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The Voice of Meru, Isiolo & Tharaka Nithi

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NEWSPAPER

Ruto's Meru dilemma

Why Meru and Mt Kenya is shunning the President



Hon. Peter Munya



President William Ruto



Hon. Mithika Linturi

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Can Ruto hold Meru amid growing opposition?

Ruto under pressure as Meru opposition gathers momentum

By Nancy Kinoti

From front page

The politics of opposition against President William Ruto's administration is on the increase in Meru County, with major players in politics openly opposing and even doubting the performance of Kenya Kwanza in dealing with major issues in the country.

Apart from a handful of incumbent leaders in the current government, whom critics say are too cautious and low-key, there is presently no prominent Meru heavyweight politician whose public stance is strong and unafraid to back the government of President Ruto.

Kwanza government, even after an olive branch was extended to him by Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi.

In his address in Kirokwathi, Igembe North, Linturi voiced his opposition to overtures for political reconciliation, maintaining that he remained firm in opposing President Ruto's administration.

"Me with Ruto again? Never," Linturi declared.

Linturi's statements came after Senator Kathuri suggested a political reunion before



Meru Senator- Hon. Kathuri Murungi

Kawira Mwangaza Goes Silent

Former Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza, once a vocal supporter of President Ruto, has since ceased publicly backing the administration following her impeachment.

Mwangaza had been among the most visible Kenya Kwanza allies in the region during the 2022 General Election, and her silence has further diminished the President's support base in Meru.

Government Government Allies Push Two-Term Agenda

Moreover, key leaders loyal to the government have argued that Ruto remains popular in the region and that he is on course for another term in office.

Several Members of Parliament from Meru county continue to publicly drum up support for the two-term agenda, citing ongoing development projects and government programs.

At the same time, Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi has remained an ardent supporter of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA). Murungi has insisted that the Kenya Kwanza government is delivering on its promises and should be supported.

A past handshake between Peter Munya & Mithika Linturi

Munya Faults Government on Core Responsibilities

Former agriculture cabinet secretary and PNU party leader, Peter Munya, is one of the most vocal critics of the administration, accusing the government of failing to perform even the most basic of roles.

"There are three major issues that a government must provide to its people: security, health, and education. Without these three pertinent issues, a country is moving in the wrong direction," Munya states.

He explained that issues with the sector suggest that there are governance issues within the existing administration.

Linturi Ruling Out Returning to Kenya Kwanza

Democratic Congress Party DCP National Organising Secretary Mithika Linturi has strongly ruled out his return to the Kenya

the 2027 General Election, a move some observers saw as a ploy to solidify the UDA support base in the region.



President Ruto, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki and other leaders during a recent event at Kinoru Stadium

Meru Political Battle Lines Drawn

With opposition leaders solidifying their criticism and the government's supporters holding their ground, Meru County is gradually being shaped as a contested sphere.

As the stakes rise, the people will be watching keenly to see if the unity of the opposition will pay off in terms of electoral support, or whether the government allies will maintain their loyalty to the leadership of President Ruto.

Meru County rolls out Sh240 million initiative to strengthen vocational skills training and early childhood education as part of deliberate shift towards a TVET skills-driven economy

By Dickson Mwiti

Governor Isaac Mutuma announced the programme during the flagging off of vocational training equipment and the release of capitation funds to Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), saying the county is moving away from certificate-based learning to prepare young people for both local and global job markets.

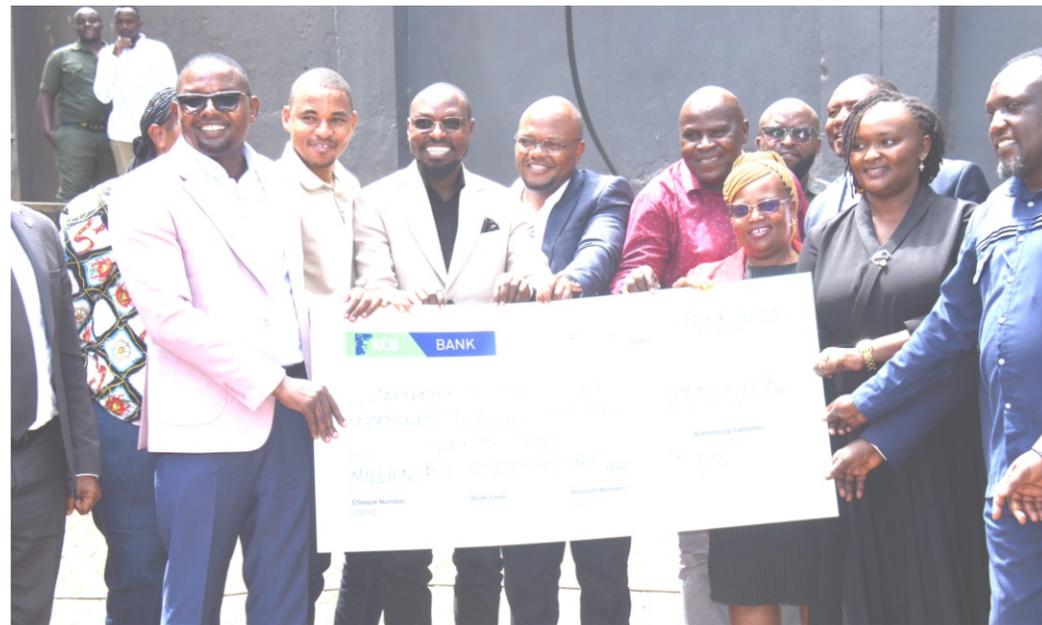
Under the initiative, nine VTCs will receive new Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy equipment valued at Sh5million.

The county has also disbursed Sh23.5 million in capitation for 1,580 second-year trainees, with each trainee receiving Sh14,873, and cleared Sh9.1 million in pending co-funded bills under the Meru Youth Service (MYS) programme benefiting 345 trainees.

Governor Mutuma said the funds to VTCs will support the purchase of training and examination materials, textbooks, stationery, and the repair and maintenance of existing equipment to ensure training aligns with current labour market demands.

"Meru County is deliberately investing in craft and technical skills because the economy of the future is skills-driven, not certificate-driven. Artisans, technicians, beauty therapists, electricians, plumbers, welders and ICT specialists are increasingly in demand locally and internationally," said Governor Mutuma.

The programme also includes the construction and completion of modern VTC workshops and classrooms at a cost of Sh23.5 million, replacement of 14 VTC instructors,



Governor Mutuma accompanied by other leaders in handing over a dummy Cheque to VTC managers to cater for learners' capitation

and capacity building for VTC managers and Boards of Governors.

In early childhood education, the county has allocated Sh54 million for a school meals and nutrition programme targeting 784 Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres and benefiting 59,141 learners.

Additional investments include Sh43.2 million for the implementation of a Scheme of Service for 1,693 ECDE teachers, Sh34.58 million for the recruitment of 230 ECDE teachers, Sh6 million for the procurement of ECDE books, and Sh77.3 million for the construction and completion of ECDE classrooms.

The County boss said his government is committed to creating an enabling

environment where children and youth can acquire quality education and practical skills for self-reliance, adding that Kenya's bilateral labour agreements with several countries present new opportunities for skilled youth.

