand

Also read: Kenya defaults on Sh5bn Aror, Kimwarer dams loans

They are charged with conspiracy to defraud the Government of Kenya of USD 501,829,769.43 (Sh56,360,501,604.99) for the development of Aror and Kimwarer multi-purpose dam projects.

It is alleged that the accused persons committed the offences between December 19, 2014, and July 22, 2019 by improperly securing a commercial loan under the guise that it was a government-to-government agreement and in the process made the Kenyan government liable as a financier and borrower.

They are also accused of single sourcing an insurance policy and causing the government to lose Euros 42,088,198 (Sh5.56 billion at the current exchange rates).

Mr Rotich, who was replaced in July 2016 after serving in the finance docket since 2013, is battling 18 criminal charges in connection with tenders for the construction of the dams.

Two projects

The Prosecution witness served as a secretary to KVDA Adhoc Technical and Evaluation Tendering Committee that evaluated tender documents in respect to the two projects. She was also a procurement officer at KVDA. Kimwarer dam was to cost Sh22.2 while Aror was to cost Sh28.3 billion.

Ms Mui told court that according to the Cabinet documents the projects were initiated under the Vision 2030 and the implementation had been extended for eight years.

She said after the Cabinet endorsed the plans KVDA placed advertisements in the local daily newspapers on December 19, 2014 inviting interested bidders to construct the dams.

Although the prosecution allege that the accused persons conspired to float tenders for the two projects and awarded CMC di Ravenna-Itinera Joint Ventures the contract, Ms Mui said no bidder was prejudiced and that the process was fairly competitive.

She said the procurement committee evaluated the bids and awarded the tender to the Italian contractor.



Uhuru, Michuki and Gumo cleared Aror, Kimwarer dams, court told

Joseph Wangui / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

However, Ms Mui was pressed by defence lawyer Katwa Kigen to explain why the Prosecution dropped her from the list of the accused persons and made her a witness following a plea-bargain agreement.

The court heard that after she offered to be a witness her suspension from work at KVDA was lifted, she was reinstated and was paid her accrued salaries.

The DPP did not ask me to give them an affidavit to be a witness. I sat with my lawyer when I was one of the accused persons, went through the documentation given by the Prosecution and my lawyer and I were convinced that all those charges on me were not true, she stated.

That is when we wrote to the DPP explaining my part where I participated in the tender and in their response I was asked to put in form of an affidavit, said Ms Mui.

Asked why the DPP accepted her offer and rejected a similar one by Mr Kimosop, the witness said she was not aware. Ms Mui is the first prosecution witness in the trial.

The prosecution led by Special Prosecutor and Senior Counsel Taib Ali Taib has lined up 32 witnesses to prove the case. The DPP had initially charged 24 individuals in relation to the scandal but has since terminated charges against 15, among them Former Treasury Principal Secretary Kamau Thugge and his former East Africa Community counterpart Susan Koech, after they agreed to be prosecution witnesses. The hearing continues.

End of Uhuru, Michuki and Gumo cleared Aror, Kimwarer dams, court told



Children to access unlimited chemotherapy sessions

Amina Wako / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Children with childhood cancers will soon have access to unlimited chemotherapy sessions if new proposals by the Ministry of Health are adopted.

The proposals, already submitted to the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) for implementation seek to have children with cancer access treatment beyond the current limit of six sessions by the fund.

The ministry developed the Childhood Cancer Advisory in consultation with health experts after it emerged that treating childhood cancers takes time and might need more support.

Head of the National Cancer Control Programme at the ministry, Dr Mary Nyangasi, yesterday said the document was developed after it was found that the current oncology package provided for by NHIF was not adequately supporting children with cancer.

As we speak, children with cancer can get treatment, its only that the way it is structured is not covering them fully. We proposed that children with cancer be treated fully because the return on investment is high, she said.

Read: Cancer patients cry for help as health services collapse

She added: We also recommended that instead of the six sessions for chemotherapy, the one for children be considered beyond six because children with cancer do not get treated adequately with six sessions; sometimes their treatment can go on for up to two years.

Defects

According to the American Cancer Society, while known lifestyle-related factors can increase the risk of developing cancer in adults, the same is not true for children. The peak age of childhood cancer is between three and seven years, which is not enough time for environmental factors to cause cancer. Instead, many believe that cell division and multiplication defects are the cause.

Cancer is a leading cause of death for children and adolescents, with the most common types in those aged 0 to 14 years being leukaemia, brain and other central nervous system tumours, and lymphomas.

The likelihood of surviving a diagnosis of childhood cancer depends on the country in which the child lives. In high-income countries, more than 80 per cent of children with cancer are cured, but in low- and middle-income countries, including Kenya, less than 30 per cent are cured.

Read: Pandemic having major impact on childhood cancer care

Because it is generally not possible to prevent cancer in children, the most effective strategy to reduce the burden of cancer in children and improve outcomes is to focus on prompt and correct diagnosis, followed by effective, evidence-based therapy with tailored supportive care.

If you get it at an early stage and they get the treatments that are available, childhood cancer is curable. We get our patients many times when they are in late stage three and four and the cancer has really spread in many organs in the body and we end up losing them, said Irene Nzamu, a paediatric hemato-oncologist at Kenyatta National Hospital.

Symptoms

She further advised parents and health care workers to watch out for symptoms that do not go away quickly. Some of these are an unusual lump or swelling, unexplained paleness, energy loss, easy bruising or bleeding, sudden unexplained weight loss, frequent headaches, vomiting and sudden eye or vision changes.

Cancers in children can be hard to recognise right away because early symptoms are often like those caused by much more common illnesses or injuries. Children often get sick or have bumps or bruises that might mask the early signs of cancer, she said.

Childhood cancer rates have risen slightly over the past few decades. Each year, an estimated 400,000 children and adolescents from 0-19 years old develop cancer.

End of Children to access unlimited chemotherapy sessions



Putin calls up reservists, warns Russia will use 'all means' for defence

AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial military mobilisation and vowed on Wednesday to use "all available means" to protect Russian territory, after Moscow-held regions of Ukraine suddenly announced annexation referendums.

The votes, already denounced by Kyiv and the West as a "sham", will dramatically up the stakes in the seven-month old conflict in Ukraine by giving Moscow the ability to accuse Ukrainian forces of attacking its own territory.

Four Russian-occupied regions of Ukraine -- Donetsk and Lugansk in the east and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south -- said on Tuesday that they would hold the votes over five days beginning Friday.

In a pre-recorded address to the nation early on Wednesday, Putin accused the West of trying to "destroy" his country through its backing of Kyiv, and said Russia needed to support those in Ukraine who wanted to "determine their own future".

The Russian leader announced a partial military mobilisation, with Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu telling state television that some 300,000 reservists would be called up.

'Not a bluff'

"When the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal to protect Russia and our people. This is not a bluff," Putin said.

"Those who are trying to blackmail us with nuclear weapons should know that the wind can also turn in their direction," Putin added.

Putin said that through its support for Ukraine the West was trying to "weaken, divide and ultimately destroy our country", while Shoigu said Moscow was "fighting not so much Ukraine as the collective West" in Ukraine.

The sudden flurry of moves by Moscow this week came with Russian forces in Ukraine facing their biggest challenge since the start of the conflict.

In a rare admission of military losses from Moscow, Shoigu said Wednesday 5,937 Russian soldiers had died in Ukraine since the launch of the military intervention in February.

A sweeping Ukrainian counter-offensive in recent weeks has seen Kyiv's forces retake hundreds of towns and villages that had been controlled by Russia for months.

The referendums follow a pattern first established in 2014, when Russia annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine after a similar vote.

Like in 2014, Washington, Berlin and Paris denounced the latest referendums and said the international community would never recognise the results.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said they were a "sham", French President Emmanuel Macron called them a "travesty", and White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said they were "an affront to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity".

"Sham referenda and mobilisation are signs of weakness, of Russian failure," the US ambassador in Ukraine, Bridget Brink, said on Twitter.

"I thank all the friends and partners of Ukraine for their massive and firm condemnation of Russia's intentions to organise yet more pseudo-referendums," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in response.

Strike at nuclear plant

Kyiv said the referendums were meaningless and vowed to "eliminate" threats posed by Russia, saying its forces would keep retaking territory regardless of what Moscow or its proxies announced.

Political analyst Tatiana Stanovaya said the vote announcements were a direct result of the success of Ukraine's eastern counter-offensive.

"Putin does not want to win this war on the battlefield. Putin wants to force Kyiv to surrender without a fight," she said.

The Ukrainian nuclear operator Energoatom meanwhile on Wednesday accused Russia of again striking the Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant in southern Ukraine.

The strike damaged a power line causing the stoppage of several transformers of the number six reactor of the plant and forcing a brief start of emergency generators, Energoatom said.



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Putin calls up reservists, warns Russia will use 'all means' for defence

AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

"Even the presence of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) does not stop" the Russians, it said, calling on the agency to "more resolute actions" against Moscow.

Europe's largest nuclear facility, located in Russian-held territory, has become a hot spot for concerns after tit-for-tat claims of attacks there.

End of Putin calls up reservists, warns Russia will use 'all means' for defence



Bar and restaurant owners in Muranga ask MPs to take pay cuts | Nation

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

Bar and restaurant owners in Muranga have asked Kenyan Members of Parliament (MPs) to slash off their allowances in a bid to cushion Kenyans from exorbitant taxation.

The entrepreneurs expressed their fear on the proposed increase of excise duty on alcoholic drinks by Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) that takes effect from October 1.

The Murang'a traders who are allied to Bar, Hotels and Liquor Traders Association during a press briefing on Tuesday in a Muranga hotel said the timing for the new taxation rate comes when those who are in the liquor industry are trying to recover from the effects of Covid-19.

KRA has indicated excise duty on alcoholic products will increase by 6.3 percent effective next month in line with average annual inflation.

End of Bar and restaurant owners in Muranga ask MPs to take pay cuts | Nation



Inclusive leadership key to closing gender, pay gaps in health

Norah Obudho / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Kenyan women in politics made national history by securing a record number of elective seats in the August 9 General Election. According to the National Gender and Equality Commission, Kenyans elected 30 female Members of Parliament, up from 23 in 2017; seven female governors, up from three; and three female senators, the same number elected in 2017 pushing womens representation in the upper and lower houses higher than its ever been.

While the numbers are still far below the threshold set by the two-thirds gender rule of the Constitution, they mark a significant step towards achieving parity in representation in a country where politics can be a dangerous calling for women. It also marks a subtle yet considerable shift in the face of leadership, despite the hurdles presented by a male-dominated arm of government that has in the recent past appeared determined not to meet the constitutional threshold for gender representation.

Now as President William Ruto settles into his new role as Head of State, it will be interesting to see whether and how he makes good on a raft of campaign promises he made to women, which included actualising the two-thirds gender principle, allocating 50 per cent of all Cabinet positions to women, placing women at the centre of decision-making and implementing legislative, policy and budgetary measures to help eliminate gender discrimination in the labour market, as well as introducing an affordable healthcare plan for women and children, among others.

Also read: Gender inequality in healthcare impeding services

Even for the more optimistic among an electorate accustomed to post-election disappointment, the promises are lofty. However, with strong political will and action that considers the value of (gender) diversity, equity, and inclusion, they are achievable.

Equitable development

Having more women in leadership is critical to the achievement of equitable development, especially in key areas such as education, health and economic empowerment as envisioned by the Sustainable Development Goals. In fact, research has shown that increasing the number of women in positions of power not only promotes gender diversity, equity and inclusion, it also improves the health and wellbeing of populations, as women are more likely to influence higher government spending on education, health and social protection.

Tapping into the unique attributes of female leaders could be key to addressing the challenges in Kenyas fragile health system, which is buckling under the weight of a high burden of disease, inadequate funding, lack of essential medical equipment, facilities and medicine, and a health workforce that is overstretched and poorly motivated and requires management under a health service commission.

Our leaders have a responsibility to work collaboratively to strengthen health systems and actualise national health goals. Fulfilling pledges made to health workers, from building a fit-for-purpose workforce that is highly skilled and equipped, motivated, equitably distributed and responsive to the health needs of Kenyans alongside investment in other critical health infrastructure will go a long way in bolstering primary healthcare, which is the building block of any resilient health system.

Further, ensuring transparency in hiring, placement, and remuneration across all cadres of health workers will help close the gender and pay gaps in health. It is a widely acknowledged truth that global health is led by men, but delivered by women, who despite making up 70 per cent of the global health workforce are concentrated in junior ranks.

Here, they are often paid less than their male counterparts or work in unpaid roles, perpetuating gender biases that keep them from growing into senior leadership positions and meaningfully participating in decision-making at the highest levels.

Healthcare gaps

In Kenya, for example, where there are only 13 doctors, nurses and midwives for every 10,000 people (much lower than the World Health Organizations recommendation of a minimum of 23 per 10,000 population), women made up 76 per cent of nurses in 2019, but men held 62 per cent of faculty positions in health training institutions.

The same year, data from the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board (KMPDB) revealed that about 42 per cent of retained doctors were women, and of the 2,284 registered specialists only 696 (30 per cent) were women.

Also read: Gender pay gap: Women earn less and this is why



Inclusive leadership key to closing gender, pay gaps in health

Norah Obudho / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

When you consider that specialists command higher pay than general practitioners and others in stereotypically female roles such as nursing, community health work and nutrition, you begin to see why poor compensation is a key contributor to the rising number of trained health workers – many of them women – abandoning careers as practicing health professionals in search of more lucrative jobs.

This is an issue that the government is aware of. According to a 2019 Ministry of Health policy brief on Human Resources for Health, health workers surveyed in 19 counties cited poor salaries, late payment and discrepancies in salaries as the leading causes of demotivation.

