



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

Kevin Cheruiyot / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania also boarded the coach.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



How two Kenyan nurses swindled Boston state out of Sh12 billion

John Kamau / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

One drove a Maserati, an Italian luxury brand known for its exclusive styling, and the other one a Range Rover. As dollar millionaires, they kept their lives private and few Kenyans had heard about the two nurses whose fortunes seemed endless. In addition to their lavish lifestyles, they had five properties in the US and operated 40 bank accounts.

The US government now claims that the two Kenyans swindled Boston state out of \$100 million (Sh12 billion) in healthcare fraud. They are alleged to have paid kickbacks to obtain referrals and retain patients over a five-year period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The court papers say that Newton was part-owner and operator of Arbor Homecare Services LLC, while Waruru was a licensed practical nurse. On paper, Waruru was employed by Arbor Care Homecare Services, but, according to court records, she was more than that.

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

To get more money, they are said to have entered into sham employment relationships with family members of MassHealth patients and purported to provide unnecessary medical care, billed as visits. For example, Arbor would reimburse a relative staying with a relative member for fictitious nurse visits in a scheme that went undetected between January 2013 and January 2017. It would then make claims to MassHealth.

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

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

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

According to the prosecutor, Arbor, through Newton and others, developed employment relationships with patients relatives who purported to offer services. They would also pay kickbacks for patient referrals, regardless of medical necessity requirements, in a scheme that saw Arbors income run into millions. By entering into sham employment relationships with patients family members, according to the prosecution, it was easy for Arbor to purport to provide home health aide services that were not medically necessary and routinely billed for fictitious visits that did not occur.

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

Read: Kenyan sisters who scammed American taxpayers out of millions



How two Kenyan nurses swindled Boston state out of Sh12 billion

John Kamau / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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



UDM legislators protest Registrars move linking them to Azimio

Justus Ochieng' / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also Read: Why the 13th Parliament is unique

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

End of UDM legislators protest Registrars move linking them to Azimio



Sudi, President Rutos power broker

Onyango K'Onyango / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also Read: Rutos meteoric rise to become Kenyas fifth President

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Ruto seems to trust the lawmaker when it comes to business dealings, something that Mr Sudi will now do freely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also Read: Ruto must rein in lynch mobs

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



News

Sudi, President Rutos power broker

Onyango K'Onyango / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also Read: Mr Fix it - Power behind the throne

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

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

End of Sudi, President Rutos power broker



Tighten your belts: DP Gachagua on arresting high cost of living

Onyango K'Onyango / Monday, September 19, 2022

Kenyans will have to tighten their belts for hard economic times for long after it emerged that the government is broke worsening the current high cost of living.

Despite unveiling a juicy manifesto on June 30 and making flowery promises on the campaign trails, President William Ruto has been hit with the economic reality of the country, throwing him into disarray as far as implementation of his pledges are concerned.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has come out to plead with Kenyans to be patient with the Kenya Kwanza administration as it finds a way to arrest the high cost of living which they had promised to tackle immediately after being sworn-in.

According to the countrys second in command, the administration of Uhuru Kenyatta handed them a dilapidated economy with the National Treasury having no money to enable them move with speed to implement their campaign promises within 100 days in office.

We have inherited a dilapidated economy. We have found empty coffers. There is barely any money in this country and we are starting from scratch. I have asked the people of Kenya to be patient with us because we have a plan but it cannot be immediate because we have found a bad situation in terms of the economy, said Mr Gachagua on Sunday during an interview with NTV.

Also Read: Rutos campaign promises headache

He added: When we were campaigning, we didnt know that the situation was so bad until we came to the government, we got the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary with his officials and provided us with the balance sheet to see how we look, we found the stores were empty.

The DP described the countrys economic situation as very bad saying that if President Ruto had not taken bold steps to suspend the fuel subsidy, the situation could have worsened further.

The situation is very bad. With the previous administration having gone on the way they were going with fuel subsidies, another six months, we would have had an economic shutdown. That is why the President took a very bold decision that the fuel subsidy using Sh20 billion every month was not sustainable, said Mr Gachagua, adding that the tax the government collects now goes into paying salaries.

The revelation by the countrys second in command means that Kenyans will have to wait longer to know whether the current regime will make life easier for them or the situation will deteriorate further.

Dr Ruto during the campaigns touted initiatives targeting the poor, women, youth, small-scale traders and incentives for manufacturing, agriculture and other key economic drivers.

Also Read: Why you are paying more than your neighbour for tokens

Within his first 100 days in office, Dr Ruto pledged to arrest the high cost of living and establish a Sh50 billion Hustlers Fund but with the current situation, the timelines of fulfilling these promises will have to change.

Despite lowering the cost of fertilizer to Sh3500 per 50-kilograms bag, this is contrary to the campaign pledge of Sh2500 with agricultural experts arguing that productivity cannot increase with cheap fertilizer and expensive fuels.

In the latest monthly review by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra), Super Petrol is up by Sh20.18 to retail at Sh179.30 per litre in Nairobi.

Diesel is up by Sh25 to retail at Sh165.00 per litre while Kerosene is up by Sh20 to retail at Sh147.94 per litre.

But Mr Gachagua argued that subsidizing production is beneficial to consumers unlike in consumption where there is no return noting that their economic interventions will work out.

You subsidise fertilizer to increase maize production to lower the cost of unga. That is pragmatic leadership but just saying that you want to subsidize unga, for how long can you do it? It is not sustainable and you are doing it at the expense of development, he said.

I want to tell the people of Kenya that all is not lost. We have now a new President who knows what he is doing. We have a President who is willing to sit down and get good advice from economists and other professionals. Right now, there is no money at the Treasury, in another two-three months, Kenyans will start seeing things picking up, already we



Tighten your belts: DP Gachagua on arresting high cost of living

Onyango K'Onyango / Monday, September 19, 2022

have 1.4 million bags of fertilizer ready for the short rains, he added.

The DP said they are on top of the things by looking for permanent solutions arguing that it would be deceptive to continue subsidizing everything while at the end the situation gets out of hand.

We are looking for a permanent and sustainable solution, it would be deceptive to continue subsidizing the fuel only for a short while and have an economic shutdown.

Also Read: Household budgets to face a squeeze as electricity costs surge

We know that we promised to bring the cost of food down, but we have not broken those promises. We are on it. It may not be as fast as we may have wanted, because we really did not know the real position at the National Treasury, DP Gachagua said.

He also assured Kenyans that the tax agency will no longer criminalise their businesses but rather be friendly as an impetus to the culture of paying taxes.

We have been talking to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and we have told them that we must agree on how to change our tax regime. We must be friendly to the taxpayers so that we collect more voluntarily. Let us not criminalise tax collection. Progressively, we are going to have an increase in the tax collection and increase production of our agricultural communities and in another 90-100 days, the economy will start feeling the effects of good management, said DP Gachagua.

The DP said the Kenya Kwanza is focused on digitalizing the tax collection in order to seal the loopholes which leads to shortfalls in the collection.

We are going to go digital with our taxes so that we seal the loopholes and pilferage. The tax collectors must have proactive engagements with the taxpayers so that people know it is their responsibility to pay taxes and where they have challenges, it is not criminalized, said Mr Gachagua

Both Dr Ruto and Mr Gachagua have marshalled his troops in Parliament to rally around their agenda in the just concluded retreat in Naivasha over the weekend.

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

End of Tighten your belts: DP Gachagua on arresting high cost of living



What it takes to remove IEBC commissioners from office

Kevin Cheruiyot / Monday, September 19, 2022

Four dissenting electoral commission officials are facing rough times ahead as petitioners seek their removal from office.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) commissioners Vice Chairperson Juliana Cherera, Francis Wanderi, Justus Ngangaya and Irene Cheron Masit drew the countrys attention when they rejected the presidential election results.

They staged a walk-out from the national tallying center, Bomas of Kenya, minutes before IEBC chair Wafula Chebukati announced the presidential results.

Also Read: Inside the raging war at polls agency IEBC

Former Principal Secretary Irungu Nyakera-led Farmers Party has since filed a petition in Parliament to execute the commissioners ouster plan.

Garissa Township MP Aden Duale has also set to file his petition.

Article 251(1) of the Constitution states that a member of a commission (other than an ex officio member), or the holder of an independent office, may be removed from office only for a serious violation of this Constitution or any other law, including a contravention of Chapter Six, gross misconduct, whether in the performance of the members or office holders functions or otherwise, physical or mental incapacity to perform the functions of office, incompetence, or bankruptcy.

In its petition, the Farmers Party wants the four to be removed from office in accordance with Article 251, and 88 on grounds of serious violation of the Constitution.

Also Read: Ruto team goes after four IEBC dissenters

Also, two lawyers have taken their petition to Parliament seeking the removal of the four commissioners.

Removal process

The process of the removal of the commissioner starts the moment the petition has been received by the National Assembly Clerk, and stamped as received by the assemblies Main Records Unit.

The next step will be for a motion to be mentioned and debated before the National Assembly. During the determination of the petition, the simple majority number of MPs is required to move the petition to the president.

Also Read: Four breakaway IEBC officials change tune

Upon receiving the petition from the Parliament, the president will either suspend the commissioner being questioned pending the outcome of the complaint, or appoint a tribunal that will probe the member.

The tribunal shall investigate the matter expeditiously, report on the facts and make a binding recommendation to the President, who shall act in accordance with the recommendation within 30 days.

If the member or members are removed from office, in accordance with the tribunals recommendations, they will still be entitled to continue to receive one-half of the remuneration and benefits of the office while suspended.

The president shall thereafter publish a notice of a vacancy in the Gazette within seven days of suspension.

End of What it takes to remove IEBC commissioners from office



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

Kennedy Kimanthi / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Ms Cherera.

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

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

Read: Four breakaway IEBC officials change tune

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

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

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

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



News

Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II | Nation

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

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

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

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

Also read;

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

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

Five things to know about the queen's coffin procession

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

Ruto flies out in maiden trip as Head of State

National mourning highlights Queens personal popularity

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

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

A monarch of contradictions, but above all an impressive woman

Queen Elizabeth must be smiling up yonder due to Safaris success

King Charles III faces a home-front reshuffle

Its because of Queen Elizabeth that the iconic Safari Rally exists

End of Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II | Nation



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

David Mwere / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social protection

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

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

Read: Ruto's tough balancing act on Cabinet

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

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

Read: Key faces eyeing William Ruto's Cabinet positions

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

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

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

Two offices

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

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



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

David Mwere / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Already lapsed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



News

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

David Mwere / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

Big Four Agenda

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

This effectively diminished DP Rutos roles in the Kenyatta Cabinet.

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

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

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



More by-elections loom as MPs eye Cabinet positions

Onyango K'Onyango / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read: Ruto's tough balancing act on Cabinet

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

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

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



Sibling rivalry: Mudavadi, Wetangula fight for third in command

Oscar Obonyo / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read: Wetangula wins Speaker race after Marende concedes

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

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

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

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

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

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

Exciting battle ahead

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

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

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

Read: Ruto's tough balancing act on Cabinet

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

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

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

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

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



Sibling rivalry: Mudavadi, Wetangula fight for third in command

Oscar Obonyo / Monday, September 19, 2022

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

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

Read: ANC nominates Mudavadi for Prime Cabinet Secretary position

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

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

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

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

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

Campaign pledges

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Sunday Nation Team / Sunday, September 18, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

Oversight committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read: Cracks emerge in Azimio over House leadership

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

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

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

Lucrative positions



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

Sunday Nation Team / Sunday, September 18, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read: MPs retreat to share House leadership

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

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

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

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

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

Regional balance

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



News

Ruto flies out in maiden trip as Head of State

Mercy Chelangat / Sunday, September 18, 2022

President William Ruto leaves the country on first trip abroad

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

John Kamau / Sunday, September 18, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gwladys Lady Delamere, the Mayor of Nairobi in 1935.

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

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

Governor Griggs

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

Read: Kenya's lengthy dalliance with Queen Elizabeth II

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



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

John Kamau / Sunday, September 18, 2022

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

Read: Britain's Prince Louis christened without Queen

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

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

Passed the vote

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

Read: Out with the old: The history Kenya rejected

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

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

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

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

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

State House gardens parties

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

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



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

John Kamau / Sunday, September 18, 2022

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

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

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

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

 Twitter: @johnkamau1

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



President William Ruto readies House troops for radical reform agenda

Macharia Mwangi / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Ruto readies House troops for radical reform agenda

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read: Cracks emerge in Azimio over House leadership

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

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

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

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



Hurdles in President Ruto's journey to fulfil promises

Nation Team / Sunday, September 18, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

Juicy promises

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

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

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

Read: President Ruto's pledges to Kenyans

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

Lack of CBK guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

Credit history

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

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

Read: Huge expectations as Ruto tenure begins with goodies

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



Hurdles in President Ruto's journey to fulfil promises

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Additional taxes coming

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

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

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

Eliminate subsidies

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

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

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

Read: IMF's bitter pill for Uhuru successor

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

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

Liquidity challenges

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

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

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

Public debt

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

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

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

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



Hurdles in President Ruto's journey to fulfil promises

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Hustlers fund

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

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

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

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

Clear road map

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

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

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

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

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

Port operations

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

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

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

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

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

Read: Sahrawi gaffe hands Ruto first diplomatic dilemma

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

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

Go slow on some declarations

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



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

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

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

Budget approval

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

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

Reporting by Peter Mburu, Moses Nyamori and Samwel Owino

End of Hurdles in President Rutos journey to fulfil promises



Counties

Murkomens Cabinet talk sparks campaigns for his Senate seat

Fred Kibor / Monday, September 19, 2022

Unofficial campaigns have kicked off in Elgeyo Marakwet following reports that Senator Kipchumba Murkomen could be headed to President William Ruto's Cabinet.

Talk that Mr Murkomen is earmarked for an executive slot in the Kenya Kwanza government has sparked excitement in the county, with several aspirants unofficially declaring their intentions to succeed him.

On Saturday, the Kenya Kwanza parliamentary group unveiled its proposed National Assembly and Senate leadership and Mr Murkomen, who previously served as majority leader in the latter House, was not on the list.

Locals had anticipated that he would be named majority leader, and the omission heightened speculation that President Ruto may have more for him in his Cabinet lineup.

And even before the official Cabinet list is unveiled, unofficial campaigns have started in earnest, with a dozen aspirants seeking to replace the outspoken senator, who is serving his third term.

Dr William Ruto (centre), accompanied by Elgeyo Marakwet Senator Kipchumba Murkomen third (left), other leaders during a Kenya Kwanza Alliance rally at Iten Stadium in Iten, Elgeyo Marakwet County on July 25, 2022.

Although Mr Murkomen has remained tight-lipped on the matter, only saying let's wait when asked for comment, social media forums are already awash with campaign posters and portraits of aspirants who want to succeed the senator.

Mr Thomas Karamai, a political strategist in Elgeyo Marakwet, said a by-election was just a matter of time.

We are sure that our senator is headed to the Cabinet, and when it happens, I shall be pushing and backing the candidature of Jackson Kiptanui (former Keiyo South MP) to replace Mr Murkomen, he said.

Mr Kiptanui is among aspirants eyeing Mr Murkomen's seat.

Another is lawyer Hillary Kiprop Marrirmoi, who was part of Dr Ruto's legal team when the Supreme Court heard the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya petition that challenged his win in the August 9 presidential race.

Mr Marrirmoi, who was trounced by Mr Murkomen in the elections, is keen to succeed him if a by-election is called.

Other aspirants are former Marakwet West MP William Kisang, Soy North Ward Rep Jonah Tanui, Mr Eliud Lorpesa and Mr Tim Kipchumba, an author and a mentor.

I am interested to hear what you think about my interest. It is still very early on this decision but curious what you honestly think, Mr Kipchumba wrote on social media.

Constructive comments and criticisms, messages of support, early volunteers welcome! You can do this publicly and privately.

End of Murkomens Cabinet talk sparks campaigns for his Senate seat



Counties

How I will ensure devolution succeeds: Anne Waiguru on plans for CoG

Justus Ochieng' / Monday, September 19, 2022

The new Council of Governors (CoG) Chairperson Anne Waiguru has committed to push for increased budgetary allocation to county governments to ensure smooth running of the devolved units.

The second-term Kirinyaga Governor who was on Saturday named the first female chairperson of the council, in an exclusive interview with the Nation, said she will work in consultation with other governors and stakeholders to firmly negotiate for increasing this allocation to 35 percent or more as we collaborate with the national government to deliver its manifesto to Kenyans.