He also invited investors, development partners and training institutions to partner with the county in upgrading VTCs and expanding training opportunities.

"Meru is open, Meru is ready, and Meru has skilled, disciplined and hardworking youth," said Governor Mutuma.

He thanked the Meru County Assembly for approving the school meals and nutrition programme, saying its support has brought hope to thousands of children and families across the county.



Some of the Vocational Training Equipment that were distributed to various institutions

TSC takes action as parents demand removal of Chuka girls principal

By Nancy Kinoti

St. Bakhita Chuka Girls High School is currently at crossroads as demonstrations by parents and students continue, leading to stern disciplinary action by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) against the administration of the institution.

In a directive announced today by the Tharaka Nithi County TSC Director, as well as the Chuka Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) and County Education Director, the principal of St. Michaels High School, Ms. Joan Muchina, was ordered to stop all operations in the institution with immediate effect. Further, the officials directed that the deputy principal, Ms. Gitonga, should take charge of the running of the institution on a temporary basis.



The announcement comes as a result of a dramatic protest that took place in the morning, where parents and students demonstrated to the education ministry offices in Chuka town, calling for the immediate transfer of Ms. Muchina from the institution on grounds of gross mismanagement, misconduct, abuse of office, embezzlement of public funds, and the use of abusive language, which they claimed had negatively affected the students' educational activities.

For instance, parents and learners alleged that under the existing management, there has been a decline in academic performance, poor communication, intimidation of parents by management, and poor treatment of learners. However, they stated that if the school principal resumes duty, they could

consider moving 700 students to another school.

Further concerns were voiced about the way the Board of Management (BOM) is being run. Parents have accused the BOM of being a family affair with close relatives of the principal being part of the BOM. The protesters have asked about the basis on which BOM members are being appointed.

Previously, the TSC had directed Ms. Muchina to temporarily step aside as a measure to enable the school to stabilise, as they assured the parents that the learning process was to continue as usual. However, the school was shut indefinitely on the premises of pressure from the worried parents and students. All the students, including the newly admitted Grade 10 students, were affected.

All the allegations have been denied by Muchina, who has termed the protests a witch-hunt, citing the challenges the reform efforts she introduced, especially regarding the tendering process, are facing.

Scenes of emotional distress were seen during the demonstrations, such as a parent who ended up breaking down while trying

to narrate what she revealed to be rogue activities among the school administration.

Even as investigations are ongoing, the current Chuka Girls High School situation has brought to the forefront the debate on leadership, management, accountability, and learner security within the Kenya education system. It is still not clear when the school is expected to reopen or whether the principal should remain in post.



Chuka Girls Principal-Ms. Joan Muchina



Chuka Girls parents and students at the regional TSC offices

Kenya warns against illegal war recruitment launches German language programme

By Dickson Mwiti

Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary Roselyne Njogu has cautioned Kenyans against being lured into foreign wars under false promises of employment, stressing that the government does not recruit citizens to fight for armies of other countries.

Speaking at Meru University during the launch of a German language programme, Njogu said her office continues to receive reports of Kenyans duped into travelling abroad for jobs, only to end up on war fronts in Russia and

Ukraine.

"We have issued warning after warning to Kenyans not to be recruited to fight in these wars. If you hear someone say they are going to Russia to join war efforts, tell them to stop that nonsense," said Ms Njogu.

The PS emphasised that the government is committed to creating safe and legal employment opportunities abroad, noting that over 530,000 Kenyans have secured jobs overseas in the last two and half years period.

She urged job seekers to use licensed and regulated recruitment agents listed on the National Employment Authority website to avoid exploitation and human trafficking.

She said the German language programme is part of efforts to enhance labour mobility under the Kenya-German labour agreement signed in September 2024, adding that the language proficiency remains a key barrier for Kenyans seeking opportunities in Germany, and the initiative will help bridge that gap.

Meru University Vice-Chancellor Professor Romanus Odhiambo announced that the six-month intensive course will cover proficiency levels A1, A2 and B1.

"The university will also serve as a regional assessment centre, allowing trainees from North Eastern and Upper Eastern counties including Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Isiolo, Laikipia and Embu, Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa and



A section of the young people who had turned out during the launch of the program

Kirinyaga counties to be evaluated locally.

He added that the programme will equip young people with internationally marketable skills, open up safe overseas employment opportunities, and shield them from illegal recruitment networks.

"Meru University is the second institution to roll out the German language programme after Tom Mboya University, which launched its centre under the patronage of Interior PS Raymond Omollo. We are ensuring that apart from the normal courses we are also training learners on language skills as add-ons to enhance labour mobility," said Professor Romano.



Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary Roselyn Njogu addressing journalists during the launch of the German Language Program

Alert issued for Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Isiolo and seven other counties amid drought crisis

By Geoffrey Gitimu

The dry spell currently being experienced in the region of Kenya is deteriorating by the day as Meru, Tharaka Nithi, as well as Isiolo, are the latest counties to join a list of ten counties that are on red alert.

According to the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) report, while Mandera County is at a critical stage known as "alarm," which is the highest level of drought, nine other counties are reported to be at "alert," which is a level that reflects drought conditions that are progressively worsening.

The counties currently on alert, aside from Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, and Isiolo are:

Wajir, Garissa, Kilifi, Marsabit, Kitui, Kajiado, Tana River

Those counties are struggling with extreme water scarcity, lack of pastures for their livestock, and a sharp decline in their crop yields.

NDMA has noted that more than 2.5 million Kenyans are at risk of starvation and lack of water if the drought continues, especially in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) where the amount of rainfall received has been well below

average.

The government, through the concerted efforts of humanitarian agencies, is scaling up the response to the drought-affected people, and

some of the measures put in place are the provision of

food, trucking, and the strengthening of support to the livestock sector.

However, the people affected by the drought in the respective counties say that water has dried up in rivers and boreholes, and people are moving long distances to look for water for both human and livestock consumption.

Experts have also warned that future prolonged water shortages could increase health threats, with a high risk of disease outbreaks such as cholera and diarrhoea, particularly among children and old people.

Residents in Meru, Tharaka Nithi, and Isiolo are calling on the government to scale up its relief operations while concurrently designing measures for drought mitigation, including water harvesting schemes.

As the drought persists with the dry season, authorities noted that they are watching the situation closely and are ready to adjust response plans to avoid further humanitarian deterioration.





YETU SACCO SOCIETY LIMITED



34 years of trust, growth and impact A cooperative that is growing with its people

The society reached another notable milestone in its history as Yetu DT Sacco Society Ltd held its 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM), commemorating over three decades of unbroken growth, resilience, and dedication to member success.

convened by Sacco leadership headed by Mark Gitonga, the Chairman, Dennis Murithi, the CEO, and Board Members, who reiterated their commitment to delivering more efficient, inclusive, and member-focused services to our valued members.

They pledged further innovation and expansion to ensure all members are financially empowered and well serviced.

One of the highlights of the event was the attendance of Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives CECM Rev. Carol Kaberia on behalf of H.E. Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia.

Addressing the gathering on behalf of the Governor, Rev. Kaberia reiterated her administration's commitment to the cooperative movement as an engine towards socio-economic development.

She recognized the importance of the role of Yetu Sacco in mobilizing savings, offering credit at affordable rates, generating employment opportunities, and empowering communities, acknowledging the fact that the cooperative movement remains a cornerstone of the county's development plan.