Following closely were the lack of promotions and pay rises, little to no opportunities for training and poor working conditions that expose women, especially at junior levels, to verbal and sexual harassment. Sexual harassment and gender discrimination was also identified in the Women Lift Health Discovery analysis as the second top barrier for women in public health in the workplace.

The 13th Parliament has a chance to address these challenges and firmly set us on the path to achieving Universal Health Coverage. And as we reflect on the significance of International Equal Pay Day this September (marked on September 18 of every year), may we celebrate the progress made towards narrowing existing gender and pay gaps in political leadership and health.

May we also take this opportunity to call on our newly elected female leaders to leverage their positions to advocate equal pay for work of equal value for all cadres of health workers, and to remind President Ruto that if he is to deliver on his promise to strengthen access to quality, affordable, accessible and inclusive care for all, he must place women at the centre of decision-making in health and implement the necessary legislative, policy and budgetary measures to close these gaps once and for all.

Dr Norah Obudho, East Africa and Global Health Integration Director, WomenLift Health

End of Inclusive leadership key to closing gender, pay gaps in health



Counties

Artiste with a disability protests exclusion from UDA nomination list

Brian Ojamaa / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

A popular Bungoma-based artiste who has a disability is angry that his name was not on the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) list of nominated members of the county assembly.

He claims he was promised the position by President William Ruto.

Mr David Sakari, a diehard supporter of the President, claims his name was struck from the list and replaced by that of a nominee from the Rift Valley.

The Bukusu musician said he was promised the position by Dr Ruto ahead of the elections and he had applied for it.

Mr Sakari was among people with disabilities across Bungoma County's nine constituencies who had threatened to seek a court injunction to bar the swearing-in of MCAs today on the grounds that none of their members was nominated to the House.

UDA nominated Rugut Angeline Chelagat from Uasin Gishu, Kirui Eunice from Mt Elgon and Sifuma Shillah, while Ford Kenya nominated Catherine Kituyi, Dorcas Nakhumicha, Linda Wekesa, Evelyn Wabwire, Metrine Nangila, Bridgit Lusike and Maurine Katika.

The Democratic Action Party of Kenya (DAP-K) nominated Florence Juma, Metrine Nangalama and Alice Kibaba.

Disgruntled members of Ford Kenya have urged party leader and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula to intervene. The rest of the complainants asked the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to investigate, faulting political parties that they supported in the elections.

Mr Sakari, who received a vehicle from Dr Ruto in 2015, was instrumental in spearheading UDA campaigns in the Western region. He was once beaten and hit with a bottle of beer at a popular joint in Webuye for drumming up support for the Hustler gospel in June 2021.

He said he had applied for the position after being assured by Dr Ruto that he would get a slot.

I was even shortlisted among the five people who were to be nominated, and in my category we were only two who applied to be nominated," he claimed.

But UDA Bungoma coordinator Michael Malomba Bungoma claimed Mr Sakari did not apply for the position.

"You know some of these people who are lamenting and making noise did not even apply for the nomination, like Mr Sakari, we didn't have his application," he said, claims that the complainant rejected.

"I am a very bitter person to learn that I was shortchanged at the 11th hour and I am appealing to the President, who is our party leader, to intervene and have my name back on the nomination list," said Mr Sakari, who was with a large crowd of supporters.

"My name was replaced with someone who is not even a voter in Bungoma County, why?" Mr Sakari asked. He argued that he had mobilised votes from people with disabilities for Kenya Kwanza.

"Through my vigorous campaigns, I ensured that the first person living with disability was elected as Webuye East MP, referring to Martin Wanyonyi Pepela.

Adrian Sakwa, the chairman of the Bungoma County Disability Empowerment Network and chairman of the Ford Kenya Disability Network, said the party had failed to honor the deal despite an earlier binding agreement.

"We are perturbed about the list of nominated MCAs that appeared in the [Kenya] Gazette notice recently. No persons living with disability was picked. We will stop the swearing-in ceremony of MCAs at the Bungoma County Assembly until our plea is heard and determined," he said.

The notice published recently showed women were the greatest beneficiaries in the nominations, with 14 picked for the assembly through various parties under the gender top-up consideration.

"We will not allow the assembly to proceed without the inclusion of people with disabilities. The Constitution is very clear. The government and private institutions should include people with disabilities in any other formations," Mr Sakwa said.

He added: But Ford Kenya failed to meet this requirement. So far, 21 counties have not included [people with disabilities] in their county assemblies composition."

His sentiments were echoed by Titus Ndalulwa, chairman of the County Disability Network, who insisted that they will seek



Counties

Artiste with a disability protests exclusion from UDA nomination list

Brian Ojamaa / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

redress in court unless they get a representative in the assembly.

"We have suffered for so long since 2017 No one has been nominated to our assembly yet the law is very clear that five percent of us should be included in any appointive or elective positions," he said.

End of Artiste with a disability protests exclusion from UDA nomination list



Counties

Tana River: 3 former water officials arrested over procurement fraud

Stephen Oduor / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Sleuths from the anti-corruption watchdog have arrested three former Tana River County water department officers for irregular procurement of a borehole drilling service.

They are accused of flouting procurement laws in a Sh3.6 million borehole tender in Mororo, Tana North sub-county, during former governor Hussein Dado's tenure.

Among them was former water chief officer Muhamed Muhammad Guracho, who was seized on Wednesday morning. Salim Juma Makorani, a former technical manager, spent Tuesday night in police custody, as did former water director Gwiyo Madubi.

They were released on police bail pending their appearance in court today.

The three will be charged at the Malindi Anti-Corruption Court with abuse of office and willful failure to comply with public procurement laws, he Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) said in a statement.

The arrests come as the EACC investigates several other procurement irregularities in the county government.

The agency is also investigating the procurement of motorbikes and ambulances in Governor Dhadho Godhanas administration that it flagged months before the August 9 elections.

Sources in the county administration said more heads will roll as Governor Godhana has welcomed the EACC sleuths to help him clean up the system as he starts his second term.

In his inauguration speech, the governor warned that officers implicated in graft in his first term will not have a place in his administration unless they are cleared of wrongdoing by the EACC.

End of Tana River: 3 former water officials arrested over procurement fraud



Counties

City woman in court for stealing, selling her househelps newborn

Joseph Ndunda / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

A woman suspected of stealing selling her nanny's newborn baby was charged with human trafficking alongside a couple who were allegedly found with the child.

Veronica Nyaboke was charged alongside Grace Kemunto and her husband Robert Ombati and they are facing charges of conspiracy to commit a felony trafficking a person jointly.

The three are accused of committing the offence in Kayole in Nairobi on August 20 jointly with a suspect who is still at large.

They are also facing a charge of trafficking in a person contrary to section 4(1) (b) as read with section 4 (3) of the Counter Trafficking In Persons Act of 2010.

The couple were found with the child in their home in Tassia within Embakasi in Nairobi during police investigations after the matter was reported at Kayole police station.

The babys mother delivered the child at Mama Lucy Kibaki hospital in Kayole on August 20 before proceeding to her employer Nyabokes house where the child was allegedly stolen the same day.

The woman had slept beside her child in Nyaboke's house where she worked as a househelp, and woke up to find the child missing.

Upon asking, she was informed by her employer that the child had been taken to Keroka in Kisii County for some rituals.

The childs mother waited for a week to reunite with the child to no avail.

Read: Revealed: How top CS, PS and Raila aide bungled Azimio's election plan

She later travelled to Kisii to look for her child but could not trace the child.

She returned to Nairobi and reported the matter at Kayole police station and police began investigations by visiting the hospital where she delivered to ascertain her claims that she had delivered at the facility.

The investigations led police to the couples house where Kemunto was arrested whil allegedly attempting to flee.

The baby was rescued and Ombati, who was found in the house, was also arrested.

The trio denied the charges before Principal Magistrate Eric Mutunga of Makadara law courts.

They were released on a bond of Sh3 million without an option of a cash bail.

The case will be mentioned on October 4 before hearing starts on January 26 next year.

End of City woman in court for stealing, selling her househelps newborn



Counties

Turkana North ex-MP declared county assembly Speaker unopposed

Sammy Lutta / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Christopher Doye Nakuleu, who served two terms as Turkana North MP, is the new Speaker of the Turkana County Assembly.

This followed the inauguration of war reps on Tuesday. Assembly Clerk Linus Miinyan said Mr Nakuleu won unopposed after his four opponents were disqualified.

This meant that members of the county assembly (MCAs) did not need to vote to pick a Speaker.

Former Finance chief officer Abraham Losinyen, Ms Susan Aletia, who unsuccessfully vied for woman representative, Ms Jane Apetet, who lost the Senate seat to James Lomenen, and Mr Derrick Epae were disqualified on various grounds. Mr Nakuleu, who lost his seat to Paul Nabuin of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), had a shot in the arm after his party United Democratic Alliance (UDA) nominated him.

In a September 19 letter to UDA-elected and nominated MCAs, party secretary-general Veronica Maina said Mr Nakuleu had been nominated for the Speakers position.

The letter, copied to the clerk of the assembly, directed the MCAs to uphold the party's decision.

Clerk Miinyan said the major grounds for disqualifying the four other aspirants included pending court cases and failure to resign at least six months before the election.

Of the five candidates who completed and returned their nomination papers, he said, only Mr Nakuleu qualified.

"The standing orders of the Turkana County Assembly provide that if there is only one candidate duly nominated for elections as Speaker and the nomination period expires, then the candidate shall be declared duly to have been elected Speaker without any vote being required, Mr Miinyan said.

I now therefore declare Nakuleu Doye Christopher as duly elected Speaker of the third assembly of Turkana."

Turkana Central MP Emathe Namuar said Mr Miinyan was the hero of the day by ensuring that the Constitution, standing orders and court rulings and orders sealed each loophole.

"We expect [a] symbiotic/cordial relationship between the county government and the county assembly, Mr Namuar said.

He said a ward development fund should be one of the priorities of the assembly.

End of Turkana North ex-MP declared county assembly Speaker unopposed



Counties

Murang'a security boss orders crackdown on Kigumo gambling dens

Mwangi Muiruri / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Murang'a County Commissioner Karuku Ngumo has ordered all gambling dens in Kigumo sub-county closed down to protect area children.

He explained that he had received complaints from residents that schoolchildren on holiday were stealing money from their parents to gamble.

And when they hit jackpots, they proceed to experiment with drugs and alcohol, he said.

"[All] gambling dens will be closed and their proprietors arrested. I have also ordered all administrators to furnish me with answers on where they were when those dens were being founded and escaping law enforcement," he said.

Mr Ngumo added that the law is clear on gambling and there is no excuse for security officers not to enforce it.

"It is even more serious when dereliction of duty subjects our children to negative influence. That is not something this government condones, he said.

Illicit brews

Residents had been complaining about gambling "illicit brews and bars operating with impunity, but we have been seeing lacklustre responses from our police officers and administrators", said Kigumo Parents Association chair Mercy Kimani.

She cited gambling, drug abuse and early exposure to sexual activity as some of the catalysts of rising school dropout rates.

The most affected areas are the lowlands of Kigumo sub-county, she claimed.

"A government that for love of bribes exposes our children to risky lifestyles can only be destroying the future of our country. We would love to hear from our officers whether they would subject their own children to gambling, drug abuse and illicit sex," she said.

On Monday, Murang'a Deputy Governor Stephen Munania lamented that gambling and alcoholism had become a crisis that required immediate action.

"The county government knows and is concerned. We will partner with the national government that is in charge of security functions to address this menace," he said.

Mr Ngumo promised action. "I encourage all with information aimed at making our society safer and progressive to feel free and share it with us, he said.

Pass it through our toll-free number 988 that does not reveal your identity. Report those officers abetting lawlessness and you will see us act."

End of Murang'a security boss orders crackdown on Kigumo gambling dens



Counties

Coast people embracing green gram farming

Maureen Ongala / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Farmers along the coastal line in Kilifi have embraced green gram farming to earn an income.

The severe effects of climate change have led to unreliable rain in the areas and perennial maize crop failure, leading farmers to grow the drought-resistant crop as an agribusiness project because it matures quickly with little input.

The crops mature after two months.

The farmers are under the Shamba Project, which empowers smallholder farmers to become financially stable, improve their livelihoods and fight hunger.

They expressed their hopes that green gram farming would be best for agribusiness because they have ready markets locally and abroad.

The Shamba Project supports farmers with farm inputs and expertise for high yields. Farmers get fertiliser, seeds and pesticides after project managers assess the soil in their respective areas.

Mr Bandari Ndao, from Mbuyuni B village in Kilifi North sub-county, said maize farming boomed in the past but poor rainfall led him to switch to green gram farming.

We used to grow maize and the yields were profitable. But it reached a point where the rains were not enough, leading to poor yields, Mr Ndao said.

With changes in rainfall patterns, he moved to green gram farming.

But because he did not know how to farm the crop for high yields, he could intercrop maize and green grams, which affected production.

Green grams will not produce when you intercrop with maize. So I decided to drop maize farming to focus on green grams for money and food. I am hopeful it will be a good business for many farmers, he said.

The area, he said, gets little rainfall and this affects green grams on the farms.

He has one and a half acres of green grams and expects a good yield.

I have already harvested three bags of 90kg, which if I sell I will get money to buy maize flour for my children, he said.

A 90kg sack of green grams sells for about Sh9,000. Mr Ndao expects to earn about Sh45,000 from the green grams.

Mr Peter Mwalele, the quality assurance officer for Shamba Project, said many farmers in the county lack knowledge about green gram farming.

