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President Trump cancels livestream of Fort Hood shooter's execution after backlash

Kindiki's DP job under siege as Waiguru, Mt Kenya rivals and ODM plot for Ruto's 2027 ticket

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru's declaration of presidential ambitions for 2032 has intensified succession manoeuvres within Kenya Kwanza, while Ndia MP George Kariuki warns that Deputy President Kithure Kindiki's accessibility and political networks could determine his survival on President William Ruto's 2027 ticket. ODM has also claimed DP's post fronting CS Wycliffe Oparanya or Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga as likely contenders as a pre-condition to back Ruto's re-election in 2027.

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Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga



President William Ruto



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru



Cooperatives and MSMEs Development Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki



Ndia Member of Parliament (MP) George Kariuki



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President Ruto signs two Bills into law at State Lodge, Eldoret, October 16, 2026

Ruto signs tax laws extending 8 per cent VAT on fuel, cuts duty on construction materials

BY KARISA HASSAN

President William Ruto yesterday signed into law two tax measures extending the reduced Value Added Tax (VAT) rate on petroleum products to cushion consumers against rising fuel costs while introducing changes to the taxation of construction materials and the operations of the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).

Ruto assented to the Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026, and the Kenya Revenue Authority (Amendment) Act, 2026, at Eldoret State Lodge in Uasin Gishu County on Friday, October 16.

The Tax Laws Amendment Act retains the eight per cent VAT rate on petrol, diesel and paraffin for an initial 90 days, with the possibility of a further 90-day extension by the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury through a Gazette notice.

The extension follows the expiry on October 14 of the previous tax relief introduced in April, as global oil markets continued to

experience volatility linked to the crisis in the Middle East.

Deputy Chief of Staff Josephat Nanok told the President that the measure was intended to shield households and businesses from the economic effects of international oil market disruptions.

“The Bill first sustains the 8 per cent VAT application on petroleum products, that is, petrol, diesel, and paraffin, to ensure that the effect of the crisis that has been seen in the part of the Middle East does not affect the Kenyan economy without the public being cushioned,” Nanok said.

He added that consultations with the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) and the Ministry of Energy had ensured the reduced rate was incorporated into fuel price calculations.

“Had that 8 per cent not been factored, the price of fuel announced by EPRA was going to be higher than announced,” he said.

The law also changes the basis for calculating excise duty on tiles from weight to surface area, set-

ting the rate at Sh400 per square metre. The change addresses concerns that weight-based taxation had increased construction costs.

Excise duty on ceramic sanitary ware, including sinks, wash basins and toilets, has also been reduced from Sh50 to Sh30 per kilogramme.

Additionally, the Act revises the classification of imported flat glass to align taxation with East African Community customs protocols.

Separately, the KRA Amendment Act changes the authority's board composition by removing ex-officio membership provisions for specified officials and introducing the managing director of the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) to strengthen coordination between revenue collection and port operations.

The law guarantees KRA funding equivalent to at least two per cent of its estimated annual revenue collections. It also provides an incentive equivalent to three per cent of revenue collected above quarterly targets.



Former Minister Burudi Nabwera to be buried on October 24

BY WILSON ONCHARI

Former Cabinet Minister Burudi Nabwera will be laid to rest on Saturday, October 24, at his Sango Farm home in Kiminini, Trans Nzoia County, following funeral arrangements announced by his family.

The family said two requiem services would be held before the burial, beginning with a service on Wednesday, October 21, at Friends Church in Lang'ata, Nairobi, opposite Lang'ata Boys High School.

A second requiem service is scheduled for Friday, October 23, at Friends Church in Kiminini, ahead of the burial the following day.

Nabwera died on Thursday, October 8, at his home in Kileleshwa, Nairobi, after battling multiple health problems, according to the family.

He was the husband of the late Tabitha Nasipwondi Nabwera, popularly known as Tumwa, and the father of Joseph Wapata, Julie Lusike, Jimmy Wapangana, Lilian Namusonge and Helen Muenje.



Former Cabinet Minister Burudi Nabwera.

The family said funeral planning meetings were being held daily from 5pm at his Kileleshwa residence, off Suguta Road, and at Sango Farm in Kiminini.

Contributions towards the funeral arrangements can be sent through Paybill number 247247, using account number 1450187865124.

Nabwera held several prominent positions in Kenya's public service, serving as the country's first ambassador to the United States and its first permanent representative to the United Nations.

He also served as Minister of State in the Office of the President and became the first Member of Parliament for Lugari Constituency after its creation in 1988.

His death has drawn tributes from political and government leaders who celebrated his contribution to diplomacy, leadership and public service.

Presidential aspirant Eliud Owalo recalled working with Nabwera in 2008 during the development of Nzoia Sugar Company's strategic plan, when the late leader chaired the company's board.

“I remember him as a leader whose experience and contribution to the institution were invaluable,” Owalo said.

Cooperatives Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya described Nabwera as “a distinguished leader and diplomat who served our nation with dedication and honour”.

Gachagua explains absence from Raila's anniversary as chaos mar Bondo commemoration



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua (left) exchange pleasantries with the late former Prime Minister Raila Odinga as latter's wife Dorcas Rigathi and Ida Odinga looks on during a past meeting.

BY GILBERT OCHIENG

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has explained his absence from the first anniversary commemoration of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, saying a pre-arranged programme in the United States prevented him from attending the event in Bondo, Siaya County.

In a statement posted on X, Gachagua said Raila's widow, Ida Odinga, had personally invited him to the ceremony held on Thursday, October 15, but he was unable to travel back to Kenya because of prior commitments.

“I was not able to attend since I am away in the United States of America on a programme that was pre-planned,” Gachagua said, thanking Ida for the invitation.

The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader also reaffirmed his admiration for Raila, recalling remarks he made about the former Prime Minister and Ida during his inauguration as a candidate for the African Union Commission chairperson position.

“Those words about Raila and Mama Ida came from my heart and I meant every word that I said on the day,” he said.

Gachagua praised Raila's political legacy, particularly his role in building a strong political party and promoting the election of quality legislators, saying he hoped to emulate the example as he builds DCP into a formidable political movement.

Meanwhile, the anniversary commemorations at Migwena Cultural and Sports Ground were marred by chaos, clashes among youths and heightened political rivalries, disrupting an occasion intended to honour the late opposition leader.

Thousands of mourners, ODM supporters, political leaders and members of the Odinga family had gathered at the venue, which has longstanding cultural and historical links to the family.

The disruptions overshadowed the remembrance activities, despite appeals by Ida for political leaders to set aside their differences and allow the occasion to focus on her husband's life and legacy.

Raila died on October 15, 2025, aged 80, while receiving medical treatment in India. His death triggered nationwide mourning before he was buried at his family home in Bondo.

The anniversary programme also included intergenerational dialogue sessions in Kisumu and candle-lighting events celebrating Raila's contribution to Kenya's political history.



“

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Natembeya, Orengo demand answers over repeated withdrawal of security detail

BY WILSON ONCHARI

Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya and his Siaya counterpart James Orengo have demanded explanations from Inspector-General of Police over the repeated withdrawal of their security details, raising questions about the circumstances surrounding the decisions.

Natembeya said the National Police Service had directed officers attached to his security detail to report immediately to their respective stations or police headquarters, a move he described as concerning because it had happened for the second time.

Addressing a press conference at his office, the governor called on the Inspector-General to provide a formal explanation of the decision and clarify whether the applicable security procedures had been followed.

“I am particularly concerned that this is happening for the second time. I therefore call

upon the Inspector-General of the National Police Service to provide a formal explanation of the reasons for this decision and to clarify whether the applicable security procedures have been followed,” he said.

The governor, a former Regional Commissioner, cited constitutional safeguards and a High Court ruling delivered on June 3, 2025, involving five governors, arguing that the withdrawal of security personnel must comply with the law.

He said the court had held that withdrawing security without prior written notice, an opportunity to be heard and written reasons violated Article 47 of the Constitution, which guarantees fair administrative action.

Natembeya urged the relevant authorities to take the judicial pronouncement into account, insisting that the police leadership should explain the legal and administrative grounds for the latest decision.

Orengo, meanwhile, dismissed



Inspector General of the National Police Service (IGP-NPS) Douglas Kanja addressing the media at a past event.

the withdrawal of his security detail, maintaining that the move would not intimidate him.

“Today, the government withdrew my security for the nth time. I remain unbowed,” the Siaya governor said, adding, “wantam!”

Orengo has previously accused successive administrations of using the withdrawal of security personnel to intimidate political leaders who challenge government policies and practices they consider oppressive.

The security dispute comes amid growing political tensions surrounding President William Ruto’s planned launch of the Masinde Muliro Market and the new Trans Nzoia County headquarters.

Natembeya has threatened to move to court to stop the President from officially opening the

projects, arguing that they were financed entirely by the county government.

“I built the new county assembly offices worth KSh500 million using Trans Nzoia’s money. There is not a single cent from Ruto in that project,” he said.

The governor added that although the President was welcome to open the facility, he would remove the plaque bearing Ruto’s name after the ceremony and replace it with his own.

The developments have heightened scrutiny of the relationship between the two governors and the national government, with Natembeya demanding procedural accountability over his security while challenging the President’s role in inaugurating county-funded projects.

Murder probe, mine deaths and roadside fury as five die in separate incidents

BY NJOKI MAINA

Police are investigating a series of deaths reported in Kirinyaga, Nakuru, West Pokot and Migori counties, including the stabbing of a woman, two bodies recovered from water and a fatal mining accident that left another person injured.

In Kirinyaga East Sub-County, detectives launched investigations into the murder of 38-year-old Milka Wambui Njira, whose body was discovered in a pool of blood inside her bedroom at Rwambiti Shopping Centre on Thursday, October 15.

Police said Wambui was found lying on her back in her two-bedroom rented house in Rwambiti Location, Gichugu Central Division, with deep stab wounds on her upper left shoulder near the heart.

Investigators recovered a bloodstained kitchen knife with a red handle placed on a black plastic chair. The weapon is suspected to have been used in the killing.

A man reportedly cohabiting with the deceased was



Homicides detectives attached to DCI at a past scene of crime. FILE PHOTO

being sought by police and was still at large when the incident was reported. The body was moved to Kibugi Funeral Home pending a postmortem examination.

In Kirinyaga Central, police are also investigating the discovery of an unidentified elderly woman’s partly decomposed body in Mt Kenya Forest.

Herders reportedly stumbled upon the body in a thicket on Thursday. No visible injuries were observed, while firewood suspected to have belonged to the woman was found nearby.

The body was taken to Kerugoya County Referral Hospital mortuary for preservation, identification and postmortem examination.

In Nakuru County, detectives in Rongai are probing the death of 35-year-old Evans Kipketer Rotich, whose body was found floating in Moricho Dam on October 14, a day after he was reported missing.

Police said there were no visible physical injuries. The body was moved to Nakuru County Annex Mortuary.

Meanwhile, one person died and a 19-year-old woman was rescued after a pit mine collapsed at Kambi Karaya mining field in Seker Ward, West Pokot County, on October 14.

The deceased, identified as 45-year-old Chepocheropoi Apura, was retrieved from the collapsed mine and taken to Kapenguria Mortuary. The rescued woman received first aid at Kambi Karaya Community Medical Clinic.

In Migori County, police are investigating the death of Andrew Otieno Joseph, whose body was discovered floating in water inside a mine shaft in the Macalder area. Investigators suspect possible electrocution by equipment used to operate the mine, although a postmortem is expected to establish the cause of death.

Separately, outrage erupted in Kasere, Muhoroni Sub-County, after a speeding lorry reportedly struck and killed a man standing beside the road on Thursday evening.

Angry residents allegedly torched four lorries used to transport construction materials, accusing drivers of excessive speeding and endangering lives.

MPs launch probe into Mogo, Buy Now Pay Later firms over consumer exploitation

BY TEAM

Parliament has launched an investigation into Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) providers and motorcycle asset financing companies amid mounting complaints of consumer exploitation, warning that firms that ignore summonses could face action.

The National Assembly’s Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning is reviewing the regulatory framework governing the sector to establish whether existing safeguards adequately protect consumers from unfair lending practices, disputed accounts and questionable asset repossession procedures.

Committee Chairperson Kuria Kimani said legislators had received complaints from customers and would require companies to demonstrate compliance with applicable laws and regulatory requirements.

“As we move to review the regulatory safeguards governing the sector, we will require all firms in this sector to demonstrate to the committee that their operations strictly follow the laid down safeguards,” Kimani said.

The inquiry comes amid growing scrutiny of financing arrangements that allow customers to acquire motorcycles and other goods through instalment payments, with concerns over how lenders manage arrears, communicate outstanding balances and repossess financed assets.