Rev. Kaberia emphasized that the focus of the current administration, led by Mutuma

M'Ethingia, was on ensuring inclusive economic growth and job creation in Meru County through a dynamic cooperative movement.

Gracing the occasion as our Chief Guest was the Principal Secretary, State Department of Cooperatives, Mr. Patrick Kiburi Kilemi, who commended Yetu Sacco Society Ltd. on their resiliency, progress, and strong governance systems in place.

The PS recognized the significant contribution the cooperatives sector makes towards fostering financial inclusiveness,



Rev. Carol Kaberia- CECM Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives Meru County

customer care as well as efficiency in the service-delivery procedure.

Besides the provision of financial services, Yetu Sacco has also contributed to the creation of jobs, directly or indirectly enhancing livelihood and the local economy.

As it plans for the future, the leadership of Sacco's reaffirmed its commitment to growth, digital transformation, and service excellence, which remains rooted in strong cooperative values.

With a strong foundation established over the last 34 years, Yetu Sacco remains strongly positioned as a leading force in cooperative developments.



Mr. Patrick Kiburi Kilemi-PS State Department of Cooperatives

creation of new sources of individual and social wealth, as well as economic empowerment at the grassroots levels across the country.

The AGM also attracted other leaders from different national and county governments, such as Imenti South MP Hon. Shadrack Mwiti, Tigania West MP Hon. John Mutunga, Forestry Principal Secretary Gitonga Mugambi, the Director of Protocol in the Office of the Deputy President Mr. Gideon Kimathi,

Nkuene MCA Hon. Martin Makasi, Mitunguu MCA Hon. Evans Mawira, Igoji West MCA Hon. Mutembei Mbiuki, and many other distinguished guests and stakeholders.

The Sacco has been able to touch many lives by opening many branches, thereby increasing its coverage and making it accessible to as many people as possible.

The creation of the signature headquarters is a clear indication of the Sacco's success, as it enhances



Yetu Sacco Deputy CEO-Amos Mwebia



Yetu Sacco CEO- Dennis Mwiti

Yetu Sacco, which has been in operation for 34 years, has thus become a force to reckon with, serving over 118,000 members, with its clients counting on it as their financial partner.

The meeting brought together thousands of its members, other stakeholders, as well as individuals from relevant departments of the national as well as county governments to discuss its performance.

The vibrant and well-attended AGM was



Yetu Sacco Members during the recent AGM



YETU SACCO SOCIETY LIMITED



Strong financial performance positions Yetu Sacco among Kenya's top performers

At its recently held 34th Annual General Meeting, Yetu DT Sacco Society Ltd demonstrated a robust financial performance that reflects its resilience, effective management, and dedication to providing shareholders with value.

Based on the financial information provided at the AGM, the Sacco achieved a net surplus of about KSh 243.7 million for the year under review, a clear sign of robust profitability despite economic headwinds.

The total income of Sacco increased to KSh 1.27 billion as a result of good revenue generation from sources such as interest generated from loans and deposits as well as other business enterprises.

One of the greatest highlights in the report was that the assets of Sacco's grew to KSh 9.38 billion. This is evidence of consistent growth

in savings, investment, and lending abilities. This is a clear indication that there are capable financial managers.

Members continued to receive handsome benefits as the Sacco made competitive returns on share capital and deposits:

Dividend on share capital: 19% - one of the highest paid among Deposit Taking Saccos in Kenya.

Interest on members' deposits: 13% - offering attractive returns on savings, much higher than conventional banking rates.

These rates mark the strong profitability of the Sacco, as well as its commitment to ensuring that its members benefit directly from its success.

The rates can be noted as high compared to other Sacco industries, thus creating an interest in membership as well as mobilization of savings.

In addition, over the year, the SACCO also witnessed growth in the issuance of loans, savings among the members, and the mobilization of deposits.

All these contributed to the SACCO's excellent financial position.

According to the SACCO's leadership, the reasons for their excellent performance include disciplined financial management, improved risk management, service channels, and strategic investments in technology and the branch network.

With a financially stable foundation and impressive growth in its assets, the Yetu Sacco continues to build on the



Yetu Sacco Chairman- Mark Gitonga

tradition of being a member-based and financially strong society that not only provides members with a sense of security but also ensures they receive lucrative returns on their investment.

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YETU SACCO SOCIETY LIMITED



Comprehensive financial solutions: inside Yetu Sacco's tailor-made products and services

Yetu DT Sacco Society Ltd continues to set itself aside as a member-focused society through its provision of a variety of innovative, affordable, and accessible financial products that cater to the diverse needs of individuals, enterprises, farmers, and institutions.

Flexible Accounts for Every Financial Goal

Members have the choice of different account types depending on their saving, investing, and financial management needs, which include:

Dhahabu Yetu Investment, a premium investment product which helps members grow their wealth sustainably. These accounts encourage a great saving culture to be observed with competitive returns and flexible access.

Loan Products for Empowerment to Growth

Yetu Sacco provides loan facilities that cover a wide range of interests in education, agriculture, and business expansion, among others. These are outlined below.

empowers grassroots entrepreneurs

L.P.O Financing – supporting businesses with supply contracts

Mortgage Financing - Routing to Home Ownership

Asset Financing: for acquisition of vehicles, equipment, and other assets

Insurance Premium Financing: alleviating the burden of insurance payments

Overdraft Facilities - providing temporary liquidity solutions

These are structured products with competitive interest rates, flexible repayment periods, and member-friendly terms that ensure the products are affordable and accessible.

Insurance Solutions to Life's Uncertainties

Bearing in mind that life is not predictable, Yetu Sacco, in collaboration with Thine Insurance Limited, offers insurance services to assist members with safety cover.

“We can't stop the unexpected... but we can make sure it's fully covered. Your health is your wealth — and we insure both.”

“Accidents don't book appointments, but our insurance keeps you ready 24/7.”

Members of the organization can take care of their health, money, assets, and loved ones through the services being offered.

Digital Convenience: Banking Anytime, Anywhere

Yetu Sacco has adopted digital innovation to make services quicker and more accessible to its members as follows:

Withdrawing money from their accounts through their mobile phones

“(Wakati Wowote, Mahali Popote)” by Save, Repay Loans, and Access Sacco Services using PayBill number 512100 These technological tools enable disparate transactions to take place smoothly and ensure that physical interactions do not take place. Call for Action

Yetu Sacco invites individuals, businesses, groups, and institutions to join the growing Yetu family and enjoy reliable financial solutions backed by strong returns, modern technology, and a commitment to community empowerment.

With flexible products, competitive interest rates, and a legacy of integrity built over three decades, Yetu Sacco remains your ideal partner in sustainable financial growth.

Yetu DT Sacco Ltd
Our Products

- ✔ **Hazina Account** - Tea Farmers
- ✔ **Bakisha Account** - General Savers
- ✔ **Biashara** - Business People
- ✔ **Kilimo Account** - Dairy Farmers
- ✔ **Coffee Account** - Coffee Farmers
- ✔ **Mapato Account** - Salaried Customers
- ✔ **Digital Account** - Vijana/Youths
- ✔ **Faida Account** - Savings for Emergencies
- ✔ **Yetu Junior** - Children with less than 18 years
- ✔ **Akiba Account** - Fixed deposit Account
- ✔ **Corporate Account** - Institutional or Registered business

Elimu Loan – supporting education and academic advancement

Kilimo Loan - Empowering farmers and agribusiness ventures.

