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SHA hits historic 32.3 million registrations

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YOUR WEEKLY REVIEW

Issue No. 8/2026-2027

State to settle Sh139bn road contractors' bills

Payments for eligible works completed in the last quarter are expected to be completed by the end of this week, according to Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary (CS), Davis Chirchir.

FULL STORY PAGE 2

A section of the Rironi-Mau Summit Dual Carrriage Road under construction.

Government to clear road contractors' bills

Payments for eligible works completed in the last quarter begun on August 21 and will be completed by Friday ,August 28

BY WANGARI NDIRANGU (KNA)

The Government has mobilized Sh139 billion to clear certified outstanding bills owed to road contractors and accelerate implementation of ongoing road projects across the country.

Payments for eligible works completed in the last quarter started last week and are expected to be completed this Friday, August 28.

Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary (CS), Davis Chirchir has said.

Chirchir said the financing programme was necessary as conventional Exchequer allocations remain insufficient to meet the cost of ongoing road works and accumulated obligations.

The CS spoke during a meeting with road contractors, engineers and technical officers from the State Department for Roads and its implementing agencies.

Under the first phase of the financing programme, the government leveraged Sh7 per litre of the Road Maintenance Levy Fund to mobilize Sh175 billion, which enabled the settlement of pending bills for certified works and eligible interest obligations up to March 2026.

The move allowed contractors whose projects had slowed due to delayed payments to resume work.

Chirchir said the government has received the first tranche of the current programme and is expecting the next tranche shortly, paving the way for payments to contractors.

"We are not simply clearing yesterday's pending bills. Our objective is to stop creating tomorrow's pending bills," he said.

He assured contractors that payments would be processed through an established framework based on properly measured, verified and certified claims.

The CS urged contractors to remain on site and accelerate project implementation while adhering to contractual requirements on time, cost and quality.

Chirchir, however, explained that there would be no preferential treatment in processing payments, noting that only properly certified and eligible claims would be paid under the approved framework.

"There should be no middlemen and no preferential treatment. If a certificate is properly certified and eligible, it should be processed in accordance with the approved payment framework," he said.

He also directed engineers and technical officers to take full responsibility for the quality, cost and scope of road projects and further called for proper measurement, inspection and certification of works, cautioning technical officers against certifying work they could not professionally defend.

"Certify only work that you can professionally defend," he said.

The CS has also directed road agencies to strengthen project preparation before procurement, particularly in design development, site investigations and verification of quantities.

Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary, Davis Chirchir. The government has mobilized Sh139 billion to clear certified outstanding bills owed to road contractors

He warned that issues, including exhausted contract quantities, premature road failure and unjustified certification must be addressed before construction, noting that such shortcomings would attract professional accountability.

The CS said the government's responsibility is to mobilise resources and provide a predictable financing framework, while contractors must execute and deliver projects and engineers safeguard quality and value for money.

Also present were Principal Secretary (PS) for Roads, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) Director General, Eng. Luka Kimeli, Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) Director General, Eng. Jackson Magondu and Kenya Roads Board (KRB) Director, General Judith Otsula.

Government to adopt unified communication approach

The policy seeks to ensure that the Government speaks with one voice through well-coordinated, proactive and responsive public communications

BY EUGINE OTIENO (MYGOV)

The Government will adopt a unified communication approach as it seeks to counter misinformation and strengthen public confidence.

In a circular, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei said the newly approved National Communication Policy will guide coordinated and harmonized Government communication.

"The policy seeks to ensure that the Government speaks with one voice through well-coordinated, proactive and responsive public communications," he said.

Consequently, the Chief of Staff has directed ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) to communicate Government policies, programmes and initiatives proactively to "allay unfounded fears, counter misinformation and enhance public confidence."

The directive requires MDAs to undertake timely, proactive and coordinated communication to improve public awareness, counter misinformation and prevent external actors from dominating public discourse on government programmes.

Koskei said the directive is necessary as it will address gaps in government communication and respond to conflicting narratives, particularly during crises and emergencies.

Under the new directive, MDAs will be primarily responsible for communicating policies, programmes, projects and initiatives under their respective mandates. Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and heads of government agencies have consequently been directed to assume direct responsibility for communication within their institutions.

He directed the MDAs to develop communication strategies covering their policies and programmes, crisis, emergency and risk communication protocols, citizen and stakeholder engagement, media relations and dedicated communication budgets.

The Chief of Staff also directed the MDAs to strengthen their communication functions and make greater use of government communication platforms including national broadcasters, news agencies, official websites and social media channels.

He tasked the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications with operationalising the National Communication Centre, established under Executive Order No. 1 of 2025.

The centre will serve as the Government's information repository and central coordinating entity responsible for receiving, collating, validating and preparing government information for dissemination.

Through the circular, the Office of the Government Spokesperson is required to amplify government messaging across platforms, while the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications and the State Department for ICT and Digital Economy will provide platforms, capacity and opportunities for government communication.

These platforms include the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, Kenya News Agency, Kenya Yearbook Editorial Board, Government Advertising Agency, National Communication Centre, ICT Authority, Directorate of Public Communications, government websites and official social media platforms.

Government agencies must comply with Public Service Commission policies and obtain concurrence from the Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service where third-party communication services are required in exceptional circumstances.

The National Crisis Communication Standing Committee will coordinate communication during crises and emergencies.

"All major government projects shall have a communication plan and a risk identification and mitigation plan as part of the initial planning," Koskei states.

Communication has also been incorporated into the Government's performance management framework, with MDAs required to integrate communication plans into their performance contracts and set measurable outputs aligned with their mandates.

The new measures seek to make public communication an integral part of government programme implementation, ensuring citizens receive timely, accurate and coordinated information on policies, projects and services.

Sh900m Lodwar stadium construction begins

BY EVERLYNE KIMORGO (MYGOV)

Experts view the architectural impression of the of Ekalees Stadium

The construction of the Sh900-million Ekalees Sports Stadium in Lodwar has begun, turning President William Ruto's pledge to establish a modern sports facility in Turkana into a reality.

The 10,000-seat stadium in Kanamkemer Ward, Turkana Central, is expected to be completed within nine months, with the Ministry of Defence tasked with supervising the project.

Defence Principal Secretary Patrick Mariru and Turkana Governor Jeremiah Lomorukai inspected the site last week as construction activities got underway.

"We are here under the directive of the President, who came here last year and promised that Lodwar will have a stadium. The Ministry of Defence will be supervising the construction, and I am here to assure the Governor that work begins now," Mariru said.

He challenged the project team to complete the facility ahead of schedule. The deadline places completion around May 2027, ahead of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), which will be jointly hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania from June 19 to July 17, 2027.

The stadium will feature a FIFA-standard football pitch, an eight-lane athletics track, changing rooms, water and electricity connections, a VIP lounge and a weather-protection canopy.

The project has been in preparation for several months, with advance teams conducting consultations with the county government, site inspections and geotechnical surveys before handing over the site to the contractor.

Turkana leaders and professionals from the wider Ateker region are seeking to position the stadium to benefit from the 2027 AFCON, either as a match venue or training facility for participating teams.

However, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has yet to announce the final list of host cities and stadiums.

Mariru said the Lodwar project was part of a wider Government programme to expand sports infrastructure across the country, with more than 23 other locations earmarked for stadium projects.

The Ministry of Defence is also overseeing major sports infrastructure projects, including the 60,000-seat Raila Amollo Odinga International Stadium at Talanta Sports City in Nairobi, as well as upgrades at Nyayo National Stadium and Kasarani Sports Complex.

Governor Lomorukai said the stadium would provide young people with a modern facility to nurture sporting talent while creating employment and business opportunities.

"The stadium is an essential facility that the youth of Turkana have been asking for," he said.

He added that the facility would strengthen Lodwar's position as the cultural capital of the Ateker community, which spans Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Turkana has used initiatives such as the Tobong'u Lore Cultural Festival and Ateker Cup of Nations to promote cross-border cooperation and peaceful relations.

Correctional Service transitioning prisons to renewable and clean energy

The Secretary Administration, State Department for Correctional Services, Sammy Kioko (Right), engages with UNOPS East and Southern Africa Director, Kelly McAulay, during a meeting between the State Department and a delegation from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to advance partnerships aimed at developing sustainable infrastructure and expanding access to renewable energy.

BY MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

The State Department for Correctional Services is advancing partnerships aimed at developing sustainable infrastructure and expanding access to renewable energy.

The Department's Secretary Administration, Sammy Kioko, announced that the institution has prioritized the adoption of clean energy, digitalization, and modernization as key pillars of its reform agenda.

Kioko, who represented the Principal Secretary (PS), Dr. Salome Beacco, spoke during a meeting between the State Department and a delegation from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) led by UNOPS East and Southern Africa Director, Kelly McAulay.

He revealed that the Service is implementing an initiative to transition all correctional facilities in Kenya from wood fuel, to renewable and clean energy solutions, including solar-hybrid power installations and clean cooking technologies.

"The initiative targets the completion of the first phase of the transition to clean cooking by the end of the year," he specified.

On her part, Kelly McAulay pledged UNOPS' commitment to support the State Department in its efforts.

She stated that the two institutions would explore available opportunities to deepen cooperation and advance sustainable infrastructure development within the correctional sector.

Meanwhile, the Department, in collaboration with the State Department for Petroleum and other government agencies, has already developed infrastructural designs for clean cooking kitchens.

The initial phase will target Kenya Prisons Service and Probation and Aftercare Service facilities within Nairobi and its environs before being extended to other correctional facilities across the country.

Notably, the initiative is expected to reduce environmental degradation, improve public health, enhance energy security, support Kenya's low-carbon development agenda, and provide correctional institutions with more efficient, reliable and environmentally friendly energy solutions.

Journalists urged to uphold ethics ahead of 2027 General Election

BY JEFTHER AFUYO AND SHALIN ABULALA (KNA)

Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy William Kabogo (*pictured*) has urged journalists to uphold ethical standards and professionalism as the country prepares for the 2027 General Election.

The CS said independent, accurate and fair journalism was essential to maintaining public trust, safeguarding national stability and supporting a peaceful democratic process.

Speaking in Nakuru during the launch of the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and Guidelines for Election Coverage 2027, Kabogo urged news outlets to rely on verifiable facts and avoid being alarmist or inciteful.

Kabogo encouraged media houses to prioritize informative content explaining voting procedures, electoral laws and election timelines to enable citizens to make informed choices.

He warned that misinformation and disinformation could distort the 2027 elections by influencing voters to make decisions based on emotions rather than facts, challenging journalists to uphold fairness, accuracy, impartiality and independence throughout the electoral process.

The CS also cautioned journalists against accepting gifts, favours or financial incentives that could compromise their independence and undermine public confidence in the media.

"Journalists have a responsibility to inform the public without inflaming tensions," said Kabogo.

The MCK 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and the election coverage guidelines provide a roadmap for strengthening media accountability, professionalism, institutional performance and sustainability.

Siaya farmers to adopt biochar technology for better yields

BY BRIAN ONDENG (KNA)

Farmers and research staff inspect maize demonstration plots and a biochar production site at Ujwanga Anyiko rice factory in Siaya County, where rice husks and other organic waste are converted into biochar to improve soil fertility..

Farmers in Siaya County will adopt biochar technology to restore soil fertility, lower soil acidity and improve water and nutrient retention.

The aim is to boost agricultural productivity while reducing dependence on costly synthetic fertilisers.

Research conducted by various institutions under the Bio Kenya Research Project in Siaya, Busia and Kisumu Counties has recorded positive results, paving the way for wider adoption of the technology to improve soil health and environmental management.

Biochar is produced from burnt plant organic waste and can be used as an organic soil amendment. Its adoption is expected to help farmers reduce production costs while turning agricultural waste into a useful farm input.

Speaking during a farmers' demonstration event at Anyiko Ujwanga village in Siaya County, Chief Officer for Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources Jared Abayo said the technology was particularly important for farmers facing declining soil fertility and rising agricultural input costs.

Abayo said the innovation promotes a circular economy by converting organic waste materials into useful agricultural inputs, creating value while reducing environmental pollution.

"The biochar technology addresses the need for increased productivity while protecting our natural resources. It allows agricultural productivity and environmental management to reinforce each other rather than be at loggerheads," he said.

He said the technology had potential to promote organic waste utilisation, soil recovery and climate-smart agriculture in Siaya, the Lake Victoria region and the country at large.

Abayo said the County Government of Siaya is committed to strengthening collaboration among research institutions, cooperatives and farmer organisations to ensure innovations move from demonstration sites to wider community adoption.

Kenya positions itself as Africa's digital connectivity hub

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

Kenya is stepping up efforts to position itself as Africa's digital connectivity hub, with the Government seeking stronger partnerships with global technology firms to expand broadband access, develop local technical expertise and accelerate digital transformation.

Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Stephen Isaboke said digital infrastructure had become critical to Kenya's transition into a service- and knowledge-based economy, warning that inadequate connectivity could exclude millions of young Africans from opportunities created by emerging technologies.

Speaking at the FiberHome World Tour Workshop 2026 in Nairobi, attended by more than 100 representatives from Kenya's telecommunications industry, Isaboke said partnerships with technology companies should translate into tangible benefits for citizens.

A key Government priority is the planned 100,000-kilometre national fibre network, under the broader Digital Superhighway programme, alongside the establishment of 1,450 digital hubs across the country.

Isaboke said Kenya's ambitious fibre expansion was attracting attention across Africa, citing discussions at a recent African Telecoms Union meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, where countries outlined plans to expand their broadband infrastructure.

PS Isaboke explains a point during the FiberHome World Tour 2026 workshop in Nairobi

Nigeria, he noted, is targeting 90,000 kilometres of fibre, while other African countries have announced plans ranging between 40,000 and 70,000 kilometres.

He described broadband infrastructure as the "digital superhighway" required to support emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and autonomous systems.

Applications ranging from driverless vehicles and remote operations to AI-powered services, he said, would require reliable, high-capacity and low-latency networks.

"The digital superhighway is the next thing," Isaboke said.

Data from the Communications Authority of Kenya presented at the workshop showed that the country had 58.5 million data subscriptions and smartphone penetration of 83.5 per cent as of June 2025.

The Government's digital agenda includes universal broadband coverage, accelerated 4G and 5G deployment, resilient optical networks and measures to reduce the cost of developing and operating digital infrastructure.

Isaboke said 4G already carries more than 80 per cent of national broadband traffic, but challenges remained, including the high cost of last-mile deployment, unreliable electricity supply and growing demand for cloud connectivity.

He said technology partnerships should go beyond infrastructure investment to include skills development, technology transfer and greater participation by Kenyan companies.

He cited training programmes that have enabled Kenyan engineers to gain practical exposure to advanced telecommunications technologies in China, saying the Government wants local professionals to eventually design, deploy and maintain sophisticated digital infrastructure domestically.

FiberHome International Technologies, established in Wuhan, China, in 1974, entered the Kenyan market in 2017. The company says its annual business volume in Kenya has grown from about US$5 million in 2017 to approximately US$30 million currently.

FiberHome Southern Sahara Africa CEO Keller Yun said the growth reflected the company's expanding role in Kenya's telecommunications and digital infrastructure sector.

The company says it uses a local-first model, implementing major projects through Kenyan system integrators to strengthen local technical capacity and provide long-term support.

Among its projects is the ICT Authority's Last Mile County Connectivity Project, through which FiberHome and local partners connected public institutions and community facilities in Kwale County.

The company has also deployed Distributed Acoustic Sensing technology for Kenya Pipeline Company, using existing fibre along oil pipelines as an early-warning system for potential interference.

Yun described Nairobi as a leading African digital centre and said Kenya's 100,000-kilometre fibre ambition could provide a model for other countries seeking to expand broadband access.

FiberHome International President Kevin Liu and Africa Chief Technology Officer Michel Wang also attended the workshop, highlighting growing international interest in Kenya's digital infrastructure ambitions.

Kenya to host continental pension conference

PSSF CEO Dr Jonah Aiyabei addressing delegates at the inaugural Pan-African Pensions Conference

BY NGUMBO NJOROGE (PCO)

Kenya will from November 18 to 20, 2026 host the second edition of the Pan-African Pensions Conference, bringing together pension trustees, regulators, fund managers and industry leaders from across the continent.

The three-day conference is being organised by the Public Service Superannuation Fund (PSSF), as part of ongoing Government efforts to strengthen retirement benefits administration and position Kenya as a regional hub for pension sector dialogue and investment.

PSSF Chief Executive Officer Dr. Jonah Aiyabei said the conference will bring African pension funds together to chart a common path toward stronger, better-governed retirement systems capable of supporting the continent's development agenda.

"This conference is a platform for African pension funds to speak with one shared purpose, building retirement systems that are resilient, well-governed and capable of financing our continent's development," Dr. Aiyabei said.

PSSF manages Sh342 billion in assets on behalf of more than 529,000 members drawn from 167 employer institutions, making it one of the largest retirement benefits schemes in the country and a key player in shaping pension policy in the region.

The conference comes at a time when Africa's pension industry is drawing attention as a source of long-term, domestic capital for the continent's development.

Industry data shows total fund assets across Africa in the range of roughly US$350 billion to US$500 billion, with South Africa's Public Investment Corporation alone managing over $140 billion.

Dr Aiyabei said these funds have evolved from capital guardians for retirement savings into some of the largest pool of long-term domestic capital on the continent.

Membership in Kenya's retirement benefits schemes rose 4.7per cent to 7.71 million in 2025 from 7.37 million a year earlier, driven by a 25.2 per cent jump in new entrants, according to the RBA's 2025 Statistical Digest. Even so, the sector's coverage ratio stood at just 26.58 per cent of the estimated 29 million working-age population.

Speaking at a recent gathering of pension supervisors, industry officials observed that with Africa's population growing by roughly 35 million people a year and life expectancy rising, the continent needs pension systems that are inclusive and financially sustainable enough to guarantee old-age income security for far more workers than are currently covered.

Kenya's pension industry has posted strong recent growth, with total sector assets under management posted growth by 26.84 per cent in 2025 to a record Ksh 2.83 trillion, up from Ksh 2.23 trillion a year earlier, as government securities and equities delivered stronger returns and contributions climbed.

The data shows that active members climbed 7.2per cent to 4.02 million from 3.75 million, with 307,589 new entrants joining pension schemes against 36,903 leavers. Deferred members held broadly steady ay 3.59 million.

