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YOUR WEEKLY REVIEW

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Sh13.5b project to tackle water shortages in five ASAL counties

For years, these counties have suffered prolonged droughts, leading to massive livestock losses, wildlife deaths and the erosion of community livelihoods. Once completed, the project will deliver a reliable and sustainable water source, opening up new economic opportunities and strengthening resilience among affected communities.

FULL STORY PAGE 2

Sh13.5b project to tackle water shortages in five ASAL counties

Water and Sanitation Cabinet Secretary Eng. Eric Muuga (centre) interacts with exhibitors during the Non-Revenue Water Conference in Naivasha. PHOTO: ERASTUS GICHOHI/KNA

BY ERASTUS GICHOHI (KNA)

Five Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties are set to benefit from a Sh13.5 billion groundwater project aimed at addressing chronic water shortages. The Government has begun implementing the Groundwater Resilience Project in Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit and Garissa counties. Funded by the national government in partnership with the World Bank, the initiative is expected to provide long-term relief in drought-prone regions where recurring dry spells have devastated livelihoods for decades. For years, these counties have endured prolonged droughts, resulting in massive livestock losses, wildlife deaths and the destruction of community livelihoods.

Once completed, the project will provide a reliable and sustainable water source, creating new economic opportunities and strengthening the resilience of affected communities.

Water and Sanitation Cabinet Secretary Eng. Eric Muuga announced the project during the opening of the Non-Revenue Water Conference in Naivasha. He expressed concern over rising losses of treated water, noting that providers lose nearly half of it through leakages, vandalism and ageing infrastructure.

"Uncollected revenue from non-revenue water has increased from 44 per cent to 48 per cent over the past year, a trend that is unsustainable," Eng. Muuga said.

He urged water service providers to adopt smart metering systems to reduce leakages and improve operational efficiency, warning that the losses cost the sector more than Sh15 billion annually.

He added that smart billing systems and enhanced monitoring would significantly improve revenue collection and service delivery. He also noted that the Water Act 2024 has created new opportunities for public-private partnerships aimed at expanding water access and strengthening climate resilience.

Water and Sanitation Principal Secretary Julius Korir echoed the concerns, citing leakages, vandalism, and ageing infrastructure as key drivers of losses. He also pointed to high electricity costs as a burden on providers, urging the adoption of hybrid energy systems to cut expenses and expand connections. Korir said the government will introduce performance-based targets to improve accountability and efficiency.

Council of Governors representative and Laikipia County Governor Joshua Irungu said nearly half of treated water fails to generate revenue, costing providers billions annually. "Illegal connections and vandalism remain major challenges. We must urgently invest in smart meters and real-time monitoring systems," he said, adding that governors are committed to reducing non-revenue water to 20 per cent by 2030.

Water and Sanitation Providers Association Chairman Thomas Odingo said providers are exploring green bonds and capital market financing to bridge funding gaps and expand infrastructure.

Kenya's Purple Tea debuts in France, eyes premium international market

BY YOBESH ONWONG'A (MYGOV)

From left to right: Dr. Ruth Kagia, Non-Executive Director at Equity Group Foundation; Dr. James Mwangi, Equity Group Managing Director and CEO; Betty Chebet Cherwon, Kenya's Ambassador to France; François-Xavier Delmas, Founder and Chairman of Palais des Thés; and Prof. Isaac Macharia, Non-Executive Chairman of Equity Group Holdings, at the launch of Kenyan Tea in Paris, France.

Kenya's distinctive Purple Tea has made its international debut at the Hôtel de Crillon in Paris, in a launch hailed as a breakthrough in the country's efforts to move beyond bulk commodity exports and into premium global markets.

French consumers, tea experts and industry stakeholders sampled the rare brew, cultivated on the volcanic slopes of Murang'a County, praising its floral aromas, fruity notes and high antioxidant content.

"This is the beginning of transforming tea from a commodity into a premium product," said Equity Group CEO Dr James Mwangi. "Moving to premium value has the potential to improve livelihoods, expand access to education and healthcare, and enable meaningful household investment."

The Paris showcase followed an agreement signed at the Africa Forward Summit between Gatanga Industries, French tea house Palais des Thés and Equity Group. The deal aims to connect Kenyan producers directly with premium international buyers, positioning Purple Tea as a flagship product in global markets.

Palais des Thés founder François-Xavier Delmas described the unveiling as "only the first step," adding: "We have been working to increase the visibility and value of Kenyan tea across Europe. Geographical indications are an extremely valuable tool, helping consumers identify and appreciate the unique origin and quality of the product."

Kenya's Ambassador to France, Betty Chebet Cherwon, underscored the broader significance of the launch, saying it represents not only a milestone for Kenya's tea industry but also a growing recognition of the country's capacity to produce and market high-value specialty products on the global stage.

"What we are witnessing today is an important step towards a more balanced trade relationship by promoting value addition, branding, and market access for Kenyan specialty teas," she said.

> This launch demonstrates what is possible when farmers, industry, financial institutions partner

"By opening new opportunities in premium markets, we are creating value for farmers and deepening economic cooperation between our two countries," said Cherwon. Equity Group Holdings Chairman Prof. Isaac Macharia emphasized the power of partnerships in driving the initiative.

"This launch demonstrates what is possible when farmers, industry partners, financial institutions, and international markets work together around a shared vision," he said.

"By positioning Kenyan specialty tea in premium global markets, we are not only enhancing the value of our agricultural products but also creating sustainable economic opportunities that can transform rural communities," said Prof. Macharia.

At the G7 Summit in Évian, chefs from the Élysée Palace crafted a dark chocolate infused with Kenyan Grand Cru tea, showcasing how the product can be transformed into high-value goods for discerning international consumers.

The debut also comes as Kenya advances efforts to secure Geographical Indication (GI) status for Purple Tea, which would protect its authenticity and strengthen its competitive edge.

The GI certification offers assurance to consumers of proven quality and promises farmers of improved returns and recognition of their craft.

Government distributes 20,000 gas cylinders to enhance clean cooking

Petroleum Principal Secretary Kello Harsama (in brown coat) hands over an LPG cylinder to a beneficiary in Ol Kalou during the launch of the distribution of 20,000 liquefied petroleum gas cylinders to households across five wards in Ol Kalou Constituency. PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI

BY ANTONY MWANGI (KNA)

The Government has launched the distribution of 20,000 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders to households across five wards in Ol Kalou Constituency as part of efforts to promote clean cooking energy, conserve forests and improve public health.

The programme was flagged off by Petroleum Principal Secretary Kello Harsama and Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira, who said the initiative is part of the government's strategy to reduce reliance on firewood and accelerate the transition to clean, affordable household energy.

Speaking during the launch, the two principal secretaries said continued dependence on firewood has contributed to deforestation and environmental degradation, making the adoption of cleaner cooking fuels critical to achieving the country's forest conservation goals.

They noted that the programme supports President William Ruto's agenda of increasing Kenya's forest cover while expanding access to clean energy for households across the country.

Harsama urged beneficiaries to use the gas cylinders responsibly, saying wider adoption of LPG would not only protect forests but also improve the health of families by reducing exposure to harmful indoor smoke produced by traditional cooking fuels.

He observed that many rural households continue to rely on firewood and charcoal, exposing women and children to respiratory illnesses associated with prolonged inhalation of smoke.

The Petroleum Principal Secretary also called on residents to support government development programmes, saying public participation remains essential to accelerating service delivery and improving livelihoods.

On electricity access, Wachira announced that the government has allocated Sh1.6 billion for electricity connectivity projects across the larger Nyandarua area.

He said Ol Kalou Constituency has been allocated Sh260 million to implement 36 electricity projects, with about 2,600 households expected to be connected to the national grid by December this year.

Wachira said the investments in electricity and clean cooking energy complement each other by expanding access to modern energy services while supporting sustainable environmental management.

Presidential Senior Economic Advisor, Moses Kuria said the LPG distribution programme would benefit households in every ward within Ol Kalou Constituency.

He said residents had requested affordable cooking gas for many years and expressed confidence that the initiative would significantly reduce dependence on firewood, curb indiscriminate tree cutting and contribute to forest conservation.

Kuria urged residents to support the government's development agenda, saying the administration should be given time to fully implement its programmes.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sh260m

He said Ol Kalou Constituency has been allocated Sh260 million to implement 36 electricity projects, with about 2,600 households expected to be connected to the national grid by December this year.

Nakuru launches digital platform for NCD management

BY JANE NGUGI AND CAROLINE NYAKIO (KNA)

A new Artificial Intelligence-powered clinical decision support system for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) is being explored in Nakuru County to help in the treatment and management of diabetes and hypertension.

The move is as part of ongoing efforts to integrate technology into public healthcare delivery.

The system, known as 'AI-powered Clinical Decision Support System (cDSS)' according to Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital (NCRTH) Director Dr Santosh Devaraj is expected to support healthcare workers in delivering more accurate, timely and evidence-based care.

Dr Devaraj explained that cDSS was a digital tool designed to enhance clinical decision-making and improve patient outcomes in the management of non-communicable diseases.

"The tool is designed to provide clinicians with real-time, evidence-based medical references aligned with Ministry of Health treatment guidelines, with the aim of supporting more consistent bedside decision-making," he explained.

The Director added, "The platform is intended to complement, not replace, professional medical judgment. Technology should serve as a guide and support tool for clinicians, while final decisions always remain in the hands of trained health professionals."

Speaking during a meeting held at the Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital (NCRTH) for Medical Superintendents and county health leaders, Dr Devaraj added that the system incorporates data-protection measures such as encryption to safeguard patient information.

"Patient confidentiality is central to digital health," he added.

County eyes 10,000 youth in blue economy skills training campaign

BY RAMADHAN NASSIB (KNA)

Mombasa County has launched an ambitious vocational training programme dubbed "Skills Mitaani", targeting more than 10,000 young people for training and certification in blue economy and technical courses as part of efforts to tackle youth unemployment and bridge industry skills gaps.

The initiative was unveiled during a Career Symposium organised by Akili Dada in partnership with the Kenya Blue Economy Skills Training (KBEST) programme at Tononoka Social Hall.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Education Dr Kame Mbwarali said the county had already enrolled 750 students under the "Tujiajiri Skills Mitaani" cohort and plans to absorb thousands more, including Form Four leavers awaiting university placement.

"When Skills Mitaani is fully rolled out, we will award diploma certificates through programmes lasting six months to one year to no fewer than 10,000 students. I do not want anyone left out," said Dr Mbwarali.

He said the county government has signed memoranda of understanding with several private and community colleges in Mvita, Kisauni and Nyali sub-counties to expand access to vocational training beyond the established Mtongwe and Kisauni Vocational Training Centres.

Youth follow proceedings during a Career Symposium organized by Akili Dada in partnership with the Kenya Blue Economy Skills Training (KBEST) programme at Tononoka Social Hall in Mombasa County.

Dr. Mbwarali linked the programme to the county's broader investment in education, citing free pre-primary education and a subsidized secondary school feeding programme that has reduced annual parental contributions from Sh22,000 to as low as Sh5,000 after bursary support.

Mombasa County Director of Vocational Training Nancy Gathigia said the Kenya Blue Economy Skills Training programme, supported by the Government of Canada, is being implemented in 14 counties, including Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi.

She said the programme seeks to align vocational training with labour market needs by ensuring industries participate in curriculum development under the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) framework.

"For many years in Kenya, we have focused on the supply side and not the demand side. The new CBET curriculum brings industry on board even in preparing our curriculum," she said.

Gathigia said Mtongwe Vocational Training Centre has introduced a specialized short course in outboard engine repair, the first of its kind in Mombasa, alongside courses in refrigeration, air conditioning and baking technology tailored to the maritime and hospitality sectors.

She added that the county is providing capitation grants of Sh15,000 per student at Mtongwe and Maunguja vocational training centres to reduce the financial burden on parents and improve access to technical education.

The director also highlighted the county's efforts to promote gender inclusion in vocational training, noting that Mtongwe Vocational Training Centre now has women instructors teaching plumbing, while childcare centres have been established at Kisauni and Mtongwe to support young mothers pursuing technical courses.

Kisauni Vocational Training Centre construction instructor and spokesperson Zablon Randu Nzai said the institution is offering two KBEST sponsored courses such as Accommodation and Housekeeping, and Pastry and Baking to 30 trainees at a subsidized fee of Sh5,000.

He said the fees can be paid in three instalments of Sh2,500, Sh1,500 and Sh1,000, compared to the normal course fee of Sh36,000 once the sponsored slots are filled. "When opportunities like this come, we should not sleep on them. We should seize them," said Nzai, urging interested youth to apply before the subsidized intake closes.

ICT instructor Ambrose Mwachibua said the expanding blue economy presents growing employment opportunities in the hospitality and marine sectors and encouraged young people to take advantage of the county's vocational training programmes.

KEBS backs small businesses with affordable certification

BY ESTHER MWANGI AND DENNIS RASTO (KNA)

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is implementing a raft of policies and initiatives aimed at promoting the adoption of eco-friendly technologies, ethical business practices, and resource-efficient processes within the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem.

According to KEBS, MSMEs are now benefiting from a graduated, tiered payment structure for all services offered by the standards body, making quality assurance and certification more affordable. The move follows major policy reforms designed to support the growth of the sector.

KEBS South Rift Regional Manager Engineer Josephat Bangi said the special payment package was developed to support the MSME sector, which employs approximately 14.9 million Kenyans, and

Kenya Bureau of Standards Regional Manager for the South Rift Region Engineer Josephat Bangi takes MSME operators through a sensitization session on product certification at the Nakuru Agricultural Show.

to enhance its capacity to produce high-quality products for both local and global markets.

Engineer Bangi explained that when an MSME applies for certification of one product, KEBS certifies two additional products free of charge. Unlike larger firms, MSMEs are also exempt from charges for product testing and factory inspections. He expressed optimism that MSMEs would become an even stronger pillar of the economy, noting that while the sector accounts for about 80 per cent of employment in the country, it contributes only about 30 to 35 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"This contribution can be significantly improved if MSMEs are provided with the right environment, facilitation, and capacity-building support to help them graduate from micro to small, medium and eventually large enterprises," he said.

Government digital procurement system onboards 1,543 entities in one year

BY JANE CHEBET AND EVALYNE GITHINJI (PCO)

The Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) System has, over the past year, finalized 3,700 contracts worth Sh12 billion, onboarded 1,543 public entities, and published more than 670 Annual Procurement Plans (APPs).

Since its launch on July 1, 2025, the e-GP System has also registered 43,000 suppliers, processed 29,106 requisitions, and published 10,819 tender notices, underscoring the scale of Kenya's digital transformation in public procurement.

Principal Secretary for Public Investments and Assets Management Cyrell Wagunda described the achievement as "a monumental victory" during a high-level review meeting attended by State Department officials and system developers.

"In our nation's history, a digital transformation of this magnitude in public procurement has never been achieved. This is therefore a monumental victory that we are proud of," Wagunda said, noting that digitalization has sealed loopholes associated with manual procurement processes.

He emphasized that, in the new financial year, exemptions will no longer be permitted, insisting that all procuring entities must comply with the system.

The PS lauded the dedication of officials

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Investments and Assets Management Cyrell Wagunda speaking during a high-level meeting that brought together officials from the State Department and the e-GP System developers, held in Treasury Building.
PHOTO: JACK MWANIKI

and developers who worked tirelessly to deliver the rollout. "We have witnessed immense dedication, late nights, and hard work from both teams. From system requirements gathering to piloting and eventually national rollout, this has been a collective triumph," he said.

