The EASTERN NEWSPAPER

Meru Embu T/ Nithi Isiolo Samburu Marsabit Laikipia Machakos Kitui Makueni

Issue 31, December 2025-January 2026 Be in the Know

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Alarm in counties as hunger looms

There is now a 90 % chance of a drought in Kenya - Kenya Red Cross

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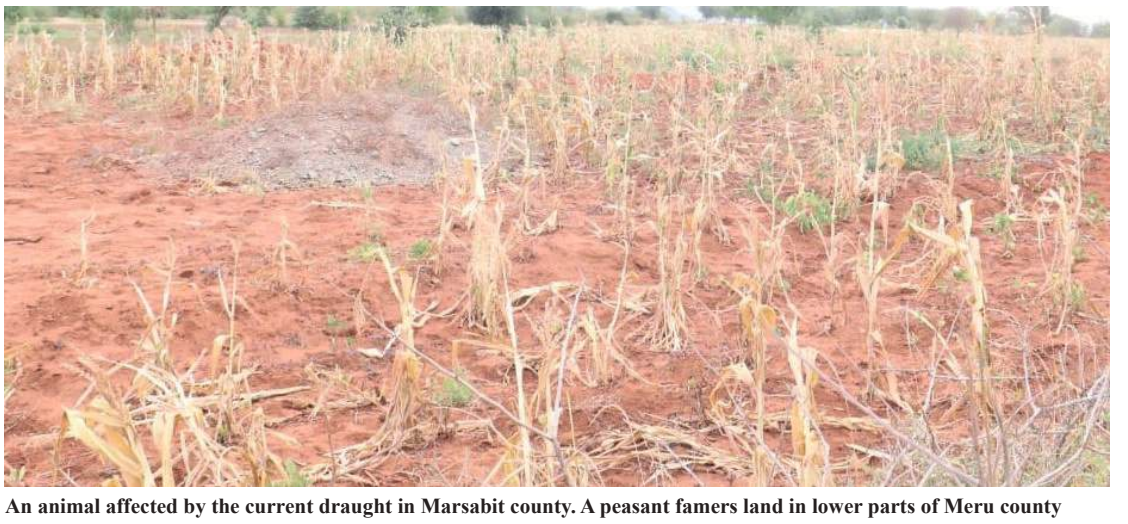
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Governor Wavinya condemns neighbouring counties waste dumping







An animal affected by the current draught in Marsabit county. A peasant famers land in lower parts of Meru county */Photo Michael Tewelde/KNA*

By Eastern Newspaper team

Vast parts of counties in Upper Eastern and Lower Eastern and Rift Valley are staring at famine due to prolonged drought, invasion of farms by wildlife in search of pasture and other factors.

Significant populations in the counties have to devise methods of coping, including reduced food rations, depending on relief food and looking for other sources of income to sustain themselves.

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), has raised alarm over worsening drought conditions in parts of the country, attributing the situation to the poor performance of the ongoing short rains season.

Thirteen counties, including Samburu, Tharaka Nithi, Makueni, Laikipia, Embu, Nyeri, Meru and Lower parts of Embu, remain classified under the Normal Phase, but are showing a worsening trend. NDMA notes that several key livelihood zones in the counties are under increasing stress, particularly in relation to water availability and livestock conditions.

According to the update, an estimated 1.8 million people in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) are currently food insecure. The figure is projected to rise to about 2.14 million by January 2026, if the short rains continue to underperform.

Continued on Page 2

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Alarm in counties as hunger looms

From Page 1



Public Service, Human Capital Development, and Special Programmes Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku distributed relief food to people in various marginalized areas /*Photo Courtesy*

In Meru, significant populations in large swathes of Nyambene which comprises over 10 sub counties, parts of Buuri and Imenti have to contend with the threat of hunger, and have called for help.

Governor Isaac Mutuma launched a food aid programme to support residents facing hunger, alongside a relief fund to mobilise resources for affected families. Governor Isaac Mutuma said prolonged drought, crop destruction by elephants and monkeys and cattle rustling in northern Meru have left many households vulnerable.

Mutuma said the Turie Na Muturi Fund will provide food and humanitarian support.

He said the county is partnering with the Kenya Red Cross and the diaspora to establish a food bank.

In Isiolo, residents of Oldonyiro Sub-county have been starved of food and water for prolonged periods and have to search of water for their daily use from shallow hand-dug wells.

In addition to the water from these wells being prone to contamination, it cannot sustain farming, but it is a situation replicated across the county where residents have had to grapple with poor yields in their livestock herds.

The Governor Abdi Guyo administration has been in trying to mitigate against food shortage been working with partners in anti-hunger initiatives, many large portions of the populations are at limbo on how to survive the looming hunger.

The drought situation in Samburu County is expected to get worse by January 2026, particularly in Wamba West, Wamba West, Angata nonyokie, Nyiro, Nachola, with tens of thousands of people to be affected by a serious water deficiency and pasture.

Just like parts of Upper Eastern and regions in Kamba region, Marsabit has had recurring drought for ages, and residents in most parts are fighting biting hunger-and it is expected to get worse.

In a county where many families' diet includes mostly meat, milk and blood, lack of pasture for livestock has hit families hard, and many are at pains on how to survive.

Although schools are closed, the children, elderly, pregnant women and the sick are some of the most vulnerable, and leaders in the area have called for intervention by the national and county government, humanitarian organisations and well-wishers to come to their aid.

"A lot of families cannot grow crops because of obvious reasons. Herding is our main source of livelihood but the livestock have been dying by the numbers, and the food situation is looking very bad," said Abdi Omar Yusuf, a local.

Pastoralists and farming communities in parts of Kitui, always a hunger hotspot, are some of the hardest hit, with some residents now left with bee-hives for food and income.

Poor rains in Kitui have led to depletion of available food reserves, with up to 45 per cent of maize crop failure.

Even though drought-resistant crops have reduced the pangs, Stacy Nduku, a women leader, says food stocks are running out fast and mitigation efforts need to be scaled up.

With 40 wards in Machakos County and many coping with mild to severe food shortage, Governor Wavinya Ndeti has been implementing various mitigation measures, including distributing large consignments of rice, beans and other food items to needy families.

Residents of Kathiami, Masinga, Kangundo, Yatta and other parts are some of those who have benefited in recent times, but many more are still in need.

Yatta has or years been a hotspot and is no exception currently, with many people grappling with a biting food shortage and lack of water.

Samburu County where large numbers of communities live in crippling poverty and climate change had hit livestock production, the main source of livelihood, residents have sounded the alarm for the umpteenth time.

Though the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) has sought to calm residents and has asserted it is monitoring Samburu alongside other counties, residents and leaders have pleaded with the national and county governments to put in place mitigation mechanisms to save the lives of residents and their livestock against starvation.

The scattered sources of water are every drying up, and women and children have to trek long distances in search of water to stay alive.

In Makueni the national government has pledged to soon distribute relief food to all the sub counties, as Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr said his administering will review the drought assessment and set up mitigation measures.

With more than half of its population always thrown into food shortage when drought persists, Makueni is one of the most food insecure in the country, and farmers have to always content with poor yields season in-season out.

At least five of the seven sub counties in Tharaka Nithi usually are faced with food shortages when drought persist, leaving residents to depend on relief food from the national and county governments and humanitarian organisations.

Maize and beans have been the main foodstuffs residents in parts of the county get and this time around, those in Tharaka area and parts of Maara and Chuka said they will need food aid, again.

"For ages we have called for a dam to provide water for irrigation, to enable us grow food for subsistence and income. But when you look at the situation now, people in Marimanti, Chiakariga, Igambang'ombe, Chuka and Maara are once again running out of food stocks, and will need to be helped," said Jennifer Ciamutegi, from Nkondi.

Governor Muthomi Njuki said his administration had as part of boosting food security distributed tens of tonnes of certified cotton and sunflower seeds, and others, in Igambang'ombe, Chiakariga and Mwimbi wards to boost local farmers-and economic growth.

In Embu where people in the dried parts such as Mbeere are faced with severe food shortages, the national government and well-wishers have been quick to act through food donations to affected livelihoods.

2025 Kenya junior secondary School sampled results in the eastern region

By Correspondents

Learners in the pioneer class of the new education system have already received results and both students and parents are familiarizing themselves with the understanding and interpretation of the results.

This is a class of pioneers whose results will be used as case study in the progress of the new system.

The class must have covered countless teething problems but they have a reason to smile about because they will now transit to the next level at the senior school where they will continue pioneering.

The Kenya National Examination Council examined a total of 1,130,587 learners who have successfully completed the course.

Meru County registered 33,757 candidates who sat for the national exam the year 2025, Isiolo had among the least number of the candidates registering 3,979 candidates. Marsabit had 6,352, Tharaka Nithi had 1,1629 while Embu had 13,412 learners who sat for the KJSEA papers. The Ukambani counties include Kitui with 3,4661, Machakos 35,125 and Makueni registered 29,068 candidates in the just concluded junior secondary examinations. Samburu and Laikipia had 53,72 and 11,899 registered learners respectively. Kirinyaga registered 12,003 learners who sat for the pioneer examination.

Makueni county recorded top performance on average in the examination followed by Machakos and Kirinyaga counties. They produced the majority of the top students who scored exceeding expectations.

Unlike in the previous years under the old KCPE system when they performed well, Meru, Embu and Kitui counties missed most of the top positions.

Marsabit, Samburu and Laikipia had average performance in the new education system results.

Some of the schools that produced top candidates include little friends Chogoria, Chogoria Girls Boarding in Tharaka Nithi, Kerugoya municipality school in Kirinyaga, Kiegoi Fair pry, Highlands Academy and Fred's Academy in Meru County.

The education system gives the candidates an opportunity to select pathways and connect them to school that offers their area of interest. We sample some of the top performers in the country.

KJSEA pioneer class top performing learners

	Student	School	County	Pathway
1	Austin Mogere Wagucu	Moi Kabarak	Nakuru	STEM
2	Mutai Kelvin Kiplagat	Sun and Shield	Nakuru	STEM
3	Wambui Wambugu	Moi Kabarak	Nakuru	STEM
4	Preen Kipruto	Sun and Shield	Nakuru	STEM
5	Meshak Kipkoech Kandie	Moi Kabarak	Nakuru	STEM
6	Brenda Karimi Mutegi	St. Peter's Elite School	Nakuru	STEM
7	Clare Wangeci Ireri	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
8	Nathaniel Irungu Kariuki	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
9	Ngugi Lisa Joy Wanjiku	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
10	Wesley Mwangi Mutahi	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
11	Miriam Moraa Mosoti	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
12	Trevor Amani Gachanja	Roots Academy	Nakuru	STEM
13	Esther Mumbua	St. Philip Neri Pri	Machakos	STEM
14	Jeffrey Gacheru Gitau	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
15	Faith Nyambura Mwangi	St. Peter's Elite School	Nakuru	STEM
16	Kiplagat Sandra	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
17	Favour Bukosi Musonye	Hill School	Kakamega	STEM
18	Lucita Hadasa	Sun and Shield		STEM
19	Mutai Kelvin Kiplagat	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
20	George Kariuki Waiyaki	St. Philip Neri Pri	Machakos	STEM
21	Mogere	Ndima Kanini	Nyeri	STEM
22	Brianna Neema Amadiva	St. Anne's Academy Kiminini	Trans Nzoia	Arts /Sports
23	JIMMY BARAKA	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
24	AISHA ABDIKHER	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
25	FABIAN NDOLO MOSES	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
26	JIMMY WAYNE	Accurate School, Utawala	Machakos	STEM
27	JAMES MBOGO	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
28	Martida Jigadi	St. Anne's Academy Kiminini	Trans Nzoia	STEM
29	Elvis George	Bethlehem Academy	Nairobi	STEM
30	Prudence Lihanda	GILGIL HILLS ACADEMY	NAKURU	ARTS
31	Shaneed Lamwenya	GILGIL HILLS ACADEMY	NAKURU	ARTS
32	Celine Githinji	GILGIL HILLS ACADEMY	NAKURU	STEM
33	Kamau Tovia Wangari	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
34	Ian Wandere Kiboi	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
35	Winfrey Wanjiru	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
36	Tevin Joshua Ong'ondi	Moi Academy	Nakuru	STEM
37	Mwami Mutoko Chikamay	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	Arts /Sports
38	Effie Rhodil Achieng	St. Gloria Academy Nyamonge	Siaya	STEM
39	Rachael Adongo	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
40	Karimi Quincy Njau	St. Gloria Academy Nyamonge	Siaya	STEM
41	Riph Reynold	Kerugoya Good Shepherd	Nyeri	Social Science
42	Andrew Ochieng	Accurate School, Utawala	Nairobi	STEM
43	Paul Munyao	Utafiti Day/Boarding	Makueni	STEM
44	Clara Praise	Kerugoya Good Shepherd	Nyeri	STEM
45	Mitchelle Wamaitha	Kerugoya Good Shepherd	Nyeri	STEM
46	Lydia Mweru	Kerugoya Good Shepherd	Nyeri	STEM
47	Franklin Kabuga	Kerugoya Good Shepherd	Nyeri	STEM
48	Abigael Nyambura	Kerugoya Good Shepherd	Nyeri	STEM
49	Wangechi Wangondu	Ndima Kanini		STEM
50	Emannuel Makali	Moody Awori		STEM
51	Barasa Nicole Nasimiyu	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	Arts /Sports
52	Mike Osumo	Thika Rd Christian Sch.	Nairobi	STEM
53	TATIANA EVE	Accurate School, Utawala	Machakos	STEM
54	TRIZAH WANGUI AJIKONA	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
55	ZAWADI METANIA	Accurate School, Kayole	Nairobi	STEM
56	Gareth Maina	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
57	Nicole Chepatarus	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
58	Newton Wisdom	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
59	Jayden Moni	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
60	Richie Mito	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
61	Mistik Hope Saya	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
62	FIDERITA AKOYA	St. Gloria Junior Nyamonge	Siaya	STEM
63	Sylvia Njeri	Bethlehem Academy	Nairobi	STEM
64	Ashley Nchagwa	Bethlehem Academy	Nairobi	STEM
65	Kariuki Elsie Muthoni	Bethlehem Academy	Nairobi	STEM
66	Trizah Wanjiru	Bethlehem Academy	Nairobi	STEM
67	Mbatha Maurine Mbithe	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
68	Paul Munyao	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
69	Emmanuel Mumo	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
70	Violet Gati	Momokoro Academy, Migori	Migori	STEM
71	Sean Kinyori Makau	Rockfields Junior Academy	Nairobi	Arts/Sports
72	Joyce Ivy	Merrow Christian	Vihiga	STEM
73	Ryan Kisia	Kakamega Hill School	Kakamega	STEM
74	Judith Chelangat Metet	Moi Kabarak	Nakuru	STEM
75	Stacy Wanjiru Macharia	Emmanuel Academy	Murang'a	STEM
76	Alihandro Zewdie Omondi	Janerio Junior Academy	Homabay	STEM
77	Lynn Bianca Nyambura	St. Peter's Elite School	Nakuru	Arts/Sports
78	Brenda Karimi Mutegi	St. Peter's Elite School	Nakuru	STEM
79	Janmohammed Faiz	Light Academy	Mombasa	STEM
80	Mbatha Maurine Mbithe	Kenya Relief Academy	Migori	STEM
81	Jeremy Karanu	Light Academy	Mombasa	STEM
82	John Wambua Kyalo	Emmanuel Springs Academy	Makueni	STEM
83	Martin King Odhiambo	St. Anne's Academy Kiminini	Trans Nzoia	Social Science
84	Shawn Waliaula Juma	St. Anne's Academy Kiminini	Trans Nzoia	STEM
85	Travis Elly Otieno	St. Gloria Academy	Siaya	STEM
86	Fabian Nyambongi Suguku	Sun And Shield		STEM
87	Leah Apiyo	St. Gloria Academy, Nyamonge	Siaya	STEM
88	Wambua Grace Mueni	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
89	Filbert Baraka	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
90	Mitchell Ndunge Kyalo	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
91	FLAVIA MAGIRI GITHINJI	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
92	YAHYE IDRIS ADAN	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
93	TRIHAM WAMBU	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
94	SABRIN IDRIS MOHAMMED	Accurate School, Utawala	Nairobi	STEM
95	BUNDI SKYLER WAIRIMU	Accurate School, Utawala	Machakos	STEM
96	WAITHERA MUTAHI	Accurate School, Komarock	Nairobi	STEM
97	MUKANGU NYAMBURA	Accurate School, Kayole	Nairobi	STEM
98	SHAMILA ANNET	St. Gloria Junior Nyamonge	Siaya	STEM
99	Anel Muthoni	Bethlehem Academy	Nairobi	STEM
100	Witness Robi	Momokoro Academy, Migori	Migori	Social Science
101	Kalunde Wambua	Donholm Primary	Nairobi	STEM
102	Maxwel Karanja	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
103	Joy Nyamweru	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
104	Emily Wanjiru	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
105	Imanilly Muthoni	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
106	Cherly Nelima	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
107	Joy Matoya	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
108	Rohan Kariuki	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
109	Emmanuel Maganga	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
110	Essy Milchelle	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
111	Vanesa Fredrick	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
112	Hope Saya	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
113	James Nyandoro	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
114	Worrick Loker	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
115	Myles Sila Kyalo	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
116	Isaac Mwirigi	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
117	Tatyana Wanjiku	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
118	Elvis Peter	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
119	Lov Wanyoike	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
120	Darren Kamau	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
121	Reagan Letacha	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
122	Sylvia Chepngetich	Zasa Junior	Bomet	STEM
123	Sandra Nyambura	Riara Springs Ngong Rd	Nairobi	STEM
124	Gedeon Biden Ambuso	Rockfields Juinor Academy	Nairobi	STEM
125	Odanga Jimmy Oley	Hill School		STEM
126	Valentina Njoki Wangonya	Kibutha Boarding	Murang'a	STEM
127	Dylan Baraza	Stepping Stone Elementary	Kajiado	ST
128	Hafsa Issa Safari	Zayed Children School	Mombasa	STEM
129	Nabil Mbai Ngala	Zayed Children School	Mombasa	Arts/Sports
130	Leah Blessings	MT. St. Mary's Girls		STEM
131	Alpha Wanyoike	St. Anthony		
132	Meshak Kipkoech Kandie	Moi Kabarak	Nakuru	STEM
133	Leah Apiyo	Kibutha Boarding		STEM
134	Lucy Njeri Ndirangu	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
135	Hyacinth Cornel	PCEA Makadara Academy	Nairobi	STEM
136	Candy Praise Odhiambo	Hekima School	Kisumu	Arts/Sports
137	Ben Bradley	Moi Kabarak	Nakuru	STEM
138	Patrick Kihu Kibata	Moi Kabarak	Nakuru	Arts/Sports
139	Brianna Makena Kinyua	St. Anne's Academy Kiminini	Trans Nzoia	STEM
140	Tatiana Eve	Utafiti Day/Boarding	Makueni	STEM
141	Brian Mwendwa Kimolo	Utafiti Day/Boarding	Makueni	STEM
142	Muthini Peace Mutanu	Emmanuel Springs Academy	Makueni	STEM
143	Lawrence Ndung'u	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	Social Science
144	Perez Mapenzi	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
145	Prudence Waithera	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
146	Joe Morgan	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
147	Piaget Ifedha	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
148	Shanel Jepkemboi	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
149	Trinity Wanjiku	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
150	Brian Mwendwa Kimolo	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
151	Peyphiel Moraa	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
152	Jaria Shawn Ade	Emmanuel Springs Academy		Social Science
153	Mutuku Gift Mumbua	Emmanuel Springs Academy		STEM
154	Musenya Kutungililwa	Emmanuel Springs Academy		STEM
155	Leigton Mesa	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	S.SCI
156	Michelle Lokirono	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
157	Ryan Leon	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
158	Lornah Wamae	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
159	Sopia Lerionka	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
160	Sheila Khatiala	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
161	Joy Clara	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
162	Britney Kemunto	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
163	Anthony Mwangi	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
164	Ochieng Ogutu	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	S.SCI
165	Clinton Kamau	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
166	Tiffany Wanjohi	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	S.SCI
167	Brenda Nyaboke	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
168	Christian Bwana	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	ARTS
169	Njenga Muriuki	Roots Academy	Nakuru	STEM
170	Beth Wanjiru	OL of Consolata Kahatia	Murang'a	STEM
171	Giancarlo Odhiambo	Kesaile Academy	Bomet	STCB
172	Jarreohns Ceasar Sine	Janeiro Junior Academy	Homabay	STEM
173	Ruth Chelang'at Makan	Elgibor Saboti Junior	Trans Nzoia	Social Science
174	Kanyi Grace Wanjiku	Kibutha Boarding	Murang'a	STEM
175	Vanessa Mwongela	Syokimau Blessed Academy	Machakos	Social Science
176	Claudia Nakayenze Kogo	Rockfields Junior Academy	Nairobi	STEM
177	Bradley Onyango Ngaah	Tonga Omonuri Mixed Boarding	Kisii	STEM
178	Thomas Telford Juma	Light Academy	Mombasa	Arts/Sports
179	Fletcher Gachie	Light Academy	Mombasa	STEM
180	Comfort James Mochoge	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
181	Joan Cheyech	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
182	Joseph Violet Mukami	Utafiti Day/Boarding	Makueni	STEM
183	Jones Kinuthia Mwangi	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	Social Science
184	Lumbasi Cheryl Musimbi	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
185	Molly Nyokabi	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
186	Neema Ushindi	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
187	Patience Alivitsa	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
188	Brianna Mogutu	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
189	Samantha Gracious	Kitale School	Trans Nzoia	STEM
190	Akanya Beatrice	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
191	Jacob Msuya Idi	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
192	Rihanna Bahati	Utafiti School, Kibwezi	Makueni	STEM
193	Nzioki Lilian Mumo	Emmanuel Springs Academy		Social Science
194	Velma Masale	Emmanuel Springs Academy		Social Science
195	Goodness Neema Kelly	Emmanuel Springs Academy		Arts/Sports
196	Faith Thyaka	Emmanuel Springs Academy		Social Science
197	Cynthia Ndoro	Light Academy, Mombasa	Mombasa	Social Science
198	Annjoy Karimi	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
199	Mitchelle Kosgei	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM
200	James Kuria	Gilgil Hills Academy	Nakuru	STEM

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Be in the Know

Massive identification registration attracts thousands of new applicants

By Kamanja Maeria- KNA

A massive identification cards' registration exercise has drawn more than one thousand new applicants in Igembe South within ten days, marking one of the highest turnouts recorded.