Kakamega upscales waste separation, recycling

Residents should separate waste at the source into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste to facilitate proper management and recycling

BY ANNLINDA SIMIYU AND VALARY ANYOSO (KNA)

The Kakamega County Government has intensified efforts to improve waste management through waste separation, recycling and outsourced cleaning services.

Jacob Juma Shamala, the Chief Public Health Officer in charge of environmental matters in Kakamega Municipality, said waste management was a devolved function and the county government had put in place measures to ensure waste is properly managed from the source, storage and transportation to treatment and final disposal.

He said Kakamega Municipality has been divided into five zones, with private companies contracted to undertake cleaning services, including clearing drainage systems, collecting waste and transporting it to the designated disposal site at Rosterman.

The companies are monitored on a daily basis by the municipality to ensure they adhere to their terms of reference and maintain cleanliness in their respective areas.

Shamala said residents should separate waste at the source into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste to facilitate proper management and recycling.

"Proper waste management requires the participation of every person from the point waste is generated to its final disposal," he said.

He said the county government had partnered with a private firm, Regen Organics to collect biodegradable waste from aggregation centres and transport it to Matawa Organic Industrial park in Mumias West where it is processed into organic fertilizer for farmers use.

"All organic waste is taken to Matawa and is separated and the individuals involved are paid for their work. So it is also a circular economy," Shamala said.

He said the initiative could only succeed if residents separated their waste at the source, adding that people could use sacks, boxes or other containers to separate waste without necessarily purchasing expensive bins.

Shamala said the county was also working with partners, including Practical Action, to promote waste separation, provide personal protective equipment and support the establishment of material recovery facilities.

Talanta Stadium nears completion ahead of AFCON 2027

"Since 1987, there has not been any investment in a facility like the one we have here,"-Mvurya

BY ARON KINYAMASYO (KNA)

The Government has stepped up efforts to complete the Raila Odinga International Stadium, popularly known as Talanta Stadium, as Kenya accelerates preparations to co-host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) with Uganda and Tanzania.

Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya said significant progress had been made at the facility, with several key components completed or at advanced stages.

Mvurya spoke after inspecting the stadium alongside Kenya Defence Forces engineers and technical teams overseeing the project.

He said perimeter fencing had commenced, while construction of a dedicated power substation is underway to meet the stadium's substantial electricity requirements.

"The perimeter fencing has already started. The substation on the other side has also started, because here we need a lot of power," Mvurya said.

Road improvements around the facility are also being pursued, with the Kenya Urban Roads Authority having completed scoping for the required works.

Kenya Railways, he added, is developing plans to connect the stadium to

ongoing works at Raila Odinga International Stadium in Nairobi

the railway network to improve access for spectators.

The CS said the main stadium is undergoing final installations and testing, including sound systems and LED screens. The Government is also engaging the Confederation of African Football (CAF) on adjustments required in some sections, particularly the presidential pavilion, to ensure compliance with international standards.

Security infrastructure is also progressing, with 60 of the planned 91 turnstiles already installed, work on skyboxes and other sections is ongoing, while operational lifts are among the features reflecting the facility's progress.

Mvurya said construction had also begun on a training ground adjacent to the stadium, which will complement the main arena during AFCON and provide a long-term facility for athletes.

He described Talanta Stadium as a major legacy project, noting that Kenya had not invested in a comparable international-standard stadium since Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, was built in 1987.

"Since 1987, there has not been any investment in a facility like the one we have here," he said.

The CS said the Government is implementing a wider programme involving 32 additional stadium projects across the country to support talent identification and development.

He said the facilities are being designed as multipurpose centres that would remain active beyond sporting events, with amenities such as ICT hubs, recording studios, learning spaces and other creative facilities.

Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports Salim Mvurya speaking to the media during an inspection tour of the Talanta Sports Complex Stadium accompanied by KDF engineers and technical committee to assess the progress of the ongoing works at Raila Odinga International Stadium in Nairobi

"We want these facilities to provide opportunities for young people to pursue sports alongside technology, entertainment and creative activities," he said.

"The proposed facilities include buildings intended to provide training opportunities and learning spaces, complementing stadium infrastructure and creating avenues for students and young people to acquire practical skills," highlighted the CS.

Mvurya said Kasarani Stadium is also undergoing rehabilitation, including pitch work, while training grounds at Kasarani, Police Sacco and Nyayo Stadium are being prepared as part of the AFCON package.

Nyayo Stadium, he said, requires relatively little work for the tournament because its pitch is already in good condition, although the Government plans to upgrade its canopy as part of a broader improvement programme.

Other training grounds and alternative fields outside Nairobi are also being developed, with Kipchoge Keino Stadium among facilities making progress.

Mvurya said the investments are intended to leave a lasting legacy beyond AFCON by expanding opportunities for talent development, education, innovation and economic activity.

He said the Government is committed to ensuring sports infrastructure developed for the tournament continues to serve athletes and communities long after the continental competition.

Meanwhile, Kenya is scheduled to co-host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations with Uganda and Tanzania, with preparations expected to intensify as the tournament approaches.

The CS assured that the infrastructure programme was not solely about hosting AFCON, but about creating a lasting foundation for talent development and expanding opportunities for Kenyan youth.

He reaffirmed that the Government was determined to ensure that facilities being developed for the tournament remained useful after the competition, supporting athletes across different disciplines, and strengthening Kenya's sports ecosystem

Gov't boosts early warning, anticipatory action ahead of El Niño

BY ANITA OMWENGA,MYGOV

The Government is strengthening the early warning system as it anticipates enhanced October-November-December 2026 rainfall.

This is from the fact that the Kenya Meteorological Service Authority (KMSA) has forecasted El Niño conditions which calls for enhanced preparedness.

The aim is to ensure that weather information reaches communities early enough to enable people to take measures that can reduce the impacts of anticipated flooding.

Consequently, KMSA Acting Director General Edward Muriuki has called for enhanced collaboration among government agencies, county governments, humanitarian organisations, emergency responders, the media and communities to ensure that weather forecasts are translated into timely action to protect lives, livelihoods and infrastructure.

In his speech read on his behalf by Deputy Director for Public Weather Services Mary Kilavi during a national sensitisation workshop on Action Based Forecasting in Nairobi said the government is strengthening its capacity to anticipate and manage weather-related hazards through improved forecasting, early warning systems and coordinated disaster preparedness.

He observed that the anticipated above-average rainfall associated with prevailing El Niño conditions and a possible positive Indian Ocean Dipole could benefit agriculture, water resources and hydropower generation, but also present significant risks.

Kenya Meteorological Service Authority(KMSA)Assistant Director for Public Weather Services Hannah Kimani during a National Sensitisation workshop on Action Based Forecasting and Institutional Coordination for Early Action in Kenya in Nairobi

"There is fear and anxiety among the public on possible above average rainfall due to prevailing El Nino conditions and a possible positive Indian Ocean Dipole" he said, adding that history has shown us that such conditions can lead to widespread flooding, displacement of communities, disruption of transport networks, loss of livelihoods and, tragically, loss of life.

He said KMSA is moving beyond conventional weather forecasts to provide information that explains the likely impacts of weather events and guides communities and decision-makers on actions to take before disasters occur.

"Decision-makers increasingly require information that answers an equally important question: What will these weather conditions mean for people, infrastructure, livelihoods and critical services, and what actions should be taken before impacts occur?" he posed.

He identified Impact-Based Forecasting (IBF) and Action-Based Forecasting (ABF) as key tools in strengthening the country's early warning and disaster preparedness systems.

Kenya, Turkey deepen strategic ties in trade, investment and security

Stronger global partnerships should open doors for Kenyan businesses, create jobs and connect our people to bigger markets

BY HASSAN ADAN ALI (PCO)

Kenya and Türkiye are seeking to deepen their longstanding ties by expanding cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity, security and health, as Nairobi steps up efforts to turn diplomatic relations into tangible economic opportunities for citizens and businesses.

While meeting a delegation of the Türkiye-Kenya Parliamentary Friendship Group in Nairobi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi said stronger international partnerships should translate into jobs, investment, market access and opportunities for Kenyan businesses, in line with the Government's economic diplomacy agenda.

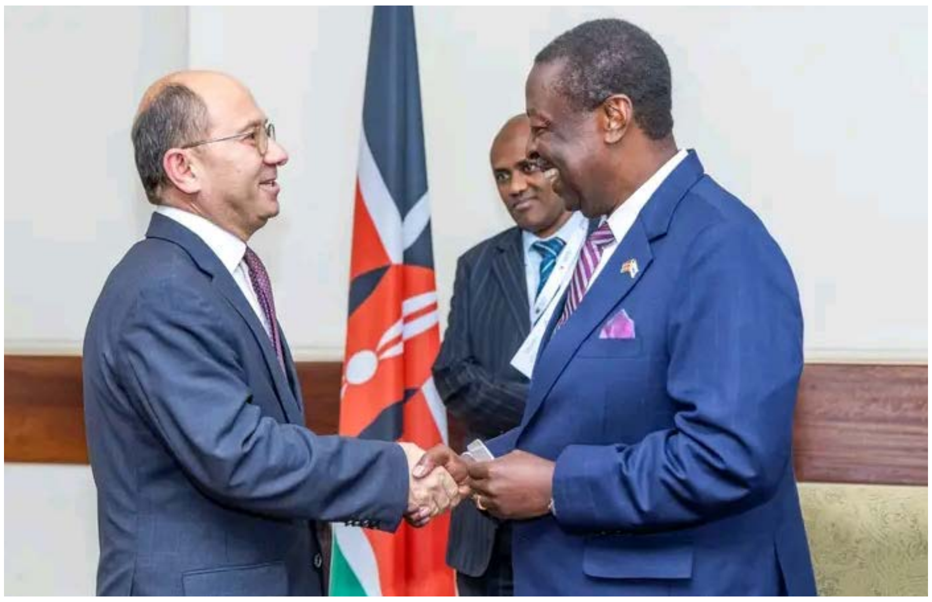
"Stronger global partnerships should open doors for Kenyan businesses, create jobs and connect our people to bigger markets," Mudavadi said.

He identified tourism, aviation, manufacturing, trade and investment as priority areas for expanded cooperation, noting that stronger commercial ties could accelerate technology and skills transfer, industrial development and Kenya's integration into regional and global value chains.

He highlighted improved air connectivity and called for stronger synergies between Kenya Airways and Turkish Airlines.

Enhanced links would facilitate the movement of tourists, investors and business travelers while strengthening commercial and people-to-people exchanges.

Kenya's delegation was led by Dr Adan Keynan Wehliye, Chairperson of the Kenya-Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group, while the Turkish delegation was led by Ismail Güneş, Member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly for Uşak Province and Co-Chair of the friendship group.



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi (Right) held talks with a Turkish delegation led by Ismail Güneş, Member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly for Uşak Province and Co-Chair of the Türkiye–Kenya Parliamentary Friendship Group,

Güneş said Türkiye's growing diplomatic presence in Africa, with its embassies increasing from 12 to 44, reflects Ankara's commitment to strengthening political, economic and institutional partnerships across the continent.

He said parliamentary friendship groups offer an additional platform for advancing bilateral relations through dialogue, legislative cooperation and advocacy for stronger economic ties.

Regional security also featured prominently, with the Turkish delegation offering to share its experience in counterterrorism, defence, in sector development and the establishment of an indigenous defence industry.

The delegation also highlighted Türkiye's engagement in Somalia and its interest in supporting peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

It referenced the Defence Industry Agreement signed in 2023 and the Defence Cooperation Agreement concluded in May 2026, expressing optimism that the instruments would advance through the respective legislative processes and strengthen bilateral defence cooperation.

Mudavadi welcomed Türkiye's contribution to regional and international peace and security, noting that conflicts around the world were disrupting global supply chains and affecting African economies.

He urged Türkiye to continue supporting diplomatic efforts and peaceful resolution of conflicts amid growing geopolitical uncertainty.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF POLITICAL PARTIES
ORPP
Strengthening Political Parties

NOTICE FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) is established under Section 33 of the Political Parties Act, Cap. 7D (PPA) as a State Office within the meaning of Article 260 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. The mandate of the ORPP is to; register and regulate political parties as well as administer the Political Parties Fund.

In line with Section 5 (2) (a) of the PPA the Registrar of Political Parties is in the process of provisionally registering the following proposed Political Party: -

Name	Party Colours	Party Symbol	Slogan	Founder Members
Humanist Party of Kenya (Humanist)	Gold, Navy blue and Vibrant red	A circular emblem with a prominent inscribed golden letter "H"	Raia ndio nguvu	1. Kajaka Peter Okoth 2. Abula Ivonne 3. Okeyo Nelson Otieno 4. Oburu Robert Arori 5. Gichohi Sylvia Muthoni

Particulars of the above-listed proposed political parties have been provided on the ORPP website **www.orpp.or.ke.**

Any objections may be presented from the date of publication of this notice in writing or in person within seven (7) days to:

Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP),
Lion Place, Fourth Floor off Waiyaki way at Karuna Close,
P O Box 1131-00606, Nairobi.
Email: info@orpp.or.ke / registration@orpp.or.ke

J. C. Lorionokou
Registrar of Political Parties

ORPPKenya www.orpp.or.ke

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PRIVATE SECURITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

PRIVATE SECURITY REGULATION ACT, CAP 207.

NOTIFICATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENTS ON THE PROPOSED PRIVATE SECURITY REGULATIONS UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITY REGULATION ACT CAP. 207

PURSUANT to section 8 of the Statutory Instruments Act Cap 2A, the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSRA), under the direction and guidance of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, and in consultation with stakeholders, notifies the general public that the Regulatory Impact Statements on the proposed Private Security Regulations have been developed to assess the impact of the Regulations on stakeholders, including private security service providers, communities, users and prospective users of private security services.

The proposed Statutory Instruments include the following:

1. Private Security (General) Regulations;
2. Private Security (Procedure for the Appointment of Members of the Board) Regulations; and
3. Private Security (Fidelity Fund Operations) Regulations.

The main objective of the proposed regulations is to give full effect to the Private Security Regulation Act Cap. 207, specifically the regulations seek to:

(a) provide a comprehensive framework for the licensing of private security services providers;
(b) set standards on the use of security equipment to safeguard private and public safety;
(c) streamline the procedure for appointing board members to the Private Security Regulatory Authority Board, ensuring a transparent and efficient process that enhances governance and accountability within the sector; and
(d) operationalize the Private Security Fidelity Fund under Section 61 of the Act.

The Regulatory Impact Statements and the proposed regulations can be accessed free of charge on the official PSRA website: **www.psra.go.ke.**

The public, stakeholders and all persons likely to be affected by the proposed Regulations are hereby invited to submit their written memoranda and comments on the prepared Regulatory Impact Statements within **fourteen (14) days** from the date of publication of this notice to the following email address: **regulations@psra.go.ke** or hand deliver to the Authority's offices listed below during official working hours **from 8:00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.**

PHILIP LEAKEY OKELLO, IIAK, MBA
DIRECTOR GENERAL /CEO
PRIVATE SECURITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LONRHO HOUSE, 10th Floor, Standard Street
P.O Box 22565-00100, Nairobi.

Government reviving tea factories in Kisii

BY MICHELLE DIBO AND
DR. MUCHELULE YUSUF

PS Agriculture, Dr Kiprono Rono (centre seated) and PS Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Mr Stephen Isaboke (second from right, seated) engaged the Board of Directors of the Nyamache Tea Factory led by their Chairman, Mr Maxwell Magoma (first from right, seated).

The Government has launched coordinated intervention to revive Nyamache and Itumbe tea factories in Kisii County.

The intervention brings together the State Department for Agriculture, the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), tea research institutions and other stakeholders, reflecting the Government's Whole-of-Government, Whole-of-Society approach to addressing challenges affecting farmers and local industries.

The renewed push followed high-level consultations between the Nyamache Tea Factory Board of Directors, led by Chairman Maxwell N. Magoma, and Principal Secretaries Dr Paul Kipronoh Ronoh (Agriculture) and Stephen Isaboke (Broadcasting and Telecommunications).

The consultations focused on restoring the competitiveness of the two factories, improving returns to farmers and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the tea value chain in Kisii and neighbouring Nyamira Counties.

Nyamache Tea Factory was designed to process approximately 15 million kilogrammes of green leaf annually. However, production in the region has grown significantly, with the factory receiving as much as 22 million kilogrammes in strong production years, and peak deliveries reaching about 60 tonnes a day.

On the other hand, Itumbe Tea Factory was established in part to absorb the additional production but increasing output has continued to place pressure on available processing capacity.

Much of Nyamache's processing infrastructure dates back to its commissioning in 1978, creating an urgent need for modernisation to match current production volumes and improve efficiency.

Ageing tea bushes is another challenge. Many tea bushes in the region were planted decades ago, with yields declining to about 0.5 kilogrammes per bush annually, compared to the Ministry of Agriculture's target of up to 2.5 kilogrammes through phased replanting with high-yielding, climate-resilient clones.

The consultations also addressed the growing challenge of green leaf hawking, locally known as mang'ereto, which is depriving factories of leaf and undermining the organised tea marketing system.

Illegal buyers often offer farmers immediate cash, making them attractive where factory payment cycles are longer. However, the practice affects factory utilisation and violates Section 21(8) of the Tea Act, 2020, which restricts factories to purchasing green leaf from their registered growers.

Agriculture PS Dr Ronoh directed the Tea Board of Kenya to enforce the law and take action against illegal leaf buying. The Government will also introduce a digital online payment system to help address the cash-flow challenge that encourages farmers to sell their leaf to unlicensed buyers.

The Nyamache Board has proposed a Sh250 million investment to modernise the factory. The funds would support the acquisition of two automatic withering machines, a CTC drier, modern orthodox tea processing equipment and associated civil works.

PS Ronoh backed the proposed investment, subject to the factory's technical team finalising detailed equipment specifications to guide the modernisation programme.

The Government is also supporting farmers to increase production through crop renewal. Nyamache farmers are set to receive 100,000 high-yielding and climate-resilient tea seedlings, while each of the 14 tea factories across Kisii and Nyamira counties will receive 10,000 seedlings.