Looking ahead, Wagunda directed the teams to establish an aggressive roadmap for Phase Two, which will include finalizing and deploying remaining modules to achieve fully seamless digital procurement. He stressed the

BY THE NUMBERS

29,106

Since its launch on July 1, 2025, the e-GP System has also registered 43,000 suppliers, processed 29,106 requisitions, and published 10,819 tender notices

urgent need to complete integration between e-GP and the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), calling it a paramount step to ensure automated budget validation. "The first procurement requisition of this Financial Year must be successfully committed in IFMIS through the e-GP System. This is the target, and we must achieve it without fail," he insisted.

Beyond IFMIS, Wagunda underscored the importance of integrating e-GP with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems used by State Corporations.

He emphasized knowledge transfer and capacity building to empower local teams to manage the system sustainably.

Director-General of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Patrick Wanjuki, hailed the system as a game-changer.

Kenya pushes for global AI partnerships to drive digital transformation

Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy William Kabogo (right) representing Kenya during the WSIS Forum 2026 and the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva.

BY VIOLET OTINDO (PCO)

Kenya has intensified its campaign to position itself as Africa's digital innovation hub after securing strategic partnerships and reaffirming its commitment to responsible artificial intelligence (AI) governance at the WSIS Forum 2026 and the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva.

Leading a high-level delegation, Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy William Kabogo said the country is leveraging global cooperation to strengthen AI governance, expand digital infrastructure, boost innovation and prepare young people for an AI-driven future.

The week-long forum brought together world leaders, policymakers, technology firms and development partners to shape the future of artificial intelligence, digital governance and inclusive digital development.

Addressing delegates during the "Bridging the Intelligence Divide: AI Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing for the Global South" session, Kabogo called for stronger international collaboration to ensure equitable access to AI technologies, digital infrastructure, skills and knowledge, reaffirming Kenya's commitment to implementing the National AI Strategy 2025–2030.

On the sidelines of the summit, the Cabinet Secretary also met members of the Kenya Robotics Team representing the country at the AI for Good Global Summit.

He described them as evidence that Kenya's future is already being shaped by its young innovators.

"The future isn't something we wait for; it's something our children are already building," Kabogo said.

The meetings yielded commitments that Kenya intends to harness to accelerate digital transformation, including support for ethical AI governance, digital inclusion, cybersecurity cooperation, skills development and increased financing for digital infrastructure.

The Ministry said the outcomes align with Kenya's National Digital Master Plan and are expected to help bridge the digital divide, promote local innovation and strengthen the country's position as a regional technology hub.

The delegation also pursued strategic engagements with global institutions, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNESCO and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), aimed at deepening cooperation in internet governance, cybersecurity, broadband expansion and investment in data centres.

These engagements are expected to reinforce Kenya's preparations to host the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in December 2026, further raising the country's profile in global digital policy.

Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Stephen Isaboke participated in the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, which launched the inaugural report of the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence, calling for coordinated and evidence-based AI governance.

He also spoke during the "Children First: An Intergenerational Policy Dialogue on AI Governance, Social Media and the Future of Childhood", where he said Kenya is pursuing policies that balance technological innovation with safety, ethics and inclusivity.

Isaboke highlighted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2030 as the country's blueprint for responsible AI development, anchored on human rights, transparency, accountability, privacy and inclusivity.

He said the strategy was developed through extensive consultations involving government, academia, the private sector, civil society, development partners and young innovators to ensure it reflects Kenya's priorities.

The Principal Secretary also outlined measures to protect children online, citing industry guidelines for child online protection and safety that require digital platforms to adopt safety-by-design principles, including age verification, data protection and mechanisms for reporting harmful content.

He said these measures are reinforced by the Constitution, the Data Protection Act, the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act and the Children Act.

Isaboke further highlighted the government's Digital Superhighway Agenda, noting that 1,450 digital hubs established across the country and the expansion of fibre-optic infrastructure are equipping young people, including learners in rural and underserved areas, with digital skills needed to thrive in the AI era.

FEATURE: RURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION

County now turns to cooperatives to improve farmers' incomes, create job opportunities

BY GILBERT MUTAI (KNA)

Kericho County is repositioning cooperative societies from traditional marketing organisations into engines of rural industrialisation, value addition and enterprise development as part of efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

From coffee processing and dairy production to maize milling, sugar development and livestock value chains, the county is placing cooperatives at the centre of its investment strategy.

Governor Dr Erick Mutai said cooperatives offer the most effective pathway to increasing farmers' incomes, creating jobs and stimulating the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The Governor unveiled the county's cooperative transformation agenda during the International Ushirika Day celebrations held at Kericho Primary School, where he outlined far-reaching interventions aimed at strengthening farmer-owned institutions as key drivers of agricultural productivity, agro-processing, manufacturing and inclusive economic growth.

1. **Members of Kenya Highlands Cooperative Society celebrate after receiving a trophy and certificate during the International Ushirika Day celebrations at Kericho Primary School.**
2. **Kericho County Governor Dr. Erick Mutai addressing participants during the International Ushirika Day celebrations at Kericho Primary School.** PHOTOS: GILBERT MUTAI

The celebrations brought together cooperative leaders, SACCO officials, farmers, county and national government representatives, development partners and other stakeholders from across the cooperative movement to celebrate the sector's contribution to Kenya's economic development and social transformation.

This year's International Ushirika Day was celebrated under the theme, "Cooperatives for a Peaceful World," recognizing that strong and inclusive cooperative enterprises help build peaceful societies by creating economic opportunities, reducing poverty and inequality, expanding financial inclusion, strengthening local value chains and ensuring communities share equitably in the benefits of development.

By empowering people to collectively own productive assets and participate in economic decision-making, cooperatives foster social stability and resilience, which are essential foundations for sustainable peace.

Addressing the gathering, Mutai said the future of Kericho's economy lies in organized, professionally managed cooperative societies capable of driving production, processing, value addition and marketing while ensuring farmers receive maximum returns from their produce.

"If we want to transform the lives of our people and put more money into the pockets of our farmers, then we must build strong cooperatives. Strong cooperatives create strong farmers, strong businesses and strong communities," he said.

He noted that the county government had deliberately shifted its agricultural support programmes from individual beneficiaries to cooperative societies in order to strengthen governance, improve accountability and ensure public investments benefit a larger number of farmers.

The Governor said the strategy complements the national Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, which identifies agriculture and MSMEs as the key pillars for creating jobs, improving food security, expanding value addition and driving inclusive economic growth.

Although Kericho has built an international reputation as Kenya's leading tea-producing county, the governor said the county was intentionally diversifying its agricultural economy by investing in coffee, dairy, sugarcane, cereals and livestock through cooperative societies.

Leaders urge farmers to embrace high-value crops

BY FREDRICK MARITIM

Farmers in Kenya have been advised to embrace modern farming practices, strive for economic self-reliance and adopt clean energy as key drivers of improved and sustainable livelihoods.

Speaking during a Mass at Kabuliot Catholic Church, Moiben Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, Principal Secretary for the National Treasury, Dr. Chris Kiptoo, called on farmers to improve their livestock breeds to increase milk production and household incomes.

"We must embrace a culture of hard work and self-reliance. Instead of depending on handouts from politicians, let us invest in productive activities that will improve our livelihoods and secure a better future for our families," said Dr. Kiptoo.

The PS encouraged farmers to diversify from overreliance on maize farming by venturing into high-value crops such as avocado, macadamia and coffee, noting that the crops offer better returns and can significantly improve household incomes.

"I urge our farmers to improve their livestock breeds and embrace high-value crops such as avocado, macadamia and coffee. Agricultural diversification is the surest way to increase incomes and transform the economic well-being of our communities," he said. Dr. Kiptoo further disclosed that the government, in collaboration with local leaders, is planning to desilt water dams and other water sources to improve access to clean and reliable water for households.

Principal Secretary for the National Treasury, Dr. Chris Kiptoo, addresses congregants during a Sunday Mass at Kabuliot Catholic Church in Moiben Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, where he urged farmers to embrace high-value crops, improve livestock breeds and adopt self-reliance to enhance household incomes.
PHOTO: FREDRICK MARITIM

Vihiga County Governor Wilber Ottichilo, (seated Fifth from left), pictured after signing and handing over the Kaimosi Municipality Charter during a ceremony in Kaimosi Boys Senior school in Hamisi Constituency, officially conferring municipality status on Kaimosi Town.

Kaimosi becomes Vihiga's second municipality

BY CRISPINUS IVAN AND ROSE WASIKE (KNA)

Kaimosi Town in Hamisi Constituency has officially been granted municipality status, becoming the second municipality in Vihiga County after Governor Wilber Ottichilo signed and handed over the Kaimosi Municipality Charter during a colourful ceremony.

The conferment, undertaken in line with Article 184 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, marks a significant milestone in the county's urban development agenda and is expected to enhance planning, governance and service delivery.

Speaking at the event, Governor Ottichilo described the occasion as a historic achievement that will shape the future of Kaimosi for generations to come.

"Today, we are making history by conferring municipality status on Kaimosi Town. This process has confirmed that Kaimosi is ready for urban status. I thank the National Government, development partners, stakeholders and the people of Hamisi for their patience and commitment throughout this journey," he said.

He noted that the new municipality will be managed by a municipal board and administration, which will oversee orderly planning and development in accordance with the law.

The Governor said the new status would enable Kaimosi to access additional funding, grants and development resources, leading to improved infrastructure and public services.

He said investments would be directed towards roads, markets, water and sanitation services, street lighting, parking facilities, public recreational spaces, sports and cultural facilities, as well as agricultural support programmes.

Ottichilo added that the municipality would attract investors, create employment opportunities for young people, increase the value of land and property, strengthen accountability and improve access to development financing.

He emphasized that proper physical planning would protect road reserves, safeguard residents from environmental hazards and ensure sustainable urban growth.

Vihiga County Women Representative Beatrice Adagala welcomed the conferment, saying it would create new economic opportunities for residents.

"I celebrate this milestone because it will benefit families, young people seeking jobs, traders, farmers and all residents. This is just the beginning, and we must continue working together to build a strong municipality," she said.

Adagala also urged those who will be appointed to the municipal board to ensure fairness and transparency in employment opportunities for local residents.

> "I thank the Government, development partners and the people of Hamisi for their patience and commitment

Shiru Ward MCA Bob Mwashi lauded the county government for successfully steering the municipality process but raised concerns over insecurity in the area.

Vihiga County Assembly Deputy Speaker Eric Odei termed the conferment a major step towards transforming the region through improved urban management, saying it would create employment opportunities for the youth while promoting responsive and people-centred leadership.

He called on the county government to engage relevant national security agencies to enhance security, saying improved safety would encourage investment and development. He further revealed that Sh12 million has been allocated to operationalise the proposed Cheptulu Municipality.

County Physical Planner and Architect Victor Kevaya outlined the journey towards the municipality's establishment, noting that the process began in 2018 with the preparation of the integrated development plan.

He said the proposal was approved by the County Executive Committee and the County Assembly before undergoing extensive public participation, culminating in the preparation and approval of the municipal charter.

During the ceremony, Governor Ottichilo officially proclaimed Kaimosi a municipality, unveiled its official symbols and handed over the municipality charter.

Internal Security and National Administration Principal Secretary Dr. Raymond Omollo (left) and Kisii Woman Representative Dorice Aburi during a church fundraiser at Kenyoro SDA Church in Bonchari Constituency, Kisii County.

Suneka Airstrip expansion set to resume as new contractor takes charge

BY MERCY OSONGO (KNA)

The expansion of Suneka Airstrip in Bonchari Constituency, Kisii County, is set to begin after a new contractor took over the project, Internal Security and National Administration Principal Secretary Dr Raymond Omollo has said.

Speaking during a church fundraiser at Kenyoro SDA Church in the constituency, Dr Omollo said the initial contractor had encountered challenges that led to the stalling of the project, prompting the government to appoint a new contractor to fast-track the works.

"There were challenges with the contractor who had been tasked with the modernization and expansion of Suneka Airstrip. Following the President's recent visit, a new contractor has been appointed and will proceed with the project," he said.

The PS said all the necessary documentation had been finalized this week, paving the way for construction works to commence.

He noted that the upgrade would significantly boost transport, trade and tourism in the Gusii region, as residents would no longer have to travel to neighbouring counties to access air transport services.

"Residents of Kisii will no longer have to travel all the way to Kisumu, Homa Bay or Migori to access flights because this project will make air travel much more convenient," Dr Omollo said.

He added that the project is expected to enhance regional connectivity, stimulate economic growth and create new opportunities for the county.

The PS lauded the political leaders in Kisii for working together to promote development projects within the county.

He also called for continued collaboration between leaders, communities and the church, saying that faith-based institutions are instrumental in promoting social cohesion and national unity.

Dr. Omollo urged parents to prioritise their children's education, saying the government had significantly invested in the sector to ensure that all students have access to quality education.

On matters of security, the PS warned politicians against using rowdy youth to disrupt opponent's gatherings, adding that such violent attacks had previously led to loss of lives and destruction of property.

His sentiments were echoed by Kisii Woman Representative Dorice Aburi who strongly condemned the political violence that was being witnessed in parts of the county. Aburi said no responsible leader should condone violence, adding that the people often drawn into political clashes are young people, whose lives are placed at risk.

"I recall the violence that happened at my office last time and still stand firm to condemn such attacks because I do not support any form of violence, and I have never been violent," she said.

The Woman Rep urged security agencies to take firm action against perpetrators of such violence and work closely with political leaders to continue promoting unity among Kenyans.

Kenya, Nigeria push joint finance reforms to mobilise capital and unlock MSME growth

BY LINDSEY OCHIENG (MYGOV)

The Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) and the Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) have urged African development finance institutions (DFIs) to step up collaboration in order to close financing gaps, unlock investment and accelerate growth for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Meeting in Nairobi, leaders from the two institutions said DFIs must play a catalytic role in mobilising capital, strengthening productive sectors and driving inclusive economic transformation.

The talks, led by KDC Director General Norah Ratemo and DBN Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Dr Tony Okpanachi, zeroed in on how African economies can build resilience through innovative financing solutions.

Participants acknowledged that MSMEs remain the backbone of Africa's job creation and industrial growth but continue to face limited access to affordable credit.

Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) Director General Norah Ratemo (right) and Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Dr Tony Okpanachi during a strategic benchmarking and knowledge exchange session hosted by KDC in Nairobi.

Ratemo warned that without stronger institutions, the continent's transformation agenda could stall.

"The future of Africa's economic transformation will depend not only on the availability of capital but also on the strength of the institutions that deploy it," she said. "Development finance institutions have a unique responsibility to crowd in investment, strengthen productive sectors, and create pathways for sustainable and inclusive growth."

Her remarks underscored the need for DFIs to move beyond lending and act as enablers of structural change by supporting value chains, improving governance, and ensuring financing translates into measurable impact.

Dr Okpanachi stressed that African DFIs face similar challenges, from resource mobilisation to operational efficiency, making peer-to-peer learning vital.

"Development finance institutions across Africa face many similar opportunities and challenges. Platforms such as this provide valuable insights that help us strengthen our institutions, improve service delivery, and maximise our development impact," he said.

The meeting explored lessons in governance, efficiency, and impact measurement, with both sides agreeing that knowledge-sharing is essential to building resilient financial ecosystems.

