

Pg.16 **BEAUTY & FASHION**
How men's fashion evolved over years

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By Benedict Aoya

Across Kenya's bustling towns and cities, the aroma of sizzling chapati, smokie, samosa and mtura now fills the air. What was once a modest hustle has turned into a fast-growing sector that defines urban life. From the streets to university campuses, street food vending has become part of the country's social and economic rhythm, offering convenience to consumers and income to thousands of vendors.

The growth of this informal industry is not accidental. It is driven by a combination of economic, social and cultural factors that continue to shape how Kenyans eat and interact. As the cost of living rises, more people are turning to street food because it is affordable, fast and tasty. At the same time, more individuals, especially youth and women, are joining the trade because it requires little capital and offers flexibility.

In Ongata Rongai for instance, food stands are seen throughout the day in places such as Kware, Soko Mjinga and along the main stage. Vendors prepare fresh servings of fried potatoes (chips), chapati, smokie, kebab, boiled eggs and the well-known smocha (a combination of smokie and chapati). The low cost of entry has encouraged many to venture into the business. With only a grill, utensils and basic ingredients, one can start earning an income almost immediately. Therefore, street food vending has become both a survival strategy and an opportunity for growth.

While speaking to The Metropolitan Shopper, Ruth Karuga, a mtura vendor near AIC Church in Kware, said her business has been life-changing. "Mtura sells best in the evening when people are returning home," she explained. "On a good day, I sell between 20 and 50

Street food revolution redefines Kenya's urban eating habits



Mtura sells best in the evening when people are returning home, on a good day, I sell between 20 and 50 long pieces, which gives me around Ksh1,500 to Ksh2,000 after expenses.
-Ruth Karuga,
mtura vendor near AIC Church, Kware.

long pieces, which gives me around Ksh1,500 to Ksh2,000 after expenses. Sometimes it is less, but at least I can support my family."

Her statement reveals one of the key motivations behind the rise of street food vending. It offers an alternative source of livelihood at a time when formal jobs are scarce. In addition, Ruth noted that her daily routine begins early. "I buy the uncooked meat in the morning and start preparing by 4PM" She said sometimes the council officers ask for licenses that are too costly, but customers love mtura and samosa, so she keeps going.

The increasing consumption of street foods is also tied to lifestyle

changes. Many people spend long hours commuting or working, leaving little time to cook at home. As a result, street foods offer an accessible solution that fits into busy urban routines. This convenience attracts not only workers and commuters but also students who need quick meals between classes.

At Multimedia University of Kenya, where food stalls line the school shopping area, students have embraced the culture wholeheartedly. Rose Ratemo, a student at the institution, said she prefers street foods because they are both delicious and affordable. "Street food is tasty and easy to find," she said. "I really love chapati and smokie, especially when

mixed into smocha. Once you taste it, there is no going back."

Rose added that street foods suit her lifestyle as a student. "Sometimes I buy kebab or chips because they are ready and cheap," she said. "They attract you wherever you go, and even though they may not be healthy, they are satisfying." Her words reflect how convenience, affordability and taste work together to make street food a daily choice for many young Kenyans.

Moreover, the social aspect of eating street food has played an important role in its rise. The stalls are not only food outlets but also social spaces where people meet and interact. For instance, the evening sale of mtura and samosa often brings together groups of friends or workmates who stop for a quick snack before heading home. This social bonding, combined with the appealing aroma and the relaxed setting, strengthens the culture of outdoor eating.

Additionally, cultural acceptance also contributes to the rise of street foods. In the past, some street foods were seen as meals for low income earners, but that perception has changed. Today, people from all walks of life, from students and professionals to families, enjoy them. This acceptance has made street food part of Kenya's modern identity.

However, the growing industry faces challenges. Vendors like Ruth point to the rising cost of ingredients, unpredictable weather that change customers' schedule and occasional crackdowns by local authorities.

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Hygiene is also a concern because many stalls operate in open spaces without running water or proper waste disposal. Even so, most traders have found ways to maintain cleanliness and win customer trust, often through word of mouth and consistency.

Economically, the sector contributes to local growth by creating employment and supporting small-scale suppliers. Vendors buy from butchers, vegetable sellers and charcoal suppliers, forming a chain that sustains many livelihoods. Furthermore, the constant flow of customers keeps urban areas active and vibrant long after regular businesses close.

The continued success of Kenya's street food culture shows how innovation and necessity can shape urban behaviour. It demonstrates resilience among ordinary citizens who adapt to economic pressure through creativity and entrepreneurship. The popularity of these foods also reflects changing tastes and a desire for affordable but satisfying meals.

The smoke that rises from open grills each evening tells a story of ambition and determination. For sellers, it represents survival. For consumers, it is a blend of comfort, convenience and culture. Together, they form part of a larger picture, a nation redefining its eating habits through resourcefulness and shared experience.

Street food is therefore more than just a quick meal. It is a symbol of the Kenyan spirit of innovation, adaptability and community drive.

Private hospitals outpace public facilities in Kajiado North

By Masaki Enock

Walking through town's in Kajiado North, one thing becomes increasingly clear: private hospitals are outpacing public ones in both visibility and accessibility. The towns' healthcare landscape is undergoing "changes", with private clinics and hospitals cropping up along major roads and residential areas, offering services that many residents now prefer over traditional public facilities.

From Sinai Hospital in Tumaini area to The White Crescent Hospital, Beacon of Hope Hospital, Cana Hospital, Mount Olive Hospital, Avenue Rongai Medical Centre, Meridian Medical Centre, and Garlands Medical Centre, just to name a few, the stretch is dotted with private institutions that promise quick, professional care. In contrast, public hospitals such as The Saitoti Hospital and Ongata Rongai Sub-county Hospital remain few and far between.

According to the Kenya Health Facility Census Report published in September 2023, Kenya has a total of 9,696 health facilities. Of these, 3,696 are owned by the commercial private sector, while 1,384 are run by Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

The distinction between hospitals and health facilities is crucial, while hospitals offer higher levels of care, the term "health facility" includes dispensaries, clinics, and health centres.

The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC), which man-



Cana Hospital along Magadi Road in Kiserian

ages the Master Facility List (MFL), maintains the most current registry of licensed hospitals. As of 2021, there were 103 private hospitals, 58 mission hospitals, and 12 NGO hospitals across the country. These numbers are likely to have grown since the year 2021, especially in urbanizing areas like Ongata Rongai.

For residents, the mushrooming of these private hospitals is not just a matter of numbers, but about convenience and quality. Lucy Wambui, a mother of one and resident of Mayor Road, says the proximity of private facilities has made a significant difference in her life.

"When I was pregnant, I didn't have to travel far for prenatal checkups. The clinic near my home was clean, professional, and affordable. I felt safe," she says.

Wambui's experience reflects a broader trend, private clinics and hospitals are increasingly offering full medical services including maternity care at competitive

rates. While public hospitals like Olekasi Hospital have maternity wings, but their distance from densely populated areas like Tumaini and Maasai Lodge can be a barrier during emergencies.

In fact, emergency care is one of the key reasons residents are turning to private institutions. With most private hospitals operating 24 hours and located along major roads, they've become the first point of contact in urgent situations.

Psychologist Marion Kemunto, a resident of Ongata Rongai and a mental health practitioner, believes the shift is rooted in more than just convenience.

"People are willing to pay more if it means getting better care. It's not just about affordability anymore, it's about dignity, professionalism, and timely service," she explains.

Kemunto cites her own experience with a private hospital during a mental health crisis involving a family member.

"We were attended to within minutes. The staff were empathetic, and the environment was calming. That kind of response is rare in public facilities, where you might wait hours or face overcrowding," she says.

The rise of private healthcare in Kajiado North also reflects broader national trends. Kenya's push toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has emphasized equitable access, but implementation remains uneven. In semi-urban areas like Rongai, private providers are filling the gaps left by under-resourced public hospitals.

Dr. Peter Abong'o, a general practitioner at the Oasis Medical Centre, says the demand for private care has surged in the past five years.

"We've seen a steady increase in walk-

ins, especially for maternal and child health services. Many patients say they feel more respected here, and that's important," he notes.

Still, the growth of private hospitals raises questions about regulation, affordability, and equity. While some clinics offer subsidized services, others charge fees that are out of reach for low-income families.

The Kenya Health Facility Census Report acknowledges this tension, noting that private and faith-based facilities account for 54% of all health facilities in Kenya, underscoring their significance in service delivery.

To address disparities, some private hospitals have partnered with SHA (Social Health Authority) to offer insured services. The Sinai Hospital, for instance, runs community outreach programmes and accepts SHA cards for maternity and outpatient care.

Despite these efforts, public hospitals remain essential, especially for specialized care and referrals. For instance, Ongata Rongai Sub-county Hospital serves as a key facility for immunizations, chronic disease management, and public health campaigns.

But for many residents, the choice is clear. As Lucy Wambui puts it: "I'll go where I'm treated well and seen quickly. That's what matters when you're sick or scared."

As Kajiado North continues to grow, the healthcare sector reflects its evolving identity shaped by urbanization, community needs, and the pursuit of quality. Whether this trend leads to better outcomes or deepens inequalities will depend on how both public and private sectors respond.



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Governor Lenku during the groundbreaking ceremony of Kitengela market

Modern market to decongest Kitengela and boost local trade

By Masaki Enock

Over 2,500 traders in Kitengela will soon operate from a newly launched modern market under the State Department for Housing and Urban Planning's Economic Stimulus Programme, a project expected to decongest the town and boost local trade.

Speaking during the ground-breaking ceremony, Governor Joseph Ole Lenku hailed the development, terming it a game-changer that would give hawkers operating along Kitengela's busy streets a dignified space to conduct business.

