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Weak revenue collection streams and corruption responsible for collapse of service delivery

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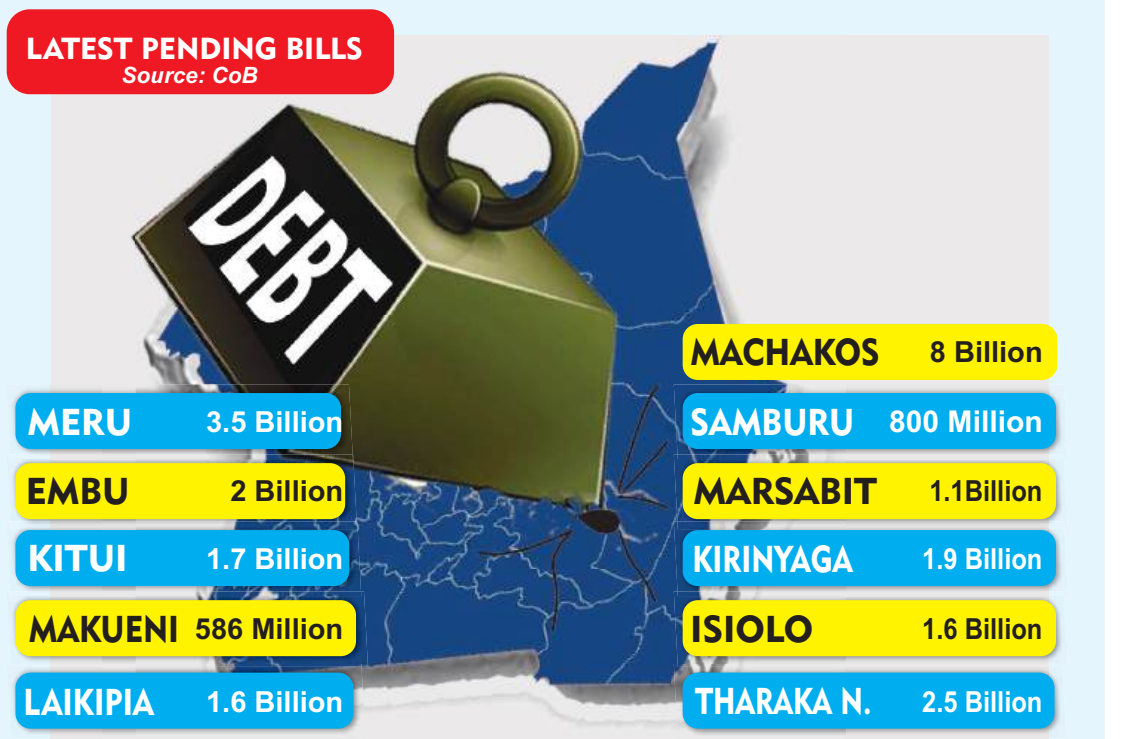
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By Eastern Newspaper team

Kenya's counties are currently grappling with a massive financial crisis, with pending bills standing at about KSh176.9 billion as of February 2026, threatening service delivery and development projects.

At least 17 counties have accumulated debts exceeding 20% of their annual revenue, putting their financial sustainability at risk.

President William Ruto approved KSh4 billion in April 2026 to clear pending bills under the defunct NHIF, easing pressure on hospitals.

There exists several risks and challenges in service delivery of essential services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure risk paralysis if debts continue to grow.

On the other hand, contractors face cash flow crises due to delayed payments, leading to layoffs and closures.

It is a fact that counties exceeding the 20% debt-to-revenue threshold may need to suspend operations for years if revenues are redirected solely to debt repayment. Stronger oversight is needed to ensure funds are used to settle debts rather than accumulate new ones.

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The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know

Counties chocking in debts

From Page 1

Save for a few, Kenya's 47 counties have largely failed to meet Own Source Revenue (OSR) targets, negatively affecting various development projects.

Controller of Budget Dr Margaret Nyakang'o has declared the verdict that the failure by the devolved units to deliver OSR targets has resulted in delayed projects, to the detriment of residents.

Her report that relied on the performance of the counties in the first half of the 2025/2026 financial year, stated the shortfalls in revenue collection had caused budget deficits, delayed development projects and hit service delivery.

Approximately 150 billion are owned to counties in uncollected revenue as suppliers continue to drown in pending bills for goods and services supplied to the county governments.

Her report had it that few counties exceeded the 50 per cent mark, in terms of OSR.

Dr Nyakang'o said counties must develop and implement strategies to improve their administration and revenue collection processes, in addition to adopting innovative means to expand the revenue base, and recover outstanding arrears owed to them.

Some of the reasons advanced for the low own source revenue collection include numerous loopholes, lack of digitalization, incitement by politicians and poor service delivery.

Some of the revenue streams failing to deliver include land rates, single business permits, house rents and other levies.

In march 2026 the Senate and the county governments made a deal to boost county funding for FY 2026/27.

In the deal, they created a framework to clear pending bills and integrate Universal Health Coverage (UHC) staff into county payrolls.

Looking at the performance of Eastern region counties, there was mixed results in the analysis of the poor state of revenue collection streams a situation that is negatively affecting the local economy. In the recent report, a county in Eastern could not collect enough to pay staff working at the county revenue board.

In contrast to other counties, Samburu, whose Governor Lati Lelelit who had a violent altercation with some members of the Senate's Public Accounts Committee, did well.

Samburu county achieved a commendable 79 per cent, something attributed by encouraging tourism revenue.

To finance their 2025/26 budget, the counties had, in addition from their equitable share from the national revenue, targeted Sh99.73b from ordinary own sources, which included Sh29.47b n from the Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) and Appropriation in Aid (A-I-A).

But the county governments could only generate Sh26.94b from own sources, a disappointing amount that represented a paltry 27 per cent of the annual target of Sh99.73b.

Counties have been making very little effort of streamlining revenue collection systems. They couties have mainly relied on the national government transfers and donations.

As of December 31, 2025, the total outstanding revenue arrears stood at Sh143.04 billion, comprised of Sh101.54b from ordinary own source revenue arrears and Sh8.29b in Facility Improvement Financing arrears. Meru county's budget for 2025/2026 was Sh16.02b, comprising Sh6.22b and Sh9.79b allocation for development and recurrent programmes, respectively.

It had a target of Sh1.84b as OSR but it managed to collect Sh608.25m, including Facilities Improvement Financing (FIF) of Sh479.01m and Sh129.24m from other own source revenue sources, which Governor Isaac Mutuma and Finance Executive Monica Kathono hailed as a big improvement compared to past regimes.

According to the controller of budget Currently Meru has approximately KSh 4billion in pending bills and risk shutdown if debts persist.

Tharaka Nithi County's Approved Budget was Sh6.77b, comprising Sh2.51b and Sh4.26b allocation for development and recurrent expenditures, respectively.

Its budget was to be financed from various revenue sources including the equitable share of revenue raised nationally of Sh4.59b (68 per cent), additional allocations of Sh1.60b (24 per cent) and Sh585.40m (9 per cent) generated as own-source revenue.

During the first half of the financial year

> *The Machakos owes suppliers approximately Machakos KSh 8billion and carries the risk on negatively affecting Infrastructure projects*

the total OSR collection of Sh219.42m was achieved including from Facilities Improvement Financing of Sh129.82m, and Sh89.60m from other OSR sources. The county has pending Bills of approximately Sh1.6bn.

Encouragingly, this amount was an increase of 20 per cent compared to Sh183m collected in a similar period in FY 2024/25.

The Isiolo County Approved Budget was Sh7.56b, made up of Sh2.66b (35 per cent) and Sh4.89b (65 per cent) allocation for development and recurrent programs, respectively.

Isiolo had a target of Sh375.21m (5 per cent) generated as own-source revenue but it managed to collect Sh101.82m. Isiolo has Sh1.9bn impending Bills.

Embu had a budget of Sh8.99b, including Sh1.36b (15 per cent) to be received as own-source revenue. The county has approximately Ksh 2Billion in contractor debts.

It nearly achieved to raise half of its OSR after collection of Sh420.12m.

The Kitui County budget was Sh14.75b comprising Sh5.23b (35 per cent) and Sh9.56b (65 per cent) allocation for development and expenditures. It has approximately Ksh 1.9Billion in pending bills.

The government set an ambitious Sh1.20b (7.59 per cent) generated as own-source revenue, but during the first half, it did well by collection of Sh524.63m. recent report shows that Kitui as an outstanding 1.76 billion.

Makueni County currently has pending bills totaling about KSh587.4 million (as of June 2025), with the bulk being recurrent obligations such as salary arrears and statutory deductions. The county struggled to meet its revenue targets, limiting its ability to clear pending bills and finance development projects. It is struggling with a shortfall of approximately KSh1.29 Billion.

Laikipia County's pending bills currently stand at about KSh1.6 billion as of early 2026, with audit records showing that the county managed to pay off KSh564 million during the last review period. Despite this, the debt burden remains high and continues to strain service delivery and wage bill management. The County had a budget of Sh9.22b and targeted an OSR of 1.35billion (14.67 per cent), but at the end of the day, it reported collection amounting to Sh452.66m.

The Machakos owes suppliers approximately Machakos KSh 8billion and carries the risk on negatively affecting Infrastructure projects. The County approved budget for FY 2025/26 is Sh15.19 billion, made up of Sh4.60b (30 per cent) and Sh10.60b (70 per cent) for development and 4.20b (30 per cent) for recurrent programs, respectively.

The county set a staggering Sh4.09b (27 percent) to be earned as own-source revenue.

It did not do too badly either, after collecting collection of Sh1.15b but has an outstanding 84.5 million in own source revenue.

Samburu County's pending bills are estimated at about KSh800 million as of early 2026, according to Controller of Budget reports. Coming to the good show by Samburu, it had a Supplementary budget of Sh8.11b in the 2025/2026 financial year, Sh5,40 for development.

Marsabit County's pending bills are estimated at about KSh1.1 billion as of early 2026, according to Controller of Budget reports.The County, had a Sh10.33b budget, comprising Sh3.67b (36 per cent) and Sh6.66b (64 per cent) allocation for development and recurrent programs, respectively.

Marsabit's budget was to be financed through various revenue sources, including the equitable share of revenue raised nationally of Sh8.11b (78 per cent), additional allocations of Sh1.70b (16 per cent), a cash balance of Sh442.78m (4per cent) brought forward from FY 2024/25, and Sh270m (2 per cent) generated as own-source revenue.

During the first half of the period under review Marsabit reported total revenues of Sh3.89b, an amount which represented a decrease of 6 per cent compared to the amount received in a similar period in FY 2024/25 of Kshs.4.16b

Governor Anne Waiguru of Kirinyaga county had a budget of Sh8b to work with in 2025/26, with Sh5.16b (65 per cent) and Sh2.84b (35 per cent) allocated for recurrent and development programs, respectively.

It set Sh766m (9.58 per cent) generated as own-source revenue, and managed a total OSR collection of Sh344.69.0m which included Facilities Improvement Financing (FIF) of Sh242.07m, Sh92.62m from other OSR sources.

In the FY 2025/26, the total budget for County Governments amounts to Sh619.87b, which included Sh228.20b (37 per cent) allocated for development expenses and Sh391.67b (63 per cent) devoted to recurrent expenses. Kirinyaga has approximately Sh2.3bn in Pending Bills

The 47county governments collected Sh26.94b in own-source revenue, representing 27 per cent of the annual target of Sh99.73b. This collection consists of Sh14.23b from ordinary own-source revenue and Sh12.70b from the Facility Improvement Fund.

In 2024/2025 financial year counties raised 67.3 billion against a target of 87.6 billion up from 41.4 billion in the previous year but still insufficient.



Government to settle only verified coffee farmers

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Wycliffe Oparanya has maintained that the Government will only settle audited and verified coffee cooperative loans.

He reported that a comprehensive audit of coffee societies' liabilities established that only Sh. 6.8 billion out of the claimed debts was legitimate and eligible for settlement.

Speaking to hundreds of coffee farmers from Embu recently at Kairuri Grounds in Manyatta Constituency, CS Oparanya said any fictitious loans will not be covered and may even lead to prosecution.

He said the Government had put in place stringent verification mechanisms to ensure only legitimate claims backed by supporting documents and minutes authorizing borrowing will be paid.

"Any cooperative society whose debt is not reflected in the audited report will have to resolve those obligations internally through their management committees and farmers," he said.

The CS confirmed that the Government has already begun settling the verified debts, with Sh. 2 billion set aside in the initial phase of payments.

At the same time, Oparanya announced a policy shift that will bar cooperative societies from procuring their own milling machines.

Instead, the CS said milling services will be centralized under the New Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (KPCU) that will act as the primary service providers for all coffee cooperatives requiring the services.

The move, he said, will save societies from incurring huge expenses of procuring them yet most of the time they remain idle as coffee harvesting and milling season is short as well as cut operation costs in terms of specialized staff, maintenance and security.

"We want a scenario where any society in need of milling services will engage the New KPCU to offer the services at a minimal fee," he said, noting that sharing of the service will also help lower the processing cost for the farmers.



Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises CS Wycliffe Oparanya speaking to coffee farmers from Embu at Kairuri Grounds in Manyatta Constituency */Photo KNA*

The CS also said the State had barred the societies from going for loans from commercial banks for inputs and cherry advances to prevent them from falling back to debt traps.

He said the Government had instituted measures to ensure farmers have cash in their pockets to support their farming through the Cherry Advance Revolving Fund (CCARF) and Direct Settlement System (DSS).

"We have ensured that farmers have access to cheap CCARF loans to purchase inputs and also meet immediate household needs as they wait for their harvest to be sold," he said.

Similarly, the CS said through the DSS mechanism, farmers are able to receive their pay directly to their accounts within five days once their coffee is sold at the Nairobi Stock Exchange.

"We these strategies in place, there would be no justification for any society to go for loans from commercial lenders," he stated.

Meanwhile, the CS said the government was working towards tripling coffee production annually from 50, 000 metric tonnes to 155, 000 by the year 2028.

He reported that some of the ways of doing so was by introducing the crop into new zones and increasing acreage under coffee.

KEBS warns traders against imposters posing as inspectors

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has issued a warning to traders to remain vigilant against imposters posing as their inspectors, claiming to be on the lookout for substandard or expired goods.

KEBS Meru Head, John King'ori, said the bureau had received numerous complaints from traders, particularly in the region, about individuals harassing business owners and demanding bribes over alleged presence of substandard or expired products in their premises.

Speaking recently at Embu, King'ori said many traders had fallen victim to these imposters and often ended up paying bribes to avoid alleged prosecution.

He urged traders to verify the identity of anyone claiming to be a KEBS inspector before engaging with them. "We are asking business owners to confirm credentials of inspectors visiting their businesses by contacting our offices," King'ori said. He emphasized that KEBS inspectors do not ask for bribes nor do they carry out arrests.

To help traders authenticate inspectors, the bureau has provided a verification mechanism through a toll-free line. Business owners can send the HR Number of any staff member claiming to be an inspector to short code 20023 or call 1545 for confirmation.

King'ori also raised concerns about a group masquerading as the "Consumer Protection Unit," conducting illegal raids, harassing traders, and demanding bribes under the guise of enforcing standards. He stressed that KEBS's mandate is to support small and micro enterprises (SMEs) in achieving compliance rather than frustrate them, contrasting with the actions of these imposters.

Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Embu Branch Chair, Mugo Mate, called for greater collaboration with KEBS to support SMEs through training and empowerment rather than enforcement. "Traders are willing to comply if given the right guidance," he said. Mate further suggested that KEBS focus on manufacturers and entry points of substandard goods rather than targeting small traders who may unknowingly sell such items.

EAPC Church urges politicians to avoid hate speech ahead of elections

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

Leaders of the East African Pentecostal Churches (EAPC) have called on politicians to exercise restraint and promote peaceful campaigns, as the country approaches the electioneering period.

The General Overseer, Igoji District Church, Reverend Gideon Muthuri, warned against the use of inflammatory language that could incite division among Kenyans, saying that political leaders should avoid rhetoric that fosters hatred between opponents and their supporters.

"As we head into a heated campaign season, politicians must refrain from conversations that invoke hatred among competitors or citizens," said Muthuri.

He also raised concern over what he described as a growing trend of hiring individuals to disrupt political meetings, urging leaders and their supporters to respect the rights of others.

"If a meeting is not yours or you are not invited, do not attempt to disrupt it. Staying away shows respect for the rights of every citizen," he said, adding that the church does not support violence in campaigns, due to the risk of bloodshed, including harm to innocent people.

Muthuri further cautioned politicians against using church platforms to spread propaganda.

He urged leaders attending services to focus on their development record rather than attacking rivals.

"Church is a holy place. Leaders should speak about what they have done for the country instead of criticizing others," said Mr. Muthuri.

He emphasized the need for unity, noting that Kenya's stability should take precedence over individual political interests.

The General overseer also warned against attempts to divide the country along tribal or other lines.

Kenya is bigger than any politician or personal interest. We must not engage in actions that create divisions," he added.

Meanwhile, another church leader, Reverend Duncan Gikunda, called on young people to actively participate in the electoral process by registering as voters.

Gikunda said youth involvement in elections and other national matters is critical to nation-building and shaping the country's future.

"As a church, we urge young people to take an active role in elections by registering as voters. They should move away from empty rhetoric and participate in bringing about the change they desire," said Reverend Gikunda.

He also appealed to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), to increase access to voter registration services by setting up stations closer to communities.



Reverend Gideon Muthuri with other leaders of the East African Pentecostal Churches addressing the Press */ Photo KNA*

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Male ward launched at Nyambene level 4 Hospital

By Kamanja Maeria -KNA

Men in the larger Nyambene region are set to benefit from improved healthcare services following the official opening of the first-ever male ward at Nyambene level 4 hospital.

This is a major milestone expected to ease pressure on families who have for years been forced to seek admission services at Meru Level 5 Hospital.

The newly opened 60-bed ward, constructed at a cost of Sh16 million, is expected to serve residents from 5 constituencies in the larger Nyambene region in what local leaders and residents described as a long-overdue intervention in a health system where men have often been sidelined.

Speaking during the commissioning of the ward, Governor Isaac Mutuma said the project marks the end of years of suffering for men in Igembe and surrounding areas, many of whom have been forced to travel long distances in search of inpatient care.

The Governor said the absence of a dedicated male ward at the facility had led to unnecessary referrals, delayed treatment and avoidable suffering for patients and their families.

Mutuma noted that many men have been lost while being transferred to Meru Level 5 Hospital, leaving behind widows and orphans in cases where lives could have been saved if admission and treatment services had been available closer home.

Governor Mutuma also shared a personal experience, saying even his own father once failed to secure admission for oxygen support because of a lack of beds, a reality he said reflects the urgent need for expansion of health infrastructure in the region.



The male ward at Nyambene Level 4 Hospital */Photo KNA*

He announced that the County Government has already set aside Sh50 million for further expansion of the hospital, including the construction of additional wards as part of plans to upgrade Nyambene level 4 hospital into a level 5 facility.

He said the planned expansion will also include several laboratories and a CT scan, which are expected to strengthen diagnosis and specialized treatment services for the wider Nyambene population.

Elawnet Foundation establishes Eco-Hub in Meru

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

The Elawnet Foundation, through its flagship Treeconomy Programme, has established an Eco-Hub and Headquarters at the Kiamweri Model Village in Meru County.

The center will serve as a national Treeconomy Demonstration and Capacity Building Hub, aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030 Medium Term Plan IV, (MTP IV) Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and Short-term Development Goals,(SDGs) and will play a catalytic role in the implementation of the 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme and the Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy.

