THE INFORMER WEEKLY
Uncovering the truth
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Bank of Baroda in Sh3billion debt row amid fraud, bank-run fears

Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited Chairman Lal Singh

Managing Director and chief executive of Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited Astitva Bhardwaj

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Sh2.996billion court decree puts Kenyan lender's assets on auction path as internal-control and fraud controversies pile pressure on global operations

IN INDIA

- Police in Uppinangady registered a criminal case against Subrahmanyam, 30, a joint manager who was posted at the Perne branch and was responsible for ATM operations, following allegations of misappropriating cash and gold jewellery worth more than 71.4 lakh (Sh9.7million).
- The bank has also launched a forensic investigation after customer data and internal documents from the lender reportedly surfaced on the dark web. Bank of Baroda confirmed the investigation on July 27, 2026.
- And in another Indian case, the Bombay High Court ordered the bank to refund 18.79 lakh (Sh2.5million) to a 75-year-old Mumbai woman and her daughter-in-law who lost money through unauthorised internet-banking transactions.

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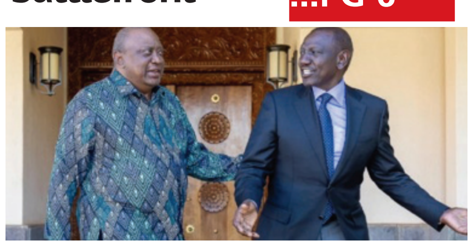

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Sifuna denied entry to JKUAT Karen Campus

Sifuna said he had travelled to the campus at the invitation of student leaders to attend the inaugural Law, Policy and Governance Forum, organised by the Jomo Kenyatta University Students' Association (JKUSA), only to find the event had been called off and his delegation denied access.

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna with JKUAT Karen Campus students and their leaders at the institution, September 17, 2026.

BY NJOKI MAINA

Nairobi Senator and the Linda Mwananchi Movement 2027 presidential hopeful Edwin Sifuna was on Thursday, September 17, 2026 denied entry to the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) Karen Campus after the university administration cancelled a student forum he had been invited to address.

Sifuna said he had travelled to the campus at the invitation of student leaders to attend the inaugural Law, Policy and Governance Forum, organised by the Jomo Kenyatta University Students' Association (JKUSA), only to find the event had been called off and his delegation denied access.

"We came to JKUAT Karen on the invitation of the student leadership for their Inaugural Law, Policy and Governance forum, but the Administration has abruptly 'cancelled' the event and denied us access to the institution. Totally uncalled for," Sifuna said in a post on X.

The forum was expected to provide students and invited guests with an opportunity to discuss law, governance and public policy.

Speaking to journalists outside the campus, Sifuna questioned why the engagement had been cancelled, insisting that his visit was not intended to be a political rally.

"They don't believe it because I have not come here for a rally," he said, arguing that politicians should be able to engage young people on issues beyond partisan politics.

"We can actually just come and have conversations about even the weather. We can talk about anything, including what you guys like to have for lunch," he added.

A video shared by Sifuna showed a university official addressing students gathered outside the campus, led by campus Governor Mboya, and explaining the postponement.

The official cited concerns over possible student unrest and said the participants would be invited back at a later date.

"We don't want students to cause problems. We have postponed the meeting, then we will invite them again," the official said.

Sifuna later described the incident as evidence of what he termed a climate of fear surrounding public engagements.

"Bwana there is just fear everywhere, but a bold new generation must rise up and reclaim their country. This is why we continue to preach the values in the preamble of our Constitution, most importantly, freedom," he said.

The Senator thanked Mboya and the student leadership for the invitation and said he would host them at the Senate instead.

"I'll be returning the courtesy by inviting you and your fellow students to the Senate so that the conversation can continue. God bless!" Sifuna said.

President William Ruto is welcomed to State House, Dar es Salaam, by his Tanzanian counterpart Samia Suluhu.

Tanzania imposes mandatory travel insurance for foreigners after Kenya

BY CORRESPONDENT

Tanzania has introduced mandatory travel insurance for foreign visitors entering mainland Tanzania, with the new cover costing Sh5,700 ($44) and remaining valid for up to 92 days.

It also follows Kenya's introduction of mandatory inbound travel health insurance in July 2026 for non-Kenyans staying in the country for less than 12 months.

Kenya's scheme requires minimum cumulative benefits of Sh6.48 million ($50,000), including Sh2.59 million ($20,000) for medical expenses, Sh3.24 million ($25,000) for emergency medical transportation, Sh38,886 ($300) for prescribed medicines and Sh129,620 ($1,000) for mental illness treatment.

The requirement, contained in the Insurance (Inbound Travel Insurance) Regulations, 2026, applies to foreigners entering Tanzania by air, land or sea.

However, citizens of East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states are exempt.

Visitors must obtain valid inbound travel insurance either before travelling or at the point of entry. Those arriving without the required cover may be denied entry.

The policy, valid for multiple entries during the 92-day period, covers emergency medical treatment, medical evacuation, emergency repatriation and loss of luggage. Visitors staying beyond 92 days must purchase a new policy.

The cover will be provided by Tanzania's National Insurance Corporation (NIC) or other registered insurers operating in partnership with NIC.

The measure expands Tanzania's inbound insurance framework after Zanzibar introduced mandatory travel insurance for foreign visitors in October 2024.

Ruto heads to UNGA to push Kenya's global agenda

BY JAMES WASIKE

President William Ruto will attend the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York next week, where Kenya plans to push its priorities on UN reform, peace and security, climate finance, digital cooperation and economic diplomacy.

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Dr Korir Sing'oei said the decision followed extensive consultations between the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the President's office since July, with Ruto expected to spend four days engaging world leaders.

"We are very happy to announce that the President agreed to attend this UNGA," Sing'oei said during a media briefing in Nairobi.

The assembly, themed "Restoring Trust and Managing Transformation: A United Nations that Delivers for All," comes amid shifts in the global order, with discussions expected to focus on peace and security, the Sustainable Development Goals, climate resilience, human rights, digital governance, artificial intelligence and UN reform.

Sing'oei said presidential-level representation was important as Kenya seeks to advance discussions on debt sustainability, climate finance, digital trade and regional security, while promoting Africa's call for reform of the UN Security Council and more inclusive global governance.

"Kenya, as a leading African democracy, a troop contributor, and the host of the United Nations in the Global South, must articulate this position personally and at the highest level," he said.

The PS cited previous UNGA engagements as having generated investments and partnerships, including US$340 million approved in 2023 to expand the UN complex in Gigiri and a US$60 million Millennium Challenge Corporation threshold programme for Nairobi connectivity. Subsequent engagements also generated investment interest in health, geothermal energy and agri-tech.

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Dr Korir Sing'oei addressing the media at a past event. He is flanked by Government Spokesperson Charles Owino donning in a red tie.

President's Technology Envoy Ambassador Phillip Thigo said AI would feature prominently, with Kenya advocating safe, inclusive and responsible use of the technology.

"AI must improve lives, strengthen institutions, expand economic opportunity, but also increase our capacity to respond to national and global challenges," Thigo said.

He said Kenya would build on two UN resolutions it led on AI, while Ruto and Finland's president are expected to lead a high-level event on AI middle powers.

Kenya will also participate in efforts to strengthen online safety for children and promote an Africa Resilience Compact to improve the continent's response to climate shocks, including El Niño.

The delegation will further market Kenya as an investment and conference destination while advancing its role in digital governance and emerging technologies.

Uhuru mocks Ruto with 'sponyo' jibe as political war escalates

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta (left) converses with People's Party of Kenya (PPK) leader and Kiharu Member of Parliament (MP) Ndindi Nyoro as Jubilee Deputy Party Leader Fred Matiang'I (center) listens in in Murang'a, September 18, 2026.

BY TEAM

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta has turned President William Ruto's "sponyo" jibe into a punchline, laughing off the label even as the political war between the two former allies enters a new and increasingly personal phase.

Yesterday, Uhuru appeared to deliberately embrace the nickname yesterday during the burial of Christine Waruguru Kariuki in Gikuu, Kiharu, Murang'a County, where he avoided direct political confrontation with Ruto despite renewed attacks from the President.

"Asanteni sana, ni hayo machache kutoka kwa sponyo, na tutaendelea kuwa pamoja," Uhuru told mourners, drawing laughter and turning a label used by his political opponents into a moment of humour.

The former president had earlier joked that speaking off the cuff had become "dangerous" because his remarks could be misinterpreted, prompting him to read a prepared condolence message instead.

> **UHURU KENYATTA**
>
> **"Asanteni sana, ni hayo machache kutoka kwa sponyo, na tutaendelea kuwa pamoja," Uhuru told mourners, drawing laughter and turning a label used by his political opponents into a moment of humour.**

His light-hearted response came days after Ruto escalated his attacks on his predecessor, accusing him of backing forces opposed to the Government and referring to him as a "rebel leader"—a description that has triggered criticism from Uhuru allies.

But while Uhuru kept politics out of his main address, those around him were less restrained.

Jubilee Deputy Party Leader Fred Matiang'i hit back at unnamed national leaders who, he said, were resorting to insults and statements that "don't make sense".

"When you see leaders, including national leaders, hurl insults, lie, saying things that don't make sense, that is a story also about how they grew up," Matiang'i said.

People's Party of Kenya (PPK) leader and Kiharu Member of Parliament (MP) Ndindi Nyoro, who accompanied Uhuru and Matiang'i, appeared to shift the conversation beyond the 2027 contest, saying his eyes were already focused on what comes after the election, including free education from January 2028.

The gathering brought Uhuru, Matiang'i and Nyoro together at a politically sensitive moment, amid growing opposition consultations and shifting alliances ahead of 2027.

Elsewhere, Kalonzo Musyoka also defended Uhuru, while Embakasi East MP Babu Owino dismissed claims that the retired President was financing the Linda Mwananchi movement and played down reports of cracks within the opposition camp.

Crime wave: Robbery, murder and mysterious deaths rock counties

Scene of Crime officers condone off a scene of crime to preserve evidence. FILE PHOTO.

BY TEAM

A wave of violent crime and unexplained deaths is raising concern across several counties, with police investigating a bank-related robbery in Murang'a, the death of a man whose partially burned body was found in Kisii and the fatal stabbing of a Grade Seven pupil in Migori.

In Murang'a South, police are investigating the robbery of a 63-year-old man who lost Sh700,000 shortly after withdrawing the money from Equity Bank's Kenol branch.

The incident occurred on Thursday, September 17, at about 2.30pm in Kimololi. The victim, a resident of the area, called his 25-year-old son, Comfort Gift, to pick him up on a motorcycle after withdrawing the cash.

Their journey home was allegedly cut short when a Toyota Premio blocked their motorcycle. Three men reportedly emerged, armed with rungus and a knife, and ordered the two to lie down before taking the money. The suspects then punctured the motorcycle's front tyre and escaped towards Kenol town.

Police visited the scene and the bank, where preliminary inquiries established that the victim had withdrawn the cash at an open teller. Investigators are pursuing the suspects amid concerns over an emerging pattern of bank-following robberies.

Police say some gangs monitor customers inside banking halls before following them, while others allegedly receive prior information about transactions. Investigators have previously uncovered cases involving suspected collusion by bank staff and other insiders.

In Kisii, detectives are investigating the death of 24-year-old Fredrick Murioki, whose partially burned and injured body was found beside a road in Ufanisi–Nyankongo on Thursday morning.

A local reported hearing a commotion at about 6.30am before discovering the body. Police processed the scene and moved the remains to Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital mortuary pending a postmortem.

Meanwhile, in Ntimaru, Migori County, a 17-year-old Grade Seven pupil at Kohero Comprehensive School died after an alleged stabbing during an altercation among boys.

Police said the incident occurred at about 7pm on Wednesday after a group from Masangora and Nyanderema clashed along the Gwitembe–Angata road. The group reportedly chased one another to a homestead where a family ceremony was taking place, where the victim was allegedly stabbed on the back and left arm.

Investigations into all three incidents are ongoing.

Ruto warns police against political partisanship ahead of 2027 polls

President William Ruto shakes hands with a police graduand during the 50th General Service Unit (GSU) Recruits Passing-Out Parade at the National Police College Embakasi 'B' Campus in Nairobi, September 18, 2026.

BY WILBERFORCE KIGEN

President William Ruto yesterday directed police officers to uphold discipline, professionalism and impartiality as Kenya heads towards the 2027 General Election, warning them against being drawn into partisan political contests.

Speaking during the 50th General Service Unit (GSU) Recruits Passing-Out Parade at the National Police College Embakasi 'B' Campus in Nairobi, Ruto said political competition would intensify as parties organise, candidates campaign and citizens exercise their constitutional rights.