Key amenities will include cold rooms for perishables, nursing stations for mothers, and modern toilets. Priority will be given to 686 traders who missed out on slots in the earlier

county-built market.

Don Kagicha, The Nairobi Metropolitan Regional Director, said the government is investing Ksh1.8 billion in market infrastructure and Ksh22 billion in affordable housing across Kajiado.

Kagicha urged leaders to stay united and residents to maintain peace for smooth project implementation.

Kajiado East MP Kakuta Maimai welcomed the development, calling it a boost for Kitengela's growth. He asked the contractor to hire local workers and pressed for an upgrade of Kitengela police station to support the market's 24-hour operations.

Additionally, 1,000 affordable housing units will be built nearby to complement the market and support urban expansion.

By Masaki Enock

A deepening financial scandal has marred the Kajiado County Government following revelations that senior officials allegedly operated unauthorized Paybill numbers to collect public revenue outside official systems.

The scheme, which ran across multiple Sub-counties, allowed fees from traders, transporters, and small businesses to be diverted before reaching the County Revenue Fund therefore bypassing the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) mandated for all county transactions.

Sources confirmed that the Paybills were never approved by the County Assembly or the Controller of Budget. Preliminary audits suggest that significant sums may have been siphoned off, though the exact figure remains under review.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption

Kajiado officials probed over illegal Paybill operations

tion Commission (EACC) has launched investigations, with potential charges ranging from financial misappropriation to conspiracy and defraud.

The scandal comes amid mounting scrutiny over Kajiado's fiscal management. Auditor-General reports from the previous financial year flagged billions of shillings in voided transactions lacking documentation, pointing to systemic failures in budgetary oversight and internal controls.

Senate committees have also raised alarm over persistent revenue leakages, citing weak enforcement mechanisms and a culture of impunity in revenue-generating departments.



Governor Lenku before senate

Governor Joseph Ole Lenku has yet to issue a formal statement, but sources close to his office indicate that internal disciplinary proceedings have begun. Civil society groups and elected leaders have demanded full disclosure and restitution, warning that public trust in county institutions is eroding rapidly.

The County Assembly is expected to summon key officials for questioning as pressure mounts on the county leadership to recover stolen revenue and implement a secure, transparent digital collection system that can withstand manipulation and restore public confidence.

By Masaki Enock

Jua Kali artisans in Kitengela are set to benefit from contracts worth over Ksh100 million through two major government-backed development projects, the Affordable Housing Programme and the construction of the Kitengela Modern Market.

Members of the Kitengela Jua Kali Association have been tapped to supply steel doors, windows, balustrades, carpentry fittings, painting, tiling, and landscaping services for the ongoing housing initiative.

The Boma Yangu Kitengela

Kitengela Jua Kali artisans win contracts worth over Ksh100M

Veterinary Estate housing project shall feature affordable, social, and market-rate units. It will also include retail shops, a kindergarten, a clubhouse, and utility facilities.

According to Joseph Kagicha, the Regional Lead for the project, more than 400 workers primarily local youth and women are currently engaged on-site, supported by 18 professionals.

The construction is operating on a double-shift system to accelerate delivery timelines and boost local incomes.

In addition to housing, the government is building the Kitengela Modern Market in Sholinke Ward, which will accommodate approximately 2,500 vendors. The Sholinke Ward Jua Kali Association has been integrated into the market's

supply chain through contracts valued at over Ksh14 million.

The market will feature a main trading block, administrative offices, ablution facilities, waste management zones, and essential utilities including solar panels, a borehole, and backup power. A boda boda shed and paved external spaces are also planned to improve access.



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Olekasasi's remarkable growth, from lion territory to a booming residential hub

Once a quiet wildlife corridor, Olekasasi has transformed into a fast-growing urban hub marked by new roads, modern homes, and bustling businesses

By Obegi Malack

Just a few kilometres from the bustling town of Ongata Rongai, the once-forgotten centre Olekasasi is experiencing a dramatic transformation.

What was once considered remote bushland overrun by wildlife from Nairobi National Park and avoided by potential settlers has rapidly evolved into one of Kiambu County's most sought-after residential and commercial centres, with a population now surpassing 400,000 people.

For years, Olekasasi sat idle, part of a wildlife corridor connected to Nairobi National Park. At night, the distant roars of lions echoed, and few dared to build homes or businesses in the area. But today, that image has changed entirely, new paved road, modern housing, and thriving businesses have replaced the silence of the past.

Yet, behind Olekasasi's growth lies a powerful story one shaped by pioneers who saw opportunity in a place others dismissed.

The pioneers who saw the future

Among the earliest settlers were Hassan Dida and David Nyakoiro, both now 73 years old. They bought land in the area in the early 1990s, when the land was under the control of the Olkejuado County Council, established in the 1960s.

"At the time, acquiring land wasn't easy," recalls Nyakoiro, now the Nyumba Kumi chairman for Olekasasi Location.

He says people had to go through councillors who negotiated on their behalf. It wasn't straightforward.

Nyakoiro, who was then working with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), originally wanted to buy land in Ongata Rongai. But he quickly learned that land ownership in the town was tightly controlled by locals, outsiders were not welcome.

"They didn't want us to own land there," he says. "They only sold to their relatives."

Dida faced the same challenge. "People told me not to buy land in Olekasasi because of the wildlife. But I ignored them," he says. He eventually bought land from Dr. Ibrahim Guyo, a former Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) journalist and one of the earliest landowners in the area.

Despite the dangers, including occasional sightings of lions, Nyakoiro felt confident due to his wildlife training at KWS. What others feared, he embraced and in doing so, became part of the group that would lay the foundation for the Olekasasi of today.

Alongside Dida and Nyakiro were other early settlers such as Alex Maina, Wambui, Moreno, Mueka, Kamenju, and Guyo names now etched into Olekasasi's history.

Infrastructure was non-existent, but the community received unexpected help. A white missionary, remembered fondly by locals, supported them in constructing roads, houses and developing the area. Diguna Centre, a mission-based institution, also played a pivotal role offering free water and participating actively in local



Local leaders during the tarmacking of Olekasasi road

development projects.

By the year 2000, Nyakoiro and Dida had completed their houses and moved in, leaving behind their rentals in Ongata Rongai. It marked the start of permanent settlement in an area many had once dismissed.

Dida, on his part, pushed for the establishment of a mosque in the area, with land allocated by the local by the name Wafa. This development drew many Muslims to the centre, who now form the majority population.

Development and Challenges

As the population grew, so did land interest even by opportunists. Land grabbing of public utility plots became rampant. In response, Dida, Nyakoiro, and other residents turned into grassroots activists, fighting to protect land meant for public use.

One early challenge was infrastructure. As the roads remained impassable, residents organised fundraisers to improve access. Their efforts caught the attention of the then MP Prof. George Saitoti, who intervened and facilitated the tarmacking of the Maasai Lodge-Nazarene road, a game changer for the area.

Many projects undertaken in Olekasasi are also through fundraisings by the locals.

This infrastructure upgrade triggered an influx of new residents and investors. With children travelling long distances to attend school in Nkaimurunya Ward, residents came together to establish Olekasasi Primary School the area's first and, for many years, only public school. Nyakoiro recalls mobilising tractors from KWS to assist in the school's construction.

The establishment of Olekasasi Primary School was later followed by the construction of Olekasasi Secondary School, thanks to the efforts and support of Ruth Wakapa, the first woman ever elected as a councillor in Kajiado County.

In 2023, the government also responded to residents' calls for more education facilities and began constructing Ole Pasha Primary School, just a short distance from Olekasasi Primary. A new secondary school, Olekasasi B, has also been established.

Olekasasi is the only ward in Kajjado North that houses a private university Nazarene University which has also contributed to its growth. Most of the centre's

lions at night remains a haunting reminder of the area's untamed past and present. The nearby Nairobi National Park, which borders the community, remains unfenced, allowing wildlife to move freely into the surrounding settlements.

Residents have, over time, adapted to this reality. While sightings of lions, buffalos, zebra and hyenas may startle outsiders, for locals, it's part of daily life. Occasionally, the predators attack and kill domestic animals such as goats and dogs, a price some families pay for living so close to nature.

Former Kajiado County Senator Peter Mositet, who lives near the park, says co-existence between people and wildlife is a legacy of the area's history.

"The land was theirs before we came. The park is open, and the animals are simply using the corridors they've always known. We found them here," he says.

Despite the risks, most locals express a quiet respect for the wildlife, acknowledging that their growing town is nestled in what was once, and in many ways still is, lion country.

What the future holds for Olekasasi

The recent tarmacking of the Maasai Lodge-Olekasasi- Kandisi SGR road has

sparked another wave of optimism.

The Olekasasi centre connects Rongai to the Kandisi SGR station whose activities are expected to boom due to the new tarmac. Business investors are targeting the area, especially in the hospitality and petroleum sectors, and house rents are expected to rise significantly.

However, despite the growth, challenges remain.

"We've been neglected for too long," says Dida. "Our inner roads are impassable. We don't have clean water. Our bridges are washed away during the rains."

The residents say that while Olekasasi is the only location in Rongai Ward where public utilities have been preserved, many of these remain underutilized. They point to a public hospital, police station, and sports grounds that exist, but need proper equipping.

Their call to the government is clear: equip the hospital, build a modern stadium, improve roads, and connect the area to clean water.

Olekasasi's transformation from a lion-inhabited bushland to a thriving urban centre is nothing short of remarkable. It's a story of resilience, vision, and community led by individuals who saw beyond the wilderness and chose to build.

