RESEARCH

Egerton develops climate-smart seeds to boost food security.

PAGE 7

LABOUR

Kenya, Germany deepen push to fast-track skilled labour migration.

PAGE 21

September 15, 2026

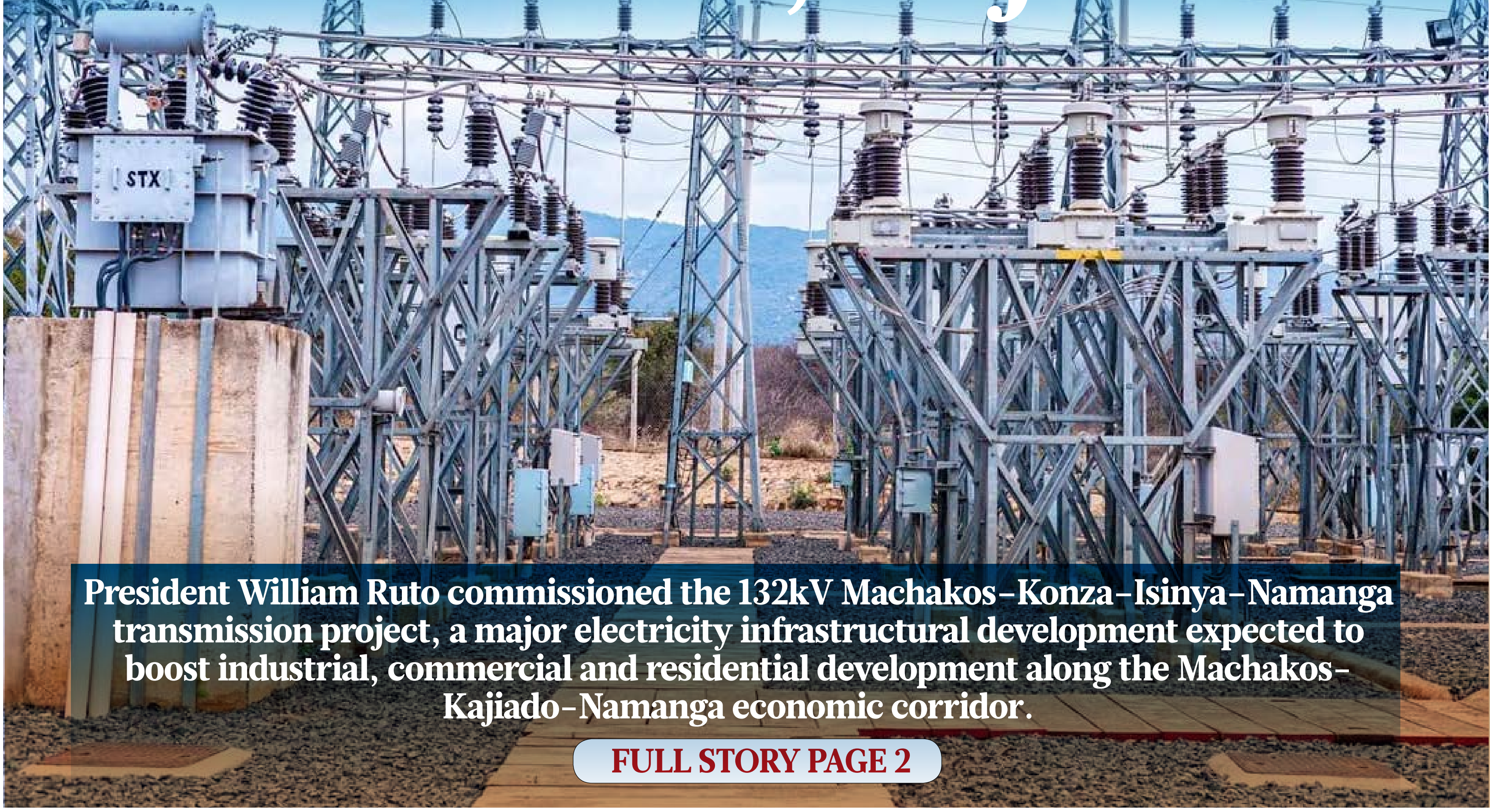
www.gaa.go.ke

MyGov.

YOUR WEEKLY REVIEW

Issue No. 11/2026-2027

High-voltage line to boost power supply in Machakos, Kajiado



President William Ruto commissioned the 132kV Machakos-Konza-Isinya-Namanga transmission project, a major electricity infrastructural development expected to boost industrial, commercial and residential development along the Machakos-Kajiado-Namanga economic corridor.

FULL STORY PAGE 2

Ruto commissions high-voltage line to boost power in Machakos, Kajiado

Stable, reliable and affordable electricity remains one of our Government's priorities because it is essential to attracting investment, supporting industrialisation and delivering the development agenda we have set for the country

BY DIANA MENETO (KNA)

President William Ruto has commissioned the 132kV Machakos-Konza-Isinya-Namanga transmission project, a major electricity infrastructural development expected to boost industrial, commercial and residential development along the Machakos-Kajiado-Namanga economic corridor.

The project, implemented by the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited (KETRACO), strengthens the national power grid by linking key economic centres in Machakos, Konza, Kajiado and Namanga, while providing additional capacity for growing industries and businesses in southern Kenya.

Speaking at the commissioning in Kajiado, President Ruto said the Government will continue to support the completion and implementation of development projects to ensure they deliver tangible benefits to Kenyans.

"The Isinya-Namanga transmission project is one of the key infrastructural investments that will strengthen our electricity network and support economic growth.

President William Ruto commissioning the Isinya-Namanga power line in Namanga, Kajiado county.

"Stable, reliable and affordable electricity remains one of our government's priorities because it is essential to attracting investment, supporting industrialisation and delivering the development agenda we have set for the country," President Ruto said .

The 109-kilometre high-voltage transmission corridor is supported by 132/33kV substations at Machakos, Konza, Kajiado (Isinya) and Namanga, all of which are operational.

The 15-kilometre Machakos-Konza section was energized in October 2016, while the 94-kilometre Isinya-Namanga section was energized in February 2024.

The infrastructure is expected to provide reliable power to major economic activities, including Konza Technopolis and SGR operations, while integrating Machakos, Konza, Isinya, Bisil, Kumpa and the Namanga border post into the high-voltage national grid.

It will also increase electricity capacity for energy-intensive industries along the Kajiado-Namanga corridor, including cement manufacturers, ceramic and tile factories and industrial parks.

Hotels, safari lodges, commercial establishments and eco-tourism ventures are also expected to benefit from improved power reliability.

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary (CS), Opiyo Wandayi, said reliable electricity is critical to the government's efforts to attract investment, expand productive capacity and promote regional economic integration.

"As a Government, we remain committed to putting in place the infrastructure and policy support required to unlock investment, expand productive capacity, as well as promote regional power," Mr Wandayi said.

Principal Secretary for Energy, Alex Wachira, described the Isinya-Namanga line as a strategic addition to Kenya's transmission network, saying it would support economic growth along one of the country's key corridors.

KETRACO Acting Managing Director, Eng. Kipkemoi Kibias, said the project would strengthen the national grid's capacity to serve businesses and communities, while enhancing Kenya's cross-border economic links with Tanzania.

Youth challenged to shape Kenya's future

BY GEOFFREY SATIA (KNA)

Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Felix Koskei, has urged the youth to take a leading role in shaping Kenya's future by actively participating in policy-making, leadership and oversight of development programmes.

Koskei said young people should be at the centre of national conversations on the country's long-term development agenda, urging them to come up with recommendations and proposals that reflect their aspirations.

"It is our responsibility as the youth. The young people should be the ones who will sit at the table and start having that conversation, bringing in recommendations and suggestions that will ensure that as we are going forward, we have a document, we have a plan that will make this country better than where we found it," he said.

He said increased youth participation in elective and appointive positions, as well as the private sector, was critical to ensuring that long-term development plans respond to the needs of the younger generation.

Koskei said the Government would soon facilitate youth engagements across the country to give young people an opportunity to articulate what they want Kenya to look like in the next 10, 20 and 30 years.

He urged the youth in Nandi and other parts of the country to participate in the forums and contribute ideas that could shape the country's development priorities.

"Vijana, nafasi ni yenu, lazima muchangie kabisa (young people, it is your time, you must contribute," he said, urging young people to seize the opportunity to influence decisions affecting their future.

Magadi soda ash poised to drive Kenya's industrialisation

Soda ash, is an important industrial input used in the manufacture of glass, detergents, chemicals and other products. The Government seeks to attract investors to establish glass and chemical manufacturing facilities around Magadi, creating an industrial ecosystem

BY NANCY OMONDI AND MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

For more than a century, trains have ferried soda ash from the shores of Lake Magadi to Mombasa for export. Now, the Government wants to reverse that industrial story—using the mineral to power factories, create jobs and build manufacturing capacity at home.

Principal Secretary for Industrialisation, Dr Juma Mukhwana, said the country must move away from exporting raw materials and instead use its natural resources to create industries, jobs, technology and wealth locally.

"For more than a century, we have watched trains ferry soda ash from Magadi to Mombasa for export. We must now ensure that this resource fuels factories at home before it leaves the country," said Dr Mukhwana.

Soda ash, extracted from Lake Magadi, is an important industrial input used in the manufacture of glass, detergents, chemicals and other products. The PS said greater local processing would enable Kenya to capture more value from the mineral while creating opportunities for engineers, chemists, technicians, entrepreneurs and other workers.

"Magadi represents something much bigger than soda ash. It represents a choice," he said.

Dr Mukhwana said the Government was seeking to attract investors to establish glass and chemical manufacturing facilities around Magadi, creating an industrial ecosystem supported by transport and logistics companies, packaging firms, engineering and maintenance businesses, laboratories, equipment suppliers and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Principal Secretary (PS) for Industrialisation Dr. Juma Mukhwana. File Photo

He said anchor industries could manufacture construction materials, windows, bottles, food and beverage packaging, pharmaceutical products and laboratory equipment, while stimulating demand across the wider economy.

The PS said the industrialisation drive should also be extended to Kenya's trade relationships, particularly with India, which he described as a longstanding economic partner.

According to Indian trade figures cited by Dr Mukhwana, Kenya-India merchandise trade reached about US$4.31 billion in the 2025/26 financial year. India exported goods worth approximately US$4.01 billion to Kenya, compared with Kenyan exports of about US$290 million.

He said the trade imbalance highlighted the need to shift the relationship from one centred on buying and selling towards investment, manufacturing and joint exports.

"Kenya does not seek to stop Indian companies from selling products to our market. Quite the opposite. We want Indian companies to succeed in Kenya. But increasingly, we should be asking them to make in Kenya what they sell in Kenya and Africa," he said.

Dr Mukhwana identified pharmaceutical manufacturing as one area where Indian investment could help strengthen Kenya's industrial base while opening access to the African market.

He said similar opportunities existed in automotive components, electronics, textiles, chemicals and machinery, urging Kenya and India to become "co-investors, co-manufacturers and co-exporters."

The PS also called for a modern Kenya-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to replace the framework dating back to 1981. He said the agreement should address tariff and non-tariff barriers, improve market access for Kenyan products, strengthen standards recognition, promote technology transfer and deepen industrial cooperation.

Dr Mukhwana said Kenya's resources should generate more than export earnings, noting that their greatest potential lay in creating industries, skilled employment and technological capabilities.

"Africa must graduate from being the world's quarry and farm to becoming one of the world's great workshops," he said.

He urged the Government and private sector to link natural resources with manufacturing, skills, infrastructure, investment and markets to accelerate industrial transformation.

"Kenya must manufacture. Africa must manufacture. Our resources must build our industries, our industries must create our jobs, and our jobs must create our prosperity," Dr Mukhwana said.

Kenya must build the skills before it builds the future

BY PROF. SHAUKAT ABDULRAZAK

The most important infrastructure a country can build is not only roads, railways, ports or power stations. It is the knowledge, skills, creativity and productive capacity of its people. This is why one of the most consequential shifts under President William Ruto's administration has been the renewed emphasis on education, skills development, science, technology and innovation as foundations of economic transformation. The progress is substantial. Let me elaborate.

Between 2022 and 2025, Kenya's education budget increased from about KSh490 billion to over KSh700 billion. Government reports that more than 150,000 teachers have been recruited on permanent terms, alongside 46,000 interns. Over 13,500 classrooms, 863 laboratories and nearly 1,900 sanitation facilities have been constructed, while more than 300,000 teachers have been trained to support implementation of competency-based education. This represents more than expenditure. It is investment in Kenya's productive capacity.

The transformation is particularly visible in TVET. Accredited TVET institutions increased from about 2,401 in 2022/23 to 2,969 by 2024/25. Ministry of Education institutions recorded enrolment growth from approximately 345,000 to more than 565,000 trainees, while Government-wide reporting places gross TVET enrolment at over 700,000 learners. Thousands of trainers have also been recruited and competency-based assessment expanded dramatically. This matters because an industrialising nation cannot survive on university degrees alone. Kenya requires engineers and scientists, but also electricians, welders, machine operators, plumbers, mechatronics technicians, laboratory technologists, agricultural specialists, coders and skilled artisans.

President Ruto administration has also begun connecting skills directly to economic opportunities. Affordable housing, road construction, manufacturing, agriculture and other BETA programmes are creating demand for practical skills. Through the digital agenda, Government reports that about 1.9 million young people have received digital-skills training and some 300,000 digital jobs have been enabled through Ajira, Jitume and related programmes. Technology and innovation are the game changer. A state department for Science, Research and Innovation was created – which will be among other entities in shaping Kenya beyond Vision 2030.

Government is building a digital superhighway, expanding fibre connectivity, public Wi-Fi and digital hubs, while the Kenya Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025-2030 provides a framework for developing AI infrastructure, skills, research, innovation and commercialisation, and now we have embarked on the policy of the same. By early 2026, Government reported approximately 30,000 kilometres of fibre deployed, 1,500 public Wi-Fi hotspots and around 300 digital hubs established since 2022. In my opinion the direction is right. The next phase must now be even more deliberate.

First, our country needs a National Human Capital and Skills Foresight Framework forecasting the skills required over the next 10, 20 and 30 years, in a phased approach. We must know today how many engineers, researchers, technicians, nurses, data scientists, nuclear scientists, AI specialists, biotechnology experts and artisans' tomorrow's economy will require. The state department is spearheading STI National repository and Observatory to address this matter. Data is vital for forward planning.

Second, every major national investment should contain a human-resource development component. Affordable housing must train construction professionals; irrigation must develop agricultural technologists; Special Economic Zones must create manufacturing skills; the blue economy must develop marine scientists and technicians; and energy investments must build Kenyan engineering capacity. WE must create an entire ecosystem in an innovative manner.

Third, we must strengthen the entire pipeline from school to TVET to university to research to industry. Children should encounter coding, creativity, problem-solving, STEM and entrepreneurship early. TVET must be strongly industry-linked including MSMEs, through apprenticeships and dual training. Universities must increasingly measure success not only by graduates produced but by problems solved, patents generated, technologies commercialised and enterprises created. This is where the innovation hubs at every county that the state department is planning will see the realization of that vision.

Fourth, Kenya must deliberately create a critical mass in emerging technologies—artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, nuclear science, cybersecurity, space technologies, semiconductors, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing and precision agriculture. The world is moving fast and to be on first world class status we must plan for world class matters.

Finally, Government, universities, research institutions and industry must work through a strong Triple Helix model, supported by research chairs, centres of excellence, innovation clusters and greater investment in research and development. The state for science, research and Innovation, with our partners is on that trajectory.