Ratemo underscored the role of MSMEs in driving industrialisation, adding that despite their importance, MSMEs across Africa often struggle to access affordable finance due to perceived risks and limited collateral.

She urged DFIs to design innovative models that reduce barriers and integrate MSMEs into broader economic transformation agendas.

Ratemo noted that partnerships between DFIs can help scale solutions across borders. "By sharing proven approaches, we can collectively enhance our impact and ensure that MSMEs are not left behind in Africa's growth story," she said.

The discussions also reflected the evolving expectations of DFIs as governments pursue ambitious industrialisation strategies. Beyond financing, DFIs are increasingly

Prisons move to commercialise certified potato seed production

BY ANTONY MWANGI (KNA)


Correctional Services Principal Secretary Salome Beacco (talking to the media) at Nyandarua Prison during an inspection of ongoing programmes at the facility.

Nyandarua Prison is scaling up certified potato seed propagation in a move aimed at enhancing food security, empowering farmers and equipping inmates with practical agricultural skills as part of its rehabilitation programme.

The correctional facility, which serves as a multi-sectoral centre providing correctional, probation and aftercare services, has partnered with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the International Potato Center (CIP) to strengthen potato seed production through technical support and skills transfer.

Speaking during an inspection of ongoing programmes at the prison, Correctional Services Principal Secretary Salome Beacco said the institution is modernising its agricultural facilities to increase certified seed production and improve food self-sufficiency within prisons.

"We are collaborating with specialists in seed production, and we are pleased that our partners have agreed to continue supporting this initiative. Our goal is to expand potato seed production from the current 20 acres by adding another 20 acres," said the PS. Beacco said the prison has already produced first- and second-generation potato seed and plans to commercialise the venture following the recent gazettement of the prison enterprise.

The certified seeds will be sold to farmers across the country, creating a sustainable supply of quality planting material. Commissioner General of Prisons Patrick Arandu noted that the initiative will not only generate income but also reduce government expenditure on food by enabling prisons to produce a greater share of their own food requirements.

Besides potato production, the prison is diversifying into orchard farming and continues to plant fruit, herbal and indigenous trees as part of its environmental conservation programme held on the second day of every month.

> "Many inmates come from farming communities. By training them in modern seed production technologies, they will be able to become self-reliant

The rehabilitation programme is also expected to equip inmates with modern farming skills that they can use to earn a livelihood after completing their sentences.

JICA Programme Officer Simon Kariuki said the agency is supporting the Kenya Prisons Service through technical transfer of skills in potato seed production.

"Our role is to support the government by building technical capacity so that both prison staff and inmates acquire the knowledge and skills needed to produce quality potato seed. The skills will also benefit farmers who will access both certified seeds and improved farming practices," he said.

Director of Farms at the Kenya Prisons Service, Patrick Kariri, said capacity building remains central to the programme.

"Many inmates come from farming communities. By training them in modern seed production technologies, they will be able to become self-reliant and engage in commercial farming once they reintegrate into society," he said.

Officials said Nyandarua Prison is the first correctional facility in Kenya to undertake potato seed propagation on such a scale, with plans to produce diverse potato varieties, beginning with white potatoes. The institution is targeting the production of high-quality, high-yielding certified seed capable of producing potatoes with a shelf life of up to four months.

Wrapped in warmth, Kangaroo care gives preterm babies a fighting chance

BY MABEL KEYA AND KUTA CECILIA (KNA)

A preterm baby under Kangaroo Mother Care, a globally recommended method that is transforming neonatal care in Kenya.

Data from the Ministry of Health shows that between 134,000 and 193,000 babies are born prematurely in Kenya every year before 37 weeks of gestation.

This translates to a national prevalence rate of 7.1 to 18.3 per cent of all deliveries.

Complications arising from these early births remain the leading cause of neonatal deaths, posing a major public health challenge.

Faced with these grim statistics, medics across the country are turning to innovative, low-cost interventions to improve survival rates.

Among the most effective is Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), a globally recommended method that is transforming neonatal care in Kenya.

KMC is built on three pillars, which include continuous skin-to-skin contact, exclusive breastfeeding, and early discharge from hospital. In practice, the baby dressed only in a nappy, socks, and a hat is placed upright against the parent's bare chest, nestled between the breasts, much like a kangaroo carrying its young. The infant is then secured with a wrap or sling and covered with a blanket to maintain warmth.

Doctors say this prolonged skin-to-skin contact regulates the baby's temperature, breathing, and heart rate more effectively than artificial incubators. Once stable and feeding well, babies can be discharged early, with continued monitoring and support.

At Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH) in Kisumu, the method is proving life-saving. The facility has embraced KMC, giving vulnerable infants a better chance of survival while easing anxiety for mothers.

"KMC is a simple but life-changing technique," explains Connie Omenge, nurse in charge of the newborn unit. "It keeps babies warm, encourages breastfeeding, promotes brain development, and helps them gain weight faster. It also strengthens the bond between mother and child."

For mothers who once faced the trauma of watching their tiny infants struggle in incubators, KMC has replaced fear with hope. The sight of mothers holding their babies close, wrapped in warmth and love, has become a reassuring image in JOOTRH's newborn unit.

Beyond immediate survival, KMC offers long-term benefits. Studies show that babies cared for through this method experience improved cognitive development, stronger immunity, and healthier weight gain. For families, it reduces hospital costs and fosters emotional resilience.

Still, experts caution that preventing preterm births remains the ultimate goal. Reducing risk begins with early and consistent prenatal care, managing chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, avoiding tobacco and alcohol, and spacing pregnancies at least 18 months apart.

Before delivery, medics recommend antenatal corticosteroids to strengthen the baby's lungs and intrapartum magnesium sulphate to protect against neurological complications. At birth, delayed cord clamping is advised, followed by immediate kangaroo care and early feeding with breast milk.

Omenge emphasises exclusive breastfeeding as a cornerstone of infant health. "Breast milk is the best nutrition for preterm babies. It supports brain development, strengthens immunity, and promotes healthy weight gain," she says.

The Ministry of Health has also been working to scale up KMC across county hospitals, training health workers and sensitising communities. The approach is particularly vital in resource-limited settings where incubators are scarce or costly to maintain.

For mothers like those at JOOTRH, the impact is visible, anxiety has given way to smiles, and fragile infants are thriving against the odds. Wrapped in warmth and love, these babies are not just surviving; they are growing stronger every day.

As Kenya continues to battle high rates of preterm births, Kangaroo Mother Care stands out as a beacon of hope. It is simple, affordable, and profoundly effective, proving that sometimes the best medicine is a mother's embrace.

FEATURE: FOOD SECURITY

Victory Farms unveils decade-long strategy to feed 2 billion Africans

1. **Cage fish harvesting at Roo Beach, Sindo, Homa Bay County, where Victory Farms operates its flagship aquaculture facility.** PHOTOS BY SITNA OMAR, KNA.
2. **Below.: Victory Farms Chief Executive Officer and co-founder, Joe Rehmann addresses employees, stakeholders and community members during the company's Founders Day celebrations in Sindo.**

BY SITNA OMAR (KNA)

What began as a small aquaculture venture on the shores of Lake Victoria has grown into one of Africa's largest tilapia producers, with Victory Farms now pursuing an ambitious goal of providing affordable, locally produced fish to more than two billion Africans over the next decade.

The vision took centre stage during the company's 11th Founders Day celebrations at its flagship farm in Roo Beach, Suba South, where executives, employees, community members and stakeholders reflected on the firm's growth and outlined plans to expand production, create more jobs and strengthen food security across the continent. Victory Farms Chief Development Officer Caesar Asiyo said the company's long-term strategy extends beyond East Africa and is focused on increasing access to affordable, nutritious fish while improving livelihoods through employment and local enterprise development.

"We are looking beyond East Africa, with a goal of feeding more than two billion Africans over the next decade. Our greatest achievement will not simply be the fish we harvest, but the jobs we create, the families we support and the communities that continue to grow alongside us," he said.

Today, Victory Farms employs more than 1,000 people directly, making it one of the largest private employers in Homa Bay County.

Thousands more earn their livelihoods through activities linked to the business, including fish trading, transportation, feed manufacturing, input supply and retail distribution.

Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Joe Rehmann said the company has surpassed the targets it set when operations began in 2015 with fewer than 10 ponds and a handful of floating cages.

"Where we are today, is our first farm and still our largest. When we started 11 years ago, our goal was to produce 10,000 tonnes of fish and employ 500 people. We achieved those targets years ago. Today we have over 1,000 employees, and that is probably our biggest milestone on the human capital side," he said.

According to Rehmann, sustained investment in people, technology and strong partnerships with surrounding communities has enabled the company to expand rapidly while maintaining consistent production.

"The growth we have achieved has only been possible by investing in people and technology. We've also had tremendous support from our community and all the different stakeholders because none of this is possible alone," he added.

The company's production has grown steadily over the past decade. Victory Farms now records monthly sales of about 1,400 tonnes of tilapia and recently surpassed its first 2,000-tonne monthly sales milestone across its operations in Kenya and Rwanda.

The company plans to expand into Tanzania once regulatory approvals are secured and is also preparing to enter the Ugandan market as part of its regional growth strategy.

Despite the rapid expansion, demand for fish continues to exceed supply across East Africa.

Executives say fish remains one of the healthiest and most affordable sources of animal protein, yet production has not kept pace with the region's rapidly growing population.

Rehmann observed that although locally produced fish has significantly reduced dependence on imports, per capita fish consumption remains under pressure because production growth is slower than population growth.

"The remarkable thing is that imported tilapia from China has declined by 80 per cent since we started, which means our mission of producing fish for local consumption is working.

But because our population is growing, fish consumption per person is actually declining. Fish is still too expensive for many families, and we have to continue investing so we can bring prices down," he said.

Artisanal miners seek greater inclusion in Kenya's mining reforms

BY MAKARA KAMOTHO AND BILDAD OKECHI (KNA)

Participants during a public participation forum on the Draft Minerals Mining and Value Addition Policy, the Draft Explosives Bill 2026, and the Draft Mining (Mine Health, Safety and Environment) Regulations 2026 at the Kenya school of Government in Embu.

Artisanal miners in Embu and Kirinyaga counties are calling for greater inclusion in Kenya's ongoing mining reforms, warning that policies developed without adequately addressing realities on the ground could hinder the growth of one of the country's emerging economic sectors.

The concerns were raised during a public participation forum organized by the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs to collect views on the Draft Minerals Mining and Value Addition Policy, the Draft Explosives Bill 2026, and the Draft Mining (Mine Health, Safety and Environment) Regulations 2026.

Leading the government's engagement team, Director of Mines David Onyango emphasized that public participation is a constitutional requirement aimed at ensuring citizens have a say in legislation that affects their livelihoods. "The Constitution requires that before the government develops legislation, we must consult the people who are the ultimate beneficiaries and users of these laws," Onyonga told participants. He said the consultations in Embu and Kirinyaga were intended to gather recommendations that would help refine the proposed laws before they proceed through the approval process.

One of the key issues raised during the forums was the need for local communities to play a greater role in the management and development of mineral resources.

According to Onyango, many participants called for increased community representation in mining structures to ensure local populations benefit from mineral wealth.

"The people have requested the government to involve them in the development and harnessing of mineral resources through committees and other mining processes so that they can participate and ensure that local community's benefit," he said.

Kirinyaga County Executive Committee Member for Energy, Mining and Environment James Kinyamutu who also welcomed the consultations described the exercise as an important step toward ensuring communities benefit from mining activities within their regions.

However, beyond questions of governance, artisanal miners used the forums to highlight the challenges facing the sector, including restrictive regulations, costly licensing procedures and limited technical support.

Miguel, a representative of the Mbeere Artisanal Miners Cooperative Society, argued that existing definitions of artisanal mining no longer reflect the realities of the industry. He said artisanal miners should be allowed to adopt modern equipment and mechanization to improve safety and productivity.

Hospital secures full autonomy after seven years

Medical Services PS Dr Ouma Oluga (centre) poses for a group photo with government officials during the unveiling of the Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.

BY SAMUEL MAINA AND PATIENCE WANGECHI (KNA)

Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital will now operate as an independent Level 6 facility after serving as an annex of Kenyatta National Hospital for seven years.

The 500-bed hospital, previously known as Kenyatta National Othaya Annex Hospital, was officially licensed to operate as a referral hospital on September 20, 2024, by President Dr William Ruto.

The facility provides both inpatient and outpatient services to patients from 11 counties across the Mount Kenya region and beyond.

Speaking during the official handover ceremony, Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr Ouma Oluga commended the hospital's management and Kenyatta National Hospital for ensuring a smooth transition, describing it as a major milestone in the country's healthcare system.

Dr Oluga reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the facility through continued investment in human resource capacity and the provision of modern diagnostic equipment to address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). "We are here to ensure that the transition is complete so that this hospital can stand on its own as a Level 6 facility. We have finalized the handover process, meaning everything can now be managed independently by the hospital's Board," said Dr Oluga.

Hospital gets major oxygen boost for critical care

BY FREDRICK MARITIM (KNA)

Mama Rachel Ruto Maternity Hospital has received a 1,000-litre liquid oxygen tank, boosting maternal and emergency healthcare services in Uasin Gishu County.