Ms Waiguru also vowed to strive to ensure a harmonious working relationship between governors and their deputies.

To reduce conflicts between governors and their deputies, there is need for defined roles for deputy governors while they work alongside their bosses.

As it is now, some governors have figured it out to have their deputies taking up executive committee roles where they run specific departments.

Others have had pre-election power-sharing agreements. There is need for consultative deliberations on the issue with the aim of coming up with a uniform working formula, Ms Waiguru said.

Read: The Governor: And now a toast to Her Excellency

This is what she had to say regarding her vision as she takes over the office previously held by former governors Isaack Ruto (Bomet), Peter Munya (Meru), Josphat Nanok (Turkana) and Wycliffe Oparanya (Kakamega).

How do you feel being the first female chair of the CoG?

I am honoured and delighted to be entrusted with this role by my colleagues. This, coming at the back of the election of twice the number of female governors by Kenyans, demonstrates that the nation is prime for women in various leadership roles across the board. I am committed to working with the council to deliver its mandate of offering better governance and outcome driven services in the counties.

What informed your candidature for CoG chair post?

Being a second-term governor and having worked with the national government at very senior levels, I felt that I bring with me first-hand knowledge and experience as far as devolution is concerned. That blend of experience is important in navigating through the two levels of governance.

Whats your vision for the council?

As the third generation of county governments, I envision the CoG delivering the full spirit of the devolution dream as captured in the constitution and affirmed by the past nine years of the devolved sectors impact on Kenyans lives. We will collaborate and mentor each other to strengthen the implementation of the various county manifestos and the national government macro-economic goals for the benefit of mwananchi.

How do you plan to steer CoG to achieve its mandate?

One of the critical achievements I would like to institute is the anchoring of the CoGs Secretariat in law. We have critical committees within the council, chaired by my colleagues, that I believe are at the heart of championing, harmonising, standardising and elevating the potential impact of policies to citizens. Stronger collaboration with the national government to ensure effectiveness is very critical for CoG. I believe that this, among other strategies, will keep us focused on delivering our mandate.

Read: How Gichugu votes saved Waiguru from Ngiricis onslaught

Do you think devolution has achieved its intent?

Devolution has to a very great extent achieved its mandate even though there is still a lot that needs to be done to achieve the full intended gains. Many of our counties have achieved tremendous development milestones in the various devolved services.

We are not anywhere near where we were 10 years ago when it comes to areas such as health, agriculture, value addition, rural transport network, water and sanitation as well as provision of conducive infrastructure to enable investment even in the hinterlands. We have seen many counties construct bridges connecting people across rivers and markets, and the development of urban economic plans in most of our counties.



Counties

How I will ensure devolution succeeds: Anne Waiguru on plans for CoG

Justus Ochieng' / Monday, September 19, 2022

What measures do you plan to put in place to ensure it achieves what the framers of the constitution intended it to achieve?

I intend to work closely with the sectoral committees to support governors in framing, implementing and monitoring development policies that will deliver the devolution spirit of our constitution. This includes ensuring that there is the delivery of critical services such as health, agriculture, housing, water, hygiene and sanitation, education and youth employment as well as land ownership.

I will also lead firm negotiations with the national government on the issue of resources, their disbursement and increased allocation and fully devolving functions according to the constitution.

How do you intend to enhance capacity-building for governors to ensure no county lags behind in terms of achievements in the devolved units?

The overarching priority in the CoGs five-year strategic plan (2022-2027) is to promote good governance at the county level, strengthen the institutional capacity of county governments to deliver on their mandates, foster robust intergovernmental relations and improve the policy and legislative environment for devolution. We will have multiple programmes for county governments to participate in with great focus on the counties that need more technical support.

There has been bad blood between governors and MCAs and senators in the past 10 years, which has been linked to poor service delivery in some counties. How do you plan to ensure harmony to achieve counties development agenda?

To enhance harmonious relationships among governors, MCAs and senators, we will strive to ensure that all parties understand their roles and responsibilities so that none of them will be accused of overstepping. This can be done through sensitisation of all the parties from time to time. It is also important that there is transparency in the conduct of all public affairs by all parties to build trust.

Do you think senators and MCAs have achieved their targets in terms of offering checks and balances to the devolved administration?

Senators and MCAs have been instrumental in improving the implementation of devolution through checks and balances. It is only by questioning and challenging some of the methods and initial experiments that we have had nine years of incremental improvement. Like in any other institutions, organisation politics sometimes gets in the way of delivery to mwananchi. Heightened internal and external political interests have in some instances derailed the implementation of various programmes.

What, in your view, needs to be done to achieve this?

There is need for continuous capacity building for devolved political players in how best they can play their oversight roles without crippling the executive and the collective devolution mandate, which is access to services and participation by the citizens in government. We may also need to sensitise citizens to understand the representative roles and mandates of the political players in delivering devolution. Information and understanding are the key to unlocking the full potential of devolved representation.

What, in your view, is the reason why some counties haven't achieved much of their mandates?

Devolution, by design, is meant to resolve nuanced local economic and service challenges. Some of these challenges are geographical, political, economic and so on. There is no one glove that fits all and that is the key reason we had to devolve as a country.

The initial nine years have been a steep learning curve for many counties and that is why the institution of CoG has to be supported as a peer platform for horizontal growth. Devolutions success is our collective mandate, and we are only as strong as our weakest county. We will continue to internally interrogate and improve outcomes in all counties in strong collaboration with their elected leadership.

How can this be addressed to ensure all counties realise and enjoy the fruits of devolution?

Citizen advocacy is very critical through the journey of devolution. Civic education should be continuously carried out in areas of public participation, expectations, accountability frameworks, citizen reporting and voter education. There is need for people to carry out their oversight role and demand service delivery.

What's your take in terms of the gradual increase in the number of female governors elected?



Counties

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The election of seven women governors is a great milestone for democratic representation. Women are half of the population in Kenya and not having 50 per cent of them in leadership positions is a great disservice. We are slowly realising and fixing that. The onus is on us too as women elected leaders to deliver twice as much and demonstrate our capacity as leaders. We recognise that we have to fight harder, be firmer and hold each others hand as we bring more women into leadership. Where are they? Is a question that should not keep coming up.

What is your target at the end of your service at CoG and as governor of Kirinyaga?

My target is to ensure that there is timely disbursement of funds to the counties and that no county is left behind when it comes to delivering their mandate. I will also ensure that there is strengthened collaboration and consultation among the counties, national government and other stakeholders.

As governor of Kirinyaga County, we have lined up a lot of development initiatives that we plan to implement. We are building on the foundation that we laid five years ago through our county development blueprint, The Mountain Cities 2032 Blue Print, from which we have derived the various programmes that we have been implementing.

Whats your parting shot?

My parting shot is to my fellow governors: Let us all strive to deliver on what we promised our people when we sought their votes. We will be held accountable for what goes on in our counties within the next five years. Lets get to work and prove to them that they did not make a mistake when they chose us.

Read also: Mt Kenya basks in glory after getting 3 women governors

End of How I will ensure devolution succeeds: Anne Waiguru on plans for CoG



Counties

Man: KDF officers on patrol in Likoni dislocated my shoulder

Farhiya Hussein / Monday, September 19, 2022

A man in Mombasa is nursing a dislocated shoulder after an encounter with security officers on patrol.

Mr Pharis Oguna is seeking justice and alleges that he was beaten up by Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) soldiers on the night of August 12.

I was from watching a football game at the Breeze Lounge in Likoni. On my way home while riding my motorbike, one of the KDF officers pointed me out, Mr Oguna said.

In turn, I asked what the problem was, but the officer stopped me and started beating me up with a stick (rungu). I ignored it and proceeded to go home.

He said he then saw a KDF vehicle following him. He parked his motorbike on the side of the road to allow them to pass. But they blocked him, got out of the vehicle and started beating him.

I screamed, asking them what wrong I had done. They claimed my mistake was having my motorbike lights on. They demanded an answer while using their Taser gun on me, Mr Oguna alleged.

The 36-year-old man said he was left weeping on the roadside after the officers broke his motorbike.

They kept asking me if I had seen the number plate of the vehicle they were using. They then broke the lights on my motorbike to ensure I could not see anything driving home. There were roughly five to six of them and had covered their faces, Mr Oguna said.

He is nursing a broken right arm in an attack that he said could have cost his life.

The father of two is a skilled welder, a job that he said provided for him and his family.

The motorbike was my mode of transport. I work as a welder to provide for my family and this is now a challenge because my right hand cannot carry anything heavy. With the current hand-to-mouth economy, how am I supposed to provide for my family? he said.

He reported the incident on the same day at the Shelly Beach Police Station under OB/12/14/08/2022. On Monday, police investigating the matter were reluctant to comment on the issue.

I am asking for justice, because I went to inquire about the matter at the Mtongwe Navy Base and was chased. The police have also remained mum on the issue since I reported it, he said.

What am I supposed to do with a dislocated hand? I cannot work, where will I get the money for my medical care? Are we animals? Why do they do this?

Mr Oguna said a passerby helped him when he found him lying on the roadside with injuries.

End of Man: KDF officers on patrol in Likoni dislocated my shoulder



Counties

Governor Achani lobbying for Cabinet positions for Coast leaders

Winnie Atieno / Monday, September 19, 2022

Lobbying for government appointments for Coast Kenya Kwanza leaders who lost the August 9 polls has intensified, with supporters claiming they delivered what the party wanted.

Kwale Governor Fatuma Achani has urged President William Ruto to reward the politicians with posts for standing by him and delivering votes.

Ms Achani said former Kwale governor Salim Mvurya, and former MPs Aisha Jumwa (Malindi), Benjamin Tayari (Kinango) and Khatib Mwashetani (Lunga Lungu) are among the leaders that deserve state appointments.

Mr Mvurya, who served two terms, was President Ruto's Coast region point man.

Ms Jumwa sought the Kilifi governors seat but lost to Gideon Mungaro (ODM). Mr Tayari lost to Gonzi Rai of the Pamoja African Alliance (PAA), while Mr Mwashetani was dislodged by Mangale Chiforomodo of the United Democratic Movement.

We thank President Ruto for keeping his word to the Coast region. He had promised this region the Senate speaker's seat, which was awarded to former Kilifi governor Amason Kingi. We have high expectations from the Kenya Kwanza alliance government, Ms Achani said.

Meanwhile, Governor Achani blamed the lack of drugs in public facilities in Kwale County on supply delays at the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (Kemsas).

Ms Achani also blamed the long campaign and election period.

But she assured Kwale residents that her government will expedite the procurement of essential medicines and other supplies.

In an interview with a Mombasa radio station, Ms Achani said Kemsas services should be streamlined to ensure counties get medical supplies on time.

Many dispensaries are grappling with an acute shortage of drugs but it is because of the long political period that Kemsas was unable to supply us with medical commodities. But we have already paid Kemsas and anytime soon they will supply our hospitals with drugs, she said.

Ms Achani said governors are also discussing drug supply challenges at Kemsas during the ongoing Council of Governors meeting in Mombasa.

Sometimes counties pay Kemsas on time but are unable to be supplied with drugs. For instance, Kwale does not have any Kemsas debt, but we are grappling with delays in supplies. We are discussing if Kemsas should be the only organisation to supply us with medical essentials, she added.

She added that cooperation between the national government and counties will streamline services.

She said she will focus on health, agriculture and education. In agriculture, she pledged to build dams for irrigation and to provide water for livestock.

She also said she will hire more health workers for the counties more than 150 health facilities.

She warned medics against absconding from duty, urging residents to reach out to relevant authorities if they do not find health workers at their workstations.

We have many hospitals but there is a shortage of health workers and that's why we want to employ more. Kwale has a lot of drought-stricken areas, but dams will provide a permanent solution, she added.

Kwale residents should access safe and clean drinking water. I will also focus on roads to boost connectivity.

She urged youths to focus on agriculture and business instead of wanting to rely on formal employment.

We are available to help you focus on agriculture and business. Come to our offices, we have experts to help you go about the two areas, she said.

Others eyeing national appointments include Hassan Omar (UDA), who sought the Mombasa governors seat but lost to ODMs Abdulswamad Nassir, who won with 119,083 votes against Mr Omars 98,105.

Tana Rivers Hussein Dado (UDA) lost to incumbent Dhadho Godhana (ODM), who won 26,633 votes against the formers 26,892.

Former Kisauni MP Ali Mbogo, who was promised the Lands Cabinet secretary position, is also eyeing a national



Counties

Governor Achani lobbying for Cabinet positions for Coast leaders

Winnie Atieno / Monday, September 19, 2022

appointment.

Mr Mbogo was Mike Sonkos running mate for the Mombasa governors seat. Mr Sonkos party was promised the Lands portfolio after ditching the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya alliance and joining President Rutos Kenya Kwanza.

Mr Sonko had shelved his gubernatorial ambition after the High Court dismissed his applications seeking to quash the revocation of his clearance for the Mombasa race.

Mr Mbogo and Mr Sonko defected to Kenya Kwanza, citing frustrations from powerful individuals who they claimed blocked their bid for governor. They campaigned for Mr Omar.

Mr Sonko, who was promised a CS in the national government, three principal secretaries and four ambassadorial positions in a memorandum of understanding with the Ruto-led alliance, said Mr Mbogo is being frustrated because he defected from Wiper to join him under Kenya Kwanza.

End of Governor Achani lobbying for Cabinet positions for Coast leaders



Counties

Bungomas Mr Moneybags' ditches Raila for Wetangula in Senate race

Brian Ojamaa / Monday, September 19, 2022

Flamboyant Bungoma politician Moses Nandalwe, popularly known locally as Mr Moneybags, has ditched Azimio One Kenya presidential candidate Raila Odingas Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) for Moses Wetangulas Ford Kenya in the Bungoma senatorial race.

Mr Nandalwe is eyeing the seat that fell vacant after Mr Wetangula landed the National Assembly Speakers post.

Others who have shown interest in the seat are Democratic Action Party-Kenya (DAP-K) leader and former Kanduyi MP Wafula Wamunyinyi, businessman and farmer Lendrix Waswa of Mutengene Resort, Mr Wetangulas long-serving aide Wafula Wakoli and Mr Jacob Machacha, a former aspirant for the seat.

Also read: Sibling rivalry: Mudavadi, Wetangula fight for third in command

Mr Nandalwe, a three-time unlucky parliamentary aspirant for Sirisia constituency, told Nation.Africa that he decided to vie for the coveted seat after consultations with delegations from across the county.

I have been receiving delegations from various factions across Bungoma County persuading me to represent the people of Bungoma in the Senate, he said.

The 35-year-old politician was a student leader at the University of Nairobi.

He said he has talked to his former boss, Mr Odinga, about his move and why he decided to run under Ford Kenya.

Flamboyant and philanthropic

Mr Nandalwe is locally known for his flamboyance and philanthropic tendencies, often dishing out cash to voters. He is riding on his development record in Sirisia constituency through the Nandalwe Foundation, which he feels has endeared him to residents.

Many of them want me to extend my charity activities to the other regions of Bungoma and that can be achieved best if I am elected senator, he said.

He offers free ambulance services to residents and has set up an ICT centre for the youth, women and youth programmes under his foundation and school bursaries.

But he says he understands that joining Ford Kenya after ditching ODM does not guarantee him an automatic party nomination

I know Ford Kenya is where I started and I am just coming back to pick from where I started and will be open to the party nomination process, he said.

Odinga 'victim'

Mr Nandalwe lost his bid for the seat to Mr John Waluke of Jubilee in the August 9 elections, but he claimed he was a victim of Bungoma residents anger against Mr Odinga and it had nothing to do with him personally.

We all know that the people of Bungoma wanted to punish Mr Odinga because they wrongly believed he had a hand in [a failed attempt to oust Mr Wetangula] as Ford Kenya party leader," he said.

When residents voted to punish Mr Odinga, there was no [other choice] but to become a casualty for vying on his ODM party, and I respect the peoples voice.

If he feels dissatisfied with the Ford Kenya nomination process, he said, he can run as an independent candidate.

The politician said he supports Mr Wetangula and Bungoma Governor Ken Lusaka.

End of Bungomas Mr Moneybags' ditches Raila for Wetangula in Senate race



Counties

Governors Achani, Mung'aro and Dhadho face election petitions

Brian Ocharo / Monday, September 19, 2022

Three governors from the Coast will have to defend their victories after petitions were filed in court to have their elections nullified over malpractices.