Shamba Project supports 120 farmers in Kilifi North and Ganze sub-counties to grow green grams.

Mr Mwalele said the Shamba project had linked farmers to a ready and direct market to protect them from exploitation by brokers.

Green grams farming gives farmers in Kilifi an opportunity to do agri-business and improve their livelihood, and with the direct markets, they get value for their products, he said.

End of Coast people embracing green gram farming



Counties

Nyeri court moves suit by man claiming to be Kibakis son to Nairobi

Mercy Mwende / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Compel the family

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

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

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

End of Nyeri court moves suit by man claiming to be Kibakis son to Nairobi



Counties

Truck drivers demand end to Northern Corridor murders

Winnie Atieno / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

When Gabriel Chengo bid farewell to his family at their Miritini home in Mombasa and set off in his truck to transport cargo to Uganda, his wife had no idea that it would be the last time she would see him alive.

The 40-year-old truck driver had told his wife that he did not want to make the trip because his employer had not paid some of his dues. However, being his family's sole breadwinner, he decided to get the job done and sort out the problem at a later date. So around 9pm he set off, only for his body to be found a few hours later inside the truck parked at Manyatta area.

By the time the 31-year-old decided to call her in-laws to find out if they had heard from him, photos of her husband's body were doing the rounds on social media.

Preliminary police investigations indicated that the assailants had used her husband's clothes to tie him up and cover his face. His belt was used to strangle him. A post-mortem examination indicated that Chengo had died from stab wounds and strangulation.

Gabriel Chengo, a truck driver who was found murdered and his body left in his truck on Thursday last week near Manyatta along the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway.

The Chengo family is the latest to suffer the devastating effects of highway robbery along the Northern Corridor, which some now term a death trap for truck drivers.

Four other drivers have been killed in the same manner in the past two months, findings corroborated by Kenya Transporters Association (KTA) data.

Geoffrey Mwangemisi's truck was diverted on 17/7/2022 and found murdered in Kilibasi. Mohamed Mohamed of Awale Transporters was killed and truck left in Maungu on 7/7/2022. Francis Opondo was killed on 28/8/2022 ... Absirizack Abdullahi, working with Awale Transporters, was killed on 2/3/2022... states a report by KTA.

Taita-Taveta County Police Commandant Patrick Okeri insisted that his officers had contained highway robberies along the important transport route. The Northern Corridor is an important transport route for Kenya, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda and covers 12,707km.

Through collaboration, we have managed to boost security. Last year, when one truck driver was killed, we arrested three suspects whose cases are ongoing in court. We always conduct patrols, and mount roadblocks and checks for vehicles, he said. He acknowledged insecurity was a problem and that the Maili Kubwa area has become a dumping site for bodies.

We caution drivers to stop picking up unauthorised passengers and encourage them to stop at safe places, he added.

KTA Chairman Newton Wangoo complained that security was deteriorating along the highway and said the area between Mariakani and Mtito Andei is particularly dangerous.

Drivers complained that the special Northern Corridor Police Unit was not effective. Some of them accused the officers of demanding bribes and even committing the robberies themselves.

Our drivers are being murdered along the corridor and no action is being taken, said Kenya Long Distance Truck Drivers and Allied Workers Union chair David Masinde.

Police know who these people are. We are issuing a seven-day ultimatum. By Thursday next week if you won't have arrested the culprits, we won't drive anything in the name of a lorry. This is a strike notice, said the union's general secretary, Nicholas Wambua.

End of Truck drivers demand end to Northern Corridor murders



Counties

Farhiya Hussein / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Governor Abdulswamad Nassirs administration will not embark on new county projects until the ones his predecessor Hassan Joho started are completed.

The governor has also promised to clear the Sh4.2 billion pending bills after an audit is completed. He made the announcement after meeting with County Executive Committee members and Chief Officers on Monday.

I've directed that there be a temporary suspension of new projects until we have a substantive way forward on the completion of old projects and [have resolved] the issue of pending bills, the county boss said.

I shall continue with the work started by Mr Joho and rectify [where necessary]. We will be learning from his legacy, Mr Nassir added.

The Joho administration had prioritised health and education. Among the projects he launched were putting up Level Four hospitals and early childhood development and education centres.

Mr Nassir said he will rely on an audit report to determine unpaid debts and the number of employees in the county to weed out ghost workers.

Accrued debts

He promised to settle accrued debts standing at Sh4.29 billion according to a February 2022 Controller of Budget report but only if the demands are genuine.

I'll prioritise pending bills starting with the ones that have not been paid in the past eight or nine years, Mr Nassir said.

The governor also announced a freeze on hiring new staff. Instead, he said, casual workers will get permanent and pensionable status while the rank and file of permanent staff will be promoted to motivate them.

On salary delays, Mr Nassir said he will negotiate with financial institutions for overdrafts in case of delayed disbursements from the National Treasury.

The success of my administration will rely on the well-being of our esteemed workers. I can't do it alone and that's why it's my topmost agenda to ensure we have a good working relationship with each worker, he said.

Mr Nassir added: Your input shall be invaluable in this and I'll do my part to ensure you're well treated including through timely payment of salaries and regular remittance of your statutory deductions.

Garbage menace

The governor assured residents that he would deal with the garbage menace. He said he had assigned my deputy Francis Thoya the responsibility of supervising a Rapid Results Initiative programme aimed at clearing garbage from the streets of Mombasa City with immediate effect.

A team is in place to ensure street and market lights work within seven days, he added.

End of Ill protect Hassan Joho legacy, Governor Nassir says on Mombasa County's growth plan



Counties

3.5 million Kenyans face starvation due to drought

Barnabas Bii / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

An estimated one million children below five years and more than 100,000 pregnant and lactating women need urgent treatment for malnutrition.

This as more than 3.5 million Kenyans face starvation due to acute food shortage caused by drought-induced crop failure.

National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) statistics show that the number of children faced with acute malnutrition increased from 884,464 in August to 942,000 this month.

At the same time, pregnant and lactating women in need of treatment for severe famine stands at 134,000, up from 115,727 last month.

Read: Somali refugees flee to Kenya as drought, malnutrition cases rise

More than 10 counties, mainly in Northern Kenya, are at the alarm stage with thousands of families facing starvation in urgent need of support.

According to KRCSs latest report, some 80,000 families in West Pokot risk starving as do another 100,000 households in Turkana County.

Women carrying firewood walk past a carcass of a cow in Loiyangalani, which is the worst affected by the prolonged drought, in Marsabit, northern Kenya, on July 12, 2022. . Four consecutive seasons have witnessed poor rains, leaving millions of drought-stricken people in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia facing starvation.

KRCS Manager in charge of North Rift Esther Chege yesterday said they have embarked on providing vitamin A supplements, deworming children and promoting appropriate child feeding practices.

Some 8,000 children and 5,365 mothers in Turkana County face severe malnutrition.

Were partnering with Usaid, Ministry of Health and the county government in provision of healthcare for those suffering malnutrition, especially children and the aged, she said.

They are also rehabilitating water points to check the outbreak of waterborne diseases.

We are working to save lives and build resilience in the most vulnerable communities, Ms Chege added.

She disclosed that the agency has distributed foodstuff to households and issued drought resistant seedssorghum, finger millet and green gramsto families in affected areas. It has also carried out destocking.

Read: Tana children struggle to survive as drought persists

In Turkana, Ms Chege said, 103,000 households risk severe starvation with Turkana East, Turkana North, Kibish and Loima sub-counties hard hit.

More than 30,000 residents have had to cross to Katido and Kaboong districts in Uganda in search for food, and pasture and water for their animals.

A NDMA report indicates that families in arid and semi-arid lands (Asals) in 23 counties are faced with food shortages and inadequate pasture and water for their animals.

Another report by Health ministry, Kenya Food Security Steering Group and Early Warning Systems Network in May points at families in crisis in Samburu, Marsabit, Isiolo, and Garissa.

Read: Tharaka residents cry out for relief food after crop failure

Mandera and Wajir are also in urgent need of humanitarian aid due undernourishment.

Leaders from the affected counties have petitioned the government to undertake humanitarian interventions to avert calamities as witnessed in previous droughts.

The families have experienced difficulties in getting relief food and normal supply needs to be restored to avert further tragedy, Ekiro Lobuel from Kibish Sub-county said.

Several counties in Northern Kenya region hard hit by drought are to benefit from funds to be coordinated by NDMA to reduce the impact of malnutrition among children.

The government has disbursed Sh1.1 billion to cushion poor and vulnerable families in Turkana, Wajir, Mandera and



Counties

3.5 million Kenyans face starvation due to drought

Barnabas Bii / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Garissa counties from the effects of the drought.

The money is to be channelled through the Hunger Safety Net Programme.

End of 3.5 million Kenyans face starvation due to drought



Counties

Day of high drama as confusion, chaos mar polls to pick Speakers

Nation Team / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Former county ministers and ex-lawmakers were among those elected Speakers as some county assemblies resumed sessions after the August General Election.

After the swearing-in of new members, the election of Speaker was the next order of business for the regional Houses that reconvened yesterday, among them Machakos, Turkana, Kisumu, Kericho, Trans Nzoia, Isiolo and Nyamira.

In Kisumu, it took the last-minute intervention of Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leader Raila Odinga for the party's candidate, Mr Elisha Jack Oraro, to clinch the Speakers seat. Mr Oraro won narrowly, warding off a spirited fight by Mr Samuel Ongow. He garnered 25 votes against Mr Ongow's 22 in a duel that was decided in a second round of voting. The first round saw Mr Oraro get 24 votes against Mr Ongow's 23.

For the position of Deputy Speaker, only two candidates Mr Vincent Odhiambo Obuya and Mrs Nereah Akoth Okombo competed, with the latter carrying the day with 24 votes against 23 for Mr Obuya.

The other contestants, Mr Kenneth Amondi and Mr James Kounah Ochieng, got no votes.

Read: Ex-Kericho Finance executive elected county assembly Speaker

Others elected Speaker were Directorate of Criminal Investigators boss George Kinotis executive advisor Mohammed Roba (Isiolo), former Manga MCA Enock Okero (Nyamira), former Finance Executive Andrew Wanyonyi (Trans Nzoia), lawyer Ms Anne Kiusya (Machakos) and former Finance Executive Patrick Mutai (Kericho). Mr Oraro was the Speaker of the last assembly, a house that impeached his two predecessors.

The oath-taking ceremony in Kisumu was interrupted for more than 25 minutes after assembly Clerk Owen Ojuok stood to make a communication to the House, which was said to be aimed at stopping the swearing in of about 11 nominated MCAs. One of the MCAs snatched a document that the clerk had in his hands before being wrestled down by colleagues.

Chaos rocks Kisumu County Assembly after clerk halts MCAs' swearing-in

Chaos rocks Kisumu County Assembly after clerk halts MCAs' swearing-in

When sanity was restored, the exercise went on smoothly with all the 47 MCAs voting. On Monday, however, almost half of the newly elected MCAs boycotted a meeting attended by Mr Odinga, in defiance of the ODM leader, who wanted the legislators to rally behind Mr Oraro.

Only 24 elected MCAs attended a dinner held at the Grand Royal Swiss Hotel, as the others allied to Mr Ongow skipped it, the result of serious lobbying that could have embarrassed Mr Odinga if MCAs from his Kisumu backyard had rejected his candidate of choice.

Read: Raila man carries the day in Kisumu after brief scare

In Siaya, Mr George Okode was elected as the Speaker for the third time. The pioneer head of the legislative wing of the Siaya County Government outfoxed his main rival, lawyer Evans Oruenjo, to secure the seat. The latter got a paltry two votes against Mr Okode's 38. Mr Okode was first elected Speaker in 2013 and has won another five years, making him the longest serving county assembly Speaker in Luo Nyanza.

For three months, Mr Okode acted as Siaya governor in 2014 after a High Court sitting in Kisumu nullified the election of Mr Cornel Rasanga in a petition filed by Mr William Oduol, the current Deputy Governor.

In his maiden speech after the landslide victory, Mr Okode lauded the MCAs for not letting intimidation from certain quarters to influence their decision to vote for him.

I am aware there were temptations, pressure and attempts to influence you but you stood firm on your ground. The third assembly ... will resist any external influence and be in charge of her own destiny, he said.

In Homa Bay, several aspirants for the assembly Speaker position protested at being locked out of the race in a scheme, they claimed, was meant to favour their rival.

Only former Central Karachuonyo MCA Julius Gaya and former Gwassi North MCA Evance Mariba were cleared to vie in elections slated for today out of those who had presented their papers by Monday morning.

Assembly Clerk Faith Apuko said the other four did not meet all the requirements. One of the applicants has filed a lawsuit but is yet to get a court order.



Counties

Day of high drama as confusion, chaos mar polls to pick Speakers

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The others did not meet all the requirements despite submitting their names on time. They are, therefore, disqualified, she said, adding that some did not attach relevant documents on their application forms.

One of the requirements was for one to be proposed by an MCA. The applicant should also have someone seconding him or her, which some applicants did not do, the clerk said.

The six who had been cleared were Mr John Apollo, the chief of protocol in county government; former Central Karachuonyo MCA Julius Gaya; Youth Empowerment Bridge Organization Africa director Fredrick Gaya, Mr Mariba, Mr Innocent Masara and Mr Pascal Odhiambo.

Those locked out claim the information about the deadline and other requirements were deliberately made available late. Ms Apuko rejected the applications of aspirants who submitted their papers even a minute after the deadline.

The strict deadline prevented seven people from submitting their documents. They had last week notified the House of their interest and collected nomination forms.

Ms Zilper Opapo and Polycup Otieno, who were among those locked out, said they had invested their 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.