Addressing Journalists during its launch, the Foundation's patron, Lawrence Muthamia said they have had four days of intensive field program, where they successfully launched the Eco-School Tree Nursery under the Treeconomy Framework's three key eco-pillars.

"We have been pegging our programme on One Tree, One Life promoting household and institutional tree growing for food security, income, and climate resilience.

We have also been dealing with the HoPE (Hope Pillar Engagement), faith-based and community-led ecosystem restoration initiatives, as well as AfroForest Tree Alliance, which is an agroforestry and indigenous knowledge integration for sustainable land use and green economy value chains," said Muthamia.

The Foundation also operationalized the Elawnet Foundation Media House, laying the groundwork for the launch of the Foundation and Consortium TV, an integrated media platform to amplify environmental awareness, policy advocacy, youth engagement, and global collaboration for sustainability and climate action.

"This Eco-Hub will also function as the strategic and operational headquarters for the Elawnet Foundation and Consortium, positioning it as the national coordination agency for the Treeconomics Program.

"The Hub integrates training, innovation, digital Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, and blended finance approaches to scale up ecosystem restoration and green jobs creation," said Muthamia.

The patron said the Foundation's Strategic Alignment include Kenya Vision 2030 MTP IV flagship on environment, education, and economic transformation, Bottom-Up Eco.

Meru leaders back government crackdown on banditry menace

By Kamanja Maeria -KNA

Leaders from Meru County have expressed strong support for the national government's intensified crackdown on banditry in the northern grazing zone, describing the operation as a necessary and decisive measure to restore peace and stability in the region.

Speaking at Kaelo Technical College, Igembe North MP Julius Taitumu lauded the government's commitment to protecting lives and property, noting that residents have endured years of insecurity marked by livestock theft, displacement, and fear.

"The government must move with speed and firmness to end this menace once and for all. Our people deserve to live in peace," said Taitumu, urging leaders to avoid actions or statements that could derail ongoing security efforts.

The event was attended by National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah, Principal Secretary for Blue Economy and Fisheries Betsy Njagi, and Migori Woman Representative Fatuma Mohammed, all of whom reaffirmed the Kenya Kwanza administration's dedication to ending banditry and accelerating development in affected areas.

Ichung'wah assured residents that security operations have been strengthened and will continue until lasting peace is achieved. He highlighted the success of similar interventions in Baringo County and expressed confidence that Meru will soon experience the same transformation.



Igembe North MP Julius Taitumu with leader of Majority in Parliament Kimani Ichung'wah join faithful and leaders for a Sunday service at PEFA Church, Kaelo Technical Training Institute in Igembe North */Photo KNA*

"Banditry will end in Meru just as it did in Baringo. The government has the capacity and the will to restore order," he said.

Meru Woman Representative Karambu Kailemia urged leaders and residents to support security agencies and avoid politicizing security matters. She emphasized that the operation targets criminals and warned that leaders who incite communities or frustrate peace efforts risk facing legal consequences.

"This operation is about protecting innocent citizens and bringing criminals to justice. We must stand united and support our security officers," she said.

Meru Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia echoed the sentiments during a church service in Igembe Central, affirming his administration's close collaboration with the national government to ensure the safety of residents. He strongly condemned cattle rustling and violence, warning those criminal elements will face the full force of the law.

"Criminality has no place in our society. We will work hand in hand with the national government to ensure our people are protected and their livelihoods secured," said the governor.

Njia Ward MCA Mwenda Ali welcomed the operation, noting that comprehensive security measures across affected areas will help recover stolen livestock and dismantle criminal networks.

Leaders highlighted that improved security will unlock economic potential in the region, paving the way for investment, trade, and development projects under the Kenya Kwanza agenda.

Residents were urged to cooperate fully with security agencies while heeding the warning against attempts to derail peace initiatives. The leaders expressed confidence that the government's firm and coordinated approach will bring an end to banditry and usher in a new era of peace, unity, and prosperity in Meru County.

Meru County gubernatorial race becomes hotter ahead of 2027

By Eastern Correspondent

The Meru County gubernatorial race ahead of 2027 is shaping up to be one of the most competitive and politically complex contests in Kenya. It is influenced by recent political instability, strong personalities, and shifting party alignments. Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia is the incumbent governor, having taken office in 2025 after the impeachment of Kawira Mwangaza. Mwangaza's removal followed prolonged conflicts with MCAs and political elites, creating deep divisions in Meru politics. This means 2027 is not a "normal" election, it is a reset election after political turbulence.

Several high-profile politicians have either declared interest or are strongly expected to run, including former Agriculture Cabinet Secretary and ex-Meru Senator Mithika Linturi, who came second in the 2022 Meru County gubernatorial race. First Governor of Meru Peter Munya has declared his intention to reclaim the seat. Munya has a strong technocratic image and development record that appeals to voters seeking experienced and stable leadership.

Kathuri Murungi, the current Meru Senator has also been mentioned but he has not clearly revealed his 2027 plan. If he runs, he will represent continuity within current political structures, backed by legislative experience.

The immediate former governor Kawira Mwangaza, though impeached, has a strong grassroots base, meaning there are high possibilities of a comeback. She has already launched her own political party, Umoja na Maendeleo that is setting base for fielding candidates in various positions across the country.

If she runs, she could significantly give the competitors a run for their experience and money.

The current governor Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia is enjoying the power of incumbency and will defend his seat in the next general elections. He has already started organizing various 'meet the people' development meetings that have often been converted to political rallies.

Governor Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia, who took office in March 2025 after Kawira Mwangaza's impeachment, has already begun positioning himself for the 2027 elections. His campaign in Meru emphasizes unity, service delivery, and grassroots mobilization. As the sitting governor, incumbency gives him the advantage of state machinery, but his popularity is still being tested. Generally, in Meru County, there is no clear dominant figure yet but political analysts expect a split vote scenario, similar to 2022.

Kinoti Marete commonly known as JR is the latest entrant in the gubernatorial race. Marete announced his candidature a few weeks ago via social media and later clarified the same on local electronic media. Kinoti is the only candidate who has not held any political seat despite having tried for various political positions in previous general elections. As a younger candidate, Marete JR. is presenting himself as a generational alternative to Meru's seasoned politicians.

The contest is expected to involve the elite established figures like Munya, Linturi and Kathuri against populist politicians like Mwangaza. Several factors are expected to determine the survival of the candidates salivating for the position of chief executive of Meru County, managing the more than 12 billion shillings that runs through the County Government accounts every year.

Former Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi has officially declared his bid for the Meru governorship in the 2027 elections after leaving government. Linturi has conducted public participation in all nine constituencies of Meru, presenting himself as a candidate driven by people's demand. Linturi will contest on a Democratic Congress Party (DCP) ticket, where he serves as the party's organizing secretary.



Meru County Governor Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia /*Photo Handout*

Peter Munya is working day and night to rebuild PNU structures, a party that propelled former President Mwai Kibaki to recapture power in his 2007 re-election. Munya's path to victory lies in expanding beyond his urban Imenti strongholds into rural Tigania and Igembe regions.

National issues will play a key role in determining who becomes the next governor of Meru. Peter Munya and Mithika Linturi are leading a battalion against the UDA administration led by President William Ruto. Governor Isaac Mutuma and Senator Kathuri are singing the tune of the current national administration. Kawira Mwangaza and Kinoti Marete seem to be neutral and available to whichever side offers the best deal. They are running neutral and independent campaigns with minimal focus on national politics. They are low hanging fruits for President Ruto and the opposition whoever drops the acceptable carrot.

The three former governors will be evaluated by their performance in matters of functional county government. Development performance in key areas, including Health, agriculture, miraa, roads, water, and youth jobs, will be considered.

The issue of the subtribes and regional balance is expected to heavily influence the Meru County gubernatorial competition. Meru politics is heavily influenced by the positions of the Imenti, Tigania and Igembe subtribes and by extension clans.

Personality ability in politics, specifically persuasive speeches and message delivery strategies will also determine who creates the strongest political perception ahead of the elections. All the current candidates are good public speakers and carry a team of public relations personnel who assist them in delivering their message through various channels. Here the charisma and mobilization capacity will play a critical role.

In a nutshell the Meru 2027 gubernatorial race is shaping into a battle royale, featuring a high-stakes comeback attempt by Munya and the possibility of Mwangaza making it to the ballot.

It is a redemption race for Linturi who lost the 2022 race to Kawira, and there is already prepared ground for testing Mutuma's incumbency.

Most likely outcome is a tight, fragmented election where victory could come with a relatively low percentage of votes.



Kathuri Murungi



Kawira Mwangaza



Mithika Linturi



Kinoti Marete

Lewa conservancy rolls out climate-smart agriculture program for communities

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Meru county has launched a Sustainable Agriculture program targeting communities around the conservancy, in a bid to cushion farmers against the growing impacts of climate change.

The initiative, spearheaded by the conservancy's Community Development Department, seeks to promote Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, strengthen resilience and improve livelihoods among local farmers.

Speaking during an agriculture expo held at Ngarendare, Buuri Sub County, Meru County, the Conservancy's Chief Programs and Partnerships Officer John Kinoti said the program focuses on knowledge exchange and leveraging partnerships to enhance sustainable development.

"We are working to equip farmers with practical solutions for climate change adaptation, while promoting sustainable land management," said Kinoti.

The Programmes Officer said Lewa Conservancy is collaborating with more than 50 industry stakeholders to train farmers on a wide range of modern agricultural practices including conservation agriculture, soil health management, water harvesting, drip irrigation, use of certified and drought-tolerant seeds, integrated pest management, agroforestry and renewable energy solutions.

Farmers who attended the expo praised the initiative, describing it as impactful and informative.

Doreen Kathambi , a member of the Karimi Women Group in Ntirimiti said the training helped her learn improved tomato farming techniques and how to identify certified seeds.

Another farmer, Daniel Kiruki from Matunda, said the forum opened his eyes to agribusiness as a viable income source.

Kinoti noted that more than 3,000 farmers attended the event, where they were introduced to new farming technologies and best practices.

He urged farmers to embrace agriculture as a business rather than a subsistence activity.

"It is the high time farmers approached agriculture commercially including conducting soil testing and adopting modern techniques," he said, adding that agribusiness presents significant economic opportunities, particularly for young people.

Lewa's Community Development Officer, Lawrence Riungu, said the program is targeting 13 surrounding communities, most of whose members rely on traditional farming methods.

Riungu emphasized the need to transition to conservation agriculture, especially in dry areas, adding, "We have established demonstration farms in each community to showcase modern practices and we hold at least two agricultural exhibitions annually in every area."

At the same time, Lewa is also supporting 28 schools, where students are being introduced to agricultural skills.

Meru County Executive Committee Member for Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Janaro Gatangugi, said the county government is working closely with Lewa to promote agriculture as a key economic driver.

He noted that additional agricultural extension officers are being deployed to support farmers.

Gatangugi also emphasized the importance of climate-resilient farming, urging farmers to reduce reliance on rain-fed agriculture and adopt irrigation and other adaptive techniques.

The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know
Issue 32, May 2026 - June 2026

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CBET APPROVED COURSES — MAY 2026 INTAKE ONGOING

COURSES OFFERED

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

COURSE	LEVEL	MODULE	EXAMINING BODY	MINIMUM DURATION
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
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

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM, FASHION & DESIGN & COSMETOLOGY

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
FASHION & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
FASHION & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
FASHION & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGE PRODUCTION & SERVICE	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
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
CATERING & ACCOMMODATION	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CATERING & ACCOMMODATION	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CATERING & ACCOMMODATION	4	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
TOUR & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
TOUR & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS

COMPUTING, INFORMATICS & BUSINESS

COURSE	LEVEL	MODULE	EXAMINING BODY	MINIMUM DURATION
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		MODUE 1	CDACC	6 MONTHS
COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
CAMS		MODUE 1	KASNEB	6 MONTHS
ATD 1, 2 & 3		MODUE 1	KASNEB	6 MONTHS

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

COURSE	LEVEL	MODULE	EXAMINING BODY	MINIMUM DURATION
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	6	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS
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
QUANTITY SURVEYING	5	MODUE 1	CDACC	3 MONTHS

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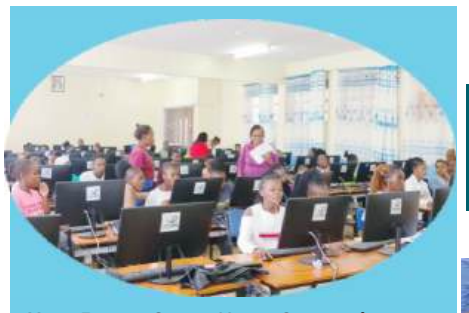
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The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know

IEBC targets 26,450 new voters in Tharaka Nithi County

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori- KNA

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is targeting to register a total of 26,450 new voters in Tharaka Nithi County in the ongoing Continuous Voters Registration (CVR).

Speaking to Kenya News Agency, the County Elections Coordinator Mr. Mohammed Raka said so far, 3,185 new voters have been registered adding that they will put in more efforts to meet the target by the end of the 30 days registration drive.

He said a total of 52 voter registration kits have been distributed across the County with Maara Sub- County receiving 17, Chuka/Igambang'ombe 18, and Tharaka Sub- County 17.

Two additional kits, he added, have been stationed at Chuka University to facilitate student registration.

"We will do everything within our ability to ensure wider inclusivity and improved access for all eligible citizens across the county. What is different this time is that we are including everyone, and we have deployed registration kits across all areas. Each constituency and ward has access to registration services," said Mr. Raka.

He added that registration services have been further decentralized to the ward and service centre levels to bring services closer to residents, noting that registration kits have been deployed to institutions of higher learning within the county to target eligible young voters.

He urged residents who have not yet registered to take advantage of the exercise to get a chance to exercise their constitutional right.

The officer also commended Chuka University students for turning out in large numbers, reporting that 615 students were registered within one week at the institution.

"We encourage the same spirit so that more young people can come forward and register," he said.

Raka emphasized that the success of the voter registration exercise does not depend solely on the electoral body but also on effective public awareness and information sharing.

To enhance outreach, he said voter mobilisers will be deployed down to the village level to encourage eligible residents to register and participate in the electoral process.



County Elections Coordinator Mohammed Raka talking to the press /*Photo Courtesy*

DP Kindiki outlines Sh21bn development projects in Tharaka Nithi County

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

Deputy President Professor Kithure Kindiki recently conducted a development tour of Chuka Igambang'ombe Constituency in Tharaka Nithi County, where he inspected ongoing infrastructure projects and outlined major government investments aimed at boosting economic growth.

Speaking during a public engagement at Kaanwa Trading Centre, the Deputy President said the national government is implementing road projects spanning 412 kilometres across the county at an estimated cost of Sh21 billion.

Among the flagship projects is the construction of the Nithi Bridge, which is projected to cost Sh7 billion.

He added that rural electrification initiatives worth Sh1 billion are underway to expand power access, while affordable housing, fresh produce markets, and student accommodation projects are all valued at Sh7 billion.

On healthcare, Professor Kindiki noted that Taifa Care, the government's universal health coverage programme, has recorded significant uptake in the region, adding that the County ranks among the top five counties in registration, with about 70 per cent of residents enrolled.

Nationally, the programme has registered 30.2 million Kenyans, a sharp increase from the 7 million who were previously covered under the now-defunct National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF).

During the tour, the Deputy President inspected the ongoing construction of the Kaanwa–Chuka Technical Road, whose first phase covers six kilometers and is expected to extend to Mwanjati–Kamutiria, reaching approximately 19 kilometers.

He also reviewed progress on the Kibugua–Itugururu road, with plans for a second phase linking Itugururu to Ishiara to enhance connectivity between Tharaka Nithi and neighbouring Embu County.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki during a development tour of Chuka Igambang'ombe Constituency in Tharaka Nithi County /*Photo KNA*

Other roads under development in Chuka Igambang'ombe include the Itugururu–Kamaindi–Mate Road, where a contractor is already on site, as well as proposed projects such as Kirege–Forest–Mubukuro and Magenka–Itugururu roads, which are currently at the tendering stage.

The Deputy President emphasized the need to consolidate shorter road segments into larger contracts of about 40 kilometres to improve efficiency and accelerate completion.

In Maara Constituency, he announced plans to soon unveil three new road projects and complete ongoing works to improve the area's transport network, making it on par with the rest of the constituencies.

The Deputy President also assessed progress on key market infrastructure projects, announcing that the Chuka Modern Market, valued at Sh300 million is almost complete and is expected to be commissioned soon by President William Ruto.

The DP also inspected the construction of the Cheera fresh produce market, estimated at Sh70 million, and announced that the Kaanwa market project, valued at Sh200 million, will be launched soon.

He reiterated the government's commitment to expanding economic infrastructure across the county, including the rollout of last-mile electricity connectivity to increase household access to power.

Construction of Maara KMTC campus kicks off in Magutuni

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

Residents of Maara Constituency in Tharaka Nithi County have witnessed a major milestone following the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Maara campus of the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) in Magutuni.

Speaking during the event, Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki said the journey to establish the project started nearly a decade ago when residents requested a medical training facility in the area.

He explained that the establishment of the campus required key conditions, including the availability of a Level Four hospital and at least 10 acres of land.

Owing to these considerations, he added, Magutuni emerged as the only location within the constituency that met both requirements, with the land initially belonging to a local cooperative union and held in trust by the county government.

Mbiuki thanked the community for releasing the land, noting that in collaboration with the county government, the property has since been transferred to KMTC, with the title deed now in the institution's name.

This is the reason we are here to start this journey together," said Mbiuki.

He also acknowledged the county government for allowing the institution to be attached to Magutuni Level Four Hospital, a move expected to enhance healthcare training and service delivery in the region.

Mbiuki revealed that the Maara National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) has allocated funds across the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years to finance the construction of key facilities, including tuition blocks, laboratories, and an administration block. He added that the national government, under President William Ruto, has also committed to constructing student hostels once the project begins and undergoes inspection.

He expressed optimism that the campus and hostel facilities could be completed within a year. "I now urge the local residents to invest in private hostels to accommodate students, considering that learners could still enroll even if government hostels are not ready," said Mr Mbiuki.

Tharaka Nithi Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisraeli praised the collaborative efforts between the national and county governments, saying the project marks the realization of a long-held dream.

He noted that the county executive approved the allocation of land due to its proximity to Magutuni Level Four Hospital.

The Project Chairman Mark Kiruja, said the institution would significantly benefit the local population by reducing the need for students to travel long distances in search of medical training.

He added that the campus would also create business opportunities for the surrounding community during construction and after completion.

Kiruja further noted that the project, estimated to cost Sh360 million, is expected to boost service delivery at Magutuni Level Four Hospital and potentially support its upgrade.

A local resident, Reverend Alice Mutwiri, welcomed the project, saying it would uplift the community economically by creating demand for housing and agricultural produce while enabling local students to save on accommodation costs.

Government launches 20 million coffee seedlings programme

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori- KNA



Director of New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union PLC Charles Mutwiri Mkarimu with the coffee farmers /*Photo KNA*

The national government has launched a major coffee revitalization programme targeting the distribution of 20 million coffee seedlings in Tharaka Nithi County as part of efforts to boost coffee production and revive the once-thriving sector.

The programme was officially launched at Mitheru Coffee Society in Chuka and attracted a large number of coffee farmers from across the region. During the launch, farmers received a total of 10,000 high-yield coffee seedlings to support increased production.

Director of New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union PLC (New KPCU) Charles Mutwiri Mkarimu urged coffee farmers to embrace the new high-yielding coffee varieties, noting that they have the potential to significantly increase productivity compared to older coffee trees.

