



News

Juliani: Yes, Im broke but far from poor

Sylvania Ambani / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Rapper Julius Owino popularly known as Juliani, has shed more light as to why he put out a fundraising Paybill number on social media asking his fans to send him money.

In a recorded video, Juliani starts off by explaining how remarks made by controversial blogger Andrew Kibe about his financial status hurt him.

He explained that when his son was born, he had anticipated spending at least six months exclusive time with him.

However due to past commitments, he was forced to go back to work and look for money to see through some projects he had started.

Also read: Boniface Mwangi: People treat me like God; they deny I exist... until they need me

I do not mind trolls. I actually find some of them funny. Jana (yesterday) when Kibe mentioned my child, I was like its funny but to me it was a little bit serious. When my child was born, I gave myself three to six months to just spend and soak in all this, help the mom and just be present as a dad to my second child, Juliani said.

But I couldnt because earlier that month, I did an event called Nairobi start-up week. I put my money into it. I do not have sponsors or investors. So I am not able to spend time with my son right now because I am running around trying to pay debts and achieve some things I promised myself, he said.

Juliani then acknowledges that he is indeed broke but this does not mean that he is poor. He says his money is currently invested in projects which are yet to yield returns.

So yes, you can be making fun of it and it can be funny but the truth is for me its serious because I am not spending enough time with my son. So yes, I am broke but I am far from poor. You are calling me broke but I am not your kind of broke. Right now the reason I have to put the Paybill number is because you are calling me broke, but I am not your kind of broke, Juliani explained.

More music

If you see me running around, I am not just trying to do things for myself because I am okay. I have a roof over my head but I have a dream for my community to provide 10,000 jobs, give artistes loans based on their music, I want to release more music but I cant because the money I have invested in the last five years has not yielded returns yet. I gave myself 10 years and it is going to work, he said.

Prior to the video, Juliani had written a cryptic message telling his fans not to believe everything they see online.

Please treat this message with contempt like the rest that keeps coming your way. Never believe whats online.

Lilian; Julani's wife made a comment on Kibes accusation saying: Just seen some shallow story that you all are trying to drag me into. Kweli hamchoki, endeleeni tu. Let me proceed with my day with my little boy.

End of Juliani: Yes, Im broke but far from poor



Azimio MPs issue ultimatum after IEBC boss targeted in crackdown

Samwel Owino / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Legislators allied to Azimio la Umoja coalition on Wednesday gave the electoral agency 48 hours to rescind the decision to interdict the Deputy Commission Secretary of Operations, Ms Ruth Kulundu, or face unspecified action. Ms Kulundu was interdicted in a crackdown of senior electoral commission staff alleged to have aided the operations of four commissioners who disputed the presidential election outcome that declared President William Ruto the winner.

Led by MPs Opiyo Wandayi and Sabina Chege, the lawmakers have accused the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) of acting in total disregard of the law and harassing officers who perform their duties according to the Constitution.

While addressing journalists during their induction at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, the MPs also told IEBC chair Wafula Chebukati to proceed on terminal leave and stop "creating unnecessary confusion and intimidating staff".

IEBC chief executive officer Marjan Hussein Marjan had earlier reportedly written to Ms Kulundu -- the deputy CEO -- a show cause letter over alleged misconduct.

Ms Kulundu neither confirmed nor denied being interdicted by the commission, instead referring the Nation to her boss Mr Marjan.

Id rather you talk to the CEO...just talk to the CEO, she said when reached for comment.

Mr Marjan and Mr Chebukati, however, did not respond to queries by the Nation. Efforts to reach them on phone were also futile as they went unanswered.

Ms Kulundu previously worked as IEBC's Regional Elections Coordinator from 2010-2017 and later as Siaya County Elections Manager. Mr Chebukati described her as an officer with 12-years experience in management of elections during her appointment in March.

The Commission appoints Ruth Kulundu to the position of Deputy Commission Secretary (DCS)- Operations. Kulundu previously worked as IEBC Regional Elections Coordinator from 2010-2017 & later as Siaya County Elections Manager. She has 12 years experience in management of election [pic.twitter.com/J7bX1o5iVd](https://twitter.com/J7bX1o5iVd)

Sour relationship with bosses

Ms Kulundu has had a sour relationship with her bosses since the disputed presidential election, where she was accused of convening a commission plenary meeting on August 26 without the approval of the CEO.

The plenary turned out to be the venue for discussions involving the four dissenting commissioners - Vice Chairperson Juliana Cherera, commissioners Irene Massit, Justus Nyangaya, and Francis Wanderi. It is based on this plenary meeting that IEBC produced two set of lawyers at the Supreme Court hearing of the presidential petition between Azimio presidential candidate Raila Odinga and IEBC.

Lawyers Paul Muite and Issah Mansur turned up in court to represent the four dissenting commissioners while former Attorney-General Prof Githu Muigai led the legal consels representing IEBC and Mr Chebukati.

Bad blood

The current actions by the commissions leadership against alleged associates of the four commissioners points to bad blood at IEBC amid a legal tussle over the control of the electoral body pending retirement of Mr Chebukati and two other commissioners Prof Abdi Guliye and Mr Boya Molu.

Already, Farmers Party, which is in president Rutos Kenya Kwanza Alliance, has submitted to Parliament a petition to have the four dissenting commissioners of the IEBC ousted for allegedly attempting to sabotage the August General Election.

According to the party, the petition dated September 9, it accuses the four of gross misconduct and violation of the law.

Farmers Party has presented to the National Assembly, in line with Article 251 of the Constitution, a petition for the removal of 4 commissioners of the IEBC following the attempt by the said Commissioners to sabotage an election process as witnessed on 15th August 2022, at Bomas of Kenya, read the statement.

The petition by Farmers Party expresses the conduct of the commissioners as being a gross violation of the constitution and a breach of their oath, which denies the four commissioners their legitimacy to hold the state offices as commissioners of the IEBC.



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End of Azimio MPs issue ultimatum after IEBC boss targeted in crackdown



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.

Read: Raila sets 2024 deadline to reform IEBC, Judiciary ahead of 2027 polls

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?

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

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.)

Read: Chebukati, two commissioners were bidding before the elections, says Tuju

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



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

Mercy Simiyu / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

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.

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

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



News

Oral pills for Covid-19 to be locally available soon

Elizabeth Merab / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

You will soon be able to treat and manage symptoms of moderate-to-severe Covid-19 from home, after a new public-private consortium agreed to make available oral pills used to treat the disease.

Kenya is among 10 countries selected to receive doses of a new oral drug (Paxlovid) designed to treat severe forms of Covid-19 from home.

The drugs Paxlovid and Molnupiravir will be made available through the Covid Treatment Quick Start Consortium that will support ministries of health in 10 low- and middle-income countries to provide oral antiviral treatments immediately to high-risk patients and scale up wider access through 2023.

Apart from Kenya, the consortium has introduced the drugs in Ghana, Laos, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

New antiviral medicines, such as the two, have been available in high-income countries since late 2021 but are not yet widely available in low- and middle-income countries, where self-testing must be scaled in parallel.

As Omicron sub-variants continue to emerge and spread, the consortium says it will ensure treatments reach patients in low- and middle-income countries at an urgent pace.

Also read: US health panel says Merck pill can prevent grave Covid infections

This is even as Kenyas coronavirus cases have sharply dropped, with the country maintaining a one percent positivity rate. As of September 18, the positivity rate was one percent, with the latest data showing that nine people tested positive from a sample size of 861.

The Covid Treatment Quick Start Consortium will support governments to introduce and scale up access to new and effective Covid-19 oral antiviral therapies in high-risk populations and expects patients to start receiving treatment in select countries in September.

Whereas the cost for a five-day course of Paxlovid roughly costs \$530 (Sh63,812), the consortium did not disclose how much the drug will cost under this agreement.