Mr Apollo also protested the move and threatened to go to court.

He was yet to get a court order by yesterday evening to suspend the election of the assembly Speaker.

Reporting by Rushdie Oudia, George Odiwuor and Kassim Adinasi

End of Day of high drama as confusion, chaos mar polls to pick Speakers



Blogs-opinion

Let Ruto be ruthless with cartels

Kennedy Chesoli / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

I never, for a moment, doubted that William Ruto would be the fifth President of Kenya. Signs of his decisive victory bar shenanigans from his predecessor were everywhere. Betting against Dr Ruto was simply a fools errand, as many have regrettably come to learn.

The man has never lost a battle in his entire political career. When he first arrived on the political scene in 1997, he did so in style: He trounced Reuben Chesire, one of President Daniel arap Moi's long-standing allies, in a defeat that sent shock waves across the country. He would then go on overcoming obstacles, overpowering opponents and scaling the political ladder.

I penned several pieces explaining why President Uhuru Kenyatta and his candidate, Raila Odinga, could not possibly imperil Dr Ruto's political aspirations.

As with millions of fellow Kenyans, I couldn't be happier with a Ruto presidency. He has the markings of a great leader. His background and humble beginnings, centred around the Church, and reliance on the government and public institutions for education, healthcare, recreational and later employment, would no doubt inform his efforts at reforming and shaping the public and civil service sectors.

The terror and era of rent-seeking cartels that had hijacked the government is over. President Ruto has signalled, rather powerfully, his intention to keep the promises he made to the Kenyan people.

Financial autonomy

In his first five days in office, he initiated the process that would free the port from cartels and liberate its operations. He also moved to swear in judges whose promotion had been set aside by the previous regime on frivolous grounds and gave the National Police Service financial autonomy and accountability. He also terminated costly and inefficient fuel subsidies that had diverted immense public resources to a small number of individuals.

These are big, bold and praiseworthy achievements undertaken well before the Cabinet is constituted. But the President also faces significant challenges, given financial impropriety and blatant diversion of public funds that has been afoot since early 2018.

Not only are state coffers nearly empty but the outgoing President also left behind staggering bills of more than Sh500 billion! The country's sovereign debt has also grown out of shape with repayments expected to consume the lion's share of the tax revenue. Unless efforts to mobilise resources domestically are scaled up, there won't be sufficient funds to support economic recovery and offer families relief against the rising cost of living.

The Kenya Kwanza manifesto sets out a great vision and outlines practical pathways for addressing many of our socioeconomic challenges. More importantly, the President has stressed that dealing with state capture, dismantling cartels, fighting corruption and sealing tax evasion loopholes are key in realising development finance as well as liberating and putting the country on a sustainable path of growth and development.

He should go further and put in motion a mechanism for recovering stolen assets, including billions of taxpayers' funds that are held in secret offshore accounts. It is imperative that government bureaucrats and functionaries who aided and abetted these vices be removed and their positions offered to men and women of integrity. Also, those who supported, excused or justified fraudulent schemes such as Huduma Namba, BBI and the Covid scam must be excluded from this hustler government.

Economic pain

There are no quick fixes to the Kenyatta-created mess. Clean-up will take time. Also, the economic pain is likely to get worse before things get better. Ending market-distorting fuel subsidies may, in the short run, push prices upwards but liberating the sector from the stranglehold of cartels would create competition and efficiency both of which could eventually contribute to stable and low prices.

The President must also defeat cartels who enrich themselves by importing and dumping (at times poisonous) sugar in the country, impeding local production. The government must leverage the strong domestic sugar demand by creating policies and interventions that would create jobs, revitalise sugarcane growing and jump-start the scores of moribund and decaying mills, including Mumias Sugar Company.

President Ruto is a tenacious, hardworking go-getter. He embodies the dreams and aspirations of millions of Kenyans



Blogs-opinion

Let Ruto be ruthless with cartels

Kennedy Chesoli / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

born in poverty with little or no opportunities to excel. He is an accomplished politician with a knack for solving problems by seeking solutions outside the proverbial box.

Given the freshness that he brings to the Presidency, its important that the country and its development partners support Dr Ruto in his efforts to create opportunities for all. But as he strives to build on the positive strides made by his predecessor, President Ruto must be quick in rejecting and undoing actions and policies that harmed our nation.

In dealing with the cartels, the President should be ruthless.

Mr Chesoli is a New York-based development economist and global policy expert.

End of Let Ruto be ruthless with cartels



Ruto is on right track of mentoring new crop of young political leaders

Njeri Rugene / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

One of the issues that appears to be close to the heart of President William Ruto as his Kenya Kwanza administration gets down to work is the need and importance of political mentorship.

In his address in Nairobi to the first caucus of the coalitions freshly elected leaders on August 17, the then-President-elect singled out mentorship of the new younger leaders, particularly those elected to both Houses of Parliament.

Dr Ruto was categorical that, together with his deputy Rigathi Gachagua, party leaders and other officials in the coalition, the leadership will be intentional in mentoring the younger politicians to make successful leaders out of them. In addition, doing so would mean growth of solid leadership when the older ones leave the political space, particularly within Kenya Kwanza Alliance.

The success of any leadership, he reasoned, is in mentorship of the youth into better leaders. Pointing out that the coalitions leadership believes in that principle of leadership, he told the grouping: My deputy and I have agreed that when our time to leave comes, we will [have mentored] other people into better leaders to make sure we have proper transition in our Kenya Kwanza formation.

Mentorship

He added: We undertake that we will do that for the people, the leaders in our Kenya Kwanza formation alongside the other leaders [who joined the alliance after elections].

It is a message that President Ruto would repeat and dwell on at length at the Kenya Kwanza parliamentary groups two-day working meeting in Naivasha last week. This is an indication that his leadership is serious about the mentorship of the youth for better leadership and governance.

There is room for progress in as far as election of more young people, particularly to Parliament and county assemblies, is concerned. However, the August 9 general election brought with it an unprecedented number of elected politicians within the age 35 youth bracket and a bigger number below 40.

They include 24-year-old Bomet Woman Representative Linet Chepkorir Toto, her Kirinyaga and Lamu colleagues, respectively, Njeri Maina, 28, and Muthoni Marubu, 30, and Nyandarua Senator John Methu, 31, and Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Wesly Rotich, 34.

Mentorship of the countrys younger leaders is the way to go for the nations future and stability. It is more sound when the nations top leadership undertake to make it part of the agenda and focus. In a country where gender balancerepresentation of women, in particularis still wanting, mentorship of younger women politicians is an excellent way of not only attracting more of them to the space but also sustain the numbers and grow many others to positions of leadership.

Women leaders

Quite a few women leaders in the current structure have indicated that mentorship saw them rise to their positions. They include Governor Cecily Mbarire, the youthful first female Embu County boss who first joined the National Assembly as a nominated MP after serving as a university student leader. The former Runyenyes MP has in the past singled out veteran politician and trailblazer Phoebe Asiyo and former Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu as among her political mentors.

With the big number of younger female politicians in the country in Parliament and at the county assemblies and governments, including nominated ones, it is fundamental that the older ones, particularly, as well as womens rights organisations and related interest groups, give much attention to mentorship of younger women political leaders.

Notably, the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (Kewopa), which draws its membership from women legislators from the National Assembly and the Senate, runs a leadership and mentorship programme that includes a peer mentorship with older female politicians guiding the younger ones.

The programme is a great way to start off the 13th Parliament with its unprecedented numbers of young women. It will come in handy as a vehicle to carry out the crucial mission.

Ms Rugene, a consulting editor, is the founder of the Womans Newsroom Foundation.

End of Ruto is on right track of mentoring new crop of young political leaders



Africa

Ethiopia rejects UN report on Tigray, terms it 'rubbish' and 'mockery'

AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Ethiopia on Tuesday rejected a report by UN investigators that accused Addis Ababa of possible ongoing crimes against humanity in its war-torn Tigray region, including using starvation as a weapon.

The Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia said it had found evidence of widespread violations by all sides since fighting erupted in Tigray nearly two years ago.

This included the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, a Nobel laureate, and its allies who were "intentionally causing great suffering" by denying aid to Tigray, a region of six million.

Kaari Betty Murungi, one of the commission's three independent rights experts, and its chair, said the denial of food, medicine and basic services was "having a devastating impact on the civilian population".

"We have reasonable grounds to believe it amounts to a crime against humanity," she said on Monday following the release of the report, the commission's first.

"We also have reasonable grounds to believe that the Federal Government is using starvation as a method of warfare."

Ethiopia's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, Zenebe Kebede, said the commission was "politically motivated" and their conclusions were "self-contradictory and biased".

"There is not any single evidence that shows the government of Ethiopia used humanitarian aid as an instrument of war," the envoy told AFP, describing the report as "a mockery" and "rubbish".

"Therefore we have no other option but to reject this report."

He said investigators had ignored atrocities by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which ruled Ethiopia for decades before Abiy came to power in 2018, and which Addis Ababa considers a terrorist group.

Fighting between government forces and their allies and rebels led by the TPLF reignited in August after a five-month lull.

The return to the battlefield comes as diplomatic efforts intensify to try and peacefully resolve the nearly two-year war in Africa's second-most populous country.

Authorities in Tigray announced this month they were ready to participate in talks mediated by the African Union (AU), removing an obstacle to negotiations with Abiy's government.

But fighting has only escalated in the weeks since, with air strikes pounding Tigray and Ethiopia's ally Eritrea crossing the border to join the fight against the rebels.

On Tuesday, the TPLF accused Eritrean forces of launching a "full scale offensive" across northern Ethiopia, where heavy combat has been reported on multiple fronts in recent weeks.

AFP was not able to independently verify the claims. Access to northern Ethiopia is severely restricted and Tigray has been under a communications blackout for more than a year.

Mike Hammer, the US special envoy to the region who just returned from 11 days in Ethiopia, said Washington "had been tracking Eritrean troop movements across the border".

"They're extremely concerning and we condemn it," Hammer told reporters on Tuesday.

"The presence of Eritrean troops in Ethiopia only serves to complicate matters, and inflame an already tragic situation."

Eritrean troops supported Ethiopian forces in the early stages of the war when Abiy sent soldiers into Tigray to unseat the TPLF, accusing the group of attacking federal army camps.

Last week, Eritrean authorities issued a general call for mobilisation.

End of Ethiopia rejects UN report on Tigray, terms it 'rubbish' and 'mockery'



Africa

COP27: Inside Africa's increasingly clean energy record

Bird Story Agency / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

By comparison with the rest of the world, African states tread lightly, responsible for just 3.3% of global carbon emissions eight times less than Asia, Europe and North America. Each. In the words of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, it is the least responsible but pays the highest price.

And while drought and floods and their attendant griefs will (and should) make a story at Cop-27, theres one report card where the continent shines.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation's 2022 Forum Report, called The Road to Cop-27, shows that three in four countries have met their requirements to submit their Nationally Determined Contributions plan to cut emissions - even if these are low.

Photo credit: Bird

There is still a challenge to align these with national development plans, the report has found, but the continent has displayed more political will to cut emissions than many countries in other regions.

There is also a much higher accession rate to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13 which deals with a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) - in Africa compared to North America or the EU.

The Forum Report shows that clean energy provision is improving. But there are still 600 million people on our continent without a reliable and efficient source of energy, so the road is long.

Still, the Foundation spotlights a steady rise in public investment in renewable forms of energy by African states, where between 2010 and 2019, it tripled from US\$ 13.4 billion to US\$ 47.0 billion.

The report finds that 22 African countries use renewables as their main electricity source, with eight generating over 90 per cent of their power from renewable sources.

These are: Central African Republic (96.3 per cent), DR Congo (98.9 per cent), Eswatini (99.8 per cent), Ethiopia (100.0 per cent), Lesotho (99.9 per cent), Mozambique (95.4 per cent), Namibia (91.0 per cent) and Uganda (97.7 per cent).

According to the International Energy Associations Africa Energy Outlook 2022 report, clean energy will account for a significant part of generating capacity additions by 2030.

"Solar PV leads the way, with 125 GW of capacity to be added between 2021 and 2030, over 40 per cent of total capacity additions," the Energy Outlook report states.

Photo credit: Bird

Currently, Africas abundant sunshine provides only one per cent of the worlds installed solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity, despite being home to 60 per cent of the best solar resources globally.

"Of the top 20 per cent of solar sites globally, Africa is home to around 60 per cent of them by land area... the projected average rate of solar PV capacity additions is roughly equal to that of India in recent years," the global energy association finds in its Sustainable Africa Scenario.

"Renewables, including solar, wind, hydropower and geothermal account for over 80 per cent of new power generation capacity to 2030 in the Sustainable Africa Scenario." This scenario sketches an optimal energy solution.

Solar PV, already the cheapest source of power in many parts of the continent, should win out over other energy sources continentwide by 2030, says the IEA. There are blobs of optimism everywhere.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation reports that in Namibia, almost one-fifth of electricity (19.1 per cent) is generated through solar, the fourth highest share globally.

In Kenya, geothermal energy accounts for almost half (46.0 per cent) of electricity generation, more than any other country in the world.

Meanwhile, 21 of the 52 countries using hydropower as the primary source of electricity are African.

But in the 22 African countries that use renewables as their primary source of electricity, access to electricity remains limited, with only Gabon having over 90 percent access to electricity.

In 16 of the 22 countries, more than half the population still lack electricity, highlighting both an energy landscape of deep need but also one of enormous potential.

In June 2020, finance giant, Goldman Sachs projected in a report entitled Carbonomics that spending for renewable power projects in 2021 will surpass upstream oil and gas for the first time in history.



