LIGHT HOUSE

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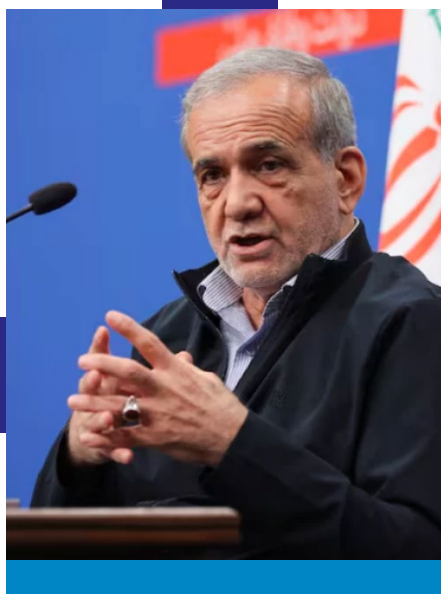
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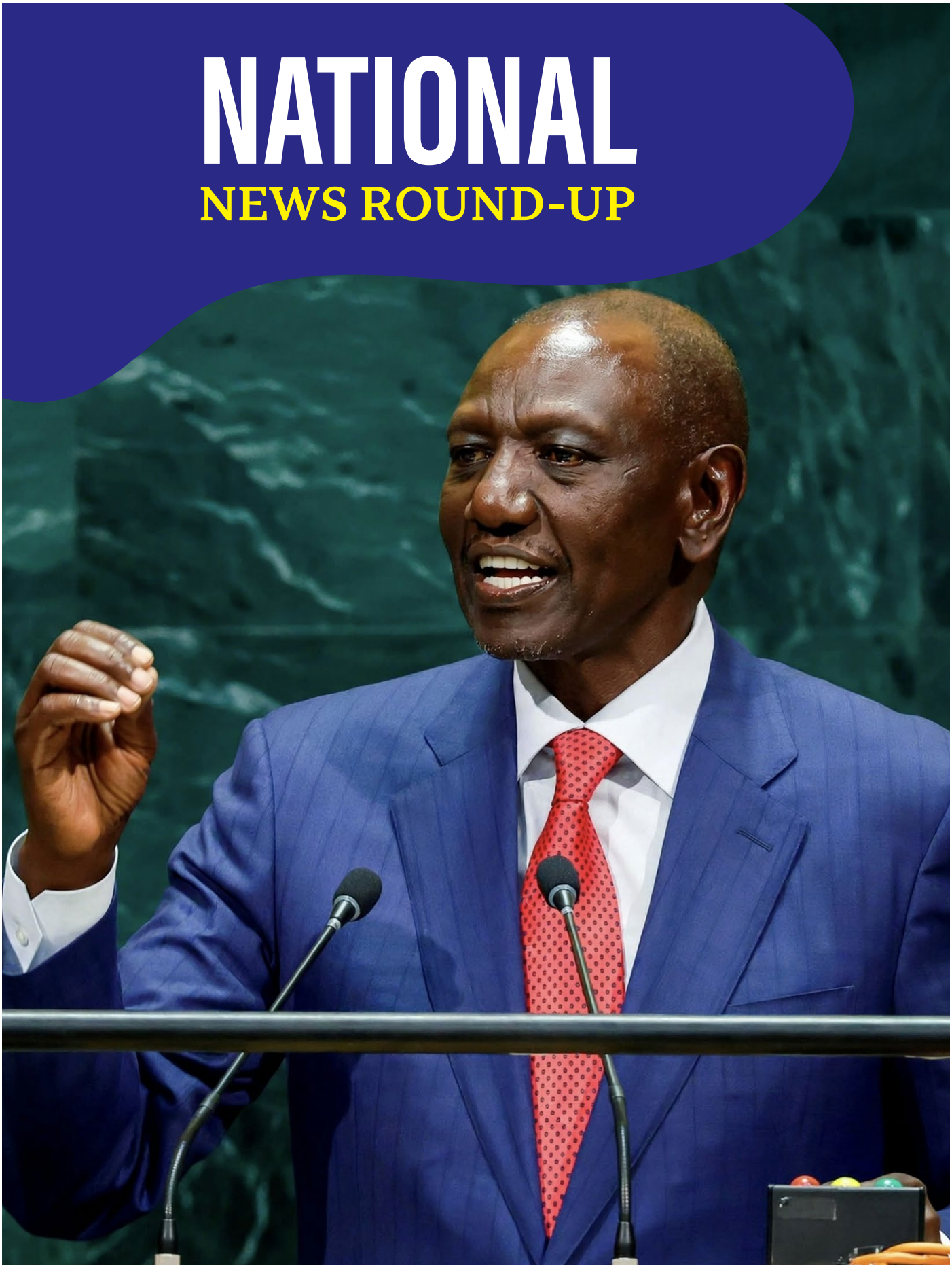
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NATIONAL
NEWS ROUND-UP



Ruto: Africa must move from exporting raw materials to building industries



President William Ruto speaking at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

President William Ruto has called for a shift in how Africa develops and uses its natural resources, saying the continent must move from exporting raw materials to building industries that add value locally.

Speaking during his address at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ruto said Africa has vast mineral wealth, immense agricultural potential, significant renewable-energy resources and the world's youngest population.

He said Africa's resources should be used to strengthen industries on the continent and contribute to addressing global challenges, including food security, clean energy, resilient supply chains and new sources of growth.

"Africa does not come to plead. We come to propose. Our continent holds vast mineral wealth, immense agricultural potential, extraordinary renewable-energy resources, and the world's youngest population. We are a market of more than 1.5 billion people, increasingly connected through the African Continental Free Trade Area," Ruto said.

"Africa's resources must become the beginning of African industry, not the end of Africa's contribution to the value chain. Extraction defined too much of our past. Investment must underpin our future."

Ruto said the transition was already taking shape across the continent, citing cocoa-producing countries moving from beans to brands and cotton producers building garment value chains.

He said Africa had also made its position clear that the clean-energy transition should not become another form of extraction.

