TOURISM

KTB bets on Northern Kenya to drive domestic tourism growth.

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Government to issue 200,000 title deeds at the Coast.

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September 29, 2026

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YOUR WEEKLY REVIEW

Issue No. 13/2026-2027

Nairobi City County prepared for El-Niño

Measures to curb effects of El Niño intensify as Governor Johnson Sakaja unveils a raft of measures that include accelerated drainage works and deployment of additional heavy machinery.

FULL STORY PAGE 2

Nairobi ramps up El-Niño preparedness

The County has deployed more earth-moving equipment to flood-prone corridors, including the drainage channel from the KIRDI-Bellevue axis to the main outfall along Mombasa Road where teams are widening, deepening and desilting channels.

By Wangui Maina (PCO)

The County Government of Nairobi has intensified preparations for the anticipated heavy rainfall.

Last week, Governor Johnson Sakaja unveiled a raft of measures that include accelerated drainage works and deployment of additional heavy machinery.

Currently, teams are already undertaking drainage deepening, desilting and waterway clearing across the city, especially in flood-prone areas of Kariobangi, Dandora, Makadara and Eastleigh.

Consequently, engineers and contractors have 14 days to complete critical drainage and road works-prioritising known flood hotspots.

He said the City County will work in collaboration with Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) to enhance drainage systems within the city where interventions are being implemented in 36 sites across the city.

The governor stressed that works must be treated as life saving interventions, "You are not just doing work; you are saving lives. Your focus must be to work more, do more and, ultimately, save more lives," Sakaja said.

The County has already deployed more earth moving equipment to flood prone corridors, including the drainage channel from the KIRDI-Bellevue axis to the main outfall along Mombasa Road where teams are widening, deepening and desilting drainage channels.

Governor Sakaja has also waived application and approval requirements for minor building repairs until beginning of the rain season, to allow residents to install gutters and undertake small work on homes and compounds without bureaucratic delays.

At the same time, the Governor ordered a crackdown on illegal dumping, warning private waste collectors that licences will be revoked if found disposing waste in open spaces or waterways.

The county has also deployed more than 4,000 Green Army workers to collect waste and unclog drainages across the city.

The county is also demolishing structures built on drains and clearing of structures on Naivasha Road

Preparedness operations are being coordinated under a "One County, One Plan, One Command" framework involving the County Government, KURA, KeNHA, KeRRA, National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC), the Kenya Red Cross and the Nairobi Rivers Commission.

The County has also established an Emergency Operations Centre, activated hotline 1508, and identified 27 drop off points and shelters for possible evacuations. A multi agency simulation exercise is planned to test the city's emergency response systems.

At the same time, Sakaja urged Nairobi residents in riparian and flood prone areas to relocate to safer ground and take early measures including clearing drainage channels and installing gutters.

"We cannot wait for the rains to come before we act. We must be proactive and address the challenges we know lie ahead," he said.

The governor said food and non-food items and medical assistance will be provided for people who will be affected by flooding while those living in unsafe areas will be relocated to safer ground.

On his part, KURA Director General Eng. Silas Kinoti confirmed that engineers had already started drainage works and are expected to be completed in two weeks' time.

Nairobi County Governor Johnson Sakaja (above right) inspects some of the drainage works along Nairobi River as County personnel (below) clear sections of the river in the on-going El Niño preparedness.

Sh1-billion plan to shield Mwea rice farmers, cut imports

The funds will be channelled through the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) to purchase rice when mass harvesting begins later this year.

Workers at Mwea Rice Mills as they package rice. Photo courtesy

BY MUTAI KIPNG'ETICH (KNA)

The Government will spend Sh1 billion to mop up locally produced rice during the upcoming harvest, Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki has said, as it moves to protect Mwea farmers from poor prices and curb rice imports.

Speaking in Mwea, Kirinyaga County, Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki said the funds would be channelled through the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) to purchase rice when mass harvesting begins later in the year.

He said the Government would prioritise locally produced rice before allowing imports, a move aimed at protecting farmers from depressed prices while strengthening national food reserves.

"We will not import rice until we offtake all the rice grown in Mwea, and all the rice-growing areas. We will not allow importation of rice before we buy all the rice in the country," Prof Kindiki said.

He said the Government remains committed to policies aimed at securing better returns for rice farmers and would continue supporting favourable prices for agricultural commodities, including coffee, milk and tea.

The purchase programme comes as the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) seeks Sh550 million in supplementary funding to upgrade roads within the Mwea Irrigation Scheme and improve the transportation of rice from farms to markets.

NIA Chairperson Gilbert Maluki said the proposed works would cover about 475 kilometres of roads and help reduce transportation costs, currently estimated at about Sh1,000 per trip.

He said NIA, in consultation with the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), had already mapped the road network and estimated the total length and cost of the proposed improvements.

"The motive we have here is to make sure the farmer gets value for his hard work," Maluki said.

He said NIA is working with other Government agencies to improve market access and ensure farmers benefit from the KNTC rice purchase programme.

Maluki said NIA, KNTC and other agencies would hold discussions on how rice purchased through KNTC could be supplied to the Ministries of Education and State Department for Special Programmes, creating a reliable market for locally produced rice.

He called for coordination of procurement and distribution activities to establish a sustainable market for farmers.

Mwea Rice Growers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Chairman Ndege Muriuki said farmers had received payments following the Government's previous rice mop-up exercise.

He said farmers who had experienced delays in receiving payments were relieved after receiving their dues.

Muriuki, however, called for greater support through subsidised fertiliser programmes, saying cooperatives had struggled to access the input in recent years.

Meanwhile, rice farmer Elijah Njoroge raised concerns over inadequate water supply, saying Thiba Dam did not have sufficient water to support all farmers.

He called for Government intervention to address water shortages and other challenges affecting irrigation and rice production in the scheme.

The Government's rice purchase programme, alongside planned road improvements and efforts to secure institutional markets, is expected to improve market access, reduce production-related costs and enhance returns for farmers.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE
(Office of the Ombudsman)
Hata Mnyonge ana Haki

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commission on Administrative Justice (Office of The Ombudsman), is a Constitutional Commission established under Article 59(4) of the Constitution and the Commission on Administrative Justice Act 2011. The Commission has the mandate of addressing maladministration in the public sector at both national and County levels. Additionally, the Commission has the mandate of overseeing and enforcing the implementation of The Access to Information Act, 2016.

The Commission seeks to fill the following position: -

NO	DESIGNATIONS	STATION	J/GRADE
1.	Director Complaints, Investigation and Legal Services	Headquarters	CAJ 2

Job specifications and other requirements are available on our website: www.ombudsman.go.ke

Interested candidates who meet the qualifications for this position should submit their application through the CAJ *E-recruitment portal* accessible via www.ombudsman.go.ke by Close of Business on **21st October 2026**.

Applicants with certificates from foreign institutions must provide proof of recognition and equation by the Commission for University Education (CUE)

NB: Hard copy applications will not be accepted or considered.

Canvasing will lead to automatic disqualification.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The Commission is committed to providing equal opportunities to all gender, ethnic groups and persons living with disability in accordance with Article 232 (1)

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

CAPITAL MARKETS AUTHORITY
Promoting the Integrity and Growth of the Capital Markets

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CAPITAL MARKETS ACT (CAP 485A)

REQUEST FOR POLICY PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS OF CAPITAL MARKETS ACT AND REGULATIONS

The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) is an independent public agency established under the Capital Markets Act, Cap 485A whose core mandate is to regulate and develop Kenya's capital markets by: ensuring proper conduct of all licensed persons and institutions; regulating the issuance of capital market products; licensing and overseeing all capital market intermediaries; promoting market development through research on new products and institutions; advancing investor education and public awareness; and safeguarding investors' interests.

In accordance with Clause 5 of the Statutory Instruments Act, 2013 and Article 118 of the Constitution, any proposed statutory changes must undergo adequate public consultation. In line with these requirements, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) invites members of the public, particularly stakeholders in the capital markets industry, to submit policy proposals for key amendments to the Capital Markets Act and Regulations, accompanied by clear justifications.

Following the submission of proposals, the Authority will convene a virtual workshop on **Tuesday 10 November 2026 (8:30am-2:30pm),** providing a forum for stakeholders to deliberate on the policy proposals submitted.

Kindly submit your Policy Proposals by **30 October 2026**, to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Capital Markets Authority
P.O. Box 74800-00200 Nairobi
3rd Floor, Embankment Plaza
Longonot Road, Upper hill
Email: policyproposals@cma.or.ke

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

REREC

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO TENDER

PROCURING ENTITY: Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation P O Box 34585 - 00100 Nairobi.

Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation invites bids for the following tenders/Contracts. **CONTRACT NAME AND DESCRIPTION** as follows;

RFX No.	Contract name and Descriptions	Bid Security	Closing/ Opening Date
1000001600	Supply and Delivery of Distribution Transformers under 3years Framework Agreement. -Local Manufacturers.	Required Amount in the TDS	19.10.2026 @10.00am.

1. Tendering will be conducted under open competitive method (National) using a standardized tender document.
2. Tenderers will be allowed to tender for one or more lots.
3. Qualified and interested tenderers may obtain further information and inspect the Tender Documents during office hours 8.00am - 12.45pm to 1.45pm-4.00pm Monday to Friday] at the address given below.
4. A complete set of tender documents may be viewed and downloaded by interested tenderers, free of charge electronically from the Website **www.rerec.co.ke** under September, 2026 tender documents, through the e-procurement portal using **https://suppliers.rea.co. ke:44300/irj/portal** and on the Public Procurement Information Portal **https://tenders.go.ke.**
5. Tender documents may be viewed and downloaded for free from the website **www.rerec.co.ke** Tenderers who download the tender document must forward their particulars immediately to **tenders@rerec.co.ke** to facilitate any further clarification or addendum.
6. Tenders must be accompanied by bank tender security of amount as specified in the TDS. Original bid security must be submitted in the tender box before closing date and time indicated in the table above.
7. The Tenderer shall chronologically serialize all pages of the tender documents submitted.
8. Completed tenders must be delivered to the SRM portal; **https://suppliers. rea.co.ke:44300/irj/portal** with scanned documents uploaded to the collaboration folder on or before closing/opening date and time as indicated above. A guide on tender submission labelled (Quick bidding reference) can be found in the REREC website **https://www.rerec.co.ke/Supplier-Bidding-Quick-reference-quide.pdf**
9. **Only Electronic Tenders will be permitted.**
10. Any addendum to this tender shall be uploaded to the Corporation's website **www.rerec.co.ke** under the specific tender documents.
11. Tenders will be opened immediately after the deadline date and time specified above or any dead line date and time specified later. Tenders will be publicly opened in the presence of the Tenderers' designated representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
12. **Late tenders will be rejected.**
13. The addresses referred to above are:

Address for obtaining further information on tender documents

For hand Courier of Original Bid security delivered to the tender Box **(Kawi Complex, Block C, Ground floor, Off Popo Road,)**. Contact Manager, Supply chain management, telephone number: 0709193000 and e-mail address: **tenders@rerec.co.ke.**

Address for Submission of Tenders: Online only through **https://suppliers.rea.co.ke:44300/irj/portal**

Address for Opening of Tenders. Kawi Complex, Block C, Ground floor, Online system Designation: **Chief Executive Officer**

A. Address for Submission of Tenders.

1) Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation
2) Postal Address: 34585 – 00100 Nairobi
3) Physical address for hand Courier Delivery; South C, Office Popo Road, Kawi Complex, Block C, Ground floor; e-mail address: **tenders@rerec.co.ke** and **info@rerec.co.ke**

B. Address for Opening of Tenders.

1) Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation
2) Physical address for the location: Kawi Complex, Block C, Ground floor.

Dr. Rose N. Mkalama
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KENYA VISION 2030

Public sector oversight strengthened to curb financial risks

PSASB CEO, FCPA Georgina Muchai, addresses more than 600 public sector officials in Naivasha. PSASB has intensified its efforts to strengthen compliance and enforcement, urging public sector entities to adhere to the Internal Audit Standards and Guidelines, the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, and the Mwongozo Code of Governance for State Corporations.

BY BRIDGIT NASURUMBI (MYGOV)

Kenya is stepping up public sector oversight to curb financial leakages, strengthen accountability and align public financial management with international standards.

The move was highlighted during a national sensitisation retreat hosted by the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (PSASB) and the National Treasury, where governance experts challenged audit committees to go beyond reviewing reports and confront financial risks before they escalate into crises.

"The value of an Audit Committee is not measured by how many reports it receives, but by the quality of the questions it asks, the uncomfortable issues it is willing to confront, and the risks it helps the Board identify before they become crises," PSASB Chief Executive Officer, FCPA Georgina Muchai said.

The retreat, themed Promoting Sound Financial Reporting and Internal Audit Standards, brought together more than 600 members of governing bodies, audit committee chairs, accounting officers and Heads of Internal Audit from national and county governments.

Participants were briefed on intensified enforcement of the Public Finance Management Act, the Mwongozo Code of Governance for State Corporations and the recently enacted Government-Owned Enterprise Act.

Section 21 of the Act requires every public enterprise board to establish an independent audit committee responsible for overseeing internal controls, external audit engagements, asset safeguarding and pre-approval reviews of financial statements.

PSASB Director of Internal Audit, CPA Edwin Tito, cited the collapse of Enron Corporation and Germany's Wirecard AG as examples of the consequences of weak oversight. Enron lost $64 billion in market value through hidden debt, while Wirecard collapsed after overstating cash balances by €1.9 billion.

"Both collapses were attributed to audit committees that failed to exercise professional scepticism, ignored whistleblower warnings, over-relied on executive assurances and failed to understand complex accounting adjustments," Tito said.

Public sector board members were warned that they could face personal legal consequences for gross negligence, misconduct or unmanaged conflicts of interest. These include civil lawsuits, financial penalties, surcharges under the PFM Act, director disqualifications and criminal prosecution.

Experts also urged public entities to address repeat audit queries raised by the Office of the Auditor-General by complying with financial laws, Treasury circulars and internal control frameworks.

Representatives of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission said governance failures are often rooted in ethical weaknesses rather than technical shortcomings. They called for 90-day action plans to review conflict-of-interest registers, undertake corruption risk assessments and strengthen whistleblower protection.

Heads of Internal Audit were advised to maintain dual reporting lines, with functional reporting to audit committees for work-plan approval and oversight, and administrative reporting to chief executives or accounting officers for daily operations.

Muchai said effective internal audit functions require unrestricted access to records, personnel and property, as well as dedicated budgets for specialised audits, including IT and engineering reviews.

She urged audit committees across all 47 counties and state corporations to embrace constructive scepticism, continuous professional development and rigorous follow-up to safeguard public resources and strengthen public trust.

OPINION: INVESTMENT

Kenya stakes its claim as a global meeting hub

With the Bomas International Convention Centre rising and international arrivals surging, Kenya is positioning Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) as a high-value driver of jobs, revenue and global partnerships.

BY REBECCA MIANO

When delegates gather in a city, they do more than fill hotel rooms and conference halls. They ignite entire economies; taxi drivers ferry them, florists dress tables, audio technicians fine-tune sound systems and curio sellers find eager buyers. This is the power of the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector.

Globally, MICE is a formidable economic engine. A 2025 survey valued the international market at $1.05 trillion, with projections of $1.14 trillion in 2026; an annual growth rate of 8.4 per cent.

These figures underscore a simple truth: face-to-face encounters remain indispensable. Business travel, incentive trips and international congresses continue to drive demand, rewarding destinations that invest in infrastructure and connectivity.

Long a spectator, Africa is now emerging as a serious player. The continent's MICE industry is forecast to grow from $22.04 billion in 2025 to $37.28 billion by 2029; outpacing growth in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific. This surge reflects deliberate investment, stronger air links and recognition by governments that business events are not luxuries but strategic pillars of diversification. From Cape Town to Kigali, Accra to Nairobi, Africa is building venues, sharpening skills and crafting narratives to attract the world's conveners.

Kenya's performance offers cause for optimism. In 2025, international arrivals hit 2.7 million, a nine per cent rise, generating Ksh 500 billion for

the tourism sector. Within that, MICE stood out: over 736,000 visitors contributed more than Ksh 11 billion in direct revenue. That is nearly a third of all arrivals, and a high-value segment whose spending ripples across hotels, airlines, transport, retail and local enterprises.

Recognising this multiplier effect, the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife has positioned MICE at the heart of its strategy. At the centre of this ambition is the Bomas International Convention Centre (BICC), now rising in Nairobi.

The 323,500-square-metre complex will host up to 11,000 delegates across 35 halls and rooms, complemented by three hotels, a shopping mall and an amphitheatre. More than a venue, the BICC is a declaration that Kenya intends to compete for the world's most significant gatherings with facilities that rival any on the continent.