As Kenya moves beyond Vision 2030, the decisive question is no longer simply how many young people we educate. It is whether we are producing people capable of designing, producing, innovating, commercialising and solving Kenya's problems. We must re-set and have change of mindset

President Ruto's administration has laid important foundations. The task ahead is to turn this expanding education and skills infrastructure into a globally competitive Kenyan workforce. If we build the skills, Kenyans themselves will build the future. It is possible. It can be done.

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

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Our Vision

"A values–driven citizen-centric public service".

Our Mission

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

INVITATION TO TENDER

The Public Service Commission (PSC) invites interested bidders/tenderers to bid for the tenders listed below in the Electronic Government Procurement System- eGP:

S/ No	TENDER NO	TENDER DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	TENDER SECURITY	CLOSING/ OPENING DATE
1.	PSC/721/0001/2026-27	PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL INSURANCE COVER FOR PSC STAFF	OPEN TENDER	1,000,000	22/09/2026 AT 11:00 AM
2.	PSC/721/0002/2026-27	PROVISION OF GROUP PERSONAL ACCIDENT (GPA)/ WORK INJURY BENEFITS ACT(WIBA) INSURANCE COVER FOR PSC STAFF	OPEN TENDER	100,000	22/09/2026 AT 11:00 AM

Tenders are open to all eligible tenderers who must be dully registered on eGP. Qualified and interested tenderers are requested to view and download a complete set of the tender documents from the website **https://egpkenya.go.ke free of charge**. All enquiries and clarification for should be sent via the website **https://egpkenya.go.ke** and completed tender should be submitted electronically via the same website.

Tenders will be opened immediately after the deadline date and time specified in the tender document. The tenders will be opened electronically, in the presence of all bidders who wish to attend the virtual opening.

SECRETARY/CEO
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMMISSION HOUSE, HARAMBEE AVENUE
P. O. BOX 30095 – 00100 NAIROBI
TEL: +254(020) 2223901
secretary@publicservice.go.ke Website: www.publicservice.go.ke

KENYA VISION 2030

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 Parties: -

Name	Party Colours	Party Symbol	Slogan	Founding members
Movement United for Super Action (MUSA)	Blue, Pink and White	MUSA	Future Yetu	1. Ngatia Victor Warutere 2. Samuel Serah Masika 3. Opiyo Polycarp Mboya 4. Wagakabu Jimmy 5. Leshore Lucinda Mpirisa 6. Khamis Abdalla Salim 7. Muiruri Assumpta Wangui
Co-operators Development Party (CDP)	Olive Green, Navy Blue and Ivory white	cdp	Ushirikiano kwa Maendeleo ya Nchi yetu	1. Bwanamaka Maur Abdallah 2. Parikh Rishi Arun 3. Mativo Veronica Mbithe 4. Kuyo Dancun Motite 5. Zaja Hamisa Maalim

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**

Sh221 million Rombo irrigation expansion to boost production

The project aims at transforming agricultural production, strengthening food security and improving livelihoods in the region.


President William Ruto, is briefed by Irrigation PS, Ephantus Kimotho, on the Sh221 million Rombo Clusters Irrigation Development Project in Kajiado South, commissioned to expand irrigation coverage and boost food security in the region.

BY ROP JANET (KNA)

President William Ruto has commissioned the Sh221 million expansion of the Rombo Clusters Irrigation Development Project in Kajiado South.

The project aims at transforming agricultural production, strengthening food security and improving livelihoods in the region.

The expansion has increased the area under irrigation from 2,983 acres to 5,500 acres across four schemes, enabling farmers to access reliable water for agricultural production throughout the year.

Speaking during his tour of Government projects in Kajiado County, President Ruto said the investment would enable farmers to move away from dependence on rain-fed agriculture and embrace commercial farming throughout the year.

He said the improved Rombo-Taveta Road would complement the irrigation project by improving farmers' access to markets and making it easier and more affordable to transport agricultural produce.

President Ruto said better road connectivity would also attract traders, aggregators and other buyers to production areas, allowing farmers to plan production according to market demand and access better-paying markets.

He said farmers would have an opportunity to diversify into high-value horticultural crops, food crops and fruit trees.

The Rombo Cluster, implemented by the National Irrigation Authority, comprises Kisioki, Matepes, Esosioni and Oltepesi schemes and covers 5,500 acres.

The project is expected to enhance food security for 6,000 households, create 6,000 direct employment opportunities and support about 30,000 people indirectly.

It is also expected to increase agricultural and livestock production and provide raw materials for agro-processing.

The project is projected to generate approximately Sh1 billion in gross income, with financial and economic analysis, showing that it is viable and has a payback period of less than one year.

President Ruto said the State Department for Irrigation would strengthen the capacity of Irrigation Water Users Associations (IWUAs), to ensure effective management of the schemes.

He said the Government will support farmers with quality seeds, fertilizers and other inputs, while implementing measures to reduce post-harvest losses through improved handling, storage, grading, packaging and transportation.

The President announced that Phase II of the project would be implemented at a cost of Sh250 million, bringing an additional 5,000 acres under irrigation.

"This is part of our wider plan for Kajiado County, where 37 irrigation projects have been completed and 22 are ongoing," President Ruto said.

He said the projects currently cover 14,887 acres and have benefited 74,434 farmers, with a cumulative investment of Sh2.5 billion.

At the national level, President Ruto said the Government targets to expand irrigation to 2.5 million acres as part of efforts to reduce reliance on rain-fed agriculture and promote productive and climate-resilient farming.

Head Office	CA Western Regional Offices	Coast Regional Office	Central Regional Office	Nyanza Regional Office
CA Centre P.O. Box 14448 Nairobi 00800 Mobile: 0703042000 Email: info@ca.go.ke	15th Floor, Daima Towers, Northern Wing, Eldoret P.O Box: 2346, Eldoret 30100 Mobile: 0703 042105 Email: wro@ca.go.ke	3rd Floor, NSSF Building P.O.Box 8041 Mombasa 80100 Mobile: 0703042152 Email: cro@ca.go.ke	Ground Floor, Advocates Plaza P.O Box 134 Nyeri 10100 Mobile : 0703042181 Email : cero@ca.go.ke	2nd Floor Lake Basin Mall, P.O Box 2016 Kisumu 40100 Mobile: 0703042130 Email nro@ca.go.ke

NIA fast-tracks dams, water pans ahead of El Niño

Nationally, 8,724 household water pans have been completed, alongside 143 community water pans and small dams, while 65 additional community water structures are under construction.

BY JOAN KINUTHIA (KNA)

The National Irrigation Authority (NIA) is fast-tracking dam construction, water-pan projects and drainage works to capture excess rainwater and reduce flooding as Kenya braces for an anticipated strong El Niño season.

NIA Director of Irrigation Management Services Engineer Jairus Serede said the Authority is implementing water-harvesting initiatives at household, community and large-dam levels under its Irrigation Water Harvesting and Storage Programme.

Speaking at the NIA stand during the Mombasa International Show, Serede said the programme had gained urgency following forecasts by the Kenya Meteorological Department of an 81 per cent probability of a very strong El Niño event, with above-average rainfall expected between October and December across most parts of the country, including the Coast.

He said there was also a 97 per cent likelihood of the weather pattern persisting into early 2027, underscoring the need to store excess water for use during subsequent dry periods.

"We are desilting existing canals in our irrigation schemes to improve drainage and reduce flooding risks, while working with partners to complete key large dams so that floodwaters can be captured and stored," said Serede.

The Mwache Multi-Purpose Dam in Kwale County is more than 90 per cent complete, with the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation targeting October 2026 for the start of water impoundment at the 84-metre-high structure.

NIA is also supporting plans for a proposed dam at Galana Kulalu, with financing expected through the National Infrastructure Fund. The project is intended to store excess water for irrigation during dry periods.

At household level, NIA is constructing small water pans at no cost to individual farmers to capture surface runoff and provide water for irrigation during dry spells.

Nationally, 8,724 household water pans have been completed, alongside 143 community water pans and small dams, while 65 additional community water structures are under construction.

Engineer Jairus Serede, Director of Irrigation Management Services at the National Irrigation Authority, addresses journalists at the Mombasa International Show on irrigation initiatives, flood preparedness and rice intensification programmes in the coastal region.

Serede said many of Kenya's estimated 6,000 community water pans and small dams were silted and required rehabilitation ahead of the expected heavy rains.

The Authority is also exploring pan lining to reduce seepage and solar-powered pumping systems to lower irrigation costs and reliance on diesel and grid electricity.

Beyond water harvesting, NIA is promoting climate-smart agriculture and rice intensification. At the Mombasa show, it demonstrated water-saving rice production technologies and promoted improved varieties, including Komboka, which matures in about four months and has performed well in Taita Taveta, Kilifi and Tana River counties.

Serede said Taita Taveta could support more than 60,000 acres of rice, while the Bura and Tana irrigation schemes, currently covering more than 5,000 acres, are expected to expand to 45,000 acres.

NIA aims to raise national rice production to about 800,000 metric tonnes within two years, reducing reliance on imports that currently meet an estimated 80 per cent of domestic demand.

Sh1.5 billion allocated for last mile electricity in Busia

Energy and Petroleum CS, Opiyo Wandayi addresses a section of residents at Bukhayo West.

BY SALOME ALWANDA (KNA)

The Government has set aside Sh1.5 billion in the 2026/2027 financial year to connect to electricity households in Busia County through the last mile connectivity project.

Speaking during the launch of last mile connectivity in Bukhayo West and Maduwa Locations in Matayos Constituency, Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi said that Western region had remained in darkness for a long time.

Wandayi stated that the funds will be used to connect more than 17,000 households to the grid.

He said Matayos Constituency will get connections worth Sh120 million.

"We have just started the journey of connecting villages to the grid and I want to urge those who are still in the dark to be patient," he said, adding that more funds will be allocated for the exercise during the next financial year.

The CS said Busia had benefited from several government projects including the construction of Export Promotion Zone and County Aggregation and Industrial Park at Nasewa, affordable housing and modern markets among others.

Busia Governor Paul Otuoma stated that the CAIP and EPZ are ready and will be commissioned soon.

He called upon the CS for transport to increase the budget for the proposed airstrip at Nasewa.

"For 60 years we were marginalized but we now have several projects being initiated in our area," he said.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION AND IRRIGATION

Public Private Partnerships Directorate — Driving Sustainable Investments

KENYA VISION 2030

DISCLOSURE ON THE PRIVATELY INITIATED PROPOSAL (PIP) BY ELEVOLUTION ENGENHARIA, SA (ELEVO GROUP, PORTUGAL) FOR THE THUCI DAM PROJECT - EMBU COUNTY

A. BACKGROUND:

The State Department for Irrigation (the **"Contracting Authority"**) established pursuant to Executive Order No. 1 of 2025 is mandated, among other functions, to oversee the formulation and implementation of the National Irrigation Policy; management of irrigation schemes; land reclamation; mapping, identification and development of areas suitable for irrigation schemes; development of irrigation infrastructure; and the management and oversight of irrigation schemes administered by Regional Authorities.

In the discharge of its mandate, the Contracting Authority has been pursuing the development of the Thuci Dam Project (the ***"Project"***), which traverses Embu and Tharaka Nithi Counties. The Project is intended to enhance the availability and reliability of water for irrigation through the conservation of water during periods of adequate rainfall and its regulated release for irrigation purposes.

The Project was initially proposed for implementation under an Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Financing (EPC-F) model in the year 2017. However, implementation under that model did not proceed owing to changes in Government policy and constrained fiscal space for capital investment.

The Public Private Partnerships Act, Cap 430 Laws of Kenya (the **"PPP Act"**) provides a framework for private sector participation in the development of public infrastructure, including the design, financing, construction, equipping, operation, maintenance and transfer of infrastructure projects.

B. SUBMISSION OF THE PRIVATELY INITIATED PROPOSAL

In May 2025, the Contracting Authority received a Privately Initiated Proposal (PIP) from **Elevolution Engenharia, S.A.,** and **Weihai International Economic and Technical Corporation (WIETC)** for the Financing, Design, Construction, Operation and Transfer of the Thuci Dam Project under the PPP framework. WIETC subsequently withdrew from the project in October 2025, leaving Elevolution Engenharia SA as the sole project proponent. Receipt of the PIP was disclosed to the public through a Public Disclosure Notice dated 18th July 2025, in accordance with the applicable public disclosure requirements.

C. EVALUATION AND DUE DILIGENCE

Following its preliminary review, the Contracting Authority determined that the PIP satisfied the requirements contemplated under Section 40(2) of the PPP Act and submitted the proposal to the PPP Directorate for assessment. The PIP was subsequently evaluated jointly by the PPP Directorate and the Contracting Authority pursuant to Section 42 of the PPP Act. Preliminary due diligence on the Proponent was undertaken in accordance with the applicable provisions of Section 41. However, it also identified the need for a comprehensive due diligence of the proponent including verification of its financial, technical, legal and institutional capacity as well as physical due diligence and submission of further documentation information required to complete the assessment.

The findings and recommendations were submitted to the PPP Committee, which, vide their letter dated **2nd February 2026**, granted conditional approval for the project to proceed to Project Development Phase pursuant to Section 42(7) of the PPP Act subject to satisfactory comprehensive due diligence and resolution of the outstanding issues.

Physical due diligence was subsequently undertaken in accordance with the conditions of the PPP Committee's approval and Section 27 of the PPP Act to verify the proponent's compliance with the prescribed conditions for progression to the Project Development Phase. Upon completion of the physical due diligence, the findings and recommendations were submitted to the PPP Committee for consideration.

D. DECISION OF THE PPP COMMITTEE

The PPP Committee, at its **61st Ordinary Meeting held on 26th August 2026,** considered the due diligence report and the overall assessment of the PIP and resolved to:

1. **TERMINATE** the Privately Initiated Proposal submitted by **Elevolution Engenharia, S.A.** in respect of the Thuci Dam Project;
2. **DIRECT** the Contracting Authority to consider an alternative procurement route for the implementation of the Thuci Dam Project in accordance with the PPP Act; and
3. **DIRECT** the Contracting Authority to update the feasibility studies for the Project and secure an adequate budgetary allocation for viability funding to facilitate the further development and implementation of the Project.

E: PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Public Private Partnerships Act and the Circular dated **24th April 2025 on Public Disclosure Requirements for Privately Initiated Proposals,** and in furtherance of the Government of Kenya's commitment to transparency and accountability in the development and implementation of public infrastructure projects, the public is **HEREBY NOTIFIED** of the outcome of the PPP Committee's consideration of the Privately Initiated Proposal submitted by **Elevolution Engenharia, S.A. (Elevo Group – Portugal)** in respect of the Thuci Dam Project.

The termination relates solely to the Privately Initiated Proposal and does not constitute a termination of the Thuci Dam Project itself. The Government remains committed to considering the development of the Project through an appropriate procurement route, subject to updating of the feasibility studies, completion of requisite financing, procurement, statutory and regulatory processes and approvals in accordance with the applicable laws and policies of the Republic of Kenya.

Government allocates Sh10 billion to modernise tea factories

BY SADIK HASSAN (KNA)

The Government has set aside Sh10 billion to support value addition, mechanization and modernization of smallholder tea farmers' factories to increase farmers' earnings.

Principal Secretary (PS) for Agriculture Dr Paul Ronoh said the Government has already disbursed Sh4.5 billion, with Sh1 billion allocated to the factory modernization programme and the balance going towards fertilizer subsidies.