[Star]

Gov't destroys Ksh.8.2B methamphetamine haul seized in Indian Ocean

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen on Thursday oversaw the destruction of methamphetamine worth an estimated Ksh.8.2 billion in Mombasa.

The consignment, which was intercepted in October 2025 during a multi-agency maritime operation, was seized after a vessel suspected of carrying the narcotics was intercepted in the Indian Ocean off the Kenyan coast.

The destruction took place at Bamburi Cement under court supervision following the completion of the required legal procedures Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) Mohamed Amin, senior National Police Service (NPS) officials and other stakeholders joined Murkomen for the exercise.



Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen accompanied by seniour government officials during the destruction of the meth in Mombasa on September 24, 2026.

The destruction comes nearly a year after the suspected narcotics were intercepted, with security agencies mounting heightened security around the site in Mombasa.

The operation has brought together officers from various security and law-enforcement agencies involved in the investigation and seizure of the consignment.

Authorities have previously stepped up surveillance along Kenya's maritime routes as part of efforts to disrupt the movement of narcotics into and through the country. [Citizen]

DP Kindiki says gov't intensifying El Nino response measures in Nairobi

The government is intensifying implementation of El Nino response measures in Nairobi in collaboration with the county to ensure the Capital City is adequately prepared for the coming heavy rains.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said Nairobi is expected to be one of the areas to receive El Nino rains in October going forward, outlining interventions being rolled out to avert loss of lives and property damages.



The Second in Command on Thursday morning held a meeting with senior government officers and various heads of departments and agencies at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi to consolidate efforts required to safeguard the country's capital from El Nino destruction.

"From the projections by the weather people, it is likely that the precipitation in Nairobi will be high. That is expected in the second and the third week of October when the rain will fall," DP noted.

The Second in Command on Thursday morning held a meeting with senior government officers and various heads of departments and agencies at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi to consolidate efforts required to safeguard the country's capital from El Nino destruction.

Present were Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja, officials from Kenya National Highway Authority (KENHA), Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), Kenya Rural Roads Agency (KeRRA), Kenya Power, Nairobi Rivers Commission and representatives from the State Departments of Energy, Roads and Urban Development.

"We have mapped out all the chokepoints in Nairobi which are likely to cause flooding. They are being unclogged, dredged and opened. This is through partnership between the Nairobi County Government and Nairobi Rivers Commission," he revealed. [Citizen]

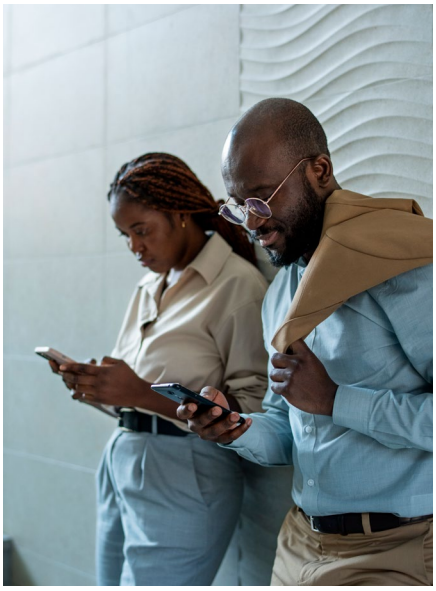
Kenya among states to phase out 2G and 3G networks by 2030



Kenya is among 11 African countries expected to phase out 2G and 3G mobile networks by 2030 as operators accelerate the shift to faster 4G and 5G broadband.
The planned switch-off is part of a new roadmap by the GSM Association (GSMA) aimed at narrowing Africa's digital usage gap and connecting one billion more people to the internet by 2030.

The GSMA, in partnership with the Partnership for Digital Access in Africa (PDAA), unveiled the Advancing Digital Connectivity in Africa roadmap on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Other targeted are Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa.



The roadmap comes as demand for older-generation mobile networks continues to weaken in Kenya, with consumers and businesses increasingly moving to faster broadband services.

Data from the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) shows that 2G subscriptions fell 27.3 percent year-on-year to 9.3 million in June 2026, from 12.8 million a year earlier.

3G subscriptions recorded an even sharper decline, falling 39.2 percent from 7.4 million to 4.5 million over the same period.

The decline has coincided with a rapid expansion of 4G and 5G connections.

4G subscriptions rose from 37.2 million in 2025 to 48.3 million by June 2026, while 5G subscriptions increased from 1.2 million to 2.1 million.

[TheStar]

Crisis looms in universities as lecturers issue 7-day strike notice

The Universities' Academic Staff Union (UASU) has issued a seven-day strike notice, with the industrial action set to begin on October 2, 2026.

Speaking at the union's offices in Nairobi, UASU Secretary-General Dr. Constantine Wasonga said the decision follows the persistent failure by university councils, the Ministry of Education and the National Treasury to honour the return-to-work formula signed on November 5, 2025.

"Universities are technically insolvent because the government has not been remitting money due to them. You are going to see the mother of all strikes this season because universities are understaffed, we are overworked and we don't have pension schemes; and you want us to take it lying down?



We won't! Therefore, on October 2nd, all universities shall be closed," Wesonga said.

The union is also demanding clear and binding funding commitments from the Ministry of Education and the National Treasury, including assurances that the agreed funds will be provided through the National Exchequer.

"We have our colleagues from different universities to address our issues, and we are very disappointed, and we are not going to budge. When we get out, we would want our issues addressed squarely. We have been acting in good faith, but when we are pushed out to demonstrate our anger, we shall do so," UASU National Chairperson Grace Nyongesa added.

The union in August demanded the immediate payment of pending 2017–2021 and 2021–2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) arrears in full, rejecting any staggered payment plan.

[Citizen]





IEBC targets electronic voting for Kenyans in diaspora by 2032

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) says it is moving towards having Kenyans living in the diaspora exercise their right to vote electronically.

Speaking in New York during an engagement with Kenyans living in the diaspora, IEBC Vice Chair Fahima Abdallah said the goal is to have Kenyans in the diaspora vote electronically by 2032.

“The law as it is today says elections can only happen on Kenyan soil, and that means our Kenyan missions here.

But as an able team, we are going to work together with all those other institutions to ensure whatever needs to be done is done to enable each and every Kenyan, wherever they are, to exercise their democratic right,” Fahima said.