The tank, donated by Clinton Health Care, is equivalent to approximately 120 gaseous oxygen cylinders and will provide a reliable, continuous supply of medical oxygen to support critical patient care.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Director of Medical Services Dr Evans Kiprotich described the donation as a significant milestone in strengthening healthcare delivery. "The installation of this liquid oxygen system is a major step towards improving healthcare delivery by ensuring an uninterrupted supply of high-purity medical oxygen, which is essential in saving the lives of mothers, newborns and critically ill patients," said Dr. Kiprotich.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA VISION 2030

COAST WATER WORKS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

NOTICE FOR REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2026-2028

The Coast Water Works Development Agency (CWWDA) invites applications from interested and eligible firms, contractors, service providers, and consultants for registration in goods, works, and services for the 2026–2028 financial years in the following categories:

S/NO.	REGISTRATION NO.	CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	TARGET GROUP
1.	CWWDA/REG/001/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of Computers, servers, Network Accessories laptops, printers, scanners, Toners and other related ICT Equipment	Citizen Contractors
2.	CWWDA/REG/002/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of general office Stationery	Reserved Groups
3.	CWWDA/REG/003/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of office equipment (Metal filing cabinets, etc.)	Citizen Contractors
4.	CWWDA/REG/004/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Electrical Fittings and Lighting Materials	Reserved Groups
5.	CWWDA/REG/005/2026-2028	Repair /maintenance and Servicing of Air conditioner	Reserved Groups
6.	CWWDA/REG/006/2026-2028	Provision Motor Vehicles Insurance	Citizen Contractors
7.	CWWDA/REG/007/2026-2028	Supply of Staff Uniforms and protective Clothing	Reserved Groups
8.	CWWDA/REG/008/2026-2028	Provision of Air Travel Ticketing Services	Citizen Contractors
9.	CWWDA/REG/009/2026-2028	Installation and Maintenance Services for Local Area Network	Citizen Contractors
10.	CWWDA/REG/010/2026-2028	Provision of Medical, Group Personal Accident Insurance Services and Work Injury Benefit Act (WIBA) Services.	Citizen Contractors
11.	CWWDA/REG/011/2026-2028	Provision of General & Property Insurance	Citizen Contractors
12.	CWWDA/REG/012/2026-2028	Maintenance of office equipment (photocopiers, computers printers	Citizen Contractors
13.	CWWDA/REG/013/2026-2028	Provision of Security and Guarding Services	Citizen Contractors
14.	CWWDA/REG/014/2026-2028	Provision of Cleaning Services.	Reserved Groups
15.	CWWDA/REG/015/2026-2028	Supply of Motor Vehicles Tyres, Batteries & other accessories	Reserved Groups
16.	CWWDA/REG/016/2026-2028	Design, Branding and production of Promotional Materials/ Items	Reserved Groups
17.	CWWDA/REG/017/2026-2028	Design and Printing of Cards, Diaries, Corporate Newsletter, Stickers, Signage,Fliers, Brochures, Booklets	Reserved Groups
18.	CWWDA/REG/018/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of Office Furniture	Citizen Contractors
19.	CWWDA/REG/019/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of General Hardware and Plumbing Materials	Citizen Contractors
20.	CWWDA/REG/020/2026-2028	Supply, Delivery & Maintenance of Fire Fighting Equipment	Reserved Groups
21.	CWWDA/REG/021/2026-2028	Provision of Catering Services	Citizen Contractors
22.	CWWDA/REG/022/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of Water Pumps (Surface & Submersible), Gensets, Motors (Surface & Submersible), Switchgear and Related Accessories	Citizen Contractors
23.	CWWDA/REG/023/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of Laboratory Equipment and Reagents	Citizen Contractors
24.	CWWDA/REG/024/2026-2028	Provision of Water Works Services	Open to all
25.	CWWDA/REG/025/2026-2028	Provision of Civil Works Services	Open to all
26.	CWWDA/REG/026/2026-2028	Provision of Building Works Services	Open to all
27.	CWWDA/REG/027/2026-2028	Provision of Electromechanical services	Open to all
28.	CWWDA/REG/028/2026-2028	Supply and delivery Water Chemicals and Lab Reagents	Open to all
29.	CWWDA/REG/029/2026-2028	Repair & Servicing of Electrical Equipment	Citizen Contractors
30.	CWWDA/REG/030/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of Water Pipes, Valves & Fittings	Citizen Contractors
31.	CWWDA/REG/031/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of Consumer and Bulk Water Meters	Citizen Contractors
32.	CWWDA/REG/032/2026-2028	Provision of Engineering Consultancy Services	Open to all
33.	CWWDA/REG/033/2026-2028	Supply, Installation and Maintenance of CCTV Cameras	Reserved Groups
34.	CWWDA/REG/034/2026-2028	Provision of Legal Services	Reserved Groups
35.	CWWDA/REG/035/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of Software Licenses (Emails, antivirus, ERP etc)	Citizen Contractors
36.	CWWDA/REG/036/2026-2028	Provision of Annual Maintenance Contracts for Information Systems	Citizen Contractors
37.	CWWDA/REG/037/2026-2028	Supply and Installation of Information Systems	Reserved Groups
38.	CWWDA/REG/038/2026-2028	Repair and Serving of Motor vehicles	Open to all
39.	CWWDA/REG/039/2026-2028	Provision of Cybersecurity Services	Citizen Contractors
40.	CWWDA/REG/040/2026-2028	Supply, Installation, Configuration, and Commissioning of Information Systems, Enterprise Software Applications, and ICT Digital Platforms.	Citizen Contractors
41.	CWWDA/REG/041/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of Air Conditioners and Related Accessories	Reserved Groups
42.	CWWDA/REG/042/2026-2028	Provision of Fumigation Services	Reserved Groups
43.	CWWDA/REG/043/2026-2028	Repair and Maintenance of Buildings	Reserved Groups
44.	CWWDA/REG/044/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Reserved Groups
45.	CWWDA/REG/045/2026-2028	Supply and Delivery of Audio-Visual Equipment	Citizen Contractors
46.	CWWDA/REG/046/2026-2028	Provision of Photography, Videography, Video Editing and Documentary Production Services	Citizen Contractors
47.	CWWDA/REG/047/2026-2028	Provision of Event Management, Exhibition and Conference Services	Citizen Contractors
48.	CWWDA/REG/048/2026-2028	Provision of Public Relations, Strategic Communication and Media Relations Consultancy Services	Citizen Contractors

Interested applicants must be registered with the electronic Government Procurement (eGP) system. To apply for registration, you are required to submit your company profile alongside a cover letter clearly stating your preferred category.

Please ensure that your profile includes copies of the following mandatory compliance documents:

- **A valid Tax Compliance Certificate (TCC) and a KRA PIN Certificate**
- **Your Business Registration Service (BRS) registration number**
- **A valid Single Business Permit**
- **A CR12 Certificate (for limited companies) or copies of National IDs (for sole proprietors)**
- **A valid AGPO Registration Certificate (for firms applying under the specific reserved procurement categories)**

The registration closing date is **Tuesday, 28th July 2026 at 10:00 am.** Please note that all submissions must be made in soft copy and sent via email to: **info@cwwda.go.ke./ Procurement@cwwda.go.ke**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COAST WATER WORKS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

KENYA VISION 2030

Kericho household reaps benefits of Last-Mile Electricity project

BY SHIRLEY CHEPKOECH AND SHIRLEEN CHEMUTAI (KNA)

The Government's Last Mile Connectivity Programme (LMCP) is transforming the lives of households across the country by expanding access to electricity and improving education, security, healthcare and economic opportunities.

Among the latest beneficiaries is the family of Joseph Ruto of Baregeiwet Village in Soliat Ward, Soin Sigowet Constituency, Kericho County, whose home was officially connected to electricity during a visit by Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi.

The connection marks the end of years of reliance on a single kerosene lamp for lighting, cooking and children's studies, a situation that limited productivity, increased household expenses and negatively affected the family's quality of life.

Speaking after the official switch-on ceremony, Ruto said access to electricity had brought renewed hope to his family by enabling his children to study at night under proper lighting, improving security around the home and eliminating the cost of purchasing kerosene.

Soin Sigowet MP, Justice Kemei (second left), Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi, (Third from left) and Kericho County Commissioner, Omar Ali (Standing) visit the home of Joseph Ruto and Mercy Ruto (Left and seated right respectively) in Baregeiwet Village, Soin Sigowet Constituency, where electricity was officially switched on under the Kenya Power Last Mile Electricity Connectivity Programme.

"This electricity has changed our lives. Our children can now study comfortably at night, and the money we used to spend on kerosene can now support other family needs," he said.

When Kenya News Agency visited the family, relatives and neighbours gathered to witness the official commissioning of the electricity connection by Cabinet Secretary Wandayi, accompanied by Soin Sigowet Member of Parliament Justice Kemei and Kericho County Commissioner, Omar Ali.

> "This electricity has changed our lives. Our children can now study comfortably at night, and the money we used to spend on kerosene can now support other family needs

Ruto said his family has endured financial hardship while raising five children, adding that his wife, Mercy Ruto, lives with a leg condition that requires regular medical attention, further stretching the family's limited resources. Despite the challenges, he said they remained committed to educating their children. Their eldest daughter, Sharon Cheng'etich, completed secondary school in 2024 and hopes to join the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology. She currently undertakes casual jobs as she seeks financial support to pursue higher education.

Ruto revealed that he was forced to sell part of his land to pay school fees and enable his daughter to complete her secondary education.

He expressed gratitude to the government and local leaders for extending electricity to his home, saying the connection had restored hope for a better future.

"Our MP, Justice Kemei, has also promised to support our children's education. We are grateful to him, the Energy Cabinet Secretary and the government for improving our lives," he said.

The Last Mile Electricity Connectivity Programme is part of the government's efforts to achieve universal access to electricity by extending power supply to households located near existing distribution transformers.

Judiciary's decade of reforms delivers faster justice, higher case clearance

BY NANCY OMONDI AND IAN MAINA (KNA)

The Judiciary has marked a decade of performance management reforms, with Chief Justice Martha Koome reaffirming the institution's commitment to enhancing access to justice through innovation, accountability and improved service delivery.

The milestone was marked on Friday during the launch of the 2024/2025 Performance Management and Measurement Understanding (PMMU) Evaluation Report at the Milimani Law Courts. The report showed that the Judiciary achieved a 104 per cent case clearance rate during the 2024/2025 financial year, reflecting significant progress in the administration of justice.

According to the report, the Judiciary resolved 647,666 cases against 621,525 new cases filed during the period. The improved performance was attributed to enhanced case management, expansion of Small Claims Courts, increased adoption of technology, including e-filing and virtual hearings, as well as the continued implementation of performance management reforms.

Chief Justice Martha Koome speaking during the launch of the 2024/2025 Performance Management and Measurement Understanding (PMMU) Evaluation Report at the Milimani Law Courts. PHOTO: IAN MAINA

Speaking during the launch, Chief Justice Koome said the report reflects ten years of sustained reforms aimed at transforming the Judiciary into a more accountable, efficient and people-centred institution.

"We are not merely measuring performance for its own sake. We are using evidence to improve decision-making, strengthen accountability and ensure every Kenyan has access to timely, quality justice," she said.

Koome noted that while the Judiciary had made significant progress in reducing case backlogs and improving productivity, the next phase of reforms would focus on improving the quality of justice, embracing innovation and ensuring that reforms translate into better experiences for court users. She said technology, including artificial intelligence, should be adopted responsibly to improve efficiency while safeguarding judicial independence, fairness and public confidence in the administration of justice.

Outgoing Chairperson of the Administration of Justice Performance Management Committee, Lady Justice Agnes Murgor, described the report as a reflection of 10 years of institutional transformation driven by accountability, innovation and continuous improvement.

She said the evaluation was conducted across all court stations and administrative units by six evaluation teams, providing an objective assessment of case management, court productivity, registry services, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and institutional performance.

"The PMMU framework is more than an instrument for measuring performance. It is the Judiciary's strategic mechanism for strengthening institutional effectiveness, promoting accountability and driving continuous improvement," she said.

Murgor added that the findings would guide future planning, budgeting and policy decisions while identifying areas requiring further investment in infrastructure, staffing and operational resources.

Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya said the successful implementation of the performance management framework over the past decade had strengthened accountability, improved service delivery and embedded a culture of evidence-based decision-making throughout the institution.

Kenya's livestock and meat sector reforms set to unlock Sh1 trillion in export earnings

BY WANGARI MWANGI (KNA)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has launched a bold plan to propel Kenya's meat industry onto the global stage, projecting an annual Sh1 trillion injection into the economy.

Speaking at the National Meat Conference 2026 in Nyeri, Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the government's ambition is to shift livestock from subsistence to commercial scale, raising its contribution to GDP from 12 per cent to 20 per cent and nearly doubling annual meat production from 527,200 metric tonnes in 2022 to 990,000 tonnes by 2028.

"Our ambition is not simply to export more meat. It is to export confidence, quality and integrity. When buyers see 'Product of Kenya,' they should associate it with safe, traceable, high quality products that meet the highest international standards," Kagwe declared.

The CS outlined plans to modernise abattoirs into industrial hubs capable of handling 384,000 livestock annually, creating jobs for veterinarians, technologists, engineers, food scientists, leather processors and exporters. He stressed that reforms will strengthen veterinary regulations, compliance systems and disease control to meet international benchmarks.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe speaking during the official opening of the Kenya Meat Conference 2026 at Chaka Ranch in Nyeri.
PHOTO: WANGARI MWANGI

Livestock Development PS Jonathan Mueke underscored the urgency of repositioning livestock as a major source of wealth for farmers. He said the Nyeri conference was designed to identify practical interventions across the value chain from producers and traders to processors and financiers. "At the end of this conference, we hope to have a blueprint to triple the livestock sector in three years," Mueke said.

Government data shows livestock contributes 12 per cent of Kenya's GDP and over 40 per cent of agricultural GDP. Meat exports to the Middle East and North Africa currently earn Sh18.7 billion annually, with the Ministry targeting Sh28 billion by 2030.

Mueke described the conference as the first forum bringing together all players in the meat value chain to jointly develop strategies for profitability. He noted that the predominantly subsistence industry, which currently contributes Sh390 billion annually to GDP, holds the potential to triple returns by 2029.

Among the key resolutions is the fast-tracking of the Animal Identification and Traceability System (ANITRAC) across all 47 counties. "We tested ANITRAC in government farms and piloted it in six counties. Now we must roll it out nationally to ensure all our animals are tagged and traceable to the farms and owners," he said.

The PS also announced expansion of the National Mass Vaccination programme to cover 80 per cent of livestock, up from the current 15 per cent, to eliminate trade-sensitive diseases such as Foot and Mouth. He pledged revamped extension services using digital technology and artificial intelligence to predict disease outbreaks, alongside expanded veterinary laboratories and certification systems.

He said that breed improvement programmes targeting arid and semi-arid lands will raise artificial insemination use from 10 per cent to 80 per cent, while disease-free zones will protect export markets from blanket bans during outbreaks. "Our breed has diminished over the years because of inbreeding. We must increase the weight, resilience and quality of our animals to meet global standards," Mueke said.

The government, the PS said, is also committed to investing in dams and irrigation infrastructure to support large-scale fodder production in ASALs, while promoting feedlot farming to improve beef quality. "We heard that we have many cows, but little beef. That will be solved by feedlotting. We will encourage feedlotting to ensure we increase both the quality and quantity of animals," he added.

To expand Kenya's footprint in international markets, Mueke said the government will reduce air freight costs, introduce a national meat grading system, and develop a distinct Kenya Meat Brand comparable to tea, coffee and flowers. The Directorate of Veterinary Services will begin registering and licensing all exporters within one month to protect Kenya's reputation.

He told the over 300 participants that the proposals will be forwarded to the Cabinet for endorsement and, once approved, implemented as a priority government programme. He stressed that technology and innovation will be central to attracting young people into commercial livestock farming.

Nyeri County Governor Mutahi Kahiga cautioned that despite Kenya's vast livestock resources, the sector continues to underperform due to weak commercial systems. He revealed that only seven of nearly 1,000 slaughterhouses meet international export standards, limiting access to premium markets.

"Transformation of our livestock and meat sector is not a national conversation alone. It is devolved, built county by county, farmer by farmer. National programmes must be anchored in counties to succeed," Kahiga said.

Garissa County Governor Nathif Jama, chair of the Arid and Semi-Arid Counties Forum, echoed the concerns, saying investment remains concentrated on production with little focus on value addition and export competitiveness.

He cited inadequate funding and policy fragmentation as major impediments. "Global competitiveness in the meat industry is no longer determined by livestock numbers. It is determined by productivity, traceability, quality assurance, animal health compliance, value addition, and efficient marketing systems," he said, urging Kenya to borrow lessons from Botswana and Namibia.

FEATURE: SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mombasa steps up recycling efforts with new waste segregation initiative

BY SADIK HASSAN (KNA)

The Kenya Extended Producer Responsibility Organisation (KEPRO), in partnership with the County Government of Mombasa, has launched a countywide waste segregation programme targeting 1,000 households as part of efforts to promote sustainable waste management, boost recycling and create green jobs.

The initiative builds on measures already undertaken by the county government to tackle the growing waste management challenge in the coastal city. Last year, Governor Abdulswamad Nassir rolled out a pilot programme that engaged youth-led community-based organisations (CBOs) and private waste collectors to improve efficiency, expand collection coverage and enhance cleanliness across Mombasa.

The county generates more than 1,200 tonnes of solid waste every day. However, only about 52 per cent of the waste is collected, leaving nearly half uncollected and posing significant environmental and public health risks.