Msingi Loan - solving essential needs and foundational investments

Mapato Loan - targeted at income earners

Biashara Loan - Supporting small and medium enterprises

Micro Finance Loan -



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After years of waiting, Nithi bridge construction kicks off

By Gerald Mukembu

After years of being promised, repledging, and considering increasing public disgruntlement, the much-awaited reconstruction project of the infamous and deadly Nithi Bridge has at last begun to move from promise to action, with heavy machinery being deployed to the site, thus officially commencing the works intended to once and for all eradicate one of the most infamous accident blackspots in Kenya.

Earlier on, President William Ruto had assured Tharaka Nithi residents that the government would redesign and reconstruct the bridge, which has caused the deaths of many people over the years due to its high gradient, sharp curves, and design headaches. With the contractor deployed and machines sighted at the bridge, it seems like the project, therefore, has moved to the implementation stage.

A Long History of Tragedy

Situated along the highly trafficked Embu-Meru highway between Marima and Mitheru markets, Nithi Bridge has always been synonymous with tragic accidents. Motorists driving down the steep slope approaching the miniscule bridge often lost traction, especially for heavy vehicles and buses.

Even as road signs, rumble strips, as well as speed control measures have been put in place over the years, accidents have still taken place, thus requiring a total redesign of the road rather than making temporary interventions to the road.

To most families in Tharaka Nithi and other surrounding counties, however, this bridge is associated with painful memories of young lives lost.



Heavy machinery already at the site

From Pledges to Implementation

President Ruto has pledged billions to the project, with the estimated costs for reconstruction falling in the region of about 7 billion shillings.

Several government road agencies, such as the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), and the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), were directed to come up with viable engineering solutions. The government officials noted that a cost-effective solution was selected to solve the problem while being financially prudent.

The new design is expected to:

Realign the dangerous descent toward the bridge

Reduce the steep gradient

Eliminate Sharp Curves

It is proposed that a central embankment be constructed to prohibit overt

Extra safety barriers and drainage systems

The reconstructed stretch will reportedly be of about three kilometres, thus enhancing smoother and much safer flow of traffic from Marima to Mitheru.

China Partnership Boost

Another source of momentum comes from the agreements reached on the need to enhance infrastructure cooperation following the news of President Ruto's visit to Beijing. The country is expected to support financing under a wide-ranging partnership that includes the expansion and construction of highways and bypasses.

Although the details of full financing have yet to be formally gazetted, there is confirmation from officials that there are already frameworks in place to ensure timely

completion of the projects.

Leaders Welcome Move

This was confirmed by Maara legislator MP Kareke Mbiuki, who pointed out the presence of a contractor at the site as a clear indication that the "long song" over the Nithi Bridge has come to an end with the arrival of heavy machinery.

In a speech during the commissioning of a laboratory at Minugu Primary School, the MP sought to reassure locals that the government remains dedicated to delivering practical development projects to the region.

"This is no longer a promise," he said. "Work has begun."

Completion Timeline

The government has stated that it is expected to be completed before the 2027 General Election. This is in line with the President's commitment to addressing major infrastructure challenges within his term.

For motorists and residents who have been waiting for decades to see the problem solved permanently, the likelihood of seeing bulldozers and other construction equipment at Nithi is more than just progress; it is hope that the sad history of the bridge might soon be rewritten.

From now onwards, all eyes will be on the site, especially as work will continue, to ensure that this long-awaited intervention fulfills its promise of safer roads and an end to the deadly legacy of Nithi Bridge.

National government and Isiolo leaders unit against worsening drought

By Nancy Kinoti

Both the County Assembly of Isiolo and the national government have stepped up measures to mitigate the effects of the severe drought currently being experienced in Northern Kenya, with promises of critical intervention to safeguard lives and livelihoods.

The Speaker of the County Assembly in Isiolo, Hon. Francisco Letimalo, presented a motion calling for urgent measures to address



CS Ruku addressing residents in Chuka-Tharaka Nithi County

the drought's devastating effects. The members contributed to the motion citing lack of rainfall, low levels of water, lack of pasture, and vulnerability.

The Assembly agreed to the motion and resolved to fast-track key actions, including the scaling up of water trucking services, the quick rehabilitation and equipping of strategic boreholes, the provision of subsidized animal feeds, and the intensification of inter-agency collaboration with the National Government, the NDMA, and other actors.

"The people of Isiolo deserve interventions that are not only timely but sustainable. They deserve leadership that is responsible."

The Speaker made the remarks while exhorting all interested parties to rise above politics and address the issue with the necessary speed and unity of purpose. The importance of drought early warning systems was

not left out.

The Cabinet Secretary at the national level in the Ministry of Public Service, Human Capital Development, and special programmes, Geoffrey Ruku, has given a commitment of the continued supply of relief food to the drought-affected areas. The Cabinet Secretary, Ruku, has pointed out that counties in the affected areas include Mandera, Turkana, Wajir, Tana River, Taita-Taveta, and Isiolo.

"The checks I have carried out confirm that the Kenya Kwanza government has ensured there is enough food to feed all Kenyans affected by drought as well as their livestock," he stated.

In addition, to ensure transparent and effective disbursement, the National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs) will be in charge.

CS Ruku, on the other hand, emphasized the need to develop long-term solutions to fight climate change through tree planting,

restoration of the landscape, and developing infrastructure such as the construction of mega dams and increasing irrigation systems. "As a nation, we must rise to the challenge of climate change.

These initiatives will transform arid lands into productive agricultural zones and reduce future dependence on relief food," CS Ruku explained.

Isiolo County is still undergoing a period of severe drought. Pastoralists continue to struggle with scarce water resources.

The collaboration between the county and national governments indicates a move towards the preservation of lives as well as food and environmental sustainability.

In closing, the Isiolo County Assembly invoked Allah (SWT) for mercy. They stated, "May He send relief, restore our land, protect our people, and grant us wisdom to serve with sincerity and justice. Aamiin."

MUST secures Sh870 Million AfDB grant to launch electrical engineering Centre of Excellence

By Nancy Kinoti

Meru University of Science and Technology (MUST) has secured a KSh 870 million grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB) under the Higher Education in Technology Support

(HETS) Programme – Phase II, to establish a pioneering Centre of Excellence in Electrical Engineering.

The funding agreement was formalized at the

Ministry of Education and officiated by Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Julius Migosi Ogamba. The project will be implemented through the Government of Kenya.

Once completed, the Centre will be the first of its kind in East and Central Africa, offering comprehensive training from Diploma to PhD levels.