Kimani singled out Mogo Auto Limited over its failure to attend a scheduled meeting with the Committee after requesting that the session be postponed.

The company had been invited to respond to concerns

raised by various stakeholders regarding its operations and the wider asset financing sector.

“Recently, the Committee received representations from various stakeholders detailing their experiences within the sector. This is why we had invited Mogo Auto to shed light on the matter. They, however, requested the meeting to be deferred,” he said.

The chairperson warned that Parliament could invoke Standing Order 191 to compel invited firms to appear before the Committee.

“We will, however, not hesitate to invoke the provisions of Standing Order 191 to ensure that all firms invited to shed light on this matter honour the invitations,” he stated.

The probe will examine the licensing status of BNPL providers, their compliance with regulatory requirements and their engagement with the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and other relevant authorities.

Lawmakers will also scrutinise customer onboarding, account management, payment reconciliation, customer statements and communication about arrears or changes to accounts.

Particular attention will be paid to loan defaults, repossession notices, asset valuation and disposal, and how proceeds from the sale of recovered assets are applied to outstanding debts.

The committee will further assess complaint-handling mechanisms, customer redress procedures and the oversight of agents and third-party service providers.

The CBK is expected to engage with legislators during the review, which seeks to identify regulatory gaps and recommend reforms to strengthen consumer protection and accountability across the sector.



Bodaboda operators.

BY WILSON ONCHARI

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki's political future is increasingly entangled in an intensifying battle for the running-mate position ahead of the 2027 General Election, with rivals from the Mt Kenya region openly questioning his suitability and positioning themselves for the powerful office.

The latest entrant into the contest is Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru, who has declared that she intends to run for president in 2032, while making clear that she has not abandoned her ambitions for a greater national leadership role.

Her declaration comes as Ndia MP George Kariuki intensifies pressure on President William Ruto to reconsider his choice of running mate, warning that retaining Kindiki could complicate the President's re-election bid by alienating sections of the politically influential Mt Kenya electorate.

Although Waiguru has not explicitly declared a bid for the deputy presidency, her refusal to limit her ambitions to county politics places her among the leaders seeking a greater role in national leadership and adds another dimension to the contest surrounding Kindiki.

The unfolding struggle presents a delicate political calculation for Ruto, who must balance regional representation, loyalty, electoral arithmetic and the ambitions of leaders within his United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party and the broader Kenya Kwanza coalition.

For Kindiki, the challenge is no longer simply to demonstrate his loyalty to the President. He must also establish that he can command political confidence across Mt Kenya and remain the most viable candidate to accompany Ruto into the 2027 election.

Waiguru opens the succession battle

Waiguru sent a pointed message to political rivals on Tuesday this week when she declared that she would seek the presidency in 2032, insisting that neither gender nor political competition would deter her ambitions.

"Anne Mumbi Waiguru will be on the ballot for the president of the Republic of Kenya in 2032. Take that to the bank. Even if I am going to be alone, the people of Kirinyaga know it," she declared.

The governor, who is serving her second and final term, dismissed suggestions that she should pursue the Senate seat instead, signalling that her interests lie beyond county politics.

She also challenged the perception that national leadership remains the preserve of men.

"What is it they have that I don't have? Which journey have they walked that I haven't? They can mobilise, I can. They can speak; I can speak. Whatever they can do, a woman can do better," she said.

Waiguru has previously accompanied Ruto to international engagements, including the United Nations General Assembly in New York, presenting her experience in county administration and national political circles as a foundation for greater responsibility.

Her declaration comes at a time when political leaders are already manoeuvring for positions that could shape both the 2027 presidential ticket and the succession beyond Ruto's second-term ambitions.

While the 2032 presidential contest remains distant, the deputy presidency offers an immediate opportunity for politicians seeking national visibility and influence.

Kariuki questions Kindiki's suitability

The pressure on Kindiki has been amplified by Kariuki, who has warned that the choice of running mate could determine whether Ruto retains sufficient support in Mt Kenya to secure another term.

The Ndia MP has argued that the region could still vote for Ruto but cautioned that the President must select a deputy who is politically accessible and capable of maintaining strong relationships with elected leaders and grassroots supporters.

"It will be difficult, let me not mince words, but it will be difficult for him to be re-elected. Mt Kenya can still vote for Ruto, but it depends on the running mate slot. He should not choose someone who is difficult to sell," Kariuki said in a local media interview.

His criticism centres on what he describes as Kindiki's limited accessibility and inadequate

Kindiki's DP job under siege as Waiguru, Mt Kenya rivals and ODM plot for Ruto's 2027 ticket



political teamwork, contrasting the current Deputy President with Ruto when he occupied the same office.

"When Ruto was the Deputy President, he was very accessible. Even today, if I want to see Ruto, it is easier to see him than his deputy," Kariuki said.

He argued that accessibility was essential for coordinating political strategy, maintaining relationships with elected leaders and ensuring that the President's team operated with a common purpose.

"There was teamwork; we used to know where we were and where we wanted to go, and we had direction because he was available and was the team leader. But the challenge we have today is the lack of that leadership and teamwork," he added.

Kariuki has also questioned Kindiki's grassroots mobilisation, suggesting that the Deputy President needs to strengthen his engagement with residents and political leaders if he hopes to consolidate his position.

However, Kariuki's criticism comes against the backdrop of his own reported interest in becoming Ruto's running mate, placing his assessment of Kindiki within a wider competition for political advantage.

His remarks therefore represent both a challenge to the Deputy President and an attempt to influence the debate over who should occupy the position in 2027.

ODM adds pressure on the deputy presidency

Kindiki's predicament is further complicated by the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), which has identified the deputy presidency as an

irreducible minimum in negotiations over a pre-election agreement to support Ruto's re-election bid.

The demand introduces another layer of uncertainty into the succession calculations.

Should the president seek a formal electoral arrangement with ODM, he could face pressure to accommodate the party's interests in the presidential ticket or other senior government positions.

Such negotiations would place Kindiki's position under scrutiny, even if he retained the support of the President and sections of the Mt Kenya political establishment.

The Deputy President has been working to strengthen his regional standing, including through his endorsement by councils of elders representing Kikuyu, Embu, Mbeere and Meru communities at Kirigiti Stadium in Kiambu County on September 19.

The endorsement, which included elders associated with Kiama Kia Ma, was an attempt to establish him as a central figure in the region's political leadership.

Kindiki has also urged regional leaders to respect the guidance of elders, avoid personal insults and maintain a unified political and economic voice ahead of the next election.

He has opposed calls by Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku to split Mt Kenya East and West politically, signalling his preference for a consolidated regional bloc.

But endorsements from elders and appeals for unity may not be sufficient if elected leaders become convinced that another candidate offers



President William Ruto (right) and Deputy President Kithure Kindiki (left).

better electoral prospects.

Gachagua remains a factor

The contest is unfolding against the backdrop of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's efforts to retain influence in Mt Kenya through his Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP).

Gachagua has emerged as a major political rival to Ruto and continues to challenge the administration's standing in the region.

Although he has recently moderated personal attacks on Kindiki and urged his supporters to do likewise, the rivalry between the two leaders remains an important factor in the regional political equation.

For Kindiki, the challenge is to distinguish himself from Gachagua's political influence while avoiding divisions that could weaken his own standing among voters.

For Ruto, the task is equally complicated: he must manage competing regional interests without allowing the fight for the deputy presidency to undermine his re-election campaign.

Kindiki fights to hold his ground

Not everyone in Mt Kenya believes the deputy presidency is available for negotiation.

Mwea MP Mary Maingi has dismissed attempts to portray Kindiki's position as vacant, insisting that he remains the right person to serve alongside Ruto.

"The position of Deputy President has a very able occupant by the name of Professor Kithure Kindiki, and I keep saying he is the right man for that position. He understands the role, and he is doing it just amazingly," Maingi said at Wang'uru Stadium during the finals of her football tournament.

Her remarks underscore the divisions emerging within the region, where some leaders want Kindiki retained while others are openly questioning his political effectiveness or positioning themselves for the job.

Political pundits contend that Kindiki's survival on the 2027 ticket will depend on more than his performance in government.

"He will need to demonstrate political accessibility, deepen grassroots relationships and persuade Ruto that he remains the strongest choice for securing Mt Kenya support," a UDA official intimated.



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru.



Ndia Member of Parliament (MP) George Kariuki speaking at Githunguru Primary School in Ruiru constituency, Kiambu County. He is flanked by Ruiru MP Simon Ng'ang'a King'ara (right).

Judge declares 25-acre property belongs to private hospital, orders county to withdraw security and bars further interference after two-year dispute that left more than 300 workers jobless

BY WILBERFORCE KIGEN

The Nakuru County Government has suffered a major legal setback after the Environment and Land Court ordered it to vacate the 25-acre Nakuru War Memorial Hospital property in Milimani Estate, declaring that the land belongs to Nakuru War Memorial Hospital Limited.

In a ruling delivered by Justice Mugo Kamau, the court dismissed the county's bid to cancel the hospital's lease title, affirmed the legality of a 50-year lease extension and issued an injunction barring the administration of Governor Susan Kihika from entering, remaining on or undertaking activities on the disputed property.

The judge ordered the county to withdraw its security officers from the land, allowing the hospital's management to resume control of the property, which the county took over and shut down on January 23, 2024.

"Whatever is in the land belongs to War Memorial. I understand that there was an arrangement with Annex for the benefit of the public, the same can only continue if War Memorial Hospital management allows," Justice Kamau ruled.

He further directed: "An injunction is issued restraining the county government of Nakuru from further dealing, entering remaining and carrying out any activity on the War Memorial land."

The ruling brings a significant development in a protracted dispute over the ownership and lease of the prime property, which hosts not only the private hospital but also Nakuru Level V Hospital Annex, commonly known as the Provincial General Hospital (PGH), and a public helipad.

While affirming the private company's



A collage photo of Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika and Nakuru County Inspectorate team blocking patients from accessing the Nakuru War Memorial Hospital precincts.

Court orders Kihika out of War Memorial Hospital land

ownership, the judge allowed the public hospital's presence on the land to continue only with the permission of War Memorial Hospital management.

County faulted over takeover

The dispute arose after the county government challenged the validity of the hospital's lease renewal, alleging that the 50-year extension had been irregularly secured.

The lease was extended for a further 50 years effective April 1, 2021, as the previous term approached expiry. The county subsequently sought cancellation of the title, arguing that it had been issued unlawfully.

But Justice Kamau found that the hospital had demonstrated the lease extension was legally obtained and that it had legitimate grounds to seek renewal after serving Nakuru residents for more than a century.

"No opposition was raised by the county government before the lease was renewed and any

opposition were made a year after the lease was legally renewed," the judge ruled.

The court faulted the county for failing to challenge the renewal through appropriate legal channels before taking control of the facility.

According to the ruling, rather than moving to court to seek cancellation of the lease, the county flexed its muscles, invaded the hospital and closed it in January 2024.

The judge also noted that the county failed to produce evidence challenging the validity of the lease or substantiating its position as custodian of the land.

Registrar faulted over lease cancellation

The ruling also examined the role of former Nakuru Land Registrar Eric Nyamu, who cancelled the hospital's lease title amid the dispute.

In earlier proceedings, Nyamu told the court in January 2026 that he had cancelled the title because the property had an existing bank charge.

The Attorney General's office defended

his actions, with Senior State Counsel Prisca Adomeyon arguing that the registrar had acted in good faith despite the alleged irregularities surrounding the lease renewal.

However, Justice Kamau faulted the registrar for allegedly bowing to pressure and de-gazetting the lease without authority.

The court noted that the county government wrote to the registrar seeking de-gazetting of the lease, which was subsequently done in May 2023 without the hospital's knowledge.

The judge observed that the county relied on the gazette notice before its officials moved onto the premises and took control.

Closure leaves workers, patients stranded

The hospital was shut down on January 23, 2024, in a move that disrupted healthcare services at a facility that had served Nakuru residents for generations.

According to the court report, more than 300 employees lost their jobs following the closure, while some patients reportedly lost their lives during the forced eviction. The shutdown also affected the wider healthcare system, given the hospital's role alongside other providers in the county.

The court noted that eight orders directing the hospital's reopening had been disobeyed, underscoring the prolonged nature of the dispute and the challenges faced by the facility's management in regaining control.

The latest injunction bars the county from further interference with the property and places the management of the land back in the hands of War Memorial Hospital Limited.

Pain in the hands of Governor Kihika: How patients were violently forced out following raid at Nakuru War Memorial Hospital

Dialysis patients among those disrupted as county officials and police re-entered facility in pre-dawn operation amid bitter land dispute. High Court ruled that Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika violated patients' rights at War Memorial Hospital when she oversaw its forcible takeover and eventual closure on January 23, 2024

BY TEAM

Patients receiving treatment at Nakuru War Memorial Hospital were forcibly removed, transferred to other facilities or discharged amid chaos during a bitter land dispute between the private hospital's management and the Nakuru County Government.

