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July 21, 2026
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YOUR WEEKLY REVIEW
Issue No. 3/2026-2027

State disburses Sh3b for youth enterprises under NYOTA

This programme is one of Kenya's largest investments in youth enterprise. Thousands of small businesses across the country have received the financial boost they need to expand and thrive. Each beneficiary will receive Sh25,000, bringing the total support under the initiative to Sh50,000 per youth.

FULL STORY PAGE 2

> "This programme is one of Kenya's largest investments in youth enterprise. Thousands of small businesses across the country have received the financial boost they need to expand and thrive"
>
> — President William Ruto

State disburses Sh3bn for youth enterprises under NYOTA program

President William Ruto (left) acknowledges greetings from the youth before launching the second phase of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) at Ulinzi Sports Complex in Nairobi.

BY MYGOV TEAM

President William Ruto has launched the second phase of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme's business support component, disbursing more than Sh3 billion to over 122,000 young entrepreneurs across the country.

Each beneficiary will receive Sh25,000, bringing the total support to KSh50,000 per youth under the initiative.

"This programme is one of Kenya's largest investments in youth enterprise. Thousands of small businesses across the country have been given the much-needed financial boost to expand and thrive," President Ruto declared.

As President Ruto launched the second phase of the NYOTA programme in Nairobi, similar exercises were being concurrently carried out in seventeen other regions across the country.

The President expressed joy at what he termed a tangible witness to what becomes possible when opportunity is placed in the hands of determined young Kenyans.

"If there was any doubt about the success of this programme, thousands of Kenyans across the country, with testimonies about successful business ventures, are answering this question," noted the Head of State.

"The uplifting stories of success told from every corner of the country are clear testaments of what NYOTA can do. Those who dismissed Sh25,000 or Sh50,000 as too small to do anything have been proven wrong," he said.

The President said the government is determined to ensure young people not only start businesses but also grow them into sustainable enterprises.

"I have directed the Ministry of Co-operatives and MSME Development to establish a national NYOTA identification mechanism to enable beneficiaries to access government services and incentives seamlessly," he announced.

To further strengthen the programme, President Ruto directed government financing institutions; the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Uwezo Fund, Women Enterprise Fund, and Kenya Industrial Estates to create a dedicated NYOTA Growth Product.

"This product will provide additional financing to enterprises that have already benefited from NYOTA, ensuring they scale up and thrive," he said.

"I have asked the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council and county governments to consider a two-year business permit waiver for NYOTA beneficiaries. This will give them breathing space to grow their businesses before facing licensing costs," he said.

Under this rollout, about 50,000 youth will each receive a grant of Sh22,000 deposited into their NYOTA Pochi la Biashara Wallet, alongside Sh3,000 channelled to the Haba Haba Savings Scheme

BY THE NUMBERS

Sh25,000

Each beneficiary will receive Sh25,000, bringing the total support under the initiative to Sh50,000 per youth.

> "This product will provide additional financing to enterprises that have already benefited from NYOTA, enabling them to scale up and succeed

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

managed by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

Principal Secretary for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Susan Mangeni hailed the programme as proof of Kenya's commitment to nurturing entrepreneurial spirit.

She noted that the second tranche disbursement demonstrated nationwide resolve to empower youth, describing beneficiaries as individuals who had shown "high entrepreneurial intent, outstanding entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to building sustainable businesses".

Across the country, beneficiaries are already rewriting their stories. In Tharaka-Nithi County, Eric Ngugi, a young entrepreneur living with a disability, turned scrap into opportunity. With NYOTA support and his own savings, he acquired equipment to manufacture affordable flush doors. He has completed 40 doors, has 27 on order, earned KSh32,000 in profit, and employs five people, with the capacity to hire five more as demand grows.

In Chuka Town, Fridah Karimi, a tailor, repaired her sewing machine, expanded her product range, strengthened her brand, and now earns about KSh35,000 in monthly profit. "I had the skill but lacked capital. NYOTA gave me the chance to prove what I can do," she said.

In Kakamega, Sonya Amisi doubled her flock of Kienyeji chickens from 200 to 400, added 300 chicks, and created three jobs. "What was once a chore is now a business. I can see a future in poultry farming," she explained.

In Isiolo, livestock trader Ibrahim Wako has grown from keeping two goats to five, with plans to double that number before year's end. In Kitui, Eunice Katunge transformed a roadside kiosk into a fully stocked shop worth KSh85,000. In Kisii, Josphat Kerongo Nyagaka cleared debts and grew his mobile phone repair business into a KSh100,000 enterprise. In Kisumu, John Omumbo reinvested every shilling of profit to build a coffin-making business now valued at KSh100,000.

In Mombasa, Wycliffe Mulwa expanded a single fruit stall into a thriving retail and wholesale enterprise, earning profits of up to KSh7,000 a day. "I never wanted handouts. I was waiting for an opportunity. NYOTA gave me that chance," he said.

KRA revenue hits record Sh2.84 trillion as economy strengthens

Adan Mohamed, Commissioner General of Kenya Revenue Authority

BY CHRIS MAHANDARA (KNA)

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) collected a record Sh2.844 trillion in taxes and agency revenues during the 2025/2026 financial year, marking its strongest revenue growth in recent years as key sectors of the economy drove higher government earnings.

In a statement issued to the media, KRA said the collections represented an increase of Sh272.95 billion from the Sh2.572 trillion realised in the previous financial year. This translates to a growth rate of 10.6 per cent, up from 6.8 per cent recorded in 2024/2025. The authority attributed the strong performance to growth in the manufacturing, energy, financial and insurance services, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and wholesale and retail trade sectors. Collectively, these sectors accounted for 62 per cent of total revenue and contribute 27.4 per cent of Kenya's nominal GDP.

Manufacturing emerged as the largest contributor after generating Sh462 billion in taxes, up from Sh423 billion in the previous year, accounting for 16.2 per cent of total collections. The energy sector followed with Sh445 billion, largely driven by customs oil taxes, while financial and insurance services contributed Sh320 billion.

ICT generated Sh248 billion, while wholesale and retail trade yielded Sh288 billion, cementing their place among the country's leading taxpayers.

Despite the strong performance, KRA fell short of its exchequer target after collecting Sh2.568 trillion against a target of Sh2.698 trillion, achieving a performance rate of 95.2 per cent.

Agency revenue collected on behalf of other government institutions rose by 11.2 per cent to Sh276.1 billion, while customs revenue exceeded its target after collecting Sh988.8 billion against a target of Sh980.8 billion, representing a performance rate of 100.8 percent. Domestic revenue grew by 9.7 per cent to Sh1.851 trillion but fell short of the Sh1.991 trillion target. Among major tax heads, Pay As You Earn (PAYE) collections rose by 6.7 per cent to Sh598.8 billion although KRA attributed the slower growth to shrinking formal sector employment, whose contribution to total employment fell to 15.3 per cent in 2025 from 15.7 per cent in 2022.

Corporation tax registered one of the strongest performances after growing by 14 per cent to Sh347.1 billion, supported by improved profitability in the ICT, manufacturing, transport, energy and banking sectors.

Excise duty on betting services exceeded its target after collecting Sh16.5 billion against a target of Sh14.3 billion, while collections from Significant Economic Presence Tax and Digital Service Tax doubled to Sh1.61 billion following changes introduced under the Finance Act 2025.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sh2.844tn

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) collected a record Sh2.844 trillion in taxes and agency revenues during the 2025/2026 financial year

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ICT AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALL FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT KENYA ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER EMERGING TEVHNOLOGIES POLICY

The Ministry, through a multi-stakeholder committee "the Committee" has developed the draft Kenya Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies Policy. This Policy establishes a coherent national framework for the governance, development, deployment, and use of AI and other Emerging Technologies. It aims to promote innovation, strengthen infrastructure and human capital, support sustainable development, and enhance Kenya's economic resilience and strategic autonomy.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of Kenya, which mandates public participation in policy-making, the Ministry invites members of the public, stakeholders, and all interested parties to submit their views, comments, and recommendations on the proposed policy, which will inform its review.

The Policy is available on **https://ict.go.ke.**

Written submissions should be submitted to the Committee using the provided template below not later than **4th August, 2026** through electronic mail; **aipolicy@moict.go.ke** **CC: legal@moict.go.ke** or to the address:

ChairPerson,
Committee on AI and Other Emerging Technologies
C/O Principal Secretary
10th Floor, Telposta Towers
P. O. Box 30025-00100
Nairobi, Kenya

TEMPLATE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

NAME OF ORGANISATION/INDIVIDUAL PERSON				
S/No	Section of the Policy	Provisions of the Policy*	Proposed Amendment**	Rationale for Amendment recommendation
1.				
2.				

*Provide text on exact wording of the provision in the policy paragraph or sub paragraph

**Provide the exact wording of how the proposed amendment to the policy paragraph or sub paragraph is proposed to read.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ANTI-FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION BOARD

A Society free from female genital mutilation

KENYA RAILWAYS SRBS
SOUTHWING, BLOCK "D"
2ND FLOOR
P.O. BOX 54760 - 00200 NAIROBI

Email: admin@antifgmboard.go.ke
Email:ceoantifgmboard@gmail.com

ADDENDUM No. 1

EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE TO 24TH JULY 2026

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Board is a State Corporation under the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services responsible for implementing the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011. The Board invites applications from qualified persons to fill the vacancies listed below.

S/NO.	POST	GRADE	VACANCY NO.	NO OF POSTS
1.	Chief Executive Officer	AFGM 1	AFGM/1/2026	1
2.	Deputy Director, HRM & Administration	AFGM 3	AFGM/2/2026	1
3.	Accountant	AFGM 7	AFGM/3/2026	1
	TOTAL			**3**

For detailed job requirements visit the Anti-FGM Board's website **www.antifgmboard.go.ke**

Application Procedure

Qualified and interested applicants who meet the requirements should visit the Board's career page on the website. The applicants shall apply through the Anti-FGM Board's recruitment portal which is accessible through **https://jobs.antifgmboard.go.ke/**

Applications should be submitted in Pdf format not later than **5:00PM Friday, July 24th, 2026. (East African Time)**

No hand delivery applications shall be accepted.

"Anti-FGM Board is an equal opportunity employer".
"Any form of canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification".

KENYA VISION 2030

Payroll cleanup paves way for increase of civil servant salary

BY KIBE MBURU (KNA)

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku (Holding a microphone) and Kipkelion East MP Joseph Cherorot (Far Right) interact with workers and local residents during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Londiani ICT Hub, a project aimed at expanding digital infrastructure and creating opportunities for youth innovation in Kericho County.

The National Government has announced a salary increase for civil servants across the country, effective this July, with Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku saying the adjustment will benefit only genuine public officers on the government payroll.

The Cabinet Secretary said the salary increase will be extended only to verified public officers as the government rolls out a centralized, tamper-proof Human Resource System (HRS) aimed at eliminating ghost workers and sealing payroll loopholes.

Ruku explained that the centralized Human Resource System will enhance payroll integrity across ministries, state departments, state corporations and other public institutions by strengthening employee verification, promoting accountability and eliminating payroll fraud.

Speaking during the Kipkelion East Constituency Academic and Prize Giving Day at Londiani Boys High School in Kericho County, Ruku said the reforms follow a government payroll audit that uncovered widespread irregularities, including illegal salary payments, duplicate employee records and weaknesses in existing payroll management systems that enabled ghost workers to remain on the public payroll.

"The salary increment this July will only benefit genuine civil servants. Ghost workers have no place in the government payroll under the centralised Human Resource System," stressed Ruku.

He noted that the reforms are part of the government's broader efforts to improve efficiency in public service and ensure prudent use of taxpayers' money. Ruku further announced that the government will construct a Huduma Centre in Kipkelion East Sub County to bring essential government services closer to residents.

"The Huduma Centre will enable residents to conveniently access services such as national identity cards, birth certificates, driving licences and other government services without travelling long distances." explained Ruku.

Modern milk processing plant boosts incomes for Nandi dairy farmers

BY SAMMY MWIBANDA (KNA)

For years, dairy farmers in Nandi County watched helplessly as milk went to waste due to inadequate storage facilities and unreliable markets. Today, that narrative is changing with the establishment of the Kabiyet Milk Processing Plant, a state-of-the-art facility capable of processing more than 200,000 litres of milk daily.

The plant, located in Tinderet Sub-County, is already transforming the local economy and improving the livelihoods of thousands of smallholder farmers who have long grappled with post-harvest losses, low returns, and limited market access.

The facility is the culmination of years of planning, investment, and collaboration between the Nandi County Government, the World Bank, and national agencies, including the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP). Beyond creating a reliable market for farmers, the plant is expected to spur economic growth, create jobs, and strengthen the dairy value chain across the region.

The facility's ultra high temperature (UHT) technology extends milk's shelf life to several months, opening doors to new markets in Nairobi, Mombasa, and even international buyers.

Kabiyet milk processing plant in Tinderet Sub County in Nandi County. It has the capacity of processing 200,000 litres per day.

Youth from the western region benefit from NYOTA fund

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and CS Diaspora Affairs (middle), Kakamega County Governor Fernandes Barasa (second right) and other senior government officials jig during the launch of the second disbursement of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Programme in Kakamega town. (Photo by Cypron Esolio, KNA)

BY GEORGE KAIGA AND CYPRON ESOLIO (KNA)

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi presided over the launch of the Western region's second disbursement of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Programme, where over 2,115 new beneficiaries enrolled in the government's youth empowerment programme from the four counties of Kakamega, Vihiga, Busia and Bungoma, held at the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) grounds in Kakamega town.

The event, held at the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) grounds in Kakamega, which brought together young people and NYOTA beneficiaries from the four counties of the region, including Kakamega, Busia, Bungoma and Vihiga, was part of the nationwide rollout of the programme's second phase.

Under the programme, a total of 3 billion shillings is being disbursed to 122,000 NYOTA beneficiaries across all the 47 counties to help in expanding access to affordable financing for young entrepreneurs.

