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NAROK KENYA
EDITOR: JARED GEORGE

the afripulse

AFRIPULSE MEDIA
VISION BEYOND THE FRAME

RAILA, THE 'UN-WANTED' EXILE

ASHLEY KUNG'U

Western governments were afraid of antagonising the 'friendly' Danial arap Moi government, while Uganda under Yoweri Museveni was keen to avoid a diplomatic dispute with its neighbour

Recently declasffied documents in London have for the first time revealed the full extents of efforts by the united nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to secure safe passage for opposition leader Raila Odinga, who ha fled to Uganda on October 26, 1991 fearing for his life, and the reluctance of big Western powers to give him political asylum.

Mr Odinga, a serial political detainee who was at the time a leading campaigner for multiparty democracy and prominent opponent of President Daniel Moi's autocratic regime, had crossed into Uganda through Lake Victoria disguised in religious gab.

With rumours spreading about his whereabouts, a Ugandan government official hurriedly convened a press conference and confirmed to reporters that Mr Odinga was indeed in Uganda, but his request for asylum had been rejected. The government of President Yoweri Museveni, well aware of the annoyance Mr Odinga's presence in Kampala would cause the Moi administration and possibly result in a diplomatic row, reacted swiftly by passing him on to the UNHCR.

According to the British government documents, on October 28, 1991, just two days after Mr Odinga's arrival in Kam pala ,the UNHCR representative, only referred to as Mr Farah, requested an urgent meeting with the British High Commissioner to Uganda Charles Cullimore .

"Farah , the UNHCR representative, called to see me this afternoon at his urgent request accompanied by his assistant," Mr Cullimore wrote in a priority telegram.

During the meeting, Farah informed Mr Cullimore in strict confidence that before fleeing Kenya Mr Odinga had made asylum enquiries with American and German diplomats in Nairobi. The UNHCR representative further revealed to the Brit ish High Commissioner that Mr Odinga's first option was Germany, which they were "pursuing vigorously". Farah's aim was to put Mr Odinga on a flight to Brussels, Belgium, the following day, after which he would board a connecting flight to Germany. But the plan was being delayed by the Germans indecisiveness on the asylum request. Even though a similar request had been made to Norway and the United States, Farah sought to know from Mr Cullimore whether the UK would be willing to take in Mr Odinga incase other options failed.

The British High Commissioner, while assuring Farah that he would pass on the re quest to London, urged him to continue pursuing the Germany route. He further pointed out that he was not aware of any willingness by Her Majesty's Government and the High Commission in Nairobi to assist Mr Odinga with his asylum case.

The meeting ended with Farah promising to update the High Commissioner about any development .

Following the meeting, the diplomat telegrammed London, seeking advice on how to respond to the request. The telegram marked "confidential" was also copied to the British Embassy in Bonn, Germany.

"As things stand there is no need to respond further to the approach Farah has so far made However, it would be helpful to have instructions on how we should respond if the German option falls through and Farah returns to us," he wrote.

He was however of the opinion that one way or another, Mr Odinga should be out of Uganda as soon as possible since it was " important in terms of bilateral relations between Uganda and Kenya".

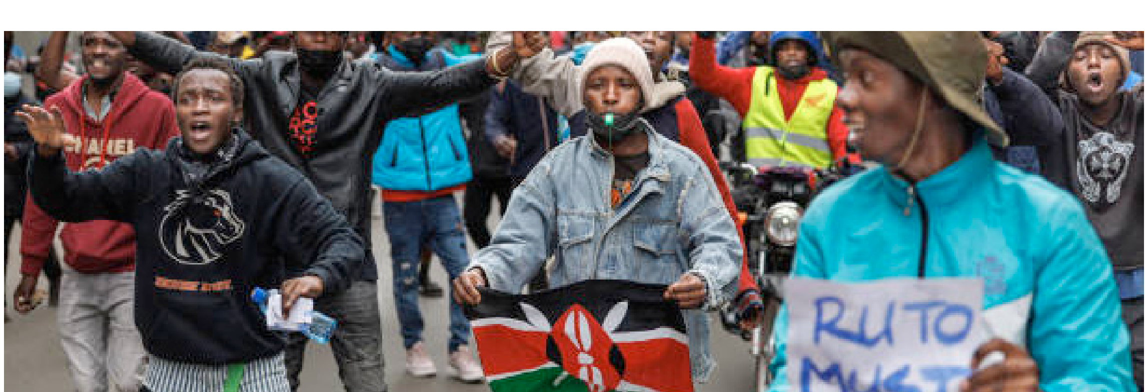
It was clear from the records that the British and Americans were hesitant to offer Mr Odinga asylum.

This could be explained in the context of Cold War, which was at its tail end. The Odingas and other political agitators were considered a threat to Western interests by antagonising Moi, who was seen as a safe pair of hands ened up?"

Such was the dilemma of many of those who fled to the West during that period.

Odinga was eventually offered asylum in Norway where he remained for a couple of months While he was away freezing in the biting Norwegian winter, back home Moi, had yielded ground following persistent pressure and announced the return of multiparty politics in December 1991.

With the clamour for change at its peak, Mr Odinga was not ready



FORGETEN KINGDOMS

The Lost Civilisation That Shaped Our World

KENYAN ACTIVISTS NJAGI AND OYOO ABDUCTED IN UGANDA

were reportedly abducted in Kampala, Uganda, on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 1, 2025, after joining the campaign trail of opposition leader Robert Kyagulanyi (Bobi Wine).

THE KENYAN ECONOMY STATUS QUO

Kenya today finds itself grappling with a mounting debt burden that now exceeds KSh 12.1 trillion, a level that has triggered increasingly urgent warnings among economists, legislators, and civil society.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY`S LECTURERS, STRAFFERS VOW CONTINUE WITH STRIKE

Public university lecturers and staffers have vowed to continue with their nationwide strike until the government honors their demand of KSh 7.9 billion in pending payments.

UNDERSTANDING LOVE: UNCOVERING THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN CONNECTION

Love is whispered grace in quiet moments. It's recognition. It's choosing someone even when there's distance, even when the glow fades, even when you're scared.

DEMOCRACY WANES ON THE BACK OF GOVERNMENT FAILURE

close reading of elections across the world shows the emergence of right-wing and populist leaders even in countries that took pride in defence of radical democratic ideals.

Voters in Europe and America have thrown caution to the wind. They prefer politicians who speak to their hearts. Former US President Donald Trump is one such leader. Therefore, it will not be a surprise if he wins the presidential race next year.

The strongholds of these right-wing politicians appear to be areas where citizens are dissatisfied with the performance of their governments in addressing what some consider the "wave of immigrants".

These developments have led to a general decline of democracy in Europe and America. Very soon, some of these countries will lose the moral authority to support democratic causes in the Global South because of this.

In much of Africa, a close reading of elections also shows that people are dissatisfied with the performance of their governments. This is reflected in data by Afrobarometer research over the years.

In the last 12 years, satisfaction with how democracy works in Africa has clined from about 50 per cent in 2011 to 39 per cent. A significant number of people are also dissatisfied with how elections work.

On average, about 45 per cent of people in Africa are of the view that elections are not effective in holding their leaders to account.

HOW U.S. SECRET SERVICE DISMANTLED CRIMINAL NETWORK THREATENING WORLD LEADERS AT UNGA

VICTOR FRANK TUTU
New York, September 24, 2025

The United States Secret Service has announced the successful dismantling of a sophisticated criminal network that posed a significant cyber and telecommunications threat during the ongoing United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The operation, which was carried out quietly over several weeks, prevented a potentially crippling disruption at a time when dozens of heads of state and government, including Kenya's President William Ruto, were gathered in New York.

In a detailed statement released on Tuesday, the agency revealed that a protective intelligence investigation uncovered a sprawling infrastructure of more than 300 co-located SIM servers and over 100,000 SIM cards spread across the New York tristate area. Investigators believe the equipment was configured to enable large-scale cyber intrusions, fraudulent communications, and possible disruptions to mobile networks used by security agencies protecting visiting dignitaries.

The dismantling of this network removed a serious and imminent risk to communications security during the UN General Assembly," the Secret Service said, describing the discovery as one of the most significant cyber-related interdictions in recent years.

Sophisticated Setup Raises Alarms

According to preliminary findings, the criminal operation relied on clusters of high-capacity SIM servers—devices capable of routing calls and messages across thousands of mobile numbers simultaneously. Such technology is often used by organized cybercrime groups to run massive phishing campaigns, bypass network controls, or flood communication systems.

Security analysts warn that, if activated, the network could have been used to overwhelm mobile carriers, disrupt emergency coordination, or intercept sensitive exchanges between security teams tasked with protecting leaders attending the UN summit. While officials declined to identify the group behind the plot, they described it as "internationally connected" and "highly organized," suggesting links to global cyber-crime syndicates.

The UNGA draws representatives from nearly every member state, making it one of the most high-profile annual diplomatic gatherings in the world. This year's session is attended by U.S. President Joe Biden, President William Ruto of Kenya, and dozens of other presidents, prime ministers, and monarchs. The prospect of a large-scale disruption to telecommunications in New York raised fears of cascading effects on security, transportation, and emergency services.

Law enforcement sources say the Secret Service worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and local New York authorities to track down the servers. International intelligence partners were also consulted to trace the origin of the SIM cards and identify potential overseas financiers.

Although the Secret Service has not announced arrests, officials confirmed that several individuals of interest are under active investigation. Forensic analysis of the seized equipment is ongoing, with cybersecurity experts examining data logs and communication patterns to determine whether sensitive information was compromised before the network was dismantled.

The agency emphasized that the discovery underscores the evolving nature of modern threats, where cyber infrastructure can be weaponized to create physical risks for world leaders. "This incident highlights the need for constant vigilance and rapid intelligence sharing," the statement read, adding that similar attacks could target other high-profile global events in the future.

Security around the UNGA remains tight, with multiple layers of protection including road closures, armed patrols, aerial surveillance, and enhanced cyber defenses. U.S. authorities assured delegates and the public that all critical communication channels remain secure and that contingency measures are in place should further attempts emerge.