The PS spoke at the Port of Mombasa after flagging off 30,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer for distribution to smallholder tea farmers under the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), ahead of the rainy season.

The consignment is the first batch of the 99,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer that will be delivered to tea farmers across the country.

Principal Secretary (PS) for Agriculture, Dr Kiprono Ronoh (left), and Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) Chairman Enos Njeru inspect part of the 30,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer at the Port of Mombasa

Dr Ronoh lauded KTDA for procuring the fertilizer in good time, compared to last year when it arrived in December.

The PS affirmed that the Government had instituted robust reforms in the tea sector to enhance efficiency and improve the earnings of smallholder farmers.

"I know you have received some money, and we will now go ahead and make sure that we provide the remaining money for KTDA so that they can also have a very effective and efficient operation and also remain afloat in the sector,"the PS said.

Dr Ronoh noted that the tea auction report showed farmers' earnings were likely to improve. Unlike previous years, KTDA has managed to sell all the tea, while prices have also risen because the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) intensified tea marketing.

"We have no doubt as a government that the tea sector will really transform for the betterment of the tea farmers and Kenya as a whole when it comes to economic transformation," the PS said, adding that tea growers would purchase the fertilizer at Sh2,000.

KTDA was directed to purchase the fertilizer from international markets through competitive and transparent processes to ensure quality production, while TBK was lauded for enhancing enforcement measures in the sector.

"I want to urge our tea farmers to make sure that the tea they are plucking from their tea bushes meets the required quality. Additionally, I want to assure the tea farmers and Kenyans that a scientific tea testing centre is now ready and is under piloting, and will soon be operational," said the PS.

Egerton develops climate-smart seeds to boost food security

BY ESTHER MWANGI (KNA)

Egerton University has developed a range of high-yielding, drought and disease-resistant crop varieties to help farmers withstand the growing effects of climate change with an aim of improving food security.

The varieties, developed through the university's Agro-Science Park in collaboration with public and private sector partners, are targeted at farmers facing unpredictable rainfall, rising temperatures, emerging pests and diseases and declining yields.

Agro-Science Park Director Prof. Paul Kimurto said the university is also training farmers on climate-smart farming practices, including proper crop husbandry and post-harvest management, to improve productivity and reduce losses.

"Unless we help our farmers embrace climate-smart agriculture, production will continue to dwindle, leading to decreased incomes, job losses and hunger," he said.

Among the varieties released to the market are four pigeon pea varieties—Egerton Mbaazi M1, Mbaazi M2, Mbaazi M3 and Mbaazi M4—as well as 29 new cassava varieties. The university has also developed Tasha, Ciankui and Chelalang bean varieties suited to warmer areas, alongside Nyota and Mwangaza ground nuts.

Egerton 1/EUSH 1 Hybrid sorghum developed by Egerton University's Agro Science Park and partners.

A farmer harvests her first crop of sorghum developed by Egerton University's Agro Science Park and partners.

Other varieties include sorghum EUS 130 and EUS 1, finger millet varieties EU-SS-10 and EU-SS-11, also known as Snapping Green, and the Saina KA1 chickpea variety.

Prof. Kimurto said the university has been undertaking agricultural research and innovation for more than a decade, translating scientific knowledge into technologies and products for farmers, entrepreneurs and industry.

Established in 2011, the Agro-Science Park was created to bridge the gap between agricultural research and the marketplace through innovation, technology transfer, commercialisation and university-industry linkages.

Its 50-acre facility provides space for research, demonstration, farmer training, incubation, agro-processing and commercialisation of agricultural innovations. It has also supported innovations in honey production, yoghurt processing, fish farming and agricultural mechanisation.

The Park is part of the larger Egerton University Agri-City Agro-Industrial Park, which seeks to integrate agricultural production, agro-processing, technology, research, investment and enterprise development.

Egerton has partnered with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Community Action Research Project (CARP+), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM).

Other partners include East African Breweries Limited (EABL), Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the Mastercard Foundation and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Prof. Kimurto said sustained investment in drought-resistant varieties, environmentally friendly farming practices and post-harvest management is necessary to protect farmers from climate-related losses.

He said the university is also helping farmers make informed decisions on the right crops and planting times, noting that adoption of climate-smart technologies remained low among small-scale farmers.

The groundnut varieties, he said, can produce between 20 and 25 bags of unshelled nuts per acre under good agricultural practices. They perform well in hot and dry areas such as Turkana and can also be grown in the drier parts of southern Nyanza, Western and Eastern regions.

Farmers are trained on proper crop husbandry, including planting 30 kilogrammes of groundnut seed per acre instead of the conventional 25 kilogrammes.

The university initially distributed the Tasha, Ciankui and Chelalang bean varieties to 100 farmers in Nyandarua, Uasin Gishu and Nakuru counties.

Prof. Kimurto said the varieties were developed in response to rising temperatures and can produce 20 to 30 beans per pod, compared with about half that number in some conventional varieties.

The beans also cook faster, saving time and fuel, while having lower levels of compounds associated with flatulence and higher levels of zinc and iron.

State to accelerate digital superhighway implementation

BY MICHELLE DIBO (PCO)

The Government has stepped up coordination among key agencies involved in the implementation of the Digital Superhighway.

The focus is to accelerate delivery, address emerging challenges and maximise the impact of investments in digital infrastructure.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke and ICT and the Digital Economy Principal Secretary Eng. John Tanui, who co-chaired a multi-agency meeting to review progress and strengthen coordination in the implementation of the flagship government programme, emphasised the importance of close collaboration among government institutions in ensuring the Digital Superhighway delivers the infrastructure and connectivity required to support the country's growing digital economy.

PSs Stephen Isaboke (left) and John Tanui during a multi-agency meeting on acceleration of the digital superhighway project

The Digital Superhighway brings together multiple Government agencies, including the Communications Authority of Kenya, ICT Authority and Kenya Power and Lighting Company, to expand digital connectivity and develop the infrastructure required to accelerate Kenya's digital transformation.

Participants reviewed progress made in the implementation of the programme, challenges affecting delivery, and opportunities to improve efficiency and coordination across the participating agencies.

The Principal Secretaries recognised the contribution of technical teams whose work has laid the foundation for the programme, noting that effective implementation will require sustained coordination across agencies and continued attention to technical and operational challenges.

The investments under the Digital Superhighway are expected to play a significant role in expanding connectivity, supporting innovation and creating opportunities across Kenya's technology sector, Isaboke said.

"The programme is also central to the government's ambition of growing the country's technology industry from its current $7 billion to $100 billion," he said.

Through expanded connectivity and stronger digital infrastructure, the government seeks to unlock opportunities in technology, innovation and digital services while positioning Kenya as a leading digital economy in Africa.

KTB partners with Tatler to showcase African hospitality excellence

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A(KNA)

The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) has entered a three-year partnership with international luxury lifestyle and culture brand Tatler to showcase Africa's leading hotels and restaurants, positioning Kenya as a premier destination for high-value travellers and international events.

Under the partnership, Kenya will host the inaugural Tatler Best Africa on October 8, 2026, to recognise hospitality establishments setting new standards of excellence across the continent.

The initiative will strengthen Kenya's visibility in the global luxury travel market through Tatler's platforms and events while promoting the country's premium tourism offerings, including safari, coastal, conservation, culture, gastronomy, wellness, fashion, art and sports tourism.

It will also create opportunities to market Kenya's Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector and tourism investment potential.

Principal Secretary for Tourism, Prof. Julius Bitok, said the partnership would showcase Kenya's hospitality standards and support efforts to attract more high-value international visitors and events.

"Recognition matters, standards matter, and the quality of the visitor experience matters. As we compete for a greater share of the international tourism market, we must continuously demonstrate the strength, diversity and quality of what Kenya has to offer," Bitok said.

He said MICE was a key growth area, noting that Kenya attracted over 736,000 delegates in 2025, generating more than Sh11 billion in direct revenue for the tourism and hospitality industry.

Tourism Principal Secretary Prof. Julius Bitok (centre) joins Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) CEO June Chepkemei (left) and Tatler Africa Managing Director Bonita Mutoni (right) during the official signing of a strategic three-year hospitality partnership in Nairobi. The collaboration aims to elevate Kenya's standing in the international luxury tourism and investment segments.

"Events such as Tatler Best Africa are a step in the right direction, demonstrating Kenya's growing capacity to host high-value international platforms that bring influential global audiences to our country while creating opportunities across the wider tourism and hospitality value chain," he said.

The partnership will include training and knowledge-sharing programmes covering luxury service standards, destination storytelling, international market expectations and digital communications. Tatler will also host forums, salons, dinners and cultural experiences as part of the collaboration.

Tatler Africa Managing Director Bonita Mutoni said Kenya's tourism and hospitality offering made it a natural partner for the launch of Tatler Best Africa.

"Kenya is one of Africa's most compelling tourism destinations, combining world-class hospitality, iconic landscapes and diverse experiences. We are proud to partner with Kenya Tourism Board as our first destination partner for Tatler Best Africa," Mutoni said.

Honourees will be selected by a panel comprising hospitality leaders, chefs, travel specialists and cultural figures from across Africa.

Tatler Africa will also connect KTB with international travel trade partners and luxury travel platforms, including ILTM Cannes, Arabian Travel Market and PURE Life Experiences, as well as travel advisers, tour operators and hospitality groups.

Tatler's presence across 11 Asian markets is expected to provide Kenya with an additional avenue to diversify its tourism source markets and increase international visitor numbers.

KTB Chief Executive Officer June Chepkemei said the partnership would strengthen the board's role in connecting Kenyan tourism businesses with international markets.

"Our role at KTB is to create that bridge, connecting Kenya's tourism products, experiences and businesses with travellers and markets around the world," she said.

The inaugural Tatler Best Africa will be held during the 16th edition of the Magical Kenya Travel Expo (MKTE), scheduled for October 6-8, 2026.

6.4MW data centre boosts Kenya's digital capacity

BY RACHAEL KILONZO AND IAN MUNGAII (PCO)

Kenya's capacity to support data-intensive technologies has received a major boost following the commissioning of a 6.4-megawatt data centre in Karen, Nairobi, targeting growing demand for cloud computing, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital services.

The NBO2 Data Centre, operated by iColo, now officially part of Digital Realty, will serve cloud providers, financial institutions, enterprises and internet service providers, further strengthening Kenya's position as a regional technology hub.

The facility was commissioned by ICT and the Digital Economy Principal Secretary John Tanui and Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke at a ceremony attended by US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Frank Garcia, US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Susan M. Burns, Kenya's Special Envoy on Technology Ambassador Philip Thigo and industry leaders.

Tanui said the investment demonstrated growing confidence in Kenya as a destination for technology-related investments.

"Today's launch of iColo's Nairobi Two (NBO2) data centre is a major milestone for Kenya's Digital Economy and our growing position as the technology gateway to East and Central Africa," he said.

He attributed the growth of the sector to policy measures including removal of local shareholding requirements for ICT investments, reforms affecting digital exports, the Kenya Cloud Policy and the National AI Strategy 2025-2030.

Tanui said the Government would soon identify priority locations for future data-centre investments and coordinate support around electricity, fibre connectivity, land, water, security and skilled personnel.

He cited investments by Oracle Cloud, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Apple's Authorized Training Centre and Microsoft's Africa Development Centre as evidence of Kenya's expanding technology ecosystem.

Isaboke said the new data centre aligned with the government's Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy programme and would provide critical capacity for the country's knowledge-driven economy.

"Kenya is actually a knowledge-driven economy, with a well-educated youth population that is tech-savvy," he said.

Government strengthens communication on BETA programmes

BY SHARON NJERU (KNA)

The Government is strengthening communication on programmes under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) to ensure Kenyans are well informed about projects, their progress and impact.

Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Stephen Isaboke said public engagement should be integrated into the planning, implementation and reporting of Government programmes to prevent information gaps that could allow misinformation and inaccurate narratives to take root.

"Sometimes we are running ahead in terms of actual projects, and we think everyone is actually aware of what we are doing," Isaboke said during an interview with the national broadcaster KBC.

He said government communication must go beyond announcing activities to providing evidence of what has been achieved, the progress of ongoing projects and their impact on citizens, particularly young people, women, farmers and other targeted groups.

"It is not enough just to do, it is also important that people know what we are doing," he said.

Isaboke said the approach is anchored in the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information, while requiring public institutions to provide accurate and timely information.

He said Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) must maintain accurate facts, figures and programme details to ensure consistent communication from the President and Cabinet Secretaries to Principal Secretaries and Chief Executive Officers.

With the rapid expansion of digital platforms, MDAs are expected to adopt a digital- and mobile-first approach, using websites and social media to engage citizens directly.

Isaboke said speed and accuracy are critical in the digital environment, where information can be debated, challenged or rejected within minutes.

"Can we own the narrative? Can we be the first people to speak about something that is originating from the government or issues of public interest?" he posed.

He said the strategy is not intended to suppress criticism but to ensure citizens have reliable information against which claims can be assessed.

KISM — KENYA INSTITUTE OF SUPPLIES MANAGEMENT

KISEB — Elevating Supply Chain

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATIONS ON THE PROPOSED SUPPLIES PRACTITIONERS MANAGEMENT (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2026, THE DRAFT SUPPLIES PRACTITIONERS (EXAMINATION) REGULATIONS 2026, AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CPD GUIDELINES 2024 DEVELOPED IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE SUPPLIES PRACTITIONERS MANAGEMENT ACT, 2007 (Cap. 537)

PURSUANT to Section 36(a), (b), (f), and (h) of the Supplies Practitioners Management Act, 2007 and Sections 5 and 8 of the Statutory Instruments Act, 2013, the Council has prepared the proposed Supplies Practitioners Management (General) Regulations, 2026, Supplies Practitioners (Examination) Regulations, 2026 and their respective Regulatory Impact Statement to assess their likely impact on Supplies Practitioners in Kenya.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Supplies Practitioners and any other persons likely to be affected by the proposed Regulations and RIAs are invited to participate in public hearings to be conducted by the Institute, in accordance with the schedule set out in Table 1 below

FURTHER Members are hereby notified that the session will include updates on the CPD Guidelines and the Regional Chapters Elections Roadmap

TABLE 1: SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Region	Venue	Date	Time
Lower Eastern - Machakos	Semara Hotel	Monday, 28th September 2026	2.00 pm
North Eastern - Wajir	Wajir ICT Hall	Monday, 28th September 2026	10.00 am
North Eastern - Garissa	Government Guest House	Monday, 28th September 2026	10.00 am
Central Rift - Nakuru	Vicmark Hotel	Tuesday, 29th September 2026	9.00 am
South Rift - Kericho	Tea Research Institute	Tuesday, 29th September 2026	9.00 am
North Rift - Uasin Gishu	Sirikwa hotel	Tuesday, 29th September 2026	9.00 am
Mt. Kenya - Nyeri	Dedan Kimathi University	Wednesday, 30th September 2026	9.00 am
Nyanza - Kisumu	Tom Mboya College	Wednesday, 30th September 2026	9.00 am
Western - Kakamega	Golf Hotel	Wednesday, 30th September 2026	9.00 am
Coast - Mombasa	Hotel Sapphire	Thursday, 1st October 2026	9.00 am
Nairobi	KICC	Thursday, 1st October 2026	2.00 pm

Written comments on the proposed Regulations, 2026 and the Regulatory Impact Statement, which have been prepared, may be submitted to reach the undersigned **not later than fourteen (14) days** from the date of publication of this notice, in the matrix format specified in **Table 2 below**

TABLE 2: MEMBERS/STAKEHOLDERS SUBMISSIONS SHEET

No.	Clause of Regulations	Proposed amendment	Rationale of the proposed amendment
1			
2			
3			

The proposed Regulations, 2026 are available on the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM) and Kenya Institute of Supplies Examinations Board (KISEB) websites: **www.kism.or.ke** and **www.kiseb.or.ke.** Written submissions should be received **not later than 2nd October, 2026 at 5:00 pm** and addressed to:

CEO/Secretary
Kenya Institute of Supplies Examination Board
12th Floor, KISM Towers
P.O. Box 30400 – 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA

and/or

CEO/Secretary
Kenya Institute of Supplies Management
11th Floor, KISM Towers
P.O. Box 22873-00505, Nairobi, Kenya
NAIROBI, KENYA

or

E-mail: regulations@kism.or.ke

CEO, KISM **CEO, KISEB**

THE WORLD BANK — IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

BIOVAX — Protecting Health, Promoting Life

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country:	Republic of Kenya
Name of Project:	HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE PROJECT
Credit No:	7405-KE
Project ID:	P180127
Reference No.	KE-KBI-571330-CS-CQS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE:	CONSULTING SERVICES FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, ECOSYSTEM BUILDING & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE KENYA BIOVAX INSTITUTE

1. The Government of Kenya (GoK) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Health Emergency Preparedness Response and Resilience (HEPRR) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
2. The consulting services (***"the Services"***) includes Consulting Services for Stakeholder Engagement, Ecosystem Building & Strategic Communications for The Kenya Biovax Institute. The duration of the assignment will be Eight Months from the contract commencement date.
3. The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be found at the following Kenya Biovax Institute Limited's website: **www.biovax.go.ke**.
4. The Kenya Biovax Institute Limited now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

   4.1 Core business and years in business
   The consulting firm shall be legally registered/incorporated as a consulting entity and shall have its core business providing expertise in stakeholder engagement, institutional development, public sector consulting, health systems strengthening, pharmaceutical or vaccine sector advisory, market shaping and entry strategies or related fields for a minimum period of ten (10) years

   4.2 Relevant experience:
   The consulting firm shall demonstrate having successfully executed, completed and supported at least one (1) assignment of similar nature, scope, scale, and complexity within the last eight (8) years. Details of similar assignments-Name and address of the client, scope, value, and period should be provided in the submitted proposal including enumeration of these similar past assignments.