“We want to enhance technology to a point where in the future — maybe not this coming election, but maybe we leave the commission in 2031 — we shall be able to even have the diaspora doing e-voting.”

Currently, the regulations base the registration of Kenyan voters who reside outside the country and the conduct of elections abroad on the presence of an embassy, high commission or consulate.

Commissioner Alutalala Mukhwana, who accompanied the IEBC Vice Chair to New York, said the decision on which 14 countries will be added to the list of countries where Kenyans can be registered as voters will be based on population.

[Citizen]



New Bill seeks to give NTSA powers to license PSV conformity assessors

A Bill before the Senate seeks to introduce a new regulatory framework for the assessment of public service vehicles, including licensing independent conformity assessors to verify whether PSV bodies meet required standards.

The National Transport and Safety Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026, sponsored by Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi, proposes amendments to the National Transport and Safety Authority Act to establish a legal framework for conformity assessment of public service vehicles.

According to Parliament, the Bill seeks to regulate the licensing of conformity assessors, prescribe requirements that must be met before a licence is issued and outline the duties and obligations of both the NTSA and licensed assessors.

If enacted, the Bill would empower NTSA to register and license conformity assessors. The bill also bars an assessor from being linked to a person involved in the PSV sector. A conformity assessor's licence would be valid for three years.



The Bill further proposes to give NTSA powers to prescribe criteria for conducting conformity assessments and conduct periodic audits to ensure compliance with the law. After completing an assessment, the licensed assessor would also be required to submit a technical report to NTSA.

According to Murungi, the purpose of the bill is to rectify conflicts of interest within the industry, as PSV assessors had been carrying out assessments through the Kenya Association of Bus Manufacturers, whose membership includes owners of public service vehicles.

[Citizen]



Image of NTSA motor vehicles.

Sifuna to be unveiled as UDP presidential aspirant in October- Natembeya

Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya now says that Nairobi Senator Edwin Watenya Sifuna will be the United Democratic Party (UDP) presidential flagbearer.
The party, formally founded by former Lugari Member of Parliament, the late Cyrus Jirongo, is linked to Natembeya.

The Trans Nzoia County boss made the revelation during a radio interview on Mulembe FM.

"Sifuna atawania urais kupitia chama cha UDP," said Natembeya.
The official unveiling of Sifuna as both the party leader and presidential aspirant is scheduled for the first week of October and will be done by the party's National Executive Committee at the party headquarters in Nairobi.

"Kila region katika United Opposition iko na chama chake, kwa Mulima ni DCP, Ukambani ni Wiper…pia sisi hapa Western lazima tuwe na regional party," he added.

The ceremony will then pave the way for the Nairobi legislator to be formally incorporated as the party leader and presidential aspirant during the UDP's National Delegates Conference, which will ratify and adopt the recommendations by the National Executive Committee.

"Kila mjumbe atakuwa na fursa ya kutekeleza uamuzi wa NDC." The governor stated.

The latest twist to events comes after a planned rebranding of the United Democratic Party (UDP) to Ukombozi Party hit a snag.
The 'Ukombozi' tag was reserved by the Kalonzo Musyoka-led Azimio Coalition, which has rebranded to the Ukombozi Alliance.

Similarly, the Mwananchi Party, which rebranded from the Muungano Party, is associated with Embakasi East MP Babu Owino.

The party, through a statement, clarified that: "On 4th August 2026, the principals of the Linda Mwananchi Movement visited the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) to seek clarification on the status of the Linda Mwananchi name and the registration process."

[Citizen]



Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya greets Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna ahead of the Linda Mwananchi tour in the county on Saturday, July 25, 2026.

CORPORATE
NEWS ROUND-UP



Tobacco Bill faces pushback over licensing, flavour ban proposals



A protester holding a placard outside the Parliament Buildings on the sidelines of the public participation engagement on the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill on September 24,

Stakeholders in Kenya's retail, harm reduction and entertainment sectors have called for a review of provisions in the proposed Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

They warned that passing the Bill in its current form could fuel illicit trade, increase the cost of doing business and affect livelihoods across the value chain.

The stakeholders spoke in Nairobi on Thursday on the sidelines of a public participation exercise on the Bill hosted by the National Assembly Committee on Health.

They called on lawmakers to take a balanced and evidence-based approach that protects public health objectives while safeguarding legitimate businesses and employment.

The stakeholders said they support efforts to reduce the harmful effects of tobacco use and strengthen regulatory oversight.

However, they raised concerns that some of the proposed amendments could create market distortions that benefit illegal operators at the expense of compliant businesses.

Retail Trade Association of Kenya (Retrak) CEO Wambui Mbarire said overly restrictive measures and increased compliance costs could put additional pressure on small and medium-sized enterprises already facing rising operational expenses.

Mbarire said the proposed requirement for retailers to obtain a separate licence to sell tobacco would add to an already heavy licensing burden.

"With an already existing licence burden – for instance, on average a supermarket requires 39 licences to operate - this bill puts in a new license that a retailer must get to sell tobacco," she said.

She said the additional licence would complicate the business environment and increase costs.

"So, we feel that there's already enough regulation and there are already enough licenses for retailers and businesses. An additional license defeats the purpose of a unified business permit," Mbarire said.

She added that the proposal "just complicates the environment of the ease of doing business and the cost of doing business" and defeats the purpose of a unified business permit or a single licence regime.

[TheStar]

KTB targets 5.6 million bed-nights in fresh domestic tourism push

Kenya Tourism Board is targeting 5.6 million domestic tourism bed nights as it steps up efforts to drive more Kenyans to lesser-known destinations and boost travel during low and shoulder seasons.

The target represents an increase from 5.15 million domestic accommodation bed-nights recorded in the 2025-26 financial year, according to the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, which was up 2.6 per cent from 5.02 million recorded the previous year.

KTB chief executive June Chepkemei said the board is seeking to convert growing interest in local travel into actual bookings through stronger partnerships with tour operators, county governments and other players in the tourism industry.