"The duty of the police is to secure this democratic space impartially," he said, citing Article 37 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to peacefully and unarmed assemble, demonstrate, picket and present petitions.

Ruto said peaceful dissent must be protected, but warned that constitutional freedoms should not be used as a cover for violence, intimidation, assault, looting, arson or destruction of property.

"Protect peaceful assembly, protect life and property, and act firmly and lawfully against those who organise, fund, incite or perpetrate violence," he told the newly trained officers.

The president also used the occasion to highlight the demanding role of the GSU, saying its officers are frequently deployed to confront terrorism, banditry, armed crime and violent disorder, protect strategic installations and undertake high-risk security operations.

He praised the recruits for accepting the risks associated with police service, noting that some officers return from operations injured while others die in the line of duty.

"Some return injured, some carry wounds that cannot be seen, and some do not return at all," Ruto said.

He acknowledged the burden borne by police families, including prolonged separations and anxiety when officers are deployed to dangerous areas.

Ruto also outlined measures his administration says are aimed at improving police welfare. He said 137 housing projects comprising more than 28,000 units were underway, with 870 already completed, about 12,000 under construction and more than 1,500 under procurement.

He said an additional 15,000 housing units were planned.

On healthcare, Ruto said more than 138,000 police and prison officers and their eligible dependants had been enrolled under the Usalama Cover through the Social Health Authority.

"To the families of the fallen... we owe more than condolences. We owe honour, practical assistance, and the assurance that their sacrifice will never be forgotten," he said.

Deputy Inspector General, Kenya Police Service (DIG-KPS) Eliud Lagat visit GSU LII Camp in Igembe North accompanied by GSU Deputy Commandant Frederick Egesa. Lagat commended the officers for maintaining security in the area and safeguarding ongoing works on the strategic Isiolo–Modogashe Road, August 22, 2026.

Banditry attacks claim five including two police officers in Isiolo ambush

BY NJOKI MAINA

At least five people, including two police officers were this week killed in a bandit ambush in Gotu, Isiolo County, in the latest escalation of armed attacks threatening communities across the region.

Chief Inspector Adan Isaak Somo, an Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) officer who had previously served in the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti, was among those killed on Wednesday while pursuing suspected livestock thieves.

Somo and another ASTU officer, a National Police Reservist and two civilians were killed during an operation to recover a man who had reportedly been killed after getting lost in the thickets while returning home on Tuesday evening.

Isiolo County Police Commander Isaac Sang said the man's relatives reported his disappearance at the Gotu ASTU post on Wednesday morning, prompting a search operation. The officers and local residents were ambushed by suspected bandits believed to have crossed from neighbouring Samburu County.

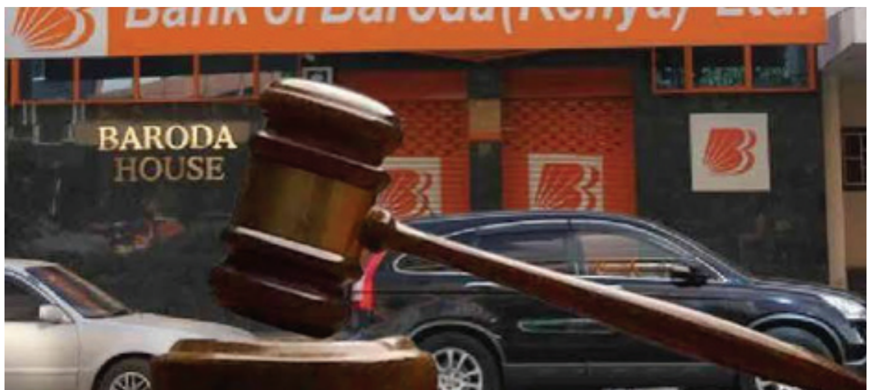
The attackers opened fire before fleeing into the thickets. Sang said police had recovered all five bodies by Wednesday afternoon and launched a pursuit using armoured vehicles.

The killings came a day after armed raiders attacked herders in Igembe Central, Meru County, stealing more than 120 cattle and shooting herdsman Haron Mwira, who later died from excessive blood loss.

The back-to-back attacks have renewed concerns over worsening banditry, cattle rustling and insecurity across Isiolo, Meru and neighbouring counties.

Isiolo Governor Abdi Ibrahim Guyo condemned the Gotu attack and called on Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and security agencies to intensify patrols, intelligence gathering and security operations in the affected areas.

A dark cloud hangs over Bank of Baroda amid Sh3billion debt row, tainted global brand



Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited.

Sh2.996billion court decree puts Kenyan lender's assets on auction path as internal-control and fraud controversies pile pressure on global operations

BY TEAM

Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited Chairman Lal Singh (left) and Managing Director and chief executive of Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited Astitva Bhardwaj (right).

The Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited is facing a potentially bruising asset seizure after the High Court paved the way for the attachment and public auction of its movable property to recover nearly Sh3billion owed to an industrial developer.

The enforcement action places the Kenyan arm of the Indian state-owned lender under an uncomfortable spotlight, coming as questions over its operations, internal controls and conduct in other markets intensify.

On September 15, 2026, the Milimani High Court Commercial and Tax Division issued a warrant of attachment against Bank of Baroda's movable and attachable property following a Sh2.996 billion judgment in favour of Infinity Industrial Park Limited.

The warrant, signed by Deputy Registrar Stellah N. Sagwe, puts the amount due at Sh2,996,003,000—comprising the Sh2.996 billion decretal amount, Sh1,500 in further costs and another Sh1,500 collection fee.

Moran Auctioneers has been ordered to move against the bank's property and attach sufficient assets to satisfy the decree.

The attached property can then be sold by public auction after the required 15-day notice and completion of the proclamation process.

The warrant must be returned to court by October 15, carrying details of how it was executed—or why it could not be executed.

The enforcement action follows a September 1 judgment by Justice Peter Mulwa in HCCOMM No. E322 of 2024, arising from a bitter commercial dispute over an industrial park along Nairobi's Eastern Bypass.

Sh3billion blow

Infinity Industrial Park had accused the bank of delays in releasing land documents and portions of its project land, claiming the delays disrupted the construction and sale of warehouses and serviced industrial plots.

The company initially sought a permanent injunction stopping Bank of Baroda from selling or otherwise dealing with LR No. 31978 (Original No. 11522), Njiru, as well as an order compelling the bank to approve a Sh650 million development loan for a second cluster of 50 warehouses.

Alternatively, Infinity wanted the lender to release another 15 acres of the project land so it could obtain financing from other financial institutions.

The developer blamed delays, Covid-19 disruptions and an election year for significant losses and cash-flow problems.

Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited.

But in a dramatic narrowing of the dispute, Infinity subsequently withdrew most of its prayers.

A notice of withdrawal dated August 6, 2026 was allowed and adopted by the court. The withdrawn claims included injunctions, additional financing, release of land, declarations of breach of contract, a further 15-month moratorium, relief over credit-reference-bureau listings and general damages.

The Sh2.996 billion special-damages award survived.

Now, unless the decree is satisfied or further court orders intervene, the bank's movable assets face attachment and sale.

Pressure beyond Kenya

The Kenyan legal battle comes amid a string of developments surrounding Bank of Baroda's operations elsewhere.

In India, police in Uppinangady registered a criminal case against Subrahmanyam, 30, a joint manager who was posted at the Perne branch and was responsible for ATM operations, following allegations of misappropriating cash and gold jewellery worth more than ₹71.4 lakh (Sh9.7million).

The case reportedly followed an internal audit covering alleged irregularities over nearly two years.

The bank has also launched a forensic investigation after customer data and internal documents from the lender reportedly surfaced on the dark web. Bank of Baroda confirmed the investigation on July 27, 2026.

And in another Indian case, the Bombay High Court ordered the bank to refund ₹18.79 lakh (Sh2.5million) to a 75-year-old Mumbai woman and her daughter-in-law who lost money through unauthorised internet-banking transactions.

The transactions followed an alleged SIM clone or swap that disabled SMS alerts.

The court found that the petitioners were not negligent.

A bench comprising Justices Bharati H Dangre and Manjusha A Deshpande, in an April 20 ruling, referred to a "similar modus operandi" in an earlier case, noting that SIM swapping had disabled SMS alerts and that "the transaction never received authentication by the account holder."

Global retreat?

The bank's international network has also faced contraction.

The South African government asked Bank of Baroda to close its operations there, while the lender was also asked to close its retail operations in the United Kingdom.

The bank is simultaneously dealing with the financial fallout from the collapse of UAE-based healthcare group NMC Health.

In July 2026, Bank of Baroda agreed to pay $600 million, approximately ₹5,700 crore, to the joint administrators of NMC Health and its affiliates to settle claims connected to the group's insolvency.

Against that international backdrop, the Kenyan enforcement proceedings have created a new pressure point.

For the Kenyan case, the warrant requires the auctioneer to return it to court by October 15, 2026, indicating how it was executed or explaining any failure to execute it.

Unless execution is stayed or otherwise restrained by a subsequent court order, the attachment process may proceed.

Bank of Baroda branch in Nairobi.

Bank of Baroda denies closure claims amid bank-run, mass withdrawal fears

However, the bank's statement did not disclose any plans for restructuring or provide details of its financial position, but was focused on denying the closure claims and urging customers to disregard unverified information

BY CORRESPONDENT

Embattled Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited has moved to reassure customers that it is not shutting down its Kenyan operations, following social media reports that triggered fears of a possible bank run and mass withdrawals by anxious depositors.

Through a clarification issued yesterday, Friday, September 18, the lender dismissed reports circulating online that it was preparing to close its operations in Kenya as false and misleading.

The denial comes as the bank seeks to contain concerns among customers and business partners at a time when unverified claims about its financial position and future in Kenya risk fuelling anxiety and prompting depositors to withdraw their funds.

"Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited wishes to clarify that reports circulating regarding the alleged closure of the Bank's operations in Kenya are false and misleading," the lender said.

The bank urged customers, employees, business partners and members of the public not to rely on information circulating through unverified channels.

"The Bank continues to operate normally in Kenya and remains fully committed to serving its customers and supporting businesses and households across the country," it said.

The lender further sought to reinforce its commitment to the Kenyan market, saying it would continue supporting economic activity despite the reports.

"Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Limited remains firmly committed to the Kenyan market and continues to focus on serving its customers and supporting the country's economic development," the statement added.

The clarification comes amid heightened scrutiny of the bank and concerns that negative publicity could trigger a rush by depositors seeking to withdraw their money.

A sustained wave of withdrawals can place pressure on any bank's liquidity, particularly where rumours spread rapidly and customers act on unverified claims.

However, the bank's statement did not disclose any plans for restructuring or provide details of its financial position, but was focused on denying the closure claims and urging customers to disregard unverified information.

The lender now faces the task of restoring confidence among customers while containing the potential fallout from the reports, which could otherwise fuel further withdrawals and deepen anxiety among depositors.

According to political pundits, Ruto's decision to repeatedly invoke Uhuru therefore carries a political cost since it keeps the former president relevant while giving opponents a common issue around which to challenge the administration

Ruto's Uhuru offensive opens new 2027 battlefront

President William Ruto visits former President Uhuru Kenyatta (left) at his Gatundu home on December 9, 2024

BY NJOKI MAINA

The political confrontation between President William Ruto and retired President Uhuru Kenyatta has entered a more pointed phase, with the former allies increasingly using each other as reference points in the battle over Kenya's political direction ahead of the 2027 election.

Ruto has escalated his attacks on Uhuru, accusing his predecessor of undermining the Government and refusing to embrace the role of a retired statesman.

During his Nyanza tour, Ruto told Uhuru to "respect your office" and accused him of opposing his administration and backing opposition forces.

The president also contrasted his administration's record with what he described as the failures of the previous Government, citing housing, markets, roads and student accommodation as evidence of progress. He claimed the economy he inherited from Uhuru was "in tatters" but had since been stabilised.

The renewed confrontation, however, has provided Ruto's opponents with fresh ammunition.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua accused Ruto of using Uhuru as a distraction from problems facing his administration, arguing that the President should confront economic and governance concerns rather than blame his predecessor.

Kiharu MP and PPK leader Ndindi Nyoro similarly challenged Ruto to stop attacking Uhuru and concentrate on the economy and education. Nyoro argued that Ruto was not competing with Uhuru and said the President should accord his predecessor the same respect he would expect after leaving State House.

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta has repeatedly told his successor, President William Ruto, to stop the "blame game", focus on solving the economic challenges facing Kenyans, and deliver on campaign promises

At a Jubilee meeting in Kiambu in May, the retired president urged the government to address fuel prices and the rising cost of living rather than engage in blame games.

