LIGHTHOUSE

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NATIONAL

NEWS ROUND-UP



Raila Amolo Odinga

RAILA ODINGA 1st Anniversary

‘Tutam’ vs ‘Wantam’: Political Rivalry Takes Centre Stage at Raila Memorial



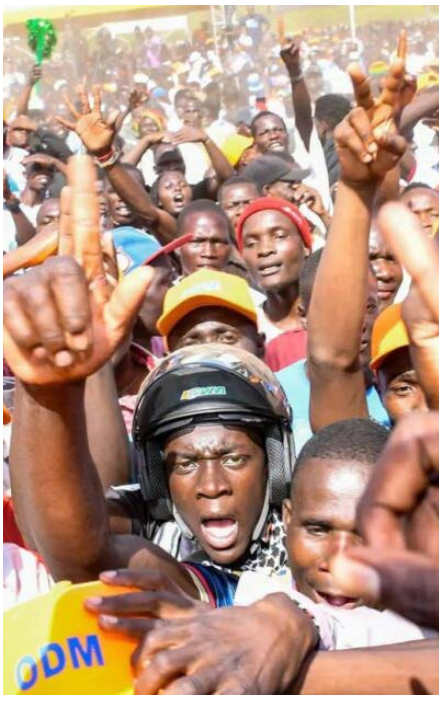
Leaders affiliated with the broad-based government clashed with their counterparts from the Linda Mwananchi movement and the United Opposition during the memorial marking the first anniversary of the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga in Bondo, Siaya County.

The exchange saw supporters of both camps chant their respective “Tutam” and “Wantam” slogans as the leaders fiercely defended their political positions.

There was little doubt about the deepening divisions among leaders who convened in Bondo to mark the first anniversary of Raila Odinga’s death.

When Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Deputy Party Leader Simba Arati took to the podium to address the gathering, he was emphatic that the Orange party remained committed to the broad-based government arrangement, adding that those unwilling to stay were free to leave.

Arati maintained that ODM would conduct free and fair party primaries,



including for the Nairobi senatorial seat, while taking a swipe at those he accused of leaving the party due to sponsorship.

“ODM will conduct free primaries, including those of the Nairobi senatorial seat. Tunaomba msibaki. Lakini ukiondoka kwa sababu ya sponsor ni sawa,” Arati said.

Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi also defended the political arrangement, warning those he accused of attempting to undermine the party.

“Wale wanafikiria wanaeza kuendelea kutunyanyasa kutumia sisi wasahau. Hapa ni ngome ya Dr Oburu, ya ODM na ya Ruto,” Wandayi said.

There were notable absences of pro-government leaders at the event, with ODM party leader Oburu Oginga also missing after requesting to be excused, according to leaders who addressed the gathering. A speech was read on his behalf by his deputy.

In the message, Oburu described ODM as a strong political institution built by Raila, saying the party had a responsibility to preserve the former Prime Minister’s legacy.

“Baba left us a robust institutional political movement,” Arati said while delivering the message.

Meanwhile, the breakaway faction of ODM, whose members have since formed The Equitable Party (TEP) and The Mwananchi Party (TMP) and aligned themselves with the opposition, was present at the memorial.

The faction led chants of “One Term”, signalling its opposition to President William Ruto’s re-election bid in 2027. [Citizen]

RAILA ODINGA 1st Anniversary

Oburu Breaks Silence Amid Health Concerns After Raila Memorial Absence



ODM party leader Dr. Oburu Oginga celebrates his birthday in hospital on October 15, 2026.

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party leader Dr. Oburu Oginga has broken his silence following online rumours about his health, expressing gratitude to his family, medical staff and party members who marked his birthday on the day of his younger brother Raila Odinga's first death anniversary.

In a social media post on Thursday, October 15, Oburu reflected on the coincidence of sharing his birthday with the anniversary of Raila's death, describing the day as a moment of both celebration and grief.

"Today, October 15th, is far more than just a date on the calendar, it is a sacred intersection of life and eternity," he wrote.

He described the coincidence as a special bond between brothers, saying their connection remained unbroken despite Raila's death.

"To have been born on this day and for you to have departed on this same date is a divine testament to the invisible thread that binds our souls. Physical separation cannot touch a brotherhood written in the heavens," he added.

Oburu said he continued to carry his brother's spirit, describing their relationship as an eternal connection that death could not break.

"As I mark the anniversary of my birth, I carry your spirit within mine bound by a shared journey that transcends time, and an eternal connection that death has no power to break. Rest peacefully in the light, my brother," he said.

The ODM leader also expressed appreciation to his spouses, Dr. Ann Oburu and Mama Judith Oburu, for their support, as well as staff at The Nairobi Hospital, members of the ODM fraternity and his domestic staff for organising a birthday surprise.

"Your love and presence have made this solemn yet special day truly comforting. May God bless you all abundantly," Oburu said.

Earlier on Thursday, Raila's widow, Ida Odinga, confirmed that Oburu was alive but unwell, explaining that his doctors had advised him against attending Raila's memorial event.

She added that doctors caring for the ODM leader had advised him to rest rather than attend the gathering. [Citizen]

RAILA ODINGA 1st Anniversary

Winnie Odinga Declares Bid for Nairobi Senate Seat

EALA MP Winnie Odinga has officially declared her intention to contest the Nairobi Senate seat, saying she will pursue the position alongside young people as she charts her political future.

Winnie made the announcement during the first anniversary celebration of her father, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, at Migwena Grounds in Bondo, Siaya County, where she pointed to the presence of Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna.

She said Sifuna's presence at the event had prompted her to address questions about her own political ambitions, signalling that she was ready to enter the contest for the Nairobi seat.

"I have seen that there is a visitor here from Nairobi; his name is Sifuna," Winnie said.

"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."

Her declaration puts the Nairobi Senate seat in focus as political leaders and aspirants begin positioning themselves ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Winnie, who represents Kenya in the East African Legislative Assembly, said she would not pursue the ambition alone, placing young people at the centre of her political plans.

"Lakini siendi pekee yangu, I am going with young people," she said.

Her remarks suggest an intention to build her campaign around youth participation as she considers a move from regional representation to elective politics in Nairobi.

"Are you ready to walk with me?" she asked amid cheers from the crowd.

Sifuna, who currently represents Nairobi in the Senate, has been at the centre of political discussions over his next steps, with Winnie referring to his search for higher office as she announced her own bid.

He has declared his intention to run for the presidency in 2027.

The event brought together family members, political allies and supporters to remember the former Prime Minister a year after his death. [Star]



Winnie Odinga speaks during the Raila Odinga memorial on October 15, 2026./SCRENGRAB

Kenya Confirms Third Ebola Case as 127 Contacts Placed in Quarantine

Kenya has confirmed a third case of Ebola (Bundibugyo virus disease), involving a 65-year-old woman who had been in quarantine since October 6, as health authorities intensify surveillance to contain the outbreak.

The Ministry of Health said Friday, October 16, that the woman was a primary contact and close relative of the first and second patients.

She developed a fever, sore throat and malaise while in quarantine, prompting her isolation and testing.

Her samples tested positive at both the National Virology Reference Laboratory and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) laboratory.

She has since been transferred to the Infectious Disease Unit, where she is receiving supportive care from trained health workers.



"Having been in quarantine, she was diagnosed early and is currently receiving supportive care, improving her chances of recovery while limiting the risk of further spread of the disease," Director General for Health Patrick Amoth said in a statement.

The ministry said the second patient remained stable and was responding well to supportive care, adding that updates on the progress of all reported cases would be provided.

Authorities said the latest case was detected within the quarantine system, allowing health workers to identify and isolate the patient before further exposure could occur.

The ministry maintained that the risk to the general public remained low, with no evidence of community transmission.

Of the 130 contacts identified by health officials, 127, representing 97.7 per cent, had been traced and placed in quarantine by October 16. Efforts were ongoing to locate the remaining three contacts. [Star]



Ruto Assents to Tax, KRA Bills Targeting Fuel Prices and Revenue Governance

President William Ruto has assented to the Tax Laws Amendment Bill, 2026, and the Kenya Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026, extending the reduced Value Added Tax (VAT) rate on petroleum products and introducing changes to the taxation of construction materials and the governance of the tax collector.

Ruto assented to the two Bills at Eldoret State Lodge in Uasin Gishu County on Friday, October 16, 2026, following their passage by the National Assembly.