Ms Fatuma Achani (Kwale), Gideon Mungaro (Kilifi) and Dhadho Godhana of Tana River have been taken to court over the outcome of the August 9 polls, in which they were declared winners.

The petition against Mr Mungaro has been filed by voters Justin Ringa, Charo Baya and Salim Chai at the High Court in Malindi.

Mr Hussein Tuneya Dado has filed the petition against Mr Dhadho at the High Court in Garsen, while Dziwe Pala and Suleiman Ali have filed against Ms Achani at the High Court in Mombasa.

Mr Mungaro of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) garnered 143,773 votes against Ms Aisha Jumwas 65,893.

Ms Jumwa, a former Malindi MP, was the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) candidate and Mungaros main competitor.

Mr Dhadho, who defended his seat on an ODM ticket, scooped 26,829 votes against this closest competitor and first governor, Mr Dado of UDA, who got 26,633 votes.

Ms Achani of UDA garnered 59,674 votes against Hamadi Boga (ODM), who had 53,972 votes.

Mr Pala and Mr Ali said in a detailed petition against Ms Achani that the Kwale gubernatorial polls were marred by voter bribery and other electoral malpractices.

They want Ms Achanis election nullified, noting that she was not validly elected, citing massive irregularities and intimidation.

They have instead asked the court to order the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to declare Mr Boga as the validly elected governor.

They allege that ward administrators were used to visit voters at their homes and unduly influence them to support Ms Achanis bid by instilling fear.

End of Governors Achani, Mung'aro and Dhadho face election petitions



Counties

Police launch probe after mans body is found on Uhuru Highway

Nyaboga Kiage / Monday, September 19, 2022

Police in Nairobi on Monday, September 19, 2022, launched investigations after a body of a man was found dumped in the Central Business District.

The body of the unknown man was found along the busy Uhuru Highway by members of the public who reported the matter.

Read: How two Kenyan nurses swindled Boston state out of Sh12 billion

It was reported by members of the public that there was a dead body of a man aged about 30 years lying in a trench along Uhuru Highway opposite View Park. Police from Central Police Station then rushed to the scene, a police report read in part.

The officers say that they found the body with multiple injuries on the back and head.

The police believe that the man might have been killed elsewhere and the body dumped inside the trench on the busy Uhuru Highway since there was no sign of struggle.

The scene was photographed and (body) moved to City Mortuary awaiting an autopsy and identification, the report further read.

This comes barely four days after the bodies of two missing brothers were found dumped beneath a bridge in the Joska area.

Mr Johnson Karuga, 26, and his brother Kelvin Kimani, 24, went missing after they were last seen alive on the night of September 4, 2022, at a local club in the Kamulu area.

Day they went missing

Mr Joseph Kimani, the father of the two brothers said that the family had been searching for the duo since the day they went missing.

I am told that my two sons went missing after enjoying drinks at a club in Kamulu. I was shocked when I was told that their bodies had been found dumped in Joska, said Mr Kimani.

According to the father, the phones of the two brothers went off almost at the same time and the family was disturbed by what was happening.

The bodies of the two young men were discovered by locals beneath a bridge in the Joska area a week after they were reported missing.

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

It is then that they alerted the police who rushed to the scene and took the bodies to the City Mortuary in Langata, Nairobi County.

We were then alerted by the police to go and identify the two bodies at the City Mortuary only to find that they were the ones, said Mr Kimani.

He wondered why someone would want to end the lives of the two brothers who he described as being close.

The family then transferred the bodies of the two brothers from City Mortuary and took them to Tigoni Hospital in Limuru, Kiambu County.

End of Police launch probe after mans body is found on Uhuru Highway



Counties

Police hunt for Kedong ranch weekend invaders

Macharia Mwangi / Monday, September 19, 2022

Police in Naivasha are looking for several people who led the invasion of the privately owned Kedong ranch in Naivasha at the weekend.

The trespassers cut a chain link fence before being repulsed by police, said Deputy County Commissioner Kisilu Mutua. Before they were chased away, the intruders had destroyed at least 20 metres of the perimeter fence, Mr Mutua said. He blamed the incident on incitement, saying people aggrieved in the ownership dispute, which is now in court, should wait for the outcome.

The matter is pending in the corridors of justice and we should not let the rule of the jungle take reign. We are looking for the masterminds of the invasion and we have their names, Mr Mutua added.

On the campaign trail in Narok, Dr William Ruto, now President, waded into the controversial Kedong ranch land ownership tussle, promising to address the historical dispute if elected.

Just like we were able to address the issue of Mau, we are also going to fully resolve the issue of Kedong ranch, he told supporters at the historic Suswa grounds.

He said Kenya Kwanza was committed to resolving land issues in Kenya.

We want the rightful owners of Kedong ranch to be given back their land. The rights of the people of this county should be protected, he said.

He criticised the move to award some of the locals 4,000 acres of the land, arguing this was not enough and that the people of Narok should be fully involved in the allocation.

Indigenous members of the Maasai community have been claiming ownership of the vast farm, citing historical injustices.

Some of them have sought restitution but efforts to resolve the matter have been futile.

Mr Kisilu said the invaders took advantage of the change of guard at State House to target the ranch, warning that such lawlessness would not be tolerated.

Community members claim the land was sold without their consent in 1950.

End of Police hunt for Kedong ranch weekend invaders



Counties

Nema alarmed by plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean

Siago Cece / Monday, September 19, 2022

The National Environmental Management Authority (Nema) has raised concern over increased dumping of waste in the Indian Ocean and areas near beaches.

Speaking in Diani while marking the International Coastal Clean-up Day, Nema board chairperson Eric Mungai said ocean pollution is a global threat to fisheries and marine life.

The official stated that sea debris and marine pollutants directly endangers the marine ecosystem.

We are alarmed by the amount of litter that is both in the ocean and on land. We are proposing to have a day every month for cleaning our beaches and areas surrounding them so that we are proud of a clean country, Mr Mungai.

By doing so, Mr Mungai said, Kenya will be emulating countries like Rwanda which conducts monthly clean-ups and gets recognized globally as a clean country.

The initiative will involve the public, including schoolchildren, in frequent beach cleanup campaigns.

During the Diani beach clean-up, close to a tonne of garbage was collected. A similar exercise was carried out in Ukunda town.

According to Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) Director General James Njiru, the institute's findings show that 37,000 metric tonnes of plastic get into the Indian ocean annually.

This has caused death of marine animals such as fish and turtles as result of suffocation from plastics.

This is even worrying because 80 per cent of that plastic usually comes from inland areas. It requires a behaviour change for Kenyans to prevent this because it is a big threat to our natural resources, Mr Njiru said.

The official lauded youth who he said are taking up innovative challenges to reduce plastic pollution, urging the government to develop awards for the cleanest cities in the country.

End of Nema alarmed by plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean



Counties

Ex-Laikipia governor Muriithi faces jail time for contempt of court

Mercy Mwende / Monday, September 19, 2022

Former Laikipia governor Ndiritu Muriithi is facing a six-month civil jail term or a fine for defying court orders that required him to reinstate 35 doctors he fired in 2019.

Nyeri Employment and Labour Relations Court Judge Njagi Marete ruled that Mr Muriithi should be sentenced alongside 13 county government officials after being found in contempt of court related to orders issued on July 19, 2021.

In the case filed last month by the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), Justice Marete found Mr Muriithi in contempt alongside former county secretary Karanja Njora, Finance executive Boniface Murungi and his chief officer, Health executive Rose Maitai and her chief officer, the payroll manager and the entire County Public Service Board (CPSB).

He ordered the former officials to appear in the court on October 13 for sentencing.

The sentence will be meted upon each of the summoned persons, who will also be expected to present themselves personally in open court, the judge ruled.

In the matter, the Laikipia County government and the CPSB are accused of disobeying Justice Maretes directive last year that ordered the immediate reinstatement of the medics.

Issuing the orders in 2021, Justice Marete upheld a Public Service Commission (PSC) verdict that found the devolved unit unlawfully dismissed the doctors.

Separate suits

But instead of re-hiring the workers, county officials and the CPSB challenged the courts decision in the Courts of Appeal. The separate suits, filed in Nairobi and Nyeri, were dismissed.

Appellate justices Roselyn Nambuye, Fatuma Sichale and Sankale Ole Kantai dismissed the county governments suit in February in Nairobi.

They said the suit had no merit and did not meet the conditions for granting the relief sought.

The devolved unit had asked the court to set aside the PSC verdict, but the judges said it had not provided enough grounds for the suit.

The county government has not even annexed any draft memorandum of appeal demonstrating the nature of the grievances it intends to take on appeal, the judges said.

In the Court of Appeal in Nyeri, justices Hannah Okwengu, Fatuma Sichale and Mbogholi Msagha dismissed the CPSBs case on the grounds that it did not provide enough proof to show why the court should set aside the PSC and labour court verdicts.

In the ruling delivered in July, the justices found that the county employer did not demonstrate how the suit would be rendered nugatory if the stay of execution orders sought were not issued.

Following the dismissal of the suits, the doctors moved back to the labour court seeking contempt of court orders.

End of Ex-Laikipia governor Muriithi faces jail time for contempt of court



Counties

Five die after consuming adulterated liquor in Isiolo

Waweru Wairimu / Monday, September 19, 2022

Five people among them two women have died and three others hospitalized after consuming locally manufactured brew suspected to have been contaminated in Oldonyiro, Isiolo.

Reports indicate that the liquor was bought at Lodukoe market within Isiolo/Samburu border by a 55-year-old woman Sunday evening and later distributed to Longopito, Kipsing where three fatalities were reported.

The woman, who police suspect was among the brewers, died hours after taking the alcohol within Oldonyiro town, according to sources.

Those who took the liquor exhibited vomiting, dizziness and visual challenges and complained of throat pain.

Condoling with the bereaved families, Acting County Health Chief Officer Peter Ngechu said one person died while being rushed to Kipsing health centre where two others were treated and discharged.

Three others who were rushed to the health facility in critical condition were transferred to the Referral Hospital where they are currently admitted. They are complaining of visual challenges, Mr Ngechu told journalists in Isiolo town.

The health department, he said, had already dispatched a team of health workers and experts to the affected areas to investigate the issue.

The team will among others establish the type of chemical present in the liquor with post mortem on the bodies also expected to complement the efforts.

One carton of the liquor has been recovered from the area and will be subjected to laboratory testing.

The official, who was accompanied by Acting County Director of Public Health Guracha Sarite said they had already stocked health facilities within the affected areas with required drugs to handle any emerging cases.

I appeal to those who might have consumed the drink to visit the nearest health facility for assistance as investigations continue, he said.

Following the incident, Governor Abdi Ibrahim Guyo has since ordered a thorough crackdown on liquor businesses to ensure residents do not consume substandard and illicit products.

Our Governor is working tirelessly to ensure we have a liquor board to regulate the businesses and ensure our people are safe from adulterated drinks, Mr Ngechu assured.

End of Five die after consuming adulterated liquor in Isiolo



Counties

Friend of slain Menengai Oilers player recounts how he survived attack

Mercy Koskei / Monday, September 19, 2022

When Mr Ibrahim Otieno counts his blessings, the gift of being alive tops his list, having survived a gang attack that claimed his friend's life earlier this month.

Mr Otieno was with Menengai Oilers rugby player Anthony Kibet when they were accosted and attacked by three assailants riding on a motorcycle in Pistis, Nakuru Town West sub-county.

Mr Kibet died in the attack. Mr Otieno, 30, survived with a stab wound in his lower abdomen and stayed in hospital for two weeks. He is still baffled that he survived and is grateful to be alive.

Mr Kibet was stabbed once in the left side of his abdomen. He was rushed to Nakuru Level Five Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

On the morning of that fateful day, Mr Otieno said, he was with Mr Kibet at the Nakuru ASK showground for training and later took lunch together.

In the evening, they joined other teammates at the clubhouse to watch a rugby match, which ended at 3.30pm. It started raining, prompting him to go back to his house to get a sweater.

Mr Kibet remained behind to watch a football match, and the two promised each other to link up later at Mr Otieno's house.

They met up at Mr Otienos house at 8.30pm with another friend. The two later left for Mr Kibets house in Kenlands but without the third friend.

When they came to my house, I offered them food but they declined. Kibet said that he wanted meat but I had prepared ugali and vegetables. We went to a nearby butchery, purchased meat and proceeded to his house, he said.

On our way, we met Kibet's friends (two women) but they were in a hurry. They told Kibet they would meet later and we proceeded to the house.

At the home, there was no electricity and so we cooked with the help of lighting from our phones spotlights and then we ate as we cracked jokes.

It was a vibrant evening and I didn't know that was our last time together.

At 10pm, a woman called Mr Kibet requesting to be picked up, but Mr Otieno was hesitant to leave the house, citing insecurity in the area, but Mr Kibet insisted that they go.

On their way back to the house, he said, a motorbike that had three occupants passed them but did not stop. A few seconds later, it returned and Mr Otieno and Mr Kibet became suspicious.

Mr Otieno said the assailants alighted and confronted them, stabbing him and Mr Kibet and leaving the woman unhurt.

I just heard Kibet screaming that they had stabbed him. I struggled with the one who was holding me, and I got a chance to escape. I intended to call for help, but they followed me. Luckily there was a drainage ditch.

Joseph Ouma, brother to Ibrahim Otieno who survived a gang attack in Nakuru that left a Menengai Oilers player Anthony Kibet dead

As I hid, I felt some pain and I touched my abdomen, only to realise that I had also been stabbed. I could hear them asking themselves where I had gone, but after failing to locate me they left," he said.

He got out of the ditch and went back to try to help Mr Kibet. Meanwhile, neighbours who had heard Mr Kibet scream got out of their houses and took the two to separate hospitals.

Later, as I was receiving treatment, I was told that Kibet had succumbed to the stab wounds, he said.

Mr Otieno said he had known Mr Kibet for more than 15 years. Their paths crossed in primary school and the friendship grew though they joined different high schools. The bond grew even stronger when they joined the same college.

He started playing rugby at a tender age when his father was an employee of the Nakuru Athletics Club. Mr Kibet, on the other hand, played for his schools rugby club.

The two were later signed by the Menengai Oilers rugby club, where Mr Otieno played position 12 before taking a break a year ago, while Mr Kibet played position 13 until his demise.

Mr Otieno remembered his longtime friend as a humble, hardworking and generous man and a team player who had no personal grudges.



Counties

Friend of slain Menengai Oilers player recounts how he survived attack

Mercy Koskei / Monday, September 19, 2022

He said Mr Kibet dreamt of joining the Kenya Sevens national rugby team in order to help his mother and siblings but his life was cut short by his killers.

Mr Otieno recalled the last game they played together before the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country, saying it was a tight game but they emerged in position one at the end.

"We used to go for games outside the county. We would choose our rooms next to each other, he said.

He was more than a friend to me; he was like my brother. We made memories together that week we were together. I didn't know it was our last time together. I will miss him a lot.

"I remember the pain I felt when I was told that my friend had passed on. But I could not attend his burial, because I was still in the hospital. I was discharged a day after his burial."

Mr Otieno urged speedy investigations and the arrest of the assailants so that the Kibet family can get justice.

He bled profusely. They were taken rounds before he was eventually taken to hospital, he said.

He was taken to more than three police stations to report [the attack] but each claimed that the incident did not occur in their jurisdiction. Maybe he could have been saved.

Mr Otieno's brother, Mr Joseph Okumu, said their family is happy that he survived though he was still in a critical condition.

Mr Okumu called on security agents to enhance patrols in the area, saying criminals are terrorising residents, robbing people even during the day.

End of Friend of slain Menengai Oilers player recounts how he survived attack



Counties

Lucy Wangoi: Defying odds in the Lamu male-dominated car repair business

Kalume Kazungu / Monday, September 19, 2022

Lucy Wangoi Kimani is among the few women who have ventured into careers or jobs traditionally dominated by men. Ms Wangoi is a mechanic.

When we met her at TSS vehicle repair garage in Mpeketoni, Lamu West, zeal and determination were vividly inscribed on her face.

She wore an oily blue mechanics overall and held the tools of her trade, including a spanner, in her greasy hands.

The single mother of three has been a mechanic for the past 10 years.

Ms Wangoi says she learned the job through an apprenticeship.

Born in Kairo village in Mathioya, Muranga County, 38 years ago, she went to Kairo Primary School Kiru.