For now, the Secret Service credits swift coordination and advanced cyber-forensics for neutralizing a network that could have caused widespread disruption during one of the world's most important diplomatic gatherings. As the UNGA continues through the week, officials maintain that investigations will continue both in the United States and abroad to ensure the network is permanently dismantled and any remaining perpetrators brought to justice.

As investigators continue to comb through seized hardware and data, the operation is being described inside law-enforcement circles as a rare convergence of physical and digital forensic work. Technicians have begun the painstaking task of reconstructing the architecture of the SIM-server network—mapping rack layouts, power configurations, SIM management software, and the routing rules that would have allowed the system to impersonate or flood thousands of mobile identities simultaneously.

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Forensics teams say the devices recovered were more than the off-the-shelf setups sometimes used for small-time fraud. The servers showed signs of automation at scale: customized SIM-management platforms capable of rotating SIMs at high frequency, automated dialing and SMS engines, and logging modules designed to hide or obfuscate origin points. Several units contained removable storage with encrypted partitions; specialists are attempting to crack encryption keys and retrieve log files that could reveal command-and-control servers, payment trails, or lists of phone numbers targeted during trial runs.

Cybersecurity experts note that clusters of co-located SIM servers—often called "SIM farms"—are a known tool for sophisticated fraud and disruption. By pairing software capable of generating large volumes of outbound calls or texts with thousands of legitimate SIM identifiers, attackers can amplify phishing attempts, conduct mass-spoofing attacks to impersonate trusted numbers, or overload carrier infrastructure with coordinated traffic spikes. In worst-case scenarios, such mechanisms could be used to impede emergency response or create distractions that mask other malicious activity.

The systems discovered in the tristate area reportedly included SIM-routing appliances enabling the redirection of messages and calls through proxies and, in some cases, SIM-over-IP technologies that abstract the physical SIM from the endpoint. If these capabilities had been activated and synchronized, observers say, they could have been used to mount a range of operations—from large-scale credential-harvesting campaigns to targeted interference with security communications.

Investigators are focusing significant resources on tracing the supply chain: where the SIM cards were purchased, which vendors supplied the server hardware, and whether payment flows cross international borders. Early leads

suggest that some SIMs may have been procured through a web of resellers and offshore intermediaries, complicating efforts to quickly identify purchasers. Cryptocurrency payments and prepaid international payment rails are being scrutinized as possible funding mechanisms.

Officials involved in the probe emphasize that financial forensics will be crucial: money trails can reveal the organizers, handlers, and possible state or non-state sponsors. International law-enforcement partnerships, already engaged in tracing telecommunication logs and cross-border transfers, will likely play an outsized role in the months ahead.

Major mobile carriers in the New York area — contacted by law enforcement during the investigation — reportedly deployed temporary mitigations to guard critical network elements and to monitor for anomalous traffic patterns. Carrier security teams have since been coordinating with federal agencies to scan for residual vulnerabilities and to harden authentication measures used by enterprise and government accounts.

Industry analysts caution that carriers can only do so much unilaterally: a coordinated public-private posture including rapid information sharing, updated routing policies, and tougher vetting of wholesale SIM purchases — is required to blunt the threat of industrial-scale SIM abuse.

Industry analysts caution that carriers can only do so much unilaterally a coordinated public-private posture including rapid information sharing, updated routing policies, and tougher vetting of wholesale SIM purchases — is required to blunt the threat of industrial-scale SIM abuse.

Some policymakers are already advocating for legislative fixes — including improved record-keeping by carriers and resellers, mandatory identity verification for bulk SIM purchases, and international agreements to accelerate cross-border evidence sharing. Civil-liberties groups caution that any new rules must be carefully calibrated to avoid undue surveillance or privacy intrusions for legitimate users.

Security practitioners point to several tactical lessons from the interdiction. First, the event underscores the need for layered defenses that treat telecommunications as part of the critical-infrastructure threat model. Protective details and security agencies can no longer assume their communications are isolated from cyber exploitation; proactive monitoring of signaling traffic and better authentication for tactical channels are necessary.

Second, the case demonstrates the value of human intelligence in tandem with digital forensics. The initial break in the case reportedly came from a protective intelligence inquiry rather than a routine carrier alert—highlighting how targeted investigative work can uncover otherwise stealthy infrastructures. Third, contingency planning must include rapid network stovepipes and alternate, hardened communications channels that can survive surges and spoofing attempts.

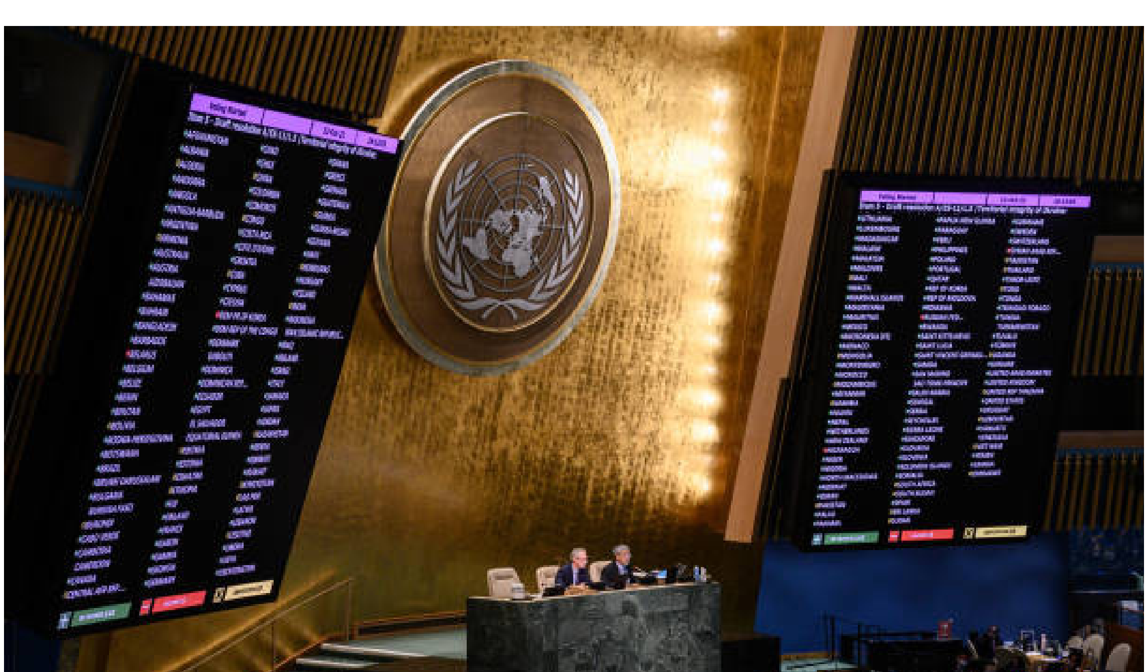
Although officials have been cautious with public comments, diplomatic missions in New York expressed relief that the threat was neutralized before it could affect delegates. Embassies and foreign security teams have been briefed privately, and some have reportedly tightened their own comms security and coordination protocols. The potential involvement of foreign-based suppliers or financiers has added a diplomatic layer to the investigation: any findings suggesting overseas complicity could complicate bilateral relations and trigger formal requests for cooperation, extradition, or asset freezes.

The human cost of such operations — beyond the immediate technical disruption — is psychological and reputational. The mere prospect that world leaders' communications could be compromised during a high-profile diplomatic gathering undermines confidence in event security and heightens the stakes for organizers of future summits.

rosecutors are preparing to build a case that could encompass charges ranging from wire fraud and conspiracy to computer-related offenses and violations of telecommunications laws. The timeline to arrests and indictments will depend on the speed of forensic analysis, international cooperation, and the ability to tie operators to actionable conduct. Given the sophistication and scale alleged, experts predict the legal phase could take months or even years.

At the same time, homeland-security planners and private vendors are racing to translate lessons from the case into durable improvements. Proposals on the table include: mandated registration for bulk SIM purchases, improved vetting standards for SIM resellers, enhanced anomaly detection systems at carriers, and a dedicated rapid-response cell for large-scale telecom abuse incidents.

Security researchers lauded the interagency response while warning that such infrastructure is unlikely to vanish entirely. "SIM farms and mass-messaging platforms are tools; their ubiquity is the problem," said one independent analyst. "We need a combination of technical controls, market regulation of this crime unattractive."



THE KENYAN ECONOMY STATUS QUO

KENYA TODAY FINDS ITSELF GRAPPLING WITH A MOUNTING DEBT BURDEN THAT NOW EXCEEDS KSH 12.1 TRILLION, A LEVEL THAT HAS TRIGGERED INCREASINGLY URGENT WARNINGS AMONG ECONOMISTS, LEGISLATORS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

TIMOTHY WANYONYI

Narok October 2025

Kenya today finds itself grappling with a mounting debt burden that now exceeds KSh 12.1 trillion, a level that has triggered increasingly urgent warnings among economists, legislators, and civil society. This debt, accumulated over recent years through domestic and external borrowing, is more than a dry statistic: it is shaping Kenya's fiscal choices, constraining policy space, and placing pressure on public services and future growth.

The figure of KSh 12.1 trillion reflects just how aggressively borrowing has grown. In three years alone, the government is reported to have added roughly KSh 3.5 trillion in new loans. That pace of borrowing means, on average, Kenya is taking on about KSh 3.4 billion each day. Meanwhile, the country's ability to service this debt is stressing the national budget: for the first time, domestic debt servicing alone has crossed KSh 1 trillion in a single fiscal year. In FY 2024/25, the government spent about KSh 1.05 trillion to service domestic debt—interest plus repayment of principal—representing a sharp jump from prior years.

Crowding out of productive spending: As more fiscal resources are directed toward interest payments, fewer resources remain for health, education, infrastructure, or social programs. Debt servicing increasingly competes with investments that might foster long-term growth.