   4.3 Technical and managerial capability of the firm:
   The consulting firm shall demonstrate adequate technical depth, financial and business advisory capacity, and managerial capability to undertake this assignment, supported by submitted company profiles, organisational structures, and availability of suitably qualified experts.

   Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's ***"Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers"*** First Published July 2016 and Revised Fourth Edition November 2020 (**"Procurement Regulations"**), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
6. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.
7. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant Qualifications Selection (CQS) method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations.
8. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1700 hours East African Time (EAT) from Monday to Friday excluding lunch hour (1300 to 1400hours (EAT) and public holidays).
9. Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (In person, or by email) and be clearly marked **"Expression of Interest Consulting Services for Stakeholder Engagement, Ecosystem Building & Strategic Communications for The Kenya Biovax Institute by 30th September 2026 at 1100 hours East African Time.**

EOI submissions delivered by email should strictly be sent to: **HEPRRProcurement@biovax.go.ke**

Address:
Director General/CEO
Kenya BioVax Institute Limited
Kenya Women Finance Trust- Upper Hill
Kiambere- Masaba Road
3rd Floor, Wing A
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 775 751 639
Email: heprr@biovax.go.ke , Copy: procurement@biovax.go.ke

KENYA VISION 2030

Kenya champions deeper regional integration

BY LILIAN GICHOHI AND SAMUEL NJOROGE

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi (center), Aviation and Aerospace Development PS Teresia Mbaika (left), and KCAA Board Chairman Brown Ondego (right) stand for the national anthem during the official opening of the 10th Aviation Africa Summit and Exhibition at Sarit Expo Centre, Nairobi.

Kenya has called for stronger regional integration and accelerated modernization of aviation infrastructure as it hosts the 10th Aviation Africa Summit and Exhibition in Nairobi.

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi, who opened the two-day summit at the Sarit Expo Centre, said aviation remains a critical driver of economic growth, trade, tourism, investment and regional integration.

He warned that redundant regulatory and structural barriers continue to limit intra-African air connectivity. Hosted by the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), the summit brought together aviation leaders, policymakers, regulators and industry players from Africa and beyond.

Musalia said the reliance on transit routes through destinations outside Africa increases the cost of air travel and restricts the movement of people and goods across the continent.

“Aviation is not just a means of transport. It is an enabler of trade, tourism, investment, healthcare, education, humanitarian assistance and cultural exchange,” Mudavadi said.

He urged African countries to accelerate implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), one of the flagship initiatives under the African Union’s Agenda 2063, to unlock the continent’s aviation potential.

Mudavadi also called for greater involvement of national parliaments in aviation reforms, particularly efforts to advance open-skies policies.

He said industry stakeholders should engage lawmakers more actively to build support for reforms aimed at liberalizing air transport and strengthening connectivity between African countries.

“In Kenya, for instance, our constitutional framework is such that the role of entities like Parliament has become extremely pivotal in opening up key policy directions,” he said.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary said Kenya remains committed to upgrading its aviation infrastructure and regulatory systems, highlighting investments in modern air traffic management systems, digital aviation technologies and safety capabilities.

He cited the planned upgrading of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) to global standards as a priority, saying the project would help the country cope with growing passenger and air cargo volumes.

Musalia added that improvements to regional airports and aerodromes would support domestic tourism, agricultural exports and enterprise development.

Principal Secretary for the State Department of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Teresia Mbaika, said the government is creating an enabling environment for a safe, efficient, sustainable and competitive aviation industry.

“Our mandate is to create an enabling environment in which aviation can grow safely, efficiently, sustainably and competitively,” Mbaika said.

She said the government’s agenda includes infrastructure development, improved connectivity, increased investment, human capital development and innovation, alongside responsive regulatory and policy frameworks.

Mbaika said Kenya aims to retain its position as one of Africa’s leading aviation hubs while strengthening its role as a major air cargo centre.

KCAA Board Chairman, Brown Ondego said Kenya’s long history in civil aviation provides a strong foundation for the country’s ambition to promote greater regional connectivity.

Kisumu partners with Lwala Alliance to contain maternal deaths

BY FAITH LUMUMBA AND VALERY NYAGAKA (KNA)

Kisumu County is partnering with Lwala Community Alliance for a five-year campaign to tame rising cases of maternal and infant mortality rates in the region.

The partnership, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding, will cover 315 public and private health facilities, linking community level interventions to hospital care to improve survival rate of mothers and children.

County Director of Medical Services and Acting Chief Officer, Dr Don Sunday Ogola, said the county continues to grapple with poor maternal and child health indicators despite sustained investments.

Maternal mortality in Kisumu stands at 344 deaths per 100,000 live births, while neonatal mortality is about 12 deaths per 1,000 live births. Only about 70 per cent of expectant mothers attend antenatal care, Dr Ogola said.

“As we speak, our data are not very good in Kisumu, but we are putting a lot of effort to improve on these indicators. Lwala is coming in today to support us, especially to help us see to it that these indicators get improved,” he said during the launch in Kisumu.

Kisumu is among 26 counties selected by the national government to fast-track the Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere (EWENE) programme.

Dr Ogola said the partnership aligns with the county’s priorities of ensuring mothers and children receive quality care.

The programme will focus on ensuring facilities are stocked with essential commodities, strengthening human resources for health, and improving the quality of data for decision making.

“While hope alone is not a strategy in science, it must back up strategy because it gives drive and zeal and assurance that there is hope to live tomorrow,” he said.

For Lwala, the partnership marks an expansion from neighbouring Migori into Kisumu, bringing experience in community health, maternal and newborn care and health-system accountability.

AI, digital skills take centre stage in STEM education reforms

Government is investing in STEM infrastructure, laboratories, learning resources, curriculum reforms and teacher capacity development to strengthen learners' competencies.

BY IAN CHEPKUTO (KNA)

The Government is intensifying efforts to equip teachers and learners with digital skills needed to drive competency-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and prepare young people for an increasingly technology-driven economy.

The initiative seeks to transform classroom learning from teacher-centred instruction to practical, learner-centred approaches that foster critical thinking, creativity, innovation, collaboration and problem-solving.

The Director-General, State Department for Basic Education, Dr Elyas Abdi Jilla, said the Government is investing in STEM infrastructure, laboratories, learning resources, curriculum reforms and teacher capacity development to strengthen learners' competencies.

"These investments are important because Kenya needs young people who can participate meaningfully in the digital economy, develop innovative solutions and contribute to national development," Dr Jilla said.

He, however, cautioned that the digital transformation of education must address inequalities to ensure learners in marginalised and underserved areas are not excluded.

"We must ensure that learners in marginalised and underserved areas are not left behind," he said, warning against creating a two-tier education system in which some learners have access to modern technologies while others remain excluded.

Dr Jilla spoke in a speech read on his behalf by Education Secretary Nelson Sifuna, during the opening of a workshop on Advancing Digital Literacy for Competency-Based STEM Education at the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) in Nairobi.

The two-day workshop brought together policymakers, teachers, academics, STEM specialists and international partners to explore digital literacy, artificial intelligence (AI), innovation and practical applications of emerging technologies in teaching, learning and assessment.

Education Secretary, Nelson Sifuna, speaks on behalf of Dr Elyas Abdi Jilla, Director-General, State Department for Basic Education, during the opening ceremony of a workshop on Advancing Digital Literacy for Competency-Based (STEM) Education at CEMASTEA in Nairobi.

Dr Jilla said the competency-based education approach required a shift from transmitting knowledge to developing communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, self-efficacy, learning to learn and digital literacy.

He noted that the shift is particularly important in STEM education, where learners need opportunities to investigate, design, experiment, create, test and improve solutions to real-world challenges.

The DG stressed that technology should enhance teaching and learning rather than become an end in itself.

"This is why technology must serve pedagogy and learning outcomes. Technology is not an end in itself," he said.

He challenged education stakeholders to assess whether digital tools enable teachers to teach more effectively and learners to demonstrate deeper understanding and stronger competencies.

Dr Jilla also urged teachers to use appropriate technologies aligned with curriculum outcomes to support inquiry, digital content development, assessment and feedback.

With AI and other emerging technologies becoming increasingly accessible, he called for their responsible and ethical adoption to strengthen rather than replace the professional role of teachers.

Kenya steps up drive to become Africa's digital hub

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke (Center) during the official opening ceremony for the fourth edition of the ITW Africa and DataCloud Africa Summit. Photo by Nancy Omondi.

BY NANCY OMONDI AND SAMUEL NJOROGE (KNA)

Kenya is stepping up efforts to position itself as a leading digital infrastructure and investment hub in Africa, with the Government prioritising fibre connectivity, data centres, cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI) to drive economic growth.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke said digital infrastructure has become as critical as roads, water and electricity as economies continue to increasingly depend on technology for business, public services and economic activity.

"Digital infrastructure for us as a government is actually critical national infrastructure. It is equivalent to roads, water, and power. It is probably even more critical now in the digital era," Isaboke said.

Speaking in Nairobi during the fourth edition of the ITW Africa and DataCloud Africa Summit, Isaboke said Kenya's ICT sector is growing at an average of about 10 per cent annually, while the digital economy expanded by about nine per cent and contributed approximately nine per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2025.

He said the government is investing in secure, resilient and trusted digital infrastructure to support sectors including banking, healthcare, education, transport, manufacturing and public services.

Under the Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy programme, the government is targeting the rollout of about 100,000 kilometres of fibre optic infrastructure and 1,450 digital hubs across the country.

ICT and the Digital Economy Principal Secretary John Tanui speaking in Nairobi during the fourth edition of the ITW Africa and DataCloud Africa Summit. Photo by Nancy Omondi.

The hubs are expected to expand access to digital services and equip young people with skills needed to participate in the digital economy, while public Wi-Fi is being deployed in marketplaces, schools and hospitals.

"Our purpose is not simply to lay fibre. It is actually about connecting schools, hospitals, government offices, businesses and communities to lower the cost of access and to allow every Kenyan, wherever they live, to participate in the digital economy," Isaboke said.

More than Sh16 billion has been allocated to the Digital Superhighway programme over the past four years, with about 33,000 young Kenyans already earning income through related digital and online work initiatives.

Isaboke said the rapid development of AI is increasing demand for data centres, reliable electricity, fibre networks and secure data storage.

"AI is actually physical infrastructure, storage, not just software," he said, adding that Kenya wants to become a contributor to the AI economy rather than merely a consumer of technologies developed elsewhere.

Industry experts at the summit, however, said Africa needs to address policy uncertainty, high electricity costs, affordability and regulatory barriers to attract more investment in digital infrastructure.

They noted that although about 90 per cent of Africa's population lives within areas covered by mobile networks, only about 28 per cent is connected to the internet, partly due to the cost of smart devices.

The experts urged governments to stimulate demand by moving public data and services to local data centres while offering incentives such as tax breaks, streamlined permits and easier importation of technology equipment.

Reliable and competitively priced electricity was also identified as critical for attracting data-centre investments, which require substantial capital and long-term commitments.

The experts further called for development of AI solutions tailored to African languages and sectors such as healthcare, agriculture and finance.

Isaboke said Kenya's strategic location and connectivity infrastructure gave it an advantage as a gateway to East and Central Africa. Eight submarine cables currently land in Mombasa, providing international connectivity to Kenya and the region.

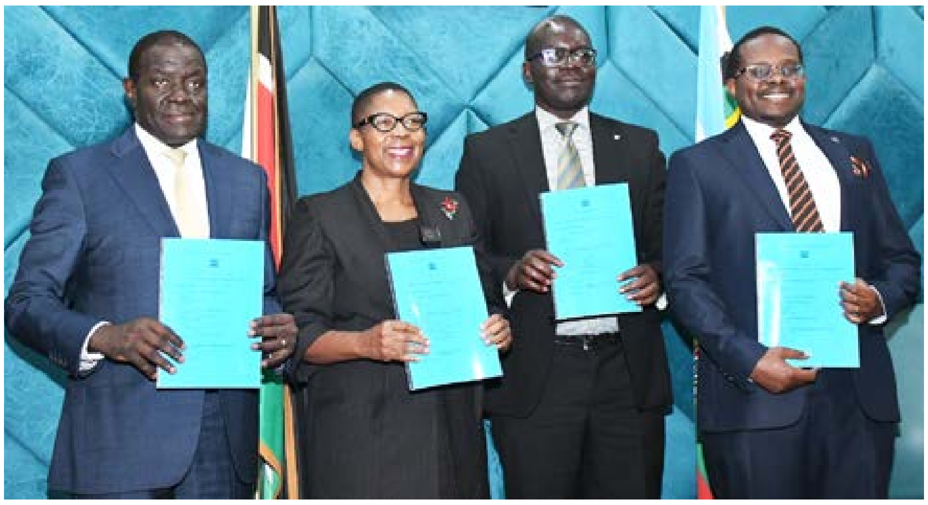
The Government is also engaging Tanzania, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda to strengthen regional digital connectivity.

ICT and the Digital Economy Principal Secretary John Tanui said Kenya had more than 20 data centres, demonstrating the country's growing potential as a destination for digital infrastructure investment.

"Demand is not the issue. We are ready to facilitate you. The demand is there and you are the people who will unlock the economic prosperity of our continent," Tanui said.