But because she came from a poor family, she could not proceed to secondary school.

She decided to become a mechanic.

After several years in apprenticeship, she mastered her car-repair skills, and 10 years later, she is a much sought-after mechanic.

She relocated from Muranga to Lamu County and joined TSS, a renowned vehicle repair business.

The busy garage has over 40 mechanics and casual labourers, with Ms Wangoi the only woman among them.

Ms Wangoi says she did not allow stereotypes about body strength and gender discourage her from pursuing her interest in mechanics.

I am a mother of three. I am raising my children single-handedly. After completing KCPE, my mother wasnt able to raise school fees for me to join secondary school. I embarked straight on the mechanic job, where I trained under an apprenticeship. I thank God that today, I am an expert in the field, Ms Wangoi said.

Her day begins at 8.30am and ends between 5.30pm and 6pm, depending on how that particular days chores are lined up.

She says she is possessed by the job because she derives her livelihood from it.

On a good day, she fixes several vehicles and earns not less than Sh5,000.

The job has enabled her to feed her family, pay school fees for her children and cater to unforeseen emergencies.

Ms Wangoi says her firstborn child has completed Form Four and is set to join college.

Another is in secondary school, while the last-born is a KCPE candidate.

She says her hard work and determination have helped her grow her customer base with repeat clients.

I love the job. We provide vehicle services where the costs depend on the nature of the problem. Sometimes we fix or paint vehicles for between Sh20,000 and as high as Sh70,000, said Ms Wangoi.

Ms Wangoi says that sometimes people find themselves in fields they never imagined.

Some of the challenges she faces in her male-dominated career are being the only woman in the garage where she works and sharing changing rooms, toilets and bathrooms with her male colleagues.

Another is that sometimes a customer may prefer a male mechanic.

Sharing social amenities with my colleagues is quite challenging, especially where privacy is concerned, she said.

Once I report in the morning, I have to make sure I remain alone in the changing room. Its uncomfortable to change my attire because we dont have a special room for ladies here at the garage.

She also says that because of the nature of her job she mostly avoids make-up.

Look at my hair, I dont have much time to make it. Our work involves a lot of dust, oils and dirt everywhere, she said.

Despite the challenges, Ms Wangoi says, she works hard and is not ashamed of the work she does.

This is where I earn money to support my family and though the work involves a lot of dirt, I am proud of it, she said.

Ms Wangoi advises fellow women looking to become mechanics that they should believe in themselves.

Challenges will always be there but at the end of the day, its knowing who you are and understanding that this is not you versus them. The situation is, its you versus you, she said.



Counties

Lucy Wangoi: Defying odds in the Lamu male-dominated car repair business

Kalume Kazungu / Monday, September 19, 2022

David Kinyanjui, a mechanic and welder at TSS, describes Ms Wangoi as hardworking and non-selective in the kind of duty she does at the garage.

Weve been interacting well with Ms Wangoi here. She does all sorts of work in mechanics, he said.

We feel like we have a fellow man when working with Ms Wangoi. She is dedicated. We need more women of strength like Ms Wangoi to work with here at the garage.

According to the Kenya Bureau of Statistics, the untapped potential of women has gained greater attention in recent times.

The Constitution provides a framework for addressing gender equality, seeking to remedy the traditional exclusion of women and promote their full involvement in every aspect of growth and development.

End of Lucy Wangoi: Defying odds in the Lamu male-dominated car repair business



Counties

Moyale residents lament high fuel prices, contemplate relocating to Ethiopia

Jacob Walter / Monday, September 19, 2022

Moyale residents want the government to urgently address the Kenya-Ethiopia border standoff to allow them to buy commodities across the border as the cost of living rises.

A litre of petrol in the border town hit Sh210 and diesel Sh193, while five kilometres across the border, the fuel retails at Sh120 and Sh100 respectively.

But they cannot access the commodity due to border restrictions. In Marsabit town, a litre of petrol costs Sh186 while diesel goes for Sh172.

The bus fare from Nairobi to Moyale, a distance of 850km, has shot up from Sh3,000 to Sh5,000, and as life becomes unbearable because of higher prices of other basic commodities caused by rising fuel costs, some residents are considering relocating to Ethiopia.

The gap in fuel prices in Kenya and neighbouring Ethiopia is a cause of concern for Moyale residents and the business community, most of whom cannot understand the dynamics.

Kenya should start talking to Ethiopia about fuel prices, said Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Moyale Chapter chairman Mohammed Ali.

We call on the Kenyan government to collaborate with the Ethiopian authorities towards stabilising and harmonising the oil prices in the region, Mr Ali said.

Historic highs

He lamented that recent fuel price hikes had resulted in high transport costs in the region and bus companies were raising fares to historic highs and piling pressure on residents who are already grappling with economic hardships due to the deteriorating Ethiopia-Kenya cross-border trade.

His predecessor, Mr Ali Nur, said most people were contemplating relocating to Ethiopia. If things don't change soon, Kenyans will migrate to Ethiopia. This is a concern that many residents have raised and it should be urgently addressed, Mr Nur said.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Moyale Business Community chairperson Mzee Katelo Adan, who said rising fuel prices were hurting residents in Northern Kenya who rely on other parts of Kenya for foodstuffs and other domestic products, most of which are transported from Nairobi or Central Kenya.

It was also feared that the region would have massive job losses and starvation if the government failed to intervene.

Our people are suffering due to the high fuel prices and we appeal to the government to move with speed to implement the necessary cushion, Mzee Adan said.

He said some residents who have relatives across the border in Ethiopia were considering relocating there due to the unbearable cost of living in Kenya.

Rising fuel prices have also affected the Marsabit town business community, which relies on buses to travel from Moyale to Nairobi. Bus fares from Marsabit town to Nairobi have shot up from Sh2,000 to Sh3,000.

Businesses that rely on electricity to run must also pay through their noses.

Marsabit Kenya Power Marketing Manager Jasper Ogeto cited high costs of supplying electricity to the county, saying the company spends Sh300 million every financial year.

End of Moyale residents lament high fuel prices, contemplate relocating to Ethiopia



Counties

British national loses Sh4 million in Nairobi

Nyaboga Kiage / Monday, September 19, 2022

A British national lost Sh4 million in Nairobi over the weekend in unclear circumstances.

A police report shows that Mr Patrick John Mccaffey had hired a vehicle from a hotel located in Kilimani area and was heading to Galleria Business Club.

He told police that the vehicle was being driven by a Mr Rodrick Ochieng Odhiambo.

Once inside the club, the couple placed the bag with cash between them.

Read: Police shut down Kitengela strip club after night swoop

The foreigner was heading to Galleria Business Club together with his wife for lunch(he placed) a travelling bag between him and the wife while seated, the report filed at Hardy Police Station in Langata Sub-County reads in part.

However, when they got up ready for departure, he realised that the bag was missing.

Mr Mccaffey told the police that the bag contained cash in various denominations totalling Sh4 million.

When they reviewed CCTV footage, it showed two women making away with the bag.

Police officers visited the scene and arrested Mr Odhiambo who is currently being grilled by detectives attached to the police station who are also planning to arraign him in court.

Nation has established that Mr Odhiambo told the police that he did not know the women who made away with the bag.

On the rise in the city

According to his statement, he had been hired to take the victim for lunch which he faithfully did and received his pay.

Also read: Overhead piping fixing water crises in slums

Cases of foreigners losing money in the city are on the rise in the city.

Last month, two police officers were nabbed for allegedly robbing an Egyptian national who was under arrest.

The two suspects pounced on the victim moments after he had purchased some household items from a warehouse in the city.

It was reported by one namely Susan Makena director Apogee Warehouse Group that today (Thursday) the 05/05/2022 at around 10.40hrs, she received a call from the victim namely Noaman Mosaad Abdelaziz Awadella Egyptian national who informed her that he had been arrested by officers and he was being taken to the Industrial Area Police station, the police report read in part.

Police say that the warehouse director went to the Industrial Area Police station but could not locate the victim there adding that he later informed her that the suspects had taken him to Imaara Mall.

The report further revealed that she proceeded to the mall and met with the victim who was in the company of the two officers drawn from the Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (CIPU) officers.

End of British national loses Sh4 million in Nairobi



Counties

Embu family in agony over missing retired senior police officer

George Munene / Monday, September 19, 2022

A retired senior police officer, Stanley Njiru has gone missing from his Embu home leaving his family in agony.

Njiru disappeared on September 2, under mysterious circumstances, raising suspicion that he might have been kidnapped by unknown criminals.

The family said it has looked Mr Njiru in Embu and the neighbouring Kirinyaga county in vain.

"We have searched Njiru in hospitals and other places but we have not found him," his wife, Sarah Wangui said.

Ms Wangui said her husband left for Embu town on September 2 to buy house building materials but he never returned home.

"We are constructing a house and my husband left workers at the site and went to town to purchase materials but sadly he never came back," Ms Wangui said.

Ms Wangui described his husband of 35 years as a humble person who associated well with neighbours.

"As far as I know, my husband had no grudge with anyone in the area. He is a good man," she said.

The family members called on the police to help them find the family head.

"We have reported the matter to Itabua police station and recorded statements. We are asking the police to assist us locate Njiru because currently we are in a stress," said Ms Wangui.

End of Embu family in agony over missing retired senior police officer



Counties

How a 49-year-old deal has promoted peace on Kenya-Uganda border

Sammy Lutta / Monday, September 19, 2022

The Turkana County government will, starting today, host celebrations to mark the Lokirima Peace Accord as part of Governor Jeremiah Lomorukai's development agenda of peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

The event, last held in 2018, will take place between September 19-21 in Lokirima village, providing a platform for pastoral communities from four countries to review the peace pact for sustainable development in the borderlands.

The accord was signed 49 years ago and was negotiated by elders and local administrators in Kenya and Uganda in Lokirima, Turkana County. It has cemented peace in the region, ending rampant killings and cattle theft.

Buried weapons

Locals say negotiations for the crucial peace agreement began in 1959 but the deal was not sealed until 1973. That is when the warring communities the Turkana and Pokot in Kenya, the Tepes and Karamojong in Uganda, and the Merille, Nyangatom and Toposa in South Sudan buried their weapons to end conflicts.

In the border village, located some 120km south-west of Lodwar, stands a monument that signifies the peace agreement.

The monument site is where guns, spears, arrows, traditional razor blades and knives were buried as a sign of the end of animosity among the warring communities that engaged in cattle raids and conflict over pasture and water, said Mr Emmanuel Imana, an elder and a veteran politician in the county.

"Many lives were being lost and the victims of cross-border conflicts lived in abject poverty, especially during drought. The fight took place between Mt Moroto in Uganda and Mt Loima in Kenya," Mr Imana said.

The monument has the shape of a battlefield, with an artistic impression of steep slopes of the two mountains, river beds and a flat area that resembles a fertile grazing field. The names of leaders from the two countries who facilitated the peace drive are also etched into the monument.

A police road block at Lokirima village along Lodwar (Kenya) and Moroto (Uganda) road on September 12, 2022.

The Kenyan team was led by David Olocho, the Turkana district commissioner at the time, and six elders, while the Ugandan team was represented by Matheniko chief Akwalem Tioko and five elders.

Reformed warriors

Reformed warriors, such as Mr Joseph Moit, said annual celebrations to mark the peace deal have been a platform for promoting peaceful coexistence since the monument was officially unveiled in 2003 by Dr Chris Murungaru, the then minister of state in charge of internal security and provincial administration.

For 15 years, Mr Moit was among notorious warriors from the Turkana community who fought the Pokot in Kenya and the Dodoth, Jie and Karamajong in Uganda.

"Most members of my group of warriors were teenagers who were supposed to be in school. But since they lacked awareness on the importance of education, they engaged in raids and most were killed, he said.

Commemorating such peace deals provides a platform for many warriors to change through listening to leaders, security officers and reformed warriors like me."

Intermarriage

Peaceful coexistence has also encouraged intermarriage. Mr David Etabo, a Turkana, is married to Mary Ekai from his community and Mariam Lokui from the Karamojong.

I run livestock and cereals businesses in Moroto and Lokirima where I have homes. My two wives visit each other without any fears," said Mr Etabo, a father of six.

As celebrations to mark the peace accord kick off this week, Mr Etabo expects leaders to emphasise workable measures to sustain the treaty. To discourage retrogressive cultural practices, the measures include stiff penalties on communities believed to be aggressors and compensation for anyone killed in renewed attacks.

The Kenyan and Ugandan governments pledged to tackle insecurity along the border after former President Uhuru Kenyatta and Ugandas Yoweri Museveni met in Moroto in the Karamoja region of Uganda in September 2019 to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding on peace and development between the two countries.

Cross border programme

The Kenya and Uganda Cross Border Programme, a joint initiative supported by the United Nations country teams and



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managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provides opportunities for better cooperation, coordination and peaceful coexistence.

The Uganda government has worked to get rid of illegal firearms, with more than 40,000 guns seized in a disarmament operation to boost peace and trade in the Karamoja region.

During droughts in Kenya, armed Pokot and Turkana pastoralists are not allowed to cross over to Uganda in search of pasture and water.

As dividends for sustained peace, the Kenya government has invested Sh750 million in mega dams in West Pokot, Turkana and Marsabit counties to address water scarcity along Kenyas borders with Uganda and Ethiopia.

This was aimed at reducing over-reliance on Uganda's Kobebe Dam in Moroto, where pastoralists are usually exposed to renewed armed conflicts.

Kibish sub-county peacebuilding officer Achegei Abdi Adan welcomed the new county administrations move to revive activities that allow representatives of warring communities to interact.

"Such platforms should also be utilised to award peace champions who have played a pivotal role in cementing peace, like local kraal elders, reformed warriors, security officers and peace officers who have tactfully thwarted attacks [and helped recover] stolen livestock," Mr Adan said.

End of How a 49-year-old deal has promoted peace on Kenya-Uganda border



Blogs-opinion

Stop attacks on Supreme Court

Kaltum D. Guyo / Monday, September 19, 2022

Just like in 2017, when the presidential election results had to be decided at the Supreme Court, this year was not any different. The similarities did not end there: The final court judgments were met with angst, insults and threats towards the Supreme Court and its judges.

The culture of attacking the courts is not only irresponsible but a dangerous trend that needs to be nipped in the bud now before the judges and the judicial system come under even deadlier attacks, including loss of lives.

Even more troubling is the fact that the attacks are led by senior lawyers and politicians—two groups that should have a better understanding of the role of the courts and what separation of powers means.

Attacks on the courts should really have ceased after the alleged assassination attempts on one of the Supreme Court judges prior to the 2017 elections. .. an act that was clearly set up to intimidate the judges. The behaviour of intimidating, threatening and even ridiculing judges is barbaric and reeks of impunity. These are things only witnessed in a lawless society. It is behaviour that even dying out in Sicily, which used to be the Mafia capital of the world. A decent society cannot be built on a foundation of impunity.

Apex court

As the apex court in the land, the Supreme Court is there to not only rule on cases based on facts but also ensure that the credibility and legitimacy of the Constitution remains intact. Its given the final say on matters of national importance such as those of the presidential election petition because any wrong decision could easily tip the country over the cliff. And we should know, as bad or unpopular presidential results nearly engulfed the country in flames during the post-election violence of 2007/2008, in which over 1,000 people were killed and many more uprooted from their homes.

Senior lawyers and politicians, who were recently aggrieved, were crying foul on political grounds rather than sound legal reasoning. They had taken sides and somehow felt entitled to the results going their way. However, only impunity-leaning individuals would think that way. But then, the court does not work on whims or party loyalties. It must be guided by the law and the facts within the evidence provided.

As many in Kenya now know, some of the evidence presented before the Supreme Court was found to be riddled with inaccuracies and forgeries. Which part of that did the quasi-politician-cum-lawyer counsel of the complainants not understand?

If documents have inaccuracies or are forged, it means they did not meet the evidential threshold. In the latest presidential election petition, they were also heavily laden with criminal elements. Those complaining should be grateful their compatriots are not facing criminal charges over that. Any other *mwananchi* would have been facing the music for perjury.

Another aspect of the Supreme Court judgment that came under attack was the language used by the judges. This was snobbery from most of the old-school lawyers still hung up on Latin. In my school of thought, no legal judgment or medical report should be written in a language that a lay person—anybody who is not conversant with the legal or medical jargon—cannot understand. Latin is pretty much a dead language and it is time we did away with it as the un-African judges wigs.