Reduced fiscal space and policy rigidity: A government under heavy debt pressure has less flexibility to respond to shocks (e.g. drought, pandemics, commodity price swings). It must prioritize debt obligations over discretionary spending. Legal and constitutional challenges even arise: critics argue that mortgaging much of future revenue to creditors erodes the government's ability to meet its constitutional obligations for equitable resource allocation.

Refinancing and interest rate risk: A portion of Kenya's debt is short-term in nature, which exposes the country to refinancing risk when markets tighten or interest rates rise. The reliance on short-term instruments magnifies vulnerability to global financial volatility.

Perception risk and credit downgrades: With debt metrics deteriorating, Kenya's creditworthiness faces pressure. Indeed, in 2024, S&P downgraded Kenya's sovereign rating citing a deteriorating fiscal and debt outlook. A weaker rating can raise the cost of borrowing, making future loans more expensive and compounding debt pressures.

Intergenerational burden: Today's borrowing places obligations on future generations. The more debt grows now, the greater the burden of repayment (both interest and principal) that future governments will face.

Macroeconomic growth drag: Empirical studies of Kenya (e.g. on external debt interest) indicate that rising debt servicing can have a negative relationship with GDP growth — interest payments siphon resources that might otherwise go into productive investment.

Political and social tension: As the government looks for revenue to cope with the debt, proposals for new taxes or levies become politically contentious. In 2024, a proposed Finance Bill with heavy tax hikes sparked widespread protests (#RejectFinanceBill2024). The resulting backlash forced the government to scrap some of the tax proposals and scale back parts of the bill.

To counter these pressures, the administration has expressed a goal of reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio. Finance Minister John Mbadi has said the government targets a debt ratio of 52.8% by the 2027/28 fiscal year, down from a current level of about 58.1%. Negotiations are also underway to restructure or re-denominate certain loans—for example, talks are ongoing to convert a dollar-denominated railway loan into Chinese yuan to ease interest burden. But the path ahead is fraught: with a wall of maturities looming, persistent macroeconomic vulnerabilities, and limited room for new borrowing, Kenya's management of its KSh 12.1 trillion debt remains a defining test of fiscal stewardship.

STRATEGIES FOR SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS

Pauline Atelo

Running a small business can be rewarding, yet challenging. To thrive in a competitive market, effective strategies are essential. Business people must explore key strategies for achieving success in small business ventures. This can be due to the high levels of competitions experienced.

Understanding your target audience is crucial. Conducting market research helps identify customers' needs and preferences. By tailoring your products or services, you can address specific demands. For example, a small bakery that offers gluten-free options caters to a growing market segment. This tailored approach often leads to increased sales and customer loyalty.

Second, developing a strong online presence is vital. In today's digital age, having a website and engaging in social media are indispensable. These platforms allow businesses to connect with customers and promote their offerings. Consider using targeted ads to reach specific demographics. An effective online strategy can dramatically boost brand visibility.

Additionally, maintaining exceptional customer service sets successful businesses apart. Building strong relationships with customers fosters loyalty and encourages repeat business. For instance, responding promptly to inquiries and handling complaints effectively can create a positive reputation. Word of mouth from satisfied customers can be one of your best advertising tools.

Small business success requires strategic planning and execution. By understanding your audience, enhancing your online presence, and prioritizing customer service, you can pave the way for growth. Considering these strategies allows small businesses to flourish in a competitive landscape.

HAWKING TO BILLIONAIRE, VICTOR MAINA

Born in Mukurweini and raised in Thika, Victor Maina began his journey as a hawker in Marikiti and Muthurwa markets, selling small items to survive the tough streets of Nairobi. Life was not easy, but his determination to rise above poverty kept him going. He believed that no struggle was permanent and that hard work, faith, and bold decisions would open doors. This background instilled in him a sharp eye for opportunity and resilience in the face of hardship.

After leaving hawking, he ventured into the quarry business. His major breakthrough came in the building industry, where he became one of the first to import advanced machine-cut stone equipment from Italy — a bold move that laid the foundation of his fortune.

In the mid-2000s, Maina boldly diversified into real estate, a venture that significantly boosted his wealth. In 2006, he acquired the iconic building on Ronald Ngala Street at a cost of Ksh 72 million. At that time, the building housed Jack n Jill Supermarket, one of Nairobi's most recognizable stores. For years, the building stood unfinished and covered in green safety netting, but it symbolized his entry into the world of big property deals. Today, the once-abandoned structure is being converted into Wholesale Mall OTC, positioning itself as a major retail hub. The acquisition of the Mall led to a bitter dispute leading to a court battle and, eventually, the demolition of Jack n Jill in 2013.

Maina's story did not end with OTC. He went on to build one of Kenya's fast-growing retail chains — Maathai Supermarkets — which now has branches in Nairobi, Thika, Karatina, Nyeri, Embu, Murang'a, and Meru. He named the chain after the late Professor Wangari Maathai, a woman he deeply admired for her courage and resilience. His chain competes directly with major players, having opened its first Nairobi CBD outlet in 2014.

Beyond retail, Maina has invested in real estate, hospitality, and entertainment. He owns Klub Image Hotel and Klub Liquid Cash in Thika, several flats across the town, and a 17-acre piece of land that has been tied up in a court case for years.

Along Thika Road near Juja, Maina owned a quarry bordering the highway at a time when machine-cut stones were gaining prominence. That same location has since transformed and now serves as the main distribution center for a wide range of goods supplied to his Mathai Supermarket chain.

From selling wares on the streets to owning landmark properties in Nairobi, Victor Maina's journey is proof that even the most unlikely beginnings can lead to extraordinary success.

Victor Maina has built a diversified business empire brick by brick. His story is not just about wealth—it is about resilience, vision, and the relentless pursuit of growth.

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VIPINGO ECONOMIC ZONE TRANSFORMATION

From sisal fields to Special Economic Zone, transformation of Vipingo
From sisal fields to Special Economic Zone, transformation of Vipingo-image
On a sweltering afternoon in Vipingo, children play along freshly paved streets, their laughter echoing between rows of new homes. Just a few years ago, this land was little more than endless sisal fields, a stretch of coast that most people drove past without a second thought. Today, it carries the heartbeat of possibility, families moving in, factories humming, and a city beginning to take shape where none existed before.
This transformation did not happen by chance. In 2018, a small team from Centum stood on the very soil where these homes now rise and dared to imagine something different. They spoke of building a model city, one that would attract industries, create jobs, and give ordinary Kenyans the chance to live, work, and dream in a place once dismissed as barren. Skeptics scoffed, but the vision persisted; first as rough sketches on the back of an envelope, then as bold plans for a billion-dollar city.
"The idea was simple but bold," recalls Ken Mbae, Managing Director of Centum Real Estate.
He adds, "If you have been tasked to transform a remote parcel into an aspirational destination, let this be your motivation. There is no limit to what a small, persistent group can achieve."
The first signs of change came quietly. Roads cut through the once-deserted land. Power lines and water pipes followed. Soon, homes began to rise, and more than 550 families found a place to belong in Vipingo. For early homeowners like Mary, the move has been life-changing.
"I never thought I'd own a modern home on the Coast," she says, standing proudly at the gate of her new house in Awali Estate.
"What impressed me most was that everything was planned — water, electricity, even schools nearby. It feels like a real community."
But Centum knew that housing alone was not enough. To turn land into a city, industries had to be planted too. And so came the game-changers: a private LPG terminal supplying energy, a cashew processing plant capable of handling Kenya's entire cashew harvest, and a massive desalination plant producing 3 million liters of fresh water daily.
"These industries are not just facilities," explains Mbae.
"They are anchors. They create jobs and signal to other investors that Vipingo is open for business."
The real turning point arrived in July 2025, when KCB and Afreximbank signed off on KES 103 billion in financing for the Vipingo Special Economic Zone. In that moment, Vipingo shifted from promise to certainty. The financing unlocked a pipeline of investments expected to surpass USD 3 billion, with the potential to create more than 30,000 direct jobs.

WHY AGRIBUSINESS IS THE NEXT BIG THING

For a long time, agriculture in Kenya was seen as an "old people's job." But in 2025, the narrative is changing — youth are embracing agribusiness as a path to wealth, innovation, and food security.
One major reason is the rising demand for food. Kenya's growing population guarantees a ready market for farm produce like maize, vegetables, poultry, and dairy products. This makes agriculture one of the most reliable sectors.
Second, agribusiness is evolving with technology. Youth no longer have to use outdated methods. With modern tools like drip irrigation, greenhouse farming, and mobile apps for weather and market prices, farming is becoming smarter and more profitable.
Third, government and NGOs are supporting youth in farming. Initiatives like Ajira Digital and county-level agribusiness funds provide training and capital for young entrepreneurs.
Profitable agribusiness opportunities in 2025 include poultry farming, dairy production, fish farming, mushroom cultivation, and organic vegetables. Export markets for avocados and macadamia nuts are also booming.
Most importantly, agribusiness allows youth to create jobs instead of waiting for them. By turning farms into businesses, they become employers rather than job seekers.
Agribusiness is no longer a "dirty job" but a modern, money-making venture. With passion, innovation, and patience, Kenyan youth can tap into this goldmine in 2025

> "It captures the essence of the transformation—how youth are redefining success, farming, and the future of agribusiness in Kenya."