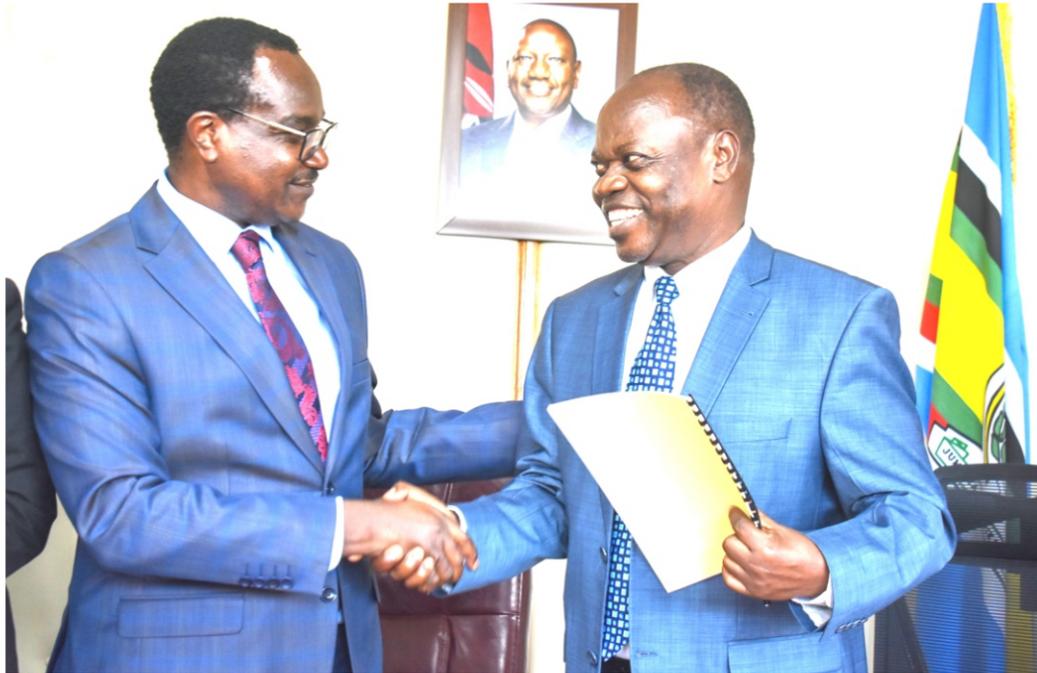
It is set to serve as a regional hub for advanced education, research, innovation, and collaboration with industry partners in electrical engineering.

The Vice Chancellor of MUST, Prof. Romanus Odhiambo, speaking during the signing ceremony, explained that the initiative was in line with the national agenda for skills-based education and innovation.

“The Centre of Excellence will play a crucial role in building technical capacity, addressing critical skill gaps, as well as advancing Kenya’s industrial and technological development under the

Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA),” explained Prof. Odhiambo.

These initiatives are likely to create an enhanced technical workforce, support pioneering research, and establish the country as the engineering and technological innovation hub in the region.



Education CS-Julius Migosi Ogamba & Prof. Romanus Odhiambo- VC Meru University



Alcohol named the enemy as residents decry illicit brews as authorities intensify crackdown

By Gerald Mukembu

Residents of Kaanwa area in Tharaka Nithi County have raised alarm over the rampant sale and consumption of illicit alcohol, terming it as the greatest enemy silently destroying their community.

Speaking to the media, locals bemoaned that the daring brewing of illegal liquor had permeated almost each homestead in the village, and consequently, alcoholism, moral decay, domestic conflicts, and a retrogressive living standard were taking roots.

According to the residents, the vice has taken a heavy toll on the youth, with a majority abandoning education and engaging in meaningful employments for alcohol abuse.

“This alcohol is finishing our children. It has become normal in almost every home, and we fear the future of this village,” said one resident, who called for urgent intervention by both the county and national governments.

Members of the community have warned that an entire generation could succumb to addiction unless definitive action is taken.

They asked authorities to streamline measures against brewing dens, enforce a ban on them, and offer awareness and rehabilitation programs for rescuing youth.

Their concerns follow, even as law enforcement agencies intensify their efforts to tackle the menace of illicit alcohol in the neighboring Meru County.

The Alcoholic Drinks Control Board, through its Compliance and Enforcement Unit, has carried out a crackdown in Kiengu Market, KK Market, and Kibirichia Market, among others, in response to public complaints and reports of the consumption and sale of illegitimate drinks.

During the operation, the officers inspected the suspected points of distribution and found various consignments of illegally brewed and unlicensed alcoholic drinks.



Meru County Alcohol Board officials conducting raids on illicit brew in the community

The drinks, which did not meet health and safety standards, were found to be stored and sold without the relevant permits.

All unlicensed alcoholic beverages were confiscated, and premises associated with the illicit traffic were closed down, while the suspects were arrested and handed over to relevant authorities for further investigations and legal action.

The authorities explained that the illicit drink threatens public health since it contains unauthorized substances.

Aside from the health risk, the illicit business also threatens the interests of lawful businesses operating within stipulated laws and

regulations.

Once again, the Alcoholic Drinks Control Board pledged its dedication to protecting its consumers and sustaining a respectable alcohol business. Citizens were encouraged to report any suspicious activities associated with alcohol usage.

Thus, as the people and the government combat this menace, the message on the ground is that, far and wide, it has been established that alcohol, especially illicit liquor, has become an entrenched force in the lives of the people, and fighting this menace would need the strict implementation of rules and regulations and awareness among the people so that the future of the youth is assured.



Meru youth service recruitment is top gear as Governor Mutuma intensifies youth empowerment drive

By Nancy Kinoti

The result of the Meru Youth Service recruitment exercise finally marks the return of the program, translating into increased momentum in the county's efforts towards youth empowerment and structured community engagement.

The resumption of the recruitment drive follows a high-level strategic meeting of the interdepartmental MYS Committee chaired by Acting County Secretary David Baariu.

The aim was to come up with a common roadmap for youth empowerment as envisioned by H.E. Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia in realizing inclusive growth, service delivery, and opportunity creation.

Members reviewed the on-going MYS programmes during the meeting and strengthened coordination mechanisms to ensure that the initiatives remain impactful, accountable, and responsive to community needs.

The committee also explored practical frameworks through which MYS cohorts can be deployed in various departmental community roles to enhance public service delivery while building discipline, skills development, and leadership among young people.

An action-oriented implementation calendar



MYS recruitment roadshow

has also been finalized to facilitate the execution process and further emphasize the commitment to collaboration in a results-oriented, youth-led approach to county development.

Roadshow Gains Momentum Ahead of Main Recruitment

In the renewed drive, MYS has already undertaken recruitment roadshows in the Igembe, Tigania, and Imenti regions in a bid to raise awareness and mobilize youths across

these regions.

Official recruitment will be carried out from the 16th to the 19th of February, 2026, in all the 45 wards of Meru County.

The exercise is open to Kenyan citizens aged 18 to 35 years residing in Meru County. Interested applicants must possess at least a KCPE certificate and a valid National Identification Card. These are the mandatory documents required for application.

The application forms can be obtained from the offices of the Meru Youth Service, whose offices are based on the first floor of the Consolidated Building in Meru Town, the Meru Youth Service Training Centre, and all Sub-County and Ward Administrators.

The county officials are urging interested and qualified youths within the region to grab the opportunity, calling it a platform for engagement, contribution, and enrichment towards community development.

The return of the MYS recruitment signals the renewed commitment of the county government towards putting the young at the core of the development agenda of Meru.