The Cabinet's approval of the Kenya National Convention Bureau further signals a coordinated approach to bidding, marketing and stakeholder engagement. Equally vital is the determination to democratise MICE. The goal is to ensure that conference tourism benefits not only Nairobi's boardrooms but also communities, cultural spaces and creative industries nationwide.

Kenya's MICE future demands sustained investment, rigorous marketing and unwavering commitment to quality. The prize is substantial: as global business travel regains pre-pandemic vitality and Africa's share of the market expands, Kenya is well placed to claim its portion. The BICC will soon host ideas that move the world and partnerships that shape economies. Each conference will translate into jobs and revenue, reinforcing tourism as a driver of prosperity. Kenya's MICE horizon is bright and the country is ready to seize it.

The author is the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION AND IRRIGATION

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR IRRIGATION

TENDER NOTICE

State Department for Irrigation which is mandated among other activities, Water Harvesting and Storage for irrigation, management of irrigation schemes and infrastructure as outlined in the Executive Order invites interested and qualified bidders to tender for the following tenders.

S / No	Tender ID No.	Tender Reference No.	Tender Name/ Description	County	Tender Security (kshs.)	Eligibility
1.	29328	SDI/706/0007/2026-27	Rehabilitation of Kenyatta Dam	Nakuru	1,500,000	Open
2.	29205	SDI/706/0005/2026 -27	Rehabilitation of Kapnyamis Dam	Nandi	1,500,000	Open
3.	29214	SDI/706/0006/2026-27	Construction of Githiru Irrigation Project	Nyeri	1,500,000	Open
4.	290202	SDI/706/0002/2026 -27	Rehabilitation of Mengit Dam	Nakuru	1,500,000	Open
5.	29204	SDI/706/0004/2026 -27	Rehabilitation of Siwo Irrigation Project	Nandi	1,000,000	Open
6	29198	SDI/706/0001/2026 -27	K.K Baithai Comprehensive School Igembe North and Thaicu Primary School Irrigation Borehole Igembe South	Meru	Tender Securing Declaration Form	Reserved for Women

Tender documents may be viewed and obtained electronically free of charge from:

I. Electronic government procurement system: **URL://egpkenya.go.ke**

Tenderers are advised that they will not be allowed to tender for more than one project, if a firm bids for more than one tender the firm will automatically be disqualified.

Completed tenders shall be submitted through the e-GP system as per the requirements contained in the tender document.

The Closing / Opening date will be on **13th October, 2026 at 11.00 a.m.**

Bids will be opened immediately electronically in the presence of bidders or their designated representatives who choose to attend.

Bidders who may experience challenge in accessing and uploading tenders on e-GP platform should contact the e-GP Help desk at KISM towers, Ngong Road.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR IRRIGATION

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

RBA Retirement Benefits Authority

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND MEMORANDA ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS PROCUREMENT GUIDELINE

The Retirement Benefits Authority is established under the Retirement Benefits Act to regulate and supervise the establishment and management of retirement benefits schemes, protect the interests of members and sponsors of retirement benefits schemes, advise the Government on relevant policy issues and promote the development of the retirement benefits sector.

On 15th May 2026, the Supreme Court of Kenya declared Section 2(o) of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 unconstitutional and void to the extent of its applicability to pension funds of public entities and their procurement systems.

The effect of the judgment is that retirement benefits schemes sponsored by public entities are no longer bound by the procurement framework under the said Act. Trustees nonetheless remain bound by their fiduciary duties under the Retirement Benefits Act, the trust instrument and the Good Governance Practices Guidelines to procure goods, works and services through processes that are transparent, fair, accountable and competitive and that secure value for money for scheme members.

In order to address the resulting gap and provide a common standard for the sector, the Authority is seeking to develop a Retirement Benefits Procurement Guideline (***"the Guideline"***) that will apply to the procurement of goods, works and services by retirement benefits schemes.

The Authority hereby invites trustees, sponsors, administrators, fund managers, custodians, other service providers, industry associations, professional bodies, public entities, members of retirement benefits schemes and the general public to submit written proposals and memoranda on the proposed Guideline.

Submissions should be clearly marked ***"Proposals and Memoranda on the Procurement Guideline"*** and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Retirement Benefits Authority, and may be delivered by hand, by post to the address below, or by email to guidelines@rba.go.ke to be received on or before **5.00 p.m. on Friday, 9th October 2026.**

The Authority will consider all submissions received in the drafting of the Guideline. An exposure draft of the Guideline will thereafter be published for further comment and stakeholder validation before finalisation. Please note that submissions made in response to this notice may be summarised in the consultation record accompanying the Guideline.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS AUTHORITY

Rahimtulla Tower, 13thFloor, Upper Hill Road, P.O. Box 57733-00200 Nairobi | Tel: 2809000 | Mobile: 0726600001-5 or 0735339132

For queries regarding the Retirement Benefits Industry or your pension scheme please call RBA on toll free number: **0800720300** or email: **info@rba.go.ke**

For more, follow us on:

@RBA_Kenya | rbakenya | @RetirementBenefitsAuthorityKE | Retirement Benefits Authority Kenya
@RetirementBenefitsAuthorityKE | info@rba.go.ke | www.rba.go.ke

Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) is ISO 9001: 2015 Certified

President's Award scheme to mentor one million youth

The program will build young people's competencies across all fronts to enable them to overcome life challenges.

BY ERASTUS GICHOHI AND BEATRICE WANJIKU (KNA)

The President's Award-Kenya, targets to enroll one million young people into its volunteer and mentorship program in a bid to nurture their leadership skills.

The award scheme targets to increase the number of beneficiaries from the current 140,000 to one million in the next five years.

According to Cabinet Secretary for Youths Affairs and Creative Economy Salim Mvurya, the initiative helps beneficiaries to accrue priority benefits, for example, of securing posts within the Public Service Commission.

Mvurya said the presidential proclamation recognizes that certificates awarded under the programme serve as a testament to an individual's commitment to excellence, perseverance, and service to the nation.

Holders of the awarded certificates shall be accorded precedence in public service recruitment, training, and advancement opportunities in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to civic responsibility and leadership, the CS said.

PS for Higher Education Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, said the award scheme is targeting learning institutions and youth empowerment centres to create awareness on the program and push the recruitment drive.

Dr. Inyangala said the award board is partnering with private sector players to marshal enough resources to drive and sustain the initiative going forward.

The PS said the government is enhancing training of lecturers and teachers to provide a better learning approach that will boost the youths' communication skills, critical thinking and leadership competencies.

"We are targeting institutions as centres of excellence to drive the recruitment, including high schools, TVETs and universities to create awareness and meet your set targets," Inyangala said.

On her part, President's Award-Kenya Chief Executive Officer Margret Kiogora said the match to one million beneficiaries has started.

She said the program will build young people's competencies across all fronts to enable them to overcome life challenges.

Kiogora said the program awards bronze to young people volunteering for up to six months, silver for those exposed to one year and a gold for a two year mentorship cohort.

Further, Kiogora said the program also incorporates the use of modern technology including enabling the beneficiaries to tap artificial intelligence in a healthy way.

Prof Daniel Mugendi, the Vice Chancellor of Embu University said his institution had onboarded its learners into the program.

Martin Brown, the Secretary General of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award said the award which started in the United Kingdom 70 years ago has spread to 130 countries.

Brown said the initiative will enable the beneficiaries to tap emerging technology especially Artificial Intelligence noting that the world is changing rapidly.

Joseph Icheri, a beneficiary and holder of gold award, said the program exposed him to lifelong skills, including building his confidence and resilience. He was able to explore his full potential, he said.

Margret Kiogora, the CEO of the President's Award-Kenya address the press in Naivasha on the sidelines of a stakeholders engagement. The Award board announced it will target to recruit one million young people between 14 and 24 years in the next five years.

Broadcasting PS urges MDAs to embed communication in project planning

Recently assented Communication Policy seeks to harmonise communication across public institutions and ensure messages are coordinated, based on verified information and establish a common source of truth.

BY SHARON NJERU (KNA) AND VIOLET OTINDO (PCO)

Government institutions have been urged to integrate communication into project planning, budgeting and implementation to improve service delivery and strengthen engagement with citizens.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke said the intention is to make public communication a measurable performance deliverable across ministries, departments and agencies as the Government seeks to strengthen coordination, funding and public engagement in its communication architecture.

He said the recently assented Communication Policy seeks to harmonise communication across public institutions and ensure messages are coordinated, based on verified information and establish a common source of truth.

Speaking during a television interview, Isaboke said communication should be treated as a core government function rather than an activity undertaken after programmes and projects have been implemented.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications PS Stephen Isaboke during a past interview at a local radio station. (Photo courtesy).

He said communication has lagged behind the scale of the government's development and reforms, with programs receiving inadequate communication support.

"We acknowledge that communication is the lifeline of any government, therefore, communication has to be embedded from the beginning.In the new policy, projects will include a communication component and the resources to explain them to the public. Communication is now going to be one of the measurable deliverables across government entities," he said, noting that it would be assessed alongside other responsibilities of government institutions.

He said communication will become part of performance management, where Ministries, Departments and Agencies must deliver projects and demonstrate that they have communicated about them.

The PS said development of the policy followed discussions dating back to around 2019 aimed at addressing gaps in how government institutions communicate their decisions, programmes and services.

He noted that communication had often been overlooked during project planning, with resources allocated to public information among the first to be reduced during periods of austerity.

Under the policy, institutions are expected to incorporate communication into project budgets and implementation plans from the outset. Performance contracting will also include measurable communication commitments for cabinet secretaries and heads of government institutions.

Isaboke said implementing a project is not enough if citizens are unaware of its purpose, benefits or impact on their lives.

He explained that government communication follows an established structure, with the President providing overall policy direction and cabinet secretaries communicating the mandates and programmes of their ministries.

Principal Secretaries interpret and implement policies within their dockets, supported by public communication officers, he said.

The PS said the officers provide information on government programmes and facilitate communication between institutions and the public. At the county level, communication officers also support information dissemination, making coordination between the two levels of government important.

Isaboke identified the Kenya News Agency (KNA) and Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) as key government channels for disseminating public information. KNA provides coverage across the counties, while KBC serves as the national broadcaster.

The Government is also developing a National Communication Centre to provide a one-stop platform where citizens can access government information, make enquiries and submit feedback.

Isaboke said the centre would use digital tools, including WhatsApp channels, short codes and artificial intelligence-enabled chatbots, to respond to general enquiries, with complex issues being referred to relevant departments.

He said the rapid spread of information on social media had increased the need for timely, accurate and coordinated government communication, particularly in countering misinformation.

KALRO tests climate-resilient crops and fodder in Wajir

BY HAMDI BUTHUL (KNA)

The Government is promoting climate-resilient crops and livestock feed in Wajir as part of efforts to strengthen food security and livestock productivity in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), where erratic rainfall, high temperatures and water scarcity continue to affect production.

The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) is working with farmers to test improved cowpea, pasture and fodder varieties under local conditions through the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP), co-funded by the World Bank and the national Government, with support from the County Government of Wajir.

The project has established demonstration farms where researchers are assessing crop and fodder performance in sandy soil, high temperatures, erratic rainfall and under irrigation.

At a demonstration farm in Kalkalcha West, Wajir West, KALRO researcher Beatrice Wanjiru Nganga is assessing 10 cowpea varieties to identify those best suited to the local environment.

Nganga said soil and water samples were collected before the trials began, with water quality being particularly important because many farmers rely on shallow wells for irrigation.

"Continued use of saline water could affect crop production," she said, noting that the trials would help identify varieties capable of tolerating the conditions.

She said Wajir's sandy soils have low water-holding capacity, while high temperatures increase water requirements. Despite the challenges, some of the cowpea varieties have matured in about 60 days, demonstrating potential for dryland production.

KALRO Agronomist Charles Muriuki said demonstration sites had also been established in Wagala Gunyure, Ibrahim Ure, Horof Harar and Wagberi Wards to enable farmers to observe the technologies under local conditions.

"Wajir County is usually faced by very harsh environmental conditions and very erratic rainfall," Muriuki said, adding that cowpea was selected because it requires relatively little rainfall and is adaptable to dryland conditions.

He said cowpea also improves soil fertility through nitrogen fixation and provides food before longer-maturing crops such as sorghum and millet are ready for harvest.

At Kalkalcha West, a farmer, Halima Kahia is hosting the trials alongside fodder demonstrations. She established the farm in 2020 and later partnered with the county agriculture department and KALRO.

Cowpea varieties under demonstration at a KALRO-supported farm in Kalkalcha West, Wajir West, as researchers assess their suitability for production under the county's soil, water and climatic conditions.

"So far so good. The ten varieties of cowpea have done very well, except very few of them, which did not grow as planned," Kahia said.

The farm is also demonstrating sweet potato vines, teff and two sorghum varieties, one for food and another for forage, to address livestock feed shortages during prolonged dry periods.

"If we invest really in pasture, this being an arid area, and during the drought we have been losing our livestock because of lack of pasture," Kahia said.

KALRO researcher Dr Fred Kemboi said inadequate pasture and forage remained a major constraint to livestock productivity in Wajir, making traditional movement of animals over long distances increasingly difficult.

The organisation is testing Bush rye, Cenchrus ciliaris, Boma Rhodes and Maasai love grass, alongside two forage sorghum varieties. Kemboi said some could be conserved as hay, while forage sorghum could be used for silage, providing feed during periods of scarcity.

He said improved pasture could also support livestock finishing and feedlot systems by providing a reliable feed supply.

KALRO has established five demonstration sites where cowpea, pasture and fodder varieties are being evaluated. The results will help identify technologies suitable for wider adoption and strengthen food availability, livestock feeding and household incomes in climate-vulnerable areas.

Kenya deepens AI capacity through Huawei training in Shenzhen

BY CATHERINE MUINDI AND IAN CHEPKUTO (KNA)

Kenya is strengthening the capacity of its ICT leadership to harness Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies following a week-long knowledge exchange programme in Shenzhen, China.

The training exposed government ICT directors to technologies, strategies and practices shaping the digital future.

The programme was coordinated by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (MICDE), through the State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy, in partnership with Huawei Technologies.

The initiative builds on local workshops and virtual training sessions conducted by the Ministry during the past financial year in collaboration with Huawei through the Technopolis Development Authority. The sessions focused on equipping government ICT officers with practical skills to support Kenya's digital government agenda.

Participants display certificates after completion of the training led by the Director of Digital Infrastructure-Field Service Division, Barnabas Sang (seated third from left), in Shenzhen, China.

Speaking during the programme, Secretary for ICT Security and Audit Control Emmanuel Kata thanked Huawei for the training and emphasised the growing importance of AI in government.

"Artificial Intelligence is no longer a conversation about the future; it is already reshaping how governments plan, make decisions and deliver services to citizens. As ICT leaders, our responsibility is to ensure that Kenya does not merely adopt AI technologies, but develops the capacity, governance frameworks and institutional readiness required to deploy them responsibly and effectively," he said.

Acting Secretary for ICT, Digital Governance and Data Governance Bernard Rotich urged the directors to translate the knowledge gained into practical solutions that can strengthen digital government and improve service delivery.

"The value of this exchange goes beyond the technology we are learning about here in Shenzhen. It is about understanding how innovation can be translated into practical solutions for our public institutions," said Rotich.

He urged the participants to return to Kenya with ideas that can be adapted to the local context, strengthen digital public services, build institutional capacity and improve citizens' experience.

Huawei Kenya Deputy Country Manager Zhenyu Wang welcomed the delegation and said continued collaboration was important in advancing digital transformation.

The programme brought together ICT directors and deputy directors from various Ministries, State Departments and government agencies, including Lands and Physical Planning, Transport, Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, the National Treasury, eCitizen Directorate, Mining, Social Protection and Devolution. The delegation also included representatives from ICTA and Parliamentary Affairs.

Beyond classroom sessions, participants examined how technology, leadership, people and infrastructure can work together to drive organisational and digital transformation. They were taken through Huawei's growth and business management journey, as well as its strategies for sustaining innovation.

The delegation visited the Shannon Exhibition Hall and Davidson Hall, where they explored Huawei's technological evolution and solutions. Sessions on human resource management also provided insights into talent development and retention in a rapidly changing technology environment.

The programme further examined China's digital transformation experience, including Futian's digital transformation initiatives, the National AI Strategy and industry applications of AI.

The delegation also visited the Guangzhou Artificial Intelligence Integration Empowerment Centre and a data centre showcase, gaining first-hand exposure to infrastructure supporting AI deployment at scale.