The strategy is being implemented through the “Hapa Ni Wapi Sales Conversion Campaign”, which seeks to move domestic tourism marketing beyond awareness creation towards the development of affordable, structured and ready-to-book travel packages.

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

The campaign was launched in Samburu on Tuesday, with the northern Kenya circuit selected as the first destination for the initiative.



KTB CEO June Chepkemei (in red Maasai shuka) flags off the Hapa Ni Wapi Sales Conversion Campaign at the Samburu National Reserve. Initiative aims to drive up domestic tourism

KTB plans to use the region as a launchpad for promoting destinations that have traditionally attracted fewer domestic tourists, before expanding the campaign to other parts of the country.

The Chalbi Desert and wider northern Kenya circuit will form the first leg of the activation, showcasing the region’s landscapes, cultural attractions and tourism experiences.

The campaign will later move to Mambrui-Malindi, Western Kenya and other circuits as KTB seeks to spread domestic travel beyond the country’s traditional coastal and safari destinations.

More than 50 tour operators from the Tour Operators Society of Kenya (TOSK) and Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO) are participating in the inaugural activation.

Chepkemei said the board expects the partnerships to help address some of the barriers that have limited domestic tourism, particularly affordability, accessibility and limited information about destinations outside the established tourism circuits. The board is also banking on improved infrastructure to unlock tourism potential in northern Kenya.

[TheStar]

EADB pushes capital mobilisation to unlock East Africa industrial growth

EAST Africa needs to mobilise more capital into manufacturing, infrastructure and productive sectors if the region is to accelerate industrial growth and expand intra-regional trade, the East African Development Bank has said.

The development finance institution said limited financing, infrastructure gaps and low levels of industrialisation continue to constrain the region's ability to move up the value chain and retain more economic value from its natural and agricultural resources.

EADB acting director general Benard Mono said the bank is seeking stronger partnerships with governments, private investors and other development finance institutions to crowd in capital for projects capable of transforming the regional economy.

"I would like to assure you that EADB is open for partnership. We stand ready to co-finance and scale high-impact investments across East Africa," Mono said.

EADB was also part of the just-concluded East Africa CEO & Investment Forum in Nairobi.

Mono said the bank had built extensive experience in development financing across the region and established financing structures capable of supporting both large-scale projects and grassroots enterprises.

"We maintain strong liquidity, a robust funding pipeline and the institutional capacity required to efficiently deploy capital where it is needed most," he said.

The push comes as East African countries seek to deepen regional integration and increase the volume of goods and services traded within the bloc while reducing dependence on exports of raw commodities.

EADB's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan identifies industrialisation and manufacturing, particularly through industrial parks, as one of its key focus areas.

The bank notes that industrialisation remains low in the region, with many products, especially agricultural commodities, still exported in raw form, limiting the value earned by local economies.

EADB says it will support industrialisation through direct financing of private-sector projects as well as wholesale funding to small-industry promotional agencies in member states to support emerging businesses.

[Star]



East African Development Bank acting director general Benard Mono

PARLIAMENTARY
NEWS ROUND-UP



MPs warn proposed forensic science board could create bureaucracy and burden Kenyan taxpayers



Members of the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security during a session to consider the proposed National Forensic Science Bill, 2026, at Lake Naivasha Resort in Nakuru County on September 24.

Members of Parliament have raised concerns over plans to establish a regulatory board under the proposed National Forensic Science Bill, 2026, warning that the structure could create unnecessary bureaucracy and add to the financial burden on taxpayers.

The Bill proposes the creation of a National Forensic Science Regulatory Board and a National Forensic Science Laboratory. The board would register, license and regulate forensic science providers, including private laboratories, set standards, register practitioners and license facilities. The laboratory, meanwhile, would conduct forensic analysis under the Government Chemist.

The concerns were raised on Thursday during consultations between the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security and the State Department for Internal Security and National Administration at Lake Naivasha Resort in Nakuru County.

Committee chairman and Narok West MP Gabriel Tongoyo questioned the financial implications of establishing the board, noting that its members and staff would require funding.

"You are going to have board members and staff. They will need funding," Tongoyo said.

Government Chemist William Munyoki said the department currently collects about Sh16 million in annual fees against a budget of approximately Sh490 million.

Munyoki said the Bill separates the regulatory and laboratory functions, with the Government Chemist becoming a member of the proposed board while retaining responsibility for the day-to-day management of the National Forensic Science Laboratory.

Under the proposed structure, existing Government Chemist staff would transition to the laboratory while retaining their employment under the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Homa Bay Town MP Peter Kaluma questioned why the Government Chemist could not instead be established as an independent office, similar to institutions such as the Auditor-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

"I don't see the need for that board," Kaluma said, arguing that the Government Chemist could operate as a standalone office with a clearly defined mandate and accountability structure.

[EastleighVoice]

MPs to wrap up first phase of education reform hearings in Nairobi

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Education will on Friday conclude the first phase of public participation on six education reform Bills with a hearing in Nairobi.

The sitting will be held at Parliament Buildings from 10am to 5.30pm, bringing to an end the committee's initial round of public engagements in 31 counties.

The committee has invited Nairobi residents and education stakeholders to attend the forum and submit their views, concerns and recommendations on the proposed reforms.

The six Bills are the Tertiary Education, Placement and Funding Bill, 2026; Basic Education Bill, 2026; Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill; Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill; Kenya National Qualifications Framework (Amendment) Bill; and Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (Amendment) Bill.

The committee collected views from residents and education stakeholders in Laikipia, Nyeri, Isiolo and Nyandarua on Thursday, marking the penultimate round of hearings before the Nairobi session.

The Nairobi forum will, however, not mark the end of the public participation exercise.

The committee has extended the hearings by five days to October 2 to cover 16 counties that were left out of the initial programme.

The additional phase will run from Monday, September 28 to Friday, October 2.

The extension followed concerns from stakeholders, including the Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education Teachers (Kuppet), which had called for the initial exercise to be suspended, arguing that the two-week period was too short to allow meaningful public engagement on the proposed laws.

Kuppet also raised concerns over the accessibility of some hearing venues, particularly for stakeholders in rural and marginalised areas, and called for greater public sensitisation on the content and implications of the Bills.