The three-day summit brought together about 2,000 delegates from nearly 80 countries to discuss connectivity, digital infrastructure, cloud technologies and investment opportunities across Africa.

Draft rules seek to widen access to advocates' training



The Attorney General, Dorcas Oduor, (2nd from Left), Solicitor General, Shadrack Mose (left), Chairperson of the Council of Legal Education (CLE), Prof. Collins Odote (2nd from right) and President of the Law Society of Kenya Charles Kanjama (right) poses for a group photo during the official handover of the Draft Legal Education (Advocates Training Programme) Regulations, 2026 and the Draft Legal Education (Licensing and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2026, in Nairobi

BY NANCY OMONDI AND CELINE MWENDE (KNA)

Law graduates locked out of advocates' professional training could soon get a second chance under proposed regulations seeking to widen access to the legal profession while strengthening quality standards.

The Council of Legal Education (CLE) has handed over two draft regulations to the Attorney-General that seek to create clearer pathways into advocates' training, improve accreditation and licensing, and standardise legal education across institutions.

The Legal Education (Advocates Training Programme) Regulations, 2026 and the Legal Education (Licensing and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2026 were presented to Attorney-General Dorcas Oduor last week.

CLE Chairperson Prof. Collins Odote said the reforms respond to longstanding challenges in access to advocates' training, examinations and regulation of legal education providers.

He said the proposals also respond to a Court of Appeal decision directing the Council to open post-university advocates' training to accredited public and private institutions.

"We do not take that directive lightly, and we have worked tirelessly to respond to the requirements that the Court of Appeal has introduced," Prof. Odote said.

Under the proposed framework, a two-year transition period would be provided for law graduates who have been unable to join the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) because of existing legal requirements.

Eligible graduates would be allowed to undertake a bridging examination before proceeding with professional training.

The regulations also seek to recognise alternative pathways into the legal profession by considering relevant diploma and degree qualifications, subject to standards designed to safeguard the quality of legal education.

"This regulation moves towards the recognition of other pathways to join the legal profession, by recognising prior diplomas and degree qualifications as relevant qualifications," said Prof. Odote.

The proposed rules would further require legal education providers to regularly review curricula, employ qualified faculty and meet prescribed standards before receiving accreditation.

Prof. Odote said the reforms were also intended to restore confidence in CLE processes following concerns over examinations, delays and transparency.

The regulations were developed following consultations with universities, legal education providers, professional bodies, including the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), and members of the public.

Attorney-General Oduor said concerns raised by young Kenyans during the Gen Z protests had also highlighted challenges surrounding access to legal education and professional training.

She called for the reforms to be incorporated into a broader national legal education policy addressing lawyer training, quality assurance, access to professional education and financial barriers facing students.

"Our measure of success should ultimately not be the number of regulations we enact or institutions we license. It should be whether a young Kenyan who chooses to study law can enter that journey with clarity, fairness, and confidence," Oduor said.

Oduor urged CLE, working with the Kenya Law Reform Commission and other stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive policy framework for the sector.

LSK President Charles Kanjama welcomed the proposals, saying Kenya had room to increase the number of competent lawyers providing legal services.

He noted that about 27,000 advocates have been admitted to the profession, yet many Kenyans still face difficulties accessing legal services.

Counties renew cross border peace pact

BY PETER GITONGA (KNA)

The County Governments of Turkana and West Pokot have reaffirmed their commitment to peace, cross-border cooperation, and resilience among pastoralist communities following a one-day consultative meeting in Lodwar.

The forum, organized in collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), brought together senior county and national government officials alongside development partners.

Key speakers included Turkana Central Deputy County Commissioner Rodgers Otieno, West Pokot County Executive Committee Member for Land, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development Esther Chelimo, West Pokot Chief Officer for Special Programmes Daniel Lopale, and other senior officials from both counties, along with representatives from DRC and Caritas Lodwar.

Turkana Chief Officers Moses Korea (Office of the Governor) and Janerose Tioko (Resource Mobilization and Partnerships), along with officers from the peace, livestock, and disaster management dockets, and administrators from Loima and Lokiriama also attended.

In his remarks, Korea stressed the need for closer collaboration between the two counties in addressing cross-border conflict, pastoralist movement, and pressure on shared resources. He highlighted the role of the Directorate of Peace Building and Conflict Management in driving preventive dialogue between communities and local administrators.

Tioko said lasting peace and development depend on coordinated action across county and national government, communities, and development partners, and urged partners to back government-led initiatives rather than run parallel efforts.

The delegates reviewed conditions attached to Kenya's 14 approved inter-county and national cross-border routes used by pastoralists; a proposed joint visit to the Kalomwae mining area to support peace building following the recent Turkana-Pokot conflict; and steps to strengthen El Niño preparedness for pastoralist communities.

Kenya-US health financing model under review

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale (Right) having consultations with United States officials on the ongoing transition to a new Government-to-Government (G2G) financing model under the Kenya-US health cooperation framework.

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

Kenya and the United States of America are reviewing the current health financing model to strengthen the new cooperation framework.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, during high-level consultations with United States officials on the ongoing transition to a new Government-to-Government (G2G) financing model under the Kenya-US health cooperation framework, said there is need for a structured, transparent and accountable transition that safeguards the continuity of essential health services while enhancing Kenya government's ownership, strengthening systems and building institutional capacity.

He spoke while hosting US Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Carla Benini and representatives from PwC and the Project Management Unit (PMU) for discussions.

The talks focused on assessing progress in the transition, reviewing agreed milestones and strengthening governance arrangements supporting the new cooperation framework.

The discussions covered governance and oversight, risk and capacity assessments, transition milestones and preliminary findings.

Both sides reaffirmed that major decisions would continue to be handled through established bilateral governance structures.

They also agreed that the outstanding risk and capacity assessment should be completed within a jointly agreed and clearly defined timeframe.

"There is a need for transparent and consistent financing throughout the transition period," Duale said.

During the meeting, delegations reviewed the outstanding disbursement instrument required to operationalise Kenya's on-budget financial commitment under the new arrangement.

They reaffirmed that the transition is being implemented within a government-approved framework designed to strengthen accountability, improve the use of government systems and ensure continuity of critical health programmes.

The framework also seeks to maximise the effective utilisation of available resources for the benefit of Kenyans while supporting the country's broader Universal Health Coverage agenda.

Duale said the government is committed to working closely with the US Government and other partners to ensure the transition results in a sustainable, government-led model of health cooperation aligned with Kenya's health priorities.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr Ouma Oluga, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni, and Director-General for Health Dr Patrick Amoth among other dignitaries.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF POLITICAL PARTIES
ORPP
Strengthening Political Parties

SALIENT PROCESSES AND TIMELINES FOR THE 10TH AUGUST 2027 GENERAL ELECTION AS DRAWN FROM THE POLITICAL PARTIES ACT CAP. 7D AND ELECTIONS ACT CAP. 7

1. The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties is an independent state office established under Section 33 of Political Parties Act Cap. 7D to register and regulate political parties as well as to administer the Political Parties Fund.
2. Pursuant to Article 88(4) of the Constitution, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) vide the Gazette published on 20th August 2026 under **Vol.CXXVII-No.144** stipulated activities and processes towards the 10th August 2027 General Election.
3. Flowing from the above, the attention of the public and the political parties is drawn to the following salient timelines: -

A. POLITICAL PARTY NOMINATIONS 7TH TO 15TH OCTOBER, 2026

Activity/Process	Dates
Submission of names and specimen signatures of authorized persons by political parties to ORPP	7th to 15th October 2026
Submission of names and specimen signatures of authorized persons by political parties to IEBC	By 15th October 2026
Submission of Elections and Nomination rules by political parties to ORPP	28th September 2026 to 16th October 2026
Certification of political party nomination rules by the Registrar of Political Parties	By 30th October 2026
Submission of party nomination rules by political parties to IEBC	By 6th November 2026
Submission of party membership lists by political parties to ORPP	16th March 2027 to 23rd March 2027
Certification of party membership registers by ORPP	By 23rd March 2027
Submission of party membership registers by political parties to IEBC	By 12th April 2027
A political party to request ORPP for a certified party membership register.	At least 21 days to the date of the party nominations.
ORPP to submit a certified party membership register to a political party.	Within 7 days of the request by the political party.
A political party to notify ORPP of the method it intends to use in conducting party nominations in line with its nomination rules	At least 10 days before the date of party nomination.
A political party to notify ORPP of the dates, venues, and list of members of the party who wish to be nominated by the party.	At least 10 days before the party nomination.
A political party to submit the address of the party official website to ORPP	At least 14 days before the date of the party nomination.
A political party to publish in the official website of the political party the dates and venues of the nominations.	At least 7 days before the date of the party nomination.
ORPP publishes in its website the dates and venues of the political party's nominations.	At least 7 days before the date of the party nomination.
For direct nomination, a party to post in a conspicuous place within each nomination venue the list of party members eligible to participate in the nomination at that venue.	Before the date of the party nomination.
Submission to ORPP and publishing in the party website particulars of the party organ to conduct the direct nominations	Before the date of the party nomination.
Submission to ORPP and publishing in the party website the procedure to be used in direct nomination.	Before the date of the party nomination.
A political party to provide essential election materials including ballot papers; ballot boxes; a copy of the register of the members of the party; pens; and nomination results slips at each polling venue.	Before the date of the party nomination.
For indirect nomination, political parties to select delegates who shall participate in the party nominations from among the registered members of the party.	Before submission of the list of delegates to the ORPP.
For indirect nomination, political parties to submit a list of delegates to the ORPP.	At least 7 days before the date of the party nomination.
For indirect nomination, political parties to specify the date and venue of the delegates' meeting.	At least 10 days before the date of the party nomination.
A political party candidate to submit self-declaration forms to the political party in the prescribed form under the Leadership and Integrity Act Cap. 185C.	Before the date of the party nominations.
A political party to confirm that candidates meet qualifications under the Constitution, Elections Act, Political Parties Act, Party Nomination rules, and other relevant laws.	Before submission of list of persons who wish to be nominated to the ORPP.
A political party to submit to ORPP a register of party members, and a statement of its assets and liabilities.	12th May 2027

B. COALITION POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRE-ELECTION COALITIONS

Activity/Process	Dates
Submission of a coalition agreement by political parties to ORPP for registration of a coalition political party.	By 12th April 2027
Submission of a coalition agreement by political parties to ORPP for confirmation of a pre-election coalition.	By 9th May 2027

C. INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

Process/Activity	Dates
Resignation from political parties	By 8th May 2027
Submission of symbols to ORPP	23rd March to 8th May 2027
Certification of symbols by ORPP	23rd March to 8th May 2027
Submission of request for certification that a person is not a member of a political party	23rd March to 8th May 2027
Certification that persons intending to contest as independent candidates are not party members	23rd March to 8th May 2027

D. MERGERS

Process/Activity	Timeline
Political parties to submit the merger agreement to ORPP.	Within 21 days of signing the merger agreement.

J.C. Lorionokou
Registrar of Political Parties

ORPPKenya
www.orpp.or.ke

Nakuru farmers embrace AI-powered farming advice

The County Government to roll out FarmerChat, a mobile application that enables farmers to obtain weather updates, crop advisories and practical farming information directly through their mobile phones

BY ESTHER MWANGI AND CAROLINE NYAKIO (KNA)

Farmers in Nakuru County will access timely, location-specific agricultural advice through a new artificial intelligence-powered digital platform aimed at improving productivity, strengthening climate resilience and expanding access to extension services.

The County Government has partnered with CARE Kenya and Digital Green to roll out FarmerChat, a mobile application that enables farmers to obtain weather updates, crop advisories and practical farming information directly through their mobile phones.

County Chief Officer for Agriculture, Eng. Margaret Kinyanjui, said the platform would provide guidance on crop diseases, pests, soil management, crop selection and other farming challenges, helping farmers make informed decisions based on local conditions.

"The mobile app is an important addition to our agricultural extension system because it gives farmers an opportunity to access reliable information without having to wait for an extension officer to visit their farms," Kinyanjui said.

She said the platform would complement conventional extension services by providing farmers with basic information whenever they need it, while allowing agricultural officers to focus on cases requiring specialised technical support and physical farm visits.

Kinyanjui encouraged farmers to embrace the technology, noting that combining digital tools with existing extension services would enable the county to reach more farmers, respond faster to climate-related challenges and support improved productivity and incomes.

FarmerChat, developed by Digital Green, allows farmers to interact with the platform through text, voice and photographs, making it accessible to users with different levels of literacy and digital experience.

Officials from the County Government of Nakuru and CARE Kenya during the unveiling of the Digital First Agriculture initiative, which seeks to expand access to digital agricultural information and extension services for farmers. Photo/Caroline Nyakio - KNA

A farmer experiencing an unusual crop symptom, for instance, can type or record a question, upload a photograph of the affected plant and provide location information. The system then processes the information alongside agricultural knowledge, local conditions and weather data to generate relevant guidance.

The platform provides information on crop diseases and pests, fertilizer and pesticide use, weather, irrigation, livestock management and crop enterprises. Its location-based functionality is intended to make recommendations more relevant to the climatic and agricultural conditions of different areas.

The multilingual and voice-based features could also help overcome language and literacy barriers that sometimes limit access to conventional agricultural information.

Kinyanjui said timely weather information would be particularly useful to farmers facing increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, enabling them to make better decisions on planting, irrigation, crop protection and other farm operations.

She added that the initiative would support implementation of the Nakuru County Agroecology Framework, which promotes soil health, climate-smart agriculture, conservation of natural resources and sustainable food production.

Agriculture remains an important source of livelihoods in Nakuru, with farmers engaged in crop production, livestock keeping, fisheries, horticulture and floriculture. Major crops include maize, beans, Irish potatoes and wheat, alongside fruits and vegetables, while dairy farming remains a key livestock enterprise.

The county has continued to invest in agricultural extension, mechanisation, irrigation, horticulture promotion, soil testing and research to increase productivity, strengthen food security and improve household incomes.

Kinyanjui said the collaboration with CARE Kenya and Digital Green would add technical expertise to the county's efforts to modernise agricultural extension and expand farmers' access to practical information.

The rollout of FarmerChat adds a digital layer to Nakuru's agricultural support system, with the county government seeking to use technology to reduce farmers' reliance on guesswork and strengthen their ability to adapt to emerging agricultural and climate-related challenges.

Ministry to revive special needs education assessment centres

BY RAMADHAN NASSIB (KNA)

The Ministry of Education is reviving the country's collapsed Education Assessment Resource Centres (EARCs).

The ministry will start with 10 regional facilities in a bid to improve identification and placement of learners with special needs, Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has said.

Speaking in Mombasa on a fact-finding tour, Ogamba said the centres, once spread across the country's former districts and provinces, had fallen into disrepair since 2019.

"There is a challenge in the sense that those assessment centres are now being hosted, some in our schools, such as the one we are in. And that is not adequate," Ogamba said, after touring one of the abandoned centres at Tom Mboya School for Children with Cerebral Palsy, Tononoka, Mombasa County, where equipment, doors and windows had been vandalised.

Kenya had previously 46 EARCs at district level and 10 at regional headquarters, where parents brought children for assessment before placement in special schools, integrated units or mainstream institutions, depending on the severity of their needs.

The CS said the government had set aside about Sh130 million to begin repairing the first batch of 10 regional centres, with partners being brought on board to support the wider revival of all 56 facilities.

He said the exercise would generate reliable data on the number of learners with special needs and the nature of their disabilities, which range from cerebral palsy to albinism, and would guide staffing, teacher training and equipment purchases.