He argued that economic hardship affects Kenyans across ethnic and political lines and requires practical solutions.

That message has placed the former president directly in the political conversation even as he maintains his position outside government.

According to political pundits, Ruto's decision to repeatedly invoke Uhuru therefore carries a political cost since it keeps the former president relevant while giving opponents a common issue around which to challenge the administration.

Suba South MP Caroli emerge as peacemaker in Linda Mwananchi power struggle

Suba South MP Caroli Omondi addressing the media during Azimio One Kenya Coalition meeting in Nairobi. File photo.

BY WILSON ONCHARI

Suba South Member of Parliament (MP) Caroli Omondi is emerging as a key behind-the-scenes figure in efforts to keep the Linda Mwananchi movement united as competing ambitions threaten to test its leadership ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Omondi, the movement's spokesperson, has reportedly held discussions with Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, Siaya Governor James Orengo and Embakasi East MP Babu Owino in an effort to contain disagreements over the movement's political direction and electoral vehicle.

His message, according to sources within the movement, has been straightforward: the leaders must remain together if Linda Mwananchi is to build a credible opposition force.

The intervention comes amid growing debate over who should lead the movement into the 2027 presidential contest and which political party should serve as its vehicle.

Omondi has publicly sought to clarify Linda Mwananchi's position, saying the movement will nominate Sifuna as its presidential flagbearer before opening negotiations with other opposition formations on a possible grand coalition.

He has invoked the 2002 National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) model, arguing that opposition parties should eventually agree on a single presidential candidate rather than split their support among several contenders.

The strategy comes as Sifuna's presidential ambitions face competition within Linda Mwananchi itself, with Orengo also seeking a role in determining the movement's eventual flagbearer. Orengo has said he intends to engage Sifuna to resolve the question of who should lead the movement into the 2027 race.

Another pressure point is Babu's Nairobi gubernatorial ambition.

The Embakasi East MP has denied falling out with Sifuna, insisting that he fully supports the senator's presidential bid while pursuing his own campaign for Nairobi governor. He has nevertheless said he will scale down his participation in Linda Mwananchi rallies to concentrate on his Nairobi campaign.

Behind the public assurances, however, the question of the movement's political vehicle remains contentious. Babu says he had registered his own party before Linda Mwananchi was formed, while other leaders have pushed the possibility of using Ukombozi People's Party. The issue has become one of the main sticking points in attempts to maintain unity.

Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi has also stepped into the reconciliation effort, holding a meeting with Babu as leaders sought to ease tensions. Osotsi subsequently played down reports of a split, insisting that the two sides could work together.

Sifuna's diplomatic circuit: Inside the rise of Kenya's new opposition face

BY WILSON ONCHARI

Seven Western envoys in his orbit, a growing national movement and an increasingly visible 2027 presidential ambition put the Nairobi Senator and the Linda Mwananchi leader under a new level of scrutiny as he accelerates 2027 State House push

Nairobi Senator and Linda Mwananchi Movement leader Edwin Sifuna holding talks with US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Her Excellency Susan Burns in Nairobi, September 18, 2026.

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna's political rise has entered a new phase, with his expanding engagement with foreign diplomats adding an international dimension to his increasingly visible 2027 presidential ambitions.

His dramatic rise from ODM powerbroker until he was unceremoniously ejected out as the nearly a decade long party's Secretary General under the firm grip of the late Raila Odinga to one of Kenya's most talked-about opposition figures has taken a striking diplomatic turn, with the Linda Mwananchi leader now holding a string of meetings with senior Western envoys as his 2027 political ambitions gather momentum.

Sifuna's latest high-level engagement came yesterday, Friday, September 18, when he met United States Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Susan Burns in Nairobi becoming the latest in a series of Western diplomatic representatives to hold talks with the Linda Mwananchi leader.

Sifuna announced the meeting on X, posting a photograph and saying: "Happening....meeting @USEmbassyKenya Charge d'affaires Susan Burns and her team at her residence in Nairobi."

The meeting came only two days after Sifuna met Dutch Ambassador to Kenya Henk Jan Bakker at his Nairobi residence.

Two meetings with senior Western diplomats in less than a week have now added to a rapidly expanding diplomatic circuit involving the United States, Netherlands, Britain, European Union, Germany, Australia and France.

The emerging pattern has inevitably triggered political curiosity over the rising senator and the international interest surrounding his rapidly expanding political profile.

On Wednesday, the senator said he had met Bakker "at his residence in Nairobi this morning", describing the encounter as part of the relationship between Kenya and the Netherlands.

The latest engagement extends a diplomatic trail that has seen Sifuna interact with representatives of some of Kenya's most important Western partners.

They include British High Commissioner Matt Baugh, European Union Ambassador and Head of Delegation Henriette Geiger, German Ambassador Sebastian Groth, Australian High Commissioner Andrew Barnes and outgoing French Ambassador Arnaud Suquet.

Last month, Sifuna had met five Western envoys within approximately 10 days, describing the encounters as evidence of growing diplomatic interest in the senator as his political profile expanded.

"The meetings in themselves, do not amount to diplomatic endorsement of Sifuna or his possible presidential bid but they are indicative of his unprecedented rise to prominence catapulted by his political ideology of upholding the rule of law and governance as his key pillars," Kinyuru Munuhe, Diplomacy, Geopolitics and Strategic Communications specialist who also doubles as the Executive Director of a regional think-tank, Governance & Diplomacy Associates observed.

Nairobi Senator and Linda Mwananchi Movement leader Edwin Sifuna (center) holding talks with US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Her Excellency Susan Burns (right) in Nairobi, September 18, 2026.

The GDA Associates Executive Director added that Kenya hosts the largest United Nations Mission in Africa and that Nairobi serves as a strategic diplomatic, trade and regional security hub for foreign countries.

Diplomatic missions routinely maintain contacts with government officials, opposition leaders, civil society organisations, business leaders and other political actors.

Such meetings allow foreign governments to understand political developments, economic policy, security issues and the views of actors who could influence Kenya's future.

For Sifuna, however, the timing and frequency of the engagements coincide with one of the most significant transformations in his political career.

Once principally known as an ODM strategist and party official, the Nairobi senator is now building Linda Mwananchi into a national political vehicle while increasingly discussing the possibility of seeking the presidency.

In July, Sifuna said Linda Mwananchi was "very strongly considering" fielding a presidential candidate in 2027. He said the decision would ultimately be made collectively after nationwide consultations.

By September, the language around his candidacy had become more definite.

Linda Mwananchi spokesperson and Suba South MP Caroli Omondi said the movement intended to nominate Sifuna as its presidential flagbearer before entering discussions with other opposition formations over a possible joint candidate.

The development represents a major change from Sifuna's earlier political positioning.

His break with ODM, following his removal as Secretary-General and subsequent political realignments, opened space for him to attempt something considerably bigger: transforming his personal political brand into a national movement.

Linda Mwananchi has since embarked on countrywide mobilisation, presenting Sifuna as part of a new generation of opposition leadership.

The movement has also attracted politicians from different parts of the country, while Sifuna's public appearances have increasingly shifted from conventional parliamentary politics towards nationwide political mobilisation.

The diplomatic meetings now provide another layer to that emergence.

Sifuna is not alone in attracting such attention.

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka and former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i have also held meetings with foreign representatives as opposition consultations intensify.

Matiang'i, for instance, met Burns in July and said their discussions covered Kenya's development agenda and the aspirations of Kenyans.

The significance of Sifuna's engagements therefore lies less in any individual meeting and more in the emerging pattern.

Within a matter of weeks, he has been in contact with representatives of the United States, Netherlands, Britain, European Union, Germany, Australia and France.

That breadth places his political project increasingly within the field of attention of international actors who have substantial interests in Kenya.

Kinyuru Munuhe, Executive Director of a regional think-tank, Governance & Diplomacy Associates. He is also a Diplomacy, Geopolitics and Strategic Communications specialist.

Washington, London, Brussels, Berlin, Paris, Canberra and The Hague all have economic, security, development or diplomatic interests in Kenya and the wider East African region.

For Sifuna, the challenge is now to convert growing visibility into a coherent national political organisation.

A presidential campaign requires more than rallies and diplomatic meetings. It requires structures across the counties, candidates, financing, policy positions, coalition negotiations and a clear answer to the question of who will constitute the political coalition behind the candidate.

Sifuna has already acknowledged the scale of that task.

In July, he said Linda Mwananchi had visited only 16 counties and needed to establish whether its support was sufficiently solid before making final decisions about a presidential campaign. He also said the movement intended to develop structures capable of accommodating supporters, volunteers and candidates at different electoral levels.

The political stakes are therefore rising.

Sifuna's emergence has begun to intersect with the ambitions of other opposition figures, including Kalonzo Musyoka, Matiang'i and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, even as talks continue over whether the opposition can eventually settle on a common presidential candidate.

His own allies are increasingly presenting him as a national rather than Nairobi politician.

And the diplomatic circuit has become another visible marker of that transition.

For now, the meetings with foreign envoys should be read for what they are: high-level diplomatic engagements, not endorsements.

But they also underline a broader political reality.

"Sifuna is no longer operating solely within the familiar confines of ODM politics or the Nairobi Senate. He is building a national movement, testing the possibility of a presidential campaign and engaging a widening circle of domestic and international actors, Kinyuru added.

From left to right: Linda Mwananchi leader Edwin Sifuna and British High Commissioner to Kenya His Excellency Matt Baugh. Separately, Senator Sifuna with the Linda Mwananchi team held a lunch meeting with H.E Ambassador Henriette Geiger the Head of Delegation for the European Union to Kenya and H.E Ambassador Sebastian Groth of Germany.

Linda Mwananchi brigade led by Edwin Sifuna at Jacaranda Grounds in Nairobi, September 16, 2026.

Police boss Kanja faces sentencing after defying court order

IG held personally liable after officers barricaded Nairobi CBD without public notice during Gen Z protest anniversary rekindling scrutiny of police compliance with court orders, particularly when managing demonstrations and public gatherings. It also underscores the constitutional requirement that the National Police Service operate within the rule of law and respect fundamental rights

BY TEAM

Inspector General (IG) of the National Police Service (NPS) Douglas Kanja now faces sentencing for contempt of court after the High Court found him personally responsible for police officers' failure to comply with an order governing the use of roadblocks and barricades during the June 25, 2026 Gen Z protest anniversary.

The ruling has rekindled scrutiny of police compliance with court orders, particularly when managing demonstrations and public gatherings. It also underscores the constitutional requirement that the National Police Service operate within the rule of law and respect fundamental rights.

High Court judge Justice Patricia Nyaundi directed Kanja to appear before the High Court on Monday next week, September 22, 2026, to make mitigation submissions before the court determines the sentence. The contempt finding places the head of the National Police Service at the centre of a case over compliance with judicial orders.

The case arose from police barricades erected at several roads leading into Nairobi's Central Business District on June 25, restricting access to the city centre during commemorations of the 2024 Finance Bill protests.

The High Court had previously issued a conservatory order requiring police to give the public prior notice before mounting roadblocks or barricades during such demonstrations. Justice Lawrence Mugambi issued the order on July 9, 2025.

Justice Nyaundi found that the order was not complied with and held Kanja personally responsible for failing to demonstrate what steps he had taken to ensure officers under his command obeyed it.

The police had disputed the contempt allegations.

Nairobi Regional Police Commander Issa Mohammed Mohamud argued that the order did not impose an absolute ban on roadblocks, checkpoints or traffic diversions and that the measures deployed on June 25 were responses to security concerns rather than a centrally coordinated operation.

Inspector General of the National Police Service (NPS) Douglas Kanja (left) and his Deputy Inspector General, Kenya Police Service (DIG-KPS) Eliud Lagat when they appeared before MPs in November 2024.

The court rejected that position, stressing that internal police procedures could not override a valid court order.

Justice Nyaundi also found that sudden barriers without prior notice interfered with the public's ability to exercise freedom of movement.

The contempt proceedings were initiated by Katiba Institute, which accused police of violating the court's directions by barricading multiple routes into Nairobi without the required public advisory.

Court quash suspension of students in State House Girls fire plot case

BY JAMES WASIKE

The High Court has quashed the suspension of four students at State House Girls High School, ruling that fears of arson cannot justify collective punishment without evidence linking individual learners to alleged wrongdoing.

Justice Nabil Orina ruled that while school authorities have a duty to act swiftly when faced with a credible security threat, disciplinary action must be based on facts connecting each student to the alleged misconduct.

The four students, identified only by initials because they are minors, had challenged their suspension over an alleged plot to set the school on fire.