The drugs are expected to reduce hospital admissions and Covid-related deaths, leading to reduced burdens on health systems.

The project will kick-start programmes through a donation by Pfizer of 100,000 courses of Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir), for which the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a strong recommendation for use in high-risk individuals with mild to moderate Covid-19, administered within five days of symptom onset.

New milestone

Having oral antivirals for Covid is something we have always looked forward to, and we are thus excited to be part of an initiative accelerating Paxlovid for use for Covid management, said Prof Lloyd B. Mulenga, director of infectious diseases at Zambias ministry of health, Zambia.

With this new milestone, we expect fewer admissions and also fewer Covid-related deaths, leading to a reduced burden on our health system.

Paxlovid is an oral drug given to patients with Covid-19. Developed by Pfizer, the pill is available by prescription but is only authorised to treat patients 12 years and older who weigh at least 39.9kg (88 pounds) after they test positive.

It can be used in patients with mild to moderate Covid-19 who are at risk of progressing to a severe form of the disease, which could lead to hospitalisation or death.

Paxlovid the brand name for the drug, which is made up of two generic medications, nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, developed by Pfizer has been found to have an 89 per cent reduction in the risk of hospitalisation and death in the clinical trial that supported the US Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

That number was high enough to prompt the US to prioritise it over other Covid-19 treatments. It is also cheaper than many other Covid-19 drugs (it is provided free by the US government while there is a public health emergency), and, perhaps most reassuring, it is expected to work against the Omicron variant.

In April, the World Health Organisation (WHO) gave a strong recommendation for use of Paxlovid for mild and moderate Covid-19 patients at the highest risk of hospital admission, calling it the best therapeutic choice for high-risk



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patients to date.

The antiviral pill can be taken at home to help keep high-risk patients from getting so sick that they need to be hospitalised. Patients who test positive for the coronavirus and are eligible to take the pills can do so at home and lower their risk of going to hospital.

End of Oral pills for Covid-19 to be locally available soon



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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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



Counties

Stella Nyanzi left seething after car hire conman left her stranded in Makindu

Nyaboga Kiage / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Barely days before her tour to read her poems around the country could come to an end, exiled Ugandan activist Dr Stella Nyanzi now says she was conned on Wednesday by a Kenyan whose car she had hired.

Dr Nyanzi, who has been in Kenya since the year started and has been visiting towns to read her poems, said she dealt with what she described as Kenyan thuggery.

Speaking to the Nation, the scholar, a beneficiary of the Writers-in-Exile programme at Pen-Zentrum, narrated how she hired a silver grey Toyota Voxy from Nairobi to Mombasa.

She said she was supposed to use the same vehicle on her return journey.

They asked that we pay Sh6,500 for each day. This means that since we were to stay with the vehicle for three days, we parted with Sh19,600, she said.

Read: Focus on prevention, no vaccine for rare Ebola strain, Uganda told

The person who gave us the car insisted we pay upfront and we gave him all the needed cash.

She left Nairobi on the morning of Tuesday, September 21, at 5.30am and as soon as they arrived in Makindu, Makueni County, 107km from Nairobi, the vehicle suddenly stopped.

Refused to refund

We pushed the car off the road, got two local mechanics from Makindu who both confirmed that the vehicles tracking device had locked the car, she said.

We informed the so-called David, who refused to refund our money paid to him to hire the Voxy for three days. He lied to us that he was sending us a replacement car.

Also read: Felix Tshisekedi accuses Rwanda, again, of backing rebels in DR Congo

Dr Nyanzi, who contested the Kampala woman representative seat but lost, said David arrived and ordered them to remove all their valuables from his vehicle.

The man then disabled the trackers lock, entered the Voxy and sped off like a devil riding the machine, as the scholar put it.

She said they gave the man the benefit of the doubt and decided to wait for a replacement car.

By the time this story was published, Dr Nyanzi, who was with her sister and two others, had not received any help and the suspect had switched off his mobile phone.

She said she had to cancel her poetry reading session in Mombasa because she lacked a means of transport there.

Dr Nyanzi had held similar functions in Nairobi, Kisumu and Nakuru. The books are titled Eulogies of My Mouth, No Roses from My Mouth and Poems from Prison.

In 2021, Dr Nyanzi fled Kampala with her three children, initially for Nairobi and then to Germany, citing threats to her life after her boyfriend was arrested by the Ugandan authorities.

Known for her hard-hitting and vulgar messages on social media, the former Makerere University researcher was previously arrested and jailed for a year on accusations of abusing Ugandas first family on social media.

She is also remembered for stripping naked and screaming in protest in a fight over office space during her stint as a lecturer at Makerere University.

End of Stella Nyanzi left seething after car hire conman left her stranded in Makindu



Counties

Sh208m SportPesa jackpot winner Cosmas Korir elected Bomet Speaker

Vitalis Kimutai / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Cosmas Kipngetch Korir, who won a Sh208 million SportPesa jackpot in 2018, has been elected Speaker of the Bomet County Assembly.

The election helps cool political tempers in Konoin constituency, whose voters claim they were sidelined in the picking of the deputy governor since the onset of devolution in 2013.

Read: How Dick Wathika bet his capital on SportPesa and paid the price

Read: An angry president and how the SportPesa takeover was plotted

Mr Korir garnered 32 votes in the second round of voting, beating former Kipsonoi MCA Cheruiyot Kirui, who received six votes.

In the first round, Mr Korir had 19 votes, while Mr Kirui had 12, and the two were cleared for the second round.

Former deputy governor Stephen Mutai received four votes and former Speaker Nelson Mutai three, knocking him out of the second race.

Dennis Kipkoech Sang, Gilbert Kiplangat Rono, Leonard Ngeny, Kiprotich Bii Samoei received no votes.

Mr Korir vowed to unite members of the county assembly, ensure they play their oversight role on the executive and take development in the county to the next level.

SportPesa's Emily Gichuki hands over a dummy cheque of Sh208,733,618 to jackpot winner Cosmas Korir at Carnivore Restaurant in Nairobi on October 3, 2018.

Employment opportunities

We have a crop of MCAs capable of developing policies that will guide the development agenda in the county. Bomet County is blessed with immense resources that should be tapped to create employment opportunities, attract investors and spur economic growth, Mr Korir said.

Read: High Court allows DPP to charge Nick Mwendwa afresh

Governor Hillary Barchok said the executive was keen to work with the legislature to implement development programmes to the benefit of the people.

Politics and electioneering are now behind us and the people expect both arms of the government executive and legislature to work closely together to create opportunities for economic growth and employment, Prof Barchok said.

He said the executive did not have time for political bickering with the legislature, but will foster a close working relationship for the benefit of residents.

Mr Korir, who hit the news headlines after winning a SportPesa jackpot in October 2018, lost in the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party primaries in Konoin constituency to area MP Brighton Yegon.

Also read: Uhuru, Michuki and Gumo cleared Aror, Kimwarer dams, court told

He had contested the seat in the 2017 elections under Chama Cha Mashinani (CCM) but lost to Mr Yegon, who is now serving a second consecutive term.

Regional balancing played a major role in his election as the fifth Speaker of the Bomet assembly in a county that has five constituencies Bomet East, Bomet Central, Konoin, Sotik and Chepalungu.

Third governor

Mr Stephen Mutai, the first deputy governor of the county, is from Bomet Central. Prof Barchok, who was the second deputy governor and is now the third governor of the county, is from Bomet East, while current Deputy Governor Shadrack Rotich is from Sotik.

While the first governor, Isaac Ruto (the CCM party leader) is from Chepalungu, his successor, the late Dr Joyce Laboso, was from Sotik.

The first Speaker of the assembly, Kipngetch Korir, is from Konoin, as is former deputy Speaker Wesley Kiprotich.