The exchange highlighted the importance of policy, skills, leadership, data, infrastructure and institutional readiness in integrating AI into government and provided lessons that participating institutions can adapt to Kenya's digital transformation agenda.

EACC launches nationwide Mashinani anti-corruption campaign

EACC Vice Chairperson Dr. Monica Wanjiru Muiru, Kajiado governor Joseph Ole Lenku and Kajiado county commissioner Michael Yator flag off the EACC Mashinani initiative in Kajiado.

BY JOYLINE ARODI (KNA)

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has launched a nationwide anti-corruption campaign which seeks to deepen public participation in the fight against corruption and promote ethical conduct among Kenyans.

The five-day EACC Mashinani campaign was launched at Maasai National Polytechnic in Kajiado County, alongside public outreaches, youth engagements, capacity-building sessions and community forums.

Speaking during the flagging-off ceremony, EACC Vice Chairperson Dr. Monica Wanjiru Muiru said the commission's mandate includes corruption prevention, public education and awareness, as well as law enforcement.

> "The commission has over the last three years secured 72 convictions, filed 134 asset recovery suits, recovered illegally acquired and unexplained assets valued at approximately Sh7.4 billion."

Dr. Muiru said the campaign aims at preventing corruption by empowering citizens and public institutions to identify and address practices that create opportunities for corruption.

"The commission has over the last three years secured 72 convictions, filed 134 asset recovery suits, recovered illegally acquired and unexplained assets valued at approximately Sh7.4 billion and averted potential loss of approximately Sh10.7 billion," she said.

The vice chairperson added that the commission had undertaken 41 examinations and reviews, conducted corruption risk assessments in 17 counties and carried out 403 random integrity tests in public institutions.

Dr. Muiru said system reviews had helped identify loopholes that could expose Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to corruption risks.

She noted that the commission was aware of land-related integrity concerns in Kajiado and that several reported cases were under investigation.

Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku, accompanied by Deputy Governor Martin Moshisho and County Assembly Speaker Justus Ngossor, pledged the county government's support for the campaign.

Lenku urged stakeholders participating in town halls, youth engagements and public barazas to ensure the campaign reached all sections of society.

"I encourage various stakeholders who have been invited to various programmes, whether town halls, youth engagements and other public barazas, to sensitise the public.

It is important that we make this exercise all-inclusive because we know corruption permeates every level of our society and unless we jointly fight it together, success will be minimal," he said.

County Commissioner Michael Yator, who chairs the National Anti-Corruption Committee in Kajiado also pledged his office's support for the campaign.

Yator said the National Government would work with EACC to strengthen corruption prevention efforts in the county, noting that fighting corruption is important for economic growth and improved service delivery.

As part of the campaign, EACC launched a caravan and traversed different parts of Kajiado to engage residents, create awareness and provide information on mechanisms for reporting and preventing corruption.

The commission will also partner with the Kajiado County Government to engage students at Umma University through the Campus Edition programme, as it seeks to highlight the role of young people in promoting integrity and fighting corruption.

The campaign will later focus on capacity building for county executives and members of the County Assembly of Kajiado, equipping them with skills to identify and prevent corruption risks in the execution of their duties.

KEFRI slashes bamboo's 100-year wait with tissue culture technology

KEFRI scientists have found a way to hasten production through tissue culture technology. Farmers can now access bamboo seedlings that reach maturity in just three to five years, a dramatic improvement compared to the century-long natural cycle.

A scientist demonstrate tissue culture in a laboratory. Scientists at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) have developed propagation protocols for six bamboo species.

BY SARAH MOGAKA (PCO)

Scientists at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) have developed propagation protocols for six bamboo species.

The aim is to give farmers access to resilient, fast-maturing seedlings that promise income and environmental benefits.

The species include Bambusa longinternode, Dendrocalamus asper, Dendrocalamus latiflorus, Dendrocalamus membranaceus, Dendrocalamus bigasper, and Dendrocalamus yunnanensis.

> The scientist say bamboo is increasingly being recognised as a driver of climate resilience and land restoration because of its ability to grow fast and stabilise soils.

According to Susan Karani, Tissue Culture Scientist at KEFRI, bamboo can take between 80 and 100 years to flower and produce seed in the wild; a reproductive cycle so long that many farmers may never witness it in their lifetime.

Karani pointed out that for a country racing to meet surging demand for bamboo as a commercial crop, KEFRI scientists have found a way to hasten production through tissue culture technology.

"Researchers are propagating bamboo seedlings in the laboratory, bypassing the need to wait decades for seed and delivering healthy, less disease-prone planting material to farmers within the shortest time," she said.

"Bamboo's unpredictable flowering and short seed viability limit conventional propagation," she added.

Karani said tissue culture makes it possible for the rapid production of high-quality, healthy germplasm on a large scale, supporting sustainable forestry, climate resilience, land restoration, livelihoods and industrial development.

Karani said that the institute will ensure a reliable supply of planting material by producing seedlings year-round.

She said farmers can now access bamboo seedlings that reach maturity for harvest in just three to five years, a dramatic improvement compared to the century-long natural cycle.

The scientist said bamboo is increasingly being recognised as a driver of climate resilience and land restoration because of its ability to grow fast and stabilise soils.

To achieve the country's ambitious target of growing 15 billion trees by 2032, KEFRI's tissue culture propagation ensures that bamboo can be mass-produced to meet both ecological and economic goals, she said.

"The high demand for bamboo seedlings is an indication that propagation, not policy alone, will be critical to sustaining Kenya's bamboo economy going forward," she said.

Kenya gazetted bamboo as a scheduled cash crop in September 2020, making it the country's 16th officially recognised cash crop, a move that aimed at unlocking its commercial potential across sectors including construction, furniture, textiles and bioenergy.

Call for stronger cross-border cooperation to advance labour justice

The Government is commited to the implementation of bilateral labour agreements and other mechanisms that facilitate labour mobility, while protecting Kenyan workers.

BY MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

Stakeholders in the employment and labour sector have underscored the need for stronger national, regional, and international cooperation to address emerging challenges in labour justice, arising from increased labour mobility and the changing world of work.

Speaking at Strathmore University in Nairobi during the closing ceremony of the fourth Employment and Labour Relations Annual Symposium and Exhibition (ELRASE IV, 2026), Labour and Skills Development Principal Secretary (PS) Shadrack Mwadime stressed that effective labour migration governance must extend beyond facilitating movement of workers to ensuring that their rights, welfare, and access to justice are protected throughout the migration cycle.

Mwadime observed that labour mobility is no longer simply a question of migration, but encompasses the development of skills that meet international standards, access to decent employment opportunities and the protection of migrant workers through safe, orderly and regular migration pathways.

"Labour mobility is of immense benefit to migrants, communities, employers, governments and other stakeholders in both countries of origin and destination when it is properly managed," he said.

Mwadime emphasised that benefits of labour mobility must be accompanied by effective safeguards for workers.

"Our labour mobility programmes cover the entire journey of a migrant worker starting with the pre-employment, tour of duty as well as return and re-integration," the PS explained.

Mwadime noted that the symposium provided an opportunity for the Government, the Judiciary, employers, workers' organisations, recruitment agencies, civil society, development partners and other stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in labour migration governance and the administration of justice.

The PS reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the implementation of bilateral labour agreements and other mechanisms that facilitate labour mobility, while protecting Kenyan workers, even as he stressed that translating the recommendations emerging from the symposium into tangible reforms will require sustained collaboration among all stakeholders.

Labour and Skills Development PS Shadrack Mwadime, appends his signature to the fourth Employment and Labour Relations Annual Symposium and Exhibition (ELRASE IV, 2026) communique in Nairobi.

Employment and Labour Relations Court Principal Judge Monica Mbaru said ELEASE IV underscored the imperative of ensuring that labour rights and access to justice remain protected as workers increasingly move across geographical and legal boundaries.

"The symposium brought into focus the opportunities and vulnerabilities associated with labour mobility, including recruitment practices, unfair contractual arrangements, wage exploitation, unsafe working environments, discrimination, harassment, trafficking, forced labour and unfair termination," she said.

Justice Mbaru emphasized that crossing borders should not deprive workers of access to justice and that labour mobility must go hand in hand with protection of labour rights.

She called for practical action, including stronger judicial research and resources, improved court-user accessibility, effective use of technology and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), better coordination of labour migration policies and development of coherent jurisprudence on cross-border employment disputes.

Farm to market systems power Africa's food security and sovereignty

BY PROF. SHAUKAT ABDULRAZAK

Food security can no longer mean simply producing enough food. Africa must simultaneously pursue food safety, food security and food sovereignty ensuring that food is safe, available and affordable, while building domestic capacity to produce seed, grow crops, preserve harvests, process outputs and deliver them efficiently to consumers.

Potatoes and onions illustrate both the challenge and the opportunity. Kenya produced about 2.31 million tonnes of Irish potatoes in 2023, up from 1.83 million tonnes in 2022, valued at KSh65.9 billion across 239,000 hectares. With annual consumption at roughly 40 kilograms per person, population growth alone will drive demand sharply upward. UN projections show Kenya's population rising from 55.9 million in 2024 to 86.5 million by 2054. Even at current consumption levels, national requirements could reach 3.5 million tonnes 50 per cent above 2023 output. Rising incomes, urbanisation and the fast-food industry will push demand further.

The onion story is equally telling. Kenya produced about 150,000 tonnes of bulb onions in 2024, up from 136,000 tonnes in 2023. Yet demand already outstrips supply, forcing imports from Tanzania and beyond. This underscores the need to go beyond expanding acreage and instead deploy technology, including climate-smart practices, to raise productivity.

Kenya's post-harvest strategy warns of losses of up to 25 per cent in key staples due to poor storage, weak cold-chain systems and transport constraints. Producing four tonnes and losing one is economically equivalent to never producing it at all.

Lessons from Poland highlight the power of integrated agricultural ecosystems linking seed producers, farmers, aggregators, storage operators, packers, processors and distributors. At Mini Tubers Potato Growing (MTPG), Kalinowa, modern in-vitro technology produces healthy, genetically consistent planting material. Agrosad, with over 30 years' experience, combines farmer networks with production, cold storage, sorting, packaging, logistics and distribution. Green Group integrates farmers with controlled storage and transport systems. These models offer valuable lessons for Kenya and Africa.

Potato seeds

The principle is simple: from laboratory to planting material, farmer to harvest, storage to grading, packing to processing, and finally to market. Africa must shift from isolated farms to coordinated farm-to-market systems.

Automation will be critical. Mechanised planting and harvesting reduce labour bottlenecks. Optical sorters grade produces by size and quality. Sensors monitor storage conditions. Artificial intelligence, drones, soil sensors and digital weather platforms guide farmers on when to plant, irrigate, fertilise and harvest. The goal is smart automation producing more for more people with less land, water, energy and loss. This is what I observed at Agrosad in Blaszki.

Food sovereignty must begin with the seed. Governments, universities and industry should invest in disease-free potato seed, tissue culture, rapid multiplication, biotechnology, conventional and mutation breeding, and climate-resilient varieties. The philosophy is clear: Protect the seed. Multiply the seed. Produce more. Preserve more. Process more. Prosper more.

Agricultural subsidies must extend beyond fertiliser to include certified seed, irrigation, mechanisation, renewable energy, crop insurance, aggregation centres, cold stores and processing equipment especially through cooperatives and organised farmer groups. Storage itself must be treated as infrastructure: reducing losses, protecting quality and enabling farmers to avoid distress sales. Potatoes can be transformed into chips, starch and flour; onions stored under controlled conditions can serve markets longer.

The demographic imperative is urgent. The UN projects sub-Saharan Africa's population to rise by 79 per cent to 2.2 billion by 2054. Feeding that population with yesterday's systems will be impossible. Technology and innovation are essential and we need not reinvent the wheel. Poland's experience shows the future lies in integrated systems: laboratory to field, field to store, store to processing plant, and processing plant to market.

With science, automation, quality seed, modern storage, farmer participation, strategic subsidies and private-sector investment, potatoes, onions and other crops can become instruments not just of food security, but of food sovereignty, industrialisation, employment and national prosperity.

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

Eastern Africa forms regional Horticulture Council to boost integration, market access

BY ANITA OMWENGA (MYGOV)

The Eastern Africa countries have established a regional body to strengthen and integrate the regional horticulture sector.

The regional platform dubbed the Horticulture Council of Eastern Africa (HoCEA) will strengthen cooperation, improve market access for horticultural products.

Principal Secretary (PS), State Department for Trade, Regina Ombam indicated that despite Eastern Africa having immense horticulture potential, common challenges, including fragmented production, high costs of trade and logistics, high post harvest losses among other challenges continue to limit their competitiveness and impact in the horticulture sector.

PS Ombam said the establishment of the Council, with support from Trademark Africa and development partners, marks an important step in moving the region from fragmented national efforts towards coordinated action.

"This regional platform is a timely and strategic response to the shared challenges and opportunities facing our horticulture industry. It reflects the maturity of our private sector and its readiness to move from fragmented national efforts to coordinated regional action" PS Ombam said in her speech read on her behalf by Deputy Director for Trade at State Department for Trade Mathew Komen.

The PS said the horticulture industry continues to face challenges that transcend national borders, including high logistics costs, inadequate cold-chain infrastructure, lengthy border procedures, non-tariff barriers and fragmented digital systems.

She said such challenges require coordinated solutions involving governments, the private sector and regional institutions.

"We must move from fragmentation to coordination, from raw commodity exports to value addition, and from country-by-country competition to genuine regional cooperation,"Ombam said.

Ombam said horticulture remains one of the region's most dynamic economic sectors, supporting exports, foreign exchange earnings, employment, rural livelihoods and investment, particularly for women and young people.

She noted that Kenya exported approximately 457,700 tonnes of horticultural produce valued at Sh143.78 billion in 2025, underscoring the importance of strengthening systems that enable the sector to compete in regional and international markets.

"Our collective ambition as Eastern Africa must go beyond volume. We must increase productivity, deepen regional value chains and ensure that a greater share of the value created through processing, packaging, branding and other forms of value addition is retained within our region," she said.

The PS added that the council is expected to strengthen collective advocacy on standards and policies, promote cross-border trade, support investment mobilisation and facilitate greater access to technology, finance, knowledge and markets.

Ombam said HoCEA would provide an important institutional platform through which the private sector can engage governments and regional bodies on issues affecting the movement and competitiveness of horticultural products.

Nakuru turn to irrigation to boost food, incomes

BY JANE NGUGI AND JEFTHER AFUYO (KNA)

Farmers in Nakuru County are adopting improved irrigation practices to increase agricultural production and household incomes while reducing reliance on increasingly unreliable rainfall.

Farmers from Lari Wendani Irrigation Scheme in Subukia and Kabugi Irrigation Scheme in Gilgil recently participated in a peer-to-peer exchange visit to Mitoini Phase 1 and 2 and Kibirigwi Irrigation Schemes in Kirinyaga County.

The visit exposed them to practical approaches for managing water, operating infrastructure and maintaining facilities to support reliable agricultural production.

Nakuru County Agriculture Chief Officer Eng. Margaret Kinyanjui said the exchange would strengthen farmers' capacity to manage irrigation infrastructure and maximise its contribution to food production and livelihoods.

"Peer-to-peer learning gives our farmers an opportunity to see what other farmers are doing, learn from their experiences and identify practices that can be adapted to our own irrigation schemes," she said.

Kinyanjui said the approach would also strengthen farmer ownership as the county works to complete and fully utilise its irrigation investments.

A demostration farm. Nakuru County is adopting improved irrigation practices to increase agricultural production. Photo/Courtesy

The initiative is being implemented under the Farmer-Led Irrigation Development (FLID) approach through the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP), which gives farmers greater responsibility for developing and managing irrigation systems while providing access to technical support, finance, technologies and markets.

The World Bank identifies financing, knowledge and market access among the major constraints limiting smallholder irrigation development in Kenya, noting that farmer-led irrigation can improve productivity and incomes while strengthening resilience to climate shocks and market volatility.

NAVCDP's FLID component supports water harvesting, efficient irrigation technologies, affordable financing and improved water management. The project targets 20,000 hectares of new or improved irrigation services by the end of its implementation period.

The initiative comes as Kenya seeks to reduce agriculture's vulnerability to unreliable rainfall. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, agriculture gross value added increased by 2.8 per cent in 2025 to Sh1.75 trillion, although the sector recorded slower real growth amid adverse weather conditions.

The National Irrigation Sector Investment Plan records about 711,933 acres equipped for irrigation in 2023, representing about 21 per cent of the country's estimated irrigation potential.

The plan targets 1.5 million acres of developed irrigation by 2030, while the State Department for Irrigation says Kenya currently has more than 3,000 irrigation schemes.