Residents decry rising wild animal invasions in Igembe Central

Gerald Mukembu

At Murera in Igembe Central, residents have sounded an alarm over the continued invasion of their farms by wild animals, citing that the perpetual nuisance has hindered their activities.

The frustrated farmers complain that their farms are frequently invaded by herds of wild animals, mostly destroying their crops, leading to enormous losses. The locals, however, say that the situation has been worsening in the recent months, with some claiming to experience the invasion within short intervals.

"This has become unbearable. We plant our crops with hope, but before harvest time, everything is destroyed overnight," said one farmer when talking to journalists.

The residents have shown that this is not a new problem by pointing out that it is a challenge

that has had to be addressed over the years not just for Murera residents, but for many other residents of Meru County. The communities have lived for years with threats of destruction of their crops and some threats to their lives, yet no long-lasting solution seems to have been put in place.

The farmers claim that these frequent invasions of the farms have an impact on how they feed their families and pay other necessities such as school fees.

"Every time we are told to write reports and fill in forms, but no help ever comes. Some of us have lost food for our families and even school fees," said another resident.

The locals have subsequently asked the Meru County Government, together with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), to urgently intervene.

They have requested immediate measures to control the wild animals, as well as speeding up the process of compensating victims.

Residents claim that unless urgent measures are taken, the problem may worsen, making poverty and hunger more entrenched.



New police training campus launched to tackle insecurity in Igembe North

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Masengeli on 5th February, officially opened the National Police College Lii Field Training Campus in Rikithathia, Igembe North, an effort that is likely to enhance security in the region.

The facility comes at a time when there is increasing worry about the insecurity resulting from continued cases of banditry and cattle rustling, which have been a problem in the region. The launch comes in the wake of a high-level security meeting held this week, which saw President William Ruto, Meru Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia, and other leaders from the region hold a meeting to brainstorm how best to give the region lasting solutions to the insecurity problem.

During the meeting, the Chief Officer for Public Service Administration, Arch. Martin Gitije, emphasized the Governor's commitment to working with the national government to address the security issues as efficiently as possible. He also mentioned that the County Government has deployed county enforcing officers who work together with the National Police Reservists (NPR) in ensuring the security needs of the areas are addressed adequately.

On the other hand, DIG Masengeli was optimistic



Gilbert Masengeli- Deputy Inspector General (DIG)

that the new training campus would improve the capacity of security forces to swiftly respond to criminal acts, which would ensure safety while safeguarding livelihoods based on livestock rearing.

The Lii Field Training Campus is expected to provide a strategic security hub in the region, as it will offer security training resources aimed at curbing the rising security threat in Igembe North and its adjacent environments.



BASE FOR GROWTH

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BASE FOR GROWTH

Member trust fuels Capital Sacco's remarkable growth

Capital Sacco Ltd reiterates its standing as a growing and financially buoyant institution following its successful holding of the Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) event, which was held on January 31, 2026.



Capital Sacco CEO- Bishop Stephen Murithi

During the meeting, the Sacco's leadership presented impressive financial performance results for the year ended December 31, 2025, which marked remarkable growth in all key performance indicators and boosted the confidence of members in the Sacco.

Strong Financial Performance

Capital Sacco had an unaudited surplus of KSh109.26 million compared to the previous

year of KSh90.48 million. This indicates a substantial improvement from the previous year. An improvement of over KSh18.7 million is a reflection of good financial management and efficiency.

The Sacco asset base surpassed the KSh6.1 billion mark for the first time, standing at KSh6.13 billion, up an impressive 11.9 percent compared to 2024. This milestone underlines its growing footprint and strong financial base.

Growing confidence in the members themselves

The member deposits continued to grow steadily, indicating increased confidence in the Sacco.

Savings deposits, for instance increased to KSh2.3 billion.

Deposits not withdrawable increased 14.24 percent to KSh1.66 billion.

The share capital increased by 22.11 percent to stand at KSh361.1 million.

This strong growth reflects excellent member

participation and a common vision for a strong cooperative.

Expanding Credit Access

Its loan portfolio rose to KSh4.7 billion, up 8.05 percent from the previous year. This is now attributed to an indication of Capital Sacco's continued undertaking in serving its members with well-priced and accessible credit facilities to support business growth and development, education, homeownership, and individual development.

Ambitious Vision for 2026 and Beyond

Building on the momentum, Capital Sacco has identified strategic focus areas for 2026, with the aim of accelerating growth and improving service delivery.

The most pressing on the agenda is an aggressive deposit mobilization campaign to continue building on the strength of the liquidity pool and investment options available to members. Other plans on the table are the construction of the Society's own Head Office in line with the strategic plan 2025-2029.

A Sacco on the Rise

In their address during the ADM, they expressed profound gratitude to its members, delegates, and staff for their unwavering support and commitment to the organization. This positive performance demonstrates teamwork, transparent conduct, and a shared vision for prosperity.

With their assets growing to over KSh6 billion, their loan, and deposit base rising steadily, it is clear that Capital Sacco Society is growing, but growing well.



Rev. Carol Kaberia-CECM Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives Meru County

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Competitive Returns on Savings
Affordable Loan Rates



Capital Sacco Chairman-James Munyua

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Guided by its 2025–2029 Strategic Vision, Capital Sacco is reaching out, serving its customers, and financially empowering its communities. From helping the child save his or her first savings to supporting multimillion-shilling businesses, Capital Sacco is the consistent faithful companion.



Some of Capital Sacco delegates during the recent ADM

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Guns, grazing and grief

Escalating banditry devastates Northern Kenya

By Nancy Kinoti

A fresh spate of deadly banditry attacks, which have recently plagued several areas of Northern Kenya, has brought grief, destruction, and uncertainties, leaving a trail of devastation, especially in Isiolo, Samburu, Marsabit, and Meru County, with the government promising firm and decisive action to bring a halt to what leaders now claim is “acts of terror against innocent Kenyans.”

The pastoral lands of Kom in Merti sub-county, the villages of Muthara in Meru and Samburu West, are just a few of the areas where bandit attacks and cattle raids and ambushes have become more common, revealing the underlying issues of homogeneity and the increasing sophistication of bandits.

Kom: Lifeline and Flashpoint

At the core of the problem is Kom, which is an intercommunal grazing zone and falls along the Isiolo-Samburu border in Chari Ward, Merti Sub-County.



Isiolo Residents with some of the recovered goats after a police raid

Kom acts as a buffer zone for the extensive grazing area of the north, covering the region from Samburu, to Isiolo, to Igembe North, and Tigania East in Meru County. It serves as a lifeline for the pastoral communities, including the Samburu, Borana, Rendille, and at times the Turkana.

Yet, it has become the increasing cradle of recurring deadly banditry.

The availability of the Kom Kolkata water point has heightened tensions, especially during the dry season when pastoralists converge to water their livestock in the harsh, onerous heat.

What should be a shared survival resource often turns into a theatre of showdowns between rival armed groups.

Long-standing disputes, especially between

the Samburu and Borana communities, have fueled mistrust across generations. Competition for political office and widespread ownership of firearms further polarized the divide.

All government-led disarmament exercises and deployment of National Police Reservists thus far have yielded limited results.

Chronology of Recent Deadly Attacks

The violence has been relentless.

February 5: Suspected bandits armed men attacked a village near Kom and killed one 25-year-old herder.