The confrontations disrupted medical operations at the facility, with even patients requiring critical care, including dialysis, reportedly caught up in the takeover that left families scrambling to find alternative treatment.

The first major raid occurred on October 27, 2023, when

county officials took control of the hospital, claiming that its 99-year land lease had expired and that documents supporting its continued occupation were forged.

The takeover interrupted services as patients were discharged or transferred elsewhere amid uncertainty over the hospital's future.

Although the private management briefly regained control following court interventions, the reprieve was short-lived.

At around 3am on January 23, 2024, county enforcement officers, accompanied by police, re-entered the facility in another operation that resulted in patients being ordered to leave and hospital



Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika



A collage of the Nakuru War Memorial Hospital facility

operations being disrupted.

Patients and their relatives were left facing the difficult task of securing alternative medical care, while the closure affected a facility that had served Nakuru residents for generations.

Reports surrounding the takeover also raised concerns over damage to equipment and the closure of access gates, further complicating efforts to maintain treatment for those who depended on the hospital.

The dispute centred on ownership of the 25-acre property in Milimani Estate and the legality of a 50-year lease extension secured by Nakuru War Memorial Hospital Limited.

The county government challenged the renewal, arguing that the lease had been irregularly obtained, while the hospital's management maintained that it was the rightful owner of the land.

The matter triggered prolonged litigation, with the Environment and Land Court issuing orders

against county interference.

In its latest ruling, the court affirmed the hospital company's rights over the property and ordered the county government to vacate, withdraw its security officers and stop further interference.

The prolonged closure has disrupted healthcare services and livelihoods, leaving the hospital's future operations dependent on implementation of the court orders and arrangements for resuming services.

Why opposition can opt for unity or gamble in 2027

Kalonzo has extensive national experience and an established base in Eastern Kenya. Matiang'i brings a record in public administration and executive service. Gachagua retains a significant profile in Mount Kenya and has become a prominent critic of Ruto's political establishment. Karua offers a longstanding reformist reputation, while Sifuna represents a younger, combative political style associated with accountability and generational change

BY TEAM

The opposition's greatest obstacle to defeating President William Ruto in 2027 may not be the president's popularity, but its own inability to convert political discontent into a winning national coalition, political analysts now contend.

The growing mistrust in the United Opposition has generated concerns their joint strategy to field a single candidate against President William Ruto next year may unravel with less than 10 months left to the much-anticipated contest.

After months of claims by Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua that the government has sponsored moles to infiltrate the United Opposition, the party's Secretary General Designate John Methu sensationally claimed that the loyalty of Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro and Jubilee Party leader Dr Fred Matiang'i cannot be trusted.

Speaking during a TV interview on Monday, he alleged that immediately after DCP won the Ol-Kalou by-election, he was approached by a government operative who sought to have him launch his own party to compete with Gachagua in the Mt Kenya region, adding that he was offered money and promised that his outfit will be financed to field candidates in next year's General Election.

Similar offers were offered to Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata, according to the Nyandarua senator, adding that he also approached Gachagua and Nyoro to tell them about the overtures and that the MP told him not to fall into Ruto's trap.

"When I heard him say he has a party, I couldn't believe my ears because it is he who told me that another party is a creation of William Ruto. This same offer of forming a party others were given. If I was to name moles, then I think the name Ndindi Nyoro will feature prominently," Methu

stated.

And on Matiang'i, who has crossed ranks with Nyoro since the latter joined the United Opposition including holding a joint rally in Narok, Nakuru and Kajiado, Methu also cast aspersions on his commitment to fielding a joint candidate.

"I cannot speak about Matiang'i because I thought I knew him very well. These days, I don't think I know him. If I say Ndindi Nyoro is a mole, what can I say about Matiang'i, and they are friends?" he said.

However, both Matiang'i and Nyoro have previously denied secretly working with Ruto to destabilise the opposition.

According to Matiang'i, such claims are meant to divert attention from critical issues.

And after the latest claims, Nyoro denied meeting with Methu after the Ol Kalou by-election as alleged.

"We have not met to discuss such as thing. It is just nonsense and hogwash. It is juvenile to say the least," he told a local daily as he accused Gachagua to fueling a smear campaign against



Opposition leaders, Eugene Wamalwa, Rigathi Gachagua, Martha Karua, Kalonzo Musyoka, Fred Matiang'i, Mukhisa Kituyi, Mithika Linturi, Justin Muturi, among others, during a past meeting in Nairobi for coalition talks.



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna speaking during a presser at SKM command centre on Thursday July 30, 2026.

him.

During the Kajiado rally on Tuesday, Nyoro accused Methu of being insincere, claiming Ruto helped him build his own house.

"I am telling them if you speak with Ruto, let it end there. The one accusing others of being moles, even his own house was built by Ruto," he said.

While Methu has not provided evidence that Nyoro is a government project, political analysts say it is likely they are part of a DCP strategy to undermine Nyoro's strength in the Mt Kenya region after the formation of his People's Party of Kenya upset its quest to have an upper hand in the 2027 elections.

"Remember that until Nyoro formed his party, Matiang'i was already a problem to Gachagua because of the support he had from Jubilee Party leader Uhuru Kenyatta, which threatened his influence in Mt Kenya," political analyst Dr Wanguhu Gitonga says.

He adds that with Uhuru exiting Jubilee Party and the elevation of Matiang'i to party leader, there has been a change of strategy due to fears he may pick Nyoro as running mate and upset its best laid plans.

Gachagua has been promoting DCP as the region's vehicle with a view to securing majority seats and solidify his position if the opposition wins the presidential contest.

However, if the opposition splits, it is likely to give an advantage to President Ruto as he works to mobile voter registration in his backyards.

According to Gitonga, since the 2002 election, there is no candidate who has won State House without the support of Mt Kenya whose registered voters are projected to increase to seven million by the next election.

A contest between various formations and its effect on voting patterns in other regions will work in Ruto's favour having won the last election by 200,000 votes.

At the moment, Methu is comfortable with Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka and Linda Mwanachi leader Edwin Sifuna, which points to the direction DCP and Gachagua could take.

However, Sifuna has rebuffed calls to join the Ukombozi Alliance, the successor of the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition Party on whose ticket Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leader, the late Raila Odinga vied for the presidency in 2022, saying their mission is to strengthen the recently launched The Equitable Party, which will be rebranded into the Linda Mwananchi Movement if they secure registration, by establishing structures and meeting Registrar of Political Parties deadlines before they could think about coalition building.

On the other hand, DCP and Jubilee Party are also reluctant to join Ukombozi Alliance despite assurances by Uhuru that despite Ruto being party leader, he is not the automatic presidential candidate as Azimio's Deed of Agreement has been amended to open the door for other bids.

Political pundits, however, warn that the opposition leaders have no option but to live together or they will die alone.

For instance, if Matiang'i goes it alone, he is likely to sweep the Gusii region and its Diaspora in counties such as Nakuru, Trans Nzoia, Narok and Kajiado as Ford People's Simeon Nyachae did in 2002 denying the United Opposition over one million votes, which will work to Ruto's advantage in a close contest.

Matiang'i support for Bishop Wanjiru's Nairobi governorship bid set to rock Gachagua's DCP

BY NJOKI MAINA

The battle for the Nairobi gubernatorial seat is threatening to split the United Opposition following the endorsement of Bishop Margaret Wanjiru by Jubilee Party leader Dr Fred Matiang'i.

The move, which was announced during a church service at the Jesus Is Alive Ministries last Sunday, is likely to open a new front in the contest for supremacy between the former Interior Cabinet Secretary and Democracy for People's Party leader Rigathi Gachagua.

Gachagua is already uneasy about Matiang'i's candidature on the Jubilee Party ticket, which was retired President Uhuru Kenyatta's election vehicle in 2027, over fears he could benefit from support in the Mt Kenya region, which he wants to dominate.

Nairobi has also been on the former Deputy President's radar and he has not made it a secret that he wants DCP to field candidates for the top seats of governor, Senator and Woman representative as well as majority of MP and Ward Representative seats in any

deal he will strike with whoever is chosen to vie for State House.

Embakasi North MP James Gakuya has emerged as the frontrunner for the DCP ticket after former Principal Secretary Irungu Nyakera, who is the party's patron in Nairobi, shifted his focus to the Makadara parliamentary seat.

Embakasi East MP Babu Owino and his Kasarani counterpart Ronald Karauri have also declared their bid at the helm of City Hall come 2027.

However, Matiang'i has assured Bishop Wanjiru of his full support, telling her not to retreat.

"Wewe unajua hii safari ya Nairobi mimi nataka kuskushika mkono na pia ndio utanionyesha vuka Barabara hii unipeleke round ukionyesha," he said.

He noted that Wanjiru has political networks in Nairobi, which will come in hand in securing her victory in next year's General Election.

Nairobi County Chief Officer Geoffrey Mosiria, who attended the service, expressed his willingness to be her running mate, describing himself as "Mr Fix It."

In the 2022 elections, the



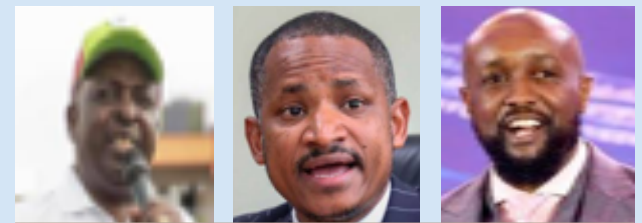
Founder and presiding bishop of Jesus Is Alive Ministries and Kenya Moja Movement (K1) party leader Bishop Margaret Wanjiru praying for acting Jubilee Party leader Fred Matiang'i at Jesus Is Alive Ministries in Nairobi on October 11, 2026, during a Church Service.

former Starehe MP vied on a United Democratic Alliance (UDA) ticket and garnered 524,019 votes to come second behind Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)'s Edwin Sifuna who got 716,876.

The entry of Wanjiru, who will be running on a Kenya Moja ticket, is set to heighten the stakes in the Opposition's bid to dislodge Governor Johnson Sakaja, with different

dynamics including ethnic alignment, coalitions, high economic stakes and devolved power and resources as well as the emerging influence of Gen Zs, among others, set to play a role in determining the eventual winner.

Others on the opposition front eyeing the coveted seat include Embakasi East MP Babu Owino who is allied to the Linda Mwananchi Movement



From left to right: MPs James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Babu Owino (Embakasi East) and Ronald Karauri (Kasarani).

though he will be running on the ticket of his party, former Jubilee Party Deputy Organising Secretary Pauline Njoroge, who has since joined The Equitable Party.

On the other hand, Makadara MP George Aladwa is also vying to oust Sakaja and it will be interesting to see how UDA and ODM handle the issue during negotiations on a pre-election agreement.

In 2022, ODM ceded the bid to Jubilee's Polycarp Igathe mostly due to ethnic loyalties among voters.

Despite its cosmopolitan nature, Nairobi's voting patterns are heavily anchored in Kenya's major ethnic communities (primarily the Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo, Kamba, and Kisii) making building multi-ethnic

important for political survival.

It is believed that Sakaja's win was partly due to support from voters tracing their roots to western Kenya despite their being in Azimio.

However, perceptions of poor performance record have seen even those who back President William Ruto threaten to challenge him, including Nairobi Woman Rep Esther Passaris.

"I want to put Sakaja on notice. Governor Sakaja, notice. If you do not style up and shape up and we see that we're going to lose that seat, then mimi nitaingia the race ya governor wa Nairobi. I am actually saying that Nairobi needs to work, not just in words but in action," she said during a woman empowerment meeting on Tuesday.

BY ERIC NYAKAGWA

President William Ruto and his predecessor, retired President Uhuru Kenyatta were conspicuously absent from the first anniversary of Raila Odinga at Migwena Cultural Grounds in Siaya County on Thursday, October 15, 2026, a move that avoided a faceoff after days of scathing attacks on his predecessor's alleged support for the opposition.

During his ongoing tour of the North Rift, Ruto, who has accused Uhuru of being a rebel for allegedly sponsoring opposition against him, continued his attacks saying the former president of betrayal for going back on his promise to ensure he succeeds him and instead backing Raila, calling him a conman.

Uhuru had initially been listed as the main speaker but reports that Ruto will also be present gave rise to protocol issues even as Raila's family, through his daughter Winnie Odinga, called for a political ceasefire saying people of all political persuasions were welcome.

Ruto chose to continue an extended tour on the North Rift by visiting Elgeyo Marakwet generating speculation they had sought to avoid a direct confrontation at the event attended by Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, People's Liberation Party leader Martha Karua, former Chief Justice David Maraga, Siaya Governor James Orengo and Linda Mwananchi leader and Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, who all belong to opposition formations ranged against him.