Outgoing Speaker Nelson Mutai, a Nairobi-based lawyer, comes from Bomet Central.

Bomet Woman Representative Linet Chepkorir Toto is from Bomet East, while Senator Hillary Sigei comes from Chepalungu.



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End of Sh208m SportPesa jackpot winner Cosmas Korir elected Bomet Speaker



Counties

Jealous intern stabs ex-girlfriend five times in lift after breakup

Hilary Kimuyu / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

A woman is in critical condition after she was stabbed five times by her boyfriend in a Nairobi building after the two fell out.

The intern, identified as Allan Musili, worked with the Kenya Copyright Board and attacked the woman in a lift at the NHIF Building.

He and his girlfriend, Alsheba Nduta, 24, were picked up from the elevator while bleeding and taken to hospital.

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

Ms Nduta had deep stab wounds in her back, while Mr Musili had injuries in his stomach and neck, a police report said.

Witnesses said Ms Nduta had arrived at the building on Tuesday afternoon to return a laptop to Ms Musili because they were no longer lovers.

Upset by her action, Mr Musili followed her to the lift, drew a knife and stabbed her in the back five times before turning the weapon on himself and stabbing his stomach and neck.

In a fight over a woman

The two were rushed to hospital and admitted in serious condition.

In another stabbing incident involving a love triangle, a 32-year-old man is nursing serious injuries after he was pushed from his first-floor house in Kaloleni, Nairobi, in a fight over a woman.

Read: Blame game over Raila Odinga's 2022 presidential election loss

The victim told police he was in his house with his girlfriend when her former boyfriend walked in and started fighting with him.

He said the intruder tussled with him before pushing him off the house.

He landed on an iron sheet structure and suffered injuries.

The assailant escaped from the scene after exchanging words with his former girlfriend, who watched the drama in disbelief.

Police said the victim was rushed to hospital and treated. The assailant is still at large and police are looking for him as they investigate the incident.

End of Jealous intern stabs ex-girlfriend five times in lift after breakup



Counties

Former Biashara ward MCA elected Nakuru assembly Speaker

Joseph Openda / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Former Biashara ward Naivasha ward representative Joel Karuri Maina is the new Speaker of the Nakuru County Assembly.

Mr Karuri garnered 50 votes out of the total 75 in second-round elections.

The race, which attracted 11 candidates, went to the second round when none of the candidates reached the 50-vote threshold in initial voting.

Mr Karuri led in the first round with 36 votes followed by Mr Mwangi with 33.

Joseph Njoroge received three, while there were three spoilt votes. The rest of the candidates did not get a single vote.

The election was presided over by assembly Clerk Joseph Malinda, who declared Mr Karuri winner.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Karuri thanked MCAs for entrusting him with the position, promising to be neutral and fair in running the House business.

He urged members to play their role of protecting devolution.

Mr Karuri acknowledged the contribution of his predecessor, Joel Kairu, in passing critical legislation that had a meaningful impact on the people of Nakuru.

"As the Speaker, I undertake to serve everyone with dignity, respect and fairness, he said.

Our political differences should not be viewed as weaknesses but an avenue for an opportunity to get competing ideas that will strengthen our democracy and [make] our House more vibrant."

He promised to provide servant leadership throughout his tenure.

Nakuru County has 75 MCAs 55 elected and 20 nominated.

End of Former Biashara ward MCA elected Nakuru assembly Speaker



Counties

Two evacuated as aircraft crash-lands in Nairobi National Park

Nyaboga Kiage / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Two survive aircraft crash at Nairobi National Park

Two people were evacuated after a light aircraft they were flying in crash-landed inside the Nairobi National Park on Wednesday.

Nairobi News has established that a trainee pilot and an instructor had left the Wilson Airport located in Langata, Nairobi County and were on a training session when the aircraft came down.

The duo was evacuated. A witness said that the two were picked up from the scene by another aircraft after they called for help

Langata sub-county police boss Ms Monica Kimani said the police were keeping an eye on the aircraft.

The two were not injured but they were asked to seek medical attention. As we now talk, police are keeping an eye on the aircraft until it is removed from the scene of the accident, she said.

Also read: 10 soldiers die, 13 hurt as KDF chopper crashes in Kajiado

Cases of aircrafts crashing have been reported in the country in the recent past.

A month ago, three people including two foreign nationals cheated death after another light aircraft they were travelling in crash landed in Likia North, Nakuru.

Police officers said that nobody was injured during the incident that took place at night.

The National Police Service (NPS) stated that the plane which was being flown to Mara North crash-landed after taking off.

Aboard the flight were two passengers of foreign nationality and their pilot, the NPS said Saturday

The NPS said that respective agencies have since opened a probe into the cause of the crash.

Another incident

In yet another incident, an Ethiopian Airlines passenger plane missed its landing and overflew the runway at the Bole International Airport after its two pilots fell asleep.

Flight 343, a Boeing 737-800, was flying from Khartoum, Sudan, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

According to the aviation publication, the pilots woke up after the autopilot system disconnected, setting off an alarm. They made another approach and landed the plane safely.

Data from flight radar shows that the plane failed to start its descent as it approached the airport. The autopilot system kept the aircraft cruising at 37,000 feet (11,200m).

Air Traffic Control tried to contact the crew numerous times without success, The Aviation Herald reported.

End of Two evacuated as aircraft crash-lands in Nairobi National Park



Counties

Marsabit residents reject UDA, Jubilee nominees for MCA

Jacob Walter / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Marsabit residents have rejected nominees to the county assembly selected by the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and Jubilee parties.

Speaking to the Nation in Marsabit town, Ms Qabale Tache, who champions the rights of people with HIV, cited lack of consultation, bribery, favouritism and cronyism in the nominations.

We want the list to be revoked and in the event that they are sworn in we will seek legal redress to reverse the process, Ms Tache said.

She claimed that the most deserving aspirants were left out during UDA nominations as the slots were dished out to the highest bidders.

She called the process a sham and a big joke and called on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to de-gazette the list. Ms Tache was number three on the UDA list.

She said she used her resources to campaign for UDA in Marsabit County and was repaid with deception.

Ms Tache, who is also a community social worker, was honoured for her efforts by President Uhuru Kenyatta with the Order of the Golden Heart (OGH) in 2021 and recognised as a shujaa.

Lives of people

Her efforts also caught the attention of Marsabit Governor Mohamud Alis wife, who gave her a cash award and a certificate for touching the lives of people in the region.

She appealed to President William Ruto to ensure there was fairness in nominations across the country.

Also complaining was Zainabu Dabaso, a representative of people with disabilities, whose application for a Jubilee MCA slot was not considered. Her name was shortlisted, only to be dropped in favour of people whose names had not been shortlisted.

Mr Mussa Sheik Nurr, from Moyale, claimed people with disabilities also got a raw deal in other parties, including Kanu, Jubilee and UPIA.

A youth representative who was number two on the UDA list, Mr Nurr warned that the party risked losing ground if it did not listen to the public outcry.

It has come to our notice that the UDA nomination in Marsabit was a clear phenomenon where cartels and public fund looters were prioritised at the expense of the qualified applicants in the list, he said.

End of Marsabit residents reject UDA, Jubilee nominees for MCA



Counties

Senate majority leader, governor blame IEBC for MCAs nomination row

Vitalis Kimutai / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Leaders in Kericho have blamed the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) for parties failure to nominate people with disabilities to the county assembly in a debacle that has sparked controversy in the region.

Senate Majority leader Aron Cheruiyot and Governor Erick Mutai said the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) submitted six names from among the youth, the disabled and other special-interest categories to the IEBC for nomination but the agency omitted the names of PWDs.

This also happened in the 2017 polls, when PWDs were left out of the nomination list, with locals blaming former governor Paul Chepkwonys administration for the mess.