The mobile registration drive brought services directly to mwananchi, a move that residents overwhelmingly welcomed.

Speaking at his office, Igembe South Sub-County Registrar of Persons Purity Ceera said the turnout demonstrated just how much residents valued access to national documents when services are made more accessible.

"When we take services closer to the people, we remove barriers hence increasing applicants' turnout,"she said.

She further said that residents from remote areas who often struggled with transport and long distances hailed the move of bringing services close to them as doing so enabled them register with ease.

The initiative also targeted youths completing school and adults who had never acquired identification cards due to logistical challenges.

The registrar highlighted the importance of decentralising key services like registration of IDs to communities at remote areas saying it improves efficiency, inclusion and participation in national development.

"ID registration is a right to every citizen and bringing these services near the people ensures that right is upheld," she said.

She noted that many residents lived far from administrative centres hence taking services near them reduced travel time and cost of transport, enabling them to access government services effortlessly.

Ceera further revealed that the sub-county currently has 562 uncollected ID cards and urged applicants to show commitment and follow-up on their documents.

"We are asking those who already applied to collect their IDs so that they can fully access government services," the registrar added.

Igembe South MP urges youth to enrol in TVET

By Kamanja Maeria- KNA



Igembe South MP Johnpaul Mwirigi addressing the youth /*Photo KNA*

Igembe South Member of Parliament (MP), Johnpaul Mwirigi, has urged residents, especially the youth to take advantage of technical and Vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, noting that practical skills are becoming essential in the current job market, where white-collar opportunities continue to shrink.

Speaking at a fundraising ceremony for St. Joseph Methodist Church in Maua, the MP said TVET Institutions, offer hands-on training that equips learners with high demand skills such as electrical installation, plumbing, hairdressing and beauty therapy, welding, carpentry, tailoring and fashion design among others.

"These skills not only increase employability, but also give young people the capacity to create self-employment opportunities and build sustainable livelihoods.

The MP highlighted ongoing development projects within the Constituency, including the partitioning of Igembe South into two Sub-counties, the ongoing construction of a modern market in Maua town, completion of a Huduma Centre, and the opening of Kindaani Technical Training Institute, with more institutions expected to expand training options for the youths.

The Legislator urged political figures to prioritize projects that uplift the community, instead of engaging in unnecessary political battles.

He further appealed to young people to turn-up in large numbers for the upcoming police recruitment exercise scheduled for Monday, 17 November, revealing that the process will take place in two centres one in Akachiu and another in Maua Stadium.

Meru Deputy Governor, Linda Kihome, was among the dignitaries present at the event alongside other leaders.

Governor Mutuma pushes for Miraa Bill and better seed to empower local farmers

By Muguongo Judy- KNA

Farmers in Meru County are encouraged to utilize the current rainfall to plant certified seeds to enhance food security.

Meru County Governor, Mutuma M'Ethingia, launched a seed distribution initiative as part of the county's Food Security Programme, emphasising the region's considerable arable land.

The exercise aims to promote sustainable farming and enhance food production across all wards in the region.

Mutuma stated that the programme aims to enhance maize production alongside distributing coffee and avocado seedlings.

He urged the youth to take farming seriously as a viable source of income.

"We are committed to empowering our farmers. In addition to maize seeds, we will also be distributing coffee and avocado trees to diversify agricultural production and create income opportunities," said Governor Mutuma.

He also revealed plans to table a Miraa Bill, aimed at protecting miraa farmers and streamlining its trade and transportation across the region.

"We are in the final stages of drafting the Miraa Bill. Once enacted, it will ensure miraa farmers and traders are protected and can maximise the benefits of the crop without harassment," he noted.

> ***We are in the final stages of drafting the Miraa Bill. Once enacted, it will ensure miraa farmers and traders are protected and can maximise the benefits of the crop without harassment***



Meru Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia during a meeting with miraa farmers and traders in Meru /*Photo KNA*

On security, the Governor highlighted the progress made in restoring peace in parts of Igembe and Ndumuuru, areas previously plagued by rampant livestock theft.

"We have deployed 72 security officers and a county government vehicle to the region, which has significantly improved security. Residents are now living in peace," Governor Mutuma stated.

He also assured residents of Buuri that similar measures would be taken to address rising insecurity in the area.

"Thugs seem to have shifted their operations to Buuri, but we are alert. More officers will be deployed there soon to ensure the safety of our people and their property," he added.

The Governor called on residents to remain vigilant, especially now that the country is in the festive season.

For us to serve you better, let's share information with security personnel in your respective areas." he said, adding that 'we should embrace peace at all times and look after the safety of our children.'

Meru health facilities receive Sh60 million drug consignment

By Muguongo Judy-KNA

Health facilities in Meru County have received a major boost after the County Government dispatched essential medical supplies, including drugs worth Sh60 million.

The consignment, supplied by the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA), marks the first delivery of essential medicines for the 2025/2026 financial year and comes as a relief for facilities that have faced drug shortages in recent months.

Deputy Governor Linda Kiome and County Executive Committee Member for Health Dr. Denis Mugambi presided over the flag-off ceremony of the medicines at the county headquarters.

Kiome said the exercise reflects the county's commitment to improving healthcare access and ensuring that hospitals and dispensaries remain adequately stocked.

"Quality healthcare is a right for every citizen as enshrined in the Constitution. We remain committed to ensuring every resident receives quality health services," she said, adding that another batch of medical supplies for health centres and dispensaries will arrive within a week.

She reiterated the county administration's goal of building a robust health system that guarantees equitable access to quality services for all residents, regardless of location.

On his part, Dr. Mugambi noted that the department is working to prevent future drug shortages across the county's 216 public health facilities, emphasising that reliable access to medicines contributes to a healthier and more productive population.

"This delivery marks a major step forward in ensuring uninterrupted access to essential medicines and improving service delivery in our high-volume facilities," he said.

He added that the current delivery includes Sh17,049,051 worth of health products distributed to Level 4 and Level 5 hospitals, including Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital as well as Nyambene, Kanyakine, Githongo, Miathene, and Mutuati, among others.

KEMSA representative Charles Maina commended the county government for its consistency in prioritising healthcare delivery despite logistical challenges.

DP Kindiki warns bandits attacking Meru pastoralists

By Dickson Mwiti - KNA

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has warned bandits terrorizing the northern grazing zones, especially in Meru County, that their days are numbered.

He said the government will soon embark on a massive security operation to flush them out and ensure that peace and tranquility are fully restored in the troubled area.

Speaking in Ahtwana ward during an empowerment program, the DP said more specialized security officers and police reservists have been deployed to the areas, asserting the government's quest to get rid of banditry and cattle rustling in the region once and for all.

"We are going to fix this problem once and for all. We will increase national police reservists and security officers in the area. We will hunt them wherever they are and flush them out," he noted.

The DP referenced the progress made in dealing with the bandits in Kerio Valley in the North Rift and terrorists in Lamu saying the same force and tact will be employed in fighting the criminals and cattle rustlers disturbing peace in Meru North.

"This is a national problem. It is beyond the Governor, MPs, MCAs or local leaders. We are ready for it and I will ensure peace and order is fully restored in the disturbed areas," said Professor Kindiki.

At the same time, the Deputy President vowed that the Mt. Kenya region will not leave the government, promising to ensure fulfillment of all promises made by the administration to the region.

He stated that the Kenya Kwanza administration was voted in by the majority of residents and will continue to benefit from development programmes and projects like every other part of the country.

"We must remain in government to benefit from its programmes because we voted for it. Do not be cowed into abandoning a government you fought for and elected," said the DP.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki warned bandits terrorizing northern grazing areas, particularly in Meru County, that their days are numbered. */Photo KNA*

He assured the residents that the ongoing projects in the area will be accelerated for them to draw benefits.

"We are fulfilling all the promises we made to the people of Meru, Tharaka Nithi, and across the country. We will not be drawn into the retrogressive politics of pride, insults and violence because that is not how we have been brought up," he noted.

The [illegible]ent is [illegible]rojects worth billions [illegible]ngs in [illegible]ion. Among them are the tarmacking of Kirindine-Mikinduri and Kunene-Miomponi Roads which are key to opening the area to economic development.

Modern markets are also underway, with most of them nearing completion.

The DP also promised residents affected by the prolonged dry spell in the area that relief food will be delivered to the region.

"We will not let the people suffer. We will support them until the situation eases," he promised.

Maua residents embrace camel milk for its nutritive value

By Kamanja Maeria- KNA

Residents of Maua Town are increasingly turning to camel milk, attracted by its impressive health benefits and suitability for people with dietary sensitivities.

Once mainly consumed in Arid areas especially in Northern parts of Kenya, camel milk is now finding its place among the residents of Maua town.

Speaking to Grace Safari, a nutritionist at Nyambene Level 4 Hospital, emphasised the significant health value of camel milk.

She said camel milk contains high levels of vitamin C, iron, calcium, and natural immune-boosting compounds that support overall health.

"Camel milk is easier to digest and helps regulate blood sugar," said Safari adding that "It has natural insulin-like proteins, making it ideal for people managing diabetes. It also contains fewer allergens, so it's suitable for people with lactose intolerance or milk allergies."

Safari further revealed that camel milk is beneficial to pregnant mothers due to its high iron and calcium content which are very vital in supporting blood production and bone health, which are both essential during pregnancy.

The nutritionist further noted that the white gold contains vitamin C which helps in strengthening the immune system of both the mother and unborn child.

She maintained that Camel milk contains natural immune-boosting compounds such as lactoferrin and lysozyme which helps to fight bacteria, viruses, and support overall immune health, especially in children and the elderly.

"The anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties in camel milk protect the body from inflammation and oxidative stress hence helps in managing chronic conditions such as arthritis or inflammatory bowel disease," the doctor noted.

Alhaji Abdi a hotel owner at Maua market reports a steady rise in sales of camel milk, with more customers asking for camel milk due to lower fat and cholesterol levels compared to cow or goat milk.

"I used to bring 10 litres of camel milk from Isiolo now I bring 30 litres due to the surge in demand of the product," Abdi said.

Graduates urged to embrace innovation in digital age

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) Vice Chancellor, Professor John Kobia, has urged graduates to embrace innovation anchored in integrity as they step into a world increasingly shaped by technology and Artificial Intelligence.

Speaking during the University's 25th Graduation Ceremony held at the main campus in Meru recently, Professor Kobia underscored the need for graduates to apply their technical and professional skills to drive meaningful change both locally and globally.

"Innovation without integrity is unsustainable. We are calling upon our partners, both locally and internationally, to come together to grow and exploit our potential," he said.

This year's graduation theme, "Innovation with Integrity", reflects KeMU's commitment to nurturing holistic professionals who excel in their fields while upholding ethical values in their pursuit of progress.

Over 3,000 graduands were presented with awards in various disciplines.

The Vice Chancellor said that the Institution is already integrating Artificial Intelligence and emerging Technology into learning across its academic programmes.

The University has already partnered with global technology leaders, including Google, to pioneer AI training and digital innovation courses for students and faculty.

"With the growing global influence of biotechnology, data science, and AI, KeMU is positioning itself to ensure our students are not just participants but leaders in the new digital economy," he said.

He noted that the initiative aims to make KeMU graduates more competitive in the job market while equipping them with skills relevant to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

"Technology is transforming every aspect of life ranging from health and agriculture to business and education. We must train students to thrive in the reality of global growth," he added.

He congratulated the graduates for their resilience and hard work, urging them to remain disciplined and uphold strong moral values in their careers and daily lives.

"What will carry you forward is character. KeMU has given you the best under a Christian foundation. Be change-makers, thinkers, renovators who build, and leaders who serve," he said.

He stressed that innovation must go hand in hand with integrity and responsibility to society, calling on graduates to use their knowledge to address Kenya's pressing social and economic challenges.



Kemu students during the 25th Graduation Ceremony at the main campus in Meru */ Photo KNA*

Among the graduands were Tharaka Nithi County Deputy Governor, Nyaga Muisraeli; The County Assembly Speaker, John Mbabu; and Meru Governor's Spouse, Cherotich Mutuma.

Meru Governor Isaac Mutuma, who graced the ceremony, commended KeMU for its dedication to academic excellence and innovation.

He pledged continued collaboration between the County authorities and the academic community to ensure policy decisions are guided by data, research, and innovation.

The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know
Issue 31, December 2025- January 2026

SAMBURU TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

P.O. BOX 935, ISIOLO TEL: 0115825172 Email: info@samburutechnical.ac.ke

JANUARY 2026 INTAKE



SAMBURU TVC COURSES

1.	MODULAR
2.	Food and Beverage Production (Cookery)
3.	Food and Beverage Service(Waiter)
4.	Food and Beverage Operations
5.	Food and Beverage Management
6.	Accommodation Operations
7.	Catering and Accommodation Operations
8.	Catering and Accommodation Management
9.	Wildlife Tour Guiding
10.	Tour Guiding
11.	Tour and Travel Operations
12.	Tour and Travel Management
13.	Cosmetology
14.	Fashion Design
15.	Fashion Design Management
16.	Social Work
17.	Welding
18.	Motorcycle Mechanics
19.	Automotive Mechanic
20.	Automotive Technology
21.	Electrical Installation Technology
22.	Electrical Engineering
23.	Solar PV Installation





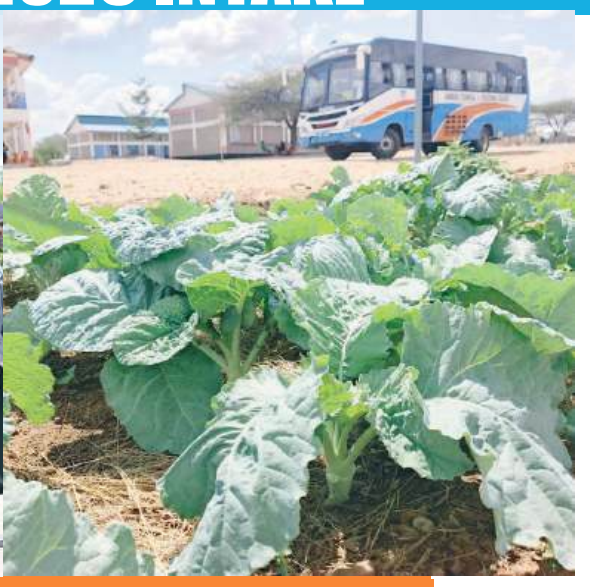


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JANUARY 2026 INTAKE







SAMBURU TVC COURSES

24.	Plumbing
25.	Masonry
26.	Building Technology
27.	Civil Engineering
28.	Computer Applications
29.	Information Communication Technology (ICT)
30.	Office Assistance
31.	Office Administration
32.	General Agriculture



Course Requirements

Entry Module	Qualification	Examining Body
Module 1	KCPE/KCSE	CDACC
Module 2	Module 1	CDACC
Module 3	Module 2	CDACC
Module 4	Module 3	CDACC
Module 5	Module 4	CDACC
Module 6	Module 5	CDACC
Trade Test grade 3	KCPE/KCSE	NITA
Trade Test grade 2	Trade Test grade 3	NITA
Trade Test grade 1	Trade Test grade 2	NITA









Website: www.samburutechnical.ac.ke

The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know

County celebrates progress in the inclusion of PWDs

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori- KNA

The County Government of Tharaka Nithi has reaffirmed its commitment for inclusion of the concerns and the interests of persons with disabilities.

The County Executive Committee Member for Children, Gender and Social Services, Karimi Kelly enumerated the progress made in making public spaces fully accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Speaking during the International Day for PWDs, the CECM said the county had made remarkable strides, noting that many newly constructed houses are now disability-friendly, reflecting growing awareness and compliance with inclusive building standards.

She further commended the health sector, saying hospitals across the county have established clear pathways and access points for PWDs, ensuring dignified movement and service delivery.

She added that ECDE classes are now designed to be disability-friendly, highlighting the county's efforts to ensure every public facility accommodates the needs of all residents.

Ms Kelly stressed the fact that disability inclusion must remain a priority in every sector of development. "Disability is not inability. PWDs possess immense potential that must be supported and celebrated," said Ms Kelly.

She clarified that her department uses disability assessment tools and inclusion lenses to ensure that disability considerations are integrated into all county projects. She urged local leaders and PWD representatives to remain proactive in understanding and addressing the needs of their members.

"We may not follow up on every individual, but it is the responsibility of each leader to know what persons with disabilities in their area require," she noted.

She encouraged PWD leaders to report any cases of mistreatment or neglect to the Department of Gender, saying the county works closely with the Department of Health to ensure they receive necessary medical support and do not suffer in silence.

She further announced that starting February next year, the county will deploy doctors to conduct disability assessments at the grassroots, enabling residents to obtain disability cards more easily to enable them access government support promptly.

Chuka University, security agencies converge to address students safety



Participants during the meeting to address rising concerns about students safety within and around the institution / *PhotoChristine Ngitori*

By Dickson Mwiti/Christine Ngitori-KNA

Chuka University has rolled out a new security framework following a high-level multi-agency meeting involving the University management, the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO), national security agencies, county officials, landlords, and representatives of the local community.

The meeting, held at the University grounds, sought to address rising concerns about student safety within and around the institution.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Henry Mutembei, said the University continues to partner closely with the National Government and all security-related Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) to strengthen campus safety.

"We want to fully understand how we can effectively safeguard our students and ensure they learn in a secure environment," said Professor Mutembei.

He added that some of the strategies to enhance security include regulation of student hostels to ensure no illegal substances or harmful products are sold to students, installation of adequate street lighting, with the County government tasked with illuminating dark spots around the University, as well as mandatory lighting in all hostels, with landlords required to enhance security structures within their premises.

Others include increased night patrols by the County enforcement officers and enhanced campaigns against drug and substance abuse among students.

Professor Mutembei also encouraged full implementation of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in hostels, urging students and landlords hosting them to promptly report any suspicious behaviour or incidents.

To improve emergency response, the VC announced the use of toll-free hotlines, saying the University has invested heavily in immediate support systems.

> ***We will not allow criminals or illicit brew peddlers to take advantage of our students. This area must remain peaceful, especially as we approach the festive season***

For security emergencies, the students were advised to call 0800 230 008, while for medical emergencies, they are supposed to contact 0800 230 009.

Professor Mutembei further highlighted the strong relationship between the University and hostel owners, saying that most challenges facing students are now addressed before they escalate.

Tharaka Nithi County Commissioner David Gitonga reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding students, describing them as a critical population in the community and the future workforce of the nation.

He noted that previous concerns, including illicit brews sold near student residences, theft of laptops and other gadgets, poor lighting, and rising petty crimes, had prompted greater coordination between agencies.

Gitonga said the meeting agreed on several steps, including zoning of areas around the University, to make policing easier, continuous monitoring and reporting of incidents through structured channels, and quarterly review meetings with stakeholders to ensure resolutions are implemented and emerging challenges addressed.

"We will not allow criminals or illicit brew peddlers to take advantage of our students. This area must remain peaceful, especially as we approach the festive season," he said.

Water CS fast-tracks Nthambo, Kanjogu dam projects



Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Eric Mugaa during an inspection tour of the projects / *Photo KNA*

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori- KNA

Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary (CS) Eric Mugaa has directed contractors and implementing agencies to expedite completion of the Nthambo and Kanjogu Dam projects in Maraa Sub- County, Tharaka Nithi.

The CS warned that the government will not tolerate prolonged delays in critical water infrastructure, particularly in the area where such projects are intended to address perennial water shortages and support irrigation.

Speaking during an inspection tour recently, the CS said the two dams were procured in 2021 and have stalled for years, prompting the Ministry to intervene.

"Kanjogu Dam is currently at 52 per cent progress. The contractor is on the ground and we expect this project to be completed by June next year. These dams are key to water supply, and we must ensure they serve the people," CS Mugaa stressed.

The CS was accompanied by the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Tana Water Development Agency, Engineer Philip Gichuki, mandated to implement water projects across Embu, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties.

Mugaa informed that the Kanjogu Dam will hold 890,000 cubic metres of water, which will be harvested during heavy rains and used to regulate supply during dry seasons.

"These investments will ensure reliable water for domestic use and irrigation. Instead of depending purely on rainfall, we are building capacity for communities to produce food throughout the year. Water is life," he said.

He outlined major National government water interventions underway in Tharaka Nithi County, including the Chogoria Sewerage Project (Sh 250 million), the Chogoria Water Project (Sh 230 million), the Chuka Water Project (Sh 410 million), and the Chuka Sewerage Project (Sh 230 million).

To ensure the benefits reach households, Mugaa said the government has allocated funds for last-mile connectivity, partly supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

"We must ensure that the ordinary Mwananchi gets water at the household level. That is why last-mile connectivity is a priority," he said.

Maara Member of Parliament (MP), Kareke Mbiuki, who accompanied the CS, welcomed the Ministry's intervention, saying the stalled water projects had long denied residents the opportunity to harvest water during rainy seasons to use during drought.

National Government confirms Maara's Kiini college in upgrade

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori - KNA

The Principal Secretary for Technical and Vocational Training (TVETs), Dr Esther Muoria, has confirmed the elevation of Kiini Technical and Vocational College to a fully-fledged institution.

The PS announced that the institution will now be headed by own principal as part of the government's efforts to strengthen TVET education nationwide.

Speaking at the former Kiini Institute in Maara Constituency, Tharaka Nithi County, Muoria said the government is scaling up investment in technical training to equip young Kenyans with globally-competitive skills and unlock international employment opportunities.