Africa

COP27: Inside Africa's increasingly clean energy record

Bird Story Agency / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation report shows South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt, Morocco and Kenya are building clean energy economies that will attract billions of dollars in investment over the next decade. Investments by domestic and global businesses are being made in renewable and low-carbon infrastructure. Rwanda wants to generate 60 percent of its energy needs from renewables come 2030.

Six African countries Egypt, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, and South Africa launched the African Green Hydrogen Alliance in May 2022, to promote the production of hydrogen using clean energy.

The gas is a potential replacement for natural gas and European countries are investing heavily in future production in parts of Africa where clean energy sources are also abundant.

The alliance plans to foster collaboration between its founding members to advance green hydrogen development in their respective countries.

The challenge of distribution networks, however, remains. For every US\$10 invested in the African energy sector since 2015, just over US\$1 went on transmission and distribution.

More than a decade ago, at COP15, developed nations decided to commit to a goal of jointly mobilizing US\$100 billion a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. In 2020, just over US\$80 billion was raised.

At the United Nations earlier in 2022, US President Joe Biden announced America would increase its international climate finance contribution to US\$ 11.4 billion per year by 2024 to help developing nations fend off the worst impacts of global warming.

This, together with Europe's need to build an alternative energy source, may see investments into clean energy surge on the clean continent.

End of COP27: Inside Africa's increasingly clean energy record



Africa

DR Congo leader Tshisekedi accuses Rwanda of aggression

AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi on Tuesday accused Rwanda of direct aggression, renewing charges as he addressed the United Nations.

"Despite my goodwill and the Congolese people's outstretched hand for peace, some of our neighbours find no way to thank us other than supporting armed groups in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo," Tshisekedi said in a speech to the General Assembly.

"This is currently the case with Rwanda which, in defiance of international law and the UN Charter... once more committed aggression in March with direct incursions by its armed forces into the Democratic Republic of Congo," he said.

Tshisekedi said that Rwanda has provided "massive support both in war materiel and troops" to M23, which has been increasingly active in eastern border areas and which he brands a "terrorist group."

He accused the Rwandan military of supporting the M23 in shooting down a UN peacekeeping helicopter in March in which eight people died -- six Pakistanis, a Russian and a Serb.

The group has previously denied the charge and the United Nations has stopped short of blaming the rebels, while voicing alarm at the group's resurgence.

"Rwanda's involvement and responsibility is no longer debatable in the tragedy that my nation and compatriots are living through in zones occupied by the Rwandan army and their M23 allies," he said.

The eastern stretch of the vast nation has been beset by violence for nearly 30 years with numerous armed groups active.

The M23, a mostly Tutsi force that had been defeated in 2013, took up arms again late last year as it accused the Kinshasa government of not respecting an agreement on demobilizing and reintegrating combatants.

A UN report seen last month by AFP found that the Rwandan military intervened against Congolese positions from November through June.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on a visit in August to Kinshasa also said there were "credible" reports of Rwandan involvement.

Rwanda, where memories of the 1994 genocide against Tutsis remain vivid, has denied the charges and vowed to defend its territory.

President Paul Kagame is due to speak at the United Nations on Wednesday.

End of DR Congo leader Tshisekedi accuses Rwanda of aggression



Africa

Nigeria drug agency seizes \$278m worth of cocaine in Lagos raid

MOHAMMED MOMOH / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Abuja,

Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has seized 1,855kg of cocaine valued at \$278 million.

Four suspected drug barons, including a Jamaican, were arrested following the sting operation on a warehouse in the Ikorodu area of South West Lagos at the weekend.

Elated by the operation, President Muhammadu Buhari, who is currently in the US for the United General Assembly, contacted the anti-drugs agency and congratulated it for its efforts in stemming drug trafficking.

I deeply appreciate the work that you have put into the eradication of the drug menace. It gladdens my heart as I continue to follow the successes achieved, Buhari said.

Commending Mr Buba Marwa, the head of NDLEA, President Buhari said, You have demonstrated over and over again that choosing you to lead this fight against wicked merchants of death, whose sole aim is to endanger and truncate the future of our youth, is a very good choice. Please keep up the good work.

NDLEA spokesman Femi Babafemi on Monday said this is one of the biggest singular cocaine seizures in the agency's history.

Kingpins of the cocaine cartel in custody include Messrs Soji Jibril, 69, Emmanuel Chukwu, 65, Wasiu Akinade, 53, Sunday Oguntelure, 53, and Kelvin Smith, 42-year-old Jamaican.

They are all members of an international drug syndicate that the agency has been trailing since 2018.

Babafemi said that preliminary investigations reveal that the class A drugs were warehoused in the residential estate from where the cartel was trying to sell them to buyers in Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world.

They were stored in 10 travel bags and 13 drums, he said.

Mr Marwa, the NDLEA chairman, said the agency had intercepted 2.3 million kilogrammes of illicit drugs in the last 10 months.

The agency has arrested, prosecuted and secured conviction of more than 500 drugs dealers and consumers, he added.

Mr Marwa said the agency would continue to clamp down on drug traffickers.

When we make drugs unavailable, it will naturally slow down consumption, he added.

End of Nigeria drug agency seizes \$278m worth of cocaine in Lagos raid



Africa

Zambia road crash kills 23 church women

AFP / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Twenty-three women members of a Zambian church died when their speeding vehicle ran off the road in the north of the country, police said.

They were riding in a truck heading for Nsumbu, 780 kilometres north of the capital Lusaka, for a church conference.

"Seventeen people died on the spot while six others died upon reaching Nsumbu clinic," police spokesman Rae Hamoonga said in a statement, adding 27 others were injured.

Police blamed the driver for excessive speed saying he failed to negotiate a curve and lost control of the truck which eventually overturned.

Deadly traffic accidents are common in Zambia due to the poor state of the roads and bad driving.

End of Zambia road crash kills 23 church women



Sports

High Court allows DPP to charge Nick Mwendwa afresh

Richard Munguti / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Football Kenya Federation president Nick Mwendwa will take plea on Monday at Kiambu Law Courts after the High Court declined to bar the Director of Public Prosecutions from charging him afresh.

Lady Justice Esther Maina said she has no jurisdiction to stop the DPP from charging Mwendwa.

She however said the matter can be pursued at the High Court in Kiambu since she handles graft related cases.

Mwendwa had been charged over conspiracy to defraud FKF over Sh38m

Mwendwa has been attempting to clear his name after he was arrested on several occasions and charged with fraud after Sports Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed disbanded the federation on November 11 last year.

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 obtained a court order from the High Court to stop any fresh charges against him.

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

The ruling now means the DPP is fresh to charge the embattled FKF boss.

Mwendwa on Tuesday led other officials of the disbanded federation back to their Goal Project, Kandanda House offices, a move that earned criticism from Amina.

Read: Nick Mwendwa, FKF officials return to Kandanda House

Mwendwa had on September 9 written 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.

Read: 'I'm back!' Nick Mwendwa notifies Fifa

End of High Court allows DPP to charge Nick Mwendwa afresh



Sports

FKF-PL clubs: We won't play in an unsanctioned league

Cecil Odongo / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Football Kenya Federation Premier League clubs on Wednesday said they will not take part in the 2022/23 season if it will not be sanctioned by World football governing body, Fifa.

Speaking after meeting at a Nairobi hotel, Gor Mahia CEO Raymond Oruo, who read the joint statement from the 18 top flight clubs, said the teams will only honour fixtures when the current stalemate between Fifa and the Kenyan government is resolved.

"We will not take part in any competition that is not recognised or sanctioned by world governing body (Fifa) because it is really a waste of investment and time and very little return coming through," Oruo said.

Nairobi City Stars CEO Patrick Korir (left) and Gor Mahia CEO Raymond Oruo during the press conference in Nairobi on September 21, 2022.

Oruo said failure by Kenyan champions Tusker to participate in the CAF Champions League is one of the issues which informed their decision.

"Several teams have lost sponsors because the league we were playing in was not recognised by Fifa. We have unanimously agreed that we will not take part in a league which is not Fifa sanctioned," added Oruo.

"It became even tough to transfer players and for the sake of our game nationally, only a sanctioned league will take us forward."

The call by the KPL clubs comes only a day after embattled Football Kenya Federation President Nick Mwendwa announced that the new season will kick off in a month's time.

Mwendwa promised to write to Fifa so that the suspension imposed on the country on February 24 by the world governing body is lifted.

The Cacus clarified that they have not met Mwendwa to chart a way forward on the issue, insisting that what they only want to play in a Fifa recognised league irrespective of who is in charge.

"Tusker worked so hard to win last season's league but in the end went nowhere. Whoever wants to run a league which Fifa doesn't recognise should know that we shall not take part in it," said Nairobi City Stars CEO Patrick Korir.

Gor Mahia, AFC Leopards, Kariobangi Sharks, Mathare United, City Stars, Sofapaka, Tusker, Bidco United were among the 13 clubs which sent their representatives.

End of FKF-PL clubs: We won't play in an unsanctioned league



Sports

Football stakeholders want Kinoru Stadium re-opened for use

Charles Wanyoro / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Football stakeholders in Meru County have petitioned the government to open the refurbished Sh900m Kinoru Stadium for sporting activities to help grow talent.

They said the facility, which has been closed for renovations since 2016, was completed in June but Sports Kenya is yet to hand it over to the county government.

Sports Kenya Chairman Charles Waithaka had indicated that former President Uhuru Kenyatta would re-open the facility mid-June but it did not materialise.

Led by Meru Football Kenya Federation chairman Ken Rungu, they said top flight football teams were unwilling to play local teams since other pitches were in a sorry state.

Last Sunday, KCB declined to play against Meru Bombers at Kaaga MCK grounds due to the poor state of the pitch.

The Zedekiah Zico Otieno charges had traveled from Nairobi ready to play the Division Two outfit which is marking its 40th Anniversary this week but the state of the pitch forced the bankers to call off the match.

Earlier on this month, Ulinzi Stars also canceled friendlies against Kemu FC and Bombers mainly because of the unavailability of Kinoru stadium.

Meru Bombers patron Martin Nkaari said the situation was denying local talents an opportunity to be spotted as the club hopes for a return to top flight football.

We were hoping they would scout some of our players but we lost that opportunity. As Merus most successful football club and sports organisation over the decades, we have been waiting for this opportunity for a long time," Nkaari stated.

Over the years, Kinoru Stadium has provided us with a platform to grow our clubs, sports people and others in the arts and culture to a place of national prominence, said Nkaari.

Meru County Football Association secretary general Razaq Kaimenyi noted that there was a renewed enthusiasm among local footballers since majority were engaged by politicians during the campaigns.

During that period, local players were kept busy by politicians sponsored tournaments where they won cash prizes, jerseys and balls.

In Tigania West for instance, players from close to 80 clubs which participated in the Mutungas Cup received football boots donated by their MP John Mutunga.

We are doing badly and the continued closure of Kinoru Stadium is hurting football despite the stadium being used for other events. We should use it to develop and showcase our talents. Only recently, Harambee Stars ex internationals led by former captain Musa Otieno complained when they played against Al Azizia FC at Irinda Primary school grounds, notes Kaimenyi.

Kinoru was among the venues that had been selected to host the 2018 African Nations Championship (CHAN) matches before Kenya was stripped of the rights to host the tournament.

Apart from Kinoru stadium, Sports Kenya was also supposed to rehabilitate two grounds at Meru Teachers College and Meru National Polytechnic where players participating in the Chan tourney could warm up.

The two fields in the tertiary institutions never received any facelift.

End of Football stakeholders want Kinoru Stadium re-opened for use



Sports

Vienna star Chepkurui now targets Berlin glory

Bernard Rotich / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Two-time Vienna Marathon champion Vibian Chepkurui has set her sights firmly on successfully graduating to the World Marathon Majors and claiming the Berlin title this Sunday.

Chepkurui, who trains in Iten, Elgeyo Marakwet County, has been preparing for the Berlin Marathon for the last three months and is confident of a good outing on the streets of Germanys political capital.

Kenya will be seeking to recapture the title that Ethiopia bagged in the last two editions with Gotytom Gebreslase having won last year while Ashete Bekere bagged victory in 2019.

The last Kenyan athlete to win the race was Gladys Cherono who ran a course record two hours, 18 minutes and 11 seconds in 2018. Cherono has since retired from elite running.

My target in Berlin is to run my personal best from 2:20:59 to 2:18 and I believe if the weather conditions will allow, I will be able to hit the target, Chepkurui, who is managed by Ikaika Sports Management, told Nation Sport at her home.

She said that after running well in this years Vienna Marathon in April where she clocked a course record, she is confident of an impressive race in her first major marathon.

End of Vienna star Chepkurui now targets Berlin glory



Kenya seemingly excelled in cricket in the 1990s and 2000s by accident

Charles Nyende / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

It was considered the greatest upset in cricket history then when Kenya stunned the mighty West Indies in the 1996 Cricket World Cup co-hosted by India and Pakistan. Any genuine Kenyan cricket fan will be familiar with the Indian town, Pune, where that upset of seismic proportions took place on February 29.

West Indies were two-time world champions and three-time finalists, while tiny Kenya were making their maiden World Cup appearance and had not even acquired ODI status.

In that great West Indies team were, Brian Lara, considered the best batsman of his generation, Roger Harper, and the fearsome pace bowlers Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh.

Kenya, batting first were scuttled on 166 runs and then went on to bowl out the Caribbean inhabitants for 93 for a 73 runs famous victory to announce their entry to the world of elite cricket.

In that team were flamboyant Maurice Odumbe, who was named man of the match, mean seamer Martin Suji, prolific batsman Steve Tikolo, deadly spinner Asif Karim, formidable all-rounder Thomas Odoyo, swashbuckling Kennedy Otieno, solid Hitesh Modi, Dipak Chudasama, Tariq Iqbal, Rajap Ali and Tito Odumbe.