As new families settle in and businesses grow, the foundation laid by pioneers like Dida and Nyakoiro continues to shape the area's future. Their journey serves as a powerful reminder that sometimes, the most overlooked places hold the greatest promise.

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Kajiado West residents protest delayed police response, demand own station

By Masaki Enock

Residents of Kibiko in Kajiado West are calling for the urgent elevation of the local police post into a fully-fledged police station, citing growing insecurity and poor patrol coverage across the vast Sub-county.

The appeal comes in the wake of a 2023 administrative reorganization that carved out Elang'ata Wuas Sub-county from Kajiado West. The move transferred Magadi Police Station, the only station previously serving Kajiado West into the new unit, effectively leaving the original sub-county without a central police command.

Since then, most crime investiga-



tions and law enforcement operations in Kajiado West have been handled by officers from Ngong and Kiserian police stations, both located in Kajiado North. Residents argue that this undermines ac-

countability and delays response times.

"Police operations should be conducted by officers within the area of jurisdiction. It's unacceptable to have a Sub-county without a police station in 2025," said one Kibiko resident. "With the completion of the Ngong-Suswa road, Kibiko is strategically positioned to host a well-equipped station, including traffic officers."

Locals are now appealing to Kajiado West MP George Sunkuiya and Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja to prioritize the upgrade of Kibiko police post. They say a station would bring additional officers, vehicles, and resources necessary to secure the region and respond to emergencies effectively.

Governor Lenku hails World Serve for transforming water access in Kajiado



Governor Lenku receiving an official from World Serve International while commending the organization for its transformative Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Kajiado County

By Masaki Enock

Governor Joseph ole Lenku has commended World Serve International for its transformative Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Kajiado County, describing the partnership as a game-changer for health, livelihoods, and community resilience.

Speaking during a courtesy call by World Serve's Kenya Country Director David Kang'ethe and his team, Lenku praised the organization's efforts in drilling and equipping 37 boreholes over the past four years, significantly improving access to clean and reliable water in the semi-arid region.

"These water points have improved the quality of life for our people, restored dignity, and strengthened resilience in the face of drought. We are deeply grateful for this partnership," Lenku said.

World Serve has also rolled out menstrual hygiene support in schools through Project GRL, distributing Sifa sanitary pads and undergarments to 7,551 girls across 74 schools. The initiative has helped reduce absenteeism and empowered adolescent girls to stay in school and pursue their dreams.

The organization has also introduced sustainable agriculture training, equipping communities with drip irrigation kits from Netafim (Israel) at water sites. The programme is boosting food security and productivity for households and schools.

Governor Lenku urged World Serve to expand its support by integrating smart technologies for borehole monitoring and management. He emphasized the county's interest in adopting data-driven systems and remote tools to ensure long-term functionality and reduce water point downtime.

"We look forward to deepening our collaboration with World Serve International, guided by innovation and shared purpose, for the continued betterment of our communities," Lenku added.

Kang'ethe reaffirmed World Serve's commitment to expanding clean water access and

Teen pregnancies, FGM still threaten Kajiado girls

By Benedict Aoya

Kajiado County children rights activists held a joint forum to discuss increasing threats facing children, with a special focus on girls.

The meeting established that teenage pregnancies, early marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM) remain the biggest challenges for girls in the region.

The activists urged parents and guardians to be more vigilant, especially during the approaching long school holiday when cases of abuse are likely to rise. They stressed that children must be protected from harmful practices that undermine their well-being and future.

Cosmas Karera, the Kajiado West Children Officer, called on stakeholders including community and political lead-

ers to work together in ending FGM. He noted that the practice is often hidden but those who facilitate it are known, making it necessary for authorities to track and stop them.

Participants at the forum further emphasized the importance of engaging children through clubs and societies in schools, where they can freely discuss challenges they face and identify possible solutions. Such platforms were de-

scribed as critical in equipping children with knowledge about their rights and giving them safe spaces for expression.

The forum concluded that despite laws and awareness campaigns, harmful traditions still expose children to exploitation. It called for stronger community involvement and consistent monitoring to safeguard children and ensure their rights are upheld across Kajiado County.

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Kajiado County, KCB launch scholarship programme for 800 youth



Governor Lenku with other stakeholders during the launch

By Masaki Enock

Kajiado County has rolled out a Ksh40 million youth empowerment initiative that will offer full scholarships for skills training to 800 young people.

The programme, launched in partnership with the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Foundation, aims to equip youth with practical skills through the county's Vocational Training Centres (VTCs).

Speaking during the Vijana Tuijajiri Programme held at the Isinya Vocational Training Centre, Governor Joseph Ole Lenku, announced the initiative, highlighting its transformative potential for the county's youth. The training will be conducted at County Vocational Training Centres (VTCs).

The partnership is structured on a 50:50 basis, with the County Govern-

ment committing Ksh20 million and the KCB Foundation providing an equal amount, bringing the total investment to Ksh40 million. The governor emphasized that the programme's goal is to equip the youth with practical skills that foster self-employment, moving them from job seekers to job creators.

Governor Lenku extended his gratitude to the KCB team, led by the Foundation's Head of Programmes, Joblin Omari, and other partners, including the International Labour Organisation (ILO), for their collaborative efforts.

The event marked the launch of the "Vijana Tuijajiri Programme and Vocational Training Strategic Plan." The Governor stated that with the programme now fully operational, it marks a new and promising chapter for the young people of Kajiado.

Kajiado's Umma University unveils Ksh1.4B ten-storey complex

By Obegi Malack

Umma University has marked a significant milestone in its growth with the official opening of the Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Sumait Complex, a state-of-the-art, ten-storey facility valued at over Ksh1.4 billion.

President Ruto, who commissioned the complex, commended Umma University's transformation from a small college in Thika to a fully-fledged university in Kajiado County, applauding its consistent

The complex is designed to accommodate more than 10,000 students and is set to enhance the university's academic offerings and infrastructure capacity.

It features 81 classrooms, Six modern laboratories, a 650-seat examination hall, a 416-seat auditorium, 400-seat multipurpose hall, and a gymnasium.

It also has student and conference centre, administrative offices, including 10 faculty offices and three boardrooms.

The Head of State reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting higher education institutions, emphasizing the role of universities in producing skilled, ethical, and innovative graduates capable of driving national development.

"We are empowering universities to nurture a new generation of job creators, tech leaders, and problem-solvers who will tackle the nation's most pressing challenges," said the President.



President Dr. William Ruto and other leaders in Umma University

He also highlighted recent reforms, such as strengthened governance, the student-centred Funding Model, and restructured financing, which he said have contributed to restoring financial sustainability in universities while expanding access and lowering tuition barriers for students.

Ruto said the institution has continued to register remarkable progress in infrastructure development, in line with its vision of providing quality higher education and contributing to national development.

The president also broke ground for the construction of the Umma University School of Engineering Phase III, a significant step toward equipping young Kenyans with the tools to innovate, build, and lead in the industries of tomorrow.

Kajiado County governor Joseph ole Lenku commended the Universi-

ty for the Facility which he said will contribute in tooling students from the county and the entire country.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Halima Saado Abdillahi said the new facility would enable the university to roll out new academic programmes in Health Sciences, Engineering, and Technology, while strengthening existing disciplines such as Islamic Studies, Business, Education, Computer Science, Nursing, and Social Sciences.

Chancellor Dr. Abbas Gullet expressed gratitude to the Direct Aid Society, the university's founding sponsor, for fully funding the project, and acknowledged the Ministry of Education for its continuous support over the university's 15-year journey.

The complex is expected to significantly transform the academic landscape in Kajiado and beyond.

Kajiado North NG-CDF announces free vocational training courses

By Obegi Malack

The Kajiado North National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) has announced the launch of free short courses aimed at equipping local residents with hands-on vocational skills.

The training programmes will cover a variety of technical and creative fields, including hairdressing, electrical and electronics, fashion and design, motor vehicle mechanics, masonry and tiling, welding, and plumbing.

To be eligible, applicants must be registered voters in Kajiado North constituency. Additional requirements include a valid national ID, two recent passport-size photographs, and a copy of either the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) or Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) certificate.

Area residents have been turning up in large numbers to apply for the programme, which targets twenty trainees per ward. The vetting and application exercise, held at the Ong'ata Rongai MP's office and the NG-CDF office in Ngong, began on Monday, 7th October 2025.

According to the NG-CDF office, the initiative is part of ongoing efforts to empower both youth and adults with marketable skills for gainful employment and small-scale enterprise.

For further information, residents are encouraged to visit the constituency offices before the application deadline.



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Police restore calm in Kajiado North as new stations gazetted



Deputy IG Eliud Lagat during a visit to Rongai Police Station

By Obegi Malack

Police in Kajiado North have moved to reassure residents that security has been restored following a recent wave of violent robberies, murders, and other criminal activities that had left locals living in fear.

Ngong OCPD, Tom Achiya, stated that the situation is now under control after a series of targeted arrests.

Among those apprehended were individuals believed to be the masterminds behind the surge in criminal activities across the region.

Ngong OCS Jacob Ndunda confirmed that one suspect was arrested in possession of an AK-47 rifle believed to have been used in several robberies in Kiserian.

Another suspect was nabbed for allegedly posing as a passenger before robbing boda boda riders of their motorcycles.

Authorities have urged boda boda operators to exercise caution, especially at night, and to report any suspicious activity promptly to enable timely police intervention.

In Ngong's Vet Farm area, police arrested a man suspected of being behind a series of rapes reported since 2022. The suspect was found in pos-

The new stations are Kibiko Police Station (Kajiado West), Kumpa Police Station (Kajiado Central), and Matasia Police Station (Kajiado North).

session of a facemask, handcuffs, and other items believed to have been used in the assaults.