She revealed that Kiini Technical College will admit more than 1,000 students next year, following its upgrade and increased capacity.

The PS appealed to the surrounding community to maintain peace and patience, and encourage their children to enroll for technical courses as they were more marketable.

"We must work together as a community so our children can learn, uplift themselves and secure jobs that will put money in their pockets," she said.

Mworia added that over 200 electrical graduates from TVETs across the country have already been recruited for jobs in Dubai, highlighting growing international demand for Kenyan technical skills.

She noted that President William Ruto is finalizing bilateral labour agreements that will open up more opportunities abroad urging youth to take up relevant technical programmes.

Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki, who accompanied the PS during the announcement, welcomed the upgrade, saying residents have long pushed for Kiini Institute to attain full college status and operate independently.



Technical and Vocational Training PS Dr Esther Muoria at the former Kiini Institute in Maara Constituency, Tharaka Nithi County /*Photo Dickson Mwiti*

Mbiuki emphasized that the upgraded college will be a major driver of development in Maara, noting that TVET institutions have played a key role in skilling youth, reducing unemployment, and supporting economic growth in rural areas.

He said the presence of a fully operational technical college would stimulate local business, create a market for rental houses, and improve the area's competitiveness by producing job-ready graduates.

He added that the new designation will allow the college to receive direct student placements from January 2026, with learners expected to be deployed through the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services (KUCCPS).

Mbiuki further noted that he will continue supporting the institution through local NG-CDF.

Tharaka-Nithi leaders call for stronger child protection systems

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori - KNA

Senior judicial officers and national government administrators in Tharaka Nithi County have called for enhanced child protection mechanisms, stronger reporting structures, and urgent investment in child-friendly facilities in order to enhance justice for children.

They were speaking during an Open Day held at the Chuka Law Courts to mark the Annual National Child Justice Service Month 2025.

The event, observed countrywide every November, seeks to strengthen Kenya's commitment to safeguarding children's rights and ensuring faster, more child-sensitive justice processes.

Presiding Judge Roseline Koril, who led the ceremony, said this year's theme, "Security and Justice for Every Child" reflects the national ambition to make the justice system more responsive to minors.

Koril noted that Tharaka-Nithi County lacks a dedicated children's courtroom, forcing magistrates to convert ordinary courtrooms into temporary children's courts whenever sensitive matters arise.

"We clear the court to protect the privacy of children, but the facilities remain inadequate for the specialised attention they require," she said, calling for the establishment of a properly equipped children's court.

The judge condemned harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and expressed concern over children exposed to gender-based violence, saying such experiences cause long-term trauma.

She further emphasized the importance of mediation, community awareness, and ensuring children receive their basic rights, including safety, nutrition, health, and education.

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ANGEL MUKIRI
GRADE: EE1 (71)

MIKE MURITHI
GRADE: EE1 (71)

SHELMITH KANANA
GRADE: EE1 (71)

MARLENE KARWITHA
GRADE: EE1 (71)

PERFORMANCE	EE1	EE2	ME1	ME1	AE1	AE2	BE1	BE2
NO. OF LEARNERS	22	5	0	0	0	0	0	0

CLASS MEAN SCORE: EE1 (68)
OUT OF A POSSIBLE 72

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2026 JANUARY INTAKE



Muraga TTI committed to deliver best quality in technical education

Muraga Technical Training Institute, established in 2017 by the Kenyan Government Ministry of Education state Department of Vocational & Technical Training, has witnessed tremendous growth in enrollment since government funding reforms and interest in its TVET training programs.

The Institute Examinations are set and graded by The Kenya National Examination Council (K.N.E.C.) and Kenya Accountants and Secretaries national Examinations Boards (KASNEB)

Muraga TTI in Maara Constituency in Tharaka Nithi County is committed to provide high quality Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in a conducive environment using appropriate technology to empower her trainees for individual and national development. It endeavors to be the leading Technical Institute in Kenya and beyond.


Ms Purity Murithi - Chief Principal

The institute is one of the largest, most diverse technical institutes in Kenya with advanced certified courses open for students from nationwide.

It doesn't just give students an education and experiences that set them up for success in a career. It helps them succeed in their career to discover a field they're passionate about and dare to lead it.

Other than academics, Muraga TTI instills leadership, critical thinking, and moral decision-making. Its fosters flexibility and creativity as core competencies and educate learners on how to think outside the box and accept change in a dynamic world. It delivers market driven technical courses that continues to enable students to secure employement opportunities in various sectors of economy in Kenya and other parts of the world.

MURAGA TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

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Agriculture Department



Agriculture Department typically focuses on providing students with hands-on, practical knowledge and skills related to farming, horticulture, animal husbandry, and other agricultural sciences. The curriculum includes a mix of theoretical instruction and applied experience to prepare students for careers in various agricultural sectors. Such as;

1. Farm Manager: Overseeing daily operations of a farm or agricultural business.

2. Agricultural Technician: Supporting agricultural research and development

3. Horticulturist: Specializing in growing and managing plants and gardens.

4. Agricultural Sales Representative: Selling farm equipment, seeds, or chemicals. We also focus on skills development such as;

1. Problem-Solving: Addressing challenges in crop production, animal care, and farm management.

2. Technical Proficiency: Operating and maintaining agricultural machinery and technology.

3. Communication: Working effectively with other professionals in the agricultural field.

Applied Sciences Department



Our Applied Sciences Department is the hub of innovation and hands-on experience where students are equipped with the science, knowledge and practical skills required to excel in Kenya's high-speed industries.

Why Choose Us?

1.Hands-on Learning – We combine theory with real-life applications in modern laboratories.

2.Sustainability & Innovation – Our programs address world problems in health, environment, and technology.

3.Industry-Ready Graduates – Partnerships with top industries ensure our graduates acquire practical skills.

Applied Sciences Department – Shaping the Innovators, Changing Lives!

Building and Civil Engineering Department



The Building and Civil Engineering Department stands as a cornerstone of innovation and excellence, dedicated to shaping the architects, engineers, and construction professionals of tomorrow. With a focus on both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, our department prepares students to design, construct, and maintain the infrastructure that defines modern society. This practical approach ensures that graduates are not only knowledgeable but also industry-ready.

Business Management Department

A vibrant and dynamic hub of activity whose main aim is to shape tomorrow's business leaders and visionaries. Designed to provide students with the abilities, skills, and mindset required to thrive in today's competitive environment, our department boasts an extensive curriculum that combines theory with practical experience.

The Business Management Department: *Driving Excellence, Innovation and Leadership!!*

ICT Department

Computing and Informatics





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Extra-ciricular Activities













KATTI NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Muraga Technical Training Institute's Games, Sports, and Recreation Department plays a pivotal role in instilling physical well-being, team building, and holistic development among students. Understanding the importance of a balance between curriculum and co-curricular life, the department strives to provide students with a number of opportunities to engage in sports, develop sporting potential, and unwind through recreational activities.

The department organizes yearly sporting events and inter-departmental competitions in sports such as football, volleyball, athletics, basketball. These events encourage healthy competition, discipline, and a feeling of unity among students. Sporting abilities are typically selected to represent the institute at regional and national-level competitions, which enables them to demonstrate their talent and get wider recognition.

In addition to competitive sports, the department encourages general fitness and good mental health through recreational activities. These include guided fitness sessions, weekend walking and other recreations aimed at reducing academic stress as well as promoting social interaction.

Through its energetic and diverse layout, the Games, Sports, and Recreation Department is a significant aspect of student life at Muraga Technical Training Institute. It develops life skills of leadership, perseverance, and time management that prepare students for work but also for life.

Vision Statement

"To be a centre of excellence in Technical and Vocational Education and Training"

Mission Statement

"To train competent and innovative Manpower in TVET to meet the changing needs of the Industry and for self-sustainability"

Our Core Values

- Integrity.
- Ethics.
- Accountability.

Guiding Principles

- Excellence.
- Innovation.
- Professionalism.
- Corporate Governance.
- Customer Focus.
- Team Work.

Innovation & Exellence

The institute offers modularized curriculum starting from Levels 3 all the way to level 6. We also have DUAL programs as well as RPL programs.
All our students are eligible for Governance Sponsorship as well as HELB funding. Students are encouraged to apply for all these upon admission.
Persons living with disability are encouraged to apply.

FOR APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER INQUIRIES CONTACT: P.O. Box 614-60400, Chuka Kenya Tel: 0113175113
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CBET APPROVED COURSES – JANUARY 2026 INTAKE

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Building Technology Level 6	C- and above	8 Modules
2	Building Technology Level 5	D/D+	6 Modules
3	Building Technology Level 4	D-	3 Modules
4	Plumbing Level 5	D/D+	5 Modules
5	Plumbing Level 4	D-	3 Modules
6	Land Survey Level 5	D/D+	4 Modules
7	Land Survey Level 6	C- and above	6 Modules
8	Building Technology (DUAL) L5	D	7 Modules

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM SEPARTMENT

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Catering & Accommodations Level 6	C- and above	7 Modules
2	Catering & Accommodations Level 5	D/D+	5 Modules
3	Catering & Accommodations Level 4	D-	3 Modules
4	Food and beverage production Level 6	C- and above	7 Modules
5	Culinary Arts Level 5	D/D+	5 Modules
6	Culinary Arts Level 4	D-	3 Modules
7	Culinary Arts Level 3	K.C.P.E	2 Modules
8	Food and beverage	GRADE 1,2 & 3	NITA
9	Production and Service	GRADE 1,2 & 3	NITA

COSMETOLOGY DEPARTMENT

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME		ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Hairdressing & Beauty (Level 6)		C-	6 Modules
2	Hairdressing & Beauty (Level 5)		D, D+	4 Modules
3	Hairdressing & Beauty (Level 4)		D-	2 Modules
4	Hairdressing & Beauty (Level 3)		KCPE	1 Modules
5	Hair & Beauty	Grade III	3 Modules	NITA
6	Production and Service	Grade II	2 Modules	NITA
7	Grade Test	Grade I	1 Module	NITA (KCPE & Above)

COMPUTING & INFORMATICS DEPARTMENT

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	ICT Operator Level 4	KCSE	3 Modules
2	ICT Technician (Level 5)	D	5 Modules
3	ICT Technician Level 6	C-	7 Modules

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Electrical Installation Technology (Level 3)	KCPE	2 Modules
2	Electrical Installation (Level 4)	KCSE	3 Modules
3	Electrical Engineering (Level 5)	D	5 Modules
4	Electrical Engineering (Level 6)	C-	7 Modules

APPLIED SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Food Technology Level 6	C- and above	6 Modules
2	Food Technology Level 5	D / D+	3 Modules
3	Science Lab Technology Level 5	D / D+	3 Modules
4	Science Lab Technology Level 6	C-	6 Modules
5	Applied Statistics Level 6	C-	6 Modules

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	General Agriculture Level 4	KCSE	3 Modules
2	Agriculture & Extension Level 5	KCSE D	5 Modules
3	Agriculture & Extension Level 6	KCSE C-	7 Modules

FASHION & DESIGN DEPARTMENT

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Fashion Design Level 3	KCPE	2 Modules
2	Fashion Design Level 4	KCSE	3 Modules
3	Fashion Design (Level 5)	KCSE D	5 Modules
4	Fashion Design Level 6	KCSE C-	7 Modules

MECHANICAL & AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Automotive Technology Level 6	KCSE C-	7 Modules
2	Automotive Technology Level 5	KCSE D, D+	4 Modules
3	Motor Vehicle Mechanic Level 4	KCSE	2 Modules
4	Motor Vehicle Mechanic Level 3	KCPE	1 Module
5	Welding Technician Level 5	KCSE D, D+	4 Modules
6	Welder Level 4	KCSE	2 Modules
7	Welder Level 3	KCPE	2 Modules

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRENUERSHIP DEPARTMENT

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Office Administration Level 4	KCSE D-	2 Modules
2	Office Administration Level 5	KCSE D	4 Modules
3	Office Administration Level 6	KCSE C-	6 Modules
4	Human Resource Management Level 5	KCSE D-	3 Modules
5	Human Resource Management Level 6	KCSEC-	5 Modules

MODULARIZED DUAL COURSES

S/NO	CBET PROGRAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	DURATION
1	Catering and Accommodation Level 5	KCSE D	5 Modules
2	Automotive Technician Level 5	KCSE D	5 Modules
3	Building Technician Level 5	KCSE D	5 Modules

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Mourners during the burial of MP Mohamed Tubi at the Tuloroba Muslim Cemetery in Isiolo town */ Photo KNA*

Leaders and residents pay respect as Isiolo South MP Mohamed Tupi laid to rest

By David Nduro- KNA

Isiolo South MP Mohamed Tubi was laid to rest at the Tuloroba Muslim Cemetery in Isiolo town, following Islamic rites.

Hundreds of residents and leaders, led by National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula, attended the burial to pay their final respects to the late legislator, who passed away on Wednesday at Nairobi Hospital.

In his tribute, Speaker Wetangula described Tubi as a peace-loving and dedicated leader who worked tirelessly to promote harmony and development in Isiolo South.

"Despite battling health challenges since his election, the late Tubi remained steadfast in serving his constituents and representing their interests in Parliament," Wetangula said.

The Speaker lauded the MP's efforts in championing land and security issues, noting that his commitment to his people was evident throughout his tenure. He urged residents to honour Tubi's memory by embracing peace and unity, saying death is a fate that awaits everyone.

Marsabit Governor Mohamud Ali also eulogized the late MP as a humble and peace-driven leader whose legacy should be preserved through continued harmony in the region.

Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo thanked the National Assembly leadership, led by Speaker Wetangula, for supporting Tubi's family during his illness, especially after his medical cover had been exhausted.

Tubi's death has left a gap in Isiolo South's leadership, with residents remembering him for his humility and commitment to service.

NACADA raises alarm over rising miraa and drug abuse in Isiolo

By Eussania Adhiambo and David Nduro- KNA

The National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) has raised alarm over the increasing cases of drug abuse in Isiolo County, citing limited support from the county government in addressing the problem.

According to the NACADA Compliance Officer in Isiolo County, Collins Kipchumba, Miraa remains the most abused substance among residents, surpassing alcohol, bhang, and other narcotics.

He attributed the widespread consumption of Miraa to its legality and easy availability from the neighboring Meru County.

Kipchumba appealed for concerted effort from different sectors, including the County government for the war against drugs to be won easily.

He said the county government should take decisive legal or administrative action to curb drug abuse and to further complement the national government effort.



NACADA Compliance Officer in Isiolo County Collins Kipchumba/ *Photo KNA*

Mr. Kipchumba further noted that the authority needs additional financial and logistical support to effectively carry out its mandate.

"The county government ought to support our activities and also ensure the licensing of bars is controlled accordingly," he said.

He added that the absence of public rehabilitation centres in Isiolo worsened the situation, forcing addicts to rely on costly private facilities that many could not afford.

He said NACADA has proposed merging rehabilitation services with outpatient programmes to make treatment more accessible.

To address the growing challenge, NACADA has initiated several strategies, including awareness creation among students, countywide anti-drug campaigns, and community sensitisation programmes aimed at reducing substance abuse.

Residents yearn for fair access to government opportunities



Local leaders during the national discussions on the policy for ethnic minorities and marginalized communities in Isiolo county/ *Photo KNA*

By Brialliane Kwamboka-KNA

Residents of Isiolo County have joined national discussions on the policy for ethnic minorities and marginalized communities, emphasizing the need for equal representation, cultural preservation, and fair access to government opportunities.

Local leaders expressed their grievances about recognition and inclusion with the Chairman of the Leisan Community Abdul Wario, saying their group had already submitted a memorandum outlining their concerns and expectations.

"We presented our memorandum during the public participation. Our self-identification as a community must be respected without external interference. Above all, the most important thing is representation in all platforms of governance," Wario said.

A Turkana community speaker Mr. Thomas Erupe echoed the need for inclusivity, especially in policy making and employment urging the government to make the process more accessible to ordinary citizens.

"Laws and policies should be made in Swahili because most of us are not learned. You should also consider using simplified languages like Kiswahili in addressing issues of fairness and balance," Erupe said.

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Dr. Purity Ngina, assured residents that the commission remains steadfast in protecting the rights of marginalized and minority groups.

"NGEC has been defending minority and marginalized communities. We will ensure your concerns are heard and that the policies you have helped create are implemented," Dr. Ngina said.

Isiolo Assistant County Commissioner, James Macharia pledged government support in implementing the policy outcomes and ensuring communities' safety.

"The government will act on the policies you have proposed. Your security will be provided, and your views will guide future implementation," Macharia said.

The public participation forum on the National Policy for Ethnic Minorities and Marginalised Communities marked an important step toward ensuring no community is left behind.

Residents of Isiolo called for stronger representation, cultural respect, and economic empowerment while government officials pledged to translate their voices into tangible policy action

The Advisor for Living Affairs Executive, Mr. Kisabit Kiprop said the Constitution is the foundation of equality and unity among communities in Kenya.

"The Constitution itself is the fundamental law of the country; it governs all laws in Kenya and must include public participation from every community," Kiprop said.

"The government has taken steps to bring these communities together through affirmative action and inclusive platforms that advance socio-economic opportunities," Kiprop added.

He emphasized on referring to the Constitution's requirements that small and minority groups should also be nominated to leadership and decision-making positions.

Government reaffirms commitment to strengthen the Judiciary in Isiolo

By Florence Kinyua- KNA

The St. John Paul II Sabbatical Program has graduated its largest cohort since its inception, after 38 priests and religious sisters completed the four-month psycho-spiritual formation course at the Beatitudes Christian Formation Centre in Murang'a County.

The milestone marked the conclusion of the Program's 25th Session, held under the theme "Abide in me and I in you" (John 15:5).

Participants were drawn from 16 archdioceses and 11 congregations across Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, and the Philippines.

In his keynote address during the colorful ceremony over the weekend, the chief guest Rt. Rev. Jackson Murugara, Co-Adjutor Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Meru, commended the cohort for embracing the journey of renewal.

"This graduation is not the end but a new beginning. The Church and society are in urgent need of priests and sisters who not only know the truth but live it; who not only preach the Gospel but embody it; who not only serve in word but also in deed," the Prelate said.

Describing the sabbatical as "a school of renewal" that helps clergy balance prayer, reflection, and service, the Bishop Jackson urged participants to take the lessons learned back to their ministries."The lessons of humility, compassion, and integrity must be translated into action in your parishes, schools, communities, and everywhere you serve," he observed, adding that

"The knowledge you have gained must be practiced."



Co-Adjutor Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Meru Rt. Rev. Jackson Murugara with the Director St Pohn Paul II Sabbatical Centre Rev Fr Stephen Kinuthia */Photo KNA*

The graduates—32 priests and 6 religious sisters—received Certificates in Multicultural Psycho-Spiritual Counselling and Human and Personal Development.

In a moving but humorous testimony Fr Maurice Okuta from the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru narrated how he received the news of the invitation to join the sabbatical program with shock, disbelief and anger.

"On 19th August as I was taking breakfast, I got a message from my bishop requiring me to report for the program on the following Thursday; it was on Tuesday morning, I immediately called him to confirm if indeed the message was mine".

Confused and angry, Fr Okuta sought solace from some of his friends who instead asked him what he had done to warrant being sent on sabbatical. The welcome he got at the center the first day immediately grounded him.

"We were taught about anger management and conflict management, a topic that resonated with me because for the 9 years I had served as a Priest, I had never had a chance to reflect. I was tired."

He revealed that as he goes back to serve his diocese he had been renewed and refreshed spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and even physically and the words of St. Augustine "so late have I known you Lord" had come alive over the period of sabbatical.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, the graduates Fr. Dan Chaunde of the Catholic Diocese of Isiolo said the program had offered the participants a rare moment of grounding.

"This sabbatical has been a God-given chance," he said. "Today, God has picked us, qualified us, and empowered us.

As we return to our ministries, we go back as renewed and faithful servants."

"Our four-month journey of formation was only the beginning of a deeper call to service."

Established in August 2013 by Rt. Rev. James Maria Wainaina, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Murang'a, the St. John Paul II Sabbatical Program was designed to offer clergy a space for rest, psychological renewal, and spiritual deepening.

Over the past 12 years, it has drawn participants from across Africa, Asia, and beyond.

The Program's Director Rev Fr Stephen Kinuthia noted that the 25th cohort was the largest intake so far, a sign of the growing demand for ongoing formation among clergy.



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Rift over Nanyuki Jamia Mosque deepens

By Muturi Mwangi - KNA

Controversy surrounding the construction of Nanyuki's Jamia mosque escalated after a section of disgruntled members opposed to the construction moved to court.

Internal rift pitting a section of Muslim community over the proposed Sh26 million project has sparked divisions since the fundraiser on September 6 this year with a section expressing fears that the new facility would displace them or undermine their authority.

An initiative spearheaded by Muslim women in Nanyuki was to purchase a hearse and fencing of the Muslim Cemetery to secure it, which they had estimated to cost Sh10million.

"We called you to be part of our committee and we wanted you because of transparency, to put us on check so that we don't misuse the funds, you have to decide if we are building the mosque or not," said Nimmo Elmi, a member of those who was spearheading the fundsdrive in Nanyuki.

However, a well-wisher pledged to support the fencing initiative hence the Sh26 million collected during the fundraise diverted to construct the religious center.

Speaking in a public baraza convened by Laikipia East Deputy County Commissioner Patrick Muli, the aggrieved members asked to be allowed to continue with the construction project.

Muli and other security officials present, warned that the Mosque would be shut down if the conflicts persisted.

"We don't want to hear wrangles in this mosque, if there is any, we will close down this mosque as government," cautioned Muli.

He urged members to unite and pave way for the construction of the mosque.

"If there some members you wish to replace, hold a meeting to remove them, when the committee is ready, decide on when you wish to start the construction of the mosque," said the administrator.