Despite appeals not to turn the occasion into a political theatre, it was not possible to honour the wish, including from within the Odinga family with Raila's sister threatening to quit the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), the party he headed since 2007, due to a split in ideologies such as the fight for democracy, justice and welfare of ordinary Kenyans that saw progressives such as Sifuna kicked out. "Raila is still and Raila will live on. And we Kenyans must defend that. If it means me, Ruth Odinga forfeiting everything to stand with ODM, I will. If not, I will move to another party because I want justice to remain in Kenya," she declared.

"He always said that people should have a right to speak. He stood for justice and the democracy we are enjoying today," the Kisumu Woman Rep added in remarks seen as a rebuke of the move to out forced opposed to the continuation of the broad-based government, including Sifuna.

When he rose to speak, Sifuna said Raila thought him the politics of persuasion and accommodation as opposed to confrontation and credited him for mentoring young politicians like him.

"Sisi baba alitufunza siasa ni ushawishi, siasa haulazimishi, lazima uongeshe watu pole pole. Tumesikia viongozi wengine wako hapa, kazi yao ni kutisha watu, kazi ni kulazimisha," he said.

"Nimekuja hapa na ujumbe moja pekee yake.



Ida Odinga addresses the gathering at Migwena Grounds in Bondo, Siaya County while marking the first anniversary since the death of her husband, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

Ruto, Uhuru skip Raila memorial avoiding direct confrontation



The family of the late former Prime Minister led by Ida Odinga host leaders among them Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, Siaya Senator James Orengo at their Bondo home ahead of the commemoration of Raila's first anniversary, October 15, 2026.

Nimekuja kusema asante, asante kwa baba Raila Odinga kwa sababu ametulea, akatufunza siasa, akatufunza mambo ambayo yanatakiwa tufanye ili kuinua maisha ya wanaajiji wetu," the Nairobi Senator added. Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi, however, defended Ruto's record, dismissing those seeking to oust him as day dreamers.

"Leo mkiwa hapa, nyinyi ambao mnajiita ati sijui opposition, mjue ya kwamba muko na shela kubwa sana, muko na tiba rwa kubwa sana mwaka kesho," Wandayi said.

He followed the warning with a direct defence of the president's political prospects.

"Yule anafikiria ya kwamba kumtoa Mheshimiwa Ruto itakuwa rahisi, anaota ndoto ya mchana. Leo mkiwa hapa, nyinyi ambao mnajiita ati sijui opposition, mjue ya kwamba muko na shela kubwa sana, muko na tiba rwa kubwa sana mwaka kesho," he said.

Winnie used the occasion to confirm she would be gunning for the Nairobi senatorial seat though she did not confirm her party choice. "I have seen that there is a visitor here from Nairobi; his name is Sifuna. Let it not be a rumour that as Edwin Sifuna searches for higher offices, I see there is a space. That is why I will stand for the senator of Nairobi."

ODM leader Oburu Oginga did not attend the anniversary as he is still resting at home on the advice of his doctors following health challenges.

Oburu marks 83rd birthday in hospital as he remembers late brother Raila

BY CORRESPONDENT

ODM leader Oburu Oginga marked his 83rd birthday on October 15, 2026 while recovering at The Nairobi Hospital, with the occasion taking on a bittersweet significance as it coincided with the date his younger brother, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, died.

Oburu shared photographs of himself in a hospital gown cutting a birthday cake alongside family members, reflecting on the emotional weight of celebrating his life while mourning Raila, affectionately known as Baba.

He described their shared birthday and Raila's death on the same date as a reminder of the enduring bond between the two brothers, transcending physical separation.

The veteran politician expressed gratitude to his family, Nairobi Hospital staff, ODM members and his personal staff for organising a surprise celebration and supporting him during his recovery.

He particularly thanked his spouses, Ann Oburu and Judith Oburu, alongside ODM trustee Elder



ODM leader Oburu Oginga marked his 83rd birthday while recovering at The Nairobi Hospital, on October 15, 2026.

Joshua Kawino, for their care and presence during the occasion.

Oburu also recognised his domestic staff and the team at Pawaa Centre for their dedication, loyalty and thoughtfulness in arranging the celebration.

"Your love and presence have

made this solemn yet special day truly comforting. May God bless you all abundantly," he said.

The birthday was marked by messages of support from family members and the ODM fraternity as Oburu continues his recovery while coming to terms with the loss of his younger brother.

ORPP starts formal process to rename TEP as Linda Mwananchi Movement

BY JAMES WASIKE

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) has initiated the formal process of renaming The Equitable Party (TEP) to the Linda Mwananchi Movement (LMM), following resolutions adopted by the party's National Executive Committee (NEC).

Registrar of Political Parties John Cox Lorionokou confirmed that the office had received the required statutory documents, the committee's resolutions and public notices published in the local media. The ORPP has also commenced the process of gazetting the proposed name change.

However, the rebranding is not yet complete. The process provides for a 14-day period following publication during which members of the public can submit representations or objections before the proposed change is finalised.

The ORPP said it had approved the preliminary reservation of the name Linda Mwananchi Movement and initiated the subsequent steps required to effect the change. The proposal remains subject to the completion of the statutory process.

The development follows a ruling by



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna speaks during the launch of The Equitable Party in Nairobi on October 4, 2026.

the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal directing the ORPP to reserve the name Linda Mwananchi Movement after the initial application was rejected.

The proposed rebranding is associated with Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and comes against the backdrop of political realignments ahead of the 2027 General Election.

If completed, the change would give the party a new identity as political actors and formations position themselves for the next electoral contest. The outcome will depend on the completion of the prescribed legal and administrative requirements.

Waititu, wife and co-accused headed back to prison as High Court upholds Sh588 million graft conviction

BY NJOKI MAINA

Former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu is headed back to prison after the High Court upheld his conviction and sentence in a Sh588.7 million corruption case involving the irregular award of a road construction tender in Kiambu County.

Justice Rose Ougo of the Milimani Anti-Corruption High Court dismissed appeals by Waititu and his co-accused, affirming the convictions, prison terms and financial penalties imposed by the trial court.

In a judgment delivered on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, the judge ruled that the prosecution had proved its case beyond reasonable doubt and found no legal basis to interfere with the sentences.

The ruling also cancelled the bond terms that had allowed Waititu and co-accused Luka Mwangi Wahinya to remain out of custody pending the determination of their appeals, directing that they be remanded at Nairobi Remand Prison.

Justice Ougo upheld the 10-year disqualification from holding public office imposed on the convicted persons under the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act.

“The fines imposed by the court under the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, being mandatory fines, were properly imposed,” she ruled.

Waititu was sentenced in February 2025 to 12 years in prison or a fine of Sh52,749,000 after being convicted of conflict of interest and dealing with suspect property.

Wahinya received a seven-year prison term or a Sh21 million fine for abuse of office, while Charles Chege, a director of Testimony Enterprises Limited, was sentenced to 11 years or a fine of Sh297,048,110.

In a separate development, Justice Ougo allowed the prosecution’s cross-appeal challenging the acquittals of Waititu’s wife, Susan Wangari, and other co-accused on money laundering charges.

The judge set aside the acquittals and entered convictions against them, directing that the matter be returned to the Milimani Anti-Corruption Chief Magistrate’s Court for mitigation and sentencing.



Former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu (centre) and his co-accused Charles Chege (right) before Milimani Law Courts, Nairobi.



Susan Wangari, wife to ex-Kiambu governor Ferdinand Waititu.

Wangari was ordered held at Lang’ata Women’s Prison pending the proceedings, while the court directed that the additional sentences for money laundering run concurrently with those already imposed under the anti-corruption law.

The case arose from a disputed road construction tender in Kiambu County and involved charges including fraud, conflict of interest, abuse of office, fraudulent acquisition of public property and money laundering.

Waititu and his co-accused were first arraigned on July 19, 2019, and subsequently challenged their convictions and penalties, including the legality of the fines and default prison terms.

The High Court’s decision leaves the original convictions and sentences intact while paving the way for sentencing on the additional money laundering convictions.

The parties were also informed of their right to appeal to the Court of Appeal within 14 days.

Two directors charged over Sh1.5million VAT fraud claims

BY WILSON ONCHARI

Two company directors have been charged with allegedly making false tax declarations involving fictitious business purchases that resulted in a combined loss of Sh1.537 million in Value Added Tax (VAT) revenue.

Jefferson Wachira Gachango and Dorothy Gacheri Kimathi appeared before Milimani Principal Magistrate P.K. Mutai to answer charges of allegedly making incorrect tax statements to reduce their VAT liabilities.

The prosecution alleges that Wachira, a director of Jefla Construction Company, declared purchases worth Sh3.329 million from Adsem General Supplies in July 2022, knowing the information was incorrect.

The declaration allegedly caused a VAT loss of Sh532,663 to the Commissioner of Domestic Taxes.

In a separate count, Wachira is accused of declaring purchases worth Sh3.427 million from Namtek Transporters, allegedly resulting in a further tax loss of Sh548,337.

Jefla Construction Company is registered under number CPR/2014/156197 and has Kenya Revenue Authority personal identification number P051503246Y.

Kimathi faces a separate charge over alleged incorrect declarations involving purchases worth Sh2.852

million from Aisve Enterprises.

According to the prosecution, the declaration was allegedly made knowingly to reduce her VAT liability, occasioning a loss of Sh456,428 to the tax commissioner.

The three counts account for the total alleged tax loss of Sh1,537,428.

Following the proceedings, Wachira was released on a bond of Sh600,000 or an alternative cash bail of Sh400,000. Kimathi was granted a bond of Sh300,000 or an alternative cash bail of Sh150,000.

Meanwhile, the court issued warrants of arrest against Jane Lucy Njeri, Joram Kamau and Amisi Zamba after they failed to appear.

The three are expected to face charges relating to tax fraud and aiding the commission of tax fraud. They are associated with Jefla Construction Company, Renova Limited, and Tekaza Investment and General Suppliers, respectively.

The court also directed Henry Ateka Nyabwari, identified as the sixth suspect, to appear on Friday for plea-taking.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has approved six charges relating to tax fraud and aiding the commission of tax fraud.

The case was prosecuted by Annette Wangia, Virginia Kariuki, Kevin Nyaga and Charlotte Elly.

The allegations are before the court and have yet to be proved.



Jefferson Wachira Gachango and Dorothy Gacheri Kimathi.

Court strikes out magistrate’s petition against CJ Koome’s disciplinary action

BY WILBERFORCE KIGEN

The Employment and Labour Relations Court has struck out a petition by Nairobi Chief Magistrate Stella Atambo seeking to stop disciplinary proceedings initiated against her by Chief Justice Martha Koome, ruling that she used the wrong legal procedure.

Justice Monica Mbarū held that Atambo’s challenge to two Notices to Show Cause issued on April 10 and 17, 2026, should have been filed as an ordinary employment claim rather than a constitutional petition.

In a ruling delivered on October 8, the judge said the dispute concerned administrative fairness and could be resolved through established employment litigation procedures without requiring constitutional interpretation.

“The petition, premised on the

challenged Notices to Show Cause issued by the first respondent against the petitioner and the orders sought, does not raise any need to interpret the Constitution over any rights not provided for under statute,” Justice Mbarū ruled.

“This is unnecessary. It is not a proper petition,” she added.

Atambo, who is stationed at Kibera Law Courts, moved to court in April seeking to stop further action arising from the notices. She also wanted the Judiciary compelled to disclose the evidence, reports, statements and records relied upon in initiating the disciplinary process.

She argued that she had been directed to respond to allegations framed as facts without being supplied with supporting evidence or information about its source.

“The complaint is live and continuous. The Petitioner must answer, within fourteen days, allegations



Chief Justice Martha Koome (left) and Nairobi Chief Magistrate Stella Atambo (right).

framed as fact without disclosure of evidence or provenance,” she submitted, citing constitutional protections on fair trial and administrative action.

Koome’s lawyers countered that the petition was essentially an administrative-fairness dispute that did not raise

a genuine constitutional question and should be struck out.

The court agreed, relying on the principle that employment disputes should not automatically be converted into constitutional petitions where statutory remedies are available.

The ruling followed an earlier decision dismissing Atambo’s application to expunge a replying affidavit sworn by Senior Legal Counsel Muciimi Mbaka on behalf of the Office of the Chief Justice.

The court held that an employer could respond through an officer familiar with the relevant records.



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Fuel price shock: Is EPRA serving consumers or political interests?