Late January 2026, raiders hit Kambi ya Juu in Burat Ward and Mabati area in Bulapesa Ward, making away with more than 40 head of cattle and goats.

Others have been reported in the Antuambui and Naathu Wards of Igembe North, whose residents have lost both lives and livestock.

According to security experts, bandits exploit the region’s difficult terrain, porous grazing corridors, and the easy availability of illicit firearms. The crime of livestock theft has morphed into an organised criminal enterprise across county borders.

Teenager shot dead in Isiolo

In the latest incident, a 15-year-old boy was shot dead during a livestock raid at LMD area of Isiolo Town at about 2:30 p.m. when armed raiders drove away sheep, goats, and cattle before police officers engaged them in a gun battle.

Security agencies confirmed the recovery of the stolen livestock, but investigations into the death of the minor are still on-going.

The burial of 16-year-old Abkadir Mohamud

Hassan at Taqwa Muslim Cemetery happened in an atmosphere of tension. The uncle of the victim, Maalim Dahir, is in coma at Kiirua Mission Hospital in Meru County as a result of critical injuries from the attack.

Angry citizens complained that despite repeated promises, authorities failed to contain armed criminal groups.

Muthara and Samburu West Mourn

Locally, in Muthara Ward, Meru County, the story is still fresh in the minds of locals over the shooting and killing of Mzee Kaibiria by bandits at Luuma Primary School. Leaders are calling for compensation for the affected families and the recovery of the stolen livestock.

In Samburu West, a National Police Reservist was killed after cattle rustlers allegedly from Baringo County tried to raid Pura Village in the area at about 10:00 a.m. A civilian who was injured in the attack and is receiving treatment at the moment is identified as Lerugum.

Government Vows Firm Action

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Geoffrey Ruku, in his sermon during a church service in Aremet in Burat Ward, issued a stern warning to the bandit groups:

“Banditry and cattle rustling are acts of terror to innocent Kenyans. The government will take firm and decisive action against them.”

He has also assured that the security agencies have been directed to step up their operations in troubled areas.

Isiolo Governor Abdi Ibrahim Hassan also mirrored these concerns, stating that insecurity is not only costing lives, but also damaging



CS Ruku during his recent visit in Isiolo County



Firearms recovered from the bandits

conservation activities.

Elders Step In

In another initiative geared towards achieving long-lasting peace, the Njuri Ncheke Council of Elders held a meeting at Muumone in Muthara to discuss community-based measures for fighting cattle theft.

Conflict resolution systems within communities are now incontrovertibly being regarded as essential towards complementing security activities implemented through the state.

However, many people still doubt the intentions and claims of government, bearing in mind the years of unfulfilled promises and failed peace negotiations aimed at disbanding the well-organized bandit gangs operating in these places, mainly in Isiolo, Samburu, and Meru counties

Travel Advisory

The authorities have cautioned motorists and travelers using the highway to be careful as investigations and security operations continue.

A Region on Edge

What was once sporadic livestock stealing has escalated into organized armed attacks across multiple counties.

The issues of rivalry between different communities, underlying politics, proliferation of illegal firearms, and grazing land scarcity have thus contributed to instability in the regions.

For the communities that live in the region of the northern grazing corridor, Kom is, again, a source of survival and a symbol of unresolved conflict.

While the government assures the nation that “the era of banditry is coming to a close” — innocents continue to be buried, waiting to see if this is the moment — strong actions will bring peace at last.

Ruto blamed for routine sacking of Meru sons and daughters without replacement from the region

From back page...

The dismissals have attracted sharp criticism from Mr. Mithika Linturi, now serving as the DCP Organising Secretary, who claims the moves amount to targeted political punishment.

"Since I left the government, at least ten people from Meru have been fired. The latest is Felicity Biriri," said Linturi. "What is worrying is that they are replaced by individuals from other communities."

He further continued his attack to include current leaders from Meru serving in government, for their silence and inability to protect the interests of the region or insist on fair representation.

Political analysts however warn that as much as appointments and revocation of appointments



Hon. Mithika Linturi- DCP National organizing Secretary

by the government are constitutionally allowed, the optics of repeated removals from one region have the effect of fuelling perceptions of marginalisation.

"Discipline in public service is necessary," said one governance expert, "but when patterns emerge, perception becomes as powerful as reality."

Pro-government supporters of the Ruto administration, however, say that the issue is institutional, not regional, and that loyalty to government policy and neutrality in office are matters not up for debate.

"You cannot serve the state during the day and mobilise against it at night," said a senior official. "Public servants must choose between politics and office."

Furthermore, as political tension escalates, this developing crisis has brought Meru County right into the midst of a debate on issues of political discipline, governance, and balance, a debate that is clearly not about to end any time soon.



Resign if you fear Senate oversight, Kathuri tells Governors as standoff deepens

By Nancy Kinoti

The Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Kathuri Murungi, says that governors who do not wish to testify before Senate committees should resign and let their deputies take over, a sharp escalation of tensions between the Council of Governors (CoG) and the Senate.

During a speech in Meru on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, Kathuri dismissed

recommendations of the Senate County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC), and arrest any governor who fails to honor the summons and present him or her before the committee.

This follows an earlier decision by CPAC to ask for enforcement action against governors who do not turn up without lawful reason.

This was further compounded when the Governor of Marsabit, who was scheduled to appear before the committee, was not present, thus worsening relations with the Senate and the Council of Governors.

Kingi Dismisses Witch-Hunt

However, Senate Speaker Amason Kingi has reacted to the claims that governors are being victimized under political witch-hunt campaigns.

Kingi referred to the claims as unsubstantiated and also cautioned county chiefs against ignoring Senate summons. Kingi asserted that county chiefs were constitutionally mandated to make expenditure reports to the Senate's County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) and the County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee (CPIC).

"The Senate is fulfilling its constitutional responsibility. Oversight is not persecution; it is accountability to the people," Kingi reiterated.

Governors Cry Foul

However, during the ongoing Governors' Retreat, the Council of Governors raised concerns over the conduct of some Senate committees. The Council cited what it described as continuous and escalating cases of extortion, political witch-hunt, harassment, intimidation, and humiliation of governors during oversight engagements.

The CoG resolved that no governor shall appear before the Senate CPAC until their concerns are addressed through structured engagement with the leadership of the Senate.

Besides that, they resolved that they would appear only once per audit cycle before the Senate Public Investments Committee to ensure what they termed orderly and effective oversight.

In a statement, Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthoni Njuki vehemently denied allegations of having escaped a Senate oversight meeting, referring to them as misleading and politically biased.

This governor allegedly faced allegations of walking out of a meeting of the Senate County Public Accounts and Investments Committee (CPAIC), which consequently energized criticism from some senators and fueled the current standoff between the two houses—the Senate and the Council of Governors.

However, Njuki has also sought to clear himself, having insisted that he did not leave the meeting in haste, but rather did so based on procedural irregularities which created a hostile environment.

"I did not run away from the Senate. I respect the oversight role of the Senate and have always

honoured summons. What happened was a matter of procedure and fairness," the governor stated.

Constitutional Showdown Looms

The hardline stances taken by the two parties indicate a looming constitutional showdown between the Senate and county governments.