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

Briefing the President, Deputy Chief of Staff Josephat Nanok said the measure was intended to cushion Kenyans from the effects of disruptions in the international oil market linked to the Middle East crisis.

“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.

Nanok added that consultations with the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) and the Ministry of Energy had ensured the reduced rate was factored 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,” Nanok said.

The legislation also changes excise duty on tiles to Ksh.400 per square metre, replacing weight-based taxation, and reduces duty on ceramic sanitary ware, including sinks, from Ksh.50 to Ksh.30 per kilogramme.

It also revises the description of imported flat glass to align with East African Community (EAC) protocols.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill revises provisions governing KRA’s board composition and membership.

It removes the “ex-officio member” designation from provisions covering specified government officials and provides for the managing director of the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) to join the KRA board. [Citizen]



President William Ruto signs into law the Ksh.5 trillion National Infrastructure Bill, 2026, in State House, Nairobi on March 9, 2026.



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru

Waiguru Declares 2032 Presidential Bid, Eyes Deputy Presidency in 2027

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has declared her intention to run for President in 2032, while signaling her determination to deputise President William Ruto in the 2027 General Election.

She said her presidential ambition was grounded in her years of public service, ability to mobilise support and a commitment to breaking barriers for future generations of women leaders.

Waiguru, who made the announcement on Tuesday while addressing a G7 women's leadership forum, said women must be included in the high-level political table.

She urged women to fight for their space in leadership and should not sit back and wait to be considered by other political leaders for positions.

"I want to make a declaration today that Anne Mumbi Waiguru will be on the ballot for President of the Republic of Kenya in 2032. Take that to the bank!" she declared.

She said that she had the conviction that she was capable of leading the country owing to her experience and outstanding performance as she served in different capacities over many years, both in government and in elected leadership.

The two-term governor also said that she owed it to the women of Kenya.

"If I do not succeed, another woman will come after me and continue with the journey. We cannot keep moving backwards when we should be moving forward," she noted.

On the 2027 elections, the governor called for women to be included in high-level political negotiations, noting that women should assert their interest in the Deputy Presidency rather than wait to be considered by political leaders. [KBC]

Expect 10% Fare Increase, Nationwide Protests After Fuel Price Hike



A glimpse of the chaotic traffic that is a common denominator in Nairobi streets.

The transport sector has warned of ripple effects on consumers after the government increased fuel prices on Wednesday.

The Motorists Association of Kenya (MAK) has threatened to mobilise motorists, transport operators and other Kenyans for peaceful protests if the government fails to address concerns over rising fuel prices and the petroleum pricing system.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, October 14, MAK said it would consult its members on coordinated public mobilisation, accusing the government and the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) of failing to provide adequate explanations for the latest price increases.

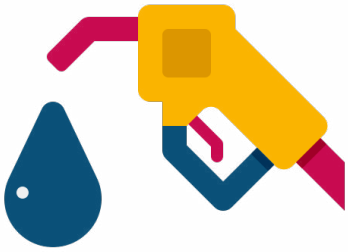
On the other hand, the Matatu Owners Association (MOA) has said the increase in fuel prices will lead to a 10% increase in transport costs.

Speaking to the press on Thursday, the association said it had asked its members to increase fare prices.

The Matatu operators further accused the government of failing to adhere to agreements reached in their previous negotiations.

“The President has failed to honour the agreement we had in Mombasa. We have been trying to reach the CS Transport, he is no longer picking our calls,” said MOA.

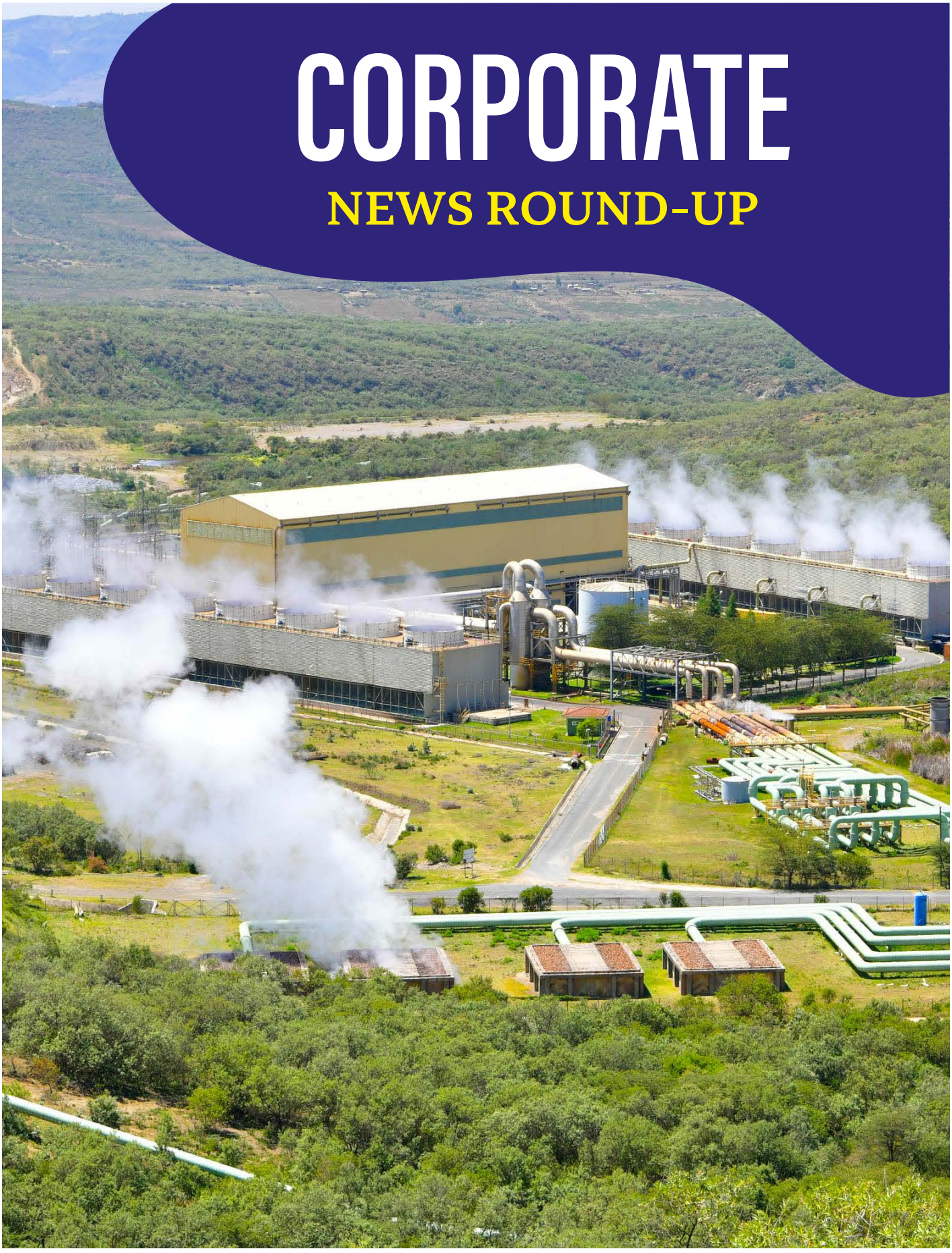
As a result, MAK wants an independent review of the October-November fuel price adjustments, a



comprehensive audit of the Government-to-Government (G-to-G) petroleum importation arrangement and the publication of detailed fuel pricing calculations.

At the same time, MAK also wants the government to disclose the Petroleum Development Levy Fund’s receipts, disbursements and stabilisation balances, alongside a review of petroleum taxes and levies. [Citizen]

CORPORATE
NEWS ROUND-UP



KenGen Bets on Geothermal Power to Attract Industrial Investment



Eng. Ronoh Kibet, KenGen's Ag. Managing Director and CEO addresses partners and media during the SEC 2026 launch event in Nairobi.

Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) is seeking to leverage its renewable energy capacity to attract manufacturers and other energy-intensive businesses, as it looks to expand revenue streams beyond electricity generation.

The power producer is banking on its planned Green Energy Park at Olkaria to link geothermal power with industrial development, positioning reliable, low-carbon electricity as an incentive for investors looking to establish operations in Kenya.

The initiative comes as electricity demand rises, with Kenya's peak power demand reaching a record 2,549 megawatts in the financial year ended June 2026, according to KenGen.