It identifies FLID as a major pathway for expanding irrigation, particularly among individuals and small groups managing farms between 0.5 and two hectares.

Under NAVCDP, farmers can also access credit through agricultural SACCOs and farmer producer organisations, as well as market infrastructure, digital services and climate-smart agricultural technologies.

For Nakuru farmers, the Kirinyaga exchange provided an opportunity to learn from established schemes and identify practices that can be adapted locally to improve production, support high-value crops and strengthen links between farms and markets.

Kenyans urged to turn AI potential into jobs, productivity

BY ZIPPORAH ODIONYI AND EMMANUEL MWENDWA (KNA)

Kenyans have been urged to translate its investments in digital technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into productive ventures, stronger enterprises and improved public services.

Principal Secretary (PS) for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Stephen Isaboke, said the country must focus on equipping citizens with relevant digital and AI skills, while supporting workers and sectors likely to experience hitches occasioned by technological advances.

Speaking during a workshop on Kenya's Digital and AI Dividend at a Nairobi hotel, Isaboke said AI is already transforming workplaces, businesses and public institutions.

"The future of work must be at the centre of this conversation," he said, citing World Bank analysis showing that about 87 per cent of Kenyan workers are in occupations with relatively low direct exposure to AI, while nine per cent are in highly exposed occupations, where AI is likely to complement their work.

He said about four per cent of workers are in highly exposed occupations facing greater displacement risks, adding that the focus should shift from whether AI would take jobs to how workers and institutions could prepare for an economy where AI becomes an important tool for productivity and innovation.

Isaboke said Kenya needs broad AI literacy among citizens, public servants, teachers, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and informal workers, alongside advanced capabilities among researchers, developers and data specialists.

He said Kenya should seek to become a builder and innovator of AI solutions rather than merely a consumer, particularly in areas such as Kiswahili and local-languages AI, agriculture, climate resilience, tourism and public-service delivery.

The PS said the Government had established a policy and institutional foundation for the digital economy through initiatives, including the National Digital Master Plan 2022-2032, National E-Commerce Strategy 2023 and National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025-2030.

He said the next step was to strengthen digital infrastructure, data governance, interoperability and secure information exchange, while ensuring that AI development respects privacy and citizens' rights.

"The digital and AI dividend will not be realised simply because technology is available," Isaboke said, adding that its value would be demonstrated through improved productivity for farmers, expanded markets, for MSMEs, better learning, faster public services and new opportunities for young Kenyans.

The PS called for stronger partnerships among Government, the private sector, academia, civil society and development partners to translate Kenya's digital potential into inclusive economic opportunities and improved livelihoods.

Roads sector to strengthen engineering technology, grow infrastructure

BY MICHAEL OMONDI (KNA)

The State Department for Roads will strengthen the regulation of Kenya's engineering technology sector to accelerate infrastructure development, industrialisation and technological innovation.

During a virtual stakeholders' validation forum on the Draft Engineering Technology (Registration, Licensing and Compliance) Rules, 2026, the Principal Secretary (PS) for Roads, Eng. Joseph M. Mbugua, underscored the role of engineering technologists and technicians in the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, transport networks, manufacturing systems, and energy solutions.

Represented by the Department's Secretary Administration Evans Mutari, the PS emphasised the importance of a robust regulatory framework that promotes competence, professionalism, accountability and public safety, while creating an enabling environment for practitioners, industry and training institutions to contribute meaningfully to national development.

He called on stakeholders to engage openly and constructively with the proposed framework, identify areas requiring clarification or refinement, and flag potential implementation challenges.

According to Eng Mbugua, stakeholders' input will inform the finalization of the rules and contribute to establishing a framework that is clear, practical, proportionate, enforceable, and responsive to emerging technologies and evolving industry practices.

The forum was hosted by the Roads Agency Kenya Engineering Technology Registration Board (KETRB) in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Technical Committee. It brought together representatives from government institutions, industry, development partners, academia, training institutions and professional bodies to review the draft rules and the accompanying regulatory impact statement.

Earlier, the Department explored alternative financing mechanisms to safeguard Kenya's road infrastructure as the national transition toward electric vehicles threatens to erode traditional fuel levy revenues.

The PS warned that the rapid adoption of clean transport could severely impact long-term road maintenance funding.

Hosted by the World Resources Institute (WRI) Africa, the workshop was to assess the study on the impact of vehicle electrification on the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF).

Eng Mbugua highlighted the delicate balance between environmental progress and sustainable infrastructure financing.

While Kenya's National E-Mobility Policy has successfully driven the adoption of electric public buses, two-wheelers, and three-wheelers, this shift away from internal combustion engines directly reduces fuel consumption, the primary driver of the RMLF, Mbugua noted.

Kenya, World Bank reviews major water and irrigation projects

BY JOSEPH NG'ANG'A (KNA)

The Government has stepped up engagement with the World Bank to accelerate the implementation of major water, sanitation and irrigation projects aimed at improving water security, boosting food production and strengthening climate resilience across Kenya.

Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary eng Eric Mugaa, together with Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir and Principal Secretary for Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho, held talks with a World Bank delegation led by Regional Practice Director for the Planet Department in Eastern and Southern Africa Anna Wellenstein at Maji House, Nairobi.

The meeting reviewed the progress of key World Bank-supported programmes and explored measures to speed up implementation and maximise their impact on communities.

Among the projects discussed was the Mwache Dam Project in Kwale County, a strategic investment expected to strengthen water supply and improve water security in the Coast region.

The officials also reviewed the Horn of Africa Groundwater Resilience Programme, which covers Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa counties.

The programme is aimed at strengthening access to reliable groundwater resources and improving the resilience of communities in some of the country's most water-stressed areas.

Nyambera dumpsite in Kisii transformed into recreational park

BY MERCY OSONGO(KNA)

The Kisii County Government has transformed the former Nyambera dumpsite in Kisii town into a recreational park as part of efforts to improve waste management, protect public health and create green public spaces.

The facility, now known as Etaya Governor's Park, was rehabilitated at a cost of Sh35 million following the closure of the dumpsite in February 2022 by the National Environmental Complaints Committee (NECC) after numerous public complaints over health risks.

The transformation has also created employment opportunities for hundreds of women and youth engaged in beautification and maintenance of the park.

One of the beneficiaries, 43-year-old Felicia Mageto, a resident of Nyambera, tends flowers and trees at the facility, which now provides residents with a place to walk, relax and meet.

"This place used to be very dirty, and a lot of waste was being dumped here, posing a health risk to the patients at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital," she said.

For years, the dumpsite, located at the heart of Kisii town, exposed nearby residents, schools, homes and health facilities to smoke, foul smells and waste-related hazards.

A 2020 Kisii University study found toxic levels of heavy metals, including lead, copper, cadmium and zinc, in soil, air and nearby water bodies around the Nyambera dumpsite.

The researchers noted that flooding caused lead deposits from the dumpsite to accumulate along the banks of River Nyakomisaro, increasing lead concentrations in the river.

Governor Simba Arati said the county, working with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), decommissioned the dumpsite and established the recreational park.

He said attempts to relocate the dumpsite to Etora in Bobasi, Nyatieko in Kitutu Chache South and other areas faced resistance from residents.

The county has also established a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Kisii Agricultural Training Centre with support from the UK Government under the Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) Programme.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke (left) planting a tree at Etaya Governor's Park during the World Cleanup Day 2026 celebrations in Kisii town.

Arati said the facility can process 50 tonnes of waste daily, including 10 tonnes of organic waste through a Black Soldier Fly unit to produce animal feed and organic fertiliser.

Kisii County generates an estimated 200 tonnes of waste daily, with about 60 per cent being organic, while volumes increase during market days.

The MRF is equipped with a weighbridge to support data collection and policy planning, with the Governor calling for investment in waste-to-energy, commercial composting, paper manufacturing and recycling.

The county has also launched the Kazi Mashinani programme, recruiting about 2,000 men and women monthly on a rotational basis to clean towns, unclog stormwater drains and clear bushes. More than 24,000 people are expected to benefit.

During World Cleanup Day celebrations held on September 20, 2026, UN-Habitat Head for East and Horn of Africa Sub Region Ishaku Maitumbi and NEMA Director-General Dr. Mamo B Mamo commended Kisii County's waste-management efforts.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke urged young people to embrace environmental cleanliness and explore employment and business opportunities in recycling and waste management.

Kericho raises daily water production to 15 million litres

BY GILBERT MUTAI (KNA)

The State Department for Forestry has stepped up efforts to increase tree cover in Tharaka Nithi amid growing threats from charcoal burning, illegal logging and the effects of climate change.

The department says 237,850 trees were recently planted across 238 hectares.

The initiative targets areas affected by forest degradation especially in Chiakariga, Kijege and Mutejwa in Tharaka Constituency which are the most affected by deforestation.

According to Geoffrey Kiprono, a forestry officer in the county, charcoal burning remains one of the major causes of deforestation.

He said the department is addressing the issue of illegal logging through patrols.

"Local residents are increasingly participating in tree-planting and forest conservation programmes, making communities an important part of efforts to restore degraded forests," Kiprono stated.

He said climate change is contributing to trees drying up, which makes tree establishment and forest conservation more difficult.

Consequently, the Forestry Department is implementing programmes such as the Forestry Investment Facility (FIF) that encourage farmers to plant trees on their farms while providing financial support for forestry-related activities.

Under the programme, farmers can access up to 100 per cent financing, with 70 per cent allocated to investment and 30 per cent to tree planting.

The initiative is intended to make tree planting more attractive to farmers, while supporting the expansion of tree cover outside government forests.

The Forestry Department set a target of producing 1.6 million tree seedlings this year as part of efforts to increase the availability of planting materials.

It is issuing tree seedlings free of charge to residents of Tharaka Nithi to encourage more people to take part in tree-planting activities.

Garissa residents relieved as government launches water project

The Sh25-million project will serve at least 800 households and more than 11,000 livestock every day.

BY ERICK KYALO (KNA)

The residents of Maalimin and Modogashe Wards in Garissa County will benefit from a steady water supply following the launch of the Rigdam Water Project consisting of a 17,600 cubic meter water pan and an eight-kilometer borehole pipeline to the villages.

The project, done by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), with support from the European Union further includes installation of a solar powered water pump, provision of a high capacity diesel generator, construction of two water kiosks and installation of chain link fence around the water pan.

According to the NDMA Chief Executive Officer Col (rtd) Hared Adan, the Sh25-million project will serve at least 800 households and more than 11,000 livestock every day.

Speaking during the official handover of the project to the community, Adan said by incorporating both the water pan and the borehole to supplement each other, the government is keen to ensure that the people in the area have water supply in all seasons.

The CEO at the same time appealed to the local residents to take care and protect the project infrastructure from burglary, noting that the communities stood to lose if the project was not well taken care of for sustainability.

"The government used to do water trucking year in, year out in this stretch but by doing this investment here, the community has a reliable water infrastructure to cover the whole year.

This is a very high impact project that addresses the issue of water in this area by serving at least 800 households and more than 11,000 livestock every day. It is also in a centralized location, supporting both the Modogashe and Maalimin wards," Adan said.

"My request to the community is that this is your water infrastructure. The government has put up this project for you to protect it for the purpose of sustainability. We are going to train the community on how to manage this infrastructure," he added.

On El nino preparedness, Adan called on the communities especially in the arid and semi-arid areas to take advantage and maximize the use of the rain water, cautioning them against going to flood risk areas that are likely to endanger their lives.

Livestock drink water from the Rigdam water pan in Maalimin ward, which was recently constructed by the NDMA.

"We expect enhanced rains as a community, and this has advantages and disadvantages for us. Our water facilities are going to impound almost 100 per cent of all our water open source facilities, let us maximize the use of that water. On the other hand, as we drive, let us avoid areas where there are water run offs and rivers within this area that are likely to flood so that we protect ourselves," he said.

Hussein Mohamed Mohamud, an elder in the rigdam village narrated how over the past years they had been forced to walk for more than 10 kilometers in search for water, sometimes loving their livestock due to thirst.

He said that the new project was a life saver for them and a sustainable water source at their village.

County banks on mentorship to cut maternal, newborn deaths

A health worker demonstrates newborn resuscitation during the Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care mentorship training in Trans Nzoia County. Photo by Isaiah Nayika.

BY ISAIAH NAYIKA (KNA)

Trans Nzoia County is banking on a hands-on mentorship programme to equip health workers with life-saving skills and reduce deaths of mothers and newborns during childbirth.

Consequently, health care providers drawn from facilities across the county underwent intensive practical training under the County Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) mentorship programme.

The training was facilitated by the County Department of Health and Sanitation with support from AMPATH Uzima and the Ministry of Health through the Division of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (DRMNCAH) Mentorship Programme.

Trainees were taken through management of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, vacuum assisted vaginal delivery, management of maternal shock, maternal resuscitation, immediate newborn resuscitation, and use of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machines and infant radiant warmers.

AMPATH Uzima RMNCAH Programme Manager Nobrah Mutuku said the programme focuses on practical skills that health workers are expected to replicate in their facilities.

“This is a training of its own kind, because what our mentees are learning here is not just theory. These are practical skills that they are expected to go and replicate at the facility level in order to save the lives of mothers and their children during delivery,” Mutuku said.

She urged beneficiaries to mentor colleagues at their stations to improve service delivery.

“We want those who have benefited from this training to go and mentor their fellow health workers at the facility level. That is one way of bettering health care service delivery to the mwananchi,” she said.

Ministry of Health DRMNCAH Mentorship Programme Team Leader Dr Mike Ekisa commended the health workers for their commitment, saying their positive attitude will boost uptake of facility deliveries and reduce home deliveries under traditional birth attendants.

County health officials expressed optimism that the skills will translate into safer deliveries and fewer maternal and newborn deaths.

Youth urged to exploit online jobs

BY ALICE WANJIRU (KNA)

The State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy is accelerating its nationwide digital transformation agenda, with a key digital hub in Chepkorio Ward of Keiyo South Sub-County set for completion within the next two months.

Speaking on the vast potential of the digital economy, ICT Principal Secretary Eng. John Tanui emphasized that digital skills unlock massive opportunities both locally and internationally.

He noted that Kenya has successfully opened numerous international markets, placing the responsibility on local youth to actively position themselves and seize these global opportunities.

The PS was speaking at Chepkorio Vocational Training Centre during the graduation of 360 youth who had gained Huawei DigiTruck skills after undergoing a one-month training on how to use digital skills in commerce.

The Chepkorio hub, the PS said, is part of a broader government masterplan to construct 1,450 digital hubs across all wards in the country, with the facilities designed to provide young people with a dedicated space to access the digital arena, combat unemployment, and establish self-employment using just their smartphones.

Echoing the PS's sentiments, Eng. Anthony Sang from Konza Technopolis reiterated that ICT has become mandatory in modern times, especially as government services transition fully to online platforms.

He encouraged residents to market local agricultural produce such as potatoes, directly to online buyers calling on the youth to pass on basic digital skills to the elderly so they too can participate in digital marketplaces.

Saying that two digital hubs will soon be completed within the sub-county, Eng. Sang challenged the graduates to launch their own online shops rather than rely on traditional brokers.

“We should not sell through brokers, but direct to the customers,” Eng. Sang said, advising locals to utilize upcoming county aggregation parks for value addition.

At the same time, Carolyne Tanui, the Assistant Director of Corporate Communications at the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) underscored that personal data is the foundation of digital transformation. But it must be handled strictly according to the law, she said.

“One cannot access the digital space without their personal data,” she stated, advising the public to be vigilant.

Nakuru and partners sign Sh279m deal to expand eye and ear care

BY ALICE WANJIRU (KNA)

The County Government of Nakuru has signed a KSh279 million four-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Christian Blind Mission (CBM) to improve ear and eye health services for approximately 640,257 people across the devolved unit.

The initiative, supported by Africa Gospel Church (AGC) Tenwek Hospital aims at early detection, treatment and referral of sensory health conditions.

It targets learners in 1,302 schools across the 11 sub-counties.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health Services Ms Roselyn Mwangi indicated that the partnership will strengthen specialist services for ear and eye health while taking screening and early interventions closer to communities.

The Vision Impact Project Scale-Up 2026-2029, rolled out by CBM in collaboration with Africa Gospel Church (AGC) Tenwek Hospital is also being implemented in Kakamega and Mombasa Counties.

According to Ms Mungai, the programme will support renovation and strengthening of eye, ear and hearing facilities, provision of equipment and development of healthcare workers' technical capacity.

She indicated that the venture will also establish stronger links between health facilities, communities and schools to improve identification and referral of people with sensory impairments.

Ms Mungai stated that Nakuru is strengthening the entire range of eye and ear health care, from community screening to specialist treatment.