Meanwhile, in Kiserian, law enforcement officers also cracked down on the illegal sale of marijuana, demolishing structures allegedly used to run the business. Officers have warned local youth against getting involved in criminal enterprises, promising firm action against offenders.

In response to the rising security concerns, the Ministry of Interior has gazetted three new police stations across Kajiado County.

The Gazette Notice confirms the designation of Kibiko Police Station (Kajiado West), Kumpa Police Station (Kajiado Central), and Matasia Police Station (Kajiado North).

Residents have welcomed the

move, expressing optimism that the new stations will enhance police response times and overall security in the affected areas.

Deputy Inspector General of the Kenya Police Service (DIG-KPS), Eliud Lagat, made an unannounced visit to Rongai Police Station and Kibiko Police Post, which is among the newly gazetted police stations.

The visit was part of a broader initiative to assess the welfare of officers and operational preparedness of stations in the region.

DIG Lagat was received by Kajiado County Police Commander Alex Shikondi (CP), County Administration Police Commander Hadija Sharif (SSP), and County Criminal Investigations Officer Margaret Abae (SSP).

During the visit, Lagat inspected various departments including the Report Office, Gender and Children's Office, Cells, Anti-Crime Unit, DCI Offices, Traffic Office, and Police Lines. He commended officers for their professionalism, high morale, and the upkeep of police facilities and residences.

He assured officers that their concerns on welfare and resources would be addressed and reiterated the Inspector General's commitment to transforming police stations into centres of excellence for public service.

DIG Lagat also highlighted the need for increased surveillance in the Bangladesh area of Rongai which is on the boundaries of Nairobi and Kajiado, calling for urgent action to address persistent security challenges there.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of restoring public trust in the police, particularly within the Traffic Department. Officers were urged to uphold integrity and ensure traffic systems are run transparently and efficiently.

Accompanying the DIG on his tour were several senior officials, including Director of Logistics, Mr. Peter Ndung'u (SAIG), Director of Operations, Mr. Adamson Bungei (SAIG), Director of Gender and Child Protection, Ms. Dolly Badia (AIG), Directorate of Personnel representative, Mr. Silas Andie-ma (CP).

Police continue to call on members of the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement to maintain peace and security in Kajiado County.

Police crack down on rising drug trade at Ngong Bus Park

By Our Reporter

Ngong Bus Park has become a hotspot for drug peddling and rising criminal activity, with school-going children increasingly being targeted, according to area Officer Commanding Station (OCS) Jacob Ndunda.

Speaking during the International Day of Peace celebrations, OCS Ndunda raised concern over the growing presence of drug dealers operating openly within the bus park, warning that minors are being lured into substance abuse, endangering their health and safety.

"The bus park has turned into a hotspot for illegal drug activities, with some vendors specifically targeting school children," said OCS Ndunda.

He further cited an increase in theft incidents involving rogue matatu touts, some of whom pose as passengers to trick commuters before stealing from them. In one reported case, a student was robbed of fare and a school bag by suspected touts operating in the area.

"We have received multiple complaints of theft and harassment. Some of these individuals pretend to be passengers and end up robbing people. The behavior is unacceptable," he said.

In response, local authorities have pledged to heighten security operations around the bus park, prioritizing the safety of students and commuters. Surveil-



Ngong OCS Jacob Ndunda

lance and patrols are set to be intensified to curb the growing criminal activity.

Meanwhile, in Kiserian, police arrested several suspects running kiosks at the Magadi-Isinya junction, believed to be involved in drug trafficking that has fueled insecurity in the area.

Law enforcement officials have linked the rise of drug-related businesses to increased crime in both Ngong and Kiserian. To counter the trend, police have intensified patrols and vowed to dismantle criminal networks operating within the two towns.

Authorities have assured residents that joint operations and continued community engagement will be central to restoring safety and combating the drug menace affecting the region.

DIG Lagat flags crime in Rongai's Bangladesh area

By Masaki Enock

Deputy Inspector General of the Kenya Police Service (DIG), Eliud Lagat, has called for urgent security interventions in the Bangladesh area of Rongai, citing the need for enhanced surveillance and coordination to address emerging threats.

The Bangladesh area, located along Magadi Road, has long been identified as a crime and drug hotspot, with rising cases of muggings, and gang activity. Students from the nearby Multimedia University of Kenya (MMU) have frequently fallen prey to thugs operating in the area, prompting repeated calls for heightened surveillance and coordinated security interventions.

The directive came during an impromptu inspection tour of Rongai Police Station and Kibiko Police Post in Kajiado County on October 6, 2025.

Lagat's visit was part of a broader initiative to assess police welfare and operational readiness across the region. He engaged directly with officers, inspected key facilities, and listened to feedback on infrastructure, staffing, and service delivery challenges.

During the tour, Lagat inspected the Report Office, Gender and Children's Office, cells, Anti-Crime Unit, DCI Offices, Traffic Office, and Police Lines.

He commended officers for their professionalism, high morale, and the clean maintenance of both workspaces and res-



Deputy IG Eliud Lagat during a visit to Rongai Police Station

idential quarters.

He reiterated the Inspector General's commitment to transforming police stations into centres of excellence for public service delivery and improving officer welfare. He also noted that plans are underway to gazette additional police stations to boost service efficiency.

The visit concluded with a renewed commitment to address localized security gaps, strengthen inter-agency coordination, and elevate police service standards across Kajiado County.

This comes days after a Kenya Gazette directive issued by Inspector General Douglas Kanja on October 3, 2025, which elevated 92 police posts across the country to fully fledged police stations. Among those gazetted in Kajiado County were Kibiko, Matasia, and Kumpa police posts now designated as stations with expanded operational mandates.

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Nextbridge Institute opens in Kiserian, powering tech-driven skills

By Obegi Malack

Nextbridge Institute of Professional Studies has officially opened in Kiserian, introducing a fresh model of education designed to bridge the gap between student skills and industry demands.

The college offers practical, hands-on training in business, ICT, media, beauty, and cosmetology, equipping learners with the competencies needed for immediate entry into the workforce.

Beyond technical training, the institute also provides mentorship, ensuring students grow with both skills and purpose.

College Director Judith Titeu Moses described the institute as a forward-thinking



Pastor Joshua Majakusi



Judith Titeu Moses, Next Bridge Institute Director



Guests during Kiserian Branch launch



hub for talent development, targeting the growing demand for digitally skilled professionals.

Pastor Joshua Majakusi said the

institution will revolutionize education by focusing on the digital world, empowering young people to work from home and get paid handsomely.

Apostle David Owusu, who officially opened the school, praised it as 'a symbol of hope', not just for the students who will walk its halls, but for the community

that will grow around it.

Kajiado CECM for Education and Vocational Training, Janet Sereu, welcomed the investment, pledging county support for youth empowerment, while Education Chief Officer Naomi Parinkoi noted that even the elderly can enroll and learn modern technology.

With state-of-the-art labs, smart classrooms, and digital learning platforms, Next Bridge Institute positions itself as a transformative centre that prepares students for a tech-driven future.



CEO Naomi Parinkoi



CECM Hon. Janet Sereu



Apostle David Owusu

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Apostle David Owusu together with education stakeholders and the Institute's staff



From left: Apostle David Owusu, Pastor Joshua Majakusi and a member of staff



One of the classrooms at Nextbridge Institute



Nextbridge Institute School of Beauty and Cosmetology

By Obegi Malack

The rehabilitation of the Mutaitin-Matura water pan in Kajiado West Constituency is 85 per cent complete, marking a major step forward in efforts to improve food security, create jobs, and build resilience against drought in the region.

The project, being implemented by the National Irrigation Authority (NIA), is part of the government's broader Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) spearheaded by President Dr. William Ruto, with a focus on food security and climate resilience.

The upgraded facility will have a storage capacity of 60,000 cubic metres, designed to serve local households with a sustainable water supply for domestic use, livestock, and small-scale irrigation.

Speaking during an inspection tour of the project, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Irrigation Ephantus

Big boost for Kajiado West as Mutaitin-Matura water pan nears completion

Kimotho, emphasized the project's critical role in addressing the region's vulnerability to drought and water scarcity.

"Projects like this provide sustainable solutions to drought challenges while empowering communities with reliable water for homes, livestock, and farms. Investment in such initiatives helps residents adapt to climate change, boost food production, and improve overall living standards," said PS Kimotho.

He further reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding irrigation infrastructure nationwide to secure a climate-resilient future for Kenyan communities.



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho

The PS said the initiative reflects President Ruto's agenda on food security, climate resilience, and sustainable water management. By harnessing such projects, we are not only addressing drought challenges but also empowering communities through reliable water sources for domestic use, livestock, and irrigation.

Area MP George Sunkuyia welcomed the progress of the project, noting the importance of water pans in enhancing water harvesting and easing the burden of accessing water in arid regions, reduce the burden especially for women and school-going children.

In addition to the Mutaitin-Matura

water pan, NIA is implementing a range of projects across Kajiado County. That includes; 16 community water pans with a combined capacity of 1.13 million cubic metres, capable of irrigating 756 acres, 357 household water pans under the Household Irrigation Water Storage Project, supporting 701 acres, and seven smallholder irrigation projects, expected to bring 8,650 acres under production once complete.

The investments aim to not only mitigate the impacts of climate change but also to empower communities with the tools and infrastructure to support sustainable agriculture and economic development.

The PS was accompanied by Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary for Higher Education and Research, and senior officials from NIA including Board Chairman Eng. Gilbert Maluki and CEO Eng. Charles Muasya.