Beyond profitability, agribusiness is also giving Kenyan youth a sense of identity and pride. For years, young people were encouraged to abandon rural life and seek white-collar jobs in cities. But the reality of high unemployment and rising living costs has shown that agriculture is not just a fallback option—it is a powerful engine for transformation. The shift has sparked a movement where farming is not seen as "backward" but as a smart and respectable career path. Youth are beginning to wear the title "agripreneur" with pride, turning farming into a symbol of empowerment and self-reliance.
Another driving factor is the influence of digital platforms and social media. Today, young farmers are not working in isolation. Platforms like TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram have become unexpected farming classrooms where techniques are shared, markets are advertised, and success stories go viral. A young farmer can showcase their greenhouse tomatoes to thousands of potential buyers with just a smartphone, bypassing middlemen. Others are using YouTube to teach peers about poultry management, dairy care, or hydroponics. This digital revolution is building a community of like-minded youth who support, challenge, and inspire each other to push boundaries in agribusiness.
The financial landscape is also changing. Banks and fintech companies in Kenya are recognizing agribusiness as a viable sector for investment. With mobile banking and platforms like M-Pesa, it has become easier to save, access credit, and receive payments directly from buyers. Youth-led cooperatives are emerging, allowing young farmers to pool resources, purchase equipment collectively, and negotiate better prices for their produce. This collective approach reduces individual risk and strengthens bargaining power, ensuring that small-scale youth farmers can compete with larger players in the market.
Environmental concerns are further fueling this transition. With climate change threatening food security, young people are taking the lead in adopting climate-smart agriculture. They are experimenting with drought-resistant crops, solar-powered irrigation, and organic fertilizers. Some are even venturing into sustainable innovations like vertical farming and aquaponics, making agriculture more resilient in the face of unpredictable weather patterns. Unlike previous generations, the youth see themselves not just as food producers but as environmental stewards who can balance profit with sustainability.
The ripple effects of this youth-driven agribusiness revolution are being felt across rural Kenya. Villages that once depended on remittances from urban relatives are now becoming hubs of innovation and trade. Young farmers are opening farm-to-market shops, transport services for produce, and agro-processing businesses that add value before products reach consumers. A dairy farmer, for example, no longer sells just raw milk but also produces yogurt and cheese for local supermarkets. This shift towards value addition is creating new industries, more jobs, and higher incomes within rural communities.
Education is also playing a critical role. Universities, TVETs, and agricultural colleges are redesigning their courses to prepare students for modern agribusiness. Instead of only teaching theory, institutions are now offering hands-on training in agritech, agribusiness management, and agribased entrepreneurship. Young graduates are leaving school not with the mindset of job seekers but with business plans and the confidence to launch agricultural startups. This academic shift is bridging the gap between traditional farming and modern agribusiness practices.
Perhaps one of the most inspiring aspects of this transformation is the changing image of the Kenyan farmer. Where once the stereotype was an aging villager in gumboots and a worn-out hoe, today's farmer may be a university graduate in their twenties, managing a greenhouse through a mobile app, or running an online shop for organic vegetables. Farming is being rebranded as trendy and innovative, attracting not just rural youth but also those in urban areas who are starting rooftop gardens or renting land for agribusiness ventures.
Looking ahead, the potential is enormous. With Kenya's strategic location and fertile land, young agripreneurs have the opportunity to dominate regional and even international markets. The export of avocados, macadamia, mangoes, and fresh vegetables is already booming, and with the right infrastructure, youth-led agribusinesses could become key contributors to Kenya's foreign exchange earnings. At the same time, local food security will be strengthened as youth continue to produce affordable, healthy food for the growing population.
But challenges remain. Access to land is still a barrier for many young farmers, especially those in urban settings. Inconsistent government policies, post-harvest losses, and poor infrastructure also threaten the progress made so far. However, these challenges are not deterring the youth; instead, they are fueling creative solutions. From leasing land collectively to creating cold-storage businesses and lobbying for better agricultural policies, young agripreneurs are proving that they can turn obstacles into opportunities.
Ultimately, the story of agribusiness in Kenya in 2025 is a story of transformation. It is about youth rewriting the narrative of agriculture from a symbol of poverty to a pathway of prosperity. It is about innovation meeting tradition, technology meeting soil, and ambition meeting opportunity. Above all, it is about a new generation that is no longer waiting for jobs but is daring to create wealth, feed the nation, and shape the future through the power of the land.
This youthful embrace of agribusiness is also reshaping Kenya's culture and mindset about success. For a long time, wealth was measured by flashy office jobs and city lifestyles, but today many young people proudly showcase their farms, livestock, and agribusiness ventures as badges of honor. Farming has become a lifestyle choice that combines entrepreneurship, sustainability, and community impact.
By changing attitudes and proving that agriculture can be both modern and lucrative, Kenyan youth are not just feeding the nation—they are redefining what it means to be successful in the 21st century.

SMART SAVING HABITS EVERY KENYAN STUDENT SHOULD ADOPT IN 2025

Money is one of the biggest challenges faced by students in Kenya. With rising living costs, saving may feel impossible but the truth is, with smart habits, it can be done. In 2025, students can benefit from practical strategies that build discipline, reduce stress, and set the foundation for financial independence.

First, budgeting is the foundation of all smart saving habits. Creating a weekly or monthly budget ensures that every shilling is tracked. Free apps like M-Pesa Super App or simple notebooks can be used for this purpose. By identifying where money goes, students can cut unnecessary expenses like daily snacks or impulse purchases.
Second, saving even the smallest amounts consistently makes a huge difference. For example, saving Ksh 50 daily amounts to Ksh 1,500 monthly, which can cover transport or internet bundles. The key is consistency, not the size of the amount.
Third, taking advantage of digital savings tools such as mobile banking lock savings accounts ensures money is stored away safely. Safaricom's M-Shwari or KCB M-Pesa provide good options.
Fourth, students should embrace part-time side hustles such as graphic design, content creation, or selling second-hand clothes. Earnings from these can go directly into savings rather than daily spending.
Lastly, having a clear goal makes saving exciting. Whether it's buying a laptop, paying rent, or investing in a future business, a goal motivates discipline.
Smart saving is not about how much money you earn, but how well you manage what you have. In 2025, these habits can be life-changing for students.
mart saving starts with turning vague good intentions into concrete habits you can repeat without thinking. Instead of relying on willpower alone, build simple routines: the moment you receive money — whether it's an allowance, part-time pay, or a gift — immediately move a small fixed amount into a separate savings wallet or lock account. Automation is the easiest way to do this. For example, if you set aside Ksh 50 every day, calculate the totals like this: Ksh 50 × 30 days = (Ksh 50 × 3) × 10 = Ksh 150 × 10 = Ksh 1,500 per month; then Ksh 1,500 × 12 months = Ksh 1,500 × (10 + 2) = Ksh 15,000 + Ksh 3,000 = Ksh 18,000 a year. Those numbers show why small, consistent amounts matter — you won't notice Ksh 50 so much from day to day, but over time the buffer grows and gives you choices when unexpected needs come up.
Once you've automated saving, organise your money into clear purposes so it stops disappearing into "everything." Use digital buckets or simple physical envelopes labelled Rent, Food, Data, Transport, Savings, and Emergency. Allocate income to each bucket on payday and live only from the money in those buckets. If your phone banking lets you create sub-wallets, move Ksh 1,500 into "Savings" and Ksh 3,000 into "Transport," for example, and treat the rest as your spending money for the month. A quick weekly check — ten minutes on a Sunday — is often enough to move funds between buckets, note overspending, and prevent last-minute crises that force you to borrow.
Cutting recurring costs is where students can save the most with the least pain. Cooking in bulk, sharing groceries with flatmates, and buying staples from markets rather than convenience shops reduce daily food costs dramatically. For data and airtime, buy bundles that match your real usage and consider shared Wi-Fi for group study sessions. For transport, use student discounts if available, walk short distances, and create a carpool rota with classmates. These changes are small behaviour shifts but multiply quickly: skipping two bought meals a week and cooking at home instead can free up money for either savings or a small investment in a side hustle.