Some 21 counties face the same challenge, with PWDs demanding their rightful share of the slots and claiming that leaders are not doing enough to address the anomaly.

We are all aware that there has been a justified outcry by people living with disabilities that they have been sidelined in the nomination, with some having moved to court to seek directions, Mr Cheruiyot stated.

He added: I want to assure you that the problem is not that of the county administration or UDA. The blame lies squarely on IEBC. When we gave out the list of proposed candidates, we expected the commission to gazette the PWDs, but that did not happen, leading to the current crisis and blame game.

It comes against the backdrop of claims that undeserving candidates were nominated, with politicians and power brokers rewarding their relatives who were on Tuesday sworn into office for a five-year term.

Dr Mutai fended off claims that he was to blame for the row, saying when the list was released, he was among the first people to protest and brought the matter to the attention of the would-be beneficiaries Mr Benjamin Koech and Ms Beatrice Langat who were on the original list but whose names were not gazetted.

We have agreed with Senator Cheruiyot to assist Ms Koech and Ms Langat to secure job opportunities as a way of making amends, even though the mistake was not ours, Dr Mutai said.

As leaders, we understand the pain and disappointment of the PWDs and we will do everything to ensure their issues are addressed.

The two leaders spoke during a party held in honour of the new Speaker of the county assembly, Dr Patrick Mutai, a former County Executive Committee member for Finance and Economic Planning in the Kericho County government.

Dr Mutai beat former Speaker Dominic Rono with 31 votes against the latter's 16.

Some of the nominated MCAs are Koskey Kipngetich Vincent (youth), Opile Noela Omollo (minority), Issack Matkeir (marginalised) and Mercy Njeri Gikonyo (marginalised).

The others are Chepkirui Edinah Tonui, Beatrice Chepkemai, Korir Fancy Chepkorir, Langat Chepkoech Winny, Chelangat Monica, Chebwogen Evaline, Bavina Chepkirui, Bett Gladys Sang, Chepngeno Jesca, Langat Irine Chebet, Sirma Lily Chepkemai, and Chepngeno Gabriela.

The county has been rocked by protests in the last one week over the anomaly in the nominations, with demands that parties review their nomination lists and correct any injustices.

End of Senate majority leader, governor blame IEBC for MCAs nomination row



Counties

Candidate in Kwale Speaker race wants elections suspended

Brian Ocharo / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The election of the Kwale County Assembly speaker could be stopped after a resident asked the High Court in Mombasa to suspend it.

Mr Michael Chiponda, who has expressed his interest in the post, wants voting suspended until his grievances are addressed.

His main argument is that he was barred from running on the grounds that he was not a registered voter in the county.

Mr Chiponda is a registered voter in Likoni, Mombasa County.

He argues that this is an illegal and unconstitutional requirement.

This provision is solely and with malice targeting me, having been a registered voter in Likoni Timbwani Ward, he said.

He added: The elections are due but I have been blocked from vying. This decision is highly prejudicial to my rights and fundamental freedoms.

He lamented that the decision to bar him from vying was made unilaterally without following the law.

A Speaker will be elected today after ward reps are sworn in.

Also read:Governors Achani, Mung'aro and Dhadho face election petitions

But Mr Chiponda wants the election suspended until his grievances are heard.

He wants orders to restrain the Kwale County Assembly from holding and conducting elections for the Speakers post pending the hearing and determination of the petition.

He also wants the court to order that he is duly qualified to vie for the position.

He says he complied with all the requirements for the post.

I have attached all the materials required confirming that I am qualified to vie for the position as advertised in a gazette notice number 11067, he said.

He told the court that the decision to bar him was made in bad faith and that he is being targeted because of claims that he held office with the Kwale County government.

End of Candidate in Kwale Speaker race wants elections suspended



Counties

Kenya Ports agency on a mission to revamp lake transport

George Odiwuor / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) has started rehabilitating dilapidated feeder ports to restore water transport on Lake Victoria.

Revamping docks will allow large water vessels to use them.

Since the government announced plans to revive water transport in the region, work has been going on at the Kisumu port, a major hub for East African trade.

But the work did not extend to feeder ports in Siaya, Migori and Homa Bay, which remain dilapidated.

These smaller ports have been neglected although they are inter-linked across the four Nyanza counties.

KPA officials, led by board chairman retired General Joseph Kibwana, visited the region to assess the level of damage at the feeder ports.

KPA used to oversee only ocean shipping but its mandate was recently extended to include inland waters like lakes.

The agency took over the operations previously managed by Kenya Railways, which used to maintain feeder ports as it transported goods on rail.

"The board has been provided with all information about the feeder ports. We want the region to regain its lost glory when residents would travel on water," he said.

Feeder ports

Feeder ports in Nyanza include the Kendu Bay, Homa Bay and Mbita piers in Homa Bay County; Muhuru Bay and Sori Bay in Migori County; and Asembo Bay in Siaya County.

Since the suspension of lake transport more than 15 years ago, some of the structures have fallen into disrepair.

Piers in Homa Bay, which are made of concrete and steel, are eroded and falling apart. Ships can no longer dock there.

Mr Kibwana, who was with Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga, her deputy Oyugi Magwanga and County Commissioner Moses Lilan, said rehabilitating feeder ports will help revive shipping operations in Nyanza and beyond.

"Our technical officials were already sent to the ground to assess the situation of the feeder ports," he said.

Governor Wanga said the project will enhance economic development in her county and the entire Nyanza region as the lake will ease transportation of large quantities of goods on large vessels.

"Our people will have more opportunities to earn as they do business across the lake. Other job opportunities will be opened up in ship companies," she said.

Water transport, she added, will support the agricultural sector by enabling farmers to move their produce easily to other counties sharing the lake.

She pledged that her government will partner with KPA to promote the project.

Mr Lilan said rehabilitating the feeder ports will reduce accidents on the lake and promote safety and security.

At least 10 people died at the Koginga beach in Homa Bay town in September last year when a boat was hit by turbulence.

Having a functional pier will give agencies like the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) and the Kenya Coast Guard Service a place to dock their boats.

They will then be able to minimise accidents, respond to emergencies on the lake and ensure vessel operators comply with safety standards.

"Access to different parts of the lake has been a challenge because boats can't dock on the beach. With this programme, we are sure that safety and security will be restored," Mr Lilan said.

End of Kenya Ports agency on a mission to revamp lake transport



Counties

Over 5,000 elders to pray for the nation in Mt Kenya forest on Friday

James Murimi / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

At least 5,000 Kikuyu elders from Central Kenya are expected to hold prayers for the country in the Mt Kenya forest on Friday.

The Kikuyu Council of Elders national patron, retired Captain Kungu Muigai, convened the event at the Kikuyu prayer shrine in Naromoru in Mt Kenya National Park.

Speaking to the Nation on Wednesday, Mr Muigai said the elders will hold prayers to thank God for peace that prevailed in Kenya before, during and after the August 9 General Election.

"I will be leading 5,000 elders from this region for thanksgiving prayers for the peace God had bestowed in our country after a hotly contested election. We cannot take for granted the peace we are enjoying as a country," Mr Muigai said by phone.

Mr Muigai, who is also the patron of Central Kenya Kikuyu elders, appealed to Kenyans to maintain peace and not be incited to cause chaos over the outcome of the last presidential polls.

"We will pray so that Kenyans forge ahead peacefully and participate in the country's growth. Young people should stop fuelling hatred on social media platforms, because that is not healthy for our country," Mr Muigai said.

Also read: Gospel musician Purity Gitongas spiritual message to Kenyans

The elders will also hold a special prayer for President William Ruto's government so that he can propel the country to prosperity, he said.