Mudavadi, who is also Cabinet Secretary, Diaspora Affairs, said Kenya's greatest asset is its youthful population, adding that investing in young people's talent, enterprise and ambition remains one of the surest ways of building a stronger and more prosperous nation.

He said the second phase of the NYOTA Programme builds on the success recorded during the first disbursement, where many beneficiaries have already established businesses and started earning a living through the seed capital provided by the government

The PCS noted that the programme targets an overall 820,000 vulnerable and marginalised youth across all 1,450 wards in the country by providing entrepreneurship training, start-up capital, mentorship, financial literacy, market linkages, skills development, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), and on-the-job experience.

He said the programme targets youth aged 18 to 29 years, with eligibility extended to 35 years for Persons with Disabilities, to ensure more young Kenyans access opportunities for economic empowerment.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary said that at a time when the global demand for jobs continues to outpace supply, investing in young people is both an economic necessity and a national priority.

He added that through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the government is equipping young people with the skills, capital and opportunities needed to become job creators rather than job seekers, thereby strengthening local economies and reducing unemployment.

"Through the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the government is committed to equipping young people to become job creators rather than job seekers, strengthening local economies, reducing unemployment and unlocking Kenya's greatest resource, its youthful population," said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi urges beneficiaries to invest the funds in productive ventures and manage their businesses responsibly to ensure long-term growth and sustainability.

Speaking at the same event, Kakamega governor Fernandes Barasa announced that young people who establish businesses in Kakamega using the NYOTA Fund will not be required to obtain county business licences during the two-year start-up phase, saying the waiver is intended to reduce the cost of doing business and allow beneficiaries to invest more resources in expanding their enterprises.

He said the county government is committed to supporting youth entrepreneurship by creating a favourable business environment, adding that the county will continue partnering with the national government in implementing programmes that create employment and improve the livelihoods of young people.

The governor also encourages beneficiaries to make use of the entrepreneurship and financial management training offered under the programme to enhance the sustainability of their businesses.

Beneficiaries who spoke during the event say the programme is changing their lives by enabling them to start and expand businesses.

Affordable housing project takes off in Marsabit with 220 units planned

BY SEBASTIAN MIRITI AND ANTHONY MELLY (KNA)

The affordable housing programme has officially commenced in Marsabit County following the handover of a two-acre construction site to a contractor for the development of 220 housing units.

Presiding over the ceremony, Marsabit County Commissioner Stanley Kamande said the Sh670 million project is expected to be completed within 18 months.

The housing project, located in Marsabit town, Saku Constituency, is part of the government's flagship initiatives under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), aimed at improving living standards for Kenyans.

The Regional Affordable Housing Project Coordinator for Marsabit and Mandera counties, Ahmed Ali, Marsabit Deputy County Secretary Tari Doti, and County Director of Housing David Kori witnessed the handover of the site to Mankos Agency Limited, an event that was welcomed by local residents.

Kamande said the modern housing project will help address the shortage of residential units in Marsabit town while creating employment opportunities, particularly for young people.

Kamande urged the contractor to complete the project within the stipulated timeline and to prioritise the use of local labour and resources so that residents could directly benefit from the project.

He reiterated the government's commitment to improving the lives of Kenyans by offering an opportunity to own decent shelter in all parts of the country, adding that everything will be done to ensure that the contractor undertakes the work without any hindrance.

According to the Regional Coordinator, the affordable housing project is among many national government development initiatives currently underway in Marsabit County.

Ali said the other ongoing projects in the region include the construction of Sh360 million Sololo students' hostels; a 340-bed capacity student hostel to serve Saku Vocational Training College at a cost of Sh154 million; a livestock market at Bubisa, North Horr constituency; and a modern retail market in Moyale town.He added that plans were underway to initiate three more modern housing projects in each of the county's constituencies of Laisamis, North Horr and Moyale, even as the housing programme continued to gather momentum across the country.

"Every constituency will benefit from the affordable housing programme," he assured, adding that the county government was keen to see the programme succeeding in the entire Marsabit.

An official from Mankos Agencies Limited, Eng. Dennis Korir, receives An official from Mankos Agencies Limited, Eng. Dennis Korir (Right), receives construction site documents for the affordable housing project in Marsabit town from County Commissioner Stanley Kamande (Centre). .PHOTO: SEBASTIAN MIRITI

BY THE NUMBERS

Sh360m

Ali said the other ongoing projects in the region include the construction of Sh360 million Sololo students' hostels

Public Servants given deadline to update pension, beneficiary details

Public Service Principal Secretary Dr Jane Kere Imbunya at a past event. Public servants have been directed to update their records with PSSF.

BY TIMOTHY MACHI (PCO)

The Government has directed all public servants to update their records with the Public Service Superannuation Fund (PSSF) by August 14, 2026, in the latest step towards modernising pension administration and improving service delivery across the public sector. The directive, contained in a circular signed by Principal Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development Dr Jane Kere Imbunya, was addressed to Ministries, State Departments, Constitutional Commissions, Independent Offices, County Public Service Boards and County Governments. It requires all PSSF members to update their personal information and beneficiary details through the PSSF Member Self-Service Portal or the PSSF mobile application.

As part of the exercise, members are required to log into the PSSF Member Self-Service Portal and complete both the enrolment form and the beneficiary nomination form before the deadline.

The move comes only days after a similar directive issued by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), signalling a coordinated Government effort to ensure public servants maintain accurate and up-to-date pension records as part of the country's ongoing pension modernisation programme. The registration exercise is expected to streamline pension administration and accelerate the processing of retirement benefits supported by a new Pension Administration System (PAS), a digital platform developed by PSSF to deliver faster, more transparent and more efficient pension services.

The registration exercise targets 529,635 members drawn from across the public service, including 332,950 teachers under the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), 120,084 officers in the disciplined services, 60,322 employees in Ministries, Departments, Constitutional Commissions and Agencies (MDCAs), and 16,279 county government employees. The exercise seeks to ensure that every member's personal and beneficiary information is accurate and up to date, providing a reliable foundation for efficient pension administration and faster service delivery.

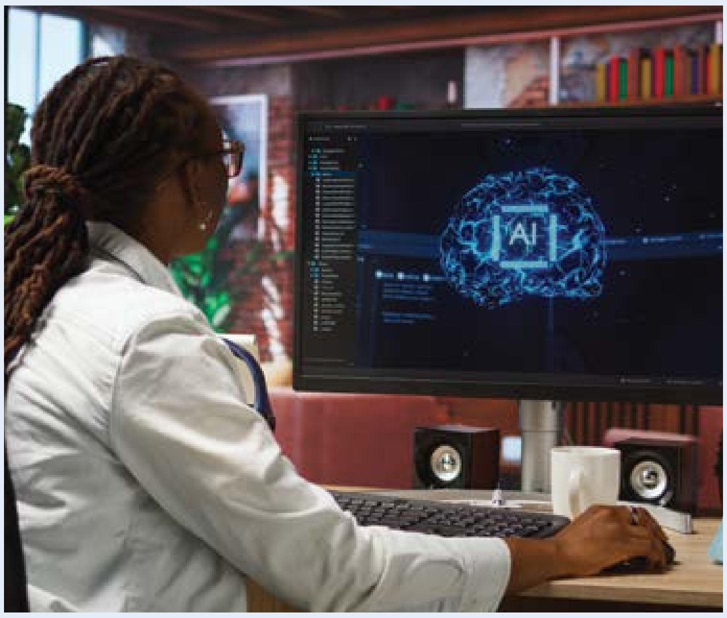
Explaining the rationale for the registration exercise, PSSF Chief Executive Officer Dr Jonah Aiyabei said updating member records is critical to the success of the pension reforms and the delivery of efficient retirement services.

"Accurate and up-to-date member information is the foundation of efficient pension administration. By updating their records, public servants will enable quicker processing of retirement benefits and reduce administrative delays.

OPINION: GLOBAL ECONOMY

Kenya must build AI that speaks its languages and serves its people

BY PROF. SHAUKAT ABDULRAZAK



Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer merely an emerging technology. It is rapidly becoming a critical component of the infrastructure through which nations deliver healthcare, improve agriculture, educate citizens, manufacture goods, manage public services, and compete in the global economy. Kenya is already experiencing this transformation.

At the regional level, Africa faces a defining choice: to remain consumers of algorithms, platforms, and digital systems developed elsewhere, or to become creators, owners, and exporters of home-grown technologies. Africa's future must not be coded for us; it must be coded with us and, increasingly, by us.

From my perspective, the central question is no longer whether AI will transform our country. The real question is whether we will shape that transformation deliberately, responsibly, and in the national interest. Kenya must develop AI systems that understand our crops, diseases, institutions, and communities. We need technologies that can communicate in Kiswahili and other indigenous languages, support teachers, strengthen healthcare delivery, improve public administration, empower businesses, and respond to the realities of our people.

Fortunately, Kenya already has strong foundations on which to build. We have a dynamic digital economy, globally recognised mobile innovations, capable universities and research institutions, a vibrant start-up ecosystem, and a youthful population eager to innovate. The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025-2030 provides a clear framework for advancing digital infrastructure, strengthening data and AI governance, and promoting research, innovation, and commercialisation.

The Government has therefore established an important policy direction. The greater task before us now is to translate that vision into action through effective implementation.

First, we must strengthen research and innovation clusters in strategic areas such as artificial intelligence, digital health, agriculture, climate intelligence, cybersecurity, bioeconomy, energy, and advanced manufacturing. Clusters allow institutions to share expensive infrastructure, combine expertise, avoid duplication, and pursue national missions at scale.

Second, we should initiate National Research Chairs in responsible AI, robotics, cybersecurity, computational agriculture, digital health, and AI ethics. These Chairs should serve as platforms for excellence, mentorship, postgraduate training, international collaboration, and the mobilisation of additional research resources. Their success must be measured not only through publications but also through patents, enterprises, policies influenced, students trained, external financing attracted, and lives improved. Above all, they must demonstrate clear impact in society.

Third, we must organise research around Grand Challenges that directly affect citizens. AI can help reduce maternal and infant deaths, predict droughts, floods, disease outbreaks, and crop pests, improve learning outcomes in underserved schools, reduce post-harvest losses, and strengthen public-sector productivity. Under the framework of the Bottom-Up Transformation Agenda (BETA), these national development missions should be pursued with multidisciplinary teams, measurable milestones, and clear pathways from research to implementation.

Fourth, adequate and predictable financing is essential. Kenya's ecosystem of research and development is on a trajectory of progressively raising investment in science, research, and innovation from at least 1 per cent towards 2 per cent of gross domestic product. This investment will support competitive research grants, modern infrastructure, postgraduate training, research chairs, proof-of-concept development, intellectual-property protection, and commercialisation.

As government, we value international cooperation and the contribution of development partners. However, the long-term sustainability of Kenya's research system cannot depend excessively on external financing. Our national priorities must increasingly be financed through domestic resources. Domestic financing is the real sovereignty. This requires stronger allocations from the National Treasury, greater private-sector participation, contributions from county governments, university investment, philanthropy, and innovative financing instruments. Research funding must be understood as an investment in national productivity, resilience, and economic competitiveness not merely as public expenditure.

President William Ruto has stated: "To change our country, we must make decisions that will change the course and destiny of our nation." One such decision is to place science, research, innovation, and artificial intelligence at the centre of Kenya's development financing.

The private sector must also move from being a spectator to becoming a co-creator. Companies should co-finance research, sponsor research ideas, provide datasets, host students, test technologies, and invest in university spin-offs. Government, in turn, must provide enabling policies, appropriate standards, supportive infrastructure, and procurement opportunities for credible Kenyan innovations.

Our greatest challenge is not the shortage of ideas. It is the failure to convert enough of those ideas into economic and social value. President Ruto often reminds us that we must believe it is possible and believe in ourselves.

The State Department for Science, Research and Innovation will continue to provide a stronger pathway from research to invention, invention to intellectual property, intellectual property to enterprise, and enterprise to markets, exports, and jobs.

— The author is the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Science, Research and Innovation. He can be reached at saabdulrazak@gmail.com

New water infrastructure promises to end decades of Tana River water crisis

BY HUSSEIN ABDULLAHI (KNA)

For decades, the people of Tana River County have lived with a painful paradox. Despite being home to Kenya's longest river, thousands of households and livestock have continued to compete for dwindling water sources.

Water scarcity has not only affected livelihoods but has also contributed to poor sanitation, disrupted education and recurring hardships caused by drought.

Today, however, that narrative is gradually changing. Through the Coast Water Works Development Agency (CWWDA), the Government is investing Sh185 million in strategic water harvesting projects aimed at transforming lives across the county.

The agency is implementing a series of water infrastructure projects, including Bangale 1 and 2 water pans, the Sheli Water Supply Project and Chirifa water pans in Garsen Constituency. The projects are expected to enhance water security, strengthen climate resilience and provide sustainable access to water for communities that have endured chronic shortages for years.

The launch of the Sheli Water Supply Project has brought renewed hope to local residents, marking the beginning of a long-awaited solution to the villages' persistent water challenges.

The project involves the construction of a four-kilometre pipeline linking Konkona Borehole to Sheli Village, the development of an extensive water distribution network and the installation of two water kiosks alongside communal water points.

Once completed, the project is expected to serve more than 300 households with clean and safe drinking water. Beyond improving access to water, the initiative will reduce the burden on women and children who spend hours fetching water, allowing children to remain in school while creating opportunities for women to engage in income-generating activities.

The locals lauded the project, noting that it would improve access to safe water and also enhance public health by reducing the prevalence of waterborne diseases.

"For many years, families here have struggled to access clean water. This project gives us hope that our children will spend more time in school instead of walking long distances in search of water. It is an investment that will improve our health and livelihoods," said Ari Bodole, a local resident in Sheli village.

In the arid landscapes of Bura Constituency, where livestock-keeping remains the backbone of the local economy, water availability determines the survival of both families and animals.

The official handing over of the Bangale 1 Water Pan project to the contractor marked the beginning of construction aimed at providing a dependable water source for domestic use and livestock. The project includes excavation of a large water reservoir, rehabilitation of draw-off structures, fencing of the site to protect the infrastructure and installation of a solar-powered pumping system.