The six proposed laws cover major areas of the education system, including tertiary financing, basic education management, national assessments, teacher training, qualifications and curriculum development. [Star]



National Assembly Education Committee chairperson Julius Melly receives views from a Knut official during public participation on education reform bills in Turkana county, September 21, 2026.

Senators clash over seven CSs accompanying Ruto to UNGA



Ruling coalition and opposition senators clashed on Wednesday over the decision by seven Cabinet Secretaries to accompany President William Ruto to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The opposition senators said the absence of the Cabinet Secretaries had affected the Senate's ability to engage the Executive on issues of concern to Kenyans, while also raising questions about the cost of the large government delegation travelling to the United States.

The Kenya Kwanza side defended the trip as an opportunity for ministers to conduct government business.

This is following the absence of Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos, Mining and Blue Economy Hassan Joho and their ICT counterpart William Kabogo before senate plenary during the mashinani sitting in Kilifi county.

Kakamega Senator Boni Khalwale led the criticism, saying Parliament should be concerned about the number of senior government officials accompanying the President arguing the country is not a failed state to warrant the huge delegation.

"Kenya is not a failed state where seven Cabinet Secretaries can accompany the Head of State to the UN General Assembly and the responsibility that they are going to discharge is to sit in the background when the President is reading a statement," Senator Khalwale said.

He said the trip had implications for the running of government as well as public finances, citing air tickets, security and other expenses incurred by the delegation.

"Parliament of Kenya should be disturbed because this not only has a bearing on the efficiency of how our government is run, it also has a financial implication," he said.

[Capital]

JUDICIARY
NEWS ROUND-UP



Court upholds national tallying of presidential results in Omtatah case

The High Court has upheld the national aggregation and verification of presidential election results, dismissing a challenge by Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah against the process.

The court upheld Section 39(1C) of the Elections Act and Regulation 83(2) of the Elections (General) Regulations, which provide for the aggregation and verification of presidential results at the national level.

Omtatah had challenged the establishment and operation of the national tallying centre, arguing that the Constitution gives constituency returning officers the primary and final responsibility for tallying, verifying and declaring presidential results.

He had also sought orders barring the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) from re-tallying or re-verifying presidential results after their declaration at constituency level.

The court, however, found that national aggregation is necessary to determine whether a presidential candidate has met the constitutional threshold required to win the election.

Under Article 138(4) of the Constitution, a presidential candidate must secure more than half of all votes cast and at least 25 per cent of the votes cast in more than half of Kenya's counties.

The judges said the two-tier threshold can only be established through national aggregation of presidential results.



"A national aggregation and confirmation exercise is accordingly not an arbitrary extra burden imposed on presidential candidates or voters," the court held.

The judges described the national exercise as a "necessary and rational corollary" of the Constitution's unique threshold for election as President.

The court also rejected arguments that national tallying amounts to discriminatory treatment contrary to Article 27 of the Constitution.
While upholding national aggregation, the court clarified that the process does not give IEBC authority to alter results declared at polling stations.

Where there is a discrepancy between electronically transmitted results and the physical results from a polling station, the result verified and declared at the polling station will prevail.

The judges also declined to strike down Sections 39(1C) and 39(1G) of the Elections Act and Regulation 83 in their entirety.

The court found that some other aspects of the petition had not been sufficiently supported by evidence, including claims relating to Article 35, ballot reconciliation, government timelines and aspects of the Article 27 challenge.

[Capital]



High Court bars parliament from reducing former presidents' retirement benefits

The High Court has barred Parliament from reducing or withdrawing the retirement benefits of a former president and declared unconstitutional a law that restricts retired heads of state from holding political party office.

In a far-reaching judgment delivered on Monday, Justice Bahati Mwamuye declared Sections 4(1), 4(2), 4(3) and the entirety of Section 6 of the Presidential Retirement Benefits Act unconstitutional, null and void.

The judge held that the Constitution provides stronger protection for a former president's retirement benefits than Parliament had purported to create through legislation.

The case was filed by civic advocacy group Sheria Mtaani and activist Shadrack Wambui against the Senate, National Assembly and Attorney-General. Senator Kiprotich Cherarkey and the Jubilee Party were enjoined as interested parties.

The petition followed a parliamentary motion dated May 4, 2026, initiated by Senator Cherarkey, seeking to review and vary the retirement benefits of a former president on account of his continued leadership role in the Jubilee Party.

The contention was whether Parliament could use legislation to impose conditions on benefits that the Constitution itself protects.
[Citizen]



Uhuru Agrees to Hand Over Jubilee Chairmanship Following Court Ruling

The Judiciary has begun public consultations on its proposed budget for the 2027/28 financial year, seeking views on priorities aimed at expanding access to justice, reducing case backlogs and improving the quality and timeliness of judicial services.

Speaking during a public hearing in Marsabit, Deputy Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Paul Ndemo said public participation was critical in ensuring budget priorities reflected the justice needs and experiences of Kenyans.

Ndemo said the consultations go beyond fulfilling a constitutional requirement, providing an opportunity for citizens to influence the Judiciary's priorities and strengthen accountability in the administration of justice.

The Judiciary resolved 576,162 cases against 561,580 new cases filed during the 2025/26 financial year, translating to a 103 per cent case clearance rate.

Technology-driven interventions, including the Urithi Portal and Mahakama Popote initiative, have also supported faster processing of succession matters and enabled 22,516 matters to be resolved through virtual deployment of judicial capacity.

For the 2027/28 financial year, the Judiciary has proposed a budget of Sh50.7 billion against an indicative ceiling of Sh30.4 billion, leaving a financing gap of about Sh20.3 billion based on the figures provided.

The proposed priorities include reducing case backlogs, expanding Alternative Justice Systems and mediation, strengthening election-related dispute resolution, enhancing technology, improving court infrastructure and building human-resource capacity.

Members of the public and justice stakeholders urged the Judiciary to prioritise the expeditious conclusion of cases, completion of ongoing court infrastructure projects and the opening of new courts in remote areas.