Mkarimu explained that traditional coffee varieties currently produce an average of about two kilograms per tree, while the new seedlings can yield more than 20 kilograms per tree when properly managed.

"Currently many farmers are harvesting very little from their coffee trees, but with these improved seedlings and proper management practices, farmers can increase their production significantly," he said.

He noted that farmers who register with their cooperative societies will receive the seedlings free of charge. The cooperative societies will keep records of the beneficiaries and submit them to New KPCU to facilitate organized distribution.

Mkarimu also pointed out that coffee prices have improved in recent months, with farmers now earning more than Sh100 per kilogram, encouraging farmers to increase production to take advantage of the favorable market conditions.

Former Chuka University Vice Chancellor Professor Erastus Njoka recalled the important role coffee played in Kenya's economy in the past.

He said that during the 1980s, coffee was among the country's leading foreign exchange earners and significantly contributed to economic development in many rural areas.

"In coffee-growing regions, the crop enabled many families to educate their children and access healthcare services," said Prof. Njoka.

He added that coffee income also helped develop several urban centres in the region as farmers reinvested their earnings in local businesses and infrastructure.

Prof. Njoka noted that Tharaka Nithi County currently contributes about three percent of Kenya's total coffee production and its coffee is widely recognized for its quality.

However, he said farmers continue to face several challenges that have hindered the growth of the sector.

"Our farmers continue to face serious challenges including low and delayed payments, high costs of farm inputs, aging coffee bushes, poor management of cooperative societies and limited value addition," he said.

Tharaka Nithi County Commissioner David Gitonga said the revival of coffee farming is among the key priorities under the government's agricultural transformation agenda.

Kaanwa-Chuka road tarmacked to boost rural connectivity and development in Tharaka Nithi

By Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori- KNA



National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah after the launch of Kaanwa–Chuka-Technical–Kamutiria Road tarmacking / *Photo KNA*

Tharaka Nithi County received a major development boost, following the official launch of the tarmacking of the Kaanwa–Chuka-Technical–Kamutiria Road, a transformative infrastructural project aimed at improving connectivity, trade, and access to education in the region.

The event, held at Kaanwa Market, brought together senior National and Couty leaders, who pledged continued support for infrastructure, education, energy, and economic empowerment initiatives across the County.

National Assembly Majority Leader, Kimani Ichung'wah, who officiated the event emphasized the government's resolve to accelerate regional development.

"The Kenya Kwanza Administration is focused on tangible, people-centered growth. In addition to road projects, President William Ruto has allocated Sh588 million for the construction of modern markets in Tharaka Nithi, and a further Sh2.2 billion to support university and college infrastructure in this region," said Ichung'wah.

He assured residents of improved access to electricity through the Last Mile Connectivity Program, noting that every household in the County, would soon be connected to power.

"This is how we actualize the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda—by investing in communities," he added.

Principal Secretary (PS) for the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, Betsy Muthoni Njagi, who also attended the event, lauded the ongoing development in the county and other parts of the country, calling for collective leadership in driving the national socio-economic transformation agenda.

"Development must reflect the priorities of our people. We must continue investing in infrastructure, technical training, and grassroots empowerment," said PS Njagi

Igambang'ombe Member of Parliament (MP), Patrick Munene, who led the road initiative, said the new tarmac road would open-up the region to trade, ease transportation, and increase economic activity.

"This road will serve farmers, traders, and students. Our next goal is to have Chuka Technical Training Institute, elevated to a national polytechnic," said Mr Munene.

He also called on the Majority Leader to present to the President Kaanwa's request for a modern, government-supported market in the area.

Munene, who has championed multiple development initiatives in his Constituency, including school upgrades, bursaries, and electrification projects, affirmed his commitment to ensuring no ward is left behind by development wagon.

Marian Ward Member of the County Assembly (MCA) Anita Karimi, who hosted the event, underscored the importance of empowering women groups through financial inclusion.

"Table banking is transforming lives in our villages. We must support women to grow their businesses, support their families, and uplift the community," she said.

The event also featured the empowerment of women groups from Marian Ward, who were supported to strengthen their savings and lending schemes, aimed at fostering self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

Huawei DigiTruck graduates 300 youth in Chuka

By Dickson Mwiti KNA

More than 300 youths graduated from the Huawei DigiTruck programme in Chuka, Tharaka-Nithi County, in a significant boost to Kenya's efforts to bridge the digital divide and equip young people with market-ready skills.

The training, delivered through a mobile digital classroom, is part of a partnership between Huawei Technologies Kenya and the Government of Kenya, targeting underserved communities with hands-on instruction in basic software applications, internet use and digital tools for entrepreneurship and employment.

The graduation, held at Chuka DCC Grounds, was presided over by Hillars Olemoke , Director in the Department of Fisheries and Blue Economy, who represented Principal Secretary Betsy Njagi.

He said the initiative is aligned with government efforts to empower youth through digital literacy and innovation.

Mr. Olemoke noted that digital skills are increasingly critical in unlocking opportunities across sectors such as banking, security and the global online job market.

"This is the era of digital literacy. Young people can leverage these skills to access global opportunities and create their own employment," he said.

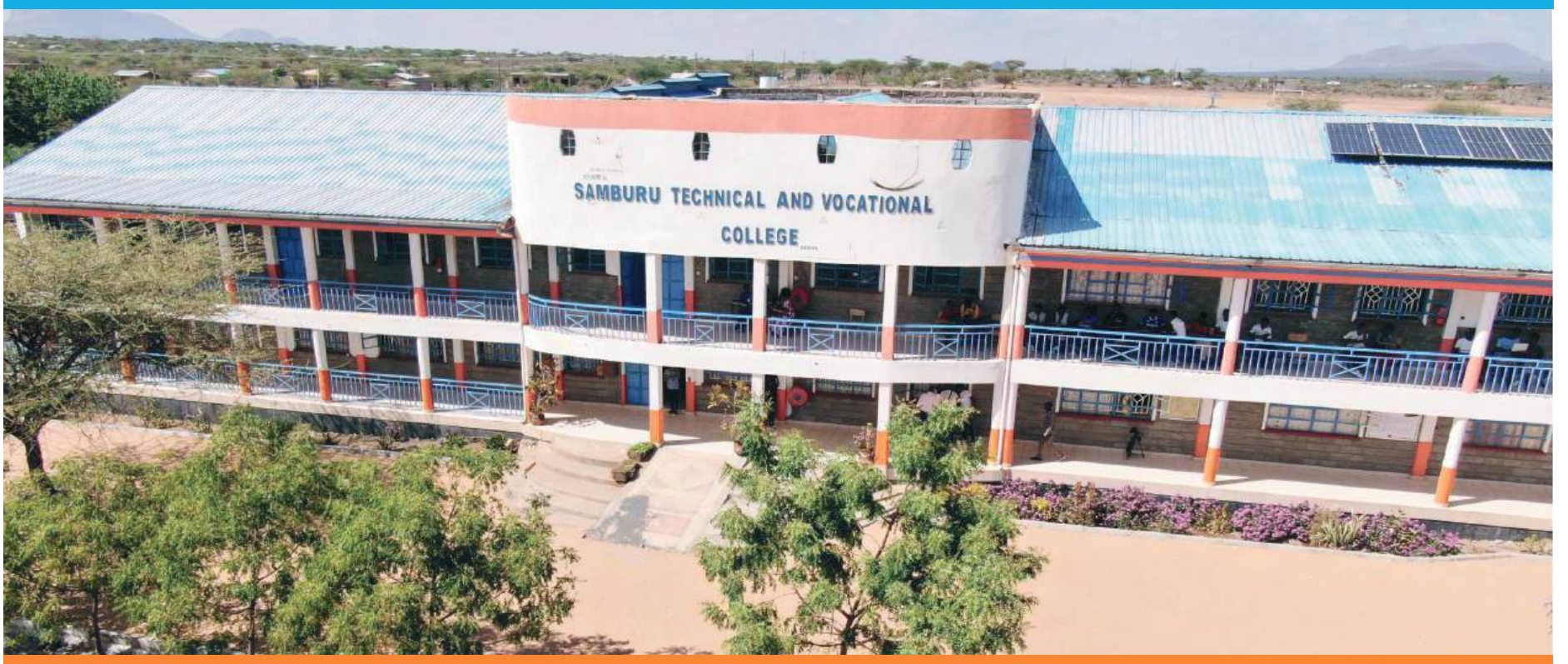
He urged the graduates to apply the skills learnt responsibly and effectively, adding that the government has established digital hubs to support continuous learning and innovation.

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MAY 2026 INTAKE



SAMBURU TVC COURSES

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







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MAY 2026 INTAKE







SAMBURU TVC COURSES

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



Course Requirements

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









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Be in the Know
Issue 32, May 2026 - June 2026

Safaricom Foundation and Isiolo County partner to boost youth skills

By David Nduro- KNA

The Safaricom Foundation, in collaboration with the County Government of Isiolo, officially handed over modernized facilities and equipment at 'Uhuru TVET Center' to bolster technical training for local youth.

The Sh11 million investment is part of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Mashinani and Wezesha Vijana programmes that aim to address overcrowding and the lack of adequate learning tools that have previously hindered vocational training in the region.

The Foundation Chairman Joseph Ogutu, was the guest of honour at the commissioning ceremony in Isiolo town.

He highlighted the power of public-private partnerships in transforming community livelihoods, saying the collaboration was vital for the youth to gain skills that would enable them to venture into gainful employment.



The Foundation Chairman Joseph Ogutu with other guests during the commissioning ceremony in Isiolo town. */ Photo RKNA*

Mr. Ogutu said the technical skills learned in TVETs were more than just courses and especially through proper networking, the successful youth from these institutions could easily do high-quality work, hence become highly sought after in the market and contribute significantly to the national economy. The initiative was supported by Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Isiolo Deputy Governor James Lowasa, who accompanied Mr. Ogutu, noted that the programme has already benefited 215 learners across the county in the two phases since inception last year.

"Youth without market-ready skills are often vulnerable. By sponsoring them to sharpen these skills, we are making them competitive for both the job market and self-employment," Mr. Lowasa stated.

To further this momentum, the Deputy Governor announced that the County Government plans to invest an additional Sh17.8 million to develop four other TVET institutions across the county by procuring modern materials and equipment.

The 'Wezesha Vijana' programme offers intensive three-month courses in high-demand fields, including mobile phone repair, motor vehicle and motorcycle mechanics, electrical installations, plumbing, masonry, and pastry and baking.

Among those who received completion certificates were Caroline Kinya and Jamal Mohamed. Expressing their gratitude, the graduates noted that the training has empowered them to launch their own enterprises. "We now have the skills to remain relevant in a competitive market and the confidence to run our own businesses," said Kinya.

The move is expected to bridge the technical skill gap in Northern Kenya, providing a sustainable pathway for youth to move from dependency to becoming key players in the local economy.

Illegal firearms recovered in ongoing security operation

By David Nduro- KNA

Police in Isiolo have recovered 18 illegal firearms and arrested six suspects in an ongoing security operation.

The weapons and assorted ammunition were displayed to journalists and security intelligence officers at the Isiolo Police Station, raising the total number of firearms recovered so far to 23.

Isiolo County Police Commander, Isaac Sang, said the cache includes four M4, seven AK-47, three G3, one M16 and one British-made rifle. All the firearms were found to be in good working condition and were recovered alongside ammunition.

Sang urged members of the public to voluntarily surrender any illegal firearms in their possession, noting that authorities believe more than 500 illegal guns remain in civilian hands within Isiolo County.

He warned that the security operation will be intensified and that individuals who fail to surrender illegal weapons will be arrested and prosecuted.

The six suspects arrested in connection with the recovered firearms remain in custody and are expected to be arraigned in court upon completion of investigations and processing.

Bernard Okwiri, the Isiolo Deputy County Commissioner, said that despite the ongoing operation, there have been attempts by bandits to steal livestock but they were warded off by security agencies.

He assured residents of total security adding that officers have successfully controlled safety of lives and property which is the core duty of the government.

Put mwananchi at the centre of all irrigation projects — PS Kimotho

By Peninah Kihika /PCO

The Principal Secretary State Department for Irrigation CPA Ephantus Kimotho has urged his Heads of Departments to put mwananchi at the centre of any development projects they were undertaking.

"Our ultimate focus is the mwananchi and the impact we are making in the lives of the citizens," PS Kimotho emphasized adding "the mwananchi should feel the impact of the work we are doing on the ground".

The PS noted that the State Department is at the heart of boosting the country's food security through putting increased acreage under irrigation in a bid to reduce food imports, increase farmers' incomes and build the resilience of Kenyan communities to stop their over-reliance on rain- fed agriculture.

PS Kimotho said that the State Department has put mechanisms in place to put an additional 1.2 million acres under irrigation in the next one year through the construction of 10 mega-dams and that initial funding for eight (8) of the 10 mega dams has already been approved by the National Treasury.

He emphasized that achieving these milestones called for more dedication and commitment by the officers adding that the Heads of Department needed to be more hands-on. The PS therefore called on the Directors/Heads of Departments to be making field visits to not only practically observe the progress of irrigation projects but to also interact with the beneficiaries noting that this would help address the concerns of the mwananchi and take corrective action on time.



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Irrigation, CPA Ephantus Kimotho addresses Heads of Departments at Maji House, Nairobi */ Photo Robert Githu*

The PS at the same time emphasized the importance of performance contracts as a tool for measuring performance saying that he has signed a performance contract with every Head of Department and would regularly follow up to ensure that the agreed targets are met.

"What gets measured, gets done. Each one of you is obligated to ensure that the targets we have agreed on are met. I will personally hold each one of you to account," the PS emphasized.

Some of the mega dams to be constructed are; High Grand Falls in Kitui/Embu/Tharaka Nithi Counties and Galana Dam in Tana River County, which the PS said are expected to bring an additional 500,000 and 200,000 acres respectively under irrigation.

NDMA flags off peace caravan to prevent community conflicts



NDMA CEO Col (Rtd) Hared Adan during a press briefing in Modogashe town. He called on the communities to accommodate each other and share the available little resources /*Photo KNA*

By Erick Kyalo – KNA

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) flagged off a peace caravan along the Garissa - Isiolo - Meru borders to promote peace and peaceful coexistence, negotiated grazing, and responsible sharing of water and pasture resources as drought conditions in the region worsens.

The peace caravan which combines peace walks and community dialogue forums on drought, peace and resource sharing and sports for peace activities brings together community elders, youth and women leaders, peace committees and grazing committees, county and national government representatives, civil society and development partners.

Over the past years, there have been deadly conflicts that have claimed lives and properties especially on the Garissa - Isiolo border where communities fight over pasture and water.

NDMA hopes that these community-led peace mechanisms will prevent conflicts and strengthen resilience during drought periods.

Speaking to the press after the flag off in Modogashe town, NDMA Chief Executive Officer Col (Rtd) Hared Adan called on the communities to accommodate each other and share the available little resources cohesively.

Adan at the same time urged the local residents to take advantage of the community led dispute resolution mechanisms to address the challenges that may arise without escalating them into conflicts that may lead to loss of life.

The CEO called on community elders to engage with their young people and community members and work closely with security agencies to address any insecurity incidents.

"We are here to promote peace within these communities because there has been tensions especially during this drought period because of sharing the scarce resources that is water and pasture. This peace caravan brings together all these communities for four days, they will walk together, eat together and share on the challenges," Adan said.

"We want to make them understand that they share a common challenge which is drought and that they need to resolve their own issues internally within the community structures. We appreciate the county governments of Garissa, Isiolo and Meru for the support they have given us," he added.

Lagdera Deputy County Commissioner Solomon Ruto on his part regretted that the continuous conflicts had denied the area the much-needed development and kept investors away denying them economic opportunities.

"The main cause of conflicts here is issues to do with water and pasture because these two communities are pastoralists. When the drought period comes, communities move from one place to another and this causes conflicts over the resources," Ruto said.

"This area has for long experienced conflicts that have derailed development projects and business investments. With more concerted efforts, we have experienced calm and peace in the last two years or so. This peace caravan we are conducting today will complement our previous gains and stabilize this part so that all communities can live together in peace," he added.

Stakeholders support legislation to regulate trade activities

By David Nduro- KNA

Stakeholders in the trade sector and residents of Isiolo county have supported the proposed National Trade Development Bill of 2025.

The stakeholders presented their views to the State Department for Trade, Under the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, during a public participation exercise that drew participants from four counties of Isiolo, Laikipia, Samburu and Marsabit to facilitate the realization of the bill.

Speaking after concluding the exercise, the Director for Internal Trade at the State Department for Trade Elizabeth Miguda, who led the team that conducted the exercise explained that the bill seeks to harmonize trade governance, address the challenge of duplication of licenses and fees, ease movement of goods across counties, and strengthen support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) particularly for Women and Youth in business.



Director of Internal Trade at the State Department for Trade Elizabeth Miguda (3rd Left) and the Isiolo County Executive for Trade Dr. Lawrence Mwongela (2nd Left) during the public participation exercise on the proposed National Trade Development Bill of 2025 in Isiolo town *Photo KNA*

She said that currently, there is no legal framework for trade in the country, which leaves loopholes for unscrupulous individuals to exploit the disadvantaged and the ordinary citizens.

"The lack of a legal framework to govern trade in the Country has caused a lot of disorder in the conduct of traders, hence the need to ensure that the legislation is properly in place," Miguda said.

The Bill also aims to modernize trade governance by addressing challenges in emerging areas such as digital trade and E-Commerce.

The Director noted that the legislation seeks to streamline the supply chain through clear classification of businesses to avoid instances, where manufacturers decide to also become distributors, wholesalers, retailers or even hawkers, a scenario that locks other smaller traders out of business.

Miguda assured the stakeholders that the views collected during the forum will be incorporated in the Bill ahead of its enactment.

The Isiolo County Executive for Trade Dr. Lawrence Mwongela welcomed the move by the government to come up with the bill, which he said will help in regulating trade activities for the benefit of ordinary Kenyans.

He said that as a devolved government, they presented proposals calling for establishment of the National and County Trade Councils, courtesy of the proposed law, which seeks to also incorporate crucial personnel like the office of the County Commissioner, who heads the County Security team, as well as Chief Officers in charge of trade, who will also be key towards the successful implementation of the laws.

Civil servants housing scheme eases home ownership access countrywide

By David Nduro-KNA

The Civil Servants Housing Scheme Fund (CSHSF) is set to roll out new policy changes aimed at making home ownership more accessible and affordable for public servants across the country.

Speaking during a public participation forum in Isiolo, the Deputy Director of CSHSF, Robert Njiraini, said the reforms are designed to enhance flexibility, increase funding limits and address concerns raised by beneficiaries.

The CSHSF is specifically tailored for civil servants working under the National Government, offering financial assistance in the form of low-interest loans to purchase, construct or improve residential properties. Eligible employees, including police officers, can under the proposed changes access loans ranging from Sh4 million to Sh20 million, repayable over 20 years at a competitive interest rate of four percent per annum on a monthly reducing balance.

Njiraini announced that the scheme proposes increasing funding from 90 percent to 95 percent of a property's value, effectively reducing the required down payment from 10 percent to five percent. The adjustment is expected to lower entry barriers and enable more civil servants to qualify for home financing.

Additionally, beneficiaries will soon be permitted to sell their homes five years after fully repaying their loans, a significant reduction from the current eight-year restriction.

The Fund is also undertaking construction and sale of housing units in various parts of the country, including Machakos, Embu, Ruiru, Thika, Starehe and Shauri Moyo, as part of efforts to bridge the housing gap among public servants.