They were among 15 learners who had visited the school dispensary where an alleged discussion about setting parts of the institution ablaze reportedly took place.

The students were suspended on June 5, 2026, and ordered to appear before the school's Board of Management with their parents on June 15.

The case arose after a student allegedly informed the school matron on June 4 that a group of learners was discussing plans to burn parts of the institution that night. The report allegedly identified a ringleader, a house and a section of a hostel used as a mattress store as possible targets.

An ad hoc disciplinary committee was subsequently formed to investigate the allegations. During the inquiry, school officials learnt that an unauthorised meeting had taken place at the dispensary. The school nurse provided a list of 15 students who had been there.

All 15 were questioned and statements taken before the principal suspended them pending further investigations and disciplinary proceedings.

The students challenged the decision, arguing that they had been punished collectively despite the absence of evidence showing their involvement in the alleged arson plan.

They also complained about being questioned late at night, with the process allegedly running into the early morning hours. Some claimed statements were discarded when they did not reflect what investigators expected.

Justice Orina said the seriousness of the security situation did not give school authorities unlimited disciplinary powers.

"Being at the dispensary when the discussion happened, without more, does not establish any basis for suspending the Applicants," he ruled.

He added that suspending the entire group for the alleged misconduct of a few amounted to collective punishment.

The judge quashed the suspension letters dated June 5, while affirming that the school retained disciplinary powers that must be exercised lawfully, reasonably and on evidence linking individual learners to alleged misconduct.

State House Girls High School.

Noose tightens on MP Mukunji, expected at DCI headquarters

Manyatta Member of Parliament (MP) Gitonga Mukunji.

BY WANJIKU WAWERU

Manyatta Member of Parliament (MP) Gitonga Mukunji is expected to report to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations headquarters in Nairobi in line with the anticipatory bail court directions granted to him over the violence that erupted during a political meeting at Nembure Stadium in Embu County.

Justice Kizito Magare directed Mukunji to present himself before DCI detectives next Monday, September 21, 2026 as investigations into the violence proceed, making it clear that the court order does not shield the legislator from possible arrest or prosecution.

The MP was granted anticipatory bail of Sh1 million or an alternative cash bail of Sh500,000. He was required to execute the bond or deposit the cash by close of business on September 17, failing which the protection orders would lapse.

The judge also directed Mukunji to report to the DCI on any other Monday when detectives require his attendance.

"The orders do not bar the applicant from being investigated and charged," the court stated, clarifying that the protection granted relates to anticipated arrest and detention and does not amount to immunity from criminal proceedings.

Justice Magare certified Mukunji's application as urgent and directed that it be served on the Inspector-General of Police, the DCI and the Director of Public Prosecutions. The respondents have until September 23 to file their responses, with the matter scheduled for directions before the Embu trial court on September 29.

Mukunji's lawyer, Elijah Ireri, told the court that his client faced an "imminent threat of arbitrary arrest and detention", despite not having received a formal summons, invitation or complaint.

The advocate said the circumstances surrounding the anticipated arrest, including the possible offences under investigation, remained unclear.

The case follows violence at a UDA delegates' meeting at Nembure Stadium attended by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire and other political leaders.

Police said one person died, several people were injured and six vehicles were torched during the unrest. Three police officers and a civilian were also reported injured, while the DCI said two suspects had been arrested as investigations continued.

Police officers were subsequently deployed near Mukunji's rural home in Mutunduri amid reports that detectives were seeking to arrest him.

The MP has denied organising the violence or mobilising youths to disrupt the meeting and, through his lawyers, has called for an impartial investigation.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has separately linked the violence to alleged distribution of money at the meeting, claiming Sh350 million had been allocated for political mobilisation in Mt Kenya East. Those claims remain contested.

EDITORIAL

For Editorial, Opinions and Commentaries, send to: E-mail: opinion@theinformer.co.ke

Africa's democracy warning: Shrinking civic space tests Kenya ahead of 2027 polls

AFRICA'S DEMOCRATIC promise is facing a serious test—not because Africans have suddenly abandoned the idea of democracy, but because growing frustration with governments is eroding citizens' willingness to defend it.

A new Afrobarometer report released to mark the 2026 International Day of Democracy presents a sobering picture.

While 64 per cent of Africans still say they prefer democracy, only 36 per cent meet the survey's definition of a "committed democrat"—someone who prefers democracy and rejects one-person, one-party and military rule. At the same time, only 47 per cent describe their country as a democracy and just 38 per cent say they are satisfied with the way democracy works.

The findings are based on 50,961 face-to-face interviews conducted in 38 African countries during 2024/2025.

They show that over the past decade, demand for democracy has fallen by an average of 10 percentage points across 29 countries surveyed consistently. Opposition to military rule alone has fallen by 11 percentage points.

That should concern governments, political parties, civil society and the international community.

The narrowing gap between what Africans want from democracy and what they believe their governments provide is particularly revealing.

The gap has shrunk from 11 percentage points in 2014/2015 to just four points today—not primarily because citizens believe democratic governance has improved, but because their demand for democracy itself has weakened. Afrobarometer associates that decline with increasingly negative assessments of government performance.

This is where the warning becomes particularly relevant to East Africa and, more specifically, Kenya as the country moves towards the 2027 General Election.

Kenya remains a multiparty democracy with regular competitive elections and an active media and civil society sector.

But the democratic space has come under increasing pressure. Freedom House's 2026 assessment rates Kenya "Partly Free" and records a decline in its overall score from 51 to 49, citing concerns over political competition, freedom of expression and the treatment of government critics.

Human Rights Watch has similarly documented restrictions on peaceful protests, alleged abductions and arbitrary arrests, attacks on journalists and pressure on activists and government critics during 2025.

It also reported that media houses faced interruptions while covering protests and that security forces were accused of abuses against demonstrators.

These developments matter because democracy does not begin and end at the ballot box.

The test of a democratic society is also what happens between elections and whether citizens can criticise those in power without fear, whether journalists can investigate government without intimidation, whether civil society can organise freely, whether protesters can assemble peacefully, whether courts can operate independently and whether political opponents can compete on a reasonably open field.

The experience of Kenya's recent protests illustrates the danger.

The 2024 youth-led demonstrations over the Finance Bill grew into a broader expression of public anger over taxation, governance, corruption and the cost of living.

Human Rights Watch documented killings, arrests, abductions and restrictions on protesters and activists during the unrest.

Peaceful protesters marching into Nairobi's CBD.

The events of 2025 added another layer to the concern, following the death in police custody of blogger Albert Ojwang and subsequent protests.

Human Rights Watch reported allegations of killings, disappearances, arbitrary arrests and attacks on journalists and social-media activists.

Yet Kenya's democratic challenge should not be reduced to criticism of the government alone.

Opposition parties, political movements, Parliament, media organisations, civil society and citizens all have responsibilities in protecting democratic institutions. Democracy becomes vulnerable when political competition is reduced to personalities, elections become purely transactional and public institutions are viewed primarily as instruments of whoever controls state power.

The wider African picture makes that danger more urgent.

Afrobarometer found that 65 per cent of respondents still reject military rule, while 79 per cent reject one-person rule and 76 per cent reject one-party rule.

The figures show that authoritarian alternatives remain unpopular among majorities. But the weakening of those protections over time demonstrates that democratic support cannot simply be assumed.

The international community therefore has a role beyond issuing statements on election day.

Global partners should support independent institutions, credible electoral processes, civic education, free media, human-rights defenders and organisations working to protect democratic participation.

They should also consistently press governments to investigate abuses and uphold constitutional rights rather than treating restrictions on civic space as an internal matter until violence or electoral instability becomes unavoidable.

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres captured the broader challenge in his 2026 International Day of Democracy message, warning that conflicts, declining trust and a weakening social contract are putting democracy under strain. He stressed that democracy is more than elections and depends on human rights, the rule of law and meaningful participation in civic and political life.

His call for stronger deliberative democratic processes is especially relevant to Kenya. Citizens need meaningful avenues to influence decisions before grievances become street confrontations.

Governments need to listen before citizens feel compelled to protest. Political parties need to offer more than election-season mobilisation. And institutions need to demonstrate that constitutional rights apply even when citizens are challenging those in power.

Kenya's 2027 election should therefore be viewed not simply as a contest for political office, but as another test of the country's democratic institutions.

The Afrobarometer findings offer a clear warning that when citizens lose faith in governments, they can also begin losing faith in democracy itself.

The answer is not to demand greater loyalty from citizens. It is to make democracy work well enough that citizens have reasons to defend it.

That requires protecting civic space, respecting dissent, safeguarding independent institutions and ensuring that every election is preceded by years—not merely weeks—of genuine political participation.

If Africa is to reverse the decline in democratic commitment, the world cannot wait for citizens to abandon democracy before acting. The protection of democratic space must begin while people are still demanding it.

By Williams Peterson, Human Rights and Advocacy commentator.

THE WEEKLY CARTOON

Commentaries & Grapevine

Why Nairobi won the 2029 World Athletics Championships

By
DENNIS OKEYO

KEY FACTORS that helped Nairobi/Kenya win the 2029 World Athletics Championships bid (announced 15 September 2026), beating London and Rome (Munich took 2031).

This marks the first time the senior World Athletics Championships will be held in Africa.

Historic first for Africa and continental backing

Kenya positioned the bid as one for the continent. No African city had ever hosted the senior World Championships despite Africa's (and especially Kenya's) outsized role in producing global stars. The proposal drew strong support from athletics stakeholders across Africa, framing it as a long-overdue moment to bring the sport's flagship event home. World Athletics President Sebastian Coe described the bid as "compelling and emotional," noting that athletics is "woven into the fabric" of Kenya and that it was important the Championships come to Africa with the right host, bid, and circumstances.

Infrastructure and readiness

Major stadium upgrades, especially the ongoing complete structural overhaul of the 48,000-capacity Moi International Sports Centre (Kasarani), which will serve as the hosting venue. The work is already underway ahead of Kenya's co-hosting of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations, giving clear evidence of delivery capacity.

The new Talanta Stadium (also referred to as Raila Odinga International Stadium / Talanta Sports City), a large modern multi-purpose facility, impressed the evaluation team during site visits even though it is primarily a football venue without a permanent athletics track. Adjacent athletics facilities are part of the broader complex.

Redevelopment of Bomas of Kenya into a state-of-the-art multi-purpose conference and convention centre capable of hosting large numbers of delegates, with associated high-

Government Delivery Unit (GDU) during a recent inspection of the ongoing works in Nairobi.

quality accommodation. This addressed the need for modern conference and hospitality infrastructure.

Improved city transport networks, including the Nairobi Expressway, and the practical advantage of stadiums and hotels being relatively close to the airports. These elements showed tangible progress and seriousness after Kenya's unsuccessful 2025 bid (which lost to Tokyo partly on facilities).

Deep athletics pedigree and proven hosting experience

Kenya is the second-most successful nation in World Championships history (72 gold medals overall cited in coverage) and finished second in the medal table at the 2025 Tokyo Championships with seven golds. Kenyan athletes have set and held numerous official world records across track, road, and related events (particularly in middle- and long-distance disciplines for both men and women).

The country has already successfully staged major World Athletics events: the 2017 World U18 Championships and 2021 World U20 Championships in Nairobi, plus the 2007 World Cross Country Championships in Mombasa. This track record of delivery, combined with annual high-level meets, demonstrated operational capability.

Marathon significance and unique course

Kenya has long dominated marathon running and world titles in the event. The 2029 Championships will be the last edition to include the marathon on the programme (it remains for Beijing 2027 and Nairobi 2029; from 2030 a standalone World Marathon Championships begins, and from 2031 the marathon leaves the main World Championships programme).

Hosting the final World Championships marathon in the country that has defined the event carried strong symbolic weight.

The proposed marathon course runs within the city and along the Southern Bypass, adjacent to Nairobi National Park, the only major capital city with a national park inside its boundaries.

This offers a distinctive visual and cultural showcase of Kenya's conservation heritage.

Government commitment

The strong high-level political backing, including a personal video endorsement and guarantee from President William Ruto committing the government to full delivery, was cited by the bid leadership as a decisive factor that went beyond the minimum requirements.

In short, the winning combination was Kenya's unmatched athletic legacy and emotional resonance for Africa, demonstrated junior-event hosting experience, visible infrastructure upgrades (especially Kasarani and supporting facilities), practical logistics, and clear government ownership all packaged into a bid that Coe and the Council found both compelling and timely.

The author is a veteran Sports Journalist.

EDITORIAL

Mr. Inspector General of Police Kanja, a court order is not a piece of paper

A COURT order is not a suggestion. It is not a memo that a government agency can read, debate and conveniently ignore when operational circumstances become difficult. It is a command of the law—and once validly issued, it binds those to whom it applies.