The Agriculture PS also engaged tea farmers at Toror, Tegat, and Litein Tea Factories in Kericho County, which are currently benefiting from Phase I of the national tea factory modernisation programme.

The three Kericho facilities received a combined Ksh 197.4 million government grant to modernise processing capacity, improve product quality and drive value addition for higher farmer returns. During the tour, Dr Ronoh directed TBK and regulatory authorities to urgently resolve farmer concerns over weighing-scale integrity, confirming that a Digital Green Leaf Payment System will be fully operational nationwide by December to guarantee transparency and timely payouts.

Tea farmers will further benefit from subsidised fertiliser priced at Sh2,500 per bag, reducing production costs and supporting improved farm productivity.

During the consultations, PS Isaboke urged the factory leadership to maintain regular engagement with farmers, noting that tea has historically supported families and communities across Kisii and Nyamira.

"Many of us from Kisii and Nyamira counties grew up on proceeds from the sale of tea," said PS Isaboke, stressing the

Mega housing projects transforming Mombasa's skyline

An aerial view of the Nyali Affordable Housing Project that is currently 70.5 per cent complete. (Photo courtesy of the State Department for Interior and National Administration)

BY SADIK HASSAN (KNA)

Mombasa is undergoing rapid transformation in towering housing projects under the Government's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP).

Renowned globally for her rich history, culture and diverse tourism packages, Mombasa is witnessing a wave of housing and mixed-use developments that are set to modernize residential and commercial spaces.

In Nyali Sub-County, the Sh7-billion Affordable Housing Project is steadily taking shape, with the housing component currently 70.5 per cent complete and expected to be ready by February 2027.

County Housing Director, Meshack Odhiambo, said supportive infrastructure, including a market and school, was progressing well, with the facilities expected to be completed soon.

"Locals are encouraged to invest in buying a house in a livable environment, with all the necessary infrastructure in place. They can also apply to the County Department of Trade for allocation of market stalls for business," Odhiambo said.

The multi-use development is being constructed on 23 acres in the upmarket Nyali suburb and commenced in mid-February 2025. It comprises 14 residential blocks featuring studio, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units.

The project is expected to help address Mombasa's housing deficit, with the 14 towering blocks poised to redefine the area's skyline and create a modern vertical urban hub. Landscaped courtyards and pedestrian walkways at ground level will connect the residential blocks.

Beyond housing, the development includes an Early Childhood Development centre, primary and junior secondary schools, a market with 1,000 stalls, a commercial building, community centre, clubhouse and wastewater treatment plant.

The market is expected to be completed in October 2026, while the housing units are scheduled for completion in February 2027.

Strategically located off the Mombasa-Malindi Highway, which is currently under construction, the project is expected to benefit from improved accessibility once the road works are completed.

In Mvita Sub-County, construction of the Hobley Road and Makupa mixed-use development, as well as the Shanzu Teachers Training College and NYS Training College projects, is at the foundation stage.

Mombasa County Commissioner (CC) Mohamed Noor urged residents to register on the Boma Yangu platform to increase their chances of owning homes under the Affordable Housing Programme.

"In housing alone in Mombasa County, we have started the construction of houses, markets and hostels. Mombasa alone has projects worth Sh23 billion," Noor said, noting that the Nyali and Hobley Estate Affordable Housing Projects had each been allocated Sh7 billion.

The Government is also constructing an eight-storey modern hostel at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) Port Reitz campus in Changamwe Sub-County, while another hostel is planned for Shanzu Teachers College in Kisauni Sub-County.

Overall, 10,000 housing units are expected to be constructed across Nyali, Mvita, Likoni, Kisauni, Changamwe and Jomvu sub-counties under the Affordable Housing Programme.

The latest project to be launched is the Sh685-million Makupa Modern Mixed Urban Development and associated infrastructure in Mvita Sub-County.

The project will see the re-development of the historic 106-year-old Majengo Market into a 13-storey mixed-use complex within 12 months. The modern facility will comprise a market, residential units, offices, restaurants, food courts, conference and meeting rooms, a guard house, waste management facilities and a power house.

The development is expected to breathe new life into the historic trading centre, providing modern facilities for traders while promoting business growth.

The project is also a testament to the Government's commitment to dignifying trading spaces and improving the business environment, with similar mixed-use developments planned for Sega and the Old Town Fish Market, both in Mvita Sub-County.

KUTRRH showcases Kenya's growing capacity for specialised healthcare

The Chandaria Comprehensive Cancer Centre at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital.

BY ANNRITA MUTEMBEI AND GRACE NAISHOO (KNA)

The expansion of specialised services at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) highlights Kenya's growing capacity to provide advanced medical care locally.

The development comes as the country begins the Beyond 2030 National Conversation at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), bringing together Kenyans to deliberate on a long-term development framework towards 2060.

KUTRRH has expanded its specialised services in cancer, renal and cardiac care as part of its mandate as a Level 6 teaching, referral and research facility.

The hospital's development of cancer care illustrates how investment in specialised infrastructure and technology can bring different stages of treatment closer to patients.

Dr. Kerama Onyimbo, Deputy Director of Clinical Services at KUTRRH, said the availability of pathology services had strengthened the hospital's capacity to manage cancer cases.

"KUTRRH, as a Level Six hospital, now can do pathology services, particularly histology. And that's a big, big plus," he said.

From diagnosis, patients requiring further assessment can access specialised imaging, with the hospital providing CT and MRI services alongside other diagnostic facilities.

The expansion has also opened opportunities for more specialised cancer management through molecular imaging.

KUTRRH's Integrated Molecular Imaging Centre provides PET/CT and other nuclear medicine services, supported by a cyclotron and radiopharmacy for the production of radiopharmaceuticals used in specialised imaging. KUTRRH currently lists PET/CT and CyberKnife among its specialised imaging services.

The availability of the technology has helped shift some specialised procedures that previously required patients to travel outside the country to local facilities.

"Kenyans used to go to India to do this procedure," Dr. Onyimbo said, referring to PET scanning.

The hospital has similarly expanded treatment options through technologies such as CyberKnife, which enables highly precise radiotherapy for selected tumours.

KUTRRH became the first facility in Sub-Saharan Africa to commission the technology in 2023, with the service intended to increase access to advanced cancer treatment locally.

Beyond cancer care, the hospital has expanded services for other conditions requiring long-term and complex treatment.

Its renal services include dialysis and kidney transplantation, while cardiac care encompasses specialised consultations, echocardiography and procedures performed through a catheterisation laboratory.

The expansion of renal care has, in particular, been accompanied by increased dialysis capacity.

In 2023, the hospital said the addition of 20 dialysis machines had increased its capacity from 100 sessions per day to more than 200 sessions daily.

For Dr. Onyimbo, however, expanding infrastructure alone is not enough to increase access to specialised care.

He said hospitals also need to find ways of maximising the use of available equipment and human resources.

At KUTRRH, he cited the use of shifts in radiotherapy as one example of how the hospital seeks to increase equipment utilisation.

"We start one at 6 in the morning. A second one starts at around 2 o'clock. And the third one starts around 6 p.m. Those are three shifts," he said.

The approach, he added, demonstrates the importance of combining investment with management and innovation to ensure expensive medical equipment serves as many patients as possible.

"The productivity per equipment has tripled because of innovation and management decisions," said Dr. Onyimbo.

Such investments have also strengthened the role of public referral hospitals in providing services that require specialised equipment and expertise, while creating opportunities for training and medical research.

KUTRRH has eight operating theatres and continues to serve as a teaching, referral and research institution, bringing together specialised clinical services with training and research.

Kenya Reinsurance Corporation Limited

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Unaudited 2026	Unaudited 2025
	KShs '000	KShs '000
Total insurance revenue	9,440,260	8,255,175
Ceding commission	(2,282,368)	(1,933,895)
Insurance revenue	**7,157,892**	**6,321,280**
Insurance service expenses	(5,303,103)	(5,420,236)
Net expenses from reinsurance contracts	(599,883)	(598,057)
Insurance service result	**1,254,906**	**302,987**
Investment income	2,668,464	2,766,685
Impairment gain/(loss) on financial assets	33,175	(4,587)
Net foreign exchange (loss)	(83,773)	(56,254)
Net investment income	**2,617,866**	**2,705,844**
Finance income/(expenses) from insurance contracts	68,793	(193,559)
Finance income/(expenses) from reinsurance contracts	1,862	18,959
Net insurance finance (expenses)	**70,655**	**(174,600)**
Net insurance and investment result	**3,943,427**	**2,834,231**
Other income	35,456	23,845
Operating and other expenses	(755,253)	(620,507)
Profit before income tax	**3,223,630**	**2,237,569**
Income tax expense	(970,509)	(659,575)
Profit for the year	**2,253,121**	**1,577,994**
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net gains on revaluation of quoted equity instruments classified as FVTOCI	784,676	204,256
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net gains on revaluation of held at FVTOCI government securities	(12,729)	40,627
Foreign exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	29,500	437,872
Total other comprehensive income/(loss)	**801,447**	**682,755**
Total comprehensive income	**3,054,568**	**2,260,749**
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	**0.40**	**0.28**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Unaudited 2026	Audited 2025
	KShs '000	KShs '000
Assets		
Property and equipment	67,434	74,812
Investment properties	13,458,746	13,420,999
Deferred tax asset	278,891	225,350
Defined benefit asset	96,905	96,905
Investment in associate	9,976,589	9,989,115
Intangible assets	12,438	76,283
Mortgage loans	947,785	906,443
Unquoted equity instruments	682,712	934,712
Quoted equity instruments	7,092,093	2,055,301
Corporate bonds	225,801	225,595
Government securities	26,517,165	26,510,495
Inventory	29,126	26,205
Reinsurance contract assets	197,956	192,236
Income tax receivable	1,296,464	1,899,376
Other receivables	670,895	553,378
Deposits with financial institutions	11,595,348	13,996,911
Cash and bank balances	1,583,964	1,020,600
Total assets	**74,730,312**	**72,204,716**
Equity		
Share capital	13,998,982	13,998,982
Revaluation reserve	37,904	37,904
Fair value reserve	1,787,281	1,015,334
Translation reserve	2,120,055	2,090,555
Statutory reserve	11,006,560	10,791,002
Retained earnings	28,618,067	26,580,505
Total equity	**57,568,849**	**54,514,282**
Liabilities		
Insurance contract liabilities	13,245,973	13,952,186
Reinsurance contract liabilities	1,133,890	1,060,287
Deferred tax liability	1,702,582	1,702,582
Other payables	1,079,018	975,379
Total liabilities	**17,161,463**	**17,690,434**
Net Assets	**57,568,849**	**54,514,282**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Share capital	Revaluation reserve	Fair value reserve	Translation reserve	Statutory reserve	Retained earnings	Total
	Sh'000'	Sh'000'	Sh'000'	Sh'000'	Sh'000'	Sh'000'	Sh'000'
At 1 January 2025	**13,998,982**	**36,911**	**(109,503)**	**1,495,970**	**10,376,154**	**23,873,946**	**49,672,460**
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	414,848	3,508,746	3,923,593
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	-	993	1,124,837	157,655	-	37,749	1,321,234
Total comprehensive income for the year	**-**	**993**	**1,124,837**	**157,655**	**414,848**	**3,546,495**	**5,244,827**
Dividends declared – 2024						(839,936)	(839,936)
Translation differences				436,930			436,930
At 31 December 2025	**13,998,982**	**37,904**	**1,015,334**	**2,090,555**	**10,791,002**	**26,580,505**	**54,514,282**
At 1 January 2026	**13,998,982**	**37,904**	**1,015,334**	**2,090,555**	**10,791,002**	**26,580,505**	**54,514,282**
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	215,558	2,037,562	2,253,121
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	-	-	771,947	-	-	-	771,947
Total comprehensive income for the year	**-**	**-**	**771,947**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**771,947**
Translation differences				29,500			29,500
Dividends declared – 2025							
At 30 June 2026	**13,998,982**	**37,904**	**1,787,281**	**2,120,055**	**11,006,560**	**28,618,067**	**57,568,849**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Unaudited 2026	Audited 2025
	KShs '000	KShs '000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash flows from (used in)/generated from operating activities	1,989,479	(1,383,249)
Dividends received	143,412	182,893
Interest received	1,981,246	4,487,434
Tax paid in the year	(335,953)	(2,411,144)
Net cash generated from operating activities	**3,778,184**	**875,934**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investment property	(37,748)	(54,376)
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,195)	(21,180)
Purchase of intangible assets	(35,932)	(36,023)
Purchase of unquoted equity instruments	-	(209,468)
Purchase of corporate bonds	-	(181,910)
Purchase of quoted equity instruments	(4,203,000)	-
Dividend received from investment in associate	-	416,775
Net cash (used in) investing activities	**(4,278,876)**	**(86,182)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Dividends paid	-	(839,936)
Net cash (used in) financing activities	**-**	**(839,936)**
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(500,692)	(50,184)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	7,404,313	7,450,706
Effects of Movements in exchange rate on cash and cash equivalents	(376,705)	3,791
Cash and cash equivalent at 30 June 2026	**6,526,916**	**7,404,313**

Kenya Reinsurance Corporation Limited

COMPANY STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Unaudited 2026 KShs '000	Unaudited 2025 KShs '000
Total insurance revenue	8,453,337	6,925,168
Ceding commission	(2,012,300)	(1,633,113)
Insurance revenue	**6,441,037**	**5,292,055**
Insurance service expenses	(4,879,844)	(4,844,537)
Net expenses from reinsurance contracts	(558,218)	(559,432)
Insurance service result	**1,002,975**	**(111,914)**
Investment income	2,416,842	2,578,627
Impairment gain/(loss) on financial assets	33,175	(4,588)
Net foreign exchange (loss) / income	(75,283)	7,769
Net investment income	**2,374,734**	**2,581,808**
Finance Income/(expenses) from insurance contracts	60,161	(270,084)
Finance income/(expenses) from reinsurance contracts	1,937	18,660
Net insurance finance (expenses)	62,098	(251,424)
Net insurance and investment result	**3,439,807**	**2,218,470**
Other income	35,456	23,845
Operating and other expenses	(633,907)	(549,385)
Profit before income tax	**2,841,356**	**1,692,930**
Income tax expense	(852,408)	(507,879)
Profit for the year	**1,988,948**	**1,185,051**
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net gains on revaluation of quoted equity instruments classified as FVTOCI	784,676	204,256
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net gains on revaluation of held at FVTOCI government securities	(12,729)	40,627
Total other comprehensive income/(loss)	**771,947**	**244,883**
Total comprehensive income	**2,760,895**	**1,429,934**
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	**0.36**	**0.28**

COMPANY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Share capital Sh'000'	Revaluation reserve Sh'000'	Fair value reserve Sh'000'	Translation reserve Sh'000'	Statutory reserve Sh'000'	Retained earnings Sh'000'	Total Sh'000'
At 1 January 2025	**13,998,982**	**36,911**	**(109,503)**	**1,523,666**	**10,357,519**	**22,977,077**	**48,784,652**
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	404,963	2,913,861	3,318,824
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	-	993	1,124,837	157,655	-	37,749	1,321,234
Total comprehensive income for the year	**-**	**993**	**1,124,837**	**157,655**	**404,963**	**2,951,610**	**4,640,058**
Dividends declared – 2024						(839,936)	(839,936)
At 31 December 2025	**13,998,982**	**37,904**	**1,015,334**	**1,681,321**	**10,762,482**	**25,088,751**	**52,584,774**
At 1 January 2026	**13,998,982**	**37,904**	**1,015,334**	**1,681,321**	**10,762,482**	**25,088,751**	**52,584,774**
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	214,524	1,774,424	1,988,948
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	-	-	771,947	-	-	-	771,947
Total comprehensive income for the year	**-**	**-**	**771,947**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**771,947**
Dividends declared – 2025	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
At 30 June 2026	**13,998,982**	**37,904**	**1,787,281**	**1,681,321**	**10,977,007**	**26,863,175**	**55,345,670**

COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Unaudited 2026 KShs '000	Audited 2025 KShs '000
Assets		
Property and equipment	26,884	32,229
Investment properties	13,458,746	13,420,999
Defined benefit asset	96,905	96,905
Investment in subsidiary	3,045,060	3,045,060
Investment in associate	9,976,589	9,989,115
Intangible assets	12,438	76,283
Mortgage loans	915,350	873,939
Unquoted equity instruments	682,712	934,712
Quoted equity instruments	7,092,093	2,055,301
Corporate bonds	225,801	225,595
Government securities	24,897,334	25,034,494
Inventory	23,003	19,911
Reinsurance contract assets	191,931	179,587
Income tax receivable	1,471,879	2,000,179
Due from related party	188,735	194,283
Other receivables	594,169	509,970
Deposits with financial institutions	6,929,185	9,384,655
Cash and bank balances	923,564	476,441
Total assets	**70,752,378**	**68,549,658**
Equity		
Share capital	13,998,982	13,998,982
Revaluation reserve	37,904	37,904
Fair value reserve	1,787,281	1,015,334
Translation reserve	1,681,321	1,681,321
Statutory reserve	10,977,007	10,762,482
Retained earnings	26,863,175	25,088,751
Total equity	**55,345,670**	**52,584,774**
Liabilities		
Insurance contract liabilities	11,331,297	12,186,996
Reinsurance contract liabilities	1,073,020	884,555
Deferred tax liability	1,702,582	1,702,582
Due to related party	363,248	363,718
Other payables	936,561	827,033
Total liabilities	**15,406,708**	**15,964,884**
Net Assets	**55,345,670**	**52,584,774**

COMPANY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Unaudited 2026 KShs '000	Audited 2025 KShs '000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash flows from (used in)/generated from operating activities	2,700,340	994,540
Dividends received	143,412	182,893
Interest received	1,830,001	4,034,962
Tax paid in the year	(228,799)	(2,209,225)
Net cash generated from operating activities	**4,444,953**	**3,003,170**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investment property	(37,748)	(54,376)
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,095)	(19,031)
Purchase of intangible assets	(35,932)	(36,023)
Purchase of unquoted equity instruments	-	(209,469)
Purchase of corporate bonds	-	(181,910)
Dividend received from investment in associate	-	416,775
Investment in subsidiary	-	(283,662)
Purchase of quoted equity instruments	(4,203,000)	-
Net cash (used in) investing activities	**(4,277,775)**	**(367,696)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Dividends paid	-	(839,936)
Net cash (used in) financing activities	**-**	**(839,936)**
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	167,178	1,795,538
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	5,245,672	3,449,315
Effects of Movements in exchange rate on cash and cash equivalents	68,053	819
Cash and cash equivalent at 30 June 2026	**5,480,903**	**5,245,672**

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total insurance revenue increased by 14% from KSh 8.3 billion in 2025 to KSh 9.4 billion in 2026
Net investment income decreased by 4% to KSh 2.7 billion in 2026 from KSh 2.8 billion in 2025
Insurance service expenses increased by 6% from KSh 10.5 billion in 2025 to KSh 11.1 billion in 2026
Insurance service result increased by 342% from KSh 0.32 billion in 2025 to KSh 1.3 billion in 2026
Operating expenses increased by 22% to KSh 0.8 billion in 2026 from KSh 0.6 billion in 2025
Profit after tax as at June 2026 stood at KSh 2.3 billion, an increase of 42.8% from a profit after tax of KSh 1.6 billion in 2025
The total assets increased by 3% from KSh 72 billion in 2025 to KSh 74.7 billion in 2026.
The shareholders funds increased by 6% from KSh 54.5 billion in 2025 to KSh 57.6 billion in 2026

DIVIDENDS

The Board of Directors do not recommend payment of interim dividend

The unaudited financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 21st August 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Dr. Hillary M. Wachinga	Mrs. Jackline Nyandeje	Mr. David Muthusi
Principal Officer	Director	Director

kenyare@kenyare.co.ke kenyare.co.ke Kenya Reinsurance kenya_re

SHA hits historic 32.3 million registrations

Eight million Kenyans had received treatment through SHA, while more than 1.5 million mothers had been supported to deliver safely and over 500,000 surgical procedures funded at the time of the report.