"We are strengthening specialist capability at our two referral hospitals while using our Primary Care Networks to take services downstream, including into schools," she said.

The CECM said the objective is to promote early identification, intervention and appropriate care closer to residents.

"It will support community screening, treatment outreaches, cataract surgery, referrals and improved infrastructure and equipment. The partnership builds on existing county investments, including a dedicated eye laboratory and audiology unit," noted Ms Mungai.

She added that the partnership will also strengthen specialist services at Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital and other facilities within the referral network.

ICT Authority | THE WORLD BANK

KDEAP KENYA DIGITAL ECONOMY ACCELERATION PROJECT

The Information and Communications Technology Authority Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project (KDEAP)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Request for Bids Small Works One Envelope Bidding Process

Purchaser :	**The Information and Communications Technology Authority**
Country:	**Kenya**
Name of Project:	**Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project (KDEAP)**
Contract Title	**Refurbishment Works for Huduma Centres in Borderland Areas in three (3) lots.** **Lot 1: Amagoro, Busia County,** **Lot 2: Holili - Taveta, Taita Taveta County,** **Lot 3: Moyale, Marsabit County**
Loan No./Credit No.	**7289 - KE AND 7290 - KE**
RFB Reference No.	**KE-ICTA-571738-CW-RFB**
Issue Date	**29TH SEPTEMBER,2026**

1. The Government of the Republic of Kenya (GoK) has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project (KDEAP) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds under the contract for Refurbishment Works for Huduma Centres in Borderland Areas in three (3) lots. Lot 1: Amagoro, Busia County, Lot 2: Holili - Taveta, Taita Taveta County, Lot 3: Moyale, Marsabit County. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing.
2. The Information Communication Technology Authority (ICTA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for **Refurbishment Works for Huduma Centres in Borderland Areas in three (3) lots**

Package	Site	County
Lot 1	Amagoro	Busia
Lot 2	Holili	Taita Taveta
Lot 3	Moyale	Marsabit

3. Bidding will be conducted through National competitive procurement using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's ***"Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers - Procurement in Investment Projects Financing"*** First Published in July 2016, Revised Fifth Edition, September 2023 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Information Communication Technology Authority's Deputy Director, Supply Chain Management at **procurement@icta.go.ke** and inspect the Bidding document during office hours 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM E.A.T allowing for official lunch hour break between 1.00PM – 2.00 PM. at the address given below;
5. The bidding document in English may be downloaded by interested Bidders from the ICTA's website **https://www.icta.go.ke/tenders** or Public Procurement Information Portal website **https://www.tenders.go.ke.** Bidders who download the bidding documents are invited to notify the purchaser by e-mail with full contact details if they intended to participate, as this will facilitate issuance of notifications by the Purchaser during the procurement process, to all bidders where necessary.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **10th November 2026 at 1000 hrs E.A.T.** Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bidders Bids will be opened to the public in the presence of the Bidders or their designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **10th November 2026 at 1000 hrs E.A.T.**
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Kes 2,500,000 (Kenya shillings Two Million, Five Hundred Thousand only) for Lot 1, Kes 2,500,000 (Kenya shillings Two Million, Five Hundred Thousand only) for Lot 2, Kes 2,500,000 (Kenya shillings Two Million, Five Hundred Thousand only) for Lot 3**. Or equivalent in a freely convertible currency
8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
9. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Jessy K. Maruti
Chief Executive Officer
The Information and Communications Technology Authority
12th Floor, Telposta Towers, Along Kenyatta Avenue
P.O. Box 27150-00100 NAIROBI, KENYA
info@ict.go.ke/procurement@ict.go.ke

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FUND

EMPOWERING FOR SELF-RELIANCE

NGAAF National Government Affirmative Action Fund

Website : www.ngaaf.go.ke
Email: ceongaaf@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

National Government Affirmative Action Fund is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency (SAGA) under the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affair. The Fund was enacted through Legal Notice No. 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and published on 13th February 2015. The fund is one of government initiatives anchored on the vision 2030 development blue print under the social pillar to address the plight of vulnerable groups by reducing poverty and inequality through enhanced access to financial facilities for social economic empowerment among women, youth, persons with disabilities, needy children and elderly persons in the country.

In order to effectively and efficiently deliver its mandate, the Fund invites eligible and competent service providers for the following tenders:

PREQUALIFICATION /REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF SERVICES

TENDER NUMBER: NGAAF/NRB/PREQ001-017/2026-2028

NO	CATEGORY REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY	DEADLINE
1.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/001/2026-2028	Prequalification for provision of general supplies	Reserved	13/10/2026
2.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/002/2026-2028	Prequalification for supply, repair and maintenance of office equipment (metal filing cabinet etc.)	Reserved	13/10/2026
3.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/003/2026-2028	Prequalification for provision of construction works, repair works and other services	Open	13/10/2026
4.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/004/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of general office stationery and other common user items	Reserved	13/10/2026
5.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/005/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of branded sports kits, sports shoes and other sports equipment	Reserved	13/10/2026
6.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/006/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of promotional materials and branded items (T- shirts, caps, umbrellas, banners, roll ups and teardrops)	Reserved	13/10/2026
7.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/007/2026-2028	Prequalification for provision of branding	open	13/10/2026
8.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/008/2026-2028	Supply and fitting of office equipment	Reserved	13/10/2026
9.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/009/2026-2028	Supply and delivery of bottled water and other dry food stuffs	Reserved	13/10/2026
10.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/010/2026-2028	Prequalification for supply and delivery of posho mills and their accessories	Reserved	13/10/2026
11.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/011/2026-2028	Provision of event management and entertainment services	Open	13/10/2026
12.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/012/2026-2028	Provision of catering services	Reserved	13/10/2026
13.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/013/2026-2028	Prequalification for consultancy and training services	Open	13/10/2026
14.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/014/2026-2028	Prequalification for provision of fabrication of metals	Reserved	13/10/2026
15.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/015/2026-2028	Prequalification for supply of petroleum and other lubricants	Open	13/10/2026
16.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/016/2026-2028	Prequalification for provision for maintenance and repair of vehicles	Open	13/10/2026
17.	NGAAF/NRB/PREQ/017/2026-2028	Prequalification for supply of electronics and their accessories	Open	13/10/2026

Tender documents with detailed specifications and conditions can be downloaded **FREE OF CHARGE** from NGAAF'S website **www.ngaaf.go.ke**

Completed tender documents in plain sealed envelopes should be deposited in tender box situated at **Nyayo house 8th floor Door 14 Northern wing of the main building.** So as to be received on or before **13th October, 2026 AT 10.00 AM.**

Government takes MSME services closer to the people

Oparanya leads nationwide sensitisation campaign as government agencies unite under the 'One Government' approach to deliver financing, training, health and market access to millions of small businesses.

BY MAUREEN IMBAYI (KNA) AND BENADETTE OWADE (PCO)

The Government has launched a nationwide drive to connect grassroots entrepreneurs with financing, skills, markets and employment opportunities while improving access to information on programmes supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Wycliffe Oparanya launched the MSME Countrywide Sensitisation Drive at Mbale Municipal Grounds in Vihiga County, marking the start of a campaign to take government services and opportunities closer to small-scale traders, artisans and farmers.

The initiative will also address information gaps, strengthen monitoring of government programmes and provide a platform for beneficiaries to give direct feedback on challenges affecting implementation.

Agencies participating in the launch included the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), Youth Fund, Hustler Fund, Kenya Industrial Estates, Uwezo Fund, Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA), Kenya Bureau of Standards, Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency, National Industrial Training Authority, National Employment Authority, National Social Security Fund, Social Health Authority, Huduma Kenya, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and Vihiga County Government.

Their participation is intended to promote a "One Government" approach by improving coordination and enabling entrepreneurs to access complementary services through a coordinated platform.

Oparanya said 15 experts from different sectors had been deployed to guide entrepreneurs on available government programmes and how to access them.

"The Government has intervened to ensure that these institutions put in place appropriate strategies so that small businesses, especially those at the grassroots, can benefit," he said.

He cited the affordable housing programme as an example of economic empowerment, saying it had created more than one million direct and indirect jobs, particularly for young people.

Oparanya also highlighted the digitisation of 25,000 government services, describing the initiative as a "digital superhighway" enabling citizens to access services online and young people to seek employment through digital platforms.

He noted that MSMEs remain Kenya's largest employers, with more than 20 million people engaged in small and medium enterprises. He urged entrepreneurs to utilise funding programmes including the Uwezo Fund, Youth Fund, Women Enterprise Fund and NYOTA.

The Cabinet Secretary further announced that the Government had allocated Sh1 billion to purchase quality coffee seedlings for distribution across the country. He urged farmers to form and register groups to benefit from the programme, noting that coffee exports generate higher revenues and can boost national earnings.

He said continued sensitisation was necessary because lack of information remains a barrier for small-scale traders seeking affordable financing.

Oparanya also urged traders to protect their businesses from disruptions caused by heavy rains and called for stronger cooperation between national and county governments to minimise losses.

MSEA Director General Henry Rithaa said 2,019 NYOTA beneficiaries in Vihiga had received Sh92.1 million, while enterprise clusters in construction and textiles were benefiting from support under KJET.

He said MSEA centres in Luanda, Manyatta and Hamisi were equipping artisans with skills and tools.

Representing Uwezo Fund Chief Executive Officer Peter Lengapiani, Head of Loans Dr Annie Njau said the Fund supports women, youth and persons with disabilities through financing, capacity building and enterprise development.

She announced the disbursement of Sh4.55 million to 40 groups in Hamisi and Vihiga constituencies.

The Women Enterprise Fund also disbursed Sh14 million to women entrepreneurs to provide working capital for expanding their businesses, creating jobs and supporting local economic activity.

KTB bets on Northern Kenya to drive domestic tourism growth

Kenya Tourism Board CEO June Chepkemei (front holding flag) flags off the Hapa Ni Wapi Sales Conversion Campaign at the Samburu National Reserve in Samburu East.

> "Our target is to grow bed nights from the 5.15 million recorded in the 2025/26 financial year to 5.6 million this year, and we intend to achieve this through a series of regional activations, starting here in the north before we move to other underexplored circuits later in the year,"

BY ROBERT GITHU (KNA)

The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) is turning to Northern Kenya's untapped destinations to unlock growth in domestic tourism, with a new sales-driven campaign aimed at converting interest into actual bookings.

The initiative, dubbed the 'Hapa Ni Wapi' Sales Conversion Campaign, was flagged off in Samburu East as the first leg of a nationwide rollout that will later cover Mambrui-Malindi, Western Kenya and other lesser-known circuits.

According to KTB, the campaign marks a strategic shift from awareness creation to driving bookings and bed nights.

It also brings together tour operators, county governments and tourism stakeholders under a unified platform to develop and sell structured, ready-to-book and affordable travel packages.

Speaking during the flagging off, KTB Chief Executive Officer (CEO) June Chepkemei said the launch was a milestone in efforts to build a more structured domestic market.

"This campaign marks a shift in how we approach domestic tourism marketing. Rather than simply raising awareness, we are building direct pathways from interest to booking, working closely with trade partners to package our regions affordably and deliver steady, measurable growth in bed nights nationwide," Chepkemei said.

She said domestic tourism has remained resilient, with more Kenyans travelling beyond the traditional coast and savannah circuits adding that the campaign will help spread visitation across the year, especially during low and shoulder seasons.

The CEO noted that the Chalbi Desert and the wider Northern Kenya circuit will be showcased first for their untamed landscapes and rich cultural diversity, saying that more than 50 tour operators drawn from the Tour Operators Society of Kenya (TOSK) and the Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO) are participating in the inaugural activation.

Chepkemei said KTB is targeting to grow bed nights from 5.15 million recorded in the 2025/26 financial year to 5.6 million by 2027.

"Our target is to grow bed nights from the 5.15 million recorded in the 2025/26 financial year to 5.6 million this year, and we intend to achieve this through a series of regional activations, starting here in the north before we move to other underexplored circuits later in the year," Chepkemei said.

She cited improved road infrastructure across Northern Kenya as a key enabler that is opening up destinations previously considered out of reach.

TOSK Chairperson Raymond Cheruiyot welcomed the initiative, saying it provides the trade with a practical framework to tap the domestic market.

"Our members have long known that Kenyans want to travel locally, but pricing and access have often stood in the way. This campaign gives us a clear structure to package the north affordably and sell it directly, and we are ready to deliver on that promise," Cheruiyot said.

The launch comes against a backdrop of sustained growth in Kenya's domestic tourism market, which has posted consecutive gains in bed nights and visitor numbers in recent years.

NAIVAWASCO, Sanivation partner to construct sewage treatment plant

BY ERASTUS GICHOHI (KNA)

The Naivasha Water and Sanitation Company (NAIVAWASCO) in a partnership, is constructing a multi-million-shilling fecal sludge treatment plant.

In collaboration with Sanivation, an urban sanitation company, it aims to convert the town's human waste into briquettes for industrial use.

The plant will process waste from the 84 per cent of Naivasha's population not connected to the sewer system, with only 16 per cent of residents served by the existing sewer network.

These rely on pit latrines, septic tanks and exhaust trucks.

Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony, Nakuru County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Water and Environment, Dr Nelson Mara, said the plant is a game-changer for a town whose sewer infrastructure has not kept pace with population growth.

"There has been a problem in sanitation in Naivasha as only 16 per cent of the residents are served by the sewer system. This new plant will serve the other 84 per cent who rely on pit latrines and septic tanks," he said.

Dr Mara said Naivasha's sewage treatment plant was built in 1974 to serve a population of 17,000. But the town's population has since grown substantially.

He added that Nakuru County would need more than Sh10 billion to expand three waste treatment plants and a reticulation system for Naivasha.

Sanivation Chief Executive Officer, Emily Woods, said the plant is expected to be operational by July next year.

It will produce an estimated 2,000 tonnes of biomass fuel briquettes a month once fully scaled up, serving up to 130,000 households.

She said the briquettes would supply industrial boilers, manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies, cutting their energy costs by 10 to 30 per cent while easing pressure on forests.

West Pokot to establish model comprehensive schools in every ward

BY PARKLEA IVOR (KNA)

West Pokot County will establish three model comprehensive schools in every ward under the Kenya Primary Education Equity in Learning (KPEEL) programme to expand access to quality education and improve enrolment, retention and completion rates.

The World Bank-funded programme, implemented by the Ministry of Education, seeks to improve learning outcomes, enhance gender parity in transition and retention, and reduce regional disparities in education.

Stakeholders from across the county met at Mtelo Hall in Kapenguria to discuss the identification of beneficiary schools and ensure equitable distribution of the proposed facilities.

The programme offers three comprehensive model schools in each ward, bringing together primary, junior and senior schools within one educational administrative complex.

Wards hosting special needs education (SNE) schools will have a fourth institution proposed as a model comprehensive SNE school.

West Pokot County Commissioner David Saruni said the initiative comes at a critical time as the county continues to grapple with low literacy, enrolment, retention and completion rates.

"With the literacy levels within the county, this programme will help improve enrolment, retention and completion in our schools, which is very low at the moment, and raise them to the levels of the rest of the country," Saruni said.

He said the model schools would help bridge education gaps and provide children from marginalised and hard-to-reach areas with greater opportunities to access quality learning.

FEATURE: INVESTMENT

Bee keeping, poultry farming promoting food security in Narok

BY EMILY KADZO (KNA)

The founder of Paran Women Group Nayian Kiplagat engages members during a meet-up at Kotolian resource centre in Narok South.

Battered by erratic weather patterns, hundreds of women farmers in Narok are switching to beekeeping and poultry farming as alternative sources of livelihood.

As the unpredictable rain cycle slashes harvest in the wake of climate change, the smallholder farmers, members of Paran, an umbrella of 64 Women Groups from Maasai and Ogiek communities, say the two ventures are less vulnerable. They are also embracing indigenous knowledge, agroecology and climate smart agriculture to stabilize their food systems.

According to the Director and founder of Paran, Ms. Nayian Kiplagat, with most parts of the devolved unit under immense threat due to frequent droughts that threaten pastoralism, local communities are slowly embracing alternative sources of livelihood.

Women, who have to walk longer distances in search of water for domestic and livestock use, are among the hardest-hit by climate change, Ms. Nayian said, adding that besides, they (women) take care of animals, which exposes them to the risk of being attacked in the grazing fields.

Following continued sensitization on climate-friendly interventions to climate change, beekeeping, which has traditionally been a preserve of men, and poultry farming which was frowned upon in the two communities, are turning out to be a profitable venture for the pastoralist women.