To strengthen responsible waste management practices, KEPRO, in collaboration with the County Department of Environment, conducted a consumer awareness campaign targeting manufacturers, waste pickers, households and residents.

Kenya Extended Producer Responsibility Organisation (KEPRO) Board Director Elidy Wangeci (left) hands over waste collection gear to Said Hamad, a representative of Earth Plus CBO, during the launch of a waste segregation initiative in Mombasa. PHOTO: HANIEL KABARA/ KNA

The campaign aimed to increase awareness of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations and encourage stakeholders across the waste value chain to embrace circular economy principles that promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

The EPR Regulations, which were gazetted in November 2024, extend the responsibility of producers to the entire lifecycle of their products and packaging. They provide a framework for establishing and operating mandatory EPR schemes while operationalising the polluter-pays principle.

KEPRO Board Director Elidy Wangeci underscored the need to transition from the traditional linear waste management model—where products are discarded after use—to a circular economy approach that prioritises waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

She noted that one of the greatest barriers to achieving a circular economy is poor waste handling at household level, largely driven by the failure to segregate waste at source.

According to Wangeci, many residents still perceive waste management as the responsibility of waste collectors, making it difficult to recover recyclable materials efficiently and sustainably.

"We are looking at that so that we actually tell the people that waste is your responsibility. And there are several opportunities in waste management," said Wangeci.

She added: "There's actually a famous saying that says taka ni pesa. We want people to be aware, to take care of their environment and to embrace the circular economy so that we are responsible for the way we manage waste and how waste is recycled."

Wangeci further commended the government for its commitment to implementing the Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022, and the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations, saying the policy framework provides a clear roadmap for waste governance in the country.

"The government has really done a good job. I will not say that they are failing in enforcement because with the regulations, they have really put a blueprint on what everybody is responsible for and what you need to do," she stated.

Mombasa County Chief Officer for Environment and Solid Waste Management Hamid Shehan said the ultimate goal of the programme is to instil a sense of personal responsibility among residents in managing waste.

"What we have noticed is that everyone tries to pass the buck," he said.

Shehan explained that the county government is gradually transforming waste pickers from the informal sector into a more structured and formalised workforce that will play a key role in waste collection, segregation and recycling.

He noted that one of the main challenges is public sensitisation on waste segregation at source, as many residents feel they are already contributing to waste management through general garbage disposal.

"Now adding this extra responsibility of segregation, they feel like they are being burdened. But the truth is, a lot of households in Mombasa, especially in Likoni, have embraced waste segregation because they saw its value," he said.

Shehan added that the county is intensifying public awareness campaigns to ensure more households adopt segregation practices at source.

Government clears Sh177bn road bills, launches JKIA upgrade

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

The Government has intensified the implementation of its national infrastructure agenda after clearing billions of shillings in pending payments to road contractors and officially launching the modernization of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

The developments emerged during a high-level progress review meeting chaired by Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki at Harambee House Annex in Nairobi.

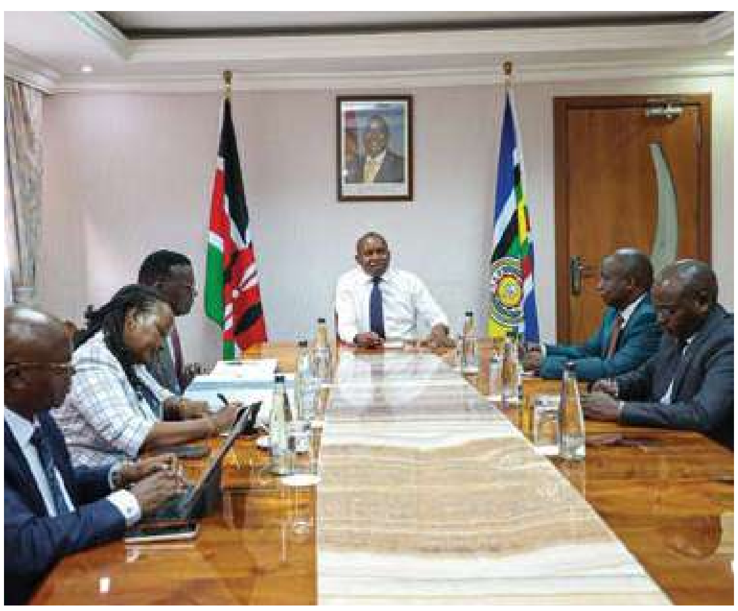
The meeting brought together Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir and senior government officials to assess the status of infrastructure projects across the country.

Officials reviewed progress on ongoing road construction projects in all 47 counties and received updates on key milestones of the Sh155 billion JKIA Modernization Project, which officially commenced this week.

The Deputy President said the Government had settled Sh177 billion in pending bills owed to contractors for road projects that stalled between 2020 and 2021.

The payments have enabled the resumption of the national roads programme, with Sh270 billion disbursed to contractors over the past year to support the construction of approximately 8,000 kilometres of bitumen roads nationwide.

He described the airport modernization project as a significant investment aimed at transforming Kenya's main aviation gateway, improving passenger experience and strengthening the country's position as a regional transport and logistics hub.



Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki chairing a high-level progress review meeting at Harambee House Annex in Nairobi to discuss the national infrastructure agenda.

The meeting also highlighted the planned establishment of the National Infrastructure Fund (NIF), which the Government says will provide sustainable financing for long-delayed water infrastructure projects.

Through the fund, the Government plans to construct 50 mega dams and 200 medium-sized dams, many of which have remained on the drawing board for more than three decades because of funding shortages.

The projects are expected to bring an additional 2.5 million acres under irrigation, boost agricultural production and enhance national food security while expanding access to water for domestic use.

In a separate briefing on the water sector, the Deputy President received progress reports from the CS, Principal Secretaries and heads of water agencies.

He urged the officials to strengthen collaboration, accelerate project implementation and work closely with county governments and other stakeholders to improve service delivery across the country.

KPA launches Sh8.3 bilion plan to ease cargo flow at Mombasa Port

BY SADIK HASSAN (KNA)

A massive Sh8.3 billion infrastructure project at the Port of Mombasa, expected to significantly improve cargo mobility, safety and operational efficiency at the country's busiest seaport, is gradually taking shape.

The project is a key component of the Kenya Ports Authority's (KPA) long-term infrastructure modernisation programme, aimed at handling growing cargo volumes while enhancing connectivity between the port, Gates 18 and 20, Kipevu Road and the wider Northern Corridor.

Addressing misinformation surrounding the project and concerns over value for money, KPA Chief Executive Officer Capt. William Ruto said the development was informed by recommendations of the 2018 TradeMark Africa Traffic Management Study.

He said the study identified the Back of Port Road corridor as a major bottleneck requiring a grade-separated transport solution to improve cargo evacuation and eliminate traffic conflicts.

Capt. Ruto explained that the project is not a conventional road construction initiative, but a major port transport interchange involving highly specialised civil, structural, geotechnical, electrical, drainage and security engineering works.

The CEO disclosed that the project was procured through an international competitive tender in which contractors submitted bids ranging between Sh8.3 billion and Sh9.6 billion.

The contract was awarded to the M/s Stecol Corporation and Miliki Development Company Joint Venture at Sh9.6 billion after emerging as the lowest evaluated responsive bidder. "It is within the market price, and I can even say it is cheaper. In terms of our consultant, it is even cheaper. We are getting value for money as KPA. The problem is only we called it a road instead of calling it a major infrastructure that we are building in the port," stated Capt Ruto.

A section of the ongoing construction of the proposed widening of the port road from the gantry workshop to gates 18 and 20 at Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Mombasa. PHOTO: ANDREW HINGA

The project, which is now 50 per cent complete, is expected to be completed in March 2027.

It comprises a 1.8-kilometre dual carriageway, including 704 metres of elevated viaduct supported on bored pile foundations and reinforced concrete box girders, rising up to 15 metres above ground level to safely accommodate heavy port traffic.

"A viaduct is different from a bridge in the sense that for a viaduct, you are putting up a bridge-like structure that spans over a vast tract of land that may have developments below," explained Eng. Stephen Wasike, the project consultant engineer.

"There's a limit to how high or how close you should come to the pipeline because it's a live line carrying petroleum products, and that forced the project to go higher. We also had to pass over an existing KPA facility known as the One-Stop Centre, which houses numerous critical operations and could not be demolished. We therefore had to construct the viaduct above it," added Eng. Wasike.

The development also includes two major roundabouts, slip roads, and ramps and associated traffic management infrastructure, creating an integrated grade-separated transport interchange.

The project also involves the excavation of Kipevu Hill, requiring approximately 450,000 cubic metres of rock cutting and 150,000 cubic metres of engineered fill.

To stabilise the excavated slope and safeguard adjacent strategic infrastructure, the project includes the construction of a 265-metre Geosynthetic Mechanically Stabilised Earth (GMSE) retaining wall designed to prevent slope failure near the Kenya Pipeline Company petroleum storage tank farms.

The project further entails the relocation and protection of critical operational infrastructure, including the port's primary high-voltage power supply network that serves the entire facility.

The network is being rerouted through a purpose-built utility tunnel excavated within Kipevu Hill from the Gate 18 substation.

In addition, a major underground stormwater drainage tunnel is under construction from the gantry workshop to the Kipevu outfall to safely channel runoff and protect both the roadway and surrounding port infrastructure.

BY THE NUMBERS

450,000

The project also involves the excavation of Kipevu Hill, requiring approximately 450,000 cubic metres of rock cutting and 150,000 cubic metres of engineered fill.

Kajiado villages set for electricity boost as Government rolls out Sh1.6bn programme

BY ROP JANET(KNA)

The Government has intensified efforts to expand electricity access in Kajiado County through a Sh1.6 billion rural electrification programme expected to connect approximately 5,600 households to the national grid.

Speaking in Kajiado Central after launching Last Mile Electrification projects in Tikoishi and Olomaiyana villages, Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira said 112 households, schools, a dispensary and a church in the two villages would be connected to the national grid at a cost of Sh427 million.

Wachira said the Government was committed to expanding electricity connectivity as a catalyst for socio-economic development and improved service delivery, particularly in rural areas.

"Electricity is a key enabler of development. Through these projects, we are improving access to power for homes, schools, health facilities and businesses, which will enhance livelihoods and unlock economic opportunities for our people," said Wachira.

The Principal Secretary urged residents to take advantage of the electricity connection by investing in income-generating activities, improving learning outcomes and supporting economic transformation in their communities.

Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira flags off the Last mlle electricity connection programme in Kajiado Central.

He also emphasized the importance of educating children, urging residents to abandon harmful cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and embrace education as a foundation for a more prosperous and inclusive society.

Earlier, Wachira held a consultative meeting with Kajiado Central Constituency business leaders, where discussions focused on creating a more conducive and competitive business environment for entrepreneurs.

Wachira said the government would continue expanding electricity connectivity and street lighting across trading centres to support businesses and stimulate economic growth.

"Reliable electricity and well-lit trading centres will extend business operating hours, enhance security, attract investment and create more opportunities for traders," he said.

Kajiado Central MP Memusi Kanchory welcomed the electrification programme, saying reliable electricity was essential in driving economic growth, improving education and healthcare services, enhancing security and creating employment opportunities.

"Electricity drives economic growth, education, healthcare, security and jobs. It enables businesses to grow, improves service delivery and creates opportunities for improving livelihoods," said Kanchory.

The legislator said increased electricity access would empower residents to establish enterprises, improve household incomes and support development across the constituency.

Kirinyaga woos investors as Sagana Industrial Park reaches final phase

BY MUTAI KIPNG'ETICH (KNA)

Kirinyaga County has begun onboarding investors for its nearly complete County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Sagana, even as more counties continue to visit and benchmark its successful implementation.

Bungoma County's Department of Trade, Energy and Industrialization is the latest delegation to tour the industrial park and learn from Kirinyaga's experience ahead of implementing a similar project. The visit follows an earlier benchmarking mission by Kitui County, further affirming Kirinyaga's position as a national leader in industrial park development. The benchmarking exercise comes as the Sagana CAIP enters its final phase of construction, with the project now 96 per cent complete. Eight warehouses have already been completed, while the County Government has begun onboarding investors interested in establishing industries at the park ahead of its official commissioning.

Governor Anne Waiguru welcomed the Bungoma delegation, noting that county-to-county learning continues to strengthen devolution and drive economic transformation across Kenya.

1. A delegation from Bungoma tour CAIP in Sagana, Kirinyaga County.
2. Below is an aerial view of Kirinyaga County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) at Sagana.

"County-to-county learning remains one of the greatest strengths of devolution, and we are glad to share our experience in advancing agro-industrialisation and value addition," said the Governor.

Kirinyaga Investment Development Authority (KIDA) Chairman Michael Ndwiga said the county had already gazetted KIDA regulations, paving the way for investor applications.

"Investors are already submitting applications. They are evaluated and, once they qualify, they are issued with lease agreements to establish industries at the park," Ndwiga said.

He said the remaining works mainly involve landscaping and cabro paving, noting that early investor onboarding would ensure industries begin setting up operations immediately after completion of the park.

"The project is now 96 per cent complete and what remains are the final touches. Early onboarding will accelerate industrial operations, value addition, job creation and investment in the county," he added. The CAIP is one of the flagship projects within the 252-acre Sagana Agro-Industrial City, a designated Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Ndia Constituency. Once fully developed, the industrial city is expected to create more than 10,000 direct jobs and over 100,000 indirect employment opportunities while positioning Kirinyaga as a major manufacturing, agro-processing and export hub.

The development will also host an Export Processing Zone (EPZ), agro-processing industries, hotels, a golf course, affordable housing projects and other commercial investments, making it one of the country's most ambitious county-led industrialization initiatives. Bungoma County Chief Officer for Trade, Energy and Industrialization Stephen Wamalwa said the delegation chose Kirinyaga because of the significant progress it has made in implementing its County Aggregation and Industrial Park. "We came to Kirinyaga because they are way ahead of us in the implementation of CAIPs. We wanted to benchmark and collect lessons that will help us implement ours," Wamalwa said. He said the team had acquired practical lessons that would help improve implementation and accelerate completion of Bungoma's own industrial park.

"We have gained valuable insights that we can apply back home. They will help us move faster and also push our contractor to pull up his socks," he said.

Wamalwa noted that the delegation had also benchmarked in Meru and Laikipia counties but found Kirinyaga to be the most advanced.

Sh2.5bn lifeline for 4 million in drought-hit Ewaso Ng'iro Basin

Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eng. Eric Muga (middle) and Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu (far right, partly hidden) cut a ribbon during the official launch of a sh2.5 billion Ewaso Ng'iro Basin Water and Climate Resilience Programme (EWCP) in Nanyuki. The programme is being supported by the government of Kenya in partnership with the Royal Danish Embassy.

BY MUTURI MWANGI (KNA)

At least four million people living in the Ewaso Ng'iro Water Basin are set to benefit from a Sh2.5 billion climate resilience programme aimed at improving socio-economic development and addressing perennial drought crises in the region.

Dubbed the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin Water and Climate Resilience Programme (EWCP), the initiative is being implemented with support from the Government of Kenya in partnership with the Royal Danish Embassy. Speaking during the official launch of the programme in Nanyuki, Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Eng. Eric Mugaa said the Dutch-backed initiative would be a game changer in improving the livelihoods of millions of people.

The CS said the project aligns with the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), particularly in enhancing agricultural productivity, restoring peace in pastoral areas and improving access to water resources.