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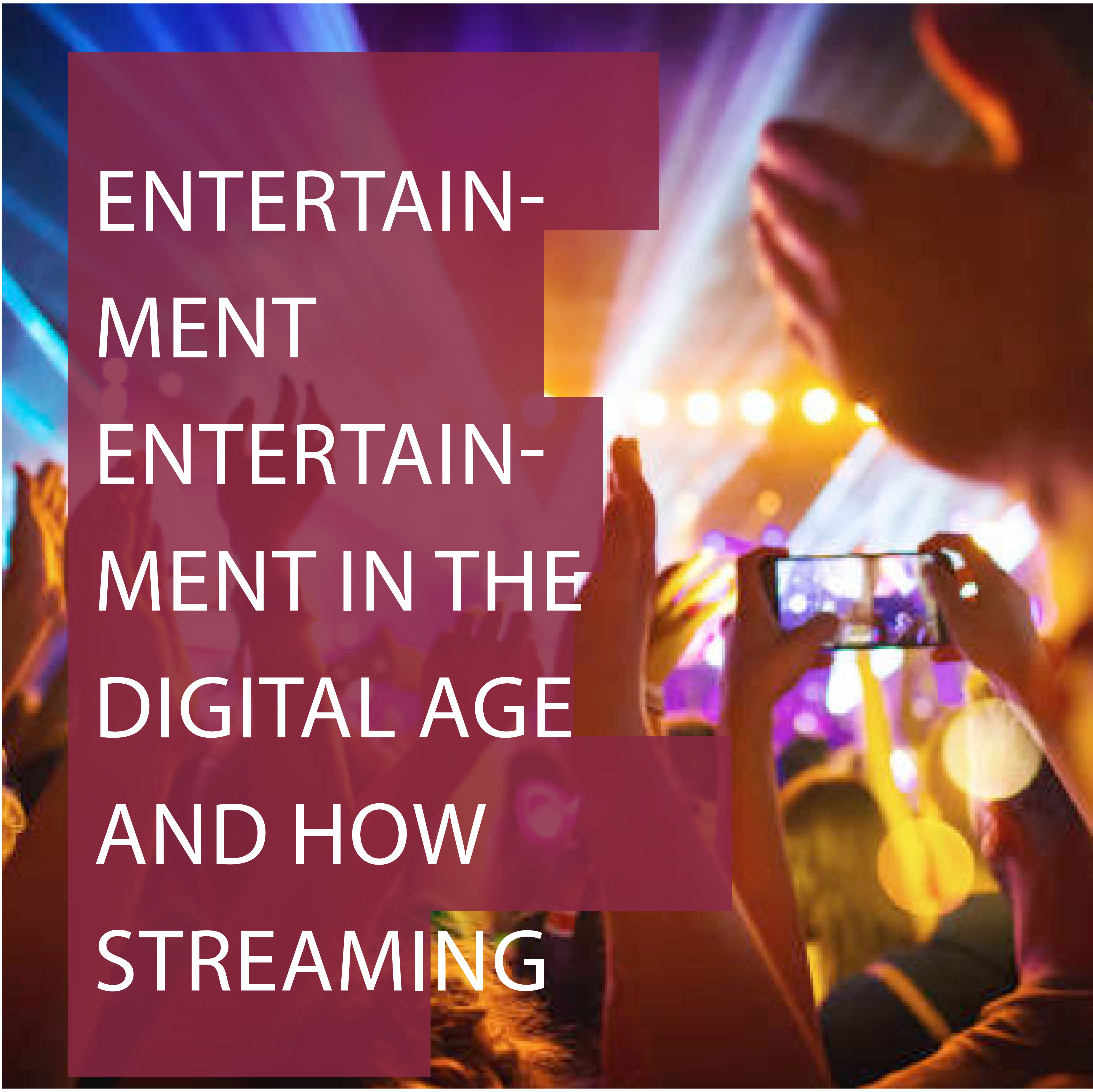
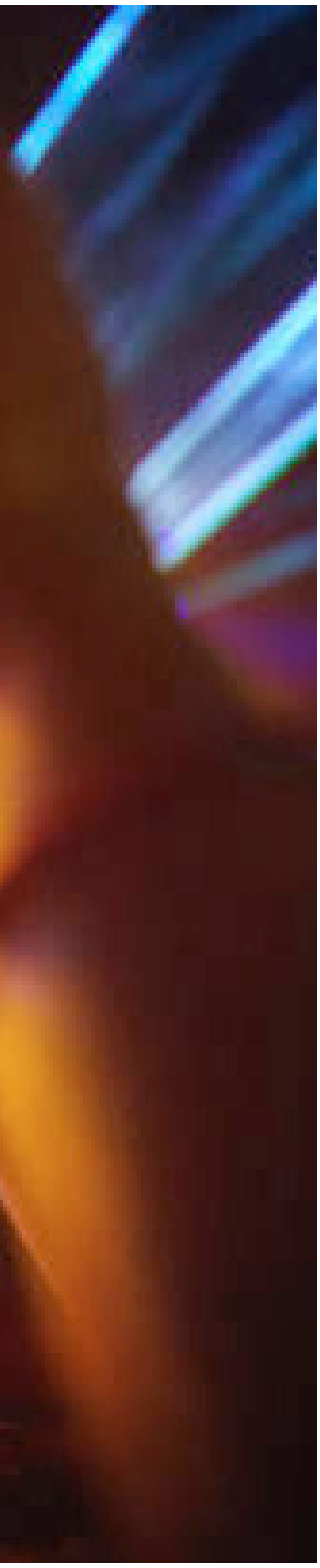


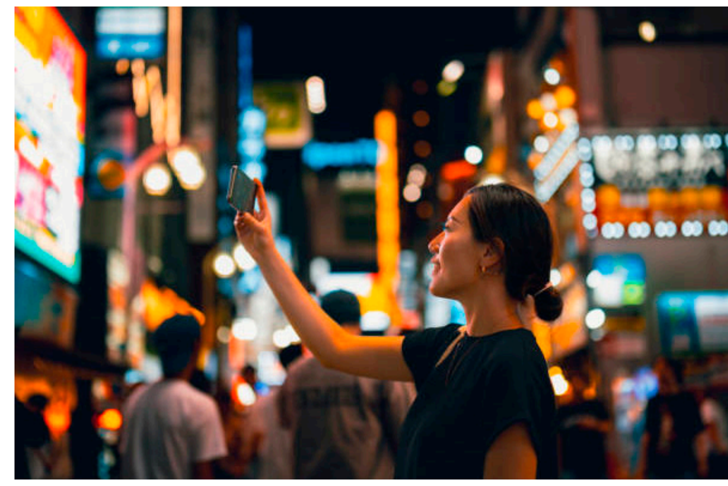
ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE AND HOW STREAMING

PAULINE ATELO

In the digital age, streaming services have dramatically transformed the entertainment landscape. Platforms like Netflix, TikTok and YouTube have revolutionized how we consume content, moving away from traditional cable TV to a model that prioritizes convenience, flexibility, and choice. This transformation has changed not only what we watch but also how we interact with the content. One significant trend is the phenomenon of binge watching. With entire seasons available at launch, viewers can now dive deep into narratives, creating new social dynamics around shared viewing experiences. As friends and family gather to discuss their favorite shows, the concept of watching becomes a communal activity, albeit often online. This shift has prompted content creators to craft stories that appeal to this watching behavior. Another notable aspect is the diversity of content available through streaming services. Unlike traditional networks that often rely on broader appeal to capture large audiences, streaming platforms invest heavily in producing varied genres and unique stories. This approach not only showcases diverse voices and perspectives but also pushes boundaries in storytelling, allowing for greater creativity. Moreover, the data-driven nature of streaming services offers insights into viewer preferences that shape future content. Platforms analyze user behavior and feedback to recommend shows and films tailored to individual tastes. This personalization enhances user engagement and encourages more exploration of different genres, contributing to a dynamic viewing culture. While streaming has numerous benefits, it also raises questions about the future of traditional television and the impact of content saturation. With such options, viewers may struggle to find what truly resonates with them. Nevertheless, this challenge prompts content creators to innovate and find unique ways to capture audience interest, leading to a new wave of creativity in entertainment. Streaming services have reshaped viewing habits and the way we experience entertainment. By Fostering binge-watching cultures, promoting diverse storytelling, and utilizing data for personalization, these platforms have changed the landscape of media consumption. As we continue to adapt to this digital environment, it will be exciting to see how content creators respond to evolving viewer expectations and trends. Streaming platforms haven't just changed what we watch — they've altered when and where we watch. The rise of mobile viewing means episodes are consumed during commutes, lunch breaks, and in between errands, turning formerly passive minutes into part of a viewer's content schedule. This ubiquity of access raises questions about attention: how much of our daily bandwidth will be devoted to long-form storytelling versus short bursts of content? Creators have responded by experimenting with form and length. Limited series, anthologies, and mini-seasons have grown in popularity because they fit both binge habits and constrained attention spans. At the same time, writers and showrunners are playing with pacing, inserting slower arcs alongside high-intensity payoff episodes to keep viewers engaged across a whole season rather than only the climactic finale. The economics of content production have also shifted. Big-budget tentpoles remain important for subscriber growth, but niche shows with modest budgets can achieve profitability through loyal, engaged audiences. This long tail model encourages investment in smaller, riskier projects that would never have found a slot on traditional linear TV, giving rise to unexpected hits and cult favorites that thrive on word-of-mouth. Discovery, however, remains a major hurdle. Algorithms recommend content based on past behavior, but that can create echo chambers where viewers see only slight variations of what they already like. Serendipity—stumbling upon a new kind of story—has diminished for some, and platforms are experimenting with editorial curation, human picks, and cross-promotional features to diversify what reaches users. Personalization is a double-edged sword. While it helps users find content they're likely to enjoy, it also fragments shared cultural reference points. Two friends may inhabit entirely different viewing worlds, making conversations about "the next big show" less universally accessible. Some creators are intentionally designing shows with broader hooks to recapture common cultural moments. Social features are emerging to bridge that gap. Watch parties, integrated chat, and shareable clips let audiences consume together in real time or asynchronously while still engaging with others. These features fold social interaction into the viewing experience, turning solitary streaming back into a communal event—albeit one mediated by platforms rather than living rooms. Advertising and monetization models are in constant flux. Subscription services, ad-supported tiers, and hybrid approaches coexist as companies chase growth and profitability. For viewers, this means a mixed landscape where cost, convenience, and tolerance for ads determine platform choice. For creators, revenue streams diversify, but so do the pressures to deliver metrics that please both advertisers and subscribers. The industry's labor dynamics deserve attention. As production ramps up, demand for writers, technicians, and post-production specialists increases, but so do stories of burnout and precarious contracts. Sustainable practices around working conditions, fair pay, and residuals will be crucial if the boom in content is to benefit the creative workforce long-term. Globalization of content has accelerated. Shows produced in one country can quickly find audiences worldwide, leading to cultural exchange and greater visibility for non-English-language storytelling. This exposure helps local industries grow but also brings challenges in maintaining authenticity amid global market pressures and tailoring content for international tastes. Content saturation is real. With more series and films released than ever before, audiences face choice overload and "content fatigue." Platforms are experimenting with quality-over-quantity strategies, seasonal rotations, and curated drops to keep libraries fresh without overwhelming subscribers. Consumers, in turn, are becoming more selective, valuing recommendations from trusted friends and critics.