"Historically, keeping or eating small birds like chickens was associated with a lack of livestock. For a traditional Maasai man, turning to poultry farming implied that he was too poor to own cows. Previously, chickens were classified as birds rather than livestock and historically were viewed as unclean or improper for human," Ms. Nayian said.

In the recent decades, rainfall levels dwindled, depleting pastures for their livestock and diminishing their harvests leaving them with no option but to trek for kilometres in search of food and pastures for their livestock.

It was this reality that inspired Ms. Nayian to launch Paran in 2005, an indigenous women's organization that brings women together to confront the challenges facing their communities.

"At that time, we faced many challenges affecting communities and we came together to critically search for solutions," Nayian said.

At the heart of Paran's work is the belief that women themselves possess much of the knowledge needed to address the problems confronting their communities.

> Bees are critical in providing pollination to crops, therefore, without them, we would not have food. Seventy-five percent of all crops grown for food rely on pollinators, mostly honey bees, for a successful harvest.

Ms. Nayian observed that women play crucial roles in Kenya's agri-food systems – from production to agribusiness – shouldering a disproportionately higher burden of climate change amidst limited access to critical resources.

She indicated that the focus on industrial agriculture in Africa has contributed to unsustainable practices that worsen social inequalities and increase environmental degradation, further reducing productivity and increasing hunger, adding that enhanced involvement of women in agroecology offers a viable alternative.

Ms. Nayan noted that towards entrenching agroecology practices in Narok County, Paran has crafted partnerships to empower women by building their skills and developing practices through collective action, creating opportunities for commercialization, and enhancing their negotiation and leadership skills.

Ms. Nayian noted that building on women's indigenous knowledge about the use, management and conservation of diverse species in restoring biodiversity, is important, adding that the knowledge encompasses crop rotation, intercropping, the integration of livestock-crop production, agroforestry and agropastoralism.

This, she added, reflects the efficient practices of resource reuse and innovations that reduce or eliminate the use of costly, scarce or environmentally damaging inputs.

According to the Director, Paran member groups' deep-rooted knowledge of local ecosystems, traditional farming methods, and seed management practices makes them invaluable contributors to sustainable agricultural development.

She said incorporating their perspectives and expertise leads to culturally relevant and effective agroecological practice and that promoting gender equity within agroecological transitions is not only a matter of social justice, but also a strategic imperative for enhancing food security and resilience in the face of climate change.

"We as women understand the challenges in our homes and communities because we are the ones who experience them every day," Nayian said.

"When we come together, we are able to share our experiences and find solutions that work for us," she said.

In Maasai households, pastoralism remains an integral part of community life. While women normally are tasked with managing homes and handling household chores, men usually are away for weeks with livestock in pursuit of pasture, or are engrossed in other activities.

"We don't believe that one solution can work for every community, we look at the environment and the challenges affecting each group and then identify tailor-made activities that the women can manage and benefit from," Ms. Nayian said.

For women living within conservancies, however, some activities are less practical because of the presence of wildlife. The Paran Women Group thus emphasizes options such as beadwork and poultry-keeping for some of these groups.

The purpose, she added, is broader than generating income. The activities are intended to give households additional ways to cope with climate-related pressures while improving food security.

"Women need income, but they also need food in their homes," Ms. Nayian said, adding, "That is why we are encouraging activities that can give them both an income and something they can use directly in their households."

Ms. Nayian underscored the importance of bee farming in promoting biodiversity and food security and urged the group's members to maintain a healthy ecosystem that supports sustainable agriculture.

"Bees are critical in providing pollination to crops, therefore, without them, we would not have food. Seventy-five percent of all crops grown for food rely on pollinators, mostly honey bees, for a successful harvest. Without pollination, many fruits and vegetables will not be on our grocery shelves.

By conserving our forests through beekeeping, we're not only securing our livelihoods but also preserving our natural heritage for future generations," she said.

Paran has also rolled-out a training program for its members on growing food crops in tiny spaces and off ground.

ICT PS named among 50 global leaders advancing digital public infrastructure

BY ANITA OMWENGA (MYGOV)

Principal Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy, Eng. John Kipchumba Tanui (*pictured*), was recognized alongside 50 public-sector leaders for advancing digital public infrastructure.

The PS was featured in the Apolitical's 2026 DPI 50 List developed in collaboration with the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on GovTech and Digital Public Infrastructure.

The DPI 50 highlights public-sector leaders whose work is contributing to the development, scale and responsible use of digital public infrastructure.

Eng. Tanui is featured under the Foundational DPI category, which focuses on core digital building blocks

such as digital identity, digital payments, trusted data exchange and interoperability.

Apolitical's profile highlights Kenya's efforts to build a connected digital government ecosystem, noting that the eCitizen platform has grown to host more than 22,000 government transactions and services on a single platform.

The profile also highlights efforts to advance interoperability through Kenya's Government Enterprise Architecture and Government Interoperability Framework as well as ICT department's contribution to the national DPI roadmap covering digital identity, payments and trusted data exchange.

The recognition places Kenya's digital transformation agenda within a broader global conversation on building digital infrastructure that is interoperable, secure and trusted, while supporting efficient delivery of public services across institutions.

Eng. Tanui brings extensive experience in digital infrastructure and technology development.

Before his current role at the Ministry, he spent more than seven years leading the Konza Technopolis Development Authority and previously worked for 15 years at Huawei, where he was involved in the development of Kenya's telecommunications infrastructure, including 3G and 4G networks.

For Kenya, the recognition comes as the country continues to build a digital economy anchored on connectivity, digital services, data infrastructure, digital skills, emerging technologies and innovation.

Mombasa expands cycling, pedestrian facilities to boost road safety

Cyclists along the new Links Road cycling lane in Nyali, Mombasa. Photo/Courtesy

BY JOAN KINUTHIA (KNA)

Mombasa County is rolling out cycling lanes, pedestrian walkways and stricter speed controls to protect vulnerable road users and improve road safety across the city.

A key initiative is the newly completed four-kilometre cycling lane along Links Road in Nyali, developed through a partnership between the county government and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Bloomberg Philanthropies Communications Officer Kevin Ismael said the facility was established as a pilot project to encourage cycling, improve road safety, ease traffic congestion and reduce environmental pollution.

"Together with the County Government of Mombasa, we have completed the Nyali Links Road Cycling Lane, and we are happy with how cyclists have adopted the idea," said Ismael.

He said the partners plan to extend the lane to eight kilometres and eventually connect it to Mombasa town centre.

Ismael said authorities are working with traffic police to ensure the facility remained exclusively for cyclists, warning that use of the lane by boda boda operators could compromise cyclists' safety.

Mombasa Deputy Governor Francis Thoya said cycling is increasingly becoming part of residents' lifestyles and supported the county's vision of promoting environmentally friendly transport.

"We are already putting up infrastructure to inculcate a cycling culture in Mombasa and make cycling a preferred mode of transport, just like in major cities around the world," Thoya said.

He said the county is encouraging residents to embrace green transport to help combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

The county has also improved pedestrian infrastructure by paving walkways with cabro blocks to make them more accessible and encourage walking, he said.

Thoya said the improvements were intended to encourage residents to leave their vehicles behind and walk or cycle when travelling to and from work.

Local cyclist Charles Mngenyi welcomed the cycling lane but called for similar facilities on other roads across the county.

"I am happy that the County Government of Mombasa took the initiative to put up the cycling lane on Links Road, but it will be better if the exercise is extended to other roads for our safety," he said.

The county has also introduced road signs, road markings and speed-slowing features in accident-prone areas.

Chief Officer for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works Ali Shariff said the measures are being implemented particularly along major roads near schools.

"For all our major roads with many schools, we have installed road signages, painted road markings and increased the number of speed bumps," said Shariff.

He said the programme had started along Kisauni Road, Koinange Road in Tudor and other roads identified as requiring additional safety measures.

Shariff said the county was also planning to enforce a 30-kilometre-per-hour speed limit within the town area.

"A difference of 30 kilometres per hour can significantly reduce the severity of accidents, and within this year's campaign, we will enforce a speed limit of 30 kilometres per hour within the town area," he said.

The measures come amid continuing road-safety concerns in Kenya, where pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists remain among the most vulnerable road users.

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) identifies loss of vehicle control, excessive speeding and improper overtaking among factors associated with road crashes.

Pedestrians and motorcyclists, particularly boda boda riders, continue to face significant risks, with young adults aged between 15 and 44 years accounting for a substantial proportion of road-crash casualties.

Nyakianga Hospital upgrade to boost specialised care in Mathioya

Murang'a County Governor Irungu Kang'ata being taken through some of acquired new equipment at Nyakianga Level 4 hospital.

BY BERNARD MUNYAO AND PURITY MUGO (KNA)

Residents of Mathioya Sub-County will no longer travel long distances for a range of specialized and emergency medical services following the upgrading of Nyakianga Hospital to a Level-4 facility.

The expanded hospital in Gitugi Ward is expected to reduce referrals to Murang'a Level-5 Hospital and neighbouring Othaya Sub-County in Nyeri County.

This will ease the financial and logistical burden that patients and their families face when seeking advanced medical care.

For years, residents requiring services such as surgery, radiology and specialized maternity care have had to travel far, often delaying treatment and increasing the cost of accessing healthcare.

The upgraded Nyakianga Level-4 Hospital is now able to provide a wider range of services, including a casualty department, antenatal and postnatal care, labour ward, pediatric and female wards, newborn unit, laboratory services, X-ray and ultrasound facilities and a modern theatre.

Male wards have also been constructed as part of the expansion, giving the facility additional capacity to handle patients requiring admission and specialized care.

While commissioning the facility, Murang'a Governor, Irungu Kang'ata, said the investment is part of the county government's efforts to ensure residents can access quality healthcare within their localities.

He observed that the county is progressively upgrading health facilities to a Level Four status across the county, to reduce unnecessary referrals and ease pressure on Murang'a Level Five Hospital.

Kang'ata cited the upgrading of Kigumo Hospital, which has been equipped with a nine-machine dialysis centre and Muriranjas Hospital which is being developed as a telemedicine hub.

"Kandara Hospital is also undergoing expansion, while the county has constructed new facilities such as the Kenneth Matiba Hospital at Makenji along the Thika Superhighway," he added.

The Governor noted that the investments aim to decentralize healthcare services and ensure residents can access essential and specialized treatment closer to their homes.

Communities urged to lead rhino conservation

BY DAVIS LANGAT (KNA)

Communities living near national parks have been urged to take a frontline role in wildlife conservation by combating poaching and preventing bush fires that threaten fragile ecosystems.

Secretary of Administration in the State Department for Wildlife, Tobiko Naiyoma, said poaching remains the single biggest threat to rhinos and other wildlife across Kenya's protected areas.

He noted that the illegal trade in wildlife trophies continues to undermine conservation efforts and stall progress in rebuilding animal populations.

"The rhino has become one of the most endangered species because of its highly valued horn," Naiyoma said, recalling that Kenya's rhino population once plummeted from 20,000 to just 300 due to rampant poaching and illicit trade.

Naiyoma stressed the need for an integrated approach between government and local communities to safeguard wildlife.

"The future of parks is inseparable from the well-being of the communities surrounding them. Communities must be recognized as partners and custodians of conservation," he said.

Speaking during this year's World Rhino Day celebrations in Ndhiwa, Homa Bay County, Naiyoma outlined measures the government has adopted to protect rhinos and ensure their numbers continue to grow. Kenya's national parks host species including the Black Rhino, Southern White Rhino, Greater One-Horned Rhino, and Javan Rhino.

He added that beyond poaching, rhinos face threats from habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and climate-related pressures.

Naiyoma emphasized that modern conservation must be guided by science, technology, and reliable data.

Over 18,000 Murang'a dairy farmers to benefit from milk coolers

The coolers have a combined capacity to handle more than 37,000 litres of milk produced daily

BY FLORENCE KINYUA (KNA)

More than 18,000 dairy farmers in Murang'a County will benefit from 12 bulk milk coolers worth Sh87.94 million.

The intervention is expected to reduce post-harvest losses, improve milk handling and raise farmers' incomes.

The coolers, delivered to dairy cooperative societies in the county, have a combined capacity to handle more than 37,000 litres of milk produced daily according to the Principal Secretary (PS), State Department for Livestock Development, Jonathan Mueke.

Speaking during the handover ceremony at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) Seeds headquarters in Murang'a, Mueke said the project would save dairy farmers an estimated Sh661.75 million annually in post-harvest milk losses and create about 296 direct employment opportunities.

"The milk coolers will also create business hubs at the aggregation centres, further maximising the benefits of the Sh87.94 million investment," he said.

The intervention comes amid an acute milk shortage in the country, which Mueke attributed to inadequate rainfall over the past two months, among other factors.

He identified poor remuneration of farmers by dairy cooperatives as one of the major factors contributing to reduced milk production, saying low returns discourage farmers from investing in quality feeds, especially during dry seasons.

"I urge milk cooperatives to pay farmers well because a commensurate return on investment will encourage them to invest in feed and modern storage technology to cushion their animals during drought," Mueke said.

Some of the 12 milk coolers that were delivered to Murang'a County. INSET: Livestock development PS Jonathan Mueke addresses dairy farmers and cooperative societies at the KARLO seeds headquarters in Murang'a County during an event to deliver milk coolers.

He said the government had also made sexed semen technology available at the Kenya Animal Genetic Resource Centre (KAGRC) at Sh1,000, down from Sh8,000, as part of efforts to boost dairy production.

"The sexed semen technology guarantees 90 per cent female calves, increasing herd growth, milk production and strengthening Kenya's dairy value chain by having more heifers," he said.

Mueke also urged livestock farmers to participate in the ongoing mass vaccination programme to prevent a possible outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

Lands and Urban Development Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome urged dairy farmers to increase production from their existing herds to take advantage of the large market for milk locally and beyond Kenya's borders.

"Instead of increasing the number of animals, I urge you to focus on increasing production from your current herd. That way, even your profits will increase," Wahome said.

She also encouraged farmers to join cooperatives, saying collective marketing would enhance their bargaining power and cushion them against price uncertainties.

State accelerating completion of development projects

BY BERNARD MUNYAO AND PURITY MUGO (KNA)

The Government is accelerating the completion of infrastructure projects across the country by clearing outstanding payments.

Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki clearing the paymentscontractors will ensure adequate funding for ongoing works.

The Deputy President said the Government has so far paid Sh179 billion in outstanding bills for contractors undertaking road projects.

He said additional funds were set aside to facilitate ongoing and new developments.

Kindiki said the move ensures projects do not stall due to delayed payments, allowing Kenyans to begin benefiting from infrastructure investments within the planned timelines.

The Deputy President spoke during an inspection tour of the ongoing construction of Gakoigo Stadium and the Mbombo-Kwa Thamaki Road in Murang'a County.

He said the Mbombo-Kwa Thamaki Road had been allocated Sh1.2 billion and directed the contractor to complete the project in less than one year.

The Government, he noted, is implementing its development programmes progressively, with projects outlined in its five-year plan expected to be undertaken within the stipulated period.

The development programme covers key sectors including roads, markets, sports facilities, affordable housing and hostels, among others, he said.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki inspects Mbombo – Kwa Thamaki road in Murang'a.

The DP emphasized the need for local communities to benefit directly from Government projects, particularly through employment opportunities for young people living in areas the projects are being implemented.

"We do not want to hear that people are brought from far away to work on projects while the young people in the area remain jobless. We will make sure we keep the young people of our country busy wherever they are," he added.

Kindiki encouraged young people working on the project at the Gakoigo Stadium to embrace hard work and use the skills acquired to improve their livelihoods and contribute to the development of their communities.

He said infrastructure projects should not only deliver physical facilities but also create economic opportunities for local residents through employment and skills development.

"You are not only earning a livelihood through this work, but you are also helping us build our country," Kindiki told the workers.

The Deputy President urged young people to make productive use of their time and avoid alcohol and substance abuse, saying the government is investing in sports infrastructure to provide opportunities for young people to nurture and monetize their talents.

Kindiki said the government is constructing 32 stadiums across the country as part of efforts to expand sporting facilities and create opportunities for talent development.

Gakoigo Stadium is being constructed at an estimated cost of Sh800 million and is designed to accommodate about 10,000 spectators.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF DATA COMMISSIONER

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6(2) of the Data Protection Act, the Public Service Commission invited applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Data Commissioner in the print media and on the Commission's website on 25th August, 2026.

The list of all applicants can be accessed on the Public Service Commission website: **www.publicservice.go.ke**

The advertisement closed on **14th September, 2026** and attracted a total of One Hundred and Fifty-Two (152) applications. Following the conclusion of the shortlisting exercise, the Commission publishes interview schedule for the shortlisted candidates.

SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES

Interview Date: Monday 5th October, 2026

S/No.	Name	Gender	County	Time
1.	Nooseli Moses Lemayian	Male	Narok	8.00 a.m.
2.	Otieno Oscar Onyango	Male	Siaya	8.30 a.m.
3.	Shalle Mohamed Abdi	Male	Garissa	9.00 a.m.
4.	Sitienei Lydia Chelagat	Female	Trans Nzoia	9.30 a.m.
5.	Nyale Duncan Kubahatisha	Male	Kilifi	10.00 a.m.
6.	Kirwa Solomon	Male	Uasin Gishu	10.30 a.m.
7.	Anditi Stephen Odhiambo	Male	Homa Bay	11.30 a.m.
8.	Lobuin Isaac Eregae	Male	Turkana	12.00 noon
9.	Omwoyo David Omwoyo	Male	Nakuru	12.30 p.m.
10.	Mbiuki Jasper Micheni	Male	Tharaka-Nithi	2.00 p.m.
11.	Cheronoh Lynneth	Female	Bomet	2.30 p.m.
12.	Abdi Mohamed Hussein	Male	Isiolo	3.00 p.m.
13.	Nyongesa John Walubengo	Male	Bungoma	3.30 p.m.

The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at the Public Service Commission, Harambee Avenue, Nairobi on the date and time indicated above. The candidates should be at the venue at least twenty (20) minutes before the starting time

Shortlisted candidates will be required to present **originals** of the following documents:

(a) National Identity Card;
(b) Academic and Professional certificates and transcripts;
(c) Any other supporting documents and testimonials;
(d) Clearances from the following bodies:

 (i) Kenya Revenue Authority;
 (ii) Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission;
 (iii) Higher Education Loans Board;
 (iv) Any of the registered Credit Reference Bureaus; and
 (v) Directorate of Criminal Investigations (Police Clearance Certificate)

(e) Recommendations from relevant professional bodies and associations; (where applicable);
(f) Letter of recognition of qualifications from the Commission of University Education (CUE) for any degree obtained from foreign universities; and
(g) A copy of Curriculum Vitae.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are invited to avail any credible information of interest relating to any of the shortlisted candidates **(through sworn affidavits)** to the **Secretary/CEO Public Service Commission, 4th floor Commission House, Harambee Avenue, Nairobi** or online through **hodrands@publicservice.go.ke** so as to be received on or before **1st October, 2026**

SECRETARY/CEO
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

KENYA VISION 2030

ICT Authority | THE WORLD BANK

KDEAP KENYA DIGITAL ECONOMY ACCELERATION PROJECT

Specific Procurement Notice

Request for Bids
Goods
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country:	**Kenya**
Name of Project:	**Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project**
Contract Title:	**Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 300 Public Wifi Hots Spot in Four (4) Lots:** **Lot 1: 51 Public Wifi Sites;** **Lot 2: 90 Public Wifi Sites;** **Lot 3: 82 Public Wifi Sites and** **Lot 4: 77 Public Wifi Sites**
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:	**7289-KE and 7290-KE**
RFB Reference No.:	**KE-ICTA-571735-GO-RFB**

1. The Government of Kenya has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 300 Public Wifi Hots Spot in Four (4) Lots: Lot 1: 51 Public Wifi Sites; Lot 2: 90 Public Wifi Sites; Lot 3: 82 Public Wifi Sites and Lot 4: 77 Public Wifi Sites. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.

2. The Information and Communications Technology Authority now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 300 Public Wifi Hots Spot in Four (4) Lots as shown below:

Lot Number	Description	Quantity	Delivery Period from Contract Signing Date	Location
Lot 1	Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 300 Public Wifi Hots Spot	51 Sites	16 weeks	Coast & North Eastern
Lot 2	As above	90 Sites	16 weeks	Nairobi, Central and Eastern
Lot 3	As above	82 Sites	16 weeks	North Rift and South Rift
Lot 4	As above	77 Sites	16 weeks	Nyanza and Western

3. Bidders may Bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the request for bids document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid

4. Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's ***"Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers"*** First Published in July 2016, Revised Fifth Edition, September 2023 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ICTA, Deputy Director Supply chain management / **procurement@ict.go.ke** and inspect the request for proposal document during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours East African Time (EAT) at the address given below.

6. The bidding document in English may be downloaded free of charge from the ICTA's website **https://www.icta.go.ke/tenders** or Public Procurement Information Portal website **https://www.tenders.go.ke** Bidders who download the bidding documents are invited to notify the procuring entity by email with full contact details if they intended to participate, as this will facilitate issuance of notifications by the procuring entity, to all bidders where necessary.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **November 12, 2026 at 1000Hrs EAT.** Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **November 12, 2026 at 1000Hrs EAT**

8. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **Kes. 1 Million (Kenya Shillings One Million Only) for Lot 1, Kes. 1 Million (Kenya Shillings One Million Only) for Lot 2, Kes. 1 Million (Kenya Shillings One Million Only) for Lot 3, Kes. 1 Million (Kenya Shillings One Million Only) for Lot 4** Or Equivalent in a Freely Convertible Currency

9. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

10. The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Jessy K. Maruti
Chief Executive Officer
The Information and Communications Technology Authority
12th Floor, Telposta Towers, Along Kenyatta Avenue
P.O. Box 27150-00100
NAIROBI, KENYA
info@ict.go.ke/procurement@ict.go.ke

KENYA VISION 2030

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry

State Department For Industry

ADDENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE

We refer to the tender notice published in **MyGov newspaper dated 22nd September, 2026, Page 24** comprising of Seventeen (17) tenders for Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Training and Two (2) Year Technical Support of Industrial Machinery and Equipment under the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) Programme.

Upon review, the State Department for Industry wishes to notify prospective tenderers of the following changes.

1. **AMENDED TENDER DOCUMENTS:**
   The tender documents for all the Seventeen (17) tenders have been revised to include additional information. Bidders must therefore obtain and use the Revised Tender Documents available from the State Department for Industry website: **www.industrialization.go.ke** or the government dedicated tender portal **www.tenders.go.ke** free of charge. The revised documents supersede the earlier versions.

2. **PRE-TENDER SITE VISITS:**
   Attention is drawn to the scheduled pre tender site visits indicated in the tender documents. Bidders are encouraged to attend, visit and inspect the CAIPS sites in order obtain necessary information required to prepare their bids.

3. **CLARIFICATION OF TENDER SUBMISSION LOCATION:**
   Further to the tender advertisement, bidders are hereby advised that the exact location for submission of tender documents is Bishops Road, NSSF Building, Block A, Eastern Wing, in the tender box situated on 16th floor.

4. **EXTENSION OF TENDER SUBMISSION DATE:**
   The bids submission deadline for the all the Seventeen (17) tenders is extended from Friday, 23rd October, 2026 at 11am to **Friday, 30th October, 2026 at 11am.**

All other terms, conditions, requirements and information contained in the tender notice remain unchanged.

HEAD, SCMS
FOR: PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

KENYA VISION 2030

HIGHER EDUCATION LOANS BOARD
HELB
FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION

INVITATION FOR REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS, CONTRACTORS, AND CONSULTANTS REGISTRATION PERIOD:2026-2028

The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) is updating its Register of Suppliers for the Financial Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028. Eligible and interested firms are invited to submit applications for registration under the relevant categories of goods, works, and services.

Existing suppliers in HELB's database who wish to continue being considered for procurement opportunities must reapply and provide up-to-date company information via the Vendor Portal at the link below:

https://vendorportal.helb.co.ke/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2F

Interested and eligible firms should complete the supplier registration and upload the required documents through the provided link. Only applications submitted via the link will be considered.

Suppliers already registered under the National Treasury's AGPO Programme are not required to register afresh with HELB. They only need to submit the prescribed supporting documents to express interest in doing business with HELB and to be included in the HELB supplier database.

Please note that AGPO registration is a continuous process. Eligible AGPO suppliers may submit their documents at any time, and the HELB supplier database will be updated continuously as applications are received and verified.

Additional details, registration requirements, and supplier categories are available on the HELB website (https://www.helb.co.ke/procurement)

Closing Date

Applications should be submitted on or before 13th October 2026 at 11.00am East African Time.

Late submissions shall not be accepted.

The Chief Executive Officer
Higher Education Loans Board
P. O. Box 69489 – 00400
NAIROBI

EMPOWERING DREAMS

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL TREASURY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PUBLIC SECTOR HEARINGS FOR THE FY 2027/28 AND THE MEDIUM-TERM BUDGET

The National Government will conduct **Public Sector Hearings** on the proposed **FY 2027/28 and Medium-Term Budget** from **7th to 9th October 2026** at the **Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC)**, starting at **8:30 a.m. daily**.

The exercise is undertaken in accordance with **Article 201(a) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010**, and **Section 36 of the Public Finance Management Act (Cap. 412A)**, which provide for public participation in the budget-making process.

The Public Sector Hearings will be officially launched on **7th October 2026 at 8:30 a.m.** by **Hon. FCPA John Mbadi Ng'ongo, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury**, and will be graced by **Hon. Samuel Atandi, MP, Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee, National Assembly**.

The programme for the Public Sector Hearings is provided below:

DAY 1 — 7TH OCTOBER 2026

TIME	SECTOR / PRESENTATION	SESSION CHAIRPERSON
08.30–09.00 a.m.	Arrival and Registration	TNT
09.00–10.30 a.m.	Introductory Remarks Dr. Chris Kiptoo, CBS — Principal Secretary/National Treasury Remarks: Dr. Bonface Makokha, PhD — Principal Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning Remarks: Hon. Samuel Atandi, MP — Chairman, Budget & Appropriations Committee, National Assembly Presentation: Macro-Economic Outlook for the FY 2027/28 and the Medium-Term Dr. Chris Kiptoo, CBS — Principal Secretary/National Treasury Keynote Address / Official Launch Hon. FCPA John Mbadi Ng'ongo, EGH — Cabinet Secretary	PAS/TNT
11.00 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Presentation: Health Sector	
02.00–03.30 p.m.	Presentation: General Economic and Commercial Affairs Sector	
03.45–05.15 p.m.	Presentation: Environment Protection, Water and Natural Resources Sector	

DAY 2 — 8TH OCTOBER 2026

TIME	SECTOR / PRESENTATION	SESSION CHAIRPERSON
08.30–09.00 a.m.	**Arrival and Registration**	
09.00–10.30 a.m.	Presentation: Governance, Justice, Law & Order Sector	
11.00 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Presentation: Social Protection, Culture and Recreation Sector	
02.00–03.30 p.m.	Presentation: Public Administration & International Relations Sector	

DAY 3 — 9TH OCTOBER 2026

TIME	SECTOR / PRESENTATION	SESSION CHAIRPERSON
08.30–09.00 a.m.	**Arrival and Registration**	
09.00–10.30 a.m.	Presentation: Energy, Infrastructure & ICT Sector	
11.00 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Presentation: Agriculture, Rural and Urban Development Sector	
02.00–03.30 p.m.	Presentation: Education Sector	

Venue: Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC- Amphi- Theater)/ Starting time: 8:30 a.m. daily

Members of the public may also follow the proceedings through a link that will be posted on **The National Treasury's official website and social media platforms**.

Members of the public are encouraged to actively participate and provide their views and submissions as part of the budget-making process.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
THE NATIONAL TREASURY

Residents benefit from free medical outreach services

The initiative aims at getting health services closer to the people in the remote areas.

BY SAMMY MWIBANDA (KNA)

Hundreds of residents of Mogobich in Ollesos Ward, Nandi County, have benefited from free healthcare services offered through the Nandi County Beyond Zero mobile clinic.

The residents turned up in large numbers last week to access a range of services provided by a team of health professionals during the medical outreach which brought healthcare services closer to the community.

It enabled residents to seek medical attention without travelling long distances to health facilities.

The exercise offered treatment for various ailments, general medical consultations, screening services and health education.

Residents also received advice on disease prevention, healthy lifestyles and the importance of seeking medical attention early.

County Director for Health (CDH) Dr Christine Jebet said the outreach was part of the county government's efforts to improve access to primary healthcare.

Dr Jebet said mobile medical outreaches are important in strengthening preventive and primary healthcare because they enable health workers to interact directly with residents, identify health concerns and provide appropriate interventions before illnesses become more serious.

She urged residents to take advantage of such programmes and seek medical attention whenever they experienced symptoms instead of waiting until their conditions deteriorated.

Residents of Mogobich area in Ollesos ward in Nandi County receive free healthcare services from the Beyond Zero mobile clinic.

Dr Jebet said the county is also using the outreach programmes to create awareness on preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyles and the importance of regular screening.

She explained that residents requiring specialized or continued treatment are usually referred to appropriate health facilities for further management, noting that mobile clinics complement existing health facilities by extending services to communities.

Beyond Zero Programme Coordinator Nancy Rop said the large turnout at Mogobich demonstrated the importance of bringing healthcare services closer to the people.

Rop said residents in remote areas sometimes face difficulties accessing healthcare because of distance, transport costs and other challenges, making mobile clinics an important avenue for reaching such populations.

She encouraged residents to make use of screening services and health education provided during the outreach, noting that early detection of health conditions could enable patients to receive timely treatment and avoid complications.

The coordinator said the programme was also intended to strengthen the link between communities and the formal healthcare system by identifying residents who required further medical attention and directing them to appropriate health facilities.

The outreach provided health workers with an opportunity to educate residents on disease prevention, treatment adherence and the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles.

Education interventions ease classroom congestion, boost learning in Nyanza

BY PHILIP RUTTO (PCO)

Long-standing classroom congestion in Nyanza is easing as Government investment in infrastructure, teacher recruitment and ICT facilities continues to transform schools and create more conducive learning environments for thousands of learners.

Nyanza Deputy Regional Director of Education Allan Omondi said schools in the region are steadily overcoming overcrowding through the construction of additional classrooms, laboratories and ICT facilities.

"Here in Nyanza, congestion in our schools will soon be a thing of the past," he said, noting that improved infrastructure is creating conducive learning environments.

Omondi said the recruitment of thousands of teachers, coupled with investment in modern facilities, is strengthening the quality of education and positioning the country to develop a competitive workforce.

Much of the infrastructure expansion has been supported by the Kenya Primary Education Equity in Learning (KPEEL) Programme, which has enabled schools that previously relied on makeshift structures to expand and modernise their facilities.

County Directors of Education from Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay and Nyamira said the interventions had significantly improved learning environments across the region.

Siaya County Director of Education Dr Francis Shikanda said learners who previously studied in tents are now attending classes in permanent structures.

"We are now in the process of folding the last tents," Dr Shikanda quipped, highlighting the scale of the infrastructure improvements.

He said better facilities had also contributed to improved attendance and increased pride among learners.

Traditionally a strong academic region, Nyanza is expected to record improved performance in national examinations as better learning environments, teacher recruitment and access to resources take effect.

Dr Shikanda said education officials are increasingly reporting progress instead of the numerous challenges that previously dominated discussions on the sector.

"We hardly have challenges to report, unlike previous years when we daily recorded numerous problems. Nowadays, we are reporting success stories," he said.

He also cited the integration of ICT in teacher training colleges as another area of progress, noting that institutions such as Ugenya, Asumbi and Borabu had recorded increased enrolment.

Dr Shikanda said thousands of learners from vulnerable backgrounds had benefited from Elimu Scholarships, while learners with disabilities are receiving targeted support to enable them to participate fully in education.

Nakuru boosts cancer care, diagnostic capacity

BY JANE NGUGI AND JEFTHER AFUYO (KNA)

The County Government of Nakuru has partnered with the National Cancer Institute of Kenya (NCI-K) to strengthen cancer diagnosis, treatment and follow-up services at the Nakuru County Teaching and Referral Hospital (NCTRH).

The partnership was reviewed during a joint monitoring exercise by an NCI-K delegation led by its Chairman, Dr Timothy Olweny, NCTRH Director Dr Santosh Devaraj, and senior county health officials, medical specialists and community health stakeholders.

The engagement focused on strengthening the sustainability of cancer services, building the capacity of healthcare workers and improving the use of specialised diagnostic and treatment equipment.

Dr Devaraj said the county was committed to expanding equitable access to cancer care for residents of Nakuru and neighbouring counties.

"Cancer has become a major burden in our communities, and we truly value this partnership, which allows us to extend vital support to patients," he said.

He said the initiative would strengthen diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care while integrating Social Health Authority (SHA) and laboratory services to provide a coordinated cancer-care pathway.

The teams inspected cancer treatment and palliative care facilities at the Regional Cancer Centre and Nakuru Hospice where they assessed existing services and identified areas requiring additional support.