"For those who won the election, time to celebrate is over. And to those who lost, it is time they moved on and [focused] on developing the country. We will pray for the country and good things will come after those prayers," he said.

In the run-up to the elections, Mr Muigai, a cousin of former President Uhuru Kenyatta, kicked up a storm after he convened a meeting with 1,500 Kikuyu elders from Mt Kenya at Kabiruini grounds in Nyeri and announced his support for Dr Ruto. The elders came from Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Muranga and Laikipia counties.

During the meeting, Mr Kung'u announced that he had the right to support his preferred political formation just like Mr Kenya.

But Mr Muigai noted that the family was solidly united despite the different political stands he and Mr Kenyatta had taken.

Political position

We are very much united as the Kenyatta family. We recently gathered at home for a traditional marriage. But the moment we leave the gate and come out, we become Kenyans, Mr Muigai said.

When he runs for office, I have always stood by him as my brother. When Mr Kenyatta was running for President in 2002, I stood by him.

Our eldest sister Senator Beth Mugo and our uncle George Muhoho supported him. We all stood by him because he was running for [the] presidency.

At the same meeting, Democratic Party (DP) leader Justin Muturi dismissed reports that he had betrayed Mr Kenyatta by supporting Dr Rutos candidacy.

Mr Muturi said he took a different political position from Mr Kenyattas so as to ensure that the interests of the people of Mt Kenya were protected after his exit from power.

It is wrong for people to say that I have betrayed my friend the President. With a lot of respect, I choose to differ but we remain good friends, he said.

By taking different political stands, that does not mean betrayal. It is taking a different political position from the one that he has taken and that is logical.

Since my good friend is going to retire as constitutionally mandated, we have a duty to guide our community and take them to the direction where their interests will be best catered for."

End of Over 5,000 elders to pray for the nation in Mt Kenya forest on Friday



Counties

Former CDF Manager elected Narok Assembly Speaker

Robert Kiplagat / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Former Kilgoris constituency CDF Manager Mr Davis Dikir has been declared the new Narok County Assembly Speaker after he floored pioneer Nicholas Kamwaro.

In the first round, Mr Dikir who is popularly known as 'Tall' won by 31 votes against Mr Kamwaro's 17 votes.

Mr Kamwaro served as the first Assembly Speaker between 2013 and 2017 before his position was taken over by the immediate former Speaker Mr Nkoidila Ole Lankas.

During the session Presided over by the Clerk of the Assembly Mr Maiyiani Tuya, none of the contestants garnered the constitutionally required 32 votes which represent two-thirds of the 48 Ward Reps prompting the second round.

Mr Dikir managed to increase his earlier votes of 31 to 34 beating Mr Kamwaro whose votes shrunk by three votes to 14.

Earlier on, 48 MCAs among them 29 elected and 19 nominated took an oath of office.

The number of assembly members increased from the traditional 47 to 49 after two more nominees were added.

One of the 30 Wards- Ololmasani ward did not participate in the exercise as the election failed to take place after one of the aspirants died during the campaign period.

While making his maiden acceptance speech after being elected, Mr Dikir vowed to enhance public trust in the assembly.

He also pledged to support the welfare of the members as well as to ensure that the assembly play its role in the success of devolution.

Mr Dikir also asked members to be at the forefront in playing their oversight role.

He also hailed his predecessor Mr Lankas for setting the standards at the assembly vowing to be a selfless leader.

The new Speaker also promised to organise a retreat with MCAs to acquaint them with what is required of them.

Mr Dikir also served as a personal assistant to former Kilgoris MP Mr Gideon Konchellah.

End of Former CDF Manager elected Narok Assembly Speaker



Counties

Lawyer sues police service over corruption on the highways

Joseph Openda / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

A Nakuru-based lawyer has sued the National Police Service over alleged impunity along highways.

Mr Bernhard Kipkoech Ngetich tells the High Court that police engage in corruption on the Nakuru-Kericho highway.

Mr Kipkoech, formerly a member of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) council and ex-chairperson of the Rift Valley LSK branch, accuses the police of illegally arresting, detaining and prosecuting motorists on malicious charges.

He says officers flag down motorists at various spots, including Salgaa and Kedowa, for allegedly driving above the speed limit.

Mr Kipkoech claims there are no visible road signs showing the speed limit at the spots where police flag down motorists and demand bribes while threatening to arrest and prosecute them.

He says the areas have a speed limit only at the beginning with no other signage to show the end of the limit.

Mr Kipkoech claims to have been flagged down twice during his trips between Nakuru and Kericho. He says he was arrested, tortured, detained and charged in courts in Molo for driving above 50kmh.

He cites one incident on December 19, 2020 when he was flagged down by officers in the Mau Tea area in Kedowa and detained for two hours for driving above 50kmh.

He says he was ferrying a bride and her parents and had to leave behind his driving licence until the following day.

In the second incident, in June this year, he was flagged down in the Sobea area of Salgaa on the Nakuru-Eldoret highway for allegedly driving above the speed limit.

He says he was rushing to attend a court matter at the Kericho courthouse, and that errand was delayed by the police.

The lawyer says the speed signs only appeared at the beginning of the zone but the end was not indicated.

I took time explaining to the officers why no offence had been committed as there was no signpost signalling the end of the 50km/hr mark from Sobea to Salgaa. I was released after mounting a long argument, but I arrived late at the Kericho law courts," he says.

He argues that the police are arresting motorists illegally, detaining and maliciously prosecuting those who decline to yield to their demands for bribes.

Mr Kipkoech wants compensation for the alleged violation of his rights.

He also wants the court to declare that the arresting, detention and prosecution of motorists on the basis that they exceeded the 50kmh speed limit in Sobea and Salgaa are illegal, null and void.

He wants the court to bar the police from enforcing the speed regulation at those points.

He also wants the court to direct the Inspector-General of Police to investigate similar cases across the country within six months and ensure they comply with the law.

The IG, the NPS and the Attorney-General are named as respondents.

The Kenya National Highways Authority, the Chief Justice and the Law Society of Kenya are listed as interested parties.

The court directed the sued parties to file their responses within 14 days.

The matter will be mentioned on October 12 for directions.

End of Lawyer sues police service over corruption on the highways



Counties

Governor Wisley Rotich decries poor sanitation, vows to upgrade sewerage system

Fred Kibor / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Lack of proper sanitation and sewerage systems in Elgeyo Marakwet County's major urban centres is to blame for poor investment in the region, Governor Wisley Rotich has said.

This, he said, makes property development, especially in Iten, the county headquarters, expensive.

Iten has no sewerage system and investors must spend more money to set up soak pits to collect sewage and pay exhauster companies to haul it away.

I have done my own observation and noticed that the reason Iten has not been realising rapid growth and attracting investors is because of the lack of a sewerage system, he said.

He said he will propose legislation in the county assembly to establish a sewerage system in the Iten.

I am keen on cleaning up Iten and attracting investment by creating an enabling environment, and a sewerage system would be a priority, he said when he launched a Sh13 million garbage compactor truck for the Iten municipality on Monday.

Also read: Governor Rotich: This is why I picked a woman deputy

The county plans to acquire at least five acres for a dumping site. It will have an incinerator and allow garbage recycling.

Mr Rotich had pledged during campaigns that he would make Iten cleaner and more attractive in his first 100 days in office.

I am certain that beginning now, this pledge will be realistic because this truck will be used to collect garbage from any part of the town, he said.

He added that he will open a disaster management centre and recruit at least 10 firefighters, who will be trained in Ruiru ahead of their deployment.

Meanwhile, his Adopt a Village programme aimed at alleviating poverty in Elgeyo Marakwet households has received a boost after a group of university scholars from the United States chose the county to pilot it.

The scholars, led by Prof Michael Touchton from the University of Miami, will implement projects and research that will see 90 villages benefit and receive grants of between Sh100,000 and Sh200,000.