The core of this team, that got ODI status soon after the 1996 World Cup, went on to ruffle the established order whenever they got a chance to play with the big boys.

Twice, Kenya beat giants India in ODI encounters, by 69 runs at Roop Singh Stadium, Gwalior on May 28, 1998 and by 70 runs on October 17, 2001 at St George's Park, Port Elizabeth in South Africa.

Kenya's best cricket moments undoubtedly came at the 2003 World Cup that we co-hosted with South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Kenya became the first non-Test playing nation to reach the semi-final, famously beating Sri Lanka in Nairobi together with Canada, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in the process.

Knocking at Test status

The country was once ranked 10th in ODI and knocking on the door of Test status before things started steadily going south.

The ODI status was lost in 2014 seemingly for good.

Late last month and early this month, I watched Kenya, now placed 30th in the ICC Twenty Rankings, thumped 3-2 by Nepal in Nairobi in a five-match T20 series and then whitewashed 3-0 by the South Asians in a three-match ODI series.

I was horrified to see minnows Tanzania chase down Kenya's 155 in their ACA T20 Cup Finals match to eventually win by four wickets at Willowmoore Park, Benoni, in South Africa on Saturday.

Kenya, at one time the best cricket playing nation in Africa after Test playing South Africa, is now fodder for cricket midges the likes of, and this is no slight to them, our neighbours Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.

To be frank, and I will admit I am clouded by misty recollection of a glorious past, I saw a team lacking in comparable, skill, guile and purpose of the yesteryear side.

How is it that we have sunk to this depth where our peers are Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana, Mozambique?

Was it an accident that formed that achieving team of the 1990s and early 2000s? Interestingly, a majority of the, particularly African players of that generation, picked up the game of cricket by chance.

It has been written of how, for instance, the Tikolos, Odumbes and Sujis, born and bred in Park Road, Nairobi, used to go watch cricket at the neighbouring Sir Ali Muslim Club.

Like young animals learning through imprinting, they would then try out batting and bowling on the estate alleys or at the cricket club, whenever permitted.

You can say they did not go through a national, established development structure. Cricket was mainly a Nairobi and Mombasa affair, and that has not changed much to date.

While others, once considered elite sports in Kenya such as rugby are now, thanks to concerted development programmes, as common as the people's sport football, and are played in virtually all schools, cricket is still not part of the official Kenya Secondary School Games annual calendar.

Is this not a travesty for a sport that once held so much promise in this country?



Sports

Kenya seemingly excelled in cricket in the 1990s and 2000s by accident

Charles Nyende / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Startling revelation

Former captain Karim, who retired after the 1999 World Cup only to make a comeback, in an interview with espncricinfo.com in 2014 made a startling revelation: When they called me in December 2002, there were some problems in the Kenyan team.

It is not an easy team to handle. You have Asians, Indians and Africans. Among the Indians and Asians, you have Hindus and Muslims, and among the Africans, you have 42 different tribes. To mix the team, it is very unique.

I retired after the 1999 World Cup because of all the politics. I knew there was going to be a huge problem because of leadership and the pressures of international cricket.

Is that still the case with the motley of personalities in the Kenya team?

Would it be the reason why several of Kenyas former top players are now coaching outside the country?

Kenya's got talent, obviously, but it has not been adequately reared and harvested. It is an irony that a game that previously brought much joy and pride to Kenyans is now a source of anguish and consternation. Like football.

End of Kenya seemingly excelled in cricket in the 1990s and 2000s by accident



Umri FC hit Oyugis Veterans in Lake Region Legends League

Benson Ayienda / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Bungoma County's Umri FC on Tuesday stayed on track to retain the Lake Region Legends League title with a 2-0 win over Oyugis Veterans at Kisii High School playground.

The win saw the Suleiman Saidi-coached side top the league with 18 points garnered from 10 matches.

Chrisantus Otieno and Jephthah Ombonye scored the two goals for the defending champions.

"We came for three points and surely we have achieved our target. We are going back heads high as we prepare for the next assignments" said Saidi after the match.

Umri had earlier lost 3-2 against Busia Masters before they suffered a humiliating 3-0 defeat in the hands of Modich-Real.

Kericho Legends are second on 16 points while Kisii Wazee are ranked third with 15 points.

The league was started in 2019 and comprises eight teams drawn from eight counties. The eight counties are Homa Bay, Kisii, Kisumu and Migori. Others are Busia, Bungoma, Kericho and Trans Nzoia.

In the first season, Kisii Wazee clinched the title before Umri won in the following season.

The league is currently on the third season since it was started in 2019.

"Our aim is to bring together Kenyans aged 35 years and above from different professional backgrounds including former footballers. In doing so we intend to promote networking, physical and mental health, build friendships and help foster unity in the country," said Joshua Anadalo, the founder of the league.

In other matches played at Kisii High School, Kisii Wazee beat Modich-Real 2-1 while Kisumu Veterans also edged out Oyugis Veterans by a similar scoreline.

Busia Masters staged a spirited fight to beat Kitale Doyens 4-3 before Kisii Wazee beat Kisumu Veterans 2-1.

"The league has enabled us to improve on our welfare. We also assist each other financially," said former Shabana player and coach Andrew Ongwae who now features for Kericho Legends.

Kisii County Football Kenya Federation Chairperson Jezreel Mbegera, who was in attendance, appealed to county governments to improve the state of playing grounds in the country.

"Most matches are played in schools due to inadequate fields. I request counties to invest in sporting facilities," said Mbegera.

Winners of the league receive a trophy and some cash prizes.

The next circuit will be held on October 23 in Busia County.

End of Umri FC hit Oyugis Veterans in Lake Region Legends League



Sports

Ngong this Sunday will be a petrolheads paradise

Peter Njenga / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The Concours d'Elegance car show celebrates its 50th anniversary on Sunday at the Ngong Racecourse in Nairobi.

It is one of the biggest family outings in Kenya's social sporting scenes.

Unlike in the recent past, spectators will have a chance to view vintage and rally cars of a bygone era up close and personal according to the event organiser Bob Dewar.

Of particular interest will be the entry of mean rally machines that raced on the romanticised Kenyan roads during the Safari Rally of yore.

Tanzanian enthusiast Navraaj Singh Hans has entered a 1990 Lancia Delta Integrale rally car replica.

This awesome model won three WRC Safari Rally editions under the hands of Italy's Miki Massimo Biasion and Finland's Juha Kankkunen in 1988, 89 and 91 respectively.

It is a super machine which will please the eyes of any petrolhead, thus the need to be at the Ngong Racecourse on Sunday.

This car has been voted as the most successful make in the World Rally Championship (WRC) history by rally fans in the world although the Italian manufacturer no longer competes in the championship.

Aslam Khan, a frequent competitor in Kenyan classic events, has dusted and cleaned his 1968 Porsche 911 while Minti Sport will display a 1980 Datsun PA 10 to compete in the rally category.

These cars are in a list of 70 vehicles and 40 motorcycles at this year's event that will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee at the tail end of a successful 2022 motoring calendar which peaked in June with the WRC Safari Rally, and introduction of Rally X Country in Machakos recently.

Competitors who have painstakingly preserved or restored old cars will showcase the rich history and heritage of motor vehicles in Kenya.

Top on the list are two Ford Model A machines built in 1929 and 1931 entered by Anwar Fatehadin.

They will be competing for top honours together with a similar make of Adrian Wroe which was the overall winner in 2019.

The oldest cars on display will be an Austin 7, Ford Tudor and Ford Model A pickup manufactured in 1928, and owned by Paras Shah, Mike Duder and Joseph Kamau respectively.

To spice up the mix is car enthusiast Kakooza Wazzir from Uganda, coming to Kenya for the seventh time. He brings in his rare 1996 Mitsubishi Viewt saloon and a 1991 Mitsubishi Le-Seyde. His compatriot Edgar Katamujuna competes in a 1985 Volkswagen Kombi in the utility cars made after 1970 category.

The motorcycle division has an interesting mix. Sati Jabbals 1925 DKW and Dominique Antoinette 1925 Triumph are the oldest machines.

Sati DKW was the overall bikes division winner last year. It will be interesting to see whether the 1959 BSA Shooting Star and 1966 Triumph TR 6C of Peter Giraudos will upstage these Oldies.

For more than 10 years, the Uganda Bikers Association members have contributed enormously to the success of the Concours.

Ugandan riders also spice up competition by riding their 20 machines dressed in their black and red riding gear amidst wild cheers from the crowd.

Car lovers have also been invited for the Classic Sale of cars and bikes made 25 years ago and beyond.

This enables the owners of old but golden machines to offer them for sale to a significant number of spectators who are interested in buying vehicles for fun or with the aim of entering them in future Concours events.

In addition, there will be motor trade stands at Auto Expo for new vehicles being introduced into the local market by leading franchise motor vehicle companies.

Another attraction will be the Heritage Collection stand which will display old equipment and machinery including Roger Tanners old steam engines and an ancient TE 20 Massey Ferguson tractor owned by FMD.

End of Ngong this Sunday will be a petrolheads paradise



New IFC podcast promotes women in Africa's renewable energy sector

Unknown Author / Unknown Date

With renewable energy forecast to play a growing role in Africa's energy future, IFC has launched a new podcast series to promote the role of women in the sector as senior executives, engineers and thought leaders.

In the She Powers Africa podcast, host Terryanne Chebet, an entrepreneur and media specialist, speaks with leading women in Africa's renewable energy space to light the path for the next generation of African women leaders into the dynamic sector.

The first three episodes feature Jennifer Boca, Head of Environmental, Social and Governance at Lekela Power; Olaedo Osoka, CEO of Daystar Power in West Africa; and Carol Koech, the Country President for Schneider East Africa.

This engaging podcast is ideal for women interested in working in the renewable energy sector and also for anyone concerned about climate change in Africa and curious about the practical solutions. Renewable energy is Africa's energy future and ensuring more women are part of that future will enhance the sector's success," said Anne Kabugi, IFC's Regional Gender Lead for Africa.

By 2040, renewable energy could account for more than 60 percent of new electricity generation in sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa, according to the Africa Energy Outlook 2019 from the International Energy Agency.

But, despite the sector's importance, women lag behind men in leadership and technical jobs in the renewable energy sector and represent just one third of the renewable energy workforce in Africa, according to research conducted by IFC on women's participation in Africa's renewable energy sector.

The podcast is produced by IFC's Energy2Equal programme and its Women in Renewable Energy in Africa Network (W-REA), which both aim to enhance women's participation in the renewable energy sector.

Listen in.

End of New IFC podcast promotes women in Africa's renewable energy sector



EMTECH to pilot a US CBDC in The Digital Dollar Project Sandbox Programme

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

EMTECH, a first-of-its-kind central banking infrastructure provider, has announced it will take part in the recently introduced Technical Sandbox Programme by The Digital Dollar Project to explore the new possibilities of a US Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) the digital dollar.

As one of the four announced technical vendors, EMTECH will bring its unique API-First and Energy Efficient CBDC Platform to test various use cases for cross-border payments.

The firm is joining a high-profile group of former US regulators and financial services experts. This initiative marks the next step in our effort to convene the private and public sector in a symbiotic exploration of a central bank digital currency in the US, said Jennifer Lassiter, executive director of The Digital Dollar Project.

EMTECH's Founder and CEO, Carmelle Cadet, is a former Global Business and Finance Leader at IBM. In 2021, she was invited by the US Congressional Financial Services Committee to testify on whether the US dollar should be digital. A market leader in central banking infrastructure, EMTECH's mission is to leverage technology to enable access to inclusive and resilient financial ecosystems. It's exciting to be part of the Digital Dollar Project Sandbox, and we are looking forward to collaborating with the federal government, policymakers, and private sector organisations to pilot CBDC options that encompass retail or wholesale models for cross-border payment use cases, said Mrs Cadet.

In her testimony, she highlighted the firm's vision and focus on helping central banks to build modern digital cash infrastructure using blockchain and distributed ledger technology (DLT). A consistent recommendation to the White House and the Congressional Committee is the use of a regulatory sandbox to enable faster and safer innovation from and with the private sector.

The current ecosystem for cross-border payments is a complex nightmare for financial service providers to navigate. EMTECH's CBDC Platform, with its API-First approach and high-performance DLT, is a more modern design that we're excited to bring to the Technical Sandbox Programme, said Tabor Wells, Chief Technology Officer at EMTECH.

Earlier this year, the firm announced its partnership with Hedera Hashgraph to build an energy-efficient CBDC to support its newly announced GREEN CBDC Framework, which is designed to help central banks unlock unprecedented value in deploying a CBDC. A key pillar of the framework is reducing the carbon footprint of financial services, while also limiting energy demand from fragile power structures. You can learn more about the GREEN CBDC Framework at greencbdc.com and emtech.com.

Read more about the technical sandbox in DDP's Press Release.

About EMTECH

EMTECH is building the next generation of central banking Infrastructure to drive inclusive and resilient financial markets. The company provides software solutions and services to connect central banks, other regulators, and financial services providers, in a user and developer-friendly way.

EMTECH's API-First platforms power regulatory data exchange, currency issuance, and currency movement in financial markets. It is a diverse global firm that makes financial ecosystems inclusive and resilient by design. For more information, visit www.emtech.com.

End of EMTECH to pilot a US CBDC in The Digital Dollar Project Sandbox Programme

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

By Evans Ongwae

Kenya performed well in cushioning its citizens against Covid-19 economic shocks, but could have done better. This is the overall scorecard by UN Women, following a study. In particular, the report stresses the importance of ensuring that adopted economic stimulus and recovery packages are gender responsive and address the gender equity gaps.