Complementing this investment is the Bangale 2 Water Pan project, which further expands water-harvesting capacity in the area. Together, the two projects are expected to enhance water storage during rainy seasons, reduce vulnerability during drought periods and strengthen the resilience of pastoral communities whose livelihoods depend on reliable water supplies.

Keiyo South schools embrace clean energy with new biogas projects

BY RENNISH OKONG'O (KNA)

Schools in Keiyo South are set to benefit from clean and affordable energy following the commissioning of the KyoGreen Biogas Unit at Mokwo Girls Secondary School and the launch of additional biogas projects in other learning institutions.

Head of Public Service Felix Koskei (Second from Left), accompanied by Principal Secretary for the National Treasury Dr Chris Kiptoo (Third from Right), hands over a dummy cheque for Changach Barak Primary School and Changach Barak Senior School, worth Sh480,000, to facilitate the installation of two KyoGreen biogas systems.

Head of Public Service Felix Koskei commissioned the unit at Mokwo Girls Secondary School, describing it as a significant milestone in promoting renewable energy use in public institutions while reducing reliance on traditional cooking fuels.

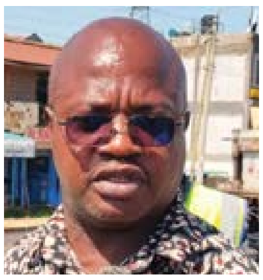
The biogas unit is expected to provide the school with a sustainable source of clean energy for meal preparation, cutting operational costs and reducing dependence on firewood. It will also contribute to environmental conservation by helping curb deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Koskei said the government remains committed to supporting climate-smart technologies that enhance service delivery.

Sh16.7 billion highway project to open up Kisumu and surrounding counties

BY MABEL KEYA AND ROBERT ONYANGO (KNA)

Residents of Kisumu are set to reap significant transport and economic benefits from the ongoing construction of the Sh16.7 billion Mamboleo-Miwani-Chemelil-Muhoroni-Kipsitet road, whose progress marks a major milestone towards completion.



Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) Nyanza Regional Director Fredrick Oyuga briefing the media in Kisumu on the status of the Sh16.7 billion Mamboleo – Miwani – Chemelil – Muhoroni – Kipsitet road bypass.

The multi-billion-shilling infrastructure project, which has long been awaited in the region, is steadily taking shape, with authorities expressing optimism that it will be completed by July next year.

According to the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) Nyanza Regional Director, Fredrick Oyuga, the road project has been divided into three key sections to enhance efficiency and minimise construction risks.

The first segment, covering 12.6 kilometres between Mamboleo and Miwani, including a 6.5-kilometre dual carriageway, is currently 24 per cent complete.

The second section, stretching approximately 20 kilometres from Miwani to Chemelil, has reached 34 per cent completion, while the third and longest stretch, from Chemelil through Muhoroni to Kipsitet, spanning about 44 kilometres, is 22 per cent complete.Oyuga noted that the project, which commenced in 2021, initially faced funding constraints that slowed progress.

However, the challenges have since been addressed, with the government introducing policies and regulations to ensure the project is financed through the Fuel Levy Fund, guaranteeing a steady flow of funding.

"All contractors are now fully mobilised on site, and works are progressing as scheduled," he said.

Project engineer Catherine Mwinyi explained that the road is being constructed to higher pavement standards to accommodate heavy commercial traffic, particularly trucks serving key industries such as the Kibos Sugar and Allied Industries, Chemelil and Muhoroni Sugar Companies respectively.

She added that the road will function as a critical bypass, offering a shorter and more efficient route for motorists travelling between parts of Nandi, KERICHO, and Kisumu Counties, while significantly easing persistent traffic congestion at the busy Ahero Interchange.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR AGRICULTURE

Ministry Of Agriculture & Livestock Development

NAVCDP NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country:	**KENYA**
Name of Project:	**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT- NAVCDP**
Credit No.:	**70640**
Project ID:	**176758**
Assignment Title:	**CONSULTING SERVICES FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ACCELERATION OF APICULTURE VALUE CHAIN**
Reference No.:	**KE-MOALF-560393-CS- CQS**

1.0 The Government of Kenya has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

2.0 The Consulting Services (***"the Services"***) include Consulting Services of a Business Accelerator for Apiculture Value Chain for NAVCDP. The estimated period of the assignment is twelve (12) calendar months from contract commencement date.

3.0 The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: **www.kilimo.go.ke**

4.0 The State Department for Agriculture (***"the client"***) now invites eligible consulting firms (***"Consultants"***) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: -

4.1 **Core business and years in business:** The firm shall be registered/incorporated as a consulting firm with core business in the field of livestock or closely related field for a period of a minimum of ten (10) years.

4.2 **Relevant experience:** The firm shall demonstrate as having successfully executed and completed at least two (2) assignments of similar nature, complexity and in a similar operating environment in the last eight (8) calendar years. Details of similar assignments - Name and address of the client, scope, value/enumeration, and period should be provided and submitted with the Expression of Interest (EOI).

4.3 **Technical and managerial capability of the firm:** The firm shall demonstrate as having the requisite technical and managerial capacity including relevant management tools to undertake the assignment in the submitted company profile(s).

Key Experts will not be evaluated at this stage.

5.0. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's ***"Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers"*** First Published July 2016 and revised Fourth Edition November 2020 (***"Procurement Regulations"***), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

6.0. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and /or a sub consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in a joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

7.0 A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant' s Qualification -Based Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

8.0. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours East Africa Time (EAT) at the address below.

Address for further information:
National Project Coordinator
National Value Chain Development Project
State Department for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Capitol Hill Towers, 5th Floor, Cathedral Road.
Nairobi Kenya
Phone : +254 773206315
E-mail : info@navcdp.go.ke

9.0. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **4th August, 2026 at 1100 hours EAT.** The delivery by person must be deposited in the tender box clearly marked State Department for Agriculture located at Kilimo House main reception –Ground floor, Cathedral Road Nairobi - Kenya, or delivery by e-mail must be sent to **info@navcdp.go.ke** and clearly marked "Consulting Services for Business Accelerator for Apiculture Value Chain for NAVCDP, Contract Ref. No. **KE-MOALF-560393-CS-CQS.**

Address for submission:

The Principal Secretary
State Department for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Kilimo House, Ground floor
Cathedral Road
Telephone +254 773206315
E-mail: info@navcdp.go.ke

Head Supply Chain Management
For: Principal Secretary

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR AGRICULTURE

Ministry Of Agriculture & Livestock Development

NAVCDP NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country:	**KENYA**
Name of Project:	**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT- NAVCDP**
Credit No.:	**70640**
Project ID:	**176758**
Assignment Title:	**CONSULTING SERVICES FOR BUSINESS ACCELERATOR FOR MANGO AND AVOCADO VALUE CHAINS FOR NAVCDP**
Reference No.:	**KE-MOALF-560682-CS-QCBS**

1.0 The Government of Kenya has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

2.0 The Consulting Services (***"the Services"***) include Consulting Services for Business Accelerator for mango and avocado value chains for NAVCDP. The estimated period of the assignment is twelve (12) calendar months from contract commencement date.

3.0 The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: **www.kilimo.go.ke**

4.0 The State Department for Agriculture (***"the client"***) now invites eligible consulting firms (***"Consultants"***) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: -

4.1 **Core business and years in business:** The firm shall be registered/incorporated as a consulting firm with core business in the field of Agriculture or closely related field for a period of at least ten (10) calendar years.

4.2 **Relevant experience:** The firm shall demonstrate as having successfully executed and completed at least two (2) assignments of similar nature, complexity and in a similar operating environment in the last eight (8) calendar years. Details of similar assignments - Name and address of the client, scope, value/enumeration, and period should be provided and submitted with the Expression of Interest (EOI).

4.3 **Technical and managerial capability of the firm:** The firm shall demonstrate as having the requisite technical and managerial capacity including relevant management tools to undertake the assignment in the submitted company profile(s).

Key Experts will not be evaluated at this stage.

5.0. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" First Published July 2016 and revised Fourth Edition November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

6.0. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

7.0 A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

8.0. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours East African Time (EAT) at the address below.

Address for further information:
National Project Coordinator
National Value Chain Development Project
State Department for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Capitol Hill Towers, 5th Floor, Cathedral Road.
Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254 773206315
E-mail: info@navcdp.go.ke

9.0. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **4th August, 2026 at 1100** hours EAT. The delivery by person must be deposited in the tender box clearly marked State Department for Agriculture located at Kilimo House main reception –Ground floor, Cathedral Road Nairobi - Kenya, or delivery by e-mail must be sent to **info@navcdp.go.ke** and clearly marked "Consulting services of Business Accelerator for Mango and Avocado Value Chains, Contract Ref. No. **KE-MOALF-560682-CS-QCBS**.

Address for submission:
The Principal Secretary
State Department for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Kilimo House, Ground floor,
Cathedral Road
Nairobi, Kenya.
Telephone: +254 773206315
E-mail: info@navcdp.go.ke

Head Supply Chain Management
For: Principal Secretary

KENYA VISION 2030

KDF renovates schools in Laikipia to boost peace efforts

BY MUTURI MWANGI (KNA)

The Kenya Defence Force (KDF) has embarked on the renovation and construction of classrooms in ten primary schools in insecurity-prone areas of Laikipia County as part of efforts to restore lasting peace in the affected regions.

Defence Principal Secretary Patrick Mariru, while commissioning the projects, said the classrooms would be completed and ready for use within two months. He added that the initiative was being implemented following a directive from President William Ruto.

“The President directed that bandits be flushed out of Mukogodo Forest and that schools neighbouring the forest be improved. The Head of State wants learners to have a conducive environment for learning,” said the PS after commissioning the construction of dormitories at Ngenia Comprehensive School.

Defence PS Patrick Mariru (with cap) and Laikipia North Member of Parliament Sarah Korere (Second Right) cutting a ribbon for the commencement of dormitory construction in Ngenia Comprehensive School.

Expansion of facilities in the schools that offer boarding facilities aims at boosting enrolment and promoting retention as a way of discouraging youths who drop out of school from engaging in criminal activities.

Most of the schools earmarked in the project border the expansive Mukogodo Forest in Laikipia North Constituency, where adjacent villages have over the years borne the brunt of banditry attacks, leading to loss of lives, livestock theft and destruction of property.

The insecurity has in the past claimed the life of a chief and several National Police Reservists, prompting residents to flee from the area, resulting in school dropouts.

Recently, a multi-agency security force was deployed into the forest to flush out the criminals, who had turned the area into their hideouts and where they frequently carried out armed raids targeting business premises and livestock.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA | WaterFund | german cooperation | KFW | THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU | MERU RURAL WATER MeRuWASCO

RE - ADVERTISEMENT

NATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS-WORKS

COUNTRY	KENYA
NAME OF PROJECT	Water Supply Distribution for Meru Rural Water and Sanitation Company - Aid on Delivery
CONTRACT TITLE	Proposed Water Supply Distribution Project for Muriri - Karumo, in Meru County
REFERENCE No.	MERUWASCO/ONT/WSTF/AOD 01/2026-2027

1. The Government of Kenya has received financing from the German Development Bank toward the cost of the Water Supply Extension for Meru County Rural Water and Sanitation Company Limited under the Aid on Delivery Program (AoD) and intends to apply the proceeds toward payments for various works as detailed below;

No	Tender Number	Tender Name	Site Visit Date	Closing Date
1.	MERUWASCO/ONT/WSTF/AOD 01/2026-2027	Proposed Water Supply Distribution Project for Muriri – Karumo in Meru County • **Lot 1** -Construction of Intake and Raw Water Mains	28th July 2026 at 9.00 am	4th August 2026
2.	MERUWASCO/ONT/WSTF/AOD 02/2026-2027	Proposed Water Supply Distribution Project for Muriri – Karumo in Meru County • **Lot 2** -Construction of Distribution Mains and Household Connections	28th July 2026 at 9.00 am	4th August 2026

2. This Request for Bids comprises of two (2) Lots: LOT 1 and LOT 2. Bidders can participate in either of the LOT s or both LOTs as they qualify. The LOTs will be awarded separately but could be awarded to the same bidder, if they demonstrate capacity and capability to implement the works LOTs in parallel.
3. Meru County Rural Water and Sanitation Services Company Limited, a Public Water Service Provider (WSP) established in 2023 under the Water Act 2016 and wholly owned by the County Government of Meru, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for construction of the above LOTs.
4. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding using a Request for Bid (RFB) and is open to eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Meru County Rural Water and Sanitation Services Company Limited (MeRUWASCO) along Meru-Nanyuki Highway, adjacent to National Police Service, Directorate of Criminal Investigations Headquarters, during office hours excluding weekends and public Holiday
6. There will be a **MANDATORY** site visit on **Tuesday 28th July 2026, 9.00a.m at MURIRI DC'S OFFICE** participation of which is at the bidder's cost.
7. A complete set of tender documents in English may be downloaded free of charge from the Meru County Rural Water and Sanitation Services Co. Ltd website (**www.meruwasco.co.ke**) or the Public Procurement Information Portal (**www.tenders.go.ke**). Upon downloading/obtaining the tender documents, interested bidders must register by emailing as early as possible, giving their firm's name, address, and contact details to **meruwasco@gmail.com**. This registration will facilitate issuance of clarifications, addenda, and updates regarding the tender to all bidders where necessary.
8. Bids **must** be delivered to the address below on or before the closing date and time indicated above. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **4th August 2026 at 11.00 am East African Time (EAT).**
9. All bids **must** be accompanied by Bid security in the form of a bank Guarantee as follows;
   - **Lot 1**-Construction of Intake and Raw Water Mains - **KSH. 1,300,000 (One Million Three Hundred Thousand)**
   - **Lot 2**-Construction of distribution Mains and Household Connections - **KSH.1,100,000 One Million One Hundred Thousand)**
10. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulation, which requires the borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership as part of the contract award notice, using the beneficial ownership disclosure form included in the bidding document.
11. The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Managing Director
Meru County Rural Water and Sanitation Services Co. Ltd
P.O BOX 467-60200 MERU
Street: Meru-Nanyuki Highway Tel.: +254757227115
Email: **meruwasco@gmail.com**
Website: **www.meruwasco.co.ke**

KENYA VISION 2030

KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY
Tulipe Ushuru, Tujitegemee!