EPRA occupies a position of considerable public importance. Its decisions influence virtually every sector of the economy, from agriculture and manufacturing to transport, retail and electricity generation. Such authority demands independence, technical competence and freedom from improper political influence. Small businesses operating on thin margins cannot easily absorb unpredictable cost increases. Those supplying goods under fixed-price contracts risk losses when diesel costs rise unexpectedly. Investors also struggle to plan in an environment where energy costs fluctuate without sufficiently clear explanations of the relationship between international benchmarks and domestic pump prices.

KENYA'S LATEST fuel price increases have reignited a fundamental question about the independence of the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) on whether the regulator is protecting consumers through transparent, evidence-based pricing, or has petroleum pricing become vulnerable to political interference and questionable policy decisions.

The question is no longer academic. With petrol rising by Sh12.93 per litre, diesel by Sh9.90 and kerosene by Sh28.49 in the latest review covering October 15 to November 14, 2026, millions of Kenyans face another assault on their already stretched household budgets. In Nairobi, petrol now retails at Sh226.96 per litre, diesel at Sh227.76 and kerosene at Sh219.87.

These are not merely numbers on a monthly pricing schedule. They represent higher transport fares, more expensive food, increased production costs and shrinking disposable incomes. For low-income households relying on kerosene for cooking and lighting, the steep increase is particularly punishing.

EPRA attributes the adjustments to international petroleum market developments, including heightened tensions in the Middle East, alongside the government's decision to discontinue the fuel subsidy.

Yet consumers deserve more than general explanations. They deserve a transparent account of how international prices, exchange rates, freight, insurance, taxes, levies and distribution margins translate into the amounts charged at the pump.

The Motorists Association of Kenya (MAK) has raised precisely these concerns, demanding an independent audit of petroleum pricing and the controversial government-to-government (G-to-G) fuel import arrangement.

Its questions warrant serious scrutiny.

According to MAK, landed costs increased by 11.81 per cent for petrol, 11.32 per cent for diesel and 9.41 per cent for kerosene, while pump prices rose by 6.04 per cent, 4.54 per cent and 14.89 per cent, respectively.

The figures do not, by themselves, establish wrongdoing, because pump prices incorporate several additional components. However, the disproportionate increase in kerosene prices demands a convincing, publicly verifiable explanation.

The regulator should publish detailed product-by-product pricing worksheets, allowing consumers to understand the calculations behind every adjustment. Transparency is not a favour to motorists; it is a fundamental requirement of credible economic regulation.

The independence question

EPRA occupies a position of considerable public importance. Its decisions influence virtually every sector of the economy, from agriculture and manufacturing to transport, retail and electricity generation. Such authority demands independence, technical competence and freedom from improper political influence.

When fuel prices change sharply, consumers must be able to trust that the decisions reflect verifiable market fundamentals rather than political expediency, fiscal convenience or the interests of powerful commercial players.

Opposition leader and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has alleged that President William Ruto ordered increases of Sh12 per litre for petrol and Sh9 for diesel to finance political mobilisation and



The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) Director General Eng. Edward Kinyua addressing the media, October 14, 2026.

bribery ahead of the August 10, 2027 General Election. He has also implicated Gulf Energy in his allegations.

These are serious claims that remain unsubstantiated. They should not be treated as established facts, and neither the company nor the government should be condemned without evidence.

Nevertheless, the allegations underscore the urgency of independently verifying the pricing process and establishing whether the regulator operates without political direction.

EPRA must demonstrate its independence through evidence, not merely institutional declarations. If its calculations are sound, publishing them should strengthen public confidence. If errors or improper influences are identified, they must be corrected and those responsible held accountable.

Audit the G-to-G oil deal

Introduced in 2023, Kenya's G-to-G petroleum import arrangement was presented as a solution to foreign-exchange pressures, supply uncertainty and volatile pump prices. The government argued that credit facilities and arrangements with selected international suppliers would ease demand for dollars and improve supply stability.

Three years later, Kenyans are entitled to ask whether these promised benefits have materialised and whether consumers are receiving value for money.

The arrangement has faced persistent criticism over transparency, procurement competitiveness and the role of selected local oil marketing companies.

The government has defended it, citing supply stability and arrangements for freight and insurance costs. Both the claims of success and allegations of irregularity should be tested against independently verified evidence. Parliament, the Auditor-General and the Competition Authority of Kenya should support a comprehensive, independent audit examining supplier premiums, financing costs, freight, insurance, foreign-exchange exposure, contractual obligations and the competitiveness of procurement.

The audit should compare the arrangement's actual costs and benefits with a credible alternative procurement model. It should also examine the Petroleum Development Levy Fund's receipts, disbursements and stabilisation balances.

The objective should not be to condemn the G-to-G model in advance, but to establish whether it delivers measurable benefits and whether any savings reach

consumers.

A painful burden on households and businesses

Fuel is a critical input across the economy. When prices rise, transporters face higher operating costs, farmers pay more to move produce, manufacturers spend more on production and traders pass additional expenses to consumers.

Small businesses operating on thin margins cannot easily absorb unpredictable cost increases. Those supplying goods under fixed-price contracts risk losses when diesel costs rise unexpectedly. Investors also struggle to plan in an environment where energy costs fluctuate without sufficiently clear explanations of the relationship between international benchmarks and domestic pump prices.

For ordinary Kenyans, the consequences are immediate: higher fares, expensive food and fewer resources for rent, education and healthcare.

The government cannot control every international market movement. However, it can ensure that domestic pricing is transparent, competition is protected, subsidies and levies are administered accountably, and regulatory decisions are insulated from political manipulation.

Restore public confidence

Kenya needs a petroleum pricing system that is predictable, independently regulated and open to public scrutiny. EPRA should explain the latest increases in detail, while the government should facilitate an independent audit of the G-to-G arrangement.

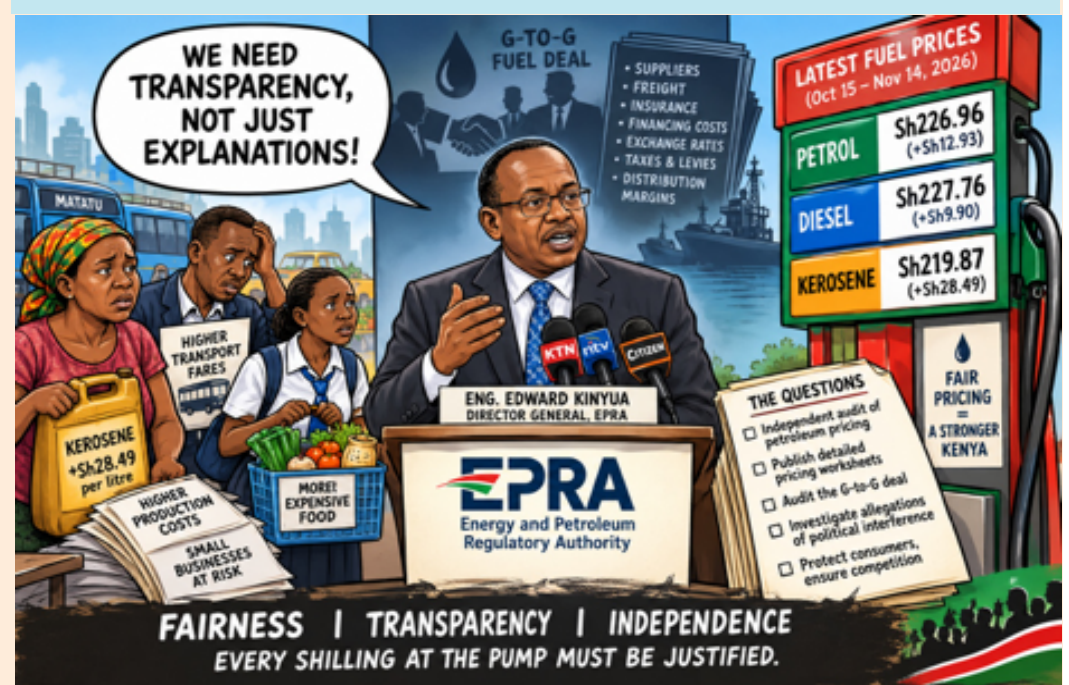
Gachagua's allegations must be investigated on evidence, not political rhetoric. Equally, the government should not dismiss legitimate demands for accountability simply because they emerge from the opposition.

Ultimately, Kenyans are not demanding artificially cheap fuel. They are demanding fairness, transparency and credible regulation.

When fuel prices become unpredictable, businesses suffer, households sink deeper into hardship and public confidence in institutions deteriorates. The government and EPRA must therefore demonstrate that every shilling charged at the pump is justified.

The price of failure is paid daily by millions of citizens who can least afford it.

THE WEEKLY CARTOON



Kenya's fuel price accountability debate.



With
DR MOHAMED JEILAN

Don't miss a beat: How the pacemaker transformed heart care



This year's World Heart Day message celebrated on September 29, 2026 under the theme "Don't Miss a Beat,".

EVERY HEALTHY heart has a natural pacemaker: a group of specialised cells that generates electrical signals, typically triggering 60 to 100 heartbeats per minute at rest.

These signals coordinate the heart's chambers, allowing blood to circulate throughout the body. When this electrical system fails, however, the consequences can range from fatigue and dizziness to fainting and, in severe cases, death.

This year's World Heart Day message celebrated on September 29, 2026 under the theme "Don't Miss a Beat," highlights the importance of preventing and treating cardiovascular disease.

For patients whose hearts beat too slowly or whose electrical signals fail to reach the lower chambers, the message has a literal meaning. An artificial pacemaker can restore the rhythm needed to sustain life.

A pacemaker monitors the heartbeat and delivers small electrical impulses when necessary to stimulate contraction.

Modern devices can adjust the heart rate during exercise, coordinate different chambers, record rhythm information and support remote monitoring.

The technology has evolved dramatically since the 1950s, when early electrical pacemakers were bulky external machines dependent on mains electricity. In 1957, American engineer Earl Bakken developed one of the first battery-powered wearable pacemakers, allowing patients greater mobility.

A landmark breakthrough followed on October 8, 1958, when Swedish surgeon Åke Senning implanted a pacemaker designed by engineer Rune Elmqvist into 43-year-old Arne Larsson.

The operation required opening the chest, attaching electrodes directly to the heart and placing the device in the abdominal wall. Although the first pacemaker lasted only hours, Larsson lived for another four decades, receiving replacement devices as the technology advanced.

Subsequent innovations made implantation less invasive. Doctors developed thin insulated wires, known as leads, that could be passed through veins into the heart.

The conventional pacemaker gradually emerged, with a small generator implanted beneath the skin, usually below the collarbone, and one or more leads delivering electrical impulses to the heart chambers.

Improvements in batteries, electronics and device design made pacemakers smaller, more reliable and capable of functioning for many years.

Their role also expanded beyond preventing dangerously slow heartbeats. Cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT) was developed for selected patients with heart failure whose ventricles contract out of sequence.

By coordinating contractions, specialised pacemakers can improve the heart's pumping efficiency, relieve symptoms, reduce hospital admissions and, in appropriate patients, improve survival.

Despite these advances, conventional pacemakers retain a generator beneath the skin and leads connecting it to the heart.

Although generally reliable, leads can sometimes fracture, become infected or contribute to vein obstruction. The surgical pocket can also develop infections.

These challenges prompted the development of leadless pacemakers. Delivered through a vein in the leg using a catheter, these miniature devices contain their own battery, electronics, sensing system and electrode.

They sit entirely inside the heart, eliminating the chest generator, surgical pocket and traditional leads.

Earlier this year, specialists at Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi implanted Kenya's first leadless pacemaker, marking progress in expanding access to advanced cardiac technologies locally.

Newer leadless systems have also advanced beyond single-chamber pacing, with some capable of coordinating the upper and lower chambers.

From bulky machines connected to electrical outlets to miniature devices implanted entirely within the heart, pacemakers represent more than seven decades of medical and engineering innovation.

Their greatest achievement, however, remains deeply personal. They help patients overcome fainting, regain mobility and resume everyday activities that a dangerously slow heartbeat had made difficult.

Not every slow pulse requires a pacemaker, and the device does not cure every form of heart disease. Proper medical assessment is essential. But when the heart's electrical system fails, pacing can provide a reliable, potentially lifesaving solution.

This World Heart Day, "Don't Miss a Beat" is a reminder to recognise cardiovascular disease early and seek appropriate care. For millions who have benefited from pacemaker technology, it is also a testament to an extraordinary medical achievement: ensuring that when the heart cannot produce its next beat, technology can help it continue.

The author is Dr Mohamed Jeilan, Director, Cardiac Services and Consultant Interventional Cardiologist at Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Trans Nzoia Governor Natembeya goes after police boss Kanja over repeated security withdrawal



The author is George Natembeya, Trans Nzoia County Governor

I WISH to remind the relevant authorities that the exercise of public power in Kenya is governed by the constitution and the rule of law.