The auto vehicle repair industry in Kenya is under siege

It is not just that our Kenyan economy is struggling; various sectors and industries are under pressure. One of them is the auto vehicle repair industry, which I have worked in for a long time. Today, it faces a serious crisis. Business platforms have highlighted the wider economic challenges that make it difficult for businesses and ordinary Kenyans to thrive. Part of what the auto repair sector suffers stems from these national conditions, but many problems are internal and structural.

I would like this industry, where I continue to play active roles, to be part of Kenya's job creation story. Our industrialization journey cannot ignore the auto sector, and auto repair is a key cog in that wheel. Look at countries like Germany, Japan,

and now China: their auto industries have been central to their development. Here in Kenya, the number of people directly and indirectly employed in auto repair and the many value chains linked to it run into thousands. This is a critical service industry for our economy. Yet, from my own long experience, I can testify that the problems are growing so rapidly that job losses and business collapse look inevitable.

Pending bills are one of the biggest challenges. The government, both national and county, has delayed payments, which trickle down to affiliated institutions, agencies, and the private sector. Add to this the woes in the insurance industry, especially in motor class, and you get a compounded crisis. Corruption and fraud, whether in public or private



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sectors, make matters worse. Truly, this is an industry under siege.

So, what next? We need broad conversations involving government, private sector, and civil society. We need enabling policies and laws that support, not stifle, the growth of auto repair in all its dimensions. Earlier this year, while showing a foreign technology investor around Kenyan auto garages, he was astonished at what our mechanics achieve with limited tools. He saw accident-wrecked vehicles restored to roadworthy condition, cars that would have been scrapped in Europe, America, Japan, or South Korea. He told me he was overwhelmed with joy. That moment confirmed to me that, with better equipment, training, and systems, we can do even more.

The auto repair industry can

significantly contribute to employment, innovation, and national development. But it needs a new lease of life, more efficiency, productivity, and recognition. What we do not need are prohibitive policies that suffocate growth. Instead, we require forward-looking frameworks that take this sector to the next level of industrialization and job creation.

I am confident the industry can become a hub of innovation, even producing affordable Kenyan-made vehicle models in the near future. In this era of electrified transport, our auto repair sector also has a role to play, adapting, innovating, and even contributing to local production of electric vehicles. I have seen the talent, creativity, and resilience within our garages. It is inspiring, and it shows what is possible.

Let us fix the problems, create an enabling environment, and allow this industry to grow. Do that, and part of Kenya's economic miracle will come from here.

By Masaki Enock

Kajiado South Member of Parliament (MP) Sakimba Parashina has initiated a new borehole project, marking a major step toward solving persistent water shortages in the area.

The project, commissioned at Noolasiti Primary School, is expected to significantly improve access to clean water for students, nearby households, livestock, and wildlife within the wider Noolasiti community.

Talking during the official launch, Parashina said that the borehole would lay the foundation for a more resilient and prosperous

Kajiado South MP launches borehole at Noolasiti Primary to tackle water scarcity

The project is expected to significantly improve access to clean water for students, nearby households, livestock, and wildlife within the wider Noolasiti community.

Noolasiti community.

The project is designed to serve multiple sectors, strengthening education by ensuring students have access to safe drinking water, supporting agriculture and livestock, and contributing to conservation by reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems.

It also aligns with broader goals of community development and climate resilience.

Local leaders and residents welcomed the initiative, describing

it as a long-overdue intervention that will ease the burden on households and improve learning conditions. The borehole is expected to reduce dependency on seasonal rivers and water trucking, offering a permanent solution to a persistent challenge.

The Noolasiti borehole project stands out as a model for integrated, community-driven solutions. The launch signals a renewed commitment to sustainable development in Kajiado South.

Three men jailed for life over violent robberies in Kajiado

By Benedict Aoya

A Ngong court has sentenced three men to life imprisonment after finding them guilty of committing violent robberies in two separate incidents that left their victims injured and stripped of valuables.

According to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Brian Kutitila Wanyama, Japhnae Wanyonyi Mukalama, and Thomas Wakoli Malava were found guilty of committing the crime in Kajiado West on December 18, 2021, at Kibiku in Kajiado West.

Prosecutor Filah Martins provided evidence that the accused robbed Andrew Muthure Wairia of his Huawei Y9 phone worth Ksh24,990, a memory card valued at Ksh3,995, and shoes worth Ksh4,000. The attackers also gained access to his mobile money account, transferring Ksh3,970 to another line registered to Wanyama's name before fleeing.

The ruling noted that the assailants used force, leaving the complainant injured, and the prosecution successfully demonstrated all the elements of robbery with violence. The magistrate consequently imposed life sentences on the three convicts.

Wanyama faced an additional charge of resisting arrest at Bulbul in Kajiado North on December 29, 2021. He was given a separate two-year term for that offence.

Thomas Malava was also linked to another violent robbery that had taken place earlier on September 5, 2021, in Oloolua, Kajiado North. Court records showed that he and his accomplices attacked Patrick Kariuki and stole property worth Sh227,000.

The stolen items included a smart TV valued at Sh95,000, a Honda concrete vibrator worth Sh36,000, two mobile phones valued at Sh44,000, and Sh50,000 in cash. The victim was also physically assaulted during the raid.

For the Oloolua attack, the magistrate imposed another life sentence, underlining the severity of repeat offences and the growing threat of organised criminal gangs.

In passing judgment, the court emphasized that such crimes leave victims traumatized and endangered, and stressed that the law will continue to prescribe the harshest penalties to deter violent offenders.

Naivas names Andreas von Paleske as first non-family CEO

By Mercy Kokwon

Naivas Supermarket, Kenya's largest retail chain with a strong presence in towns like Kitengela and Ongata Rongai, has appointed its first non-family Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 35 years, marking a major shift in leadership and signaling a new phase of corporate growth and modernization.

The retailer announced that Andreas von Paleske, who has served as Naivas' Chief of Strategy for the past eight years, will take over as CEO on November 1, 2025, succeeding co-founder and managing director David Kimani, who will be stepping down at the end of this month.

The leadership change comes as Naivas continues to expand across the country; recently, it opened its 110th store at Gachie Westbay Mall in Nairobi, and after the founding Mukuha family relinquished majority control to a consortium led by Mauritius-based IBL Group.

"This transition is a testament to



Naivas Ongata Rongai

a succession plan built on stability, strategic foresight and respect for the culture that has made Naivas Kenya's leading retail chain," the retailer said in a statement, adding that Kimani will continue to offer guidance alongside the Mukuha family.

Kimani, who co-founded Naivas with his late brother Simon Mukuha and their father Peter Mukuha, has led the company from a small family business in Rongai, Nakuru,

to a national retail powerhouse. The family's journey began in 1990 under the name Gitwe General Stores, then Rongai Self Service Stores and later rebranded to Naivas in 2006 after years of steady growth.

Naivas began opening its doors to external investors in February 2020, when French private equity firm Amethis acquired a 30 per cent stake. In 2022, Amethis sold its shares to the IBL-led consortium,

which went on to purchase additional shares to secure a controlling 51 per cent stake in the retailer.

The appointment of von Paleske, who was "personally recruited" by Kimani to help shape Naivas' long-term strategy, is viewed as a move designed to ensure continuity and professionalized leadership as the company enters its next growth phase.

"This transition is designed for seamless continuity. Andreas knows our business inside and out, and he is deeply committed to building upon the strong foundation laid by David," Naivas said.

Kimani's exit follows his recent remarks in an interview where he expressed confidence in the company's resilience:

"Even if I leave today, the business will continue without politics or problems. With the structures we have built, this company can stand for the next 100 years," he said.

As Naivas continues expanding into Kenya's growing urban centres, including Kajiado towns like Kitengela and Ngong, the leadership transition is expected to reinforce investor confidence and strengthen the retailer's position in an increasingly competitive market.

Kajiado Referral Hospital unveils new maternity theater to curb maternal deaths



Launch of new maternity wing at Kajiado Referral Hospital

By Benedict Aoya

The Ministry of Health has launched a new maternity theater at the Kajiado County Referral Hospital (KCRH) in a major step towards reducing maternal deaths and improving delivery services in the region.

The newly opened facility is designed to handle only maternity-related operations, ensuring that mothers in labour receive timely and specialized attention. The theater is fitted with modern medical equipment and can accommodate up to fifteen delivering mothers at a time, allowing doctors to perform multiple operations simultaneously without unnecessary delays.

Hospital Chief Administrator Dr. Fred Ayani welcomed the development, noting

that the dedicated maternity theater will ease congestion and enable other surgical procedures to continue smoothly in the main theater. He said the move will improve efficiency and enhance the hospital's capacity to deliver quality healthcare.

Kajiado County Minister of Health Alex Kilouwa said the launch aligns with the government's wider agenda to curb maternal deaths and expand access to quality reproductive healthcare. He added that the hospital is now fully equipped to handle all maternal cases, reducing the need to transfer patients to other facilities.

The new maternity theater marks a key milestone in strengthening maternal and child health services in Kajiado County, offering hope for safer deliveries and healthier families.

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AFRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Ipomoea: The purple weed that is silently choking Kajiado

By Masaki Enock

The invasive Ipomoea weed has engulfed over three million acres of grazing land in Kajiado County, turning once-productive rangelands into wastelands and triggering widespread economic losses.

Introduced during the El Nino rains of 1997, the fast-spreading weed known locally as oltiameleteti, olbeneyio, or oltiameleshi, has displaced native pasture, poisoned bee colonies, and worsened drought vulnerability across the region. Its deep roots and dense foliage smother grasslands, leaving livestock with nothing to feed on and communities with little to harvest.