STAFF PENSION SCHEME

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Staff Pension Scheme** is seeking to recruit results-oriented, self-driven, dynamic, and experienced persons with high integrity to fill the following positions:

No.	Position	Vacancy No.	Posts
1.	Administrative Assistant	AA/P/7/26	1
2.	ICT System Administrator and Support Officer	ICT/P/7/26	1
3.	Pension Officer – Administration	POA/P/7/26	1
4.	Procurement Officer	PO/P/7/26	1
	Total		**4**

Detailed Job description are posted on the KRA website.

Interested candidates are requested to visit KRA website at **https://www.kra.go.ke/careers** for full job descriptions and specifications and submit online applications by **10th August, 2026,** 23:59hrs.

1. It is a criminal offence to include incorrect information in the application and to present fake certificates/documents.
2. Canvassing, falsifying or misrepresentation of qualifications will lead to automatic disqualification.
3. Only shortlisted and successful applicants will be contacted.
4. KRA Staff Pension Scheme is committed to affording equal employment opportunities to men and women, members of all ethnic groups and persons with disabilities. People with disabilities, the marginalized and the minorities are therefore encouraged to apply.
5. KRA Staff Pension Scheme does not charge any application, processing, interviewing, or any other fee at any stage of the recruitment process.

Additional Requirements:

Successful candidates will be expected to present the following certificates/reports in line with Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya 2010: -

1. Valid certificate of good conduct from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations.
2. Valid clearance certificate from Higher Education Loans Board (HELB).
3. Valid tax compliance certificate from Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).
4. Current report from an approved Credit Reference Bureau (CRB).

Application Guidelines

Registration:

1. Go to **https://erecruitment.kra.go.ke/login** and then click on the **'Register'** button to start the application process. Use your personal/private email address (non-work email) to register.
2. After registration, you will receive an email enabling you to confirm your email address and complete your registration.

Log on:

1. After registration go to https://erecruitment.kra.go.ke/login
2. Key in your username and password then click on **'Log in'** to access your account.
3. After successful log in, the system will open the **'Applicant Cockpit'**.

Candidate Profile (To create or update applicant detail):

1. On the **'Applicant Cockpit'** page, go to the tab **'Candidate Profile'**.
2. Click on 'My Profile' to create and update your profile (Attach documents in PDF format).
3. Follow the instructions to complete your profile.
4. The process will end by clicking the tab **'Overview and Release'**.
5. Ensure you click the check box on the page to complete the profile.

Application process:

1. To view the open job postings, click on the tab **'Employment Opportunities'** on the **'Applicant Cockpit'** page.
2. Under the heading **'Job Search'** click the **'Start'** button to view all available vacancies.
3. Click on the Job posting to display the details of the position.
4. To apply for the position, click **'Apply'** button at the top of the page.
5. Follow the instructions to complete and submit your application.
6. Kindly note that all mandatory fields must be completed.
7. To complete the process of application, click the **'Send Application Now'** button after reviewing and accepting the **'Data Privacy Statement'**.

In case of any challenge or issues, please send your email query to **kraspscareers@kra.go.ke**.

FEATURE: MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

How a Vihiga family overcame the hidden struggles of mental illness

BY KELLY BARASA (KNA)

The waiting area outside the Mental Health Clinic at Vihiga Teaching and Referral Hospital (VTRH) is quiet, yet every patient seated there carries a story that is rarely told.

Some are accompanied by anxious family members, while others sit silently, waiting for their turn to meet specialists who have become a source of hope on their journey to recovery.

Behind every consultation room lies a battle against depression, anxiety, psychosis, stress and other mental health conditions. These struggles are often fought in silence due to stigma, fear and widespread misconceptions surrounding mental illness.

Among those waiting for review is 19-year-old Isaac Chabeda from Busamu Village in Vihiga County.

Seated beside his mother, Margaret Kadara, Isaac appears calm and composed. Looking at him today, it is difficult to imagine that just over a year ago, his family feared they were losing him to a condition they could neither understand nor explain.

Speaking to the Kenya News Agency (KNA) during a clinic review at Vihiga Teaching and Referral Hospital, Kadara recounted how her son's ordeal began in March 2025 while he was in Form Four.

"It all started after he recovered from severe malaria. We thought everything was fine until he began complaining of persistent headaches, dizziness and unexplained stress. At first, we assumed it would pass," she recalled.

1. 1. Isaac Chabeda, a 19-year-old mental health patient from Busamu, Vihiga County, shares a moment with his mother, Margaret Kadara, during a clinic review at Vihiga Teaching and Referral Hospital.
2. Senior Nurse Esther Anekaya speaks to Kenya News Agency during an interview at the Mental Health Unit of Vihiga Teaching and Referral Hospital
3. The entrance to Vihiga Teaching and Referral Hospital in Mbale, Vihiga County. The hospital serves as the county's main referral facility and offers specialized mental health services, including psychiatric care, counselling and a follow-up clinic. PHOTOS: HENRY ANANDA AND KELLY BARASA

However, as the weeks went by, Isaac's condition gradually deteriorated.

"He lost his appetite, isolated himself from others and became easily irritated during ordinary conversations. Teachers at his school also began reporting noticeable changes in his behaviour."

Like many parents, Kadara initially struggled to understand what was happening.

"I wondered whether he had started using drugs because his behaviour had completely changed, but he kept denying it, and I believed him."

The turning point came one night when Isaac suddenly became restless, jumping uncontrollably around the house while asleep. The family managed to calm him before seeking medical attention the following morning.

His condition continued deteriorating. He occasionally talked to himself and at one point attempted to jump off a moving motorcycle while travelling with relatives.

The family first sought treatment at Mulele Hospital before he was referred to VTRH, where he has continued receiving specialised mental healthcare through medication, counselling and therapy.

Despite the difficult journey, Kadara says the gradual improvement has given the family renewed hope.

"He even managed to sit for his KCSE examinations despite everything he had gone through. Sometimes the symptoms become severe again, but because of the medication, counselling and regular clinics, we are able to manage the situation."

She says caring for a person living with mental illness demands constant attention.

"I cannot leave him alone because he requires close supervision. The treatment is also expensive and sometimes difficult to sustain."

Kadara says besides the financial burden, the family has had to endure stigma from sections of the community.

"Some people believe it is witchcraft or a curse instead of understanding that mental illness is a medical condition. That has been very painful for us."

She nevertheless expressed gratitude to the healthcare workers at VTRH for their commitment and professionalism.

"I appreciate the doctors, nurses and counsellors because they have walked this journey with us. Without them, I do not know where we would be today."

KPA officials holds high-level talks with China's largest inland port

BY HUSSEIN ABDULLAHI (KNA)

The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) top management held high-level talks with a delegation from China's Nanjing Port aimed at strengthening cooperation in port operations, technology, and knowledge exchange as the Authority advances the modernisation of the Port of Mombasa.

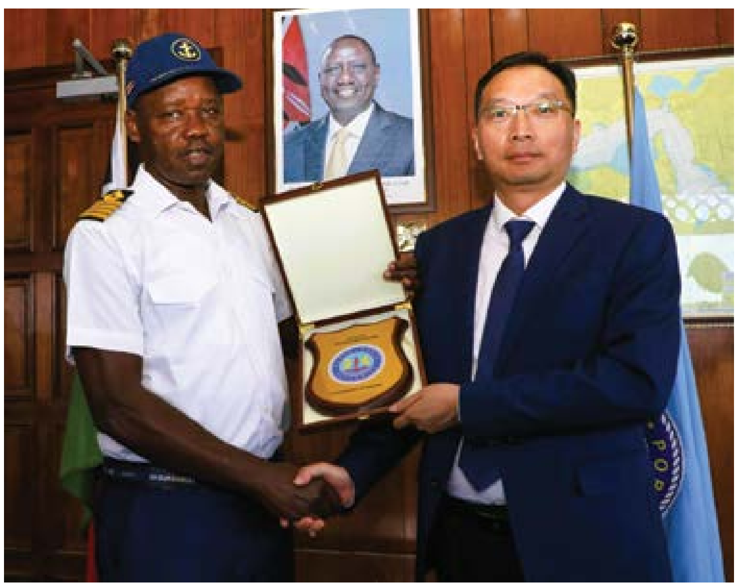
KPA Managing Director Capt. William Ruto led discussions with the visiting delegation from Nanjing Port, the world's largest inland port, under the Sister Port Cooperation Initiative.

The talks focused on potential collaboration in port automation, digital transformation, smart gate systems, cargo visibility, paperless processes, data analytics, and the application of advanced technologies to enhance operational efficiency and service delivery.

Capt. Ruto reaffirmed KPA's commitment to fostering strategic international partnerships that support sustainable port development and strengthen Kenya's competitiveness in global maritime trade.

"We deliberated on areas of possible collaboration, improvement, and knowledge exchange by leveraging technology to further position our port as the region's leading maritime trade hub," said Ruto.

Ruto has commended the strong partnerships between Kenya and China, noting the latter's critical contribution to the expansion and modernization development at the Port of Mombasa.



KPA CEO Capt. William Ruto with China's Nanjing Port General Manager Zhang Chuanping at the KPA headquarters in Mombasa. KPA entered into a partnership with China's Nanjing Port to improve trade, traffic, and services between the respective ports.

The KPA CEO said the port of Mombasa serves a vast hinterland of over 250 million people, including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the DRC, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

He said the port comprises Kilindini Harbour, Port Reitz, the Old Port, Port Tudor, and the whole of the tidal waters encircling Mombasa Island and has a capacity of 2.65 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs).Capt. Ruto said as part of the smart port transformation agenda, KPA is in the early phase of replacing its legacy SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system with IFS Cloud, a next-generation enterprise platform expected to enhance operational efficiency, integrate business processes and support the Authority's broader digital transformation strategy.

He said the modernization initiative also includes digital automation of workflows, electronic document management, integrated billing, real-time reporting and improved data-driven decision-making across the authority.

The Nanjing Port delegation was led by General Manager Zhang Chuanping and included senior port officials Nan Zhenjiang, Wang Xueqing and Pan Lei.

Nakuru County launches plan to recycle 700 tonnes of waste

BY ESTHER MWANGI AND WEDDY MUTUMA (KNA)

Giotto Dumpsite, where the Nakuru County Government is set to establish a modern Material Recovery Center (MRC). PHOTO BY MUTUMA

The County Government of Nakuru is set to establish a modern Material Recovery Centre (MRC) to segregate waste into biodegradable, solid, plastic, and electronic waste for proper disposal and recycling.

Governor Susan Kihika said the facility, to be located at the Giotto dumpsite, will enable the 700 tonnes of waste generated daily in the county to be sorted, recovered, and recycled before disposal, significantly reducing the amount of waste ending up at the dumpsite.

The Governor explained that biodegradable waste will be recycled to produce organic fertiliser, adding that the MRC will support a circular economy by recovering valuable materials, creating green jobs, improving the livelihoods of waste pickers through safer and more organised operations, and reducing environmental pollution.

"Once completed, this facility will be instrumental in turning waste into treasure while creating a safer working environment for waste pickers," Kihika said.

Speaking in her office, the Governor noted that the facility will include a shredding machine to process plastics and promote recycling, in line with global efforts to curb plastic pollution.

For decades, the Giotto dumpsite has been at the centre of Nakuru's waste management system. Established in 1975 to serve a much smaller population, the site has since grown into an open dumpsite overwhelmed by rising waste volumes driven by rapid population growth.

Over the years, the Governor said Giotto had become a source of environmental pollution, foul odours, and uncontrolled fires due to methane gas production, posing health risks for communities in nearby estates, including Hilton, London, Milimani and parts of Kabarak and the larger Nakuru by affecting the county's water and air quality.

The dumpsite, she added, which is located on one of the town's highest spots, had further caused water pollution through surface runoffs into Lake Nakuru and Njoro River.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), cities generate more than 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste annually worldwide, a figure projected to rise to 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050 if sustainable waste management measures are not adopted. The World Bank estimates that at least 33 per cent of the world's waste is not managed in an environmentally safe manner, with open dumping contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, land degradation and water pollution.

Environmental experts note that Material Recovery Facilities play a critical role in reducing landfill waste, conserving natural resources, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the transition towards a circular economy through increased recycling and reuse of materials.

Kihika stated that establishment of the MRC is part of United Nations -Sustainable Development Goals partnership (Un-SDG) and contributes to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 13: Climate Action, while protecting public health and preserving Nakuru's natural environment.

She said that her administration was actively supporting various initiatives towards converting waste disposal sites and sewerage treatment facilities into useful resources through recycling as a way of mitigating the impacts of the waste on the environment and public health.

Nakuru noted the Governor currently stands as the leading glass recovery county in Kenya, through modification of crushed aggregates into building blocks and furniture.

Nakuru will be the seventh county to build an MRF tapping into the opportunity of turning waste to treasure. The county, according to the Governor, is undertaking the conversion of waste disposal sites and sewerage treatment facilities into centres of sustainable innovation.

Kihika pointed out that they were working in partnerships with local businesses, entrepreneurs, and organisations to transform waste into eco-friendly products like fuel briquettes, construction materials, furniture, and household items, among other innovative products.

She stated that they had adopted a sustainable and effective approach to waste management by embracing a circular economy model, which emphasises waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

This approach, Kihika explained, could significantly reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and mitigate its impact on climate change and public health.

"Through proper waste management, greenhouse gases emitted during waste combustion and decomposition in landfills will be reduced significantly," she added.She said they are encouraging business people and residents to continue practising the three Rs of reusing, recycling, and recovering what is useful from waste disposals.

