The EASTERN NEWSPAPER

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

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Auditor General raises alarm over ballooning pending bills in the devolved units

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MERU: Sh11.8 billion
Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia


MACHAKOS: Sh16.8 billion
Wavinya Ndeti


MARSABIT: Sh8.1 billion
Mohammud M. Ali


ISIOLO: Sh5.03 billion
Abdi Ibrahim Hassan Guyo


THARAKA NITHI: Sh6.5 billion
Muthomi Njuki


EMBU: Sh7.9 billion
Cecily Mbarire


SAMBURU: Sh7.6 billion
Jonathan Leleliit


LAIKIPIA: Sh7 billion
Joshua Irungu


KIRINYAGA: Sh7.2 billion
Anne Waiguru



By Eastern Newspaper team

Just like in previous years, counties in the Eastern, Central and Rift Valley parts of the country have been caught in cases of mis use of public funds despite the fact that the taxpayers are complaining of extremely hard economic times and failure by the government to mind their issues. The governors are continuing to spent less on development projects and more on recurrent, as expected.

That and failure to adequately account for public resources, wastage, unnecessary employment and revenue collection shortfalls are among issues in the counties as revealed by Auditor General in the latest audit report released to the public.

Most of the counties in Mount Kenya East and other parts of eastern Kenya did not adhere to the law, which required the devolved units to allocate at least 30 per cent of their budget to development projects, but they could not.

Through the equitable share of revenue formula, the commission on revenue allocation has been increasing the amount allocated per county every financial year.

With so much money at stake and taxpayers raising concerns on how public resources were being utilized, the lack of transparency and misuse was needed.

Continued on Page 2

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The EASTERN NEWSPAPER

Issue 30, November-December 2025

Governors continue to violate public money rules

From page 1

The County Governments that attained the highest expenditure in absolute terms were:- Nairobi City at Kshs.33.53 billion, Kiambu at Kshs.18.98 billion, Nakuru at Kshs.16.83billion, Turkana at Kshs.14.76 billion and Kilifi at Kshs.14.46 billion. The lowest expenditurewas recorded by Lamu, Taita-Taveta, Isiolo, Tharaka-Nithi and Elgeyo/Marakwet at amounts of Kshs.3.65 billion, Kshs.4.78 billion, Kshs.5.03 billion, Kshs.5.11 billion and 5.36billion respectively.

In the last financial year, Counties in the region had big budgets with Meru's Sh11,835,953,87 in 2023-2024 financial year one of the largest in the region.

Makueni had Sh11,182,335,100, Marsabit Sh9,424,650,449 and Embu Sh7,932,599,418. All this amount was expected to transform the lives of the residents.

Others were Laikipia (Sh7,726,465,272), Samburu (Sh7,665,941,867), Kirinyaga (Sh7,240,547,406), Tharaka Nithi (Sh6,518,796,358), Isiolo (Sh5,718,810,379), Kitui (Sh15,667,011,553) and Machakos (Sh16,896,450,047).

Some counties such as Machakos and Laikipia were credited for improved own source revenue collection, with Samburu managing Sh280,319,244, Embu Sh746,970,100, Tharaka Nithi Sh417,346,034 and Isiolo Sh243,298,518.

Others were Kitui (Sh517,049,814), Marsabit (167,579,472), Laikipia (Sh1,085,142,996), Meru (Sh376,008,4364), Machakos (Sh1,578,877,300).

In Meru, just like in many other counties that spent nearly half of budget on salaries, Sh4,611,166,325 went to personnel emoluments.

Tharaka Nithi spent Sh2,354,655,972 on salaries, as Kirinyaga used Sh2,613,372,430, Makueni (Sh3,873,777,028), Machakos (Sh5,959,269,939), Isiolo (Sh2,082,321,741), Marsabit (3,007,441,497), Embu (Sh2,434,981,502), Samburu (Sh2,272,177,410) and Kitui 5,002,692,126.

According to Auditor General Nancy Gathungu's report covering the 2023-2024 financial year, many of the devolved units were also not able to account for public resources.

To their credit on own source revenue, some counties such as Kirinyaga, Samburu and Machakos achieved or surpassed the budgeted revenue.

Some counties were also cited for various failures, including in unsupported bursary disbursements.

Counties such as Isiolo and Samburu failed to provide supporting documents for bursary allocations (Sh30.6m) while Samburu also failed to do so regarding Sh44.1m.

That aside, the auditor revealed that some Executives in counties such as Embu had incurred expenditures on matters that could have been avoided. The executive is fond overspending on recurrent expenditure that mainly end at the individual pockets either as per diems, allowances, refunds and other related moneys at the expense of development projects.

Isiolo (4,425,800) and Embu (750,000) assemblies were cited for avoidable or wasteful payments.

Further, noted were irregular payments on rental allowance of Sh900,000 in Marsabit County Assembly.

These payments related to the discharge of court cases arising from commission or omission on the part of the county governments while others related to payments of interest arising from failure by management to adhere to contractual obligations.

In the case of Embu, it was for a staggering Sh2, 985,321 while Isiolo was cited for Sh1,426,900.

Some counties were also named for operating undisclosed bank accounts, which is contrary to Public Finance Management laws that require all county governments to deposit their revenue into the County Revenue Fund at the Central Bank of Kenya.

The findings indicate Samburu Executive maintained 25 undisclosed operational accounts and Kirinyaga failed to disclose Sh62.5m held in a commercial bank.

Stalled projects are usually an indication that the people have been denied the benefits that would have accrued from the completed projects and that value for money invested in them had not been realized.

Machakos County had 54 stalled projects but the county continued to initiate new ones as tax payers' money continue to rot.

County Assemblies had delays in projects, with Isiolo's amounting to 314,000,768, Marsabit 344,205,660 and Samburu 1,767,500.

Tharaka Nithi Assembly was cited for the stalled project worth Sh33,709,617.

The audit revealed significant deficiencies in contracts and project management in County Assemblies, and several projects in Laikipia, Isiolo and Machakos were processed outside the mandated e-procurement system, raising concerns about project oversight and adherence to procurement guidelines.

Analysis of the financial statements for the County Assemblies revealed an outstanding imprests amounting to Sh6,611,700 in Tharaka Nithi County Assembly, contrary to Regulation 93(5) of the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations, 2015 which requires that a temporary imprest holder must account for or surrender the imprest within seven (7) working days upon returning to duty, while Regulation 93(8) mandates that Accounting Officers ensure no additional imprest is issued until the previous amount is fully surrendered or recovered from the holder's salary.

Kirinyaga County was among those cited for non-Compliance with the 30% Ethnic Balance in County Executives, with up to 92 per cent comprising the dominant community.

Machakos had 85 per cent from the dominant ethnic group and Samburu 72 per cent.

Others were Laikipia (71 %), Tharaka Nithi (69%), Embu (60%) and Isiolo (47%).

Tharaka Nithi (Sh5m), Kitui (Sh3.2m), Machakos, Laikipia, Samburu (Sh3m), Makueni (Sh3.6m) were named for irregular contributions to the Council of Governors (CoG).

During the last financial year, the aggregated payment arrears commonly referred to as pending bills reported by the County Governments amounted to Kshs.226,613,680,323. The balance constituted an amount of Kshs.221,038,742,910 (97.5%) in respect of County Executives and Kshs.5,574,937,413 (2.5%) relating to County Assemblies.

The outstanding balance of Kshs.226,613,680,323 exceeded the overall county budget shortfall by Kshs.108,838,283,896, implying that, in general, the counties' Management had overcommitted the budget by over Kshs.117,775,396,427 without corresponding budgetary support. The County Governments have continued to accumulate pending bills.



Council of Governors chairman Ahmed Abdullahi chairs a meeting at their offices in Westlands /*Photo Courtesy*

> ***During the last financial year, the aggregated payment arrears commonly referred to as pending bills reported by the County Governments amounted to Kshs.226,613,680,323***



KITUI: Sh15.6 billion

Julius Malombe



MAKUENI: Sh11.1 billion

Mutula Kilonzo Jnr



Meru Governor Isaac Mutuma, Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire and Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki after signing the agreement /*Photo KNA*

Meru, Embu and Tharaka Nithi counties partner on waste management

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

The County Governments of Meru, Embu, and Tharaka Nithi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop a joint approach to solid waste management, including establishing a recycling plant that will convert waste into useful products.

The partnership, dubbed "MOU on Regional Cooperation for Integrated Solid Waste Management", was signed on Thursday at Kathwana Market in Tharaka Nithi County by host Governor Muthomi Njuki, Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire, and Meru Governor Isaac Mutuma.

The collaboration aims to address the growing challenge of waste management, which has long posed serious environmental and public health concerns across the three counties. It also seeks to transform waste into an opportunity for economic growth, sustainability, and innovation.

As part of the agreement, the three counties will work with development partners to establish a joint waste processing and recycling plant in Tharaka Nithi due to its vastness and central location.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Governor Njuki said the counties generate approximately 1,350 tonnes of waste daily, emphasising the need for a coordinated and sustainable management plan.

He noted that about 57 percent of the waste is organic, which can be recycled into fertiliser to improve soil fertility and boost crop production.

"Eighty percent of our activity is agriculture, which drives our economy. Turning organic waste into fertiliser will reduce the cost of buying commercial fertilisers and improve our productivity," said Njuki.

He added that the initiative would not only promote environmental conservation but also create employment opportunities for the youth, who will be involved in waste collection, sorting, and transportation to the recycling plant.

Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire lauded the partnership as a forward-looking step toward sustainable development, noting that it aligns with the counties' shared vision for a cleaner and greener region.

"Together, we are not only addressing the waste menace but transforming it into a valuable economic resource that ensures a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous future for generations to come," she said.

Meru Governor Isaac Mutuma said the MOU marks a paradigm shift in how waste is viewed and managed.

"For too long, waste has been seen as a burden. Today, we are redefining it as a resource, a source of energy, innovation, and opportunities. This cooperation model prioritises our people's health, environmental conservation, and economic growth," said Mutuma.

The MOU paves the way for collaboration with Jospong Group, a Ghana-based investor specializing in waste management, which has expressed interest in partnering with the three counties.

The governors pledged continued cooperation, saying joint development efforts will strengthen the region's competitiveness and contribute to achieving sustainable growth.

KNEC unveils smart padlock to secure exams

By Muturi Mwangi- KNA

The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) has introduced a new smart padlock system to enhance the integrity and security of national examinations, Chief Executive Officer David Njegere has announced.

Speaking in Nanyuki during the rollout of the technology at the local examination container, Njegere said the smart padlocks allow real-time remote monitoring of when exam containers are opened and closed. The devices are directly linked to the KNEC command centre in Nairobi.

"We are piloting one of our latest innovations to secure the integrity of examinations through the use of smart padlocks. They enable us at KNEC to see exactly when each container is opened and locked," Njegere explained.

He noted that the smart padlocks will be operated exclusively by sub-county directors of education, who have been fully trained on their use.

"The sub-county director of education is the only authorized person to handle the smart padlock, and they have undergone adequate training," he said, adding that the digital padlocks will be issued across 250 examination centres nationwide.

The introduction of smart padlocks is part of KNEC's wider efforts to curb examination leakages and malpractices, which have been reported in some parts of the country in previous years.

Njegere emphasised that the council remains committed to upholding transparency and credibility in the administration of national examinations.



Kenya National Examinations Council Chief Executive Officer David Njegere /*Photo KNA*

Pastoralists sign grazing agreement to address sharing of resources



Samburu East Deputy County Commissioner Stanley Langat addressing the press / *Photo KNA*

By David Nduro- KNA

Pastoralists have signed grazing agreements to ensure peaceful sharing of resources as drought sets in arid regions of the country forcing herders to migrate to Kom area, Merti Sub-County, Isiolo County with over 10,000 livestock.

Three pastoralist communities from Marsabit, Samburu, and Isiolo counties signed the agreement which would guide them in sharing pasture and water at Kom area along Ewaso Ng'iro River basin after tension was reported following the influx of herders who have migrated to the area with over 10,000 animals as drought sets in in the northern Kenya region.

The pastoralists migrating to new areas in search of water and pasture have to adhere to the laid down guidelines in the agreement to avoid livestock theft, insecurity and misuse of firearms that the armed youth escorting the livestock carry along with them.

Speaking during the signing of the agreement, Samburu East Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) Stanley Langat said the accord would regulate livestock movements in the shared grazing zones, helping prevent clashes and uphold law and order.

The signed document by the three Sub-County Commissioners and community representatives would remain in force throughout the ongoing dry spell that weather forecast authorities warn could last longer than usual.

Langat assured residents that the government was closely monitoring the situation and would deploy administrators to the grazing fields to ensure herders were held accountable.

Waso Ward MCA Kelvin Lemantang welcomed the move, noting that chiefs would be required to accompany herders to ensure compliance.

He further urged communities to recover stolen animals reported before the agreement and to develop measures that would keep school-going children out of grazing fields so they could resume learning.

Range Programme Officer Mr. Sayana Lempara called on all stakeholders to jointly develop a plan to effectively communicate the agreement's provisions to herders in the field, ensuring adherence to the new grazing rules until the drought eases.

Laisamis Sub-County DCC Kefa Marube directed Assistant Chiefs to track herders as they migrate with livestock and guarantee them security and immediately report those declining to follow the guidelines.

He also appealed to the elders to emphasize the value of education among children and youth as a long-term measure for enhancing community security.

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
GENERAL AGRICULTURE	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
APICULTURE MANAGEMENT	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
APICULTURE MANAGEMENT	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
AQUA CULTURE	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
AQUA CULTURE	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
AQUA CULTURE	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS

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COURSE	LEVEL	MODULE	EXAMINING BODY	MINIMUM DURATION
COSMETOLOGY	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
COSMETOLOGY	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
COSMETOLOGY	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
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FASHION & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
FASHION & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
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FOOD & BEVERAGE PRODUCTION & SERVICE	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGE PRODUCTION & SERVICE	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
BAKING TECHNOLOGY	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
BAKING TECHNOLOGY	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
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CATERING & ACCOMMODATION	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CATERING & ACCOMMODATION	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
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TOUR & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS

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SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
SOCIAL WORK & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
SOCIAL WORK & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
ICT TECHNICIAN	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
ICT TECHNICIAN	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
ICT TECHNICIAN	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CYBER SECURITY	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CYBER SECURITY	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CPA			CDACC	6 MONTHS
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CAMS			KASNEB	6 MONTHS
ATD 1, 2 & 3			KASNEB	6 MONTHS

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COURSE	LEVEL	MODULE	EXAMINING BODY	MINIMUM DURATION
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ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
ELECTRONICS	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
SOLAR PV INSTALLATION	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

COURSE	LEVEL	MODULE	EXAMINING BODY	MINIMUM DURATION
CARPENTRY & JOINERY	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CARPENTRY & JOINERY	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CIVIL ENGINEERING	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
INTERIOR DESIGN	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
INTERIOR DESIGN	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
INTERIOR DESIGN	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
LAND SURVEY	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
LAND SURVEY	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
BUILDING TECHNICIAN	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
BUILDING TECHNICIAN	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
BUILDING TECHNICIAN	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
BUILDING TECHNICIAN	3	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
PLUMBING	3	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
PLUMBING	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
PLUMBING	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
QUANTITY SURVEYING	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
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KEPHIS urges farmers to plant certified seeds

By Kamanja Maeria- KNA

The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) has called on farmers in Meru to prioritise certified seeds and climate-smart farming practices during the ongoing short rains season, warning that continuous recycling of seed undermines yields and exposes farms to diseases.

Speaking recently during a farmers' training held at Maua Methodist Social Hall ,Maua town ,Igembe South, KEPHIS Deputy Director for Mt.Kenya East Region, Geoffrey Malemba, said farmers should make timely preparations and choose seed varieties tested and certified for the region.

Malemba explained that certified seeds offer higher germination rates and resilience against emerging pests and diseases which remain a threat under climate change.

He encouraged farmers to move away from traditional seed recycling noting that repeated reuse leads to weak crops and low productivity.

"This short rain determines the food we will have on our tables next year and choosing quality seed is the foundation. When you recycle seed or buy uncertified seeds from the market you introduce problems into your farm. We kindly urge you to invest in certified seeds and adopt climate-smart farming so that every drop of rain is taken advantage of," the officer advised the farmers.

During the training, farmers were guided on selecting correct seed varieties suited for short rains season, including drought-resistant crops like green beans, sorghum, cassava, millet among others.

The deputy director further advised farmers to take advantage of the rains to expand into tree fruit farming, particularly grafted hass avocado, a crop that has shown impressive production and growing market demand.

Unleashing potential: Kenya's Music festivals and the future of CBE

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

As the 97th edition of the Kenya Music Festivals comes towards its tail end, audiences who turned up for the event held at Meru Teachers' College, Meru School and Kaaga Girls were treated to enjoyable moments as they sampled some of the best rhythms and dances from all the corners of the country.

Charming melodies of harmonic voices, and the graceful swirls of traditional and foreign dances painted a vibrant picture of Kenya's creative spirit and diversity.

This year's Kenya Music Festivals gala marked a turning point in how the nation views education, talent, and the boundless possibilities of its youth.

Gracing the colorful event, Education Cabinet Secretary Dr. Migos Ogamba spoke with enthusiasm as he addressed the crowd of students, teachers, and invited guests.

To him, the performances on display were more than entertainment, being evidence of a system working and thorough preparations on the part of the participants.

"These festivals align seamlessly with our Competency-Based Education (CBE) model," he noted. "They provide learners the opportunity to identify and develop their unique talents. What we have witnessed from music and dance to poetry and drama tells us we are sitting on a wealth of unexploited talent. It is our duty to harness it."

During the gala, there was display of diversity and discipline with students from across the country, some as young as ten, showcasing traditional Luo dances, Swahili taarab songs, and even contemporary spoken word poetry with themes ranging from climate change to national unity.

But perhaps the most surprising moment came from Kianda School's unique presentation with a delicate and precise performance of a traditional Chinese umbrella dance.

Ms. Pamela Odengo, a teacher from Kianda School and the dancers' trainer stood beaming beside her students after their performance.

"This is the first time we've performed this dance," she shared. "Through the CBE, our learners were introduced to foreign languages and cultures including Chinese. The umbrella dance is part of Class 1065 under the Oriental category, and we wanted to show that our learners can embrace diversity while staying rooted in Kenyan identity."

Her sentiments echoed Dr. Ogamba's belief that CBE has opened new doors for learners.

"The ability to experience and perform arts from other cultures gives our students a global perspective," he said. "It's no longer just about exams. It's about expression, confidence, innovation." Dr. Ogamba used the platform to announce a bold and transformative initiative; the formation of a task force to explore the establishment of a National Academy for Creative and Performing Arts.

"This academy will be a space where raw talent is refined and elevated," he announced to applause. "It will offer structured training, mentorship, and exposure, nurturing our future musicians, actors, dancers, and filmmakers."

Infrastructure development key to delivering city status for Meru

By Kamanja Maeria and Visaho Delson- KNA

North Imenti Member of Parliament Rahim Dawood has underscored the need for infrastructure development to underpin ongoing efforts to upgrade social amenities in Meru Town with an eye on attaining city status.

The MP noted that critical infrastructure such as a revamped road network with dual carriageways to connect Meru Municipality, a modern sewer system, and an airstrip are fundamental to opening up more business opportunities for both residents and investors.

Addressing residents of Meru at the CDF offices, Rahim reiterated that infrastructural development holds the key to the town's journey toward achieving city status.

He noted that Meru has the potential to become a metropolis but added the process must be approached carefully and systematically.

"Meru has the potential to become a major urban center, but we cannot rush the process. The infrastructure is not in place, and without it the city status would not be sustainable" Rahim said.

The proposed city status for Meru, is part of a broader national initiative to upgrade towns and cities across Kenya, aiming to boost economic growth and improve living standards of wananchi. However, the MP cautioned that the elevation should not come at the expense of the residents' financial well-being.

"Once Meru is granted city status, we must ensure that the tax burden on residents does not increase disproportionately," Rahim said, adding that,"The government must find a balance between development and affordability."

The current administration has been working on several infrastructure projects in Meru, including the expansion of the Meru-Nairobi Highway, and the development of a new airstrip. However, progress has been slow, with local officials citing funding constraints and bureaucratic delays as major hurdles.

Meru residents have expressed mixed reactions to the proposal to elevate the town to city status with some residents welcoming the idea, saying it will usher in more development and business opportunities, while others are concerned about its possible effects.

A key worry is the plan to clear about 50 hectares of nearby forest to create space for an airstrip.

Members of the Ameru community, who uphold strong traditional beliefs and practice totemism, fear that the project could disturb sacred trees like the Mugumo tree which is highly esteemed as a traditional shrine.

> ***"Meru has the potential to become a major urban center, but we cannot rush the process. The infrastructure is not in place, and without it the city status would not be sustainable***



North Imenti Member of Parliament Rahim Dawood */Photo KNA*

DP Kindiki launches upgrade of Meru Level 5 Hospital

By Dickson Mwiti - KNA

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has launched a project that will see Meru Level Five Hospital be upgraded to a Level six status.

Speaking at the hospital in North Imenti Constituency recently while officiating the groundbreaking ceremony, the DP who was flanked by Meru Governor Isaac Mutuma, his deputy Linda Kiome, area MP Rahim Dawood and other leaders, said the plan was to see the hospital attain Level six status before the next general elections.

He said the upgrade of the hospital will benefit residents from several counties who usually seek medical services at the facility.

"Our aspiration was for this hospital to get support from the national government, so that we can have adequate facilities. This hospital does not only serve Meru; it is a regional hospital."

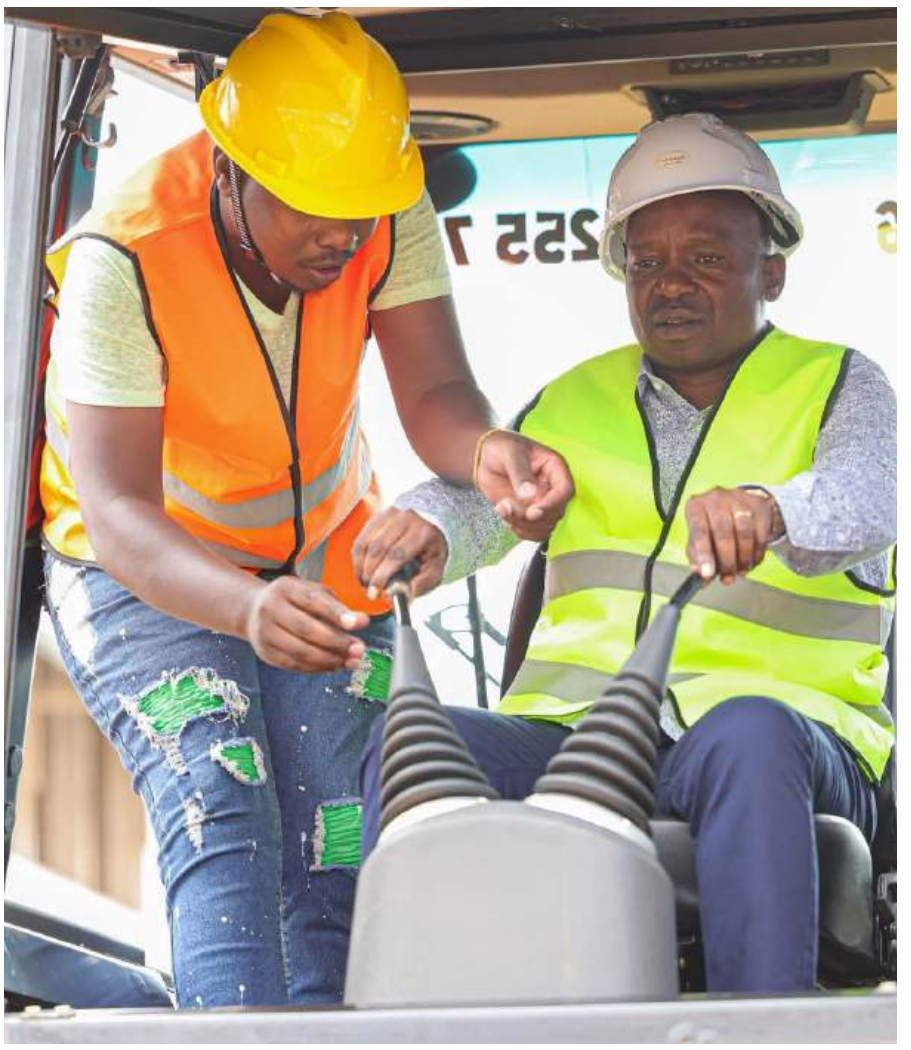
"Patients who come here for medical services are from Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Isiolo, Laikipia and Marsabit counties. This is a very important hospital for the Upper Eastern Region," said Professor Kindiki.