Titled, *Engendering Fiscal Stimulus Packages and Recovery Efforts Adopted in Response to the Covid-19 Health and Economic Crises*, the report states: Compared to African countries, efforts by Kenya to cushion and promote recovery of citizens and businesses during Covid-19 through Economic Stimulus packages are commendable. However, UN Women points out that the country could have achieved more had it made those fiscal and monetary measures more gender-responsive.

The study is a gender-responsive assessment of the fiscal and economic stimulus package adopted in response to Covid-19 in Kenya. It provides vital recommendations for engendering government measures in response to crises as well as for economic recovery now and in the future. It pinpoints where the governments stimulus packages fell short, and offers suggestions on how to make economic stimulus packages more responsive to the needs of women, men, boys, and girls.

Engendering economic stimulus packages means taking into account the experiences and specific needs of women, men, girls, and boys, as well as the underlying causes of vulnerabilities, including gender gaps or inequalities, gender relationships, power structures, social norms, and leadership. These should count in both the design and implementation of the stimulus measures, the report states.

During the launch of the report last month jointly with Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Gender, Prof Margaret Kobia, the UN Women Kenya Representative Anna Mutavati, reiterated the importance of gender data in ensuring women and girls were not left behind in the development agenda.

We know that gender equality and womens empowerment are prerequisites for strong institutions, stable communities, and economies. Evidence from all around the world shows that investing in womens economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, inclusive economic growth, and wealth creation.

The UN Women study compared Kenyas response with what South Africa and Nigeria did. It recommends some lessons for Kenya to pick from the responses of the two Sub-Saharan African nations.

Consideration of the needs of women, men, boys, and girls in the design and implementation of the economic stimulus packages enhances economic and social inclusion and prospects of achievement of outcomes of cushioning against the shocks as well as recovery from the Covid-19 pandemics, the report offers.

The study is anchored on UN Womens commitment to supporting government efforts that contribute to womens livelihoods and their access to social protection, healthcare, infrastructure, food, and housing, among other sectors that the government has prioritised.

The analysis focused on economic stimulus packages implemented during the financial year 2020/2021. These include cash transfers to vulnerable families; National Hygiene Programme or the Youth Employment Programme; support to the educational sector; support to small and medium-sized enterprises liquidity; support to the construction sector; support to the health sector; support to the agricultural sector; support to the tourism sector; support to the environment; and support to the manufacturing sector.

An important underlying factor in response to and adaptability to changes in times of pandemics and crises is the feminisation of poverty, the UN Women analysis notes.

The study found that women, more than men, were deprived of social economic participation, information, and nutrition, and were generally multi-dimensionally poor. This is a key salient pathway in which gender contributes to disproportionately negative impacts of Covid-19. Women are also, more than men, involved with caregiving activities, including caring for the children, the sick, the elderly, and persons with severe disabilities.

Gender inequalities cause women and men to respond and adjust to pandemics and crises differently. Disasters and pandemics such as Covid-19 disproportionately and negatively affect women and girls when compared to men and boys, because of gender segregation in most economic activities, which is further reinforced by gender inequalities.



Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

Moreover, there has been an increase in gender-based violence, more specifically violence against women and girls.

Following the study, UN Women suggests that in times of crises, such as those comparable to the Covid-19 pandemic, Kenya could:

Consider expanding the sector coverage (of its stimulus package) for better economic recovery outcomes. This includes extending support to sectors such as housing, energy, and transport infrastructure. Temporarily expand social protection coverage during pandemics, through special programmes to reach previously uncovered beneficiaries. Consider extending social protection to practitioners in early childhood development, small-scale farmers and teachers, as well as those in creative, cultural, and sports sectors. Increase the amounts of cash transfers per recipient, for all the existing beneficiaries. Consider establishing a social relief from distress grant for caregivers, aimed at reducing increased unpaid care work during pandemics. Consider targeting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in all sectors of the economy, and not only in certain selected sectors. Consider implementing an unemployment insurance fund and compensation fund for health practitioners, and provide a temporary employee relief scheme for domestic workers. Consider enforcing the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) provisions, or even increasing the proportion reserved for women businesses. Implement special support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and also, in partnership with civil society, establish a mechanism for linking them to shelter houses. This would address some of the challenges related to increased GBV during pandemics.

Overall, the analysis showed that the size of Kenyas provisions regarding various fiscal measures is small, measured by the size of the issues the specific measures target.

End of UN Women to Kenya: You did well in cushioning citizens against Covid-19 economic shocks, but



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



How many of Kenyas 10,000 speed bumps conform to the law?

Gavin Bennet / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Gavin,

If I want to build a speed bump on a road near my house, do I need to get permission? Are there any rules about the materials I use or the shape and size or marking of what I build, or where I build it? Can my neighbours build whatever they like, too? As a society, do we need to limit ourselves to the current 10,000 bumps countrywide? Why not 100,000 or a million? That also begs the question: if I do not like a particular bump, can I remove it?

Fred

Short answer: If you do anything to the structure of a public road, you can be prosecuted. Even for properly fixing a pothole! The Kenya Bureau of Standards lists about 2,000 currently approved Standards. Good luck trying to find and get the full text of one called KS 774:2000 which relates to speed bumps.

As to removing a bump you do not like, the Kenya Bureau of Standards does invite any member of the public who suspects any product to be sub-standard to bring a sample to their laboratories.

That prospect might sound tempting and make you smile, but of course it is not recommended if the product is two tonnes of hardened pre-mix tarmac. A photograph instead, maybe, with dimensional evidence.

Longer answer: Any speed bump on an otherwise regular road surface is a potential hazard and is intrinsically disruptive to a road's core purpose. It increases the time and cost of every vehicle's journey, it generates more toxic exhaust fumes, brake lining and rubber dust, creates considerable extra noise and causes vibration (that can ultimately damage buildings) in the area. Clearly, regulation of such obstacles cannot be informal – each and every one needs to be individually licenced even more strictly than individual drivers and vehicles. Because negative side-effects can be so serious, this is how diligent the investigation must be before a speed bump is authorised:

The internationally recognised process demands that a request for a bump be petitioned, an adjudicating authority be appointed, ambient speeds, traffic levels and accident data be assessed and benchmarked, the proximity of at-risk people and sidewalks and alternative safety measures be considered, and the public (stakeholders) be consulted by mailshot and at a public meeting, and that the vote-majority of those in the project area should be 70:30 or more in favour.

The project area guideline is at least 100 metres before the first bump and after the last bump, and a similar distance on either side of the bumped stretch of road. That is how far intensive side effects will spread.

If the petition is granted, the bump(s) should conform to a prescribed technical design of height, width, length, shape, spacing, advance warning signs, road surface painting, and reflective location pegs at the bump itself. The warning signs should preferably include rumble strips in case signs and markings are lost and/or visibility is poor.

Once the bump is constructed it must be inspected for compliance with all the requisite design parameters, and its effectiveness must be evidenced by monitoring the factors cited in the original petition. If speeds, traffic levels and accident data are not significantly changed for the better, the bump should be removed (to ameliorate the many downsides of the bump remedy).

If we accept those definitions as the law, then the good news is that Kenya only has a few dozen speed bumps. The other mounds of tarmac constructed on our highways and byways (there are many, many thousands of them) are obstructive to traffic, damaging to vehicles, cause unwarranted discomfort to motorists, can damage cargo, and can even cause loss of control. All of these consequences are specifically forbidden by KS 774, so whatever you choose to call them, they are not speed bumps by legal definition.

The issue is not about some non-compliant mounds in some places. It is that virtually all the mounds, virtually everywhere, are in contravention and their lack of legal compliance is not marginal, it is massive. In terms of combined height, gradient length, shape and speed limit location, I would estimate that our average speed bumps are between four and 10 times more severe than KS 774 intends or allows.

Speed bumps.

The legal limit for the height of a speed bump is in most cases 10cm, and only in exceptional circumstances where traffic needs to be brought to a near-halt, 15cm. Never more than that. Kenya is riddled with bumps that are more than double the height limit.

More significantly, the length of a bump should be at least 40 times its peak height. In the most exceptional



How many of Kenyas 10,000 speed bumps conform to the law?

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circumstances a sharpness of 1:20 is permitted, normally reserved for car parks and very low speed roads which already have a limit of 50kph or less.

Kenyan roads even major highways designed for ambient speeds up to 100kph - are riddled with bumps, some with ratios of 1:10 or worse (which is akin to placing a tree-trunk sized log across the road). Many are also more than twice as high as the maximum limit and less than half the specified length. And they are completely unmarked and sometimes in the shadow of roadside trees.

The key question, yet to be answered, is: Do Kenya Standards mean anything? Are they just a suggestion (which each of us can follow or completely ignore), or do they constitute a legal requirement?

If they are legally binding, it follows that anybody who builds a speed bump which does not comply with the Standard is not just doing a bad job, but is committing an offence!

Most motorists understand the need for bumps (and even more particularly for more moderate versions known as speed humps or speed tables). Properly built in the proper place and properly marked, they can help make the motoring environment calmer and safer.

Compliant tables, humps and bumps may need to be prevalent on low-speed streets. They should almost never be used on open highways. If and where that does become necessary, a useful model to follow would be the bumps on Nairobi's Southern Bypass, on a steep downhill on the dual carriageway from Kikuyu when nearing Dagoretti.

These work well because they observe the design principle, that a speed bump should deter excessively high speed but inflict no damage, delay or discomfort to vehicles travelling at up to 85 percent of the prevailing speed limit.

In the pipeline: Tax that deters quality and incentivises junk

What is most important where the rubber meets the road?

Lewis Hamilton Mercedes AMG f1 car 3D Illustration, 30 Jun, 2022, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Formula 1 racing is about the absolute limits of vehicle performance and control, and the difference between the best and the rest in what must be thousands of small details is only tiny fractions of a second. Yet during a race there is one element which seems to make ten times more difference than everything else put together. That is the hardness and wear of the tyres. Are there any lessons to be learned from that in ordinary motoring?

Christopher

Only one. That tyres are fundamental to performance and control of any motor vehicle. Crucial in motorsport; important in a trip to the shops. Tyres, after all, are your vehicles only direct connection with mother earth. They stand between you and every nuance of any road surface, both in their own right and as a member of the team called the suspension system. They ultimately transmit every instruction you give by steering, accelerator or brakes.

But ordinary motoring is not about absolute limits and milliseconds of difference are irrelevant. There is a lot more tolerance available. About right is as good as it needs to get.

Presuming the tyres on your car are the right size for the wheel rims they are fitted to, what's the most important thing about them? Right. They need to be filled with, and retain, air. Without that they don't work at all. And without the right amount of air (the correct pressure) they don't work well and control decreases.

Formula 1 World Championship.

Next most important? The tyre casing should be sound - no cuts or bulges in the sidewalls. These represent an extremely high risk of a blow-out.

Third on the priority list? They need to have a decent depth of tread - especially in the rainy season to give grip and prevent aquaplaning, but in dry times, too, for strength and puncture resistance.

With those three ingredients - correct air pressure, sound casing and healthy tread - you have a basically functional and generally safe tyre. But there are dozens of other variables - age, dozens - that can have a significant impact on your motoring experience.

Even without changing the wheels rims, you have choices of brand, tread pattern, thinner or wider shapes, different



Life-and-style

How many of Kenyas 10,000 speed bumps conform to the law?

Gavin Bennet / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

profiles (height of sidewall), casing construction options (kevlar, steel or fibre-braced etc), casing speed ratings (SR, HR, VR etc), tubed or tubeless, the number of ply, hardness and softness of the rubber compound and of course theres the option of changing the wheel rims to other materials or designs or sizes that open up another whole range of tyre options. Then theres a further dimension of balancing and alignment, castor angles
New car tyres.

In sum, an enormous scope of choice. And everything in life that offers a choice requires a decision. Its up to you whether your decisions are well-informed or pure guesswork. If you dont know all the techy stuff yourself, using a supplier (or adviser) who does is probably a good idea.

Happily, motor manufacturers make an initial decision for you. They decide a type, size and specification of tyre, and recommend pressures which will give the best possible service over a catch-all variety of normal motoring conditions. Stick to what they suggest, and you will never go far wrong. But you will also never be exactly right.

There are, without any doubt, specifications which will give superior service in some respects, but worse service in others. The menu of respects includes safety, reliability, comfort, wear-life, fuel economy, speed, puncture resistance, traction on varied road surfaces, different loads, ground clearance, gearing, handling

Bottom line, if most of your motoring is in the normal range of everything, stick to the tyres the vehicles manufacturer recommends, but if part or much of your motoring is extreme in any way, bear in mind that tyres could be a significant element of any solution.

Do you have a Motoring question? Email

End of How many of Kenyas 10,000 speed bumps conform to the law?



Getting a nanny-cam? Beware of falling into the trap of hyper-surveillance

CKR Mose / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

When a casual alaa, youre going home right now at 10 am, did you sleep here? from a cheeky male colleague elicited trembles, incoherence, and a reversing from the parking lot that almost shaved the side-mirrors of three cars off from a woman colleague, we became very concerned.

Home emergency, someone whispered in commiseration, and we waited to hear what had transpired to transform our usually equanimous colleague into a nervous wreck. It turns out, she had spotted her nanny beating her two-year-old daughter via her CCTV, connected to her smartphone.

You mean there are people who install CCTV in their houses to monitor their house-helps? One user on Twitter posed in mid-2020, at the height of the Covid19 pandemic, expressing shock at something that has been the norm since the late 2000s into the 2010s.