BY THE NUMBERS

1975

For decades, the Giotto dumpsite has been at the centre of Nakuru's waste management system. Established in 1975 to serve a much smaller population, the site has since grown into an open dumpsite overwhelmed by rising waste volumes driven by rapid population growth.

IEBC, Judiciary push for stronger safeguards ahead of elections

BY LILIAN GICHOHI AND CATHERINE ODOYO (KNA)

The Judiciary and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) have reaffirmed their joint commitment to safeguarding democratic legitimacy, warning that flawed political processes—not merely voting numbers—can undermine the sovereign will of the people.

Speaking during the official launch of the 2022 Pre-Election Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) Report and Case Digest in Nairobi, Deputy Chief Justice (DCJ) Philomena Mwilu said democratic resilience depends on strong institutional checks and balances long before polling day.

"Democracy is not sustained by simply casting ballots," Justice Mwilu observed. "It is sustained by the confidence of citizens that every stage of the electoral process is governed by law, administered fairly, and subject to impartial review whenever disputes arise."

Recalling the landmark findings of the 2017 presidential election petition, the DCJ emphasised that the credibility of an election must be assessed holistically.

"An election must at the end of the day be a true reflection of the will of the people as decreed by the constitution through its hallowed principles of transparency, credibility, verifiability, accountability, accuracy and efficiency," she maintained.

Addressing the newly appointed electoral commissioners, Mwilu directly challenged the electoral body to match historical standards ahead of the next cycle.

"My prayer to you is: may you do it so right in 2027 that there will be no presidential election petition," she urged.

On his part, IEBC Chairperson Erastus Ethekon highlighted that early administrative structures significantly insulated national stability from political disputes.

Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Lady Justice Philomena Mwilu, addresses the media during the launch of the 2022 IEBC Pre-Election Dispute Resolution Report and Case Digest in Nairobi.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) Chairperson Erastus Edung Ethekon delivers his remarks during the launch of the 2022 IEBC Pre-Election Dispute Resolution Report and Case Digest in Nairobi.

He revealed that the Commission successfully resolved 323 pre-election disputes during the 2022 general election within strict statutory timelines, establishing a definitive track record.

"The fact that the success rate and the confirmation by the courts that the decisions, by upholding those decisions, are a testament that the Commission has discharged its mandate soundly, professionally, impartially, fairly, and within the four corners of the law," Ethekon reported, noting that the agency's petition success rate stands at 93 per cent.

Further, the Chairperson observed that the newly unveiled Case Digest compresses technical insights into three main thematic blocks, providing an accessible blueprint to guide political actors, legal scholars, and electoral managers to prevent avoidable litigation.

Despite celebrating past judicial successes, the IEBC chief used the national platform to issue a stern directive concerning deteriorating security and blatant breaches of the electoral code of conduct in the ongoing Ol Kalou by-elections.

Ethekon strongly condemned systemic incidents of late-night campaign violence, massive voter bribery, defacing of campaign materials

Ruto orders fast-tracking of Thwake Dam after Sh10 billion funding boost

BY PATRICK NYAKUNDI (KNA)

The Government has secured Sh10.6 billion in additional financing to complete the first phase of the Thwake Multipurpose Dam, giving fresh momentum to one of the country's most ambitious infrastructure projects.

President William Ruto announced the funding breakthrough during a tour of Kitui County, describing Thwake as "the biggest dam project in the country" and directing the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, together with the contractor, to fast-track its commissioning by April next year.

The President said the additional financing would address the cash-flow challenges that had slowed progress, paving the way for the delivery of water for domestic use, livestock, and irrigation to more than 1.3 million residents in Makueni, Kitui, and parts of Machakos counties.

"Thwake Dam is the biggest dam project in the country. We have now secured Sh10.6 billion for completing the dam. By April next year, we hope to commission this dam to enable socio-economic benefits to the people drawn from the rural areas of Makueni, Kitui and even parts of Machakos counties," said the Head of State.

An aerial view of Thwake Dam that is expected to benefit 1.3 million people in Makueni, Kitui, and parts of Machakos counties when complete next year.

The announcement, backed by African Development Bank (AfDB) support, marks a decisive turning point for the project. More than concrete and water, Thwake Dam is envisioned as a powerful engine for poverty reduction, food security, energy access, and inclusive growth.

The funding breakthrough resolves financial constraints that had stalled works, enabling the resumption of key outstanding items such as the concrete face slab, spillway bridge, and hydro-mechanical installations. Once commissioned, the socio-economic ripple effects are expected to uplift 1.3 million residents, strengthen national resilience, and exemplify Kenya's commitment to transformative infrastructure under Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

BY THE NUMBERS

40,000

Once completed, this landmark dam will provide clean drinking water, enable irrigation for over 40,000 hectares of farmland, and generate 20 MW of hydropower.

The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, with the AfDB's support, is implementing the Thwake Multipurpose Water Development Program Phase 1 as a flagship Vision 2030 project. The programme targets long-term national development ambitions in water, energy, and agriculture. It comprises a multi-purpose dam for water supply, hydropower generation, irrigation development, and regulation of River Athi flows for flood control and drought mitigation.

Cabinet Secretary Eng. Eric Mugaa has previously highlighted the transformative potential of the project. "We are making steady progress on the Thwake Multipurpose Dam now at an impressive 94.2 percent completion. Once completed, this landmark dam will provide clean drinking water, enable irrigation for over 40,000 hectares of farmland, and generate 20 MW of hydropower" he said.

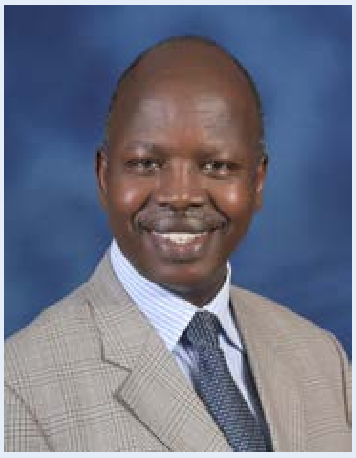
KETRA urges local industries to embrace Global Markets

BY ELVIS LEMISO, PCO

The Kenya Trade Remedies Agency (KETRA) has called on Kenyan manufacturers and industry players to embrace global market opportunities while taking advantage of trade protection measures to shield local industries from unfair import competition.

Speaking during a meeting with members of the Rotary Club of Nairobi North, KETRA Acting Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Samuel K. Chemisto (*pictured*) urged businesses to adopt the "Think Global, Act Local" philosophy, saying it offers a strategic pathway to enhance the competitiveness of Kenyan industries without exposing them to unfair trade practices.

Chemisto said globalization has opened up new opportunities for trade, innovation and economic growth, particularly for countries in the Global South. However, he cautioned that increased openness to international markets has also intensified competition, leaving domestic manufacturers vulnerable to unfair imports.



"We need to look at how the world is interconnected; it is an opportunity we must harness strategically. However, as we embrace global markets, we must also ensure that Kenyan industries compete on a level playing field," he said.

He noted that Kenya has established a strong legal and institutional framework to protect local industries affected by unfair import competition through internationally recognized trade remedies administered by KETRA.

The remedies include anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures, which are consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Chemisto explained that these measures are intended to restore fair competition rather than restrict legitimate international trade.

He encouraged manufacturers and producers to promptly report suspected cases of unfair imports to enable the Agency to investigate and take appropriate action.

"We encourage Kenyan manufacturers and producers to promptly report suspected cases of unfair imports so that appropriate investigations can be undertaken to safeguard our economy and strengthen local industries," he said.

Chemisto further emphasized that while businesses must remain responsive to global economic trends and changing international trade dynamics, effective protection of local industries requires strong national policies and proactive industry participation.

He said such interventions are essential for protecting investments, preserving jobs and supporting sustainable industrial growth.

The "Think Global, Act Local" concept, popularized by Sony Corporation founder Akio Morita, encourages businesses to compete in international markets while adapting their strategies to local realities and promoting fair and lawful trade practices.

Correctional services set to launch offenders telephone system

BY NICHOLAS KIGONDU (PCO)

The State Department for Correctional Services is set to launch an offender telephone communication system as part of the broader correctional system reforms.

The system, to be deployed across correctional facilities by Telio group, will see the telecommunications and software company fully take care of its installation including hardware, software, locally hosted data infrastructure and staff training.

Speaking while signing a memorandum of understanding between the company and the State Department for Correctional Services, Principal Secretary Dr. Salome Beacco said the development is part of the government's digital transformation and institutional modernization.

Besides enhancing operational intelligence and security within correctional facilities by securing outbound-only voice communication which will be operated entirely under rules defined by correctional services, the system according to the PS, will be a platform for offender empowerment, reform, and reintegration.

She said the system will facilitate the maintenance of family connections and support the rehabilitation process, ensure secure and reliable access to legal representatives and services while at the same time providing a legal, monitored alternative to the use of unauthorized mobile phones.

Speaking during the ceremony, Telio Group Chief Executive Officer Oliver Drews said Kenya will benefit from its latest technology adding that the innovation is intended to support the state department in its reform agenda.

According to Oliver, the deployed technology, where calling rates will follow public payphone regulations, will allow for future expansion to include video calling and secure messaging for comprehensive communication options.

To ensure safeguards, the department will define rights and control all communication within the system while different rights will be provided for different inmate categories with all activities on the system logged.

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- Bachelor of Arts (BA): English & Linguistics; Literature; Kiswahili; French; German and Arabic
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- Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics.
- Bachelor of Commerce, with specialization in: Accounting; Business Administration; Finance; ManagementScience; Marketing and Human Resource Management.
- Bachelor of Purchasing and Supplies Management
- Bachelor of Science in Hospitality & Tourism Management
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  **Accredited by the Kenya Veterinary Board*
- Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management; Agricultural Resource Management; Agriculture; Horticultural Science & Management; Agriculture & Enterprise Development; Dryland Agriculture; Animal Science; Agricultural Education and Extension and Agriculture & Extension

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- Bachelor of Environmental Planning and Management
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- Bachelor of Science (Geography)
- Short course in Blue Economy: Duration: 3 Weeks
- Short course in Marine Spatial Planning: Duration: 3 Week

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms are available from the following Offices:
Pwani University, Admissions Office (Kilifi Campus); The forms can also be downloaded from our website: **www.pu.ac.ke (See Academics- Admissions, or More downloads links)**

OR APPLY ONLINE VIA: https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/isEhpNhG

MODE OF PAYMENT

A non-refundable processing fee MUST BE PAID TO Pwani University Account via E-citizen platform
E-Citizen Pay bill/Business Number: 222222.
Account Number: PRSC-Your Name-Application.
(*e.g., PRSC-George Mikoko-Application*)

and **ATTACH THE PRINT OUT OF E-CITIZEN PAYMENT** to the duly filled application form on returning it to the University. The application processing fees for Kenyan applicants are as follows:

Programme	Application Fee East African	Application Fee Non-East African
Ph.D./Master	3000.00	4,000.00
Bachelor	2,000.00	3,500.00
Diploma	1000.00	2,000.00
Certificate	500.00	1,000.00

The duly completed forms should be returned to: The Registrar (Academic and Student Affairs), Pwani University, P.O. Box 195 – 80108, Kilifi – Kenya, or email to admission@pu.ac.ke, **so as to reach the Office not later than 30th June, 2026.**

MODE OF LEARNING:
Fulltime and Part-time (Blended) learning

Accommodation:
The University has **limited** on-campus accommodation for government sponsored students. However, private Hostels at affordable rates are available in the neighbourhood of the University for all categories of students.

For further information, contact:
Registrar (Academic & Student Affairs)
Tel. No. 0725916145/0786727899, Extension 541/183/252/691,
E-Mail: info@pu.ac.ke **Or** admission@pu.ac.ke.

Kenya unveils digital livestock tracking system to unlock global markets

BY ERICK KYALO (KNA)

Kenya is seeking to position its livestock farmers to access lucrative global markets through the rollout of the Animal Identification and Traceability System (ANITRAC), a digital platform and mobile application developed by the government to register and track livestock using electronic RFID ear tags.

The system transforms livestock into easily verifiable and bankable assets, enabling farmers to access loans and other financial services. It uses dual ear tags—a visual tag on the left ear and a microchip button tag on the right—allowing for real-time tracking, geolocation, and geo-mapping of animals.

Speaking during the official launch of the ANITRAC system in Karawa Village, Tarasaa Sub-County, Tana River County, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the initiative was not an end in itself but a tool to help farmers secure better prices for their livestock and gain access to international markets.

"The system will enable farmers to sell and export livestock and livestock products more easily by meeting global traceability requirements," said Kagwe.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that international markets increasingly demand traceable animal products, including information on their origin, vaccination history, and disease treatment records, to guarantee safety and transparency throughout the supply chain.

Agriculture and Livestock Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (second right) with livestock farmers in Karawa village, Tarasaa Sub-County in Tana River, during the official launch of the ANITRAC system.

Kagwe added that the system would also help curb livestock theft and banditry, challenges that have long affected pastoral communities, by making it easier to trace the location and ownership of every tagged animal.

The CS called on the farmers countrywide to embrace the technology the government was adopting because it was mainly for their advantage in terms of market opening and disease surveillance and control, which would maximise their profits.

"We want to help the farmer and make sure that the farmer is tuned to the global market and serves the global market for meat as well as live animals," he said.

"We want to use technology to the advantage of the farmer. This is the first time we are introducing technology in a very big way in the livestock industry in our nation. We want to make sure that farmers understand it and embrace it and know that it is for their own benefit," he added.

Tana River County Chief Officer for Livestock Development Kanchoru Golo, on his part, revealed that the county had millions of livestock and that their newly rolled-out system would help them in knowing the approximate number of livestock, which would help in planning for vaccinations, surveillance of diseases and knowing migration patterns within the county..

FEATURE: CASH CROP REVIVAL

Government-backed programme breathes new life into Vihiga's ailing coffee sector

BY CRISPINUS IVAN AND WINSTAR JAIKA (KNA)

For decades, coffee was the pride of many households in Vihiga County. Income from the crop paid school fees, built homes and sustained families, making it one of the region's most dependable sources of livelihood.