As of 2025, the weed remains a persistent threat, especially in Matapato North, Matapato South, and Imaroro in Kajiado East. Despite recent rains, herders are still being forced to relocate in search of pasture because no grass grows under Ipomoea.

The infestation has spread across both red and black cotton soils, with each vine capable of producing thousands of seeds that remain viable for years. Experts from the State Department for Livestock Development warn that without coordinated intervention, the weed could render entire grazing zones unusable.

Livestock deaths have surged, not from direct toxicity, but from starvation. In Naibala village, residents report losing entire herds. James Kapiranya, a herder, recounted watching his cows weaken and die. "The



drought is bad, but this weed makes it worse. Our grazing lands are depleted. The animals are weak. We are helpless," he said.

The weed's impact extends beyond livestock. Beekeepers have reported cases of poisonous honey linked to Ipomoea nectar, collapsing local honey enterprises. Wildlife corridors have narrowed, and disputes over pasture have intensified. Area Chief Nelson Parmisa confirmed that tensions between communities are rising, especially in zones where the weed has overtaken communal grazing lands.

In 2023, Kajiado County Governor Joseph Ole Lenku officially declared the Ipomoea infestation a county disaster. Since then, the county government has launched a multi-pronged response, including a Ksh200 million re-seeding and sensitization campaign funded through the World Bank's FL-LOCA programme.

Demonstration sites have been established, and technical officers are training residents to

A piece of land infested by the Ipomea weed

The invasive weed has choked pastures, killed bees, and deepened drought woes since its 1997 arrival

identify, uproot, and safely dispose of the weed. The goal is to restore native pasture and build community resilience.

In Nasaru-Olosho Conservancy, over 1,000 residents partnered with WWF-Kenya to manually clear 1,840 hectares of infested land. The initiative not only restored pasture but also generated income for more than 600 households. "Children

who couldn't attend school due to lack of fees are now back in class," said Jacob Nkananai, CEO of Nasaru Conservancy. "This project brought smiles and hope."

Youth groups in Sajiloni have started the initiative of teaching residents to make paper and baskets from the weed's fibrous stems. Community-Based Organizations in Naibala are producing charcoal briquettes from uprooted plants, turning a menace into a source of income. These grassroots efforts are helping communities reclaim their land from the invasive weed.

Experts say biological control and targeted grazing may offer long-term solutions. The Climate Justice Impact Fund for Africa (CJIFA) is exploring ecological restoration strategies, while ICIPE researchers are studying natural predators that could suppress the weed's spread. But for now, although labour-intensive, manual uprooting remains the most effective method.

Governor Lenku has urged residents to join eradication efforts, warning that unchecked growth could devastate the county's pastoral economy. "This is a war we must win," he declared at a rally in Ibisil. "We cannot allow this weed to define our future."

The fight against Ipomoea is not just about land but also about dignity, survival, and the right to thrive in one's own environment. For now, the battle against ipomea continues.

Kajiado rolls out livestock vaccination to boost herd health and resilience



Kajiado County top official during the launch of livestock vaccination drive. Photo| Courtesy

By our reporter

The Kajiado County Government has rolled out a mass livestock vaccination drive targeting Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) to strengthen animal health and cushion herders against future drought-related losses.

The exercise, implemented under the National Livestock Vaccination Programme, aims to boost livestock productivity, enhance disease control, and build resilience among pastoral communities that depend on livestock for their livelihoods.

County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation and Fisheries Francis ole Sakuda said teams of veterinary officers have been deployed across all Sub-counties to ensure every herder can access the free vaccination service.

"Healthy livestock stand a better chance of surviving drought and other climatic shocks. Vaccination is therefore not just about disease control, it's a lifeline for herders who depend on their animals for food and income," Saku-

da said.

He urged residents to disregard misinformation surrounding the exercise, emphasizing that the initiative is meant to improve livestock health and strengthen the county's dairy and meat value chains for both domestic and export markets.

The national government, through the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, launched the nationwide vaccination campaign earlier this year, targeting 22 million cattle against FMD and 50 million goats and sheep against PPR.

According to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), FMD remains one of the most economically devastating livestock diseases globally, capable of crippling pastoral economies if not contained.

Sakuda urged pastoralists to take advantage of the free exercise, noting that vaccination is key to sustainable livestock farming.

"We cannot control the weather, but we can protect our animals. A vaccinated herd is a stronger herd," he said.

Big boost as Kajiado farmers get 95% tractor financing

By Masaki Enock

Farmers in Kajiado County have received a major boost after Equity Bank Kenya and Inchcape Kenya Ltd launched a financing partnership that will enable them to acquire New Holland tractors and related equipment with up to 95 per cent funding and flexible repayment terms of up to five years.

The initiative is designed to support smallholder and commercial farmers by easing the financial burden of acquiring modern farm equipment.

Speaking during the launch, Equity Bank Kenya Commercial Director David Bagenda said the project will help farmers increase productivity and improve household incomes. "By easing access to tractors and implements, we are supporting farmers to modernize their operations and contribute to Kenya's food security," he said.

Under the partnership, farmers can also access financing for essential implements such as ploughs, harrows, planters, mowers, and sprayers. The package includes compet-



A stakeholder speaks during the launch of the financing partnership aimed at boosting Kajiado Farmers

itive interest rates and one year of free insurance cover through Equity Bancassurance Intermediary Ltd (EBIL).

Inchcape Kenya Managing Director Marion Gathoga described the partnership as a milestone in promoting agricultural mechanization and transforming rural livelihoods.

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"Access to the right equipment should never be a barrier to progress. We are empowering farmers to increase production and strengthen food security," she said.

The financing package covers a range of New Holland tractor mod-

els, including the TT Series, TD Series, and TS Series, available in both 2WD and 4WD options.

To support farmers in other regions, Inchcape Kenya has also established branches in Nakuru, Eldoret, and Kisumu, offering sales,

maintenance, and genuine spare parts from trained technicians.

The partnership is expected to boost mechanization, promote food security, and empower farmers to build more resilient and sustainable agribusinesses across Kenya.

By Obegi Malack

Residents of Kajiado County have scored a major legal victory after the High Court barred the county government from imposing land rates on freehold properties, a ruling that could set precedent across all 47 counties.

Lady Justice Loice Komingoi declared that the Kajiado County Government acted unconstitutionally by introducing land rates on freehold land without public participation, effectively nullifying sections of the Kajiado County Finance Act, 2023.

"I find that the rates imposed on freehold properties was un procedurally done. I also agree with the petitioners' submission that the said rates as proposed did not conform to the Valuation for Rating Act (Cap 266 Laws of Kenya which set out an elaborate mechanism to inform any proposed rates," part of the ruling read.

The court also agreed with the petitioners' submission that their rights been limited as a direct consequence of the enactment of the impugned law, the land rates violates the constitution of the extent that the petitioners' were not involved in the process on how the figures were arrived at.

The county government breached the provision of Article 10,196 (1) (b) and 201 (b) of the constitution for failing to afford the public adequate opportunity to participate in the legislative process leading to the enactment of the Kajiado County Finance Act 2023.

The case, filed through Sheria Mtaani na Shadrack Wambui Advocates, represented the Olkeri Residents Association, Acacia Estate Residents Association, Oloosurutia Residents Association, Rapasi Memusi Saina Residents

Court bars Kajiado from taxing freehold land as more legal battles loom

The petitioners argued that the introduction of land rates on freehold property was unconstitutional, unreasonable, and discriminatory, particularly against the elderly and vulnerable who depend on government stipends, adding, the policy would render many homeowners destitute or at risk of imprisonment.



Sheria Mtaani lawyer Shadrack Wambui, Danson Omari and residents associations speaking to the media. Photo | Obegi Malack

Association, and two individuals, Alice Situma and Joseph Njuguna.

The dispute traces back to 2024 when the county government held a public sensitization meeting in Olkeri Ward, Kajiado North Constituency, to brief landowners on the Finance

Act 2023. The session ended abruptly after residents discovered that a new clause imposing land rates on freehold parcels of less than 0.05 hectares had been "sneaked in" without their consultation.

The law

had proposed the implementation of the rates starting January 1, 2024, with a 25% annual penalty on outstanding amounts and a fine of Kshs 200,000 or one-year imprisonment for non-payment.

Following the chaotic meeting, Olkeri MCA Stephen Ngatho, who also sits in the Finance and Economic Planning Committee, told the press that the contentious clauses were never debated or passed by the county assembly, alleging they were inserted "at the printing and gazette stage." His revelation galvanized residents to seek legal redress.

The petitioners argued that the introduction of land rates on freehold property was unconstitutional, unreasonable, and discriminatory, particularly against the elderly and vulnerable who depend on government stipends. They said the policy would render many homeowners destitute or at risk of imprisonment.

However, in a replying affidavit, County Assembly Clerk Josiah Lebo Saisa Yiaro insisted that sufficient public participation had been conducted. County Executive for Finance Alais Kisota also maintained that no law exempted freehold title holders

from paying rates, citing the Valuation for Rating Act, which he said included freehold properties among rateable lands.

Kisota further warned that halting the implementation of the Finance Act would deny the county much-needed revenue for service delivery.

Lawyer Wamboi revealed that political figures tried to interfere with the case, summoning some lawyers and pressuring them to withdraw.

"Devolution was meant to uplift lives, not impoverish citizens," he said. "We want leadership that responds to the people's needs, not one that taxes them for services they don't receive."

Lawyer Danstan Omari, who also represented the residents, said the ruling now sets a powerful precedent across Kenya.

"Freehold land gives owners absolute rights over their property," Omari explained. "If counties begin to tax it, they are effectively taking control of it, even to the point of denying owners the right to be buried on their land."