That is the fundamental issue at the heart of the High Court's decision finding Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja in contempt over police barricades erected in Nairobi during the June 25, 2026 commemorations.

Justice Patricia Nyaundi has directed Kanja to appear on September 22 for mitigation before sentence is determined.

The significance of this case goes far beyond roadblocks.

It goes to the very question of whether Kenya is governed by laws—or by the discretion of those who wield institutional power.

The High Court had issued an order in July 2025 requiring police to give the public prior notice before erecting roadblocks or barricades in connection with demonstrations.

Yet, according to the court's finding, barriers were subsequently mounted at various points leading into Nairobi's Central Business District without the required notice.

The police defence that the measures were dictated by security concerns and operational procedures raises an important question on what happens to the rule of law when every institution begins treating its own operational judgment as superior to a judicial directive.

Security concerns are real.

Police must respond to threats, protect life and property and maintain public order. But constitutional government requires even powerful institutions to exercise those responsibilities within the law.

That is precisely why court orders exist.

Justice Nyaundi rejected the proposition that internal police procedures could override a valid court order.

The court also linked compliance to constitutional principles including the rule of law, human rights and lawful limitations on fundamental freedoms.

This should concern every Kenyan—not merely lawyers, activists or politicians.

If a police officer can disregard a court order because an operational commander believes circumstances justify it, what happens when another government agency ignores an order concerning land, taxation, procurement, elections or the rights of an individual?

And if senior officials can avoid responsibility by arguing that violations were committed by officers somewhere down the chain of command, judicial authority becomes dangerously diluted.

A court does not command obedience because a judge is personally powerful. It commands obedience because the Constitution places judicial authority within the constitutional order.

That distinction matters.

The contempt jurisdiction is therefore not about protecting the ego of a judge. It is about protecting the integrity of the justice system itself.

If court orders become optional, then the citizen who wins a case against the State may discover that winning in court means little if the institution on the losing side simply refuses to comply.

The noose around the IG in this case is consequently bigger than Douglas Kanja.

It is a test of institutional accountability.

The National Police Service has enormous coercive powers. It can arrest, detain, disperse crowds and restrict access to places under lawful circumstances. With such power comes an even greater obligation to demonstrate fidelity to the Constitution and the courts.

The lesson from this case should be simple. Court orders are not pieces of paper. They are instruments of the law.

They must be obeyed until lawfully varied, stayed or set aside.

Anything less risks turning the rule of law into a hollow promise—and a democracy where judicial orders can be ignored is democracy standing on dangerously thin ground.

GRAPEVINE

PARASTATAL BOSS EYES CABINET SEAT AS GRAFT HEAT BUILDS

A POWERFUL parastatal boss is reportedly setting his sights on a Cabinet Secretary position should President William Ruto secure another term in office.

The agency chief, who has remained at the helm through multiple tenure extensions, is said to be working behind the scenes to secure political goodwill as his latest extension approaches its expiry in October this year.

Sources within political and government circles claim the boss has embarked on an aggressive charm

Integrity Centre, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) head office, Nairobi.

offensive, allegedly seeking to cultivate relationships with influential political figures ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The grapevine has it that part of the strategy involves allegedly channelling about Sh1 million every weekend towards political activities and mobilisation efforts linked to key players.

The reported spending spree is said to be aimed at ensuring the boss remains in the good books of powerful political brokers as he plots his next move beyond the parastatal.

But while the political calculations continue, the agency chief is reportedly facing another headache closer to home.

Detectives from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) are said to be intensifying scrutiny of the parastatal over allegations of multi-billion-shilling graft during his controversial tenure.

For now, the big question in political circles is whether his reported cabinet ambitions will survive the growing scrutiny surrounding his tenure.

Emirates, MTA forge pact to drive medical tourism

BY JAMES WASIKE

Emirates is stepping up its push into the global medical tourism market, forging a new partnership with the Medical Tourism Association (MTA) to channel international patients through its vast network and Dubai’s growing healthcare hub.

The agreement, signed on the sidelines of ATM 2026, will target high-growth medical travel corridors across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, with Emirates positioning itself as MTA’s preferred airline for medical, wellness and longevity travellers.

It also seeks leveraging on Emirates’ network of close to 140 destinations and Dubai’s position as a major global healthcare, wellness and medical tourism hub.

Under the partnership, Emirates will serve as MTA’s preferred airline for international medical and wellness travellers, with both organisations identifying key medical travel markets and corridors, particularly across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The partners will develop tailored travel solutions and enhanced customer experiences designed around the needs of patients, referring physicians, insurers and employers.

Emirates Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim said international healthcare travel was becoming an increasingly important driver of global mobility.

“Healthcare is among the most important reasons people travel internationally and is growing significantly. Our newly established partnership with MTA positions Emirates where premium demand is heading, and our network and superior products both onboard and on the ground provide a natural platform to serve these travellers,” Kazim said.

“The insights we gain from working with MTA will also help us develop product propositions that are genuinely tailored to how these travellers plan, book and experience their journeys,” he added.

MTA CEO and Founder Jonathan Edelheit said the partnership would create a more direct link between international patients and accredited healthcare providers.

“Hospitals and clinics have spent years trying to reach international patients one relationship at a time. What changes with this partnership is that the demand now has a path, from a global airline to an accredited provider, through Better by MTA,” Edelheit said.

“The providers who meet the standard will be the ones that path leads to,” he added.

The agreement will also focus on strengthening international best practices and standards in the medical travel sector. Emirates and MTA will work with providers accredited by Global Healthcare Accreditation (GHA), the sector’s accreditation body, on thought leadership, industry engagement and shared market intelligence.

Emirates’ Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim and Jonathan Edelheit, CEO and Founder of Medical Tourism Association sign partnership agreement. PHOTO BY COURTESY

The partnership supports Emirates’ ambition to become the world’s first GHA-accredited airline.

MTA’s global network spans more than 500,000 healthcare providers, employers, insurers and industry leaders, while its platforms reach millions of prospective medical and wellness travellers annually. The association also maintains direct government relationships across more than 100 countries.

> **KAZIM**
>
> **Healthcare is among the most important reasons people travel internationally and is growing significantly. Our newly established partnership with MTA positions Emirates where premium demand is heading, and our network and superior products both onboard and on the ground provide a natural platform to serve these travellers**

As part of the partnership, Emirates and MTA will explore using MTA’s platform to help travellers identify accredited providers, coordinate treatment and travel arrangements and make secure cross-border payments powered by Mastercard®, creating a more seamless end-to-end medical travel experience.

Rachel Ruto sounds alarm on women, children abuse

Romania's Ambassador to Kenya, Gentiana Şerbu, reaffirmed her country's commitment to working with Kenya, reflecting the increasingly international nature of the challenge

BY WANJIKU WAWERU

For a woman trapped in an abusive relationship, a child targeted by an online predator or a young Kenyan lured thousands of kilometres away and forced into a cyber-scam compound, the danger can begin in very different places.

But increasingly, these threats are converging.

Gender-based violence, femicide, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children online are emerging as deeply interconnected dangers, exposing women and children to harm both within their communities and across borders.

That was the message First Lady Rachel Ruto delivered during a Kenya-Romania engagement in Nairobi, where women leaders, government officials and other stakeholders gathered to confront some of the most disturbing threats facing vulnerable people.

Rachel called for a decisive shift from conversations about violence and exploitation to practical action and accountability.

"We must move beyond silence and conversation to action and accountability," she said, arguing that gender-based violence, femicide, trafficking and online exploitation require a response that cuts across government and society.

Her appeal comes at a time when technology has opened a new frontier for the exploitation of children.

The internet, once celebrated primarily as a tool for education, communication and opportunity, is increasingly being exploited by perpetrators seeking access to vulnerable children.

Rachel cited more than 46,000 reports of online child sexual abuse material received in 2023, highlighting the scale of the threat confronting families and authorities.

New evidence released by UNICEF this week has reinforced those concerns. The agency estimates that about 20 million children aged between 12 and 17 across 21 countries experienced at least one form of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation or abuse in a single year.

Behind such figures are children whose lives can be permanently altered by abuse that may begin with a message, a social-media interaction or an image shared online.

The disturbing reality is that a child does not have to leave home to become a victim.

First Lady Rachel Ruto during the Kenya–Romania stakeholders and partners Engagement Conference on Gender-Based Violence, Femicide, Human Trafficking and Online Child Safety in Nairobi.

A predator can be thousands of kilometres away while using a phone or computer to manipulate, threaten or sexually exploit a child.

Rachel urged technology companies, parents and communities to take greater responsibility for making digital spaces safer, while strengthening mechanisms for identifying children at risk.

Kenya is seeking to bolster child protection through initiatives including the Voice of Children Initiative, which focuses on provision, protection and participation in promoting children's rights and wellbeing.

She also cited the Triple Threat Programme as part of efforts to strengthen protection, empower communities and create safer spaces for women, girls and children.

But the danger facing vulnerable people is not confined to screens.

Human trafficking has also evolved into increasingly sophisticated forms, with victims being recruited, transported across borders and subjected to exploitation in places far from home.

Rachel specifically highlighted the exploitation of victims in cyber-scam compounds in Southeast Asia.

The development has complicated the traditional picture of human trafficking. Victims can be promised jobs abroad, only to discover that they have been transported into criminal operations where they are forced to participate in online scams.

For families, the ordeal can be devastating.

A person who leaves the country expecting employment and a better future may instead find themselves trapped, isolated and unable to return home.

Rachel called for stronger international mechanisms to prevent such trafficking, rescue victims, facilitate their repatriation and bring perpetrators to justice.

Romania's Ambassador to Kenya, Gentiana Şerbu, reaffirmed her country's commitment to working with Kenya, reflecting the increasingly international nature of the challenge.

The Nairobi discussions also turned to one of Kenya's most persistent social problems — gender-based violence and femicide.

For years, survivors and families affected by violence have demanded stronger enforcement of existing laws, better support services and greater protection from repeat abuse.

Rachel said Kenya had made progress in bringing GBV and femicide into national focus, but stressed that more needed to be done to protect survivors and prevent violence.

In 2025, the Government established a Presidential Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence to examine gaps in legislation and enforcement and recommend measures to strengthen protection for survivors.

First Lady Rachel Ruto, addresses the Kenya–Romania stakeholders and partners Engagement Conference on Gender-Based Violence, Femicide, Human Trafficking and Online Child Safety in Nairobi.

For victims, however, government initiatives matter most when they translate into accessible help.

Kenya's national GBV helpline, 1195, operates around the clock, providing counselling and referrals for medical care, shelter and legal assistance.

Such services can be critical for survivors who may have nowhere else to turn.

The response to violence also extends beyond police and courts. Health workers may be the first people to encounter an injured survivor.

Teachers can identify children showing signs of abuse. Religious leaders and community organisations can provide support, while employers and financial institutions can help address some of the economic vulnerabilities that leave victims exposed.

Gender Cabinet Secretary Hanna Wendot Cheptumo and National Assembly Deputy Speaker Gladys Shollei called for stronger action against gender-based violence and effective implementation of existing laws.

The emphasis on implementation is significant because legislation alone does not necessarily protect someone facing immediate danger.

A survivor may require emergency medical treatment, counselling, shelter, legal assistance and financial support.

A child subjected to online exploitation may need intervention by parents, teachers, investigators and child-protection officers.

And a trafficking victim returning from abroad may need protection, rehabilitation and help rebuilding a life disrupted by exploitation.

The Kenya-Romania engagement therefore brought into sharp focus the human cost behind statistics that can sometimes appear abstract.

The tens of thousands of reports of online child sexual abuse material represent children whose privacy and dignity have been violated.

The millions exposed to technology-facilitated sexual exploitation represent families struggling to keep children safe in a rapidly changing digital environment.

And the victims rescued from trafficking networks represent people whose hopes for employment or a better life can become nightmares far from home.

Rachel's message was that protecting women and children requires more than reacting after abuse has occurred.

It means identifying danger earlier, closing gaps that allow perpetrators to operate and ensuring victims can access help when they need it.

For Kenya, that challenge is becoming more urgent as technology changes how perpetrators reach victims and trafficking networks exploit international mobility.

The distinction between online and offline danger is also becoming increasingly difficult to maintain.

A child may be physically safe at home but vulnerable through a mobile phone. A Kenyan seeking work abroad may become trapped in a criminal enterprise thousands of kilometres away.

A survivor of domestic violence may require assistance from several institutions before she can begin rebuilding her life.

Millers demand tougher import rules as cheap sugar hit local market

BY JAMES WASIKE

Sugar millers have urged the government to tighten controls on sugar imports, warning that poorly planned imports are undermining local producers and squeezing farmers.