However, as global coffee prices declined in the 1990s and early 2000s, thousands of farmers uprooted their coffee trees or abandoned their plantations altogether, convinced that the crop no longer offered meaningful economic returns.

Today, that narrative is changing. Across the county, green coffee seedlings are replacing abandoned bushes, cooperative societies are regaining members, and farmers are once again viewing coffee as a reliable pathway to prosperity.

The transformation is being driven by the National Coffee Sector Revitalisation Programme, a collaborative initiative involving the national government, Vihiga County Government, the New Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (New KPCU), the Coffee Research Institute (CRI) and local cooperative societies. The programme seeks to restore coffee production through the distribution of certified seedlings, farmer training, enhanced extension services and improved access to markets.

Speaking during a Coffee Sector Revitalisation Programme forum in Vihiga, Governor Dr Wilber Ottichilo reaffirmed the county government's commitment to restoring coffee farming as a key economic activity.

1. **1. Vihiga County Governor Dr Wilberforce Ottichilo plants a certified coffee seedling during the launch of the Coffee Sector Revitalisation Programme, reaffirming the county government's commitment to restoring coffee production.**
2. A coffee farmer prunes a coffee bush during a demonstration in Vihiga County, a practice aimed at improving productivity, enhancing plant health and increasing coffee yields under the ongoing Coffee Sector Revitalisation Programme (Right).
3. Farmers prepare land for planting certified coffee seedlings in Vihiga County as the county and national governments intensify efforts to revive coffee farming and boost household incomes.

"Our farmers deserve a profitable crop. We will continue distributing certified seedlings, strengthening cooperative societies and expanding extension services so that every interested farmer can benefit from the coffee revival programme," the Governor said.

Kenya remains one of the world's leading producers of premium Arabica coffee, with the sector supporting more than six million people directly and indirectly.

Smallholder farmers account for nearly 70 per cent of the country's coffee production, producing beans renowned for their superior quality and distinctive flavour.

Although Vihiga was once an important coffee-growing area, declining prices, crop diseases, changing weather patterns and financial constraints led many farmers to abandon the crop. The renewed government support and improved farm-gate prices are now reversing that trend.

At Wamondo Coffee Growers Society Limited, established in 1955, the signs of recovery are becoming increasingly evident.

Chairman Gibson Atsiaya says the cooperative is steadily rebuilding after years of declining production and dwindling membership.

"Many farmers abandoned coffee when prices fell and production became difficult. Today coffee has become profitable again, and we are encouraging farmers to return to the crop," he said.

To promote transparency, Atsiaya explained that new members pay a registration fee of Sh500 and purchase shares worth Sh1,500, with all payments deposited directly into the Cooperative Bank through an official pay bill number.

He dismissed claims that the money is used to purchase seedlings, explaining that certified coffee seedlings are supplied free of charge through government programmes and New KPCU before being distributed to registered farmers.

Beyond distributing seedlings, the cooperative provides farmers with training on land preparation, manure application, proper planting techniques, crop management and post-harvest handling. Farmers also undertake exchange visits to successful coffee-growing regions to learn modern production practices.

The renewed enthusiasm has been fuelled by a sharp rise in coffee prices.

Where farmers previously earned about Sh45 per kilogram, they are now receiving approximately Sh185 per kilogram, making coffee one of the most attractive cash crops for many households.

Vihiga Sub-County Agriculture Officer Maurine Nkatha says the county is encouraging farmers to plant improved coffee varieties such as Ruiru 11 and Batian, which are high-yielding and resistant to major diseases.

She noted that the varieties are well suited to Vihiga's small land holdings, where most farmers cultivate less than half an acre.

Uasin Gishu wins hosting rights for national Mashujaa Day celebrations

BY FREDRICK MARITIM (KNA)

This year's National Mashujaa Day celebrations will be held in Uasin Gishu County, Governor Jonathan Bii has announced.

Governor Bii described the opportunity as a great honour and recognition of the county's growing national profile and development achievements.

He spoke during the swearing-in ceremony of newly appointed members of the Uasin Gishu County Public Service Board (CPSB).

The Governor said hosting the national event would provide an opportunity for the county to showcase its progress, hospitality, investment potential and capacity to host major national functions.

"Hosting Mashujaa Day is a great honour for Uasin Gishu. It is a moment that brings together our shared values of patriotism, unity and service to our nation. We are prepared to welcome Kenyans from across the country and showcase the progress, resilience and potential of the County of Champions," said Bii.

The Governor thanked President William Ruto and the National Government for selecting Uasin Gishu to host this year's celebrations, saying the decision was a vote of confidence in the county's strategic importance and contribution to the country's development.

"We are deeply honoured that Uasin Gishu has been selected to host this year's Mashujaa Day celebrations. This is a profound vote of confidence in our county and a recognition of the remarkable strides we have made in transforming Uasin Gishu into a centre of excellence, enterprise and opportunity," he said.

Uasin Gishu County Governor Jonathan Bii (centre) congratulates the newly sworn-in Uasin Gishu County Public Service Board member as he receives his appointment LETTER during the swearing-in ceremony held at Uasin Gishu County headquarters in Eldoret. Looking on is the Uasin Gishu County Attorney Sylvester Metto (right).. PHOTO: FREDRICK MARITIM

Bii said the county government would work closely with all stakeholders to ensure the celebrations are successfully organised and provide a platform to market Uasin Gishu as a destination for investment, innovation and tourism.

"We will work together with all stakeholders to ensure that this year's Mashujaa Day celebrations are dignified, memorable and reflective of the spirit of our great nation," he added.

The Governor also called on residents and leaders to identify individuals who have made exceptional contributions in agriculture, education, business, public service and community development so they can be recognised during the national celebrations. However, the national 2026 Mashujaa Day celebrations have been relocated from Kamariny Stadium in Elgeyo Marakwet County to Kipchoge Keino Stadium in Eldoret after construction works at Kamariny were found to be behind schedule, making it unlikely that the venue would be complete in time for the national event.

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary, Kipchumba Murkomen, speaking at a separate function, assured residents of Elgeyo Marakwet County that the relocation of this year's Mashujaa Day celebrations would not affect the government's commitment to completing the historic Kamariny Stadium in Iten.

Murkomen said construction of the stadium would continue as planned, emphasising that the relocation was solely intended to ensure the national celebrations are held at a ready venue.

Meanwhile, addressing the newly sworn-in County Public Service Board, Governor Bii urged the members to uphold professionalism and integrity in managing the county workforce, noting that an efficient public service is critical to the successful implementation of the county's Nguzo Kumi Development

> We have promoted more than 1,400 members of staff to motivate them. In return, we expect commitment, discipline

Agenda. He challenged the Board to ensure transparency and fairness in recruitment, promotions and disciplinary processes while safeguarding professionalism within the county public service.

The Governor further warned county employees against reporting to work late or while under the influence of alcohol, directing the board to take firm disciplinary action against habitual offenders, including dismissal where necessary.

He also called on county enforcement officers to treat members of the business community with professionalism, fairness and respect while enforcing county laws, even as he urged traders to cooperate with county officers by operating within designated business areas and complying with county regulations.

"We have promoted more than 1,400 members of staff to motivate them. In return, we expect commitment, discipline and quality service to the people of Uasin Gishu," said Bii.

Bii expressed confidence that the new board would strengthen public service delivery by promoting professionalism, accountability and efficiency in the county government.

The newly appointed six-member board, chaired by Paul Kibet and comprising Daniel Melly, Dr Emily Ng'eno, Augustine Cheruiyot, John Tanui, and Dr Angeline Oyomo, will serve a six-year term with effect from June 24, 2026.

The ceremony was presided over by Eldoret High Court Judge Justice John Chigiti and attended by Uasin Gishu County Assembly Speaker Philip Muigei, County Secretary Philip Meli, and other senior county government officials.

5G infrastructure to power seamless AFCON 2027 broadcasts

BY MICHELLE DIBO (PCO)

Kenya is banking on a nationwide 5G upgrade to power the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), positioning the tournament as both a celebration of sporting excellence and a catalyst for the country's digital economy.

Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Stephen Isaboke said the investment will support seamless broadcasting, real-time fan engagement and long-term infrastructure development to enhance connectivity across stadiums, airports, hotels and convention centres.

Isaboke said preparations for the continental tournament extend beyond the football pitch, describing AFCON 2027 as an opportunity to accelerate digital transformation and create new opportunities for young Kenyans in content creation, broadcasting and online businesses.

State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke during an inspection tour at the Raila Odinga International Stadium, Talanta Sports Complex. PHOTO: JAMES EKAI

The PS, who recently chaired a joint steering committee meeting bringing together key sector stakeholders to discuss telecommunications and connectivity preparedness, said the government is positioning the tournament as a turning point for the country's digital economy.

"We are building the digital backbone that will ensure every goal, every cheer and every moment is shared in real time with the world," Isaboke said.

He added that when Africa's football giants arrive in Kenya, the legacy of AFCON 2027 will be measured not only by goals and trophies but also by the strength of the digital infrastructure established to serve future generations.

The government, Isaboke said, sees the tournament as a catalyst for investment in telecommunications, with the long-term goal of strengthening Kenya's digital economy and opening new opportunities for the youth. A key priority, Isaboke noted, is the ability of Kenya's networks to handle the massive data volumes generated by an international sporting event, where thousands of fans, broadcasters, businesses and visitors will be connected simultaneously. Kenya's transition to faster mobile networks is already gathering pace, with data from the Communications Authority of Kenya showing that by June 2025, 5G population coverage had reached 30 per cent, while 4G coverage stood at 97.3 per cent. By September 2025, 5G users were consuming an average of 40 gigabytes of data per month, compared to 14.1 gigabytes for 4G users.

He pointed out that these figures highlight the growing demand for high-speed connectivity and the urgency of building networks capable of supporting increasingly data-intensive activities. "For AFCON 2027, 5G will enable a digitally enhanced tournament ecosystem from real-time fan engagement to seamless broadcasting and media operations."

"By strengthening connectivity around stadiums and supporting facilities, Kenya is laying digital infrastructure that will continue to serve communities and businesses long after the final whistle," he said.

FEATURE: CLIMATE CHANGE

Lugari farmers turn to beekeeping as climate change hits maize production

BY LINET WAFULA (KNA)

For generations, maize farming has been the backbone of livelihoods in Lugari Sub-County, Kakamega County.

However, climate change, declining soil fertility and rising production costs have continued to erode farmers' profits, prompting an increasing number of them to embrace modern beekeeping as a sustainable and lucrative alternative. The venture is transforming household incomes while promoting environmental conservation.

Across the sub-county, modern apiaries are springing up alongside maize fields, with farmers adopting beekeeping as an additional source of income that requires relatively little land, minimal labour and lower production costs.

The enterprise is also contributing to the restoration of biodiversity, as farmers conserve indigenous trees and plant flowering species that provide forage for bees.

Peter Wekesa, a farmer from Lumakanda Ward, ventured into beekeeping three years ago after attending a training programme organised by the County Government of Kakamega.

"I started with five Kenya Top Bar hives, and today I own 25 hives. During every harvesting season, I collect between 200 and 300 kilogrammes of honey, which I sell to local traders and processors. The income has enabled me to pay school fees for my children, improve my home and invest in other farming activities," he said.

A farmer displays a honeycomb to demonstrate how mature honey is identified before harvesting in Lugari Sub-County.

Honey currently fetches between Sh600 and Sh900 per kilogram depending on quality and market demand, making beekeeping one of the most profitable enterprises for many smallholder farmers in the area.

Unlike maize farming, which has become increasingly vulnerable to erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells, beekeeping is relatively resilient to climate change. In addition to producing honey, bees play a vital role in pollinating crops such as avocados, beans, sunflower, pumpkins and indigenous vegetables, leading to improved yields and better-quality produce.

Mary Nanjala, another beekeeper from Chekalini Ward, said beekeeping has changed the way farmers view environmental conservation.

"Before I started keeping bees, I rarely thought about protecting indigenous trees. Now I understand that healthy forests and flowering plants are essential for honey production. We have planted more trees and reduced unnecessary cutting because the bees depend on them," she said.

According to the Lugari Sub-County Agricultural Officer Kakai Wekesa, modern beekeeping is gaining popularity as farmers diversify their income sources and embrace climate-smart agriculture.

"Beekeeping is creating employment, improving household incomes and enhancing crop pollination. It is also contributing to environmental conservation because farmers are protecting trees and reducing activities that destroy bee habitats," the officer said.

To support the growing enterprise, the County Government of Kakamega, through the Department of Agriculture and Livestock Development, has intensified farmer training on modern hive management, colony establishment, honey harvesting, value addition and marketing.

The county has also distributed modern beehives, protective gear and honey harvesting equipment to organised farmer groups to improve production and reduce post-harvest losses.

County officials say the initiative is part of broader efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture, improve food security and diversify rural livelihoods by encouraging enterprises that are environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

Environmental experts note that healthy bee populations are critical for biodiversity conservation and food production, with nearly one-third of food crops depending on insect pollination.

They encouraged farmers to avoid indiscriminate use of harmful pesticides, conserve natural vegetation and plant nectar-rich trees to sustain bee colonies.

As demand for natural honey and other bee products such as beeswax and propolis continues to grow, many farmers in Lugari are optimistic that beekeeping will become one of the sub-county's leading agricultural enterprises.

More Marsabit youths to benefit as Nyota Programme allocation rises to Sh41 million

BY SEBASTIAN MIRITI AND ANTHONY MELLY (KNA)

Marsabit County has received an increased allocation under the government's Nyota Programme following a surge in demand from young people seeking business grants.

Speaking during the launch of the Nyota Programme Tranche II at Marsabit Stadium, Interior Principal Secretary (PS) Dr Raymond Omollo said the county's allocation had risen from Sh37 million disbursed during the first phase to Sh41 million in the second phase to accommodate more beneficiaries.

Dr Omollo attributed the increase to the growing number of youths expressing interest in the programme after witnessing its impact and success.