The company has an installed generation capacity of about 1,786 megawatts and accounts for more than half of the electricity supplied to the national grid. More than 90 per cent of its installed capacity comes from renewable sources, principally geothermal, hydro and wind.

KenGen is pursuing additional generation projects to strengthen supply, including the redevelopment of Olkaria I, a solar project at Seven Forks and an upgrade of the Gogo hydropower plant.

Beyond generation, the company is positioning Olkaria as a potential industrial hub, with the Green Energy Park expected to attract investments in manufacturing and other enterprises that require reliable power.

The strategy seeks to capture more economic value from Kenya's geothermal resources by encouraging businesses to establish production facilities near sources of clean energy, with the potential to support job creation and local supply chains.

KenGen Acting Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Ronoh Kibet says there is need for Africa to mobilise more capital to translate its renewable energy resources into industrial growth and economic opportunities.

The company will seek to advance this investment agenda at the Sustainable Energy Conference 2026, scheduled for November 24–27 at the KenGen Olkaria Geothermal Spa in Naivasha. [KBC]

SBM Bank Kenya Pre-Tax Profit Soars 122% to Ksh.911 Million

SBM Bank Kenya has recorded a 122 per cent increase in profit before tax to Ksh.911 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2026, up from Ksh.411 million reported in the corresponding period last year.

The lender attributed the improved performance to growth in income, increased customer deposits, stronger customer relationships and tighter credit management.

Operating profit rose by 197 per cent to Ksh.1.3 billion, compared with Ksh.447 million in the first nine months of 2025, while total income increased by 33 per cent to Ksh.5.444 billion.

Net interest income grew by 29 per cent to Ksh.3.443 billion, while non-funded income increased by 39 per cent to Ksh.2.001 billion.

The bank also reported a 95 per cent increase in transactional income and a 98 per cent rise in trade finance commissions, reflecting growth in its everyday banking and business services.

Operating costs increased by 12 per cent, remaining below the rate of income growth.

Customer deposits rose by 29 per cent year-on-year to Ksh.97.3 billion as of September 30, 2026, while net loans and advances increased by 23 per cent to Ksh.56.5 billion.

SBM Bank Kenya Chief Executive Officer Bhartesh Shah said the results reflected efforts to strengthen internal systems, improve credit discipline and deepen relationships with customers.

“Strong institutions are built through decisions that reinforce one another over time. We have focused on strengthening our systems, improving credit discipline and earning a larger place in our customers’ everyday lives,” Shah said.

He added that the growth in deposits reflected customer confidence, which the bank intends to sustain through reliable service, sound judgement and financing for households and businesses. [Citizen]



SBM Bank Kenya Chief Executive Officer Bhartesh Shah



KTB Grows Signature Experience Portfolio in Fresh Tourism Diversification Push

The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) is expanding Kenya's destination offering as it positions the country to compete more effectively across a wider range of global tourism segments.

This comes as the board unveiled 14 new experiences under the Magical Kenya Signature Experiences (MKSE) collection, adding to the programme that celebrates innovation among tourism operators and strengthens the country's destination proposition.

The new experiences, spanning adventure, wellness, culinary tourism, conservation, culture, luxury, family travel, shopping and outdoor recreation, bring the total Magical Kenya Signature Experiences collection to 75 curated entries for the 2026 to 2028 cycle.

KTB CEO June Chepkemei described the MKSE programme as a direct response to the evolving expectations of the modern global traveller, noting that the new cohort reflects a tourism industry that continues to grow in depth and ambition.

"We are proud to welcome 14 new experiences into the Magical Kenya Signature Experiences collection that adds to the 61 experiences that were unveiled before. This demonstrates the creativity and innovation of our tourism industry while strengthening our ambition to diversify Kenya's tourism offering and give visitors more reasons to explore, stay longer and experience more," Chepkemei said during the unveiling ceremony in Nairobi.

She highlighted that the newly recognised experiences would help Kenya tell a fuller and more compelling story to international audiences.

The KTB CEO commended the operators for their contribution in raising the standards in the industry and making Kenya a key tourism destination in the region.

"These experiences enhance our destination proposition, open new opportunities for tourism enterprises, and help us tell a richer and more compelling Kenya story to the world," Chepkemei stated. [Capital]

I&M Capital Targets Regional Growth After Securing CMA Licence

I&M Capital is targeting regional expansion and increased market share after securing a Capital Markets Authority (CMA) licence to operate digital investment platforms.

The licence, known as the Intermediary Service Platform Provider (ISPP) licence, allows the investment firm, a wholly owned subsidiary of I&M Bank, to facilitate market transactions and distribute investment products through technology-driven platforms.

The approval comes as regulators seek to deepen capital markets and widen retail investor access through digital financial services.

The CMA has issued more than six licences in the last two quarters to firms seeking to offer digital investment services, including two other fintech firms licensed as ISPPs. Four additional firms have been authorised to provide services ranging from online foreign exchange brokerage to investment advisory.



I&M Bank Regional CEO and Interim CEO, I&M Bank Kenya, Kihara Maina. Photo I File

> *"Most of the customers that are onboarding are coming through our digital channels."*
>
> **Kihara Maina,**
> **I&M Bank Group CEO**

In its fourth-quarter industry report for the 2025/26 financial year, the regulator said the licences would strengthen investment distribution networks and expand access to regulated financial products.

"By lowering barriers to investment participation, the platforms are expected to broaden investor access, promote financial inclusion and contribute to a more diversified and resilient investor base," the CMA said.

I&M Capital plans to leverage its parent company's digital infrastructure and customer base to compete in an increasingly crowded investment market.

I&M Bank Group Chief Executive Officer Kihara Maina said last month that the lender's customer numbers had grown by 28 per cent, while its micro, small and medium-sized enterprise segment recorded 41 per cent growth.

"We have been seeing a lot of innovation in the digital space and we have seen that most of the customers that are onboarding are coming through our digital channels," Maina said.

He added that the bank had achieved 99 per cent service availability. [Citizen]

PARLIAMENTARY

NEWS ROUND-UP



Parliament Committee Summons 'Buy Now Pay Later' Firms After Exploitation Complaints



Molo MP Kuria Kimani, who is also chairperson of the National Assembly Finance Committee | FILE/@KuriaKimaniMP/Twitter

The National Assembly committee on Finance and National Planning is set to meet with Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) firms as it commences a review of the regulatory framework and consumer protection safeguards within the sector.

The Committee, whose mandate cuts across key functions including public finance, monetary policy, financial institutions, and market competition, has expressed deep concern over reports of exploitation characterizing the sector.

During a Committee meeting today, Chairperson Kuria Kimani cautioned BNPL firms' management that the Committee would not hesitate to invoke the provisions of Standing Order 191 if any invited BNPL entity fails to appear.

"The Committee is in receipt of several complaints from victims of exploitation. 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 stated.

Kimani also expressed concern that Mogo Auto Limited, one of the key firms operating in the sector that had been invited to engage with the Committee on the matter today, failed to turn up and instead requested a rescheduling of the meeting.

"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. We will 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 Committee is currently examining developments in motorcycle asset financing and BNPL arrangements, focusing on the applicability and effectiveness of existing regulatory frameworks and consumer protection safeguards.

The proposed engagements with these firms aim to apprise the Committee of their current regulatory compliance status and customer protection processes. [Citizen]

Employers Face Sh1 Million Fine, Jail Term Under Bill Protecting Breastfeeding Mothers' Rights at Work



A breastfeeding woman. FILE PHOTO

The National Assembly has passed the Breastfeeding Mothers Bill, 2024, which seeks to compel employers to provide lactation facilities and breastfeeding breaks to help working mothers balance their jobs with childcare.

The Bill, sponsored by Nominated MP Sabina Wanjiru wa Chege, was unanimously approved by the House on Wednesday, October 14, paving the way for stronger legal protections for breastfeeding mothers in workplaces and public spaces.

Under the proposed law, employers would be required to provide private, clean and secure lactation rooms where mothers can breastfeed or express breast milk during working hours.

The facilities would need to be equipped with lockable doors, washbasins, refrigerators for storing expressed breast milk, chairs and tables. Toilets and bathrooms would not qualify as lactation rooms.

Employers who fail to comply with the requirements could face fines of up to Sh1 million, imprisonment for up to one year, or both.

