



Environment
CS Deborah Barasa
during a tree planting
exercise in Trans Nzoia
County on Mashujaa
Day.

TREE PLANTING

A billion trees and counting

President William Ruto says over a billion trees planted as he directs Kenya Forest Service and National Youth Service to collaborate to boost access to seedlings

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TELLING THE STORY

Kenya Yearbook Editorial Board (KYEB) is documenting development milestones in Kitui as the county prepares to host Mashujaa Day national celebrations on October 20.

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COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



Nyeri COUNTY

759,164

Population of as per 2019 Census.



President Ruto takes over COMESA leadership

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ENVIRONMENT

Over a billion trees planted as State changes tack in campaign

President William Ruto says over a billion trees planted as he directs Kenya Forest Service and National Youth Service to collaborate to boost access to seedlings



Broadcasting PS Stephen Isaboke at Bogesaka Primary School in Nyamache Sub-County, Kisii County, on Mazingira Day.

The campaign to grow 15 billion trees in a decade continues to gather steam as the country rallies behind one of the most ambitious reforestation efforts in the continent.

From school yards to church grounds, public institutions and homes, citizens planted millions of trees as they commemorated Mazingira Day last week, with the day serving as a powerful symbol of Kenya's unity in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation.

Kenyans support of the campaign has turned tree planting into a national movement, with many taking it not just as an environmental duty but as a patriotic act.

The tree planting activities on Mazingira Day reinforced the message that everyone has a role to play in restoring our environment.

From the President to his Cabinet, local chiefs, Mama Mboga and schoolchildren, the collective energy is breathing life into degraded landscapes and nurturing the promise of a climate-resilient future.

President William Ruto, who led the country in marking Mazingira Day, announced that some 1.06 billion trees have so far been planted since the start of the campaign in December 2022.

The number is a major step towards achieving the overall target and in Kenya's fight against climate change.

More importantly, the campaign aims to increase the national tree cover to 30 per cent from the current 12 per cent.

"We call on every Kenyan to make their contribution to the national tree-planting drive as we work towards our ambitious goal

FACTS & FIGURES

30%

The tree cover the Government wants to achieve in 10 years.

of 15 billion trees by 2032," the President said.

He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring the campaign is a success and is inclusive, making tree planting a unifying national cause that bridges generations, communities and regions.

"The more trees we plant, the more rain

we are going to have. We will harvest the water and store it in our dams. We are not just planting trees; we are looking after our food security," he said.

President Ruto has expressed concern over the escalating impacts of climate change, which have significant posed threats to the country.

The President, who chairs the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), notes that across the globe, greenhouse gas emissions are still on the rise.

"Pollution patterns are veering in an alarming direction and biodiversity is confronted with escalating threats along with the risk of an accelerating rate of loss," he said recently at the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, UNEA-6, at Gigiri

in Nairobi.

The President acknowledges the existing challenge in accessing tree seedlings and reassured that the Government will continue to provide them across the country through a new strategy.

This involves a multi-agency approach, where he directed Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and National Youth Service (NYS) to partner to deliver seedlings.

Sustained supply of seedlings is critical to maintaining the campaign's momentum and empowering communities to take ownership of their local reforestation efforts.

"KFS, in collaboration with the NYS, will mobilise 15,000 NYS personnel to revive 300 nurseries in all our forests and establish 17 mega nurseries to produce two billion seedlings every year for Kenyans to plant," he said.

In the collaboration, KFS brings decades of forestry knowledge, nursery management and ecological planning, while NYS contributes a disciplined, youthful workforce capable of executing large-scale operations across the country.

The nurseries, besides delivering seedlings, serve as key points for technical training and community engagement.

In the campaign, the Government is pushing for the planting of a variety of trees depending on regions.

These include indigenous species like mukau (*Melia volkensii*), croton and acacia, suitable for arid and semi-arid lands due to their resilience and ecological benefits.

The Government is also promoting the planting of fruit trees like mango, avocado and guava, particularly in schools and homesteads, to enhance food security and provide economic opportunities for families.

Environment and Climate Change Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa said in the fruit tree campaign, the Government targets to grow 100 million trees in primary schools, linking environmental conservation with food security and education.

The approach further ensures that young learners grow up with a tangible connection to nature and an understanding of its role in sustaining communities.

"I am happy to have taken part in planting fruit trees on Mazingira Day. Trees protect our environment, I will keep on growing more," Grace Museu, a Grade 4 pupil in Nairobi, said. The first phase of the tree campaign, which runs until 2027 and targets to plant five billion trees, has recorded measurable success so far.

The second phase, which ends in 2032, will see up to 10 billion trees planted to achieve the overall target.

The tree initiative is anchored in Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2023-2027 and the second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which outline bold targets that include a 35 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. To monitor progress of tree planting, the Government has embraced digital tools, in particular Jaza Miti App. ■

TELLING THE STORY

Kenya Yearbook documents Government initiatives in Kitui as county readies to host Mashujaa Day

Kenya Yearbook Editorial Board (KYEB) is documenting development milestones in Kitui as the county prepares to host Mashujaa Day national celebrations on October 20.