Locals will choose the projects they want implemented, and the grants will be used to start micro-development projects that would impact people at the grassroots.

The team has piloted the programme in Tambach ward, with a second pilot to be rolled out in Kapchemutwa ward in the coming week.

The programme and research will run to May 2023 together with Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA) Kenya.

Prof Touchton and IPA officials Catherine Gakii and Aduda Lyndon met with Governor Rotich and his deputy Prof Grace Cheserek at the county headquarters for a briefing session on the programme.

Public participation

Prof Touchton said the aim of the study is to establish a model for co-governance at the village level and determine how citizen decisions impact development practices.

In the end, we hope to come up with a model that can be useful in citizen engagement for sustainable development, an approach which the county is already a leader in through public participation and that is why we are here, he said.

Governor Rotich said the research came at an opportune time as the approach was captured in his campaign manifesto and President William Ruto's bottom-up economic plan.

I wish to assure you that Elgeyo Marakwet is the right place for you because I was part of the team that crafted the national bottom-up model and I domesticated it to my county under the Adopt a Village programme, he said.

End of Governor Wisley Rotich decries poor sanitation, vows to upgrade sewerage system



Counties

Igathe's running mate Kaloki loses in Makueni Speaker bid

Pius Maundu / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The running mate of Polycarp Igathe in the Nairobi gubernatorial contest in the just concluded general election has lost his bid to be Makueni County Assembly Speaker.

Incumbent Speaker Douglas Mbilu on Wednesday retained the seat in a hotly contested race that was witnessed by, among others, Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Junior.

Mr Mbilu garnered 26 votes against 21 votes by his only challenger, former Kenya Medical Training College board chairman Philip Kaloki, during the second round of voting.

Prof Kaloki contested the city gubernatorial seat alongside Mr Igathe on Jubilee ticket but lost to Johnson Sakaja of UDA.

In the Speakers contest on Wednesday, Mr Mbilu managed 25 votes against Prof Kaloki's 22 votes in the first round.

Makueni Assembly Clerk Kelvin Mutuku declared Mr Mbilu the elected Speaker and swore him into office.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Mbilu pledged to be fair to all the MCAs irrespective of how they had voted.

Deliver services

He promised to work towards addressing polarisation which had emerged during the campaigns and offered to collaborate with all leaders in the county to deliver services to the people of Makueni County.

A trained medic, Mr Mbilu cut his teeth under the tutelage of former Makueni Governor Kivutha Kibwana.

He begun as Prof Kibwana's Chief of Staff during the first term before becoming a executive Committee member in his the administration.

He beat seasoned politicians in 2017 to become the Speaker. Mr Mbilu's predecessor Stephen Ngelu, businessman Muema Ndungi and lawyer Dennis Mung'ata who had expressed interest in the Speaker seat withdrew in the last minute, leaving Mr Mbilu and Prof Kaloki.

Mr Mbilu enjoyed the backing of Mr Kilonzo Jnr who saw Prof Kaloki as a possible political rival and a potential challenger in the 2027 General Election.

End of Igathe's running mate Kaloki loses in Makueni Speaker bid



Counties

Samburu chiefs pushed to arrest criminal gangs in Maralal town

Geoffrey Ondieki / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The government will confront gunmen who are wreaking havoc in Maralal town and curb cattle rustling, burglary and robbery.

Residents have been complaining about a network of dreaded criminal gangs robbing people at gunpoint. The criminals prey on unsuspecting businessmen who own M-Pesa shops and wholesalers who are often targeted even in broad daylight.

The gangs operate in the central business district and the outskirts of Maralal.

To dehorn the bandits, the government has pushed chiefs and their assistants to do their job and arrest the criminals.

A gang has been terrorising locals by raiding homesteads and shops, said Samburu County Commissioner Henry Wafula.

He argued that chiefs are in the best position to profile armed civilians in their jurisdictions.

"We even have the names of these criminals. We have just tasked our chiefs and local administrators to help us arrest them. The elders, I believe, can tell criminals within their areas of jurisdiction. We have to arrest them before it is too late," Mr Wafula said.

The banditry problem, he said, cannot be solved by government officers alone without support from political leaders and communities.

He added that teamwork between the government, communities and leaders will bring peace.

Despite increased police patrols, illegal guns in the hands of civilians have turned this area into a nightmare for travellers, herders and the business community.

Decades of banditry in the Samburu countryside have evolved and spilled over to Maralal, with gun-slinging criminals stealing from "soft targets".

There have been multiple reports of daylight attacks, the most recent one on Sunday, when gunmen stormed the town and drove away hundreds of goats.

Several cases of burglary, break-ins, and robbery at gunpoint have been reported in the past one week. While a security offensive against armed bandits may have succeeded in other parts of the country, the impact has not been felt in Maralal.

Residents and local leaders blame escalating insecurity on security agencies' hesitancy to deal with criminals.

Samburu Governor Jonathan Lelelit recently resolved to set up a county security department.

Mr Lelelit explained that perennial insecurity needed to be addressed. He vowed to work with other leaders to end the problem, saying the department will coordinate its work with the county and national security teams.

Mr Lelelit noted that young warriors or morans are engaging in the age-old practice of cattle rustling and that hundreds have been killed and others maimed in battlefields.

It does not make sense for one to take another's life because of a cow. It is really heartbreaking to see such," he said.

End of Samburu chiefs pushed to arrest criminal gangs in Maralal town



Counties

Lamu holds procession to mark World Peace Day

Kalume Kazungu / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Lamu County peace ambassadors, religious leaders, the Kiunga

Youth Bunge Initiative and other groups on Wednesday held a procession in Hindi town to commemorate the International Day of Peace.

The day is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday observed annually on September 21.

It was first celebrated in 1981 and is marked by many nations, political and military groups and ordinary people.

In Lamu, over 200 peace ambassadors, religious leaders and members of community-based groups walked over five kilometres from the Hindi GTZ Police Station to Hindi Prison area, through the streets of Hindi and back to the GTZ station.

Participants were dressed in white or blue and held banners and placards reiterating the need for peace.

Speaking during the event, Lamu Peace Ambassadors Committee chair Joseph Kamau urged county officials and the national government to address conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, landlessness, drug abuse among young people and unemployment.

They said these issues contributed to the lack of peace in Lamu.

Peace means security and a vibrant economy in our country. As we mark World Peace Day [the other name for the holiday], let me first take this opportunity to thank all Kenyans for holding a peaceful election, Mr Kamau said.

He added that Lamu and the national government should also address the squatter problem. I believe if these challenges are fully addressed, peace will be automatic, he said.

Cecilia Nganga, the Lamu Women and Peace Brigade chair, appealed to women to be at the forefront in preaching peace and cohesion across the country.

Ms Nganga said women and children were the most vulnerable when wars and other forms of violence broke out.

She said women and girls are raped and others physically assaulted.

And that's why as women of Lamu, we're leading this procession to mark World Peace Day today. As mothers, we must fight to end any forms of violence and ensure peace is maintained in the country and the world, she said.

Yunus Omar, a youth leader, lauded Kenyan youth for desisting from being used by politicians to cause chaos during last month's elections.

Mr Omar advised the youth to stop accepting money from politicians to disrupt peace in the country.

We need peace for development. The electioneering period is over. As youths, let's agitate for prosperity through maintaining peace wherever we are, he said.

The procession ended with speeches, cultural presentations, and a musical concert by local artistes at Hindi GTZ Police Station grounds.

End of Lamu holds procession to mark World Peace Day



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

Focus on prevention, no vaccine for rare Ebola strain, Uganda told

XINHUA / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Health experts on Tuesday urged Uganda to focus on preventing and controlling the spread of the deadly Ebola virus, noting that there is no vaccine against the rare Sudan strain that has been confirmed in the country.