He added that the realization of the project was as a result of lobbying and requests by area leaders who presented their request to President William Ruto.

The DP said the county government was expected to hand over the hospital to the national government where it will be run as a parastatal.

"The upgrading of the hospital is a very consequential achievement for this region and we are working day and night to actualise the directive of the President," said Kindiki.

He said they were working with the Governor Mutuma administration, Ministry of Health and regulators in the sector to make sure the required facilities, human resources and other requirements for the elevation are put in place to ensure they don't get to the next election when this hospital is still a Level 5.



Deputy President Professor Kithure Kindiki while officiating the groundbreaking ceremony of the upgrade of Meru level five hospital to a level six /*Photo Dickson Mwiti*

Lewa wildlife conservancy drives climate-smart agriculture to boost food security

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has intensified efforts to promote sustainable agriculture among communities in its conservation areas, while unveiling a comprehensive Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) program, aimed at enhancing resilience and food security in the face of

The conservancy is located in northern Kenya, on the Laikipia plateau in Meru County, bordering Laikipia and Isiolo counties.

The program is designed to equip farmers with practical knowledge and tools to adapt to erratic weather patterns and declining soil productivity.

Speaking during a farmers' field day at Munanda primary school in Buuri East sub county, Meru County, Chief Programs and Partnership Officer, John Kinoti noted that the initiative goes beyond farming techniques, as it involves herders and farmers in knowledge-sharing to ensure food security within their conservation areas.

Kinoti emphasized that agribusiness is the only key to survival, given the scarcity of resources such as water and the fact that it generates more income compared to other conventional methods of farming.

He said Lewa has mobilized more than 8,000 farmers with tangible results already emerging.

"The adoption of CSA practices has led to increased yields including the production of approximately 20 tons of onions. The program also facilitates market linkages and post-harvest handling, ensuring farmers can store and sell their produce effectively," said Kinoti.

He added that through the field days, stakeholders in pesticide production, irrigation systems, and organic farming have been connected directly with local farming groups for future interactions and advice.

"As Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, we are reaffirming our commitment to community-led development and environmental stewardship, positioning the CSA program as a model for climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture in Kenya," said Kinoti.



Meru county Chief Programs and Partnership Officer John Kinoti addressing the media / *Photo KNA*

Head of Community Development Programmes at the conservancy Lawrence Riungu, emphasized the urgency of the intervention, saying that farmers have long relied on rainfall, but with changing climate conditions, water is becoming scarce and crops are failing.

"We are teaching conservation agriculture techniques such as drip irrigation and soil testing to help them produce more with less," he said.

According to Riungu, the CSA program promotes a wide range of technologies including soil health management, water harvesting, integrated pest management and the use of certified seeds.

Farmers are also being introduced to renewable energy solutions, such as biogas and solar power, alongside improved fodder varieties including Brachiaria grass, super napier, and Juancao grass.

MP seeks compensation for freedom fighters

By Muguongo Judy- KNA

North Imenti Member of Parliament Rahim Dawood has tabled a motion in Parliament seeking compensation for Mau Mau freedom fighters, particularly those from the Meru region, for the atrocities they suffered during the colonial period.

Speaking in Meru Town, Dawood said the motion aims to compel the British Government to provide reparations, including monetary compensation and land allocations, to surviving fighters and their descendants. He noted that despite their immense sacrifices, many of the veterans and their families continue to live in poverty.

"We must never forget the blood and sweat shed by our forefathers. The Mau Mau roads only ended in Central Kenya. It's time we extend this recognition to Meru. The petition is now before the Parliamentary Committee, and we will not rest until justice is served to our forgotten heroes," Dawood said.

He lamented that many descendants of Mau Mau fighters in Meru have endured decades of neglect, yet their parents and grandparents fought bravely for the country's freedom. He recalled that during colonial times, access to quality education and healthcare was reserved for colonizers, while locals struggled in forests and detention camps.

The legislator also highlighted ongoing infrastructure projects in his constituency, revealing that a Sh2.1 billion infrastructure fund from the World Bank, channeled through the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), has been allocated for upgrading key roads from Kambakia to Meru Town. Proposed extensions include the Shauri Yako, Meru Church (MCK)–Main Road, and bypass routes.

"This supplementary budget will be a game-changer. We've already proposed the expansion of several road projects in North Imenti to KURA, and we expect procurement processes to begin before December," he said.

Leaders unite to combat teenage pregnancies

By Kamanja Maeria- KNA

Leaders in Igembe North have sounded the alarm over rising cases of teenage pregnancies, warning that the region risks losing an entire generation of girls to poverty and school dropouts if the trend is not curbed.

Recent data from Nyambene Level 4 Hospital show that Meru County leads nationally with a 24 percent teenage pregnancy rate, compared to the national average of 15 percent. Alarmingly, the Igembe region alone accounts for 49 percent of Meru's cases.

During the recently concluded KPSEA examinations, 17 Grade Six girls delivered babies, prompting deep concern from education and health officials.

Speaking during a joint security and community leaders' meeting held at Kaelo Technical recently, Igembe North MP Julius Taitumu urged parents, local administrators, and elders to take responsibility for protecting and mentoring young girls.

"It is a shame and a way of brewing poverty if we continue allowing our girls to drop out of school because of neglect. Parents should guide all young people, not just their own," said Taitumu. The legislator warned that without decisive intervention, the region's education standards and economic growth would continue to deteriorate.

The meeting also brought together Meru County Woman Representative Hon. Elizabeth Kailemia, Tigania East MP Hon. Mpuru Aburi, and Igembe Central MP Hon. Dan Kiili, who echoed the call for urgent action.

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January 2026 Intake

VISION

"To be a Centre of excellence in the development and provision of innovative Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs"

MISSION

To nurture and impart TVET knowledge, skills and attitudes through research, innovation and technology for self-reliance and National Development.

CORE VALUES

- **Discipline.**
- **Equity.**
- **Team work.**
- **Transparency, Accountability & Integrity.**

Empowering Trainees through Digital Skills



Welcome to the Department of Computing & Informatics at Mukiria Technical Training Institute—a center where innovation, excellence, and industry relevance come together to prepare our trainees for the demands of the digital economy. Our vision is to be a center of excellence in computing, innovation, and digital transformation, while our mission is to impart quality ICT training through competency-based skilling, research, and industry collaboration. Our competency-based curriculum ensures that learners exit with both certification and demonstrable skills, making them competitive locally and globally. Through this ecosystem, our trainees are not only learning but also earning through digital work, positioning themselves as competitive players in the global digital economy Graduates from our department are highly sought after in roles such as: • ICT Technician • Network Administrator • Web Designer/Developer • Database Administrator • IT Support Specialist • Software Developer • Cybersecurity Analyst / ICT Security Specialist We are proud to have a fully equipped Jitume Lab, a modern digital workspace where trainees gain practical digital skills. This initiative has already transformed the lives of hundreds of our trainees through: • Internal digital skills training programs tailored to industry needs. • Collaborations with eMobilis through Ajira Digital Program, enabling our trainees to acquire digital skills and connect to global online opportunities. • Collaborations with ICT Authority and Huawei, to support capacity building through certifications, mentorship, and exposure to advanced technologies.

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Agriculture and Environmental Studies Department



Our mission is to equip you with the knowledge and practical skills to tackle the most pressing challenges of our time: ensuring food security for a growing population and stewarding our natural resources sustainably. Here, you will learn to blend time-honored agricultural practices with cutting-edge technology, from climate-smart farming and precision agriculture to water conservation and environmental management.

Our department is committed to a hands-on, "learning by doing" approach. You will have the unique opportunity to work directly with the land in our demonstration farm, conduct soil and water analysis in our labs, and engage in community outreach projects that make a tangible difference. We are not just training you for a job; we are preparing you to be innovators, entrepreneurs, and guardians of our environment. Welcome to a journey where you will learn to feed the nation and protect our planet.

Cosmetology Department



The hairdressing and beauty therapy industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors both locally and globally. With increasing demand for skilled professionals in salons, spas, fashion, film, media, and wellness centers, the industry continues to offer rewarding career opportunities for well-trained practitioners. At our institution, we equip learners with hands-on skills and industry relevant knowledge that prepare them to meet these demands with confidence and professionalism. Our training is competency based, focusing on creativity, technical expertise, customer care, and entrepreneurship ensuring our graduates can excel as employees or establish their own businesses. With a strong emphasis on both practical and theoretical training, our programs open doors to a dynamic industry where personal passion meets professional success.

Mechanical & Automotive Engineering Department

Welcome to the Department of Mechanical and Automotive Engineering, where we turn theory into tangible innovation. This is the place for those who are driven to understand how things work, to build with their hands, and to solve the mechanical challenges that power our world. Our programs are meticulously designed to provide you with a robust foundation in engineering principles, coupled with intensive hands-on training in our state-of-the-art workshops. You will learn to operate, maintain, and repair the machinery and vehicles that are essential to industry and modern life, preparing you for a dynamic and high-demand career. Our philosophy is built on precision, safety, and practical excellence. Here, you will get your hands on engines, master diagnostic software, and work with the same tools and



technologies used by industry professionals. We are committed to fostering not just skilled technicians, but also innovative problem-solvers and future leaders in the automotive and manufacturing sectors. Embrace the opportunity to learn, to create, and to excel. We are here to equip you with the competence and confidence to build a formidable career and to drive the future of engineering forward.

Hospitality and Tourism Management Department



The hospitality and tourism department offers diverse career paths, from managing iconic hotels to curating unforgettable travel experiences, right at your fingertips Beyond training, the department encourage trainees to be innovative, creative and integrate technology in their studies to adapt technological dynamics and understand market trends. We are proud to have well equipped workshops with modern equipment, where trainees acquire needful hospitality industry skills. Career opportunities • Our graduates work as managers in star- rated hotels • Housekeepers • Banquet managers • Events planners/organizers • Waiter/waitress • Hospitality technicians/ storekeepers/Receptionist

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Business Studies & Entrepreneurship Department

On behalf of the entire Business and Entrepreneurship department staff, we welcome you to be one of us. Here we are committed to cultivate the next generation of business leaders and innovators. Our department prides itself on providing a competence-based TVET curriculum that extends past theory to provide you with real-world skills, an ethical base and a strategic approach that is the key to success in today's global competitive economy. We have a variety of market-driven and diverse courses such as: Banking and Finance, Supply Management, Office Administration, Business Management, Social Work, supply chain management and CPA certification. Every program is well matched with industry needs. Not only are our trainees employable but they are also able to innovate, change management, and make meaningful contributions to any industry they choose to operate in. We have committed trainers and that is our greatest strength. Having a broad industry experience, education and academic background, as well as a strong interest in the mentorship process, they use these skills to help trainees discover their potential and develop critical thinking, problem solving, and leadership skills. You will not simply study through books, you will have experience in the field, hands-on skills and confidence in operating in rapidly changing business environments. It is our vision at Mukiria Institute of Technology to develop principled, innovative, and socially conscious professionals who are capable of leading with integrity and vision. Enrolling with us does not mean you are simply enrolling in a course, but you are making an investment in a transformational process that unlocks to significant careers, lifelong development, and leadership. Take the bold step today. Become part of the Business Department at Mukiria Institute of Technology where business starts with you.

Building & Civil Engineering Department



Where we lay the foundation for the architects of tomorrow's world. Your journey here will equip you with the skills to shape the very infrastructure of society from designing resilient buildings and roads to managing complex construction projects that define skylines and connect communities. In our department, theory meets practice: you will learn the principles of structural integrity, project management, and sustainable design, then apply them using industry-standard tools and technologies in our workshops and labs. We emphasize precision, safety, and innovation in every aspect of training. Under the guidance of experienced instructors, you will develop hands-on competence in surveying, drafting, materials testing, and modern construction techniques. Our goal is to prepare you not just to enter the workforce, but to lead it with the confidence to oversee projects, solve real-world engineering challenges, and contribute to sustainable development. Here, you will build more than structures; you will build the future.

Fashion & Design Department



Central to our department is a dedication to fostering creativity, innovation, and professional excellence. Fashion transcends mere clothing; it serves as a significant means of expression, mirrors cultural nuances, and propels global industries forward. Our goal is to prepare students with both the creative flair and technical expertise necessary to succeed in this ever-evolving sector. We provide a comprehensive curriculum that integrates design theory, hands-on studio practice, digital advancements, and exposure to industry experiences. Our committed faculty members possess extensive professional backgrounds and academic knowledge, mentoring students in discovering their individual design identities while remaining responsive to market dynamics and sustainable approaches. Through workshops, fashion shows, internships, and collaborative projects, students gain hands-on experience and build portfolios that speak to their talent and vision. We also emphasize the importance of research, critical thinking, and ethical responsibility in design. Whether you're aspiring to become a fashion designer, stylist, merchandiser, or entrepreneur, our department is committed to helping you shape your future with confidence and creativity.

Electrical and Electronics Department



Welcome to the Department of Electrical and Electronics, the powerhouse of innovation at Mukiria Technical Training Institute. You have chosen a field that is fundamental to every aspect of modern life, from the energy that lights our cities to the sophisticated electronics that connect our world. Our mission is to equip you with a deep understanding of electrical principles and electronic systems, providing you with the practical skills to design, install, maintain, and troubleshoot the technologies that drive industry and innovation forward. Our approach is intensely hands-on. In our labs and workshops, you will work with industry-standard equipment from digital multimeters and programmable logic controllers to advanced circuitry bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world application. We are committed to nurturing not just competent technicians, but also critical thinkers and problem-solvers who are prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving technological landscape. Embrace the challenge, master the flow of energy and information, and let us empower you to become a leader in the electrifying field of electrical and electronics engineering.

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JAN / MAY / SEP 2026 CBET COURSES

COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS DEPARTMENT				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	ICT Technician Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
2	ICT Technician Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
3	ICT Technician Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Programmes
- Computer Repair & Maintenance Level 3 & 4
- Graphic Design Level 3 & 4
- Computer Programming Level 3 & 4
- Computer Packages – Short Courses

MECHANICAL AND AUTOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	Welding and Fabrication Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
2	Welding and Fabrication Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
3	Automotive Technician Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
4	Automotive Technician Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
5	Automotive Engineering Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	7 Modules	CDACC

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Programmes
- Motor Vehicle Mechanic Level 3
- Gas Metal Arc Welding Level 3
- Welding Level 3

ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	Electrical Installation Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
2	Mechatronic Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
3	Electrical Installation Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
4	Electrical Engineering 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	8 Modules	CDACC
5	Electrical Operator Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Programmes
- Solar P.V Installation Level 3 & 4
- Mobile Phone Repair Level 3 & 4

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	Horticulture Production Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
2	Horticulture Production Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
3	Agriculture Extension Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
4	Agriculture Extension Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
5	Agriculture Extension Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
6	Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC

HOSPITALITY AND INSTITUTION MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT				
COSMETOLOGY SECTION				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	Hair Dressing Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
2	Hair Dressing Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
3	Hair Dressing Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
4	Beauty Therapy Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
5	Beauty Therapy Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
6	Beauty Therapy Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Programmes
- Hair Dressing & Beauty Level 3 & 4

HOSPITALITY SECTION				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	F/B Sales and Service Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
2	F/B Sales and Service Management Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
3	F/B Production Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
4	F/B Production Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
5	F/B Sales Management Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
6	F/B Production Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
7	Housekeeping Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
8	Housekeeping Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Programmes
- Baking Technology Level 3 & 4
- Event Planning Level 3 & 4

FASHION SECTION				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	Fashion Design Technology Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
2	Fashion Design Technology Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
3	Fashion Design Technology Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	7 Modules	CDACC

BUSINESS STUDIES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEPARTMENT				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	Office Administration Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
2	Office Administration Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
3	Banking and Finance Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
4	Banking and Finance Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
5	Supply Chain Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
6	Supply Chain Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
7	Social Work Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
8	Social Work Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
9	CPA	KCSE Mean Grade C+ & above		KASNEB
10	ATD	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above		KASNEB

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING				
S. No.	**CBET PROGRAMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**	**DURATION**	**EXAM BODY**
1	Carpentry Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
2	Carpentry Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
3	Plumbing Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
4	Plumbing Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
5	Masonry Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
6	Building Technician Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
7	Land Survey Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
8	Land Survey Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
9	Civil Engineering Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
10	Architectural Draftsmanship Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
11	Building Technology Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
12	Building Artisan Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
13	Architectural Technology Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC
14	Interior Design Level 5	KCSE Mean Grade D Plain & above	4 Modules	CDACC
15	Interior Design Level 4	KCSE Mean Grade D- & above	2 Modules	CDACC
16	Interior Design Level 6	KCSE Mean Grade C- & above	6 Modules	CDACC

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Programmes
- Plumbing Level 3 & 4
- Masonry Level 3 & 4

FUNDAMENTAL STATEMENT

Vision

"To be a Centre of excellence in the development and provision of innovative Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Programs"

Mission

To nurture and impart TVET knowledge, skills and attitudes though research, innovation and technology for self-reliance and National Development.

Core Values
- Discipline.
- Equity.
- Team Work.
- Transparency, Accountability and Integrity.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Visit www.mukiriaportal.ac.ke and follow the step:
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ii. Apply Now.
iii. Create an account to apply for course of your Choice.
2. You may also email info@mukiriatechnical.ac.ke
3. You may also visit our admission offices.
4. Wait for official communication from the institute.

QUALITY STATEMENT

Mukiria Technical Training Institute (MTTI) is committed to nurturing and imparting relevant TVET knowledge, skills and attitudes for a competitive and dynamic world.

In pursuit of this commitment, MTTI shall establish its context, the needs and expectations of interested parties and determine and risks and opportunities hence establishing a basis for the implementation of QMS, MTTI shall adhere to all applicable requirements and continually improve on the effectiveness by implementing a Quality Management System based on ISO 9001 1:2015 Established quality objectives and this policy shall be reviewed at most annually for continuing suitability.

The quality policy shall be communicated within the institute and made available to relevant interested parties.

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Governor Njuki commissions Kangutu bridge, pledges more roads, water, and

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori- KNA

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to improving infrastructure, health, and water services across the county, saying no ward would be left behind in the development agenda.

Speaking recently during the commissioning of the newly constructed Kangutu Bridge which links Mariani and Karingani wards, Governor Njuki said the project would ease movement and open up the agriculturally rich areas to markets, boosting trade and food security.

"I am committed to improving transportation across our county by enhancing linkages through the construction of roads and bridges. Every corner of Tharaka Nithi will benefit," he said.

He further announced that the Kathigiriri-ni–Kangutu road would be tarmacked to ensure an all-weather link between villages and major towns.

On water development, Njuki pledged a government boost to the Manyanga Water Project under the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP), noting that it was one of the oldest schemes in Chuka/Igambang'ombe constituency.

He urged residents to use the water for irrigation to enhance food production and create wealth.

The County boss also highlighted strides in healthcare, revealing that Kaanwa Hospital has been upgraded and its maternity wing would be officially opened in December.

He added that an ambulance would be stationed at the facility to ensure patients with complications could be quickly referred to Chuka County Referral Hospital.

"Good health is important. That is why no one should be denied treatment at public health facilities. If you are a member of SHA (Social Health Authority), dispensary and health centre services are free of charge," he assured residents.

Njuki also pointed to completed road projects such as the Chuka–Kareeni stretch, which he said was finalized within three years, as evidence of the county government's commitment to infrastructure growth.

He urged residents to support the government's development agenda, stressing that partnership between leaders and citizens would accelerate progress.

Broken bridge, treacherous road put students and farmers at risk



A footbridge that residents of Karamani wants county government to replace with a modern one / *Photos Christine Ngitori*

By Dickson Mwiti/Christine Ngitori-KNA

Residents of Karamani in Tharaka Nithi County are appealing to the county government to urgently repair the deteriorating Kangati bridge and the Kirigi-Ciakarugu road, citing mounting challenges for schoolchildren, farmers, and the local business community.

Speaking to the press, Martin Karia, a local resident, said students are forced to navigate unsafe paths daily, putting their lives at risk.

"Our children struggle to get to school every day because the bridge is broken and the road is almost impassable," he lamented.

Caroline Kangai, another resident, added that the poor infrastructure has made the road completely impassable for both cars and motorcycles, leaving the community virtually cut off.

"Farm produce like coffee and tea is hard to transport to markets. We are forced to use long and costly alternative routes, which has affected our livelihoods and increased insecurity as the road is isolated and dangerous," she said.

Residents say they have already decided to organize a community Harambee to construct the bridge on their own if no action is taken soon.

They called on governor Muthomi Njuki and their Magumoni Ward MCA, Justin Kithinji, to intervene and help resolve the crisis.

Lucy Muthomi, a local farmer, emphasized the economic impact, noting that goods from local farms struggle to reach markets due to the poor state of the road and bridge.

"We have coffee, tea, and other produce ready for sale, but getting them to buyers has become a huge challenge, and using the longer routes is costly and time-consuming," she said.

The community has expressed growing frustration over the lack of action, urging authorities to act before the situation worsens further, particularly for students and other vulnerable residents.

Plans to revitalize Mount Kenya's Chogoria route

By Dickson Mwiti-KNA

Tourism activities into Mount Kenya through the Chogoria route are set to be revamped after Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki through the support of the Ministry of Tourism initiated plans to revitalize it.

The MP held a multi-stakeholder meeting that was meant to breathe new life into one of Kenya's most scenic yet underutilized tourism gems.

This came following a meeting following the approval of funding by the Tourism Promotion Fund to promote sustainable tourism and support livelihoods on the Mt. Kenya - Chogoria route.

Speaking during the meeting, MP Mbiuki said the ambitious project aims to transform the Chogoria route towards Mount Kenya into a world-class eco-tourism destination while uplifting local communities and preserving the environment.

"We have today come together as key government agencies, county officials, local businesses, and community leaders to chat our way forward towards reclaiming our lost glory.This initiative is a clear indication of a new era of coordinated efforts to harness the vast untapped potential of this spectacular region," said Mbiuki.

He said the initiative incorporates several transformative projects designed to enhance access, safety, and visitor experiences.

They include modernization of entry gates and expansion of network coverage aimed at improving accessibility and communication for visitors and service providers.