While it claims to be simply discharging its oversight responsibility as mandated by Article 96 of the Constitution, governors say that due process considerations must guide the process by which oversight is done, without public humiliation.

While it remains to be seen if dialogue will prevail, as pledged by the Inspector General in terms of enforcement support, as well as Senate leadership, the coming days may see these governors facing unprecedented arrests.

At the heart of the controversy is the critical question of how to balance robust checks and balances with mutual respect between institutions in the devolved system of government.



Hon Kathuri Murungi- Senator Meru County

governors' boycott threats, stating, "The governors are always threatening to boycott Senate sittings. but I want to assure you, the law provides adequate measures for them to be forced to attend."

"But let me tell you, even if you try, there is no way you will avoid coming to the Senate. If you want to avoid coming to the Senate, resign immediately; your people, the deputy governor, will take over and do the work," Kathuri said.

His comments coincide with increased tension between the upper chamber and the county executives over accountability sessions before the Senate oversight committees.

IG Kanja Backs Senate Move

The Inspector General of Police, Douglas Kanja, has confirmed that the National Police Service is ready to act in accordance with the



Governor's led by the Chair, Council of Governors H.E Ahmed Abdullahi EGH during their retreat in Kilifi County

Hard work over hype: how Melvin “Kapesa” Muthomi built his football career

By Gitary Dominik

On the dusty village grounds of Kaaga, where football was played more for pride than applause, a gifted boy once outran everyone his age.

He wore the famous number 7, relied on raw speed, and believed—long before the crowds did—that football would one day define his life.

Today, at 28, Melvin Muthomi, popularly known as Kapesa, carries a story of resilience, reinvention and hard-earned wisdom that mirrors the true face of Kenyan grassroots football.

Muthomi’s promise showed early. While still in Class Six at Kaaga Primary School, he earned a place in the school team, becoming its youngest player.

By Class Seven, he had represented his school at provincial level in Maua before going on to feature at the national championships in Embu.

Away from school Team, he was already testing himself at senior level with local side 4 Stars, where he shared the pitch with established players such as Kayaa, Nicholas



Melvin Muthomi during a past match

among others.

Though young, his talent earned him respect and opportunity.

Initially deployed as a winger wearing the number 7 jersey, Muthomi later converted into a center forward before switching to a midfielder adapting his game as competition intensified.

It was during Meru Open Tournament, that opened doors for him earning education sponsorship with Kibirichia Boys High School after being scouted by the then Deputy Principal.

Breaking into the first eleven was difficult due

to the depth of talent, but persistence paid off—until a serious knee injury during school holidays halted his progress for a full year testing his mental strength.

However, his return marked a turning point by helping his school reach the national games in Mombasa and later represented Kenya at the East Africa Games in Uganda while at Kathungi High School, restoring belief in his ability.

After school, Kapesa joined Meru Mafuko Bombers in the County League before moving to Meru Mahakama under coach Dan Hibichu.

His consistency earned him a place at Kambakia Christian Centre (KCC) in National Division One before Coach Hillary Mukasa scouted him and joined KEMU FC, where he was part of a historic promotion to the National Super League.

A dream opportunity followed at Thika United FC, where he featured against top-tier sides including Gor Mahia, Tusker, Ulinzi

Stars and Bandari among others.

Financial instability within the league later pushed him back to Meru, where he combined football with entrepreneurship, establishing Melvin’s Sport House.

Proof that players can balance sport and life beyond the game.

He has since featured for Dunga FC and currently plays for AlAzizia FC, guiding them to Division One promotion and winning several community titles, including the Brian Mutembei Peace Cup where he was named Player of the Tournament, Elias Murega tournament and Betika Bingwafest Tournament among other accolades.

Inspired by midfield maestros Andrés Iniesta and Cesc Fàbregas, Muthomi remains grounded.

His message to the next generation is clear and heartfelt: “Football has no shortcuts.

You must work hard for your dreams, remain disciplined and remember there is life after football.”

MUST shines at KUSF central competitions with stellar performance

Meru University of Science and Technology (MUST) has once again proved its prowess both academically and in sports after excelling with impressive results at the Kenya University Sports Federation (KUSF) Central Zone competition held at Chuka University.

The university’s athletes put up exemplary performances in different fields, flying the MUST flag high among competing universities in the region.

At the forefront of the pack was the MUST Women’s Rugby Team, which proved to be the overall champions of the tournament, recording impressive results throughout.

This served to emphasize the prowess of the team, particularly their strength, spirit,



The MUST team during the competitions and strategy.

Another achievement worthy of note is that of the Women’s Badminton team, who also managed to get first position. These

teams portrayed agility and precision as they outplayed other teams to win the first position.

In Rollball, the Men’s Team demonstrated resolve and talent, finishing at a remarkable second position. It was impressive, affirming their careful preparation and fighting spirit, which unfortunately did not win their Team the premier position.

At the same time, the Scrabble team, comprising both men and women, won the third position in what was a keen and fierce battle of the brain and intellect.

This showed MUST’s prowess not only in physical sport but also in mental sports that require critical thinking and sharp analytical skills.

University officials commended the teams for their dedication and discipline, and recognized that these successes reflect MUST’s emphasis on well-rounded growth and development that covers both academic and co-curricular aspects.

The impressive showing at the KUSF Central competitions serves to further enhance Meru University of Science and Technology’s reputation as a powerhouse for university sports.

While continuously investing in nurturing and developing sports expertise and sports infrastructure in the institution, expectations run high to achieve greater success in future regional and national games.



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Storm as Ruto's administration axes at least 10 senior officials from Meru without replacing them with others from the region

By Nancy Kinoti

A brewing political storm is forming in Meru County amidst the recent recalls of top government officials. Criticisms are now emerging that William Ruto's administration is deliberately removing Meru leaders.

The latest flash point is the revocation of the appointment of Felicity Nkirote Biriri as chairperson of the Warehouse Receipt Systems Council, which was done through a presidential notification confirming the appointment of Mr. Patrick Mukundi Mbogo to replace the former for a three-year term beginning on February 6, 2026.

For her part, Ms. Biriri, who hails from Tigania West, is exiting from public office following claims of involvement in politics under the umbrella of former Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi and the so-called "Wantam" political movement, contrary to the dictates of political neutrality that is expected of her.



Hon. Felicity Nkirote Biriri

Senior officials in the government asserted that the decision was taken purely based on governance principles.

"Public office is a position of trust, not a platform for partisan mobilization," said a senior official speaking on condition of anonymity. "If an official feels forced to become involved actively in politics, then the proper course of action is to resign."

However, the ouster of Biriri has sparked a wider debate following revelations of the fact that several other top officials of Meru County have recently lost top government positions.

Some of those cited in recent months include:

Dr. Mwijira Roy, Former Chief Executive Officer, National Biosafety Authority, South Imenti

Chairperson of KEVEVAPI Prof. Kimathi Kigat

Mutuma Nkanta, Chief Executive Officer, National Drought Management Authority Coordination Board – South Imenti

Charles Ringera, Chief Executive Officer, Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) – South Imenti

Gichunge Kababea, Chairperson, Anti-Counterfeit Authority,

By: Japhet Koome, Inspector General of Police – North Imenti

Mr. Wilson Muthama, Group Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) - Imenti Central

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