It was also great to see more judges appointed to bolster the work of the Judiciary. It's a welcome move.

The next step should be focused on lawyers who use big and unnecessary words in the courtroom, more to bamboozle than to herald any new legal jurisprudence.

Most of the so-called senior lawyers win cases not by sticking to the law but by the use of threats, bribes, social media attacks and big-speak (read hot air).

Law Society of Kenya should rein in its lawyers to create a fairer court process. Justice should never be allowed to go the way of the loudest and the most crooked.

Conflict of interest

The era of politicians moonlighting as lawyers must also come to a screeching stop, owing to the conflict of interest. They muddy the waters when it comes to justice. In the recent presidential petition, Azimio la Umoja lawyers were mostly politicians. They were not in court in pursuit of justice but to save their political party. If they had won based on false evidence, it would have been a miscarriage of justice.



Blogs-opinion

Stop attacks on Supreme Court

Kaltum D. Guyo / Monday, September 19, 2022

The same goes for any other political party risking the use of false evidence in court. Hence the need for the Supreme Court to arbitrate with a view to sifting through the evidence for facts and justice.

The appropriate mechanism of complaints against judges has been established within the Judicial Service Commission (JSC). It was incumbent on the losing party, their lawyers and supporters to follow the official complaints procedure within JSC than run riot on social media to attack the Supreme Court.

Social media is not the right place for the aggrieved parties to discuss legal matters that are or have been in court. Its akin to knocking ones head against a virtual wall.

Ms Guyo is a legal researcher. @kdiguyo

End of Stop attacks on Supreme Court



Presidents decisive moves welcome even in early days

Tom Mshindi / Sunday, September 18, 2022

A tentative conclusion from the early directives given by President William Ruto is that he is a man in a hurry to make an impact and that he probably is going to be a lot more decisive than his immediate predecessor once his mind is made up on what option he chooses to take. These are welcome traits because way too many decisions need to be made in a hurry and indecision is not helpful in dealing with circumstances such as the country is facing.

The day one decision to appoint the six judges recommended for hiring by the Judicial Service Commission more than three years ago was particularly welcome since the former President should not have stood in the way of the recommendation, even disobeying several court orders to effect the JSC decision.

Conflicting emotions

The one to revert goods clearance services to the port of Mombasa has elicited conflicting emotions since as many oppose it as there are those that support it. It is an emotive issue and the President is well aware of the implications. But he had made a promise to the Coast people that he would do it.

Mombasa specifically and the coastal belt applauded heartily, but the move will also certainly hurt those that had honestly invested in opportunities that the inland container clearance infrastructure offered. Few will however sympathise with those who, using powerful offices and connections, had influenced the setting-up of the container depot in what is believed to be private land with the aim of unjustly reaping massive rewards.

All in all, implementation of the directive needs to be sensitive to fair concerns and to the need to limit losses to legitimate businesses and to the public. Serious amounts of taxpayer money have gone into putting up the infrastructure that may be rendered superfluous by the Presidents directive.

The creation of a task force to receive views on the implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum education model is welcome because of the need to clarify many issues and complaints that have been raised about the rollout. Those quick to criticise the directive should pause because no one has said anything about rolling it back.

The fuel subsidy was always going to go and Kenyans must brace for much harder times before things improve. Rather, we should be spending more time proposing and critiquing measures that the new government can introduce quickly to shorten the time Kenyans will suffer.

Cushion wananchi

Is it possible, for instance, for Parliament to be asked to temporarily delay the Kenya Revenue Authority's announced intent from October 1 to adjust upwards by 6.3 per cent the excise duty applicable on a range of products used by the majority of households? I am sure it is possible to do this and cushion wananchi for a while.

Many will commend the decision by the President to reduce the cost of a bag of fertiliser from Sh6,500 to Sh3,000, and also ensure that 1.4 million bags are also immediately available for purchase. But we also know that this is a subsidy-based short-term measure to ease an immediate challenge. It is not sustainable.

It will take a lot more for small-scale agriculture which is what drives more than 85 per cent of the sector to thrive and produce enough to feed the farmer and leave some extra income to fund other needs. The entire value chain from farm preparation, to input, to crop management, to harvesting, post-harvest handling up to the marketing of the produce presents interlinked challenges that must be addressed.

Inimical cultural practices

Climate change uncertainties and inimical cultural practices in some communities simply complicate an already very complex problem. But long-term solutions exist and what has lacked is decisiveness and prioritisation.

Prioritisation, decisiveness and probably sabotage have also frustrated the implementation of an initiative that could be a game changer in the manufacturing sector. This is creating a legally enabling environment for the implementation of a Local Content Mechanism that could demand that over a period of time, all products manufactured for sale in this country, must contain a specified amount of local content.

Such a plan had been developed and presented to the past government by a local company, but it has never gone beyond positive feedback hence the strong suspicion that sabotage may have a hand here. What is needed is a speedy implementation of the same. It is one solution the Presidents team does not need to overthink and whose results are well documented.



Blogs-opinion

Presidents decisive moves welcome even in early days

Tom Mshindi / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Revive agriculture and boost manufacturing and you will be well on the way to improving the lives of Kenyans. Prioritise, be decisive and make your technocrats work. You cant afford to fail in this, Mr. President.

Mr Mshindi, a former Editor-in-Chief of Nation Media Group, is now consulting. ; @TMshindi

End of Presidents decisive moves welcome even in early days



Nationalism, a danger to democracy

Makau Mutua / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Few forces in history have been more enduring and more destructive than nationalism, or its close derivative, sub-nationalism. Nationalism does not necessarily have negative connotations.

At its core, nationalism can be understood as an ideology that advocates that the nation – the political society and the state – is the locus of sovereignty and self-governance free of external coercion and domination. In this rendering, nationalism sees the nation – meaning the people – as the actual source of power and popular sovereignty.

There is no doubt that nationalism was one of the key ideologies that drove the struggle for self-determination and decolonisation. This was an anti-imperial, liberatory strand of nationalism that sought to reclaim Africa from European political, economic, cultural and intellectual domination.

Exclusionary impulses

It was an affirming nationalism without exclusionary impulses. But there are other forms of nationalism that define themselves as oppositional to the other. One expression of such nationalism would support one's national interests but to the detriment of other nations and peoples.

This has often led to isolationism or imperialism. Perhaps the most toxic forms of nationalism and sub-nationalism are inspired by race, culture and ethnicity. Racial and ethnic nationalism drove the colonial project. The imposition of Christianity as part of the colonial project cannot be isolated from white supremacy. Denys Shropshire, a white missionary in Africa, noted that Africans as a primitive people had not developed the sovereignty of reason.

A. H. Barrow, another European missionary, argued that the mission to Africa was the least that we [Europeans] can do to strive to raise him [the African] in the scale of mankind. By no means have deep-seated racist and ethnically bigoted views been expressed only against Africans – and then used to subject, or attempt, to destroy a whole people.

Racial hatred driven by the supposed superiority of the Aryan race over all others led to the Nazi Holocaust. The enslavement of Africans by Europeans and White Americans is a classic example of white nationalist supremacy.

In the case of Germany, ethnic and racial nationalism exerted itself at home and abroad, and sought global domination. It rejected the liberal constraints of political democracy. In it is the textbook application of the failure of the nation-state, or put differently, the inability of the liberal toolkit to contain the madness of nationalist and sub-nationalist hatreds.

What lends itself in the structure and normative canvas of political democracy in the crucible of the modern state to subvert liberalism? The crisis of liberalism, and its inability to realise the ideal society it imagines, is partially rooted in the problematic relationship between the nation – the people who inhabit the country – and the state, the political instrumentality that governs the nation and the country.

Competing interests

This crisis arises because of the competing interests within the nation between the diverse nationalities to husband resources and political power. There is a natural tension between the nation and the state, and the inability to separate the two, or at least to prevent the capture of the state by the nation, or one or several of its nationalities.

When the state is so captured, it may be rendered a servant of one of the nationalities to the exclusion of others. This nightmare scenario for liberalism can often vanquish the centrality of individual rights and individualism, as opposed to racial or ethnical group consciousness and identities – as the pillar for governance and decision-making.

In other words, benign nationalism, defined as patriotism or commitment to the national polity as a whole, is replaced by pernicious ethnic, religious and racial mass consciousness that sees the other as the enemy against whom power should be exercised by exclusion, marginalisation, demonisation, or even extermination. The state is then untethered from its liberal moors and set adrift in the turbulent seas of xenophobia, racism and ethnic chauvinism. In this climate, the risk of pogroms against minorities, or those without power, is heightened.

Citizen disillusionment

In Europe and the United States, the rise of white nationalism has thrown open many seemingly settled questions about the liberal state, and the values by which it should be governed. Often, white nationalism is couched as populism, or citizen disillusionment with elitist, out-of-touch governments and institutions that threaten national, cultural and traditional heritages from within and without.

The white nationalist sentiment that stokes European hatred of migrants with fears that black and brown refugees and



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Nationalism, a danger to democracy

Makau Mutua / Sunday, September 18, 2022

migrants are a threat to European values and traditions aims to torpedo the liberal values of open society, tolerance, equal protection, the rule of law, multi-culturalism, diversity and anti-discrimination.

Even serene and stereotypically liberal and tolerant Sweden has been no exception. In America, Donald Trump rode on a wave of white xenophobia to the White House. Once in office, Trump waged an unprecedented war against civil liberties, democratic institutions, the judiciary, the press, the notion of separation of powers, immigrants and refugees, and the rule of law in general. In a word, he singlehandedly wrecked long-standing norms and protocols of American democracy. Can democracy in Kenya and elsewhere weather these illiberal fascist tendencies?

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End of Nationalism, a danger to democracy



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

Gitau Warigi / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Elizabeth Windsor, otherwise known as Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was loved by her subjects. They called her the matriarch of the realm. She lived for so long that the majority of them knew no other sovereign. The story of her life has been told repetitively by fawning British commentators incapable of uttering a critical word about her.

The House of Windsor is the ultimate dynasty. In a modern world which has become egalitarian, the institution of monarchy is an anachronism. That hereditary accidents of birth can determine the destiny of individuals and nations is outdated.

British society has a very rigid class system. That is the most regrettable attribute of that country. Like caste is to India, so is class to Britain. Social status means everything. If you are born of the great aristocratic and landed families, you have a life of privilege as your due.

You will most likely be enrolled in elite Eton or Harrow schools. You stand a far better chance than a commoner of being admitted to Oxford or Cambridge. When you graduate you'll probably be fast-tracked for a prestigious government or diplomatic job, or one in London's financial district. Life is not a lottery for you. It's pre-ordained. From birth to death.

That heredity and birth status can play such an outsized role in a society is antithetical to today's values. It's unfair and entrenches gross inequality. Expansion of higher education and the democratisation of business opportunities certainly have contributed to an improved meritocratic English society, yet the class structure remains stubbornly intact.

House of Lords

In fact the titles of the peerage (the so-called nobility) read like the medieval era: dukes, marquesses, earls, viscounts, barons. These aristocrats and their heirs were entitled to sit in the unelected House of Lords in perpetuity. Until prime minister Tony Blair changed the rules in 1999 in favour of "Life peers," who are appointed by the government but cannot pass on their titles. Mark you, the House of Lords is not impotent. It can amend or delay legislation passed by the House of Commons.

The British monarchy sits at the apex of this overarching class hierarchy. It is both its rock and pillar. In turn the aristocracy is the monarchy's shield and defender. It will do everything to protect royalty and privilege. The monarch is far from just being ceremonial. She has quiet influence over prime ministers and via shadowy state bodies like the Privy Council. Palace courtiers also exert sway across the bureaucracy.

The royal family is of course fabulously wealthy, much as they try to keep that under wraps. Their best-known asset is the Crown Estate, one of the UK's biggest property portfolios (approximate value: £16.5 billion). It's administered by the government on the monarch's behalf. In return, the monarch gets 25 per cent of the estate's annual profits, called the Sovereign Grant.

There's also the Duchy of Lancaster, a private estate held in trust for the reigning sovereign. It consists of 45,550 acres holdings, urban developments and commercial properties, which were last valued at £818 million. There's another trust property called the Duchy of Cornwall which the eldest son of a monarch inherits.

Much of this 135,000-acre estate comprises of farmland, but also includes homes and commercial properties all worth £1 billion. The royal family gets princely incomes from the two duchies, without touching the underlying capital. Only from 1992 did the royals start paying taxes.

Queen's State funeral

The Royal family has many other valuable assets. Of the two dozen or so palaces and royal residences across the UK, Elizabeth counted two as her personal property: Sandringham estate and Balmoral castle (where she died). Never mind that the residences are maintained by taxpayers. The government will foot the cost of the Queen's State funeral, naturally. It also does so for the occasional extravagant royal wedding, even of minor royals.

Elizabeth was known to have a huge portfolio of private investments (some offshore), a treasure of precious jewels (excluding the Crown Jewels), priceless artworks, thoroughbred racehorses, and a £100 million stamp collection. Ah, those horses. And Elizabeth's corgi dogs. They were truly the love of her life.

Charles III, Elizabeth's heir, would do well to copy the relative frugality of Scandinavian royalty and downsize the



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monarchy. This will align better with Britain's diminished economic circumstances. In the past he has hinted he prefers a slimmed down circle of "working" royals rather than the sprawling and expensive establishment his mother kept, comprising her children, grandchildren and cousins. Above all, Charles should modernise the monarchy if he can't scrap it altogether. The stuffiness and archaic pageantry all need to go.

Charles should also discard his late mother's sentimentality over the Commonwealth. The ex-colonies no longer find the body terribly useful. It has lost relevance except perhaps in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Even the Caribbean statelets who looked up to the British monarch as head of state are pulling away. Barbados recently declared itself a republic. Jamaica and Bahamas intend to follow suit. The breakup of the UK itself is possible if a push in Scotland for independence succeeds.

Clueless as ever, Uhuru Kenyatta has lavished praise on Elizabeth, which is okay at a personal level, without any acknowledgement of the horrible atrocities Britain committed in colonial Kenya. You can't separate the empire she represented from its legacy of colonial repression, exploitation and concentration camps. Nine months after Elizabeth first visited Kenya in 1952, a State of Emergency was declared and a period of imperial terror got unleashed.

Supreme Court, stop being prima donnas. Katiba grants freedom to speak, to insult also. Social media regularly roasts presidents and even the Pope. Drop the hubris. Grow thick skins.

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



Profound lessons from William Ruto's arduous path to power

Irungu Kang'ata / Sunday, September 18, 2022

As I sat near the main podium watching Dr William Ruto swearing into the presidency, I could not help but reminisce his long arduous journey to victory. Two deep philosophical queries taxed my mind.

First, why is it that those that desire to succeed must work so hard against great odds? Jesus himself, before facing the cross, desired to avoid the toils. In Luke 22 verse 42, Jesus prayed as follows: Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.

Of course crucifixion was important to his whole endeavour to save mankind, but Jesus was merely appreciating that the odds were heavy. In a nutshell, the struggles people undergo in order to succeed are often too taxing. For Ruto to clinch the presidency, fate required that he be arraigned on false charges in a foreign land (The Hague) in 2011.

This negative fate helped him consolidate his Rift Valley base. Without this odd, there is every likelihood Ruto would not have united with Uhuru. This unity laid the ground for Ruto's eventual conquest of Mt Kenya. The second great odd was Uhuru's onslaught after the 2018 handshake with Raila. This odd of betrayal planted the seeds for sympathy votes, which ultimately helped Ruto.

Read: President Ruto owes his success in politics to his mother

Dr Ruto is not alone in this fate of 'no-gain-without-pain'. Major historical figures have faced great odds as a prerequisite for their eventual success. Kenyatta 1 had to be imprisoned by the Whiteman to become President. Museveni and Kagame had to endure sleepless nights in the bush to topple dictatorships. Musical group Culture (One Stone) sang "President Mandela was in prison for 27 years, and he leave from prison and take the seat of the president".

Suffering

Maybe this is how life was designed to be. Suffering is an antecedent to success. Jesus captures this in a story well explained in the bible; Mark 10.39. Two men desired greatness, James and John. They came forward to Jesus and said to him, Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you. And he said to them, What is it you want me to do for you? And they said to him, Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.

But Jesus said to them, You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with? They replied, We are able. Then Jesus said to them, The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.

When the two heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus said to them, You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognise as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Sacrifice and suffering

Leadership, therefore, must entail sacrifice and suffering. It is never a walk in the park. It, therefore, followed that Ruto had to endure hardships to win.