He added that Sheria Mtaani plans to file more than 20 additional cases against what he described as unconstitutional county laws enacted since 2013, including increased allotment charges and inflated title deed fees. The firm also intends to challenge taxation in areas lacking basic services such as street lighting and public toilets.

Sheria Mtaani has been providing free legal aid to residents, helping them push back against what they consider oppressive or illegal county directives. For many Kajiado residents, this victory represents more than just a legal win, it is a statement against poor governance and a call for accountability in devolved units.

Oloolotikosh residents protest, demand jobs from Orly Airpark

By Obegi Malack

Kajiado East residents in Oloolotikosh have issued ultimatum to Orly Airpark, demanding local jobs, community development projects, and an extension of the airstrip's runway to improve safety for trainee pilots.

The residents say they are prepared to dismantle the airstrip's perimeter fence if their demands are not met a move that could cripple flight training operations.

Dozens of protestors gathered near the airstrip's electric fence, waving placards and chanting protest songs to express their frustration with what they describe as years of unfulfilled promises.

"We demand for our rights, our young men and women should not just watch planes take off while they remain jobless," said Benjamin Tipatet, a resident.

Among the key demands include Employment opportunities for local youth, education bursaries for students,

CSR projects including a police post, better road infrastructure, improved water access, and the extension of the current 700-metre grass runway to 1,200 metres for enhanced safety during pilot training

Community elder Joseph ole Nkeri said the facility benefits from the community's land and airspace, and it is only right that the local population also gains from its presence.

Orly Airpark was established in 2011 as a private airstrip to help decongest Wilson Airport, one of Kenya's busiest general aviation hubs. It now handles an estimated 6,000 flight movements annually, training dozens of local and international pilots.

The facility operates two runways: a paved cabro-block strip and a shorter 700-metre grass runway. The grass strip is used primarily for cross-wind training, but pilots and



The fence residents demand to be removed by Orly Airpark for extension of the airstrip's runway to improve safety for trainee pilots

aviation safety experts have raised concerns about its length.

According to the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), 20% of minor training accidents recorded between 2018 and 2023 occurred during landings on short runways, highlighting the risks faced by student pilots. Experts say extending the grass strip to at least 1,200 metres could significantly reduce such incidents.

In response to the growing

unrest, Christian Strebel, a board member of Orly Airpark, said the management is reviewing the community's concerns. However, he cited financial strain caused by unpaid debts from tenant companies as a major setback to the airpark's development.

Deputy County Commissioner Michael Yator called for calm and dialogue, saying, the parties must find a common ground.

The protestors cited a new law

that demands companies to contribute to the social and economic well-being of residents.

Governor Joseph ole Lenku had signed into law the Kajiado County Corporate Social Responsibility Bill 2024 in February 2025.

The law provides for companies to develop self-regulatory practices and management systems that foster relationships of confidence and trust between the companies and the communities in the county.

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FKF empowers Kajiado North coaches with referee skills



By Benedict Aoya

Coaches from across Kajiado North successfully completed a free training session organized by the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Kajiado North Sub-branch, to enhance their understanding of football rules and match management.

The workshop, which took place at Beatus Rongai, was conducted by a qualified referee instructor in collaboration with the Match Officials Committee, and brought together willing coaches from Ongata Rongai, Oler, Ngong, Nkaimurunya, and Ololua.

The objective was to equip participants with a clear interpretation of the Laws of the Game as outlined by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

During the training, coaches were taken through several key topics including the duties of referees and assistant referees, the offside rule, fouls and misconduct, disciplinary actions, as well as free kicks, penalties and restarts. The session concluded with a Q&A segment and practical

A total of 30 grassroot coaches after undergoing CAF D coaching course offered by the FKF Kajiado County Branch in partnership with PCEA church in Kajiado. This is in a bid to properly train and equip grassroot coaches who will be given a platform to exercise their skills at the grassroot. Photo| Courtesy

demonstrations to ensure that the concepts were well understood.

Organizers said the initiative aimed to improve fair play, enhance communication between coaches and match officials and promote better team discipline and performance in local competitions. The training was particularly beneficial to coaches preparing for the upcoming 2025/2026 tournaments and league seasons.

Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity, noting that the session offered valuable insight into the practical application of football laws. They also commended FKF Kajiado North Sub-branch for its effort to support grassroots football through continuous education and development programs.

The FKF Kajiado North Sub-branch General Secretary, Dismas Okello, said the federation remains committed to ensuring that all coaches and technical staff within the Sub-county

are well-informed about the rules governing the game. The initiative was supported by the Sub-Branch Chairman, Lukas Saidi, and Treasurer, Erick Njuguna.

Through such programmes, FKF Kajiado

North continues to strengthen local football structures and promote a culture of fairness, discipline, and professionalism on and off the pitch.

Local football friendlies bring Kajiado to life with thrilling encounters

By Benedict Aoya

A series of friendly football matches played across Kajiado County brought local fans to the side lines as community teams battled for pride and performance in a weekend of exciting fixtures. The matches featured some of the county's most promising clubs, each eager to showcase skill, discipline, and teamwork in preparation for upcoming competitions.

Rongai Allstars opened the list of results with a narrow 1-0 win over Juakali after a hard-fought game that kept supporters on edge until the final whistle. Wenyaji followed with a 2-1 victory over Olteyeni in a match defined by late drama and sharp finishing. Sunshine could not find a breakthrough against Amsa Sports, who walked away with a 1-0 win in another evenly matched contest.

Luckystars displayed impressive attacking rhythm to thrash Streetboys 5-1, one of the day's most dominant scorelines. Golden Stars extended their winning form with a clean 3-0 win over Nkoroi Youth,

while Ravsa narrowly beat Ereteti 1-0 in a tense encounter.

Ilmasin produced one of the biggest victories after crushing Oletepes Strikers 5-0 in a performance that showcased sharp coordination and clinical finishing. Rising Stars maintained their consistency with a 4-1 win over Young Lions, and Hekima Foxes closed the day's action with a 1-0 triumph against Pneumatika.

The matches did more than just produce goals, they energized local fans and reaffirmed Kajiado's growing love for football. Many players used the opportunity to test their match fitness and tactical setups, while coaches gained valuable insight into team chemistry ahead of official league fixtures.

Across the fields, community spirit was evident. Fans turned out in large numbers to cheer their neighbourhood teams, proving once again that football remains one of the strongest uniting forces in the region. The weekend of friendlies not only gave clubs a chance to compete but also strengthened local talent networks that continue to drive the county's football growth.

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FEATURE

The struggle of Kajiado's pastoralists

By Masaki Enock

As the sun scorches the plains of Kajiado and the clouds refuse to gather, one thing is certain, there shall be no rains for the next days. A painful silence hangs over the carcasses of dead livestock scattered across the dry earth.

Many herders are feeling the heat of the climate change conversation as they helplessly watch their animals die.

Despite repeated advisories from government agencies and NGOs urging early sale of livestock to avoid financial collapse, hundreds of pastoralists in Kajiado have chosen to hold on.

To them, selling a cow is seen

as a betrayal of identity, pride, and the ancestral legacy of the Maa community.

"We were told to sell, but how do you sell your history?" asks Naisiano Ole Kinyua, a herder from Mashuuru. "These cows are our

wealth, our dowry, our dignity."

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) has flagged Kajiado as one of the counties at risk of severe food insecurity. Data shows dwindling pasture and water sources, with livestock mortality rising sharply in the past two months.

Local markets have seen a surge in distressed sales, with emaciated animals fetching as little as KSh 1,500, barely enough to cover transport costs. Traders are reluctant to buy, and veterinary officers warn that disease outbreaks could follow if carcasses are not disposed of properly.

"We're seeing a collapse of the pastoral economy," says Dr Esther Mwangangi, a livestock economist. "But it's also a collapse of

trust between herders and the institutions meant to protect them."

Efforts to introduce livestock insurance and climate-smart grazing practices have faced resistance, partly due to low awareness and deep-rooted customs. Some herders accuse county officials of failing to drill boreholes or stock emergency feed reserves, despite budget allocations.

Meanwhile, youth in Kajiado are increasingly abandoning pastoralism, seeking jobs in Nairobi or turning to boda boda businesses. Elders worry that the drought is not just killing animals but also eroding a way of life.

"We need solutions that respect our culture but also save our future," says Josephine Ntaati, a community mobilizer. "Otherwise, we'll keep burying our cows."

As the October rains remain uncertain, farmers are faced with the dilemma of selling their livestock to survive or hold on and risk losing everything.



Maasai Morans / Photo Courtesy

Despite government warnings, Kajiado pastoralists refuse to sell their herds, valuing identity over financial loss.

Nganyas of Rongai: Inside the flashy matatus of Route 125

By Masaki Enock

If you cross Afya Centre and head towards the Naivas stage in Nairobi's CBD, you'll hear it before you see it. The thump of bass, the shimmer of LED lights, and the unmistakable graffiti-coated bodywork signal the arrival of a Nganya, a flashy, customized minibus that has become the heart-beat of Route 125.

These Nganyas, with names like Moxie, John Wick (Baba Yaga), Ferrari G-Unit, and Detroit, are mobile art galleries, sound studios, and youth culture capsules rolled into one. For many young commuters, especially students and creatives, they represent freedom, style, and identity.

"I don't just board a Nganya to get home," says Daniel Otieno, a Multimedia University student and Rongai resident. "It's the vibe, the music, the lights, it's like stepping into a club on wheels. You feel seen."