Nanyuki Jamia mosque / *Photo KNA*

Laikipia partners with health ministry to curb drug abuse



Health ministry officials. Drug abuse has increasingly become a root cause of student unrest, violence, destruction of school property, and incidents of arson and strikes / *Photo KNA*

By Martin Munyi- KNA

The Ministry of Health is strengthening collaboration with the County Government of Laikipia to address the escalating socio-economic challenge of drug and substance abuse, which continues to affect young people, families, and communities, Principal Secretary for Public Health Mary Muthoni has said.

Ms. Muthoni noted with concern that drug and substance abuse was particularly pronounced in Laikipia County, where approximately 37.1 percent of youth have experimented with drugs and 22.4 percent are regular users. In a speech read on her behalf by Senior Deputy Secretary in the State Department for Public Health, Mawira Mungania, during the launch of the 11th Epuka Uchafu Afya Nyumbani (EUAN) programme in Nanyuki town on Wednesday, the PS highlighted that in Nyahururu Sub-County, drug abuse has increasingly become a root cause of student unrest, violence, destruction of school property, and incidents of arson and strikes.

PS Muthoni stated that the ministry, in collaboration with the county government and other stakeholders, is committed to enhancing efforts to curb drug and substance abuse in the region. She urged the County Government, community leaders, faith-based organisations, and citizens to support and actively participate in the Epuka Uchafu, Afya Nyumbani initiative, integrating it with drug awareness campaigns to strengthen prevention and rehabilitation efforts.

"By focusing on both a clean environment and strong social well-being, we can dismantle the systemic barriers that perpetuate disease and addiction," she noted in the speech.

Laikipia Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, who graced the event alongside County Executive Committee Member for Health Wagura Taiti, observed that solid waste management in major urban centres across the county remains a significant challenge.

He pledged that the county will intensify community engagement to promote responsible waste disposal practices.

"Let us embrace a culture of proper disposal of waste generated at home. We cannot continue throwing trash on roadsides and within our compounds," Taiti said.

The CECM added that the county, through the Department of Public Health, will initiate monthly cleanup exercises in major urban centres to improve sanitation and enhance community participation in environmental management.

The Epuka Uchafu, Afya Nyumbani campaign is a national initiative by the Ministry of Health aimed at improving community health through proper sanitation, hygiene practices, and environmental stewardship. It is anchored on the belief that a clean environment is essential to public health, and seeks to empower communities with knowledge, motivation, skills, and tools to maintain clean and health-enhancing surroundings.

Illegal firearm holders in Laikipia given an ultimatum to surrender them

By Martin Munyi- KNA

Laikipia County Commissioner Duncan Muyesu has issued an ultimatum to all illegal firearm holders in Laikipia to surrender them immediately to authorities.

Muyesu noted that proliferation of illegal guns had resulted to the deterioration of peace and security in the area observing the arms were being used by criminals to wreak havoc in the area.

Speaking during celebrations to mark this year's Jamhuri Day at Matanya grounds in Tigithi ward, the CC warned that failure to surrender the firearms would result in a fierce security operation to ensure that the guns are recovered by authorities.

He however did not give the timelines for the surrender or when the security operation would be conducted.

"We cannot have peace when these illegal guns are in the hands of a few people, whether they are from our county or neighbouring areas, we have to get them. Therefore, those who have them are advised to surrender them immediately. Soon, authorities will conduct a major mop-up activity in the affected areas," Muyesu told the gathering.

The CC, however, noted that Laikipia was largely a peaceful area, but only a few criminals, especially from neighbouring counties, who invade the area to graze their livestock and thus start harassing locals through banditry.

"As a county, we have no problem with our neighbors coming in to graze their cows and goats because we have plenty of pasture, but we shall not allow anyone to turn Laikipia into a bandit zone," he warned. Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, who also graced the function, cautioned residents against being divided along political affiliations by politicians seeking to be elected.

"Those shouting one term, two terms, or zero term, let all realize that this is our county, and therefore we should not let ourselves be divided by politics. When the time comes for politics, let us play mature and peaceful," Irungu advised.

The governor announced a raft of development activities lined up by his administration early next year in all 15 wards in the County.

"Starting this January and much of February 2026, we shall be going round launching completed projects and also inspecting the ongoing ones to ensure prompt service delivery to the citizens," he said.



Laikipia Governor Johua Irungu and County Commissioner Duncan Muyesu join traditional dancers during Jamhuri Day celebrations at Matanya grounds in Tigithi ward in Laikipia county / *Photo KNA*



KWS Director General Prof. Erastus Kanga during a conservation stakeholders' meeting in Nanyuki on Friday */ Photos KNA*

KWS ambitious campaign to boost rhino population

By Martin Munyi- KNA

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has unveiled an ambitious initiative to expand black rhino habitats across the country, aiming to grow the endangered population to 2,000 by 2037.

Speaking at a high-level conservation stakeholders' meeting in Nanyuki on Friday, KWS Director General Prof. Erastus Kanga described the Kenya Rhino Range Expansion Initiative (KREI) as a transformative project with far-reaching ecological and socioeconomic impacts.

"The Kenya Rhino Range Expansion Initiative is more than a conservation project; it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform Kenya's ecological and socioeconomic landscape," said Kanga.

The initiative will open up over 34,000 square kilometers of new, secure, and interconnected habitats in Tsavo and Central Kenya, easing pressure on overcrowded sanctuaries where territorial conflicts have hindered population growth.

"Current sanctuaries are at full capacity. Overcrowding threatens further expansion and genetic health," Kanga noted. "KREI will create thriving, connected landscapes that ensure long-term survival and genetic diversity."

Kenya's black rhino population has grown impressively from 381 in 1990 to 1,000 in 2024 through sustained conservation efforts. KREI now sets an ambitious national target of 2,000 rhinos by 2037.

Beyond wildlife protection, Kanga revealed that the programme promises significant benefits for local communities where they would create 18,000 new jobs in conservation, tourism, and ecological enterprises $45 million annually in conservancy revenue $15 million per year in additional tax income.

At the same time, Kanga said that the KREI programme would support the local communities through job creation, where the aim 18,000 jobs, generate $45 million in local conservancy revenue and additional $15 million annually in tax income.

Prof. Kanga emphasized that KREI would empower Kenyan youth with career pathways in conservation, tourism, and green innovation while positioning Kenya as a global leader in sustainable high-value tourism.

"For our youth, it opens new career pathways in conservation, tourism, and ecological innovation. And for our nation, it cements Kenya's global lead," said the KWS Director General.

The KREI marks a bold step toward securing the future of one of Africa's most iconic species and delivering lasting prosperity to the communities that share its landscape.

Laikipia NGOs engaging elders in Anti-FGM teachings

By Muturi Mwangi KNA

Child rights activists have sounded an alarm over rising cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage in parts of Laikipia County during this festive season.

The activists are now calling on authorities to act swiftly to stem the vice amidst fears that affected girls risk dropping out of school.

Recent data from the Anti-FGM Board indicate that prevalence of the female cut stands at 80 percent against the national statistics which have dropped to 15 percent, down from 21 percent in 2014.

A recent case in Laikipia North Sub-County involved two Grade Nine girls who escaped from their homes and sought refuge at a rescue centre in Doldol Town after learning of plans to subject them to the cut. Currently, the rescue center, One More Day for Children is housing 75 girls, all survivors of harmful cultural practices in recent years.

Speaking at Kimanjo Market during a graduation ceremony of some 250 girls who had completed a 4-day alternative rite of passage training, Anti-FGM Board CEO Bernadette Loloju said that the country had stepped up its efforts to fight against the vice with women being at the center stage in eradicating the retrogressive culture.

"We have achieved a lot in the fight against FGM; in 2014 we were at 21 percent, and now FGM prevalence stands at 15 percent among women between 15 and 49 years," said the CEO.

Loloju explains that as one of the strategies to eradicate female cut, they are now reaching out to elders from pastoral communities to lead in the campaigns and also engaging the youth to encourage them to marry uncircumcised girls through an initiative dubbed "My dear daughter campaign."

Public urged to embrace prisoners during Christmas festive season period

By Muturi Mwangi- KNA

Nanyuki Law Court Resident Magistrate Emmaculate Deche has called on the public to show love and acceptance to former inmates as they reintegrate into society after serving their sentences.

Speaking during a visit to Nanyuki GK Prison in Laikipia where she distributed gifts to inmates in preparation for the festive season, Ms Deche noted that many prisoners felt abandoned, particularly those with limited or no contact with their families.

"Some inmates feel left out and forgotten. It is important that we support them and make them feel part of the community again, regardless of their past mistakes," she said.

Ms Deche stated the primary purpose of imprisonment was both retribution and rehabilitation.

"Jail serves the dual role of retribution for wrongdoing and facilitating change in the offender. Everyone deserves a second chance," she stated.

She highlighted that the initiative came at a time when loneliness and isolation can be especially immense for inmates during the holiday period.

Nanyuki GK Prison Assistant Superintendent Esther Maina commended the ongoing rehabilitation programmes, revealing that inmates are being equipped with modern, marketable skills to enhance their employability upon release.

"Through various training initiatives, we are ensuring that when they complete their sentences, they have practical skills to secure jobs and rebuild their lives," Ms Maina said.



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New technology improves production at Thumaita Tea Factory



Thumaita Tea Factory farmers during a meeting */Photo KNA*

By KNA

Thumaita Tea Factory has undertaken a major transformation initiative to cut on operational costs and improve efficiency to enhance seamless services to optimize production output.

The management said the new measures had enabled the factory to effectively serve the over 13,000 registered farmers under their coverage making payments of bonus and other related transaction smooth and effective.

Some of the major transformations at the firm include the installation of solar panels and introduction modern machinery, all aimed at ensuring long-term stability for both the factory and its growers.

Factory Chair Director Richard Magu revealed that the solar panel installation, expected to be completed before April next year, will significantly lower electricity expenses, allowing the factory to redirect savings to farmers' monthly and bonus payments.

He emphasized that the move is part of a broader strategy to modernize operations, reduce reliance on fluctuating national grid tariffs, and promote sustainability.

Magu also explained that the factory has introduced an automotive machine designed to offload tea efficiently. While the machinery helps reduce labor costs, it is intended to support workers rather than replace them, bringing stability and balance to factory operations.

The factory currently serves over 13,000 smallholder farmers, many of whom rely on tea as their primary source of income. Magu called on relevant agencies to address delays in fertilizer delivery, noting that only 13 percent of the requested fertilizer had been received, which negatively affected production.

He added that the factory plans to submit a resolution to the head office specifying the exact quality of fertilizer required to streamline future deliveries.

Thumaita Tea Factory also plans to expand its orthodox tea production system. Currently producing 10,000 kilograms per day, management intends to double output, a move expected to increase revenue and benefit farmers further.

Magu stressed that these initiatives are part of a long-term investment strategy.

Motorists in Kirinyaga asked to be careful on roads during

By David Wandeto- KNA

Kirinyaga County Commissioner (CC), Hussein Allasow, has cautioned motorists against reckless driving to avert road carnage during this festive season.

He also warned traders dealing in counterfeited liquor and illicit brews that stern action will be taken against those flouting safety rules re-affirming government's commitment to protecting lives and promotion of public safety.

Speaking in Mwea Constituency, the County Commissioner said indiscipline on the roads and the continued sale of illegal alcohol remained major concerns that must be addressed decisively.

Allasow expressed concern over the rising cases of over-speeding along the busy Meru Nairobi Highway. He noted that the Highway, which passes through Kirinyaga County, has increasingly become a danger zone due to reckless driving, particularly by miraa transporters and other motorists rushing to meet delivery deadlines.

The CC warned that such behavior had led to frequent road accidents, some resulting in serious injuries and loss of life.

He emphasized that no economic activity should come at the expense of human life, urging all road users to be extra-cautious and strictly adhere to traffic rules and regulations.

To curb the menace, Allasow directed traffic police officers and other security agencies to remain vigilant and intensify enforcement operations along the Meru-Nairobi Highway and other major roads within the County.

He said officers had been instructed to take firm action against offenders, including arresting and prosecuting drivers found speeding, overtaking carelessly or operating unroadworthy vehicles.

"Road safety is a shared responsibility. We cannot continue losing lives because of recklessness and disregard for the law," the County Commissioner stressed.

He added that Jamhuri Day, which marks Kenya's independence, should also serve as a time for reflection on discipline, responsi-

Vandalized Kirinyaga Central NG-CDF office finally rehabilitated



Kirinyaga Central Constituency Member of Parliament Gachoki Gitari after reopening the renovated NG-CDF ofice */Photo KNA*

By David Wandeto- KNA

Kirinyaga Central Constituency Member of Parliament Gachoki Gitari has renovated the NG-CDF office in Kerugoya that was vandalized and looted during the recent Saba Saba demonstrations that rocked the town and other parts of the county.

The MP said the destruction, which included theft of vital equipment, significantly disrupted service delivery and stalled several public programs that depend on the office for coordination.

Speaking during the reopening ceremony, Gitari described the damage as a major setback to the constituency's development agenda.

He explained that the vandalism forced the office to operate with severe limitations and, in some cases, shut down essential services altogether.

According to the MP, key equipment including computers, printers, furniture, and administrative tools had been stolen or destroyed, leaving staff unable to serve residents effectively.

He noted that the reconstruction phase has now been completed, restoring the building to a functional state. However, the office is yet to be fully equipped with the necessary machinery and ICT tools needed for full operations. Gitari assured residents that this final phase will be completed by January next year, after which the office is expected to resume all its services without interruption.

The MP emphasized that the vandalism not only slowed down development but also resulted in financial losses that would have otherwise been directed to community projects.

He warned that public resources take time and taxpayer money to assemble and should never be targets of political frustration.

Gitari used the platform to caution residents particularly young people against being lured into destructive political activities. He said preliminary findings suggest that the acts of destruction were politically driven, alleging that a group of individuals had mobilized youths to cause chaos and damage public property.

He warned that such manipulation undermined the future of young people and places communities in direct conflict with the law. The MP insisted that those who organized and financed the violence must face justice, noting that his office was collaborating closely with national police to trace and prosecute the masterminds of the destruction.

Gitari assured the public that the investigation is making progress and promised transparency once it is concluded.

"The destruction of public resources is not just an attack on government, but an attack on residents who rely on these facilities. Think long-term and avoid being used in political schemes that bring no benefit to their lives," he urged youth.

Gitari also raised concerns about development projects that stalled due to the vandalism, particularly the Ajira Digital Programme, which had been coordinated through the NG-CDF office.

He said all necessary equipment for the program will be procured and the initiative will resume stronger than before.

Contractors asked to fence and rehabilitate dangerous quarry



Residents mill around an open quarry in Kiandai, Ndia Constituency, that claimed the lives of three people / *Photo KNA*

By David Wandeto- KNA

Ndia Member of Parliament and chairperson of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee in Parliament, George Kariuki, has instructed contractors to always fill up quarry sites to eliminate the dangers they pose to communities.

The stern instructions come to address the dangers posed by abandoned quarries which include death through drowning after the quarries fill up, running with water.

He specifically addressed a most recent case in Kiandai, Ndia Constituency, that claimed the lives of three people, including two children.

The MP emphasized the need for immediate safety measures and long-term solutions to ensure such tragedies are not repeated.

The two children reportedly drowned while swimming in the water-filled pit, having initially gone to the quarry to fish. One child got into difficulty, prompting the other to attempt a rescue, resulting in both losing their lives. A previous incident at the same site had already claimed another life, highlighting the urgent need to secure the area.

Speaking to journalists after meeting affected families and residents, Kariuki expressed deep sympathy for those grieving and vowed to ensure the families receive support.

He said he would engage the construction company responsible for the quarry to discuss how the families could be compensated for their loss.

"It is heartbreaking to lose young lives in a place that should have been secured long ago. I will speak with the company to ensure the families receive some form of assistance during this difficult period," he said.

Kariuki also stressed the broader responsibility of contractors to ensure that abandoned sites do not pose a danger to the community.

"It is good practice for contractors to either fill these pits or find ways to make them beneficial to the surrounding community. We must turn potential hazards into assets rather than leave them as threats," he said.

The legislator announced plans to fence and rehabilitate the quarry so it can be safely used for community development.

Options being explored include recreational facilities, controlled water storage, or agricultural use, all designed to benefit local residents while preventing future accidents.

The MP appealed to residents to protect fenced-off areas once they are secured, warning that vandalism or theft of materials compromises safety.

"Once sites are secured, it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard them. Community cooperation is essential to prevent similar incidents from recurring," he said.

Residents welcomed Kariuki's initiative, describing the quarry as a long-standing danger. Community leaders praised the move to turn the site into a resource rather than leaving it as a hazard.

Many emphasized that such proactive measures could prevent future tragedies and provide lasting benefits to the community.

Government asked to fast-track completion of Makutano ESP market

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Traders in Makutano Market along Embu-Nairobi Highway have appealed to the Government to fast-track completion of the modern Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) market to allow them move in.

Makutano market is predominantly known as a hub for tomatoes, cabbages and onions sale where local farmers sell their produce to both domestic retail and export markets.

The construction of the market that is approximately 90 percent complete stalled in July after the contractor moved out of site following the vandalism that took place during Saba Saba anniversary protests.

The contractor lost equipment and raw materials whereas the market also suffered significant damages after glass windows were shuttered and doors broken and carted away by the demonstrators.

The market with a capacity of 700 traders will among other amenities feature modern stalls, cold storage, improved sanitation and eateries, all meant to offer them an organized environment for them and their customers.

Traders' majority of who have been carrying out their business in open air along the busy highway where they are prone to accidents and weather vagaries said the market is poised to offer them a conducive work environment.

Kirinyaga county charts new path to tourism-led economic growth

By David Wandeto- KNA

Kirinyaga County is set for a major economic shift following a renewed push by the county government to transform the region from a traditional transit zone into a competitive tourism destination.

Governor Anne Waiguru said the county is drafting the Kirinyaga County Local Tourism Bill, 2025, aimed at providing a clear legal and policy framework to guide the growth, regulation, and promotion of tourism across the county.

Speaking during the Jamhuri Day celebrations held at Wang'uru Girls Senior School , the governor said the bill will formalise tourism development efforts and ensure that local communities directly benefit from the sector.

"This bill gives Kirinyaga a structured path to grow tourism and ensure the benefits reach communities across the county," said Waiguru, adding that tourism has the potential of becoming a key pillar of the county's economy. She noted that for decades Kirinyaga has largely been viewed as a pass-through county for travelers heading to Mt. Kenya and neighbouring counties, despite having vast untapped tourism potential.

Waiguru offers hope to Sagana elderly women's home

By David Wandeto- KNA

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has ordered county officials to expedite and complete land ownership documentation for the St. Mary Village Home for the Aged Women in Sagana.

She directed the officers to fast track the processing of the ownership papers to save the institution from further uncertainty that has for years threatened the stability of the home.

Speaking on Saturday during a visit to the home, Waiguru raised concern over the long-standing land challenges that have exposed the facility to potential disputes.

The home currently hosts 37 elderly and vulnerable women, many of whom have been neglected or abandoned. She described their situation as "heartbreaking and unacceptable," insisting that securing the land must be treated as an urgent priority.

"For too long, this facility has operated under the shadow of land disputes because of missing documents. These elderly women deserve a safe, stable, and dignified place to call home," she Said.

She directed the County Executive Committee Member for Lands to finalize and issue the title deed within a week, saying the county would not allow the home's future to remain uncertain.

Beyond addressing land insecurity, Waiguru also pledged to resolve the persistent water shortages that have affected the home for years. She assured the management that the county would provide a permanent, reliable water supply to restore comfort and dignity for the residents.

During the visit, the governor called on families to embrace their responsibility toward aging parents, noting with regret that many elderly citizens end up at the home because relatives abandon them.

"It is devastating to see our senior citizens neglected. We must show love, gratitude, and care to those who raised us. Caring for them is not a burden it is a blessing," she said.

The visit also saw a fresh wave of support delivered to the facility. A donation of 20 mattresses, 100 blankets, and assorted foodstuffs was donated to the elderly residents, aimed at improving their comfort and daily living conditions.

Waiguru recognized the efforts of Suqoon, a nonprofit organization that has played a key role in modernizing the facility.



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru during a visit to Sagana elderly women's home / *Photo KNA*

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69 prisoners released from Garissa Prison

By Erick Kyalo- KNA

A total of 69 prisoners have been released from Garissa Medium prison to work in community service for the remainder of their sentence period in a bid by the judiciary to decongest prisons countrywide.

The Kitui High Court Presiding Judge Lady Justice Gitari Lucy Waruguru led the exercise for prisoners who had been sentenced by courts in Kitui County.

Speaking during the Event, Lady Justice Gitari urged the prisoners to live well with the community members, local administrators and police and warned them against violating their release advice by not going to work in their assigned areas.

She warned that those who fail to report in their community service stations would be rearrested and taken back to prison.

"We have had the responsibility this month to reduce prisoners in prison because the prisons service has been lamenting that the prisons are congested. We are here in Garissa Medium Prison from Kitui high court because there are prisoners here who were sentenced by the courts in Kitui County," said Lady Justice Gitari.

"We have looked at the cases of prisoners who can be released so that they serve their time from outside in the form of community service. There are 126 prisoners here and we have been able to release 69 prisoners," she added.

At the same time, the judge noted that 11 more prisoners were denied release due to concerns raised by their parents, complainants, community members and local chiefs on their early release.

"However, we had 11 cases of prisoners we could not release because of probation reports indicating that the community, complainants, parents, police or local administrators advised against their release," she said.

Garissa High Court Presiding Judge Justice John Onyiego on his part urged the communities to accept and incorporate the prisoners back into the communities without stigmatizing them.

"It is not our wish as judiciary to fill the prisons. I want to urge the members of the public that we the prisoners are released to work in community service is not to say that they have been freely discharged. This is a sentence just like any other, and when they come home, accept them so that they can feel at home," Justice Onyiego said.

"Community Service sentence is legal and in our constitution. Let us accept them so that they can reform and avoid repeating the mistakes they did," he added.