BY ZIPPORAH ODIONYI AND NANCY OMONDI (KNA)

Kenya has crossed a historic threshold in the pursuit of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with 32.3 million Kenyans registered under the Social Health Authority (SHA).

During the just ended Kenya Health Summit, President William Ruto said the focus must now shift from establishing UHC to ensuring it delivers quality and affordable healthcare.

"The question before us has changed. It is no longer whether Kenya should pursue universal health coverage. We have crossed the Rubicon. But how we make it work, even better for every patient, at every facility, and in every county," Ruto posited.

Kenya Health Summit 2026 held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi, brought together national and county governments, health workers, development partners, private-sector players and other stakeholders.

Held under the theme 'Reform Delivered. Health as a Right', President Ruto said UHC is one of the five pillars of his administration's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

He noted that economic empowerment cannot be meaningful if illnesses continue to wipe out household savings, pushing families into poverty.

He noted that the reforms are anchored in four laws signed in October 2023 - the Primary Health Care Act, Social Health Insurance Act, Digital Health Act and Facility Improvement Financing Act -which replaced the former NHIF framework and established the legal architecture for the Taifa Care.

Further, the President announced that 107,800 community health promoters (CHPs) had been deployed nationwide, reaching more than nine million households and referring over 750,000 people for treatment.

Through the Primary Health Care Fund, he disclosed that the Government has allocated Sh27.4 billion and disbursed Sh23.3 billion to support more than 20 million outpatient visits, benefiting over 15 million Kenyans.

Ruto added that eight million Kenyans had received treatment through SHA, while more than 1.5 million mothers had been supported to deliver safely and over 500,000 surgical procedures funded.

The Government, he said, has also sponsored nearly 560,000 vulnerable households, covering approximately 2.2 million Kenyans.

On emergency healthcare, Ruto highlighted the recently launched SHA-922 Lifeline and National Ambulance Dispatch Centre, saying it would enable patients to access emergency assistance without having to raise money or make deposits before treatment.

"Article 43 of our Constitution does not say emergency care is available only to those who can afford it. It says no person shall be denied emergency medical treatment," he said.

In his remarks, Health Cabinet Secretary (CS) Aden Duale stated that the reforms had also improved the availability of medicines, medical equipment and health workers.

Duale reported that the national order fill rate at the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) had increased from 35 per cent when the administration took office to 95 per cent.

He revealed that KEMSA had been recapitalised through a Sh10 billion credit facility and currently supplies more than 11,400 health facilities, with 54 per cent of its supplies going to Level 2 and Level 3 primary healthcare facilities.

Duale said medical equipment worth Sh9.68 billion had been installed in 251 health facilities across 44 counties as at July 30, 2026.

G'ovt to import 25 million bags of maize to plug supply deficit

BY HUSSEIN ABDULLAHI (KNA)

The Government will import 25 million 90-kilogramme bags of maize to bridge an anticipated food deficit.

The aim is to protect the country from a possible shortage caused by drought and other climate-related challenges that have affected production in major maize growing regions.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary (CS) Mutahi Kagwe said the government has already put in place arrangements to facilitate the imports.

He assured Kenyans that the country has sufficient measures in place to guarantee food security despite the turn of events.

Observers contend the country consumes approximately 75 million bags of maize annually while domestic production is estimated at between 34 to 42 million bags.

However, reduced harvests in several food-producing regions are expected to create a shortfall of nearly 25 million bags, prompting the government to intervene through strategic imports to stabilize supplies and protect consumers from potential price fluctuations.

"We will import maize. We have already made arrangements for that. We will manage the country. Our people are not going to go hungry," Kagwe said.

The CS noted that while maize imports will provide an immediate solution to the projected shortage, the government is simultaneously implementing long term interventions aimed at strengthening local food production and reducing the country's vulnerability to climate change.

He said among the key interventions is the expansion of irrigation projects such as the Galana Kulalu scheme, which is expected to boost agricultural productivity, increase resilience against drought and reduce dependence on rain-fed farming.

The agriculture minister also said the government will collaborate with the National Treasury to streamline taxes and address bureaucratic challenges affecting farmers and agribusinesses in an effort to make the agricultural sector more competitive and profitable.

200 Kilifi women' groups receive Sh41.2 million

BY STEPHEN MRIRA AND LABAN MRIMA (KNA)

The Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) has called for increased funding to enable it to support more women's groups amid growing demand for affordable financing to establish and expand businesses.

WEF Chief Executive Officer Rachael Musyoki said the Agency was receiving an increasing number of applications from women's groups seeking financial assistance, with some existing beneficiaries also seeking higher loan.

Musyoki was speaking during the issuance of cheques worth Sh41.2 million to 200 women's groups in Kilifi County with a membership of more than 1,800 women.

She said although WEF had made a significant contribution to improving household incomes, the agency was recycling the same funds as the number of women seeking financial assistance continued to grow.

"The money we are given as WEF is not enough and therefore as we support the President's agenda of women empowerment, it is my prayer that we get more money to reach out to more grassroots women and this can only be done through our Members of Parliament," she urged.

Musyoki commended women in Kilifi for achieving an overall loan repayment rate of more than 88 per cent, saying increased budgetary allocation would enable the Fund to meet the growing demand for higher loan amounts.

She noted that several women groups had qualified for loans of up to Sh1million, but the Fund was unable to provide the full amount due to limited resources.

"For business to grow and succeed, there must be access to affordable financing, relevant training and reliable support systems. WEF remains committed to ensuring that women across the country, including here in Kilifi, are fully supported to participate in economic activities," she said.

WEF Director Yvonne Tonkei echoed the call for increased funding, saying the Agency had been forced to reduce its maximum loan limit from Sh1 million to Sh750,000 due to the growing number of applicants.

"We initially had a limit of up to Sh1 million but we had to revise the limit to Sh750,000 because the Fund could not sustain the number of applicants and that is why we are appealing to Members of Parliament to help us push for more funding," she said.

Tonkei urged beneficiaries to repay their loans on time to increase their borrowing limits and allow other women groups to benefit.

Khwisero households to be connected to the national grid

CS for Energy and Petroleum, Opiyo Wandayi, at Sikulu Village for the official launch of NuruGizani Electricity Maximization Programme. Photo: Courtesy.

BY JOHN OCHANDA (KNA)

More than 6,000 households will be connected to electricity under the Last Mile Connectivity Programme, Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary (CS) Opiyo Wandayi has said.

Wandayi said the government had allocated Sh350 million to Khwisero Sub-County as part of a wider investment in electricity connectivity.

The CS said another Sh2.5 billion had been set aside for electrification projects across Kakamega County during the current financial year.

The CS was speaking in Kisa West Ward, Khwisero Sub-County, where he flagged off construction materials for the Last Mile Connectivity projects targeting more than 500 households in Eshiabalika and Eshitimba villages.

He said the projects would improve livelihoods by expanding access to electricity for homes, schools, health facilities and businesses.

Wandayi said the Government is committed to ensuring that more households in rural areas are connected to the national grid, noting that electricity access is critical to stimulating economic activities and improving service delivery.

He urged beneficiaries to use electricity to establish and expand small businesses, saying increased connectivity will create opportunities for employment and income generation.

The CS was accompanied by Nyando MP Jared Okello, Malava MP Oscar Nabulindo, Kakamega Woman Representative Elsie Muhanda and other leaders.

The leaders said the electricity projects would transform the targeted villages by enabling residents to engage in productive activities that require reliable power.

The projects are being implemented through Kenya Power and the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) as part of efforts to connect underserved communities to electricity.

Digital governance, AI key to unlocking Kenya's land potential

BY LILIAN GICHOHI (KNA)

Kenya has been urged to harness artificial intelligence (AI), geospatial data and other emerging technologies to modernise land administration and unlock the sector's potential to drive sustainable economic growth.

The call was made during the Fifth Regional Research Conference on Land and Natural Resources at the Kenya School of Government, Kabete, Nairobi, which brought together government officials, policymakers and development partners under the theme, "Strengthening Land Governance for Sustainable National Economic Development."

Vision 2030 Delivery Board Chairman Dr Emmanuel Kombe Nzai said the Government had made significant progress in land administration under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), including a 102.3 per cent increase in annual title deed issuance.

He said title deed issuance had risen from 412,562 in 2022 to 834,875, benefiting more than two million landowners.

"Land tenure security is a foundational pillar for national development. By doubling our title deed output and digitising registries, we are empowering citizens and creating a predictable environment for economic investment," Nzai said.

He also cited the construction of more than 260,000 housing units under the Affordable Housing Programme and the operationalisation of the National Land Information System in Nairobi, Kiambu and Mombasa.

However, Nzai said land fragmentation in agricultural areas and the absence of spatial land-use plans in more than 40 per cent of counties required urgent policy intervention, including a review of the National Land Policy.

Principal Secretary for Science, Research and Innovation Prof Abdulrazak Shaukat said traditional land administration systems could no longer adequately serve a population projected to reach 84 million by 2050.

"The land governance system of yesterday cannot adequately serve the economy of tomorrow," Shaukat said, calling for greater use of satellite imagery, drones and AI to support predictive land governance, manage urban growth and protect agricultural land.

He identified a unified national land data ecosystem, policy research, citizen-centred digital services and stronger local technical capacity as priorities for the sector.

Nairobi Deputy Governor James Njoroge Muchiri said effective land governance is critical to addressing the capital's growing infrastructure and resource challenges.

He cited a daily water deficit of 375 million litres, more than 3,000 tonnes of waste generated daily and an annual housing deficit exceeding 200,000 units as challenges requiring effective land-use planning.

Muchiri said Nairobi is pursuing urban renewal in Pangani, Woodley and Jericho and developing a comprehensive digital Land Management System to safeguard public land and integrate it with the national land portal.

FAO Representative to Kenya Farayi Constance Zimudzi said secure land rights were essential for investment, agricultural productivity, access to finance and resilience to economic and climate shocks, particularly among women farmers and pastoralist communities.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary for Basic Education John Ololtuaa said only 27 per cent of public primary and secondary schools have title deeds, exposing school land to encroachment and disputes.

He said the Ministry of Education was working with the National Land Commission and the Ministry of Lands to accelerate issuance of title deeds to public learning institutions.

The conference called for stronger collaboration among national and county governments, researchers, development partners and communities to improve land registration, planning, monitoring and dispute resolution.

Delegates also emphasised the need for digital land systems to remain accessible, backed by reliable data and adequate technical expertise.

Ministry steps up mental and psycho-social support for staff

BY HUSSEIN ABDULLAHI (KNA)

Director of Information, in-charge of ICT Esther Wanjau (left) and Assistant Director, Wellness and Counselling Irene Chepkwony during the mental wellness sensitization forum in Mombasa.

The State Department of Information and Broadcasting has kicked off a series of mental wellness sensitization forums to support field officers.

The aim is to foster healthier work environments, to reduce workplace stress and help these frontline civil servants handle high-pressure environments.

The mental health sensitization meetings seek to encourage participants to become advocates for mental wellness, encourage work-life balance and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Director of Information, in-charge of ICT, Esther Wanjau, said lack of access to professional counseling can result in workplace conflicts and increased burnout among staff.

Director Wanjau said the State Department of Information and Broadcasting is rolling out targeted counseling interventions and capacity building programs in a bid to strengthen staff wellbeing, enhance service delivery and improve public trust.

"Counseling our staff on the workplace environment will in the long run help reduce burnout, manage stress and improve productivity," she said in Mombasa during a mental health sensitization forum.

Wanjau said the state department's staff and interns would be guided on recognizing mental health challenges, building resilience and fostering healthier work environments.

She said the Public Service Commission has acknowledged the mental health challenges faced by civil servants including stress, trauma, and burnout thus establishing internal counseling units in all state departments to ameliorate the situation.

"The psychological health of employees is important as it affects their welfare and professional growth," she said, and called for the dismantling of the stigma surrounding mental health and safe spaces where officers can seek help without fear of judgment.

She noted that the state department will create a supportive workplace where employees feel valued and are psychologically safe.

Assistant Director for Wellness and Counselling at the state department Irene Chepkwony said workplace mental health challenges cost public institutions through poor performance and absenteeism.

Chepkwony said in an increasingly demanding work environment public and private entities are beginning to recognize that employee wellbeing is not merely a welfare issue but that of a strategic necessity.

Mental health issues if left unchecked can have a bearing on productivity, staff engagement and organizational sustainability, she said.

Chepkwony highlighted the close relationship between mental wellness and productivity with organizations that prioritize wellbeing experiencing high levels of motivation, stronger teamwork and improved overall performance.

"We encourage staff to seek support whenever necessary before mental health challenges escalate into a more serious health crisis," she said.

Government to build 10 specialised maternal and newborn health facilities

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale during talks with County Governors and their representatives on the implementation of President William Ruto's directive to prioritise maternal and newborn health. Photo by Joseph Ng'ang'a.

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

The Government will build 10 specialised maternal and newborn health facilities in counties with the highest burden of preventable maternal and newborn deaths as part of efforts to improve access to quality maternity care.

The 250-bed specialised facilities will be constructed in Nairobi, Bomet, Kwale, Mombasa, Garissa, Kisumu, Embu, Nakuru, West Pokot and Uasin Gishu, bringing specialised services closer to communities while supporting the country's Universal Health Coverage agenda.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale held talks with governors and their representatives on the implementation of the directive to prioritise maternal and newborn health.

The discussions were led by Council of Governors Health Committee Chairperson and Mombasa Governor Abdullswamad Nassir.

"The project is being supported by a Sh4.4 billion grant from Amsons Group through the Mama na Mtoto Kwanza initiative," he said.

It is a complementary to the Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere (EWENE) programme and addresses gaps in specialised maternal and neonatal care.

Each facility will provide a comprehensive range of services including antenatal and postnatal care, labour and recovery services, obstetric care and caesarean sections.

The facilities will also include maternal and neonatal intensive care units, theatres, neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) and post-Caesarean wards, providing a continuum of care from pregnancy through delivery and recovery.

The investments target areas with the greatest need following the mapping of 26 counties that collectively account for about 60 per cent of maternal deaths in Kenya.

The approach is intended to align investments with World Health Organization benchmarks and Kenya's commitment to ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

Alongside infrastructure development, the Government is strengthening the health workforce required to operate the new facilities.

Some 900 healthcare workers have already been trained in obstetric care, while another 900 have received training in comprehensive newborn care under the EWENE programme.

The ongoing recruitment of 5,000 nurses and midwives is also expected to expand the skilled workforce available to provide maternal and newborn services.

The Government has channelled Sh4 billion to support maternal deliveries at Level 2 and Level 3 health facilities through the Social Health Authority.

The funding is expected to widen access to safe and quality maternity services, particularly for women seeking care at lower-level facilities.

Institutions urged to link vocational training with market needs

BY BRIDGIT NASURUMBI (MYGOV)

Turkana County has directed its vocational training institutions to align courses with emerging economic opportunities in fishing, livestock, green energy, minerals and extractives to equip young people with skills for jobs of the future.

Deputy Governor Dr John Erus said the county could no longer afford to train young people for jobs that may not exist, urging vocational institutions to design programmes around the value chains with the greatest potential to create employment, generate wealth and reduce poverty.

Speaking during the opening of a forum on the implementation of the County Vocational Training Strategic Plan, Dr Erus said institutions that continued offering generic courses risked producing graduates without the skills required to secure employment or establish businesses.

He said research had identified key sectors that could drive Turkana's economic transformation if properly exploited.

"With research showing that the stretch between Todonyang and Mugur can generate hundreds of millions in revenue from Lake Turkana and fishing, Kalokol and Kataboi must begin to offer courses like boat making, fishing equipment maintenance and cold chain handling to stay relevant," Dr Erus said.

He cited Germany and Italy as examples of countries that had successfully linked vocational education to dominant economic activities, saying Turkana was seeking to adopt a similar approach.

Dr Erus said aligning vocational training with evidence on the county's economic potential would also contribute to the national conversation on "The Kenya We Want in the Coming Decades", spearheaded by President William Ruto.

"If we have already identified the sectors which, when properly exploited, could transform Turkana, all our eight vocational institutions must align by offering the right programmes or risk becoming irrelevant," he said.

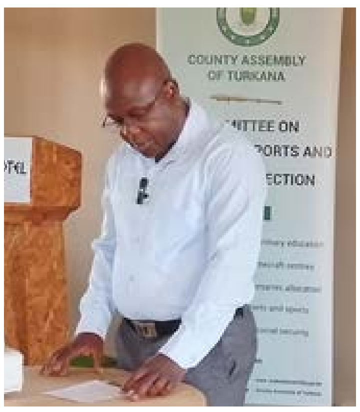
Dr Lawrence Odollo, an educationist and ILO consultant who helped guide the development of the strategic plan, said its success would depend on adequate funding to provide institutions with qualified trainers and modern equipment.