The Bill also provides for reasonable breastfeeding breaks during working hours, with the Cabinet Secretary for Labour expected to prescribe the specific break periods through regulations.

In addition, breastfeeding mothers would have the right to request flexible working arrangements, including changes to their working hours, assignments or work locations, to help them balance employment with childcare responsibilities.

Employers who reject such requests would be required to provide a written response within 14 days.

The proposed legislation also seeks to protect breastfeeding in public spaces by stipulating that the act should not be considered indecent. [Eastleigh Voice]

MPs to Hold Second Round of Public Hearings on Proposed Abolition of Six Regional Authorities

The National Assembly will conduct a second phase of public hearings on a Bill seeking to abolish six regional development authorities.

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Regional Development has scheduled the hearings for Friday, October 23, in Kilifi, Kisumu and Embu counties, as Parliament continues to seek public input on the proposed law.

The hearings will run from 9 am to noon at the County Commissioner's Boardroom in Kilifi, the County Commissioner's Social Hall in Kisumu and the Kenya School of Government in Embu.

Members of the public and other stakeholders have been invited to attend the forums, make oral representations, submit written memoranda and discuss the provisions of the Regional Development Authorities Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2026.

The Bill, sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, Kimani Ichung'wah, seeks to dissolve the six regional development authorities and transfer their rights, obligations, assets and liabilities to the National Treasury.

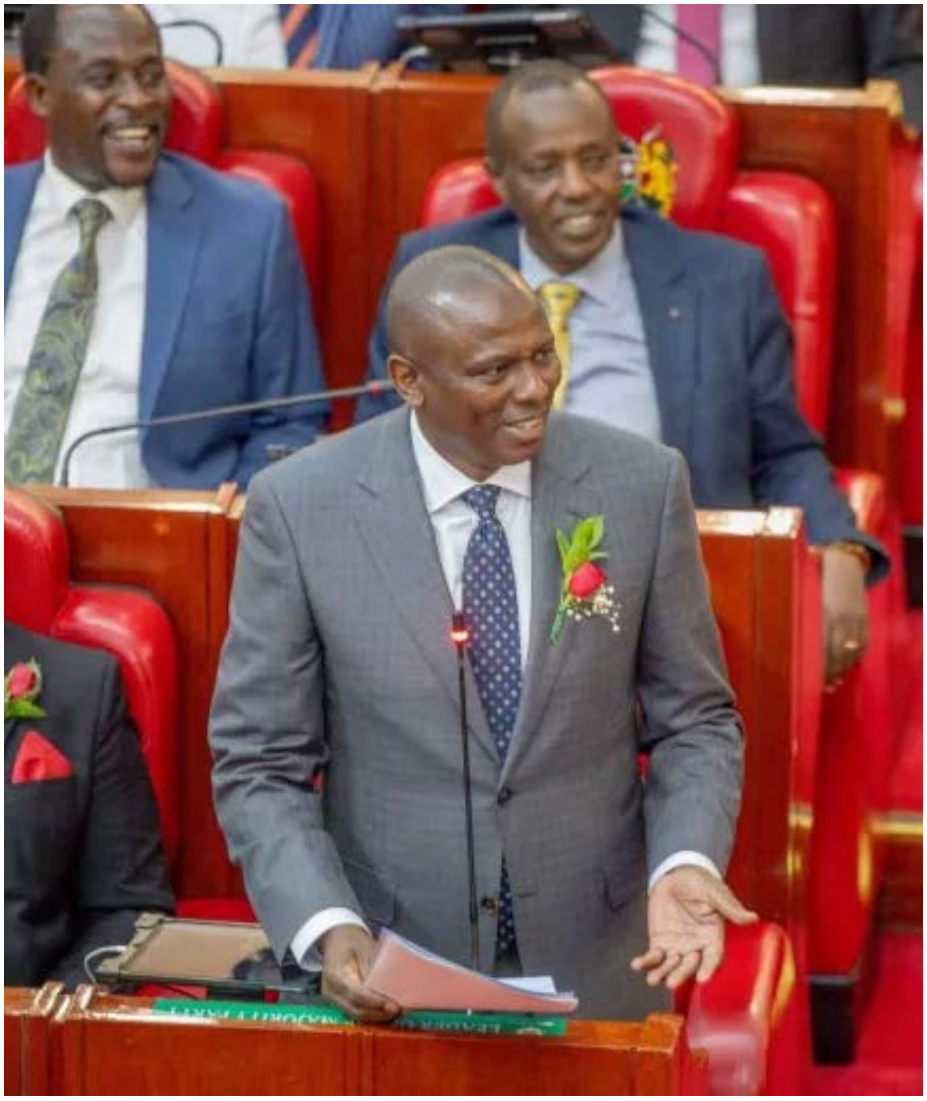
The entities targeted for abolition are the Kerio Valley Development Authority, Lake Basin Development Authority, Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority, Ewaso Ng'iro South Development Authority, Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority and Coast Development Authority.

The proposed legislation seeks to repeal the respective laws that established the six agencies, paving the way for their dissolution and the transfer of their responsibilities and outstanding obligations.

Under the proposed arrangements, the National Treasury would take over the authorities' assets and liabilities, while their employees would be transferred to the Public Service Commission.

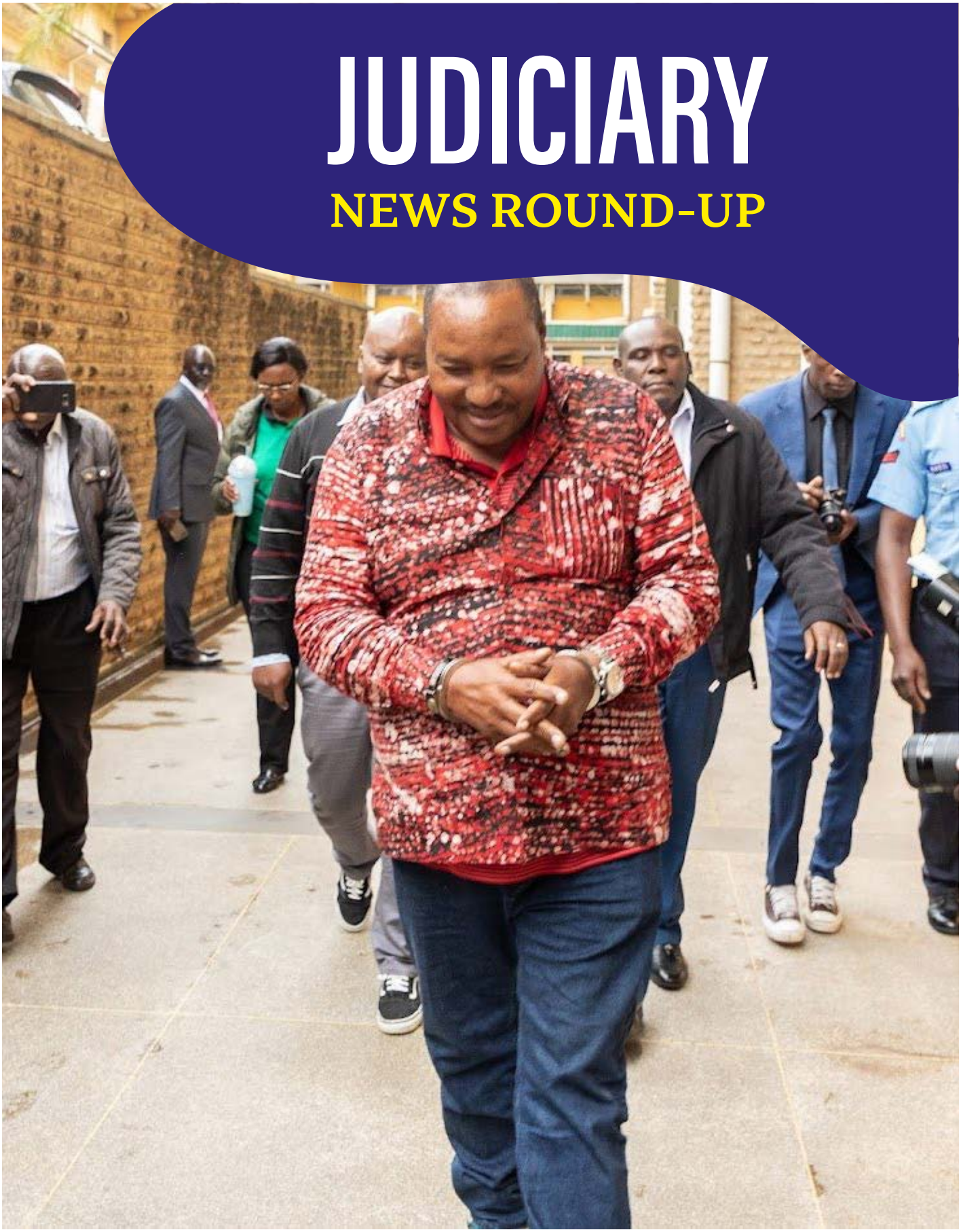
The Bill also provides for the continuation of existing loans, credit facilities, securities, contracts, agreements and legal proceedings involving the authorities upon the repeal of the establishing laws.