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Health confirmed an Ebola outbreak in the country after the virus was detected in Mubende, central Uganda. One death was confirmed while six other deaths are suspected to have been caused by Ebola, but remain unverified.

Bayo Fatunmbi, head of disease prevention and control at the World Health Organization office in Uganda, told reporters that the Sudan strain is rare and had only occurred in Sudan in 1976 and in Uganda in 2011.

We have done something before in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but we find that the vaccination that worked with the Zaire virus [strain] will not be useful for this particular Sudan strain, he said. He added that another type of vaccine is currently being tested.

Diana Atwine, Ugandas permanent secretary at the Health ministry, said that while the country has the vaccine for the Zaire strain, there is no vaccine for the Sudan strain.

She said a team of epidemiologists has been sent to Mubende to investigate the source of the index case, a 24-year-old male who died on Monday.

There is no need to panic at all because Uganda is well known for handling epidemics. We have built capacity, and we want to assure the public that we shall contain this epidemic, Ms Atwine said.

She added that Uganda is working with partners like the WHO to contain the spread of the deadly disease.

The Ebola virus is highly contagious and causes various symptoms, including fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, generalised pain or malaise, and in some cases, internal and external bleeding. According to the WHO, the fatality rate for those who contract Ebola ranges from 50 percent to 89 percent, depending on the viral sub-type.

End of Focus on prevention, no vaccine for rare Ebola strain, Uganda told



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



Felix Tshisekedi accuses Rwanda, again, of backing rebels in DR Congo

PARTICK ILUNGA / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

DR Congo President Felix Tshisekedi has reignited an accusation against Rwanda, insisting that Kigali is still fanning rebel groups in his country's territory.

In a speech to the UN General Assembly, Tshisekedi claimed his efforts to reunite the country and pursue peaceful settlements have been dragged by continual external interference, accusing Rwanda, in particular, of fomenting rebel movements.

Despite my goodwill for the search of peace, some neighbours have found no better way to thank us than to aggress and support armed groups that are ravaging eastern Congo, he told an audience on Tuesday night.

Turning to Rwanda, he said: In defiance of international law, has once again not only interfered in the DRC since MARCH by direct incursions of its armed forces (Rwanda Defence Force RDF), but also occupies localities in North Kivu province (eastern DRC) by an armed terrorist group, the M23, to which it provides massive support in terms of equipment and troops.

The accusation against Rwanda, which has been rejected many times before by Kigali, is likely to elicit a response when Kigali's representative addresses the UN later in the week. But it could also signal simmering differences between the two countries that had initially cut official communication between them before resuming talks.

In July, after meeting in Angolan capital Luanda, under mediation of President Joao Lourenço, Rwandan President Paul Kagame and President Tshisekedi agreed to reopen dialogue and have their differences solved diplomatically.

Tshisekedi told the audience he is always ready to pursue peace, speaking of recent arrangements to hold dialogue with rebel groups that did not succeed as other parties to the talks pulled out.

Since my election as head of state of the DRC, I have not stopped fighting every day for peace. In order to definitively eradicate insecurity, restore lasting peace and ensure stability in the East of my country, several agreements have been signed with armed groups and even neighbouring countries.

National and international mechanisms have been created. All these prospects for a final settlement of the conflict lasted only a few months. Soon, the architecture cracked and the building collapsed; we always start with the same tragedies.

Tshisekedi spoke at the opening of the regular session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. And for 38 minutes, the Congolese head of state touched on global security issues, including terrorism, which he argued had not spared the African continent. He also talked about the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the need for a peaceful settlement between these two countries.

End of Felix Tshisekedi accuses Rwanda, again, of backing rebels in DR Congo



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



Another Kenyan star banned for violating doping rules

Ayumba Ayodi / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

African Games 5,000 metres champion Lilian Kasait is the latest Kenyan athlete to be banned for violating doping rules.

World Athletics Athletes Integrity Unit (AIU) disclosed on Wednesday that it had banned the 2017 World Cross Country bronze medallist for a period of 10 months starting April this year for using a prohibited substance, Letrozole.

Consequently, AIU disclosed that Kasait's results from January 20, this year have been disqualified.

The ruling from AIU indicated that an out-of-competition provided by the 25-year-old Kasait during a doping control conducted on behalf of the AIU on January 20, this year.

It resulted in an adverse analytical finding for Letrozole, which is prohibited at all times, which was potential anti-doping rule violations (ADRVs) pursuant to Rule 2.1 and Rule 2.2 of the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules (ADR)," said AIU who notified the athlete of the violation on February 16 this year.

On 23 February 2022, the athlete responded to the notice from the AIU with an explanation for the adverse analytical finding and supporting evidence before requesting to enter into a Case Resolution Agreement to resolve the matter pursuant to Rule 10.8.2 ADR.

The AIU, the athlete and World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) subsequently entered into a Case Resolution Agreement in accordance with Rule 10.8.2 ADR pursuant.

Kasait acknowledges that she committed the offence and agreed to be sanctioned for a period of Ineligibility of 10 months pursuant to Rule 10.6.1(a) of the ADR. Taking into consideration how promptly the athlete admitted the ADRVs upon notification in the specific circumstances of this case, the parties agree that the period of ineligibility shall commence on April 19, this year until February 18 next year.

Kasait now joins a long list of close to 20 Kenyan athletes who have been banned or suspended for various doping offences this year.

The last time for Kasait to compete was last year where she won the national trials in 5,000m to represent Kenya at the Tokyo Olympic Games where she finished 12th.

The suspension comes after five Kenyan athletes were banned from the World Athletics Championships held on July 15 to 24 in Oregon, USA, and Commonwealth Games held July 28 to August 8 in Birmingham, England.

The 2019 Boston and Chicago Marathon champion Lawrence Cherono was kicked out of Oregon before the mens marathon after failing a dope test.

Marathoners Philemon Kacheran, Stella Barsosio, Purity Changwony and 1,500 metres athlete Kumari Taki were also hounded out of the Commonwealth Games for the same reasons.

Middle distance runner Eglay Nalinya was suspended from the World Indoor Championships in March in Serbia, for the use of Norandrosterone.

Long distance runner Mathew Kisorio was banned in April for the second time for four years for his whereabouts alongside Justus Kimutai and Morris Munene Gachaga, who got two years each for a similar offence.

Another distance runner, Joyce Chepkirui, was suspended by the Anti-doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK) for four years in March for discrepancies in her Athletes Blood Passport.

Two-time Paris Marathon champion Paul Lonyangata was among four Kenyans, who were flagged down by AIU in February.

AIU suspended Lonyangata on January 24 for the use of prohibited substance Furosemide. Others are Edward Kiprop Kibet, Tabitha Wambui and Vane Nyaboke.

End of Another Kenyan star banned for violating doping rules

Kenyan volleyball queens Kwanthanze, Kesogon clash in Arusha

Brian Yonga / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

In Arusha, Tanzania

Eleven days after their clash at the Kenya Secondary Schools Term Two Games girls' volleyball final at Nakuru High School, champions Kwanthanze Secondary School and Kesogon Mixed Secondary School face off again in the final on the penultimate day of the Federation of East Africa Secondary Schools Sports Association (Feasssa) Games here in Arusha.

In the Kenyan final, Kwanthanze rallied from losing 25-20 in the opening set to win 25-17, 25-13, 25-19 and defend their national title as newbies Kesogon settled for silver on their maiden appearance at the nationals.

Will it be the same scenario on Thursday, or will Kesogon turn the tables on their familiar opponents?

Kesogon skipper Brigid Barasa believes they have learnt from their mistakes in Nakuru and can exact revenge on the five-time regional winners.