National Cancer Institute Chairman Dr Timothy Olweny (2nd from left) and Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital Director Santosh Devaraj (2nd from right) learn more on the cancer diagnostic equipment during the NCI team's visit to assess and strengthen specialized cancer care at the facility.

Dr Devaraj called for specialised training for healthcare workers, particularly in the operation and management of cancer diagnostic and treatment equipment.

Dr Olweny said NCI-K would consider the request and called for integration of health financing and laboratory services to support seamless cancer management.

"Cancer management requires coordinated services ranging from screening and laboratory investigations to diagnosis, staging, treatment and follow-up," he said.

The engagement comes as Kenya continues to face a significant cancer burden. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) estimated 44,726 new cancer cases and 29,317 cancer deaths in Kenya in 2024, with breast, cervical, prostate, oesophageal and colorectal cancers among the leading cancers.

The National Cancer Control Strategy 2023-2027 identifies early detection, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care, survivorship, surveillance and sustainable financing as key pillars of the national response.

Dr Olweny said about 70 per cent of cancer cases in Kenya are diagnosed at late stages, highlighting the need to strengthen diagnostic capacity and early detection. He also cited inadequate and unevenly distributed pathology services as a national challenge.

Nakuru has emerged as an important regional oncology centre. The county's 2024 health sector report indicates that the Regional Cancer Centre at NCTRH, commissioned in June 2022, had served more than 5,000 clients from Nakuru and other counties.

The centre offers screening, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and palliative care, while cancer surgery is available at Nakuru Level 5 Hospital. The county has also conducted cancer screening outreaches across all 11 sub-counties.

In February 2026, the Ministry of Health announced intergovernmental and service-level agreements covering regional cancer centres in Nakuru, Mombasa and Garissa. The agreements provide for preventive maintenance, quality assurance and technical support for radiotherapy equipment, including linear accelerators.

The Ministry has also announced plans to upgrade the Nakuru Regional Cancer Centre into a major referral facility serving patients from 24 counties.

Homa Bay launches plan to cut food losses, boost food security

BY SITNA OMAR (KNA)

Homa Bay County has launched a five-year action plan to reduce food losses and waste across the agricultural supply chain, seeking to improve food security, increase farmers' incomes and ensure more produce reaches consumers.

The Homa Bay County Action Plan for Food Loss and Waste Reduction (2026-2031) was developed in partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI), Busara Centre for Behavioural Economics, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and financial institutions including KCB.

The plan provides a coordinated framework for tackling losses at various stages of the food system, including production, transportation, storage, marketing and consumption.

County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture Joash Oloo said significant quantities of food were lost both on farms and at household level, depriving farmers of income and consumers of food.

"We do realise that a lot of food is wasted either from the farm or at the table. This deprives farmers of income and households of food, and so this action plan should help our people to see how to reduce wastage," Oloo said.

He said the county would promote improved transportation, storage and post-harvest management, as well as circular economy and value-addition initiatives, to minimise losses and increase the value of agricultural produce.

More than 74 per cent of Homa Bay's population depends on agriculture. The plan identifies fisheries, poultry, edible oils, cereals and pulses, vegetables and fruits, and roots and tubers as priority value chains affected by food losses and waste.

Oloo said reducing losses would strengthen food and nutrition security, livelihoods and the resilience of the county's food system.

WRI Africa Food Programme Director Robert Mbeche said reducing food losses was critical because agricultural production consumes substantial amounts of resources.

Government moves to close learning gaps in schools

Government and partners set fresh priorities on learning outcomes, teacher support, infrastructure, and scholarships to accelerate reforms across schools.

BY AHMED ELMAWI (PCO)

The Government and development partners have called for stronger action to improve learning outcomes, support teachers and expand education infrastructure as Kenya steps up implementation of key primary and secondary education programmes.

The call was made during a joint implementation support mission for the Kenya Primary Education Equity in Learning (KPEEL) and Secondary Education Equity and Quality Improvement Programme (SEEQIP), led by the State Department for Basic Education.

The mission brought together Government officials, the World Bank, Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and other education partners to review progress, address emerging challenges and agree on measures to accelerate programme delivery.

Learning outcomes, particularly at Junior School level, emerged as a major concern, with stakeholders examining findings from the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) and Kenya's participation in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2025.

World Bank Senior Education Specialist Ruth Charo said PISA should be used as a diagnostic tool to strengthen implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), rather than as a verdict on the reform.

"PISA should be viewed as a baseline to help improve implementation and learning outcomes. The issue is not whether CBC is the right reform, but how we strengthen its quality, particularly in Junior School, so that every learner acquires the competencies envisioned," she said.

Assessment findings pointed to persistent gaps in literacy, numeracy, science, digital skills and problem-solving, prompting calls for stronger teacher support, equitable deployment and targeted interventions for learners in underserved communities, refugee-hosting areas and those with special needs.

Infrastructure expansion was also highlighted as critical to improving access and learning conditions.

Under SEEQIP, the Government is financing 1,600 science laboratories in senior schools, with 273 projects already funded and nearing completion.

Stakeholders proposed vertical construction in schools facing land constraints and greater flexibility in Bills of Quantities to allow projects to respond to local needs while maintaining accountability.

KPEEL has also made significant progress in classroom expansion, with 26,736 Grade 9 classrooms completed. The programme is supporting results-based school grants and equity-focused interventions aimed at widening learning opportunities.

The Elimu Scholarship Programme, implemented in partnership with the Equity Group Foundation and Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, was also recognised for improving access and retention among vulnerable learners.

More than 62,000 vulnerable and refugee learners have benefited from the programme, with retention rates exceeding 99 per cent.

Qualification to university among beneficiaries increased from 46 per cent in 2023 to 53 per cent in 2025, while top performers have secured internships and placements across Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

The State Department plans to enroll an additional 25,000 beneficiaries between 2027 and 2028, with girls expected to account for 53 per cent of the new cohort.

Elijah Mungai, the Head of the Directorate of Project Coordination and Delivery, thanked partners for their continued support.

"We appreciate the confidence our partners have placed in these programmes. Together, we will strengthen implementation and accountability to ensure these investments translate into better learning opportunities for every learner," he said.

GPE Country Lead Esohe Eigbike welcomed the progress and pledged continued collaboration, particularly in supporting children facing the greatest barriers to education.

State hands over Bachuma livestock centre to unlock Sh30b export market

BY ARNOLD MASILA (KNA)

The Government has handed over the Bachuma Livestock Quarantine and Export Centre in Voi Sub-County, Taita Taveta County, to a private investor to operationalise the facility and tap into a livestock export market valued at an estimated Sh30 billion annually.

Speaking during the handover, Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the move would open up new markets for livestock farmers while creating opportunities for investment and employment.

Kagwe noted that the government is increasingly turning to private-sector partnerships to unlock the potential of idle public facilities.

"We've found it very effective to partner with the private sector to make industries run efficiently and ultimately put money into the pockets of our people," he said.

He cited the turnaround of the sugar sector following the takeover of four formerly state-owned sugar companies by private investors, saying the reforms had improved the payments to farmers and ensured timely salaries for workers.

Kagwe said the livestock centre could serve as a catalyst for industrial development in Taita Taveta by creating a chain of related businesses that would enable residents to earn more from their land and livestock.

Principal Secretary for Livestock Development Jonathan Mueke added that operationalising the centre would give farmers in Taita Taveta and beyond access to a major export market while generating revenue for both national and county governments.

Mueke urged farmers to increase production to meet demand. "I urge people of this county to step up and provide a generous quota of livestock to meet the massive demand of this market and be the first to benefit from this opportunity," he said.

He disclosed that the government is rolling out livestock investment companies in 21 arid and semi-arid counties to fight poverty and empower farmers. Under the initiative, each county will enrol 15,000 members, with each contributing Sh3,000 while the national government adds Sh10,000 per member as seed capital for livestock trading.

Private investor Blue Mountain, which has taken over the facility, pledged to inject billions of shillings into the centre while prioritising local residents for employment, business partnerships, and empowerment opportunities.

Company representative Mohamed Keinan Hassan said Blue Mountain had already secured a market for 100,000 livestock annually in South Africa, alongside strong demand from Middle Eastern countries.

He noted that Taita Taveta's annual production of about 10,000 cattle was insufficient to meet the available market, urging farmers to scale up.

"Local farmers will be given priority in supplying the facility, creating an opportunity to expand production and benefit from the growing export market," Hassan said.

Taita Taveta County Governor Andrew Mwadime welcomed the operationalisation of the centre, describing it as a historic industrial milestone.

"We're glad that finally, after a long wait, this centre is going to operate and be one of the first industries on our county's soil since independence," he said.

Mwadime urged the investor to honour plans to establish an abattoir and tannery at the facility, saying the additional investments would create more jobs for residents.

President Ruto urges Africa to create own AI

BY NANCY OMONDI (KNA)

President Dr. William Ruto has urged African countries to take a more active role in developing and governing Artificial Intelligence (AI), warning that technological dependence could undermine national sovereignty.

Ruto said Africa must move beyond consuming AI technologies to developing, owning and shaping systems that reflect its languages, economies and social realities.

"We must not reproduce the old extractive economy in digital form. Africa cannot provide the minerals, energy, data, content and talent of the AI revolution, only to import the resulting intelligence at a premium," he said.

The president spoke during the high-level AI Middle Powers (AIM) Coalition meeting on Shared Sovereignty in the AI era, held on the margins of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Ruto noted that AI was rapidly changing the distribution of economic and technological power, with countries increasingly depending on computing power, advanced chips, data systems, AI models and technological standards that they may not own or control.

"Political sovereignty without technological agency risks becoming sovereignty in law, but dependency in practice," he said.

The president called for greater cooperation among middle powers in areas where individual countries cannot efficiently develop the entire AI value chain, while retaining national control over matters requiring accountability.

"No nation can efficiently secure every critical mineral, fabricate every advanced chip, build every data centre, train every frontier model, and determine every global standard," Ruto said.

The President described this approach as shared sovereignty, saying cooperation should strengthen rather than diminish the ability of countries to make independent decisions.

"Shared sovereignty is not sovereignty surrendered. It is an agency enlarged through organised cooperation," he said.

Ruto placed Africa's role at the center of the discussion, noting that the continent has significant natural resources, a growing digital economy, a young population and a pool of skilled professionals that can contribute to the development of AI.

He, however, expressed concern that African languages, contexts and institutions remain underrepresented in technologies increasingly influencing education, healthcare, commerce and public discourse.

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200,000 title deeds to help resolve coastal land disputes

BY SADIK HASSAN (KNA)

The Government is increasing efforts to resolve longstanding land disputes at the coastal region.

President William Ruto is expected to issue 200,000 title deeds during his forthcoming week-long tour of the region.

Lands Principal Secretary (PS), Nickson Korir, said the initial batch of title deeds forms part of a wider government programme targeting more than 300,000 ownership documents for beneficiaries across the five coastal counties by December.

Speaking during a joint Parliamentary Committee retreat in Mombasa, Korir said the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, is finalizing pending settlement schemes and negotiating with private landowners to pave the way for residents who have occupied land for years to obtain formal ownership documents.

Lands PS Nickson Korir (centre) addresses the media on the issuance of title deeds to Coast residents during a parliamentary retreat in Mombasa. He is flanked by Kaloleni MP Paul Katana (left) and National Assembly Lands Committee Chairperson, Joash Nyamache (right)

The programme covers Taita Taveta, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River and Lamu counties, where historical land disputes have left thousands of residents without formal title deeds.

"We are committed to resolving long-standing land grievances through peaceful compensation," Korir said adding, "Our role is to ensure landowners receive what is due to them, while long-term occupants without formal documents also get their rights recognized."

The PS said the government is engaging private title holders whose land is occupied by informal settlers, with compensation forming part of efforts to resolve the disputes without resorting to forced evictions.

He identified Gombato and Diani in Kwale County among areas where residents have lived for decades without formal ownership documents.

Korir said the government's approach seeks to protect the rights of registered landowners while providing tenure security to long-term occupants through negotiated settlements.

He dismissed claims that some government-issued title deeds were fake, saying documents processed under settlement programmes undergo legal verification.

The PS said the government would continue protecting legitimate landowners, while addressing historical grievances affecting residents who have occupied land without formal documentation.

The National Assembly Lands Committee Chairperson, Joash Nyamache, said Parliament is working with the Executive to address petitions involving disputed farms and other land grievances.

Wildlife Fund Plan puts conservancies at heart of conservation financing

BY ARNOLD MASILA (KNA)

Kenya is seeking to place wildlife conservancies at the heart of a new financing framework.

The aim is to reshape how conservation funding is mobilised, prioritised and channelled to areas where it is most needed.

Consultations to develop a strategic plan for the Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund (WCTF) are ongoing, with conservancy representatives in Taita Taveta County urging the plan's architects to make funding responsive to realities on the ground.

Caroline Tullo, the Head of the Secretariat of the WCTF, said the consultations were intended to capture the priorities of conservation stakeholders and provide direction for the Fund as it develops its operational and policy framework.

"We are here to listen to your views and integrate them into the plan so that we come up with a funding framework that addresses real challenges on the ground and benefits communities in and outside conservancies," Tullo said.

The Fund is mandated to mobilise resources from government, tourism, development partners, the private sector and other sources to support wildlife conservation. Its scope covers national parks, reserves and conservancies, with financing aimed at addressing documented gaps and supporting conservation initiatives.

For the State Department for Wildlife, giving conservancies a voice at this stage is critical because the eventual framework will determine how conservation priorities are translated into funding decisions.

Charles Ombuki, Director of Planning at the State Department for Wildlife, said the views of conservancies and other stakeholders would help shape the policy direction of the Fund.

Elephants grazing beyond the protected areas of Taita Taveta County, where encounters between wildlife and communities continue to fuel human-wildlife conflict.

"You're critical to the mandate of this fund, and that's why, before everyone else, your views are the backbone of this plan so that we have a working fund that does the job it's intended for," Ombuki said.

The emphasis on conservancies reflects their growing role in Kenya's wildlife conservation landscape, where communities and private landowners increasingly share responsibility for protecting habitats and wildlife beyond the boundaries of national parks and reserves, she said.

BRIEFS

Nakuru turns to digital tools to boost potato farming

BY JANE NGUGI AND CAROLYNE NYAKIO, KNA

Potato farmers in Nakuru County will benefit from improved access to agricultural extension services through VarScout, a digital platform designed to provide timely information on crop varieties, pests, diseases, weather, markets and farming practices.

The platform, developed by the International Potato Center (CIP) in partnership with RESONANZ Group GmbH, uses cloud-based mobile and online applications to collect, store, monitor and visualise information on potato varieties and link farmers to agricultural information and markets.

County Chief Officer for Agriculture Eng. Margaret Kinyanjui said VarScout will help address gaps in access to extension services, particularly in areas facing shortages of physical agricultural officers.

She said the platform will also help the county understand farmers' needs and make evidence-based decisions across the potato value chain.

"From digital advisories on weather and planting information to marketing of produce and accessing financial and insurance services, agriculture in Nakuru County is coming of age," she said.

Kinyanjui said the technology would provide farmers with customised e-extension services incorporating agro-weather information, pest and disease trends and market prices.

The platform targets four key areas: productivity, market linkages, financial inclusion and data analytics, with young people identified as a major target group because of their high use of digital technologies.

The VarScout platform also incorporates interactive voice response services and real-time soil testing technology, enabling farmers to access agricultural information through mobile phones while supporting more precise soil-related advice.

Government addressing Mau compensation grievances

BY EMILY KADZO, KNA

The government is working towards resolving outstanding grievances among families affected by the previous evictions from Mau Forest, amid growing pressure from more than 300 households that missed out on the recent Sh2.6 billion government compensation programme.

Internal Security and National Administration PS Dr. Raymond Omollo now says government was addressing the remaining problematic areas surrounding the Mau issue and would continue engaging the affected communities to with a view to finding lasting solutions.

Speaking at a church fundraising event at Ntulele in Narok East sub county, Dr. Omollo said the government had received support from local leaders and residents in efforts aimed at addressing some the hiccups that arose during the payout exercise.

His remarks come barely days after more than 300 families returned to the Mau Forest in Narok South, where they threatened to go back to homesteads they vacated in the forest after failing to appear on the list of beneficiaries under the government compensation programme.

The families have since demanded that the compensation process be reviewed to accommodate those they say were left out. They also threatened to relocate permanently to the forest if their grievances are not addressed.

Narok County Commissioner, Kipkech Lotiatia, on Friday, ordered the families to leave the forest and advised them to use established government channels to present their grievances rather than returning to the protected area.

However, Dr. Omollo said the government remains committed to delivering services to residents through the existing administrative units, signaling continued efforts towards addressing local concerns through the existing government structures.