Njiraini further encouraged civil servants to explore opportunities under the 'Boma Yangu' platform linked to the government's Affordable Housing Programme, noting that it provides an additional pathway to home ownership.

During the forum, he emphasized the importance of involving spouses in loan repayment planning to ensure financial stability. He revealed that additional income streams, such as business earnings, will now be considered when assessing repayment capacity, broadening access to the Fund.

Participants, however, raised concerns about existing housing projects and called for increased awareness campaigns, particularly targeting younger employees eager to benefit from the scheme.

Some older civil servants regretted missing earlier opportunities due to limited information.

Concerns were also expressed regarding the Affordable Housing Levy, with some participants arguing that certain housing units are too small and fall short of expected comfort standards.

Criticism was directed at the first phase of a housing project at LMD in Isiolo, which some said is located far from essential amenities and faces security challenges.

Despite the concerns, the CSHSF reaffirmed its commitment to improving housing conditions for civil servants and promoting sustainable home ownership within the public sector.

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Karumo TTI Star continues to shine in technical education training



Karumo Technical Training Institute */ Photo Handout*



Karumo TTI Chief Principal Flora Kanyua */ Photo Handout*

By Eastern Newspaper Correspondent

Karumo Technical Training Institute (Karumo TTI) is a public tertiary institution under the Ministry of Education that was established in 2015 The Institute boasts of a conducive learning environment and favorable conditions for training and innovation. In Africa there a saying that goes like. "Without a leader, black ants are confused' Karumo fraternity enjoys the fruits of team work powered by a visionary team leader who is the current Chief Principal Flora Kanyua Njura.

Florence Kanyua Njura – Chief Principle

She took office in the year 2021 as Karumo Technical Training Institute Chief Principal. She has been in the frontline in pursing academic excellence in matters on technical education.

Since her promotion from Deputy Principle, Kanyua has put in place measures of incorporating stakeholders in the field of technical education.

Her achievements have elevated a relatively unknown rural institution into a nationally recognized leader in technical training.

At Karumo, the culture of team work among the teaching and non-teaching staff who have prioritized the affairs of the students has been deeply anchored, and as a result, the institute has risen to be among the top technical schools in the country. Trainers emphasize creativity, innovation, and problem-solving.

Recently Karumo TTI produced the best Kasneb student in the region. The institution has also excelled in various other fields that include and not limited to sports, drama and scientific technical competitions.

The efforts by the principal have been recognized far and wide. She has been recognized by various parties and won several awards in her career like.

When she took over as the principal, Karumo TTI was awarded Best Performing Tertiary Institution (2021/2022). The institution was ranked top position out of 135 tertiary institutions in Kenya. This was an independent evaluation of the Performance of Ministries, State Corporations, and Tertiary Institutions. The awarding ceremony was presided by President William Ruto at KICC, Nairobi.

This achievement elevated Karumo TTI's profile nationally, showcasing excellence in management, training, and institutional growth. The institution became a benchmark for other TVET institutions in Kenya.

Flora Kanyua has in the recent past received several other awards. Her recognation emphasize the importance of visionary leadership in education and proves that Karumo TTI is not only about academics but also about sustainable development.

Among other notable awards include; the Most Outstanding Principal in Kenya awarded to Flora Kanyua by the Jamhuri Kenya Leadership Awards in the year 2026. She was Honored for leadership in academic performance, financial management, environmental protection, and CSR initiatives. This award spotlighted her personal leadership style and commitment to holistic development.

In the year 2023 Karumo TTI was acknowledged nationally for integrating ICT and renewable energy programs into its curriculum. The Principal Flora Kanyua and her team were credited with steering the institution toward modern, industry-relevant training.

In the year 2024, the institute received the Community Engagement & CSR Excellence Award that recognized the initiatives that strengthened ties between Karumo TTI and the local community in Meru County. The institute has for many years focused on environmental sustainability and youth empowerment projects.

The overall Impact of all these awards under the leadership pf the current principal shows an institution's growth under good leadership, Karumo TTI has transformed from a rural technical college into a nationally recognized leader in vocational training.

'Our journey has been recognized nationally when Karumo TTI was named the Best Performing Tertiary Institution in Kenya, and I was humbled to receive the Most Outstanding Principal Award. But these honors are not about me but they are about what we can achieve when we work together' Flora Kanyua told the Eastern Newspaper

The awards boosted the institution's credibility, improving graduate employability and attracting partnerships. Flora Kanyua's recognitions underscore the role of visionary leadership in advancing Kenya's TVET sector.

Karumo TTI's fraternity is focused on their five-year strategic plan that carries part of the college's vision. They have a plan to establish a fully equipped ICT hub for advanced training in software development, cybersecurity, and AI to expand e-learning platforms to reach students in remote areas. This will position Karumo TTI as a regional leader in digital literacy.

The plan also includes a going green formular for sustainable development. The institute is integrating renewable energy programs (solar, wind, biogas) into the curriculum. This is making Karumo TTI a model green campus with eco-friendly infrastructure as it continues with environmental projects like tree planting and waste recycling.

To ensure positive impact on its mandate the Institute aims for 80% graduate employability rate within one year of completion of their courses. Karumo TTI has strengthened collaborations with local industries and SMEs for apprenticeships to expose the students and those who complete their course are exposed to the dynamic market early enough.

The college has in a big way embraced community empowerment related programs and activities that have expanded to train farmers in modern agriculture and also provide entrepreneurship workshops for youth and women in Meru County. This means that Karumo TTI is positioned as a community anchor institution beyond academics.

The college is at the stage of seeking international accreditation for select programs and build exchange programs with foreign technical colleges to showcase Karumo TTI as a benchmark for rural-based institutions achieving global standards.

Flora Kanyua's vision is to transform Karumo TTI from a nationally recognized rural institution into a globally competitive technical hub. Her leadership emphasizes sustainability, digital innovation, and community impact, ensuring the institute remains relevant in Kenya's evolving economy.

All these achievements and future plan progresses amidst a number of challenges that include funding resource constraints as it is the case of TVET institutions in Kenya who often rely heavily on government subsidies.

The location of Karumo TTI in Tigania West is surrounded by rural infrastructure Limitations that are brought about by poor road networks, limited internet connectivity, and unreliable power supply. These factors may hinder digital transformation and global competitiveness but the management and the students are committed to achieve the vision.

Flora Kanyua's leadership strength lies in turning challenges into opportunities. For example, rural infrastructure limitations could be reframed as a chance to pilot renewable energy solutions locally, making Karumo TTI a model for sustainable campuses nationwide.

'We know the challenges: limited resources, rural infrastructure, and the need to retain skilled trainers. Yet, we also know the opportunities. Meru is rich in agriculture, renewable energy potential, and entrepreneurial spirit. With your support, we can turn these strengths into lasting prosperity. Our vision is clear: To be an outstanding institute in Technical and Vocational Education & Training (TVET) and innovation' Flora Kanyua says.

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Senator Mundigi steps in to repair damaged road



Residents assist to repair a section of the Kirigi-Kiangoci road */Photo KNA*

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Embu Senator Alexander Mundigi has come to the rescue of Kibugua Village residents in Manyatta Constituency after a section of road passing through the village was rendered impassable by the ongoing rains.

Residents have lamented that a section of the Kirigi-Kiangoci gravel road turns into a swamp every time it rains, cutting off transport and isolating the community.

They said their plea to authorities for a permanent solution to the recurring problem has not borne any fruit.

Residents thanked Senator Mundigi for coming to their rescue by donating several tracks of murram to provide a stop-gap measure to make the road passable as they wait for a permanent solution.

Resident Alice Ruguru said they are forced to physically carry their children on their back across the flooded section of the road to get to school.

"This road serves two schools on either side of the flooded section, and we are forced to carry children on our backs to navigate the section and get them to school," she said.

She called on authorities to engage landowners neighbouring the section to provide a drainage corridor to end their suffering.

"Without provision of a proper drainage channel, the problem will keep recurring," said another resident, James Nyaga, who called on the authorities to initiate talks with landowners.

Senator Mundigi echoed his sentiments, calling on leaders to initiate formal wayleave negotiations with landowners for a drainage corridor that will bring an end to the problem.

Area Assistant County Commissioner Syliva Ochola promised to organise a meeting with landowners' other stakeholders to address the root cause that is the lack of a wayleave to drain the water.

Embu Bishop urges leaders to avoid remarks that fuel divisions

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

The Catholic Diocese of Embu Bishop Peter Kimani has called on leaders across the country to exercise caution in their public utterances to safeguard national cohesion and peace.

Speaking in Embu Town recently, Bishop Kimani warned that careless or inflammatory remarks by leaders could easily trigger divisions among Kenyans and undermine the country's stability.

He noted that Kenya's peace and unity largely depend on the tone and conduct of those in leadership, emphasizing that politicians and other influential figures hold significant sway over public opinion. According to the bishop, irresponsible communication can heighten tensions and erode trust among communities.

Kimani challenged leaders to carefully reflect on their words before addressing the public, urging them to consider whether their statements promote harmony or sow seeds of discord.

"Leaders should ask themselves whether the words they are using will bring peace or division among the people," he said.

He further stressed that political competition should not override the broader goal of maintaining national unity. The bishop cautioned leaders against placing personal or party interests above the need for peaceful coexistence among citizens.

At the same time, the church leader appealed to Kenyans to reject attempts by politicians or other actors to divide them along political, ethnic, or social lines. He encouraged citizens to embrace unity and remain vigilant against rhetoric that could create animosity within communities.

Kimani also urged the public to respect differing opinions and engage in constructive dialogue, noting that such interactions strengthen democratic values and promote peaceful coexistence.

The bishop's remarks come at a time when the country continues to emphasize the importance of unity and tolerance in maintaining lasting peace.

Residents hail Government free public Wi-Fi initiative in Embu



A client uses her phone to connect to the internet using the free Wi-fi while her hair is done it a salon in Embu town */Photo KNA*

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

A cross-section of Embu County residents has hailed the government's free public WI-FI initiative, noting that it had opened new opportunities for them in the digital space as well as lowering cost of doing business.

Residents especially those involved in Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), and youth involved in online work and content creation have taken advantage of free connectivity to access markets for their goods and services and also cut on high cost of data.

Traders at Manyatta Market said the free internet had boosted their trade as they were able to source and market goods through various online platforms from the comfort of their premises.

Salon operator Esther Marigu said since the public WI-FI was rolled out in the market six months ago, she has recorded an increase in business as her clients are able to use the free internet via their mobile phones as they continue being attended to.

She said her business has particularly recorded an increase in college students who stream in her salon to have their hair and makeup done as they continue browsing for free.

"The free WIFI has added value and boosted my salon's appeal, especially among the young women, particularly college students, giving my business a competitive edge," she said.

Additionally, Ms. Marigu said she is also able to use the cost-free connectivity to stay updated on the new and upcoming trends in hair and beauty to advance her business and remain relevant in the changing world of beauty.

Her immediate neighbor Esther Wanjira, who does a tailoring business, said she has been able to transform her trade into a "smart shop" as she was able to interact with her customers remotely.

"Nowadays, I am able to send textile patterns or finished clothing to customers through WhatsApp or Facebook, where they can approve or request for adjustments without having to come to my shop physically," she said.

However, many residents where the public Wi-Fi has been installed appealed to the Government to increase its speed and signal range.

A boda boda operator at Runyenjes Town, John Fundi, reported that he has been forced to revert to paid data bundles to do business, as the public Wi-Fi is most of the time sluggish or there is no connectivity at all. "I spend not less than Sh. 100 on data bundles daily to stay online, connect with clients and also keep myself updated on the happenings in the country," he said.

EACC probing a Sh95 million conflict of interest scandal Embu

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) Detectives has commenced investigations into an alleged Sh95 million conflict of interest scandal involving three Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and some County Officials.

EACC detectives recently raided eight homes belonging to the suspects and also pitched tent at the county headquarters for the better part of the day gathering evidence into the alleged tender award scandal.

According to EACC Central Regional Manager Japheth Baithalu, the officials on their radar are alleged to have used companies linked to them, or they have beneficial interest in to secure lucrative county tenders.

Speaking outside county procurement offices where their detectives spent the day gathering evidence, the Manager said the three MCAs are suspected of being linked to 11 companies that were awarded tenders by the County Government.

He said preliminary investigations show that the MCAs and County Officials implicated in the scandal received approximately Sh95 million through the irregularly awarded contracts.

The detectives took away procurement documents, payment records, and contract files linked to the companies associated with the MCAs that the manager said will aid in establishing whether due process was followed.

Baithalu said the commission is particularly keen on determining the role played by the MCAs in influencing the award of contracts and whether they failed to declare their interests as required by law.

He noted that the County Government has so far cooperated with investigators, even as the probe sparked tension within the offices when detectives moved in to secure key records.

The Commission said investigations are ongoing and assured that appropriate legal action will be taken against any MCA or official found culpable.

Embu County Govt seeks ways to partner with retired military officers



A section of the retired officers who attended the launch in Embu / *Photo KNA*

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

The County Government of Embu has expressed interest in partnering with retried military officers from the county with a view of utilizing their expertise in various fields to complement its work.

Governor Cecily Mbarire said their expertise especially in the areas of security and intelligence could be useful in peace building, community policing and mediation to foster peaceful coexistence in the community.

Speaking recently at the Moi Stadium while presiding over the launch of Military Veterans Embu County Chapter, Governor Mbarire affirmed her readiness to partner with them to better the county.

"My government is ready to look into the areas we can partner with our retired officers, identify the skills available and the modalities of engagement," she said.

She called on them to avail themselves for the opportunities that will be available in their areas of specialization to facilitate a smooth transition from military service to civilian life.

She also appealed to institutions of leaning including TVETs to engage them in teaching character development through mentorship.

This, she said, will help to instill discipline, patriotism and work ethics in the young people that they require as they prepare to enter into the job market.

"I urge our retired officers to be mentors who steer out youth from the twin ghosts of radicalization and drug abuse," the Governor said.

She commended them for their legendary contribution in infrastructural development across the country that was also exemplified during the renovation of the stadium ahead of 2023 June 1st Madaraka Day held in Embu spearheaded by Kenya Defense Forces (KDF).

At the same time, the Governor promised as a way to honor them for their service to country, to set aside a reserved place for them to sit during national day celebrations.

The Chapter Patron Major (Rtd) Charles Gituai said their members are ready and available to translate their military training and ethos, discipline and experience into civilian life.

"The veterans are a national asset that should be utilized even after retirement," he said, noting that all the skills and competencies needed could be easily found amongst these veterans.

Parents in Mbeere warned against child labour



Deputy County Commissioner Jacob Mwaura addressing the media / *Photo KNA*

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Authorities in Mbeere South Sub- County in Embu County have warned parents against child labor closely linked to the popular and lucrative Muguka (Khat) farming and sand harvesting in the area.

Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) Jacob Mwaura said they have been grappling with rising cases of school dropout as teenagers who out to be in school engross themselves in the two businesses due to allure of quick money.

He warned that parents who will be found engaging their children in manual labor instead of keeping them in school will face arrest and prosecution.

"This practice is a drawback to the government policy of ensuring all children in the county attain basic education up to secondary school level," he said.

He said they are carrying out mop-out exercises through local administrators and Nyumba Kumi clusters with a view of identifying children engaged in manual labor and having them go back to school.

Speaking recently at Kirima Secondary School where he joined Senator Alexander Mundigi who was donating computers to schools in the area, the DCC also said cases of early marriages and defilement were also high that had been fueled by the two trades.

He said young girls were being lured into early marriages or pregnancies by young men making quick money from these businesses and eventually ending up dropping out of school.

"We have witnessed a rise in defilement cases and we want men to understand that any girl below the age of 18 is legally not allowed to get married or engage in a sexual relationship," he stated.

He warned perpetrators that defilement was a capital offense in the country that could attract long jail terms or life imprisonment and asked parents to advise their young men accordingly.

Senator Mundigi echoed his sentiments and called on the authorities to enhance surveillance to curb child exploitation.

He noted that the government had invested heavily in education to ensure 100 percent transition from primary to secondary school to provide a path for a better future for children.

"This investment should not be allowed to go to waste and that is why we are calling on authorities to take stern action against any parent or investor engaging minors in manual labor," he said.

Senator Mundigi donated computers to several schools in the area to bolster the government's Digital Literacy Programme (DLP).

The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know
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MAY 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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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.

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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.

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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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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.

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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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The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know

Samburu residents demonstrate against attack on governor Lelelit



Samburu County residents demonstrate in Maralal town against the harassment of governor Lati Lelelit by Senators */ Photo KNA*

By Robert Githu- KNA

Residents of Samburu County took to the streets of Maralal town to condemn the alleged assault of their governor Lati Lelelit by Senators, mainly from the Senate County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC), outside the Senate building in Nairobi.

The incident occurred after the Senators tried to enforce a citizen's arrest on governor Lelelit who had failed to appear before the watchdog committee despite an active warrant of arrest.

The irate residents marched through the streets of Maralal town chanting 'Samburu County must be respected' slogans in solidarity with their county boss.

"Lelelit is a law-abiding citizen and he presented himself to Senate to answer audit queries only to be manhandled by Senator Edwin Sifuna and three other Senators. This is a sign of disrespect to our governor and Samburu residents," said Emmanuel Lewarani a Gen-Z from Samburu County.

Robert Mwangi a resident of Maralal also hit out at the Nairobi Senator accusing him of bias when handling governors who appear before CPAC adding that he had failed on his main job of oversight of Nairobi County.

"Nairobi governor who also had an arrest warrant for failing to appear before CPAC presented himself before Senate but he was not manhandled or intimidated by Sifuna and the rest. Why assault Lati?" Mwangi posed.

Mwangi added that Nairobi County has witnessed floods which have led to the destruction of property and loss of lives adding that Sifuna has failed to oversight the capital city.

Joyce Leshoomo called on the Inspector General of Police to take action against the Senators involved in the scuffle on behalf of the governor and Samburu residents.

The protest in Samburu County highlights the growing tension between the senate and county governors over accountability and oversight.

You risk remaining underdeveloped, CS Askul warns pastoral counties

By Erick Kyalo -KNA

The Cabinet Secretary for EAC, ASALs & Regional Development, Beatrice Askul, has warned the pastoralists communities that they risk underdevelopment if they continue with cattle rustling, intercommunity clashes and border conflicts, banditry and.

Askul, who was speaking in Garbatulla, Isiolo County where she closed a 4 – day peace caravan along the Modogashe – Garbatulla road, regretted that while other regions use money for development projects, the government was using money for development in security operations in the nomadic counties.

"The money we are using in operations to disarm those with illegal guns, the vehicles we are procuring for the security agencies and the fuel we are providing for them to stop cattle rustling in these regions is the same money those other regions are using for development, to do water projects, construct roads, hospitals and schools" Askul said.

"It is high time we come together and see what is it that we want because; we have had these conflicts for a very long time. Maybe it is high time that we encourage inter-community marriage so that when you go to steal livestock, you steal the livestock for your in-laws. When you decide to kill people in attacks, you start fearing that you might kill your relatives," she added.

The CS underscored that peace is central to drought response and sustainable development in arid and semi-arid lands and called on all parties to come together and find lasting solutions especially during the drought period that is prone to conflicts over water and pasture.

"Peace is not the absence of conflict. It is the presence of dialogue, cooperation and shared responsibility. In our ASALs, peace is what allows development to take root and livelihoods to survive drought," she said.

Her sentiments were echoed by the ASAL and Regional Development, Principal Secretary, Hersama Kello who said that it was shameful that the conflicts had gone on for too long, denying development to the affected regions.