"Students or learning institutions with special needs require a teacher ratio of 1 to 4, as opposed to what we normally know in normal circumstances; the ratio is 1 to 29," he said, adding that trained classroom helpers are also needed to give learners individual attention.

He cited hearing aids as an example of equipment that could not be issued without individualized assessment.

On higher education funding, Ogamba clarified reports that the government was reverting to the old university funding model, saying first-year students admitted from September 24 would join under the existing framework, while the new funding bill, already through its first reading in Parliament, awaits a second reading before becoming law.

He said Sh22.12 billion had already been released for continuing students, with first-year funds expected in institutions within a week.

The application window for first-year students has been extended to September 21 to accommodate roughly 7,000 of the 202,000 qualified candidates who had yet to apply.

On Teacher Training Colleges, the CS said admission decisions were pending resolution of an ongoing court case.

Ogamba expressed confidence in the new funding model, saying it had been well received by stakeholders, because it would make higher education accessible regardless of a family's financial capacity.

"We are making education accessible; we are making it equitable, available, adequate, and then sustainable. So, it is really a good proposal, and we do not see any problem," Ogamba said.

Government calls for stronger industry-TVET partnerships

Approximately 300 modularised curricula have been developed or reviewed, with green competencies integrated into 86 curricula. More than 2,500 companies have engaged with TVET institutions, benefiting over 15,000 young people through improved training

TVET Principal Secretary Dr, Esther Thaara Muoria during the opening of the International TVET Conference 2026 in Nairobi. Photo/Courtesy

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

The Government has called for stronger collaboration between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and industry to equip young people with practical skills for employment, enterprise and global competitiveness.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba said closer industry-TVET partnerships are critical to ensure training is translated into meaningful economic opportunities for young people.

Ogamba, in a speech read by Principal Secretary, State Department for TVET, Dr Esther Moria, during the opening of the three-day International TVET Conference 2026 in Nairobi, said industry should play a greater role in shaping skills development.

"Before industries can grow, people must acquire the knowledge to build, operate and improve them. Before innovation can flourish, talent must be nurtured," he said.

He cited the experiences of Disrael Ngeresa, who trained in Industrial Mechatronics at Kiambu National Polytechnic and is now a Field Service Engineer at Krones LCS, and Medrin Wanja Wangui, who trained in Autobody Technology at Thika Technical Training Institute through dual training before securing employment at AutoXpress Limited.

Ogamba said the cases demonstrated how stronger links between institutions and employers could translate technical training into employment and productive livelihoods.

Kenya has, since 2023, transitioned TVET to Competency-Based Education and Training, expanded modularisation and increased industry participation.

The public TVET system comprises 33 national polytechnics and 217 technical and vocational colleges, while 11,600 trainers have been upskilled in competency-based training.

Approximately 300 modularised curricula have been developed or reviewed, with green competencies integrated into 86 curricula. More than 2,500 companies have engaged with TVET institutions, benefiting over 15,000 young people through improved training.

Ogamba said dual training, where 50 to 70 per cent of training is undertaken in industry and 30 to 50 per cent in institutions, is helping bridge the gap between classroom learning and the workplace.

The Kenya National Dual Training Policy, approved by Cabinet on January 21, 2025, provides a framework for institutional and employer roles, quality assurance, assessment and certification.

Finland's Ambassador to Kenya, Riina-Riikka Heikka, said her country is supporting Kenya's TVET reforms, particularly efforts to make training more practical and responsive to labour-market needs.

She said companies should help design curricula, host students for workplace training and participate in examinations to ensure training keeps pace with employer needs.

Germany's Deputy Head of Mission and Head of the Economic Department in Nairobi, Konrad Lax, said Kenya has made a decisive choice to bring training closer to the workplace.

He said more than 15,000 students in 120 TVET institutions are being trained in partnership with about 2,500 industry partners.

Lax said Germany, in collaboration with the Republic of Korea, is promoting employment for women and supporting the green industry, targeting an additional 3,000 young Kenyans for technical skills required in the green economy.

He urged private-sector players to become "architects of the training process" and called for incentives to encourage companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to invest in training.

Ogamba said Kenya would continue strengthening digital and artificial intelligence skills, green technologies, trainer development, recognition of prior learning, modular and dual training, international benchmarking and portability of qualifications.

He also highlighted labour mobility between Kenya and Germany, saying structured pathways had been established for skilled workers and young Kenyans seeking vocational training and employment.

The inaugural cohort of 31 young Kenyans, comprising 20 in hospitality and 11 in landscaping, had completed technical, German-language, intercultural and workplace-readiness training.

Ogamba said labour mobility should remain safe, ethical, transparent and based on verified labour-market demand, noting that well-managed mobility could promote knowledge transfer and skills development between countries.

Kenya steps up efforts to close biodiversity funding gap

BY WANGARI NDIRANGU (KNA)

Kenya has launched a project to support biodiversity planning, financing, private-sector investment, and restoration.

The country will seek to mobilize more resources and strengthen capacity to implement its biodiversity commitments through the just launched Systemic Learning and Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Targets for Innovative Transformation and Behavioral Change (SYMBIOTIC) project.

Deputy Director at the State Department for Climate Change and Forestry, Mayiani Saino, said Kenya had translated the 23 global targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into 25 national targets, but faced challenges in implementing them, particularly at the county level because of inadequate financing and weak coordination.

"When the commitments get to the counties, two key issues arise: the capacity to unpack those commitments and embed them into everyday operations, and the financing required to implement them," Saino said during the launch of the project.

She said the Government is mainstreaming biodiversity into national and county planning, public finance, and business and investment decisions, noting that biodiversity often competes for funding with other development priorities.

"Biodiversity hardly makes it to the top five in the list of investments in the country. Yet a country that is 48 per cent dependent on nature for its GDP does not invest enough back into its natural capital," she said.

The five-year SYMBIOTIC project will support the Government to translate biodiversity commitments into practical action by strengthening policy and coordination, integrating biodiversity into public finance, and promoting private-sector investment.

The project will assess existing legislation, incentives, and subsidies to determine whether they support biodiversity investments, while engaging businesses and financial institutions to promote biodiversity-positive practices.

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Africa Strategy and Partnerships Manager, Nagnouma Kone, said the project would also explore innovative financing instruments, including green and sustainability-linked bonds, carbon finance, and debt-for-nature swaps, to help bridge the biodiversity financing gap.

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Africa Strategy and Partnerships Manager Nagnouma Kone during the launch of the SYMBIOTIC project to support biodiversity. Photo/Courtesy

"We need to innovatively think beyond the box and use effective instruments that are now new and plug and play those into biodiversity in order to accelerate that uptake," Kone said.

Nature Kenya Executive Director, Dr. Paul Matiku, said Kenya was yet to establish its actual biodiversity financing gap, but warned that the shortfall was substantial.

He said the global financing requirement for implementing the biodiversity framework had been estimated at about $200 billion annually, underscoring the need for greater domestic and private-sector investment.

GGGI Kenya Project Manager, Lavenda Ondere, said the initiative would also support dialogue between the government and businesses to accelerate implementation of Kenya's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

"We want to accelerate NBSAP implementation, but we also want to bring business into the conversation," Ondere said.

The project, led by the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) and implemented by GGGI, is being rolled-out in Kenya, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Indonesia, and Kyrgyzstan until January 2031 with funding from the German Government through the International Climate Initiative.

In Kenya, the initiative will support natural capital accounting, biodiversity-friendly investments, and ecosystem restoration, while strengthening the participation of communities and other stakeholders in conservation and decision-making.

Kenya's updated NBSAP, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, is being complemented by the recently launched National Bioeconomy Strategy 2026-2036, the National Plan for Advancing Environmental-Economic Accounting 2025-2028, and the Kenya Green Finance Taxonomy.

Ministry expands adult education and literacy

BY JOYLINE ARODI (KNA)

The Government is expanding adult education and literacy programmes across the country, with 13,000 adult candidates expected to sit the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination this year.

This is an increase from 7,700 in 2025. Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs Principal Secretary Joseph Motari said the increase reflects growing demand for flexible and inclusive learning opportunities among adults and young people who missed formal education.

Speaking in Kajiado during celebrations to mark the 60th International Literacy Day, Motari said the government is implementing measures to expand access to literacy, education and digital skills.

The measures include developing local-language learning materials, expanding accelerated education programmes for out-of-school youth, reviewing basic adult education and training and adult teacher education curricula, establishing additional community learning centres and expanding digital literacy programmes.

The Government, through the Directorate of Adult Education, has established 5,220 adult education centres countrywide, with more than 165,000 learners currently enrolled.

Motari said 15,241 adult learners had successfully completed proficiency assessments and qualified for proficiency certification.

He urged adults and young people who missed formal education to take advantage of available learning opportunities and register for upcoming examinations.

The Government is also working with Japan and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning to expand adult education under a broader lifelong learning framework.

Motari said Kenya's participation in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities had demonstrated the importance of extending learning beyond traditional classrooms.

Kenya currently has five UNESCO Learning Cities — Nairobi, Kilifi, Garissa, Laikipia and Makueni.

In Kajiado County, adult illiteracy stands at approximately 30 per cent, highlighting the need for intensified efforts to promote adult learning.

Government to strengthen El Niño preparedness communication

1. State Department of Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary, Stephen Isaboke, speaking during the government's multi agency joint media briefing on the El Nino preparedness at Harambee Annex
2. A team of Principal Secretaries during a joint multi agency media briefing on the government's El Nino preparedness at Harambee Annex. State Department of Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Stephen Isaboke (left), State Department for Special Programs (PS) Ishmael Maalim Madey, State Department for Basic Education (PS) John Olutuaa and Acting Director General Kenya Meteorological Services Authority Edward Muriuki attended. Photo by Aron Kinyamasyo/KNA.

BY NANCY OMONDI (KNA)

The Government will streamline communication and messaging to avert loss of life and property during the anticipated heavy rainfall.

Speaking during a multi agency joint media briefing on the El Nino preparedness at Harambee Annex, Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Isaboke noted that the Government will use mainstream and vernacular radio stations, digital platforms and national government administration structures to reach communities at the grassroots to avert loss of human lives and property.

"An accurate forecast, like what we are dealing with, or a technical advisory can only protect lives and livelihoods when it reaches the people who need it, in good time, through channels they can access, and in a form they can understand and act upon," Isaboke said.

About 14 state departments are directly impacted by the anticipated rains, including roads, health, education, environment, special programmes and emergency response.

Isaboke called on the public to rely on verified information and respond promptly to official safety advisories.

"Stay informed. Prepare early. Follow official advisories. Act when advised to do so," Isaboke reiterated.

Government Spokesperson, Charles Owino, said Kenya has a 90 per cent likelihood of experiencing above-average to very high rainfall during the October-November-December (OND) season, with the rains potentially projected to extend into early 2027.

Owino urged Kenyans to prepare early, remain alert and follow official advisories, while assuring the public there was no cause for panic because the government will be closely monitoring the events as they unfold.

"There's no cause for panic. However, there is every reason for government institutions, communities and individual citizens to remain alert and take appropriate precautionary measures," Owino said.

At the county level, Owino said county governments, working with national government administration officers, will map out areas of high risk and identify safer grounds for residents to take refuge especially those living along rivers and other hazardous locations.

"We will be prepared in all the 47 counties, and that is why every county government, with the help of our government administrative officers there, have to sit in their own committees and map out and then come up with a response strategy," Owino said.

He explained that evacuation arrangements would vary from one county to another depending on local risks, with development and humanitarian partners expected to support preparedness and response efforts.

Owino further urged farmers and livestock keepers to take precautionary measures, including moving animals to safer and higher ground where necessary.

Principal Secretary for Special Programmes, Ismail Maalim Madey, outlined a whole-of-government approach covering preparedness, response, recovery and resilience.

Madey disclosed that humanitarian supplies are being pre-positioned in counties to cushion communities against possible disruptions to livelihoods and transport, particularly in areas where flooding could damage roads.

Basic Education Principal Secretary, John Lekakeny Ololtuaa, highlighted elaborate contingency measures the Ministry developed in response to anticipated heavy rains so as to minimize disruption of learning and administration of the national examinations in October and November.

The measures include mapping potentially high-risk areas, strengthening the school feeding programme and strategically positioning examination materials and containers in advance.

Ololtuaa assured parents and candidates that the government has put in place measures to ensure that the national examinations will proceed as scheduled despite the predicted El Niño rains.

Researchers push to tackle antimicrobial resistance

BY SADIK HASSAN (KNA)

Ag. Director, Research capacity building at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Dr Martin Bundi (C) briefs the media on the sidelines of the Antimicrobial Resistance Containment (AMR) Governance and Financing summit in Mombasa.

Medical researchers have raised an alarm over a surge in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in humans, animals and the environment.

Some 6,670 deaths in Kenya in 2021 were attributed to AMR in 2021 while another 28,500 deaths were associated with drug-resistant infections.

The researchers are now calling for a multi-sectoral approach to strengthen AMR governance and financing and defuse what they described as a ticking time bomb.

AMR occurs when disease-causing pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, change over time and no longer respond to medicines they previously responded to, making infections increasingly difficult to treat.

Medical researchers note that although resistance develops naturally over time, its spread has been accelerated by the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials in human health, agriculture and animal production.

Factors such as poor sanitation, weak surveillance systems, inadequate human and financial resources, weak regulatory frameworks, climate change and pandemics have further contributed to the growing burden of AMR.

Kenya National Public Health Institute (KNPHI) National AMR Focal Point Dr Emmanuel Tanui said Kenya has made strides to address the AMR scourge through the development of the National Action Plan on Prevention and Containment of AMR 2023-2027.

The plan aims to strengthen governance and coordination mechanisms, enhance the knowledge base through surveillance and research, and advance sustainable investment in AMR containment, among other strategic actions.

The plan comes amid rapid changes in donor funding, following the end of the Fleming Fund, which supported improved AMR surveillance and laboratory capacity in low- and middle-income countries.

"The entire plan costs about Sh2 billion, which is a five-year plan. When you break it down, it comes to around Sh600 million per annum to implement," Dr Tanui stated.

He added, "If we can set aside finances to support implementation of the annual activities either at the national government or the counties, then we will be able to implement some of these priority activities."

Dr Tanui attributed the high number of AMR-related deaths in low- and middle-income countries to poor health systems and inadequate infection control systems.

Dr Martin Bundi, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Acting Director of Research Capacity Building warned that failure to act against AMR will result in economic losses equivalent to 3.8 per cent of global GDP and push an estimated 24 million people into poverty, with low- and middle-income countries disproportionately affected.

Digital skills programme opens new opportunities for Mandera youth

Youth in Mandera receiving computers for Digital Skills training, aimed at equipping them with practical skills that can improve their access to employment, entrepreneurship and other livelihood opportunities.

BY ADAN MOHAMED (KNA)

Forty young people in Mandera East have completed a 22-day Digital Skills training.

The training has equipped them with practical skills to help them improve access to employment, entrepreneurship and other livelihood opportunities.

Implemented through the Boresha Nabad Project, the training is focused on practical digital skills which include graphic design, CorelDRAW, newsletter writing and digital communication.

The beneficiaries were drawn from various training institutions, youth at risk, and learners from four schools in Mandera East.

The initiative incorporated practical attachment opportunities, with trainees placed at different training centers to gain hands-on experience.

They were expected to apply the skills acquired during the boot camp in real working environments.

Chief Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Social Services, Mohamud Ali, said the approach is intended to bridge the gap between training and actual economic opportunities, by connecting young people with private-sector institutions, where they can gain experience, build professional networks and potentially access employment opportunities.