The government has argued that abolishing the agencies would align development functions with the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, which distributes responsibilities between the national and county governments. [Eastleigh Voice]



The Bill is sponsored by the Leader of the Majority Party, Kimani Ichung'wah. /PARLIAMENT

JUDICIARY
NEWS ROUND-UP



Former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu during a past court appearance. (Photo: File)

High Court Upholds Waititu's Conviction, Reinstates Money Laundering Charges



Former Kiambu Governor Ferdinard Waititu at the Milimani Law Courts in Nairobi on March 16, 2022.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has welcomed the High Court's decision to uphold the conviction and sentence of former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu, his wife and their associates in an appeal against their conviction for corruption-related offences.

In her judgment delivered on October 14, 2026, Lady Justice Rose Ougo of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Court upheld the convictions of Waititu, his wife, Susan Wangari Ndungu; former Kiambu County Chief Officer for Roads, Transport, Public Works and Utilities Luka Mwangi Wahinya; and Charles Chege Mbuthia, a director of Testimony Enterprises Limited.

The Commission particularly lauds the court's decision to overturn the lower court's acquittal of the accused persons on money laundering charges, a key element in the Commission's investigations in an attempt to follow the money.

The case arose from investigations launched in 2019 following allegations that the County Government of Kiambu had irregularly awarded Testimony Enterprises Limited a contract worth Ksh 588 million to upgrade gravel roads to bitumen standards in Thika, Limuru, Gatundu North, Juja and Ruiru sub-counties during the 2017/2018 financial year.

Waititu and his co-accused were convicted on February 12, 2025, of offences including conflict of interest, dealing with suspicious property, abuse of office, fraudulent procurement practices and wilful failure to comply with procurement laws and regulations.

In a separate unexplained wealth case filed by the Commission, the Anti-Corruption Court in December 2025 ordered the forfeiture of assets valued at approximately Ksh 131.2 million linked to Waititu and associated parties.

The assets included properties in Thindigua valued at about Ksh 64 million, a Caterpillar machine worth approximately Ksh 11 million, two motor vehicles, property associated with Susan Wangari Ndungu valued at about Ksh 3 million, and property associated with Saika Two Estate Developers Limited valued at approximately Ksh 52 million. [KBC]

Court Orders Lamu Residents to Serve Dangote in Refinery Dispute



President William Ruto inspects Dangote oil refinery in Lekki, Lagos, Nigeria on September 25, 2026, accompanied by tycoon Aliko Dangote. PHOTO/@thecableng/X

The High Court in Malindi has ordered 133 villagers of Lamu, aggrieved by the construction of Dangote East Africa Refinery, to serve the billionaire Aliko Dangote within seven days.

Justice Jane Anyango directed that the petitioners serve Dangote and all the state agencies cited in the said suit.

The 133 residents of Mvinjeni/ Magogoni in Lamu villages, through their lawyer George Wakahiu, said they were unable to serve Dangote since he is a foreigner with no known address.

Justice Onyango declined to issue any interim orders for status quo over failure by the petitioners to serve Dangote and all the state agencies cited in the petition.

“You did not serve the respondents as per October 1, 2026 directions. Serve him (Dangote) and all parties within 14 days before the hearing. Leave is granted to amend the petition within seven days,” said Justice Onyango.

The 133 residents are seeking to stop the construction of the Sh2.2 trillion Dangote East Africa Refinery project in Lamu over a land compensation dispute.

The project is estimated to cover between 7,000 and 10,000 acres of land, including the contested Mvinjeni/Magogoni villages.

The project, set for completion in 2030, forms part of the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) corridor and is designed to process 700,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

It will also integrate a 1,000-megawatt power plant. [Standard]

Court of Appeal Lifts Orders Blocking Kenya-US Health Deal

The Court of Appeal has lifted orders blocking the implementation of the health cooperation framework between Kenya and the United States, allowing the programme to proceed pending the hearing and determination of an intended appeal.

Justices Luka Kimaru, Munyao Sila and Dr Johnson Okello set aside conservatory orders issued by the High Court in December 2025, which had stopped the government from implementing the agreement signed on December 4, 2025.

The $1.6 billion (Sh208 billion) health cooperation deal was signed by Kenya and the United States last year, with President William Ruto witnessing the signing in the United States.

The Attorney General and the Cabinet Secretary for Health, who challenged the High Court decision, argued that suspending the framework would disrupt critical treatment for about 1.4 million Kenyans receiving support for HIV, tuberculosis (TB), malaria and other infectious diseases.

They warned that the suspension could affect essential health interventions, including immunisation, and expose patients receiving HIV and TB treatment to drug resistance if their medication was interrupted.

The government also argued that the High Court had issued the orders despite a similar petition in which conservatory orders had already been granted, raising concerns about the sub judice rule.

However, Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah Okoiti and Katiba Institute opposed the application, contending that implementing the framework would raise constitutional concerns relating to data protection, public finance, devolution and Parliament's oversight of international agreements.

Omtatah maintained that the deal created financial commitments and regulatory obligations requiring parliamentary scrutiny and approval.

He also questioned whether a data protection impact assessment had been conducted before the agreement was signed and implemented.

In their ruling, the appellate judges found that the government had raised arguable grounds of appeal.

The judges also gave significant weight to the potential impact on patients who depend on the programme, finding that public interest favoured allowing implementation while the appeal was pending.

"If you balance the arguments of the 1st and 4th respondents (Omtatah and Katiba Institute), and balance that with the health concerns of the citizens who will benefit under the Framework and whose health will be adversely and negatively affected, we are of the considered view that public interest favours the implementation of the programme pending hearing of the appeal," the court stated.

The judges warned that continued suspension could have irreversible consequences for patients relying on treatment under the arrangement. [Star]



President William Ruto last year, during the signing of the agreement with the US Government for Sh208bn over the next five years/PCS

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS ROUND-UP



Pope Leo XIV celebrates Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026. | Credit: Vatican News

Pope Diagnosed With Lung Cancer but Had Successful Surgery, Vatican Says



Pope Leo arrived at Rome's Gemelli Hospital ahead of his surgery on Tuesday

Pope Leo XIV has been diagnosed with lung cancer but had successful surgery to remove a lower lobe of his right lung, the Vatican has said in a medical bulletin.

The 71-year-old underwent a 90-minute surgery on Tuesday at Rome's Gemelli Hospital and was subsequently diagnosed with lung adenocarcinoma – a type of cancer usually found in the outer part of the organ.

"The operation was successful and there were no complications," the Vatican said. "After the operation, the Pope awoke normally and returned after a brief period of observation to his room."

The pontiff had a "peaceful night" in the hospital, the Vatican said on Wednesday morning, and he is expected to remain there for about a week.

Large crowds had waited outside the hospital for the Pope's arrival on Tuesday, cheering as he waved and smiled through a window as his car went past.

He was met by staff on the hospital steps. "I'm sorry," one of them commiserated, to which the Pope gave a smile and a shrug.

The Vatican said the whole lower lobe of the Pope's right lung was removed during a roughly 90-minute surgery "to ensure the procedure was radical".

It was Leo himself who announced the news of his operation to the world during his weekly Sunday prayers, telling the crowd in St Peter's Square that doctors had found a nodule on his lung.

He reassured pilgrims that the lump was "well-contained" and caught "at an early stage" but that his doctors had advised him to have it removed. [BBC]



The US and Russia each have more than 4,000 nuclear warheads. China is racing to catch up (File: Handout/Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations via AFP)

US in 'Denuclearisation' Talks With Russia and China: Trump

The United States is engaged in talks with Russia and China regarding nuclear disarmament, President Donald Trump has announced.