EAC, ASALs & Regional Development Cabinet Secretary Beatrice Askul speaking in Garbatulla, Isiolo County where she closed a 4 – day peace caravan along the Modogashe – Garbatulla road. She warned the pastoralists' communities that they risk underdevelopment if they continue with intercommunity clashes and border conflicts, banditry and cattle rustling */ Photo KNA*

Kello said that while everyone had a right for development, engaging in criminal activities was denying themselves the much-needed development.

"We must now end these conflicts, and cattle rustling which have been experienced by her for decades. I went to high school here in Garbatulla around 1988, and in those days, at night we could still hear gunshots, which forced some students to hide under the beds. Shifta used to attack us on our way home during school breaks. I have grown old and we are still talking about these conflicts," Kello said.

"When we are here fighting and denying our children the opportunity to go to school, children in other counties are going to school. When we are here fighting, businesses in other regions are booming, when we are here doing livestock theft, others are doing stock exchange. This is very shameful of us," he added.

The event brought together community elders, women and youth leaders, peace and grazing committees, county and national government representatives, and civil society organisations to strengthen dialogue and prevent drought-related conflict along the shared Garissa-Isiolo-Meru corridor.

Community representatives from Isiolo, Garissa and Meru counties presented a Joint Communiqué, reaffirming their commitment to peaceful coexistence, respect for traditional grazing patterns and negotiated migration routes, peaceful sharing of public facilities across county borders, and coordinated recovery and restitution of stolen livestock.

The communiqué also emphasised the importance of community-led early warning, accurate incident reporting, and close cooperation with government authorities to address insecurity and prevent escalation.

The Garissa-Isiolo-Meru corridor remains a critical livestock movement route and drought fallback area, but also a landscape historically prone to tension during prolonged dry periods. Speakers noted that sustained dialogue, early engagement, and locally rooted agreements have proven effective in preventing escalation and preserving social cohesion along the corridor.

Turkana community celebrates Tobong' Nawi culture festival in Samburu



Members of the Turkana community perform a traditional dance at the Nyani Stadium in Nachola Ward, Samburu North Sub- county during the Tobong' Nawi Festival. The Annual Festival aims at celebrating culture and promoting peace in the region */ Photo KNA*

By Robert Githu- KNA

The Third Edition of the Tobong' Nawi Festival in Samburu North Sub- County has brought together hundreds of residents of the Turkana community, to celebrate their culture and promote peace in the region.

The colorful event held at the Nyani Stadium in Nachola Ward under the theme: "Celebrating our culture to promote peaceful co-existence and climate resilience for sustainable development," showcased the rich heritage of traditions of the Turkana people.

Calls for continued harmony between the two communities living in the region underlined the event.

Samburu Governor Lati Lelelit, emphasized the importance of peace, adding that he will hold dialogues with Turkana and Samburu morans, to come-up with a grazing formula ahead of the dry season.

"In the coming days I will engage Samburu warriors at Leibashai and their Turkana counterparts at Charda, to come-up with a grazing formula because we want to avoid conflict over dwindling resources," Governor Lelelit announced.

Lelelit said that security roads have been constructed to promote peace in Samburu North by easing police patrols in the previously inaccessible terrains.

The Governor added that his Administration has employed members of the Turkana community on permanent and pensionable terms, reinforcing his commitment to unifying all communities living in Samburu County.

"After I was sworn into Office, I said my Administration will be committed into promoting peace and inclusivity in Samburu County and this is also achieved by employing minority groups," he said.

Nachola Ward Member of the County Assembly (MCA), Lawrence Lorunyei, echoed Governor's efforts of finding a lasting peace in Baragoi, adding that no Samburu or Turkana should lose their lives through intercommunal conflict.

"Most people, including their leaders, regrated that many beleived that peace cannot be achieved in Baragoi but through our efforts and working closely with the government, we have achieved relative peace since 2022," Lorunyei said.

Veronica Lomira, a resident of Nachola Ward, said that the Tobong' Nawi Festival has continued to unify communities in Samburu North and lauded local leaders for their political goodwill, to ensure there is dawn of lasting peace.

"When there was conflict, we used to suffer a lot as women and children. There are a number of women who were widowed and we do not want to go back to the dark days," she said.

Tobong' Nawi Festival has become a platform for promoting inter-community harmony and cultural exchange in Samburu North since 2022.

It is an offshoot of the Tobong' Lore Festival popularly known as the Lake Turkana Festival and it's not only meant to celebrate the Turkana culture outside Turkana County, but to forge lasting peace with their neighboring communities.

Government launches reforestation and fight against banditry

By Muturi Mwangi-KNA

The government has launched a reforestation initiative in Laikipia's Mukogodo forest even as security agencies prepare to move in to flush out bandits that have for years used it as their hideout.

A total of 10,000 trees have been planted in the last two weeks in parts of the 74,000-acre indigenous forest now faced with degradation risks due to illegal occupation and wanton destruction of the tree cover by armed migrating herders.

Director Administration, State Department for Wildlife, Vincent Ongere who spoke on behalf of Principal Secretary for Wildlife Silvia Museiya during a tree planting exercise in Mukogodo termed the forest as one of the largest dry forests in Kenya and a key wildlife corridor that links the Mount Kenya ecosystem to the northern rangelands, including Samburu and which supports a rich diversity of wildlife, including buffaloes, leopards and over 200 bird species.

"This forest is very critical to the wildlife state department since the forest is the corridor of our wildlife linking Mt. Kenya ecosystem with the northern rangeland," said Ongere.



Director Administration State Department for Wildlife Vincent Ongere leads residents in planting trees in Mukogodo forest. A total of 10,000 trees were planted */ Photo Muturi Mwangi/KNA*

The forest cover restoration campaign is spearheaded by the Department of Wildlife in the Tourism Ministry and has brought on board the local Community Forest Association (CFA), education institutions in the neighbourhood and Yiaku, a minority community that has for generations depended on this natural resource for their livelihood.

"This is a presidential directive of growing 15 billion trees by the year 2032. Hence this exercise is important and we are working with all the stakeholders to ensure this habitat is restored. We are taking advantage of this rains," he noted.

Ongere revealed other forests targeted by the department in the reforestation initiative to grow at least 1.5bilion trees every year include Lariak, Chepalungu, Oloitoktok and Nyandarua.

"We have a direct interest as department of wildlife because this is the habitat for our animals and where they get food . Also good for oxygen sequestration," highlighted Ongere.

Mukogodo Forest manager Kenneth Were lauded the initiative noting that once banditry has been weeded out and with restoration efforts , the forest will boost tourism in the region.

"This is a very unique forest , it harbors both wildlife and people without any major incidents apart from the bandits who are being flashed out .Mukogodo is a very safe place where we target investors to come and do ecotourism," said the forester.

Rift Valley Regional Commissioner Abdi Hassan made a tour of the area while in the company of senior security officers and ordered the people residing in the forest to vacate immediately ahead of the multi agency security operation, being efforts to restore security in the restive neighbourhood and protect the forest from further destruction.

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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

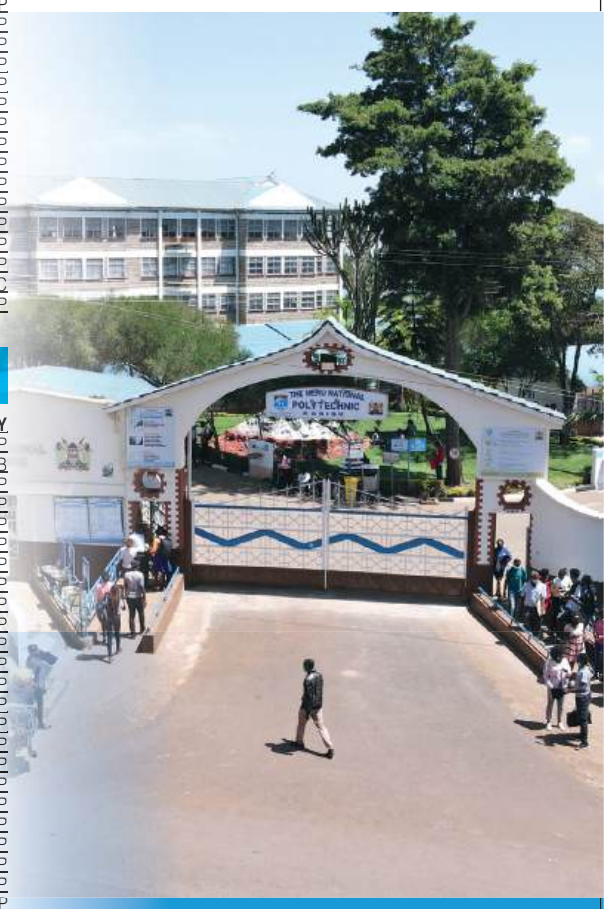
Industrial placements will be mandatory for all levels I MODULE = 1 TRIMESTER



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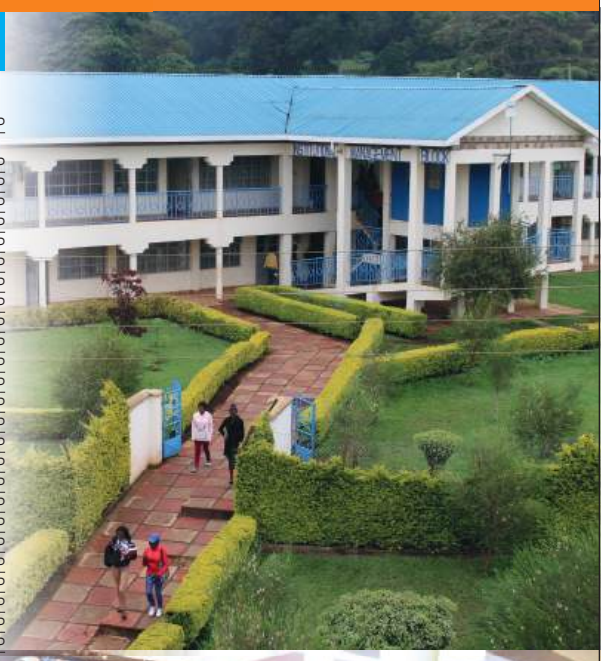
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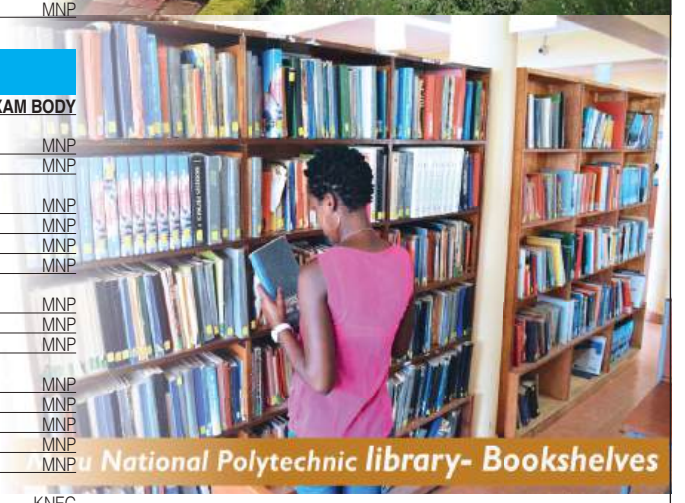
MECHANICAL & AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) Courses

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.

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



The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know

Editorial

Let's convert coffee factories into avocado aggregation centers

Avocado crop is an emerging cash crop but with no good structures. The new varieties that are being exported include Hass, Fuerte among many others.

The traditional type of Avocado has little export qualities but good for the oil processing and takes time to mature.

Kenya has been the leading African country in exports while at global markets we take the sixth position. Unfortunately, last year in 2025 the production the export volumes dipped and Morocco has not taken the number position. Mexico is our global leader in production and they export up to 2.8MT per year. The political instability in the Gulf coupled with the Persea mites' infestation has contributed to the decline in the marketable yields and export quantities.

The main avocado challenge in Kenya is the aggregation for the various markets including local, Middle East and Europe.

Small scale farmers are grouping themselves into producer organizations (FPOs) but most of them are struggling to get good structures for aggregation.

The formation of producer or marketing cooperatives and aggregation centers helps to enforce the export standards for the purpose of compliance and market acceptability.

Certification and licensing by the respective authorities takes place in these formal set-ups. These are the prerequisites and road map to the external markets.

The coffee factories are under-utilized and can be good avenues for the aggregation of the Avocado markets. This could give them greater and wider benefits in the value chain especially in the upstream channel.

Many coffee growers are diversifying into banana, Avocado, macadamia and dairy production. When the coffee used to thrive in 1970s and part of 1980s, the pulping machines in the factories were very busy crushing the coffee berries into beans for millers like the KPCU, who made the final coffee product for the export market.

Most of these factories today, are idle, Inactive or under-utilized with low activities which is making them struggle to pay costs like labour electricity repairs and maintenance.

How can they remain afloat?

We can make them profitable by introducing Avocado grown by the coffee factory members and their neighbours to make them economically viable. They can also set up commercial nurseries for coffee and Avocado as additional revenue streams. This way, we would strengthen the cooperative sector which is the best model in the bottom of the pyramid for resuscitation and sustainability.

Yes, i believe it's doable!



The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know

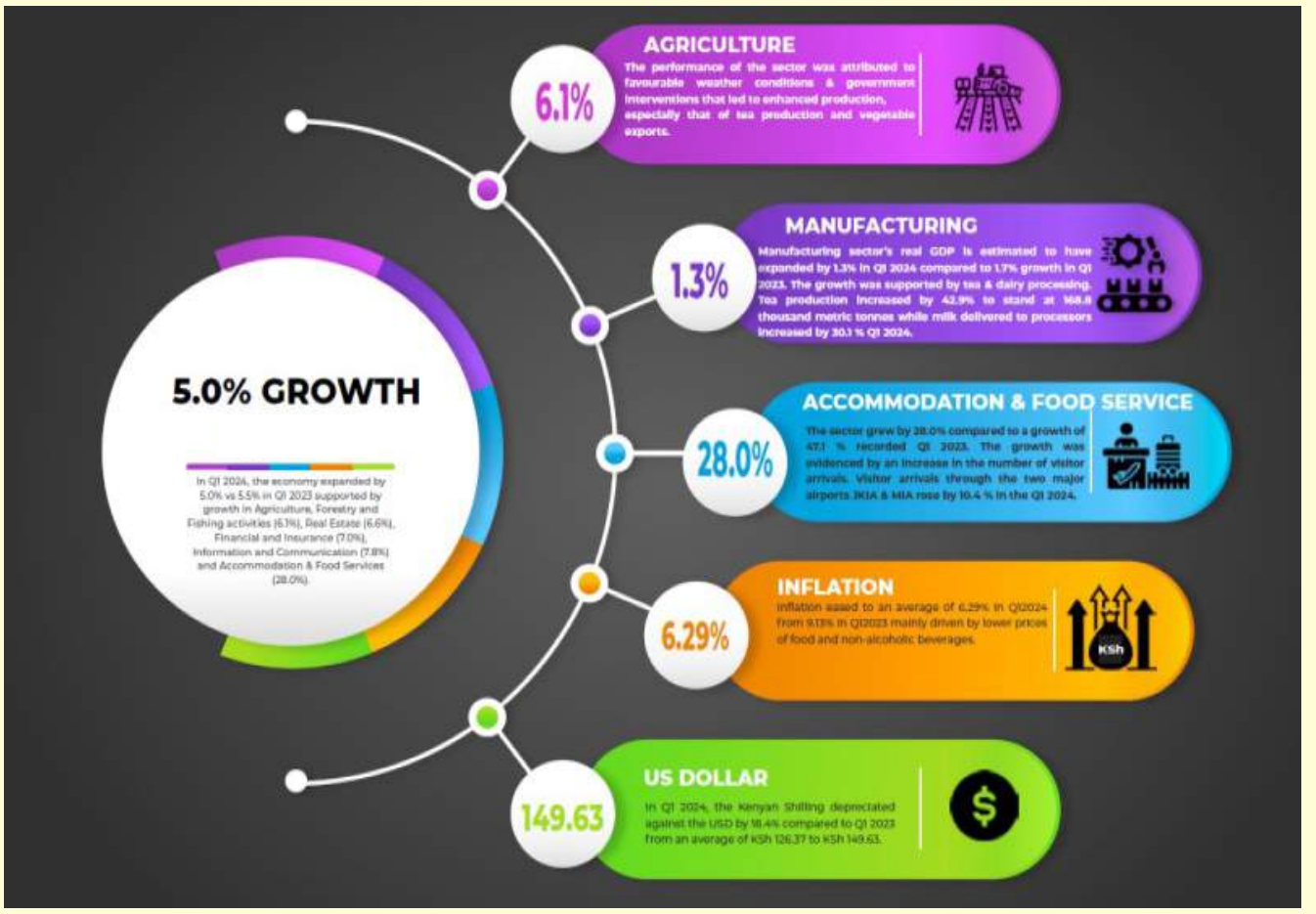
OPINION



By Titus Kinoti Muraga

A roadmap for creation of thousands of jobs in Kenya

The transport industry has great opportunity for job creation for both men and women. Streamlining the industry could offer many job opportunities for our youth at all levels.



The Evolution of Postal & Telecommunications

The East Africa Posts and Communication Corporation was established in 1948 and later became (KPTC) Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation in 1977. They enjoyed monopoly of service for almost forty years until when the World Bank and IMF imposed Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) as part of a wider push for privatization, market liberalization, and reduction of state involvement in business. In 1999, KPTC was dissolved and the services split into three;

1) Communication Commission of Kenya CoK as the national regulatory authority.

2) Postal Corporation of Kenya to manage the public Postal services.

3) Telkom Kenya for telecommunication service

The Road Transport Sector:

We have about 5 million motor vehicles and 2.5m motorcycles in Kenya. The matatu alone takes home 900 million per day as gross incomes. About 80% of the riders and motorists break the traffic law more than once per year assuming each one of them breaks the law once and charged an average of kes 5k, the government can earn kes 375 billion extra revenue per year.

The highest that the government has collected was about kes 1.1 billion in 2016/17 FY. There is a notable increase of 64% of the traffic fines in the last one year that necessitates the need for increased measures to reduce the offences and the road carnage in Kenya.

How to create employment:

Revitalize the transport such that we have instant charges in the traffic sector. Replacing traffic police in the highways with high resolution traffic cameras can create many jobs for the youth in the following ways

Traffic Bill

We need a Bill that seeks to amend the current traffic Act to accommodate for traffic offences charges to the motorists who break the law. Penalties can be communicated via Mobile phone SMS communication followed by hard copy through the postal service. This was the Telkom will be activated and will eventually become part of the economic stimulus programme.

Minimize corruption

Reducing the contacts with the traffic police will decrease the cases of corruption between the public and the motorists

Communication

The posta infrastructure could be used for communication to the offenders. If charged with a traffic offence through the traffic cameras data, you receive charges against you and the fees that is payable through a given PayBill Number. This communication should be done through the public Postal service. This way, many youths would be employed to communicate the charge sheet to your doorstep. This is what the UK is doing. We do not need to reinvent the wheel to create job opportunities that the government is struggling actualize.

Digitalization Model

This is the 21st century where we need to modernization of public service for accountability, effective service delivery and real-time communication on the offenses to bring sanity in the transport industry.

Transport Tools

Motorcycles, bicycles and motor vehicles would be required therefore, a demand will be created for these mobility tools and equipment.

Discipline

The motorists and the traffic police will be disciplined. The message will be clear, "obey the law or pay for your offences".

Complementary Goods

The traffic communication would enhance the utilization of the complementary goods like parcels and other services

Huduma centres

The posta centres would be used as Huduma centres for bringing the services closer to the localities. Every township in Kenya has access to the Posta service.