The initiative is part of the Board's broader mandate to enhance public communication by showcasing the impact of the work of Government across the country.

The KYEB team visited various projects in the county, including Ithookwe Stadium, Ithookwe Airstrip, Kwa Ngendu Affordable Housing Units, road infrastructure, County Aggregation Industrial Park

at Kanyonyo and an ICT data centre, witnessing the ongoing transformation.

The team, on behalf of CEO Lilian Kimeto, also paid a courtesy call to County Commissioner Kipchumba Ruto, who said the county is ready



We welcome all visitors and assure them of their security. Come sample what the county offers and enjoy your stay.

to host the event.

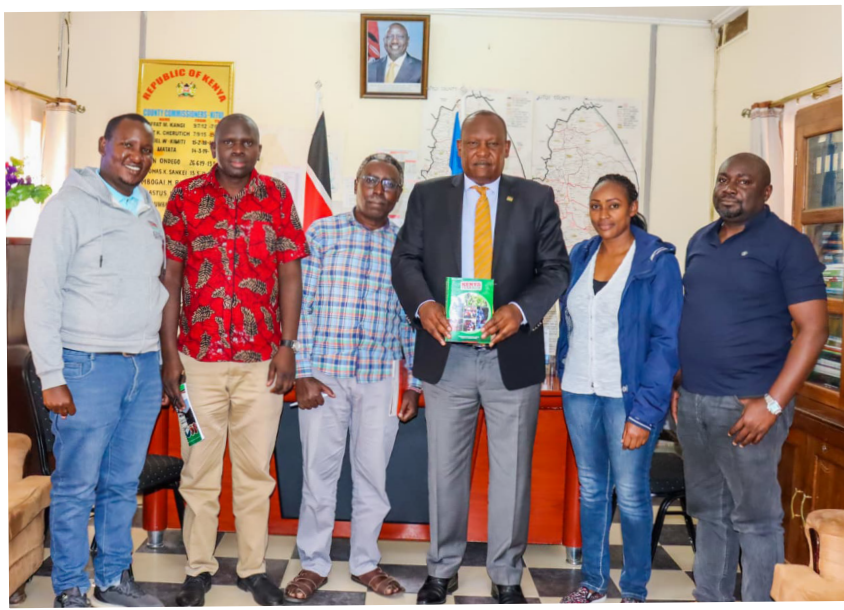
"We are happy and excited. This is the first time the county is hosting such celebrations and we feel honoured," he said.

He noted that security has been beefed up in Kitui Town, the venue of the event, and across the county.

"We welcome all visitors and assure them of their security. Come sample what the county offers and enjoy your stay," he said.

The documentation will feature in the upcoming edition of "AgendaKenya" newspaper as well as the Kenya Yearbook 2025.

Ms Kimeto has emphasized the



Kitui County Commissioner Kipchumba Ruto (third right) with Kenya Yearbook Editorial Board team, which paid him a courtesy call at his office.

importance of accurate storytelling in governance, noting that the documentation of projects not only celebrates

progress but also showcases what the Government is doing for inclusive development.

CS Ruku lauds Huduma Kenya staff for dedication to service delivery

The Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development Geoffrey Ruku has commended Huduma Kenya staff for their resilience and professionalism. Mr Ruku said the staff have shown dedication as frontline ambassadors of Government service delivery. He spoke as he launched Customer Service Week 2025 at the Huduma Centre GPO, Nairobi. Mr Ruku observed that Huduma Mashinani, one of Huduma Kenya's

HUDUMA CORNER

service delivery platforms, was an important innovation aimed at ensuring no Kenyan is left behind, particularly those in remote areas. The CS encouraged citizens to take advantage of the services provided and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to people-centered service delivery. Meanwhile, across the country, Huduma Centres organised various activities to appreciate

staff and customers for their continued support and commitment to delivering quality public services. Huduma Kenya CEO Ben Kai Chilumo, who attended Dagoretti South Huduma Mashinani outreach event held at the Deputy County Commissioner's compound, lauded the initiative. The event brought together several Government agencies to offer a wide range of government and medical services to the public as part of the Customer Service Week celebrations. ■



Public Service CS Geoffrey Ruku flags off Huduma Kenya staff to kick off Customer Service Week celebrations.

REGIONAL TRADE

Kenya lays out digital plan for COMESA trade

President William Ruto outlines his vision on digitalising trade in the region as he takes over the leadership of the trading bloc

Kenya's ascension to the chairmanship of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) marks a crucial moment in its regional leadership, with the country expected to drive the digitalisation of the market to boost efficiency. President William Ruto took over the leadership of COMESA from President Evariste Ndayishimiye of Burundi last week in Nairobi during the 24th Summit, outlining his vision to digitalise the market in his acceptance speech. "To transform our common market, we are urging Member States to invest in digital infrastructure, data governance and human capacity building to empower our citizens to thrive in the digital economy," the President said.