He also recommended organising local communities into cooperatives linked to identified value chains to create employment and business opportunities for vocational graduates.

"The dynamic nature of vocational training requires strategic and system-based thinking," Dr Odollo said. "The county now has a strategic plan to ensure each vocational institution effectively contributes to the local economy by training the right workforce," he added.

ILO Technical Advisor Carolyne Njuki said Turkana had previously demonstrated the benefits of matching training with labour-market needs.

She cited the construction of the Lodwar Fresh Produce Market, where the need for artisans skilled in cobblestone paving prompted the ILO and county government to train, examine and certify local youth before linking them to employment opportunities.



Turkana Deputy Governor Dr John Erus.

Njuki said the ILO would continue providing labour-market data to help the county keep its training programmes responsive to changing employment trends.

Technical and vocational education and training is a devolved function, with Turkana exercising the mandate through eight vocational institutions located in Lodwar, Kalokol, Kataboi, Lorgum, Lokichar, Lokori and Lokichoggio.

According to Stephen Eregae, the institutions have a combined enrollment of more than 2,400 young people.

He said the strategic plan would seek to strengthen the institutions as independent learning and examination centres while ensuring their programmes reflect the dominant economic activities in their respective areas.

The forum, supported by the ILO, brought together members of the County Assembly Committee on Education, Sports and Social Protection, county officials and development partners.

Mombasa county governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir (Left) with the founder and trustee of Faraja Cancer Centre Shariya Adamal (Right) commissioning a Sh63.2 million investment cancer wellness centre at coast general teaching and referral hospital in Mombasa.

Mombasa unveils Sh63.2million cancer centre

BY MARY MTAWA (KNA)

The Mombasa County Government has commissioned a Sh63.2-million Cancer Wellness Centre at Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital (CGTRH).

The new centre will complement existing medical services at Coast General Hospital by providing emotional, social and practical support to cancer patients and their caregivers throughout the treatment journey.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony at the Coast General Hospital Cancer Centre, Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Nassir said cancer had become a major national health challenge, with the number of people affected continuing to rise every day.

He said the facility would help bring quality cancer care and support services closer to residents of Mombasa and the wider Coast region, noting that Coast General Hospital also serves patients from other parts of Kenya and neighbouring countries.

"It is very unfortunate that every day the number of cancer patients is on the increase, and many people, when they are diagnosed with the disease, do not know how to start the treatment journey," said Nassir.

The Governor commended the County Department of Health, Faraja Cancer Support Trust, and the M-Pesa Foundation for their partnership, saying the project complements continued investment in specialized cancer care at Coast General Hospital.

Nassir described the initiative as the first of its kind in Kenya, saying it would provide comprehensive support to people affected by cancer beyond medical treatment.

He urged the Faraja team to work closely with the Mombasa County Department of Health to organize quarterly cancer screening camps to promote early detection.

Garissa regional immigration office brings services closer to people

BY ERICK KYALO (KNA)

The Garissa regional immigration office has brought immigration services closer to the people.

According to the deputy officer in-charge Abdi Sheikh Ali, the office which serves at least six counties including Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, and Isiolo has so far processed over 16,000 passport applications, with over 15,800 passports already collected.

Ali said that the reopening of the office, which was closed in 2014, was a major milestone in decentralizing immigration services to closer to the people of the north eastern region.

"Since the launched of the office on 6th February 2025, it has dealt with 16084 passport applicants of which we have already issued 15,800 passports.

"The applicants usually get text messages to come and pick their passports when they are ready. There was a strong demand for a passport office in this region, and as you can see from the numbers, there is a lot of response from the residents and they are very happy," Ali said.

"This office is a major milestone by the ruling government to ensure that this office is in place and it has also decentralized service delivery closer to the people. As an officer of this office, we are going to ensure that we provide seamless services to the people," he added.

Meanwhile, Fatuma Mohamed, a beneficiary of the services, says that the process was seamless and efficient, and that the immigration officers at the station served her smoothly.

"I thank the government for bringing this service close to us. Without this office here, it would have been costly for me to travel to Nairobi with a small baby," Mohamed said.

Habiba, another applicant, cannot hide her joy at the waiting area, ready to collect her passport after just one week.

North Eastern Regional Commissioner John Otieno, on his part, noted that the reopening of the office was part of the government's commitment to bringing services closer to the people and promoting inclusivity for all Kenyans to access services equally.

"This office has facilitated the processing of passports; in fact, we have been briefed that people here are getting passports within a span of five days. It has reduced the cost in terms of expenses used to travel, before then, they used to travel to Nairobi or Mombasa to get the passports," Otieno said.

NYS, Uber partner to open e-mobility opportunities for 342 youth

The National Youth Service (NYS) Deputy Commandant General, Operations and Logistics, Nicholas Makokha flags off the pioneer cohort of 342 servicemen and servicewomen who graduated with practical e-mobility skills after completing an intensive two-week E-Mobility Driver Training Program co-funded by Uber and GreenWheels at the NYS Camp MTB in Nairobi

BY MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

The National Youth Service (NYS), in partnership with Uber and Uber's electric Boda fleet partner, GreenWheels, has equipped 342 servicemen and servicewomen with practical e-mobility skills, while creating pathways for graduates to access earning opportunities in Kenya's growing electric mobility sector.

The pioneer cohort completed an intensive two-week E-Mobility Driver Training Program at the NYS Camp MTB in Nairobi, earning certification in e-mobility-related skills.

Importantly, the program equips young people transitioning from the Service with practical, market-ready competencies that support sustainable livelihoods and participation in Kenya's evolving digital and mobility economy.

The milestone was marked at a graduation ceremony presided over by NYS Deputy Commandant General, Operations and Logistics, Nicholas Makokha at the NYS Headquarters.

As part of the partnership, the first cohort of 110 graduates is now transitioning to become GreenWheels drivers on a lease-to-own model, with Uber supporting their onboarding onto the platform.

Recognising that upfront compliance and onboarding fees often prevent young people from entering the transport sector, Uber and GreenWheels have co-funded 50 percent of the initial onboarding costs for this inaugural class, splitting the investment equally to lower the barrier to entry.

Notably, the collaboration between NYS and GreenWheels has expanded into a broader partnership focused on youth skills development and employment, including recruitment and placement of EV drivers; technical staffing for EV assembly, servicing, maintenance and compliance; industrial attachment and apprenticeship opportunities; EV technical training and certification; and capacity building for trainers and technical personnel.

Speaking during the ceremony, Imran Manji, General Manager for Uber East Africa, said the partnership shows how public-private collaboration can help young people turn skills into economic opportunities.

"Young people need more than skills; they need pathways to turn those skills into meaningful economic opportunities. By working with NYS and GreenWheels, we are helping graduates move from training into practical earning opportunities while also supporting the growth of electric mobility in Kenya," Manji stated.

On his part, NYS Deputy Commandant General, Operations and Logistics, Nicholas Makokha, congratulated the graduates for successfully completing the program and encouraged them to use the skills acquired to build sustainable livelihoods, embrace available opportunities and work towards financial independence as they exit the Service.

FEATURE: CULTURE

Saving Ogiek culture in an evolving world

BY EMILY KADZO AND DENNIS RASTO (KNA)

It is a chilly morning at the Nkareta Cultural Center and Museum on the fringes of Mau Forest in Narok County.

A group of elders dressed in traditional regalia sing traditional songs and tunes with nostalgia as they teach the young ones about Ogiek traditions.

A second group of elders is narrating to young ones oral histories and passing indigenous knowledge, offering blessings and sharing traditional foods such as honey, herbal soup, vegetables and meat.

For over the 300 visitors and locals who have gathered at the venue, the Cultural Center and Museum is a heartbeat of culture, song and dance.

On display at the museum are indigenous customs, handcrafts, beadwork, pottery, songs, proverbs, traditional foods, elaborate beaded jewelry and sacred ornaments that signify social status and rites of passage.

The event is the Seventh Ogiek Cultural Day that is marked on August 14 annually. This year's event organized by Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP) was held under the theme: "Cultural Resilience in Diversity. It showcased how Ogiek traditions thrive and adapt amidst changing social and environmental landscapes.

According to OPDP Executive Director Mr. Daniel Kobei, the survival of Ogiek traditions in a rapidly changing world is a defining test of Kenya's cultural resilience. As modernity accelerates, he adds that the Ogiek stand at cross roads; how to stride in the future without losing who they are.

Mr. Kobei said this is not just an Ogiek concern- it is a question for all humanity on how indigenous cultures can thrive amidst globalization, climate change and industrialization among other factors.He indicated that for the past seven years the fete has served as a melting pot of the diverse Ogiek cultural artifacts, language and heritage.

The indigenous community which has lived in the expansive forest for years, fear they may lose their identity as they are being assimilated by other communities. He underscored the significance of the festival, which has been held consistently annually since its inauguration.

"For a minority community like Ogiek, seven years is a big achievement. As we reflect on the past years, we also have to think of the years to come. When the youth understand that these festivals have deeper and stronger roots, then we are on the correct path," he said.

"We all need to appreciate that we are standing on the shoulders of our forefathers who thought through this cultural event with a mind of uniting us as a people using culture," Mr Kobei noted.

According to the Executive Director, the theme is intended to resonate with the younger generation as they prepare to take up leadership roles in biodiversity conservation against the background of emerging challenges such as a ballooning population, urbanization, environmental pollution, deforestation and climate change among others.

"The name 'Ogiek' itself means caretaker of flora and fauna, a title that reflects both our historical role and ongoing commitment to environmental protection," he explained. He added that the festival was founded with a clear vision of unity through culture.

The Ogiek are among Kenya's last forest-dwelling indigenous peoples. For generations, they have lived as hunter-gatherers, relying on the Mau's rich ecosystem – honey gathering, medicinal plants, selective hunting, and sacred groves – and developed a culture deeply tied to the rhythms of the forest.

Mr. Kobei pointed out that the Cultural Center and Museum was also encouraging members of the Ogiek community to embrace cultural and eco-tourism as sustainable ways of generating income, preserving its rich heritage and protecting ancestral land.

Narok County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Tourism, Wildlife and Culture, Mr. Robert Simotwo said the community could turn its cultural heritage into an economic enterprise by adopting innovative tourism initiatives such as open-air living museums.

Mr. Simotwo who represented Governor Patrick Keturet Ole Ntutu at the event said the Ogiek's traditional practices, performances and close relationship with nature presented opportunities for the community to attract tourists while improving livelihoods.

"I'm totally impressed by the rich cultural displays, the exciting traditional performance and linking them to tourism creates economic opportunities for the community," the CECM said.

Mr. Simotwo said the Ogiek's cultural heritage was a valuable asset that, if properly developed and linked to tourism, could create new economic opportunities for the community. He also commended the community for its efforts to protect and conserve its land, natural resources and water, saying its relationship with the environment could serve as an example to other communities.

"Our next generation depends on the way we handle and take care of the environment. It is encouraging that the Ogiek are champions of protecting the ecosystem within their jurisdiction. This is worth emulating by other communities," he said.

Mr. Simotwo also lauded the Ogiek for pursuing legal avenues to reclaim their ancestral land, saying land ownership was closely tied to the community's identity and wellbeing. "I appreciate this community as one of the communities that have championed for their wellbeing through legal procedures, and the victory to reclaim the ancestral land is critical," he said.

1. Ogiek Elders dancing during the Seventh Ogiek Cultural Day that is marked on August 14 annually. This year's event organized by Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP) was held under the theme "Cultural Resilience in Diversity; - Showcasing how Ogiek traditions thrive and adapt amidst changing social and environmental landscapes'.

2. An elderly woman emerges from a traditional hut showcased during the Seventh Ogiek Cultural Day

The official also promised to raise concerns over the poor road network in the area with relevant authorities. "The road linking the community with the rest of the world is impassable after being washed away by rains. It needs to be fixed," he said.

The United Nations marked August 9 as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples which was first commemorated in 1982 as the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.

The UN estimates that about 476 million indigenous people live in 90 countries. Although they account for less than six per cent of the world's population, they represent at least 15 per cent of the world's poorest people and are associated with about 5,000 distinct cultures and the majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages.

Nkareta Ward Member of County Assembly (MCA), Mr. Nkaluena Ole Kuyioni noted that for the Ogiek, the Mau Forest is not just their heritage; it is their identity and livelihood.

Ole Kuyioni called for effective implementation of Kenya's first 10-year National Policy on Ethnic Minorities, Indigenous and Marginalized Communities (2025-2035) to protect minority rights, secure ancestral land titles, and preserve cultural heritage through affirmative action and institutional reforms.

He pointed out that many communities continue to face threats to their cultural identity, displacement, inequitable access to public services, and exclusion from national development processes.

In this regard, the MCA emphasized that ethnic minorities and marginalized communities have historically made enormous contributions to Kenya's cultural richness, yet they remain at risk of losing their languages, traditional knowledge, and ancestral heritage. He affirmed that culture must not be treated merely as symbolic heritage but as a living, dynamic asset that contributes to national development.

Jane Masiwe, an Ogiek Community rights defender laid bare that hunter-gatherers, pastoralists, and other minority communities have remained at the bottom of social and economic indicators because of systemic discrimination and inadequate attention from public institutions.

She demanded that relevant State agencies address issues of land rights, benefit-sharing from natural resources, cultural survival, and full recognition of communities whose identities have been suppressed or ignored for generations.

Ms. Masiwe petitioned the government to fully implement the landmark rulings by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights based in Arusha, Tanzania, which recognized their ancestral land rights in the Mau Forest and ordered reparations, compensation, and indigenous recognition.

She said nearly ten years since the Arusha-based court found that the community's land, cultural, and religious rights had been violated through decades of forced evictions from the Mau Forest, implementation has stalled.

East Africa Portfolio Manager at Maliasili Ms. Naiya Raja stated that Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) is the foundation of many positive ecological practices.

Maliasili is an international nonprofit organization founded in 2011 with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It supports local civil society and community-led conservation organizations across Africa to improve natural resource management, wildlife protection, and human livelihoods.

Ms. Raja said Indigenous knowledge has also long been recognized as a vital component in biodiversity conservation. "Traditional ecological practices, shaped by the close relationship between indigenous communities and their environments, offer sustainable methods that complement modern conservation efforts, when combined with modern scientific approaches, they provide a holistic and effective strategy for preserving biodiversity," she explained.

Ms. Ruth Jepkemoi, a Leadership Associate at Maliasili, observed that preserving cultural heritage and values for posterity means safeguarding our collective identity, traditions, and history so future generations can understand their roots.

PFM reforms in Kenya: Two decades down the line

BY JOEL K. BETT

Kenya's public financial management reforms enter the third decade, quietly but steadily transforming how the government collects, allocates, utilizes and accounts for public resources.

Apart from restoring fiscal discipline, the reforms are critical in revenue mobilization to finance government programmess, prioritisation and allocation of resources, cash management for improved service delivery, public procurement processes to ensure value for money, accountability of the public service and wage bill management, accounting and reporting as well as audit and also oversight.

The reform journey was revitalised in 2003, when the government adopted the Economic Recovery Strategy for wealth and employment creation to stabilise the economy by improving efficiency and strengthening governance. Since then, the country has implemented several phased strategic interventions to promote transparency, accountability, equity, fiscal discipline, and efficiency in the management and use of public resources for improved service delivery and economic development.

The National Treasury established the PFMR Secretariat to coordinate Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms across both levels of government. The first phase of reforms –spanning 2006 and 2011 – focused on establishing the foundation upon which the architecture sits. New financial regulations were set up, institutions such as the Office of the Controller of Budget and the Auditor-General strengthened, and public officers trained in modern financial practices. These efforts, in addition to cutting wastage, improved compliance and laid the groundwork for more structured financial management reforms.

The promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya in 2010 and the enactment of the Public Financial Management Act in 2012 gave input for further reforms. Devolution was introduced, transferring resources and decision-making from the centre to the regions and closer to the people. The PFM Act provided a legal framework for managing public finances at both the national and county levels, setting rules for budgeting, expenditure, reporting and oversight.

For wananchi, this meant that their county governments could now plan and implement their functions, such as county planning and development; county health services; county public works and services; and trade development as envisaged in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya. The devolution of functions resulted in rigorous scrutiny of public funds usage, accurate reporting, auditing, and accountability.

The second phase, spanning 2013 and 2018, focused on integrating public finance management reforms at both national and county levels to align with constitutional provisions. The new devolved units set up their own financial management structures, while the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) was upgraded to enable real-time tracking of transactions.

The third phase (2018-2023) focused on the deliberate achievement of outcomes and results by enhancing financial reporting and auditing standards, including the development of debt management and revenue-sharing mechanisms. These reforms translated into visible benefits, with counties being able to operate autonomously to deliver services, and public resources managed transparently.

The current phase, guided by the 2023-2028 PFM Reform Strategy, heralded a shift from process-oriented interventions to result-based outcomes. The focus is no longer solely on drafting policies or conducting training, it is on ensuring that reforms lead to measurable improvements in service delivery and financial performance.

Key priorities under this strategy are seven in number.

The first is to create a sustainable and predictable fiscal space to deliver government programmes. These targets increased revenue, enhanced tax and Own Source Revenues administration, increased access to adequate debt funding and grants, and enhanced mobilisation of resources under Public-Private Partnership arrangements.

The second focuses on strategic and transparent spending on public investment and service delivery in line with national and county policy commitments. This entails linking priorities to budget, prioritising public investments, access to information by stakeholders on service delivery, and effective oversight and ownership roles over state corporations.

Thirdly is to provide reliable cash for service delivery and public investments. This priority emphasises the timely release of exchequer, realistic forecasting of revenue inflows, borrowing requirements and consolidated cash balances. Additionally, ensure that budget implementation by Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and Counties begins immediately at the start of the Financial Year.

The fourth result area focuses on value for money in procurement and contract management. This involves delivering procurement through an end-to-end electronic government procurement and asset disposal (e-GP) system to promote accountability and transparency in procurement.