Online Jobs at Posta Outlets

Space and facilities should be availed in the Postal service centres. The biggest wealth for the Posta service is the vast infrastructure in almost every town in Kenya.

ICT Centers

The government should then use these Postal service centers as the ICT centers instead of building new ICT centers with limited access to the internet and the youth in the rural and remote areas.

Infrastructure repurposing & retrofitting

Without changing the Posta outfits, we could optimize on the resource utilisation and upscale the youth-led programs for sustainability and life-touching initiatives.

Green Energy Boost:

Every Posta centre should use solar panels to promote green economy

Estimated Jobs Created:

At least 1 million jobs would be created with an estimated 5 million livelihoods supported by the initiative.

Extra generation of revenue & plough back policy

Billions of shillings would be generated as an economic stimulus initiative to promote the BoP Model. Getting internships in Kenya has become a tall order. We provide 2-year internship for all the graduates in the public centre and in the ICT and Huduma centres and pay for their stipends with the cash generated by this Kinoti brainchild. Village cottages would be built with such revenues as part of the ripple effects. The current agriprenuers that was started by the Head of state, H.E William Ruto would have a share from this venture for sustainability and impact in the rural farming.

CONCLUSION

No external funding required.

It's simple, scalable and sustainable.

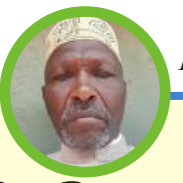
Can be achieved within 15 months of implementation.

The future of our youth will be secured. The apathy, hopelessness, stress and depression among the youth will be curtailed.

There will be a reduction of the borrowing culture from our foreign masters and the Western world. Reduced road carnage will bring happiness in our families and lead to a healthy and wealthy nation

Titus Kinoti is a specialist in agricultural and economic matters

OPINION



Hon Alhaji Mwendia

Meru must rescue itself from noise or bury its future in it

Meru is under siege not by drought nor poverty. Not even by lack of opportunity but under siege by noise.

Cheap, paid, unthinking noise and manufactured by political hirelings whose only qualification is volume, not value. These voices, hollow yet loud, have taken control of public discourse. They distort history, trivialize performance, and replace truth with convenient fiction.

And in a tragic surrender, those who know better or the informed, the experienced, the intellectually honest have withdrawn. In the name of civility, they have abandoned the arena. In the name of decorum, they have ceded space.

Nature abhors a vacuum and now, that vacuum is filled.

The vacuum is filled by those who neither understand governance nor respect it. Filled by those who shout instead of think. Filled by those who manufacture narratives instead of interrogating facts.

This is not debate but is decay. Today, we are confronted with shallow, intellectually lazy questions like;

Who was the best governor? Who performed better? Who was the most successful?

These questions, repeated endlessly on social media, are not innocent. They are dangerous in their emptiness. Best in terms of what? Performance measured how?

Without criteria, such questions are not tools of analysis but they are weapons of propaganda.

They reduce governance to noise, to tribal cheerleading, to blind loyalty stripped of reason. If Meru is to retain its dignity, we must reject this shallowness and insist on definition before discussion.

When we speak of development, we are not speaking in slogans but speaking in substance.

We must ask who provided water through boreholes, piped systems, dams, and water pans and to what extent? Who opened roads? Who maintained them? Who connected people to markets, hospitals, and opportunity? Who invested in ECDE classrooms? Who built and equipped polytechnics to give our youth skills. Not speeches.

We must also ask who created real youth opportunities through structured initiatives? Who implemented meaningful women empowerment programs that moved beyond tokenism into real economic impact?

Who documented a clear vision for Meru? codified, structured, and guiding long-term development? Who improved healthcare facilities, staffing, equipment, access, and outcomes?

Who strengthened agriculture and economic activity by putting actual money into people's pockets rather than rhetoric into their ears? Who transformed markets through cabro paving, lighting, sanitation—and who built modern, dignified spaces for traders?



A sign welcoming visitors to Meru County along Meru-Nanyuki highway */ Photo KNA*

Who secured our resources? Who addressed livestock banditry? Who stabilized agricultural markets and protected farmers? Who revived and strengthened the cooperative sector, ensuring real benefits for members? Who opened more roads? Who connected the interior to commerce?

These are not optional questions but valid questions. Anything else is noise.

But even this is not enough. Meru's story is larger than elected office.

We have produced illustrious sons and daughters many unelected who have held powerful offices and influenced development in ways both visible and unseen. Infrastructure exists because someone pushed for it. Opportunities exist because someone negotiated for them.

Who influenced what? Under whose national leadership of Kibaki, Uhuru, or Ruto, did Meru receive the most infrastructural development? And which sons and daughters of Meru stood at the levers of power and delivered that progress? If we do not document this, we commit an unforgivable injustice: we erase contribution, and we reward obscurity. We must also confront uncomfortable truths. Meru has been ravaged by the cancer scourge.

This is not an abstract issue but personal. In too many homesteads, there is a grave. A silence. A loss that could not be explained away and yet, even in the face of such suffering, we celebrate noise. We elevate charlatanism.

We allow nauseating political hirelings to distract us from the most serious questions:

Which leadership confronted this crisis?

Who invested in cancer awareness, screening, treatment access, and healthcare capacity?

Who responded with urgency and who responded with silence?

A society that refuses to ask such questions has chosen denial over survival.

We must also interrogate financial leadership.

Who brought additional money into Meru beyond the standard exchequer allocations?

Which administration attracted development partners? Grants? External funding?

Who expanded the resource base and who merely consumed what was given?

Leadership is not just about spending.

It is about expanding possibility.

We must look at the physical symbols of governance.

The Governor's residence.

The Governor's offices.

County headquarters and flagship infrastructure.

These are not decorations.

They are institutional statements.

Who conceived them?

Who built them?

Who gave them meaning?

And then, the most important question of all:

What has leadership done to change your life?

Not your emotions.

Not your excitement.

Not your temporary satisfaction.

Your life.

Have you moved from dependency to productivity?

From handouts to income?

From survival to stability?

From hope to measurable progress?

If the answer is no, then no amount of noise can manufacture success.

Without a structured, factual, independent documentation of governance in Meru, we are not just confused we are lost.

We will bury effort.

We will reward mediocrity.

We will discourage seriousness.

We will create a system where leaders do not need to work because failure can be masked, bought, and shouted over.

If noise becomes the measure of success, then work becomes irrelevant.

And when work becomes irrelevant, decline becomes inevitable.

This is why Meru must act.

We must deliberately, rigorously, and independently document our history from 2013 to 2025 the full arc of devolution in Meru.

A factual record.

A structured analysis.

An honest account.

Not propaganda.

Not praise-singing.

Not selective memory.

Truth.

We must document:

What was done.

What was not done.

What worked.

What failed.

Who influenced what?

Who delivered?

Who did not?

We must equally document the role of successive County Assemblies—their legislation, oversight, and accountability.

This is not an academic exercise.

This is the foundation of Meru's future.

Because a people without a truthful record of their past is condemned to be manipulated in their present—and misled in their future.

Meru must choose.

Truth or noise.

Substance or spectacle.

History or propaganda.

If we fail to choose truth, then history will not forget us.

It will record us as the generation that had the opportunity to think, but chose instead to shout.

Alhaji Mwendia is a former nominated MCA in Meru County

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MURAGA TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 614-60400 Chuka Kenya Tel: 0113175113
Email: info@muragatechnical.ac.ke / muragatechnist@gmail.com Website: www.muragatechnical.ac.ke

2026 MAY INTAKE



Muraga TTI committed to deliver best quality in technical education

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

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

Muraga TTI in Maara



Ms Purity Murithi - Chief Principal

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.

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

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

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

MURAGA TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 614-60400 Chuka Kenya Tel: 0113175113

Email: info@muragatechnical.ac.ke / muragatechnist@gmail.com Website: www.muragatechnical.ac.ke

CBET APPROVED COURSES — MAY 2026 INTAKE ONGOING

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

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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

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:

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The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know

Teenage mothers benefit from digital literacy drive in Laikipia County



Some participants during the digital training in Nanyuki town, Laikipia county / *Photo Muturi Mwangi*

By Muturi Mwangi-KNA

Teenage mothers are among hundreds of youths in Laikipia County targeted in a digital literacy drive aimed at equipping them with skills to make earnings from the comfort of their homes.

The initiative is a partnership between a local Community Based Organization-Drawing Dreams Initiative (DDI) and the government's Ajira Digital Programme under the State Department of Information and Communication Technology and the Digital Economy.

DDI founder Grace Wanene says the campaign is targeting some 500 youth from across the county to be trained on the use of digital tools and applications accessible on mobile phones, including artificial intelligence, which can be conveniently utilised in generating content for various online clients.

"At the Ndoto Community Hub, we welcome young people to come with their laptops and smartphones and utilise our internet connection to learn and work online," she said.

Community hubs called Ndoto Hubs: Ms Wanene revealed that they were established where Trainers of Trainers will be equipped with skills and safety precautions on content creation and then pass this knowledge to their peers.

She highlighted that the initiative aims at making youths, most of whom are addicted to smartphones, not only be consumers of digital content but also generate their own for target markets.

"Through Ajira Digital training, youths are learning how to use their smartphones and other devices to access opportunities in the digital space and improve their livelihoods," pointed out Wanene.

Ms Gathoni Wanjiku, a content creator based in Nanyuki and one of the trainees, said the initiative sharpened her skills and renewed her ambition to pursue digital marketing full-time.

"I recently ventured into digital marketing and the training has given me the knowledge I need to grow my career further," she said.

She noted that the sessions helped participants understand how to create distinctive online content.

"Most of the time you find yourself posting content that looks similar to someone else's, but everyone wants to stand out. We have learned how to use different apps to make our content more appealing and visible," she said.

Ms Wanjiku underscored that artificial intelligence tools have significantly lowered the barriers to entry for aspiring digital professionals.

"Many AI tools are available for free. You can start your journey in digital marketing without even having capital," she said.

Another beneficiary, Mr Dickson Wanjohi, a photographer based in Nanyuki, said the training had helped him integrate technology into his photography business.

"I have learned how to link my photography work with AI tools to make my work faster and more efficient," he said.

Wanjohi urged more young people to take advantage of such training opportunities and called for the expansion of the programme.

"I encourage more youth to attend the next training sessions and I appeal for more training days so that more people can benefit," he said.

According to the Communication Authority of Kenya, use of mobile phones is on a steady rise, with about 43 million smartphones connected to mobile networks in the country, with 93 per cent of households having at least one mobile phone.

Relief as Laikipia county government ends 40 years of bridge wait

By Muturi Mwangi-KNA

Residents of two wards in Laikipia County have a reason to celebrate after the county government launched construction of a crucial bridge linking six villages ending four decades of waiting.

The Sh12.4million medium span bridge across River Sirimon will not only ease transport across Umande and Mukogodo East wards but will bring to and end drowning incidents that has characterized the area.

While launching the project, Governor Joshua Irungu who led a team of senior county officials noted that for over forty years since the previous bridge was swept by flood waters, locals have been travelling for up to eight kilometres to access a dispensary and a secondary school located a few metres across the ridge.

''This bridge has been a nightmare for the residents over the years, connecting Kalalu and Umande. It has been so difficult due lack of this bridge. As county, we are happy to launch it and it will be a game changer for the locals," said the governor.

The bridge construction is set to be completed by June this year, bringing relief to traders, motorists, students, patents and boda boda operators who have been relying on poorly constructed makeshift bridges that many times have resulted in loss of life and properties.

The governor assured the affected residents of timely completion of the project noting that the contractor is already on site and the budget the money required was set aside during this financial year's budget.

Umande ward MCA Daniel Mugweru said that over the years, lack of bridge connecting the area had affected growth.

Residents praised the project noting that it was a major relief after years of suffering and walking long distances to access the main road.

According to Mary Muthoni, one of the residents, she revealed that on several occasions accidents had been witnessed due to lack of a proper bridge.

She said that following the launch, transporting farm produce to the market had also been made easy.



Sh12.4million medium span bridge across River Sirimon construction kicks off / *Photo KNA*

Relief food delivered to drought-hit Laikipia schools



Relief food distributed by government to drought-affected schools in Laikipia County / *Photo KNA*

By Muturi Mwangi-KNA

The government has distributed relief food supplies to drought-affected schools in Laikipia County in an effort to boost attendance and retain learners from families struggling with severe food shortages.

The food donations, which include rice, beans and porridge flour, have been delivered to at least 55 primary and secondary schools across the county. The initiative is spearheaded by the national government in collaboration with KAPU Africa, the Segera Feeding Programme, Segera Mission Hospital and the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK).

Laikipia County Commissioner Duncan Muyesu told KNA in Nanyuki town that the programme targets learners in the hardest-hit areas where most households are grappling with acute food shortages.

He said the initiative aims to ensure learners remain in school despite the ongoing drought that has affected many families in the region.

"The intervention targets our schools to stabilize enrolment, improve retention and enhance the academic performance of learners," said Muyesu.

He added that the government had already delivered 300 bags of rice and 260 bags of beans, each weighing 50 kilograms, to support the feeding programme in the affected schools.

Segera Feeding Programme Director Koome Kiragu underscored the importance of supporting learning institutions during the prolonged dry spell, noting that hunger can significantly disrupt learning.

Kiragu, however, clarified that no school in Laikipia County has been closed due to the drought.

"I applaud the government and other well-wishers for supporting schools facing food shortages. This initiative will help ensure that learners remain in school and continue with their education," he said.

He further called on more stakeholders and development partners to support the programme to ensure its sustainability and expand its reach to more vulnerable schools.

Laikipia is among the counties listed as food insecure following the prolonged drought affecting parts of northern Kenya.

Pastoral communities have been particularly affected, with many families migrating in search of pasture and water for their livestock.

Health experts urge early testing as hidden TB cases threaten progress

By David Wandeto-KNA

Kirinyaga County has intensified efforts to combat Tuberculosis (TB) by strengthening early detection, diagnosis, and treatment as the country continues to grapple with a high burden of the disease.

The renewed push comes as the world marked World Tuberculosis Day 2026, with health experts warning that many TB cases remain undiagnosed, contributing to continued transmission and preventable deaths. Kenya records over 120,000 new TB infections annually, with thousands of deaths largely linked to delayed diagnosis and interrupted treatment.

Speaking in Wang'uru town in Mwea Constituency, the area leading in TB burden within the county, Kirinyaga County Infectious Disease Coordinator, Dr. Franklin Mwenda, described TB as a silent airborne disease that continues to pose a major public health threat.

Dr. Mwenda said TB primarily affects the lungs but can spread to almost all parts of the body once the bacteria enter the bloodstream.

"TB affects nearly every organ except hair, nails, and teeth. Once it spreads through the blood, it can settle in different body parts, making it more dangerous if not detected early," he said.

He noted that about 80 per cent of TB cases are pulmonary, which are highly infectious, but warned that extra-pulmonary TB remains a major concern due to its complexity and delayed detection. The coordinator highlighted spinal TB as one of the most dangerous forms, saying it often begins with mild but persistent back pain that many people ignore.

"If not treated early, the infection destroys spinal bones, leading to deformities such as a hunchback and, in severe cases, paralysis due to pressure on the spinal cord," he warned.

Dr. Mwenda also raised concern over genital TB, noting that it affects the reproductive organs in both men and women and is often misunderstood or mistaken for other infections, leading to delays in diagnosis and treatment.

He explained that because many people do not associate TB with reproductive health, patients may seek treatment late, increasing the risk of complications and long-term damage.

In men, he said, TB can affect the penis, testes, and scrotum, causing persistent swelling, pain, and discomfort. In some cases, it may present as lumps or inflammation that do not respond to common treatments, and if left untreated, it can interfere with sperm production, leading to infertility.



Kirinyaga County Infectious Disease Coordinator, Dr. Franklin Mwenda /*Photo KNA*

In women, the disease mainly targets glands near the vaginal opening, including the Bartholin glands, but can also spread internally to the uterus. This may result into serious fertility complications, sometimes making it difficult for women to conceive.

"TB is not sexually transmitted. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. However, when it affects reproductive organs, it can lead to long-term complications if not treated early," he explained.

He urged the public to seek medical attention for any unusual or persistent symptoms.

He emphasized that all forms of TB are treatable when detected and patients adhere to medication. However, he cautioned that drug-resistant TB and extra-pulmonary forms such as genital TB require longer, more complex treatment and close medical follow-up to ensure full recovery and to prevent further spread of the disease. Dr. Mwenda observed that men are more affected due to lifestyle factors and delays in seeking medical care, adding that the county is scaling up community outreach programmes targeting markets and social spaces to promote early testing.

He said the county has embraced modern diagnostic technology, including GeneXpert machines installed at Kerugoya County Referral Hospital, Kimbimbi, Sagana, and Thiba hospitals, which enable rapid detection of TB, including drug-resistant strains.

Waiguru gives Sh142m bursary kitty to boost education in Kirinyaga

By Mutai Kipng'etich-KNA

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru officially launched the issuance of bursaries to needy students, with the first batch of beneficiaries in day schools in Ngariama Ward receiving full funding.

Speaking during the event at the Kamwangi Coffee Factory grounds in Ngariama Ward, Kirinyaga East sub-county, the governor announced that all needy students in secondary schools, tertiary institutions, and universities who applied for bursaries will receive Sh. 10,000 each, noting the allocation will significantly ease the financial burden on parents.

Waiguru revealed that a total of Sh 7.65 million will be disbursed in each ward to benefit about 2,000 students, revealing that countywide, the bursary programme has been allocated Sh 142 million for the current financial year.

She noted that the delay in issuing bursaries last year was due to restrictions imposed by the Controller of Budget, temporarily barring counties from the exercise. "However, the county has now received approval to proceed with the programme," she explained.

In addition to bursaries, the governor highlighted ongoing efforts to support education, including the distribution of free uniforms to all Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) learners in the county.

She added that production of more uniforms is underway to ensure the programme continues and benefits all learners in the current ECDE centres.

The initiative is part of the county government's broader strategy to enhance access to education and support vulnerable families across Kirinyaga.



President Ruto during a groundbreaking of Affordable Houses /*Photo HANDOUT*

IEBC targets over 40,000 new voters Kirinyaga county

By Mutai Kipng'etich-KNA

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is targeting to register more than 40,000 new voters in Kirinyaga County during Phase One of the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) exercise.

According to Kirinyaga County IEBC Manager Jane Gitonga, the 30-day exercise was officially launched in Kutus and is aimed at bringing voter registration services closer to residents across the county.

Gitonga said the devolved registration approach is particularly focused on reaching the youth, urging them to confirm their voter registration status, ensure they have valid voter cards, or register if they are not yet enrolled.

"To achieve this, we have deployed three KIEMS kits in every ward. Residents do not need to travel to Kutus as they can access registration services within their wards. They can consult their local chiefs or IEBC officials to identify the nearest registration centres," she said.

She emphasized that the commission has put in place adequate measures to ensure the process runs smoothly and efficiently, with officers stationed at various points to assist residents.

Allan Ademba, founder of the Tuko Kadi Initiative, who attended the launch in Kutus, said the movement is a citizen-driven effort aimed at encouraging voter participation across the country.

Kirinyaga residents benefit from week-long free eye surgical

By Mutai Kipng'etich-KNA

The county government of Kirinyaga has launched a free surgical eye camp at Kerugoya County Referral Hospital, set to run for one week and conclude on March 28.

The initiative, organized in partnership with Pankaj Social Services, is providing free eye screening, medication, surgeries, and follow-up care to patients until full recovery.

Pankaj Social Services is a Non-Governmental Organization with a mission to empower communities through education, healthcare, and holistic development.