Article 47(1) and (2) of the constitution of Kenya, 2010, guarantees every person administrative action that is lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair, including the right to written reasons where a right or fundamental freedom has been adversely affected.

Any decision affecting my security must therefore comply with the applicable constitutional and legal requirements.

Further, Article 238(2)(b) requires national security to be pursued in compliance with the law and with the utmost respect for the rule of law, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 244(a) and (d) requires the National Police Service to maintain high standards of professionalism and discipline and to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity.

I am particularly concerned that this is happening for the

second time. I therefore call upon the Inspector-General of the National Police Service to provide a formal explanation of the reasons for this decision and to clarify whether the applicable security procedures have been followed.

I also draw attention to the High Court ruling reported on 3 June 2025 concerning the withdrawal of security assigned to five governors. In that case, the court held that withdrawing security without prior written notice, an opportunity to be heard and written reasons violated Article 47 of the Constitution.

The relevant authorities should take due account of that judicial pronouncement and the applicable law.

Let me be clear: I do not claim immunity from lawful security reviews. What I insist upon is that any such review must be conducted professionally, objectively and in accordance with the Constitution, without discrimination or improper political influence.

As an elected Governor, I remain committed to discharging my constitutional responsibilities to the people of Trans Nzoia. I will not be distracted from serving the public, defending constitutionalism or upholding the rule of law.

I accordingly call upon the relevant authorities to clarify this matter, provide the reasons for the repeated withdrawal and ensure that appropriate security arrangements are maintained in accordance with the law.

The constitution is binding on every public institution. No exercise of public power is above the law, and no Kenyan should be denied procedural fairness.



A collage photo of the Deputy Inspector General, National Police Service (DIG-NPS) Eliud Lagat (left) and Trans-Nzoia County Governor George Natembeya (right).

GRAPEVINE

OPPOSITION OFFICIAL'S TIKTOK SHOW STUNS KILIMANI HOTEL PATRONS

A SENIOR official of one of the United Opposition affiliate parties this week provided unexpected entertainment at a posh Kilimani hotel, where his choice of digital content left fellow patrons and staff visibly stunned.

The party's Secretary General, who had tucked himself into a corner seat, reportedly appeared engrossed in watching and listening to explicit TikTok videos, seemingly oblivious to the curious eyes and ears around him.

What might have been a private indulgence quickly became an awkward public spectacle, with some patrons

exchanging bewildered glances while others openly expressed their disapproval.

Hotel attendants were equally taken aback by the apparent lack of discretion from a man holding a senior position in a political outfit.

The incident has since reignited an uncomfortable conversation about personal conduct and the standards expected of those entrusted with public leadership.

Some patrons reportedly argued that political parties should do more to vet the character, integrity and

competence of their officials, with calls for stronger ethical standards and reasonable academic qualifications where relevant.

While watching online content is hardly a political offence, the setting and apparent lack of discretion raised eyebrows. For an official whose job presumably involves organising, communicating and projecting a party's image, the Kilimani episode offered an unwelcome reminder that leadership is not merely about titles and political alliances. Sometimes, it is also about knowing when to put the phone away.

Aga Khan University Hospital was fined Sh1 million over lapses in the care of Valarie Cheron Misoi, whose husband says a joyful moment of welcoming their second child turned into a devastating loss

BY WANJIKU WAWERU

For Lawrence Oyaro, the birth of a child should have been one of the happiest moments of family life. Instead, the arrival of his second child in August 2019 was followed by a tragedy that has left him and his family grappling with grief, unanswered questions and a prolonged fight for accountability.

His wife, Valarie Cheron Misoi, died shortly after giving birth at Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi, turning what should have been a new beginning into a painful chapter that the family has struggled to close six years later.

Now, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) has found the hospital culpable of professional lapses in Misoi's care and management, imposing a Sh1 million fine and ordering changes to its medical protocols.

But for the bereaved family, the disciplinary action is only one part of a much longer battle. Through their lawyers, Githogori and Harrison Associates Advocates LLP, they are seeking Sh100 million in compensation over the death of the 27-year-old mother, whose life was cut short when her young family was expecting to begin another chapter together.

The council's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, in Disciplinary Case No. 70 of 2022, directed the hospital to review and update its medical protocols, strengthen maternal and perinatal death surveillance procedures, and enter mediation with the family in pursuit of an amicable settlement.

The council upheld the committee's findings in January 2026, directing the hospital to demonstrate compliance and report the outcome of mediation within 90 days.

The ruling offers the family an important measure of regulatory accountability. However, it does not determine the amount of compensation payable, which remains the subject of a separate claim.

A young mother's final days

Misoi had received antenatal care at the hospital during her pregnancy in 2019 under Dr Mukaindo Mwaniki.

According to testimony presented to the committee, the couple had been satisfied with the care she received and opted to return to the same facility for the delivery of their second child.

But days before giving birth, she presented with symptoms that would later become part of the inquiry into the circumstances surrounding her death.

On August 18, 2019, Misoi visited the hospital complaining of diarrhoea and abdominal pain. She underwent investigations and was advised to return for review.

Dr Mwaniki told the committee that he examined her and noted an elevated heart rate, with symptoms suggesting a possible infection. A sample was collected for investigation, and she was counselled on danger signs and advised to return within three days.

According to his testimony, she did not attend the scheduled review.

The doctor told the inquiry that the symptoms were not considered an emergency requiring antibiotics before the culture results became available. He nevertheless acknowledged that her gastrointestinal complaints and fatigue could have warranted closer assessment



Aga Khan University Hospital.

Six years of agony: Family seeks Sh100million after mother dies following childbirth

for a systemic infection.

He also confirmed that Misoi's haemoglobin level had fallen from 12.6 grams per decilitre in January 2019 to 11 grams in July and eight grams at readmission.

Dr Mwaniki maintained that his role was limited to antenatal care and that he did not manage her during delivery, initial discharge or subsequent readmission.

These details became part of the evidence examined by the disciplinary committee as it considered whether the hospital had exercised reasonable care and skill in managing the patient's condition.

From childbirth to a family's nightmare

Oyaro told the inquiry that his wife went into labour on the evening of August 27, 2019, and delivered a baby girl through normal vaginal delivery in the early hours of August 28.

The birth should have marked the beginning of another chapter for the couple and their children. Instead, concerns about Misoi's health continued.

Oyaro said he was informed that his wife had sustained a tear during delivery, which was stitched and described to him as minor.

She was discharged on August 29 after complaining of leg pain and undergoing investigations for a possible blood clot, according to testimony recorded in the ruling.

The family's complaint centred on whether

the hospital had exercised appropriate care in managing her condition and whether lapses in treatment contributed to an infection that ultimately led to her death.

The committee examined the complaint alongside medical records, autopsy and medical reports, statements from the parties and evidence presented during the inquiry.

It found the hospital culpable for lapses in care and management. However, it absolved Dr Nyawira, Dr Umar and Dr Obare, finding that they had no case to answer.

Dr Gichuki was admonished over what the committee described as a lack of situational awareness and failure to consult senior team members promptly, contributing to delays in critical care management.

The findings provide a regulatory assessment of the hospital's handling of the case, although the family's civil claim must still address the compensation sought.

The price of a life lost

In their demand for compensation, the family's lawyers argue that the loss extends beyond the immediate circumstances of Misoi's death to the pain, suffering and financial consequences borne by those she left behind.

Misoi was 27 and earning a net monthly salary of Sh165,000 at the time of her death. Her family is seeking compensation under several heads of damages.

The lawyers have proposed Sh27.22 million in general damages for pain, loss and suffering, Sh53.46 million for lost years, Sh17.82 million for loss of dependency and Sh1.5 million in special damages.

The figures reflect the family's assessment of the loss occasioned by her death. They remain proposals in the claim, not an award made by the KMPDC.

To support their assessment, the lawyers have cited a separate judgment in *Naila Gureshi v Aga Khan University Hospital*, which they say involved an award of Sh157 million.

The hospital's advocates had previously proposed Sh10,000 for pain and suffering, Sh10,000 for loss of expectation of life, Sh8.48 million for loss of dependency and Sh1.5 million in special damages, highlighting the substantial gap between the parties' positions.

For the family, the dispute is not simply about figures. It is also about securing an outcome after years of waiting for the circumstances surrounding a young mother's death to be addressed.

Their lawyers have raised concern over the time taken to resolve the matter and urged the hospital to engage in mediation and compensation discussions within 60 days to avoid further litigation costs.

Beyond the fine

The KMPDC has ordered the hospital to review and update its protocols to ensure compliance with emergency obstetric and neonatal care standards. The revised procedures must be communicated to staff and medical contractors, with the hospital required to demonstrate compliance to the regulator.

It must also implement and monitor Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response processes, which identify factors contributing to maternal and perinatal deaths and recommend corrective action.

The committee warned that failure to comply could attract further regulatory orders.

For Oyaro and his family, however, institutional reforms cannot restore the wife and mother they lost. Nor does the Sh1 million fine settle the separate question of compensation.

Six years after Misoi's death, the family is still seeking a resolution to a tragedy that began around the birth of a child and ended with a young mother gone.



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Social media orders for seeds and seedlings have opened a new income stream for Bernard Gitau, whose farming venture is cutting costs, attracting customers and nurturing his passion for organic agriculture

BY ANTINET FORD

When Bernard Gitau began growing and selling cherry tomatoes, his immediate goal was to produce fresh fruits for customers.

But as word about his farm spread through social media, friends and acquaintances, an unexpected opportunity emerged: buyers wanted to grow the crop themselves.

What began as a small venture selling fresh cherry tomatoes has gradually evolved into a business offering seeds, seedlings and fresh produce, giving the former journalist another way to earn from the farm while reducing his own production costs.

Gitau, who markets his produce through social media and personal networks around Joska, has found that demand for planting materials is growing alongside interest in the tomatoes themselves.

Friends in the community and people working at the National Museums of Kenya, where he has acquaintances, were among those who began asking him for seeds after learning about his farming activities.

Their requests prompted him to rethink how he used overripe tomatoes, which he had previously reserved mainly for obtaining seeds for his next planting season.

Instead of allowing the excess fruit to go to waste or using it only for his own farm, he began extracting and preparing larger quantities of seeds for sale.

“People are making orders for the seeds because they want to plant it at their homes for domestic use. We are improving and increasing our production of the seeds even as this is our first batch. The overripe are the ones that I will continue to make seeds from. I will not stop the production of seeds after this first batch,” he said.

The new line of business illustrates how small-scale farmers can identify additional income opportunities by responding to customer needs and making productive use of what they already have.

For Gitau, the transition has been particularly encouraging because the demand has come largely through existing relationships and social media rather than an elaborate marketing campaign.

Turning ripe fruit into planting material

Seed production requires patience, careful handling and confidence that the finished product will grow.

Speaking to The Informer Media Group, Gitau said he uses overripe cherry tomatoes to obtain seeds, which he then dries thoroughly before preparing them for planting or sale.

“To make the seeds, I dry the overripe tomato, then scrub it and continue drying to ensure 100 per cent germination when I am doing it for the nursery or selling to someone,” he explained.

He is also keen to establish trust with buyers by testing the seeds before selling them. Rather than relying solely on assurances about their quality, he points to the results of germination tests conducted on his farm.

“By next week I will deliver to them because they will be fully dried. Something

From byline to seedbed: Ex-journalist turns cherry tomatoes into a growing business



Bernard Gitau sorting cherry tomatoes after bumper harvest.

that I need to mention is, before I sell the seeds, I do a germination test here at the farm to be sure the buyer will be safe,” he said.

“As you have seen on the nursery, the germination is 99 per cent. So if someone asks if it will germinate, I can show them that truly, it will germinate and there is no need to worry.”

The reported germination rate gives him a practical selling point, particularly for first-time growers who may be reluctant to spend money on seeds without knowing whether they will establish successfully.

His approach also highlights the importance of quality control in small agricultural enterprises. For a farmer building a customer base through personal recommendations, the ability to demonstrate that seeds can germinate is essential to sustaining confidence and generating repeat orders.

Social media brings the market closer

The growing demand has required Gitau to think beyond his immediate production needs.

On one Thursday, he received inquiries from five people seeking seeds, while two others wanted to know whether he had seedlings ready for planting.

The orders arrived as he was already preparing seeds from overripe tomatoes collected during the week's harvest.

The timing allowed him to respond to

the inquiries without abandoning his own planting schedule.

Social media has therefore become more than a platform for advertising his produce. It has given him a direct connection to potential customers, allowing him to identify demand, plan production and explore new sources of income.

Unlike a farmer who must depend entirely on selling harvested produce, Gitau can now reach customers at different stages of the growing process.

Some want fresh tomatoes, others prefer seeds to start their own gardens, while those seeking a quicker start can purchase seedlings from his nursery.