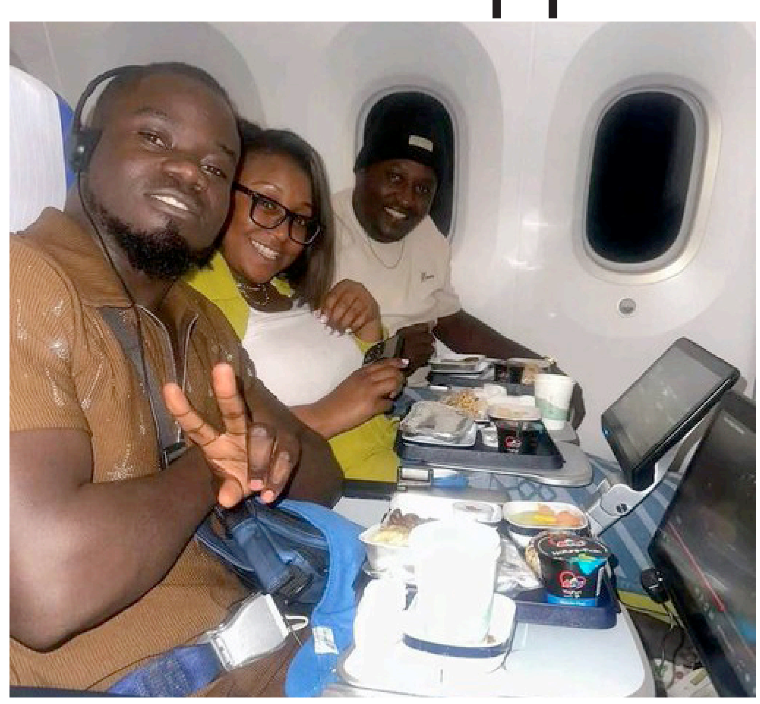


Why We Cant Let Go of the Past in Entertainment



Nostalgia has become the secret weapon of modern entertainment. Movies, music, and fashion from the past keep making comebacks. People love the comfort of what feels familiar, and industries know it. That is why old songs are remixed, old shows are rebooted, and old trends are revived.
Entertainment thrives on emotion, and nostalgia triggers powerful feelings. A song from childhood or a movie from teenage years can bring back memories instantly. These moments create a bond between the audience and the creators. Nostalgia is not just entertainment ,it is an emotional experience.
The rise of streaming platforms has made nostalgia even stronger. People can now revisit shows, films, and music from decades ago with a single click. At the same time, producers use nostalgia to guarantee success by reviving classics instead of taking risks on new ideas. The past has become a business model.
Nostalgia also shapes identity. When people enjoy something from the past, they reconnect with who they once were. It gives them a sense of stability in a fast-changing world. That is why nostalgia will continue to rule entertainment for years to come.
The next time you find yourself replaying an old song or watching a remake, remember why it feels so good. Nostalgia is more than a trend ,it is the heart of entertainment and a reminder of where we come from.
Nostalgia's power also lies in its marketability: brands and studios have learned that familiar IP reduces risk because it comes with built-in audiences. Revivals, reboots, and anniversary editions often attract both older fans and curious newcomers, creating a ready-made revenue stream across ticket sales, subscriptions, merchandise, and licensing deals. For executives, this predictable return on investment is hard to ignore, so the past keeps getting repackaged in fresh formats. That commercial logic shapes creative choices. Writers and directors are asked to honor beloved characters and storylines while injecting just enough novelty to justify a new release. The result can be a careful balancing act—too faithful and the work feels redundant; too radical and it alienates the fanbase. Successful creators are those who can translate the emotional core of the original into something that resonates with contemporary audiences.
Nostalgia also has a social dimension: it's a collective memory that allows people to bond over shared cultural touchstones. Rewatching a childhood show or attending a reunion tour becomes a communal ritual where people remind one another of who they were and how they've changed. In that way, nostalgia operates like cultural glue—helping groups hold on to a past that validates their identities and life stories.
At the same time, the nostalgia economy isn't evenly distributed across generations. Younger viewers may engage with retro aesthetics ironically, or discover old music and shows through trends and algorithms without having lived through the original era. This layered engagement—where different age groups bring different emotional investments—creates complex fan cultures that reinterpret the same content in multiple ways. There's a creative tension between nostalgia and innovation. Overreliance on the familiar can stunt originality, leading to formulaic output and creative stagnation..

Safaricom Responds to Mulamwah Over Hacked WhatsApp Account



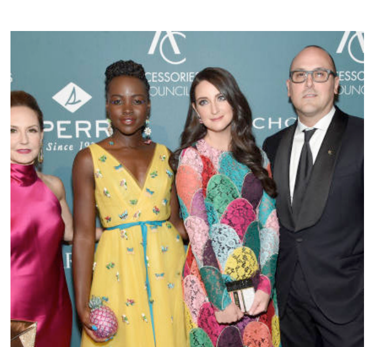
Comedian and radio presenter David Oyando, popularly known as Mulamwah, has found himself in a frustrating online ordeal after his WhatsApp account was allegedly hacked. The entertainer, who enjoys a massive following on social media, raised concerns that he could no longer access his WhatsApp line, sparking fears that his personal information and contacts might have been compromised.
In response to his public complaint, Safaricom PLC issued a statement clarifying the situation. The telecommunications giant confirmed that Mulamwah's mobile line had been barred on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at exactly 1:47 a.m. However, the company emphasized that it does not operate or control the WhatsApp platform.
"David, we can confirm we replied by email that the number was barred as of 18/9/2025 01:47:17 AM. Please check. WhatsApp is not a Safaricom service; therefore, we can only recommend that you engage the platform directly," read a response from Safaricom Care.
The company went further to share WhatsApp's official support page link with Mulamwah, advising him to lodge a complaint directly with the Meta-owned messaging platform for swift intervention. Safaricom noted that barring the line was only a security measure on their end but restoring access to a hacked WhatsApp account could only be handled by WhatsApp's internal team.
Mulamwah's hacking scare has reignited conversations around cyber security and digital safety in Kenya, especially as more public figures and ordinary citizens continue to fall victim to online fraudster. Cyber security experts have long warned that hackers target social media and messaging platforms to spread scams, impersonate victims, or demand ransom.
For many Kenyans, WhatsApp has become a crucial tool for communication, business, and social interaction, making any compromise of an account a deeply unsettling experience. Safaricom's clarification highlights a common misconception among users who often assume mobile service providers have direct control over third-party apps like WhatsApp, Facebook, or Instagram. The incident also serves as a reminder to the public to safeguard their digital accounts by enabling two-step verification, regularly updating passwords, and remaining vigilant against suspicious links or messages.
As of Friday morning, Mulamwah had not yet confirmed whether he regained access to his account. Meanwhile, his fans continue to rally behind him online, urging WhatsApp to act swiftly to restore his account and prevent further misuse of his personal details.

FROM ALGORITHMS TO ANTHOLOGIES: THE NEW LANGUAGE OF MODERN STORYTELLING

Streaming platforms have given rise to a new storytelling grammar where data-driven algorithms and curated anthologies coexist and reshape how stories are made and found: algorithms personalize and surface content based on viewer behavior, nudging creators to design hooks, bingeable arcs, and episodes that perform against metrics, while anthology formats—self-contained seasons or standalone episodes—offer creative freedom to experiment with tone, riskier ideas, and varied voices that might not fit a long-running series; together they expand narrative possibilities, alter pacing and structure, and change discovery from appointment viewing to targeted serendipity, ultimately forcing storytellers to balance measur-

Why Sustainable Fashion Matters

Fashion is changing. In the past, people cared only about style and trends. Today, many people also want their clothes to be kind to the planet and fair to workers. This new way of thinking is called sustainable fashion.
What Sustainable Fashion Means
Sustainable fashion is clothing made in ways that protect the environment and respect people. It avoids waste, saves resources, and ensures workers get fair pay.
Why It Matters
For years, fast fashion has filled shops with cheap clothes. These clothes may look good, but they cause big problems:They pollute the environment with dyes and chemicals.They create huge piles of waste when thrown away.They are often made by workers who earn very little.
Popular Trends in Sustainable Fashion
1. Eco-friendly fabrics – Materials like organic cotton, hemp, or recycled polyester.
2. Recycling and upcycling – Turning old clothes into new designs.
3. Slow fashion – Buying fewer but stronger, longer-lasting pieces.



Exploring the Beauty of Travel

Who doesn't like travelling , exploring, and knowing what nature has got for us. Traveling opens up a world of pos sibilities, offering unique experiences that broaden our horizons. According to the World Tourism Organization, over 1.4 billion international tourist arrivals are always recorded , showcasing a thriving passion for exploration. Whether seeking adventure in exotic locales or relaxing on pristine beaches, travel enriches our lives and creates lasting memories.
One of the fascinating trends in travel is the rise of eco-tourism. As more travelers become aware of their impact on the planet, there is a growing demand for sustainable travel options. Eco-friendly accommodations and activities emphasize environmental preservation and community engagement. For instance, many countries now promote responsible wildlife experiences, allowing visitors to enjoy natural wonders without disturbing habitats. Additionally, the increase in remote work has changed how people approach travel. Digital nomadism is on the rise, with individuals opting to work remotely from scenic destinations. Imagine catching up on emails with a view of the ocean or enjoying lunch in a bustling café in Kenya.

IEBC PREPAREDNESS FOR BY-ELECTIONS, VOTER REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

A by-election season is upon Kenya as the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) ramps up preparations for the mini-polls scheduled for 27 November 2025. The IEBC has confirmed that a total of 23 by-elections will be held: six for National Assembly seats, one for a Senate vacancy, and 16 for county assembly (MCA) seats. These vacancies have arisen through various causes such as demise, appointments ~~to other positions, or other consti-~~tutional triggers.

KENYAN ACTIVISTS NJAGI AND OYOO ABDUCTED IN UGANDA

Kenyan human rights activists Bob Njagi, Chairman of the Free Kenya Movement, and Nicholas Oyoo, its Secretary General, were reportedly abducted in Kampala, Uganda,

on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 1, 2025, after joining the campaign trail of opposition leader Robert Kyagulanyi (Bobi Wine).

According to witness reports, the two were with Ugandan companions and had travelled with Bobi Wine's campaign entourage in Buyende and Kamuli districts. On Wednesday, their journey led them to a petrol station in Kireka (just outside Kampala) at around 3:00 pm, supposedly to repair their vehicle. It is at this location that four armed men arrived in a grey or clay-coloured van, one of them a woman seated in front, ~~and forcibly bundled them into~~ the vehicle. Soon after, their mobile phones were switched off. Colleagues and witnesses report that their whereabouts have been unknown since then.

EXPOSING THE SHADOWS: THE REAL COST OF CORRUPTION

Corruption is a pervasive issue that affects societies worldwide,

penetrating governments, businesses, and even our daily lives. According to Transparency International, over two-thirds of countries score below 50 on the Corruption Perceptions Index, indicating a serious problem. Moreover, the economic cost of corruption is staggering, with estimates suggesting that it costs the global economy around 2.6 trillion annually. That's right, 2.6 trillion, a sum so large it could fund the entire education sector for several years.