As part of the intervention, 18 desktop computers were handed over to beneficiaries, in order to support continued digital learning and skills development.

Ministry unveils Sh2.1 billion plan to protect livestock from El Niño threats

BY DAVID NDURO (KNA)

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (3rd left) launching the Animal Identification and Traceability System (ANITRAC) drive in Isiolo.

The government has initiated a Sh2.1 billion preparedness plan aimed at protecting livestock farmers and pastoralists from the expected adverse effects of El Niño weather.

Interventions targeting disease control, livestock evacuation, animal welfare and the protection of critical infrastructure are included in the strategy.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe launched the 'National Livestock Sector El Niño Preparedness and Anticipatory Action Plan' in Isiolo County, saying the initiative would enable the Government to act before disasters occur rather than wait to respond after losses have been recorded.

Kagwe said the plan comes amid advisories from the Kenya Meteorological Department indicating an increased likelihood of enhanced rainfall, flooding, and flash floods in several parts of the country.

He said the government was keen to ensure that livestock farmers and pastoral communities were adequately prepared, particularly in areas where livestock forms the main source of livelihood and household income.

"The preparedness programme will initially cover 24 counties considered vulnerable because of their exposure to flooding and their high livestock populations," he added.

The counties are Garissa, Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi, Isiolo, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, Samburu, Narok, Kajiado, Baringo, West Pokot, Busia, Kisumu, Siaya, Migori, Homa Bay, Kitui, Makueni, Machakos, Meru and Embu.

He revealed the government would add more counties in the programme depending on emerging weather forecasts and subsequent advisories from the Kenya Meteorological Department.

The CS said the preparedness measures had been informed by the devastating effects of the 2023 El Niño rains and the 2024 long-rains floods, which resulted in the loss of livestock, destruction of vital infrastructure and outbreaks of diseases that negatively affected the livestock sector.

He said the experiences demonstrated the need for a proactive approach to disaster management, particularly in communities whose livelihoods depend heavily on livestock.

"We therefore need to learn from our experiences and ensure that our farmers and pastoralists are not caught unprepared," he said.

The CS said the government's approach was designed to minimize losses by deploying resources and emergency interventions before the effects of extreme weather became widespread.

The largest share of the budget, Sh1.5 billion, will be allocated to the procurement and pre-positioning of vaccines, veterinary medicines, laboratory reagents, personal protective equipment, mobile veterinary clinics and emergency response kits in the targeted counties.

The supplies will be strategically positioned to enable veterinary teams to respond quickly when disease outbreaks or other livestock emergencies occur.

The intervention will also focus on diseases whose spread can be aggravated by flooding. Among them is Rift Valley Fever, which can pose a greater threat during periods of prolonged rainfall because of increased populations of disease-carrying vectors.

A further Sh250 million will be spent on protecting critical livestock infrastructure from the effects of flooding and other extreme weather conditions.

The facilities targeted include cattle dips, livestock markets, slaughterhouses, milk-cooling facilities, veterinary laboratories and feed stores.

Kagwe noted that safeguarding such infrastructure was necessary to ensure that livestock value chains remained operational even when communities experienced severe weather.

The government has also allocated Sh100 million to strengthen early warning systems, climate-risk mapping, emergency communication networks and coordination among agencies involved in disaster response.

Another Sh100 million will support livestock evacuation, animal welfare and logistics operations, particularly in areas where rising water levels or flooding may force communities to move animals to safer locations.

First Lady urges women to seize new economic opportunities

BY CALVIN OTIENO


First lady Rachel Ruto flanked by Siaya governor's spouse Betty Orengo (in red) inspecting a freezer.

First Lady, Rachel Ruto, has urged women to harness their collective strength, embrace savings and seize emerging economic opportunities.

This is as the Government steps up investments aimed at transforming livelihoods and empowering women across various sectors of the economy.

Speaking during a women empowerment forum under the Joyful Women Organization at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) grounds in Siaya town, the First Lady said women have the numbers, strength and potential to drive lasting economic transformation if they pool their resources, knowledge and efforts.

"With a shared vision, strength, resources and wisdom, small individual efforts can become a powerful force for lasting change. That is the power I see in women of Siaya County," she said.

The First Lady said the Government's commitment to women empowerment is backed by investments designed to break economic barriers and create opportunities for women to establish, grow and sustain businesses.

Among the projects she highlighted were upcoming modern markets, the Sh1 billion blue economy development project at Usenge, Sh100 million investment in fish landing sites at Wichlum Beach and expanded electricity connections targeting thousands of households.

"These are opening opportunities for women to build stronger livelihoods," the First Lady said.

She stressed that economic empowerment must go beyond direct financial assistance, arguing that giving women access to productive opportunities has a wider impact on households and communities.

"Empowering women economically is not just about putting money in women's hands, it is about putting opportunities in the hands of an entire family," she said.

The Government is also implementing interventions in poultry farming in East Ugenya, agricultural value chains and water infrastructure, with the initiatives aimed at strengthening household incomes while easing some of the burdens that disproportionately affect women.

The First Lady challenged women in Siaya to rebuild the momentum of the Joyful Women Organization, recalling the group's strong performance in 2019 when its activities in the county ranked among the best nationally.

She urged women to embrace saving as a means of building financial resilience and securing their families against economic shocks.

She encouraged them to take advantage of government financing programmes to expand their economic activities.

"The government is expanding access to affordable credit through programmes such as the Affirmative Action Fund, Uwezo Fund and similar programmes aimed at empowering women and special groups," she said.

The forum brought together women from across the county, with Siaya County governor's wife Betty Orengo, Principal Secretary, Ouma Oluga and members of the Siaya County Assembly among those in attendance.

Women engaged in the fisheries value chain received equipment intended to strengthen their enterprises and increase their ability to participate in the blue economy.

The equipment distributed included display units, fryers, freezers, cooler boxes and other assorted equipment to support women involved in fisheries-related businesses.

Kenya, Indonesia explore shipbuilding partnership

BY NJAMBI NJOROGE (KNA)


Indonesian Ambassador to Kenya, Witjaksono Adji (M) with Kenya Shipyards officials led by Head of Production Brig. Peter Muthungu (2nd L).

Kenya Shipyards Limited (KSL) will explore technology transfer, skills development and joint shipbuilding projects with Indonesian firms.

This follows an offer by Indonesia to link the State-owned shipbuilder with leading maritime institutions.

The proposed partnership emerged when a KSL delegation led by Head of Production Brigadier Peter Muthungu held talks with Indonesia's Ambassador to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat, Witjaksono Adji, in Nairobi.

Ambassador Adji described KSL as "a company of the future" and said Indonesia was ready to facilitate partnerships between KSL and both State-owned and private shipbuilding companies.

"We can develop together because you are a company of the future. You understand your terrain. You are a regional maritime solutions provider," Adji said.

He said the partnership could initially focus on smaller projects, including glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) boats manufactured by KSL, before expanding to other areas.

"We can connect you to the right institutions in Indonesia. We can start by doing something small together, especially around the GRP boats which KSL makes," he said.

Brig. Muthungu said KSL is seeking partnerships with established shipbuilding nations to strengthen its technical capacity and position Kenya as a competitive maritime manufacturing hub.

"Our capability today extends beyond building vessels. We design, build and retrofit naval and commercial ships and boats in steel, aluminium and fibreglass, while our yards also undertake maintenance, repair and overhaul, heavy engineering and civil maritime works," he said.

KSL operates shipbuilding facilities in Mombasa and Kisumu. The Mombasa Shipyard has a 150-metre slipway with a 4,000-tonne capacity, while the Kisumu facility has a 106-metre dry dock with a 10,000-tonne capacity, slipways and a 300-metre quayside.

The shipbuilder has also developed capacity to construct ferries, pilot boats, tugs and other specialised vessels.

Brig. Muthungu said collaboration with Indonesian shipbuilders would provide opportunities for technology transfer, specialised skills and exposure to international best practices.

"For KSL to grow into a stronger regional maritime solutions provider, collaboration with established shipbuilding nations is important," he said.

Ambassador Adji encouraged KSL to send a technical delegation to Indonesia to explore opportunities for cooperation, proposing Surabaya, one of the country's major maritime centres, as a potential destination.

"We would love KSL to visit one of our biggest facilities in Surabaya," he said.

Indonesia's maritime industry, supported by both State-owned and private shipbuilding companies, offers potential opportunities for Kenya to strengthen local shipbuilding expertise and manufacturing capacity.

The proposed collaboration comes as KSL seeks to expand its product range to include ferries, water buses and GRP boats while strengthening Kenya's participation in the Blue Economy.

Brig. Muthungu said the engagement would help KSL identify practical areas of cooperation and progressively develop partnerships with Indonesian shipyards.

The talks mark an initial step towards closer Kenya-Indonesia cooperation in shipbuilding, with the potential to support skills development, technology transfer and growth of Kenya's maritime industry.

Measure enterprise funds by social impact, not repayment- PS

BY ALEX MULILI (KNA)

The Government has called for a shift in the way enterprise support programmes measure success.

They should shift their focus to the number of businesses which have grown, the number of jobs created and poverty has been reduced, rather than repayment rates alone.

Principal Secretary (PS) for MSMEs, Susan Mang'eni, said funds such as Uwezo Fund must move beyond repayment rates as the sole measure of success and focus on sustainable businesses, employment and poverty reduction.

She was speaking during a retreat of the Uwezo Fund Oversight Board and Management in Machakos, to review performance and set a roadmap for efficiency and impact.

Mang'eni said even where a supported business does not survive in the long term, beneficiaries can gain valuable entrepreneurial skills and experience that make them better prepared to participate in the wider economy.

Principal Secretary (PS) for MSMEs, Susan Mang'eni, during a two-day retreat of the Uwezo Fund Oversight Board and Management in Machakos.

"Repayment should not be the only measure of success. We must look at the businesses that have grown, the jobs created and the livelihoods transformed," Mang'eni said.

She said the State Department is developing a framework to help returning diaspora Kenyans invest skills and capital gained abroad into local enterprises, noting that remittances remain a key foreign exchange earner.

The PS called on enterprise funds to expand targeting beyond constituencies to include demographic, sectoral and diaspora groups.

Uwezo Fund Board Chairperson, Anne Njuguna, said the Fund must accelerate adoption of technology and artificial intelligence in line with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, but apply it responsibly.

Njuguna said the Fund should anchor decisions on data and evaluation, and strengthen monitoring to ensure tangible outcomes for women, youth and persons with disabilities.

She called for deliberate partnerships with government agencies, the private sector and development partners to mobilise resources and expand markets.

Kenya, Qatar to deepen bilateral cooperation

The talks focused on translating the longstanding partnership into tangible cooperation across areas of mutual interest.

BY HASSAN ADAN ALI (PCO)

Kenya and Qatar will seek to translate recent bilateral consultations in Doha into concrete areas of cooperation, with investment, trade, labour, agriculture, diplomatic training and regional peace and security emerging as key priorities.

The commitment was highlighted when Deputy Director-General, Middle East Directorate, Amb. Lindsay Kiptiness received the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Kenya, Amb. Mohammed Mutair Al-Enazi, for talks on progress and the future direction of bilateral relations.

The meeting followed recent bilateral political consultations held in Doha and led by Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr Korir Sing'oei.

The discussions focused on developing an implementation plan to turn agreements reached during the consultations into practical and mutually beneficial initiatives.

Investment and trade featured prominently, with Kenya seeking to attract increased Qatari investment and strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

The two sides also discussed the review and signing of a new labour agreement, as well as efforts to reopen the Qatari market to Kenyan beef to provide opportunities for Kenyan livestock producers and exporters.

Agriculture was identified as another area with significant potential for expanded bilateral cooperation.

The talks also explored stronger institutional links between the Kenya Foreign Service Academy and the Qatari Foreign Service Institute. The proposed cooperation includes exchange programmes to promote professional development, knowledge-sharing and closer ties between the two foreign services.

The delegations also discussed the establishment of a Qatar Visa Centre in Nairobi, with the facility expected to simplify visa application procedures for Kenyans travelling to Qatar.

Ambassador Al-Enazi attributed delays in opening the centre to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East but said efforts are underway to have it operational by December 2026 or early 2027.

They discussed regional and international developments of mutual interest, including the conflict in the Middle East and the situation in Sudan.

Ambassador Kiptiness commended Qatar's diplomatic efforts to mediate the conflict between the United States and Iran, reaffirming Kenya's support for peaceful approaches to resolving international disputes.

"Peace and stability in the Middle East remain paramount to Kenya's national interests in the region. We, therefore, attach great importance to sustained diplomatic efforts towards resolving conflicts peacefully," Kiptiness said.

He emphasized the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement in addressing regional conflicts and advancing peaceful solutions.

Amb. Lindsay Kiptiness, Deputy Director General, Middle East Directorate, received Amb. Mohammed Mutair Al-Enazi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Kenya, for discussions on the progress and future direction of Kenya–Qatar relations.

Ambassador Al-Enazi, in turn, recognized Kenya's role in peace diplomacy in the Horn of Africa and expressed Qatar's support for the country's peace and stability efforts.

"Kenya occupies an important place in peace diplomacy in the Horn of Africa, and Qatar supports Kenya's efforts to promote peace and stability in the region," he said.

The engagement underscored the complementary roles Kenya and Qatar can play in promoting dialogue, peace and stability in their respective regions and beyond.

The talks reaffirmed the cordial relations between Nairobi and Doha and their shared commitment to strengthening bilateral ties through sustained political dialogue and practical cooperation.

Kenya, Germany deepen push to fast-track skilled labour migration

BY CATHERINE NJOROGE (PCO)

BERLIN-Kenya and Germany have entered into a partnership to fast-track skilled labour migration, creating structured pathways for Kenyan professionals to access high-income jobs in Europe.

The pact, while helping Germany tackle its acute labour shortages, is already sending Kenyan workers abroad, with the first cohorts placed in hospitality and healthcare, and promises to expand into ICT, engineering and technical trades.

In early September 2026, African ambassadors, German officials, and industry leaders convened in Berlin for the Fourth African Ambassadors Summit, jointly organized by the 360 Alliance, the German Foundation and the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The summit focused on moving beyond signed agreements to actual job placements.

Kenya's delegation, led by State Department for Labour Principal Secretary Shadrack Mwadime, emphasized that while the government continues to create jobs locally, unemployment remains high.

State Department for Labour Principal Secretary Shadrack Mwadime speaking in Berlin, Germany.

"This led to the government scanning the external labour market and pursuing the Kenya-Germany Bilateral Labour Agreement, signed two years ago," Mwadime told delegates.

"Our discussions with Germany began early. We were elected as government that is on a platform of improving the economic standards of those at the bottom of the economic pyramid," he said.

He explained that despite ongoing efforts to expand local job creation, unemployment and underemployment remain widespread, forcing Nairobi to look beyond its borders.

Delegates discussed recruitment, visa processing, skills recognition, and cultural orientation. For Mwadime, these were not abstract policy points but the practical steps needed to transform lives.

He disclosed that Germany, facing one of Europe's most acute labour shortages with more than 1.7 million vacancies unfilled, views Kenya as a strategic partner.

"Its ageing population and expanding industries from healthcare to hospitality require a steady inflow of skilled workers," said the PS.

Dr. Katharina Stasch, Director General at Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, emphasized the importance of fairness: "Progress depends on cooperation between government and non-government actors and on strengthening training centres to give workers access to both local and global job markets."