The fifth is on accountability in staffing for service delivery consolidation, public service human resource data, integrating and automating the payroll, and creating a sustainable wage bill. The sixth result area is on increasing discipline in financial management and accurate reporting by conforming to accounting standards, and updating registers of inventory, assets, and liabilities.

Finally, the scaling up of audit and oversight mechanisms. This is achieved through the reinforcement of internal controls and external audits to detect and deter the misuse of public funds.

To ensure that progress remains on track, the Public Financial Management Reforms (PFMR) Secretariat, mandated to coordinate reform implementation, works closely with over 40 ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) across government to support seamless execution. This coordination includes the undertaking of quarterly performance reviews, with recent assessments indicating that approximately 66 per cent of reform targets are on course. This sustained momentum reflects growing institutional capacity and increasingly strong collaboration among the MDAs, reinforcing a whole-of-government approach to public financial management reforms.

For Mwananchi, these reforms have a direct bearing on their day-to-day lives. With effective public finance management, services provided by both the national and county governments are likely to be delivered effectively and timely. Small and medium enterprises can bid and win government contracts, and citizens can begin to hold their leaders accountable for how public funds are used.

There exist opportunities to enhance the implementation of PFM reforms in the country.

Importantly, the government is committed to the implementation of the same, as demonstrated through technical and budgetary support. Additionally, the government is leveraging PFM ICT systems to enhance effective and efficient business processes. Further, the government is engaged in comprehensive mobilisation of resources from development partners to foster collaboration and strengthen PFM reforms.

PFM reforms are not the responsibility of the government alone. Their success depends on active participation by citizens, development partners, and the private sector. And as Kenya approaches the final stretch of Vision 2030, the imperative is to consolidate gains and accelerate progress.

At the PFMR Secretariat, the reform journey is far from over. We are moving forward with clarity, commitment, and purpose. We are confident that with continued collaboration and resolve, our country can build a public finance system that truly serves the people—one that delivers inclusive growth, equitable development, and lasting prosperity for all.

— The author is the Programme Coordinator, Public Financial Management Reform Secretariat at the National Treasury.

KTDA to supply two million fertiliser bags

BY ERASTUS GICHOHI AND BEATRICE WANJIKU (KNA)

The Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) will supply two million bags of fertiliser to more than 600,000 tea farmers starting next month.

The distribution was delayed following delays in the shipment of the consignment.

KTDA National Chairman Enos Njeru said the authority had procured 99,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser, equivalent to two million 50-kilogramme bags, which are expected to arrive early next month.

"We have procured 99,000 metric tonnes, worth two million bags (50-kilogramme) of fertiliser, which will arrive early next month and will be supplied to farmers immediately, amid delays from the source," said Njeru.

The fertiliser was initially expected to reach farmers this month ahead of anticipated rains, but technical and logistical challenges affected the shipment schedule.

Njeru said KTDA was also pursuing market diversification for Kenyan tea to improve farmers' earnings following a decline in tea prices over the past few months.

He said the authority was awaiting court directions on implementation of the gazetted 0.8 per cent levy after a section of farmers petitioned the courts over the matter.

Njeru also said allegations of irregular or illegal payment of approximately Sh322.5 million to one of the fertiliser suppliers were under investigation by relevant authorities.

"The alleged payment of Sh322.5 million to one of the fertiliser suppliers is currently under investigation by the relevant investigating authorities, and we will allow the competent authorities to complete their work, establish the facts and issue their findings," he said.

At the same time, Njeru welcomed the national government's decision to provide a grant for replacement of old machinery in tea factories, saying the investment would improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.

KTDA Secures 2 million bags of fertilizer for 600000 Tea Farmers.

Njeru said modern machinery would help factories process tea more efficiently while improving the overall competitiveness of the sector and returns to farmers.

He further disclosed that KTDA-managed factories had installed anti-tampering devices to curb green leaf fraud associated with manipulation of weighing scales.

According to the Tea Industry Performance Report released in April 2026, tea export earnings increased to Sh186 billion in 2025 from Sh181 billion in 2024.

The report showed that tea export volumes rose by 9.81 per cent to 652.80 million kilogrammes in 2025, compared with 594.50 million kilogrammes recorded in 2024.

Domestic tea sales also increased by six per cent to Sh19.13 billion, while the total market value of tea rose from Sh215.21 billion in 2024 to Sh218.79 billion in 2025.

Kenya has expanded its tea export destinations to 100 countries from 96 in 2024, with increased

Environment and Climate Change Principal Secretary Dr. Eng. Festus Ng'eno speaking at the inaugural GreenWorks 4 Africa Forum in Nairobi.

Kenya urges green investment, citizen action for Africa's future

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

Kenya has called for stronger partnerships, increased green financing and practical action to accelerate Africa's transition to a sustainable and climate-resilient economy.

Environment and Climate Change Principal Secretary Dr. Eng. Festus Ng'eno made the call while delivering closing remarks at the inaugural Green Works 4 Africa Forum in Nairobi, which brought together governments, development partners, investors, private-sector leaders, academia and other stakeholders.

Ng'eno said the forum had provided an important platform to move the continent's green economy agenda beyond discussions in conference halls and boardrooms to concrete investments, innovation and implementation.

He said particular emphasis should be placed on building Africa's green jobs ecosystem and scaling investment-ready solutions capable of creating opportunities for the continent's growing youthful population.

"Nearly 90 per cent of our electricity generation comes from renewable sources," Ng'eno said, highlighting Kenya's progress in using clean energy to support businesses, communities and economic resilience.

He added that as Africa seeks to leverage its youthful population, natural resources, innovation and skills, governments must simultaneously strengthen environmental conservation efforts.

He urged stakeholders to protect forests, restore degraded landscapes, conserve biodiversity and enhance climate resilience.

Ng'eno said the partnerships and commitments forged during the Nairobi forum should translate into policies, investments and practical programmes across the continent.

"The work must now extend beyond Nairobi," he said, calling for the green workforce agenda to deliver tangible opportunities for Africa's young people.

Meanwhile, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Director-General Dr. Mamo B. Mamo has called for greater environmental responsibility and increased use of green financing to support sustainable development.

Mamo was speaking in Nairobi during the launch of Kenya Development Corporation's (KDC) new products and the unveiling of its sustainability and financing strategy.

He said sustainable development requires responsible use of natural resources, protection of ecosystems and forward-looking investments that reduce carbon emissions.

According to Mamo, investments in clean-energy projects such as solar power can help businesses and institutions lower their carbon footprints while supporting the country's transition to a greener economy.

He also urged investors and financial institutions to explore green financing instruments, including green bonds, sustainability-linked loans and green mortgages, to fund environmentally sustainable projects.

Mamo said NEMA would continue ensuring that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into development projects so that they remain socially, environmentally and economically viable.

Kenya renews commitment to maternal and newborn health

The Government is investing approximately Sh12.5 billion to improve maternal and newborn survival.

BY MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

Kenya has renewed its commitment to ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths through targeted investment, stronger emergency response and improved accountability across the health system.

Health Cabinet Secretary (CS) Aden Duale during a high-level session on Every Woman, Every Newborn, Everywhere (EWENE) at the inaugural Kenya Health Summit 2026 said the Government is investing approximately Sh12.5 billion to improve maternal and newborn survival.

This includes Sh4 billion for delivery and essential newborn care, Sh1 billion for lifesaving maternal and newborn commodities, Sh2.5 billion for family-planning commodities, and Sh5 billion annually to recruit 5,000 nurses.

Similarly, he said the Social Health Authority had reimbursed more than Sh17 billion for maternal health services since its inception.

"At Pumwani Maternity Hospital, which handles between 15,000 and 18,000 deliveries annually, sustained investment in maternal healthcare has contributed to nearly zero maternal deaths over the past 18 months," Duale said.

The EWENE programme covers 26 high-burden counties under the 90.90.80.80 coverage target.

Concurrently, the session also highlighted the burden of sickle cell disease in 17 high-burden counties where approximately 48,000 children are born with the condition annually.

According to the Ministry of Health, interventions being expanded include newborn screening, early diagnosis and treatment, red cell exchange transfusion and a comprehensive sickle cell care model at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital.

SHA covers at least 11 red cell exchange transfusion procedures for eligible patients at the hospital.

Through the six-month Rapid Results Initiative, the CS revealed that Sh2 billion has been allocated to SHA for maternity and newborn care, more than 300 health workers have been trained, and maternal and newborn emergency simulation drills have been conducted across 29 counties.

"Newborn-care mentorship is also underway in 13 counties to strengthen the quality of care provided in health facilities," he added.

Further, Duale noted that real-time Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response and Rapid Results Initiative dashboards are improving the reporting and monitoring of maternal and newborn outcomes.

Monthly performance reviews, he said, are also helping health teams identify gaps, respond promptly and prevent avoidable deaths.

"Emergency referrals are also being strengthened through the SHA 922 Lifeline and the National Ambulance Dispatch Centre, improving coordination for mothers and newborns who require urgent care," Duale stated.

CS Duale maintained that Kenya's health reforms must ultimately be measured in lives saved—ensuring that every woman receives dignified, quality care, and every newborn has an equal opportunity to survive and thrive.

Health Cabinet Secretary (CS) Aden Duale (Left) and Principal Secretaries (from right), Dr Ouma Oluga (Medical Services) and Mary Muthoni (Public Health and Professional Standards) applaud as the First Lady, Mama Rachel Ruto lifts her award as a maternal health advocate during the Kenya Health Summit 2026 in Nairobi

Revival of cattle dips boosts livestock sector in Nandi

BY SAMMY MWIBANDA (KNA)

The revival of community cattle dips is transforming livestock keeping in Nandi County.

Farmers are reporting improved animal health and renewed confidence in dairy and livestock production.

In Tinderet Sub-County, the focus on cattle dips has particularly offered livestock keepers a practical way of controlling ticks and other external parasites that have for years affected cattle productivity and exposed farmers to losses.

A pastoralist, Reuben Ng'etich, said the return of regular dipping had relieved farmers of the burden of individually looking for expensive methods of controlling ticks.

"Ticks have been a major challenge because they weaken our animals and can lead to diseases and reduced milk production. With the cattle dip operating again, farmers have a convenient way of protecting their livestock," he said.

Ng'etich stated that farmers are able to devote more attention to improving breeds, feeding and milk production because disease prevention had become easier.

A community leader, Maurice Tanui, said the revival of cattle dips demonstrates the value of community participation in solving local economic challenges.

He said the facilities had previously served as important centres where farmers could collectively manage livestock diseases but their decline left many households vulnerable to losses.

Tanui urged residents to take responsibility and maintain the dip, contributing where necessary and ensure that farmers adhere to recommended dipping schedules.

He also called for closer cooperation between livestock keepers, veterinary officers, community leaders and government agencies to guarantee that acaricides are consistently available and that they are used correctly.

The revival of the dips comes at a time when livestock farming remains an important component of Nandi's agricultural economy, complementing crop production and providing households with milk, manure, food and income.

Farmers argue that strengthening disease prevention at community level could also encourage more households to invest in improved dairy breeds and expand their herds.

Cattle in a waiting bay after washing in the community cattle dip in Tinderet Sub County.

Kenya intensifies efforts to curb preventable maternal and neonatal deaths

BY MABEL KEYA-SHIKUKU AND KUTA CECILIA (KNA)

Kenya is intensifying efforts to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths through targeted interventions, increased resources and strengthened community health services, as preventable deaths continue to pose a major public health challenge.

The country records an estimated 16 maternal deaths every day, translating to a maternal mortality ratio of about 355 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to the Ministry of Health.

Approximately 92 newborns also die daily, with an estimated 30,000 neonatal deaths recorded annually.

About 5,000 to 5,680 women and girls die each year from pregnancy and childbirth complications, with 26 counties accounting for the highest concentration of maternal and newborn deaths. Among the high-burden areas are Kisumu, Homa Bay, Siaya, Nairobi and Garissa.

The Government is implementing the Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere (EWENE) Acceleration Plan (2026-2028), alongside a targeted Maternal and Newborn Health Rapid Results Initiative focusing on high-burden regions, particularly Nyanza and Western Kenya.

Under the interventions, additional funding, medical supplies and health workers are being directed to the 26 high-mortality counties. Community Health Promoters (CHPs) have also been equipped with mobile tools to monitor pregnancies, identify risks and report maternal and newborn deaths within 24 hours.

At Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH) in Kisumu, health workers confront the causes of neonatal deaths daily, with prematurity, birth asphyxia, congenital abnormalities and infections among the leading challenges.

Head nurse at the hospital's newborn unit, Connie Omenge, said prematurity remains the biggest challenge, noting that babies born before 37 weeks often have immature organs, particularly lungs, making it difficult for them to breathe without specialised support.

"Prematurity is our biggest challenge," Omenge said, explaining that some premature babies experience apnea, a condition in which they stop breathing for several seconds and require immediate intervention.

Birth asphyxia, which occurs when a newborn is deprived of oxygen during labour or delivery, is another major concern. Without rapid resuscitation, oxygen deprivation can cause brain damage or death within minutes. Prolonged labour, obstructed delivery and delayed access to skilled care can increase the risk.

Congenital abnormalities, including structural and functional defects present at birth, also contribute to neonatal deaths. Some conditions can be detected during pregnancy through ultrasound scans, while others only become apparent after delivery.

"Many newborns are affected by conditions that develop while still in the womb," Omenge said, adding that some severe abnormalities may be incompatible with life despite advanced medical care.

Maternal health during pregnancy also significantly influences the survival of both mother and child. Conditions such as malaria, anaemia, hypertension, pre-eclampsia, diabetes and heart disease can affect fetal growth, trigger premature labour or place the mother's life at risk.

High blood pressure can restrict blood flow to the placenta, reducing the oxygen and nutrients reaching the baby. Poorly controlled diabetes can increase the risk of excessive birth weight, birth trauma and stillbirth.

Omenge said what a mother consumes or is exposed to during pregnancy can also affect the unborn child.

"Whatever the mother takes is very important for her own health and that of the unborn baby," she stressed.

She urged expectant mothers to avoid unprescribed medication, alcohol, tobacco and other harmful substances, while following professional medical advice on medication and other exposures.

Infections also remain a threat. Sepsis can occur during childbirth where hygiene is poor or after delivery where umbilical cord care is inadequate. Neonatal pneumonia and tetanus, although largely preventable, can still occur where clean delivery practices and maternal vaccination are inconsistent.

Low birth weight babies, particularly those born prematurely or with restricted growth, are especially vulnerable because their immune systems are not fully developed. Infections that may be manageable in stronger babies can therefore become life-threatening.

Complications during delivery, including shoulder dystocia, cord prolapse and delayed recognition of fetal distress, can also result in death or severe disability if not identified and managed promptly.

In resource-limited settings, lack of continuous fetal monitoring and emergency obstetric care can turn otherwise manageable complications into tragedies.

At JOOTRH, regular antenatal visits and ultrasound scans are encouraged to identify potential problems early. These services can reveal abnormal fetal growth, placental complications and some structural abnormalities, allowing health workers to plan appropriate interventions before delivery.

Where a condition can be treated, intervention may begin before birth. Where treatment is not possible, parents are counselled and prepared for the likely outcome. However, Omenge noted that early detection must be accompanied by timely and skilled care during delivery and after birth.

Treatment in the newborn unit is tailored to each baby's condition. Some require respiratory support through Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) or ventilators, while others need antibiotics for sepsis, phototherapy for jaundice or surgery for correctable abnormalities.

Kenya, Uganda legislators explore ways to boost peace and regional cohesion

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

Kenyan and Ugandan legislators have agreed to strengthen parliamentary cooperation to promote peace, equality and inclusion across the region.

The commitment was made during a consultative engagement between the National Assembly Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity and the Committee on Equal Opportunities from the Parliament of Uganda.

Committee Chairperson Mandera West MP Adan Yussuf Haji said, "We face almost similar challenges in our two countries in regard to equality, inclusion, non-discrimination, and the protection of marginalised and vulnerable groups."

He said closer collaboration would allow the two committees to share experiences and develop practical approaches to challenges affecting communities in both countries.

"If we work together, we will easily resolve the issues afflicting our people in the region," he said.

Haji noted that Parliament has a key role in promoting peaceful coexistence and ensuring that all communities enjoy equal opportunities.

He said stronger cooperation would also help the two countries address issues affecting marginalised and vulnerable groups, particularly those that cross national borders.

The leader of the Ugandan delegation and Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities, Lamwaka Catherine, said the meeting offered an opportunity for the two committees to learn from each other and strengthen their working relationship.

"Given the related mandates of the two committees, working together presents a valuable opportunity for peer learning and exchange of practical parliamentary experiences in promoting equality, inclusion and non-discrimination," Lamwaka said.

She said the committees could share experiences in legislation, oversight and programmes designed to protect vulnerable groups and promote equal opportunities.

Lamwaka observed that many challenges affecting communities in Kenya and Uganda sometimes extend beyond national borders.

She said stronger parliamentary engagement would help the two countries develop more effective responses to such challenges.

The legislators called for policies and laws that promote fairness, inclusion and protection from discrimination.

They emphasised that Parliament has a responsibility to ensure that government policies and legislation safeguard the rights of all citizens, particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups.

The two sides agreed to maintain regular engagements and explore areas of mutual interest, noting that continued cooperation would strengthen regional integration and peaceful coexistence.

Gov't to crack down on fake seeds, fertilizer cartels

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe responds to questions during a courtesy visit to Kenya Seed Company in Kitale, Trans Nzoia County.

The government has put measures in place to cushion farmers from the effects of drought.

BY ISAIAH NAYIKA (KNA)

The Government will launch an investigation to identify individuals involved in the production and distribution of fake seeds and fertilizer, Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has said.

Speaking in Trans Nzoia County during a visit to the Kenya Seed Company in Kitale, Kagwe described the production and distribution of counterfeit agricultural inputs as a serious economic crime whose magnitude could be compared to treason.

He said the government would not relent until all individuals behind the syndicate are identified and brought to book.

"Food security is an important component just like internal security. Stealing from innocent farmers through the circulation of fake seeds and fertilizer is a serious economic crime which should be compared to treason," he said.

Kagwe urged all government investigative agencies to ensure the matter is thoroughly investigated and those found culpable prosecuted.

The CS said the production and distribution of counterfeit seeds and fertilizer had previously hampered farmers from achieving their full production potential, resulting in poor yields and frustrating the efforts of many farmers.