Malombe, World Vision commission Sh840 million water project in Kitui



Kitui Governor Julius Malombe launches the Kangu Kangu public water kiosks/ *Photo Courtesy*

By Denson Mututo- KNA

Kitui South residents have endured water scarcity for decades, but relief has come with the commissioning of River Athi–Kangu Kangu–Water project by Kitui County Governor Dr. Julius Malombe.

The multi-million water project, funded jointly by World Vision and Kitui county government to a tune of Sh840 million, is set to benefit over 100,000 residents living across the vast Kitui South constituency among them Mutomo–Ikutha–Kanziko–Mathima areas. The project will be producing over 1.4 million litres of clean water daily.

Speaking while commissioning the project at a ceremony held at Mutomo market in Kitui South Monday, Governor Malombe reiterated that the completion and operationalisation of Kangu Kangu Water project is a major milestone in the county's quest for universal access to clean and safe drinking water for all Kitui South residents.

Alongside enhancing water accessibility amongst the local communities and easing the burden of long treks in search of water, the project provides WHO-standard water, significantly boosting sanitation, hygiene, reduce waterborne diseases and also improving agricultural productivity through irrigation.

While reiterating his administration's commitment to ensuring that clean water is supplied to all households across the vast Kitui County, Malombe also noted that Kangu Kangu Water project is a game changer as the reliable water supply would uplift thousands of livelihoods and open new economic opportunities to the residents.

"This will be achieved by having water points (kiosks) as close as a distance of two kilometers for easy accessibility as well turn around the time taken by the local communities while in search of clean water," he said.

Governor Malombe also noted that the newly commissioned water project would be managed by Kitui Water and Sanitation Company (KITWASCO) for sustainability.

The Governor urged the beneficiaries to contribute a small fee for water usage to facilitate proper management and maintenance of the project.

"It's a must for this project to be managed professionally. Don't charge a lot of money, but make a reasonable affordable cost that can help manage and maintain this project," Dr. Malombe advised.

However, he decried cases of vandalism affecting similar projects and directed the Water and Irrigation Minister to work with KITWASCO and local administrations in Lower Yatta, Mutomo, and Ikutha to end the vice.

The water project, which was first conceptualized in 2014 in partnership with World Vision Kenya, features a 224-kilometre pipeline network, 13 storage tanks, and 52 water kiosks. It is designed to serve more than 100,000 residents across Kitui South and parts of Kitui Rural, including towns, schools, and health facilities.

The Sh840 million flagship project is set to directly address the constitutional right to water, Kenya Vision 2030, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Kitui's development agenda.

Kalonzo wants Kitui, Nairobi stadia named after Raila

By KNA

Wiper Leader Kalonzo Musyoka, has requested the Kitui County Assembly, to immediately move a motion that will pave way for the newly renovated Ithookwe Stadium, renamed after the late former Prime Minister, Raila Amolo Odinga.

Kalonzo said Raila Odinga was not only a national leader, but a great lover of sports and thus renaming the stadium in Kitui after him, would be a great honour to the fallen patriot.

The former Vice President further backed Homabay Governor, Gladys Wanga, calls for the government to rename Talanta Stadium in Nairobi, Raila Odinga Stadium in memory of one of the greatest political leaders in the country.

He said: " I want to direct Kitui County Assembly, to move a motion that will rename the newly renovated Ithookwe Stadium, Raila Amolo Odinga Stadium and similarly I want to reiterate the call by my sister, Homabay Governor Wanga that Talanta Stadium in Nairobi also be renamed after Raila.

The Wiper Party Leader said Raila loved various sports and naming the stadiums after him would be a befitting honour.

Kalonzo who was speaking during a visit to Raila Odinga's Opoda home in Bondo asked ODM party leadership not to be enticed by external influence into relinquishing their positions.

" I was very shocked the other day when someone came to Bondo and insisted that they wanted to take care of the ODM party. The best respect you can give Raila is not to accept anyone saying they will look after the ODM party," said Kalonzo.

He also termed himself the most rightful politician in the country to honor and pay homage to Raila as both ODM and Wiper, are still members of Azimio Coalition.

" If ODM wants anybody to talk to them, Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka is the right person, not those who insulted Raila when he was alive. Raila also did not break Azimio Coalition which we are all members," he stated



Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka pays his last respects to the late Raila Odinga at Kang'o Ka Jaramogi / *Photo Courtesy*

Kalonzo who brought 100 heads of cattle to Raila home to mourn the late former Prime Minister was accompanied by Makueni Governor, Mutula Kilonzo Jnr, who observed that even though Raila Odinga fought for free and fair elections in the country, that is yet to be.

Kilonzo stated that as leaders they will not relent in their struggle to have free and fair elections in the country, as they aim to keep Raila Odinga's legacy and dreams alive.

Siaya Governor James Orengo, praised Kalonzo Musyoka as the most astute and honest leader in the country. "Power must be controlled and that's why Raila fought for the current Constitution," he added

Orengo cautioned that democracy requires strong parties protected by the law and not the whims and mercy of an individual and warned ODM leadership against letting the party be swallowed by other parties.

Kisumu Women Representative Ruth Odinga, echoed Orengo's sentiments pointing out that ODM shall remain united and will negotiate with other parties ahead of 2027 polls as one strong united party.

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Embu County workers hold protests over poor working conditions



County workers demonstrate in Embu town over poor working conditions and unfulfilled pledges */ Photos KNA*

By Samuel Waititu-KNA

Hundreds of Embu County Workers continued to hold demonstrations along the streets of Embu Town for the third day running as the standoff over poor working conditions and unfulfilled pledges with their employer thickened.

The workers from various departments at the county marched along the busy streets, chanting slogans protesting over a wide range of grievances, including poor remuneration, delayed salary payments, stagnation and non-remittance of statutory deductions that have lingered for years.

Irate staff drawn from the departments of health, finance, education, administration and public works, vowed to stay away from work until all their grievances are addressed.

They pointed an accusing finger at the employer, whom they accused of duping them by promising to address their welfare issues at the start of the current financial year.

Led by their respective union leaders, the workers said it had become untenable to continue rendering services yet their welfare issues continue to be ignored.

"Casuals are earning below minimum wage and there are also those on contract earning a quarter of what their colleagues on permanent and pensionable terms are earning," said Jacinta Rwamba who is Kenya Union of Clinical Workers, Embu Branch, Treasurer.

She added that third party deductions including loans and pensions have not been remitted for months putting them in financial limbo where some are on the verge of having their property attached by lenders.

Rwamba lamented that they were promised that the grievances would be addressed by the start of the financial year in July, but added nothing had been done five months down the line.

"We feel cheated and that is why we are saying enough is enough," she declared, while demanding the county to keep it's part of the bargain.

County Health Workers Union Chair, Aloysius Njoka, blamed departmental finance heads for failing to address their grievances saying it amounted to oppression.

He called on Governor Cecily Mbarire to crack the whip on officers who were sleeping on their job as residents continued to suffer for lack of services because of the industrial action that they said could have been averted with proper focus and commitment.

Embu coffee farmers receive Sh24 million to boost productivity

By Samuel Waititu - KNA

Coffee farmers from 24 Cooperative Societies across Embu County have received capital donations amounting to Sh24.2 million to finance inputs for improving production.

The donation by the World Bank-funded National Agricultural Value Chain Development project (NAVCDP) and channeled through the County Government, is expected to assist farmers in increasing both quantity and quality of their coffee.

This comes at a time when coffee prices have started showing signs of improvement and hitting a high that has not been witnessed in the recent past, with some societies paying their farmers Sh143 per kilo of cherry delivered in last year's crop season.

Poor earnings have over the years seen coffee production dwindle with some farmers going to the extent of uprooting their bushes and diverting to other profitable ventures such as dairy farming.

The donation according to Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo, who oversaw the disbursement of cheques yesterday at Talent Academy Grounds, will enable farmers procure materials and inputs necessary to return the crop to its' previous stature as the biggest economic pillar in the county.

The funds will also help factories in infrastructural upgrade including procurement of solar dryers, metallic drying beds and fermentation tanks.

Mugo said the devolved unit was committed to uplifting the economic status of farmers through financial support, adoption of new and emerging technologies and sourcing of markets for their produce.

The biggest beneficiary of the donations was Embu County Coffee Mill which received Sh17.9 million for the construction of a 40, 000-bag parchment store.

DG Mugo said the investment is meant to address the mill's current storage deficit and enhance efficiency in handling coffee from all the cooperative societies.

The mill allows local farmers to mill, roast and directly sell their coffee thus improving farmers' earnings by cutting out middlemen and cartels.

Mill Chairperson Wilfensio Njeru welcomed the donation.

Mt Kenya UDA youth dismiss ex-DP Gachagua as regional spokesperson



Mt Kenya UDA Youth league chair Peterson Mirichii during a press conference where theyr maintained that Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki was the legitimate voice of the Mt. Kenya region */ Photo KNA*

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

A section of Mt. Kenya youth leaders affiliated to the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) has asked former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua to stop "masquerading" as the regional spokesperson.

Under the umbrella of Mt. Kenya UDA Youth League, the young people maintained that Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki was the legitimate voice of the Mt. Kenya region and asked Gachagua to respect him.

Speaking during a press briefing on Sunday in Embu town, the youth said the outcome of the just-concluded Mbeere North By-election had clearly demonstrated the region's political direction.

They argued that the Constituency's choice of ruling UDA's candidate was "a direct endorsement" of Prof. Kindiki's leadership in the region.

"The victory of Leonard Wa Muthende, who was supported by DP Kindiki, and who won against Newton Kariuki, backed by Gachagua, was a decisive statement that the mountain was behind Kindiki," said Peterson Mirichii, who is the Youth League Chair.

He said the Mbeere North contest was not a mere By-election, but a referendum on who Mt. Kenya trusts to steer its political future, saying the people spoke loudly that Kindiki was the man for the job.

The leaders dismissed Gachagua's regional mobilization, accusing him of creating unnecessary division.

"Any individual posturing and masquerading as the Mt. Kenya kingpin without the people's mandate is misleading the public", he said.

They further praised the UDA's overall performance in the recent By-elections, noting that the Party secured 12 out of 24 seats nationally, saying the victory reaffirmed the UDA's dominance in Kenya's political space.

The youth leaders also applauded Prof. Kindiki for what they described as his decisive and unifying leadership.

"He has proven himself a stabilizer and the principal leader of the region. The people have endorsed him, and we stand firmly behind him," Mirichii said.

They called on local leaders and residents to set aside "political factionalism" and rally behind the region's collective agenda, while calling out on those who secured their win through the UDA banner in the last election, but were now advancing another party's agenda.

"Those advancing opposition agenda under UDA colors must return home, recommit, or honorably resign," the Chair said.

Samuel Kinyua, another youth leader, urged young people across the Mt. Kenya counties to join the party's youth wing, take up leadership roles, and help build a policy-driven, future-oriented movement.

Government injects Sh500m in Mbeere North irrigation projects



State Department for Irrigation Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho tests a generator during the progress review of Kamata and Kanyuambora Irrigation Projects in Mbeere / *Photo KNA*

By Samuel Waititu-KNA

Residents of the arid Mbeere North Constituency in Embu County are upbeat as the national government has injected close to half a billion shillings for implementing water projects.

Currently, three projects are underway with the first two being Kamata and Kanyuambora Irrigation Projects at a cost of slightly over Sh400 million.

The two projects are expected to be completed next year and will benefit over 1, 500 households in Nthawa and Evurore Wards according to Principal Secretary (PS) State Department for Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho.

The third one is Micro-irrigation project whereby the government assists individual farmers in sinking of small earth dams in their farms to store rainwater for later use at a cost of Sh120, 000 each.

The PS said that some of the key enterprises that the government was keen on promoting through the projects was horticultural farming with an average gross income of Sh208, 000 per acre, per year.

Speaking, during an inspection tour of Kamata Project where construction of the main pipeline is ongoing, PS Kimotho said they will continue increasing investment in irrigation for sustainable food supply and incomes for farmers.

"We cannot continue relying on rain fed agriculture due to climate change. We must change our way of farming for us to be food secure and also create self-employment for our farmers," he said.

National Irrigation Authority CEO Eng. Charles Muasya confirmed that the government was scaling up irrigation connectivity not only in Mbeere North, but also in other dry areas across the country.

He said the projects will open thousands of acres for irrigation, directly impacting on farmers and boosting the area's food production capacity. Engineer Mwasia noted that once complete, the systems will support year-round farming and improve household incomes.

For years, farmers in the semi-arid constituency have relied heavily on erratic rainfall, often leading to poor harvests and prolonged hunger seasons.

However, with the new development, the tide is turning and farmers will be able to grow crops all year round to feed their families as well as earn incomes.

The Beneficiaries have hailed the projects, saying they are now able to enjoy steady food supply and surplus produce for sale.

They noted that irrigation has given them stability, dignity, and renewed hope in agriculture that has for decades been threatened by perennial drought.

Embu CAIP set to be operationalised in 3 months

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

The Embu County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) is almost complete and set to be operationalised in three months' time.

Cabinet Secretary (CS) Investments, Trade, and Industry Lee Kinyanjui said he was satisfied with the progress of work and also the quality.

The Embu CAIP currently ranks second nationally in terms of completion, with construction standing at 88% complete, positioning the county as a frontrunner in agro-industrial development.

He gave the county the nod to onboard investors into the facility as it nears completion, noting that a number of them had shown interest in setting base there.

Speaking recently when he toured the facility located in Machang'a area in Mbeere South Constituency, CS Kinyanjui said it has the capacity of creating 10, 000 jobs directly and indirectly.

He hailed the facility that is among other 17 being constructed across the country as a game-changer in unlocking the country's potential in value addition, job creation, and sustainable economic growth.



Investments, Trade and Industrialization CS Lee Kinyanjui with Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire in Mbeere South/ *Photo KNA*

"The Embu Industrial Park is a shining example of what industrial parks should look like. I commend Governor Cecily Mbarire for her leadership in driving the project, now 88% complete," he said.

CS Kinyanjui described the Embu CAIP as a benchmark project that will redefine industrial parks in Kenya.

At the same time, the CS called on the locals to take advantage of the common user facility to add value to their harvests before sale, as processed products fetch at least five times the value of raw produce.

The CS noted availability of funding for those intending to procure manufacturing equipment, noting that the environment for growing manufacturing in the country was ripe.

He urged the investors to think beyond agro-processing to start other ventures, noting that the internet that will be provided at the facility would also present opportunities for Business Process Outsourcing.

He assured of government's support in fast-tracking it's operationalization through acquisition of equipment through the Kenya Development Corporation (KDC).

On her part, Governor Cecily Mbarire said the facility will focus on key agricultural products in the county including mangoes, avocados, honey, and coffee.

Embu villagers shaken after woman's body found in River Thuci

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Grief and fear have gripped Kanginga Village in Kyeni South Ward, Embu County, following the discovery of the body of a young woman in River Thuci recently.

The deceased, 35-year-old Catherine Muthoni, had been reported missing since October 12 when she left home to search for pasture for her cow along the riverbanks, approximately one kilometre away. The mother of a 13-year-old boy never returned, prompting her family to report her disappearance to the police, who subsequently launched a search.

Her body was finally discovered a month later, stashed in a rock crevice inside the river. According to witnesses, the body was found half naked with a piece of cloth tied around her neck, a detail that has left villagers shaken and fearful.

Area Chief John Kareko said the condition and positioning of the body suggest that the woman may have been raped and strangled before her assailants submerged her in the river. He described the killing as gruesome and called for thorough investigations to establish what happened and who was responsible.

Kareko also urged residents who frequent the bushy river area to avoid going alone, noting that the location could be a potential hideout for criminals. He appealed for heightened vigilance to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Villagers, still in shock over the discovery, called on detectives to expedite investigations and ensure those behind the killing are brought to justice. They noted that this was the first time such a violent incident had occurred in the area, heightening their worry and insecurity.

Neno Matatu Sacco train drivers on mental health

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

The Embu County-based matatu operator firm, Neno Sacco, has embarked on a mental health training session for drivers to promote road safety in a bid to reduce road accidents in the public transport sector.

The two-day training held in Embu Town saw 500 drivers trained in a joint partnership with the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) and the Traffic Police Department.

Sacco Chairman Joseph Nyaga said there was a direct correlation between a driver's mental well-being and road safety, with factors such as anxiety, stress, and depression being linked to unsafe driving behaviors and accidents.

An analysis from NTSA has revealed that some drivers do not recall moments preceding accidents, pointing towards underlying problems that drivers fail to disclose or seek professional assistance for.

"It is for this reason that we have found it fit not only to train our drivers on road safety but also on mental health to improve road safety by enhancing their concentration and decision-making," he said.

Nyaga added that the training will help manage their mental health issues, as well as foster a good working relationship with colleagues and their customers.

"We want to make our contribution in reducing road accidents in the country by carrying out a comprehensive and effective driver training programs," he reported.

Meru County Traffic Officer Tony Nyongesa stressed the importance of drivers observing traffic rules in reducing road carnage.

"We have sensitized the drivers on the need to observe traffic rules and also respect other road users to make our roads safe," he said, while hailing Sacco for the move and calling on others to follow suit.

Two drivers Munene Njoka and Martin Murithi, termed the sensitization insightful and called for regular training to enable them to reinforce those skills, which will eventually lead to improved safety for all.

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KVDA sinks Sh40 million boreholes in Samburu north

By Robert Githu- KNA

The national government has pumped Sh40 million into ensuring that over 10,000 residents of Samburu North sub county together with their 100,000 livestock will continue to access clean water as the dry season sets in.

This is after the Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) drilled four boreholes in strategic locations in the region as part of the national government's drought mitigation program.

Speaking during the commissioning of the four water projects at Ntir village in Ndoto ward, KVDA Managing Director (MD) Sammy Naporos said that the water projects are long term measures against the acute water shortage that residents grapple with in the area.

He noted that the four boreholes were drilled and equipped at a cost of Sh10 million each and will pump water via solar power to residents and their livestock.

"The borehole at Loldepe will yield 4,500 liters of water per hour and the one at Soit ng'iro will yield 2,500 liters of water per hour; at Kilepoi the yield is 1,500 liters per hour and here at Ntir the yield is expected to be 2,000 litres per hour. The four boreholes cumulatively serve over 10,000 people and over 100,000 livestock and will alleviate suffering and ease conflict in this area," Naporos said.

The MD noted that KVDA has been at the forefront of implementing the national governments drought mitigation program in ASAL counties and added that there are plans to sink an additional five boreholes in Samburu County in the next financial year.

Samburu North MP, Eli Letipila lauded KVDA and other regional development authorities (RDA) for working closely with the local community to identify areas of need and providing timely interventions.

"Through regional development agencies like KVDA, ASAL counties get their share of the national budget and local communities directly benefit from life-changing water projects. I urge that they are adequately funded because their footprints are seen in the remote parts of this country," Letipila said.

Residents of Samburu North have expressed their gratitude to the national government for the timely intervention which they said will have a positive impact on their livelihoods.



Staff feeding some elephants in the heart of Samburu County's lush Namunyak Conservancy, Reteti Elephant Sanctuary */ Photo KNA*

Haven for orphaned wildlife animal giants in Samburu

By Robert Githu- KNA

Deep in the heart of Samburu County, within the lush Namunyak conservancy, lies a sanctuary dedicated to giving a second chance to some of Africa's most vulnerable giants- orphaned elephant calves.

Established in 2016, Reteti Elephant Sanctuary is the world's first indigenous community owned African elephant sanctuary where orphaned and abandoned baby elephants are rescued, rehabilitated and later released into the wild.

With the support of the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Samburu County government and the Samburu community in Namunyak conservancy, Reteti elephant sanctuary is an excellent example of what locally led conservation efforts can achieve.

Russia Lenanyokie, a keeper at the sanctuary explains that elephant calves become orphaned in several ways including when their mothers die of natural causes or when they are separated from their herd adding that most of the babies at Reteti are rescued after they fall into man made wells when their mothers are looking for water.

He explained that during the dry season, elephants dig puddles on dry riverbeds from which they drink. Guided by the elephants' scrapings, Samburu families make the wells deeper to trap water overnight for their livestock and domestic use.

"At nightfall, wild animals stalk the wells which get deeper as the dry season progresses and baby elephants desperate to drink sometimes lose their footing and fall inside the wells. Once stuck in, it becomes difficult for the herd to pull them out and eventually have to make the heartbreaking decision to move on," Lenanyokie says.

"In the past, Samburu warriors tried to rescue the calves and after futile attempts, the babies were left for dead. Today, thanks to the grassroots community movements in this region, they have the option to alert Reteti and ensure the calves are brought to safety," he points out.

Lenanyokie narrates that once they get a call alerting them of an elephant calf in distress, they rush to the scene and hoist the calf to safety on the sandy riverbed and wait for the herd to return.

"Elephants are creatures of habit and more often than not, the herd will return to drink in familiar places and once they return, the calf is reunited with its herd. We keep vigil for 72 hours and if the herd has not returned, we take the calf to the sanctuary where it is examined and treated for any injuries, fed and a human mother is assigned to it," he explains.

The keeper added that currently the sanctuary is home to 45 baby elephants of different ages that are fed goat milk at three-hour intervals throughout the day and during the night.

"After sharing the same habitat with elephants for many years we realized that goats and elephant's browse the same trees for food and that is why we feed them goat milk with additional supplements such as ground moringa tree leaves, honey, vitamins, algae and coconut oil," he said.

Lenanyokie noted that the Samburu community has benefited directly from the sanctuary through the employment of 120 keepers and 60 percent of revenue acquired through tourism is given back to society to build schools, bursaries and other development projects.

One of the main challenges the community faces is how to sustain the operations at the Reteti sanctuary and the entire Namunyak conservancy.

As a result, World Animal Protection has partnered with Reteti in a move geared towards giving rescued elephants a better life as they undergo the process of rehabilitation and rewilding by supporting veterinary care, the goat milk program and a smooth rewilding process.