The other project is the refurbishment of Kinondoni Airstrip which is set to reduce travel time for tourists, connecting them directly to the foothills of Mount Kenya.

"A series of new hiking trails including routes from Kinondoni to Nithi Falls and the caves, from Lake Ellis to Lake Alice and Rutundu, and a riverine trail from Kinondoni to Mutonga will open up the previously inaccessible terrain," said Mbiuki.

For nature lovers and adventure seekers, the introduction of fly-fishing trails and nature walks along the river Nithi will offer sustainable encounters with the mountain's clean ecosystems.

There is also a plan for the construction of visitor shelters at lake Ellis to provide safe rest points for hikers, while the digital mapping and global upload of these trails will position the route firmly on the world map of hiking and cycling destinations.



Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki during a multi-stakeholder meeting to promote sustainable tourism and support livelihoods on the Mt. Kenya - Chogoria route / *Photo KNA*

DP Kindiki leads fight against cartels in music industry, promise to end to exploitation

By Dickson Mwiti - KNA

The government has intensified its fight against cartels exploiting musicians, artists, and content creators to increase their earnings.

Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki stated that the Kenya Kwanza administration is prioritizing streamlining the sector, which has been plagued by unscrupulous individuals seeking to reap unproductive gains.

Rencently, he hosted over 2000 musicians, content creators, and artists at his Irunduni home in Tharaka Nithi County, ensuring that the government will not abandon them due to cartels, aiming to impoverish them.

"The cartels in the creative industry must pack and go. We are not requesting them, we are demanding them to exit the stage and allow musicians, content creators and performing artists to benefit from the sweat and talent that God gave them," the DP warned.

Prof. Kindiki, a key figure in the fight against cartels, has stated that the government will not resign until artists and creators receive their due compensation.

He decried the the millions of money siphoned by those contributing the least, even as musicians and creatives continue to suffer the ignominy of earning peanuts.

The DP warned that there will be no negotiations that will extend an exploitative agenda, adding, "The government will not be intimidated and will repulse any attempt to frustrate it to give up.

"No amount of resistance, court orders or frustration will stop the government from empowering talented youth in the creative and performance industry," he reiterated.

"The President has assigned me this work. We will not relent in rooting out cartels in the industry. You are going to see a lot of progress this year," he added.



Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki when he met creatives from Mount Kenya East region at his Irunduni home, Tharaka Nithi County */Photo Dickson Mwiti*

At the same time, the government is sponsoring Bills in Parliament to improve the earnings of creatives who have suffered for years, intensifying the battle against their long-standing struggles.

Additionally, the battle is already being intensified from many angles including legal means with the government sponsoring various Bills in Parliament, geared towards improving earnings of the creatives who have suffered for many years.

Meanwhile, the State Department for Creative Economy, under the Ministry of Youths has also been specially created to look after the affairs of those depending on the sector.

"We have two new Bills; The Creative Economy Support Bill, 2024 and Culture Bill, 2024 which are now before Parliament. The two will ensure the huge potential in the creative economy is maximized, so that our creative artists can earn from their sweat and talent," the DP revealed.

Previously, following successful battles against cartels in the coffee, tea and sugar sectors that have led to notable increase in earnings for farmers, the Deputy President said it is time to shift attention to the creative sector, which is worth billions of shillings that end up in undeserving pockets.

"We are starting a national movement to liberate artists, musicians, content creators from the jaws and bondage of cartels and criminals taking away their money."

Governor Njuki pledges Sh60 million for cancer

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori- KNA

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has reiterated his administration's commitment to prioritizing healthcare, with a particular emphasis on the fight against cancer.

Speaking in Mungoni during the burial of the mother-in-law of Karingani Ward MCA Murithi Gaturo, Njuki said many lives were being lost due to lack of awareness of healthy living and limited access to timely medical interventions.

The governor emphasized the need for residents to embrace health insurance schemes such as the Social Health Authority (SHA), saying the government is keen on cushioning families against heavy medical expenses.

"People are losing their lives because of lack of knowledge and failure to seek medical services early enough. We want to encourage every household to take up health insurance and invest in their health," he said.

However, Njuki expressed concern over the rising cancer cases in the county, noting that most patients seek treatment when it is already too late.

He urged the residents to go for early screening even when they are not feeling sick.

"Cancer is killing many of our people, yet when detected early, it can be treated or managed. I want to encourage everyone to embrace regular screening," he added.

The Tharaka Nithi county government plans to allocate over Sh60 million in the 2026/2027 budget for modern cancer screening equipment to improve access to screening services.

Njuki said the machines will be installed at dispensaries to enable residents to undergo tests without necessarily needing to travel to the nearby referral hospitals.

"These new machines are advanced, less painful and user-friendly. We want to move with the rest of the world by bringing technology closer to the people. Good health is the foundation of development," the governor said.

The governor also announced plans to invest in health care infrastructure to enhance quality of life in the region.



Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki */ Photo KNA*

Distressed man rescued from 300-foot mast in Chuka town,

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori - KNA

A 36-year-old man was rescued after climbing a 300-foot communication mast near the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) headquarters in Tharaka Nithi County in a suspected suicide attempt.

Tharaka Nithi Fire and Rescue Brigade Commander Alex Mugambi said his team, working jointly with police officers, managed to persuade the man to descend safely after lengthy negotiations.

"Our team spent a considerable amount of time talking to him, and we are relieved that he finally agreed to come down safely. I urge especially men to speak out and share their struggles instead of resorting to such dangerous decisions," said Mugambi.

Tharaka Nithi County Police Commander Zacheous Ngeno confirmed the incident, saying the man was escorted to Chuka Level Four Hospital for medical assessment.

"The man complied after persuasion and was safely taken to hospital for further medical attention. The results of his assessment will determine whether he undergoes treatment or faces trial," said Mr. Ngeno.

Authorities commended the teamwork that ensured the man's life was saved, while urging members of the public to prioritize mental health support and seek early intervention in cases of distress.

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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.

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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

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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Govt engages Borana, Rendille and Samburu elders to rein to ease tension



A government-initiated peace talks involving Samburu, Borana and Rendille community elders to prevail upon herders to accommodate one another and share the scarce pastures and water at Kom Durte area, Isiolo County */Photo KNA*

By Brilian Kwamboka and David Nduro

The government has engaged elders from Borana, Samburu and Rendille communities with a view to ease tension among herders who have converged at Kom Durte area, Isiolo County following scarcity of pasture and water.

Following influx of animals at Kom area, Merti Sub-County, there has been rising tension among the livestock owners scrambling for the scarce resources forcing the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) to involve elders at grassroots level to avert potential conflicts.

The authorities have initiated peace talks involving Samburu, Borana and Rendille community elders to prevail upon herders to accommodate one another and share the scarce pastures and water in the area.

Merti Sub-County Peace Chairman who is also a Deputy County Commissioner for the area, Mr. Michael Kioni called upon the elders to rein in their youth not to cause conflict over the natural resources and also obey the laid down rules for herders moving their livestock to new territories.

"Conflicts stem from the influx of livestock and herders to the grazing area where an estimated 10,000 cattle move into Kom Durte range that is endowed with pasture and water in dry seasons sometimes leading to conflicts emanating from sharing the resources or even stealing animals from other groups," said the deputy County Commissioner.

The meetings brought together Sub County Commissioners and security teams from the three affected sub counties, political leaders, peace committees and elders, Morans, women, and community representatives from the region.

The meeting was supported by the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), IMPACT, the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the RANGE Programme funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the LSS Programme supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

All the participants agreed that proposals requiring chiefs to escort herders and hand them over to the respective area administrators and also ensure the guidelines the government had introduced on how to share and move to new grazing areas were enforced to avert conflicts.

Residents yearn for fair access to government opportunities

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.

Residents living along Isiolo –Meru boundary appeal to the government



Residents of the Isiolo–Meru boundary paralyze transport along the Isiolo–Ruiri–Meru route during protests demanding government action against rampant rustling */Photo KNA*

By Eussania Adhiambo and David Nduro- KNA

Residents living along the Isiolo–Meru boundary have called on the government to take firm and decisive action against cattle rustlers who have been terrorizing the area and impoverishing families through frequent livestock raids.

The residents accused the authorities of dragging their feet even when tangible evidence about the perpetrators had been provided, lamenting that their stolen animals were rarely recovered. They said the continued attacks have left a trail of loss of lives, property, and livelihoods, as most families in the region depend on livestock for survival.

According to locals, hardly a week passes without an attack. The stolen animals are often driven towards Isiolo and Samburu counties, leaving families at Maili Saba, Maili Tano, and Maili Tatu vulnerable and destitute. Local leaders said hundreds of cattle, sheep, and goats had been lost in recent months, with little recovery effort.

The residents appealed to Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen to transfer security officers suspected of colluding with the rustlers. They alleged that some police officers, alongside National Police Reservists, were either unwilling or compromised in their response to the raids.

"The cattle thieves cross the Isiolo-Meru-Nanyuki main road, steal, and drive away animals from the Meru side. The area has two police posts and Anti-Stock Theft Unit officers at Maili Saba, yet they remain helpless. Even the National Police Reservists should be investigated because cases of rustling escalated after they were trained and deployed," said political activist Mike Makarina.

Makarina pointed out that police should have acted swiftly after residents and police reservists allegedly recovered a mobile phone and an identity card from the trail of the raiders during a recent pursuit.

He joined residents in staging protests on the Isiolo–Ruiri–Meru route, where demonstrators blocked the road with stones and boulders, paralyzing transport. The angry residents engaged police in running battles, demanding action against rising insecurity.

During the protest, Makarina, a differently-abled activist, expressed solidarity with one of the victims, Ms. Eunice Kaulu, a 43-year-old woman with a disability who recently lost more than 50 cows and goats in a raid. He accused security officers of frustrating recovery efforts, saying even when stolen animals were traced in Samburu, they were not retrieved.

He urged Interior CS Murkomen to release resources to aid in the fight against rustlers and called on residents not to relent in the pursuit of justice.

Another victim, Mr. Peter Kailemia, revealed that more than 125 cattle and goats were stolen from three families in a single incident. He criticized officers manning an armored police vehicle for failing to confront the bandits despite knowing where the stolen animals had been driven.

Over 100 Isiolo youth benefit from TVET programme



Youths during the launch of the Wezesha Vijana TVET Mashinani Programme at Kambi Turkana in Burat Ward */ Photo KNA*

By Brilliane Kwamboka and Eussania Adhiambo - KNA

Over 100 youth from Isiolo County are set to benefit from vocational training under the Wezesha Vijana TVET Mashinani Programme.

The initiative, sponsored by the Safaricom Foundation in partnership with the County Government of Isiolo, aims to equip young people with practical skills to create jobs and improve their livelihoods.

It targets unemployed youth, offering short-term technical courses in mobile phone repair, motorcycle mechanics, plumbing, and baking and pastry.

The three-and-a-half-month training programme is designed to help participants become self-reliant and generate their own income.

During the launch of the programme's second cohort at Kambi Turkana in Burat Ward, the Youth and Entrepreneurship Head at Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Irene Wairimu, said that vulnerable youth—including persons with disabilities and young mothers—would gain hands-on vocational skills to help them secure dignified livelihoods.

Wairimu emphasized the transformative potential of the initiative, noting that it is the result of a strong partnership between CRS, Safaricom Foundation, Caritas Isiolo, the County Government of Isiolo, and several local training institutions.

"TVET Mashinani is a community-based vocational training initiative that provides marketable skills to youth of both genders, including those with disabilities," she said.

Isiolo County Chief Officer for Vocational Training, Mr. Ibrahim Chala, said the programme is already transforming lives, with 115 participants currently enrolled.

He said 35 youth are training in plumbing, 20 in motorcycle repair, 35 in mobile phone repair, and 25 in baking and pastry.

Chala added that participants will receive certificates upon completion of the training. To support the programme's expansion, new facilities—including an administration block, welding offices, and electrical workshops—will soon be constructed.

Safaricom Foundation Programme Manager, Mr. Nicholas Wechuli, reiterated the foundation's commitment to supporting youth empowerment across the country, noting that the initiative is part of a broader youth-skilling programme targeting multiple counties.

"When we started the TVET Mashinani Programme in 2023, we sponsored 333 youth across Isiolo, Marsabit, and Nairobi," said Wechuli. "This second cohort will train over 300 youth, and by the end of the project, we aim to have empowered at least 2,400 young people."

He encouraged the youth to embrace technical skills rather than focusing solely on white-collar jobs. "TVET courses are far better than chasing white-collar jobs. These are permanent skills that will never fade away—skills you can use anywhere to earn a living," he said.

Wechuli added that trainees will receive certificates registered with the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), enabling them to seek jobs both locally and abroad.

Isiolo County Executive Committee Member for Tourism, Trade, and Cooperatives, Dr. Lawrence Mwongela, urged more young people to enroll in the programme, saying it provides a solid foundation for economic independence.

Floods management group receives funding

By David Nduro- KNA

A Flood management group from Merti Sub-County, Isiolo County is appealing for adequate financial support to ensure that over 3,000 people get cushioned against harsh rain-water runoff that cause havoc during wet seasons.

The financial support will help in reversing the flood's flow and diverting the runoff from human settlements to avoid displacing local residents or marooning their homesteads.

According to Cherab Flood Committee Chairperson, Omar Sama, the area residents have been working on the riverbank mitigation through their own initiatives, which had shown some positive results adding that external assistance from the government and non-governmental organisations would boost their efforts.

He disclosed that the local community had been occasionally contributing about Sh 200,000 to pay casual workers who manually create diversions for the excess river flows.

"This amount is not enough to cope with the work load needed to control the water flows which had been overwhelming especially when the area experienced heavy rains and the increased water volumes from the run offs upstream," Sama added while appealing for external support.

Efforts by the Cherab community to stop River Ewaso Ng'iro from changing its course or breaking its banks have gained momentum after the Merti Integrated Development Programme (MID-P) donated Sh. 4 million to the local management committee through the Reversing the Flow Project.

The financial assistance comes when the October, November and December (OND) rains are expected to begin anytime but there was need for additional support in order to help more than 3,000 residents continue with their normal lives during the rainy season.

The residents expressed optimism that the funds would be utilized to avert the persistent flooding problem that occurs when River Ewaso Ng'iro breaks its banks.

In the past, flooding led to loss of property worth millions and displacement of hundreds of families, cutting off many parts of Merti from the rest of Isiolo for weeks.

Sama, said the area people had been working on riverbank mitigation through their own initiatives, which have shown positive but temporary results and therefore needs a permanent solution.

A resident, Hassan Golo recounted his losses during the previous floods a year ago, which left many neighbouring households submerged and destroyed. He noted that most residents had already moved to higher ground for safety.

Pastoralists encouraged to plant more trees, curb climate

By David Nduro- KNA

The Principal Secretary (PS) for Petroleum, Mr. Mohamed Liban, has underscored the importance of planting more trees to control climate change, which is threatening pastoralists' livelihoods.

Mr. Liban said the government was championing the tree planting campaigns, so that the social economic benefits attached to trees could eventually outweigh the risks resulting from climate change and felling of trees.

He said the government campaign targets to raise the country's tree cover from 24 to 70 per cent in the next 10 years, with all the government agencies and ministries given a goal of the number of trees to plant and conserve every year.

To overcome the challenges, such as losing thousands of livestock from drought and flooding occasioned by soil erosion during the rainy seasons in the northern region of the country, the PS said the resident communities should be involved in the tree planting exercises to reverse the adverse trends.

Mr. Liban was speaking at Uhuru Primary School in Isiolo town during the National Mazingira Day tree planting exercise, where he was accompanied by the political, religious and National Government Administrative Officers led by County Commissioner David Kiprop.

The PS said the country lost about 2.4 million livestock to drought last year, which could have been averted had the country planted more trees to cover the largest portion of land.

Women from four counties call for stern government's action

By David Nduro- KNA

Women leaders in Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu, and Marsabit counties have appealed to both County and the National governments to intensify efforts of fighting Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriages.

The women leaders drawn from various organizations decried that despite an enhanced multi-sectoral approach to counter the outdated practice in the region, the impact was minimal and so the need for strong government intervention for the campaign to be successful.

They urged the two levels of the government and especially at the Counties to devise policies that strengthen and support war against the FGM and early marriages which were sluggish and not vigorous.

Speaking in Isiolo town, the four counties' representatives emphasised on the need for enhanced formulation of gender related policies and budget allocations for creation of awareness and enforcement of the existing laws.

They asserted that the deep-rooted cultural practices among communities living in those regions, demand concerted efforts involving both gender as well as spirited sensitization forums that could be impactful on behavioral change among all the players in the retrogressive traditional practices.

A women rights advocate from Marsabit, Ms Nuria Gollo said that the dwindling donor support had significantly reduced financial strength to spearhead community education and law enforcement efforts in the region.



Laikipia County women rights advocate Dr. Hellen Gathogo (Right), speaking to the media personnel in Isiolo town */ Photos KNA*

The EASTERN NEWSPAPER

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NGEC to boost girls' education in marginalized areas

By Brillian Kwamboka and Eussania Adhiambo-KNA

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has launched a nationwide study on the challenges facing girls' education in marginalized communities.

The commission said the research will generate evidence on barriers affecting enrollment, retention and learning, with the aim of formulating a guiding policy and resource allocation strategy to aid in addressing the challenges.

Speaking during the launch, NGEC chairperson Rehema Jaldesa said the exercise comes at a crucial time as schools reopen for the third term.

"The third term is a critical moment, especially for candidates preparing for national examinations and the schools must provide a safe and supportive environment for all learners," Jaldesa said.

She said that a team of officials from her commission are touring nine out of 10 wards in Isiolo county in finding facts on the learning conditions of girls in the remote areas, where sometimes female teachers are not found due to insecurity, lack of water which affects staffing of the institutions, leading to lack of female gender mentors for the girls.

The chairperson added that some girls drop out of schools for lack of rightful guidance from parents and teachers and sometimes ending up in early pregnancy and marriages that negatively affect their lives.

Isiolo County Director of Education (CDE) Caroline Mugo commended the NGEC's readiness to partner with the Education Ministry because the initiatives invested in the sector were well intended to benefit the girl child from the remote regions, so that they could effectively compete with other counterparts to realize their full potential.

Mugo revealed that the Education Ministry was committed to providing free day secondary and primary education with all strategies and policies implemented, achieving increased numbers of girls in learning institutions in far-flung areas and also to help retain children in schools.

"Entry and re-entry policies of girls who have dropped out of the school have been implemented. We have been able to move them out of the villages and we are going to do the same and bring them back to school where they are supposed to be," said the CDE.

Government to improve livestock breed for international markets



Livestock Development PS Jonathan Mueke addresses residents of Nomotio after launching Sh13.2 million water pan */ Photo Robert Githu*

By Robert Githu-KNA

The government is committed to improving livestock breeds in Samburu County to ensure local meat and milk products access the international markets.

Speaking at the Nomotio Livestock Improvement Center in Maralal town, Livestock Development PS Jonathan Mueke said the government has just concluded the distribution of 2,810 Galana goats through a restocking program, aimed at improving goats breed in Samburu County.

Mueke stated that the government had also secured a market for livestock products in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) through the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), marking a major shift in the livestock products export strategy.

The PS noted that the international markets will offer better prices for livestock products and live animals as long as we provide high quality animals through breed improvement and vaccination.

"The subsidized national mass vaccination exercise will soon kick off in Samburu County after sensitizing herders through the Foods Systems Resilient Project, and I urge you to allow our extension officers to vaccinate your animals," he urged.

Mueke further noted that perennial cattle rustling in Samburu County greatly affects the livestock market saying that the government had launched the Animal Identification and Traceability System (ANITRAC) that has successfully been tested on government owned farms and will soon be rolled out across counties to curb cattle theft.

"Every animal will have a tag, with a chip, which will provide the information about the owner, breed, weight and vaccination history and this will curb cattle theft. Traceability will also be beneficial to the farmer, since buyers can easily identify where the meat came from through the ANITRAC stamp," the PS added.

At the same time, Mueke launched a Sh13.2 million water pan at the Nomotio Livestock Improvement Center with a 20-million-liter water capacity to improve the livestock economy and also to cushion residents and their livestock during the dry seasons.

The county Executive for Agriculture Moses Leluata reiterated that the devolved unit is committed to improving livestock rearing from being a mere traditional activity in its current form to a more sustainable economic activity.

"Samburu county is a livestock county and that is why we assigned 11 percent of the county's development budget to the livestock and agricultural sectors. This enables us to buy and distribute 1000 camels and 1000 Sahiwal heifers every financial year to improve the livelihoods of our people through livestock production," he said.

First Lady rolls out mama kitchen garden initiative in



First Lady Rachel Ruto rolls out Mama Kitchen Garden Initiative during her visit in Samburu County/ *Photo KNA*

by Robert Githu- KNA

First Lady, Mama Racheal Ruto, has rolled out the Mama Kitchen Garden Initiative at Kisima Girls Secondary school in Samburu west sub county to enhance food security and nutrition in the Arid and Semi- Arid County.

Speaking after touring a model farm recently, the First Lady said that the Mama Kitchen Garden initiative which was launched in May, 2025 aims to improve food security and nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture and empower women and youth across the country.

She noted that the initiative is a measure to accelerate hunger eradication by encouraging households and schools to create kitchen gardens to grow their own food as well as teaching gardening techniques to build resilient communities that can better withstand food security.

"Here in Samburu County where climate change and food insecurity are felt so deeply, this program offers practical and locally adopted solutions that the community can adopt. Being in and ASAL county does ton mean you cannot feed your community or grow your own crops lets borrow a leaf from Norulem in Turkana County which has turned into a thriving agricultural hub," Racheal said.

The First Lady also said that her office is working closely with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture to revive 4K clubs in schools to encourage students to embrace agriculture as a noble and innovative livelihood.

At the same time, she urged all women in Samburu County to create a kitchen garden in order to improve nutrition at the household level.

On his part, Agriculture Principal Secretary (PS), Dr Paul Rono, said that the government is keen on improving the livestock value chain and Samburu County is set to benefit from the near complete multimillion shilling export abattoir that will boost the regions meat industry.

"Most farmers in Samburu County keep livestock for meat production and with the completion of Isiolo abattoir, there will be a ready market for Samburu livestock," he said.

Accompanying the First Lady was Samburu County Commissioner, John Cheruiyot, Samburu Governor Lati Lelelit, Samburu Senator Steve Lelegwe, Samburu Woman Representative Pauline Lenguris and Samburu East MP Jackson Lekumontare.

Samburu traditional weather forecast matches the scientific me-

By Robert Githu- KNA

In many pastoralist communities, traditional weather forecasting methods have been used for centuries to effectively predict weather patterns and make informed decisions for their livelihoods.

As a result, the indigenous knowledge is now being integrated with scientific forecasts by the Kenya Metrological Department to provide more effective and community tailored climate information services, thereby helping Samburu farmers and pastoralists to deal with multiple threats and survive harsh realities of climate change.

These traditional methods, often based on the observation of nature, cultural knowledge and indigenous practices have been passed down through generations.

Sixty-five-year-old Joseph Letaabo, a Samburu elder from Samburu East Sub County, is a man who is equipped and skilled with the knowledge and experience of his ancestors. His skill involves interpreting a goat's intestines to predict weather among other cultural issues that might affect Samburu people in future.