[Capital]



Deputy Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Paul Ndemo said public participation was critical in ensuring budget priorities reflected the justice needs and experiences of Kenyans/Judiciary

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS ROUND-UP



White House restores access to media outlets banned by Trump after judge's order

CNN, Politico and MS NOW are back in the White House, hours after a federal judge ruled President Donald Trump's ban on the three news outlets was probably unconstitutional and ordered their access immediately restored.

The outlets sought an emergency court hearing to regain entry, accusing the White House in a court filing of having "repeatedly violated" the judge's ruling to lift the ban. It was unclear whether the hearing would go ahead.

The White House said it began reinstating access shortly after 09:00 EDT (13:00 GMT) on Thursday, although CNN has disputed the timeline.

Trump initially said he barred the outlets because of "fake news". The White House later cited national security.

The standoff limited some TV coverage as Trump welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping to the White House ahead of a state dinner later.

In the early hours, Judge Timothy Kelly ruled the ban on the outlets should be temporarily lifted because it "likely violated their constitutional due process rights".

CNN, Politico and MS Now all reported being denied entry to the White House on Thursday morning, prompting their request for an emergency hearing.

In response, the director of White House Operations said in a court filing that the press passes and confiscated badges had been restored by 09:45.

Shortly afterwards, all three outlets said they had been allowed back in. However, networks including Fox News, NBC, CBS and ABC, which pulled out of the White House in solidarity, have yet to confirm they will resume televised coverage.

Trump first announced last Friday he was barring CNN, MS Now and Politico from the White House, accusing them of writing "fiction or lies" about his administration.

[Aljazeera]



US President Donald Trump

Trump and Xi toast new chapter in friendship at White House state dinner

US President Donald Trump welcomed China President Xi Jinping to the White House for a lavish state dinner where both leaders touted a new chapter in their friendship.

The dinner was attended by billionaire business leaders, Trump administration officials, US tech CEOs and others. Their arrival was marked, however, by protesters loudly shouting from just outside the White House gates, some of whom were arrested.

Both Trump and Xi praised one another, pledging to continue talks to ensure stability between their two nations. But experts say that not much concrete has been yielded in talks so far.

The dinner came on the second day of Xi's three-day trip to Washington. Trump thanked Xi for making the long trip to the US, and said the relationship between the two men was strong.

"We've never gotten along better," Trump said.

He praised the long history of US-China relations, although he did take an unscripted detour to praise his ongoing ballroom project.

In the off-the-cuff moment, he said as a "special treat" the Chinese leader and his wife could be the first to enter the ballroom, which is still a year away from completion.

"Anybody who wants to walk into a construction site that's nice and clean and sparkling, it's our honour to have you do so," he said.



US President Donald Trump welcomed China President Xi Jinping to the White House for a lavish state dinner

He also presented Xi with a sculpture of a bald eagle, America's national symbol, saying it embodied "the free and soaring spirit of America".

"We hope it will find a nice, wonderful place in Beijing. It's your honour," he said.

Trump added that he and First Lady Melania had participated in the design of the sculpture.

Xi thanked his hosts for receiving him and his wife with "meticulous care and consideration", making them "feel truly at home".

He said the two leaders are "making history in our bilateral engagements".

"We agreed to build a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability," Xi said, adding that the two shared "sincere and in-depth exchanges" that will strengthen relations between the two countries.

Like Trump's, Xi's remarks were heavy on flattery, focusing on cultural ties and shared history between the US and China.

The relationship between the two countries was "forged in blood and fire" during the fight against Japan in the Second World War, before being furthered during the "ping pong" diplomacy of the Nixon administration, he said.

[Star]

Iran president tells Trump his country will never 'bend at the knee'

Iran's president struck a defiant tone at the UN on Wednesday where he spoke for the first time since Washington and Israel launched an all-out war on his country, vowing Tehran would never "bend at the knee."

Masoud Pezeshkian accused Washington of "terrorism" for assassinating former supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at the start of the conflict, insisting Tehran had never started a war.

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump had told the UN General Assembly that he was weighing whether to "annihilate" Iran but went on to hail renewed talks between Tehran and Washington's negotiators.

Pezeshkian made no reference to the talks to resolve the stalled war in his steely speech.

"(Trump) must know that the resistance of the Iranian people will only increase in the face of sanctions, increased pressure, increased bullying. We will never bow our head or bend at the knee," he said.

Pezeshkian insisted Tehran would not allow the Strait of Hormuz, which it has choked off since the start of the war causing global energy prices to spike, to be used as leverage against his country.

"We cannot let some have free access and bolster their interests from the waterway, while at the same time using that waterway to impose their aggression upon us," he said. Pezeshkian's attendance at the UN's signature diplomatic event, in the heart of Manhattan, had been in doubt as it was unclear if the United States would issue a visa.

[Citizen]



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian attends a press conference in Tehran, Iran, September 16, 2024. WANA (West Asia News Agency)

Trump invites Putin to G20 summit in Miami

President Donald Trump has invited his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to attend the G20 summit of world leaders in Miami in December, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday.

The move comes as Washington struggles to secure a deal to end Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Trump insisting that he is working with both sides to stop the war.

"In order to solve problems, you have to meet with the people that you disagree with or the people that you might have some issues with," Rubio told reporters in New York on Wednesday.

"So we've invited President Putin to the G20," he added.

"We think it's an opportunity for him to engage not just with the president but with other world leaders. We hope that's an invitation he'll accept," Rubio said.



File image of Russia's President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump.

The top US diplomat spoke shortly after his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at a hotel in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Their meeting also comes ahead of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's scheduled address to the United Nations.

Zelensky is expected to appeal again for better air defenses against the barrage of Russian drones and missiles. [Citizen]

Netanyahu defends Israeli military action as delegates walk out before UN speech

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has fiercely defended his country's military campaigns in Iran, Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East in a speech to the UN General Assembly.

After dozens of delegates walked out in protest as he took to the stage, Netanyahu vowed to continue fighting: "We're going to win. We have no other choice."



The Israeli leader also rejected accusations that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza

In response to the walkout, he said: "If there are any other moral cowards who haven't left the hall, please do so now."