"The demand for Nyota has grown significantly. Initially, many young people were unsure whether the programme was genuine, but after seeing their peers receive grants and establish businesses, more have come forward to apply," he said.

The PS said the government had increased the number of beneficiaries in Marsabit, with the programme targeting between 70 and 84 youths in each of the county's 20 wards.

The principal secretary added that the Nyota Programme is designed to help young people to overcome one of the biggest barriers to entrepreneurship, that of limited access to startup capital, which the Kenya Kwanza government has resolved to address.

Ministry of Interior Principal Secretary Dr Raymond Omollo making his address during the launch of the Nyota Programme Tranche Two at Marsabit County Stadium. A total of Sh41 million was disbursed to beneficiaries of Marsabit County. PHOTO: ANTHONY MELLY

The programme, which supports youth aged between 18 and 29 years with a window to 35 years for those living with disabilities, extends a Sh25,000 grant to every beneficiary.

The capital comprises sh23,000 for business support and sh3,000 directly deposited into the beneficiary's account as savings in a move aimed at promoting a culture of saving.

Dr Omollo said the government had built the entrepreneurship capacity of the beneficiaries with business skills through training and mentorship while continuous follow-up has been initiated to ensure the funds are invested in sustainable income-generating activities. Despite the increased allocation, Omollo encouraged young people to take advantage of other government financing programmes to access additional capital for business growth.

"Nyota is only one of the government's economic empowerment programmes. Young people who need more capital should also explore these other government funds to grow their businesses," he said.

Coast youth to expand businesses with NYOTA capital as State disburses Sh143m

BY SADIK HASSAN (KNA)

More than 5,000 young entrepreneurs from Mombasa, Kwale and Taita Taveta counties have received a total of Sh143 million in the second tranche of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Business Startup Capital, with beneficiaries pledging to expand their businesses and improve their livelihoods.

The transformative government programme is designed to tackle youth unemployment through practical, inclusive and result-orientated interventions. The project is financed by the World Bank and implemented through a multi-agency approach.

In the first tranche, disbursed in February, Sh147 million was allocated to youth from the three coastal counties.

Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports Salim Mvurya presided over the disbursement ceremony at the ASK Showground in Mombasa, where he reaffirmed the government's commitment to youth empowerment.

Mvurya said the youth are a critical pillar in the country's ambition to attain first-world status. He noted that 90,000 young people will benefit from the On-the-Job Experience (OJE) component of the NYOTA programme.

"Youth with skills but lacking certificates will benefit from the Recognition of Prior Learning," he said.

The CS further cited the Kazi Majuu and NYOTA programmes as evidence of the government's commitment to empowering young people.

"The President has an elaborate plan for youth empowerment. Others are using the youth to cause chaos and protests, but one of the government's key plans is to empower them to improve their livelihoods," said Mvurya.

He added that the President has ensured the inclusion of all communities in his administration, citing the appointment of two Cabinet Secretaries, six Principal Secretaries and several Coast region representatives to parastatal boards.

Principal Secretary for Transport Mohamed Daghar said the government had fulfilled its promises to the youth, noting that beneficiaries from the first phase would proceed to the next phase of the programme.

Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Nassir said the Council of Governors would hold a special meeting to consider waiving business licence fees for NYOTA beneficiaries for three years.

Governor Nassir said the programme comes at a time when many young people have been polarised by negative politics, adding that it has taken the President's leadership to steer government efforts towards uplifting the youth.

Joyce Mwakangulu from Taita Taveta said she used the first disbursement to diversify her business from selling perfumes to stocking ladies' shoes and now plans to expand further.

GATANGA WATER
& SANITATION COMPANY LIMITED
Maji ni uhai

P.O. Box 6133-01000, Thika
Tel: 0702-710842
info@gatangawater.co.ke
www.gatangawater.co.ke

RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF SELECTED TENDERS

Gatanga Water invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the re-advertised tenders.

Tender documents may be downloaded free of charge from Gatanga water and sanitation company ltd website [**www.gatawasco.co.ke**].

Bidders who submitted bids in response to the previous advertisement are encouraged to submit fresh bids in accordance with this re-advertisement.

Completed tender documents in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked with the **Tender Number** and **Tender Description** should be addressed to:

The Managing Director
Gatanga Water and Sanitation Company LTD
P.O. Box 6133 – 01000 Thika

and deposited in the Tender Box at Gatanga water HQ office so as to be received on or before **TUESDAY, 4TH AUGUST 2026 AT 10.00 A.M.**

Late bids will not be accepted.

J.Kairu
MANAGING DIRECTOR

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF KENYA

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) is the regulatory agency for information and communications in Kenya with responsibilities in telecommunications, cyber security, e-commerce, broadcasting and postal/courier services. The CA is also responsible for managing the country's numbering and frequency spectrum resources, administering the Universal Service Fund (USF) as well as safeguarding the interests of consumers of ICT services.

The Authority hereby notifies the current and prospective licensees, industry stakeholders, and the public on the new regulatory requirements with respect to importation and distribution of communications equipment in Kenya.

Following the Revised Telecommunications Market Structure that was gazzetted through Gazette Notice Number 3335 on March 6th, 2026, pursuant to the Kenya Information and Communications Act, Cap. 411A, any entity that is interested in importing and wholesale distribution of any communication equipment is required to apply for a Communications Equipment Distributor (CED) licence in order to be able to import and have their equipment type approved by the Authority and cleared in the TradeNet system.

Existing licensees with **Telecommunications Equipment Contractor (TEC) or Vendor Licences** who want to continue importing or distributing communications equipment are also required to apply, with immediate effect, for a Communications Equipment Distributor (CED) Licence.

Full details of each licence category, the scope of the licences including licence terms, fees, and eligibility criteria, are available on the Authority's website at **https://www.ca.go.ke/market-structure.**

Application forms, guidelines, and fee schedules are also available at **https://www.ca.go.ke/license-application-forms-fees.**

Enquiries regarding this Notice should be directed to:

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Communications Authority of Kenya
CA Centre, Waiyaki Way, Westlands, Nairobi
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Telephone: 0703042000
Website: www.ca.go.ke

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Central Regional Office
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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION KENYA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Our Vision
"A values – driven citizen-centric public service"

Our Mission
"To ensure an efficient, effective, ethical and inclusive public service for delivery of quality services to the citizenry"

VACANT POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Applications are invited from qualified persons for the positions shown below.

1. PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

S/No.	V/No.	Post	University	No. of Vacancies
1.	130/2026	Vice Chancellor	Bomet University	1
2.	131/2026	Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration, Finance & Planning)	Technical University of Mombasa	1
3.	132/2026	Principal	Kabarnet University College	1
4.	133/2026	Deputy Principal (Academics, Research, Extension & Student Affairs)		1
5.	134/2026	Deputy Principal (Administration, Planning & Finance)		1

2. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUENCIES DEVELOPMENT FUND (NG-CDF)

S/No.	V/No.	Position	Ministry	No. of Vacancies
1.	135/2026	Member – Board of Directors, NG-CDF	The National Treasury & Economic Planning	1

3. MINISTRIES AND STATE DEPARTMENTS

S/No.	V/No.	Post	Ministry/ State Department	Grade	No. of Vacancies
1.	136/2026	Foreign Service Cadet / Third Secretary Cadet	Foreign Affairs	CSG 11	100
2.	137/2026	Hospitality Officer II	Correctional Services	CSG 11	5
3.	138/2026	Instructor III		CSG 12	20

The details of the posts and mode of application can be accessed on the Commission's website **www.publicservice.go.ke**

Caution: Beware of fraudsters soliciting for bribes from the public while masquerading as Commission staff. Public Service Commission does not charge any fee for job applications, shortlisting, interviews or appointments.

SECRETARY/CEO
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

KENYA VISION 2030

Devolution disburses Ksh 5.7 billion to counties for development and service delivery

BY OLIVER MWENDA ,PCO

The State Department for Devolution has disbursed Sh 5.7 billion in level 2 conditional grants to 46 counties to fund local development projects.

The funding is part of the Second Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP II), a performance-based reform programme funded by the Government of Kenya with support from the World Bank.

The programme brings together 18 National Implementing Agencies to help counties roll out critical reforms. To drive these changes, counties receive financial grants for meeting reform targets in financial management, human resources and performance management, accountability and public participation.

Speaking from his Nairobi office, Devolution Principal Secretary Michael Lenasalon (*pictured*) hailed the disbursement as a major milestone for devolution.

“This disbursement marks a crucial step in strengthening devolution, ensuring our counties have the foundational financial capacity and institutional strength to deliver lasting, impactful development directly to our communities,” said the Principal Secretary.

Unlike the equitable share funding, KDSP II grants are strictly tied to performance. To qualify for the Level 2 grants, counties underwent assessments on specific reform targets. These included reduction of pending bills, cleaning of county human resource records to achieve consistency, transforming how counties manage staff performance, increasing own-source revenue and citizen oversight and feedback in the implementation of projects.

The Principal Secretary explained that earlier in the year, counties accessed smaller Level 1 capacity-building grants by demonstrating the establishment of basic governance frameworks. Under this grant, the 47 counties received a total of 1.67 billion shillings (35.2 million each) to finance capacity-building and institutional strengthening activities. To unlock the much larger Level 2 development grants, however, counties had to prove actual results by achieving the set reforms targets.

“The funds meant for level 1 are strictly to support governance issues, while level 2 are for funding development projects to improve service delivery to citizens.” The PS elaborated.

The Level 2 funds disbursed vary from county to county. Counties with the highest allocation of Sh 184 million shillings include Kitui, Kwale, Migori, and Turkana, while Kajiado, Uasin Gishu and Kakamega received Ksh 55 million each.

Speaking on the allocation, the PS explained that counties received more or less funding based on how well they met their reform targets.

“The disbursed amounts were determined by individual county performance alongside the Commission on Revenue Allocation’s (CRA) Fourth Basis county-sharing formula,” the PS stated.

“Counties differ when it comes to metrics such as size and populations. The time and resources required to screen projects in vast counties far exceed what is needed in geographically smaller counties. Similarly, conducting a human resource audit in a county with a smaller population and staff of 100 employees requires a completely different level of effort than executing the same audit for a county with a higher population and workforce of 1,000 employees.”

Speaking on the next steps, the Principal Secretary (PS) stated that counties must transfer the allocated monies from their County Revenue Fund (CRF) to the Special Purpose Account (SPA) within 14 days of receipt.

“The National Treasury transmits KDSP II conditional grant funds directly into the CRF,” the PS explained. “Counties are then required to transfer those funds to a dedicated special purpose account, which is exclusively used to finance the implementation of KDSP II programme activities.”

The Principal Secretary further urged the county governments to immediately revise their service delivery investment work plans, budgets, and cash plans in line with the newly disbursed amounts.

Explaining the methodology used in evaluating the performance of counties, KDSP II Program Coordinator Dr Samuel Nyaga stated that verification protocols were developed to guide the independent verification agents during the assessment.

“The protocols determined the exact methodology the agents followed during the assessment,” Dr Nyaga explained. “This approach ensured that all results are accurate, trustworthy, and fully meet the programme’s quality standards.”

“To guarantee fairness and transparency in the assessment process, any county that felt aggrieved by the initial findings of the Independent Verification Agent was provided a window to formally appeal before the final scores were tabulated,” Dr Nyaga added, noting that counties could provide clarification on areas where they felt the independent assessors overlooked key information.

Dr Nyaga further clarified that the Sh 5.7 billion disbursed forms part of the disbursement counties expect under the 3rd Annual Performance Assessment.

“The amount we are disbursing is not final. Counties will receive more funding once the programme finalises the review of disbursement-linked indicators 5 and 6, which touch on reforms on human resource and performance management,” added Nyaga. “These results are currently under review.”

Going forward, County Governments are now expected to revise the service delivery investment plans and project concept notes.

Ministry commissions irrigation project in South Nyanza

BY BENEDICT WASICHE AND PENINA KIHIKA (PCO)

The Government will soon be launching farmer-led irrigation projects in Western Kenya, with the support of the German Development Bank.

Targeting smallholder farmers, the initiative will provide subsidised irrigation equipment, climate-smart technologies, water pans and innovative financing to reduce over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture, aimed at boosting food security.

Speaking when he commissioned the Raongo Primary School Micro-Irrigation Project in Karachuonyo Constituency, the Secretary of Administration, State Department for Irrigation, David Yatich Kipkemei, who represented the Irrigation Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho, noted that Homabay County is one of the six counties in Western Kenya that will benefit from the programme.

Kipkemei emphasised the government's commitment to ensuring food security for the people through irrigation, adding that the state had invested more than Sh2.7 billion in irrigation projects across Homabay County.

He cited the newly commissioned Raongo Primary Micro Irrigation project as an example of this commitment, adding that the new project will not only support the over 400 members of the school community with water for consumption and irrigation but will also serve the over 2000 nearby community households with clean water.

The Sh16 million Raongo Micro Irrigation Project included the drilling of a borehole, equipping the borehole with a solar-powered pump, a 15-metre-high steel tower, a 20,000 cubic metre steel water tank, solar panels, a pupils' watering point, a community water kiosk, two greenhouses and a quarter-acre open field equipped with drip irrigation systems.

Thande Githae (2nd left), the Director of Climate Resilience for Food and Water Security, explains components of the Raongo Micro Irrigation project to the Secretary of Administration, State Department for Irrigation, David Yatich Kipkemei, and Homa Bay County Women's Representative Dr Joyce Atieno 'Bensuda' (R).

The SA noted that the two greenhouses and a quarter-acre open field will provide the over 400 school community 4K clubs with an opportunity to practise irrigation.

Kipkemei observed that the project offers practical lessons on water management for irrigation, a culture that, once inculcated at an early age, will permeate the society once the pupils complete school.

"When you teach about a greenhouse and drip irrigation, pupils can now relate as they are seeing them practically, unlike before," he observed.

The SA added that the project will enhance the pupils' nutrition and also support the school in purchasing crucial learning equipment through the money earned from their produce.