Draped in traditional Samburu shukas, three Samburu elders accompanied by weather forecast scientists in a convergence of contemporary and indigenous weather knowledge have come together to share their findings on the rainfall patterns of October, November and December (OND) at a three-day Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) meeting.

First, the elders sacrifice a he-goat and carefully opens its abdomen to examine the intestines and tone of blood vessels which resembles rivers and their tributaries, mzee Letaabo gave his verdict which later uncannily matched the scientific one from the Kenya Metrological Department (KMD).

"The blood vessels did not have much blood which means we expect very little rainfall in Samburu North and Samburu East sub counties but there will be slightly more rains in Samburu Central sub county," he revealed.

"There will be tension caused by insecurity in Samburu north and Samburu East coupled with livestock diseases which will affect sheep and camels in the coming months," Mzee Letaabo added.

Samburu County government distributes medical supplies worth over Sh50 million

By Robert Githu- KNA

The Samburu County government has flagged off the distribution of medical supplies worth Sh51 million to all government health facilities across the county.

Speaking after flagging off five trucks transporting the medical consignment at the Samburu County Referral Hospital, Samburu Chief Officer (CO) for Medical Services Josephat Lenguris said that the supplies were procured from Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies (MEDS) for the first quarter of the current financial year.

The Chief Officer noted that the delay in procuring the essential commodities was occasioned by the rollout of the newly adopted Electronic Government Procurement System (EGP), adding that procurement officers were being trained to use the new system.

"The beneficiary public health facilities in Samburu north, Samburu east and Samburu central sub-counties will receive the medical supplies in the course of this week and next week," he said.

Lenguris further disclosed that the consignment consisted of drugs, non-pharmaceuticals, lab reagents and Personal Protective Equipment to ensure quality healthcare to Samburu residents.

The Chief Officer was flanked by the Director of Medical Services Dr. Ezra Lekenit and the medical Superintendent, Dr. Patti Lengees.

Government opens four offices to boost services in Samburu



Offices of the Samburu County Commissioner */ Photos KNA*

By Robert Githu- KNA

The national government has set up four new offices in Maralal town, Samburu County, in a move aimed at boosting service delivery in the vast region.

The newly established Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) include the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services (DOHS), the Ministry of Mining, and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC).

Previously, these MDAs operated from regional offices in Nanyuki, Laikipia County, or Nakuru City. Their relocation to Maralal is expected to bring services closer to residents, cutting costs and saving time for locals who often had to travel hundreds of kilometers to access government services.

Welcoming the officers to Samburu, County Commissioner (CC) John Cheruiyot noted that the county headquarters had long lacked representation of crucial government agencies, a situation that hindered effective service delivery.

"Most MDAs have been serving Samburu through their regional offices located far away, but we can now see this trend coming to an end with the establishment of these four offices," said Cheruiyot.

The CC further revealed that plans are underway to establish a land registry office in Maralal town, which will save residents the inconvenience of seeking land services from Ol Kalou in Nyandarua County. He urged for policy reforms to ensure more regional offices are domiciled in Maralal for effective outreach.

On security matters, Cheruiyot assured the newly posted officers and residents of their safety, saying that security patrols have been reinforced along major roads, including the Maralal–Baragoi road, Archer's Post–Merille highway, and the Malaso belt that borders Baringo County.

"The government has increased armed National Police Reservists to over 700, and our security organs have fully dominated all known insecurity hotspots. Government employees and residents can now go about their business without fear of attacks," he said.

Over 2000 residents of Samburu North to access clean water

By Robert Githu- KNA



Women fetch clean tap water in Samburu North */ Photos KNA*

Over 2,000 residents of Naimaralal village in Samburu North sub-county will now have access to clean water after the national government, through the Ewaso Nyiro Northern Basin Development Authority (ENNDA), sunk a Sh14 million borehole.

Speaking during the commissioning of the borehole, ENNDA Director for Infrastructure and Natural Resource Development, Josiah Mulwa, said that over 10,000 livestock and countless wild animals will also benefit from the water project.

He added that the borehole, which has been equipped with a solar pump, will supply water to residents at the rate of 7,200 litres per hour in the water-scarce region.

"This is a water-scarce area, and we drilled 330 metres near Naimaralal Primary School and failed to find water. We changed location and found water at a depth of 251 metres fit for both human and livestock consumption, and we are pleased that the borehole produces 7,200 litres of water per hour," he said.

Mulwa further added that the project is designed to provide sustainable relief and long-term benefits to children who will have more time for school instead of trekking long distances in search of water.

He noted that beyond Naimaralal, ENNDA has invested significantly in water infrastructure across Samburu East and Samburu West sub-counties in the form of dams and water pans that have provided an additional 2 million cubic metres of additional water storage in the county.

Samburu North MP, Eli Letipila, lauded the national government's efforts of providing water to area residents through the Regional Development Authorities (RDAs), adding that water is a lifeline to the Arid and Semi-Arid counties of Kenya.

"I urge the government to strengthen the RDAs through increased funding because we see tangible development in the remote areas through them, and this makes them a critical part of governmental agencies," he noted.

Blessing Lelemusi, a resident of Naimaralal, said that women used to walk for 45 kilometres to fetch 10 litres of water, which they would use for two days.

"We had to endure harsh terrain, long hours and dangerous wildlife encounters in search of water; we would leave home at 6am and return at 6pm with only 10 litres of water. 'We are very happy that water is now at our doorstep,' she said.

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JANUARY 2026 INTAKE



CBET APPROVED COURSES

S/NO	COURSE	LEVEL
	HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM	
a.	Food and Beverage Production (Cookery)	3
b.	Food and Beverage Production (Cookery)	4
c.	Food and Beverage Operations	5
d.	Food and Beverage Management	6
e.	Tour and Travel Operations	5
f.	Tour and Travel Management	6
g.	Tour Guiding	5
h.	House Keeping	4
i.	House Keeping	4
	LIBERAL STUDIES	
a.	Social Work	5
b.	Social Work	6
	FASHION DESIGN AND COSMETOLOGY	
a.	Fashion Design (Dressmaking)	3
b.	Fashion Design	4
c.	Fashion Design	5
d.	Fashion Design Management	6
e.	Cosmetology	3
f.	Cosmetology	4
g.	Cosmetology	5







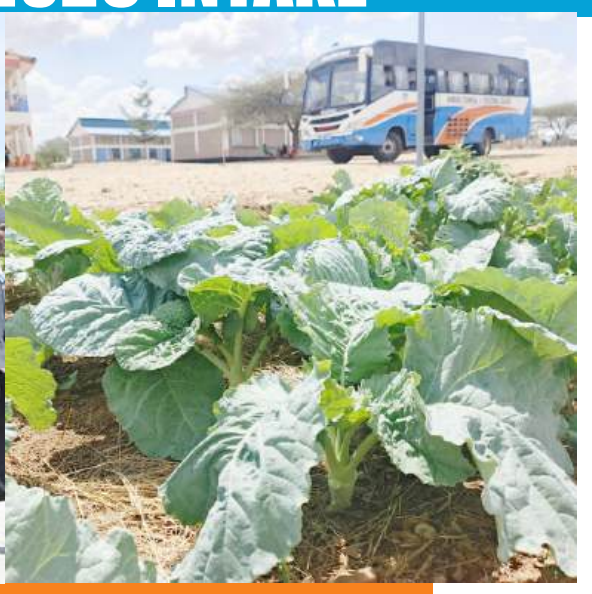
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JANUARY 2026 INTAKE







CBET APPROVED COURSES

	MECHANICAL AND AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING	
a.	Welding	3
b.	Welding	4
c.	Motorcycle Mechanics	3
d.	Motor Vehicle Mechanics	3
e.	Automotive Technician	4
f.	Automotive Technology	5
g.	Automotive Technology	6
h.	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	4
i.	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	5
	ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING	
a.	Solar PV Installation	3
b.	Electrical Installation Technology	3
c.	Electrical Installation Technology	4
d.	Electrical Engineering	5
e.	Electrical Engineering	6
	BUSINESS STUDIES AND COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS	
a.	Information Communication Technology	4
b.	Information Communication Technology	5
c.	Information Communication Technology	6
d.	Office Assistance	4
e.	Computer Applications	3
f.	Office Administration	5
g.	Office Administration	6
h.	Front Office Operations	3
	BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING	
a.	Plumbing	3
b.	Plumbing	4
c.	Plumbing	5
d.	Masonry	3
e.	Masonry	4
f.	Building Technology	5
g.	Building Technology	6
h.	Civil Engineering	6











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The EASTERN NEWSPAPER

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Two in court over drugs peddling in Marsabit County

By Sebastian Miriti- KNA

Two male youths separately found in possession of bang have been arraigned in a Marsabit court.

One of the accused, Hussein Abdullahi, a shopkeeper in Marsabit town, denied a charge of being found in possession of 100 rolls of bhang with a street value of Sh25,000.

Abdullahi, aged 31 years, appeared before Principal Magistrate Christine Nyongesa and was released on a Sh20,000 bond with a surety of a similar amount or an alternative cash bail of Sh10,000.

The accused is alleged to have committed the offence on September 9, 2025 in Marsabit town's Old town area.

In the same court, Hussein Osman was also charged with being in possession of 19 rolls of bhang, a felony he reportedly committed within Marsabit town's Old Town area on September 9, this year.

The 28-year-old boda boda operator in Marsabit town also pleaded not guilty to the charge and was released on a bond of Sh10,000 with a surety of a similar amount. The court granted the accused an alternate cash bail of Sh10,000.

Grief grip Karare as explosive kills man and his son in Saku

By Sebastian Miriti - KNA

Grief has gripped Karare trading centre in Saku constituency, Marsabit county after a man and his son were killed by an unexploded ordnance Wednesday afternoon.

The county Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) David Saruni reported that a man took home an object resembling a hand grenade, intending to show it to his son.

Saruni reported that unfortunately a man collected a treasure in a grazing field, which exploded when he showed it to his son.

The device which is currently under examination, exploded in the deceased's hand, killing both on the spot in the semi-permanent family house.

Luckily no other member of the family was affected as the wife and their other three children were reportedly away at the time of the incident.

The DCC said the incident occurred at around 4 pm with preliminary investigations indicating that the man had intentions of finding out if the 'strange' object was valuable.

Residents said that a loud sound of a blast was heard in the direction of the deceased's home and when people rushed there, they found the two lying on the ground lifeless.

Saruni cautioned members of the public against collecting strange devices or trying to dismantle them as they could turn out to be explosives and dangerous.

He also asked chiefs to enlighten locals that handling such objects was risky, but instead always report such findings to the relevant authorities.

A team of bomb experts from the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) was called in to help in handling the matter.

The incident comes barely months after a cache of unexploded explosives that turned out to be bombs was discovered buried in the ground by speculative artisanal miners in the gold-rich Dabel area in Moyale sub-County.

Government steps up fight against drug abuse in Marsabit County



Marsabit County Commissioner, James Kamau during a five-day sensitization campaign against drug and substance abuse in the county */ Photos KNA*

By Sebastian Miriti- KNA

The government has heightened the war against drug and substance abuse in Marsabit County.

County Commissioner James Kamau, said stringent measures to stop infiltration and sale of the illegal merchandise have been set up and warned those still determined to indulge in the practice of dire consequences.

Speaking at his office when he flagged off an anti-drug and substance abuse awareness campaign caravan organized by the National Authority for the Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA), Mr Kamau called for the support from the residents so as to end the vice.

The county commissioner who was accompanied by the county security team said security agencies were now proactive which has enabled them to beat peddlers in their attempts to shift and devise new methods in trafficking drugs and second-generation alcoholic drinks.

He called on the youths not to indulge in the outlawed practices and those out of school to seek financial grants from government established entities like Uwezo, Hustler fund and Youth enterprise fund to start income generating activities that would enable them to transform their lives.

The administrator said the five-day sensitization campaign will cover Marsabit Central, Turbi, Sololo and Moyale sub-counties aimed at equipping the communities with knowledge and resources to discontinue addiction.

Mr Kamau noted that the fight was experiencing a big challenge because Marsabit County borders Ethiopia which produces bhang with drug dealers finding it easy to sneak it into the country.

The county commissioner however assured the residents and the country that Marsabit County, its porous border with the neighbouring country notwithstanding, will not deter security agencies and stakeholders from winning the war against drugs and other substances.

"We are also urging every person who takes alcohol to drink responsibly and take only certified drinks," he advised.

NACADA Marsabit county coordinator Mohamed Wako said the agency was concerned about the growing drug and substance abuse particularly of bhang and miraa among the youth.

Mr Wako added that NACADA was teaming up with national government administrative organs to wage the war against the vice by creating awareness and stopping peddlers in their tracks.

He expressed concern that there were signs of the influence creeping into schools where youngsters in both secondary and primary schools were targets.

To this end, the coordinator disclosed that NACADA was planning an elaborate program for learning institutions in the region to educate the schooling communities on the dangers of indulging in drug and substance abuse.

Stakeholders endorse new KWS park entry charges

By Sebastian Miriti- KNA



Stakeholders during a public participation exercise at the Ahmed Gate Museum Hall in Marsabit National Park */ Photos KNA*

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) conducted a public participation exercise at the Ahmed Gate Museum Hall in Marsabit National Park to collect views from stakeholders on the proposed new rates for park entry and conservation fees in the Northern Conservation Area (NCA).

Participants endorsed the revised conservation fees for entry into national parks, reserves, marine parks, and sanctuaries supported by the Wildlife Conservation and Management (Access and Conservation Fees) Regulations, 2025 draft, which were published in the Kenya Gazette on July 9 this year.

Speaking on behalf of the KWS Director General Prof. Erastus Kanga, the service Senior Assistant Director in charge of the Northern Conservation Area, Mr Mungumi Bakari, pointed out that the consultation forums underscored the government's commitment to inclusive decision making for sustainability purposes.

Mr. Bakari said that the service was keen to hear from stakeholders, who include communities living near wildlife areas, tour operators, conservationists, and members of the public, during the national exercise scheduled to also run through other counties across the country until August 8, 2025.

"As we deliberate on this matter here in Marsabit, similar events are being held in other parts of the country, including Homabay and Hola and will include 17 other in-person forums across as many counties through to 8th August 2025," he said.

The forum, whose participants were drawn from Marsabit, Wajir and Mandera counties, was informed that KWS was grappling with a Sh12 billion annual funding gap occasioned by inflationary pressures and rising operational demands, hence hindering the service's ability to fulfil its conservation mandate.

Owing to the low charges, KWS managed to generate Sh7.92 billion against a projection of Sh19.79 billion in the 2024/2025 financial year, which limits its capacity to protect wildlife, restore degraded ecosystems, and respond to challenges such as human-wildlife conflict and poaching.

It was against this background, as well as numerous highlights on the importance of wildlife and tourism to the country's economy, that participants unanimously approved the effort to review the fees.

PS Harsama flags off camel distribution to boost livelihoods



ASALs and Regional Development PS Kello Harsama launches the distribution of 100 camels to pastoral households in Samburu/ *Photos KNA*

By Charles Matacho- KNA

The Government has reinforced its commitment to building resilience and sustainable livelihoods in Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASALS) counties with the official flag-off of a major camel restocking programme in Marsabit County.

In a colourful ceremony held in Butiye ward, Moyale Sub-County, Principal Secretary for the State Department for the ASALs and Regional Development, Kello Harsama, launched the distribution of 100 camels to pastoral households. The event marked the start of a countywide exercise that will see 400 camels distributed, 100 each to the Moyale, Saku, Laisamis, and North Horr constituencies.

Coordinated by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the programme targets households hardest hit by the devastating 2021–2023 drought, which wiped out large herds and left many families without a source of income and food. Beneficiaries were identified through a rigorous vetting process involving National Government Administration Officers (NGAO), NDMA officials, and village elders, ensuring that the most vulnerable families are reached.

Speaking during the flag-off, PS Harsama emphasised that the camel restocking programme is a practical and sustainable approach to rebuilding livelihoods in ASAL areas.

"In total, 400 families across Marsabit will each receive a camel. This is not just an aid initiative; it is an investment in resilience. Camels are drought-tolerant, provide milk, generate income, and serve as reliable transport in harsh terrain," he said.

The initiative aligns with President William Ruto's vision of a food-secure, self-reliant, and climate-resilient Kenya. Under his administration, targeted interventions have been prioritised to help communities adapt to the realities of climate change, especially in drought-prone regions. The President has consistently underscored that empowering communities with the means to sustainably produce food and generate income is central to achieving long-term economic stability.

Similar livestock restocking efforts have been rolled out in Turkana, Samburu, Isiolo, Garissa, and Wajir, where NDMA has complemented camel and goat distribution with training in herd management, animal health, and feed support to improve survival rates.

Local leaders, including Moyale MP Prof. Guyo Waqo Jaldesa and Butiye Ward MCA, welcomed the Marsabit initiative as a timely intervention that will not only provide immediate relief but also serve as a foundation for long-term economic recovery. Beneficiaries in Butiye expressed optimism that the camels would help them rebuild their livelihoods, restore their herds, and secure a better future for their families.

The Kenya Kwanza Government's broader strategy for ASALs anchored in resilience, adaptation, and sustainability is steadily transforming drought-hit regions into zones of opportunity. Through initiatives like this, the administration is not only responding to emergencies but also equipping communities to thrive despite the challenges of a changing climate.

Government to salvage Elmolo Bay Primary School

By Sebastian Miriti- KNA

The government has stepped in to salvage Elmolo Bay Primary School in Loiyangalani sub county, Marsabit County which is staring at submersion due to rising water levels in the Lake Turkana.

Speaking at the school during a government outreach event under the Huduma Smart – Serikalini initiative, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes Geoffrey Ruku assured the community of immediate action to relocate the school to safer ground.

CS Ruku said relocation plan will be executed by the state department for special programmes in partnership with local leaders and civil society organizations in order to give the community a befiting learning institution for their children.

Owing to climate change which has seen the swelling waters of the lake submerge some of the building and families displaced since 2018, the student population has fallen from 400 to 150 at Elmolo Bay Primary School.

The CS noted that many of the remaining students have to cross the lake using a boat locally dubbed the "school bus "adding that it was the Kenya Kwanza administration goal to ensure children in remote areas were not left behind in terms of education and other development.

"Relocating this school is not just about safety, it's about securing the future of this community," said the CS.

CS Ruku also reiterated the government's commitment to fighting corruption saying President William Ruto's administration is aligned to a zero-tolerance policy on graft.

He underlined that integrity should be the foundation on which Kenyans were served as corruption undermined development and effective service delivery.

"Corruption undermines service delivery, robs citizens of opportunities, and erodes trust in public institutions," he said.

The CS urged Kenyans to reject bribery and report all instances of graft and stressed that accountability rested with every citizen.

The Huduma Smart – Serikalini initiative, being implemented under Executive Order No. 1 of 2025, is tailored to address challenges facing marginalised and vulnerable communities particularly in arid and semi-arid regions like Marsabit.

It focuses beyond emergency responses by delivering on food security, climate resilience, education, health, and social protection.

CS Ruku said his Ministry was championing long-term programmes that are people centred to promote economic empowerment and human capital development.

The cabinet secretary further appealed on Marsabit residents to safeguard the restored peace by living in unity and urged local leaders to work together for the benefit of their communities.

Three killed, as herders clash over water in Marsabit

By Sebastian Miriti- KNA

An intense security operation is underway in the Kurkum area in Loiyangalani sub-county, Marsabit county, with police in hot pursuit of suspected armed criminals, accused of causing the death of three people on Saturday, at a water point using illegal firearms.

Marsabit County commissioner James Kamau said the incident, which occurred at Gathabi Ergek after two groups of herders differed over the method of accessing water for their livestock, also left another herder with gunshot injuries.

Kamau warned that possession of illegal guns was a serious crime, adding that a multi-agency team of security personnel dispatched to the area was pursuing those behind the skirmish.

The county commissioner reiterated that it's only the government that had the sole prerogative of providing security for all Kenyans and their property, adding that security personnel were on firm instructions to apprehend the culprits and recover the illegal guns used in the reported crime.

"We are not going to relent until the suspects are arrested and the illicit firearms in their possession are retrieved," he stated.

Kamau, who is also the chairman of the county security and intelligence committee, urged local herders to love one another by amicably sharing the available grazing resources.

Government orders surrender of illegal firearms in Loiyangalani

By Sebastian Miriti-KNA

The government has ordered residents of Loiyangalani sub county in Marsabit county in possession of illegal firearms to surrender them within two weeks.

Marsabit County Commissioner (CC) James Kamau also called on the residents to rally behind the government by supporting its development programmes for accelerated growth.

Kamau who was speaking at Sarima village after a series of joint security cum peace meetings for Loiyangalani and neighbouring Samburu North cautioned that a forceful retrieval of illegal guns will be conducted if the deadline is not honoured.

The CC who was accompanied by DCCs Wanne Kamau (Samburu North), Stanley Kimanga, the county security team, and peace committee elders cautioned that those unlawfully possessing guns were a threat to security and an impediment to development.

He pointed out that the government has restored peace in the region and put up measures including recruitment of 131 police reservists and no one will be allowed to own unlicensed firearms.

The CC added that a review for additional national police reservists was underway while administration police officers will be posted to all chiefs' offices in order to bolster security.

Mr Kamau said that a security operation to mop up illegal guns in Moite, Ortulot, Sarima, Larachi and Gas areas where reports indicate individuals were holding over 250 illegal assault rifles will be carried out unless the call to surrender them is heeded.

"The government cannot toy with the idea of wrong hands possessing guns because they are a threat to state security and that of citizens," he said adding that those desiring to own firearms should apply for issuance as per the laid-down procedures. The residents said they were in support of the government effort to sustain the restored peace pointing out that the availability of illegal firearms was to blame for the few incidents of livestock raids being witnessed in the sub-county

Ms Nang'ila Ekomwa, the women chairperson of the local peace committee said that the community values peace and that the women fraternity was engaged in peace-building programmes.