Trump said on Thursday that China – which lags behind the US and Russia in terms of the number of warheads it has – is racing to catch up. He added during an interview with US broadcaster Newsmax that Washington is discussing with its peers a route to "denuclearise".

China's nuclear stockpile of about 620 warheads is dwarfed by those of the US and Russia, which each have more than 4,000, but Trump said he thinks China will "catch up" within five years.

"The whole thing is a shame because I'd love to denuclearise if possible," Trump said. "We're actually talking to Russia about that, and we're talking to China about that denuclearisation."

China doesn't seem willing to disarm, he noted, but said talks have continued. Newsmax reported that Trump spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the subject, but no further details regarding the talks with either Russia or China were revealed.

Russia has the world's largest stockpile of nuclear warheads, and the US is close behind, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The two countries together possess an estimated 86 percent of all nuclear weapons globally.

China has the third largest nuclear arsenal, according to SIPRI, having expanded it to 620 warheads in the past year.

Trump's claims came shortly after the expiration of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, an arms control agreement between the US and Russia to limit their nuclear arsenals.

A month after the treaty expired, French President Emmanuel Macron announced the Forward Deterrence Initiative as Russia's nuclear sabre-rattling during its war on Ukraine has spooked Europe. [AlJazeera]

Trump Ramps Up Third-Country US Deportations Despite Global Rights Outcry



Deportees board a plane during a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation via military airlift at Fort Bliss, Texas, the United States, February 7, 2025 [Sgt Walker Pino/US Department of Defense/AFP]

United States immigration authorities have dramatically stepped up detentions and deportations since January 2025, when Donald Trump became president.

Trump campaigned on a pledge to implement the "largest deportation operation in American history". Officers with the Department of Homeland Security, the agency tasked with the crackdown, now make thousands of arrests a day across the country.

That includes people who are seeking asylum in the US, who are supposed to be given a chance to explain dangers they might face in their home country. And US law and international treaties, like the United Nations Convention Against Torture, prohibit authorities from deporting someone to any country in which they will be persecuted or tortured.

Many of those being detained in the US immigration crackdown say they are at risk of being hurt or killed if they return to their native countries, so the Trump administration has looked for alternative places to deport them, including places someone might have no cultural or legal ties to.

Third-country deportations, as the practice is known, have been criticised by the US as well as global rights groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, as well as the UN.

Critics of the practice say some of the countries taking in the deportees have a record of human rights abuses themselves, or are so dangerous that the US government tells its own citizens not to travel there. They also say there is little to ensure these third countries will give deportees a fair hearing on their cases for asylum, and in the end might send them back to their native countries to face persecution there.

Experts at the UN have said the practice was leading to a "cascade of human rights violations" across the globe, threatening to undo norms around how refugees and asylum seekers are treated. [AlJazeera]

Katie Zacharia Is Ousted After Five Days as White House Press Secretary

President Trump's new press secretary, Katie Zacharia, was fired Friday, after less than a week on the job, according to three people familiar with the matter.

The people spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the decision, which was not yet announced. Neither the White House nor Ms. Zacharia responded to requests for comment. But Mr. Trump told reporters on Friday that he had encouraged Ms. Zacharia to "reconsider" the job.

"Honestly, if I were you, I'd reconsider," he told reporters, recounting his conversation with his press secretary. He said he added: "Katie, do you need this? I don't think you need this."

He said Ms. Zacharia might continue to work for him "in some form, but maybe a more pleasant form."

Ms. Zacharia had gotten off to a bumpy start with her first and final press briefing on Tuesday, in which she largely read off a script and ended questioning after just three queries. That was followed by an onslaught of headlines about whether she had misrepresented herself as a lawyer — the president called her "an attorney" — despite failing her bar exam.





Reporters raise their hands to ask questions as the new White House Press Secretary Katie Zacharia holds her first press briefing at the White House in Washington, DC, US, October 13, 2026. (Reuters)

She had just started on Monday, and hadn't even moved to Washington yet.

It was last Friday that the president offered her the job. A little-known Fox News commentator with whom many in the White House were unfamiliar, she was a surprise pick. While Ms. Zacharia did have the support of Natalie Harp, the powerful West Wing aide who rarely leaves the president's side, others in the building believed her debut had been a disaster.

She was not a deft communicator.

She had represented herself as a lawyer in the news media, but when asked repeatedly by a reporter on the South Lawn of the White House to say in which state she had passed a bar exam, she twice replied, "When I moved to China." She later told The New York Times that she had simply misheard the question — even though the president had repeated the reporter's question to her while standing feet away.

The end was nigh after she appeared on Fox News on Thursday night to be interviewed by the president's friend Sean Hannity, who asked her a few tough questions and treated her with rare skepticism.

[NYT]

SPORTS

NEWS ROUND-UP



[Photo caption: who, what, where and date]

Schleck, Aleper Lead Hunt for Points as LOOP Safari Gravel Series Heads to Nanyuki



Jordan Schlek poses after winning 120KM race at Vipingo Ridge/HANDOUT

Uganda's Jordan Schleck and Mary Aleper will headline the fourth leg of the LOOP Safari Gravel Series in Nanyuki on Saturday as more than 600 cyclists compete for crucial season points and national honours at Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy.

The event will also serve as the Kenya Gravel National Championship, offering riders an opportunity to earn Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) points towards their world rankings. Nanyuki was selected as the season finale destination following a vote by riders.

Schleck and Aleper head into the race after defending their titles in the 105km elite events at Vipingo Ridge in August.

Schleck won the men's race in 3:31:59, ahead of Kenya's Bernard Njoroge (3:36:44) and Billy Mangwana (4:08:07). He leads the overall standings with 270 points, just three ahead of Stanley Ngugi, while Njoroge is third with 254 points.

The men's elite field will also feature Vincent Chege and Evans Wangai of the newly formed The Hub Karen cycling club.

Aleper won the women's 105km race in 4:42:24, finishing ahead of Kenya's Alice Miring'u (5:24:19) and Mercy Eregae (5:51:51). She faces competition in Nanyuki from 19-year-old Martinie Ditona of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya's leading female riders.

Kendra Masiga leads the women's overall standings with 250 points, followed by Dinnah Safari on 236 and Monica Jelimo on 235. In the team competition, Black Mamba Development Squad tops the standings with 1,306 points, ahead of Ariya Finergy Solar Cycling (1,025) and Joy Riders (864).

Organisers reported that 636 cyclists had registered by October 13. Participants will compete on the 11km Chui Route, 45km Duma Route and 90km Simba Route for elite riders.

The top five finishers in both elite races will earn Sh20,000, Sh15,000, Sh10,000, Sh7,000 and Sh5,000, respectively. The winning team will receive Sh125,000, with Sh100,000 and Sh70,000 going to the runners-up and third-placed team.

Team Amani Coordinator Troy Barrie welcomed the strong field, saying the new venue and national championship status would add excitement to the competition.

"Getting UCI approval makes it more appealing and of great use to cyclists who want to improve their world rankings," Barrie said.

Limuru hosted the season opener in March, followed by the UCI-accredited Naivasha leg in June and the Vipingo Ridge round in August. [Star]

Kipchoge Signs Three-Year Deal as Absa Bank Kenya Official World Tour Financial Partner

Double Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge has signed a three-year deal as Absa Bank Kenya's official World Tour Financial Partner.

Through this collaboration, the 41-year-old athlete will highlight stories of ambition and success during his global marathon tours, aiming to inspire future generations and encourage them to push beyond their limits.

Kipchoge ran his third of the seven World Tour marathons with a course record last Sunday in Melbourne, Australia.

The five-time Berlin marathon champion began his inspirational runs on May 24th this year, finishing 16th at the Cape Town marathon in South Africa.

He later achieved 12th position on July 13th at the Porto Alegre marathon in Brazil, on the South American continent. Last Sunday's victory was his first at the Melbourne Marathon, setting a new course record of 2:09:10.

For Absa, that philosophy aligns closely with its commitment to helping customers realise ambitions that may once have seemed beyond reach, whether buying a home, starting a business, funding an education, growing wealth, or creating opportunities for future generations.

Beyond sports, Kipchoge is passionate about inspiring young people, promoting healthy living, and creating opportunities for communities to thrive.