The concerns were raised during an inspection by the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives in Homa Bay and Western Kenya as Members of Parliament (MPs) examined the impact of imported sugar on the local industry.

At Butali Sugar Mills Limited, Managing Director Sanjay Patel said imports should be carefully scheduled and released in batches to prevent local sugar from being pushed out of the market.

"What we produce locally cannot fully satisfy the need; however, we want good importation structures to be put in place for us to compete fairly," Patel told the committee.

He said millers should be involved in decisions on when sugar is imported, quantities involved and when consignments are released.

At Sony Sugar, Managing Director Jane Pamela said cheap sugar entering through porous borders was flooding the market and slowing the absorption of locally produced sugar. She also called for improved access to subsidised fertiliser for cane farmers.

Pamela further raised concern over cane poaching by rival millers and jaggery producers, despite Sony Sugar having about 8,000 hectares under contracted farmers.

Nzoia Sugar Company called for full implementation of the Sugar Act and Sugar Regulations, 2025 to strengthen regulation and curb cane poaching.

At Mumias Sugar, Operations Manager Stephen Kihumba said imports can help balance prices but called for greater order in the importation system.

Committee chairman Benard Shinali said the inspections were aimed at assessing how sugar imports are affecting millers and farmers.

From left to right: Deputy President Kindiki Kithure, Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa, President William Ruto, Cabinet Secretaries Wycliffe Oparanya (Cooperatives) and Mutahi Kagwe (Agriculture) in Mumias, Kakamega on January 20, 2025. PCS

Appearing before the Senate on Wednesday this week, Kagwe attributed the disruption to drought, consumer hoarding and farmers diverting milk away from processors in search of better prices

Milk price shock: 500ml packet hits Sh90 as shortage bites

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe appearing before Senate, September 16, 2026.

BY CORRESPONDENT

Nairobi families are paying sharply higher prices for milk, with a 500ml packet hitting Sh90 in several areas as tightening supplies trigger a fresh squeeze on one of Kenya's most essential household commodities.

A spot check by The Informer Media Group found milk prices rising across Nairobi and other parts of the country, with consumers facing higher retail prices amid reports of reduced deliveries to some outlets.

In Pipeline, the price surge has been even steeper. Fresh milk at one hotel outlet is now retailing at Sh110 per litre, up from Sh60, according to a price poster shared by the establishment—an increase of more than 80 per cent.

The sharp rise comes as Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe confirmed that Kenya is experiencing a milk shortage, although he said the decline in processing was relatively modest at about 5.18 per cent.

Appearing before the Senate on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, Kagwe attributed the disruption to drought, consumer hoarding and farmers diverting milk away from processors in search of better prices.

"What I would like to assure the public is that there is a slight shortage of milk, but it is not exaggerated. It's only about 5 per cent less than the usual production," Kagwe said.

The CS said panic buying had worsened pressure on available supplies, with consumers stocking up after some supermarkets introduced limits of two or three packets per customer.

"People who would normally have one or two packets of milk in their houses have now got six or so because of the fear that there is not going to be milk," he said.

Kagwe said some farmers were also selling directly to consumers instead of supplying cooperatives and processors because some buyers had failed to adjust payments to reflect higher market prices.

He urged dairy cooperatives to pay farmers promptly and ensure producers benefit from the rising prices.

"The consumer market is paying a higher price, and that price premium should also be passed on to the farmer," he said.

Kagwe disclosed that some companies were currently paying farmers between Sh55 and Sh60 per litre, substantially above the government-set minimum producer price.

He said Kenya Dairy Board research had established that the average cost of producing a litre of milk was Sh39.50 for zero-grazing farmers, Sh37.30 for semi-zero grazing and Sh24.50 for open grazing, giving an overall average of Sh36.20.

Average profits across the three production systems stood at about Sh9.90 per litre, he said.

The CS said the shortage was expected to be temporary, with the onset of rains likely to improve fodder availability and milk production.

He also called for greater investment in fodder production, including research into disease-resistant varieties capable of thriving in arid and semi-arid areas.

Kagwe said the government had legal safeguards, including periodic review and gazettement of minimum producer prices, but noted that market forces had recently pushed farm-gate prices above the official minimum.

New technology targets maize disease, fake seed menace

BY WANJIKU WAWERU

New technologies for treating, testing and tracing maize seed could strengthen Kenya's efforts to contain Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN) and curb the spread of contaminated seed, experts have said.

The innovations were showcased at the four-day International Phytosanitary and Seed Quality Conference in Nairobi, where researchers demonstrated a GPS-enabled digital platform for tracking maize seed production and a decontamination system designed to reduce Maize Chlorotic Mottle Virus (MCMV), one of the viruses associated with MLN.

The conference is being held under the theme "Revitalising phytosanitary and seed systems for climate-resilient sustainable agriculture."

The Maize Clean Seed Production Tracker, developed by CIMMYT and IITA and co-implemented with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and seed producers, records seed-production fields, disease observations and GPS locations to support risk-based decisions.

Between March and November 2025, the system was used to monitor 120 maize fields across 31 counties.

A complementary seed decontamination technology developed under maize pathologist Dr L.M. Suresh substantially reduced MCMV detection during validation tests, with treated samples testing negative.

Suresh said combining seed treatment with digital traceability could make seed movement safer and strengthen regional biosecurity.

"Clean seed is our first line of defense against MLN," he said, stressing the need to treat and validate seed at its source.

Meanwhile, KEPHIS Managing Director Professor Theophilus Mutui called for tougher action against counterfeit seed dealers, proposing fines equivalent to three times the value of fake seed consignments.

Seed Traders' Association chairperson Betty Kiplagat urged full implementation of market surveillance involving counties, multi-agency teams and anti-counterfeit agencies.

"We are asking for a review of the law to make penalties tough enough to protect farmers and legitimate businesses," she said.

Under the Seed and Plant Varieties Act, dealers in fake or uncertified seed currently face a fine of up to Sh1 million, a prison term of up to two years, or both.

Stakeholders argue the penalties are insufficient to deter counterfeit seed networks, which can cause crop failures, farmer losses and threaten food security.

BETTY KIPLAGAT

We are asking for a review of the law to make penalties tough enough to protect farmers and legitimate businesses

Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture Paul Ronoh (center) when he officially opened a four-day International Workshop on Seed Quality and Phytosanitary Systems at Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) headquarters in Nairobi, September 14, 2026.

Africa's fruit industry takes centre stage in Nairobi

The inaugural Africa Fruit Connect 2026, scheduled for October 6 to October 8, 2026 at the Visa Oshwal Community Centre in Nairobi.

The inaugural Africa Fruit Connect 2026, scheduled for October 6 to October 8, 2026 at the Visa Oshwal Community Centre in Nairobi, will bring together stakeholders across the fruit value chain to tackle challenges limiting the sector's growth

BY WILSON ONCHARI

Africa's rapidly growing fruit industry will take centre stage in Nairobi next month as farmers, exporters, processors, researchers, investors and policymakers gather to explore ways of turning the continent's vast fruit production into greater trade, jobs and incomes.

The inaugural Africa Fruit Connect 2026, scheduled for October 6 to October 8, 2026 at the Visa Oshwal Community Centre in Nairobi, will bring together stakeholders across the fruit value chain to tackle challenges limiting the sector's growth.

Dr Saliou Niassy of the African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) said stronger collaboration among producers, markets, researchers, plant-health systems and investors was critical to unlocking Africa's fruit potential.

"Africa's fruit sector has significant potential to contribute to trade, nutrition, employment and economic transformation," Niassy said.

"What is needed now is stronger collaboration between producers, markets, research, plant-health systems and investment."

Africa produces large volumes of mangoes, bananas, avocados, citrus, pineapples, berries and indigenous fruits.

However, the sector continues to lose significant opportunities because of the highly perishable nature of fresh produce and weaknesses in storage, transport and handling.

Limited cold-chain infrastructure, inadequate processing capacity, access to quality planting materials, phytosanitary requirements and unreliable markets remain major challenges facing farmers and businesses.

Africa Fruit Connect seeks to bridge these gaps by creating stronger links between producers, buyers, processors, financiers, researchers and policymakers.

Loise Wachira, Director and Convenor of Africa Fruit Connect, said the meeting would focus on building practical connections across the sector.

"Africa has the fruits, the farmers and the market potential. What has often been missing are the connections between them," she said.

The three-day event is expected to attract farmers, exporters, processors, buyers, investors, academics, regulators, technology companies, financial institutions, development partners and government representatives from Africa and beyond.

The meeting comes as African countries begin implementing the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035, which seeks to accelerate agricultural transformation by increasing production, reducing post-harvest losses, strengthening intra-African agrifood trade and promoting local value addition.

Organisers say the fruit sector directly intersects with these priorities, particularly through opportunities to process fresh produce into products with longer shelf lives and higher market value.

Safaricom sale crumbles: High Court quashes the 'opaque' deal

Judges cite concealment, misrepresentation and lack of meaningful public participation as they order 15 per cent stake returned to state

BY TEAM

The controversial and heavily contested sale of the government's 15 per cent stake in Safaricom PLC has been thrown out by the High Court, with judges finding that the transaction was tainted by "obscurities, misrepresentations and concealment of material information".

In a major blow to the divestiture, a three-judge bench declared the transaction invalid, null and void, ruling that the Government had breached the Constitution and several laws in pushing through the sale of a stake in one of Kenya's most strategic companies.

The judges ordered the 15 per cent shares returned to the Government on behalf of the people of Kenya, effectively seeking to unwind a transaction that had generated intense public debate and litigation over transparency, ownership, valuation, foreign control and the handling of a strategic national asset.

"Based on our analysis, findings and holdings... the petitioners have proved on a balance of probabilities that the divestiture in question was undertaken and procured in contravention of the Constitution and the law," the court said.

"It was, therefore, invalid, null and void."

The court found that the sale had not been subjected to meaningful qualitative and quantitative public participation.

Project Marble signing ceremony between the Government of Kenya, Safaricom Limited, and Vodafon, December 4, 2025.

The judges said the divestiture had been "formulated, undertaken and approved by Cabinet and the National Assembly without any reasonable meaningful qualitative and quantitative public participation" as required by the Constitution.

The court further found that the transaction had been presented to Cabinet and Parliament as a share sale, yet, in its assessment, it amounted to a merger, acquisition and takeover capable of giving effective control to a majority foreign shareholder.

The judges consequently found violations of the Capital Markets Act, the Capital Markets (Takeovers and Mergers) Regulations, the Competition Act and constitutional principles of integrity, transparency, openness and accountability.

The court also faulted the procurement of transactional advisory services involving KCB Investment Bank, finding the process contrary to Article 227 of the Constitution and public procurement law.

The judges quashed Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2025 on the Partial Divestiture in Safaricom PLC by the Government of Kenya, which had been approved by the National Assembly on March 31, 2026.

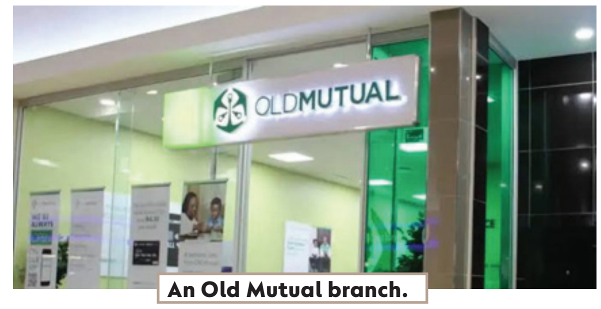
They also quashed approvals, exemptions and no-objection decisions connected to the divestiture and any merger, acquisition or takeover arising from it.

Most significantly, the court ordered the 15 per cent stake restored to State ownership.

"A declaration is hereby made that the 15 per cent shares subject of the partial divestiture having been transferred in contravention of the Constitution and the law are hereby restored to the ownership of the Government of Kenya on behalf of the people of Kenya," the judges ruled.

The Treasury has since filed a notice of appeal, maintaining that the divestiture process complied with the law.

Each party was ordered to bear its own costs.



An Old Mutual branch.

Old Mutual eases insurance payments, adds travel eSIM service

BY GILBERT OCHIENG

Old Mutual has introduced a new way for motorists to pay for comprehensive insurance in instalments while giving travellers access to mobile data abroad, as the insurer expands its services in Kisumu.

The insurer's new Motor-Rahisi product allows customers to spread comprehensive motor insurance premiums over up to three months, easing the upfront cost of cover.

Old Mutual has also integrated Airalo eSIM services into its travel insurance, allowing customers to buy and activate mobile data digitally in more than 200 countries and regions without having to purchase physical SIM cards.