"The first crop of tomatoes yielded 60 crates and earned the school Sh180,000, which has gone a long way in addressing the financial challenges experienced by the school," Kipkemei revealed.

Members of the community hailed the completion of the project, saying they used to take more than one hour to fetch water from the river and they were now taking only 10 minutes.

David Owade, the agriculture teacher at Raongo Primary School, pointed out that the project has made teaching agriculture lessons more practical.

"Whatever we teach theoretically, we reinforce with practical lessons," Owade said, adding, "This makes it very difficult for pupils to forget."

Kenya makes history as first African host of Rafting World Cup Series

BY PURITY MUGO (KNA)

Kenya made history by hosting the African leg of the Rafting World Cup Series, held on the Sagana River in Murang'a County, following three days of intense competition. The event brought together 61 teams from across the world, marking a major milestone as Kenya became the first African country to host a leg of the prestigious series.

Team Kenya delivered an outstanding performance, with the women's team sweeping gold, silver and bronze medals across various categories, except in the mixed category, where Uganda clinched gold.

Speaking during the awards ceremony, Kenya Rafting Federation Treasurer Ibrahim Mwangi praised Team Kenya's exceptional performance and commended the government, through the Ministry of Sports, for its continued support in promoting sports development.

"In all categories, Kenya performed very well, with the girls' team winning gold, silver and bronze medals in all categories except the mixed category, where Uganda took home the gold," he said, noting that the government has been very supportive of sports development in the country.

Kenyan athletes Jamal Nasir and 14-year-old Alissa Kariuki expressed satisfaction with their performance, urging more young people to embrace water sports.

"In the African women's category we won second place; in the mixed category we won third place," Kariuki said, calling upon more young people to embrace water sports. World rafting leaders lauded Kenya for successfully hosting the competition, calling for increased participation from more countries to accelerate the growth of the sport across Africa and beyond.

Competitors and spectators at the Rafting World Cup Series along River Sagana in Murang'a County.

The event attracted spectators from across the country, who celebrated the impressive performance by the Kenyan team, highlighting the growing enthusiasm for the sport in the country. Angeline Choni, who was attending a rafting competition for the first time, said, "This rafting world cup series was a great opportunity for the country to diversify its scope of international sports participation."

Meanwhile, President of the Asian Rafting Federation, Shaukat Sikand, stated that an agreement had been signed with the African Rafting Federation to promote and develop rafting across the two continents.

Gov't unveils Sh465bn plan to cut animal feed costs and boost livestock production

BY WANGARI NDIRANGU (KNA)

The Government plans to roll out a Sh465 billion National Feed Strategy aimed at reducing the high cost of animal feed, lowering livestock production expenses and enhancing Kenya's food security and competitiveness in regional markets.

Speaking during the opening of the African Feed Conference and Exhibition (AFEC) 2026 in Nairobi, Head of the Animal Feed and Nutrition Section at the State Department for Livestock Development Newton Kariuki said feed accounts for up to 80 per cent of livestock production costs, making affordable, high-quality feed essential for increasing the production of milk, meat and eggs.

Kariuki said the Government is working with the Association of Kenya Feed Manufacturers (AKEFEMA) and other stakeholders to address persistent challenges affecting the feed industry.

He said the 10-year strategy seeks to expand feed and fodder production, strengthen local feed manufacturing capacity and improve livestock productivity. The strategy complements the Livestock Master Plan, which guides livestock investments based on agroecological zones.

Kariuki noted that Kenya faces a 60 per cent deficit in animal feed raw materials, forcing manufacturers to rely on costly imports that are vulnerable to tariffs and global supply chain disruptions.

To reduce dependence on imports, the strategy promotes increased local production of key feed ingredients through contract farming while encouraging manufacturers to utilise East African Community duty remission incentives to lower the cost of imported raw materials.

The government is also establishing a Strategic National Feed Reserve to store hay, silage and fodder during surplus seasons for use during droughts.

In addition, the One Ward, One Fodder Initiative targets the production of 300,000 metric tonnes of dry matter annually by 2028 across the country's 1,450 wards.

Kariuki called for science-based discussions on genetically modified feed ingredients, saying biotechnology could help reduce production costs and improve feed availability while maintaining biosafety standards.

He also raised concern over adulterated and poorly labelled animal feeds, urging stricter enforcement of quality standards and greater investment in precision feed formulation, digital feed quality monitoring, climate-smart forage production and alternative protein sources such as black soldier fly larvae.

"Farmers deserve quality feed because consumers deserve safe animal products. What animals consume ultimately finds its way to our tables," he said.

Kariuki urged county governments to prioritise feed and fodder production in their development plans, adding that quality feed remains the foundation of a productive livestock sector.

He attributed the country's growth in milk production to supportive government policies, commercial investment in the dairy industry, improved breeding programmes, artificial insemination services, subsidised fertiliser that has boosted fodder production and rising demand for dairy products.

Meanwhile, AKEFEMA Chairman Joseph Karuri said expanding local production of feed ingredients is the most sustainable solution to lowering feed costs.

Solar system commissioned at the Nairobi Remand Prison

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi (Right) and European Union Ambassador Henriette Geiger (Centre) commission solar-powered at the Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum Security Prison.

BY NICHOLAS KIGONDU (PCO)

A solar-powered hybrid system has been launched at the Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum Security Prison as efforts to enhance access to justice within correctional settings gather pace.

The facility, which was commissioned by Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi, was installed through the Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya - Phase Two (PLEAD II), funded by the European Union, and implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the Government of Kenya.

Speaking during the commissioning, the CS said the government remains committed to the delivery of justice that is accessible, efficient and people-centred.

"This investment is testament to how multilateral partnerships can transform correctional services in the country. The government is investing in correctional services that are environmentally responsive and alert to the needs of the citizenry," observed the CS.

Besides contributing to reduced electricity costs, the CS said the investment strengthens security as well as the provision of essential services, including virtual court hearings, thereby ensuring continuity in the delivery of justice.

He pledged his ministry commitment to work with the State Department for Correctional Services in its quest to adopt green solutions, including transition and sustainability.

Speaking during the event, Correctional Services Principal Secretary Dr Salome Beacco said the project aligns with the government's commitment to enhance innovation, transformation and efficient service delivery, adding that it exemplifies a shared commitment to providing practical solutions.

While lauding the European Union and UNODC for their support, the PS said the government has prioritised strategic investments that are transforming Kenya's correctional system.

According to European Union Ambassador Henriette Geiger, the EU remains committed to supporting programmes that improve human rights and dignity, saying it has already committed 70 million euros towards reforming Kenya's justice sector through digitisation, solarisation and access to justice for all.

UNODC Regional Representative Ali EL-Bereir says the solarisation project is a people-centred justice intervention, saying it will reduce the need for physical presentation of inmates to courts, attributed to frequent power interruptions, sentiments supported by Commissioner General of Prisons Patrick Aranduh, who said it was a testament to how collaborations can work to enhance access to justice and improve public service delivery.

The solar-powered hybrid system includes a 28.08 kWp solar plant, 40.96 kWh battery storage, 48 solar panels, three inverter chargers and eight batteries, providing 24 hours of power backup to key areas of the prison, including virtual court hearings.

Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum Security Prison is one of Kenya's busiest correctional facilities, holding about 3,900 inmates, most of whom are remandees awaiting trial.

The prison supports approximately 200 to 500 virtual court sessions per day, linking inmates to courts in Nairobi and across the country.

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Fuel supplies remain uninterrupted despite Gulf shipping disruptions

BY ZIPPORAH ODIONYI AND NANCY OMONDI (KNA)

The Government has assured Kenyans that the country's petroleum supply remains stable despite escalating tensions in the Middle East that have disrupted global oil markets and fuelled uncertainty over international fuel prices.

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi said attacks on commercial vessels around the Strait of Hormuz had reduced oil tanker traffic and heightened volatility in global energy markets, but had not affected Kenya's fuel availability.

"Kenya's fuel supply has remained stable throughout. Every scheduled cargo has arrived and offloaded on time, and fuel has remained available at filling stations across the country," Wandayi said.

He attributed the stability to the Government-to-Government (G2G) fuel supply arrangement, which has enabled Kenya to source petroleum cargoes from a wider range of loading regions beyond the Gulf while maintaining uninterrupted deliveries.

According to the CS, the arrangement has shielded the country from rising freight and insurance costs that have affected nations relying on spot purchases and open tenders.

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi (right) speaking on global energy markets at KASNEB Towers in Nairobi.

"Kenya has continued to pay the same fixed freight and premium. This fixed-cost structure has kept landed costs under control, ensured deliveries remain on schedule, and allowed suppliers to source cargoes from alternative regions without passing the additional costs on to Kenyan consumers," he said.

Speaking in Nairobi, Wandayi noted that the benefits of the G2G arrangement become more evident during periods of global market instability, enabling the country to maintain supply security even as international oil prices fluctuate.

He, however, acknowledged that renewed tensions in the Middle East had pushed international oil benchmarks upwards, a trend likely to influence future fuel pricing cycles.

The Cabinet Secretary said the Ministry would continue working closely with industry players to ensure consistent fuel supplies, safeguard the terms of the G2G arrangement and keep the public informed on developments in the global energy market.

He reassured motorists, public transport operators, manufacturers, farmers, investors and other consumers that adequate fuel stocks remain available across the country.

> Every scheduled cargo has arrived and offloaded on time, and fuel has remained available at all filling stations

"The global developments have not affected the availability of petroleum products in our country. Fuel remains readily available across the country, supported by adequate national stocks, a resilient and fully operational import and distribution system, and the continued success of the Government-to-Government fuel supply arrangement," he said.

Wandayi said the G2G framework had strengthened Kenya's energy security by improving supply predictability, enhancing resilience within the petroleum supply chain and reducing pressure on the country's foreign exchange demand.

He added that government investments in strengthening the petroleum sector had enhanced the country's capacity to withstand external shocks and maintain a reliable fuel supply despite global market volatility.

To cushion households and businesses against rising international fuel prices, Wandayi announced that the government, in consultation with the National Treasury, had extended the application of the eight per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products for a further three months until October 14, 2026.

Thousands of Junior Schools to receive smartboards

BY FREDRICK MARITIM (KNA)

More than 10,000 Junior Secondary Schools (JSSs) across the country will receive interactive smartboards in the first phase of the government's digital learning programme, aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Competency-Based Education (CBE) curriculum.

Basic Education Principal Secretary John Ololtuaa announced that 10,382 junior secondary schools will benefit from the initial phase. The remaining schools will be covered in the second phase, bringing the total number of targeted JSSs nationwide to more than 21,000.

Speaking during a courtesy visit at Hill School Senior School in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, the PS said the digital infrastructure initiative is part of the government's commitment to modernising teaching and learning in public schools.

Basic Education Principal Secretary John Ololtuaa addresses students and members of the education fraternity during a courtesy visit to Hill School Senior School in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

"We're also looking at all junior secondary schools. Some 10,382 of them across the country will receive smart boards in Phase One. In Phase Two, the remaining schools will also benefit," he assured. He said the government was keen on ensuring the successful implementation of the Competency-Based Education system by investing in digital learning infrastructure and other critical education resources.

BRIEFS

Nzoia revival pays off as farmers receive Sh700m

BY CHRIS MAHANDARA (KNA)

Nzoia Sugar Company has paid more than Sh700 million to farmers since resuming operations this year, with the miller reporting improved production, faster payments and significant investments aimed at restoring its performance.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sohan Sharma said the company has injected nearly Sh900 million into the Bungoma County economy since operations resumed, with farmers now receiving payments within two weeks of delivering cane.

Sharma said the company undertook an extensive rehabilitation programme after taking over the factory in May 2025. The works included refurbishing the pre-mill section, mill house, boiling house, boilers, turbines, electrical systems, instrumentation and other civil infrastructure.

He said the factory resumed crushing in January 2026 and has since processed more than 292,980 tonnes of cane.

The CEO said although the mill has an installed crushing capacity of 3,000 tonnes of cane per day, it is currently averaging about 1,900 tonnes.

He added that investments in new equipment have significantly improved milling efficiency, with the ratio dropping from between 17 and 21 to 10.

Sharma attributed part of the turnaround to the introduction of a digital Smart Weighment System and a Distributed Control System, saying the technologies have eliminated manual manipulation at the weighbridge while enabling farmers to receive real-time SMS confirmations of cane deliveries.

The company, he said, now supports 1,639 jobs and is implementing an irrigation project expected to increase cane yields from an average of 40 tonnes per hectare to as much as 120 tonnes per hectare. He, however, warned that inadequate cane supply remains a major challenge.

The factory, he said, requires about 43,500 acres of cane to sustain operations through October 2027 but has contracted only 24,500 acres.

7,000 youths receive NYOTA business funds

BY BERNARD MUNYAO AND TECLA LEPOJOS (KNA)

More than 7,000 youths from Murang'a, Nyeri and Kirinyaga counties have received business start-up funding under the second phase of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Programme, a government initiative aimed at addressing youth unemployment through entrepreneurship.

A total of 7,055 beneficiaries — 2,988 from Murang'a, 1,828 from Kirinyaga and 2,239 from Nyeri — received financial support during a disbursement ceremony held at Ihura Stadium in Murang'a County.

Speaking during the event, Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome said Murang'a County had been allocated Sh74.7 million under the second disbursement phase. Of the beneficiaries, 2,278 continuing recipients received their second tranche of funding, while 710 new beneficiaries received their first disbursement.

She urged young people to make good use of the funds by investing in businesses that would improve their livelihoods and create employment opportunities, while steering clear of alcoholism, drug abuse, hooliganism and illegal demonstrations.

"I urge our young people to use this money to start and grow businesses that will transform their lives. Shun alcoholism, drug abuse, hooliganism and illegal demonstrations, and instead focus on building a better future for themselves and their communities," said Wahome. Kirinyaga County received Sh.45.7 million, with 1,267 continuing beneficiaries receiving their second tranche and 562 new beneficiaries receiving their first disbursement.