He also expressed concern over unpredictable weather patterns caused by climate change, saying the Kenya Seed Company is working with qualified experts to develop and avail drought-resistant seed varieties to farmers.

Kagwe said the country could record a 30 per cent decline in maize production compared to last year due to poor rainfall, but assured Kenyans that the deficit would be cushioned by existing stocks.

He said the country had sufficient planting seeds for all crops and adequate maize stocks in the National Cereals and Produce Board stores.

"I take this opportunity to assure Kenyans that, as much as maize production has been greatly affected by poor rainfall patterns, there is no reason for alarm. We have enough stock in our cereal boards and, if we fall short, we may consider importing from our COMESA counterparts," he said.

The CS also hinted at the possibility of introducing additional subsidies to cushion farmers from losses occasioned by adverse weather conditions.

Meanwhile, Kagwe advised farmers to diversify their agricultural activities instead of relying heavily on a single crop, saying diversification would help them cope with the effects of unpredictable weather patterns.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE

INVITATION FOR REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS OF GOODS, SMALL WORKS AND SERVICES FY 2026-2028

The Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority invites applications from interested and eligible firms for the supply of goods, small works and services FY 2026-2028

REGISTRATION DOCUMENT

Registration/Tender Documents containing detailed information, requirements and application instructions may be downloaded free of charge from the Public Procurement Information Portal (PPIP) and the NIFCA website at **www.nifca.go.ke**.

Alternatively, interested firms may obtain hard copies of the Registration Documents from the **Supply Chain Management Office, 8th Floor, KASNEB Towers II, Off Hospital Road, Upper Hill, Nairobi,** during normal working hours, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Kshs. 1,000.00.**

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Completed Documents shall be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes, clearly marked with the relevant Category Name and Reference Number and deposited in the Tender Box provided at the reception on the 8th Floor.

Applications shall be addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer,
Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority,
8th Floor Kasneb II Towers,
P.O. Box 73326 – 00200,
NAIROBI

All applications must be submitted **PHYSICALLY** and deposited in the designated Tender Box on or before **8th September 2026 at 11.00 a.m. Late submission of bids SHALL be rejected.**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE AUTHORITY

8th Floor, KASNEB Towers II, Off Hospital Rd, Upper Hill, P.O. Box 73326-00200 Nairobi
info@nifca.go.ke | +254 793 000 555 | www.nifca.go.ke

KITUI WATER AND SANITATION CO. LIMITED

P.O Box 341 – 90200 KITUI
+254 (0) 701545554 | kitwasco@gmail.com| www.kitwasco.co.ke
Kyangwithya - Misewani Road Opposite the Governor's Office, 150M Off Gate B

INVITATION TO TENDER/REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-2027

Kitui Water and Sanitation Company Ltd invites **TENDERS** and applications for **CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION** of suppliers from interested eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of goods, Works and Provision of services for the following Categories **Financial Year 2026- 2027.**

NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	TENDER/ REGISTRATION REFERENCE NO.S	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME
1	TENDER CATEGORIES	KITWASCO/OT/006/2025-2026 TO KITWASCO/OT/012/2026-2027	7th September 2026	11.00 AM
2	REGISTRATION CATEGORIES	KITWASCO/RG/013/2026-2027 TO KITWASCO/RG/033/2026-2027	7th September 2026	11.00 AM

1. Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information and download the tender and Registration Documents **free of charge** from the KITWASCO website **www.kitwasco.co.ke** or the Public Procurement Information Portal (PPIP) **www.tenders.go.ke.**
2. Any clarifications/addendums will be published on the following websites; **www.kitwasco.co.ke** and **www.tenders.go.ke**. Tenderers are advised to regularly check for any addendums or amendments at the websites mentioned in the course of the bidding period prior to the closing date.
3. Duly Completed tender and registration documents in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked with the **Tender/Registration Reference No. and Category**, should be deposited in the Tender Box placed at the **Main Administration Block, Kyangwithya – Misewani Road, Opposite the Governor's office, 150 M off Gate B, Kitui Town** and addressed to;

The Managing Director
Kitui Water and Sanitation Company Limited
P.O Box 341 - 90200, KITUI.
Tel: 0701 545 554 /Email: kitwasco@gmail.com,

so as to be received on or before **7th September 2026, not later than 11.00 am**.

Tenders and Registration documents will be opened immediately thereafter the deadline date and time specified above or any deadline date and time specified later in case of addendum. The documents will be publicly opened in the presence of Tenderers' designated representatives who choose to attend at the address provided above.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
KITWASCO.

KENYA VISION 2030

KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL STAFF RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEME 2011

STAFF RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEME

Vision: Superior Benefits for a Dignified Retirement Life

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1.0 The Kenya National Examinations Council Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme 2011 (KNEC SRBS) invites a competent and qualified professional for the following position:

S/NO	Job Title	KNEC SRBS 2011 GRADE	Vacancy Positions
1	Pension Manager	1	1

2.0 Terms of Offer

The scheme will offer a competitive remuneration package commensurate with responsibilities of the position.

3.0 Application Procedure

Interested and qualified candidates should submit two (2) copies of their application to the address provided and a single continuous PDF version of the same via email to **knecsrbs@knec.ac.ke** on or before **Tuesday, 8th September 2026.**

The application **MUST** include an updated Curriculum Vitae detailing the applicant's current position and salary, as well as the names, addresses and contacts of three (3) referees. Applicants should also attach copies of relevant academic and professional certificates, testimonials and any other supporting documents. Please indicate **"Pension Manager Application"** as the subject line of your email.

The applications are to be addressed to: -

The Chairman
Board of Trustees
KNEC Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme 2011
Pension Office, Ground Floor, New Mitihani House, Off Mombasa Road, South C
P. O. Box 73598-00200 NAIROBI

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. KNEC Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

For more details regarding the vacant position, please visit – **www.knec.ac.ke**

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE JUDICIARY

TENDER NOTICE

The Judiciary invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following tenders;

S/N	Tender Number	Tender Description	Eligibility	Tender closing/ Opening Date
1.	JUD/OT/002/2026-2027	Proposed lease of motor vehicles to the Judiciary under a framework contract for a period of three (3) years	ALL	14th September 2026 at 1000hrs

Tendering is open to all qualified and interested tenderers who may view and obtain tender documents from the Judiciary's website **www.judiciary.go.ke** and from the Public Procurement Information Portal (PPIP) website **www.tenders.go.ke.** Any request for clarifications must be made in writing at least **five (5) days** prior to the tender closing dates. All clarifications and addenda will be posted on the Judiciary and on the Public Procurement Information Portal websites.

There shall be a pre-tender meeting to be held virtually on **28th August, 2026 at 1000 hrs** and tenderers are encouraged to attend through the link: **https://tinyurl.com/2cwh9322**

Bids submitted should be in Kenya Shillings and shall include all taxes that should remain valid for One Hundred and Twenty (120) days from the tender closing date. Tenders must be accompanied with a tender security as indicated in the tender document **valid for 150 days** from tender closing date in the form of a guarantee issued by Financial Institutions approved and licensed by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) or by Insurance Companies registered and licensed by the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) a**ddressed and payable to the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary.**

Completed tender documents dully paginated sequentially are to be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes, clearly marked with the tender number and name and deposited in the Tender Box provided at the Main gate, Supreme Court entrance, City Hall Way, Nairobi and addressed to:

THE CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE JUDICIARY
ATT: DIRECTORATE OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES
P.O BOX 30041-00100, NAIROBI, KENYA

To be received on or before the dates indicated above.

Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the tenderers representatives who choose to attend at Supreme Court Building 2nd Floor, Room No.74 or as will be advised. **Late tenders shall be rejected**

HON. WINFRIDAH B. MOKAYA, CBS
CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE JUDICIARY

KENYA VISION 2030

Governor Bii launches distribution of 157,000 coffee seedlings to farmers

Uasin Gishu Governor, Dr. Jonathan Bii during the launch of distribution of cofee seedlings

BY MAURICE ALUDA (KNA)

Uasin Gishu Governor, Dr. Jonathan Bii Chelilim has launched the distribution of 157,000 quality coffee seedlings to farmers in Turbo Sub-county, a move expected to establish approximately 157 acres of coffee as the County rolls-out its ambitious one-million coffee seedling programme for 2026.

The launch, held at Tiret Hospital and Leseru Chief's Office, builds on more than 1.2 million coffee seedlings previously distributed across the county.

Speaking during the exercise, Governor Bii reaffirmed his administration's commitment to transforming the coffee sector beyond seedling distribution.

"Our focus is not just on giving farmers seedlings. We are strengthening the entire coffee value chain through farmer training, extension support, cooperative development, processing and value addition," said Governor Bii, announcing that each coffee cooperative will receive a coffee pulper to improve post-harvest handling, coffee quality and local processing.

This will enable our farmers to retain more value from their produce and improve their earnings," he added.

Deputy Governor, Evans Kapkea, highlighted the administration's efforts to expose farmers to best practices in coffee production.

"Our farmers and cooperative leaders have benchmarked in Kiambu County, learning best practices in coffee production, processing, value addition, cooperative management and marketing," said Kapkea.

Uasin Gishu currently has about 1,200 hectares under coffee, while farmers in Soy Sub-County generated more than Sh50 million in coffee sales in 2025, demonstrating the growing economic potential of the crop.

The 2026 programme, themed "Brewing Prosperity: Enhancing the Coffee Value Chain for Sustainable Economic Empowerment," is being implemented across all six sub-counties as part of Governor Bii's Nguzo Kumi development agenda, with agriculture as the first pillar.

Also present were CECMs Anthony Sitienei, Dr. Philip Chebunet and Loice Murey; Tapsagoi Ward MCA Nicholas Bitok

ILO calls for stronger policies to help youth get decent jobs

BY LILIAN GICHOHI AND MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has called for stronger policies to help young people navigate an increasingly difficult transition from education to decent work amid rising informal employment, gender disparities, skills mismatches and rapid technological change.

The call follows the release of the ILO's Global Employment Trends for Youth 2026 report, which shows that global youth unemployment rose from 12.3 per cent in 2023 to 12.4 per cent in 2025, leaving about 67 million young people unemployed.

The global rate of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) also increased from 19.7 per cent to 20 per cent, representing more than 257 million young people.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, youth unemployment stood at 8.4 per cent in 2025, while the NEET rate was 21.6 per cent.

Sara Elder, Head of the Employment Analysis and Economic Policy Unit in the ILO Employment Policies Department and author of the report, cautioned against interpreting regional figures as Kenya's specific unemployment rate, noting that the country lacks regular labour force statistics.

"Unfortunately, we do not have regular labour force statistics coming from Kenya so it is hard to comment exactly on the situation there," Elder said in response to questions from the Kenya News Agency (KNA).

She said national statistics could be used to assess Kenya's situation, while ILO estimates provide a basis for comparing Eastern Africa with other regions.

On informal employment, Elder said transitioning to formal work requires interventions covering job creation, social protection, enterprise development, skills development, regulation and enforcement.

She identified enterprise registration as one entry point to formalisation, noting that workers in registered enterprises have better prospects of accessing labour protections such as social security and paid leave.

Governments, she added, could simplify registration procedures, provide incentives for formalisation and extend social protection to informal workers.

Elder also highlighted the gender gap in NEET rates, noting that more than two-thirds of young people globally in NEET status in 2025 were women.

"Reducing NEET rates among women requires a significant advancement in care policies as well as labour market policies," she said.

On artificial intelligence (AI), Elder urged governments to proactively manage technological transformation to minimise job displacement and discrimination, particularly in recruitment processes.

She also called for lifelong learning and stronger social protection systems to prepare young people for changing labour markets.

Jealous Chirove, Senior Employment Specialist at ILO-Pretoria, said Kenya should strengthen its employment policy and review Sessional Paper No. 4 of 2013 on the National Employment Policy and Strategy to address digital transformation, youth employment and climate change.

Chirove said Kenya should prioritise economic growth that translates into decent jobs for young people through coordinated macroeconomic, sectoral and investment policies.

He noted that many young Kenyans rely on informal employment because of the limited number of formal-sector jobs offering decent wages and social protection.

"Statistics from the Kenya Bureau of Statistics show that the informal economy creates more than 84 percent of jobs in the country," he said.

Chirove warned that rising youth populations were placing additional pressure on already limited employment opportunities, threatening efforts to harness Africa's demographic dividend.

He called for greater investment in education, employable skills and job-creating policies, saying young people's energy and ideas should be harnessed productively.

On AI, Chirove said Kenya could benefit from opportunities in knowledge-based and technical occupations, including science, engineering, health and information and communication technologies.

He urged the integration of digital skills into education and training curricula alongside cognitive skills such as planning and problem-solving.

Kenya's expanding digital infrastructure and technology ecosystem, he added, could provide further opportunities for youth employment and enterprise development.

Further, he called for investment in education, employable skills and policies that stimulate job creation, saying young people's energy and ideas should not be left unused or diverted into non-productive activities that could fuel social and political tensions.

On AI opportunities, Chirove observed that employment growth among young people continued in knowledge-based and technical occupations including science, engineering, health and information, and communication technologies.

He pointed out that digital skills should be incorporated into education and training curricula but should be combined with cognitive skills such as planning and problem-solving.

Parliament to support health sector reforms-Wetangula

BY ZIPPORAH ODIONYI AND NANCY OMONDI (KNA)

Parliament will continue supporting reforms in Kenya's health sector while ensuring prudent use and accountability of public funds allocated to healthcare.

Speaking at the Kenya Health Summit 2026, the National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula said Parliament would discharge its constitutional mandate of legislation, appropriation and oversight to ensure Kenyans derive value from investments in the health sector.

He disclosed that the ongoing reforms had been anchored on legislation passed by Parliament in 2023, describing the four health laws enacted that year as among the most consequential pieces of social legislation since independence.

"Parliament shall always ensure that any person or entity entrusted with management of public resources is accountable," Wetangula emphasised.

The Speaker said the Parliament had passed the Primary Health Care Act, Facility Improvement Financing Act, Digital Health Act and Social Health Insurance Act in 2023, following extensive consideration and debate.

He noted that the Primary Health Care Act established a legal framework for delivery and management of primary health care through primary healthcare networks, while giving community health promoters a statutory footing.

The Facility Improvement Financing Act, he said, allows public health facilities to retain and manage revenue they generate, while the Digital Health Act established the Digital Health Agency and provided for an integrated health information system and protection of personal health data.

In addition, Wetangula pointed out that the Social Health Insurance Act established three public funds covering primary healthcare, social health insurance, and emergency, chronic and critical illnesses.

He mentioned that the reforms were necessary to address longstanding challenges in the country's health system, including financial burdens on families seeking treatment.

"Whenever you speak to any Member of Parliament, you will always hear the same story, desperate families calling at midnight about hospital emergencies and their attendant bills," he said.

Wetangula observed that more than 30 million Kenyans are currently registered under Universal Health Coverage, compared to about eight million under the former National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), saying the figures demonstrated the scale of the reforms.

He said the Parliament is concerned about disparities in the distribution of health professionals between urban and rural areas and called for rationalization of the workforce to ensure equitable access to healthcare.

The Speaker also urged greater emphasis on preventive and promotive healthcare, including regular check-ups, nutrition, immunization, counselling and fitness, to reduce the cost of treating preventable illnesses.

He further called for stronger measures against fraud and misuse of healthcare funds, including ghost facilities and unlawful charges against patients.

"We will remain open and ready to support the Government to continue legislative reforms to better existing laws and regulations and to give full meaning to health-related provisions in our Constitution," Wetangula said.

Gov't to cushion farmers from drought

CS for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Mutahi Kagwe, speaking after an assessment tour of the western region to gauge the country's food security as concerns grow over the impact of prolonged dry conditions on crop production in several parts of the country.

BY MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

The Government has unveiled a plan to protect farmers from the impact of drought affecting Kenyans in several parts of the country.

Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Mutahi Kagwe, said despite the challenges facing the agricultural sector the country will remain food secure.

He added that the Government will support farmers whose crops have been affected by the drought.

Speaking after an assessment tour of Eldoret, Nandi and Trans Nzoia Counties, the CS acknowledged that changing weather patterns have negatively affected maize production in some areas, threatening one of the country's most important food crops.

He said the Government has taken measures to cushion farmers from the effects of climate change and to strengthen food production.

The CS said the Government is implementing measures to prevent food shortages and keep the prices of essential food commodities stable.

"We will not allow Kenyans to suffer from hunger because of the current weather conditions," he said, reiterating the commitment to protect both farmers and consumers.

At the same time, the CS commended Kenya Seed Company for ensuring that farmers continue to access quality seeds despite the drought, saying the availability of certified seeds remains a key pillar in safeguarding food security.

He also issued a strong warning against the sale of counterfeit seeds, describing the illegal trade as one of the biggest threats to agricultural production.

To this regard, Kagwe directed security agencies to intensify the crackdown on individuals involved in the sale of counterfeit seeds.

Kenya Film Commission unveils an ultra-modern cinema theatre in Nyeri

BY WANGARI MWANGI (KNA)

The Kenya Film Commission (KFC) has unveiled an ultra-modern cinema theatre and film hub at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) in Nyeri.

The Commission aim to strengthen film distribution, talent development and creative entrepreneurship.

The cinema which is named the KFC-CineHub will act as a film exhibition and audience development centre which will support capacity building, research and innovation, talent incubation and creative entrepreneurship under one roof.

In addition to bringing infrastructure closer to the audiences, filmmakers and content creators, the centre will also widen distribution networks for locally produced content and unlock monetization opportunities for creatives.

In a speech read on his behalf by Director at the Directorate of Films Noah Otiende, Youth Affairs and Creative Economy Principal Secretary Fikirini Jacobs said the facility would help translate government policy into practical opportunities for young people.

He noted that the cinema will offer practical solutions to longstanding challenges around the creative industry.

"The cinema is an example of how the Government is translating policy into practical opportunities for our citizens.

"I therefore wish to encourage students, filmmakers, and creatives to make full use of this facility. Let it be a hub of creativity, let it be a hub of collaboration and excellence, and let it be a space where you can be able to transform ideas into productions that showcase Kenya's talent and culture," the PS said.

Fikirini also emphasized that the Government is committed to strengthening the creative ecosystem through partnerships, institutional development and investment.