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AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT STUDIES
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Agricultural Farm attendant Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Agriculture And Extension Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & Above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Agriculture And Extension Practitioner Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Agripreneur Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Agripreneur Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Agripreneur Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Agri-preneur Level 6 KCSEC- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Animal Production Technician Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Animal Production Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Animal Production Technologist Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Apiary Attendant Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Aquaculture Operator Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Aquaculture Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Aquaculture Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Bee Hives And Bee Equipment Construction Artisan Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Bee Products Processor Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Climate Adaptive Agriculture Level 4 KCSE Certificate	CBET	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Climate Adaptive Agriculture Level 4 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	CBET	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Dairy Farm Operator Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Dairy Farm Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Environmental Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Environmental Technologist Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Farm Machinery And Equipment Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Fire And Rescue Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Horticulture Farm Operator Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Horticulture Farm Attendant Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Horticultural Farm Technician Level 5 Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Horticultural Farm Technologist Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Irrigation and Drainage Engineering Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Livestock Feed Producer Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Passion Fruit Producer and Processor Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Pig Production Operator Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Pig Production Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Poultry (Broiler Production) Operator Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Poultry (Broiler Production) Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Poultry (Kienyeji Production) Operator Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Poultry (Kienyeji Chicken) Production Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Poultry Layer Production) Operator Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Poultry Layer Production) Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Poultry Hatchery Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	CDACC
Sheep Shearer Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP

Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER



BUSINESS STUDIES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Accountancy Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Accountant Technician Diploma KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	KASNEB
Assistant Procurement Officer Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Procurement Officer Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Assistant Project Manager Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Project Manager Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Banking And Finance Officer Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Business Manager Assistant Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Business Manager Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Cooperative Clerk Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Cooperative Clerk Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Credit Officer Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Credit Officer Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Home-Based Care Assistant Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Care Giver Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Home-Based Care Giver Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Human Resource Clerk Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Human Resource Officer Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Marketing Assistant Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Marketing Manager Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Assistant Child Protection Officer Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Child Protection Officer Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Counsellor Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Counsellor Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Office Assistant Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Office Administrative Assistant Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Office Administrator Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Store Keeper Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Social Worker Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Social Worker Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Certified Public Accountant (CPA): Foundation, intermediate and Advanced Levels	KASNEB		MNP
Conflict Resolution and Mediation	CBET	3 MONTHS	MNP

Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER



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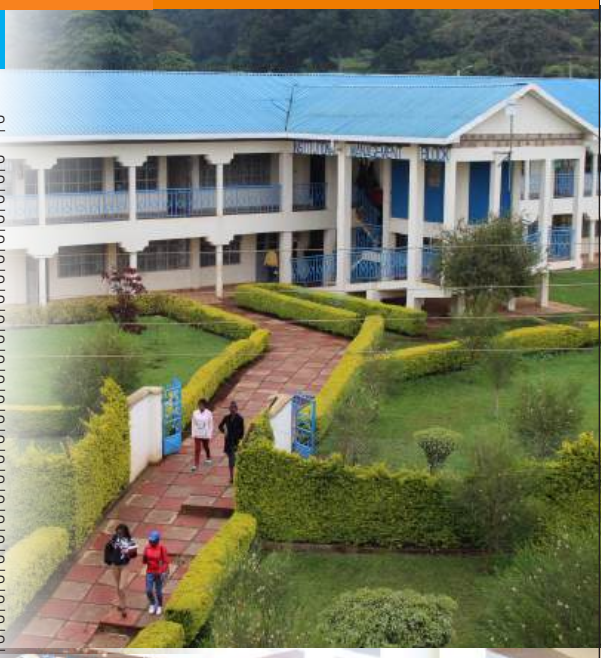
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JANUARY 2026 INTAKE ONGOING

MECHANICAL & AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Agricultural Engineering Technology Level 5 KCSE D or Level 5 Certificate in a related course with one year continuous work experience or Equivalent Qualification as determined by Kenya National Qualification Authority (KNQA)	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Agricultural Engineering Technology Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- or Level 5 Certificate in a related course with one year continuous work experience or Equivalent Qualification as determined by Kenya National Qualification Authority (KNQA)	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Auto Body Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Auto Body Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Automotive Engineering Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Automotive Engineering Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
CNC Lathe Operator (Production) Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
CNC Milling Operator (Production) Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Mechanical Plant Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Mechanical Engineering Plant Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Mechanical Piping Fabricator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Mechanical Production Machine Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Mechanical Production Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Mechanical Production Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Motor Vehicle Electrician Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Motor Vehicle Electrician Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Motor Vehicle Mechanic Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Motor Vehicle Mechanic Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Motorcycle Mechanic Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Motorcycle Mechanic Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Panel Beater Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Spray Painter Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Welder Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Welder Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Welding Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Welding Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP

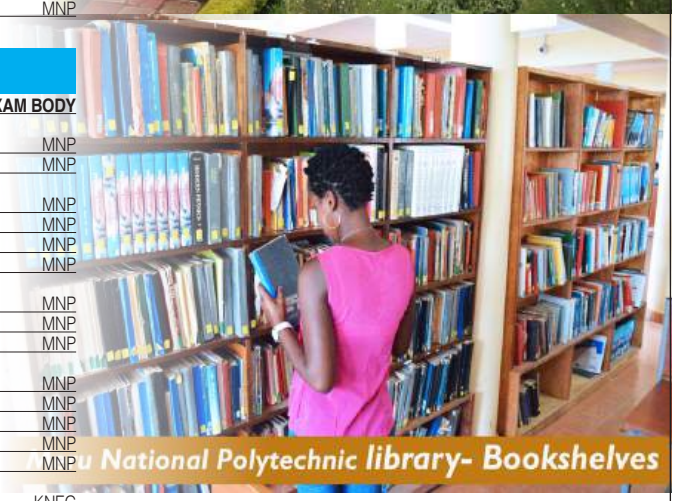
Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER



ODEL PROGRAMS – VIRTUAL CAMPUS
MODE OF DELIVERY – BLENDED APPROACH (Online & Physical)

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT			
Higher National Diploma in Structural Engineering Pass in Diploma Level	KNEC	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Building Technician Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	8 TRIMESTERS	MNP
BUSINESS STUDIES & ENTERPRENEURSHIP DEPARTMENT			
Social Worker Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Social Worker Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Human Resource Officer Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Project Manager Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
COMPUTING & INFORMATICS DEPARTMENT			
Computer Science Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
ICT Technician Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Information Manager Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
HOSPITALITY INSTITUTION MANAGEMENT & COSMETOLOGY			
Health Records Technology Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Catering And Accommodation Management Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Tour Guide Level 5 KCSE D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Community Health Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Community Health Level 5 KCSE D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT			
Higher National Diploma in Electrical and Electrical Engineering Pass in Diploma Level	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	KNEC
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT			
Agriculture and Extension Practitioner Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Agriculture and Extension Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
APPLIED SCIENCES DEPARTMENT			
Science Laboratory Technician Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
SHORT COURSES			
Videography	MODULARIZED	3 MONTHS	
Photography	MODULARIZED	3 MONTHS	
Workplace Ethics	MODULARIZED	1 MONTH	

Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER



HOSPITALITY, INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT, COSMETOLOGY AND FASHION & DESIGN
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Accommodation Operations Level KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Catering And Accommodation Operations Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Catering And Accommodation Management Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Baking Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Baking Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Barista Skills Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Bartending Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Community Health Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Community Health Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Cosmetology Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Cosmetology Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Cosmetologist Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Cosmetologist Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Fashion Designer Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Fashion Designer Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Fashion Designer Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Fashion Designer Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Food Production Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Food Production Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Food And Beverage Service Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Food And Beverage Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Food And Beverage Operations (Production and Service) Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Food And Beverage Operations (Service and Production) Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Food And Beverage Management (Production and Service) Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Food And Beverage Management (Service and Production) Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Health Records Technology Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Health Records Technology Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Mixologist Level 3 KCSE Certificate		1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Nutrition And Dietetics Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above, D+ in English or Kiswahili and Biology/Biological Science, D in Chemistry/Physical Science, D in any of the following: Home Science, Agriculture, Mathematics, Physics, General Science.	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Nutrition And Dietetics Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above, D+ in English or Kiswahili and Biology/Biological Science, D in Chemistry/Physical Science, D in any of the following: Home Science, Agriculture, Mathematics, Physics, General Science.	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Tour And Travel Operations Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Tour And Travel Management Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Wildlife Tour Guide Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Tour Guide Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	3 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Foreign Languages (German and French) Level A1, A2, B1 and B2	MODULARIZED	1 YEAR	MNP

Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER

HOW TO APPLY

1. Visit apply.**mnp.ac.ke** and create an account to apply for a course of your choice.
2. You may also email **registrar@mnp.ac.ke**
3. You may also visit our admission offices
4. Wait for official communication from the polytechnic

Note:

Our intakes are in January, May and September. Kindly apply atleast 15 days before the start of the semester/term.

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APPLIED SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Analytical Chemistry Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Applied Biologist Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Applied Statistician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Dairy Processing Attendant Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Dairy Plant Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Dairy Plant Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Water & Sanitation Technology Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Food Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Industrial Chemistry Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Meat Products Processing Attendant Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Science Laboratory Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Science Laboratory Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP

Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER

ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Level 5 KCSE D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	CBET	4 TRIMESTERS	CDACC
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	CBET	6 TRIMESTERS	CDACC
Electronics Artisan Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Electronics Artisan Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Electrical Wireman Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Electrical Worker Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Electrical Installer Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Electrical Installer Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	8 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Industrial Automation And Robotics Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Industrial Automation And Robotics Craftsperson Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Industrial Automation And Robotics Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	8 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Industrial Mechatronics Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Instrumental And Control Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Instrumental And Control Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Instrumental And Control Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Solar PV Systems Installer Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Solar PV Systems Installer Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Solar PV Systems Installer Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Telecommunication Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Telecommunication Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP

Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER

COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS DEPARTMENT
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Information And Communication Technology Operator Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
ICT Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
ICT Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Information Assistant Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Information Manager Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Network System Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Network System Administrator Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Software Developer Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Software Developer Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Data Communication & Computer Networks Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	CBET	4 TRIMESTERS	CDACC
Computer Science Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	CBET	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Computer Repair Maintenance Level 3 KCSE Certificate	CBET	3 MONTHS	MNP
Computer Repair Maintenance Technician Level 4 KCSE Certificate	CBET	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Digital Journalism Level 6 KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	CBET	6 TRIMESTERS	CDACC
Web Design KCSE Certificate	CBET	3 MONTHS	MNP
Computer Application KCSE Certificate	CBET	3 MONTHS	MNP
International Computer Driving License KCSE Certificate	CBET	3 MONTHS	ICDL
Huawei routing and Switching KCSE Certificate	CBET	3 MONTHS	HUAWEI
Artificial Intelligence (HCIA-AI) KCSE Mean Grade C- (Minus) & above OR Certificate in IT related course OR knowledge in Python Programming Language.	CBET	3 MONTHS	HUAWEI
Computer Aided Design (CAD) KCSE Certificate	CBET	3 MONTHS	MNP
Videography Level 4 KCSE Certificate	CBET	3 MONTHS	MNP

Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER

BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

PROGRAM	STUDY MODE	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Architect Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Building Technician Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Building Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	8 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Carpenter And Joinery Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Carpenter And Joinery Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Carpenter And Joinery Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Cartography And GIS Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Civil Engineering Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	8 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Gypsum Installer Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Highway Engineering Technician Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	8 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Land Surveyor Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	4 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Land Surveyor Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	6 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Mason Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Masonry Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Painter And Decorator Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Plumber Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Plumber Level 4 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	2 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Plumber Level 5 KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Road Constructor Level 5 KCSE D (Plain) & above OR Pass in Level 4	MODULARIZED	5 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Steel Fixer Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Tile Fixer Level 3 KCSE Certificate	MODULARIZED	1 TRIMESTER	MNP
Quantity Survey Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP
Water Technology Level 6 KCSE C- (Minus) & above OR Pass in Level 5	MODULARIZED	7 TRIMESTERS	MNP

Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER





Note:

Our intakes are in January, May and September. Kindly apply atleast 15 days before the start of the semester/term.

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4. Wait for official communication from the polytechnic



The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
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Be in the Know

Editorial

Wage bill crisis is slowly killing the county governments

Since devolution took shape more than 13 years ago, the majority of the people have felt disappointed by the way the county governments are running especially on the matters of human resource and generally the employment opportunities.

The governors carry with themselves powers to influence terms of engagement with a key guide on loyalty and political factors.

Kenyans who passed the Kenya constitution 2010, had hoped that the document would address perennial problems that the county was facing under the old colonial role that centralized things at the capital city.

One of the key arguments was that the new administrative units would create job opportunities to the staff who will be working with the county government

The law allows the devolved administrative units to only use a maximum of 35% of the resources in salaries and remunerations

The salaries and the remuneration commission have been on the county government issue over what they call unprocedural and illegal hiring of county government officers.

The voice of SRC is not loud enough, or the commission lacks the powers to regulate employment in this country. The politicians seem to carry the day in every situation whether in job opportunities or management of public resources.

The Public Finance Management Act, 2012, and the attendant PFM Regulations, 2015, sets the threshold of not more than 35 per cent of the compensation to employees to government revenue. With respect to the Personnel Emoluments expenditure of county governments for the third quarter, analysis indicates that PE as a share of the total expenditure in the majority of counties has remained above the PFM threshold. This continues to crowd out the available resources for undertaking development projects at the national and county level.

The analysis of the Controller of the Budget report shows that during the third quarter, the total county governments expenditure is projected to increase from Ksh 90.40 billion in the second quarter, to Ksh 126.02 billion in the third quarter.

The SRC further reveals that Kenya as a country is on the wrong path, that can neither develop a country nor uplift the living standards of the people who live within the country.

A review of the Economic Survey 2023 reveals that Kenya's total workforce stands at 12 million. Out of this, two million constitute the formal sector, which includes government civil service, parastatals, and the private sector employees.

The survey shows that wage employment in the public service registered a 1.6 per cent growth in 2022, compared to an increase of 4.4 per cent recorded in 2021. TSC, as the largest employer in the public service, registered a reduction of 0.3 per cent in employment in 2022. County governments registered a growth of 4.4 per cent in the review period to 217,300 employees.



Further, employment in corporations controlled by the government and parastatal bodies grew by 1.1 per cent each in 2022, while employment in ministries and other extra-budgetary institutions registered an increase of 2.4 per cent. This was, however, a decelerated growth compared to 7.1 per cent recorded in 2021.

In the developed world the private sector plays a bigger role in creating job opportunities through investments in various levels of the value chain with the support of the government. The government is expected to provide a conducive environment for investors, a situation that translates to more job opportunities that build the economy at the very end. If the opposite happens, the government is converted to an employment bureau, a situation that creates crisis and stress to the citizens and other stakeholders. Time has come for the situation to reverse if at all Kenya is expected to stand on her feet and join the list of good countries that show prospects of growth.

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PS Mariru urges youth to apply for NYOTA

By Muturi Mwangi- KNA

Youth have been urged to take advantage of the Sh5 billion National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme, which aims to uplift their lives through job creation and entrepreneurship support.

The Principal Secretary for Defence, Patrick Mariru, who presided over the official launch of the Nyota project in Nanyuki, Laikipia County on Monday, said the government is committed to improving the livelihoods of young people across the country.

Mariru explained that the programme, jointly implemented by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank, will provide youth with grants of Sh50,000 each to start small businesses and become self-reliant.

"This is a well-thought-out plan by the government in partnership with the World Bank. It specifically targets youth to empower them to start income-generating ventures. Each successful applicant will receive Sh50,000," said the PS.

He further noted that the application window will run for six days and urged eligible youth to dial *254# and follow the prompts to apply.

The PS added that the initiative offers three key pathways: recognition of prior learning, on-the-job experience, and entrepreneurship support.

"In Laikipia County alone, about 1,050 youth will benefit from this fund to start businesses. It's a transformative programme targeting unemployed youth with secondary education or below," he stated.

Mariru emphasized that the programme is part of the government's broader agenda to tackle youth unemployment by equipping young people with practical skills and financial support to create sustainable livelihoods.



Principal Secretary for Defence Patrick Mariru speaks in Nanyuki, Laikipia County, during the launch of the NYOTA programme. / *Photo Miski Mohammed/KNA*

Governor Irungu puts his executives on performance contracts to improve services



From left: Laikipia governor Joshua Irungu and County Executive Committee Member for Health Dr. Albert Taiti holding a copy of the performance contract after signing it at the governors' office / *Photo Miski Mohammed/KNA*

By Muturi Mwangi- KNA

Laikipia county executives have been put on performance contracting as a strategy to boost service delivery for residents for the two-year remaining period.

Area governor Joshua Irungu, speaking in Nanyuki after performance contract signing by the executive said that he was keen on delivering promises made to the residents in various sectors of agriculture, health and infrastructure for the remaining two year-period by partnering with the County Assembly for oversight role.

He tasked MCAs with overseeing county development projects in their respective wards to ensure all pledges were met warning that if they fail, they all will be sent packing at the next General Election.

'There are pledges we told residents on issues of agriculture, education, employment creation for our youth and it's been three years since we assumed office, although there are some areas we have delivered therefore, it's good to set clear targets on what remains need to be achieved'

The county boss, who is serving his second term in office, said that performance contract sighing by his County Executive Committees Members (CECMs) and Chief Officers (CO) will also ensure they work on clear targets for the remaining term in office.

"There are pledges we told residents on issues of agriculture, education, employment creation for our youth and it's been three years since we assumed office, although there are some areas we have delivered therefore, it's good to set clear targets on what remains need to be achieved," said Irungu.

Elephants invade farms in Gathingi, leaving farmers counting millions in losses



Some banana plants destroyed by Jumbos in one of the farms in Gathingi village in Laikipia central / *Photo Muturi Mwangi/KNA*

By Muturi Mwangi-KNA

More than 200 farmers in Gathingi village, Laikipia central are counting millions in losses following the invasion of elephants into their farms. The farmers said that elephants invading their farms have been rampant in the area and they had completely destroyed their crops.

They noted that jumbos have been frequenting their farms on weekly bases a situation that has led them to fear for their lives especially for school pupils.

Grace Gathoni, one of the farmers lamented that Jumbos camped on her six acre of farm destroying variety of crops including onions and cabbages which left her counting losses.

''These elephants have wreaked havoc in our farms for two years and they have destroyed all our crops. We have sought help in vain, we have even filled compensation forms but we are yet to get compensated," decried Gathoni.

Maina Mahuru, also a farmer in the area said that Jumbos destroyed his lucerne grass among other crops on Tuesday valued huge sum of money and he was yet to come terms with the incurred losses.

"They invade our farms twice a week and when we call KWS for help, there is no response. We have incurred huge losses as result, they have frequented our farms for almost two years, now we are left helpless," said Mahuru. They are threatening to take matter into their own hands if Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) doesn't tame human-wildlife conflict in the area.

At the same time, the farmers urged for speedy compensation of their claims of human-wildlife conflicts which they noted after they submitted in the previous years, it took long and they were yet to receive anything.

Laikipia deputy governor Rueben Kamuri called for immediate action noting that most areas of the county were affected by wild animal's invasion and residents would be return to poverty due to continued wildlife invasions into farms.

"We are sad over wild animals invading people's farms, enough is enough and compensation should be done expeditiously and urgent attention in addressing human-wildlife conflicts," said Kamuri, adding that all wild animals to be contained.

Laikipia KWS Senior Warden Wellton Gathungu confirmed the incident by noting that jumbos' invasion in the area was caused by spill over following the destruction of ADC Mutara fence on May this year.



Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen at the funeral service of Mzee Weston Kirocho, the father of Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja in Laikipia County */ Photos KNA*

Interior CS urges politicians to tone down political rhetoric

By Martin Munyi- KNA

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has urged leaders to tone down their rhetoric and be more tolerant of each other's opinions.

Speaking in Laikipia County at the funeral service of Mzee Weston Kirocho, the father of Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, which was also attended by President William Ruto, CS Murkomen reminded leaders that democracy allows for differing opinions but urged them to promote peace, respect, and unity.

"President William Ruto's administration is fully committed to national cohesion, ensuring that no part of the country is left behind. So, there is no cause for alarm or speaking in a manner that hurts others," the CS stated.

CS Murkomen spoke following utterances attributed to Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga on the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga and the distribution of national resources, sparking widespread outrage.

He described the late Mzee Kirocho as a man of honour and integrity and urged Kenyans to emulate his values of hard work, peace, and unity, the foundation of a stable and cohesive nation.

The CS commended the people of Laikipia County for remaining a model of peaceful coexistence amongst diverse communities despite past security challenges.

"Collaboration between local leaders, national government agencies, and communities has played a vital role in maintaining peace and stability across the region," said Murkomen.

He said the government is committed to community-driven peace initiatives and youth empowerment programmes that steer young people away from crime, banditry, and cattle rustling.

The CS noted that President Ruto's support to the security sector had seen banditry-prone regions such as the Kerio Valley and Laikipia County know peace after a long time.

He said, "Through modernisation of equipment, morale-boosting of officers, and strong leadership, security in banditry-affected areas has improved by nearly 75 per cent."

Murkomen noted that development is the lasting solution to insecurity in marginalised parts of the country.

"In this part of the country, the challenge remains in Mukogodo Forest and parts of Samburu County, where road construction and infrastructure development plans are underway to improve accessibility and enhance security operations," he said.

He went on: "As a government, we are prioritising community partnership and youth inclusion as central pillars of lasting peace and development."

While recognising the significant gains in security, the CS noted that illicit brews and illegal alcohol remain a persistent concern, particularly in Nyeri County, which ranks 17th among the most affected regions.

Murkomen assured the public that relevant government agencies are intensifying operations to dismantle illicit brewing networks, protect public health, and restore social order, especially in communities hardest hit by the vice.

Laikipia County Assembly speaker on EACC radar over academic papers

By Muturi Mwangi- KNA

Laikipia county Assembly Speaker Lantano Nabaala is on Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) radar over academic papers forgery claims.

Recently, the Anti-corruption agency stormed the official residence of the speaker where he was grilled for nearly four hours before proceeding to the county assembly.

A letter from EACC seen by the media and dated March 27 this year and sent to the county assembly requesting for the academic papers of the speaker which they failed to submit, shows that among the documents that were being scrutinised included a degree certificate, Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) , Kenya Certificate of Primary Education that aided him acquire the speaker's role.

EACC Central Region boss Japhet Baithalu speaking to the press on phone said that after storming the speaker's official residence and the county assembly, they acquired crucial documents which will aid in their ongoing investigation.

"We have obtained some crucial documents which we would not have otherwise gotten in our regular investigative mechanism and they are going to inform our next cause of action. These are documents which we didn't have to wrap up the matter," revealed Baithalu.

He added that the speaker's academic certificates were questionable and the anti-corruption agency was verifying them.

"There is an investigation going on about the speaker's certificates, they are questioned, we are trying to verify the authenticity and genuineness of those certificates. That's why we went searching for documents that can assist us wrap up the case," said the EACC central region boss.

Other documents being scrutinised by EACC include, Curriculum vitae presented for the nomination as the speaker, duly filled biodata forms upon assumption of the office of the speaker, copy of national identification card and oath of office upon assumption of speaker's office.



Laikipia county assembly speaker Lantano Nabaala speaking to the media */ Photo Muturi Mwangi/KNA*

Laikipia residents demand transparency in privatization Bill 2025

By Muturi Mwangi KNA

Laikipia County residents have expressed mixed reactions to the Privatisation Bill 2025, sponsored by National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah, which seeks to privatise public entities.

The proposed law, once enacted, will repeal the Privatisation Act of 2005 and align it with provisions of the 2010 Constitution.

During a public participation forum held at the Nanyuki NG-CDF Hall on Thursday, residents raised concerns over corruption, urging government to prioritise accountability to ensure privatized entities benefit Kenyans.

While some participants opposed the bill, arguing that struggling parastatals should undergo reforms instead of being sold, others said privatization could be a game changer if corruption was decisively addressed.

"Whatever decision the government makes, we shall accept. But on privatization, we are opposed. Instead of selling, reforms should be introduced to turn around loss-making parastatals like the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC)," said Paul Gituthu.

Another resident, Josphat Ndirangu, emphasised corruption as the greatest threat to privatisation, warning that Kenyans risk being locked out of ownership.

"We don't oppose privatisation per se, but corruption must be dealt with first. If government entities are sold without our involvement, it will be a problem," he said.

The forum was chaired by two National Assembly committees: Finance and National Planning, and Public Debt and Privatization, led by Kesses MP Julius Rutto.

Rutto explained that the bill seeks to expand avenues for both citizens and legislators to participate in the process of selling government entities.

"The current law was drafted before the 2010 Constitution and is outdated. This bill emphasizes public participation and ensures citizens can buy government shares to grow their wealth base," he said.

He added that the new proposal follows the annulment of the 2023 Privatization Bill by the courts after an ODM petition challenged its constitutionality.



Kesses MP Julius Rutto addressing KNA in Nanyuki on Thursday during public participation on the Privatisation Bill 2025 */ Photo KNA*

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Government to produce enough top-quality certified seed



Kenya Seed Company Chairperson Wangui Ngirici, (right) inside a seedling propagating nursery in Mwea */ Photos KNA*

By Mutai Kipngetich- KNA

Kenya Seed Company has committed to producing sufficient quantities of top-quality certified seeds in an effort to eliminate the use of substandard and uncertified seeds among farmers across the country.