This diversification gives the venture more than one route to market and could help him reach households interested in growing their own food as well as farmers considering commercial production.

More than 300 seedlings ready for transplanting

Even as he expands seed production, Gitau continues to invest in his main cherry tomato crop.

He plans to transplant more than 300 seedlings from the nursery, while more than 700 additional seedlings will be available for sale at Sh4 each.

The seedlings are intended for customers

both near and farther from his farm who want to grow cherry tomatoes for household consumption or commercial purposes.

For home gardeners, the seedlings offer an opportunity to grow fresh tomatoes within their own compounds, subject to suitable growing conditions and proper care. For commercial growers, they provide a starting point for a crop that can be cultivated for sale.

The growing interest in seedlings also means Gitau must balance his own planting requirements with orders from customers.

His experience demonstrates the value of planning production around emerging demand. By maintaining a nursery alongside his fruit production, he can serve customers who would otherwise need to source planting materials from agricultural input shops.

Cutting costs through farming

Another advantage of the venture is the reduction in the cost of buying seeds from agrovet shops.

By saving seeds from his own crop, Gitau has reduced his dependence on purchased planting materials, while the sale of surplus seeds creates an additional potential revenue stream.

He also says he does not buy pesticides for his cherry tomatoes, relying instead on pruning and proper management of the plants to encourage healthy growth and fruit production.

His approach reflects his preference for a more natural farming system, although effective pest and disease management remains important for maintaining healthy crops and protecting yields.

For a small-scale farmer, reducing input costs can make a significant difference to profitability, particularly when combined with multiple income streams.

However, the long-term success of the business will depend on maintaining seed quality, managing production costs, meeting customer expectations and ensuring that the crop remains productive.

A new chapter after journalism

Gitau's agricultural journey represents a change of direction for a seasoned journalist who has discovered a new professional interest beyond the newsroom.

Journalism demands research, communication, attention to detail and the ability to respond to changing circumstances.

Many of these qualities can also be useful in farming, where observation, planning, record-keeping and understanding the market influence business decisions.

His use of social media to connect with customers demonstrates how communication skills can support an agricultural enterprise. Instead of relying exclusively on traditional produce markets, he can engage directly with prospective buyers, explain his products and receive feedback.

The transition also challenges the assumption that farming is simply a fallback option for people leaving other professions.

For Gitau, it has become an opportunity to build a business, experiment with production methods and discover new possibilities in agriculture.

His expanding cherry tomato venture is still developing, but the early response to his seeds and seedlings suggests that customer demand can create opportunities beyond the original product.

As he prepares to transplant his next crop and fulfil orders for planting materials, Gitau is cultivating more than tomatoes. He is building a business around the idea that every harvest can yield another opportunity.

For the former journalist, the newsroom may belong to an earlier chapter, but the skills of telling a story, connecting with an audience and recognising an opportunity remain valuable.

This time, the story is being written in the soil, one seed at a time.



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Video advertising, social media and connected television are expected to drive expansion as businesses shift towards data-driven campaigns and measurable returns

BY JOHN OYUKE

Kenya's internet advertising market is projected to nearly double to Sh78 billion by 2030, making it the world's fastest-growing market, according to a new report by global professional services network PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

The Africa Entertainment and Media Outlook 2026–2030 forecasts revenue from internet advertising will rise from \$313 million (about Sh40.6 billion) in 2025 to \$603 million (approximately Sh78 billion) in 2030, representing a compound annual growth rate of 14 per cent.

The growth rate puts Kenya ahead of India and almost double the projected global internet advertising growth of 7.2 per cent over the same period.

PwC attributes the expansion to increasing digital connectivity, widespread mobile-first consumer behaviour, digital payments and rising online engagement, which are creating new opportunities for advertisers, publishers and media companies.

Video internet advertising is expected to be a major driver, with revenues projected to grow by 18.2 per cent annually, supported by social media platforms and connected television.

Michael Mugasa, Entertainment and Media Partner at PwC Kenya, said the country's digital economy demonstrated the potential created by strong connectivity and high online engagement.

"Kenya demonstrates the potential that emerges when strong connectivity, high digital engagement, and a mobile-first economy come together," he said.

"The next stage is about converting that participation into value. As digital advertising evolves, businesses that understand their audiences, use data responsibly, and demonstrate meaningful outcomes will be best placed to capture the opportunities ahead," he added.

The report warns that media businesses must move quickly to exploit emerging opportunities and translate additional



Africa Entertainment and Media Outlook 2026–2030

Kenya's internet advertising market to hit Sh78billion by 2030

revenues into profits as innovation continues to transform the creative industries.

Advertisers will increasingly need to move beyond audience reach to prioritise consumer preferences, trusted first-party data, effective campaign activation and credible measurement of commercial outcomes.

"For advertisers and media owners, reach is no longer enough. Trusted first-party data, effective activation, and credible measurement will become more important as attention fragments across broadcasters, publishers, retailers, streaming platforms, creators, and social media," the report states.

Kenya's wider entertainment and media industry is also expected to expand, with total revenue projected to reach \$6 billion by 2030, representing annual growth of five per cent.

Over-the-top (OTT) video streaming is forecast to grow by 15.9 per cent annually, placing Kenya among the world's fastest-growing markets. Nigeria leads the three African markets assessed, with projected annual growth of 20.4 per cent, while South Africa is expected to record 7.6 per cent.

Traditional television will remain significant in Kenya and Nigeria, suggesting streaming services will complement rather than immediately replace conventional broadcasting.

Connectivity will remain critical to this expansion. Kenya's 5G subscription penetration is projected to reach 51.6 per cent by 2030, compared with 86.8 per cent in South Africa and 35.3 per cent in Nigeria.

PwC says internet quality, reliability and affordability will determine how quickly consumers embrace data-intensive services, including streaming, gaming and connected television.

Kenya's video gaming market is forecast to grow by 5.8 per cent annually through 2030, exceeding the global projection of 3.6 per cent.

Artificial intelligence is also expected to help African content creators expand across markets through translation, subtitling, localisation and personalised recommendations. However, PwC cautions that adoption must be accompanied by safeguards covering intellectual property, attribution, privacy, data governance, transparency and human oversight.

The report examines entertainment and media trends across Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, including advertising, streaming, gaming, connectivity, live entertainment and artificial intelligence.

It concludes that sustainable growth will depend on combining technological innovation with creativity, cultural relevance and meaningful audience connections.

Sh3.9billion tax fraud scandal: DPP targets five suspects, 12 firms

Five individuals and 12 companies face prosecution over alleged fictitious transactions used to evade taxes and expose the Government to Sh519 million in lost VAT revenue

BY JAMES WASIKE

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has approved prosecution in 36 cases linked to an alleged Sh3.9 billion tax fraud scheme involving fictitious transactions and electronic invoices used to claim fraudulent Value Added Tax (VAT) refunds or evade tax.

The investigations, conducted jointly by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), uncovered an alleged network of companies that generated electronic tax invoices without genuine purchases, exposing public revenue to an estimated Sh519 million loss.

The DPP approved the prosecutions following a review of 70 inquiry files, with six cases involving an estimated Sh17 million in VAT liabilities prioritised for immediate prosecution.

The five individuals named in the investigations are Henry Ateka Nyabwari, James Ojiambo Nyengenyne, Amisi Zamda, Frank Nyabwari and Hesbon Onyoni.

According to the ODPP, the suspects allegedly participated in registering 70 companies that were used to execute the scheme.

The companies are suspected of operating as "missing traders", generating fictitious transactions and electronic invoices that other businesses allegedly used to claim VAT refunds unlawfully or reduce their tax obligations despite making no genuine purchases.

Firms linked to the investigations include Renova Limited, Larigr Enterprises, Njemtar Agencies, Jeflar Construction Company, Namtek Transporters Company Limited, Jawari General Supplies and Tekaza Investment & General Supplies.

In a statement issued on Thursday, October 15, 2026 the ODPP said the remaining files would be registered in court in due course, paving the way for additional charges against the suspects involved.

The alleged scheme raises questions about the integrity of electronic invoicing systems and the effectiveness of tax compliance controls used to protect government revenue.



A collage photo of Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Commissioner General Adan Mohamed and clients being attended to at the KRA headquarters, Times Towers, Nairobi.

Big win for women and local industry as Sofy Unicharm starts operations in Kenya

BY JOHN OYUKE

Sofy Unicharm East Africa Limited has officially launched in Kenya, marking a new chapter in the company's commitment to improving access to quality and affordable personal hygiene products to empower women across East Africa.

The Sh2 billion joint venture between Unicharm Corporation, Toyota Tsusho Corporation and CFAO Kenya Limited combines Unicharm's global expertise in personal hygiene and innovation with strong local market knowledge and capabilities.

It will integrate product development, production, sales and marketing in Kenya, with plans to expand the supply and export of sanitary products to neighbouring East African markets.

According to Takahisa Takahara, President and CEO of Unicharm Corporation, the joint venture underscores the partners' commitment to driving regional growth, strengthening local manufacturing capabilities and contributing to the economic development of East Africa.

"Sofy Unicharm East Africa is the

first Unicharm local subsidiary to proudly feature "SOFY" in its corporate name. To us, SOFY is far more than just a product brand," he said during the launch.

"By elevating SOFY into our company name, we are declaring our strong commitment to standing beside women in East Africa, understanding their needs, supporting their possibilities, and growing together with them. This also marks the beginning of a long-term journey."

Takahara said the aim to evolve into a company that supports lifetime value in East Africa in the future, adding: "We look forward to applying the knowledge and technologies Unicharm has cultivated globally—including baby care such as baby diapers—tailored to the needs of this region."

Sofy Unicharm East Africa, Managing Director Daigo Fujiwara said the firm was established with a clear commitment to improving quality of life across East Africa by addressing hygiene challenges and supporting the health and dignity of women.

"By providing reliable feminine care solutions, promoting better hygiene habits and addressing period poverty, we aim to empower women to live with



Takahisa Takahara, President and CEO of Unicharm Corporation (left) and Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry Lee Kinyanjui (right).

greater confidence and participate fully in society. Together with our partners and local communities, we will continue to innovate and contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable future for the region," he said.

The SOFY brand entered the Kenyan market in 2023 with the premium SOFY Deep Absorb product. In January 2025,

the company introduced locally produced SOFY Long Lasting, an affordable option designed to respond to the needs and purchasing realities of Kenyan consumers.

According to Fujiwara as part of the SOFY brand's empowerment drive, the company has invested heavily in menstrual health education in schools and

communities and has partnered with various organisations on menstrual hygiene awareness and educational initiatives.

He said the company's efforts also align with Kenya's broader initiatives to improve menstrual hygiene management, as approximately 54 per cent of girls in Kenya have experienced challenges accessing sanitary products.

Speaking during the launch of the Japanese-backed sanitary products venture Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry Lee Kinyanjui, noted that the move towards local production of the products reflects an effort to offer reliable quality at an affordable price, informed by the needs and feedback of Kenyan consumers.

He said the event that drew government leaders, diplomatic representatives and senior corporate executives, that bringing production closer to consumers can strengthen supply reliability and support a business model suited to the local market which is central to the ministry. "We welcome this investment as an opportunity to deepen manufacturing in Kenya and progressively increase the local content of the products made here. Hygiene products support a wider value chain that includes industrial inputs, packaging, distribution, maintenance and other business services," Kinyanjui noted.



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President Trump cancels livestream of Fort Hood shooter's execution after backlash

BY CORRESPONDENT

US President Donald Trump has cancelled plans to livestream the firing squad execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan following bipartisan criticism that broadcasting his death could fuel terrorist recruitment and undermine American values.

The Pentagon had announced that Hasan's execution would be public and livestreamed, triggering condemnation from Republicans, Democrats and religious leaders who warned that broadcasting the killing could be exploited by extremist groups for propaganda.

Trump, however, defended the proposed broadcast as a possible deterrent against terrorism before

acknowledging concerns raised by members of the public.

"Might have been a strong deterrent for the World to witness how America deals with terrorists and cum like Hasan," Trump wrote on social media.

"But many very good and well-meaning people would rather not watch him die, through streaming, or through any other visual device," he added.

A US official, speaking anonymously to NPR, said Trump was persuaded that livestreaming the execution would conflict with American values and could encourage recruitment into radical Islamist terrorist groups, potentially endangering US forces in the Middle East.

The execution remains scheduled

for December 3, with Trump saying immediate family members of the victims may attend in person if they choose.

Pentagon chief spokesperson Sean Parnell confirmed that Trump and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth had discussed the decision.

"The Secretary supports the President's decision, and they are completely aligned," Parnell said.