The second philosophical question that came to my mind as I sat near Dr Ruto was the reverse of the first question. How come tormentors do not see the folly of their actions? How come Uhuru seemed not to countenance the possibility of the loss of his project?

Why did the British fight Mau Mau instead of realising that colonialism was headed for an obvious end? Why did Gaddafi fail to spot the Arab spring and escape?

Read: William Ruto's rise to the pinnacle on first stab sets new high

The Mt Kenya revolt against Kenyatta was a historical moment. There are many historical examples of persons failing to spot historical moments. This phenomenon is called 'sleeping through a revolution'.

When the French revolted in 1792 against the monarchy, it is claimed Queen Marie Antoinette Joséphe Jeanne was so out of touch that she inquired why the people were revolting for bread.

She proposed they eat cake (historians now say this was a false narrative, but the narrative captures the notion of ignorance by persons who are fairly knowledgeable in times of great revolutions like the instant Mt Kenya political



Blogs-opinion

Profound lessons from Wiliam Rutos arduous path to power

Irungu Kang'ata / Sunday, September 18, 2022

upheaval).

The answer to this question lies in the quality of leaders who rise to power. Good leaders need to be philosopher kings, as rightly argued by Plato. The philosopher king is a hypothetical ruler in whom political skill is combined with philosophical knowledge.

The concept is first explored in Plato's Republic, written around 375 BC. Plato argued that the ideal state one which ensured the maximum possible happiness for all its citizens could only be brought into being by a ruler possessed of absolute knowledge, obtained through philosophical study.

Historical foresight

Such leaders are able to decipher where history is heading towards and act accordingly. One such leader was American President Abraham Lincoln (1862-1865). He faced the challenge of the institution of slavery in an era where blacks were viewed as sub-human.

He had the historical foresight of knowing slavery was untenable and despite the great odds, including adverse public opinion, he abolished it. History vindicated him. Another great leader who had the foresight of deciphering historical patterns was Deng Xiaoping of China (1979-1991).

He was a leader of the powerful Communist party but he wisely noted that communism would decay. He quickly pivoted his country towards capitalism and thus planted the seeds of a new prosperous China. His counterpart in Russia failed to follow suit and that country remains economically static.

As Rutos swearing-in ended, I was a glad man. This is because Ruto indeed is a philosopher king. If he deploys the wisdom he displayed in tackling the deep state and the many forces arraigned against him towards economic development, Kenya is headed towards an economic leap forward.

Dr Kangata is the Governor of Muranga County.

End of Profound lessons from Wiliam Rutos arduous path to power



Africa

South Africa plunged into open-ended power crisis

Chris Erasmus / Monday, September 19, 2022

South Africa's electricity crisis has moved to its most severe stage yet, the national grid nearing total collapse and the power utility Eskom urging citizens, businesses and municipalities to cut usage.

Serial failures, even on recently commissioned power units, and planned outages for maintenance sometimes lead to several outages a day.

Previous outages at lower levels than the Stage 6 rolling blackouts declared Sunday morning as five more coal-fired power units failed overnight were estimated to cost the country over \$57 million daily.

The impact on businesses is severe and on households highly disruptive, with all parts of the economy constrained, including education, hit hard.

Eskom's executives, saying some level of load-shedding would be in place likely for the rest of 2022, attempted to calm rising fears that the utility was headed for complete failure.

Also read: Energy-stricken S.Africa weighs need to save climate and keep lights on

The latest extension of blackouts had been forced by a fuel shortage in the strained systems emergency back-up diesel turbines, South Africans were told, with media asking related questions in what amounted to a nationally televised Zoom session.

The problem would take days to rectify as replenishing diesel was by road truck.

Other backup systems had been exhausted, though such systems require about a day to recharge.

It was possible that the current punishing schedule of outages might be improved by one stage by late Sunday if repairs were made by then, but there are no promises being made.

With load-shedding becoming no longer an intermittent inconvenience but a daily and apparently permanent reality for at least another two years, Eskom CEO Andre de Ruyter and his executive team, appointed three years ago, have been urged to sort out the firm's many problems.

Even at South Africa's usually reliable nuclear power plant at Koeberg, near Cape Town, there has been unexpected trouble with equipment controlling one of its two units, which were shut down, though with no danger to the reactor itself.

Eskom has consequently been reduced to pleading with customers to cut their consumption in order to protect the grid from complete collapse.

Eskom, which supplies about 95 percent of South Africa's electricity and over 40 percent of Africa's, has had decades of poor management, inadequate future planning and insufficient maintenance of its existing, mainly coal-fired plants.

Biggest and costliest

South Africa's installed capacity was 51.6GWe as of 2020, of which coal-fired stations accounted for about 38GWe, most of which are aged and requiring much maintenance.

But South Africa also has two of the biggest and costliest coal-fired plants in the world, newly built in Medupi and Kusile. They are also among the most controversial, with enormous cost overruns, extended construction times and costly, post-construction re-engineering of key elements in multiple power-producing units.

The latest cuts have been met with renewed calls for a full replacement of the top executive and management teams at Eskom, but such changes were made previously and the situation has only deteriorated since, energy experts point out.

South Africa needs around 32-33GW at peak times in winter to operate without outages, and is supposed to have around 32GW of available capacity at any time, with around 7GW under planned maintenance and the rest taken up by unplanned outages.

With repair teams working 24 hours a day, Eskom is turning to any suppliers there may be. In due course, ordinary citizens will be allowed to feed back rooftop PV and other self-generated electricity into the grid.

Also read: Arrests at Eskom: Why S. Africa's New Dawn may at last be arriving

As of Monday, September 19, major industrial entities, such as wood pulp and paper producer SAPPI and oil-from-coal maker SASOL, will be able to sell back to the grid any excess energy their co-generational systems may have.

With around 8GW of renewable energy power production mostly PV, some with storage, and wind coming online or



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being set up, South Africa's energy crisis is expected to begin easing about two years out.

In the latest bid window for independent power producers, another 16GW has been allocated, much to solar with storage.

Together, the extra 24GW should sort out the supply-side constraints on the South African electrical grid, though there are other problems looming, including a very old and under-maintained distribution network.

Meanwhile, Eskom will be staggering from crisis to crisis, the intermittent power it supplies gradually degrading everything that relies on electricity, from computer systems and TVs to the electrical supply grid itself.

End of South Africa plunged into open-ended power crisis



Africa

How coastal West Africa can stem the jihadist wave

The Conversation / Monday, September 19, 2022

Jihadist conflicts are now a part of West Africa's political makeup, as militant Islamist groups resist numerous campaigns to counter them.

In 2021, three of the ten countries most affected by terrorism globally were Sahel countries: Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, according to the 2022 Global Terrorism Index.

Similarly, ten of the 20 deadliest attacks of 2021 occurred in the region. In 2022, most member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are dealing with some form of militant Islamist presence.

This presence is strengthening southwards in coastal West African countries, especially those that border the Sahel countries. Benin and Togo, for example, have experienced recent attacks.

These developments come with a staggering cost. Aside from deaths, injuries and displaced persons, confidence is waning in countries' ability to govern and to support healthy economies.

Also read: *The Woman King* is more than an action movie: it shines a light on the women warriors of Benin

Countries have therefore initiated regional programmes to counter terrorism, such as the Accra Initiative (2017), and several national legal and policy frameworks.

These range from border security to intelligence gathering and building community resilience.

These measures are necessary but not enough. Coastal West African countries must think differently to prevent jihadist conflicts from worsening.

They must move away from traditional counter-terrorism practices which respond to the threat in the short term, towards nation building interventions that prevent it in the long term.

There must be a more comprehensive look at the threat, taking into account the governance issues that have led to the present. How did we get here?

Militant Islamist groups have undergone many changes: splits, alliances and shifting allegiances to global projects such as ISIS and Al Qaeda.

Militant Islamist

Between 2010 and 2017, campaigns to counter militant Islamist groups were mainly geographically focused on individual groups such as Boko Haram, Ansar Dine, MUJAO, and al Mourabitoun.

As the threat becomes more regional and less national, there is less mention of individual groups.

Jihadist coalitions such as the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), and Jamaat Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) have become more prominent.

This shows that Islamist militant groups are consolidating their presence. They are defying national boundaries and numerous counter-terrorism efforts.

Moreover, over time, the activities of militant Islamist groups are increasingly presenting them as criminal cells engaging in profiteering and destructive politics.

They act less like grievance-based organisations seeking religious puritanism and alternative politics.

Still, they could continue to strengthen their reach and increase and threaten multiple levels of security. A new approach to violent extremism

West African countries need a different approach to countering violent extremism.

They must see the enablers of terrorism in different shades and degrees.

The ease with which Islamist groups are strengthening across the West African sub-region indicates that coastal countries' socio-political, geographical and historical makeup is not very different from that of Mali, Burkina Faso or Niger, in terms of the conditions that give rise to terrorism.

Countries also need to appreciate that jihadist groups are not all the same as each other. The elements and actors of Islamist militancy differ regarding the type of presence, modus operandi, fundamental and strategic motives and the balance of power between them and others.

Coastal West African countries must therefore disaggregate the threat and respond accordingly. Sustainable and comprehensive counter-terrorism must cover more ground and have short-term, medium-term and long-term measures.



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What works in one place doesn't necessarily work elsewhere. Military campaigns may work in Iraq, but not necessarily in the Sahel. Similarly, coastal West African countries may not need the same prevention measures as Mali.

The days when Islamist groups were simply Islamic, Middle Eastern and anti-West are also over.

Also read: As the world fled Afghanistan, China set up footprint

They are active political actors, even if they are aberrations to the norm. And jihadist and non-jihadist conflicts are more alike than they are different.

Violent Islamist extremist groups are also as African as they are global, if not more so. The Sahel situation challenges claims that jihadist groups are fundamentally external. For this reason, Islamist militancy in coastal West African countries is not a coming threat; it's already here, as part of the present.

Seeing it this way allows countries to look inward rather than outward to counter violent extremism.

It also takes the emphasis away from border security and puts it on human security to prevent groups from growing within countries. Some solutions

Coastal countries must recognise that decisions and statements could be part of the problem. For instance, the dragnet attack on suspected Boko Haram members in 2009, leading to the death of leading member Mohammed Yusuf, pushed the group to become more militant.

Political statements and policies can also fuel Islamophobia and legitimise the rhetoric of militancy.

Surveillance practices can backfire. Certain words can turn counter-extremism insights into insults that undermine national security.

That's why, without careful implementation, even Ghana's See Something, Say Something campaign could create more problems. Security agencies, therefore, require training in cultural diversity, religious sensitivity and national belonging during their work.

Also read: Al-Qaeda mans killing to boost the war on terror

Then there is the need for African leadership in response policies. For example, counterinsurgency by Mozambican forces in conjunction with Rwanda and the Southern African Development Community has resulted in a reduction in terrorism deaths.

In this sense, the Accra Initiative is vital. However, regional power dynamics could also defeat counter-terrorism efforts. This happened in the Lake Chad basin with the Multinational Joint Task Force.

Multilateral partnerships in counter-terrorism are crucial, especially through intergovernmental organisations such as the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS. But actors must acknowledge the different political settings and not impose a universal logic on particular local contexts.

Local grievances and governance deficits are the key causes of political extremism. That's why governments must take some blame for the conditions that foster extremist political sentiments.

It is also why West African countries must not only defeat terrorism, they must also resolve the conditions that produce it.

End of How coastal West Africa can stem the jihadist wave



Sudan-South Sudan border dispute rages on 10 years since war

Fred Oluoch / Monday, September 19, 2022

Eleven years after South Sudan separated from the previous larger Sudan, the two countries are still arguing about where the boundary lies.

While they agreed to open borders in October 2021, they differ on the exact borderline and crossing points are yet to open.

Officials are concerned that despite the agreement to open four border points for free movement of people and goods, communal land issues had blocked cross-border trading.

The two countries are suffering from the effects of not implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. They dispute several border crossing points, undermining trade.

Last years agreement specified that four crossing posts closed when a war broke out in 2013 be opened. They are Jebelain-Renk, Meiram, Buram -Timsah and Kharsana-Panakuac.

Also Read: Rockets fired as Ethiopia, Sudan border clash escalates

But the crossing points remain closed. One of the obstacles is the local population, said Sudans ambassador to South Sudan Jamal Malik.

"It appears that some people do not want those crossing points to be opened due to land disputes, so the two countries must work harder to persuade those people," he said.

Both countries were devastated by the closure of the crossing points. South Sudan is landlocked and relies on crude oil exports through Sudan. For its part, Sudan had relied on fees from South Sudans exports of oil and consumable goods to South Sudan.

There are 11 border states five in South Sudan and six in Sudan. They may constitute roughly half of the population of the two countries. The countries border is neither defined nor delimited.

The Sudan 2005 peace pact established mechanisms for delimiting and demarcating borders. But the process failed because the parties were unable to reach a political agreement on contested border areas.

When South Sudan gained independence in 2011, its border with its northern neighbour was officially established. The two countries went to war in 2012 over the disputed oil-rich area of Heglig, which is on the border. This triggered the closure of the border, disrupting cross-border movement.

Also Read: Blinken, Omamo discuss regional security

Despite the closure, traders and Arab pastoralists devised informal trade and movement routes. The African Union also intervened, mediating a "soft border" agreement, which was signed in 2012.

The two countries also agreed to form high-level committees to address the status of the Abyei area. Because it straddles the border and has rich oil reserves, Abyei is economically desirable for both countries and critical for border stability.

The push to open the borders began in 2019 after a popular uprising in Sudan that ousted Omar al-Bashir in 2019. The new political environment was aided further by Sudan's new leadership, led by former Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, an experienced economist who worked for the UN for over two decades.

The closure of border crossings has significantly disrupted trade and people movement, says Tong Akeen Ngor, governor of Northern Bahr el Ghazal state. For example, he claims that reopening the two roads between Meram and Majok and Gok-Dhein would facilitate the movement of goods and services.

End of Sudan-South Sudan border dispute rages on 10 years since war



Africa

Zulu king's aide found dead in South Africa

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

An adviser to South Africa's Zulu king, crowned as monarch last month despite a challenge from within the royal family, was killed at the weekend on the sidelines of a traditional ceremony, according to a local official.

Dumisani Blasius Khumalo "was killed by unknown gunmen Saturday night, shortly after attending the Reed Dance in Nongoma", Sihle Zikalala, a member of the regional legislature, said in a statement.

King MisuZulu Zulu confirmed "one of my chiefs has been hurt, Dr Khumalo".

"My heart is very sore that something like this has happened to us," he said.

"Those who committed this crime, I swear to God they will be found."

Also Read: Zulu King in trouble for 'fathering' incestuous children

Some 10,000 people gathered Saturday in the small town of Nongoma, a Zulu stronghold in the southeastern KwaZulu-Natal province, for the traditional "reed dance".

During the centuries-old ritual, the girls present themselves to the king of the country's largest ethnic group, which numbers 11 million Zulus, almost one in five South Africans.

It was the new king's first reed ceremony.

Opponents of the new ruler had issued threats and predicted a "bloodbath" if the celebration went ahead.

Security had been stepped up.

Khumalo, the king's chief advisor, was responsible for settling disputes within the Zulu community.

In South Africa, some communal disputes are settled in traditional courts rather than in a state judicial setting.

"He was very loyal to the royal family and he worked closely with MisuZulu's father before," said Khaya Ndwandwe, a Zulu culture expert.

Since the death of Goodwill Zwelithini last year after a reign of 50 years, a dispute over succession has raged.

In South Africa, traditional rulers and chiefs are recognised by the constitution and exercise significant moral authority.

MisuZulu kaZwelithini, recognised by President Cyril Ramaphosa, was born to the favourite and third wife of Goodwill Zwelithini.

The first wife challenged the succession in court, which rejected the claim.

The late king's eldest son, who was born out of wedlock, filed an emergency lawsuit this week claiming he was the rightful heir.

Brothers of Goodwill Zwelithini also claimed the throne for another contender.

At the ceremony Saturday, the new king called for "peace and unity (to) prevail in the royal house".

End of Zulu king's aide found dead in South Africa



Africa

How Nyege Nyege Festival went down

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

As thousands of revellers grooved to the sounds of Uganda's sold-out Nyege Nyege music festival on the banks of the Nile, relieved organisers said an attempted "immorality" ban had only served to boost sales.