The Israeli leader also rejected accusations that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

Hours earlier, in a recorded message Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told the UN that Israeli policies – in particular the illegal expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank – threatened "the very life and existence of the Palestinian people on their homeland".

He also said it jeopardised the two-state solution, which is an internationally backed formula for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Abbas said that Palestinians were being subjected to "killing, destruction, starvation and attempts at displacement, as well as a genocidal war" in Gaza by the Israeli military.

The Palestinian leader was addressing the annual gathering via a video link because he had been denied a US entry visa.

[Capital]

SPORTS

NEWS ROUND-UP



Kenyans Snow, Balala make positive starts at Rwanda Open



Sunshine Development Tour players made a positive start to the Sunshine Tour-sanctioned Rwanda Open, with four players carding four-under-par 68s to finish tied for 20th after Thursday's opening round at Kigali Golf Resort & Villas.

Kenya's Greg Snow produced a flawless opening round, carding four birdies on the first, sixth, ninth, and 14th holes without dropping a shot to finish at 4-under-par.

Compatriot Adel Balala matched Snow's score, combining four birdies on the eighth, 11th, 12th and 17th holes with a spectacular eagle on the ninth. He dropped shots on the 10th and 13th holes but recovered to finish under par.

Home favourite Celestin Nsanzuwera also posted a 4-under-par 68 after an eventful round featuring five birdies on the third, fourth, eighth, 12th and 15th holes, as well as an eagle on the ninth. He dropped shots on the sixth, seventh and 18th holes.

Home favourite Celestin Nsanzuwera also posted a 4-under-par 68 after an eventful round featuring five birdies on the third, fourth, eighth, 12th and 15th holes, as well as an eagle on the ninth. He dropped shots on the sixth, seventh and 18th holes.

Elsewhere, Kenya's Jastas Madoya and Uganda's Gaita Rodell carded 3-under-par 69s to share 35th place. Kenya's Daniel Nduva and Dismas Indiza finished at 70 to tie for 51st, while Uganda's Grace Kasango, Nigeria's Godwin Okoko, Uganda's Willy Deus and Abraham Ainamani each carded 71 to finish 61st.

The Sunshine Development Tour contingent will return to action for the second round on Friday as the players look to build on their positive opening-day performances and position themselves for the weekend rounds.

[Capital]

Nanyuki to debut LOOP Safari Gravel Series with UCI points up for grabs

A total of 600 cyclists will grace the fourth leg of the LOOP Safari Gravel Series when the event heads to Nanyuki for the first time on Saturday, October 17.

The Nanyuki event is the latest addition to the Safari Gravel Series calendar and will give riders an opportunity to earn UCI points that will count towards their annual world ranking after being elevated to a UCI-approved National Championship.

Registration for the Nanyuki Leg is now open at www.safariraceseries.com, with riders encouraged to book their slots early and make Nanyuki their next cycling adventure, as the timing of the event also presents an opportunity to turn the trip into a longer getaway.

This season, cyclists had a say in the destination of the final leg of the series following the introduction of a new riders' choice event, which saw them vote and settle on Nanyuki as the preferred stop.

The Nanyuki race will feature 11 km Chui Route, 45 km Duma Route, and a 90 km Simba Route for the elite. The top five finishers in the elite 90-kilometre race for both men and women are set to claim cash prizes of Sh20,000, Sh15,000, Sh10,000, Sh7,000, and Sh5,000, respectively.

The winning team will take home Sh125,000 while the second- and third-placed teams will receive Sh100,000 and Sh70,000, respectively.

Speaking ahead of the Nanyuki event, Troy Barrie, Coordinator of The Amani Project, said:

"Nanyuki gives us a completely new setting for the LOOP Safari Gravel Series, and we hope it will be as interesting as the other destinations have been."
[Capital]



Cyclists tackle the gravel terrains of Machakos during the second leg of the 2025 LOOP Safari Gravel Series

Harambee Starlets midfielder makes historic UEFA Champions League appearance

Harambee Starlets captain Mwanahalima 'Dogo' Adam etched her name into European football folklore on Tuesday night, putting in a resolute 80-minute performance for Danish outfit HB Køge as they pushed two-time European champions Arsenal W.F.C. to the absolute limit in the UEFA Women's Champions League.

Starting in midfield for Køge's opening league-phase clash at Meadow Park, Adam became only the second Kenyan woman to play in the main phase (formerly group stage) of Europe's premier club competition, joining Marjolen Nekesa, who achieved the feat with Slavia Prague in 2023.

Deployed against an Arsenal side brimming with international stars like Leah Williamson, Caitlin Foord, Alessia Russo, and Kim Little, the 29-year-old Kenyan international produced a disciplined, high-workrate display that kept the host giant at bay.

Jereko's numbers from the 80 minutes on the pitch tell the story of a player unfazed by the magnitude of the stage; 27 out of 31 passes completed (87% passing accuracy under heavy pressure), eight critical turnovers generated in the central third, 43 total touches, helping Køge relieve pressure during intense Arsenal waves, and 1 tackle made and only 1 foul committed in a disciplined tactical setup.

When she was substituted off in the 80th minute for Laura Munk Hermann, HB Køge held an improbable 0-0 deadlock against the English powerhouses.

Køge's brave defensive wall finally suffered late heartbreak deep into stoppage time.

In the 92nd minute, Arsenal substitute Selina Cerci was brought down inside the box, prompting the referee to point to the penalty spot. Mariona Caldentey stepped up and coolly converted in the 93rd minute to hand Arsenal a dramatic 1-0 victory.

[Capital]



Mwanahalima 'Dogo' Adam (squatting extreme right) poses for a photo with her teammates.

Safaricom Chapa Dimba Crowns Eastern Region County Champions



Musokoto Secondary School celebrate their victory over Green Buffaloes in the Safaricom Chapa Dimba Western Region final at Masinde Muliro Stadium Kadunyi today. Musokoto won by a score of 3-0. Photo

Safaricom Chapa Dimba has crowned county champions across the Eastern Region following an action-packed weekend of county finals, with young footballers competing for county honours and a place in the Eastern Region finals.

The county finals were held across Isiolo, Meru, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, and Marsabit, bringing together talented young footballers in both the boys' and girls' categories.