Research and Planning Manager at the World Animal Protection Dr. Patrick Muinde said that apart from funding the rehabilitation and rewilding process, their partnership is ensuring that 1,250 Samburu women supply the sanctuary with 1,000 litres of goat milk every day at Sh 180 per litre to keep the calves nourished.

Samburu residents benefit from free medical program



A health official during the two-day Health and Probitas foundation outreach program in Samburu */ Photo KNA*

By Robert Githu- KNA

Over 2000 residents from remote areas of Samburu West and North sub counties have benefited from a free medical outreach program organized by Persons of Influence (POI) a local non-governmental organization.

The two-day outreach program being undertaken in partnership with the County's Department of Health and Probitas foundation targeted Samburu residents with little access to basic health services due to distance or financial limitations in Lchakwai village in Samburu north and Loshoo village in Samburu west sub counties.

Speaking at the event POI founder Ms. Miriam Chege noted that women including expectant mothers in remote areas walk for many kilometers through rough and insecure terrains to access the nearest health center.

"We noticed this gap and in partnership with Probitas foundation and the department of Health in Samburu County we aim at increasing healthcare access and promoting healthy behaviors to avoid diseases. This program would not have been possible without the support of our partners and the dedication of the medical team," she said.

The medical team consisted of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals who offered a range of services including general medical check-ups, maternal and child health services, HIV testing and counselling and referral of those suffering chronic diseases.

Nasieku Lengidi, 38, a resident of Lchakwai hailed the free medical program saying that it was a life saver especially for women, children and the elderly.

"Health centers are very far from us and we usually rely on traditional healers but today I have received an accurate diagnosis and medication for my skin disease," she said.

At the same time, Probitas foundation donated laboratory equipment to Kisima Health Center worth over Sh1.5 million after they funded the refurbishment of the facility's laboratory which serves eleven Health institutions in the area.

Samburu governor visits herders and calls for peace



Samburu County governor Lati Lelelit visits Samburu herders in Kulu Springs along the Samburu-Isiolo border. The governor appealed for peaceful coexistence with neighbouring communities which will result in development and unity.
Governor Lati removed his shirt and entered a traditional well to water livestock and later donated foodstuffs to the herders. He was accompanied by Waso Ward MCA Kelvin Lemantaan.

/ Photo Robert Githu

Baragoi residents warned against forcing daughters to child marriages

By Robert Githu- KNA

Residents of Logetei village in Baragoi, Samburu North Sub County, have been cautioned against subjecting their daughters to child marriages as part of efforts to end all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Samburu County.

The warning was issued during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence held in Samburu north sub-county under the theme: End Digital violence Against all Women and Girls.

Speaking at the event, Nachola Division Assistant County Commissioner (ACC) Charles Musoi noted that child marriage remains rampant among the Turkana community living in Samburu North and it has resulted to low school enrollment and retention rates.

He noted that many girls are not enrolled in school but are instead given grazing duties before a suitable suitor pays the dowry price and whisks her away.

"You must stop prioritising livestock over your children and enroll all of them in school since education is a constitutional right for every child. Let us do away with things that lag us behind as pastoralist communities," he told the residents.

At the same time, the ACC commended the community for achieving zero Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) rates despite being in the heart of Samburu County.

ACC Musoi called on community members to become ambassadors of anti GBV, stressing the need to avoid wife-battering and for couples to respect each other.

On his part, Martin Mwongera from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) highlighted that the law is strict on child marriage and warned that dire consequences await those arrested for facilitating or engaging in such practices.

Timothy Ekai, a resident, thanked the organisers for choosing Logeteti village for the launch of the 16 days of activism noting that the engagements focusing on children's rights has helped remove ignorance of many parents rather than waiting for direct confrontation with the law.

He pointed out that the deep rooted culture of child marriage requires consistent dialogue to bring it to an end, citing poverty and drought related economic hardships as drivers.

"When a man wants to restock his livestock after a harsh drought he marries off his daughters. That is why children are not enrolled in school because it's easier to marry off a child who is not recognised by the government," he said.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence is a global campaign that runs from November 25 to December 10 calling on individuals, communities and institutions to unite in action to end all forms of violence against women and girls.



Elders during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence held in Samburu north sub-county */ Photo KNA*

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Be in the Know
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Fish farming transforms livelihoods in drought-prone Marsabit county

By Sebastian Miriti- KNA



A fish pond in Marsabit county */ Photo KNA*

Marsabit County is described as a region synonymous with climate change owing to its recurrent droughts, floods, soil erosion, drying of water sources and the rising levels of Lake Turkana, resulting in the disruption of sources of livelihoods for the predominantly local pastoral communities.

The situation has, over time, made the majority of the residents vulnerable to food insecurity with high rates of malnutrition, almost becoming a permanent feature.

Livestock keeping and animal trade, the main economic activity and source of food for the local communities, has greatly suffered a blow owing to frequent droughts, which have killed their animals and destroyed pastureland.

Efforts to diversify by engaging in crop farming, where the county government of Marsabit and development partners provide free seeds for a variety of fast-growing crops like maize and beans, have not borne much fruit because the rain has become erratic with unpredictable weather patterns.

The above scenario therefore called for a deliberate move to address and reverse the trend, which saw the World Food Programme (WFP) sponsor the generation of the county strategic plan (CSP) to engineer the development of sustainable solutions.

WFP supply Chains Officer Albert Mwambonu says the organisation entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and a plan of operation (PoO) with the county government in order to achieve this endeavour, where the two entities work together in both the investment and implementation of the planned activities.

Mwambonu told the Kenya News Agency (KNA) in North Horr subcounty, where WFP and the county directorate of fisheries are actively engaged in the promotion of smallholder fish farming, that the move is aimed at enhancing food security and resilience among local pastoralist communities, who have for long depended on food aid.

He said that the adoption of aquaculture is purely a climate adaptation and an alternative source of livelihood for pastoralists in the arid areas of the county.

Local communities who are predominantly keepers of livestock that include camels, cattle, sheep and goats never had fish in their menu, as their culture prohibited them from consuming fish. To propel climate-smart agriculture, a lot of awareness creation through training and sensitisation meetings on the benefits of fish farming and eating had to take place, hence the positive results.

"We have so far managed to establish fish farms in the very arid areas of North Horr, Moyale and Saku constituencies, where eating and trading in fish is now unbroken," Mwambonu said, adding that the economic and nutritional value of the venture were real.

At the same time, a 40-member-strong self-help group, the Chalbi rural development initiative run by both men and women fish farmers, is running successful ponds that are stocked with 500 fish of the tilapia species.

The group leadership says it ventured into the activity, which traditionally was associated with those afflicted by poverty in the society, after being educated by officials from WFP and the fisheries department on its importance.

Hadija Guyo, the Chairlady of the Group, said that fish farming has made them food secure, besides offering a source of income made from sales of mature fish.

She pointed out that persistent droughts had wiped out their livestock, exposing them to all manner of vulnerability, as they had to depend on food aid from the government and donors for their survival.

Guyo says many locals who are in fish farming have been able to regain their dignity, which they had lost because of begging for food and other forms of basic support.

"Members of this group get dividends from fish sales after every harvest, which we also use to pay school fees for our children and to start small businesses," she said with a broad smile of satisfaction.

The members also save a fraction of the sales for table banking, which they use as a revolving kitty.

The transformation is now three years old and the number of locals who want to be enlisted in the venture is growing by the day.

For Katelo Guyo, who initially reared a combined herd of camels, cattle and shoats numbering about 500 animals but currently has only a handful of goats after the stock was wiped out by three consequent droughts, now says there is always adequate water to support tilapia fish farming.

He underlined that the activity is not labour intensive, as once a pond has been established and stocked with fingerlings, the farmer's work is reduced to just feeding, which is done once a day, while refreshing of water in the ponds is done every two weeks.

"I like this activity because it is quite friendly in terms of time saving because it is less demanding and located within our villages, hence giving one room to attend to other errands," said Guyo, who also attested to tasting fish for the first time, while aged over 50 years, courtesy of WFP.

The county Fisheries Officer Sostine Wanjala says tilapia fish is well suited for rearing in arid and semi-arid areas, as it does not require a big supply of water and can survive in ponds under hot climatic conditions, which can be refreshed biweekly.

"Tilapia fish is highly resistant to diseases and does well in hot climatic conditions, which makes it ideal to rear in this county, as far as the participants have been capacitated and the water is available," said Wanjala.

The main sources of water to farm fish in the region are boreholes, springs and shallow wells, though the Fisheries Officer says it can be boosted through rainwater harvesting.

He expressed optimism that the eat fish awareness campaigns being jointly carried out by the county government and WFP were winning over pastoralist communities, whose cultural beliefs hindered them from eating fish.



A man putting fingerlings in his fish pond in Marsabit county */ Photo KNA*

"We have purposely and relentlessly waged the campaign not only on the need to turn to fish eating instead of only focusing on red meat like beef, but also through provision of pond liners, predator and fishing nets," Wanjala pointed out.

And to build resilience among the climate change-hard-hit pastoralist communities, the necessary capacity building in terms of training at the Sagana-based National Aquaculture Research Development and Training Centre (NARDTC) has been facilitated for various farmers who in turn pass the knowledge gained to others.

Wanjala disclosed that the resilience initiative has yielded much gain, with the number of fish farmers having increased from 15 people to more than 100 in the past three years.

He said that the number was projected to grow given that upcoming farmers could now buy finger rings from the established farmers, hence saving them the cost of transporting the same all the way from Sagana.

"Sourcing for the finger rings locally also helps in reducing mortality rates, as they are already accustomed to the local environment and there is no mechanical damage that results from transportation," he noted.

Additionally, at North Horr Technical and Vocational Training Institute, ponds have been established and stocked with fish after students pursuing agriculture courses requested WFP to be considered for the programme.

Anastacia Mutiti, a social work and nutrition tutor at the facility, termed the idea to promote fish farming as a game changer in the fight against what she termed as widespread malnutrition in the arid areas.

She added that fishpond farms could provide a quality source of food, especially for the children and also help in harnessing integrated agriculture, where water drained from the ponds is used to support food crop irrigation like that of vegetables and fruits.

Fish is a source of white meat, which does not only help in improving the diet owing to its richness in proteins and amino acids but also offers a reliable source of income to the diversifying pastoralist communities.

"Aquaculture has been embraced as a part of the curriculum that blends agriculture here at the institute," said Mutiti, adding that the endeavour could also be used to support tree growing and appealed to donors to emulate the World Food Programme by aiding climate adaptation actions.

Gabra, Dasanach formalize peace deal, ending years of hostility

By Sebastian Miriti- KNA

The Dasanach and Gabra communities in North Horr Constituency, Marsabit County, who have lived as antagonists for nearly a century, have entered a peace accord to end the animosity between them.

In a historical event held at Illeret ward headquarters and witnessed by the Principal Secretary (PS) for internal security and national administration, Dr Raymod Omollo, members of the two communities resolved to end the animosity and to live in peace.

Dr. Omollo noted that the rivalry and hatred between the two pastoralist communities had been costly as lives and property, including livestock, were lost.

The PS lauded the homegrown solution to the persistent insecurity problem and appealed to the two groups to ensure that the newly found peace and unity are maintained.

He commended the key role played by the local Catholic church and non-governmental organisations like the Pastoralist Community Initiative Development and Assistance (PACIDA), Caritas-Marsabit, Community Initiative Facilitation and Assistance (CIFA) and Interpeace in building friendship and trust among members of the two communities.

The PS expressed optimism that the newly established cordial coexistence between the two communities, which has the full backing of elders, youth and women, would last in order to foster development and safeguard lives and property.

The PS who was accompanied by the Regional Commissioner Paul Rotich, Marsabit County Commissioner James Kamau, Marsabit Deputy Governor Solomon Gubo and MP Wario Ade, noted that women and children always bore the brunt in times of insecurity.

While announcing the operationalisation of the recently gazetted Illeret sub-county, Dr Omollo said that his office was working out on modalities on how the necessary administrative infrastructure, including offices and security stations, could be developed.

"We are liaising with the area member of Parliament to see how the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) could chip in in order to speed up the process," he said.

The PS also seized the opportunity to implore upon Kenyans to look out for the common good in the county and shun acts of lawlessness.

He warned against the use of unorthodox means to agitate and canvass on issues contrary to the laws of the land, warning that any acts meant to cause mayhem, where lives, livelihoods and property are destroyed, would not be allowed.



Internal Security and National Administration Principal Secretary Dr. Raymond Omollo with Marsabit Deputy Governor Solomon Gubo witnesses the signing of the Gabra and Dasanach Peace Accord at Illeret Sub-County in Marsabit County / *Photo HANDOUT*

Dr. Omollo assured that criminals who caused chaos in certain parts of the country during the recent demonstrations and their sponsors were being pursued so that they could face justice in a court of law.

On his part, the Regional Commissioner (RC) decried the sad loss of lives and property, previously occasioned by incidents of cattle rustling and insensitive rivalry for the control of grazing resources.

Rotich described members of the pastoralist communities as generally good people and called for tolerance and resilience whenever issues crop up, instead of fighting.

He urged the residents to maintain the newly found peace, which came as a result of change in the local political leadership, through concerted efforts by the government and other actors.

"A lot of property has always been lost, as stolen livestock were most of the time taken across the border into Ethiopia, making it difficult to recover the lost animals," noted Rotich, while praising the communities for now seeing the light and saying no to the retrogressive practice.

He challenged pastoral communities to fully embrace education going forward while urging parents to ensure that their children are enrolled in schools for posterity, as was the case with those in other parts of the country.

The area MP said that the local leadership had resolved to unite the residents and end the unfounded disharmony between communities, which had derailed growth in the highly potential part of the country.

Ade noted that the area, initially locked out of progress, had since the onset of the Kenya kwanza administration started witnessing strides in development in sectors like water, livestock, trade and fisheries.

The public-private partnership with an open-door approach to development planning adopted by President William Ruto's government had harnessed the available potential.

President Ruto orders efficiency in supply of drugs to hospitals



President William Ruto at Loglogo Africa Inland Church (AIC) during his tour of Marsabit County/ *Photo KNA*

By Sebastian Miriti - KNA

The Kenya Medical Supply Authority (KEMSA), has been ordered to ensure that there is consistency and enough supply of drugs in public health facilities across the country.

President Dr William Ruto, said there should be efficiency in the new system of delivering medicines and other health commodities directly to hospitals.

Speaking at Loglogo Africa Inland Church (AIC) in Marsabit County, President Ruto said direct delivery of the supplies to the health facilities and not to County stores, would make provision of health services under the Universal Health Coverage programme reliable.

The President was in Loglogo to attend celebrations to mark 60 years of the local church's existence, where he directed that health facilities should be equipped with drugs at all time.

"We don't want to hear stories of lack of drugs in our health facilities. KEMSA should ensure uninterrupted supply of drugs to our hospitals, " the President said.

He disclosed that the Agency had been adequately funded; to enable it carry out its mandate with the expected efficiency.

The President asked Kenyans to register with the Social Health Authority (SHA), to enable them to access free primary healthcare services.

President Ruto encouraged Kenyans to register with SHA, saying those who register, stand to get free outpatient services at dispensaries, health centres and Sub-county hospitals in public, private and faith-based hospitals.

He further called on those eligible for personal registration, to take advantage of the government's abolition of extra ID vetting requirements, in border counties, to acquire national identity cards.

"The vetting for ID requirement for communities in the border regions, including Marsabit was discriminatory and that is why my Administration, did away with the practice," the President pointed out.

He added that the process of registering for IDs had been streamlined, to enable Kenyans to have equal access to the vital documents.

The President said there was need for the country to have a National Infrastructure Fund, to cater for the ever-growing demand for infrastructure development such as, roads.

He said that Sh1.5 trillion was needed to construct about 10,000 km of new tarmac roads across the country.

The President, to the jubilation of the residents, announced that Marsabit County has been allocated Sh4.5 billion for the Affordable Housing, fresh produce markets and student hostels for public college projects.

The President said Sh1.6 billion has been set aside to connect more local households to electricity, as the government strived to serve all Kenyans equally.

President Ruto commended the role the Church plays in development and mission work, saying the government will continue to work with religious organisations, to address the challenges facing the people.

Cabinet Secretary (CS), Internal Security, Kipchumba Murkomen, said more than 72,000 residents in Marsabit were eligible for ID registration, and urged them to take advantage of the government's free issuance of the documents.

Marsabit Governor Mohamud Ali, Members of Parliament and other area leaders commended the Ruto Administration for initiating many development projects in the County, which they noted had been marginalised by previous regimes.

Governor Ali said the local leadership will be supporting the reelection bid of President Ruto, because of his transformational leadership and development efforts of the county and the country at large.

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Stakeholders validate medical laboratory strategic plan in Makueni

By Patrick Nyakundi-KNA

Stakeholders in the health sector in Makueni County have validated the medical laboratory strategic Plan 2025-2028 which is expected to improve the accuracy, reliability and timeliness of diagnostic services in all health facilities in the area.

Among the partners who met recently at a hotel in Wote town in Makueni Sub County included Amref Health Africa, Centre for International Education Bureau (CIHEB), Ministry of health officials and regulatory bodies.

Speaking during the forum, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health Joyce Mutua said laboratories play a central role saying they need to be efficient and give timely and credible results so that patients get the right treatment besides accurate prescriptions.

Ms Mutua further said that once the strategic plan is in place, it will guide the county government in providing quality health services besides strengthening the human resource in the area.

"When the strategic plan is in place, it will guide us what to do. As a county government we are committed to improve the quality-of-service delivery. We must have laboratory results which are credible and timely," said Mutua while addressing the stakeholders on Wednesday.

While saying the county will prioritize the adoption of innovative technology, the CECM said that they will improve infrastructure in all the 242 health facilities whereby 87 currently provide laboratory tests.

Also, Mutua emphasized that the county government is committed to training the laboratory personnel and equipping the health facilities.

Call to strengthen youth friendly services to contain AIDS

By Patrick Nyakundi - KNA

There is a need to strengthen the youth friendly services in the health facilities with a view of confronting the triple threat of HIV, teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence (GBV) in Makueni County.

Making the public outcry, Makueni County Deputy Governor Lucy Mulili lamented that the new cases of HIV infections in the area was heavily impacting the youth aged between 15 to 24 years.

Consequently, Mulili said that the health workers need to teach the youth more about their reproductive health so that they can understand themselves hence prevent occurrence of new infections and incidences of GBV in the county.

"Makueni County has recorded 199 new cases of HIV infections from the last national estimates in the country. Out of these infections, 50 were among the youth aged between 15 and 24 years while 43 are children from zero to 14 years," said Mulili during the Commemorating the World Aids Day at Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC), Mbooni Campus recently in Mbooni east Sub County.

"This calls for action to strengthen youth-friendly health services to address the triple threat of HIV, teenage pregnancies and GBV. These figures highlight the current need to protect our daughters to empower them through community education," she added.

The DG revealed that there are 18,264 people living with HIV aids in Makueni county saying this is a huge number of infections that is equal to a prevalence of 1.83 percent of the total population infected in Kenya.

Mutula Jnr warns sand harvesters against flouting county regulations

By Patrick Nyakundi-KNA

Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr has issued a stern warning to unscrupulous individuals controlling what he described as sand-harvesting cartels, stressing that the county will not tolerate illegal sand extraction.

Mutula issued the warning in Wote on Monday, where he reiterated that the continued harvesting of sand was exposing residents to the severe risk of water insecurity in the area.

The Governor said his government will continue to enforce the sand extraction regulations to the letter to ensure the cartels are dealt with as part of efforts to avert the degradation of the environment.

"My administration will not back down in enforcing the strict regulations that govern the sand sector.

I will ensure the rogue cartel networks are dismantled, as they are profiteering at the expense of local communities," vowed Mutula while addressing the Makueni Sand Conservation and Utilisation Authority staff on Monday.

Citing progress witnessed in Kilome following the ban imposed on harvesting sand, the governor disclosed that the government had plans to take the county beyond conservation by venturing into sand value addition.

"My administration intends to invest in technologies and infrastructure that will enable Makueni to process sand into high-value products once resources allow. This initiative is expected to boost county revenue and create jobs for residents," he said.

During the event, Mutula issued letters of appointment to 44 staff of the Sand Authority who will now be on permanent and pensionable terms.

He said that the move was significant, as it will strengthen sand conservation and safeguard the critical environmental resource, saying it will also improve the workers' morale to offer better services.



Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr / *Photo KNA*

"The transition to permanent terms is not only a reward for their resilience but also an investment in their future. The decision is expected to boost morale and motivate the team as they continue to play a key role in environmental protection," he observed.

The occasion also served to unveil the new Authority's Managing Director (MD), Mr. Ndambuki Kioko, who is expected to steer the agency through its next phase of institutional growth and conservation work.

Governor Mutula lauded the Sand Conservation and Utilisation Authority as the most improved semi-autonomous government agency in the county, noting its great contribution to the growth of Makueni's own-source revenue in the last financial year.

Present included the Deputy Governor Lucy Mulili, among other county government officials.

Makueni youths benefit from Sh7.9M scholarship

By Patrick Nyakundi-KNA

Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) has offered scholarships to the tune of over Sh7.9 million to at least 177 youths in Makueni County to undertake courses in the County Technical Training Institutes (CTTIs) to acquire skills for self-reliance.

The youths are set to undertake a three-month course in different CTTIs to gain skills ranging from carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and cosmetology, electrical and plumbing.

"We have paid tuition fees for each of the youths undertaking various courses in plumbing, carpentry, electrical, cosmetology and masonry courses. SHOFCO has paid Sh45,000 for each student to get training," said SHOFCO Facilitator Agnes Mwende Mwikali while speaking to Kenya News Agency in Wote town on Friday.

"Job opportunities are limited in the country; we intend to empower the youths to ensure they become self-employed hence avoid dependence on white collar jobs. We intend to increase the number as we move forward," she added.

Mwikali further said that the students are continuing with the training at Nduluku, Marwa and Makueni CTTIs among others in the county.

During the interview with KNA, Mwikali revealed that their organization was also funding 40 youth groups in the four Sub Counties of Makueni to a tune of Sh1 million as grants for start-up businesses.