RUTO MAKES FRESH ERNANCE APPOINTM

President William Ruto's October 3, 2025 appointments mark a bold recalibration of Kenya's diplomatic and governance architecture. At its core is a clear message: as his presidency moves deeper into its term, he is asserting tighter control over foreign policy instruments and key regulatory bodies. The naming of prominent figures—including former Cabinet Secretaries and senior public servants—to represent Kenya abroad signals a commitment to upgrading diplomatic service with experience and political alignment.

Among the standout assignments is Florence Chepngetich Bore, formerly Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection. Her posting as High Commissioner to Namibia is widely viewed as more than symbolic. With her governance experience and political stature, Bore is expected to leverage her background to deepen trade, labor, and regional integration ties between Kenya and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The other diplomatic picks reflect geographic and thematic diversity. Anthony Mwaniki Muchiri will head to Turkey, Lucy Kiruthu to Thailand, Henry Wambuma to Burundi, Abdirashid Salat Abdille to Indonesia, Joseph Musyoka Masila to Saudi Arabia, Edwin Afande to Austria, with Jayne Jepkorir Toroitich as Consul General in Dubai and Judy Kiaria Nkumiri in Goma, DRC.

Each posting carries its own strategic potential, whether in expanding Asia-Pacific connectivity, leveraging religious diplomacy in the Middle East, or consolidating regional presence in East and Central Africa.

The reshuffle comes with constitutional backing. The appointments were made under Article 132(2)(e) of the Kenyan Constitution, which grants the President authority to make diplomatic and consular appointments.

Parliament's vetting committees had earlier cleared the nominees, a sign that Ruto ensured procedural compliance before finalizing the roster. This move is also consistent with Ruto's broader foreign policy ambition: to reposition Kenya as a more influential African and global voice. With rising competition for leadership in East Africa and continental affairs, well-placed ambassadors become instruments for pushing Kenya's agenda on trade, security, climate, and multilateral forums. The choice of envoys is thus not merely ceremonial but tactical.

Domestically, the appointments serve a dual purpose: consolidating loyalty and signaling elite appeasement. By integrating individuals with prior government service or political networks into foreign missions, the presidency ensures that institutional levers operate under a somewhat unified vision. Such alignment can reduce friction between the executive's domestic priorities and external diplomacy. Parallel to the diplomatic changes, Ruto also appointed John Cox Lorionokou as Registrar of Political Parties for a nonrenewable six-year term, replacing Sophia Sitati, who had been serving in an acting capacity. Alongside him, Agatha Wanjiku Wahome was named Assistant Registrar for the same term.

The Registrar position is critical in Kenya's multiparty democracy: it administers party registration, compliance, funding, and oversight under the Political Parties Act. The office has the mandate to monitor party finances, membership, dispute resolution, and symbol registration. In a politically charged environment ahead of the 2027 general election, control over this institution becomes particularly consequential. Lorionokou's nomination has already attracted both accolades and scrutiny. Supporters hail him as a competent leader with experience in electoral affairs, while critics caution that such sensitive work requires firmness, independence, and insensitivity to political influence. he Pokot community, from which he hails, expressed pride and urged him to deliver with integrity. His challenge will be to transform the office into an impartial arbiter amidst partisan pressures.

Simultaneously, the appointment of Claris Awuor Ogangah (also written as Claris Awour Onganga) as Chairperson of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) for a six-year term marks another shift in oversight bodies. She replaces the late Roseline Odede. This change comes after a prior nominee, Duncan Oburu Ojwang, reportedly declined the appointment, prompting a reconfiguration of selection.

The KNCHR is constitutionally mandated to monitor human rights adherence across government institutions, investigate violations, and report publicly on standards and abuses. In practice, its leadership must tread a fine line between independence and political tolerance. Ogangah's performance will be watched closely as civil society seeks stronger accountability.

Taken together, these appointments reflect President Ruto's strategy of reinforcing control over levers of state oversight—both internationally (via ambassadors) and domestically (via regulatory and rights institutions). The timing suggests a midterm consolidation move: post-election honeymoon phases are over, and the administration is positioning itself for higher-stakes political battles ahead. Critics, however, will argue that the reshuffle can also centralize power too heavily in the executive, risking patronage and weakening institutional checks. There is concern that by inserting political operatives or insiders into bodies meant to oversee governance, independence could be compromised. The balance between loyalty and institutional integrity will be critical. Another risk lies in diplomatic capacity

> "congratulations on your appointment, welcome to Kenya, and I look forward to working with you.'

DIPLOMATIC AND GOV-
MENTS

and continuity. Ambassadors and high commissioners must not just represent politically, but deliver on trade, consular services, investment facilitation, and public diplomacy. If political loyalty outweighs technical competence, missions may underperform. Stretching resources and human capability across thirty-plus missions demands strong diplomatic leadership.

Kenya's foreign policy challenges are considerable: navigating tensions within the East African Community (EAC), balancing relationships between China, the U.S., and India, dealing with security threats from the Horn of Africa, climate diplomacy in global fora, and representing Kenyan diaspora interests abroad. Each new envoy will need to master these terrains in their respective postings. On the political governance side, the Registrar of Political Parties will inevitably engage with contentious party disputes, coalition formations, internal democracy issues, and compliance investigations. If Lorionokou acts decisively and transparently, he could strengthen public trust in party regulation. But missteps could provoke claims of bias. For the KNCHR, Ogangah's leadership comes at a sensitive time. Kenya faces persistent issues of police accountability, land rights conflicts, enforced disappearances, and rights of marginalized communities. How bold and independent she will be in confronting these challenges—especially involving state actors—will define her credibility.

The broader public reception to these appointments remains mixed.

Mutharika Resumes Office

Timothy Wanyonyi

Malawi has once again demonstrated its democratic maturity following the recently concluded 2025 presidential elections, which resulted in the return to power of former president Arthur Peter Mutharika of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). In an election marked by high voter turnout and political tension, Malawians went to the polls determined to shape the future of their nation. The Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC), after a transparent and orderly process, declared Mutharika the winner with 56.76% of the vote, defeating incumbent Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), who secured 33.01%. Other candidates, including Dr. Dalitso Kabambe of the UTM and Atupele Muluzi of the UDF, trailed significantly behind, collectively sharing less than 10% of the total vote. The days leading up to the election were tense but largely peaceful. Campaigns were spirited, with each candidate traversing the country, promising change, stability, and growth. While Mutharika campaigned on a platform of economic recovery and restoring order, Chakwera emphasized continuity and deepening reforms initiated during his five-year tenure. Voting took place across all 36 districts, and early results from key regions began to show a familiar pattern: Mutharika performing strongly in the southern and eastern regions—including Zomba, Salima, and Neno—while Chakwera dominated in central regions like Ntchisi. The final results reflected a decisive shift in voter sentiment, favoring a return to DPP leadership after five years under the MCP-led government. In a remarkable display of statesmanship, President Chakwera publicly conceded defeat before the final results were announced. In his concession speech, he affirmed his commitment to democratic principles and urged Malawians to accept the outcome peacefully. His graceful exit drew praise both locally and internationally, with observers commending Malawi for setting a positive example of political maturity in the region. The peaceful concession helped prevent post-election unrest and paved the way for a smooth transition. On September 27, 2025, Arthur Peter Mutharika was officially sworn in during an inauguration ceremony held in Lilongwe, marking his return to State House after a five-year hiatus. Addressing the nation, Mutharika called for unity, reconciliation, and national rebuilding. He pledged to serve all Malawians regardless of political affiliation and vowed to prioritize job creation, economic stability, and anti-corruption efforts. The ceremony was attended by regional leaders, diplomats, and thousands of supporters, reinforcing the legitimacy of the electoral process and the incoming administration. As a new chapter begins, the hopes of millions rest on the promise of progress, stability, and unity under the returning leadership of Presi-

Ruthless United Punish Sunderland's Slow Start at Old Trafford

JARED GEORGE.

Manchester United took control almost from the first whistle, carving open Sunderland's defence with a slick passing move that ended with Mason Mount steering home an early opener in the eighth minute. The goal settled Old Trafford nerves and set the tone for a half in which United dominated territory and tempo, forcing Sunderland to chase the game far earlier than they had planned.
As Sunderland tried to regroup, Manchester United continued to press with intensity and purpose, and their superiority was rewarded again when Benjamin Šeško converted from close range just past the half-hour mark to double the lead. That second strike exposed the visitors' problems dealing with set pieces and second balls, leaving Regis Le Bris's side laboring to find a foothold in midfield or a consistent route into the final third.
A pivotal moment arrived shortly before halftime when Sunderland were briefly awarded a penalty after a challenge in the box, only for the decision to be overturned following a VAR review. The reversal was a psychological blow to the visitors—what could have been a momentum-changing lifeline evaporated, and United returned to the pitch with renewed control and composure.
Manchester United's goalkeeper, making his first start in red, was relatively untroubled but produced a couple of important interventions that helped preserve a clean sheet. Sunderland's goalkeeper also made key saves that prevented a wider margin, and while individual performances offered some reassurance, they could not mask the visitors' lack of cohesion in the opening period.
Tactically, Regis Le Bris set Sunderland up to be compact and dangerous on the break, yet United's early dominance in possession prevented the Black Cats from executing their game plan. When Sunderland attempted to push forward they too often resorted to hurried deliveries or long balls, which played into United's strengths rather than creating consistent chances for the visitors. Sunderland's best moments came from sporadic counters and a few well-delivered set pieces, but they were never sustained enough to trouble Manchester United's defensive shape after the interval. The second half saw Sunderland introduce tactical tweaks and defensive reinforcement that offered a degree of stability, yet those adjustments arrived too late to change the course of the contest. From a performance perspective, United deserved credit for the way they controlled the crucial phases of the match—starting with energy, converting their chances, and then managing the tempo once in front. Their selection and rotation paid off on the day, and the result provided much-needed breathing space after a tricky start to the campaign.
For Sunderland the result underlined areas that require urgent attention if they are to remain competitive at this level: concentration in the opening spells, better organisation at set pieces, and more composure when trying to construct attacks under pressure. Le Bris was candid after the match about a poor start and emphasized the need to correct fine margins—work that must begin immediately in training.
The penalty reversal will spark debate in the days to come, but on balance the headlines belonged to United's attacking efficiency and their ability to convert openings when they mattered most. Sunderland can draw small positives from moments of resilience and from players who showed glimpses of quality; those flashes suggest there is still a platform to build on.
In short, the trip to Old Trafford produced a clear and sobering lesson for Sunderland: against polished top-flight opposition, slow starts are ruthlessly punished. If Le Bris can address the structural issues exposed early in this match—and maintain the confidence of his squad—Sunderland still have the foundations to be competitive, but they will need sharper beginnings and more cutting edge in attack going forward.