The county champions in both categories each received Sh 75,000, while the runners-up received Sh30,000, alongside other individual awards.

The champions will now advance to the Eastern Region finals, where they will compete for regional honours.

In Embu, Royal Queens Academy were crowned girls' champions after defeating Ishiara Bright Starlets 7-0 in the final at Embu Moi Stadium.
In the boys' category, Black Cats Football Academy claimed the county title with an emphatic 8-1 victory over Ishiara Bright Academy.

In Machakos, MCF Starlets emerged as the girls' county champions after defeating Kibauni Ladies 1-0 in the final.

MCF Starlets secured their place in the final with a 1-0 victory over Kisooni Queens, while Kibauni Ladies advanced after a goalless draw with Kyumbi All-Stars Queens, winning 5-4 on penalties.

[Citizen]

Oscar Winner Lupita Nyong'o Invests in Nairobi City Thunder

Oscar-winning Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o has announced that she has become an investor in Nairobi City Thunder, the Kenyan basketball club competing in the Basketball Africa League (BAL).

Nyong'o announced the investment in the club on September 24, 2026, on her social media platform.

Her announcement comes as the club emerges as the first Kenyan team to qualify for the Basketball Africa League continental competition.

Praising the club's performance, Lupita said she is ready to work with the club and offer her support.

The actress also wished all players in the Kenya National Basketball League (KNBL) Finals the best, with the Nairobi City Thunder set to play in the finals.



Oscar-winning Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o



"Big weekend ahead with the start of the KNBL Finals! Wishing everyone on and off the court a great time!" Lupita stated.

Nairobi City Thunder will face Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) in a best-of-five championship series as the 2026 KNBL Finals begin on September 26.

Nairobi City Thunder reached the Finals after defeating Stanbic Shields 3-0 in their semifinal series, while KPA secured its place after sweeping Equity Dumas 3-0.

The opening two games are scheduled for September 26 and 27 at 6:00 p.m., with KPA hosting the matches at its home venue at Makande Gymnasium in Mombasa.

KPA and The Thunder are meeting in the KNBL Finals for the third consecutive season, with Nairobi City Thunder entering the series as the defending champions.

Later, the series will then move to Nairobi, where Game 3 is scheduled for October 2 at 8:00 p.m. at Nyayo Gymnasium.

In the 2026 Road to BAL competition, Nairobi City Thunder secured another qualification after defeating Mozambique's Ferroviário da Beira at 109-70. The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) reported that the result secured the final BAL qualification place from the East Division.

[TheKenyanTimes]

Harambee Stars coach Benni McCarthy reveals work permit woes, unpaid allowances

Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy has revealed that he and members of his technical team have gone for about one-and-a-half years without work permits in Kenya, saying the situation has left him uncomfortable about his legal status in the country.

McCarthy said the lack of proper documentation is one of the issues he has had to contend with since taking charge of the national team, explaining why he typically leaves Kenya after completing national-team assignments and only returns when another camp begins.

“It’s been one and a half years now in Kenya, but we don’t have work permits. We can’t work as illegal immigrants,” McCarthy said, as quoted by Brian Odhiambo. “That’s why I come, do my job, then leave when the camp is finished.”

The South African tactician said he does not want to find himself questioned by authorities over why he is working in Kenya without the necessary documentation.

“I don’t want to be questioned by authorities on why I am in another country illegally,” he said.

McCarthy believes securing the required permits should be a basic responsibility of those who bring foreign technical staff into the country.

“The people that deploy you must make sure you have them,” he said.

His concerns, however, extend beyond his own situation. McCarthy also disclosed that unpaid allowances are becoming a source of frustration among Harambee Stars players, with some having gone through four or five camps without receiving the money they were promised.



Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy.

“For four to five camps, not receiving a cent of what was promised, of course, as a human being you will be like, is it worth it? Is it okay for the national team?” he said.

The coach admitted that the situation makes his job increasingly difficult because he is expected to maintain a motivated squad while some players are still waiting for outstanding payments.

“Therefore, it becomes hard to manage players who have not been paid,” McCarthy said.

While acknowledging that football begins with passion, McCarthy said the realities of professional football mean financial commitments cannot simply be ignored.

“We all started playing football for the love and the passion; it was not about money. But when you have a gift, people are willing to pay a lot of money for it,” he said.

He said he understands why some players have been forced to make alternative arrangements as they wait for their national-team allowances.

[Eastleighvoice]

Tusker chairman reveals the club's new home ground for 2026-2027 season

Tusker FC chairman Charles Gacheru has revealed that the Brewers are set to use Kirigiti Stadium as their designated home ground for the 2026-2027 FKF Premier League season.

Gacheru disclosed the plans while speaking during a radio interview with Sporty FM, revealing that the club is engaging the management of Kirigiti Stadium over a partnership that will see Tusker host their home matches at the facility, while contributing towards its maintenance.

The proposed arrangement is part of the club's efforts to secure a permanent home venue after enduring a nomadic existence in recent seasons.

Tusker have been forced to switch between different stadiums to host their matches, with venues in Murang'a, Embu and Nairobi among those used by the 12-time league champions last season.

Gacheru said the partnership with 16,000 seater capacity Kirigiti Stadium is intended to provide the club with a consistent home venue while also allowing them to play a role in improving and maintaining the facility.

"We will have our own stadium. We are going into partnership with Kirigiti to make it our home stadium. We will help in maintenance and such," Gacheru stated.

The seasoned administrator also revealed that Tusker have plans to renovate Ruaraka grounds, which has historically served as the club's home ground.

However, he clarified that the facility will primarily be used as a training base once the planned improvements are completed, rather than as the club's main venue for competitive matches.

"We are planning to upgrade Ruaraka Grounds with the budget having already been allocated. But it will largely be used for our training ground and not matches," he added.

Beyond addressing the venue challenge, Gacheru said Tusker are also looking to use a permanent home ground to strengthen their connection with supporters and grow their fan base.

"We are determined to grow our fan base, which is something we really want to engage in to match Shabana, Gor, AFC and Migori Youth," he said.
[Mozzartsports]



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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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