Absa Bank Kenya Marketing & Corporate Affairs Director Mwihaki Wachira, global marathon icon Eliud Kipchoge, and Absa Bank Kenya Personal & Private Banking Director Moses Muthui during the unveiling of a landmark partnership with Eliud Kipchoge, who joins the bank as its Official World Tour Financial Partner.

These priorities align strongly with Absa's commitment to youth development, entrepreneurship, education, and meaningful community impact across the continent.

Yusuf Omari, Managing Director and CEO of Absa Bank Kenya, said, "Eliud Kipchoge's achievements extend beyond sport. He embodies possibility beyond limits. He is proof of what is possible when talent, discipline, and purpose come together. As a proudly Pan-African organisation, we are inspired by his journey in athletics, from his early cross-country trials in Kenya to becoming one of the most decorated athletes in the world. Partnering with Eliud enables us to connect with our customers on a human level, inspiring everyday individuals, entrepreneurs, and institutions to dream bigger and achieve their financial aspirations across Kenya and the rest of Africa."

The partnership will come to life through exclusive customer experiences, leadership conversations, digital storytelling, wellness initiatives, and community programs across Absa's Pan-African footprint. [KBC]

NCBA Golf Series Action Heads to VetLab This Saturday

The 2026 NCBA Golf Series continues this Saturday, October 17, with more than 240 golfers expected to compete in the VetLab Sports Club qualifying tournament with Grand Finale slots up for grabs.

Alongside the VetLab qualifier, junior golfers will take to the course at Diamond Leisure Golf Resort for the NCBA U.S. Kids Golf Local Tour Mombasa, while the Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) Series heads to Nyanza Golf Club for the Nyanza Open 'Hippo Pot'.

At VetLab, golfers will be looking to deliver strong performances and secure qualification for the NCBA Golf Series Grand Finale, scheduled for November 29 at the Karen Country Club.

With the 2026 edition entering its final stretch, competition for the remaining qualification slots is expected to intensify as golfers seek to earn their places at the season-ending showdown.

The Grand Finale will feature a significant prize purse, with the overall gross winner, overall male winner, and overall lady winner each set to take home Ksh 130,000.

The male and lady runners-up will each receive Ksh 80,000, while the third-place finishers in the men's and women's categories will earn Ksh 50,000 each.

The fourth-place finishers will each receive Ksh 30,000, with the junior winner taking home Ksh 25,000.

Last year, Edward Mwangi and Mary Karano emerged on top during the club's qualifying leg, leading clubmates Kennedy Mariga, Rachel Ndei, Benjamin Chemweno, and junior Parv Kavia into the Grand Finale.

NCBA Group Managing Director John Gachora will be among the golfers taking to the course at VetLab, joining players for what promises to be a competitive day of golf.

Speaking ahead of the weekend's action, Gachora welcomed the opportunity to participate in the VetLab tournament while highlighting the bank's commitment to supporting golf at different levels.

"It is exciting to see three different golf tournaments taking place this weekend with our support, each playing an important role in the development of the sport. At VetLab, we expect more than 240 golfers competing for a chance to qualify for our Grand Finale, while the U.S. Kids Golf tournament in Mombasa continues to provide young golfers with opportunities to develop their skills and gain valuable competitive experience. At the same time, the Nyanza Open will bring together some of the country's leading amateur golfers as they continue their pursuit of success on the national circuit."

"I am particularly looking forward to joining the golfers at VetLab this Saturday. We believe that by supporting golfers from the junior ranks through to the amateur level, we are helping build a stronger future for Kenyan golf," said Gachora. [KBC]



Humphrey Kayange in action during the NCBA Golf Series qualifier at Golf Park

Coe, Ruto Reaffirm Commitment to Successful 2029 Worlds in Nairobi

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe has met with Kenyan President William Ruto in Eldoret as preparations start in earnest for the World Athletics Championships Nairobi 29 – the first edition of the sport's flagship event to be held on African soil.

The meeting marked Coe's first visit to Kenya since Nairobi was awarded the 2029 World Championships by the World Athletics Council in September.

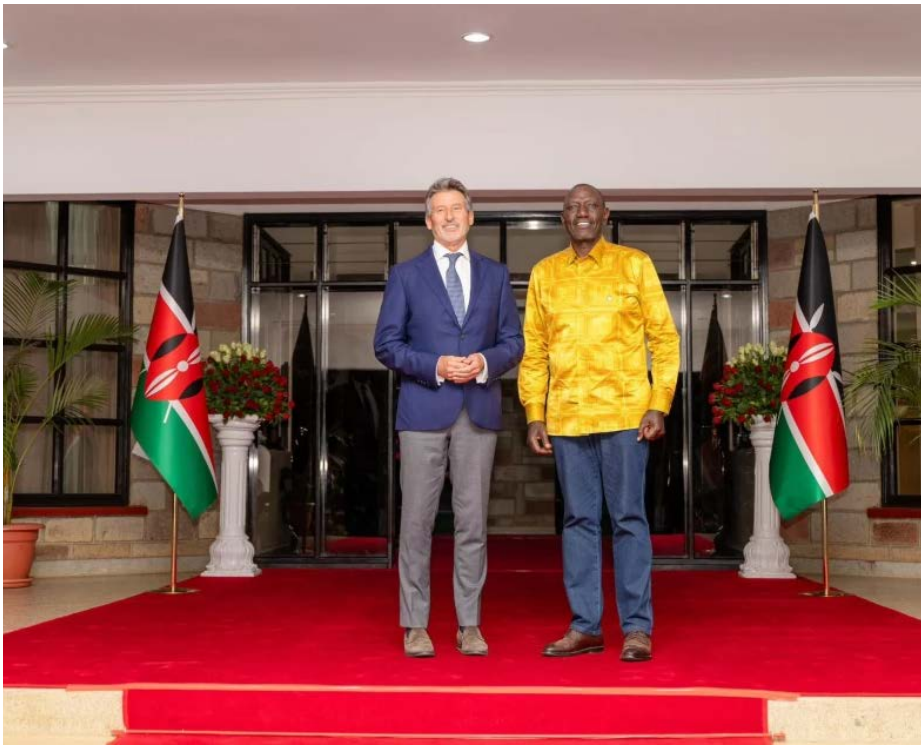
The two leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to delivering an outstanding championships and discussed the key requirements for ensuring the success of the event, including government commitments relating to funding, anti-doping and stadium preparations.

The discussions also reinforced the importance of treating the championships as a national priority, bringing together the expertise and resources needed to deliver an event that will showcase Kenya's sporting heritage and establish a legacy for athletics across the continent.

"I was delighted to meet His Excellency President Ruto in his home city of Eldoret – the City of Champions – and reassured by his personal commitment to ensuring the delivery of a successful first World Championships in Africa," said Coe.

"I have made no secret of my strong ambition and commitment for the World Championships to be awarded to a city on the continent, but we needed the right host, the right bid, the right circumstances. Nairobi has demonstrated emphatically that this is their moment to supercharge the development of athletics in Kenya and across Africa – leaving a compelling legacy that inspires a continent.

"There are many factors determining a successful championship that Nairobi must deliver on and a major one is a full stadium, and so I call upon Kenya to uphold its stellar reputation for turning out in large numbers for our sport by having a sold-out stadium every night to create an electric atmosphere for our athletes."



"All of the required obligations will be met."

President William Ruto

Ruto welcomed the opportunity to build on Kenya's rich athletics heritage and reaffirmed his government's commitment to delivering a successful event.

"Kenya appreciates the support from friends that led to the winning of the bid for hosting the 2029 World Athletics Championships," he said.

"Kenya has a long history and heritage in athletics; many of its athletes are also legends in the sport. I give my personal commitment and that of the Government of Kenya to deploy all resources possible to ensure that the World Athletics Championships 2029 in Nairobi will be a huge success.

"All of the required obligations will be met," he added. "The Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, is already undergoing major improvements for AFCON 2027, and will be further improved for the World Athletics Championships 2029."

Coe, joined by World Athletics CEO Jon Ridgeon, also met Cabinet Secretary for Sports the Honourable Salim Mvurya, Athletics Kenya President and World Athletics Vice President Jackson Tuwei and Nairobi 29 Bid Committee Chair Ibrahim Hussein. [Citizen]

Talanta Stadium to Host HSBC SVNS 2 Series in January

Talanta Stadium will host the HSBC SVNS 2 series on January 23-24, 2027, World Rugby has announced, with Nairobi set to welcome the international rugby sevens circuit for the second consecutive year.