Speaking during the Agitech Grand Expo held in Mitithi, Mwea, Kirinyaga County, Kenya Seed Company Chairperson Wangui Ngirici assured farmers that all necessary measures were being put in place to meet the country's seed demand and curb the circulation of fake seeds.

Ngirici noted that a shortage of certified seeds in the market has created a loophole exploited by unscrupulous traders, who distribute counterfeit seeds to unsuspecting farmers severely affecting food production and security.

"I would like to tell Kenyans that what results into bad seed getting into the market mostly is the opportunity taken by the unscrupulous people who, when the supply is low, make fake seeds and supply to the market," Wangui noted.

She also urged farmers to embrace crop diversification, advising that if certified seed for one crop is unavailable, they could opt for alternatives that were in supply.

"I'm asking the farmers not to go for the cheap because cheap ends up becoming very expensive by causing very low yield or no produce at all," the chairperson said.

To further combat counterfeit seeds, Ngirici announced that the government, through the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), has introduced a verification system with each packet of certified seed now comes with a scratch-off code. Farmers could send this code via SMS to 1393 (free of charge) to verify the seed's variety and species.

The Agitech Expo, which aims to empower farmers with knowledge and innovation, brought together key agricultural stakeholders. Many cited the proliferation of fake seeds and agrochemicals as one of the greatest threats to food security in Kenya.

Peter Karanja, Director of Mazao Afya, raised concerns over the influx of uncertified seeds and harmful agrochemicals in Kirinyaga County, allegedly imported from neighbouring countries.

"We need to take action against these people who are propagating or bringing in fake seeds, fake and unregistered chemicals, counterfeit inputs, because they are bringing products that are unsafe to our farmers," Karanja noted

He called on government agencies, particularly the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), to remain firm and vigilant in monitoring and regulating pesticide imports, some of which posed serious health and environmental risks.

"I would urge the government in conjunction with the PCPB to be very tough on these particular products because they're hazardous and very poisonous," he said.

Kerugoya to host KMTC campus as county nears approval

By David Wandeto-KNA

Kirinyaga County is inching closer to hosting its first-ever Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) campus, a development that is expected to reshape both the health and education landscape of the region.

For years, aspiring medical students from Kirinyaga have been forced to seek training opportunities in neighboring counties such as Murang'a, Embu, and Nyeri.

The absence of a KMTC within the county has placed an extra financial burden on families, with many parents struggling to pay for accommodation, transport, and upkeep for their children.

If approved, the Kerugoya campus will bring this struggle to an end by offering local access to medical training.

The campus is designed to host between 250 and 500 students, making it a key pipeline for producing nurses, clinical officers, nutritionists, and other frontline health professionals.

Beyond education, the project is also expected to strengthen healthcare services across the county. With Kerugoya County Referral Hospital sitting at the heart of the town, students will be attached there for clinical rotations, helping to address persistent staffing shortages.

Health facilities in the sub-counties are also set to benefit from student placements and graduates, ensuring that communities in rural areas are better served.

County leaders say the institution will equally stimulate economic growth in Kerugoya town. Increased demand for student hostels, food outlets, and local transport is projected to create a ripple effect that benefits traders, landlords, and service providers.

The plan has now advanced to the County Assembly stage, with the Executive seeking approval to allocate public land for the construction of the campus.

The proposed site is currently occupied by the Public Works Department in Kerugoya town.

During a sitting of the Lands and Physical Planning Committee chaired by Tebere Ward MCA, Peter Karinga, members were briefed on the technical requirements. These include a 10-acre parcel of land adjacent to or near a Level 4 hospital, official registration of the land under KMTC, and a master plan providing for short, medium, and long-term development.

Karinga emphasized that the county cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

"This is about opening doors for our young people and strengthening our healthcare system. Kirinyaga is among the only two counties in the country without a KMTC campus. We must move with urgency to ensure this project takes root," he said.

However, the proposal sparked debate among MCAs, with some raising concerns over the acreage requirement.

Kerugoya Ward MCA, Eric Muchina, argued that requiring 10 acres was unrealistic, noting that the Murang'a campus successfully operates on less than five acres.

Kirinyaga farmers urged to collect subsidized fertilizer at NCPB



Farmers at Sagana NCPB store after receiving subsided fertilizer */ Photo David Wandeto*

By David Wandeto- KNA

Farmers in Kirinyaga County have been advised to collect subsidized fertilizer currently available at National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) stores, even as the government continues to support agricultural productivity across the region.

Speaking at the Sagana depot, Titus Maiyo, the Head of Corporate Communications at NCPB, thanked Kirinyaga farmers for making good use of last year's subsidy program, where they collected164,000 bags of fertilizer.

He revealed that this year, the County has so far received 46,000 bags, out of which 31,000 bags have already been issued to farmers.

"There are still 15,000 bags in our stores ready for collection. More subsidized fertilizer is on the way, including supplies for both planting and top dressing," Maiyo assured, as he challenged farmers to go for the farm input to boost agricultural production.

He acknowledged that some farmers had experienced delays in accessing fertilizer due to recent demonstrations, during which NCPB offices were vandalized, and some critical office equipment and documents destroyed.

However, he assured the farmers services have resumed fully.

Maiyo also urged farmers not to focus too much on the branding of the fertilizer bags, noting that while packaging might vary, the quality remains high."

The fertilizer we have at NCPB stores is of the best quality, and we guarantee it will give farmers excellent results," he claimed.

Maiyo explained that NCPB is working closely with the County Government to ensure more satellite centers are fully operational.

"In Kirinyaga, we have 11 centers, but only 5 are currently serving farmers. We are working to ensure the remaining centers are opened soon," he noted.

One of the beneficiaries, Meshack Maina, a rice farmer from Mwea, said he had successfully received his subsidized fertilizer allocation of15 bags for planting and 10 for top dressing.

"This fertilizer will help me save a lot of money. The money I save, I'll use it for other agricultural activities. I encourage fellow farmers to take full advantage of this opportunity," Maina said.

Sammy Njenga said that the fertilizer is available, but they are experiencing some challenges like some fertilizers missing in the system, but it was there in the stores.

Kirinyaga County residents get community empowerment items



Kirinyaga County Governor Anne Waiguru during a community empowerment drive /*Photo KNA*

By Yula Katiwa and Mary Wangari- KNA

Over 35,000 people from Kirinyaga have benefitted from a major community empowerment drive to improve access to clean water, boosting youth talent development and strengthening self-help groups across the county.

The empowerment initiative by the county government saw women, youth and the vulnerable from 15 wards receive assorted items that will go a long way in improving their livelihoods.

The items included 6,500 water pipes and 1,100 fittings for last-mile distribution of water to homesteads, 6,270 chairs and 63 tents were handed over to self-help groups, alongside 1,000 blankets, catering items, car wash machines, and public address systems.

About 50 sports clubs drawn from various wards also received balls, nets, uniforms, boots, and socks to boost their activities and nurture sports talent.

Kirinyaga County Governor Ann Waiguru emphasised that the empowerment programme is designed as a joint effort with the County Assembly, noting that funds are allocated to each ward, allowing Members of County Assembly (MCAs) to purchase items based on the specific needs of their residents.

Waiguru reminded residents that her administration's record of development speaks for itself, noting that the county government is working diligently to ensure all pledged projects are completed.

"My prayer is that Kirinyaga continues to rise, and we must all remain united to enable delivery of services that will uplift the county," she said.

Majority Leader in the assembly Benson Ngahu welcomed the initiative, saying it reflected the strong partnership between the assembly and the executive.

"The county assembly is happy for the items that will help the community. It has been accomplished due to the good working relationship between the assembly and the executive. We will support you and the county government to continue empowering county residents," he said.

Residents expressed gratitude for the support, saying it would enable them to engage more effectively in social and economic activities.

Daniel Kahiga, a youth from Kariti Ward, praised the county government's initiative to invest in youth talent development.

Over 8,000 youths turn up for Nyota verification in Kirinyaga

By Mutai Kipngetich- KNA

More than 8,000 young people from Kirinyaga County applied for funding under the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme, according to figures released by the State Department for Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA).

The physical verification exercise, held across all four constituencies in the county, saw an impressive turnout as thousands of applicants turned up to confirm their details.

The process was presided over by Dr Grace Ikahu, representing Health Principal Secretary, Mary Muthoni, proceeded smoothly.

Applicants who had earlier received SMS notifications were required to present their national identification cards for confirmation against the MSEA system records.

The World Bank-funded NYOTA initiative seeks to transform the lives of vulnerable young Kenyans by promoting employment creation, business development, income generation, and savings culture.

Speaking at Kerugoya Stadium, Kirinyaga Youth Fund Coordinator, David Karimi, said that successful applicants will undergo training and mentorship programmes to prepare them for business startups.



Youths during the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme verification in Kirinyaga county /*Photo KNA*

He acknowledged that a few challenges were experienced, including applicants reporting to the wrong verification centres due to incorrect ward information or use of wrong phone numbers during registration.

Karimi, however, assured that all efforts are being made to ensure no deserving youth is left out of the process.

Only 70 youths will be selected per ward, each receiving a grant of Sh50,000, but the programme will run for five years, giving more opportunities to others who may not be picked this time.

One of the applicants, Meshack Kilonzo, called for better inclusivity, suggesting that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) be given a special verification desk to ease movement and ensure fair access to government programme.

Ministry of land releases list of South Ngariama landowners

By Mutai Kipngetich-KNA

Residents of South Ngariama in Mwea East sub-county, Kirinyaga, can now breathe a sigh of relief after the Ministry of Lands published a register detailing the list of genuine owners of the disputed 17 000-acre ranch.

This is after the ministry conducted a land adjudication exercise, where each landowner was urged to stand by their land with documents to verify the ownership.

Ezekiel Kiania, assistant director for adjudication and settlement in the ministry of lands, while speaking at Ngariama said the register is out and any unsatisfied party should file any objection within 60 days.

"I have come here to announce that the register is out. The residents have now been given 60 days to verify the information in the register and raise compliments or complaints after which the ministry of lands will proceed to print the title deeds," Kiania added.

The land has been disputed for decades leading to underdevelopment and insecurity that claimed some lives.

Kirinyaga East Deputy County Commissioner, Fredrick Ayieko, thanked the residents and local leadership for their collaboration during the adjudication process and assured security in the remaining processes. He asked those involved in dispute resolution to be non-partisan.

County clears illegal structures blocking drainage systems

By Mutai Kipngetich- KNA

The County Government of Kirinyaga has launched a major operation to remove all illegal structures erected on drainage systems, as part of a broader environmental management initiative aimed at mitigating flooding in urban centers.

The exercise, which targets all major towns across the county, involves excavation and clearance of blocked sewers, restoration of natural waterways, and sensitization of the business community on flood risks.

Vacate notices were earlier issued to traders and property owners who had constructed any structure on top of storm water drainage systems.

According to county officials, a majority of those affected complied with the directive before the operation commenced.

James Mutugi, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Natural Resources, Water and Irrigation, said the decision to remove the illegal structures followed a consultative meeting between the county government and business community representatives.

"We issued a two-week notice to all individuals who had built on drainage systems, and about 90 percent complied. These structures have been a major cause of the perennial flooding witnessed in our towns during rainy seasons," Mutugi noted.

One of the key areas targeted in the exercise was Kagio Town, which is well-known for its busy fresh produce market. The town generates significant amounts of organic waste, much of which ends up in drainage channels, making continuous maintenance and cleaning essential.

The ongoing construction of a four-storey ESP Market is expected to transform the town's infrastructure and provide modern amenities for traders, including improved garbage disposal systems.

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Government affirms preparedness for Grade 10 transition

By Samuel Waititu - KNA

The government has affirmed its readiness for Grade 10 transition in January 2026, under the Competency Based Education (CBE), amid growing concerns from school heads and stakeholders over the level of preparedness.

The concerns range from adequacy of facilities, sustainable financing, retooling of teachers in career pathways and congestion.

Education Cabinet Secretary (CS) Julius Ogamba has however dispelled the fears and concerns, saying the government was fully prepared to transition all Grade 9 learners to grade 10.

"The government is prepared to ensure that transition is smooth and learners are currently choosing their career pathways and the schools," he said.

Speaking at the University of Embu grounds, while opening the 6th Edition of Evidence in East AFRICA (EE4A) Biennial conference, the CS said transition to grade 10 will be an easier task than the earlier transition to Grade Nine that was much more difficult for lack of infrastructure.

"We had to do 23,000 classrooms to ensure Grade Nine learners were properly settled," he reported, noting that transitioning to Grade 10 will have no such challenges, since last year there was no Form One class and those transitioning to grade 10 will occupy those spaces.

He said that the new CBE Senior Secondary phase focusses on developing learners' intellectual abilities through introduction of a more personalized and holistic approach to education.

This, he said, will be done by offering students the opportunity to pursue one of the three key pathways including Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Social Sciences or performing Arts and Sports.

Additionally, Ogamba said preparation of textbooks for Grade 10 was on course and will be in schools by December in preparation for January rollout.

He also said they are doing 1, 600 laboratories, whose construction will commence soon.

"We are moving towards that transition smoothly and making it seamless as possible," he reiterated.

Embu County waives medical bills for patients in marking hospital's centenary anniversary



Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire, (center in cap) and county staff cut a cake to mark the 100th anniversary of Embu Level Five Hospital */ Photos KNA*

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Embu County Government has waived hospital bills amounting to Sh. 2.6 million for 16 patients admitted at Embu Level Five Hospital in celebrations to mark 100 years since the facility was established.

The beneficiaries are needy patients who have been treated and lacked money to clear their hospital bills but now will be discharged on Monday following the waiver.

Speaking recently during the colorful centenary anniversary celebration held at the facility, Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire pledged to transform the hospital into a world-class referral facility.

She painted a vivid picture of a facility that was for years on the deathbed with demoralized staff, no medicines, broken laboratories, collapsed oxygen systems, no food for patients, and wards where families had to bring their own blankets.

"When I took office, Embu Level 5 was practically dead. Patients suffered without medicine, staff were demoralized, and mothers delivered in deplorable conditions," she narrated.

She continued, "today, this story has changed. We have breathed life back into this hospital, and we are determined to make it one of the best referral hospitals in Kenya."

The Governor highlighted her administration's achievements in turning around the facility with one of the interventions being clearing crippling debts owed to medical suppliers.

She said the hospital had accumulated more than Sh150 million debt with KEMSA and a similar amount with MEDS, effectively paralysing supplies.

On the issue of staff welfare which had long been neglected, the Governor said her administration has cleared Sh588 million salary statutory deductions, and committed to staff promotions within the current financial year to boost their morale.

She also reported that the hospital's surgical capacity has been significantly expanded, with two maternity theatres in operation and the main theatres increased from two to four.

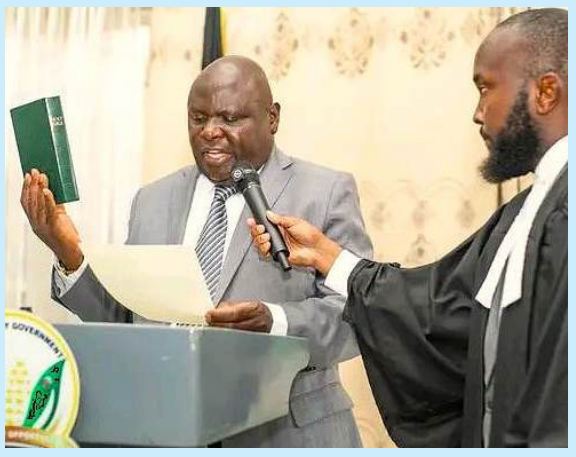
Additionally, she said Sh18 million laparoscopic machines are also being procured and diagnostic services are equally strengthened with new X-ray and ultrasound machines, alongside modern dental chairs.

She reported that a CT scan is expected to be installed next week, followed by an MRI machine, further broadening the hospital's diagnostic capacity.

Governor Mbarire also noted that oncology and renal care services have been scaled up with the renal unit being fully equipped, with dialysis sessions supported by the Social Health Authority costing Sh10,600 per session.

On revenue collection, the county boss reported that in the 2024/25 financial year, the hospital recorded Sh478 million in revenue, with over Sh.300 million generated from Social Health Authority claims, leaving the hospital in a much stronger fiscal position.

Governor Mbarire cautions public service board against corruption



New Embu County Public Service Board Chair Jim Njoka taking oath of office */ Photos KNA*

By Samuel Waititu-KNA

Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire has cautioned members of the newly sworn-in County Public Service Board against engaging in corruption.

She affirmed that those found culpable will not only face dismissal, but also prosecution as her administration seeks to restore confidence of residents with the board with the outgoing one having been tainted by allegations of bribery and nepotism in employment.

Governor Mbarire reported that she had received numerous complaints against the former board from job seekers who had been asked to part with huge sums of money to secure employment slots in the county.

Speaking during the swearing in of the new board recently, the Governor cited a notable case where the County Assembly nullified recruitment of ECDE teachers over irregularities including bribery allegations.

"We believe with this new board, we will see better performance and we have categorically told them we will not accept corruption going forward," she stated.

She reminded the new team that they carry a heavy responsibility of ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability in recruitment processes, stressing that the people of Embu deserve nothing less.

The Governor called on the new board members to break away from the negative legacy left by their predecessors and to set a new standard of integrity in human resource management.

She further urged them to handle upcoming recruitments, including the hiring of Chief Officers and ECDE teachers and healthcare workers with utmost diligence and impartiality to restore public confidence.

She also appealed to the board to ensure equitable distribution of employment opportunities considering ethnic and gender balance.

The new board Chair Jim Njoka said they will in the performance of their duties, adhere to the rule of law the constitution, noting that issues of bribery will be a thing of the past.

County welcomes proposal to dual 145km Makutano -Embu-Meru highway

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

The County Government of Embu has welcomed the proposed dualling of 145 km Makutano-Embu-Meru Highway, terming it a game-changer for Mt. Kenya East Region.

President William Ruto in his speech during this Year's Mashujaa Day celebrations held in Kitui said his administration has committed to dual at least 1, 000 km of major highways, including Makutano-Embu-Meru, among others.

The President noted that infrastructure development was a critical area of focus for his government to spur economic growth, adding that he is also committed to constructing an additional 10,000 km of new tarmac roads linking farmers, traders, and manufacturers to markets across the nation.

Governor Cecily Mbarire hailed the planned project as a defining moment for the region in terms of reshaping trade, connectivity, and livelihoods across the counties it cuts through, including Kirinyaga, Tharaka Nithi and Meru.

In a post on her social media accounts, Governor Mbarire noted that the dual carriageway will ease transport, enhance market access for farmers and traders as well as attract investors to the region.

"The project will not only create jobs, but also accelerate value addition in agriculture and manufacturing," she noted while commending President Ruto for prioritizing infrastructure which she said directly uplifts local economies.

The highway has claimed many lives in some of high-risk stretches, including the notorious Nithi Bridge thus, dualling it is expected to curb carnage by eliminating head-on collisions. "The dualling of the road is expected to address the high accident rates that have been linked to factors such as congestion, speeding, reckless driving and overtaking," the post stated.

Tea directors from Embu County oppose scientific tea tasting

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Tea Directors from Embu County have expressed opposition to the government directive on scientific tea analysis instead of the traditional mouth-tasting.

The Ministry of Agriculture directed Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) to replace mouth-tasting with scientific lab analysis in a bid to alleviate complaints from farmers over what they termed as biased and inconsistent manual testing.

The move was sparked by complaints from farmers especially in Rift Valley Region who argued that their tea has been earning lower bonuses as a result of unfair grading of sensory analysis.

The move has however sparked conflict as some factories especially in Mt Kenya Region has opposed the new directive of, arguing that biological testing was itself scientific.

Rukuriri Tea Factory Chair Joseph Rwanjau said no method can replace the biological mouth-tasting as those who do it are well trained and spot on in terms of grading.

He said the argument that some farmers were getting reduced bonuses over unfair grading was unconvincing since those who do the tasting are mainly the buyers themselves or their representatives.

Speaking during a farmers meeting at the factory recently, Rwanjau said there was no way buyers could discriminate against some farmers whereas their interest was to get the best grades of tea.

"This is the method that has been used since time immemorial and we see no problem with it since the main focus of a buyer is to get the best quality of tea he/she can get," he said.

Additionally, the Chairman said it is the same method that is widely used not only in tea but other products such as coffee and wine and there has been no outcry.

He claimed the push by some farmers opposed to

Relief as Senator Mundigi aids school destroyed by winds



Karura primary School in Mbeere South Constituency, Embu County, whose two classes' roof was ripped off by strong winds / *Photos KNA*

By Samuel Waititu-KNA

It was a relief for teachers, parents and learners of Karura primary School in Mbeere South Constituency, Embu County, whose two classes' roof was ripped off by strong winds after Senator Alexander Mundigi mobilized resources to renovate the affected classes.

The incident took place two weeks ago on a weekend, when learners are out of school.

The destruction however occasioned congestion in the school and frantic efforts had to be made to accommodate the affected learners in other classes to allow continuity of studies.

Parents and teachers revealed that some of the affected pupils had been forced into a dilapidated classroom, with some parents even considering transferring their children to other schools.

Mundigi said he was moved by the plight of the learners and had to mobilize funds both from his personal resources and friends to address the situation.

He added that no child should suffer simply because of infrastructural challenges that can be solved when leaders and communities join hands.

"I had no option but to act quickly. Our children deserve safe and dignified learning spaces, and that is what we are working to restore here," he said.

His donation was received with jubilation from parents, pupils, and teachers who had been struggling to maintain learning under very difficult conditions. Many described it as a lifeline for the school.

The School's PTA Chairperson, Charity Muthoni, praised the move, saying the affected learners will soon return to proper classrooms.

"Some of us were losing hope, but with this help, our children will stay in school and continue their education comfortably," Muthoni said.

Other parents echoed similar sentiments, stressing that the renovation will give pupils a safe space to learn and reduce overcrowding in the already dilapidated classroom where they had been squeezed.

Teachers equally hailed the senator's effort, pointing out that the repair will not only restore structures but also uplift the morale of learners who had begun losing concentration.

Meanwhile, Mundigi also cautioned parents in the area against allowing their children to engage in sand harvesting that was the main economic activity in the region, warning that the illegal activity was robbing minors of education and endangering their future.

Embu Village celebrate lifeline borehole project

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Residents of arid Ndune Village in Makima Ward, Embu County, are celebrating a historical milestone following successful completion of a borehole water project that promises to transform lives.

The initiative, spearheaded by Embu County Woman Representative Pamela Njoki, has reignited new hope for locals by ending decades of struggle in accessing clean domestic water.

For years, villagers have been forced to trek long distances to fetch water from the crocodile-infested River Tana and the distant Masinga Dam.

These perilous journeys have not only been consuming hours of valuable time, but also exposed residents, particularly women and young girls and boys to, to life-threatening situations.

The struggle has also had a ripple effect on family life, with some residents noting that the daily challenges of searching for the rare commodity strained marriages, pushing some to the brink of collapse.



Embu County Woman Representative Pamela Njoki washes her hands after commissioning a borehole in Ndune Village, Makima Ward, Embu on Thursday / *Photos KNA*

With the new development, residents are upbeat that those struggles have come to an end with the water expected to serve multiple purposes including household use, watering livestock and supporting small-scale farming.