Arteta's Bold Promise, Real Truth, What's The Power Behind His Words

Mikel Arteta insisted that he will always share real information with his players, press, and supporters moving forward. He emphasized transparency, claiming "no spin, no hiding," and vowed truth would anchor his every public and private remark. Arteta argued against vague statements, warning that "safe talk" corrupts trust between coach, squad, media, and fans alike. He explained that when a manager avoids clarity, people question motives, intentions, and sincerity from every angle.
Arteta stated: "If I don't believe it's honest, I won't say it—I refuse to sugar-coat realities or dodge tough topics." He insisted accountability demands admitting mistakes, owning consequences, and confronting reality rather than crafting illusions. He then illustrated with a metaphor: "One mistake hides more damage than fifty safe truths said with conviction."Arteta added that players deserve direct feedback rather than diluted messages cloaked in euphemism or omission.He declared: "That is what this club deserves—unfiltered honesty, even when news stings, because growth demands that."
Arteta stressed that the public demands clarity, and the club owes fans messages anchored in genuine purpose and logic.He further noted: "I won't manage by press release; I'll manage by open conversation, brutal reflection, consistent philosophy."He challenged the culture of PR statements, explaining that too many interviews feel superficial, rehearsed, lifeless, meaningless. Arteta warned: "We lose respect when words lack depth. Real leadership speaks plainly, powerfully, grounded in fact always."He also confessed his own fears, admitting that honesty invites scrutiny, criticism, and pressure he must constantly withstand. He said: "I accept that scrutiny. I welcome it. If telling truth costs me comfort, I'll pay that price willingly."
"A leader's credibility isn't built on approval—it's built on consistent integrity."He highlighted quotes about clarity, citing fighter-pilot communication parallels where one precise word can save

Tottenham's Roaring Triumph, A Night of Passion, Precision, and Power

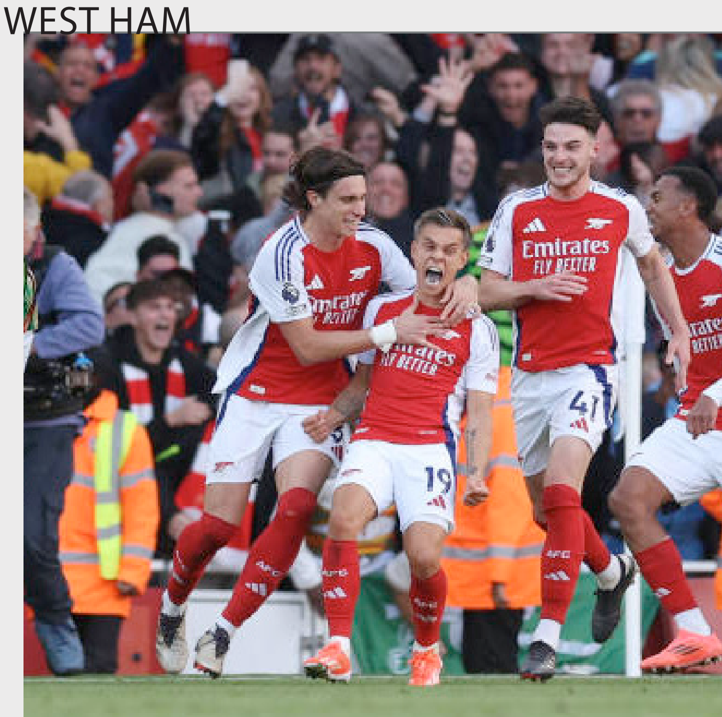
Stephen Mulwa

Tottenham Hotspur began their thrilling Premier League encounter against Leeds United at 7:30 PM under the dazzling floodlights of Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The energy inside the stadium was electric as fans passionately waved flags, sang chants, and hoped for another memorable home victory. Leeds entered the match desperate to end their winless streak, but Tottenham's sharpness and relentless pressing immediately established early dominance across the pitch. Both managers displayed tactical ambition, but Spurs' creativity and pace overwhelmed Leeds' defensive shape, causing early panic and miscommunication between their backline.
In the 18th minute, Tottenham struck first when Son Heung-min fired brilliantly into the top corner after James Maddison's clever assist. The goal lifted the home crowd into ecstatic roars as Leeds defenders struggled to contain Tottenham's quick passing and fluid attacking transitions afterward. Leeds attempted to regroup, pushing their fullbacks higher, but this only exposed spaces that Tottenham's dynamic wingers quickly began exploiting mercilessly. Son's movement off the ball confused Leeds' defenders repeatedly, while Maddison's vision sliced through their lines like a hot knife through butter.
Leeds managed to respond in the 32nd minute, leveling through Patrick Bamford, who converted Crysencio Summerville's well-placed cross past Guglielmo Vicario. Tottenham's defense appeared momentarily unsettled after conceding, but their resilience and communication quickly restored control of the midfield and tempo. The home side regained momentum almost instantly, pressing high and regaining possession with aggression that forced Leeds into hurried clearances and mistakes.
By halftime, Spurs had dominated possession with 67%, while Leeds looked fatigued, disorganized, and increasingly vulnerable under Tottenham's relentless offensive pressure.The second half began with Tottenham resuming their vibrant rhythm, displaying precise passes, intelligent movement, and ruthless finishing that defined their superiority.
In the 56th minute, Richarlison restored Tottenham's lead with a powerful header after Pedro Porro whipped in a delightful curling cross.

Leeds defenders failed to mark tightly, showcasing their persistent weakness in aerial duels and lack of defensive communication throughout the entire evening. Their midfield pressing was inconsistent, allowing Maddison and Bentancur to dictate tempo freely, switching play and creating numerous attacking opportunities. Leeds attempted a comeback but lacked composure in front of goal, misplacing passes and losing crucial duels against Tottenham's disciplined backline repeatedly. Their biggest weakness was their inability to maintain structure under pressure, as Spurs continuously exploited the spaces behind their advancing fullbacks.

Tottenham's fullbacks, Udogie and Porro, advanced smartly while covering defensive zones efficiently, neutralizing Leeds' counterattacking threat on both flanks with authority. In contrast, Leeds' wingers struggled to track back consistently, leaving their central defenders isolated against Tottenham's fluid and relentless offensive trio. Tottenham sealed their triumph in the 83rd minute when Dejan Kulusevski curled a sensational left-footed strike, assisted again by Maddison's visionary through ball. The goal embodied Tottenham's clinical finishing and teamwork, with Maddison recording his second assist and confirming his growing creative influence.
Leeds fans watched in despair as their side's midfield collapsed, unable to resist Tottenham's pressing waves and high-speed attacking transitions. Spurs' substitutes maintained intensity, ensuring no late mistakes while managing the game efficiently until the final whistle echoed across the stadium. The referee concluded the match at 9:25 PM, confirming Tottenham's 2–1 victory, which lifted them higher in the Premier League standings impressively.
Fans erupted in joy, waving scarves and singing "When the Spurs Go Marching In" with pure pride and uncontainable emotion. Tottenham's balance of creativity, defensive solidity, and killer instinct demonstrated their evolution under disciplined management and collective determination to succeed. Meanwhile, Leeds walked off visibly dejected, aware that their poor marking, fragile defense, and lack of tactical adaptation had cost them dearly. Tottenham's roaring triumph against Leeds wasn't merely a win—it was a statement of intent, ambition, and unwavering hunger for greater glory ahead. As the players made their way down the tunnel, Tottenham's manager praised his side's "mentality and maturity," emphasizing that their control of the game reflected how far the team had progressed this season. He highlighted the importance of teamwork, applauding Maddison's creative brilliance and Son's relentless drive as examples of leadership on the pitch. Analysts later noted how Tottenham's cohesive structure and attacking intelligence resembled that of a top-four side, suggesting that consistency like this could propel them toward Champions League contention. For Leeds, however, the loss raised deeper concerns about their tactical discipline and defensive reliability. Their manager admitted post-match that the team "lacked concentration during crucial phases," vowing to rebuild confidence and fix structural weaknesses before the next fixture. Despite the defeat, a few sparks of promise—like Summerville's pace and Bamford's finishing—offered hope. But unless Leeds can strengthen their defensive shape and regain composure under pressure, nights like this one in North London may continue to haunt their Premier League campaign.

ELECTRIC TRIUMPH AT THE EMIRATES FOR THE ARSENAL'S 2-0 MASTERCLASS OVER WEST HAM



On October 4, 2025, Arsenal hosted West Ham at the Emirates. Kicking off at approximately 14:00 UTC in radiant afternoon light. Arsenal asserted control early, dominating possession, territory. Forcing West Ham into deep, reactive defending throughout first half. In the 38th minute. Declan Rice opened the scoring by punishing a rebound inside the West Ham box after sustained pressure. That goal originated from a shot that rebounded off defender's block. Martin Zubimendi collected and teed the chance. West Ham struggled to retain the ball under pressure. Failing to build meaningful attacks or penetrate Arsenal's compact lines. Late in second half at the 67th minute, Bukayo Saka sealed the victory from the penalty spot with calm precision. That penalty arose after Jurrien Timber was fouled inside the box while he advanced into West Ham's crowded area. West Ham's weakness emerged in transitions. They lacked pace to counterattack and often left gaps behind in midfield. Arsenal exploited those lapses, pushing fullbacks high and stretching West Ham's central