Nairobi will host the opening leg of the three-tournament series before the competition moves to Montevideo, Uruguay, on February 20-21 and São Paulo, Brazil, on February 27-28.

The three cities return as hosts following their involvement in the inaugural HSBC SVNS 2 competition in 2026, underlining World Rugby's commitment to expanding international sevens into emerging markets.

World Rugby Sevens World Series general manager Sam Pinder said the tournaments would allow teams another opportunity to compete for promotion to the top tier of international sevens.

"We are delighted to confirm the return of Nairobi, Montevideo and São Paulo for HSBC SVNS 2 in 2027. Last season demonstrated the importance of this competition in providing teams with a clear and highly competitive pathway to the HSBC SVNS World Championship, while bringing international sevens to passionate rugby audiences around the world," said Pinder.

"With qualification for LA28 coming into focus, every stage of the pathway takes on even greater significance. We look forward to working with our host unions and partners to build on the success of last season and deliver three outstanding events for the teams and fans."

The HSBC SVNS 2 series forms a key part of World Rugby's three-tier international sevens structure, connecting regional qualification to HSBC SVNS 3, HSBC SVNS 2 and ultimately the HSBC SVNS World Championship.

The competition allows the men's and women's teams an opportunity to progress through the global sevens pathway as they pursue places among the world's leading nations.

Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) chief executive Thomas Odundo welcomed Nairobi's selection, saying the union is eager to stage another successful tournament, particularly after the weekend's Safari Sevens at Nyayo National Stadium.

"We are delighted with the announcement from World Rugby and look forward to having high-octane action with our fans at the stadium and a competitive Shujaa," said Odundo. Kenya's return as hosts comes after the successful staging of the 28th edition of Safari Sevens at Nyayo Stadium from October 9-11. [Star]



Kenya sevens players celebrate after retaining the Safari Sevens crown on Sunday at Nyayo Stadium/ HANDOUT

Tusker Face Stern Test Against Singida in Continental Showdown

Tusker FC face a stern examination of their continental ambitions when they host Tanzania's Singida Black Stars in the CAF Confederation Cup second qualifying round first leg at Nyayo National Stadium on Sunday.

The brewers will be seeking a home victory in the 3 pm kick off to strengthen their chances of reaching the group stages with the return leg set for Uhuru Stadium, Dar es Salaam, on October 25.

Coach Julien Mette believes a strong continental campaign would not only enhance Tusker's reputation but also provide a timely boost to Kenyan football ahead of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations, which Kenya will co-host alongside Uganda and Tanzania.

"Playing in Africa gives our players a different level of experience. We want to compete with the best, improve every day and show that Kenyan clubs can make a serious impact on this stage," Mette said.

However, Singida arrive in Nairobi with an imposing record from the opening round, having demolished South Sudan's Al Ghazala SC 10-1 on aggregate. Their attacking prowess presents a significant challenge for Tusker, who edged Sudanese side Al Ahli Wad Madani 3-2 on aggregate.



"We want to compete with the best, improve every day and show that Kenyan clubs can make a serious impact on this stage."

Tusker coach Julien Mette

Mette acknowledges the threat posed by the Tanzanians but insists his players must approach the encounter with confidence and tactical discipline.

"Singida are a good side and their results in the previous round tell you that we must be ready for a serious challenge. We respect them, but we also have our own strengths and must believe in what we can achieve," he said.

Tusker head into the fixture on the back of an encouraging start to their domestic campaign, having beaten Ulinzi Stars 2-0 in their SportPesa League opener at Ulinzi Sports Complex on Sunday.

Second-half goals from Alvin Mang'eni and Nigerian forward Victor Mbaoma secured the victory, giving the brewers a confidence boost ahead of their continental assignment.

Nevertheless, Mette expects a different level of intensity against Singida and has emphasised the importance of defensive organisation and clinical finishing. [Star]

Rwanda to Host F1's First Race in Africa Since 1993



The new track near Kigali has been designed to exploit Rwanda's natural landscape

Rwanda has signed a 10-year deal with Formula 1 to host races in the African country, starting "in the early 2030s".

The event – to be called the African Grand Prix – will be held on a new, purpose-built circuit in Bugesera, 25 miles south of the capital Kigali and next to the city's new international airport. It will be the first F1 race in Africa since 1993.

A statement from F1 said the project came as a result of "years of collaboration to ensure the right foundations, with the best partner, are in place to deliver a successful, sustainable and world-class grand prix for generations to come".

The circuit, designed by the former F1 driver Alex Wurz, has been "designed to work in harmony with the natural landscape, using the area's elevation changes to create a unique and challenging racing experience while delivering exceptional viewing opportunities for fans," the statement added.

F1 hopes the race will provide an opportunity for the sport to expand its profile in Africa, a relatively unexplored market compared to Europe, Asia and the Americas.

It has not yet been established where the race may best fit into the schedule during the year.

The race is likely to be controversial as Rwanda has previously been accused of sportswashing.

The sport is likely to want to avoid holding the race in the main rain season of March to May. There is a shorter, less disruptive rain season from October to November.

F1 is committed to keeping the season at no more than 24 races.

Rwanda President Paul Kagame said: "For more than three decades, the world's premier motorsport championship has raced without this continent, and that changes with this agreement.

"Rwanda is proud to host the Formula 1 African Grand Prix, and to share this moment with more than 100 million fans across Africa, many of them young people who deserve to see the sport at home and to see themselves in it: as engineers, technicians, entrepreneurs and, one day, drivers.

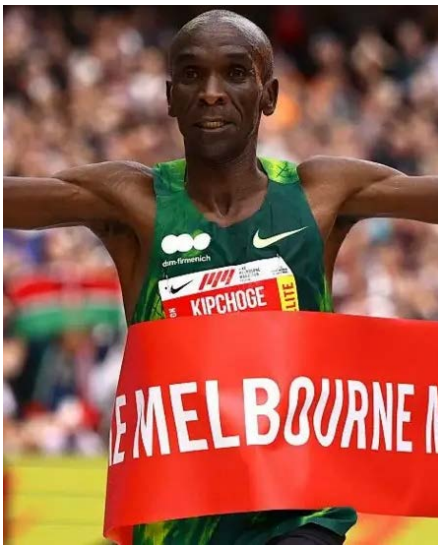
"The circuit in Bugesera, alongside the new international airport, will bring jobs, skills, tourism and new business to our country and our region for decades to come, because our aim was never a single race weekend, but a lasting benefit for our people."

F1 president Stefano Domenicali said the new contract was "a landmark moment for F1", which would mean the sport was racing "on every inhabited continent".

Domenicali added: "Africa has always been part of Formula 1's future, and from the beginning we were determined to return in the right way, with the right partner, a long-term commitment and a clear vision for creating meaningful impact." [BBC]

Kipchoge Wins First Marathon in Three Years in Melbourne

Two-time Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge says “his body is still peaking” after winning the Melbourne Marathon in a course record time at the age of 41.



Eliud Kipchoge’s victory was his 12th at a World Marathon Major

The Kenyan crossed the line in two hours nine minutes 10 seconds for his 17th career win over the distance and first since the Berlin Marathon in 2023.

“I believe that my body is still peaking – still able to compete with the next generation,” Kipchoge said.

“The oldest athlete is still competing but I am happy to run with the Gen Zs.”

The course was partly raced along the Australian Formula One track at Albert Park and finished inside the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

“On the course, it was really wonderful, I enjoyed seeing people standing, cheering, and shouting my name,” added Kipchoge, who slowed down inside the MCG to wave to the fans.

“It was actually different – running on a beautiful course, but also running on the Formula One track, and above all else, finishing on a cricket ground.

“It makes me proud to run with the younger generation and inspire the running community in Melbourne.”

Australian Thomas do Canto was runner-up in 2:10:35, with compatriot Reece Edwards third.

New Zealand’s Camille French won the women’s race in 2:28:25, followed by Australian Sinead Diver and Nichola Sheridan of Ireland.

The Melbourne Marathon was the third leg on Kipchoge’s world tour, on which he hopes to complete a marathon on all seven continents, including Antarctica, over two years. [BBC]



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4th Floor, Roshanmaer Place
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Email: info@imgkenya.com
Phone: 0708 984 772
www.imgkenya.com

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