"Access to water is a socio-economic right for everyone. The government's BETA agenda focuses on food security, smallholder farming, conservation and stabilising the region by promoting peace through ensuring communities do not have to move long distances in search of pasture and water," said Eng. Mugaa.

He added that the EWCP programme was aligned with the National Water and Sanitation Investment Financing Plan, which targets rural areas and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) to ensure they become productive and contribute to the country's economic growth.

"This is a programme that doesn't leave anyone behind from the catchment to the end user, the rural areas and Arid and Semi-Arid lands are specifically targeted in making sure those areas become profitable and productive," said the CS.

Moreover, Eng Mugaa highlighted that through the initiative, about a million trees will be planted in the degraded water catchment areas, which have been affected through excessive grazing and other human activities. "We are restoring water catchment areas that are dilapidated and suffering from excessive grazing, human activities to ensure survival rate of the trees and we will consider fencing the area, the actual impact is on the survival of the trees planted," he said.

> " We are restoring water catchment areas that are dilapidated and suffering from excessive grazing, human activities to ensure survival of trees

Sector Counsellor for Water, Environment, Energy, Research and Innovation at the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya Erik Larsen Jorgen said that the Danish government had a global responsibility of creating climate resilience and promoting peace and security. He noted that over the years, the population had increased exponentially, occasioning water scarcity to cater for the needs of people in the Ewaso Ngiro water basin, hence the call to devise ways of addressing growing challenges of that important commodity.

The kitty will also support in the construction of 30 water pans and 15 sand dams, development and protection of 30 water springs among other projects in the counties of Isiolo, Meru, Nyandarua, Nyeri and Laikipia, a move governors led by Laikipia governor Joshua Irungu said would be a game changer project in addressing insecurity linked to water scarcity in Semi-Arid areas.

Irungu called for collaboration aimed at ensuring the project was sustainable.

On his part, Nyandarua governor Kiarie Badilisha lauded the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin Water and Climate Resilience Programme, reiterating that it will transform the lives of residents in the region and promote the conservation of the water catchment areas which are often overlooked.

Meanwhile, the five-year Programme (2025-2030) will be implemented by the Water Trust Fund in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Thousands of Kenyans to benefit as Govt expands skills recognition programme

BY ESTHER MWANGI AND CAROL NYAKIO (KNA)

The Government has intensified efforts to formally recognise and validate the skills of thousands of Kenyans working in the informal sector through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Delivery Unit Director Stanley Maindi said the initiative is a transformative programme being implemented under the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) project.

Maindi explained that RPL is a process that acknowledges learning acquired through various avenues and involves identifying, assessing and validating an individual's knowledge, skills and attitudes, regardless of where they were acquired.

Speaking in Nakuru when he inaugurated the Rift Valley Institute of Business Studies (RVIBS) as an RPL assessment centre, the director said the programme was timely, noting that only a small proportion of Kenyans acquire formal job skills training through tertiary institutions, while millions gain valuable skills through on-the-job experience.

The RPL Delivery Unit is a statutory body under the State Department for Vocational and Technical Education (SDTVET) that spearheads the national initiative to assess and certify skills, knowledge and experience acquired through informal and non-formal pathways, including work experience, life experiences, informal training and self-learning.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program Delivery Unit Director Stanley Maindi addressing the media after he inaugurated the Rift Valley Institute of Business Studies (RVIBS) as a RPL assessment center in Nakuru.

RPL, a national programme spearheaded by the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and the State Department for TVET, helps informal sector workers—especially those in the jua kali sector, such as mechanics, plumbers, electricians and masons—who possess valuable practical skills but lack formal academic qualifications to obtain official certification.

The programme seeks to bridge the gap between hands-on expertise and formal qualifications, enhancing employment opportunities, career progression and recognition of skills acquired outside traditional education systems.

Maindi noted that though Kenya's workforce had demonstrated its potential through skills acquired via apprenticeship, the Jua Kali sector and Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) training institutions, these informally or non-formally obtained skills often go unrecognized limiting their contribution to the labour market and national progress.

Kenya's Vision 2030, the Director elaborated, highlights the importance of a skilled workforce for socio-economic development, yet systemic barriers in formal education and exclusion of informally acquired competencies continued creating a shortage of skilled workers.

FEATURE: AFFORDABLE TRANSPORT ALTERNATIVES

Electric motorbikes gain ground as Nyeri riders shift from petrol

BY SAMUEL MAINA AND PATIENCE WANGECHI (KNA)

The familiar roar of petrol-powered motorcycles is slowly giving way to a quieter hum across the streets of Nyeri.

As fuel prices continue to soar and Kenyans search for affordable transport alternatives, electric motorbikes are emerging as a practical solution, offering riders lower operating costs, reduced maintenance expenses, and a cleaner environment.

The transition from petrol to electric power isn't just a trend but also a necessity. Electric motorbikes are part of this shift, promising zero emissions and an efficient, eco-friendly mode of transport.

Unlike traditional motorcycles that rely on combustion engines and emit harmful gases, electric bikes are powered by rechargeable lithium-ion batteries that produce no tailpipe emissions.

In urban areas where traffic congestion and pollution are at their peak, electric motorbikes stand out as a cleaner, quieter alternative. Their ability to reduce pollution in high-density areas has made them popular in many places.

Most electric motorbikes have instant torque, meaning they can accelerate quickly and smoothly, without the need for shifting gears. This gives riders a unique, responsive experience.

Some high-end models even rival the performance of traditional motorcycles, achieving speeds over 100 mph, making them a viable option for those looking for both power and sustainability.

Moreover, with fewer moving parts, electric motorbikes require less maintenance than their petrol counterparts.

There's no need for oil changes or dealing with complicated mechanical issues related to the engine, making electric bikes easier and more cost-effective to maintain in the long run.

Mr Kelvin Wamae(right), a salesperson at the Zeno Motors Limited in Nyeri with bodaboda riders at his work station. Wamae says the company which deals with electric powered motorcycles has now made significant inroads in the county with more than 100 bodaboda riders having switched to the eco-friendly bikes. PHOTO :THOMAS MONDIRI

At the heart of this transition is Zeno Motors Limited, a company that has rapidly expanded its presence in Nyeri since launching operations in late 2024.

What began with only three electric motorcycles has grown into a fleet of 120 bikes operating across the county by 2026—a clear indication that electric mobility is steadily gaining acceptance.

According to Kelvin Wamae, a salesperson at Zeno Motors in Nyeri, the company was inspired by the need to provide an economical alternative to conventional petrol-powered motorcycles.

"The inspiration came from the economic aspect of these electric bikes because fuel prices have continued to rise. People are now embracing electric mobility because it saves them money," says Wamae.

The company's main customers are conventional motorcycle riders seeking to switch from petrol bikes.

Most are young men aged between 25 and 35 years, many of whom depend on motorcycles for their daily livelihoods.

For these riders, the biggest attraction is affordability. Unlike petrol-powered motorcycles that require frequent re-fueling and expensive maintenance, electric bikes significantly reduce operating costs.

Wamae explains that riders can travel approximately 50 kilometers after spending only about Sh100 on charging, making the bikes considerably cheaper to operate over long distances.

Besides saving money, the motorcycles require less maintenance because they have fewer moving parts than conventional engines.

"The bikes are very economical, they are not noisy and they have very comfortable seats," he explains.

The savings become even more evident when comparing fuel costs.

According to Wamae, charging an electric bike at approximately Sh.190 enables a rider to travel up to 90 kilometers, while spending the same amount on petrol only covers about 50 kilometers.

Samurai's Sh 13.1b loan to upskill 15, 000 automotive technicians

BY ANNE SABUNI (PCO)

About 15,000 technicians will be trained under the National Automotive Sector Development Project, under the State Department for Industry, to addresses industrial skills gaps and technological constraints.

Under the technical training and technology transfer component, the project that has benefitted from the Shs.13.1 Billion Samurai Loan Facility, will see benefiting Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions supported through curriculum updates and instructor capacity building.

In collaboration with Japanese automotive training institutions, the capacity building that targets youth and women will see a number gain skills through apprenticeships with Original Parts Manufacturers.

The fund is also expected to enhance capacity of the training institutions, and establishment of Research and Development laboratories focused on hybrid and clean technologies

The National Automotive Sector Development Project Implementation Unit, led by Project Coordinator Paul Kinyanjui and Director for Industries Gideon Oele, sitting at Nakuru based Kenya Industrial Training Institute (KITI) noted that the funds management framework under development would form a guide to the funds administration.

The team, that has collaborated with the National Treasury, is also expected to develop the Operation Manuals for the project, that rolls out this financial year.

"The funds are meant for short courses and skill upgrading. The beneficiaries will also be assisted to undertake Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) certification tests and examinations," added Mr. Oele.

KITI Director Eng. Simiyu Wabwile lauded the rollout of the funds, noting that the institution was strategically positioned to serve as a center of excellence in automotive innovations and studies.

"We need to encourage local manufacturing of parts to go into assembly. The Original Equipment Manufacturers also need to set base here in this country for us to feel the changes in the automotive sectors as making of cars in Kenya is possible and is happening," he noted.

President William Ruto has already assented to the Shs.22.1 billion deal with the Japanese Government, with the lion's share of Shs.13.1Billion being channeled for the revamping of the automotive sector.

The Sh 13.1 billion funding will support among others: expansion and modernization of vehicle assembly operations; development of local automotive parts manufacturing; financing for approved purchasers of locally assembled vehicles; support for dealers transitioning from imported used vehicles to locally assembled new vehicles; and growth of local supplier networks and value chains.

Industry Principal Secretary Dr. Juma Mukhwana, announced the rollout noting that "Kenya's automotive industry has recorded substantial growth over the last five years. Annual vehicle production has increased from approximately 7,000 units to over 20,000 units, while motorcycle production now exceeds 200,000 units annually."

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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6. **Assistant Manager Finance;**
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8. **Principal Hospitality Assistant;**
9. **Principal Information Communication Technology Officer;**
10. **Senior Account; Senior Chef;**
11. **Senior Hospitality Assistant;**
12. **Senior Hospitality Officer;**
13. **Senior Internal Auditor;**
14. **Senior Sales & Marketing Officer;**
15. **Senior Security Officer;**
16. **Accountant I;**
17. **Hospitality Officer I;**
18. **Senior Cook;**
19. **Senior House Keeper (Public Area Supervisor);**
20. **Senior Waiter;**
21. **Supply Chain Management Assistant 1;**
22. **Accountant II;**
23. **Cook I;**
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27. **Senior Hotel Attendant (Receptionist /Cashier);**
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29. **Artisan I (RAC Technician);**
30. **Hotel Attendant 1;**
31. **House Keeper III (Room steward);**
32. **Swimming Pool Attendant III;**
33. **Public Area Attendant 1;**
34. **Artisan III (Animator);**
35. **Artisan III (Electrician);**
36. **Artisan III (Plumber);**
37. **Driver III;** and
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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NATIONAL LEGAL AID SERVICE
NLAS

National Legal Aid Service

Haki na usawa kwa wote

JOBS ADVERTISEMENT

The National Legal Aid Service (NLAS) is a State Agency established under the Legal Aid Act Cap. 16A, Laws of Kenya.

NLAS is governed by a Board of Directors comprising representatives from both State and non-state actors and a Secretariat headed by a Chief Executive Officer with a mandate to administer a national legal aid scheme that is affordable, accessible, sustainable, credible, appropriate, accountable, transparent and efficient. In this regard, NLAS performs the following functions, amongst others;

a) Provide legal aid services to marginalized, vulnerable, and indigent, persons;
b) Promote legal literacy and legal awareness;
c) Support community legal services by funding justice advisory centres, education, and research; and
d) Promote the use of alternative dispute resolution methods that enhance access to justice.

The Board invites applications from interested and qualified Kenyan Citizens to fill the following positions:

S/ No.	DESIGNATION	NLAS GRADE	VACANCIES	REFERENCE NO
1.	Director/CEO	1	1	NLAS/CEO/1/1/2026/01
2.	Senior Deputy Director, Legal Aid	2	1	NLAS/SDDLE/2/1/2026/02
3.	Senior Deputy Director, Human Resource & Administration	2	1	NLAS/SD-DHRM/2/1/2026/03
4.	Deputy Director, Administration	3	1	NLAS/DDA/3/1/2026/04
5.	Deputy Director I.C.T	3	1	NLAS/DDICT/3/1/2026/05
6.	Deputy Director, Finance & Accounts	3	1	NLAS/DDFA/3/1/2026/06
7.	Deputy Director Planning	3	1	NLAS/DDP/3/1/2026/07
8.	Deputy Director, Corporate Communications	3	1	NLAS/DDCC/3/1/2026/08
9.	Deputy Director, Supply Chain Management	3	1	NLAS/DDSCM/3/1/2026/09
10.	Deputy Director Internal Audit & Risk Assurance	3	1	NLAS/DDIA&RA/3/1/2026/10
11.	Assistant Director Legal Aid	4	9	NLAS/ADLA/4/9/2026/11
12.	Assistant Director Administration	4	1	NLAS/ADA/4/1/2026/12
13.	Assistant Director Planning	4	1	NLAS/ADP/4/1/2026/13
14.	Principal Finance Officer	5	1	NLAS/PFO/5/1/2026/14
15.	Principal HRM Assistant	5	1	NLAS/PHRMA/5/1/2026/15
16.	Principal Accountant	5	1	NLAS/PA/5/1/2026/16
17.	Principal Planning Officer	5	1	NLAS/PPO/5/1/2026/17
18.	Principal Corporate Communication Officer	5	1	NLAS/PCCO/5/1/2026/18
19.	Senior Legal Aid Officer	6	10	NLAS/SLAD/6/10/2026/19
20.	Senior Record Management Assistant	6	1	NLAS/SRMA/6/1/2026/20
21.	Senior Accountant	6	1	NLAS/SA/6/1/2026/21
22.	Legal Aid Officer	7	10	NLAS/LAO/7/10/2026/22
23.	Legal Clerk I	7	10	NLAS/LC1/7/10/2026/23
24.	Supply Chain Management Assistant/ Senior	7	1	NLAS/SCMA1/7/1/2026/24
25.	Human Resource Management Officer I	7	1	NLAS/HRMO1/7/1/2026/25
26.	Legal Clerk II	8	4	NLAS/LCII/8/4/2026/26
27.	Record Management Assistant II	8	1	NLAS/RMAII/8/1/2026/27
28.	Legal Clerk III	9	4	NLAS/LCIII/9/4/2026/28
29.	Driver I	10	4	NLAS/DII/10/4/2026/29
30.	Driver II	11	5	NLAS/DII/11/5/2026/30
	GRAND TOTAL		**78**	

NOTE: NLAS Grades 1, 2 & 3 are on a three-years contract basis, renewable once while the rest are on permanent and pensionable terms

Interested persons who meet the minimum criteria are requested to submit applications enclosing copies of the following documents.

1. National Identity card
2. Certified copies of relevant academic and professional certificates,
3. Any supporting documents and testimonials.
4. Detailed Curriculum Vitae with three Referees

Application Process

- More detailed job descriptions for these vacancies can be accessed on our website: **www.nlas.go.ke**
- All applications should be submitted **ONLINE** to **recruitment@nlas.go.ke** on or before **14th August 2026 at 5:00pm Kenyan time** and the letter quoting the specific position and the reference number e.g., **NLAS/CEO/1/1/2026/01**
- All application letters should be addressed to:

  Chief Executive Officer,
  National Legal Aid Service,
  P.O Box 45597-00100 Nairobi

- Please note that **HARD COPY APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Only shortlisted and successful candidates will be contacted.
- Canvassing in any form will lead to automatic disqualification.