"We showed them too much respect at the national level and that cost us the title. I think now that we are playing them in another final, we have the chance to right those wrongs," Barasa said after their 3-0 (25-15, 25-17, 25-17) win over Tanzania's Mkalapa Secondary School in yesterday's semifinal at Tanzania Game and Track (TGT) grounds.

"The fact that we have reached the final on our first appearance shows that we are not pushovers and want to make it a memorable debut by lifting the title," the skipper added.

However, Kwanthanze captain Faith Cherotich is confident they can complete the double in the all-Kenyan final, but knows Kesogon will be baying for blood.

"Beating a team twice is very difficult and I know Kesogon have changed their style of play since we beat them and it promises to be a cracker. We are the champions and will fight to keep our crown," Cherotich said.

Kwanthanze had to dig deep to see-off Rwanda's IPRC Kigali 3-1(25-16, 23-25, 25-11, 25-22) in their semi. It was the first time they were losing a set in the competition.

"We lost a bit of confidence during the semifinal, but our coach reminded us that we are champions and have a duty to prove our worth," she added.

There will be another Kenyan derby on Thursday in girls' football semis as national champions Wiyeta Secondary School renew their rivalry with Dagoretti Mixed Secondary School.

Wiyeta beat Dagoretti 4-1 on post-match penalties in the Kenyan final on September 12 this year to win their eighth national title.

Wiyeta, who last won the regional title in 2017, finished top of Pool "A" with seven points after two wins and a draw, while Dagoretti were second in pool "B" with seven points after two win, a draw and a loss.

Debutantes Dagoretti booked their spot in the last four after an impressive 5-0 win over Uganda's Sacred Heart, Gulu on Wednesday. Fasila Adhiambo hit a brace, while Hilder Kanze and Susan Marion added the others.

Sacred Heart defender Tracy Lakisa scored an own-goal in the 53rd minute.

Wiyeta coach Edgar Manyara is glad that there will be a Kenyan team in Friday's final.

"We wanted to play them (Dagoretti) in the final, but it was not meant to be. We know their style of play and I hope they won't be too defensive this time around," Manyara said on Wednesday.

His Dagoretti counterpart Joseph Orao has revenge on his mind.

"We have improved with each match and that has enabled us reached the semis. It will be tough against Wiyeta, but we want to avenge the loss in Nakuru and get to the final," said coach Orao.

In boys' football, Kenyan side Highway Secondary School made it to the semi-finals after seeing off Ugandan side Kibuli Secondary School 1-0 yesterday to finish second in pool "A".

Defender Robby Katana scored the all-important goal to hand the Kenyans victory in the first half. Kenyan champions Ebwali Secondary School will not feature in the semis.

In basketball, Kenya's Dr Aggrey Secondary School, who are debuting at the games, will face Uganda's Bethel Covenant in Thursday's semis, as defending champions Buddo Secondary School (Uganda) play Rwandese side Lycee De Kigali.

Kenyan representatives in girls' basketball, Kaya Tiwi Secondary School and Olympic High School failed in their bid to



Sports

Kenyan volleyball queens Kwanthanze, Kesogon clash in Arusha

Brian Yonga / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

reach the semis.

End of Kenyan volleyball queens Kwanthanze, Kesogon clash in Arusha



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 espn.cricinfo.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 Kenya's 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



Sports

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



Life-and-style

Vaida rises with the new age of vernacular music

Sylvania Ambani / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

At some point in the recent past, many of us have interacted with Vaida, whether through participating in the viral TikTok challenge or shaking our heads as we watch the video.

Like a storm, the Luhya love song swept everything out of its way to the top with its Isikuti beats and captivating lyrics. And in the blink of an eye Harry Richie the composer of the song was transformed from a village singer to a national superstar.

It was so well received that it had the likes of popular Tik Toker Azziad Nasenya among those who posted dance challenges to the song.

According to Richie, this success is not a matter of luck; he believes a good song will always have the right impact regardless of the language in which it is rendered.

We have grown up listening to Lingala and Rhumba music whose lyrics we do not understand. However, we just love the music, especially from the likes of Kanda Bongoman and Koffi Olomide. But as Kenyans we also have our own identity when it comes to music, Harry Richie said.

Read: Meet Harry Richie the 'Vaida' hit song composer

Born Harrison Ondunyi in Bunyore, Vihiga county, he started making music for fun early in life. And for him, singing in his local dialect was a natural decision.

Embrace our cultures

We should embrace our cultures. I believe I was not born in the Western region by mistake and I think variety is good. We have artistes who sing in Kiswahili or English, and then there are those who use Sheng, he said.

He added: I did not think that Vaida would blow up the way it has. I remember while in the studio telling my producer that I wanted to create something different from what I have been doing; a song that is made from the traditional Isikuti beats but complimented with other traditional instruments like the bell.

And of course, just like many other Luhya songs, the signature phone conversation in the middle was not left out.

Having started as a gospel artiste, Richie owes his initial musical prowess to having first worked with gospel singer Joseph Shisia of the Omundu Omulosi hit song fame back in 2008. Shisia encouraged him through music lessons and live recordings.

Richie's debut tracks include Ingokho ya Mwambesia and later in 2014 a Kiswahili album titled Nifungue Macho.

Buoyed by the desire to release more songs, in 2016 he recorded three songs, among them Yesu Yestanga.

He took a break from recording until 2020, during the Covid-19 crisis, when he got inspired to write more songs in Luhya like Spoken Word.

Richie is among many artistes who have established themselves as modern-day musicians who sing in their vernacular languages.

Like Richie, Brizy Annechild is making waves on the local music scene with his song, MyJaber, sung in Dholuo.

Born and raised in Nyalenda, the soft-spoken singer is another force to reckon with.

Read: My husband gets defensive whenever I correct him, why is this?

MyJaber is a collaboration with music group H_art the Band.

My sound is ultra-urban and I believe that in anything you do, it is best to be your natural self. I realised that singing in the Luo language was what spoke about me as an artiste, Brizy said.

His musical journey started in 2009 but it was not until 2020, when he released the song Hera Nyalo Sandi, that people started recognising his talent as a singer.

The song remains one of his biggest hits, with four million views on YouTube.

Born in a ghetto

Born in a ghetto, I was forced to grow up very quickly. In this song I was singing about the experiences of young people living in the ghetto. I decided to become a singer because that is what came naturally to me. Music is not something you can just wake up one day and start doing, he said.



Life-and-style

Vaida rises with the new age of vernacular music

Sylvania Ambani / Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The song My Jaber was a result of Brizy Annechild sharing the stage with H_art the Band in Kisumu, who were impressed by his music and performance.

Working with H_art the Band is one of the many blessings I am counting because I never expected that, especially with my vernacular genre. And working together has opened a lot of doors for other artistes like me to collaborate with others who do not sing in vernacular. This is a major breakthrough, Brizy said.

Singer Willy Paul, Bahati, and Akothee are also among artistes who have in the recent past released songs with vernacular singers.

Late last year Bahati collaborated with Ohangla musical sensation Prince Indah to release the song Adhiambo.

When the well-choreographed video featuring Starehe MP Charles Njagua Jaguar, his Embakasi East colleague, Babu Owino, comedians Felix Odiwuor Jalango, Terrence Creative, and Eric Omondi was first released on YouTube, it became the number one trending video in Kenya in less than 24 hours.

Currently, it has 17 million views on YouTube.

Even on his own, Prince Indah has done well, releasing his first song, Cinderella, in 2015. He has since produced a number of hit songs, including Mama Watoto, Weche Hera, Chike Hera, Nyar Migori, and Nyar Joluo, which are popular in the Nyanza region.

He is the first Ohangla artiste to be awarded the YouTube Silver Creator button, given out to channels that reach or surpass 100,000 subscribers.

End of Vaida rises with the new age of vernacular music



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



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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.



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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



Life-and-style

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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.