A public outcry forced Ugandan authorities to reverse the ban -- imposed over claims that the four-day extravaganza promoted sex, homosexuality and drug use -- but not before news of the prohibition made international headlines.

Some of the partygoers attending the festival, which brings together artists from across Africa, told AFP they had only heard about the event that ended on Sunday thanks to the ban announced earlier this month.

"I learnt about the festival when the government of Uganda banned it on claims it was promoting immorality", British engineer David Kempson told AFP.

Also Read: Uganda ethics minister 'loses to the devil'

The 31-year-old Londoner had never been to Africa but the news prompted him to book a flight and make his way to Uganda's scenic Itanda Falls, where he joined 12,000 revellers -- including 5,000 foreign tourists.

"It is my first time in Africa. I didn't expect this much, the huge fan presence, the greenery, the waterfalls and hospitality," he said.

It was the second ban slapped on the festival since 2018, when Uganda's former ethics minister Simon Lokodo, an outspoken homophobe, called the event an orgy of homosexuality, nudity and drugs akin to "devil worship".

Then too the ban failed to hold, following a social media outcry.

But this time, the prohibition proved to be an inadvertent publicity bonanza for the festival, organisers said.

"We are headed for a much bigger number (that) we never anticipated," the event's co-founder Arlen Dilsizian told AFP, referring to ticket sales.

The ban "increased vigour and interest in the festival", drawing visitors from the United States, China, Europe and the Middle East, he said.

The festival, which moved to a new, larger outdoor venue this year, began in 2015 but had been on a pandemic-induced hiatus since 2020.

Nyege Nyege means an irresistible urge to dance in the local Luganda language, but it can have a sexual connotation in other languages in the region.

Nyege Nyege festival-goers dance at the Itanda Falls on the second day of Nyege Nyege festival, the annual four-day international music festival, in Jinja, Uganda on September 16, 2022.

Although Dilzianian insisted that "no evidence of sex orgies have been adduced by anybody making the allegations", the festival was held under tight security, following a government directive against "contraband, narcotic drugs, vulgar language, songs, expressions and gestures".

Also Read: All you need to know about the Nyege-Nyege festival

Information Minister Chris Baryomunsi earlier warned that if there were serious breaches such as "sex orgies and nudity", police would halt the event and clear the site.

Despite the presence of a police van outfitted with sensor cameras and remote-controlled drones, fans were unperturbed, determined to savour the buzz and the chance to see celebrated musicians such as 80-year old Cameroonian Eko Roosevelt.

"When I come for Nyege Nyege, I become free, I meet people from all over Africa and beyond, we laugh and dance, stress goes away," Pamela Nyinabangi, a 27-year-old beauty salon owner from the capital Kampala, told AFP.

Another attendee, Kenyan businessman Isaac Odwor, told AFP the festival was "the only event where African music is given prominence and we get to interact with the musicians and artists."

This year's performance is taking place against the backdrop of an economic crisis as the prices of key commodities from fuel to food rise in the wake of the war in Ukraine.

From street food hawkers to makers of handmade jewelry, many Ugandans hoped the festival would lift their fortunes as tourists thronged the premises, listening to music, taking a dip in the Nile or going white water rafting.

After holding Nyege Nyege's first international edition in Paris earlier this year, organisers plan to take it to Cameroon



Africa

How Nyege Nyege Festival went down

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

next year.

"It is one of a kind festival," British visitor Tom Uragallo told AFP.

"You can go for a swim in the Nile in the morning and then dance the night away till the early hours."

End of How Nyege Nyege Festival went down



Sports

Luizomar urges caution after Kenya shock Serbia B

Samuel Gacharira / Monday, September 19, 2022

In Belgrade, Serbia

Operating like a well-oiled machine, Malkia Strikers Sunday thrashed Serbia B 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-11) in their last pre-World Championships friendly match here in Belgrade, Serbia.

From services, reception, attack and blocking, all departments worked smoothly.

It was the perfect response from Kenya after going down by a similar margin to Serbian champions on Saturday but head coach Luizomar de Moura insists his team is nowhere near the finished product.

Kenya will be seeking to reach the second round at the World Championships for the first time in the Netherlands and the statistics from Sunday's rout of Serbia B were as encouraging as they were convincing ahead of their Friday opener against the host nation.

While he was impressed by the performance on Sunday, Luizomar has urged his charges not to get carried away saying they are still work in progress.

We can see from the two friendly matches in Serbia that the team is showing different volleyball now. This is what the players need to understand, that they need to bring their best to every match, stated Luizomar.

In our team we will be having players participating in World Championships for the first time and others will be getting their first cap. We have a young team with some experienced players. It will be a tough challenge to play at the World Championships. We are improving but there are many areas that we still need to work on. We want to build a new legacy for Kenyan volleyball, so we still have a long journey ahead of us, he preached caution.

Against Serbia B, the experienced quartet of skipper Mercy Moim, her assistant Noel Murambi, opposite Sharon Chepchumba and Edith Wisa all led from the front registering double digits. Chepchumba returned a game-high 33 points, Moim added 19 points while Murambi and Wisa had 16 and 14 points respectively.

Luizomar was happy that his senior players showed maturity at key moments in the game.

The biggest difference from Saturday's result was we made less mistakes and this is very important as we move closer to the main competition. Its important to know when and where to make important decisions during the match. Its good that players are becoming more confident during such moments, assessed Luizomar.

I expect this team to keep fighting and show a new volleyball spirit to the volleyball community.

Kenya will face European sides namely Netherlands, Italy and Belgium in the first round of the World Championships as well as Cameroon and Puerto Rico.

Luizomar noted that the two friendly matches in Serbia, organised by Malkia Strikers sponsors Mozzart Bet, has placed the team in good stead of facing European opponents.

We played against a great European school of volleyball which is the level we will find at the World Championships. Most of the Kenyan players that played today are almost the same age so its a good sign that they can compete with them. This performance will give us more confidence because our opponents will know this is a completely different Kenyan side, observed the Brazilian coach.

Kenya will leave Serbia for the Netherlands Tuesday afternoon, on time for their Pool A opener against the hosts in Arnhem on Friday.

Kenya line up against Serbia B

Mercy Moim (captain), Noel Murambi, Edith Wisa, Lorine Chebet, Emmaculate Nekesa, Sharon Chepchumba, Aggripina Kundu (libero)

Subs

Veronica Adhiambo, Gladys Ekaru, Yvonne Wavinya (libero), Veronica Kilabat, Belinda Barasa, Violet Makuto, Meldine Sande

End of Luizomar urges caution after Kenya shock Serbia B



Brazil football influencer Luva: rich, famous, ready for a rest

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The self-proclaimed "best football influencer in the world," Brazilian internet sensation Luva de Pedreiro, is rich and famous at 20 years old -- but needs a break from his unexpected celebrity, he says.

Known for posting videos of his snazzy juggling skills, ecstatic goal celebrations and other football antics -- so theatrically over-the-top they have won him superstar fans including Neymar, Angel Di Maria and Ronaldinho -- Luva, whose real name is Iran Ferreira, grew up in the poor rural community of Quijingue, in the northeastern state of Bahia.

With little else but a die-hard love of football, outsize personality and a cellphone, he became an overnight sensation in Brazil and beyond, racking up more than 40 million total followers on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.

But in a story that also speaks to the sometimes brutal world of social networks, weeks after signing what he called "the biggest contract of my career" with Adidas, Luva announced Tuesday he was done posting videos online, saying he wants to "live my normal life."

"I'll finish the work I'm contracted for with the brands I've signed with, but after that I'm not going to make any more videos," he said, adding he had deleted dozens of Instagram posts.

When rumors swirled that the move was a marketing ploy or the result of a falling-out with his new manager, Brazilian futsal legend Falcao, Luva went back online Thursday to plead for a reprieve from the spotlight: "I can't get a single minute of peace," he said in an Instagram story.

'Incredible energy'

The news went viral in Brazil, and even drew comments from Spanish giants Barcelona, who said on TikTok they would miss Luva's "incredible energy."

Famous for his ever-present black gloves, or "luvas" in Portuguese -- hence his nickname -- and his favorite catch phrase, "Receba!" -- which roughly translates as "Take that!" -- Luva is perhaps best-loved for his goal celebrations, which have inspired imitations from football stars including Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry and Joshua Kimmich.

In an interview with AFP just two days before announcing his break, Luva sounded happy and proud of his work, declaring: "I'm going to be an influencer for the rest of my life."

He said he was on the verge of releasing two new projects, without giving details.

Advisers said his need to step back was due to overload and unspecified personal problems.

It came just days after he made a commercial tour of Europe and Asia.

Luva had also recently signed a new deal with Falcao, after a break-up with his previous manager, Allan de Jesus, that ended in a messy court battle.

Price of fame

Luva's videos are often shot on the dusty football pitches of his home state, where he shows off his skills, clowns around and cracks jokes in rapid-fire slang.

It turned out to be a magic recipe.

One particularly viral video from March 2021 has racked up more than 100 million views.

It has been a life-changing ride for the once-impoverished Luva, who now lives in a posh neighborhood in Recife, on Brazil's northeastern coast, and travels the world, rubbing shoulders with football royalty.

"Dude, I never expected to make money from this. I thought there was zero future in what I was doing," he told AFP.

"But thank the Lord, I'm enjoying the fame and the work."

Clearly, though, it has not been all fun and games.

It is not an uncommon story among the new stars of social media.

"Young people who get into that world without wanting to, which is Luva de Pedreiro's case, quickly run into the realities of the market, of contracts and advertising deals, which is a lot different from just having fun on social networks," says Issaaf Karhawi, author of the book "From Blogger to Influencer".

"Many influencers have to deal with haters, with cancel culture, which can raise various mental health issues," she says.



Sports

Brazil football influencer Luva: rich, famous, ready for a rest

AFP / Monday, September 19, 2022

"What happened (with Luva) shows it's a lot more complex than just having millions of followers."

End of Brazil football influencer Luva: rich, famous, ready for a rest



Riddle of unpaid Gor players despite having a new sponsor

Joseph Mboya / Monday, September 19, 2022

I read somewhere early this week that in one Gor Mahia training, only nine players turned up.

Asked to explain the reason why, our always very able team manager Jolawi Obondo said there was no cause for alarm, it was the coach's plan to have a small group of players.

Quite interesting. I am one person who takes everything from our TM with some pinch of salt. Why should we have only nine players out of a registered 30 turning up?

Anyway, it turns out there is a serious go-slow at the club over unpaid salaries.

A few players who I have been in touch with say that they are owed salaries, how much they are owed I may not be privy to.

It is nothing new at Gor Mahia though, players going on go-slow over unpaid salaries and allowances have become a common feature at the club.

But why should we allow this to continue happening.

Gor Mahia has a sponsor in BetAfriq, I am not sure if I have come across this betting company anywhere within our borders. But with all due respect, if we do have a sponsor, why should our players go without salaries?

The question is to the club management, where is the sponsorship money, if at all it comes.

I look back with nostalgia when SportPesa used to sponsor Gor Mahia. In those days, the players were well taken care of.

SportPesa set the bar so high, that no other sponsor of the club has met. In came Betsafe after SportPesa and our woes began and BetAfriq seems to be no better.

I am not a decision maker at Gor Mahia but if I was, I would approach SportPesa to return to the club. SportPesa was a sure bet for us.

SportPesa is now back in the Kenyan market after they won back their operating licence which is good for local sports. They are currently sponsoring Muranga Seal which is a clear show of their intent to support football especially at the grassroots level.

It is my hope that one day they will return to sponsoring the top league, and Gor Mahia. But that is just that, hope.

I have written this because I feel the pain of our players going without pay yet the club is sponsored to a tune of millions. Sad.

End of Riddle of unpaid Gor players despite having a new sponsor



Sports

League start now hide and seek game

Moses Ojuang' / Monday, September 19, 2022

It is fast becoming a joke and it seems the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Transition Committee has smelled the doorway.

We can easily surmise that they are packing their bags and are ready to go. It is a period of uncertainty for them and we would urge them to go away and never show their faces in public again. It is that simple.

The kick-off of the 2022/2023 FKF Premier League was set for August 24, it was postponed to September 10 before being pushed September 24. The reasons given for this hop, skip and jump are rather flimsy and inconsequential.

We are sure it will be pushed ahead again until a new Sports Cabinet Secretary is sworn in.

The league itself is fraught with misgivings; we are still under a Fifa ban and as such, we are going on with football as a hobby. It is not recognised and even the teams that were relegated and those promoted are still in the confusion mode. In short, it is an exercise in vain.

We have made no move to meet the Fifa requirements and the current limbo in Kenyan football is caused mainly by the most indecisive people in office. We had hoped that a Normalisation Committee was going to be set up by the FKF Transition Committee but even that is a pipedream.

We know our country so well and we are sure that as the close cronies of the newly sworn in President of the Republic of Kenya are clamouring under the radar for ministerial positions, very few of them want the Sports docket. They have their eyes on the ministries with larger funding for obvious reasons.

The one that shall have lost out in the scheming will be thrust into the Sports ministry. It will be a sour person feeling wronged and demoted; it shall be a person spending most of his or her energy trying to wheedle his or her way out to higher calling. We are in a fix and we doubt if any change of guard at the ministry will solve the malaise.

Since we are sceptic by experience, we still are a drowning lot and we have the only option of clutching at straws.

It is from this position that we eagerly await for the new minister with the almost impossible hope that it shall be someone who actually wants football to develop in this country. If we get the type we describe above, then we shall have only two options.

We shall only have to form a Normalisation Committee or and God forbid we reinstate the former leadership with all its court cases back into the leadership of FKF!

We are beggars now and choosing is no longer in our ambit. There's no miracle about it. It shall be unfortunate but we must get ourselves out of the Fifa emasculation that is killing our lads. So help us God!

End of League start now hide and seek game



Sports

Clubs eager to get on with fresh season

John Ashihundu / Monday, September 19, 2022

With less than a week left to the new date set for the start of the season, we hope the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Transition Committee will stick to the September 24 kick-off.

According to league organisers led by Maurice Oyugi, who took over from retired Judge Aaron Ringera, the new campaign was initially set to commence on September 10, but was pushed forward for a further two weeks yet clubs continue incurring expenses beyond their budgets.

So far, the Transition Committee has not guided the clubs on the way forward and this has affected the pre-season preparations.

Teams are currently engaged in pre-season preparations every week and they don't expect any changes without the committee giving them a reason for doing so.

When asked to comment on the changes, AFC Leopards coach Patrick Aussems said that, professionally, that is a complete lack of respect.

Complicated situation

This situation is a little more complicated than people think as there could be a fixtures congestion at the end of the season that will result in the delay of the 2023/24 campaign.

That said though, football clubs are still obliged to pay their players in full.

Some teams had taken loans and hoped to service them from gate collections. They had also reached agreements with their broadcast partners, but are now unable to pay them promptly.

Other teams including AFC Leopards had taken payment upfront from their shirt sponsors in exchange to ensure the sponsors' products are displayed for a certain period.

Teams had arrived at short-term agreements with their players, but will now be forced to engage their employers in their individual capacities.

Some players have even agreed to return a portion of their salaries to the clubs in order to help the management to face the crisis and the operational costs involved, while others have agreed to a salary cut until the league starts.

Staff at some clubs appear to have taken leave in order to cushion the financial impact upon their employers. Lower leagues are suffering the most.

End of Clubs eager to get on with fresh season



Sports

Wanyika steps into Bandari captains shoes

Steven Heywood / Monday, September 19, 2022

A successful team is made up of strong leadership at the helm of the club, an efficient technical bench, and team players. In each of these categories, there has to be a leader that will ensure the department is well-run.

Leadership is the engine that drives success when it comes to football both on and off the field.

With proper leadership, a team is more productive, well-disciplined, and well-organised and that has been the Bandari FC way.

Bandari has ensured the smooth-running of almost all its departments and will continue to be a shining example in Kenyan football.

In the case of football players, the team captain is the leader of the locker room; the connection between the players and the technical bench. Wearing the armband is the most prestigious duty for any player and is the reward for exemplary performance and good values.

A winning team needs a strong and commanding captain on the field that will ensure the goals and objectives of the club are achieved. Being a captain means you are the captain of the ship, it symbolises strength and durability.

Won GOTV Shield

This week, veteran defenders Bernard Odhiambo and Felly Mulumba passed the mantle of Bandari captaincy to goalkeeper Michael Wanyika who will be assisted by defender Andrew Juma and Kenyan international forward Abdallah Hassan. Mulumba and Bernard Odhiambo held the position for 10 and five years, respectively.