The National Legal Aid Service is an equal opportunity employer; it does not charge any fee at any stage of the re-cruitment process.

Successful candidates **MUST** satisfy the requirements of Leadership and Integrity as set out in Chapter six (6) of the Constitution of Kenya and shall be required to present the following documents before being issued with an offer letter;

i. Clearance from Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission;
ii. Tax Compliance Certificate from Kenya Revenue Authority;
iii. Certificate of Good Conduct from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations;
iv. Certificate of Clearance from Credit Reference Bureau; and
v. Clearance Certificate from Higher Education Loans Board or proof of ongoing repayments.

KENYA VISION 2030

Railway Training Institute, poised as a critical pipeline for Kenya's skilled workforce

BY MARY GORETTY (MYGOV)

A student demonstrate how an engine works to the Principal Secretary Mohamed Daghar (2nd right) during the 62nd Railway Training Institute Graduation Ceremony.

The Railway Training Institute, the country's transport skills powerhouse for seven decades, marked its 62nd graduation with a renewed spotlight on its role in driving infrastructure modernisation and national progress.

The graduation comes as Kenya intensifies investment in transport and logistics, with RTI positioned as a critical pipeline for the skilled workforce needed to sustain infrastructure upgrades and expand trade corridors across the region.

Speaking at the ceremony in Nairobi, Principal Secretary in the State Department for Transport, Mohamed Daghar, hailed RTI as a cornerstone of Kenya's development journey.

"For more than 70 years, this institution has produced the men and women who keep our transport systems moving, our ports efficient, and our logistics chain competitive," he said.

"RTI has been instrumental in producing the skilled workforce that sustains our transport sector and supports Kenya's economic growth. Today, as we celebrate the 2025/2026 graduates, we also honour the generations of professionals who have contributed to trade, mobility, and regional integration," Daghar said.

He noted that Kenya Railways, which marks 130 years since the commencement of railway development in 1896, remains a symbol of how infrastructure investment drives national transformation.

"These milestones remind us that sustainable development is built not only through investment in infrastructure but also through investment in people," he said.

Daghar congratulated the graduates, describing their success as both a personal achievement and a national asset. "Today marks the culmination of your hard work, resilience, and determination. It is a significant milestone in your academic journey and an important step towards your future careers and aspirations," he said.

He also commended parents, guardians, sponsors, and lecturers for their support, noting that their sacrifice and encouragement had been vital to the graduates' success.

The PS emphasised that the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) places skills development at the centre of national growth.

"We recognise that the strength of our economy depends on the quality of our workforce to compete effectively in an increasingly interconnected and technology-driven world," he said.

Daghar highlighted the government's prioritisation of Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET), which ensures graduates are equipped with industry-relevant skills.

"RTI has embraced CBET by aligning its programmes with the evolving needs of industry. This approach is critical as we seek to address youth unemployment, strengthen productivity, and enhance Kenya's competitiveness in the regional and global economy," he explained.

He added that curriculum reforms are designed to produce graduates who are not only employable but also innovative and entrepreneurial.

"As we prepare young people for the future, we must equip them with digital literacy, leadership, and problem-solving skills. These attributes will be essential in enabling them to navigate a rapidly changing global economy and take advantage of emerging opportunities," Daghar said.

The PS also spoke about ongoing reforms in the transport sector, including the transition of Kenya Railways into a government-owned enterprise under the Government-Owned Enterprises Act, 2025.

"This reform reflects our commitment to building institutions that are efficient, accountable, commercially sustainable, and responsive to the evolving needs of the economy," he said.

Daghar explained that the modernisation of railway infrastructure, revitalisation of the metre gauge railway, expansion of the standard gauge railway, growth of inland water transport, and development of the Blue Economy are creating new opportunities for employment, investment, and economic growth.

"Through continued investment in transport infrastructure, logistics systems, the Blue Economy, and skills development, we are laying the foundation for sustainable job creation and inclusive economic growth," he said.

He stressed that institutions such as RTI remain central to Kenya's national development agenda.

"The government will continue to support initiatives that strengthen technical and vocational education, promote industry-academia collaboration, encourage research and innovation, and expand opportunities for practical training and workplace experience," Daghar affirmed.

Kenya's strategic location along the Indian Ocean, he added, presents immense opportunities in maritime transport, shipping, logistics, and related sectors.

"By developing the skilled workforce required in these areas, RTI is making an important contribution towards supporting Kenya's long-term economic ambitions," he said.

Daghar concluded by urging graduates to embrace continuous learning, adaptability, professionalism, and integrity.

"Be innovators, problem-solvers, and responsible citizens who use your talents to create value and improve society. Success requires not only technical skills but also the character to lead and the vision to build a better future," he said.

Ministry to employ natural assets inventory to strengthen land use planning and climate resilience

BY ZIPPORAH ODIONYI AND SHARON NJERU (KNA)

The Government will integrate newly launched natural assets inventory reports into national and county planning to safeguard critical ecosystems, strengthen climate resilience and promote sustainable development across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands.

Environment and Climate Change PS Dr. Eng. Festus Ng'eno said the reports provide an evidence-based framework that will guide land use planning, environmental governance and investment decisions.

Ng'eno noted that Kenya's drylands, which cover nearly 90 percent of the country's land area, are increasingly facing pressure from climate change, population growth, infrastructure development and competing land uses.

"These reports tell us where our natural assets are located, help us understand their condition, identify risks before they become crises and provide government, investors and communities with a common evidence base for better decision-making," he explained.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Environment Secretary in the State Department for Environment and Climate Change Dr. Selly Kimoso during the launch of the Tri-County Natural Assets Inventory Reports covering Isiolo, Samburu and Laikipia counties in Nairobi, the PS stated that the government is committed to restoring degraded landscapes and ensuring economic growth is pursued alongside the protection of natural capital.

"We cannot achieve sustainable development if we continue consuming nature faster than we restore it. Evidence-based planning is no longer a luxury but a necessity," Ng'eno cautioned, adding that the reports should guide county spatial plans, environmental impact assessments, budgeting and climate adaptation programmes.

FEATURE: PARTNERSHIP

Kenya–Saudi Arabia partnership for shared prosperity

PROF. SHAUKAT ABDULRAZAK

The relationship between Kenya and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is entering a defining moment. Rooted in more than five decades of diplomatic ties, it is now evolving from traditional trade into a strategic economic partnership anchored on investment, industrialisation, innovation, and shared prosperity. The recent official visit by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi underscored this shift, revealing several immediate opportunities. Engagements in Riyadh, including the Saudi-Kenyan Business Roundtable, showcased strong political goodwill and growing private sector confidence signals of a new era of collaboration.

The convergence of Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and Saudi Vision 2030 presents a unique opportunity to redefine economic cooperation between East Africa and the Gulf. While Saudi Arabia seeks to diversify its economy beyond oil through manufacturing, logistics, and technology, Kenya is implementing BETA to accelerate agricultural transformation, MSME growth, affordable housing, healthcare, the digital economy, and industrial development. These two development blueprints are highly complementary.

Saudi Arabia, with a GDP of approximately US$1.28 trillion, is the largest economy in the Middle East. Kenya, with a GDP of about US$136 billion and growth approaching 5 per cent, remains one of Africa's fastest-growing and most diversified economies. Bilateral trade reached US$1.36 billion in 2025, a remarkable milestone, yet only a fraction of the vast commercial potential between the two nations.

Kenya's greatest asset is its strategic geography. As the natural gateway to the East African Community (EAC), COMESA, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it offers investors access to nearly 1.4 billion consumers across Africa. With the Port of Mombasa, the largest logistics hub in East Africa alongside Lamu Port, the Standard Gauge Railway, modern highways, international airports, and expanding fibre-optic infrastructure, Kenya provides one of the continent's most efficient platforms for regional trade and investment. Nairobi further cements this position as Africa's leading financial and innovation hub and the only African city hosting a major United Nations headquarters. These strengths were strongly emphasised during Saudi presentations on investment opportunities in Kenya.

The Government of Kenya is complementing these advantages with bold financing reforms to accelerate infrastructure development. The proposed National Infrastructure Fund, supported by infrastructure bonds and innovative financing mechanisms, aims to mobilise long-term capital for strategic investments in transport corridors, logistics parks, industrial zones, energy systems, water infrastructure, and digital connectivity. Such instruments create attractive opportunities for sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and institutional investors from Saudi Arabia to finance bankable projects that deliver both economic and financial returns.

During bilateral discussions, it was clear that Saudi Arabia views Kenya as far more than an export destination; it sees Kenya as the gateway to Africa. Likewise, Saudi Arabia offers Kenyan businesses access to one of the world's most ambitious investment programmes. Presentations at the Business Forum highlighted that under Saudi Vision 2030, the Kingdom aims to attract US$100 billion in foreign direct investment annually by 2030, while investing approximately US$160 billion in petrochemicals and manufacturing. These investments, together with Expo 2030 Riyadh, will open new markets for Kenyan products, services, and investors.

The greatest opportunities lie in sectors where both countries have complementary strengths: agriculture and food security, logistics and ports, manufacturing, renewable energy, mining, and critical minerals. Kenya offers fertile agricultural land, abundant geothermal resources, strategic minerals, a youthful workforce, and a vibrant innovation ecosystem. Saudi Arabia contributes investment capital, advanced industrial capacity, technology, and world-class logistics expertise.

Beyond these sectors, science, research, and innovation should become the next frontier of cooperation. Joint investments in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, digital health, renewable energy, mining technologies, climate-smart agriculture, and advanced manufacturing would position both countries as leaders in the knowledge economy while creating quality jobs for young people.

Institutional foundations are already taking shape. The establishment of the Saudi-Kenya Joint Business Council and the work of the Joint Commission provide effective platforms for business engagement. The next phase should focus on strengthening a bilateral investment treaty, a double taxation agreement, expanded air connectivity, and deeper financial cooperation to facilitate investment flows and reduce the cost of doing business.

Kenya's BETA agenda emphasises value addition, local manufacturing, food security, and MSME development. Saudi Vision 2030 focuses on industrial diversification, logistics, tourism, and technology. Together, they provide a blueprint for building resilient regional value chains, strengthening food and energy security, promoting industrialisation, and expanding intra-African and Gulf trade.

The message from Riyadh is unequivocal: Kenya is not merely an investment destination; it is Africa's gateway for trade, logistics, innovation, and regional integration. With a stable investment climate, modern infrastructure, innovative financing instruments, strategic location, and a market extending across the continent, Kenya is poised to become Saudi Arabia's preferred investment hub in Africa.

As both nations pursue their Vision 2030 ambitions, this partnership can become a model of South-South cooperation transforming trade into investment, investment into industries, and industries into shared prosperity for generations to come.

The writer is the PS, State Department of Science, Research and Innovation. He can reached through E-mail: saabdulrazak@gmail.com

Ministry calls for high-rise buildings to spare agricultural land

BY MUOKI CHARLES (KNA)

Government has called on investors in the housing sector to embrace high-rise developments to maximize land use and protect Kenya's shrinking agricultural land from rapid real estate expansion.

Speaking during the Kenya-Saudi Investment Forum at Tatu City, Investment, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui said counties such as Kiambu and Kajiado are steadily losing fertile farmland to residential developments, posing a long-term threat to the country's food security.

"Agricultural land is being consumed rapidly by residential constructions, particularly in Kiambu. The more we go vertical, the more we shall have land available for agriculture. This development will help us address long-term food security challenges," said Kinyanjui.

He made the remarks during the signing of an equity investment agreement under which Saudi Arabia's Mabani Aljazeera Holding Group, invested in Jabali Towers, Tatu City's flagship mixed-use residential development within the Special Economic Zone.

Kinyanjui said the investment demonstrates growing international confidence in Kenya's economy and sends a strong signal that the country remains a preferred destination for investors seeking opportunities on the African continent.

He commended Tatu City for creating an investor-friendly environment and assured investors of continued government support.

The Cabinet Secretary also urged Kenyans living abroad to channel their earnings into productive investments back home, noting that about 800,000 Kenyans in the diaspora remit billions of shillings annually.

He encouraged them to invest in housing, manufacturing and agribusiness, saying the government has strengthened the investment climate through Special Economic Zones, investor incentives and policy reforms.

He also noted that the removal of visa requirements for travellers from across Africa has further enhanced the country's position as a regional investment destination.

"The stability of the Kenya shilling over the past two years, even during periods of global economic uncertainty, coupled with visa-free travel from across Africa demonstrates the country's resilience and makes it one of the most attractive destinations for investment in the region," he added.

FROM L to R: InvestKenya CEO John Mwendwa, Chairman, Mabani Aljazeera Holdings Group Abdullah AlMalki, the founder and CEO of Rendeavour also the owner and developer of Tatu City Stephen Jennings and the Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade, and Industry Lee Kinyanjui during the signing of an agreement for construction of a 33-storey building at Tatu city Saudi Arabian construction and investment company, Mabani.

The Chairman, Mabani Aljazeera Holdings Abdullah AlMalki, said the investment reflects the company's commitment to strengthening economic ties between Kenya and Saudi Arabia through projects that promote sustainable growth, job creation and technology transfer.

Founder and CEO Rendeavour, also the owner and developer of Tatu city Stephen Jennings said the partnership underscores rising global investor confidence in Tatu City as a premier investment destination.

He said the two 27- and 33-storey towers are expected to create about 700 direct jobs, while further strengthening investment ties between Kenya and Saudi Arabia.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE PRESIDENCY

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT MACHAKOS COUNTY

SUB-COUNTIES:- MACHAKOS, KALAMA, MWALA, ATHI RIVER, KANGUNDO, KATHIANI, MATUNGULU, YATTA, NDITHINI AND MASINGA

Tenders are invited from interested and legible bidders for supply/provision of goods works and services "As and when requested basis to National Government Departments and Institutions within Machakos County for Financial year 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 ending 30th June 2028

TENDER NOTICE -2026-2027 & 2027-2028

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
MKS/COU/01/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply and delivery of dry foods, fresh fruits and vegetables	Open
MKS/COU/02/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of meat, chicken and eggs	Open
MKS/COU/03/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of farm inputs, animal feeds, veterinary drugs and human drugs	Open
MKS/COU/04/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of petrol, oils, lubricants LPG Gas and wood fuel	Open
MKS/COU/05/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of detergents and cleaning materials	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/06/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of natural building materials, cement, timber and paints	Open
MKS/COU/07/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of hardware materials, hand tools and water tanks	Open
MKS/COU/08/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of stationery and assorted cartridges	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/09/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of hairdressing and beauty therapy materials & equipments	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/10/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of uniform and protective equipment	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/11/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Supply & delivery of meals for suspects in police custody	Open
MKS/COU/12/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Provision of security services	Open
MKS/COU/13/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification of contractors for supply and delivery of pipes, fittings & electrical appliances	Open
MKS/COU/14/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification of contractors for supply of office equipment, computers, printers and accessories	Open
MKS/COU/15/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification of contractors for repair of office machines, computers and photocopiers	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/16/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification of contractors for repair of GK vehicles, motor cycles, plant & equipment and assorted accessories	Open
MKS/COU/17/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification of contractors for works maintenance & renovation of government buildings	Open
MKS/COU/18/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification of contractors for building construction, water works & boreholes	Open
MKS/COU/19/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for training materials and services	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/20/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of industrial chemicals	Open
MKS/COU/21/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply of assorted furniture	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/22/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply & delivery of spare parts for GK vehicles, motor cycles, plant & machinery	Open
MKS/COU/23/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of motor vehicle batteries, Tyres and tubes	Open
MKS/COU/24/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of catering and event management services	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/25/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the provision of driving lessons	Open
MKS/COU/26/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of motor bikes and posho meals	Open
MKS/COU/27/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of tents	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/28/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of plastic chairs and umbrellas	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/29/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of chick, animals and beehive	Youth, Women and PWD
MKS/COU/30/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the contractors for asbestos for disposal	Open
MKS/COU/31/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for provision of conference facilities	Open
MKS/COU/32/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of seedlings	Open
MKS/COU/33/2026-2027 & 2027-2028	Prequalification for the supply and delivery of Agricultural Machines	Open

Tender Documents with detailed specifications may be obtained from respective Deputy County Commissioner's Supply Chain Management offices, upon payment of Non-refundable fee of Kshs. 1,000 (One Thousand Shillings) in cash at the Sub County Treasury, OR Bankers Cheque payable to the Deputy County Commissioners of the respective sub-counties.