He noted that digitalisation will help optimise resource use, improve energy efficiency and enable construction of modern electrical smart grids. "It will also enhance cross-border trade efficiency, streamline logistics, strengthen financial inclusion and create new platforms that enable small and medium enterprises to access regional and global markets. This will translate into jobs, opportunities and greater competitiveness," he said.



We are urging Member States to invest in digital infrastructure, data governance and human capacity building to empower our citizens to thrive in the digital economy." President William Ruto.

INFOBOX

About COMESA

- * The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is one of Africa's largest regional economic communities, aimed at fostering economic integration among its member states.
- * It was established in December 1994, replacing the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) formed in 1981.
- * It comprises of 21 African countries including Kenya, Egypt, Zambia and Ethiopia.
- * The trading bloc was created to promote regional integration through trade and investment.
- * Create a free trade area and eventually a customs union.
- * Enhance cooperation in transport, energy, agriculture, and monetary affairs.



President William Ruto addresses the COMESA Summit in Nairobi last week. Below: President Ruto with various African leaders who attended the Summit.



Despite the promise of regional integration, COMESA's market has over the years been hampered by outdated systems, fragmented data flows and manual trade processes that slow down transactions and inflate costs. The absence of a robust digital infrastructure has created bottlenecks in customs clearance, limited access to financial services and stifled innovation. These inefficiencies, President Ruto said, have not only discouraged cross-border commerce but also undermined the region's competitiveness in global markets.

With Kenya at the helm, COMESA is expected to enter into a new era of innovation-driven cooperation, where digital transformation drives trade and industrial competitiveness among Member States. Leaders at the Summit, who included Presidents Ndayishimiye (Burundi), Azali Assoumani (Comoros) and Emmerson Mnangagwa (Zimbabwe) and Prime Ministers Ahmed Abiy (Ethiopia), Russell Mmisso Dlamini (Eswatini) and Mustafa Madbouly (Egypt) agreed to work together to increase intra-African trade from the current 14 per

cent to 50 per cent, matching other regions that trade at between 60 per cent and 70 per cent. They noted this will locking trade for the 1.4 billion Africans in the continent. President Ruto further called for removal of visa restrictions that block the free movement of people, ideas and talent. "We must also dismantle tariff and non-tariff barriers that have turned our borders into obstacles instead of bridges and stop exporting raw materials and instead add value here at home."



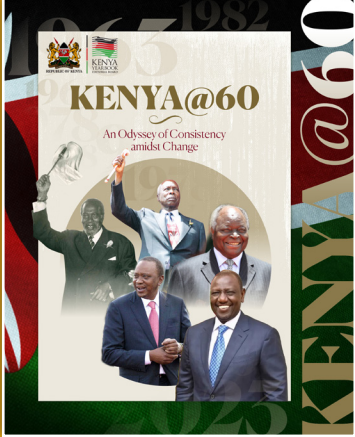
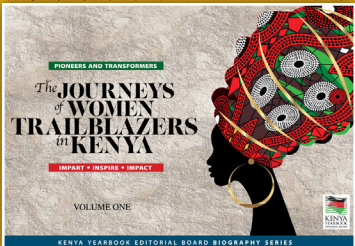
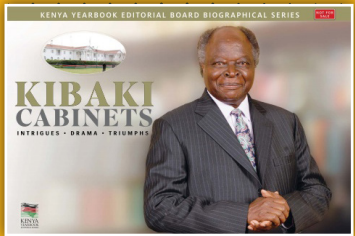
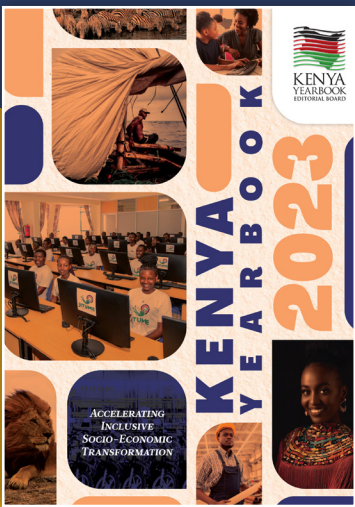
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PICTURESPEAK



The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (second right) with his team during a meeting with officials from Romania led by the Secretary-General of the Government of Romania Stefan-Radu Oprea. The two teams discussed ways of strengthening the Kenya-Romania partnership in cybersecurity, digital innovation, and secure digital transformation building on the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya's National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee (NC4) and Romania's National Cyber Security Directorate (DNSC).



Prime CS and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi (right) and Interior and National Administration CS Kipchumba Murkomen during a ceremony in Vihiga County in honour of National Police Service Commission Chairpeson Dr Yuda Komora.



Kenya Yearbook Editorial Board CEO Lilian Kimeto plants a tree with learners at Koitugum Primary School on Mazingira Day last week as part of "Rudi Primo" initiative.



Kenya's Ryan Ogam (left) celebrates with teammates after scoring in their 1-0 win against Burundi. Kenya will play Ivory Coast this week in their next fixture of World cup qualifiers.



Internal Security PS Raymond Omollo (right) when he visited the Government Chemist, Kenya's only public reference laboratory for forensic, toxicology and DNA analysis.