Old Mutual General Insurance Kenya Managing Director Japheth Ogalloh said the new services were aimed at making insurance easier to access and use.

"Customers increasingly expect solutions that are convenient and responsive to their everyday needs. Motor-Rahisi gives motorists greater flexibility in managing the cost of comprehensive insurance, while our partnership with Airalo brings protection and connectivity together in one convenient digital journey," Ogalloh said.

Through the eSIM service, travellers can choose a data plan, activate it digitally and manage usage and top-ups while abroad.

Ogalloh also called on households and businesses to review their insurance cover and prepare for possible weather-related risks, including potential El Niño conditions later in the year.

"Insurance is an important part of financial resilience, but protection also starts with preparedness. We encourage customers to review their cover, understand the risks they are exposed to and take practical steps to safeguard their homes, vehicles and businesses against weather-related risks," he said.

The new services were unveiled during Old Mutual's Kisumu Market Storm, part of its There Will Be Signs campaign, which encourages consumers to identify financial challenges and act early.

Old Mutual Life Assurance Kenya Managing Director Martin Karenju said the campaign was also encouraging customers to save more, plan for retirement and invest for the long term.

"Financial wellness starts with recognising the signs and taking action early," Karenju said.

The Kisumu event followed similar customer engagements in Eldoret, Thika, Nakuru and Mombasa.

Court protects Trident, Corporate Insurance policyholders

High Court struck down cancellation directive, protecting thousands of policyholders from sudden loss of cover. The ruling comes as the Policyholders Compensation Fund (PCF) revealed that it has paid Sh390.8 million to 2,146 claimants whose insurers collapsed, up to March 31, 2026

Policyholders Compensation Fund (PCF) Managing Trustee Mohamed Sahal.

NJOKI MAINA

Thousands of policyholders of Trident Insurance Company Limited and Corporate Insurance Company Limited have won a major legal reprieve after the High Court declared that their insurance policies remain valid despite the insurers being placed under statutory management.

The ruling comes as the Policyholders Compensation Fund (PCF) revealed that it has paid Sh390.8 million to 2,146 claimants whose insurers collapsed, up to March 31, 2026.

Justice David Mburu has quashed a directive issued on March 10, 2026, which purported to invalidate existing policies, ruling that the Commissioner of Insurance had exceeded his powers under the Insurance Act.

The landmark decision means policies held as of March 10 remain valid, subsisting and legally binding until a decision is made under Section 67C(7) of the Insurance Act—shielding customers from the immediate loss of cover and potential financial exposure.

The ruling followed a constitutional petition challenging the directive on grounds that it violated the rights to property, fair administrative action, consumer protection and economic and social rights under Articles 40, 47, 46 and 43 of the Constitution.

The court rejected arguments that the dispute should first have been taken to the Insurance Appeals Tribunal, finding that the exhaustion doctrine could not be applied mechanically in a matter involving existing contracts, possible economic losses and wider consumer protection concerns.

Justice Mburu said statutory management was designed to stabilise an insurer and protect policyholders and the public, not automatically terminate insurance contracts. The statutory manager is required to assess the company's financial position before recommending whether it should be revived or liquidated.

The court also found that affected policyholders were not given an opportunity to be heard and that reasons for the cancellation directive were not provided, breaching requirements for fair administrative action.

The order of certiorari consequently quashed the March 10 notice insofar as it purported to invalidate policies that were lawfully in force, including motor vehicle third-party insurance certificates. Each party will bear its own costs.

The ruling comes as the Policyholders Compensation Fund (PCF) revealed that it has paid Sh390.8 million to 2,146 claimants whose insurers collapsed, up to March 31, 2026.

Xplico policyholders received Sh137.8 million, Invesco Assurance Sh101.4 million, Resolution Insurance Sh92.4 million and BlueShield Sh44.6 million. Concord, Standard Assurance and United Insurance claimants received Sh9 million, Sh4.6 million and Sh1 million respectively.

The PCF has now opened compensation claims for Trident customers.

"The public is hereby notified that the claims compensation process for Trident Insurance Company Limited (Under Statutory Management) has commenced. Policyholders, claimants and other affected parties are encouraged to lodge their claims with the Policyholders Compensation Fund," the Fund said.

Compensation for KUSCCO Mutual Assurance and Corporate Insurance will follow, with dates to be announced.

The Fund is also intensifying its PCFMtaani campaign, which has reached 14 counties since 2023 and is currently running in Murang'a, to educate consumers on how to lodge claims and access protection when insurers fail.

Tears and family fury as Lyndah Kebati confronts relatives at father's burial

BY WILSON ONCHARI

What was expected to be a solemn farewell to a father turned into an emotional family reckoning in Kisii after local content creator Lyndah Kebati openly confronted some of her relatives during his burial ceremony.

As mourners gathered to lay her father to rest, Kebati broke from the usual funeral tributes and spoke about family divisions she said had troubled her for years, leaving mourners visibly stunned.

Her remarks suggested that beneath the grief of losing her father lay years of unresolved pain over relationships she believed had failed her family.

Kebati questioned why some relatives had not checked on them or even called to offer condolences following her father's death.

"No relative of this side has ever called us to even tell us, 'we are sorry for your dad,'" she said.

Local content creator Lyndah Kebati (holding microphone) and her sibling during the burial of his father in Kisii. PHOTO BY COURTESY

She also referred to what she described as the exclusion of part of the family, saying: "The second family was never included."

The emotional moment deepened as Kebati declared that she could no longer pretend to love people she felt had not been there for her family when they needed them.

"I cannot pretend to love you," she told the gathering, signalling that the burial marked a turning point in how she intended to relate with some relatives.

In perhaps her most striking remark, Kebati said she was glad her father had died because she would no longer have to return to the family homestead and pretend they were a united family.

The statement, delivered during an occasion meant to bring relatives together in grief, brought the hidden tensions into full view.

> **LYNDAH**
>
> **"I cannot pretend to love you," she told the gathering, signalling that the burial marked a turning point in how she intended to relate with some relatives. Players and referees need to know that even seemingly small betting-related decisions can have serious consequences for their careers and the reputation of the game**

For Kebati, her father's death appeared to have stripped away the pressure to maintain relationships she considered superficial. The funeral became a moment to say publicly what she had apparently carried privately for years.

Her account has since ignited debate online, with many questioning whether a funeral is an appropriate setting for confronting long-standing family grievances.

Yet the scene also touched on a broader reality of bereavement in that while funerals are often presented as moments of unity, they can also expose old wounds, rivalries and unresolved disputes.

Olu Jacobs: The Lion of Lufodo who taught Africa how to tell its stories

Iconic Nollywood actor, the late Oludotun Baiyewu Jacobs popularly known as Olu Jacobs.

BY WANJIKU WAWERU

For generations of African television viewers, the appearance of the iconic Nollywood actor, Oludotun Baiyewu Jacobs popularly known as Olu Jacobs on screen was more than entertainment.

His voice, dignity and commanding presence turned ordinary film scenes into lessons in character, culture, family, leadership and human relationships.

Now, the man affectionately known as "The Lion of Lufodo" has taken his final bow.

Jacobs, one of Nigeria's most celebrated actors, died on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, aged 84, his family announced.

His son, Olusoji Jacobs, shared the news, describing him as a beloved husband, father, grandfather and uncle. The family asked bloggers and social media influencers to respect their privacy as they mourn.

Born Oludotun Baiyewu Jacobs in Kano in 1942, Jacobs built a career that crossed continents. He trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London before working in British theatre and television and appearing in international films.

He later returned to Nigeria and became one of the defining figures of modern Nollywood.

For Kenyan audiences, however, Jacobs' significance went beyond Nigeria.

His films became part of the shared African television experience at a time when Nollywood was spreading rapidly across the continent.

Kenyan viewers encountered stories that, despite differences in language and culture, often reflected familiar African realities—family tensions, traditional authority, marriage, ambition, betrayal, poverty, faith and the struggle between modernity and tradition.

That was part of the educational power of his work.

Jacobs frequently played kings, chiefs, patriarchs and men of authority, but his performances also demonstrated the discipline of professional acting—voice control, timing, diction, emotional restraint and the ability to communicate an entire character through presence.

For Kenya's emerging actors and filmmakers, the popularity of Nollywood provided a powerful African reference point: stories made by Africans, for African audiences, could travel beyond national borders and compete for attention with international productions.

Jacobs' career also offered another lesson—the importance of training and institutional development. His journey from theatre training in Britain to Nigerian cinema illustrated how stagecraft could strengthen screen performance. Together with his wife, veteran actress Joke Silva, he later helped establish the Lufodo Group and Lufodo Academy of Performing Arts, extending his contribution into production and arts education.

His legacy therefore stretches beyond the hundreds of productions in which he appeared.

For African audiences, including generations of Kenyans who watched Nollywood films at home, Jacobs demonstrated that African stories could be compelling, commercially successful and culturally instructive.

He leaves behind more than memorable characters.

He leaves behind a lesson in the power of African storytelling—and a generation of viewers who learned, laughed, reflected and sometimes saw themselves in the stories he helped bring to life.

The Lion of Lufodo may have fallen silent, but his voice remains in Africa's cinema.

Rwandan rapper Ish Kevin

Rwandese artist Ish Kevin set to drop 'Trappish III' album

BY WANJIKU WAWERU

Rwandan rapper Ish Kevin was yesterday evening expected to release his highly anticipated album, 'Trappish III: Win Some, Lose Some,' marking the latest chapter in his musical journey.

The project promises a deeply personal look at the rapper's experiences, exploring ambition, pressure, relationships, lifestyle, success and setbacks.

According to the album's description, Trappish III offers "an honest snapshot" of Ish Kevin's journey, capturing both his victories and losses while reflecting on the lessons that come with pursuing a bigger life.

UMG East Africa said the album moves across a broad range of sounds and themes, showcasing the rapper's versatility beyond a single musical style.

The socially conscious "Abajeune" introduces the project's message-driven side, while "Aura," "Loved & Hated" and "Chat Chat" explore confidence, personal growth, criticism and resilience.

The album also shifts into a more energetic mode with tracks such as "Question," which brings a youthful, party-oriented sound.

Ish Kevin draws on his Rwandan roots in "Twaje," blending traditional influences with contemporary East African sounds.

Other tracks, including "Ndabaga," "Body," "Best Friend," "Money" and "Back 2 Back," explore themes ranging from love and friendship to freedom, financial ambition and the realities of a fast-paced lifestyle.

For Ish Kevin, however, the album is ultimately about perseverance.

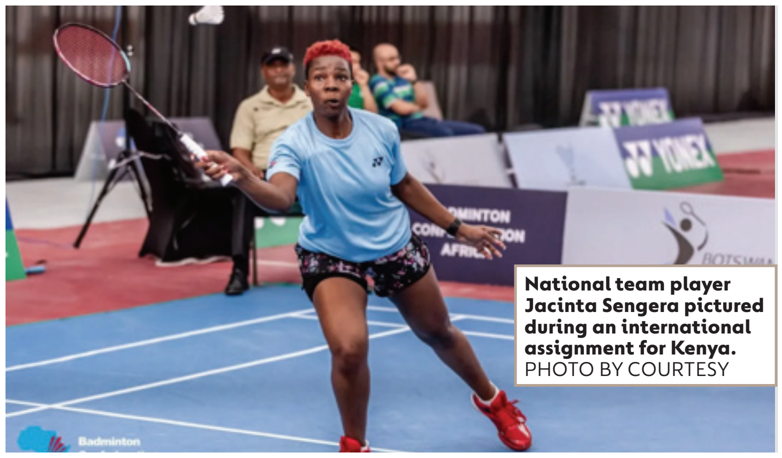
"This album represents every part of the journey, the wins, the losses and the lessons in between. Trappish is bigger than one sound. It is about continuing to move forward, no matter what the journey brings," he said.

The release comes as East Africa's music scene continues to gain wider regional and international attention, with artists increasingly blending local sounds with contemporary genres to reach audiences beyond their home markets.

With Trappish III, Ish Kevin is positioning his latest project as both a reflection of his personal journey and a broader statement about ambition, resilience and the changing sound of East African hip-hop.

Kenya eye World Championships berth at Africa AirBadminton Championships

BY WANJIKU WAWERU



National team player Jacinta Sengera pictured during an international assignment for Kenya. PHOTO BY COURTESY

Kenya's national badminton team has set its sights on securing a place at the World Championships as it prepares to compete at the Africa AirBadminton Championships and the Zone 5 Regional Championships in Entebbe, Uganda.

Badminton Kenya (BK) president Peter Muchiri expressed confidence in the six-member squad, saying adequate preparations and government support had placed the team in a strong position to challenge for a top-two finish.