According to Mwadime, in August, 31 Kenyan trainees departed for Germany to begin apprenticeships in hospitality.

"Their journey was made possible through a collaboration between Kiambu National Polytechnic and Germany's hotel and restaurant association, DEHOGA," he said.

Ahead of the summit, Mwadime paid a courtesy call on Jana Schimke, DEHOGA's Managing Director, to discuss placing more Kenyan hospitality workers in German hotels and restaurants. DEHOGA, which represents over two million workers, has welcomed the partnership as a win-win for both economies.

The pact extends beyond hospitality, it covers healthcare, ICT, engineering, and technical trades. A Letter of Intent signed with IHK Nürnberg für Mittelfranken and JobsinGermany.net reinforces transparent, ethical, and demand-driven migration pathways. This ensures Kenyan workers are recruited under government-supervised conditions, with protections aligned to German labour standards.

The PS spoke of the young men and women who, despite their qualifications, struggle to find meaningful work at home. He described parents who sacrifice to educate their children, only to watch them languish in joblessness.

Labour migration, he argued, is not about exporting workers but about unlocking potential. "We are building bridges of opportunity. Our youth are talented, resilient, and eager to contribute. Germany needs them, and Kenya is ready to provide them," he said.

Apart from remittances from abroad that already form a major pillar of the economy, the PS noted that vocational training systems are being upgraded to meet global standards, positioning Kenya as East Africa's labour mobility hub.

Commenting on challenges including language barriers, cultural adaptation and ensuring fair treatment abroad, Mwadime acknowledged these realities but insisted they were surmountable.

"With government-to-government agreements, transparent recruitment, and strong partnerships with institutions like DEHOGA, he believes Kenya can set a new standard for ethical labour migration," said the PS.

In the months ahead, more cohorts of Kenyan workers will depart for Germany, carrying with them not only skills but the hopes of families and communities.

Young robotic innovators head to China

BY EVANS OMONDI (PCO)

The Government remains committed to creating an enabling environment for young people to acquire the skills, knowledge and opportunities needed to participate meaningfully in Kenya's digital and technological transformation.

Held under the theme, "Youth-Driven AI and Robotics Innovations for a Smart Africa," the championship brought together young innovators to showcase their creativity, technical skills and problem-solving abilities in Artificial Intelligence and robotics.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary, Stephen Isaboke, said this in a speech read on his behalf by Secretary Public Communications Patricia Ondeng during the second edition of the Kenya RoboTech Championship 2026 organized by Pixel Academy Africa at the M-Pesa Foundation Academy, Mang'u, Kiambu County.

Isaboke noted that the growth of this competition was a clear demonstration of the readiness of Kenyan youth to shape the country's technological future.

"The growth of this competition from its first edition to where we are today tells us something important: Kenya's young people are ready, willing and fully capable of shaping our technological future," he said.

He held that the Government recognized the rapid transformation being driven by artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, cybersecurity and other emerging technologies. He added that Kenya could not afford to remain a spectator, noting that such technologies were already changing how people work, learn, communicate and solve problems.

Isaboke emphasized that the country's digital economy was creating new opportunities for innovation and employment, adding that Government-backed programmes such as the Jitume Initiative and Ajira Digital had already equipped more than one million young people with digital skills.

"This is the economic reality your innovation is plugging into, a Kenya that is actively building the policy, infrastructure, and opportunities for young technologists to thrive," he said, pointing out that technology is only as important as the people who develop it. He called upon them to use competitions such as the RoboTech challenge as opportunities to move from merely using technology to creating and developing solutions.

He challenged the participants to embrace failure as part of the innovation process, saying testing, learning and improving were essential to developing successful technologies calling on the young innovators to embrace responsible innovation, particularly on cybersecurity, data protection, digital safety and ethical use of technology.

"Every great innovation is built through testing, learning, improving and trying again. We need a generation that can build powerful technologies while also understanding the responsibility that comes with creating and deploying them. Innovation must improve lives, protect people and contribute positively to society," he said.

A major highlight of the championship is the opportunity for the winning teams to represent Kenya at the Global Finals in China in December 2026.

Isaboke said the international competition would provide the young innovators with an opportunity to demonstrate what Kenyan and African youth could create and achieve.

"What begins on this competition floor can take you to the global stage," he stated.

He urged the winners to regard themselves as ambassadors of Kenya's innovation and encouraged all participants to continue learning, collaborating and developing solutions that address challenges facing their communities.

"My challenge to you is simple; dream boldly, build fearlessly, learn continuously, and innovate responsibly. Technological future is not something that will happen someday. You are part of building it today," he said.

His message was echoed by Martin Mirero, Director ICT at the Communication Authority, representing the Authority Director General, who said that the country's technology ambitions depended on nurturing young people with the skills, creativity and confidence to develop solutions for Africa's challenges. He highlighted the importance of partnerships and programmes that expose young people to technology and innovation.

On the other hand, Eng. Vivian Wanjiru, Head of Pixel Academy Africa, said that the academy was committed to providing young people with opportunities to develop skills in robotics and technology.

She stated that the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams, a quote attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt adding that "this has been a story that started with possibilities and the beauty in it is its actuality. As an engineer, I am happy to see these young ones getting the exposure in the world of technology."

The Academy organized the championship as part of its efforts to expose young people to robotics, coding and emerging technologies. The programme also seeks to give learners an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to practical challenges.

Representing the private sector, Rayan Otuka, NCBA Head of Go Banking, said partnerships between industry and education were important in giving young innovators opportunities to develop and apply their skills. The participation of NCBA and other partners highlighted the growing role private-sector partnerships play in supporting technology, innovation and youth development.

The championship brought together young people from different schools and backgrounds, giving them a platform to collaborate, compete and demonstrate practical applications of robotics, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

Moi Primary and Junior School Kabarak emerged the champions with Sun & Shield Primary and Junior School coming second and Consolata School taking third position. The winning teams will represent Kenya at the Global Robotics Finals in China in December 2026.

The Government noted that the opportunity underlines the importance of investing in young innovators as Kenya seeks to build a digitally skilled workforce and position itself as a technology and innovation hub in Africa.

As robotics competition grows, organizers and partners said the ambition is not simply to produce competition winners, but to nurture a generation capable of turning knowledge.

Biosafety and diagnostic facility for rabies control unveiled in Turkana

BY CINDY OKUBO (PCO)

The Turkana County Veterinary Laboratory is set to be upgraded into a Level II Biosafety and Diagnostic Facility and a Centre of Excellence for rabies surveillance and control, the Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Allan Azegele, has said.

The upgrade is expected to strengthen disease surveillance and diagnostic capacity in Turkana and neighbouring counties, as well as serve the wider region, including Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Dr Azegele spoke during a tour of Turkana County to assess ongoing national veterinary programmes and projects implemented by the Kenya Women Veterinary Association (KWVA) over the past five years.

He said the upgraded laboratory would be accredited to undertake specialised diagnostic tests for priority livestock and zoonotic diseases, including Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), rabies and hydatidosis.

"Government intends to upgrade the laboratory to a Level II Biosafety and Diagnostic Facility to serve counties in the region and the three neighbouring countries of Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia," said Dr Azegele.

He noted that the facility would subsequently be linked to the national laboratory network to enhance coordination, management and utilisation of diagnostic services.

Dr Azegele also inspected an ongoing three-day campaign aimed at controlling rabies and hydatidosis in Turkana County.

The Chief Officer for Livestock Development, Mr Peter Ikaru, welcomed the national Government's support, assuring the Director that the county would continue working closely with the national Government in implementing ongoing and future livestock development programmes.

Ikaru said the county was also aware of plans to revive the Turkana Tannery and Lomidat Abattoir, which are expected to support the transformation of the livestock sector into a commercial enterprise.

During the visit, Dr Azegele toured various sections of the veterinary laboratory, including bacteriology, cold chain and sterilisation, parasitology, serology, haematology and post-mortem units. He and his team also planted trees at the laboratory compound as part of environmental conservation efforts.

Dr Azegele also called for the establishment of a Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at Turkana University College, saying the institution would help address the shortage of veterinary personnel in the county and strengthen the fight against zoonotic diseases.

Speaking during a mentorship programme for final-year students organised by KWVA at the university, Dr Azegele noted that Turkana has a large livestock population and relies heavily on pastoralism, but continues to face a shortage of veterinary professionals.

He said training local students would help build a pool of professionals who understand the pastoralist community and can address animal and zoonotic diseases at source.

Turkana University College Principal, Prof George Chemining'wa, said the institution was ready to introduce veterinary training once it receives its charter.

"Once we get the charter, we will start with certificate courses, later introduce diplomas and eventually develop a fully-fledged faculty," said Prof Chemining'wa.

MyGov.
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
NAIROBI-KENYA I Issue No. 11/2026-2027
A PUBLICATION OF
Government Advertising Agency
Telposta Towers, Kenyatta Ave/ Koinange Street
P.O Box 30025-00100,
Nairobi Kenya
Telephone:(+254) 4920000 / 1
E-Mail: mygovads@gaa.go.ke

Kenya Power to strengthen electricity supply in Kwale and Kilifi counties

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

Kenya Power is investing approximately Sh765 million in the construction of two new substations to strengthen the quality and reliability of electricity supply in Kwale and Kilifi Counties.

The company is nearing completion of the Bomani 132/33kV substation in Kilifi County being put up at a cost of Sh455 million.

The substation will cater for growing demand for electricity from existing and upcoming customers within Kikambala, Vipingo, Kanamai and Mtwapa areas.

These areas have recently witnessed growing industrial and commercial activity as large and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) expand their bases from Mombasa.

Currently, customers in these areas are served by the Kilifi and Bamburi 132/33kV substations whose capacity is thinning as demand grows.

Similarly, the Company will complete the construction of a 33/11kV substation in Kwale at a cost of Sh310 million.

The substation comprises four feeders (power lines) to serve Kwale County headquarters and adjacent customers, Kinango, Tiwi and Kombani areas.

Kenya Power MD and CEO Dr. Eng. Joseph Siror accompanied by Eng. Rosemary Oduor GM Regional Coordination, Eng. David Syengo Ag. GM Network Management, Coast Region Regional Manager Erick Langat, Kwale County Business Manager (CBM) Eric Momanyi and staff from Kenya Power during a site visit at the upcoming Sh310 million Kwale 33/11kV Substation near Kwale town.

The upcoming Kwale substation will relieve Diani substation that is currently serving these areas and provide alternative supply points to customers thereby improving the reliability of electricity supply.

"Network reliability and customer service excellence are one of our key focus areas as we undertake our role to provide electricity for economic growth. We are committed to ensure that these projects are completed within the set timelines and budget, to provide value to our customers," Kenya Power's Managing Director and CEO, Dr. (Eng.) Joseph Siror said.

He added, "Beyond Coast region, the Company is also undertaking similar projects in other areas across the country, including network reinforcement projects to improve the resilience of the grid and to provide quality service to all electricity users. As we do this, we are also incorporating technology to ensure we have a smart grid and improved customer experience."

During the financial year ended June 2026, Kenya Power connected 411,710 new customers to the grid bringing the total customer base to 10.4 million. The onboarding of new customers partly accounted for the 161.7 GWh increase in electricity sales during the year.

Kenya welcomes AGOA extension, eyes broader US export market

BY NANCY OMONDI (KNA)

Kenya has welcomed the extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to December 31, 2028.

Investments, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary (CS) Lee Kinyanjui said the move will provide greater certainty for exporters, manufacturers, and investors while opening opportunities to expand the country's presence in the United States market.

He said the extension presents Kenya with an opportunity to increase exports, attract investment, and accelerate industrialisation, particularly through diversification and value addition.

"The decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to sign into law the extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) through December 31, 2028, is highly welcome," Kinyanjui said in a statement.

He noted that the extension is particularly significant for Kenya's textile and apparel industry, which supports more than 66,000 direct jobs and remains one of the country's biggest beneficiaries of preferential access to the US market.

The CS stressed that Kenya should use the extended period to move beyond apparel and expand the range of products exported to the US.

"We have significant opportunities in value-added agricultural products, leather and leather products, pharmaceuticals, manufactured goods, and other competitive Kenyan products," he stated.

According to the CS, the Government's renewed focus on diversification is aimed at enabling Kenyan producers to tap into new markets while increasing the value generated from exports.

He added that the extended AGOA window should be used to strengthen the capacity of local enterprises and value chains to compete in the international market.

The CS said the Government will work with exporters and the private sector to increase utilisation of AGOA and ensure more Kenyan enterprises benefit from preferential access to the US market.

"The Government will continue working with exporters and the private sector to increase utilisation of AGOA and ensure that more Kenyan enterprises and value chains benefit from access to the U.S. market," Kinyanjui reiterated.

Notably, AGOA provides eligible African countries with preferential access to the US market and has played a significant role in supporting Kenya's export sectors, with textile and apparel manufacturing among the key beneficiaries.

The extension to 2028 therefore gives Kenyan businesses additional time to consolidate their position in the US market while identifying opportunities in other sectors.

BRIEFS

Sh500m water projects to boost climate resilience in Keiyo North

BY ALICE WANJIRU (KNA)

The Government has injected over Sh500 million into comprehensive water projects within Keiyo North Sub-County.

Through the Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) the aim is to boost its climate resilience efforts.

KVDA Acting Managing Director, Moses Kipchumba, said the aim is to counter the harsh, escalating effects of climate change and provide lasting drought mitigation for local communities and represents a deliberate effort by the government to uplift grassroots livelihoods through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

These critical projects, he said, which primarily include strategic dams, water pans and boreholes, are purposefully designed to secure a reliable, year-round water supply which will safeguard the livelihoods of thousands of residents and their livestock, while simultaneously providing a steady source of water for irrigation schemes during prolonged dry spells.

While inspecting the ongoing construction of the second phase of the Etio dam, the MD revealed that the first phase of the dam, which cost Sh80 million, is already complete, adding that the authority is pushing for the completion of the Sh120-million second phase.

"Once fully operational, the dam's total water volume will surge to 200,000 cubic metres and will benefit 30,000 people stretching all the way from the highlands down to Biretwo in the arid Kerio Valley.

According to Kipchumba, this specific phase is focused on expanding actual household and agricultural access.

"The project will include the construction of tanks, laying of pipes, and a solar system for pumping the water," he noted.

To complement this, he said, KVDA has already constructed smaller water pans and boreholes that local communities are actively using for field irrigation.

International Literacy Day marked with book donation

BY ARNOLD LINGA MASILA KNA

Twenty-one primary and seven secondary schools in Mwatate Sub-County have received textbooks worth Sh3.5 million from the Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) to support learning and promote a reading culture among local learners.

The donation was made during celebrations to mark the International Literacy Day 2026, held under the theme, "Literacy for People, Planet and Prosperity."

The theme highlighted the importance of literacy in a highly globalized world facing common challenges, and the need for sustainable, innovative approaches to improve people's lives.

Speaking during the ceremony, KLB Managing Director, George Okeyo, called on the national and county governments to invest more in educational infrastructure to create an enabling environment for a strong reading culture.

"Both levels of government must invest heavily in educational infrastructure to support our people's reading culture as part of ensuring no one is left behind by the wheel of prosperity," Okeyo said.

Taita Taveta County Executive Committee Member for Education, Libraries and Vocational Training Centres, Dishon Mngoda, said the county government is committed to improving education standards by expanding access to learning institutions and providing schools with the necessary equipment and learning materials.

"The county's administration continues to support the improvement of quality access to education with construction of classrooms, dormitories, laboratories, and provision of equipment to schools across the county," Mngoda said.