The first search results on Google when one types cctv brings a number of shops here in Kenya where one can purchase CCTV equipment, ranging from simple surveillance bulbs, to more sophisticated and high-tech gadgets, most of them with corresponding apps linked to ones smartphone, such that one can easily keep an eye on things wherever they are with nothing but an internet connection on both ends.

CCTV (closed-circuit television cameras) installed in public places, business establishments, or at work, are normalized. We are routinely fed with CCTV footage of robberies in progress in Kenya for example, and subsequent arrests made based on said footage.

However, while CCTVs are now a normalised part of public life, CCTVs installed inside the home are where many draw an uncomfortable line, as the Twitter user above expressed.

This line is based on what many read as a breach of privacy, a garish exposure of the goings-on in ones home, which is supposed to be a secret abode shielded and protected from prying eyes.

The discomforts around CCTV in the home become more pronounced when speaking to several CCTV sellers and installers based in Nairobi's CBD the majority of those that come asking for CCTV installations in their homes are women, and mostly, working women with children, and who have employed nannies they do not particularly trust and would like to keep an eye on.

I install CCTV almost every single day in Nairobi, and send associated equipment to places like Embu and Chuka to my trusted clients, says Mr Njeru who owns an electronics and toy shop in Imenti House, one of Nairobi's SME hubs. You get both men and women asking for CCTV for their shops, businesses, or exteriors, but many of those that want the nanny-cams are mothers.

And this is the crux of the matter the nanny-cam, and the parent, usually mother, in the thick of it.

Gendered parenting

The nitty-gritty dirty work of parenting has always been gendered, falling mainly on women the world over. This includes housework, and the practicalities of parenting children, from feeding them and bathing them, to spending time teaching them.

This is partly because society has for decades organised itself around gendered roles in society. The men traditionally provide for the family, while the women stay home and take care of the household and children, ensuring people are fed, watered, and that the home is running like a well-oiled machine.

While these roles thrived in the past, the modern age has brought with it challenges that have required women to step out of these home-grown roles and enter the workforce to supplement incomes in increasingly inflated economies where the sole income provided by men is no longer enough to cover the needs of the home in fact, many households are now increasingly held by women either as single parents, or the working parent.

Some pundits even argue that women have always supplemented household incomes from as far back as the 60s and 70s in Kenya drawing from their informal chamas and networks, only that their contributions were not always overt. This lack of overtness in appearing to usurp the roles of men in the family are indicative of a certain guilt and shame that women feel when they step outside their hitherto traditional roles.

Mothers, including single parents, are particularly tormented with this immense guilt, especially because choosing career and monetary pursuits when they should be staying home and taking care of their children is termed as abandoning said



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children.

This guilt is arguably part of the reason for the nanny-cam. Mothers who should be at home with their children feel the need to still be, at least virtually, in the home, keeping an eye on things, ensuring the home is run as they would run it themselves. To achieve this, mothers turn to the nanny-cam, that CCTV is their eye in the home while they are away at the workplace, or in the hustle.

However, this is just one of the reasons for installing the nanny-cam in the home. A lot of lore has emerged in the public space around the use of CCTV in the home, and this stems from the disbelief the Twitter user poses that there are people (read: women and mothers) who install them to monitor house-helpers.

These narratives, some true, others not, only serve to exacerbate the guilt mums feel, leading to what I call double-surveillance while mums work to surveil the home while they are away using these nanny-cams, they are themselves already under societal surveillance, judged as either working mothers, or mothers who have dared to step out of their prescribed, home-based roles.

Double jeopardy of cruelty

One of these narratives has been that of cruelty in the treatment of nannies, or in the common, albeit problematic term, house-help. Problematic because the term has its origins in servitude, while the term help has a sliding scale of meaning that allows for some to be poorly compensated, if at all.

The idea of help is itself steeped in gendered roles that are not particularly seen as worthy of compensation. We, in 2022, still have cases where young girls (and in some cases, boys) come to the urban centres from the rural area to help families as they look for a job, but end up being indentured servants who are used to perform manual labour for little to no compensation.

It is no secret that domestic workers are usually subject to long hours of work, and low wages. Some are compelled to wake up in the wee hours, perform both housework and childcare, and then get paid about Sh3,000-8,000 per month. The average pay for domestic workers in Nairobi, at 2021 was Sh 13,200 per month. A large percentage of domestic workers are paid far below this minimum wage.

Such low wages, coupled with impossible and/or cruel work conditions, are seen as some of the reasons why domestic workers forced to perform jobs far beyond their intended scope, routinely unleash their frustrations on the children of their employers. Here, cruelty (from the employer) is said to beget cruelty (towards the children).

On the other hand, many parents, especially mothers, lament about how difficult it is to find a reliable nanny, or domestic worker, citing that no matter how kind one treats these employees, a bad apple will always remain a bad apple.

The expectation of kind treatment as a currency of exchange for good behaviour is as problematic as the idea of reliability. For instance, on asking my distressed colleague much later whether she had given her nanny a proper contract, job description and orientation, she shook her head with some irritation.

Unpacking surveillance

As was my friends reaction, many do not bother with proper job contracts, job descriptions, and job orientations for their domestic workers and/or nannies in fact, as I have pointed out, these roles usually merge into one. Domestic workers double up as co-parents, nannies, and house-helpers, and sometimes, as school next-of-kin in cases where there are school-going children, attending meetings and parent-teacher conferences when the parents are unavailable, mostly due to the pressures of life and work.

They also sometimes double up as therapists and caregivers, taking care of the psychological needs of their employers, and taking care of sick/aged/bed-ridden in-laws or parents visiting from upcountry. These roles can become overwhelming, especially if the pay is not commensurate.

Worse, a lack of job description and orientation can lead to unclear, and therefore unmet, expectations. Some mums will expect their domestic workers to do all the housework and the parenting, both in their absence, and presence. When some come back from work exhausted, they would expect the domestic worker to continue with the chores including bathing and feeding the younger children.

Meanwhile, the domestic worker may expect the mother of the home to take over duties once she is back home, simply



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because she too is exhausted from working in the home all day. The belief that house-work is not as exhausting as office-work, a belief that women have resisted, continues to be perpetuated here.

Some mothers may expect the domestic worker to engage the younger children in reading and structured play activities, which may be beyond their skill level structured play is not an automatic skill that comes with proximity to children. Many mums expect the cleaning and cooking to be done a certain way.

When the domestic worker fails to deliver these expectations, conflict may ensue. Conflict management itself is also a big source of poor work conditions. In many cases, mistakes are addressed through harsh reprimands, the employer taking on a patron role that leaves no room for discussion or negotiation or understanding.

It is important to understand these working conditions as having their modern roots in the master-servant dynamic perpetuated by colonialism, where the servant is seen as being below the master in the general hierarchy, therefore undeserving of space to explain, only existing to work in silence.

We must understand that overall, the high level of surveillance meted out on women in society actually exacerbates the challenges of motherhood and domestic work a mother may not give a proper job description because it is understood that all women know how to cook, clean and perform childcare with a minimum of fuss.

Failure to live up to these expectations always attracts societal derision, and in the home front, derision from the employer to the domestic worker. It is that surveillance that we must be aware of.

What happens once we are aware of this surveillance? After all, women are not going back to the days of compelled domesticity, unless the world, ours or the global one, slides back into the slave-era inspired narrative of the Handmaids Tale (after all, it is not impossible to imagine a strict theocracy that polices women to the point of seen and not heard, as we live these realities on a daily basis).

Women are now in the workplace, but they are also in the home, as domestic workers, as housewives, as nannies. We deride these as lesser roles because society has us believing that advancing women can outsource these roles to other women. But we need to become aware of the double-jeopardy we are all existing within. All women are being constantly surveilled, and more so, mothers, since it is they who are saddled with the roles of bringing up the next generation.

This surveillance is based on gendered roles, and a certain shame when women step out of their places in the home to pursue different roles. It behoves us to, in turn, ensure we are not hyper-surveilling those we leave our children with, or, perpetuating the abuse meted out to us, on the women we leave in the home to take up the roles we leave behind, be these people domestic workers, nannies, relatives, or spouses as the case may be.

It also behoves us to bequeath household roles and duties the same dignity those jobs outside the home embody. This includes treating those doing the domestic work with professionalism, including legal pay, and workplaces that are not toxic. It behoves us to realise that surveilling our domestic workers is in line with societal surveillance of women in general.

While many argue that having home CCTV is akin to employers having CCTV at the place of work, it is also important to interrogate that office CCTV is it a lack of trust that employees are thieves, or bosses abusive? What are the deeper questions at play here, that would make a satisfied employee steal, for example, or a fair boss abuse others? This is not to discount the use of CCTV in the workplace(s).

It is to question the constant surveillance, which in part stems from a lack of trust, and a lack of a deeper interrogation of systems of abuse of power we have accepted as the norm. In the home, this surveillance is sometimes done in secret, since many domestic workers may not even be aware their every moment is being captured via CCTV.

What are the deeper questions here? Even the question the male colleague posed did you sleep here is indicative of that surveillance one that monitors movement in and out of the workplace, and does not give people, especially women, room to breathe.

I recall a former workplace where women who took smoking breaks were hyper-surveilled in ways men were not, even the minutes they stood outside to smoke counted, simply because they were women who smoked, an aberration to societal eyes.



Life-and-style

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In this modern era where we are seeing cases of the abuse of domestic workers in Saudi Arabia, one driven by racist capital, we must become very aware of how we may be perpetrating cycles of this same abuse.

This abuse has its roots in racism, and in judging those that perform the household chores we claim to have surmounted, or outsourced, the same way a hyper-vigilant society continues to judge women, especially those that dare step out of their (invented) traditional roles, such as motherhood and parenting as lesser beings in need of control, censure, and surveillance. Ultimately, it is these questions we need to ask. A just society is one that does not require hyper-surveillance. This is what to strive for.

End of Getting a nanny-cam? Beware of falling into the trap of hyper-surveillance



Life-and-style

Lets talk about confessions in marriage.

Philip Kitoto / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Why is it that in most relationships, no one is willing to confess wrong done? We tend to argue in order to prove who is in the wrong the most.

The greater agreement is reached in relationships where honest self-disclosure accompanies true and genuine confession of wrongs. Creating joint ownership for the plan of your marriage finds its foundation right here.

Since two cant take a journey together unless they agree on a common plan, such agreement is key to producing team spirit that helps relationships pull in one direction.

Such agreement must be seen in areas such as the way a couple deliberates on issues, how they process and arrive at a common decision, and whether they are willing to embrace change that leads to the right behaviour.

Read: How to react to a loved ones gross confession

For example, when a problem of disclosure in the area of finances comes up, the idea is to trace whether it is the result of a lack of a common plan or just based on a spouses stubborn nature? Where a couple fails to share a joint vision in such areas, fights will arise.

Developing a culture of confessing weaknesses and failures has the power to produce synergy. My opinion is that true agreement on issues has its foundation in honest disclosure of both the good and bad in life without fear of retribution.

Our desire must be to embrace confession that leads to repentance and affirmation. Confession and repentance are key factors that perform a cleansing role in relationships. If done well, true confession to one another will lead to healing. While sin separates, confession with forgiveness restores and re-establishes trust. However, many spouses think that it is a weakness to make mistakes and apologise.

When we allow issues to pile up or cleverly cover unresolved issues with quick statements of sorry, we hinder unity and intimacy and instead live our lives in secrecy and hypocrisy. When a couple lives in secrecy and shadows, it hinders productivity in the relationship. Where issues are resolved through a spirit of genuine trust in each other, this strengthens a couple emotionally. What we have to accept is that no one is perfect. We must see ourselves as each others keepers.

Read: My girlfriend forces me to apologise even when I havent wronged her

So, how does a couple learn to agree on how to make the relationship work well for them? This is maybe the one crucial step needed in relationships. The questions here will be: Do I see what needs to change in myself as much as I would like to see what needs to change in my partner?

Even more critical, Do I need to change? or Do I know that I hold the key to the change needed in our relationship? Sadly, refusing to confess needed change and instead choose to point fingers works negatively for the marriage. When I start the journey of change from my side without compulsion, I show by example that I am committed to change. This in turn will have a catalytic effect on the relationship. This could be just what my partner needs to see if the relationship is to pull the other person towards change. Because there is power in example, choosing good over evil and peace over war speaks volumes. Do remember, change is only possible where we have paid attention to the benefits it brings.

Healthy relationships must make it their aim to build a peaceable environment in the home. None should hurt or sideline their partner purposely. Assumptions and wrong interpretations of your partners actions could create conflict. When in a state of conflict, moving out of your hurt and focusing on the good that comes from confession has the power to revive hope in the marriage. Verbally toning down negativity and seditious statements helps cool down tempers and ushers in a peaceful environment.

Read: Who will teach our youth that the answer to infidelity is not violence?

Although it is common to find spouses on different sides of an issue, with good disclosure and confession of wrong, a couple will end the day with a desire for agreement. This however calls for boldness and sacrifice. The joy that results is fulfilling and surpasses any former pain.

Although hard, sacrificial disclosure establishes a climate where it is easier for spouses to share their successes and failures freely.

Marriages that are riddled with secrets generally have limited disclosure that limits couple intimacy and synergy. Love driven empathy, however, uses disclosure with the aim of healing and restoration and not to shame either partner. This is what makes a relationship feel safe, secure and confident. True knowledge must lead us to discovering our spouses inner



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attributes.

When we have great values and good people skills, we will interact better together and with other people. Such interaction includes how we listen, process and interpret information at hand. Thriving marriages are where good people skills help maximise the effectiveness and productiveness of the interaction between spouses in a marriage.

Send your relationship questions to

End of Lets talk about confessions in marriage.