During their tenure, Mulumba and Odhiambo won the GOTV Shield and had a good run in continental football as well as reaching and SportPesa Super Cup final, just to name a few. The two were a perfect reflection of successful leaders and have retired from the post with a decorated resume and silverware to top it all.

Wanyika is a veteran keeper, a national team player, and a leader in the locker room. He is one of the most disciplined players. Juma brings the much-needed experience to the side.

The change is a positive move towards the growth and development of the players and presents new opportunities. This will encourage other players to step up.

Congratulations to the new captains and we cant wait to see them in action.

End of Wanyika steps into Bandari captains shoes



Volleyball: Near-perfect Malkia Strikers hit Serbia B in friendly

Samuel Gacharira / Sunday, September 18, 2022

In Belgrade, Serbia

Pack your bags and book the next flight to Netherlands if you can. For those who will be watching from home, renew your internet packages because Malkia Strikers mean business.

The Kenyan side will certainly give their opponents a run for their money at the FIVB World Championships if Sundays straight sets (25-18, 25-20, 25-11) win over Serbia B here in Belgrade is anything to go by.

Coach Luizomar de Mouras charges produced the perfect response to beat Serbia B with four players hitting double digits here at the Kovilovo Sports Centre in Belgrade.

Sharon Chepchumba was the star of the show with a game-high 33 points made of 28 kills and 5 aces, skipper Mercy Moim added 19 while Noel Murambi and Edith Wisa contributed 16 and 14 points respectively.

In a candid assessment of their performance on Saturday night against Serbian league champions Red Star Belgrade, captain Mercy Moim noted they would have emerged on the other end of their 3-0 loss with better finishing.

And she led from the front on Sunday against Serbia B, composed of Under-19 and Under-21 players, taking responsibility in key moments of the game to guide Kenya to a morale-boosting 3-0 win.

Notably in the first set, having miscued her pass with the scores at 22-16, Moim made a decisive side out from an out of system underarm set from Murambi.

Similarly, with Serbia threatening to make a comeback, Chepchumba made another crucial kill from the back row to secure the first set at 25-18.

It was the perfect end to a set that Kenya deserved to win having led 13-7, 18-12 and 21-15 before sealing it.

Coach Luizomar de Moura maintained his first six for the second set and once again Kenya led 4-0 forcing Serbia coach Christian Tammoone to call for an early time out.

Two monster blocks from Lorine Chebet saw Kenya extend their lead to 6-2 before Wisa made it 12-7 for the Kenyans with another killer block.

Serbia clawed their way back into the game thanks to good services from Cvetkovic Jovana to level the game at 20-20 but Malkia Strikers held their nerves.

Emmaculate Nekesa delivered the set point with a brilliant ace and Kenya made no mistake winning the set at 25-20.

Again, Luizomar kept faith with his first six of Moim, Chepchumba, Murambi, Nekesa, Moim, Chebet and Wisa for the third set which they dominated from the onset.

A two-point lead for Kenya was gradually stretched to 17-10 by text book attacks from Chepchumba.

Serbia withered from then on as Malkia went on an eight point rally to claim the set at 25-11 and give Kenyans hope that they can once again have huge expectations of this team breaking the ceiling at this years World championships.

A second round berth is certainly within reach if they can use this performance as a template at the global competition. Numbers dont lie.

End of Volleyball: Near-perfect Malkia Strikers hit Serbia B in friendly



Sports

Marafiki shock Gor Mahia in Nyeri, Leopards claw Murang'a Seal

Cecil Odongo / Monday, September 19, 2022

Kenyan giants Gor Mahia on Sunday fell 1-0 to Football Kenya Federation Division Two side Marafiki FC in a friendly match at Kinunga Stadium in Nyeri County.

In the neighbouring Muranga County, K'Ogalo's arc- rivals AFC Leopards beat National Super League side Muranga Seal 3-1 at the St Sebastian Park in an evenly contested tie.

In Nyeri, John Macharia's thunderbolt shot in the 78th minute gave the hosts the historic over KOgalo in a match that attracted a sizeable crowd.

KOgalo put up a lackluster performance, with the current players' strike at the club showing.

At St Sebastian Park, AFC Leopards netted through Ronald Shichenje, Jaffari Odeny and Victor Otieno while the hosts' lone goal was netted scored by forward Dennis Munyovi.

Leopards had drawn 1-1 against FC Talanta and lost by a solitary goal to Kenya Police in their last two friendlies.

Gor Mahia's Irish tactician Johnathan McKinstry praised Marafiki, saying they will soon be a force to reckon with in Kenyan football.

Marafiki played well and was vibrant in the entire match. They prepared well and it is not a surprise that they beat us. We have learnt a lot of positives in the game and must work out on our weak areas before the new season kicks off, said McKinstry.

At St Sebastian Park, Leopards assistant coach Tom Gaza Juma said that even though the scoreline showed they had a comfortable win, Seal was a tough side on the pitch.

It was not an easy game and our hosts had a good side. We just used the scoring chances we got. Generally, there is a lot of change in our fitness level compared to the last friendly match we played, said Juma.

Muranga Seal coach Vincent Nyaberi however said his strikers failed to convert some of the opportunities which came their way.

End of Marafiki shock Gor Mahia in Nyeri, Leopards claw Murang'a Seal



Sports

Nyalis Adel Balala keeps Kabete Open crown

Larry Ngala / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Nyali Golf and Country Clubs Adel Balala beat his fellow national team player John Lejirmah of Kenya Railway Golf by three shots to retain the Kabete Open Golf title at the par 72 Vet Lab Sports Club on Sunday.

Balala, who is also the national Amateur Stroke Play champion, posted a three rounds total of 220 gross despite a poor 78 in the second round to become the second player to win the title back- to-back. Royal Nairobi's Kenneth Bollo won the title in 2015 and successfully defended it in 2016.

"My game was not so bad this weekend though I had a rather poor score in the second round. But I was able to remain cool and managed to sink a number of birdies particularly at the front nine. This is a good build up for the forthcoming All Africa Team Golf Championship and next month's national Amateur Stroke Play at Vipingo where I also intend to defend my title," said Balala.

He birdied the first two holes in yesterday's round, dropped a shot at the third, but birdied the fifth, seventh and ninth for a low four under par 32.

At the back nine, Balala made an awful double at the par four-13th, after making a birdie at the 11th, then he three-putted the 18th after a superb driver, for a closing two under par 70.

On the other hand, Lejirmah birdied the fifth, sixth and seventh, but picked up a double bogey at the 10th and three single bogeys at the 13th, 16th and 17th though a 15-footer birdie at the 18th assured him of a second place at least, with a 54-hole total of 223 gross.

End of Nyalis Adel Balala keeps Kabete Open crown



New IFC podcast promotes women in Africas renewable energy sector

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Listen in.

End of New IFC podcast promotes women in Africas renewable energy sector



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

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

About EMTECH

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

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

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

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

By Evans Ongwae

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

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

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

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

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

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



Life-and-style

Why I am now waiting for a big government job

Mwalimu Andrew / Sunday, September 18, 2022

Despite having taken the school TV out of the staffroom to my office, then to my home; despite having clearly spelt out a tough hundred-days plan ahead of the Presidents Swearing in, I decided to take a reconciliatory tone, and to work on building non-partisan bridges between myself, colleagues and the community at large.

I got convinced on the need to reach out and make up when on Monday evening, I heard that President Uhuru had hosted President Ruto at State House, Nairobi. President Uhuru had even congratulated President Ruto, taken him on a tour around the house on the hill, and sources intimate to the main source told me that they had jovially smiled and laughed like great friends. And they had made merry.

I wished I had known that early enough as I would have tried to see if Bensouda could host me at her place. If you remember, she has hosted me several times before, and all I can say is that it was a wonderful experience and I really look forward to being hosted again in future. I tried calling her, but she did not respond. I did not wish to be taken on a school tour, for I knew the school (like the palm of my hand) better than she did.

I was at Hitlers that evening and I texted Kuya asking where he was. He was not far away, so I invited him to join us at Hitlers. For the first time, I paid for his drinks. Or rather, I took the drinks on credit to be paid for later.

President-elect

That evening, before I went to sleep, I sent each staff member a WhatsApp message: I hope you are doing well. Here is to wishing you a great holiday tomorrow. Please rest well, and come back on Wednesday, fresh and ready to serve the new government. Cheers and good night!

Most responded with a positive message except for Lena, who told me that she did not recognise the president elect. I told her that Kenyans had made a decision, so had the Supreme Court, but she dismissed it, saying that leaders are chosen by God, not judges.

That evening, I passed by Rumonas her husband Kizito away- for dinner. Rumona was visiting from Nairobi and she had many stories. It was very late when I left her place and slowly staggered home, satisfied.

I was up early the next morning as I planned to spend the day at home, following the swearing-in on TV. I invited a few people to join me, including Sapphire, Kuya, Nyayo and his crew.

By 11 am, my house was full to the brim. Rasto, who had once been a watchman at Securicor, and who everyone called Soldier, marvelled at the military parades and explained what they were doing. Wrongly!

As expected, complaints started coming in as the day progressed. Kutembelea Mhuni ni kuharibu wakati, complained Rasto, a few minutes past noon. Adding that had it been at Kizitos, or any other place, the woman of the home would have offered them something even if it was just water.

Hapa hata panya zilihama, hakuna dalili, said Alfayo. He had kept saying he was about to leave but never left. As at 4pm, long after the swearing, he was still there. I sent Nyayo with a bottle to Hitlers, well aware that they were hungry and would not take a lot. I was wrong, they drank as if they were full.

What impressed me most that day was the presidents speech. There was no doubt he had read and copied some elements of my 100 days plan, for there were so many similarities.

Like every other teacher, I was very keen to hear what he would say about the monkey called CBC.

We will form an Education Reform Taskforce to look at CBC and other education matters he said. It did not take long before my brother Pius called.

Bro umesikia kuna kazi ya Education taskforce? he asked and added that if I played my cards well, I would be appointed to serve on the board.

I asked what I needed to do, for I had no connection to the new presidents. Dont worry, I know someone who can assist, he said confidently. He asked me to send him my CV.

I asked him what to do. He told me then he did not know what I could do, but he said I needed not do anything, then added: But when you get something, do not forget us.

Pius called me later on. Are you at a place when we can talk? he asked. I moved from the rest:

What evidence do you have to show that you have been supporting the presidents party? he asked me.



Life-and-style

Why I am now waiting for a big government job

Mwalimu Andrew / Sunday, September 18, 2022

I told him that I had no real evidence of supporting Kenya kwanza, but that there was no evidence of me supporting Azimio either.

Did you congratulate the president when IEBC announced him the winner? he asked. I told him I had. And did you congratulate after the Supreme Court upheld his win? I had not.

What of today? I had not. Pius told me that if I was really keen on any appointment, I needed to congratulate the President as many times as possible.

I immediately went on Facebook and Twitter to type a congratulatory message.

Pius called me the next day to say that my congratulatory message had been seen and had gone down well with a few influential people at State House. In fact, he went on to tell me that I should be ready for something bigger than just the taskforce.

He would later that day inform me that I had been considered to be the Presidents advisor on education.

Its a very senior position, and your name is up there, said Pius. But you have to continue congratulating the president and supporting and sharing the governments new policies. Your posts must have a huge reach, so many likes and comments. Thats the criteria.

With an appointment imminent, I decided to make full peace with teachers. That evening, I called two boys who carried the TV from my home to the school and mounted it back to the staffroom. On Friday, teachers were pleasantly surprised to find the TV back in the staffroom and switched on. I never dictated what time anyone watched the TV, nor did I admonish anyone who missed class.

The teachers were just praising me and, I am sure, when I am appointed to the senior government post, I will not leave any enemies behind!

End of Why I am now waiting for a big government job



Murderers are mostly men who are unmarried, broke

Chris Hart / Sunday, September 18, 2022

You're probably aware that the vast majority of murders are committed by young men. But did you know that their victims are also mostly young men? In general, murder rates are highest where law enforcement is ineffective, which creates what's called a culture of honour, where men fiercely resist even the slightest disrespect.

A killing generally starts over a matter of personal integrity, status, or a woman, usually in front of people that both men know. Neither's willing to back down and a murder results. Mostly, the men involved are defending the only valuable thing they've got. A reputation for refusing to be pushed around. So the vast majority of murders aren't committed by evil people. Much more often, it's just one young man killing another in a violent argument. By comparison, the number of murders committed by women is minimal.

Both young men will also almost always be unmarried and earning very little money. While wealthier, married men hardly take one's life.

Murder rates are also higher whenever there's high-income inequality because a big difference between the haves and the have-nots makes poor men far more aggressive. The same young, unemployed, unmarried men also commit most of society's violent crimes. Why's that?

It's because far more men than women die childless. Very few women have any real difficulty finding a mate, though he might not be the man of her dreams. But many young men can't find a wife at all. It's always been like that because a woman who wants children won't marry a man with no prospects. Even if she has a good job herself. And so, instead, she becomes the second wife, mistress, or girlfriend of a richer man.

So, men who can't find honest work turn to crime, in an attempt to become rich enough to attract a wife. It's not about their morals, or how they were brought up. Wherever young men lose out to richer men in their search for a wife, crime rates are high. And the risk of getting caught and punished is a very little deterrent because having no children is a genetic dead end anyway.

So the instincts that lead young men to risk death in their search for a wife, make all the sense in the world. Others may be deterred by harsh laws and long prison terms. But not young men without wives. So how can societies reduce violent crime?

Passing stricter laws simply makes no difference at all. Neither does moralising. Having an efficient police force does help a little, as does encourage monogamous marriages, though that's never stopped women from becoming rich men's mistresses. Because the real cure is economic policies that create jobs and reduce the differences between rich and poor.

Especially, the sort of jobs that enable a young man to earn a decent honest living, attract a wife and start a family. And as an additional benefit, there'll also be far fewer mistresses and second wives!

End of Murderers are mostly men who are unmarried, broke



Life-and-style

Gain courage to confront the future

CAROLE MANDI / Sunday, September 18, 2022

We don't heal the past by dwelling there, we heal the past by living fully in the present, to quote American author Marianne Williamson.

The first time my grandmother stepped into a plane, she was in her mid 80s. Before that, she had always taken the bus to visit her children and grandchildren in the city. However, as the years wore on, and concerned about the risks of public service vehicles, the family made a decision that air travel was best for her regular medical check-up and family visits.

I mentally prepared myself for a battle, convinced she would not like this change of means. However, when the idea was mooted to her, she was ecstatic in an almost child-like fashion, informing everyone who cared to listen.

We were at the airport to meet her when she arrived. After greeting everyone, she promptly announced that her days of taking the bus were over. I didn't even feel tired, she said, marvelling at the wonder of air travel. How was it that a trip that used to take several hours could be completed in under one hour? She wanted to know.

Plus, the air hostesses were wonderful, offering her a drink and some snacks. And just like that, it was settled. For the remainder of her life, 10 years to be exact, she flew. Not only that, she happily embraced technology, speaking to us via video calls on phone.

Read: Wanted: More old fashioned, drama parents

We often go far to look for exemplary persons, but I'm thinking of my grandmother as yet another larger-than-life figure, Queen Elizabeth of England, is laid to rest. As a woman who had witnessed great changes in her life, from colonialism to independence, to seeing her granddaughters enjoy the women's rights she did not even dream about, she took it all in her stride. She taught me many things, most importantly, to embrace the future, not run from it.

Still recovering from the effects of Covid-19 and economic instability, tomorrow is uncertain. Who can say what the future holds? How do we walk into a world where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is taking over? Best of all, you don't have to feed AI. Some careers are already obsolete, thanks to digital advancements.

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There are even robotic pets, if you like, programmed as you like and don't leave nasty, little, smelly surprises behind. The future can look a little scary, especially if you are over 30. Yet it's not all doom and gloom. Tech has made our lives much more efficient in many respects, we can try to enjoy the benefits while minimising the downside. However, we need to shift our perspective and move courageously into the brave new world.

The past is usually a place of nostalgia. We reminisce about the good old days even though they were more of old than good. Yet the past is no place to live. As long as we still have life, there is always one more adventure waiting for us ahead. However, finding it requires letting go of the past and embracing discomfort. My grandmother lived only ten years after that flight. Yet she taught me that one is never too old to try something new.

End of Gain courage to confront the future