Interested and legible bidders **MUST** attach copies of:-

I. **Certificate of Business Registration and/or Incorporation**
II. **VAT & PIN Certificates**
III. **Valid KRA Tax Compliance Certificate**
IV. **Certificate of Registration from the Directorate of Procurement under AGPO**
V. **Valid business permit**
VI. **Valid NCA Certificates for construction works**
VII. **CR12 for the companies and Copy of ID for the sole proprietor**

Prices quoted **MUST** be net inclusive of all applicable taxes and must remain valid for 120 days from the closing date of the tender.

Completed tender documents in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked **"Tender No………." addressed to the DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER** of the respective sub-counties as shown above and be deposited in the Tender Boxes provided so as to be received on or before **28/7/2026 at 11:00am. Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders or their representatives who may wish to attend at each Deputy County Commissioner's Boardroom**

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (NIF)

Recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer

Build Kenya's National Infrastructure Investment Institution

The National Infrastructure Fund (NIF) is Kenya's flagship infrastructure investment institution established to mobilise long-term domestic and international capital into commercially viable infrastructure and strategic development projects that accelerate national development, deepen Kenya's capital markets and catalyse private sector investment.

The Board of Directors invites applications from exceptional investment professionals to serve as the Fund's Chief Executive Officer.

This is a unique opportunity to establish and lead one of Africa's premier infrastructure investment institutions. The successful candidate will be expected to build a high-performing organisation capable of mobilising capital, originating and executing investments, developing strategic assets and enterprises, creating sustainable value and recycling capital into successive generations of investment.

The Role

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer will provide the strategic, commercial and operational leadership of the National Infrastructure Fund and will be responsible for establishing the institution, implementing the strategy approved by the Board and delivering the Fund's statutory mandate.

The Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for building a commercially driven organisation capable of mobilising domestic and international capital, developing bankable investment opportunities, delivering sustainable financial returns and supporting Kenya's long-term economic transformation.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Lead the establishment and growth of the National Infrastructure Fund as a world-class investment institution.
- Develop and implement the Fund's strategic and business plans.
- Advise the Board on strategic opportunities, investment priorities and emerging risks.
- Position the Fund as a trusted investment partner for Government, institutional investors and development finance institutions.

Capital Mobilisation

- Mobilise domestic and international capital from institutional investors, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, development finance institutions, commercial financiers and capital markets.
- Structure innovative investment vehicles and financing solutions.
- Build long-term relationships with domestic and international investment partners.
- Position the Fund as Kenya's preferred platform for infrastructure and strategic investment.

Investment and Project Development

- Develop and maintain a pipeline of commercially viable infrastructure projects and strategic investments.
- Lead investment origination, due diligence, transaction structuring, execution and portfolio management.
- Oversee the development of projects and enterprises from concept, feasibility, financing and implementation through operations, value optimisation and exit.
- Ensure investments generate sustainable commercial, developmental and financial outcomes.

Commercial Development and Value Creation

- Drive enterprise development and commercial value creation across the Fund's portfolio.
- Develop commercially sustainable businesses capable of attracting long-term institutional capital.
- Lead capital recycling through refinancing, strategic sales, public listings or other exit mechanisms.
- Maximise long-term financial returns while delivering measurable national development impact.

Institutional Leadership

- Establish and lead a high-performing organisation with strong investment, operational and governance capabilities.
- Recruit, develop and retain exceptional talent.
- Establish robust organisational systems, investment processes, performance management frameworks and operational controls.
- Foster a culture of integrity, innovation, accountability and execution excellence.

Governance and Risk Management

- Maintain the highest standards of corporate governance and fiduciary responsibility.
- Build an effective enterprise risk management framework.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable legal, regulatory and statutory requirements.
- Support the Board through timely reporting, strategic advice and sound governance practices.
- Oversee governance across the Fund's subsidiaries, portfolio companies and special purpose vehicles.

Qualifications and Experience

The successful candidate should possess:

- A Bachelor's degree in Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Engineering, Law or another relevant discipline from a recognised university.
- A Master's degree and/or relevant professional qualifications such as CFA, CPA, CA or equivalent will be an added advantage.
- At least ten (10) years of relevant experience in investment management, private equity, infrastructure, project finance, investment banking, development finance or another related investment discipline.
- At least five (5) years' experience serving as a Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director, Chief Investment Officer or in another comparable senior executive leadership role with overall responsibility for strategy, operations, financial performance and organisational leadership.
- Be a Member in good standing with a relevant professional body where applicable

Essential Experience

Applicants must demonstrate a proven track record of successfully managing the complete investment lifecycle and should provide evidence of having personally led or played a senior leadership role in:

- Raising capital from institutional investors, development finance institutions, commercial lenders, capital markets, sovereign investors or strategic investors.
- Investment origination, evaluation, structuring and execution of large and complex infrastructure projects.
- Deploying capital into infrastructure projects, large-scale enterprises or other long-term strategic investments.
- Leading the development of large scale infrastructure projects or large-scale enterprises from concept through feasibility, financing, implementation, operational stabilisation and value realisation.
- Driving commercial development and value creation within portfolio companies or strategic investments.
- Active portfolio management and performance optimisation.
- Successfully exiting investments through trade sales, refinancing, public listings, strategic investors or other liquidity events.
- Recycling capital into subsequent investment opportunities.

Applicants should demonstrate a successful track record of building, growing and successfully exiting investments or enterprises rather than experience limited to a single stage of the investment lifecycle.

Governance Experience

The successful candidate should demonstrate:

- Practical experience working with Boards of Directors at executive level.
- Experience serving as a member of one or more Boards of Directors of commercial, financial, public interest or regulated institutions.
- A sound understanding of corporate governance, fiduciary responsibilities, board processes and board committee structures.
- Demonstrated experience overseeing governance within subsidiaries, portfolio companies, investment vehicles or special purpose entities.

Competencies

The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- Exceptional commercial judgement and investment acumen.
- Proven institution-building capability.
- Strong strategic leadership and execution skills.
- Demonstrated ability to build and lead high-performing organisations.
- Demonstrated ability to build strategic partnerships and multi-stakeholder investment ecosystems involving government, private investors, financiers, developers, regulators and international partners.
- Excellent stakeholder engagement, negotiation and communication skills.
- Strong understanding of infrastructure finance, project development, enterprise development and capital markets.
- High standards of integrity, professionalism and accountability.
- The ability to combine commercial discipline with the Fund's national development mandate.

Terms of Appointment

The Chief Executive Officer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of the National Infrastructure Fund Act and shall serve on a fixed-term renewable contract, subject to satisfactory performance.

The National Infrastructure Fund is an equal opportunity employer committed to merit, integrity and excellence.

Shortlisted Candidates will be required to bring the following documents during the interview:

a) Detailed curriculum vitae, with at least three (3) referees and their contacts, including telephone contacts;
b) A copy of the National Identity Card;
c) Clearance from Kenya Revenue Authority (Tax Compliance Certificate) or its equivalent;
d) Clearance from Ethics and Anti-Corruption Authority or its equivalent;
e) Clearance from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (Current Certificate of Good Conduct) or its equivalent;
f) Clearance from Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) where required; and
g) Clearance from a registered Credit Reference Bureau (CRB) or its equivalent

Submission of Application

Applications in plain sealed envelopes, stating the referenced position on top, should be mailed to:

The Secretariat
The National Treasury,
Treasury Building, Harambee Avenue,
P.O. Box 30007-00100,
NAIROBI.

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Chairperson
National Infrastructure Fund Board

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Kindiki announces safeguards for Sh1 trillion SACCO deposits

BY WANGARI NDIRANGU (KNA)

The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to modernizing Kenya's cooperative movement through a new Cooperative Bill and increased public investment, aimed at strengthening governance, safeguarding members' savings, and accelerating the sector's contribution to economic growth.

Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki said the Cooperative Bill, currently before Parliament, is a key reform that will align the sector's legal framework with the realities of a rapidly evolving economy. He noted that cooperatives now manage billions of shillings in member savings, undertake major investments, and increasingly embrace digital technologies.

Speaking during the national Ushirika Day celebrations in Nairobi, Prof. Kindiki urged Parliament to fast-track the bill's passage, saying it will improve governance, accountability, and professionalism while protecting more than Sh1 trillion in savings held by over eight million SACCO members.

Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki making his remarks during the Ushirika Day celebrations at Uhuru Park, Nairobi.

"The proposed law will strengthen governance, improve accountability, protect members' savings, and create a modern legal framework that enables cooperatives to compete effectively in today's economy," he said.

The Deputy President emphasized that while legislative reforms are critical, they must be accompanied by increased government investment to unlock the sector's full potential under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Backing a proposal by Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives and MSMEs Development Wycliffe Oparanya for enhanced budgetary allocation to the State Department for Cooperatives, Prof. Kindiki said additional funding would support cooperative expansion, strengthen SACCOs, build institutional capacity, accelerate digital transformation, promote value addition, and improve access to affordable credit for farmers, traders, women, and youth.

"I want to assure the cooperative movement that the government is committed to creating the fiscal space necessary to increase investment in this critical sector," he said.

Prof. Kindiki further explained that once the National Infrastructure

> The proposed law will strengthen governance, improve accountability, protect members' savings

Fund becomes operational and assumes responsibility for financing major infrastructure projects, more resources would be available for productive sectors such as cooperatives, which directly create jobs and improve household incomes.

Prof. Kindiki said the government aims to double cooperative membership from the current 14 million to more than 28 million in the coming years through stronger institutions, modern legislation, and sustained public support.

He called on cooperative leaders, Parliament, development partners, and members to work together in building a transparent, innovative, financially resilient, and globally competitive cooperative movement.

On his part, Oparanya said the Cooperative Bill, currently before a parliamentary mediation committee, will strengthen governance by clearly defining the roles of the national and county governments, addressing long-standing institutional challenges that have slowed the sector's growth.

He added that the proposed law, alongside amendments to the Sacco Societies Act, 2008, will improve accountability, modernize the regulatory framework, and align Kenya's cooperative sector with international best practices.

Ministry to support Authority in GMO regulation

NBA acting CEO Dr. Ann Karimi makes a point during the meeting.

BY WANGARI MWANGI (KNA)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) in regulating genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and promoting the adoption of modern biotechnology to enhance Kenya's food security and agricultural productivity.Speaking at Kilimo House during a courtesy call by a visiting delegation from Senegal's National Biosafety Authority, the Director of Crop Resources, Agribusiness and Market Development, Mr. Douglas Kangi, who represented the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Agriculture, Dr. Paul Ronoh, underscored the critical role played by the NBA in ensuring Kenya achieves food and nutrition security. The Senegalese delegation was led by Director General Prof. Aliou Ndiaye and included General Secretary Dr. Colonel Lamine Kane and Ms. Aïssatou Ndiaye. They were hosted by Kenya's National Biosafety Authority, led by Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ann Karimi, alongside Directors Mr. Josphat Muchiri and Mr. Nehemiah Ngetich.

"As a country, we continue to face challenges such as drought and pest infestations. As a ministry, we have a responsibility to ensure that all Kenyans are food secure. However, productivity across the agricultural value chain remains low, which is why we are embracing emerging technologies to bridge these gaps," said Mr. Kangi. He challenged the Authority to intensify public awareness campaigns across the country to counter misinformation and disinformation about GMOs, which continue to undermine public trust and confidence. "There is still a negative public perception of GMOs.

BRIEFS

Kericho County sets up 140 tea buying centres

BY KELOX MUTAI

Tea farmers in Kericho are set to benefit from improved green leaf handling and collection systems after the county government constructed and renovated more than 140 tea buying centres across tea-growing areas over the past three years.

Speaking during the commissioning of the Cheptenybei Tea Buying Centre in Litein Ward, Bureti Sub-County, Governor Dr Erick Mutai said the county government was investing in tea infrastructure to preserve the quality of green leaf from farms to factories while enhancing efficiency in tea collection and storage.

Dr Mutai said the initiative was part of broader efforts to strengthen the tea value chain by ensuring farmers have access to reliable facilities that support proper handling of produce, minimise losses and improve their earnings.

Tea remains one of the key economic activities in Kericho County, supporting thousands of households through farming, employment and related businesses along the value chain.

"We are not only improving infrastructure but also creating a system that safeguards the farmer's efforts by ensuring that quality is maintained throughout the journey from the farm to the factory. Strong support systems are essential in building a sustainable tea sector that benefits our farmers," Dr. Mutai stated.

The Governor added that the newly commissioned Cheptenybei Tea Buying Centre would improve green leaf collection and storage, reduce post-harvest losses and enhance efficiency in transporting produce to factories. Dr. Mutai further highlighted his commitment to grassroots empowerment by issuing industry-ready kits to 13 community groups from Litein Ward with the beneficiaries receiving car wash machines, tents and public address (PA) systems to support their enterprises and improve livelihoods.

The initiatives were undertaken alongside Litein Ward MCA Hon. Vincent Kirui (Kiptuiya), county officialsand local leaders

60,000 set to access clean water in Yatta

BY CHARLES MATACHO (PCO)

The Government has intensified efforts to achieve universal access to clean water and improved sanitation with the launch of the Kitui–Matuu Towns Last Mile Connectivity Water and Sanitation Project in Yatta Constituency, Machakos County.

Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation, Eng. Eric Mugaa, officially inaugurated the project alongside Yatta Member of Parliament Robert Basil, Tanathi Water Works Development Agency Chief Executive Officer Sammy Naporos, and other national and county leaders.

The initiative is expected to deliver clean, reliable water and improved sanitation services to approximately 60,000 residents in Kitui, Matuu, Wote, Kithimani, Sofia, Ndalani, the National Youth Service (NYS), and surrounding areas. It will significantly strengthen water security and enhance livelihoods.

Speaking at the launch, Eng. Mugaa reaffirmed the Government's commitment to investing in strategic water infrastructure to ensure every Kenyan has access to safe and affordable water. He emphasized that a reliable water supply is vital for improving public health, supporting agriculture and enterprise, and accelerating socio-economic transformation across the country.

He explained that the project will expand water supply and sanitation infrastructure through the construction of water treatment facilities, transmission and distribution pipelines, storage facilities, sewerage improvements and new household connections, enabling more households, institutions and businesses to access quality water and sanitation services.