While commissioning the project recently, the Woman Rep said the borehole was one of her broader agenda for the water deficient Mbeere South Constituency to improve rural livelihoods through access to basic amenities.

"Access to clean water is a fundamental right. This borehole will not only save lives, but also give families more time to engage in productive activities," she said.

Local leaders present led by area MCA Philip Nzangi expressed hope that clean water access would reduce health risks from waterborne diseases as well as increase school attendance by freeing children from water-fetching duties.

Nzangi noted that to the village, the borehole was more than just a water source, but a lifeline to a healthier and more prosperous future for the residents.

A resident, Sarah Mwikali said they used to trek up to 10 kilometers and the little they got had to be used sparingly.

"We used to leave home at sunrise and get back at dusk and this led to a strain to our marriages," she lamented.

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German parliamentarians inspect projects in Machakos



German MPs witness how community-led action is transforming health care in Keny */ Photos KNA*

By Anne Kangero-KNA

German Parliamentarians supporting the Global Fund visited Machakos as part of their tour in the country to inspect Global Fund supported projects and engage with the beneficiaries.

The team visited the Drop-In Centre being one of the supported projects, housed at the Youth Centre in Machakos County, to inspect Global Fund projects and its effects on youth empowerment on improving their social skills, self-esteem and job prospects to enhance sustainable development.

The Drop-In Centre which is managed by Deaf Empowerment Kenya (DEK) in partnership with the Machakos county, provides a no stigma and discrimination environment, provides youth empowerment programs including counselling, HIV/AIDS testing and treatment services as well as Cervical cancer screening.

Welcoming the delegation, DEK Director, Joseph Ngari, expressed gratitude to the Global Fund and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to accountability and effective use of the resources.

He added that the Drop-in Centre is a safe space for Machakos youths to interact with each other, learn about sexual reproductive health resources, family planning, HIV prevention and develop skills through capacity building sessions to enhance their ability to make informed decisions about their sexual reproductive health.

"Thank you for supporting our project. We commit to putting the funds to good use," said Mr Ngari.

Additionally, he noted that the centre is also equipped with recreational facilities such as pool tables, chess, scrabble, as well as volleyball and football games to attract more youths to the youth centre and keep them engaged.

Machakos County, Chief Officer for Gender and Social Welfare, Bernadette Wavinya, lauded the Global Fund for its continued support and underscored the need to strengthen partnerships for improved social welfare outcomes and productivity.

"You are welcome in Machakos County to support other projects that will uplift the lives of our people," Ms. Wavinya said. "We value our partnership with the Global Fund and look forward to working together to make an even greater impact."

Director for Gender and Social Welfare, Valentine Musyoka, who was also present, highlighted other areas in need of support, including combating gender-based violence (GBV) and advancing inclusion for persons living with disabilities (PWDs).

"There are many other areas that need support, such as funding initiatives to combat gender-based violence, which remains rampant in some parts of the county and we are also keen on programs that empower and uplift people living with disabilities," said Musyoka.

The visit formed part of the Global Fund's ongoing monitoring exercise across Kenya, aimed at promoting accountability, transparency, and sustainability in the implementation of funded initiatives.

The German Parliamentarians Delegation are major supporters of the Global Fund which is a worldwide partnership aimed at fighting AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria while mobilising substantial funding, providing Policy expertise and strengthening global health security.

Wiper Party launches campaign for Mumbuni North candidate

By Mary Wavinya and Ann Wangui- KNA

The Wiper Patriotic Front (WPF) has officially launched campaigns for its Mumbuni North Ward candidate, Anthony Kisoi, who has been declared the party's flag bearer in the forthcoming by-election.

The campaign launch, held at Kisooni Grounds in Mumbuni North, was led by Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti, who was joined by a delegation of Wiper leaders and supporters. The leaders called on residents to unite behind Kisoi, describing the race as a crucial moment for the Wiper Party and its leader, Kalonzo Musyoka.

Governor Wavinya said the by-election was not just about the ward seat but also a reflection of Kalonzo's political influence in Ukambani and across the country. She urged residents to turn out in large numbers and vote for Kisoi to show confidence in Kalonzo's 2027 presidential bid.

"Let's vote for Anthony Kisoi. He has the energy to work tirelessly for his people. Let's come out in large numbers and send a strong message of confidence in our leader," said Wavinya.

The Governor also emphasized the need for peaceful campaigns, calling on politicians to uphold unity and mutual respect while avoiding divisive or hateful rhetoric.

Machakos Deputy Governor noted that the contest was between Wiper and Maendeleo Chap Chap, describing it as a test of political dominance in Ukambani.

Machakos Senator Agnes Kavindu added that the by-election would measure the strength of Kalonzo's political base, urging residents to deliver victory for Wiper.

Kisoi, in his address, pledged to prioritize education and development projects in Mumbuni North once elected. He promised to expand learning facilities and champion youth empowerment.

The Mumbuni North seat fell vacant two years ago following the death of Gideon Kavuu of Maendeleo Chap Chap, and residents are now set to elect a new representative.

Other Wiper leaders in attendance included Machakos Woman Representative Kamene Kasimbi, Kiambu Senator Karungo wa Thang'wa, Kilome MP Thaddeus Nzamba, Kitui Central MP Mulu Makali, Kitui Rural MP Bonny Mwalika, and former Machakos Town MP Victor Munyaka, among several MCAs led by Deputy Speaker Steven Mwanthi and Majority Leader Nicholas Nzioka.



Mumbuni North Ward candidate, Anthony Kisoi with Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti */ KNA*

Mwala DCC calls on parents' cooperation in fighting students' unrest



Mwala Deputy County Commissioner David Tegutwa */ Photos KNA*

By Anne Kangero

With the recent spate of student unrest in Machakos County, Mwala Deputy County Commissioner David Tegutwa has called on parents to cooperate with the police while their children are being investigated for involvement in school unrest and indiscipline.

With several school unrest in Mwala sub county, Tegutwa said that there were parents who are interfering with school unrest disciplinary cases and investigations and shielding their undisciplined children from repercussions after having been involved in school unrest and transferring them to other schools thus bringing forth irresponsible adults and future criminals.

Schools in Mwala sub-county that experienced unrest in third term are Masii Boys, Kabaa High School and Makutano Boys.

The DCC was speaking in his boardroom in Mwala during a Departmental meeting with several Heads of Department and other stakeholders where he urged them to work together and address arising issues in the Sub County as well as calling on teachers to be alert on any behavioural change among students.

Tegutwa disclosed a challenge where some head teachers are not open to discuss drug issues in their schools because according to them admitting there is a challenge will expose them to critics and scrutiny yet drug issue is a societal menace that needs to be addressed on time.

He further emphasized on a collaborative effort between parents, teachers, education stakeholders, religious leaders and NGAO team in ensuring the students receive guiding and counselling to foster academic, social and personal development as well as navigating peer pressure and mental health.

However, he pointed out that school fires and strikes have reduced considerably and commended his NGAO security team in being proactive by engaging chiefs in monitoring schools and weeding out suspicious people within and outside the school environment who may interfere with learning or influencing the students negatively.

On his part, Mwala Curriculum support and TSC officer Henry Katei reiterated the importance of guiding and counselling for students that would make them want to be in school and not run away or strike as most do while equipping them with strategies on how to overcome challenging situations either at home or school.

He also urged security teams to control or investigate persons accessing institutions of learning and are not teachers, who could be influencing children in drug pedaling and other criminal activities as well as monitoring the school canteens.

OAG launches first legal aid clinic in Machakos



Solicitor General (SG) Shadrack Mose at the Attorney General's office in Machakos */Photo KNA*

By Anne Kangero -KNA

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has officially launched the first legal aid clinic in Machakos county that is open to serving the less fortunate in society and offers free legal consultation to citizens while enhancing service delivery.

The launch was spearheaded by the Solicitor General (SG) Shadrack Mose at the Attorney General's office in Machakos, where he affirmed that they have posted State counsels and support staff to offer free legal aid clinic services to those who cannot afford and access legal services and consultation. Mose highlighted that access to justice is not just a legal agenda but a shared national commitment.

He noted that the services the legal aid clinic would be offering were land matters, succession issues, criminal matters, children matters, civil Litigation, public trustee and registration of societies among others.

"Our Constitution stands as a bold proclamation of the quality of human rights and justice, specifically Article 48 ensures that the state shall guarantee access to justice for all persons. It also brings life to the legal aid Act 2016 whose purpose is to provide free legal services to the vulnerable and marginalised," said the SG.

He disclosed plans to ensure legal aid is spread to all counties and expressed confidence in the OAG in advancing the justice system where justice is not only served in Nairobi and to citizens who are moneyed but is spread equitably in all parts of Kenya as it aims to bring services closer to the people.

Mose emphasized the goal of the legal aid in easing the backlog of court cases that have dragged on for several years and with the launch of a legal aid office in every county, it would ensure cases have been resolved and provide alternative dispute resolutions that foster positive relationships and personal growth.

"For decades, access to legal services was meant for those in cities, rural communities and marginalized counties often remained unseen and unheard and that is now changing," he said.

Board Chair of the National Legal Aid Service (NLAS) Musyoki Kimanzi commended the office of the AG for being instrumental in shaping policies and institutional frameworks that have enabled expansion of legal aid across the country and championing access to justice for the most vulnerable.

Kimanzi further hailed the Attorney General for facilitating the recruitment and deployment of 90 new State Counsels who have been allocated specifically to deal with legal aid matters, such as providing vital access to justice for the marginalized.

Wavinya empowers PWDs with assistive devices and bursaries

By Mary Wavinya and Anne Ruchiu- KNA

Machakos county governor Wavinya Ndeti has donated assistive devices and education bursaries worth Sh3 million for People with Disabilities (PWD) in the area to ensure inclusivity and unlock their potential.

While speaking at the Machakos Social Hall, Wavinya said they were building an inclusive county and her government is not leaving anyone behind in matters of education, health, development and general wellbeing for PWDs, even as she called for collaboration from all departments.

The governor delivered 74 wheel chairs tailored to different needs including cerebral palsy, 50 white canes for the visually impaired, 50 crutches, 36 walking frames and 50 walking canes, while noting that they are not just devices, but bridges of independence, mobility and self-reliance.

"Words are not enough; action is what matters. I am calling on every department, we need full collaboration in planning, implementation, monitoring and delivering results for the PWD community as we are building an inclusive Machakos not in theory but in practice," she said.

In efforts to enhance and uplift the lives of PWDs, Wavinya declared that they have established the Machakos PWD Board that would provide governance, strategic direction and manage finances for them.

She noted that her government has set aside special funds that are meant for assistive devices, vocational training and economic empowerment.

Wavinya implored parents to take their disabled children for timely assessment and further added that those with Disability certificates are to receive free disability assessments at Machakos level 5 on Mondays and Wednesday to support their individual wellbeing and productivity.

The governor commended the County Departments of Gender and Social Welfare, Education and Health in building and maintaining Public Private Partnerships with other stakeholders to ensure inclusivity, enhanced efficiency, innovation and development in the county.

Several members of the County Executive attended the event including County Secretary Dr. Muya Ndambuki, the County Executive for Education Consolata Mutisya, her Sports counterpart Sharon Muasya and Bishop Joel Nzomo among other guests.



Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti with People with Disabilities (PWD) in the area */Photo HANDOUT*

Machakos spearheads free eye clinic in partnership with sight

By Ann Wangui and Mary Wavinya- KNA

Machakos County, in collaboration with Sight Savers, has celebrated World Sight Day by launching a free eye medical camp, aimed at promoting early detection and addressing preventable blindness.

Speaking during the launch, the Chief Officer for Public Health, Mwako Simba, announced that the eye outreach clinic is currently covering 5 sub-counties and will go up to all 9 sub-counties for the next two years ensuring that no community is left behind.

Mwako highlighted that rising eye-related cases in local hospitals indicate significant eye complications in the area, compelling the county to seek support from Sight Savers for the next two years.

"Machakos residents are encouraged to attend outreach events in large numbers, with advance notices provided to allow preparation," he said.

Additionally, the Chief Officer disclosed plans for the Department of Health to establish a 24-hour eye care shop at Machakos Referral Hospital, where residents will access free consultations and acquire spectacles and essential medicines, marking a pivotal step in addressing preventable blindness and improving healthcare access.

Consequently, residents have been encouraged to register with the Social Health Authority (SHA) for access to a wider range of health services including surgeries without any finan-

Nyota youth project rolls out in Machakos

By Ann Wangui and Ann Kangero-KNA

The government recently officially launched the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) program at Machakos University.

The youth empowerment program aims to tackle unemployment while targeting the vulnerable and disadvantaged youths between the age of 18-29 as well as People with disability of up to 35 years' country wide.

The nationwide transformative project targets 820,000 youths in the country costing about Sh5 billion and is funded by World Bank in which young people with business ideas or existing projects will receive grants of Sh50,000, mentorship, and training to help them build viable enterprises and sustain themselves and their families too.

Speaking to the media at Machakos University Principal Secretary in State Department for Wildlife, Sylvia Museiya, where she officially launched the NYOTA program, she underscored that the government is concerned with youth unemployment and has instituted urgent intervention measures including the NYOTA program in order to address unemployment through three pillars of entrepreneurship, skills development and savings.

"This is not just another fund, it is a complete ecosystem designed to equip our youth with skills, discipline, mentorship, and opportunities to thrive. By empowering young people today, we secure Kenya's economic future," said Museiya.

Museiya disclosed that after applying for the grant, assessments will be done through interviews to identify those who are ready for businesses or have a business idea and are ready to nurture them, equip them with skills and mentorship and after receiving the grants, they will be encouraged to save with the NSSF where the system will be upgraded to support this initiative thus creating a savings culture for the next generation.

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PS Mueke urges farmers to adopt improved breeds

By Joy Mwangangi and Isaac Wambua- KNA

PRINCIPAL Secretary (PS) for Livestock Development, Jonathan Mueke, has challenged livestock farmers across the country to embrace improved and high-yielding breeds that can attract better market returns both locally and internationally.

Speaking in Kitui Town, the PS emphasized the need to enhance livestock health and quality to position Kenya's livestock sector competitively in the global market.

He expressed concern over challenges faced by his Ministry in marketing the country's livestock products internationally, attributing this to poor breeds and substandard animal health practices.

Mueke also decried the exploitation of farmers by unscrupulous middlemen who buy animals at throwaway prices in local markets, leaving producers with minimal profits. He urged farmers to join livestock cooperative societies to gain stronger bargaining power and improve access to reliable and fair markets.

"Once you enroll as members of livestock cooperatives, you will be able to earn higher prices for your livestock and products while protecting yourselves from exploitation by middlemen," said Mueke.

The PS was speaking during the opening of a three-day training workshop on Capacity Building and Market Linkages for Ward-Based Cooperatives for Goat and Indigenous Chicken Meat, held at the Kitui Agricultural Training Centre. The event brought together hundreds of farmers from across the county.

He explained that through cooperatives, farmers can access essential services such as training, improved animal breeds, affordable farm inputs, livestock vaccines, and veterinary services. "Cooperatives create economies of scale and enable members to collectively negotiate better prices while ensuring consistent supply to both local and export markets," he noted.



Livestock PS Jonathan Mueke speaking to farmers in Kitui Town/*Photo KNA*

The training, organized by the State Department for Livestock Development through the National Livestock Development and Promotion Service (NLD&PS) and the DRIVE Project, in partnership with Strathmore University, seeks to sensitize farmers on cooperative strengthening and sustainable market linkages.

Kitui County is the second-largest producer of Galla goats and one of the leading producers of indigenous chicken in Kenya. However, livestock value chains in the region remain largely underdeveloped and fragmented, with most marketing done individually.

"Most marketing is individually driven, which limits producers from leveraging economies of scale," lamented the PS, adding that cooperatives can bridge this gap by enhancing collective marketing, aggregation, and profitability.

Mueke reaffirmed the government's commitment to uplifting livestock farmers' livelihoods through development, promotion, and trade facilitation of livestock and related products.

He said the NLD&PS plays a pivotal role in promoting aggregation, feedlot systems, breeding programs, livestock trade services, and strategic coordination across the sector.

"The agency seeks to transform the sector into a commercially viable and resilient industry while ensuring that livestock keepers are fully included in equitable and inclusive decision-making processes," Mueke added.

He noted that the establishment of the NLD&PS marks a major turning point in Kenya's livestock development, aligning the sector's priorities with the country's long-term development frameworks — including Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and the Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2020 on National Livestock Policy.

The PS underscored that the livestock sector remains a cornerstone of Kenya's agricultural economy, contributing about 12 percent of the national GDP, 42 percent of agricultural GDP, and employing over 50 percent of the agricultural labor force.

It also supports the livelihoods of more than 10 million households, particularly in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), which constitute about 80 percent of Kenya's landmass. In these regions, over 60 percent of households depend primarily on livestock for food, income, and social well-being.

Despite its importance, livestock marketing in Kenya remains fragmented, characterized by poor market access, unorganized trading systems, and inefficient off-take practices that limit profitability.

Mueke urged farmers and cooperative societies to take advantage of government-led programs aimed at addressing these challenges and unlocking the sector's full potential.

Government installs massive LPG storage facility in Kitui

By Joy Mwangangi &
Dennis Kithuka - KNA

THE national government through the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum is installing a 40,000 metric tonnes ultra-modern Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage facility for use by Kitui county residents.

This was revealed recently by Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi during his inspection tour at Kitui Teachers Training College, where the said LPG's storage facility installation project is underway.

Speaking during the tour, Wandayi reiterated that the project seeks to ensure that every household, school or public institutions across the vast Kitui county can easily access affordable safe cooking gas

"Affordability and accessibility are at the heart of our strategy. By building infrastructure and also encouraging competition, we will lower prices and increase supply.

"This is how we plan to secure clean energy for all Kenyans while protecting our forests and environment too," said Wandayi.

The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum is also set to distribute over 24,000 gas cylinders to the county residents across all the county's eight constituencies.



Energy CS Opiyo Wandayi commissions the instalation of a 40,000-metric-tonne ultra-modern Liquefied Petroleum Gas storage facility in Kitui County/*Photo Courtesy*

The CS, who was accompanied by a team of senior government officials from his ministry inspected ongoing preparation of clean energy exhibitions activities, as the country prepares to mark 'Energy Week' set to begin next week, starting on Monday 13 to Friday 17, to be held at the KTTC.

During his visit, Wandayi said that his Ministry is jointly working with various agencies including Kenya Power and Lighting, (KPLC), KETRACO, Kenya Pipeline among others,

"In courtesy of the Kenya Pipeline Company, Kitui Teachers Training College (KTTC), is now going to get an ultramodern water borehole that is solarized," Wandayi noted.

The Cabinet Secretary further observed that the borehole is going to serve not only the teachers training institution, but also the neighborhood community.

He noted that the Petroleum Company is putting up a 20 meters high mask at the KTTC for lighting up the entire learning institution as well as its environment.

"Similarly, the state department for petroleum will provide necessary infrastructure for connection of cooking gas from the LPG storage facility to the kitchen for the college to transition fully from fossil fuels," the CS added.

County partners with KWS to boost conservation

By Denson Mututo and Joy Mwangangi-KNA

KITUI County Government and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) have entered into partnership to work together to improve the conservation, protection, and management of wildlife and natural resources across Kitui County, with a particular emphasis on Kitui South Game Reserve.

Further, the partnership seeks to transform conservation efforts into tangible socio-economic benefits for the local communities, including job creation, improved livelihoods and increased revenue for the county.

Kitui Governor Dr. Julius Malombe and KWS Director General Prof. Erastus Kanga have expressed their commitment to fast-tracking the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in March 2024 between the County Government of Kitui and KWS.

Governor Malombe, while speaking when he hosted the KWS delegation at the County Headquarters Offices in Kitui town recently, emphasized the importance of collaboration between both the local and national authorities in achieving sustainable development within the wildlife sector.

"This partnership is a critical step in ensuring that our natural resources are protected while also supporting the economic growth of our communities," Dr. Malombe said.

Prof. Kanga highlighted the significance of the MoU in the broader context of Kenya's national wildlife conservation strategy.

"Kenya has 33 national reserves across 33 counties, and this partnership with the Kitui County government is a vital component of our efforts to protect our rich biodiversity," he noted.

Kitui Governor Malombe, World Vision commission Sh840 million water project

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.



Kitui Governor Dr. Julius Malombe officially commissions the River Athi–Kangu Kangu–Mutomo–Ikutha–Kanziko–Mathima Water Project at Mutomo Market on September 19 / *Photos KNA*

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 governor further highlighted ongoing complementary efforts, including borehole drilling, sump wells, earth dams, and sand dams across the county***

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.

The governor further highlighted ongoing complementary efforts, including borehole drilling, sump wells, earth dams, and sand dams across the county.

He praised the World Vision Kenya, county technical teams, and residents for their patience and partnership, and urged communities to protect the infrastructure from vandalism.

While speaking during the water project commissioning ceremony, the National Director of World Vision Kenya Gilbert Kamanga appealed to the county government to consider installing solar power to pump water from the Kangu Kangu project to reduce electricity costs while subsequently lowering the amount of money residents would be required to pay for water.

Utalii College to establish affiliate campus in Kitui

By Denson Mututo- KNA

KENYA Utalii College, in collaboration with the Kitui County Government, is set to establish a new affiliate campus in Kitui County to offer tourism and hospitality courses closer to local students.

The College Principal Mark Rachuonyo confirmed the plan during a courtesy call to Kitui Governor Julius Malombe at the county headquarters in Kitui Town.

The governor and the principal also toured the proposed construction site in Tiva Village, Yatta Kwa Vonza Ward, located along the Kitui–Machakos border, about 15 kilometers from Kitui Town.

The Kitui branch is expected to make a significant economic impact on both local and national hospitality and tourism sectors. Kitui County is also working to establish a tourism circuit and revitalise its hospitality industry, making the institution timely and strategic.

Dr Malombe noted that Kitui is uniquely endowed with cultural heritage and natural attractions that had remained largely untapped prior to devolution.

"Through strategic interventions by our tourism department, these assets have fueled growth in domestic tourism. With Kenya Utalii College setting foot in Kitui, the future of our hospitality and tourism industries looks promising," he said.

He added that the initiative aligns with the national agenda on youth empowerment, job creation, and sustainable economic development, pledging his administration's full support for the project.

Deputy Governor Augustine Kanani, who is also the CECM for Tourism, Hospitality, and Game Reserves, said his ministry is working to enrich tourism in the county.

"We will be launching the Kitui Tourism Circuit on Friday, 19th September 2025. This will be an eye-opener and an opportunity for our youth to invest in the sector," he said.

Principal Rachuonyo observed that the Kitui campus will serve a wide catchment area, including Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Embu, Meru, Isiolo, Tana River, and Northeastern counties.

"We are delighted that Kitui has allocated us a 26-acre parcel of land in the Tiva area in Kyangwithia Ward, Kitui Central Sub-County. The new institution will provide world-class training in tourism and hospitality, equipping youth with skills to serve in the industry while also promoting cultural preservation and sustainable tourism," he said.

Tourism remains one of Kenya's top foreign exchange earners and the fourth-largest contributor to GDP after agriculture, manufacturing, and transport. In 2024, tourism accounted for 8% of Kenya's GDP (Kenya Economic Survey Report, 2024).