Some of the Makueni youth scholarship benefitiaries / *Photo KNA*

The monies that was given through the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (SLP) benefitted groups from Makueni, Mbooni East, Mbooni West and Kaiti Sub Counties after they were trained in developing a business plan, budget and entrepreneurship.

She said that each group will get Sh25,000 as a grant to enable them start the income generating projects saying they targeted youths aged between 18 to 35 years old who are largely unemployed.

"The youths have undergone training in entrepreneurship. We have targeted youths aged between 18-35 years as this is the most productive age, who are more vulnerable due to lack of employment opportunities that can be a risk factor to mental health," said Mwikali on Friday in Wote town.

"Funds earmarked will be disbursed to the different groups that will benefit on 10th December 2025. They are our future generations so we consider them for financial literacy and freedom as they will help our society to fight poverty and become self-reliant," she added.

The facilitator disclosed that the different youth groups underwent training last month in their respective areas of jurisdiction where they gained skills that will enhance their businesses since they have been empowered with information and money.

Yourhs are involved in small businesses like retail shops, green groceries, mali mali accessories, fruit vendors, salon and kinyozi, cosmetic shop and cake and décor among others.

CS launches 2024-2028 strategic plan for Open University of Kenya



Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba after officially launching the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan for Open University of Kenya (OUK) at the Konza Techno-City in Makueni county */ Photo KNA*

by Patrick Nyakundi - KNA

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has officially launched the Strategic Plan 2024-2028 for Open University of Kenya (OUK).

While launching the plan at Konza Techno-City on Friday, Ogamba said that it provides a clear path for advancing access to technology-driven and high-quality education for Kenyans.

The CS lauded the university management for developing the plan, observing that it will also be used as a blueprint that will strengthen innovation, partnerships and sustain growth of the university.

"This plan sets a clear path to advancing accessible, technology-driven, and high-quality education for all Kenyans. I commend the university council and the management for developing a focused and forward-looking blueprint that will strengthen innovation and partnerships and sustain growth," said Ogamba who presided over the 2nd graduation ceremony of the university on Friday.

During the occasion, 200 graduates were awarded certificates across various fields including business and economics, education, entrepreneurship, economics and statistics, cybersecurity, and digital forensics and data science, among others.

The CS reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthen OUK to be a premier digital-learning hub-an institution designed to offer education and reach the most marginalised communities in the country.

On his part, the University Chancellor Dr James Mwangi encouraged Kenyans to take advantage of OUK's flexible online learning model, noting that its digital-first system allows learners to study from anywhere, at their own comfort.

Speaking at the same event, Makueni County Deputy Governor Lucy Mulili appealed to the residents of Makueni and Machakos to register and learn and get enlightened besides getting certificates to help develop their areas.

Mulili pointed out that the Open University of Kenya offers quality education saying working people should also take the opportunity as you learn without affecting your duties.

"I urge the people of Makueni, Kitui and Machakos to register and learn here. There is quality learning and lecturers are serious in executing their duties. Even on the list of those who graduated today, there are few people from this area," Mulili observed.

Also, Machakos Deputy Governor Francis Mwangangi echoed the same sentiments and emphasized the need to boost enrolment from the region.

Over 100 interns inducted into civil service in Makueni

by Patrick Nyakundi - KNA

Over 100 interns who were recruited through the State Department of Housing and Development for various menial-practical jobs in Makueni County, have been challenged to respect the chain of command, maintain high discipline and prioritize on service delivery.

The call was made by the Makueni County Commissioner , Khalif Abdullahi, during an induction of the interns at the Green Park Social Hall in Wote town in Makueni Sub-county on Monday.

Consequently, Abdullahi reminded them that it was not just a placement, but a calling to show professionalism, integrity and being innovative and rise above mediocrity in the service to the country, as it will shape their future.

"I encourage you to work closely with the County and the National government officers, respect the chain of command, maintain discipline and prioritize service delivery. This opportunity is not just a placement, it is a calling to serve and rise above mediocrity," said Abdullahi during the induction of the 108 interns who turned up for the training.

"It is an invitation to build a legacy that you will be proud for years from now. As interns, you are entering the public service at a time when professionalism, discipline, innovation, and integrity are needed more than ever. Our communities are looking up to you for solutions for the challenges facing them," he added.

Also, the CC reminded the interns that through the induction, they will be equipped with knowledge, values, procedures, ethical conduct and safety standards and their responsibilities during the one-year period.

The Administrator asked them to be present during the one-day training, where interns who have done courses such as mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, quantity surveyors, physical planning, economists, community development studies, ICT, journalism among others turned-up.

The interns will be working at the various government projects including the Affordable Housing and modern markets, that have been initiated by the National government across Makueni County.

Among the Affordable Housing programmes include Wote project where 755 units are being constructed at a cost of over Sh2 billion that is currently at 53 percent and Makindu that the awarding was done last to construct 900 units at a cost of Sh2.2 billion respectively.

Government sends relief food to starving Makueni residents



Makueni Governor Mutua Kilonzo Junior and County Commissioner Khalif Abdullai during Jamhuri Day celebrations at Kikima Comprehensive School Mbooni West Sub-county */ Photo KNA*

By Patrick Nyakundi-KNA

The National government has dispatched an assortment of relief supplies to hunger stricken residents in Makueni County who are faced with acute food shortage due to failed rains.

The consignment including 3,000 and 2,600 bags of 50kgs bags of maize and beans respectively were disbursed to ten worst affected Sub-counties, including Makueni, Mbooni East, Mbooni West, Kilungu and Mukaa.

Makueni County Commissioner (CC), Mr. Khalif Abdullai, disclosed that each of the 10 Sub-counties received 300 and 260 bags of maize and beans respectively, as the government stepped-up effort to avert any fatalities due to starvation.

Sub-counties included Nzaui, Kathozweni, Makindu, Kibwezi and Kambua had most of the crops planted from early September withered due to delayed rains.

"It should be observed here that the much-anticipated rain of October, November and December has failed, where there has been little rains, it is poorly distributed across the County," he said.

He attributed the sorry state of affairs to poor rainfall pattern, during the short rainy season which led to massive crop failure.

Speaking at Kikima Comprehensive School after reading the President's speech during Jamhuri Day celebrations, Abdullahi reaffirmed the government's commitment to continue to provide food to the needy cases as plans to establish the exact number of the affected families was underway.

He confirmed that a team of officials from the two levels of government, including officers from Departments of Water, Agriculture, Livestock, Education, Health and National Drought Management Authority, were assessing the situation in the different Sub-counties to map the affected people.

Abdullahi further revealed that a meeting was scheduled later in the week to incorporate various multinational organizations, among them the World Food Programme, to develop a joint response roadmap to the looming crisis.

Makueni County Governor, Mutula Kilonzo Jr, said that the County has mobilized different departments to under the County Steering Group (CSG), to review the current assessment of the drought, so that the County Assembly can be recalled to set aside money to buy food for the people who are languishing because of hunger.

"We cannot build hospitals and roads, while our people are perishing of hunger," said Mutula, while reading his speech during Jamhuri Day celebrations at Kikima Comprehensive School in Mbooni West Sub-county.

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Governor Wavinya condemns neighbouring counties waste dumping



Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti addressing the media at her office after a cabinet meeting */ Photo KNA*

By Anne Kangero & Mary Wavinya- KNA

Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti has condemned neighboring metropolitan counties for dumping solid waste into Machakos, causing environmental, water, and air pollution.

She noted that despite her government's investment in modern equipment and hiring of additional cleaners, the waste crisis persists. The Governor also criticized private solid waste service providers for frequently disposing of waste in undesignated areas within the county, urging them to use authorized collection points.

Speaking to the media at her office after a cabinet meeting, Governor Wavinya directed the Department of Urban Housing to implement new waste management strategies, including waste segregation at the source. She also instructed the inspectorate team to address the growing menace by apprehending offenders.

"It is unacceptable that other metropolitan counties are turning Machakos into a dumping ground. Service providers must dispose of waste responsibly and use designated collection points. Our Inspectorate team will enforce the Environment Act and apprehend those who flout the law," she warned.

Governor Wavinya expressed disappointment with the County Assembly, which had earlier deferred critical bills such as the Annual Development Plan (ADP) and the Wikwatyo Fund, both essential for driving development and economic empowerment.

She emphasized that the ADP, drawn from community input, guides the County budget for the entire financial year, while the Wikwatyo Fund is intended to uplift women and youth. The Governor urged the Assembly to act responsibly, making timely decisions to ensure public resources are used effectively.

She called out the County Assembly Speaker for stalling key development agendas and gazetted Assembly business without lawful justification, highlighting that such actions derail the county budget cycle amid the solid waste management crisis.

"These are not just documents; they are the backbone of our planning and a lifeline to the dreams of our women and youth. Repeated delays in approving key Bills by the County Assembly are a concern," decried the Governor.

Deputy Speaker Stephen Mwanthi supported the Governor's remarks, noting that the Speaker had gazetted four items for discussion but deferred two without seeking a house resolution, contrary to standing orders.

"We don't know the reason because you cannot defer business arbitrarily. This is interfering with our budget-making process, and I am not sure we will meet the legal deadlines," said Deputy Speaker Mwanthi.

County Commissioner declares war on Mavoko land cartels

By Anne Kangero- KNA

Machakos County Commissioner (CC), Josephine Ouko, has had enough of the rising cases of land tussles and land grabbing in Mavoko and vows to deal with the cartels for good.

Speaking at the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) in Athi River, Ouko emphasized on the need for cooperation by the public, land stakeholders and security forces, to permanently solve Mavoko land issues.

She decried that Mavoko is mostly known for land grabbing and they have had meetings with the security teams and land committees and come to an agreement to put their focus on all land grabbers, by ensuring they are behind bars.

"These people are known in Machakos and as Land Committee and Security Team, we are tired and have had enough of them. It's time they face the law," added the CC.

She added that there are residents with valid title deeds who cannot access their land, but grabbers have come-up with fake documents to grab land from Mavoko residents and their time is up.

" Mavoko is only known for land tussles and together with my Security Team and Land Committee stakeholders, we are tired and done with all these cases, systems are in place to deal with the culprits permanently," warned Ouko.

Ouko added that the government is working with other stakeholders to make sure valid title deeds holders, can access their land without fear, and anyone with a questionable title will face the law.

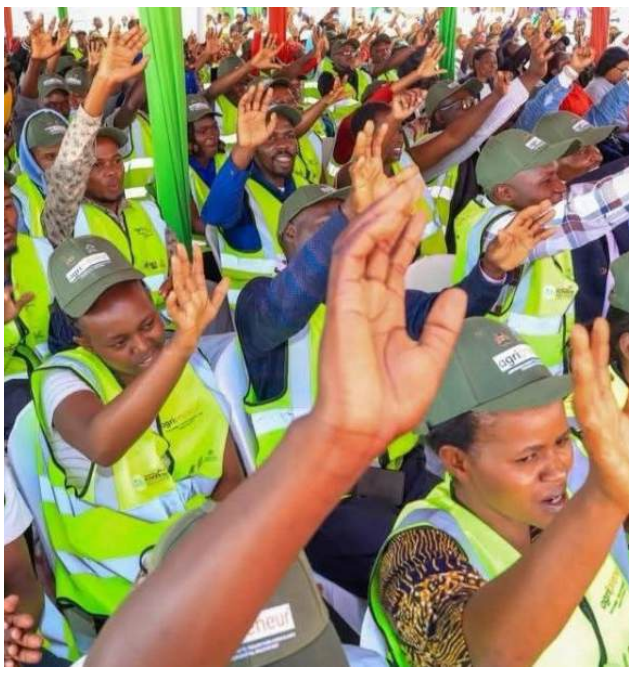
However, Ouko cautioned Machakos residents to ensure they do a proper search before buying land, by contacting the Land Office in Machakos town and always make a point of visiting the piece of land to be sure one is not being swindled.

She further encouraged residents to invest in the Machakos Affordable Housing Units with Phase One complete with 220 houses, which have mostly been occupied.

The CC noted that Phase Two with 570 Units is about to start and urged them to buy and ensure they have a decent and affordable place to live with their families.

Ouko also hailed the government for empowering Mama Mboga through the Modern markets that are spiraling across the country and especially with the ones in Kithimani , Mutituni, Tala, and Kalama that are almost complete and set to bring major economic transformation in the Machakos.

Machakos launches an agri-preneur extension model



Attendants during Agripreneur Extension Model event at Kasinga Farmers' Cooperative Society in Mumbuni North */ Photo KNA*

By Mary Wavinya- KNA

Machakos Governor, Wavinya Ndeti, has launched the county's Agripreneur Extension Model at Kasinga Farmers' Cooperative Society (FCS) in Mumbuni North, an initiative aimed at transforming agriculture by empowering farmers through youth-led and tech-enabled extension services.

The launch was in association with Cooperative bank, Equity bank, agricultural stakeholders, development partners and hundreds of farmers that marked a major milestone in what the governor described as, "Our journey towards restoring dignity and prosperity in Machakos households."

Speaking during the event, the Governor disclosed that her administration has invested heavily in modernizing extension services after years of neglect and the newly unveiled Agripreneur Model introduces a fresh, vibrant and technology driven approach to farmer education and support.

Under the new model, 170 trained young agripreneurs have been deployed across all 40 wards to train farmers, collect data, facilitate input access, offer basic animal health services and strengthen market linkages as well as livestock vaccination and modernizing the coffee sector.

Wavinya further distributed grants to Cooperative Societies and newly formed farmers Sacco's, highlighting that agriculture remains the backbone of Machakos County, contributing up to 73% of household income, making its revitalization a priority for her administration.

"These agripreneurs are the bridge between our farmers and modern agricultural prosperity," she said, noting that the county now boasts of 595 active farmer groups mentored under the new system.

She described the youth involved as "passionate, tech-savvy and the new energy source our agriculture sector has been waiting for."

The governor further pledged to modernize cooperative societies across the county, pointing out that many of them require structural and operational upgrading to effectively serve farming communities.

She noted that her government has already taken bold steps including farmer training, provision of grants and subsidized farm inputs to strengthen cooperative-based production.

Wavinya urged the agripreneurs to uphold excellence and remain committed to transforming the sector as she issued them with 40 motorbikes that will ease their way into villages and farms to extend a helping hand to the farmers and increase their production and yield.

"You are investing not just in farms, but in the future of Machakos," she said,

Additionally, she pointed out key interventions that boosted production and protected farmers from rising challenges, among them the distribution of 196 tonnes of certified seeds, improved livestock breeds, agrochemicals to fight crop pests, and mass vaccination of livestock to curb deadly diseases.

She added that these steps were part of a bigger effort to strengthen local food systems and secure the county against the effects of climate change.

Machakos farmers plead with court to allow them

By Anne Kangero -KNA

As the Machakos High Court is on Thursday November 27, 2025 expected to deliver a landmark judgment that could determine the future of indigenous seed use in Kenya, farmers in Machakos are pleading with the court not to rule in favor of criminalizing the commercial sale and exchange of uncertified and indigenous seeds since they are more suited to the local weather conditions.

According to the seeds and plant variety Act, it prohibits the sharing and selling of seeds by farmers which mostly accounts for over 80% of seeds used by small scale farmers in Kenya.

However, the law requires farmers to use registered and certified seeds to boost productivity and ensure quality control which the farmers have raised concerns over the price.

The issue has sparked intense debate among farmers and policymakers as small-scale farmers argue the law criminalizes their traditional practices, including sharing, exchanging, or selling indigenous seeds that they have relied on for generations.

A section of farmers in Machakos during a community dialogue on climate adaptation and food sovereignty organized by Haki Nawiri Afrika and supported by Power shift Africa say certified seeds are expensive and inaccessible, and want the court to consider allowing them to continue exchanging and tracing seeds that require no pesticides only manure.

Peter Nzioka an Agro ecology expert and indigenous farmer from Kaani in Machakos, who was speaking during the community dialogue, has been preserving indigenous seeds in a seed bank for over 15 years, holding over 30 different types of seeds, argues that, restricting their use threatens biodiversity, food security, and their cultural heritage.

Nzioka adds that he prefers having the power to trace and control the food he eats by saving and controlling his indigenous seeds and hopes the courts will give the farmers their freedom to sell and exchange the seeds as he foresees food insecurity if the courts turn against them.

"Our indigenous seeds are adaptable and drought resistant as our forefathers had used and reused them years ago, and if the courts rule against the indigenous seeds, then we will have food insecurity," said Nzioka.



Peter Nzioka an Agro ecology expert and indigenous farmer from Kaani in Machakos /*Photo KNA*

Anastacia Syombua a member of the Kaani smallholder farmers called upon the courts to consider that indigenous seeds are part of climate adaptation as she notes that "Let them not deny us the freedom to use our indigenous seeds; it is what I have relied on in my farm for several years".

Leonida Odongo-founder of Haki Nawiri Afrika who also spoke to the farmers during community dialogue, said they are positive the ruling by the Machakos high court will be in favor of small holder food producers and called for a more inclusive seed policy that protects both modern agricultural standards and traditional farming knowledge.

Ms Odongo emphasized that the community dialogue was also to mobilize farmers in Machakos to show up in court and show solidarity on their food and heritage and hope that the courts will reflect on the constitution on indigenous seeds that recognizes the importance of indigenous seeds to the nation.

"This is about our future and we are carrying out community mobilization and conversations on food and climate justice and we are emphasizing to communities that every house hold should have a seed library and a granary just as it was in the past since a granary symbolizes food sovereignty," said Ms Odongo.

The farmers and various stakeholders are looking forward to the ruling and if the court rules against the indigenous seeds, then they will submit a petition urging the court to heed to their concerns and the health of the nation against the hybrid seeds.

Ruto hands over Affordable Housing keys to 176 new home owners

By KNA

President William Ruto has handed over Boma Yangu Estate Keys to 176 new home owners of Machakos Affordable Housing Programme Phase 1, as a fulfillment of his promise to provide decent housing to Kenyans of low- and middle-income brackets.

Out of the 220 phase 1 completed affordable housing units, 176 units have been successfully bought through the Boma Yangu platform by Machakos businessmen, boda boda riders, people with disabilities, retired pensioners, civil servants and Kenyans from the private sector.

While speaking to Machakos residents at the Boma Yangu Estate, the President, who was on his final leg of the three-day Ukambani tour, said his proudest moment is seeing Kenyans owning homes. He encouraged other Kenyans to look forward to having a dignified living space.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that millions join you in owning homes. We want to move millions from slums, informal settlements and paying rent to owning homes which is our mission and plan and we intend to deliver on it," said the President.

Further, he also led in the ground breaking of Machakos Phase two of Affordable Housing Project on 4.69 acres to be completed by May 2027 that would have 570 units set to generate direct and indirect jobs for youths.

The President noted that Machakos residents were behind in matters of electricity connectivity and promised to light up 10,000 homes by June 2026 as a major key for economic development in Ukambani at a cost of Sh1.4 billion.

While inspecting the progress of Sh52 million Mutituni Modern Market that is set to foster economic growth by increasing market reach and strengthening customer relationships, President Ruto assured Machakos residents of construction of 15 markets as a fulfillment of providing mama mboga with a secure and dignified working space.



President Ruto during a groundbreaking of Affordable Houses /*Photo HANDOUT*

Machakos partners with Bamburi cement to launch the Kyemu-

By Ann Wangui and Anne Kangero- KNA

Machakos County Government has partnered with Bamburi Cement in empowering and upskilling local communities by equipping them with practical skills to upcycle used cement bags into valuable products while strengthening local enterprises.

The transformative initiative aims to empower Kyemutheke community in sustainable projects that would improve their lives while developing marketable skills and financial independence to the artisans.

Thirty male and female artisans were trained between September and November 2025 where their productivity rose from 8 to 20 bags a day and produced over 500 high-quality bags from upcycled cement sacks, while mastering skills in product assembly, business planning, marketing, leadership, and environmental conservation.

Speaking during the launch of the upcycling project at Kyemutheke Vocational Training College, Machakos Deputy Governor Francis Mwangangi said that innovation-driven grassroots projects could turn local initiatives into future multinational enterprises.

Mwangangi called for strengthened local support, transparent leadership, and community-driven growth.

He emphasized that despite political differences, Machakos residents must champion their own development by backing local talent, safeguarding public resources, and sustaining collaborative partnerships across all sectors.

Judiciary advocates for enhanced Justice for children

By Ann Wangui -KNA

The Machakos Law Court on Friday launched this year's Children's Service Month, an annual initiative aimed at securing justice for children and clearing the backlog of children's cases, while promoting a more compassionate and child-centered justice system.

The event, held at the Machakos Law Court, brought together key stakeholders including the Judiciary, Directorate of Children Services, National Council for Children Services, Law Society of Kenya (LSK), and several civil society organizations, all united under this year's theme: "Securing Justice for Every Child: Enhancing Multi-Agency Collaboration and Increasing Budgetary Allocation to Combat Child Abuse."

Lady Justice Esther Nyambura Maina, who presided over the event, emphasized that justice for children goes beyond verdicts. "Even if a case is lost, no child should leave the system feeling ignored. Every child must feel that their pain was acknowledged," she said.

She highlighted that protecting children's rights is not the responsibility of the judiciary alone, calling for collaboration and stronger budgetary support to combat child abuse and strengthen referral systems.

Justice Nyambura further emphasized diversion, mediation and plea agreements to help children in conflict with the law learn from their mistakes, rather than face punitive measures.

"Many children don't need punishment. They need guidance and understanding," said Lady Justice Nyambura.

Senior Principal Magistrate James Ombura urged parents and guardians to be vigilant during the long school holidays, noting that many defilement and abuse cases arise from lack of parental supervision.

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Meru Embu Tharaka Nithi Isiolo Samburu Marsabit Laikipia Machakos Kitui Makueni
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Editorial

Stakeholders must embrace effective food production and storage strategies



We are back at it again, we are crying, we are appealing for food, we a facing a life-threatening danger. The people in Kenya are facing an eminent threat of hunger. Food and water levels have once again dropped to alarming levels. Most regions in the eastern -part of the country have reported deaths of livestock and they have no hope of harvesting anything from their farms.