"We have managed to send six of our best athletes, three ladies and men apiece to Entebbe. I know they will do good and qualify for the World Games in Germany because with the support of the Ministry of Sports, we have prepared well," Muchiri said after the team's departure.

Kenya will be represented in the men's competition by Edwin Akwanyi, Sammy Sikoyo and Calvin Simiyu, while Jacinta Sengera will lead the women's team alongside Yvonne Mwikali and Buyanzi Blessing.

The squad will be guided by experienced coach Brijesh Jagdish Sonigra, a UK-trained badminton tactician, with John Mburu serving as his assistant.

The Africa AirBadminton Championships will be held from September 16 to 19 at Aero Beach, before the Zone 5 Regional Championships run from September 20 to 22.

The two events will bring together players from across the continent, with Kenya facing 13 other nations, including defending champions Egypt, hosts Uganda, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The competitions provide Kenya with an important opportunity to test its growing strength in AirBadminton against some of Africa's leading teams.

Muchiri said the federation was banking on the experience and preparation of the selected players to deliver a strong performance in Entebbe.

The global showpiece is scheduled to take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from July 19 to 29, 2029.

Nairobi to make history as first African host of World Athletics Championships

Beatrice Chebet and Faith Kipyegon completed a Kenyan one-two in the women's 5,000m at the 2025 World Championships in Tokyo, where Kenya won seven golds to finish second in the medal table.

BY GILBERT OCHIENG

Nairobi will make history in 2029 after being selected to host the World Athletics Championships, becoming the first African city to stage the sport's flagship global event.

The decision was reached during the 242nd World Athletics Council meeting in Budapest on September 14-15, with Munich awarded the 2031 championships. The two cities emerged from a competitive bidding process that World Athletics president Sebastian Coe described as one of the strongest in the history of the event.

The landmark decision means the championships will come to Africa for the first time, with Nairobi building on Kenya's long association with international athletics and its record of hosting major competitions.

"We were fortunate to have four outstanding bids for 2029 and 2031, and this was not an easy decision for the Council," Coe said.

"Nairobi and Munich ultimately presented two compelling propositions. They offer very different but equally exciting opportunities for our sport."

Nairobi's bid was supported by its experience hosting the 2017 World U18 Championships and the 2021 World U20 Championships, as well as the annual Kip Keino Classic, which has become one of Africa's leading athletics meetings.

World Athletics said Nairobi's proposal included operational planning, financial guarantees and a renovated Kasarani Stadium, which is being upgraded ahead of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Coe said Kenya's deep connection with athletics was another factor behind the decision, citing the country's global champions and its strong fan base.

"Nairobi presented a compelling and emotional bid, and taking the World Athletics Championships to Africa for the first time will be historic," he said.

"Kenya is one of the great athletics nations. The sport is woven into the fabric of the country."

Kenya's athletics pedigree was also highlighted by its performance at the 2025 World Championships in Tokyo, where it won seven gold medals and 11 medals overall, finishing second on the medal table.

President William Ruto has welcomed Nairobi's selection, with the government expected to continue investing in sports infrastructure ahead of the 2029 championships.

The next World Athletics Championships will be held in Beijing in 2027, before Nairobi takes centre stage in 2029.

Gor Mahia fans throng the stadium.

Gor Mahia launch discounted season tickets for 2026/27 campaign

BY JAMES WASIKE

Gor Mahia has introduced season tickets for the 2026/27 campaign, giving supporters an opportunity to attend all 17 of the club's designated home league matches at a discounted rate.

The tickets will go on sale on Saturday, September 19, coinciding with Gor Mahia's opening home fixture of the season against Murang'a Seal at Nyayo National Stadium.

The club has created three ticket categories, with a 20 per cent discount applied across all packages.

A regular season ticket will cost Sh4,080, while the VIP package is priced at Sh13,600. The VVIP category will cost Sh40,800. Each package covers Gor Mahia's 17 designated home league matches during the 2026/27 season.

Club Secretary General Nic Arum said the initiative was designed to make it easier and more affordable for loyal supporters to follow the team throughout the campaign.

"We are delighted to introduce season tickets for our loyal supporters. This is our way of making it easier and more affordable for fans to stand with Gor Mahia week in, week out," Arum said.

Unlike clubs that host all their home matches at one venue, Gor Mahia use different stadiums for some fixtures. The season ticket therefore guarantees entry to the club's designated home matches but does not guarantee supporters a specific physical seat throughout the season.

Seating will depend on the venue, ticket category and arrangements made for each individual fixture.

The packages cover league matches only, with Gor Mahia's domestic cup and continental fixtures expected to have separate ticketing arrangements unless the club announces otherwise.

The initiative also provides the club with an opportunity to secure part of its matchday revenue in advance while offering regular supporters a more convenient alternative to purchasing tickets for every home fixture.

Gor Mahia begin their home campaign against Murang'a Seal at Nyayo Stadium today Saturday, September 19, 2026 with fans able to purchase the new season tickets from the opening matchday.

South African sports broadcaster Owen Ndlovu abducted, killed as journalist killings rise globally

South African sports broadcaster, the late Owen Ndlovu.

BY TEAM

Tributes are pouring in for veteran South African sports broadcaster Owen Ndlovu, who was found dead on Wednesday this week, hours after he was abducted during a vehicle hijacking near Johannesburg.

Ndlovu, 54, a former presenter and producer with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), was seized on Tuesday while collecting his wife from a church service in Katlehong, police said.

Provincial police spokesperson Colonel Dimakatso Nevhuhulwi said three men approached the couple, with one reportedly armed, before forcing Ndlovu into the back seat of his Ford Raptor and driving away.

His vehicle was later found abandoned in Walkerville, south of Johannesburg. Residents discovered Ndlovu's body beside a road in neighbouring Thokoza, with witnesses reporting apparent gunshot wounds. A bag belonging to him was found nearby.

Police have opened a murder investigation and launched a manhunt for three suspects. A post-mortem examination will determine the cause of death.

Ndlovu's killing comes amid renewed concern over the dangers facing journalists and media workers globally.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) recorded 128 journalists and media workers killed in 2025, including 10 women and nine accidental deaths.

The IFJ said 17 additional cases were confirmed after its preliminary December 10 list, which had recorded 111 deaths.

Palestine accounted for 56 of the 74 journalists killed in the Middle East and Arab World region, which represented 58 per cent of all media-worker deaths worldwide. Yemen recorded 13 deaths, Ukraine eight and Sudan six.

The federation had documented 122 deaths, including 14 women, in 2024.

Ndlovu was a familiar voice to South African sports audiences through his work at SABC and coverage of the Premier Soccer League.

He later championed musicians' rights and royalty payments and was associated with Artists United and the SABC Summer Song of the Year initiative.

Family spokesperson Eugene Mthethwa described the loss as "devastating".

The killing also highlights South Africa's wider violent-crime problem. Police recorded more than 5,000 murders and nearly 4,000 carjackings between April and June 2026.

Trump rages at Supreme Court as midterm elections fears grow

BY CORRESPONDENT

US President Donald Trump has launched a fresh attack on the Supreme Court after it rejected his administration's attempt to impose new restrictions on mail-in voting ahead of the November midterm elections.

Trump questioned the loyalty of justices who rejected the administration's position, saying: "These are not the people I interviewed to serve on the United States Supreme Court."

He also accused the court of issuing "shockingly bad rulings" that were costing the United States trillions of dollars.

The ruling allows states to continue administering mail-in elections under their existing procedures, preserving a voting system used by roughly a third of American voters.

The decision has nevertheless intensified concerns among election officials about possible federal intervention before the November 3 election.

US local media reported that state and local officials are preparing for potential disputes over access to voting records and equipment, misinformation, cyberattacks and intimidation. Some jurisdictions are hiring outside lawyers and training staff to respond to possible federal demands.

Trump's administration has argued that its measures are intended to prevent illegal voting and strengthen confidence in elections. Critics, including Democratic lawmakers and voting-rights groups, maintain that election administration is primarily governed by states and Congress.

The political tensions come as Republicans face growing divisions over Trump's war with Iran. Seven House Republicans joined Democrats on Tuesday in backing a war-powers resolution seeking to constrain Trump's authority to continue the conflict without congressional approval. The 220-204 vote marked the third House attempt to rein in the war.

Two Iowa Republicans, Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Zach Nunn, cited the costs and casualties of the conflict in breaking with Trump.

Meanwhile, Republican Representative Thomas Massie has proposed impeaching Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth over alleged constitutional violations linked to the Iran war, although the proposal's prospects remain uncertain.

With the midterms approaching, the disputes over voting rules, presidential powers and the Iran conflict are adding pressure to an already divided Republican Party.

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer speaks during a news conference at the U.S. Capitol in December 2025. Also seen are Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren (left) and Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (right). PHOTO BY COURTESY

US pressure on NATO allies to quit ICC deepens rift over Trump's military realignment

Mark Rutte and Donald Trump speaking to the media at the 2025 Nato summit, The Hague, 25 June 2025. PHOTO BY COURTESY

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON, NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

The Trump administration is intensifying pressure on NATO allies to abandon the International Criminal Court (ICC), adding a new strain to already tense transatlantic relations as Washington reshapes its military presence in Europe.

During a closed-door meeting of NATO's 32 ambassadors in Brussels in mid-July, US envoy Matthew Whitaker urged member states to withdraw from the ICC's founding Rome Statute and help "systematically dismantle" the court, according to three NATO diplomats who spoke anonymously.

"We will be watching closely who stands with America," Whitaker reportedly told the ambassadors.

A paper circulated by the US mission to NATO delegations called on allies to "immediately" withdraw from the ICC, publicly condemn what Washington described as the court's "overreach" and stop providing it with material support. It also urged governments to assess the ICC's impact on their national interests.

The campaign was launched by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who has accused the court of threatening American sovereignty.

"The ICC and its friends are waging a war against our country not with bullets or missiles but with statutes, compacts and the force of so-called international law," Rubio said in July.

The ICC, established in 2002, prosecutes individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and other serious international crimes. All NATO members except the United States and Turkey are parties to the Rome Statute.

The pressure comes amid a broader Trump administration retreat from international institutions, including withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, the World Health Organization and the UN Human Rights Council, alongside trade confrontations.

Meanwhile, Washington's military footprint in Europe remains significant despite troop reductions. At Romania's Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, streets named Alabama, Ohio, Alaska and George Washington reflect decades of US presence dating to 1999 and support for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

About half of the roughly 2,000 US troops in Romania left last year as Washington began restructuring its European deployment, raising concerns in the NATO country bordering Ukraine.

Yet Reuters found nine US KC-135 Stratotankers at the base in July, supporting American aircraft during the Iran war. More than two months later, the tankers remained, underscoring continued US reliance on European bases even as Trump seeks to remake NATO.

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Betting fears grip National League as stakeholders urge FKF action

> **STAKEHOLDER**
> Players and referees need to know that even seemingly small betting-related decisions can have serious consequences for their careers and the reputation of the game

BY WILSON ONCHARI

Concern is growing over alleged rising betting activity involving players and referees in Kenya's National League, with sports stakeholders warning that unchecked gambling could undermine the integrity of lower-tier football.

Stakeholders are calling on the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) to strengthen monitoring, player education and integrity checks, particularly in competitions where relatively low earnings could make participants vulnerable to betting-related approaches.

The concerns come against a history of match-manipulation investigations in Kenyan football. FKF has previously suspended players, referees and team officials over allegations of match-fixing, while its Anti-Match Manipulation Regulations prohibit prohibited betting and manipulation-related conduct.

In 2023, FKF officials told Parliament that poor remuneration for footballers and the attraction of money from betting companies were among factors contributing to match-fixing concerns. Former FKF president Nick Mwendwa also called for stronger laws to deal with the vice.

"The integrity of football must come first. Betting should never be allowed to influence what happens on the pitch," a football stakeholder said, calling for closer scrutiny of suspicious betting patterns and stronger protection for players and officials.

Another stakeholder urged FKF to intensify education programmes, saying many young players may not fully understand the consequences of participating in betting or accepting approaches from individuals seeking to manipulate matches.

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) President Hussein Mohammed during a past media briefing.

"Players and referees need to know that even seemingly small betting-related decisions can have serious consequences for their careers and the reputation of the game," the stakeholder said.

FKF has an Integrity Department responsible for handling reports of match-fixing and related concerns. The federation currently provides confidential channels for reporting suspected integrity violations.

The federation has also taken disciplinary action against match officials following technical reviews, demonstrating increased scrutiny of officiating performances.

Stakeholders now want FKF to extend such vigilance to the National League and ensure that allegations involving betting are promptly investigated while protecting due process for those accused.