He said through KFC, the State would continue supporting creatives to market and distribute their content.

Kenya Film Commission Board Chairman Sudi Wandambusi(left) together with the Commission's Chief Executive Officer Timothy Owase(extreme right) during the launch of an ultra-modern cinema theatre and film hub at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) in Nyeri.

The PS at the same time challenged graduates and emerging creatives to use their skills to tell Kenyan stories, establish enterprises, create employment and compete in international markets.

"Please use your skills to tell our stories. Use your skills to build enterprises. Use your skills to create jobs and compete globally. Above all, remember to be bold. Remember to be disciplined. Remember to be committed to excellence," he said.

KFC Board Chairman Sudi Wandambusi said the facility should not be viewed merely as a cinema hall, but as an important component of Kenya's wider film exhibition and audience-development ecosystem.

He said the hub would provide an opportunity to develop audiences, test content, gather data on audience preferences and create stronger links between filmmakers and the market.

On his part,KFC Chief Executive Officer Timothy Owase underscored the hub's potential in transforming the creative industry in the county as both an entertainment hub and a platform for preservation of culture.

He said the investment was therefore not only in physical infrastructure but also in Kenya's creative economy and the next generation of storytellers.

"This is a platform for talent, and a home for Kenyan stories. Cinema has the unique power to entertain, educate, and inspire through film. We tell our stories, preserve our heritage, challenge perceptions, and showcase the richness of who we are as a people," the KFC boss said.

"A facility such as this therefore represents an important investment not only in infrastructure in Kenya's creative economy, as the next generation of storytellers," he added.

In his remarks, DeKUT Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Ng'ang'a said the project demonstrates the university's commitment to empowering young people while showing how technology and creative arts can complement each other.

The Vice-Chancellor said the new facility would provide students with an opportunity to develop their creative abilities while connecting their technical training with the growing demands of the creative economy.

Karimenu II dam offering more than water to host community

A section of the Karimenu dam. Photos by Annrita Mutembei.

BY MICHELE KIPTOO AND GRACE NAISHOO (KNA)

Residents of Gatundu North, Kiambu County, are receiving complimentary benefits from the constructionThe Karimenu II Dam.

Besides its primary role of supplying water, the dam has helped improve roads, public facilities, security and economic opportunities.

It forms part of the Karimenu II bulk water supply system, comprising a water treatment plant and about 55 kilometres of bulk transfer lines.

Engineer Vincent Rono, Assistant Director, Bulk Water Operations and Maintenance at the Athi Water Works Development Agency (AWWDA), said the clay-core rock-fill structure stands about 59 metres at its tallest point and can hold up to 26 million cubic metres of water.

"The purpose of the project was for this storage, especially for the transmission of the water for treatment to be supplied in the areas of Gatundu, Ruiru, Juja and also in Nairobi," he said.

Beyond its wider water-supply role, the infrastructure has also brought services closer to the host community.

AWWDA has supported Gatundu Water and Sewerage Company with water reticulation lines and technical assistance, while boreholes have also been provided in the area.

Buchana Primary School was also constructed as part of the community interventions, while local residents secured employment during the construction period.

Kiambu County Commissioner George Matundura said roads constructed around the facility have made it easier for residents to transport farm produce to markets.

Local residents also participate in the economic activities generated by the facility by supplying farm produce and other goods used during its construction and operation.

"Locals are the ones supplying most of the goods that they use, all the things they are using in this project," Matundura said.

The community has also benefitted from additional water facilities. A borehole at Kiriko Secondary School has improved access to water for learners and the surrounding community, Matundura said.

The project also supports environmental conservation through tree planting, with local chiefs participating in activities around the facility.

Security around the area has similarly improved, with the Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit stationed at the dam. The officers respond to distress calls from residents.

Joseph Njuguna, who has lived in the area for years, said the road linking the dam to the main road had previously become difficult to use during rainy seasons but is passable.

"Even during the rainy season, the road is passable. We appreciate the work that the Athi Water did," he said.

Gilgil Hospital set for Level 5 upgrade

Commitment to quality health care inspect Gilgil sub county hospital. Photo courtesy.

BY SHARON NJERU AND ZIPPORAH ODIONYI (KNA)

The National Government has announced plans to upgrade the Gilgil Sub-County Hospital into a 300-bed Level 5 county referral hospital.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale said the upgrade is expected to expand access to specialised healthcare for Gilgil residents and those from surrounding areas.

The construction will include 16 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and 10 High Dependency Unit (HDU) beds alongside modern diagnostic and treatment equipment.

An expanded range of specialised services will be available at the facility thus reducing the need for patients to travel in search of complex medical care.

Governor Susan Kihika said the county will finalize the signing of an Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement before construction begins.

"The partnership with the national government has helped advance the hospital upgrade," the governor said.

The proposed development comes as Kenya continues to decentralise specialised healthcare and strengthen referral systems under its Universal Health Coverage agenda.

Government committed to make higher education more affordable

BY SAMUEL WAITITU (KNA)

Education CS Julius Ogamba speaking during the 11th graduation of the University of Embu.

The Government has reiterated its commitment in making higher education accessible and more affordable to all deserving Kenyans under the new proposed universal funding framework.

Education Cabinet Secretary (CS) Julius Ogamba said the Government has continued refining the university funding model so that it responds more thoughtfully to the diverse circumstances of students joining universities and TVET institutions.

Speaking during the 11th graduation of the University of Embu, CS Ogamba said the Government's goal was clear in opening doors of opportunity equitably to ensure talent is never wasted for lack of means.

He said it was in light of this that the Government had come up with a new funding framework dubbed Universal Student Funding Model that focuses on investing directly in the student's future professional capacity.

CS Ogamba said the government is moving away from the controversial Student-Centered Funding Model (SCFM) introduced in 2023 whose financing model was based on Mean Testing Instrument (MTI) that financed students' education based on their parents' financial status.

He noted that for a long time, the government has had a challenge in the way it has been financing higher education from the days of Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) that was phased out in 2023 following the introduction of SCFM.

He noted that these two models left universities drowning in huge debts as a result of government systematic failure to fulfil its funding obligations that led to many institutions rendered technically insolvent.

The CS noted that the current model was testing parents instead of students, essentially locking out deserving students whenever the formula miscalculated their parents' wealth.

"We have changed that thinking by now focusing on the future of the students by funding their professional careers instead of parents' current financial ability," he said, noting under the current model, many students were forced to drop careers of their choice and take the ones their parents are able to finance.

He noted that under the proposed model, the government is transforming university education from a household expense into a state-backed investment in human capital.

Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji threw his weight behind the proposed model, praising its proposal to lift the financial burden from vulnerable Kenyan families by ensuring those who cannot afford higher education fees are fully covered.

The University Vice Chancellor Prof. Daniel Mugendi said the institution has experienced rapid growth; from a small constituent college into one of Kenya's top-performing public universities.

He added that the student population has also been growing over the years and they are about to register the largest intake ever of close to 4,900 students in the coming enrollment .

Government intensifies efforts to boost sports infrastructure

BY ROSE WASIKE (KNA)

The Government has intensified efforts to improve sports infrastructure across the country as part of a broader strategy to promote sports and stimulate economic growth.

Speaking during an inspection tour of the ongoing construction works at Kidundu Stadium in Vihiga County, Principal Secretary (PS) for Defence, Dr Patrick Mariru, said modern stadia would serve as economic powerhouses by creating employment and supporting businesses.

The PS said the Government was targeting the construction and upgrading of 33 stadia across the country, with projects at various stages of implementation.

He cited Kisii, where construction of a stadium has commenced, while Kisumu is set to have a 10,000-seater stadium similar to the facility being developed in Vihiga.

Other stadia are being constructed or upgraded in Busia, Nakuru, Lodwar, Wajir, Voi, Bomet, Kapsabet and Kericho, among other towns.

Dr. Mariru called on contractors and engineers working on Kidundu Stadium to accelerate construction works, noting that the facility is expected to host the 2026 Jamhuri Day celebrations.

"The contractor is going to double the workers and work will happen 24 hours," said the PS, adding that the President was expected to commission the stadium before December 12 this year.

KECOSO praised as a talent development platform

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke kicks the ball to officially commission the Kenya Communications Sports Organisation (KECOSO) games over the weekend. The games are ongoing in Machakos County. PHOTO/ Courtesy.

BY ANNE KANGERO (KNA)

Broadcasting Principal Secretary (PS), Stephen Isaboke, has hailed the Kenya Communications Sports Organisation (KECOSO) tournament as one of Kenya's most enduring platforms for talent development, national cohesion and youth employment.

In his keynote address during the opening ceremony of the Tournament, PS Isaboke commended KECOSO for its remarkable consistency and for producing international champions who have flown the Kenyan flag high on the global stage.

"I want to commend KECOSO for producing international champions and for keeping the spirit of the games alive for 45 years. This is no small feat," Isaboke said.

The week-long inter-parastatal games, which will end on August 29th, have brought together hundreds of athletes drawn from key agencies in the communication and transport sector, transforming Machakos County into a hub of sporting action and inter-agency camaraderie.

This year's competition has drawn participants from across the communications and transport docket, including the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), ICT Authority (ICTA), Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK) and Kenya Airports Authority (KAA), among others including the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA).

PS Esaboke noted that the longevity of the games is in itself a success story that many sporting organisations struggle to achieve.

"The biggest success of KECOSO is consistent sustainability for 45 years. To run a tournament of this magnitude every year, without fail, for more than four decades shows true leadership, commitment and love for sports," he added.

The PS singled out athletics legend Tegla Lorupe and football icon Mohamed Abbas, as products of the KECOSO system, saying their journey is proof that the Organisation remains a genuine conveyor belt for world-class talent.

He linked the tournament's success to the government's broader agenda of investing in sports infrastructure as a tool for unity and economic empowerment.

"The government's investment in sports infrastructure is unifying communities and nurturing world-class talent. It is through platforms like this that we identify, support and expose talent from the grassroots," he said.

Isaboke emphasized that KECOSO's impact goes beyond medals and trophies, noting that it has become a critical source of livelihoods.

"It has provided livelihoods. All these KECOSO sportsmen and women are employed within KECOSO Organisations. Our youths are getting employment through sports, and that is the true spirit of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda," he stated.

KECOSO Secretary General, Omole Asiko, said this year's Edition is bigger and more inclusive, providing a unique platform for interaction among state agencies that rarely meet outside boardrooms.

"KECOSO provides a platform for all organizations, from KPA, CA and many others, for all to come and interact together. It breaks silos and builds teamwork," Asiko said.

He added that the games continue to play a vital scouting role for national teams and have opened doors for county-based talent.

"A lot of talent has been scouted and nurtured through KECOSO and it has provided a chance for county teams to participate and excel. Many players you see in our national leagues, today, were first seen here," he said.

Asiko called on residents of Machakos to turn-out in large numbers to support the athletes and to celebrate the county's hosting of the prestigious tournament.

The teams will compete in a wide range of disciplines, including football, athletics, netball, volleyball, basketball, darts, table tennis and pool.

The County Government of Machakos, which is partnering in hosting the games, was represented by the County Executive (CECM) Agriculture, John Mwangangi Kilonzo, who welcomed the participating institutions to the county.

Kenya Airports Authority(KAA) and Communications Authority (CA) of Kenya players in action during the ongoing KECOSO games in Machakos County . CA edged out KAA 3-2 in a tightly contested match

PS Isaboke shakes hands with Machakos County football players at this years KECOSO games

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Telposta Towers, Kenyatta Ave/ Koinange Street
P.O Box 30025-00100,
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Telephone:(+254) 4920000 / 1
E-Mail: mygovads@gaa.go.ke

Nakuru partners with AFA to promote sunflower farming

BY ESTHER MWANGI (KNA)

The County Government of Nakuru has distributed 7,000 kilograms of certified sunflower seeds to 2,500 farmers in a move aimed at promoting sunflower farming in the region.

The county targets to increase edible oil products and reduce importation of cooking oil.

The initiative, which is a partnership between the devolved unit's administration and the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), through Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate, targets to increase the acreage under the crop from the current 2,300 acres to more than 30,000 acres across the eleven sub-counties within the next three years.

Agriculture Chief Officer Engineer Margaret Kinyanjui said the seeds were distributed to registered farmers under the initiative meant to empower the farmers and create employment.

Sunflower growing in Nakuru County. File picture.

She added that sunflower crop is critical in building climate-resilient agricultural systems, particularly due to erratic rainfall patterns.

She explained that since the inception of the county's sunflower promotion program in 2024, Nakuru had received a cumulative total of 59,000 kilograms of certified seeds.

She said local farmers had to date cultivated over 9,000 hectares, generating an estimated output of 9,500 metric tonnes valued at more than Sh 475 million.

"We are championing sunflower farming as a key commercial and rotational crop to economically empower farmers upon harvest," the chief officer said.

Under the initiative the county government is coordinating the distribution of certified planting material to farmers, subsidized fertilizer, providing market linkages and enhancing value addition to boost farmers' earnings.

The Chief Officer emphasized the importance of partnerships to enhance sunflower production and improve market access for farmers.

She said county extension officers will train farmers on proper agronomic practices to maximize production cost.

Additionally, she noted that sunflower by-products serve as a key ingredient for high-protein livestock feed formulation.

Engineer Kinyanjui voiced the county government's commitment to ensuring that farmers access quality and certified sunflower seeds and enhanced agriculture extension services for farmers towards increasing edible oil products.

The County Government, the official said, had acknowledged that the best way to create jobs for the citizens was through agriculture, saying the government is promoting sunflower production to boost income for residents.

Forestry Principal Secretary Gitonga Mugambi during the National Bamboo Stakeholders' Breakfast Meeting in Nairobi.

Bamboo stakeholders push for green growth, investment and jobs

BY MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

The State Department for Forestry has urged stronger collaboration among government agencies, private investors, development partners, researchers and communities to unlock bamboo's potential in climate action, ecosystem restoration, job creation and green economic growth.

Forestry Principal Secretary (PS) Gitonga Mugambi made the call while presiding over the National Bamboo Stakeholders' Breakfast Meeting in Nairobi.

He said coordinated investment, research, supportive policies and market development are critical to building a sustainable and competitive bamboo value chain.

Mugambi said Kenya has more than 130,000 hectares of natural and planted bamboo, which plays an important role in soil stabilisation, erosion control, riverbank protection and restoration of degraded landscapes.

He added that bamboo's rapid growth and carbon sequestration capacity make it an important nature-based resource for advancing climate mitigation under the government's 15 billion Trees Growing Initiative.

The PS also highlighted bamboo's growing contribution to rural livelihoods and the green economy, citing opportunities in sustainable construction, renewable energy, furniture manufacturing, eco-tourism and value-added processing.

Mugambi said bamboo would support the transformation of Kenya's industrial wood sector under the Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050 while creating employment and attracting new investments.

To expand the country's bamboo resource base, he disclosed that the State Department is targeting an additional 150,000 hectares under the National Bamboo Development Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2035.

The expansion will be complemented by the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy 2023-2032, National Agroforestry Strategy 2025-2035 and National Commercial Forestry Strategy 2025-2035.

Mugambi further announced that preparations are underway for the National Bamboo Expo and World Bamboo Day celebrations, scheduled for September 16-18, 2026, at Meru University of Science and Technology in Meru County.

He said the expo will provide a platform for policy dialogue, technology transfer, research and innovation, trade, investment and business-to-business engagements to strengthen Kenya's bamboo value chain.

The meeting brought together stakeholders from government, research institutions and other sectors involved in bamboo development.

BRIEFS

Mwache dam 90 per cent complete

BY HUSSEIN ABDULLAHI (KNA)

The construction of the Sh20-billion Mwache multipurpose dam project is 90 per cent complete.

The dam, in Kwale County, is being implemented to strengthen water security and support sustainable economic growth across the coastal region.

Implemented under the Coast Region Water Security and Climate Resilience Project, the dam will unlock growth and strengthen resilience against climate-related shocks.

It is a flagship Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) water project in the Coast region and is expected to enhance reliable water supply, drive economic growth, create jobs, and build climate resilience for communities along the coast.

The Coast Water Supply Master Plan has identified the dam as a preferential, viable, sustainable and essential long-term option for water supply to Mombasa and Kwale Counties.

Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eng. Eric Mugaa, "The dam marks another significant milestone in the government's efforts to improve water security, strengthen climate resilience, and enhance the livelihoods of coastal communities," he said.

He said its catchment and physical layout integrate upper and lower watershed systems, sediment-trapping check dams, an irrigation development area, and downstream delivery networks for Mombasa and Kwale.

"We must commend the progress of work so far given that dam construction is naturally capital-intensive and technically complex," he said.

He emphasized that water remains one of the country's most strategic resources for national development underpinning food and nutrition security, climate resilience, environmental sustainability and socio-economic advancement.

The dam will store up to 136 billion litres of water and supply approximately 186 million litres of treated clean water daily to households, industries, and institutions across Kwale and Mombasa counties, serving more than 1.6 million residents, the CS said.

Vihiga launches solar floodlights to boost security, cut costs

BY FLORENCE OTENG'O KNA

The County Government of Vihiga has commenced installation of solar-powered high mast floodlights across the county to promote renewable energy, enhance public safety and reduce energy costs.

The project is being implemented through a memorandum of understanding signed between the County Government of Vihiga and the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC).

Speaking during the launch, the director in charge of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, Aquila Lwanga, said the solar floodlight initiative was the first flagship project under the partnership.

Lwanga, who led the technical implementation committee comprising county engineers, said the team had engaged market committee leaders in areas earmarked for the project.

"The steering committee approved the installation of solar-powered high mast floodlights across the county. We have completed dismantling and demobilisation works for 12 existing grid-powered masts and are now preparing for installation of new solar systems," she said.

According to Lwanga, the project involves converting 12 existing 30-metre grid-powered high masts to solar-powered systems and installing four additional solar-powered high masts across the county.

She said fabrication of the solar-powered systems was ongoing, while anchor bolts for the new masts had already been imported.

Construction of foundations for the new masts is expected to begin once the contractor completes the necessary preparations, with the entire project scheduled for completion in September 2026.

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TELPOSTA TOWERS , 11th Floor, P.O. Box 30025-00100 | Tel: +254 490000/1
Email: mygovads@gaa.go.ke | www.gaa.go.ke