This disaster as a result of diminished rainfall levels, the poor rainfall distribution in Kenyan's food baskets have left mouth wide open, perhaps waiting for manna from heaven to save the souls. Earlier the metrological department in the country had predicted a reduction of the amount of rainfall in most parts of the country.

According to Integrated Food security Phase Classification Organization, nearly 1.8 million people are experienced high levels of acute food insecurity, classified as crisis or worse between July and September 2025 (lean season). Of this total, around 179,000 people are experiencing emergency conditions, while the remaining population is classified as crisis.

This report was recently released by IPC that works in partnership with other organizations like the World Food Program, WFP, and Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, among other global partners.

The worst-affected areas are four arid counties Baringo, Mandera, Marsabit, and Turkana. Others are Tharaka Nithi, Ukambani region, Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and some parts of Meru.

During the projection period (October 2025 to January 2026), the food security situation is expected to deteriorate, particularly during the short rains season (October–December 2025). An estimated 2.1 million people are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

The deterioration is mainly driven by forecasted below-average rainfall, which is expected to further affect staple food prices, alongside conflicts over resource management. Compared to the same period last year, the population projected in this crisis has increased from 11 to 13 percent with around 2 million people expected to be in dire need of food in Kenya.

The big question is, why has the government in collaboration with other stakeholders not been able to invest in strategic food storage activities and related services to secure the people from starvation. When the National Cereals and Produce Board was created the main objective was to address the issue of storage of food to ensure constant supply through out the year but this seems to remain as plan or a dream despite have intensive infrastructure for the same.

The people of Kenya killed the traditional granary system where every family used to have a food store that always remained full to cut across seasons. These days peasant farmers who form majority of the Kenyan population involved in agriculture dispose or sell their food while at the farm stage. Only a minority have small stores in their homes. Many have blamed the hard economic situation in the country that pushes them to live a hand to mouth kind of life. To some extent this true. There is great need to bring back the culture of reliable food reserves at the family level to complement government efforts.

Apart from storage, production is also another important area of focus. People must produce to store, and this pushes the population to embrace other strategic production principles. The current Kenyan administration embraced the Food Systems and Land Use Action Plan (2024-2030), enhanced agricultural production (subsidized inputs, irrigation), strategic food reserves, and nutrition programs (KNAP), aiming to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and import reliance, driven by the constitutional right to food and linked to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Key strategies involve climate-smart farming, infrastructure for processing, and stakeholder collaboration for sustainable, inclusive food systems. The plan is yet to produce impactful fruits.

Both the national and the county governments have a duty to help the people they govern. They must have a strategy of storing food for constant supply even when rain fails, to improve save and transform the lives of majority of the Kenyan population.

OPINION



By Harun Mugambi

A legacy of hope reawakened at Good Shepherd Sisters in Meru

Under the gentle, rolling slopes of Mount Kenya, there lies a story woven with threads of love, compassion, and transformation—the enduring mission of the Good Shepherd Sisters. Invited to Meru in 1981 by the late Bishop Silas Njiru, the Sisters began their humble work among vulnerable women in Meru's slums and street children wandering the town. Since then, their quiet, steadfast dedication has touched and changed countless lives.

On Saturday, November 29, 2025, the Good Shepherd Sisters Centre in Kambakia wasn't just a place it was a living testament to hope reborn. What unfolded was not just a fundraiser but a heartfelt homecoming. Adults who were once rescued, nurtured, and educated by the Sisters came back, driven by gratitude and a powerful sense of purpose. This day proudly launched the Good Shepherd Beneficiary Alumni Initiative, a movement powered by those whose lives were once transformed and who now carry the torch forward.

"Today, we celebrate the legacy of love, sacrifice, and tireless commitment," Sr. Nancy shared with warmth. This new chapter breathes life into that legacy, ensuring the seeds planted decades ago blossom for the generations ahead. Bishop Murugara urged, "Remain united in compassion and service."

The event began with a moving Mass led by Rt. Rev. Jackson Murugara, Coadjutor Bishop of Meru. His homily reached into the hearts present: "Hold fast to the mission that shaped you. Reach out and bring others home so this mission's impact may grow." He reminded everyone that this mission was never the Sisters' alone it belongs to all whose lives it touches.

"Let your transformed lives become beacons of hope for others," he encouraged. Sister Catherine Mutindi, Provincial Superior, welcomed the alumni with deep affection. "Gratitude, humility, and responsibility — that is what giving back means," she said gently.

"You are no longer those we once helped; today, you stand as partners in this mission." Her words were a profound affirmation: they are not mere beneficiaries they are co-creators of the future the Sisters envisioned.



A section of participants of the function led by Meru Catholic Diocese cojuctor Bishop Jackson Murugara held at the Good shephered Sisters centre IN Meru */ Photo KNA*

The heart of the day came alive in the personal stories of three alumni whose journeys embody the mission's power: Pamela Muthoni, now a university lecturer, spoke with quiet strength: "My life is proof of the Sisters' love. When I first met them as a scared teenager, hopeless about education, they didn't just offer help they offered warmth, belief, and love that demanded nothing but walked beside me." She recalled moments of hardship, times when the Sisters became her family, their love beyond words. Because of them, she earned a Master's degree and today, she teaches others. Pamela's wish is to pay that love forward, so the next child who walks through those doors finds the same hope she did. Harun Mugambi's story shone with gratitude and grace. From a boy dreaming bigger than his means, to a young man graduating with First Class Honours in Journalism, Harun's success was the fruit of steadfast support. "The Sisters walked the journey with me through every challenge and uncertainty," he said.

Their love wasn't just for money but in their presence, guidance, and tireless care. "This achievement belongs to them as much as to me." Dorcas said.

Kinya's journey touched every soul present. Her dreams once dimmed by hardship and despair, Dorcas shared how she almost gave up but the Sisters rekindled her hope. "They opened doors I never knew existed," she said. Despite countless setbacks, she found strength, returned to school, and graduated with a degree in Education. Her story is a powerful testament that, no matter how dark the path, hope can rise again. Sr. Nancy reminded everyone that the Sisters' mission healed more than individuals it restored families and communities. Speaking on behalf of the alumni, Sr. Wasya pledged their commitment to be mentors, sponsors, and beacons of hope for others.

"Together, may we nurture generations who rise, give back, and carry forward this beautiful mission."

Mission partners and friends stood alongside, sharing admiration and promising continued support. The spirit of generosity filled the room, with alumni, Sisters, and partners giving generously. By day's end, a good amount of money had been raised, with more flowing in online.

The celebration ended with laughter, tears, and a shared meal a symbol of renewed bonds and renewed hope. As Fr. Joachim Bariu blessed the gathering, he declared, "The seeds planted here have blossomed into beautiful lives." As the sun set behind Meru's hills, one truth shone bright: The Good Shepherd Sisters planted the seeds, but the alumni now tend the garden. Once helped, now helpers; once recipients, now givers. This circle of hope turns stronger, deeper, and more radiant with every life touched. The alumni's message to the world is clear: This mission is not finished. It requires new hands, fresh hearts, and unwavering belief. They invite individuals, organizations, and friends of goodwill to join them — not as charity recipients — but as co-builders of a future where every child has a chance to dream, to hope, to live. The doors of the Good Shepherd mission remain wide open, waiting for every helping hand willing to invest in transforming a life. Because every restored dream, every changed life, begins with someone courageous enough to act.

The writer is trained journalist and alumni of Good Shepherd Sisters community support programs in Meru

SPORTS Compiled by Hillary Mukasa



Makueni Paravolleyball team competing with Nairobi County team during the national trials held at Makueni Girls High School /*Photo courtesy*

Makueni hosts national Para volleyball competitions for

By Patrick Nyakundi- KNA

Siaya and Bungoma Counties have secured the men's and women's trophies in the Paravolleyball games during the national trials held at Makueni Girls High School in Makueni Subcounty on Saturday.

In the men's Paravolleyball, Siaya trounced Uasin Gishu County 3-0 after dominating 19-25, 14-25 and 18-25 in the three sets.

Following the hotly contested games, Uasin Gishu and Makueni Counties took the second and third place trophies in men's paravolleyball games. Makueni edged out Nairobi County to take the trophy.

In the women's paravolleyball, Bungoma defeated Nairobi County 3-0 in the three sets, 13-25, 21-25 and 18-25 respectively in the hotly contested games.

Second and third positions of the women's paravolleyball were picked up by Nairobi and Makueni, whereby Makueni defeated the Uasin Gishu team 2-0 in two sets, 32-30 and 25-23 respectively.

The three-day event, which ran from Thursday to Saturday, culminated in selecting a Kenyan squad that will play in the International Paravolleyball Championships scheduled to be held in China in 2026.

Four athletes from Makueni County earned a slot on Kenya's National team that will represent the country in the International Paravolleyball Championships in China next year.

Among those chosen on the women's Paravolleyball team are Purity Mueni, Florence Manza, Caroline Mueni and Everlyne Mutuku, who will join the 12-member national squad after they showed exemplary performance in the national trials.

The game attracted top teams from across the country namely Laikipia, Nakuru, Vihiga, Kisumu, Meru, Mombasa and Migori counties. However, many counties failed to send teams to the Paravolleyball national trials.

Speaking to the Press on Saturday, Makueni County Sports Director Ambrose Kisoi hailed the achievement as a testimony to the county's strategic investment in disability sports, saying it is a platform for identifying talent and nurturing it, especially at the grassroots level.

"I congratulate the athletes for their selection to the national team. This achievement is as a result of investing in sports where the administration is committed to talent development and

Tharaka Nithi unveils modern stadium, public swimming pool

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori-KNA

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has commissioned the newly constructed Kajiunduthi Stadium in Muthambi Ward.

This marks a significant milestone in the county's efforts to provide modern sports facilities and nurture young talent.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Governor Njuki underscored the importance of well-equipped sports infrastructure, noting that such facilities create safe and inclusive spaces where young people can develop their abilities and transform their talents into lifelong skills.

He said the stadium is part of a broader county plan to establish additional sports complexes across Tharaka Nithi, with the aim of empowering youth and using sports as a tool for social development and community cohesion.

A key highlight of the facility is the inclusion of the county's first public swimming pool, which will address a long-standing gap in recreational amenities and offer new opportunities for training, competitions and youth engagement.

Governor Njuki also announced that the county plans to procure a 51-seater bus in the upcoming supplementary budget to facilitate free transportation for local football teams participating in competitions across the region.

Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki commended the county government for constructing a stadium that meets required standards and praised ongoing efforts to prioritise sports development.

He pledged to work closely with national sports leadership to secure additional support for local sporting programmes, including potential funding for youth leagues and training initiatives.

The commissioning of Kajiunduthi Stadium signals Tharaka Nithi County's renewed commitment to expanding sports infrastructure, promoting youth development and strengthening community participation.



Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthoni Njuki (holding mic) together with Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki (in red) and other officials from the county government opens the newly upgraded Kajiuduthi stadium /*Photo Courtesy*

PS orders urgent completion of long-delayed Kirubia stadium



Kirubia Stadium in Tharaka Nithi County /*Photo courtesy*

By David Mutwiri - KNA

Sports Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi has ordered the fast-tracking of construction works at, saying the government will no longer tolerate delays in delivering the long-awaited facility.

Mwangi toured the site on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, Salim Mvurya, to assess progress on the multi-million-shilling project that has stalled for years despite the completion of its first phase.

The PS said the project had now moved into an advanced implementation stage, following a directive from President William Ruto, who during a recent visit to the county observed that the stadium lacked adequate space for a residential pavilion.

"Through Sports Kenya, we identified a contractor to expand the residential pavilion so it can accommodate more spectators. We have also pinpointed several areas requiring urgent improvement, including the playing field," Mwangi said.

He noted that the grass on the pitch had not developed as expected, prompting the government to instruct the contractor to increase manpower and speed up works to meet the required sporting standards.

Current progress, he said, stands at 70 per cent, with the facility expected to be completed and handed over within four months.

"This stadium must serve the youth of Tharaka Nithi. If a stadium remains unused, it does not help anyone," he added.

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki, who accompanied the PS, criticised the prolonged delays, saying the county's youth have waited too long for a facility that could unlock their sporting potential.

"This stadium has the potential to produce national-level athletes and footballers,

‘Governor Wavinya Cup’ to be a permanent fixture

By Mary Wavinya/Anne Kangero-KNA

Katwanya Falcons FC from Kangundo, have been crowned men’s champions for the second year in a row while Jua Kali Queens triumphed the women’s trophy at the Governor Wavinya Cup Grand Finale, where both leading teams were awarded Sh1 million each.

Kenyatta Stadium in Machakos was transformed into a theatre of football excellence and youthful ambition as Katwanya FC defended their Governor’s Cup title by beating Scotlanders FC from Machakos town 3-1 in a thrilling performance that had Kenyatta stadium in ecstasy and triumph.

In the men’s category, Scottlanders FC finished in second place to earn Sh 500,000, while Mavoko Youth FC beat Kathiani Eagles 3-2 to earn third place and pocket Sh 200,000.

On the women’s side, Talanta Queens from Kalama Sub- County emerged second and received Sh 500,000, while Kavwea starlets from Masinga outsmarted Kathituni queens from Yatta 1-0 and came out third taking home Sh 200,000.

This comes a week after Katwanyaa Falcons FC had beaten Kathiani Eagles 4-2 in the semi-finals and Jua Kali Queens beat Kathituni Queens 6-5 in the semis, one week ago in preparation for the Grand Finale.

The Tournament’s growing reputation as one of the most lucrative grassroots football competitions in the region, attracted football lovers, leaders, and hundreds of young players, highlighting how sports continues to shape opportunities for youth, while positioning Machakos as a rising sporting hub.

Addressing the crowd, the Chief Guest, Wiper Party Leader, Kalonzo Musyoka, lauded the Governor for consistently investing in sports, noting that Machakos County continues to perform strongly across various sectors.



Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti and Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka during the final tournament of the Governor’s cup in Machakos /*Photo Courtesy*

“This is the Third Edition of this amazing Tournament and I am sure the Fourth Edition will be even better, Machakos can now produce great people as football has become a large industry worldwide,” Kalonzo said.

The Governor, declared the Tournament, a permanent feature in the County’s Annual Calendar, promising even bigger editions in the future.

“The Governor Wavinya Cup, is now a permanent fixture in our County’s Annual Calendar. God willing, next year it will be bigger and better,” she said.

She affirmed her commitment to turning Machakos into a true sporting destination, revealing that a Football Technical Centre is in the works, through a partnership between the County government and the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) and is expected to boost sports development.

Wavinya took the opportunity to call for unity among residents, emphasizing collective responsibility in nurturing and safeguarding the County’s youth.

Federation faults counties for ignoring Parasports

By Patrick Nyakundi - KNA

The National Para volleyball Federation President Doris Atieno has accused counties of overlooking sport events involving People with Disabilities (PWDs).

She claimed that county governments spent colossal amounts of money on other sports but are reluctant to extend the same to similar events meant for persons living with physical challenges.

Atieno expressed fears that the trend was discriminatory, citing this year’s national Paravolleyball trials that kicked off last Thursday, in which only 13 out of the 47 counties sent teams.

“Other sporting activities are receiving all the necessary support from both the national and county governments. Those of PWDs are struggling to get funding,” lamented Atieno while addressing the media in Wote Town recently.

Among the counties that sent teams to this year’s national Paravolleyball trials are Makueni, Bungoma, Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu, Siaya, Vihiga, Migori, Meru, Laikipia, Uasin Gishu, and Nakuru counties.

Speaking at the event held at Makueni Girls High School, Makueni County Director of Sports Ambrose Kisoi noted that Makueni has made deliberate efforts to fund sports involving people with disabilities at the grassroots to ensure everyone has an opportunity to grow their talents.

“The county has, in the past years, contributed a large contingent to the national teams to participate in the International Paralympic Games,” said Kisoi.

The trials will be used to select Kenya’s national Paravolleyball team for 2026 to compete in the Paravolleyball Championships in China.

Sports PS Mwangi rated among best performers

By Bernard Munyao & Purity Mugo-KNA

Sports Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi and his Interior and National Administration counterpart Raymond Omollo were ranked best performers in the 2025 Principal Secretaries Performance Evaluation.

In the polls released recently by Politrack Africa, PSs Mwangi and Omollo were placed as top performers scoring 69.7 percent. The two were recognized for their oversight of high-impact national programmes, progress in digitization and achievement of performance contracting targets.

The new ranking reviewed the performance of all 51 Principal Secretaries across government ministries, using a comprehensive methodology anchored on project implementation, digital transformation, financial discipline, stakeholder engagement and public accountability.

PS Mwangi’s strong score also marked the beginning of a steady run for Mt Kenya PSs dominating the upper tier of the ranking.

Under stewardship of Mwangi, the Ministry of Sports has managed to spearhead construction of various stadiums across the country as well as improvement of other sporting infrastructure.

The government, through the State Department for Sports, within the last six months constructed and completed Homabay Stadium which was used to host Madaraka Day celebrations. The stadium was constructed in a record of five months.

Mwangi’s leadership at the helm of the sports department was also recognized for overseeing construction of Ithookwe Stadium in Kitui County, a project that took four months. The stadium hosted this year’s Mashujaa Day.

Other programmes that made the Sports PS to be ranked best include rehabilitation of Moi International Sports Centre which hosted CHAN24 games this year.

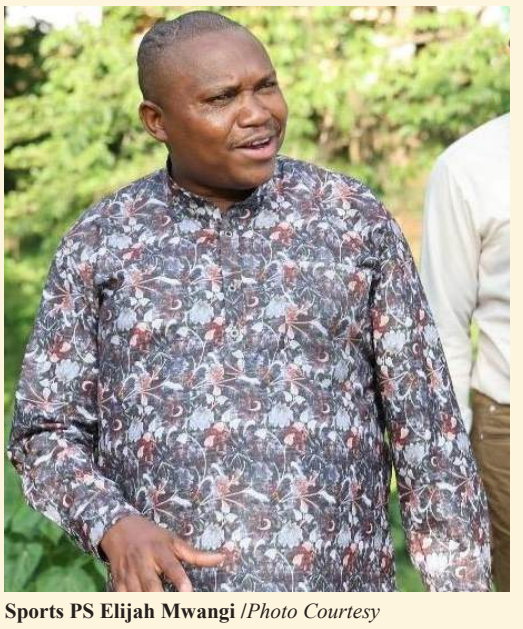
The department also oversaw rehabilitation of various stadiums including Nyayo National Stadium, Police Sacco grounds in South B, Ulinzi Sports Complex and Kasarani Annex A and B grounds.

Mwangi also scored high for his leadership in enabling bidding and negotiations for Kenya to host international competitions.

Apart from CHAN24, other competitions that have been held in the country include Kenya Magical Open, African Para volley championship, World Taekwondo Championship, African Rafting Championship, East African Classic Safari rally and African Cycling Championship among others.

The State Department for Sports under the leadership of Mwangi also earned recognition for championing talents nurturing and development through initiation of sports facilities across the country.

Currently, construction of 37 sport academies and 18 community grounds is in progress as the department has also registered over 30 federations and issued them with certificates.



Sports PS Elijah Mwangi /*Photo Courtesy*

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Government reviews education funding to expand student access

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

The government, through the Ministry of Education, is reviewing the current education funding model to ensure that no deserving learner is denied the opportunity to pursue academic goals due to financial constraints, Education Cabinet Secretary (CS) Dr. Julius Migos Ogamba has said.

Speaking in Meru County during the 6th graduation ceremony of the Meru National Polytechnic, where more than 3,000 students graduated with various honours, the CS said the new approach aims to expand access to education financing for learners across the country.

He noted that the revamped TVET Funding Model now enables trainees to benefit from affordable financing options through scholarships, loans and grants, enhancing equity and inclusion.

"We want every learner, regardless of their background, to have a fair shot at finishing school. No student should be locked out of education because of lack of fees," said Dr. Ogamba. He disclosed that the government has already released Sh1.2 billion and plans to add an additional Sh800 million to support student loans and fee capitation.

Ogamba praised the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) model, saying it continues to produce graduates equipped with practical, industry-aligned skills that match current labour market demands.

"The CBET model has helped address specific occupational standards and ensured that our students acquire the right skills that make them employable immediately after training," he added. The CS underscored the central role of TVET institutions in advancing Kenya's development agenda under Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Kenya Kwanza Plan, noting that national prosperity depends on the productivity and skills of the youth.

He added that the government is investing heavily in modern infrastructure, digital equipment and upgraded training facilities across National Polytechnics to align learning with the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Dr. Ogamba called on development partners, private sector actors and county governments to collaborate with the national government in strengthening TVET institutions, saying that effective skills development requires strong partnerships that link training with employment, innovation and enterprise growth.

Meru National Polytechnic Chief Principal Dr. Mutembei Kigige highlighted the institution's achievements, noting that close collaboration with local industries has strengthened training outcomes and improved job readiness.



Education CS Ogamba Migosi and other diginitaries when they arrived at the Meru National Polytechnic for the graduation ceremony */Photo KNA*

Government to establish Hall of Fame for literary heroes

By KNA

The State Department for Culture and Heritage, in collaboration with the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS), has embarked on plans to establish a Hall of Fame to honour and celebrate Kenya's literary heroes.

The Hall of Fame to be established at the Sanaa Center Auditorium at KNLS Maktaba Kuu Headquarters in Upper Hill, Nairobi, will be dedicated specifically to containing literary works of renowned authors.

Principal Secretary (PS), Ummi Bashir, said the establishment of the site, which will be the first one in the country, was one way of celebrating the many authors who have left a mark in the country.

This, she said, will help the generations to come remember the history of the country by acting as a repository of cultural memory, shaping national identity and providing a platform for reflection on past events.



State Department for Culture, the Arts & Heritage PS Ummi Bashir */Photo KNA*