Within the first three days, more than 700 residents had been screened. Those requiring specialized treatment have been referred for surgical procedures with over 100 patients successfully undergoing free cataract surgeries and pterygium excision.

Cataracts are characterized by cloudy areas in the eye lens that impair vision, while pterygium is a raised, fleshy, triangular growth that develops from the corner of the eye.

Kirinyaga County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Medical Services, Public Health, and Sanitation, George Karoki, stated that the week-long exercise aims to reach between 3,000 and 4,000 residents.

"This initiative is part of the county's efforts to address the rising cases of eye-related complications linked to non-communicable diseases. The outreach includes free screening, treatment, surgeries, and follow-up care," said Karoki.

He emphasized that the program aligns with the county's broader strategy to strengthen primary healthcare and reduce disease burden at the community level. Kirinyaga continues to record a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension.

The EASTERN NEWSPAPER
Be in the Know

Putting Mwananchi at the Centre of all Irrigation Projects

By Peninah Kihika KNA

The Principal Secretary State Department for Irrigation CPA Ephantus Kimotho has urged his Heads of Departments to put mwananchi at the centre of any development projects they were undertaking.

"Our ultimate focus is the mwananchi and the impact we are making in the lives of the citizens," PS Kimotho emphasized adding "the mwananchi should feel the impact of the work we are doing on the ground".

The PS noted that the State Department is at the heart of boosting the country's food security through putting increased acreage under irrigation in a bid to reduce food imports, increase farmers' incomes and build the resilience of Kenyan communities to stop their over-reliance on rain- fed agriculture.

PS Kimotho said that the State Department has put mechanisms in place to put an additional 1.2 million acres under irrigation in the next one year through the construction of 10 mega-dams and that initial funding for eight (8) of the 10 mega dams has already been approved by the National Treasury.

He emphasized that achieving these milestones called for more dedication and commitment by the officers adding that the Heads of Department needed to be more hands-on. The PS therefore called on the Directors/Heads of Departments to be making field visits to not only practically observe the progress of irrigation projects but to also interact with the beneficiaries noting that this would help address the concerns of the mwananchi and take corrective action on time.

New 132kV power substation set to boost economic growth in Kitui

By Rachel kithome- KNA

Kitui County is set to benefit from increased electricity supply following the completion and inspection of the 132-kilowatts Kwa Kyenza Sub-Station in Kitui West Constituency, a project aimed at strengthening power supply and also supporting local economic activities across the county.

Speaking during the inspection of the facility, Kipkemoi Kibias, the Acting Managing Director of the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO), said that the substation is strategically designed to transmit 132kV electricity, a move expected to stabilize power supply, reduce outages and enhance voltage reliability across Kitui County and neighbouring areas.

Kibias noted that the project is a critical component of the 132kV Kitui–Wote transmission line, which forms part of the Mwingi–Kitui–Wote–Sultan Hamud corridor, a key electricity transmission route intended to provide alternative power supply paths and strengthen grid resilience in Eastern Kenya.

"The clean energy transition must be supported by strong transmission infrastructure. Clean power can only deliver real impact when it reaches homes, farms, hospitals and industries," said Kibias. He added that reliable electricity is a foundation for economic growth in Kitui County, bearing the fact that many livelihoods largely depend on agriculture, small-scale enterprises and emerging commercial activities.

The inspection was led by Energy and Petroleum CS Opiyo Wandayi for, who noted that the government intensifies efforts to strengthen electricity transmission infrastructure in the region.



Kitui County commissioner Erastus Mbui and Kitui county governor Dr Julius Malombe lead residents during International Women's Day celebration held at Nyuani Primary school, in Mutonguni ward in Kitui county / *Photo KNA*

Push for women empowerment in Kitui County

By Denson Mututo and Rachel Kithome -KNA

Calls for extra efforts to empower women and girls dominated this year's International Women's Day celebrations in Kitui County, with leaders urging sustained investment in education, economic opportunities and leadership to accelerate gender equality.

Kitui County commissioner Mr Erastus Mbui and Kitui Governor Dr. Julius Malombe led the celebrations held at Nyuani Primary School in Mutonguni Ward, Kitui West Sub- County, where hundreds of residents, leaders and development partners gathered to recognize the achievements of women while reaffirming the need to develop and strengthen policies that promote women's empowerment.

Speaking during the event, Dr Malombe praised women for the crucial role they play in building families, strengthening communities and driving socio-economic development.

"As your Governor, I assure you that the County Government of Kitui remains steadfast in promoting policies that advance the well-being of women and girls through education, healthcare and economic opportunities," he said.

The governor noted that empowering women remains central to the county's development agenda, adding that his administration has continued to implement programmes aimed at improving livelihoods and expanding opportunities for women across the county.

Among the key initiatives highlighted was the employment of 1,678 Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers and which majority of them are women. According to the governor, the recruitment has not only strengthened early learning in the county but also provided meaningful employment opportunities for women.

Dr. Malombe also pointed out that expansion of clean water infrastructure across the county including the installation of solar-powered boreholes in Mutonguni Ward, has significantly improved the access to water thus reducing the burden placed on women who traditionally spend long hours searching for water.

The governor further cited the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme as a critical platform that has enabled women entrepreneurs to access government tenders and expand their businesses. He encouraged women to take advantage of such initiatives to strengthen their economic independence and participate actively in development.

During the celebrations, development partners also reiterated their commitment to supporting initiatives that empower women and build resilient communities.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Kenya was among the organizations that played a prominent role during the event, highlighting its ongoing programmes that focus on environmental conservation, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Speaking during the event, ADRA Kenya Project Manager David Kitheka, who was accompanied by Madam Hellen Kasila, said the organization remains committed to empowering communities through sustainable development initiatives.

State embarks on replenishing harvested forest

By Rachel Kithome-KNA

Following the lifting of the 2023 logging moratorium, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has stepped up efforts to rehabilitate the forest coverage in the Lower Eastern region

The move is to facilitate recovery of depleted forest cover to forestall sustainable management of environment in the wake of climate change and related global dynamics

As part of the plan the Ministry of Environment and the KFS held a public participation forum in Kitui township to sensitize various key stakeholders in the sector including representatives of the Community Forest Association, members of the Kitui County Assembly, forestry investors and local leaders among others on best conservation practices to maintain the already fragile ecosystem.

Speaking during the forum, Mr. Antony Musyoka the Kenya Forest Service Deputy Conservator of Forests in charge of Plantation Management and Inventory in Kitui, said that since the moratorium was partially lifted, the Service has been holding similar engagements across the country.

Musyoka observed that the public forums are intended to collect views from communities and key industry players on how best to manage mature and over-mature plantation forests while ensuring their environmental sustainability.

He further explained that KFS operates under annual felling plans that guide harvesting activities in plantation areas across various counties. Under the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) framework, the Service is currently permitted to harvest up to 5,000 hectares of plantation forest annually.



Attendees of public participation on management of forests in Kitui / *Photo KNA*

Musyoka emphasized that harvesting activities are conducted in accordance with established guidelines and are followed by immediate reforestation programmes.

"We do not leave harvested areas bare. Once trees are felled, we embark on reforestation programmes to restore the areas and maintain ecological balance," he said.

He further noted that plantation forests form a critical component of the country's forestry sector including providing raw materials for industry while also supporting conservation goals when managed sustainably.

The public participation exercise in the Lower Eastern Conservancy covers plantation areas in Kitui, Makueni and Machakos Counties.

Speaking during the forum, Kyome/Thaana Ward MCA Mr. Alphonce Mukwaiyu underscored the importance of involving local communities in forest management decisions.

The MCA also noted that public participation is essential in ensuring transparency and accountability in the harvesting process citing that it helps strengthen cooperation between KFS and residents living near forest areas.

"We must ensure that as we harvest the plantations, we as well conserve and replant for future generations," he said while he urged residents to actively participate in tree planting initiatives and conservation programmes and especially during the ongoing rains. Participants at the meeting emphasized the need to strike a balance between ecological conservation, regulated exploitation of plantation forests and the socio-economic needs of the local communities.

Machakos County puts a new hearing screening Machine to test

Anne Kangero-KNA

To mark World Hearing Day, Machakos County is keen on addressing hearing challenges for children in the sub counties by launching a free hearing test and a new (Otoacoustic Emissions) OAE machine at Wamunyu Level 3 Hospital in Mwala constituency.

The machine, donated through a partnership between the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss, Kenya Connect, and the Machakos County Government, is the first of its kind in sub county hospitals. Until now, parents had to travel more than 25 kilometers to Machakos Level 5 Hospital for their children to be screened.

The level three hospital in Mwala conducted free hearing screenings for several children which revealed a widespread problem: many children suffer from excessive wax buildup in their ears, leading to hearing difficulties.

David Musau, an ENT specialist at Machakos Level 5 Hospital, while commemorating WHD, cautioned parents against cleaning their children's ears at home as he warned that such attempts often push wax deeper into the ear canal, worsening the problem. Instead, he urged parents to seek professional help at health facilities.

"We are targeting to screen all newborns because hearing loss is an unseen disability and is paramount for all newborns to undergo screening and with this free screening we have found that parents are not aware of effects of early childhood hearing loss and more sensitization is required," said Dr. Musau.

James Musyoka, Director of Kenya Connect, emphasized that early screening is critical in addressing childhood hearing challenges. He called for policies requiring newborns to undergo hearing tests immediately after birth, noting that early detection helps children learn language faster and integrate into regular schools.

Musyoka added that they are celebrating WHD through screening from newborns to 17 year olds, because one of their programs at Kenya Connect is to ensure children stay in school and hearing loss in children causes language challenges and reduces literacy skills.

"In partnership with Wamunyu Health centre, we have mobilized Community Health Promoters and Early Childhood Educators to train them for awareness of hearing loss in children and importance of early intervention," said Musyoka.



David Musau, an ENT specialist at Machakos Level 5 Hospital screens a baby for hearing loss during a free hearing test and launch of Otoacoustic Emissions) OAE machine at Wamunyu Level three hospital in Mwala sub county while commemorating World Hearing Day / *Photo Anne Kanger*

One parent, Sarah Sammy from Mwala discovered the impact firsthand because for over a year, her seven-year-old son struggled to hear, forcing her to raise her voice whenever she spoke to him. "I thought he was ignoring me, but it was actually a hearing problem," she said.

During the screening, she said the doctors found large amounts of wax blocking both ears as specialists from Machakos Level 5 Hospital helped remove it, restoring his ability to hear and follow instructions.

"I am grateful I no longer have to shout at my child, and am encouraging other parents to seek and consult the doctors in case they notice their children are not responding or communicating normally," said Sarah.

Page Steiner, founder of the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss, said their mission is to ensure hearing difficulties are identified early in children. She added that many parents lack awareness about the importance of hearing loss screening.

"We have been in Kenya for several years and we are trying to inform parents and the community to be proactive in screening their children for hearing loss so that it can be addressed on time because already there are interventions for those born with profound hearing loss," said Steiner.

With the commemoration of World Hearing Day, and the theme being "From Communities to classroom; hearing care for all children, the launch of the OAE machine at Wamunyu and other sub counties marks a new chapter in Machakos ensuring that children born and those in school will now have access to early hearing screening close to home.

State commences reviewing of national environmental policy

Anne Kangero-KNA

The Government through the State Department for Environment and Climate Change, has conducted a three day technical workshop in Machakos, to review the 2013 National Environmental policy aiming to strengthen climate change by identifying gaps and emerging issues.

While the current 2013 policy has helped shape environmental regulations and frameworks, it does not mirror the advanced global transformations and climate effects and so a review is critical as it must evolve with science, technology and socio-economic realities.

Discussions and presentations from stakeholder engagements focused on the inception report, stakeholder mapping and consultation framework as well the methodology and analytical tools to be used in assessing policy gaps, identifying emerging issues and prioritizing areas for reform.

According to Dr Selly Kimosop the Environmental Secretary, who spoke during the closure of the three day workshop held at a Machakos hotel, the environmental landscape today is quite different from what it was a decade ago and the technical workshop provided an opportunity to address gaps and needs assessment.

Kimosop noted that they are in phase one of reviewing the Policy and it is informed by emerging issues such as triple planetary crisis, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution which are to be included in the revised policy to guide on interventions for mitigation on climate change.

"Our environmental, technological and Socio-economic landscapes have evolved in ways we could not have fully anticipated, and the policy now requires deliberate and thoughtful updating to remain relevant, responsive and visionary," said Dr Kimosop.

She emphasized on the need for a circular economy to be incorporated into the reviewed policy where it guides the country on the need to transition from a linear to a circular model that prioritizes reuse, repair and recycling which will create several jobs by 2030.

"The Circular economy principles need to be embedded across sectors such as the industry, agriculture, urban development and infrastructure and it's not just environmentalism but an economic opportunity projected to create 46,000 jobs by 2030," added the Environment Secretary. Kimosop pointed out that the policy will also include a clear policy framework for carbon markets.

Mwala Water Project nears completion, to ease shortage in Ukambani



Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Eng Eric Muriithi during the inspection tour / *Photo KNA*

By Charles Matacho -KNA

The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to completing the Mwala Cluster Water Project in Machakos County, with works now at 93 per cent and progressing on course ahead of commissioning within the next two months.

Speaking during an inspection tour, Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Eng Eric Muriithi Mugaa said water scarcity remains one of the biggest challenges facing the Ukambani region, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable interventions.

The CS said the project reflects the Government's commitment to ending perennial water shortages through strategic investments in water infrastructure under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

"We are committed to ensuring every Kenyan has access to clean and safe water. This project is a key step towards ending the persistent water shortages in Ukambani," said the CS.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration with county governments, noting that water is a devolved function that requires strong partnerships to ensure efficient service delivery and long-term sustainability.

The CS further noted that the project involves transmission of water over a distance of more than 100 kilometers, highlighting its scale and significance in addressing long-standing water challenges in the region.

The project aims to deliver approximately 6,600 cubic meters per day of potable water, substantially enhancing water availability and supporting socio-economic development in Mwala and the wider Ukambani region.

The Sh1.7 billion project is expected to benefit approximately 150,000 residents by improving access to reliable and safe water for households, institutions, and businesses.

Accompanied by Tanathi Water Works Development Agency CEO Sammy Naporos and Mwala MP Vincent Musyoka, the CS called for timely completion of the remaining works to ensure the project delivers its intended impact.

The project, which draws water from River Ndarugu, includes construction of an intake weir, a 5-kilometre raw water pipeline, connection to Gatuanyaga Water Treatment Plant, modern treatment facilities, and storage tanks at Muthei Hill, Syathani and Kyuluni, as well as installation of a pumping station to enhance distribution.

Once operational, the project is expected to stabilize water supply, support livelihoods, boost economic activities, and strengthen resilience against recurring drought in the Ukambani region. With key infrastructure already in place and implementation firmly on course, the Government is now focused on finalising the remaining components and operationalising the system.

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Governor Mutula appeals for funds to support families displaced by floods



Makueni County Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr /*Photo KNA*

By Patrick Nyakundi

Makueni County Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr has appealed for Sh23 million from development partners and well-wishers for humanitarian relief assistance to families displaced by raging rains in the area.

Mutula disclosed that over 200 households have been displaced by the raging rains that have pounded various parts across the county, which has also resulted in the destruction of 135 shelters and the loss of 18 people.

Some of the items needed urgently include maize, rice and beans; non-food items like blankets, cement, mattresses and iron sheets, inclusive of sanitary provisions; and medical and nutritional supplements.

"We are appealing for your support amounting to approximately Sh23 million to facilitate the provision of listed relief items in a form and manner your organisation deems appropriate; of this amount, the county government has already committed Sh10 million," said Mutula in a letter read on his behalf by the Makueni County Drought Coordinator Alice Munyao during a County steering Group (CSG) meeting at a Hotel in Wote town on Tuesday.

The meeting that was attended by development partners and relevant departmental heads was chaired by the deputy County Commissioner (DCC) George Lugo, who is Personal Assistant in the office of the County Commissioner.

"Regrettably, the ongoing March-April-May (MAM) rains have caused devastating impacts in several villages. To date, 200 households have been affected, with 135 shelters destroyed and 18 lives lost due to flooding. The situation remains critical and as the season progresses, the risk of further displacement and humanitarian needs is high and urgent interventions need to be taken," warned the governor.

The areas that have been affected by floods include Mikululo and Mbitini whereas Mukaa and Kilungu Sub counties experienced mudslides. In Kilungu two children were killed on Saturday and houses destroyed.

It should be observed that humanitarian relief assistance is projected for the next two months, the period during which heavy rains are expected to pound the county.

On his part, Lugo said that the rains have caused a lot of havoc, noting there was a need to put systems in place and ensure measures are taken to handle the situation in a coordinated manner.

In this regard, a Communication Centre was initiated to ensure all information going out for public consumption was accurate in an effort to minimise misinformation. Among the members include NDMA, Red Cross, Interior, Education and Director Special Programmes, Disaster Management and Emergency Services.

Speaking at the same meeting, the Anglican Development Services eastern (ADSE) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), John Mutua, said 11,217 hectares of land were planted with tree seedlings under the Makueni Agroforestry Carbon Project (MACP) that was initiated in 2023.

However, Mutua disclosed that there have been challenges farmers faced, especially the

BSRV project launched in Makueni County

By Patrick Nyakundi

A new initiative dubbed Breaking Silence, Raising Voices (BSRV) project that will promote the rights of persons with disabilities and address gender based violence issues, has been launched in Makueni County.

The project, a partnership between the Wote Community Development Organization (WCDO) and Cheshire Disability Services Kenya (CDSK) will be implemented between 2026-2028.

It was unveiled officially by County Executive for Gender, Children, Culture and Social Services Eng. Sebastian Kyoni during a breakfast meeting held at a hotel in Wote town, Makueni Sub county.

Eng. Kyoni said that the county government was at the forefront in developing and implementing policies that will safeguard the rights and dignity of the person's living with disabilities.

He said the partnership will enhance awareness, strengthen advocacy efforts and promote inclusivity especially for children and youths across the county.

"The county government has initiated many programmes, policies and legal for gender based violence frameworks that will be able to address some of the issues affecting persons with disabilities," said Eng. Kyoni, while launching the project.

"This project will enhance awareness and also advocacy among community members to enable them know how to report issues of SGBV and minimize on such cases across the county," he said.

The county executive welcomed the collaboration and lauded CDSK saying there was a need to have a work plan to enable the county government monitor its progress, even as the programme gets implemented.

On her part, Cecilia Mutava, the CEO Wote Community Development Association, said that her organization supports partners through grants and capacity building initiatives to enable them amplify the voices of persons with disabilities, especially in the fight against GBV.

Mutava said through this partnership, local communities will be empowered to enable them combat any stigma on disability and foster a more inclusive society, where every individual is heard and protected.

She disclosed that rampant GBV is the main reason why they have partnered with the county government to address some of the pertinent issues affecting children and youth in the county.

"We have partnered with the county government to make sure the voices of our children and youth with disabilities are heard to enable them live free from violence, while also safeguarding their rights," said Mutava.



Some of the participants during the launch of BSRV project at a Wote hotel in Makueni County /*Photo HANDOUT*

Makueni rolls out mass registration for universal health cover

By Patrick Nyakundi

The Makueni county government has rolled out a mass registration exercise for Universal Health Care (UHC) cover across all the 390 clusters in the area.

Addressing the media Tuesday at the Makueni County Referral Hospital (MCRH), the County Executive for Health Services, Joyce Mutua said they were targeting to register 200,000 vulnerable people.

Consequently, the county government has set aside Sh90 million to fund the programme this financial year, where each of the 30 wards will get Sh3 million.