Vice President JD Vance had earlier expressed reservations about watching the execution, saying he would not view it if it was ultimately broadcast. The Catholic Church, which opposes capital punishment, also condemned the proposal.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, head of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, described the move as a "barbaric promotion of a culture of

death" and urged the administration to reconsider.

Hasan, an Army psychiatrist and former major, killed 13 people and wounded more than 30 others during a shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009.

He opened fire on soldiers awaiting medical clearance for deployment. Hasan was convicted in 2013 and sentenced to death. He was left paralysed from the waist down after being shot by law enforcement officers.

Despite the cancellation of the livestream, religious scholars warn that publicly proposing the broadcast may already have shifted boundaries around what is considered acceptable state punishment.



Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan



WAIS Private Sector Advisory Board meeting in Lagos, Nigeria, co-chaired by Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio and Heirs Holdings Chairman Tony O. Elumelu, October 13, 2026.

West African business leaders mobilise capital for regional investment ahead of WAIS Summit

President Julius Maada Bio and billionaire investor Tony Elumelu lead push to transform 400-million-person market into investment, industrialisation and jobs

BY KARISA HASSAN

West Africa's leading business executives and financial institutions have pledged to mobilise capital for regional investments, industrial development and job creation ahead of the inaugural West Africa Integration and Investment Summit (WAIS) scheduled for November 17–18 in Sierra Leone.

The commitment followed the second meeting of the WAIS Private Sector Advisory Board in Lagos, Nigeria, on October 13, co-chaired by Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio and

Heirs Holdings Chairman Tony O. Elumelu.

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu attended the meeting, signalling the state government's support for the regional investment initiative.

The board brings together major industrial conglomerates, energy and mining companies, banks and development finance institutions to place private enterprise at the centre of West Africa's economic integration agenda.

Its mandate includes identifying bankable projects, mobilising African and international capital, and advising governments on policy reforms needed to unlock

investments.

Discussions focused on four priority sectors: energy trade and industrialisation, strategic minerals, agribusiness and digital transformation.

President Bio said the summit would help consolidate West Africa's market of more than 400 million people by strengthening trade, investment and economic cooperation.

"West Africa is very serious about ECOWAS, and ECOWAS has been around for 50 years. But in those 50 years we have not done enough to integrate and build a consolidated market," he said.

"We must bring together a common market that serves the more than 400 million people we have. That is why I am mobilising the private sector in West Africa and around the world to come together and get serious about a free market in West Africa." Ahead of the Lagos meeting, President Bassirou Diomaye Faye in New York to brief him on preparations for WAIS.

Faye, who chairs the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Authority of Heads of State and Government, reaffirmed the importance of aligning the summit with the bloc's priorities on regional integration, investment and private-sector participation.

The advisory board's deliberations mark a shift from advocacy towards identifying investable opportunities and mobilising financing to turn the region's economic potential into competitive industries and sustainable employment.

The November summit is expected to bring together regional and international investors to advance practical investment partnerships across West Africa.

Iran's precision strikes cripple Gulf infrastructure, threaten global economy

BY TEAM

Iran and its regional allies have launched at least 135 drone and missile attacks against 84 infrastructure sites across the Gulf since the United States and Israel began bombing Iran on February 28, exposing vulnerabilities in critical energy and transport networks, a Reuters investigation has found.

The attacks have targeted essential oil-routing systems, liquefied natural gas facilities, airports and pipeline infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain, causing equipment failures, operational disruptions and economic losses.

According to the investigation, the strikes have demonstrated Iran's ability to inflict significant damage on strategically important infrastructure despite facing a militarily superior United States.

In the UAE, Iranian attacks targeted oil-routing facilities at Fujairah, a major port outside the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting operations for weeks.

In Qatar, strikes hit two cold boxes at the Ras Laffan liquefied natural gas facility. The equipment houses cooling systems essential for converting natural gas into liquid form for storage and transportation.

Airports across at least four Gulf countries have also been targeted, with one Saudi Arabian airport struck on four separate days within a single week this month.

Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure suffered further damage when attacks destroyed one pumping station and damaged two others along a major pipeline, weakening an alternative route for transporting oil around the Strait of Hormuz.

Governments across the region have announced infrastructure attacks during the conflict, but Reuters found that many strikes were directed at highly specific components whose failure can disrupt entire facilities.

Some targets are concealed beneath rooftops and protective structures, making them difficult to identify through satellite imagery. Others are small components whose strategic importance requires specialised technical knowledge.

The campaign has spread insecurity across the Gulf, disrupted critical infrastructure and contributed to soaring oil prices.

Combined with Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the attacks have created an additional threat to global energy supplies and international trade.

The ability to strike strategically important facilities has also strengthened Tehran's leverage in negotiations with Washington, despite sustained American military pressure.

The findings highlight how precision attacks against relatively small but essential components can trigger widespread operational and economic consequences across interconnected energy networks, making infrastructure protection a central challenge for Gulf governments.



Immigrants sailing in small boats.

UK threatens visa ban on Eritreans over migrant returns dispute

BY CORRESPONDENT

The United Kingdom has threatened to ban all Eritrean nationals from entering the country unless the East African nation's government agrees to accept more deportees, including migrants who arrived in small boats and foreign national offenders.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood announced the measures amid escalating tensions over Eritrea's alleged refusal to cooperate with Britain's efforts to return people who have no legal right to remain in the UK.

From Thursday, Eritrean diplomats will be prohibited from travelling more than 60 kilometres outside London without permission, while fast-track visas for VIPs will be suspended.

Mahmood warned that further restrictions could follow if Eritrea failed to cooperate.

"Eritrea has had every chance to accept the return of criminals and those with no right to be in the UK. Unlike other countries, it has refused," she said.

She added that she would not hesitate "to impose further measures on other countries refusing to co-operate".

The UK government accused Eritrean authorities of abruptly withdrawing cooperation earlier this year. The Home Office said the diplomatic travel restrictions mirrored those imposed on British officials in Eritrea's capital, Asmara.

Eritrea dismissed the measures as a "perfunctory political gimmick", accusing Britain of failing to engage in "meaningful and appropriate dialogue".

Its embassy in London also alleged that British authorities had failed to disclose the return of offenders still serving prison sentences and had described deportations as voluntary when they were not.

The Eritrean government further claimed Britain had not issued visas to its officials since 2023, an assertion disputed by the Home Office, which said an Eritrean official had received an exemption from immigration control in August 2026.

According to Home Office figures, only seven Eritreans were returned directly from Britain to Eritrea in the 12 months to June. Another 244 were returned to other countries.

Eritreans accounted for 18 per cent of small-boat arrivals in the UK during the same period, making them the largest nationality group among arrivals.

The dispute comes amid longstanding international criticism of Eritrea's human rights record. Human Rights Watch has accused its government of widespread repression, forced labour, compulsory conscription and restrictions on freedom of expression.

British officials say they hope the restrictions will ultimately restore cooperation between the two countries.

BY CORRESPONDENT

FIFA president Gianni Infantino is increasingly likely to secure a fourth and final term unopposed next year despite mounting criticism over governance, commercial investment plans and controversial decisions at football's global governing body.

Infantino faces renewed scrutiny at Thursday's FIFA Council meeting in Zurich, the first since his proposed FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) scheme plunged the organisation into controversy and triggered calls for him to step down from football leaders in Europe, North America and Asia.

The proposed scheme, which sought to sell commercial stakes in the World Cup to private investors, has intensified concerns about FIFA's governance and financial direction.

The meeting is also expected to address a proposed \$3.4 billion increase in funding for football development, governance reforms, the FFE initiative, the awarding of FIFA's inaugural Peace Prize to US President Donald Trump last year and disciplinary procedures following the Folarin Balogun affair.

Despite the criticism, Infantino appears to retain considerable support, particularly in Africa, South America and Oceania, regions considered central to his political base within FIFA's 211 member associations.

However, questions remain over the extent of his backing, with estimates suggesting he has the support of roughly half of the membership.

Senior figures in European football have reportedly considered former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger as a possible surprise challenger. Wenger, however, has served as FIFA's chief of global football development since 2019, raising questions about whether he would challenge his own boss.

Other potential candidates, including Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean As-



FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

Infantino eyes fourth FIFA term despite World Cup investment scheme backlash

sociation Football president Victor Montagliani and UEFA chief Aleksander Ceferin, have indicated they are not interested in contesting the presidency.

Infantino has meanwhile continued touring different regions to consolidate support ahead of the election.

The only candidate to have publicly declared an intention to run so far is former Tottenham Hotspur defender Ramon Vega, although

his prospects are considered limited. Thursday's meeting is therefore expected to test Infantino's ability to manage internal dissent while maintaining the support needed to secure another term.

Despite the controversy surrounding his leadership, the absence of a widely supported challenger has strengthened expectations that he could be re-elected without opposition next year.

Alcaraz joins Vienna Open after Saudi exhibition postponement

BY WANJIKU WAWERU

World number three Carlos Alcaraz has joined the Vienna ATP tournament's line-up after organisers moved swiftly to secure his participation following the postponement of the lucrative Six Kings Slam exhibition in Saudi Arabia.

The Vienna Open organisers announced on Thursday, October 15, 2026 that the Spanish star had agreed to compete at the indoor hard-court ATP 500 event, which begins on October 26.

Tournament director Herwig Straka said he contacted Alcaraz's management immediately after indications emerged on Wednesday that the Saudi exhibition would be postponed until late December.

"When indications emerged on Wednesday that the Six Kings Slam... would be postponed until the end of December, tournament director Herwig Straka reacted immediately and contacted Carlos Alcaraz's management," the organisers said in a statement.

"Everything happened very quickly after that, and Carlos agreed to come to Vienna without much hesitation," Straka said. "His commitment is a tremendous honour for our tournament."

The Six Kings Slam, initially scheduled for October 21-24 and set to be streamed live on Netflix, was

postponed following deadly attacks on Saudi Arabia by Yemen's Houthis rebels.

Organisers are now hoping to stage the exhibition from December 27-30.

Alcaraz's addition strengthens an already competitive Vienna field featuring several leading players who had been scheduled to compete in Saudi Arabia before travelling to Austria.

US Open champion Alexander Zverev, Australia's Alex de Minaur and American Learner Tien had already planned to play at both events.

Other top-10 players announced for Vienna include Daniil Medvedev, Flavio Cobolli and Frances Tiafoe.

Alcaraz previously competed in Vienna only in 2021, when he reached the semi-finals.

The former world number one will be seeking to build consistency after an uneven return from a lengthy injury layoff at the US Open in late August.

He claimed a title in Tokyo in September but suffered an unexpected setback at the Shanghai Masters on Monday, losing in straight sets to Belgium's Zizou Bergs in the third round.

His appearance in Vienna now offers another opportunity to regain momentum against a strong field as the season approaches its conclusion.



Carlos Alcaraz.

Ruto pledges full government support for 2029 World Athletics Championships

BY WILBERFORCE KIGEN

President William Ruto has assured World Athletics that Kenya will meet all its financial, infrastructural and organisational obligations to deliver a successful 2029 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi.

Ruto gave the assurance on Wednesday evening when he met World Athletics President Lord Sebastian Coe at the Eldoret Stage Lodge in Uasin Gishu County, in their first meeting since Kenya won the bid to host the global competition.

The President said Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, the designated venue for the championships, was undergoing major renovations ahead of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AF-

CON), which Kenya will co-host with Uganda and Tanzania.

"The Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, the venue of the 2029 World Athletics Championships, is undergoing major improvements ahead of AFCON 2027 that Kenya is co-hosting with East African partner states Uganda and Tanzania," Ruto said.

He added that additional upgrades would be undertaken to ensure the country fulfilled its commitments to the global athletics governing body.

"Further upgrades will be done ahead of the 2029 event in the fulfillment of our commitment and our obligations," he said.

Kenya is scheduled to host the 22nd edition of the World Athletics Championships in



President William Ruto hosts World Athletics President Lord Sebastian Coe at the Eldoret Stage Lodge in Uasin Gishu County, October 14, 2026.

September 2029 after defeating competing bids from Rome and London.

The championships are expected to bring together the world's leading track and field athletes, placing Kenya at the centre of in-

ternational athletics.

Coe arrived in Kenya early Wednesday and addressed the media before travelling to Eldoret for his meeting with the President.

The discussions also covered ef-

forts to strengthen the fight against doping and protect the integrity of athletics.

Ruto said he had met the President of the World Anti-Doping Agency, with both leaders committing to eliminating doping and promoting clean sport.

The government's assurances come as Kenya prepares to upgrade sports infrastructure for two major international competitions within a two-year period.

The Kasarani renovations for AFCON 2027 are expected to provide the foundation for further improvements ahead of the 2029 athletics championships.

Kenya's preparations will require coordination between the government, World Athletics and other stakeholders to ensure the facilities and organisational arrangements meet international standards.



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