Otieno is one of thousands of loyal customers who choose Nganyas over conventional matatus. The fare, however, is not for the faint-hearted. While standard



minibuses charge between Ksh50 and Ksh100 depending on distance and time, Nganyas often start at Ksh100 and can spike to Ksh150 or even Ksh200 during peak hours.

"Once you board, the fare jumps, no negotiation," Otieno laughs. "But we pay for the experience."

That experience begins at the Naivas stage, where touts chant "Rongai mia!" with rhythmic urgency. The moment you step in, the driver cranks up the sound system, LED screens flicker to life, and the journey becomes a spectacle. For older generations, this sensory overload may be overwhelming, but for the youth, it's magnetic.

Freddy, a tout for Moxie, one of the most iconic Nganyas on the route, says the appeal lies in the immersive environment.

"We're not just moving people, we're giving them a show," Freddy explains. "Our Nganya has an immersive surround system, LED screens, and custom seats. People come for the ride, but they stay for the vibe."

Inside Moxie, the seats are stitched in faux leather, the ceiling glows with fiber-optic stars, and the playlist is curated to match the mood, from Genge-tone to Afrobeat. The graffiti on the exterior is equally expressive, often featuring pop culture icons, slogans, and street art motifs.

But not everyone is sold on the Nganya lifestyle. For some commuters, especially those heading past Tumaini or toward Kiserian, the quieter, blue-uniformed minibuses offer a more ambient alternative. These

matatus play music at moderate levels, maintain flexible fare structures, and cater to a broader demographic.

Peter Mwangi, a driver of a 14-seater matatu on the Town-Rongai-Kiserian route, says the competition is healthy.

"Nganyas have their crowd, and we have ours," Mwangi says. "They're flashy, yes, but we go further, all the way to Kiserian. Some people just want peace and a seat."

Mwangi adds that while Nganyas dominate the youth market, his matatu serves families, older commuters, and those seeking affordability.

"We don't need speakers to win customers. We need reliability," he says.

Still, the Nganya phenomenon continues to grow. Owners invest heavily in customization, often spending hundreds of thousands of shillings on sound systems, paint jobs, and interior upgrades. The goal is to stand out, and in Rongai, standing out is everything.

The culture surrounding Nganyas is deeply rooted in Nairobi's matatu history, where creativity and competition have long driven innovation. From the early days of reggae-themed buses to today's LED-lit beasts, the evolution has been dramatic.

Yet, with all the flair comes scrutiny. Some critics argue that Nganyas encourage noise pollution and reckless driving. Others worry about fare inflation and the lack of regulation. But for now, the demand speaks louder than the concerns.

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Hunger and fear grip Kajiado as drought fuels wildlife attacks

By Our Reporter

A severe drought has plunged Kajiado County into a growing humanitarian crisis as families grapple with hunger, water shortages, and rising human-wildlife conflicts caused by the drying landscape.

The prolonged harsh condition has depleted pastures and water sources, pushing wild animals into villages in search of food and water. Residents now face the dual burden of hunger and insecurity as elephants, lions, and hyenas stray closer to settlements, destroying property and killing livestock.

In Kajiado West, elephants were recently sighted in the KMQ area after wandering from their usual habitats. Locals say the animals were drawn by the need for water, an indication of how critical the drought has become.

In Kajiado South, youthful rancher Jonathan Ntiati from the Imbirikani-Kuku Ward border lost 85 sheep and goats in a lion attack, leaving his family

without food or income.

Across the county, families are struggling to put food on the table as crops fail and livestock die. Children have been forced to skip school as families migrate in search of water and pasture. Local leaders report rising cases of malnutrition, especially among children and expectant mothers, as food and milk become scarce.

Children have been forced to skip school as families migrate in search of water and pasture. Local leaders report rising cases of malnutrition, especially among children and expectant mothers, as food and milk become scarce.

Conservationists and community leaders warn that the crisis could escalate further if urgent relief measures are not put in place. They are calling for the establishment of water points for both humans and animals, expanded food distribution, and better coordination between the county government and wildlife agencies.

Kajiado's Umma University unveils Ksh1.4B complex

Inside flashy matatus of Route 125/126



The evolution of Kenyan men's fashion

By Mercy Kokwon

Long before the sneaker craze and bespoke suits, Kenyan men had their own sense of flair. In the 1970s and 80s, men strutted in bell-bottoms, wide-collared shirts, and platform shoes, inspired by Congolese rumba stars and soul musicians.

Fashion then was loud, expressive, and proudly African. It faded in the 90s as Western suits and minimalism took over, but the flair never truly died. Today, some of those styles are making a comeback: flared trousers, vintage shirts, and statement shoes are back through thrift culture.

In the early 2000s, Kenya's fashion retail industry became small and largely focused on women's and children's wear. Men's fashion wasn't much of a thing. A T-shirt, jeans, shirts, locally tailored baggy trouser suits and blazers were all it took to step out, and judging from our parents' old photos, you'd swear 'oversized' suits was the only size in stock. The idea of opening a men's boutique sounded like a losing business.

Dressing up came with baggage. Men who put effort into their looks were often teased or seen as "doing too much." Being stylish was linked to pride or idleness, and bold fashion choices were viewed as unmanly. So most men played it safe, neutral colours, simple shirts, and nothing that stood out too much.

But as the 2010s rolled in and social media took over, everything changed. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube created space for male influencers and stylists to showcase fashion trends, showing that being stylish doesn't make one any less masculine.

With time, dressing up started to represent confidence and individuality, not vanity. And that's where things really took off.

For once, men began caring about how they looked and the fashion industry saw an opening. Suddenly, men's boutiques, tailors, and online thrift stores started popping up everywhere.

Tailored suits were a symbol of authority and class, but Kenya's relationship with the suit began to evolve.

The Kaunda suit itself is no stranger to Kenyan fashion. It was a symbol of African pride back then, worn by leaders like Jomo Kenyatta and other post-independence statesmen. Today, it's back, reimagined in bolder colours and cleaner cuts. President Ruto has famously worn it, sparking lively debates online about the fashion comeback.

Brands such as Bolo Bespoke, Quintessence Tailor, and Le Kasri Bespoke Tailoring have also risen to meet the new demand, crafting custom-made suits

designed to fit individual body shapes and personalities. This shift has opened space for a new wave of Kenyan designers redefining men's elegance.

Then came a new generation that didn't just want to wear clothes, they wanted to make statements, and it didn't stop at suits. You'll spot men mixing sneakers with tailored jackets, layering hoodies under blazers, or pairing jeans with kitenge prints.

Streetwear, once dismissed as "lazy dressing," is now the new power move. Hoodies, cargo pants, graphic tees, and statement sneakers have replaced the stiff office look for many young men.

Sneakers, especially, have become a cultural obsession. They're not just shoes anymore, they're currency. From classic Air Force 1s to Air Jordans, a man's sneaker game now says more about his taste and hustle than his bank account. Nairobi's streets have turned into style runways, with thrifted jeans, clean kicks, and vintage jackets defining the new Kenyan cool.

But the real disruption came when men stopped dressing for approval. Suddenly, masculinity had makeup, heels, and pearl necklaces. The old idea that 'men should dress like men' began to crumble, and Kenya wasn't left behind.

Figures like Official Kinuthia took over social media, fearlessly blurring gender lines with wigs, dresses, and confidence that made people uncomfortable, and curious. Dennis Karuri, one of Kenya's top makeup artists, turned his face into a canvas, proving that grooming and glam aren't just for women. Whether you agree with them or not, these men forced Kenya to confront an uncomfortable truth: fashion has no gender.

And yes, the backlash was loud. Comment sections turned into moral

battlegrounds every time a man wore eyeliner or posted a photo in a crop top. But that's exactly how revolutions start, with discomfort. Today's so-called 'soft men' are redefining what it means to be bold, stylish, and masculine in their own way.

Kenyan men aren't just dressing up anymore, they're dressing loud, proud, and unapologetically themselves. And that, right there, is the real fashion revolution.



bespoke suits-photo
Antony Trive
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KWS engages Kajiado South residents over rising human-wildlife conflicts

By Masaki Enock

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) recently held a public sensitization forum with residents of Kajiado South, near Amboseli National Park, to address growing tensions over escalating human-wildlife conflicts and delayed compensation for losses.

The meeting brought together community members from areas such as Lenkism, who shared firsthand accounts of livestock attacks, crop destruction, and the emotional strain of living in close proximity to roaming wildlife.

Among the residents was Oloilakei, who recounted how lions had attacked and killed his cattle, leaving him with no recourse and no compensation. His story echoed many others in the crowd, with locals expressing frustration over claims dating back as far as 2018 that remain unpaid.

Residents from Lenkism also raised concerns about elephants trampling their crops and destroying trees they had planted to provide shade and shelter for their families. The destruction, they said, not only affects food security but undermines efforts to restore vegetation in the semi-arid region.

Speaking during the event, Paul Wambi, Senior Officer of KWS Amboseli, acknowledged the backlog in compensation and urged residents to remain patient as reforms are underway. He emphasized the importance of peaceful coexistence with wildlife, noting that Amboseli's biodiversity is a national asset that must be protected through community collaboration.

Community members proposed several mitigation measures, including the installation of solar-powered lights to deter predators at night, the construction of boreholes and water pans for wildlife placed away from homesteads, and the deployment of agricultural officers to assess damage quickly and fairly.

They also called for more transparency in the compensation process, warning that continued delays could lead to retaliatory attacks on wildlife and deepen mistrust between locals and conservation authorities.

Residents urged KWS to match its promises with action, reminding officials that conservation must go hand-in-hand with justice and accountability. The forum marked a critical step in rebuilding dialogue, but for many in Kajiado South, the real test will be whether their losses are finally acknowledged and compensated.



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