"We have a programme initiated by the county, which we call Makueni Universal Health Coverage (MUHC). It is a programme where we are going to identify vulnerable households to be covered under the social insurance fund," said Mutua while briefing the media at the Makueni County hospital.

"This is ongoing activity in the 30 wards and we have even gone further to the 390 grassroots clusters, where registration will run from Tuesday 24 to Friday 27th February 2026," she observed.

The County Executive further disclosed that the MUHC programme, which is being done in phases in order to accommodate as many eligible beneficiaries as possible will ultimately be implemented in close collaboration with the national Social Health Authority (SHA).

"Therefore I urge all Makueni residents to register with SHA through the Afya Yangu platform and update their of dependants records. To do this you will be expected to carry your national identification card, birth certificates for your children and a personal mobile phone," said Mutua.

Government seeks AfDB funding to complete Thwake Dam

By Patrick Nyakundi

The government has assured residents of the Lower Eastern Region that it remains committed to completing the construction of the Thwake Multipurpose Dam, a project expected to benefit 1.2 million people, the Water Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eng. Samuel Alima, has said.

Eng. Alima made the assurance on Friday during a visit to the dam by the Executive Director of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Ronald Justin Cafrine, who led a high-level delegation to assess the progress of the project.

He expressed optimism that the government would secure Sh9.6 billion from AfDB to complete Phase 1, which includes concreting the dam face, constructing a bridge connecting Kitui and Makueni counties, and installing hydromechanical equipment and gates.

"We are progressing well. The dam is 94.2 percent complete. We introduced minor but necessary changes, including increasing the height from 77.3 metres to 80.5 metres to enhance storage capacity after realizing the dam can hold more water," Eng. Alima explained.

The Water Secretary disclosed that engineers encountered a weak foundation during construction, requiring excavation of 7 metres across a 50-metre width. The adjustments, coupled with COVID-19-related disruptions, affected the project's cost and timeline.

"These variations impacted the overall budget, and that is why we are engaging AfDB to assess the progress and explore additional resources to complete the remaining works of Phase 1," he said.

Low- and middle-income earners set for a significant tax relief

By Dickson Mwiti- KNA

Low and middle-income earners in Kenya are set to receive significant tax relief as the government moves to ease the financial burden on salaried workers.

The National Treasury says the initiative would leave more disposable income in the hands of employees earning below Sh30,000 a month, helping to boost consumer spending amid rising cost of living.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi announced the plan recently at the Budget and Privatisation Public Engagement Forum for the Upper Eastern region (including Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Isiolo and Marsabit Counties) held at Meru National Polytechnic.

He said the government intends to abolish income tax for workers earning under Sh30,000, while reducing tax rates for those earning up to Sh50,000.

"We have agreed with President William Ruto that low-income earners should be given a reprieve and to this effect, I am preparing to take a proposal to Parliament on the Tax Law Amendment Bill once it resumes," said Mbadi.

He said those earning between Sh30,000-Sh50,000 will have their tax rate reduced from the existing 30 percent PAYE to 25 percent.

He added that the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) is also integrating the tax system to tax capture those who have not been paying taxes, especially property owners.

"We have many people making Sh100,000 but just because they are not in the payroll you want to run away yet you are also using the roads and other infrastructures like that salaried person who is being taxed. This is being unfair and we are coming for you softly through your records," Mbadi.



Treasury CS John Mbadi during the public participation in privatization and budget that brought together Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Isiolo and Marsabit Counties /*Photo Dickson Mwiti*

"The principles of taxation dictate that you should tax wealth and if this is not enough you go to the income tax but not trade. We are trying to avoid taxing trade and reducing taxation on income but tax wealth and this is what most countries do," said the CS.

On Privatisation, the CS said the government was committed to engaging the youth in their respective regions on matters pertaining to public financial management and to align with the recent privatization initiatives. It has been deemed necessary to broaden this engagement to include the Business Community and Bunge la Wananchi for a more comprehensive stakeholder participation and transparency, he added.

"Since the launch of this exercise, we have held engagement meetings in Kakamega, Migori, Eldoret and Nakuru and have received very insightful feedback from the youth on the desired fiscal and macroeconomic policies and also on the kind of goods and services that communities value," said Mbadi.

He said the forums have provided opportunities to highlight the trade-offs associated with allocating limited resources against the numerous competing needs.

"This indeed epitomizes the objective of this exercise as citizens are better informed about policy choices amidst the constrained fiscal environment," said Mbadi.

He added that Kenya has adopted privatization as a strategic economic policy shift to promote efficiency in the economy by subjecting public services to market forces.

This engagement process is timely in view of the intensified conversation regarding opportunities privatization offers in contributing to national development through revenue enhancement, containing public debt and easing pressure on public expenditure, he said.



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Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary Dr. Belio Kipsang center (in black suit) posing for a photo with National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) at Kapsabet Boys High school during a sensitization forum. Photos by Linet Wafula /*Photo KNA*

Government taps chiefs in new push to clear ID backlog

By Linet Wafula- KNA

Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang has intensified a nationwide push to boost national identification registration, rallying chiefs in Nandi County to take charge of grassroots mobilization and ensure no eligible Kenyan is left undocumented.

Speaking at Kapsabet Boys High School during a sensitization forum for National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs), Kipsang underscored the importance of national IDs in accessing essential services such as healthcare, education, employment and financial systems.

The visit is part of the ongoing "Usajili Mashinani" (Registration at the Grassroots) initiative, a countrywide campaign being spearheaded by the PS since his appointment to the Immigration and Citizen Services docket in March 2025.

Working closely with chiefs, assistant chiefs and NGAOs, Kipsang is leading a robust sensitization programme aimed at accelerating ID registration, improving service delivery and strengthening the national documentation system.

He revealed that more than 462,000 national identity cards remain uncollected across the country, with about 3,000 in Nandi County alone. Chiefs have now been tasked with tracing applicants and ensuring the documents are delivered closer to them for easy collection.

"Chiefs and their assistants understand their communities best and are best placed to identify and verify eligible applicants," he said

Under the revised registration guidelines introduced following the abolition of vetting by President William Ruto, the administrators have been empowered to authenticate applicants using their local knowledge and, in some cases, biometric verification significantly reducing delays and bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Kipsang noted that since the start of the current financial year, at least 1.7 million Kenyans have been registered, reflecting steady progress in expanding access to identification.

As part of the initiative, the government is also deploying mobile registration units in hard-to-reach areas to reach vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities and residents in remote regions.

The exercise is currently ongoing in counties including Narok, West Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Elgeyo Marakwet.

The mobile outreach programme is expected to expand to Kajiado , Isiolo ,Samburu and Marsabit Counties as the government prioritizes regions previously affected by stringent vetting requirements.

Beyond registration, the PS is also using the forums with administrators to reinforce national priorities, including enhancing security and supporting government efforts to curb alcohol and drug abuse at the community level.

Nandi County becomes the 29th to host the sensitization programme, with similar engagements already conducted in counties such as Kericho, Bomet and Trans Nzoia.

The PS emphasised that the overarching goal of the "Usajili Mashinani" initiative is to eliminate regional disparities in access to identification and ensure that all Kenyans can access government services through platforms such as eCitizen.

He urged all those who have applied for IDs to collect them promptly, noting that possession of a national ID remains a critical gateway to opportunities, including voter registration and participation in national development.

State scales -up drought resilience programme in Northern Kenya

By Esther Maku & Peninah Kihika – KNA

The Government is set to scale up its Drought Resilience Programme in Northern Kenya (DRPNK) following a proposed supplemental loan agreement with KfW Development Bank, aimed at expanding climate adaptation and livelihood support initiatives in the arid and semi-arid regions.

The additional financing of nine (9) million EUR will raise the programme's total funding from the current eight (8) million EUR secured in 2018 to 17 million (EUR) to support interventions aimed at enhancing community resilience, climate shocks and strengthening sustainable livelihood opportunities in drought-prone areas.

A review meeting deliberating on the proposed agreement brought together officials from The National Treasury, State Department for Irrigation and Office of the Attorney General and reflected on a coordinated government effort to advance the programme and ensure that all the legal, financial, and implementation frameworks are aligned.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chief Engineer/Director in charge of Irrigation & Drainage, Eng. Bernard Onyango, who spoke on behalf of the State Department for Irrigation, noted that the programme is progressively being transitioned to the County Governments in a bid to promote local ownership and long-term sustainability.

"The programme is designed to help communities build resilience to climate-related shocks while addressing environmental degradation through investments in water harvesting and climate-resilient infrastructure and we are increasingly encouraging the beneficiary communities to take up the ownership of the programme," said Eng. Onyango.



Chief Engineer/Director in charge Irrigation & Drainage Eng. Bernard Onyango during a review meeting on proposed supplemental loan agreement with KfW Development Bank to scale up the Drought Resilience Programme in Northern Kenya /*Photo HANDOUT*

Implemented with the support of the German Development Cooperation, the programme focuses on strengthening drought resilience, enhancing climate change adaptation, and supporting pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods to improve food security in the counties of

Marsabit County leadership commends Ruto administration

By Sebastian Miriti-KNA

The Marsabit county leadership has hailed President Willam Ruto's administration for continually implementing programmes that aim at transforming the lives of local residents.

At the same time, Marsabit County Commissioner James Kamau has urged local communities to shun female genital mutilation (FGM) and other forms of gender-based violence for enhanced cohesion and growth.

Led by Governor Mohammud Ali during this year Jamhuri day celebrations held in the newly created Korr sub county in Laisamis constituency, the leaders pointed out that investment in projects in the water, agriculture and roads sectors as well as effective government services was laudable. Consequently, Governor Ali pledged Sh 10 million towards operationalization of the new administrative unit now that the government has posted a deputy county commissioner (DCC) to the area.

The money, the governor said would go into the construction of residential quarters for the posted officers saying the move was timely as it will take the much-needed government services closer to the people.

The local national government constituency development fund (NG-CDF) is set to fund the construction of offices starting next month as the government strived to be consistent in fulfilling its promises to the people.

"We as residents of Marsabit are happy with the willingness of the Ruto government to accelerate development and improve on the lives of our people," the governor said and asked Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KERRA) to speed up the construction of approved roads across the county.

Government partners with conservancies to weed out banditry

By Muturi Mwangi- KNA

The government has forged a partnership with conservancies' owners to weed out banditry and foster peace in insecurity prone counties.

Speaking in Nanyuki during his security and citizen engagement tour in the area, Interior Cabinet Secretary, Kipchumba Murkomen, pointed out that partnership with the local conservancies will ensure they eradicate insecurity in the targeted counties of Baringo, Marsabit, Meru, Isiolo and Laikipia.

"Our objective is to explore on how to leverage on our partnership since most of the conservancies have rangers who are supported by the National Police Service, they provide security to conservancies and some of these conservancies have equipment that can be use by officers at the grassroot level," stated the CS.

He emphasised that the joint effort would strengthen National Police Reservists (NPR) through training programmes and technological upgrades, enabling smoother and more efficient operations.

"We're planning ways to bolster NPR members who aren't rangers, focusing on community involvement in training and tech integration," the CS explained.

He praised the conservancies for contributing helicopters and drones to surveillance efforts, which have significantly aided security missions.

The CS further highlighted that the security operations in the restive Mukogodo forest were ongoing and the government would not relent until bandits on the run are nabbed and peace restored.

SPORTS Compiled by Hillary Mukasa

Lewa Conservancy unveils 26th Safari Marathon to raise funds for Wildlife protection

By Nicholas Ochieng -KNA

The 26th edition of the Lewa Safari Marathon has been officially launched, with organizers highlighting its continued role in raising funds for wildlife conservation and community development initiatives across the country.

Speaking during the launch, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Mike Watson, described the marathon as more than a sporting event, noting that it has become one of Africa's most powerful conservation platforms.

Watson explained that the marathon brings together individuals, organizations and corporate partners committed to protecting wildlife and improving livelihoods for communities living near conservation areas.

"The event is far more than a race; it is one of Africa's most powerful platforms for conservation, bringing together people, purpose and partnerships to protect wildlife and transform communities across Kenya," he reiterated.

Notably, the marathon is scheduled to take place on June 27, 2026, at Lewa Conservancy in Laikipia County, attracting both local and international participants.

According to Watson, the marathon continues to deliver tangible benefits to conservation and community programmes supported through the initiative.

He further revealed that the 2025 edition attracted more than 1,400 runners from Kenya and around the world, raising approximately $228,000 to support conservation efforts.

"These funds are not abstract; they translate directly into impact," Watson emphasised.

Importantly, the CEO explained that proceeds from the marathon support the protection of endangered species such as rhinos, elephants, lions and the critically endangered mountain bongo found in Kenya.

Watson further added that the funds help facilitate ranger patrols covering thousands of kilometers to safeguard forests, marine ecosystems and wildlife habitats while promoting peaceful coexistence between communities and wildlife.



Lewa Wildlife Conservancy Chief Executive Officer Mike Watson during the launch of the 26th Edition Lewa Safari Marathon in Nairobi on March 24 /*Photo courtesy*

Beyond conservation, he highlighted that the marathon also supports a range of social programmes aimed at improving the welfare of communities living near conservation areas.

Specifically, the CEO pointed out that thousands of children benefit from education support programmes, while communities gain access to healthcare services and livelihood opportunities through initiatives such as sustainable agriculture, clean water projects, and women's microenterprise schemes.

Watson at the same time attributed the long-standing success of the marathon to strong partnerships with corporate sponsors and conservation organizations that have supported the initiative over the years.

He expressed appreciation to leading sponsors including Safaricom and Huawei for their sustained commitment to conservation and community development.

"Safaricom has supported the marathon since its inception over two decades ago, while Huawei has partnered with the initiative for nearly two decades," disclosed the CEO.

In addition, Watson also acknowledged the contribution of other partners and organizations that continue to support the marathon and its conservation outcomes.

As preparations begin for the 2026 event, he reported that organisers are focused on expanding the reach and impact of the marathon by strengthening support to conservation partners and community programmes across Kenya.

"We want to continue demonstrating that conservation can and must deliver benefits for both people and wildlife," he asserted.

Meanwhile, the launch event also highlighted conservation efforts aimed at protecting the endangered Grevy's zebra, whose population has been under threat due to habitat loss and climate challenges.

In his remarks, the Director of Research and Impact at the Grevy's Zebra Trust, Dr David Kimiti, underscored the importance of community participation in conservation efforts.

Meru University wins Mt Kenya badminton championship

By Muturi Mwangi- KNA

The Meru University team, recently, won the second edition of the Mt Kenya Badminton Championship after beating Chuka University two sets to one in a thrilling match.

Teams from seven universities from the region were represented at the two-day tournament under the banner of Boom and Thrive Series.

During the Nanyuki Championship, Kennedy Munene from Chuka University emerged as the best in the men singles category after beating Ian Kimtai by two sets to one in the finals.

"I am very excited to be in this facility; the Mt Kenya region has got a good court where people can train and showcase their talent. We are thankful to Broom and Thrive for organizing such a tournament," Munene told KNA.

In the ladies' singles category, Beryl Allie from Meru University was crowned the champion of the tournament after flooring Gigi Wambui in a thrilling match.

"This is the second time we are participating in this tournament. We are grateful to Boom and Thrive for the opportunity. Badminton has been ignored for long," said Allie.

The Mt Kenya Championship that attracted corporate sponsorship aimed at positioning Badminton among the country's leading sports at the level of athletics, rugby and boxing.

Mt Kenya region Boom and Thrive badminton promoter Edward Muchiri sai the event targeted to grow interest among students and extending support while pushing the government through the sports and Education ministry to expand the necessary facilities to grow the sport.

The Mt Kenya Badminton series is also providing an opportunity for students from institutions of higher learning to grow their careers through internship opportunities from the tournament's sponsors.



Beryl Allie from Meru University in action /*Photo Courtesy*

Deaf schools in Eastern receive sports equipment



Kasdsdasdsad /*Photo courtesy*

By Samuel Waititu- KNA

Deaf Schools in the Eastern Region have benefited from sports equipment from a non-governmental organization, aimed at enhancing learning and promoting sports development and inclusion for deaf learners.

Through donations from the Deaf Outreach Program (DEAFOP), three institutions, St Luke's and Mary Magdalene Schools for the Deaf in Embu County and Machakos School for the Deaf in Machakos County, were equipped with volleyballs, uniforms, nets, and knee caps.

They will also get trained coaches to enable the learners to develop the necessary skills, according to DEAFOP Founder and Director Gloria Njoki.

Njoki said they are seeking to use sports, particularly volleyball, as a tool for empowering learners with hearing impairments to foster life skills, teamwork, and confidence.

Speaking during the handover of the equipment at St Luke's School for the Deaf in Mbeere South Constituency, Njoki emphasized the role of sport in holistic learner development.

"Sport is a powerful tool to promote student confidence and performance, both in and outside the classroom. It helps learners navigate real-life situations through teamwork, strategy, and resilience," she said.

The Director said sports go beyond competition by teaching students how to collaborate, handle wins and losses, and develop critical thinking, noting that these skills will serve them in school, life, and in future workplaces.

St. Luke's Principal, Michael Nyaga, welcomed the program, saying it aligns well with Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), which emphasizes talent development applicable in real-life situations.

"This initiative supports physical activity as a potential career path, particularly for learners with physical ability but limited opportunities," said Nyaga.

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Military now ready to provide support to flush out bandits

By Muturi Mwangi -KNA

Defense Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya has assured residents in insecurity prone areas that the military is now ready to provide all the necessary support in the campaign to flush out bandits from their hideouts.

Speaking at Il Polei market, Laikipia County during women empowerment programme, Ms. Tuya disclosed that the government has allocated Sh1billion to be utilized in opening up road networks for easier accessibility by multiagency security personnel in tracking down the criminals involved in banditry and cattle rustling activities.

"The government has allocated Sh1 billion in the first phase to open up security roads. Bandits won't have any hideout since the operation teams will be able to access all areas," said Tuya.

She added that opening up of roads will cover all insecurity hotspots including Mukogodo forest adding the effort aimed to restore peace and foster development in the region.

Tuya was responding to concerns raised by Laikipia North MP Sarah Korere that it's now over a month since a Kenya Defense Force (KDF) set up a temporary camp in Doldol Town but security officers were yet to move into action.



Kenyan pastrolists /*Photo ourtesy*

"The President has issued very firm instructions that issues of insecurity and banditry under his watch will be a thing of the past. We assure you that all corners affected by insecurity will be addressed during the ongoing operations," she said.

She assured that KDF, through Maliza Uhalifu initiative was on standby to support National Police Service (NPS) during security operations in Laikipia county.

Korere noted that despite the presence of KDF officers, peace was yet to be realized and bandits were still having a field day, carrying out frequent attacks at will, acts that can be considered to be mockery of the government's pledge of ending banditry and cattle rustling activities in northern Kenya and parts of Rift Valley region.

"Our hearts are heavy, since KDF camped here last month until now we are still being attacked by bandits. That's an insult to the government," the CS regretted.

Parts of Laikipia County, notably those neighboring Mukogodo forest were recently gazetted as "disturbed areas" by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen alongside other regions in Isiolo and Meru counties.

Following the gazette notice, a multiagency security force supported by military officers and applying aerial surveillance is now set to launch a major operation to disarm the criminals and recover stolen livestock.

Dozens of people have been killed by criminals in recent years during raids to steal livestock with leaders from affected areas accusing the government of giving lip service in regard to restoring security.

Leaders who accompanied the Defense CS including her Tourism and Wildlife counterpart Rebecca Miano and four Laikipia MPs rallied voters from Mt Kenya region to support President William Ruto's second term bid.



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