Kitui unveils tourism circuit to attract more tourists

By Denson Mututo - KNA

KITUI governor Dr. Julius Malombe has launched the Kitui Tourism Circuit in efforts to market the county's unique and diverse natural, cultural and historical treasures to the world.

While presiding over the event themed: Unveiling the Rich and Diverse Tourism Treasures of Kitui County," the governor noted that the launch was a significant step towards positioning the county among Kenya's top tourism destinations.

"My administration is committed to refining and marketing a vibrant and sustainable tourism circuit that links Kitui county with both the coastal region and the Mt. Kenya region," said Malombe, during the event held at the iconic, mythical and towering Nzambani Rock in Kitui East.

He said the launch was not solely about tourism, but also about economic transformation, cultural pride, job creation and placing Kitui on both the national and international tourism map.

"Tourism is not merely about leisure and travel; it is a pillar of economic growth. It contributes to revenue generation, employment creation especially for youth and women, growth of SMEs and rural development," the governor said.

The new circuit is expected to provide structure, visibility and synergy to Kitui's previously scattered attractions, transforming them into a marketable, cohesive, and visitor-friendly package.

"With the launch of the Kitui Tourism Circuit, we envision improved tourist experiences, diversified itineraries and longer visitor stays," he said.

The attraction sites included South Kitui National Game Reserve, Mutomo Hill Plant Sanctuary and Reptile Park, Nzambani rock, Kalundu eco-park, Mutitu and Muumoni Important Bird Areas, Ngomeni Rock and Mwingi National Game Reserve.

The governor also cited breathtaking sceneries such as Ikoo Valley, Ulonzo Hills and Kiongwe Hills, as well as sacred and historical sites including the Ikutha AIC Early Missionary Church and the Museve Shrine.

"In addition, Kitui's rich cultural heritage, captured in our music, dance, indigenous crafts and unique cuisines, makes our county a destination with something for every traveler," the governor said.

"To enhance access, safety, and visibility, we are erecting modern entry gates and partnering with Kenya Wildlife Service and other agencies," he explained.



Kitui Governor Julius Malombe cuts the tape to officially launch the Kitui Tourism Circuit at Nzambani Rock on Saturday / *Photo Courtesy*

Malombe also called for partnerships, inviting investors, development partners, and local communities to tap into the opportunities in the tourism and hospitality industry.

"I urge our people, especially youth and women, to actively engage in enterprises linked to tourism be it cultural performances, crafts, camp sites, or hotels. This is our chance to grow together," Dr. Malombe appealed.

Speaking at the event, Kitui deputy governor Augustine Kanani, who also serves as the County Executive for Tourism, Hospitality and Game Reserves echoed the governor's remarks saying, "When we launch the Kitui tourism circuit, we are not just opening our doors to visitors, but also inviting investors to be part of Kitui's growth story. Our people now have a chance to set up conservancies, camps, and hotels that will create jobs and uplift livelihoods."

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10,000 households in Wote town to benefit from Mwaani, Kamunyolo wa-

By Patrick Nyakundi-KNA

The Tanathi Water Works Development Agency (TWWDA) intends to solarize Mwaani Borehole and Kamunyolo dam at a cost of over Sh50 million to benefit 10,000 households in Wote town and its environs.

The TWWDA chairperson Regina Ndambuki said this recently at the site of the two projects during an inspection tour where she disclosed that they want to increase the water supply to Wote town by an additional of 600 M3 per day.

Also, the chairperson said that they are doing a 13.5-kilometers pipeline to Kamunyolo scheme Kwa Nganda 100 M3 elevated tanks and another at the Makueni Boys Scheme tanks that will supply water to the town by using the power of gravity.

Further she said that the initiative that is funded through the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and irrigation, will lower operational costs for water by solarizing Kamunyolo Water treatment works to enhance efficiency.

At the same time, MS Ndambuki said that the Mwaani borehole is fully equipped with a submersible pump and solar pumping system that is complete and operational.

"The project is designed to increase water supply to Wote town by an additional 600 M3 per day through the solar -powered equipment of Mwaani borehole," said Ms. Ndambuki while inspecting the projects.

"Also, the work of a 13.5 kilometer pipeline has commenced. The initiative aims at lowering the operational costs for Wote Water Sanitation Company by solarizing the Kamunyolo treatment works. It will enhance efficiency by replacing existing UPVC rising main, reducing non-revenue water and strengthening monitoring distribution with bulk water meters and two motorbikes," she added.

The project is valued at Sh 50.6 million and the works commenced on 30th June 2025, and it is supposed to be completed by December 30, 2025.

The chairperson revealed that the installation of solar power at Kamunyolo will be completed within a month while adding that she is happy with the progress that is at 75 percent complete.

She observed that the investment reflects the commitment the government has to provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable water supply to the residents of Makueni County.

Sh347m modern market for Wote, Makueni county



Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr. with the County Housing Committee Cosmas J. Maweu as Chair, members Jacinta Mwikali Mbilo, Peterson Mwiu Kimweli and Purity Mwikali Mutisya */ Photo KNA*

By KNA

The national government through the State Department for Housing and Urban Development will construct a modern market in Wote town at a cost of Sh347 million.

Eastern Regional Director of Housing Patrick Mwangi has said a contractor for the envisaged two storey building had already been identified and the actual construction works will start in the next two weeks at Kwa Ngua open market in Wote town, Makueni Sub county.

Mwangi disclosed that ground floor of the building will accommodate traders dealing with butcheries, cereals and fresh vegetables, complete with cold rooms for storage.

The 1st Floor will be for those selling household electronic goods, besides hosting a social hall with a capacity of 180 people, prayer room and wash rooms, while the 2nd Floor will comprise of ICT hubs, barber shops, two kitchens and saloons, as well as offices for county officials and the market committee.

Equally, a borehole will be sunk, besides having a power house with a generator and parking, loading space and a pump house to pump water to two tanks that will be installed in the building.

"Click Connection Limited (contractor) has been awarded the tender and will be supervised by Lins Consultant Limited and we expect the works to be complete in the next 18 months," said Mwangi, during an inception meeting, chaired by the Makueni Ag. County Commissioner Stanlaus Apwoka in his Boardroom at Wote town.

"When President Dr. William Ruto visited here, he promised to upgrade the market for the respect he has for traders. They need dignity and not working in the hot sun. The modern market will accommodate 1,000 traders," he added.

Those present in the meeting included county government officials led by the County Secretary Dr. Justine Kyambi, Makueni Constituency Member of Parliament (MP) Susan Kiamba and Wote open air market officials.

The Housing Director disclosed that the market will impact positively on the economy of Wote town, once complete, while at the same time creating jobs for the unemployed youths in the county.

In this regard, he called for concerted efforts from the local leaders to ensure the market was constructed without any conflict that would hamper its progress.

On her part, Kiamba supported construction of the market saying the people of Makueni should get their share of the national development kitty, since they are taxpayers.

"We want to ensure we get a share of our money. It is good to take advantage of this opportunity to boost development in the county," she said.

During the meeting, the MP revealed that the national government had agreed to construct a hostel comprised of 300 rooms at Wote Technical Training College (WTTC) for its students.

Kiamba has also written a proposal to the national government to construct a similar number of rooms at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC)-Wote Campus.

The county secretary said the market initiative is spearheaded by the governor and should be fully supported, as it will greatly assist the people of Makueni county.

Dr. Kyambi said already they have spoken to the traders saying there will be no problem in implementation of the project.

Bishop Kamomoe installed as Auxiliary Bishop of Wote Diocese



Bishop Simon Peter Kamomoe, the new Auxiliary Bishop of Wote Diocese */ Photos KNA*

By Patrick Nyakundi and Joshua Musomba- KNA

The Catholic Church in Makueni recently officially installed Bishop Simon Peter Kamomoe as the new Auxiliary Bishop of Wote Diocese.

Bishop Kamomoe, formerly an Auxiliary Bishop of Nairobi Archdiocese, was appointed by Pope Leo XIV on July 5, 2025, to serve in Kenya's newest Catholic diocese, erected in July 2023. He will assist Bishop Paul Kariuki, who has been unwell in recent months. Kariuki has led the diocese since its establishment.

The installation ceremony, held at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Wote town, was presided over by Archbishop Philip Anyolo of Nairobi.

Addressing the faithful, Archbishop Anyolo urged Christians in the diocese to rally behind Bishop Kamomoe to ensure the growth of the young diocese.

"It is important for you to be united and collaborate as Christians. This is critical for the development of this new diocese," he said.

In his maiden address, Bishop Kamomoe thanked the congregation for the warm welcome and promised to serve with humility. He urged priests and the faithful to walk with him in advancing the mission of the church.

"Your presence here today gives me great hope. Together we shall walk this journey of faith and hope, serving God with enthusiasm and unity," he said.

The new auxiliary bishop also commended the partnership between the church and political leaders, noting their shared responsibility in uplifting communities.

"I acknowledge and thank our political leaders for their readiness to work with the church for the good of the people of Wote Diocese and the country. The church and political class share a common duty to uphold human dignity, promote peace, and foster human development," Kamomoe said.

Archbishop Antony Muheria of Nyeri called on the faithful to continue praying for Bishop Kariuki's recovery. "We ask God to restore his health so he may resume his service to the people of Wote," he said.

Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr, accompanied by his wife Anita, welcomed Bishop Kamomoe and pledged to collaborate with him through faith-based institutions such as schools and hospitals.

"We are very lucky to have an Auxiliary Bishop to assist Bishop Kariuki. Many stalled church programmes will now come back to life," said Mutula. He praised Bishop Kariuki's dedication, describing his absence as a difficult period for the county.

Bishop Norman Wambua of Machakos encouraged Bishop Kamomoe to use his pastoral calling to strengthen the church as the foundation of family and community life.

Interior CS commissions a 400-bed capacity dormitory at Kitondo School



CS Kipchumba Murkomen commissions new dormitory at the Kitondo school in Makueni county / *Photo KNA*

by Patrick Nyakundi - KNA

The Cabinet Secretary (CS) for the Ministry of Interior and National Administration Onesmus Kipchumba Murkomen has hailed the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders in improving physical facilities in the education sector across the country.

Murkomen said the efforts have provided a conducive environment for learners to access quality and affordable education in Kenya.

"The improvement of infrastructure in the country has been the collaborative efforts of the government, development partners, communities, individuals and the church. This gesture has enabled students to a good place to sleep, learn and play," said Murkomen when he commissioned a 400- bed capacity dormitory at The Kitondo School in Mbooni East Sub County recently.

The newly constructed dormitory was achieved through the collaborative efforts of the Board of Management and the local community, and it will ease congestion and improve living conditions for the over 1,000 learners at the Extra County School.

During the event, the CS promised to mobilize resources to help in the construction of a multi-purpose dining hall at the school from October, 2025.

"I will mobilize resources jointly with other individuals to start construction from October 2025. We shall come here in February, 2026 to commission the multi-purpose dining," he noted.

Murkomen also said it was important to ensure learners transitioned 100 percent from primary to secondary schools saying education is the only equalizer in this life.

On recruitment teachers, he disclosed that the government is determined to employ 116,000 by 2026 saying already, 76,000 have been recruited.

Speaking at the same event, the Managing Director (MD) Kenya Railways Corporation Philip Mainga who is also the chairman of the Board of Management (BOM) of the school, assured parents that the management is committed to improving the infrastructure to ensure students enjoy a good learning environment.

Mainga also lauded close working relationship of parents, teachers and BOM that has seen the school to take over 200 students to university each year.

"We are committed to enhance physical facilities in this school. I appreciate the cooperation of between parents, teachers and BOM that has led to this success," said Mainga.

The Kitondo School Chief Principal Richard Barage Mokaya said that they intended to develop alternative revenue streams for self-sufficiency, enhance learner welfare and also improve academic performance.

Present at the function included Principal Secretary, Aviation and Aerospace Teresia Mbaika, Bomet Senator Hillary Sigei among others.

Makueni Governor Mutula Jnr Inspects Progress of 150-Bed Mbooni Hospital

By Patrick Nyakundi- KNA

Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr has inspected the ongoing construction of the new Mbooni Family Hospital in Kikima town, Mbooni West Sub-County, to assess its progress.

The Sh46 million state-of-the-art facility is being funded by the county government and will have a 150-bed capacity. It will host modern departments including a mother and Child unit, laboratory, casualty wing, pharmacy, and a fully equipped theatre.

Governor Mutula expressed satisfaction with the pace of construction, assuring residents that the hospital will be completed before the end of the year. He emphasized that the project is part of his administration's broader plan to expand access to quality and affordable healthcare across the county.

"The hospital, once complete, will transform healthcare services in this area by offering specialized services," said Governor Mutula during the inspection on Thursday.

He added that several other health projects are also underway to strengthen Makueni's healthcare system.

Residents of Mbooni and neighboring areas are expected to benefit significantly from the new hospital, which aims to reduce congestion in existing facilities and improve maternal, child, and emergency care services.



Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr with county officials inspecting the progress of Mbooni Family Hospital in Kikima town, Mbooni West subcounty / *Photo KNA*

Eni donates equipment worth Sh32m to Mother, Child Hospital



Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr. and Eni officials. Eni donated equipment worth Sh32m to Mother, Child Hospital with an aim to boost provision of services / *Photo KNA*

by Patrick Nyakundi - KNA

Eni Kenya Donated has assorted equipment worth Sh32 million to Mother and Child Hospital to wananchi who seek medical care at the health facility.

In the Blood Satellite Centre, received a blood plasma deep freezer and refrigerated centrifuge machine, a device that separates blood components to enhance medical management with various conditions.

"We have another department and its work is to donate blood to our hospitals. We have received modern equipment which are only seen in Nairobi that can separate blood components to boost medical management with various conditions," said Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr while commissioning equipment for various departments on Tuesday at the health facility.

While saying the equipment can store 6,000 pints of blood, Mutula lauded students in secondary schools for donating blood and called on the college and university students studying in the area to also contribute to the blood bank.

"We have enough blood because of the equipment we have. We can donate to other counties. I urge college and university students in the county to also donate blood to the blood bank," he added.

Also, during the event the governor who was accompanied by the Eni Kenya Managing Director (MD) Daniella Morra launched a specialised Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) including equipment that were donated to Mother and Child hospital.

Among the equipment received included incubators, syringe pumps, infusion pumps, medication trolleys, hygrometer, pulse oximeter, glucometer, baby cots, vital signs monitors, cardiac monitor/defibrillator, blood pressure machines and bilirubinometer, among others.

"The establishment of NICU at County Referral Hospital will significantly enhance the quality of newborn care services. the availability of advanced neonatal equipment will boost both efficiency of healthcare delivery and survival outcomes of newborns," said Mutula.

"There will be improved survival of preterm and critically sick neonates. The presence of incubators, radiant warmers, and no-invasive ventilators ensures that premature and low-birth weight infants receive optimal thermal regulation and respiratory support, reducing neonatal mortality and morbidity rates," he posed.

Also, the machines will help in monitoring and early detection of complications especially in having equipment like vital signs monitors.

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Nkabune TTI graduation */Photo KNA*



President William Ruto issues title deeds to residents of Ikutha in Kitui South constituency during his recent tour of Kumbani region */Photo KNA*



Officials and guests during Kenya Methodist University 25th graduation held recently at the main Campus in Meru */Photo KNA*



NICE rice millers director Njiru Mkombozi celebrates his birthday */Photo KNA*



Participants of the Walk Againist Cancer recently organised by St Theresa mission Hospital Kiirua in Meru */Photo KNA*



President William Ruto is recieved by residents of Samburu county when he recenly launched the affordable housing project at Arche's Post */Photo KNA*



President William Ruto officially opens Kitui East Technical and Vocational College */Photo KNA*



TVET Principal secretary Dr Esther Mworia leads a cut cutting ceremony to celebrate Chuka Technical and Vocational College first graduation ceremony */Photo KNA*



TVET Principal secretary Dr Esther Mworia leads a cut cutting ceremony to celebrate Chuka Technical and Vocational College first graduation ceremony */Photo KNA*

SPORTS Compiled by Hillary Mukasa

Run for Njukiri Forest conservation kicks off

By Samuel Waititu - KNA

Hundreds of nature lovers from all walks of life yesterday graced the annual marathon to raise funds for the conservation of Njukiri Forest in which at least 1000 new seedlings.

The event held at Camp Ndunda Falls in Embu County attracted fitness enthusiasts and adventure seekers included athletics and fun activities with the sole objective of promoting sustainable tourism.

The 5th edition of the marathon culminated with the planting of over 1,000 trees to restore a degraded forest.

Camp Dunda Falls' Head of Marketing Superior Wangui emphasized the event's focus on reducing the government's green footprint in the forest.



Participants take part in the marathon held in Njukiri Forest in Embu County /*Photo KNA*

> *The goal is to boost local tourism while raising awareness about forest conservation*

Chairman of the Njukiri Community Forest Association, Jeremiah Njiru reported that marathons have helped rehabilitate over 50 acres of forest land by planting indigenous trees.

Njiru announced plans to collaborate with Athletics Kenya (AK) to organize a full marathon to attract more participants and resources for forest restoration.

"The goal is to boost local tourism while raising awareness about forest conservation, " he said.

Njikuri East Conservancy Head Mercy Njeri Kariuki praised Camp Ndunda Falls for integrating tourism and conservation, significantly aiding in forest restoration.

She emphasized that such efforts should be emulated by everyone in order to raise the country's tree cover to combat effects of climate change.

Meanwhile, one of the participants Babra Kwena expressed pride in her participation in the event and expressed happiness in her contribution to environmental conservation. Another participant, Nicholas Mwangi from Kenyatta University described the Marathon as a challenging yet rewarding experience that went beyond just a run.

FKF commend state for sports development

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Branches in Central and Eastern Regions have hailed the Kenya Kwanza Government for its huge investment in sports infrastructure and talent development.

They said the government's unprecedented focus on construction and upgrading of sports facilities across the country was testament to an administration keen on grassroots talent development and professionalisation of soccer.

Led by Eastern Region FKF NEC Member Charles Njagi, officials from various branches said investment will go a long way in positioning the country as a regional soccer powerhouse.

Njagi asked young people not to be misled to focus on the political discourse surrounding the "one term and two terms" narratives, saying they were not bound to bring any change.

Speaking during a dinner gala in Embu Town yesterday evening, where various grassroots teams, coaches and referees across the two regions were awarded for their exemplary performance, Njagi asked young people to shift their focus from 'mechanics of power' to results and achievements.

"We must change the conversation. Let us stop the discussion of one term, what will help us is whatever the government is investing for our young people," he pleaded.

He said the kind of investment the government was making in construction and renovation of stadiums across the country to develop the sports economy was enough to warrant the administration another term in office.

650 teams to participate in Governor Wavinya Cup Kickoff in Machakos

By Anne Kangero and Mary Wavinya- KNA

A total of 650 teams are set to participate in the 3rd edition of the Governor Wavinya Cup, officially launched by Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti under the theme "Nurturing Talent, Greening Our Future and Empowering Generations."

The soccer tournament, runs through December 13, 2025, brings together teams drawn from all 40 wards in the county. Winners will walk away with a cash prize of Sh1 million.

Speaking during the launch of sports extravaganza at Kasooni Catholic Church grounds in Mumbuni North Governor Wavinya, emphasized that the tournament is more than just a football competition but it is a powerful tool for empowerment and transformation.

"This tournament is not just about winning but about giving our young people a platform to shine, to be disciplined and to use their energy positively," said Wavinya.

Launched in 2022, the Governor's Cup targets youth, women, people with disabilities, and vulnerable groups, offering opportunities for talent development and career progression.

The initiative also promotes social interaction and community unity through sports.

Wavinya highlighted success stories that have emerged from the previous editions of the tournament, including Mary Nthambi, a two-time Women's Premier League champion currently playing for the Police Bullets, and Felix Mwendwa of Kaluluini FC, who is undergoing professional scouting in Spain. She noted that the tournament also shields young people from abuse of leisure time and political manipulation by providing meaningful engagement and avenues for earning a livelihood.

To further enrich the tournament, new activities have been introduced this year including professional training sessions, talent scouting led by sports legends, environmental awareness campaigns, and tree planting exercises. These additions aim to enhance life skills and productivity among the youth.



Girls' football teams from Mumbuni play a friendly match at Kasooni Catholic Grounds during the launch of the 3rd edition of the Governor Wavinya Soccer Tournament /*Photo Mary Wavinya*

The Governor reaffirmed her commitment to using sports as a vehicle for growth, discipline, and community development, stating that the tournament fosters resilience, self-reliance, and a strong sense of identity among participants.

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Government to launch App to track public servants' productivity

By Samuel Waititu-KNA

The Government is in the final stages of developing a digital application designed to monitor the productivity of public servants in Kenya.

Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes Geoffrey Ruku said the application is set to be launched soon.

According to the CS, the new platform will among other provisions track arrival and departure times and leave status.

He said the move is geared towards enhancing efficiency, accountability, and transparency across all government offices.

Speaking recently during an impromptu early morning inspection at the Eastern Region Headquarters in Embu Town, CS Ruku said the initiative was part of a wider reform agenda of improving service delivery in the public sector.

"We must raise our standards in order to serve the people better. Lateness and laxity will no longer be tolerated in Government offices," he said.

He described the app as a "game changer" in tackling absenteeism and monitoring work output.

Drawing comparisons between the public and private sectors, CS Ruku recounted witnessing traffic congestion along Thika Road as early as 6am.

"That tells you most people in the private sector understand that success requires hard work. Public servants must match that energy if we are serious about national transformation," he added.



Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku engages clients at Huduma Center Embu */Photo KNA*

During his visit, CS Ruku reported significant disparities in punctuality. While Huduma Centre and the Immigration Department impressed him with early reporting, other departments, such as Lands, fell short with only one staff member and a cleaner present by 8AM.

Late-comers caught off guard during the inspection found themselves locked out of their offices with the CS Ruku warning that similar disciplinary measures would continue until full compliance is achieved.

He further called on all civil servants to strictly adhere to the Human Resource Procedures and Manual of 2016, which outlines expected standards of professionalism, ethics, and performance, warning that laxity would not be condoned.

"We cannot demand respect from the citizens we serve if we are not disciplined ourselves," he remarked.

Women encouraged to venture into the construction industry

By Martin Munyi- KNA

Women have been challenged to venture into the construction industry, which men in the country have largely dominated.

UltiSmart Home Finishes company founder Rahab Kiige noted that the construction industry has been dominated by men but now time was ripe for women entrepreneurs to claim their spot in the sector.

"When it comes to home finishes and interior design, women have a taste that is God-given, but many fear venturing into the sector because of the high costs of investments but we're urging more women to join us so that we can grow the industry," Ms Kiige said.

Speaking yesterday during the launch of the fourth branch of UltiSmart Home Finishes in Nanyuki town, Ms. Kiige added that her company was providing opportunities for women to manage branches, allowing them to gain knowledge in the construction industry.

She urged women to take advantage of the construction boom in the country, especially in the affordable housing sector and be become key players in home finishes.

Basco paints Chief Executive Officer Hashim Doshi who also graced the launch noted that the government's Affordable Housing project had spurred the construction industry in a big way, with hardware merchants reaping huge profits due to the high demand for construction materials.

"The Affordable Housing project has been generating business, jobs and great demand for our products which is good for the construction sector in the country," Doshi said.

Doshi urged the government to incorporate more hardware merchants in the construction of affordable housing units across the country.

