

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Kenya Summary 15 October 2025

Former prime minister and opposition leader Raila Odinga passes away on 15 October. President William Ruto (2022-present) engages with opposition political leaders to pursue his new 'First World by 2055' agenda, outlining reform goals across energy, infrastructure, privatisation, and health coverage. Ruto uses Kenya's United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) address to demand UN Security Council (UNSC) reform and highlight Kenya's leadership of Haiti's Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission. United States (US)-headquartered Uber launches Uber Safari in Nairobi National Park, targeting Kenya's tourism economy amid mixed operator and public reactions.

Raila Odinga passes away

Doctors in **India** [confirmed](#) that former prime minister **Raila Odinga** and leader of the **Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)** party suffered a cardiac arrest during his routine morning walk and was pronounced dead on 15 October. On 11 October, Raila's elder brother **Oburu Odinga** [confirmed](#) that the 80 year old ODM leader was unwell following concerns and speculation about the politician's health and whereabouts. Close family and party members made deliberate effort to maintain privacy over Odinga's health and [diminished](#) rumours about the severity of Odinga's health. Following Odinga's death, Indian authorities alerted the **Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)** to begin repatriation procedures as per protocol.

[Local](#) and [international](#) leaders have expressed their condolences to the Odinga family via social media platforms and it is likely that President **William Ruto** (2022-present) will address the nation. Despite being a polarising figure in politics, and unsuccessfully running for president five times, Odinga was considered an [icon](#) and nicknamed 'baba' (**Kiswahili** for "father"). Member of parliament (MP) **Wilson Sossion** [stated](#):

*"Raila's death is the most consequential political death in this country since **Jomo Kenyatta** [1964-1978]. Kenya will never be the same without him... [He] has been the spirit and pillar of this nation."*

Odinga played a significant role in Kenya's youth protests by lending political legitimacy to their demands, [urging](#) the government to listen, and framing the movement as part of a broader struggle for accountability and social justice. However, his decision to [join](#) Ruto's broad-based government cast doubt on his long-standing image as an opposition stalwart and raised questions about his true commitment to defending the interests of ordinary Kenyans. Nevertheless, Odinga's death leaves a political, organisational, and emotional vacuum in ODM. It remains to be seen whether the party will fragment according to regions or whether it stays Kenya's principal opposition vehicle.

Odinga's unexpected death also puts Ruto's recent engagement with other political elites such as former president **Uhuru Kenyatta** (2013-2022) and **Kenya African National Union (KANU)** party chairman **Gideon Moi** in new perspective (see below). Although whether Ruto was aware of Odinga's health concerns is unclear, his [proclamation](#) of enlarging his broad base government has come at a crucial point.

In the days following this news it is likely that cities and towns will see an increase in large public gatherings. An ARC source noted that security services have already noted crowds amassing in

Kibera, Karen (near Odinga's residence), and **Kisumu** (Odinga's hometown) with economic activities open but exercising increased caution.

Ruto reaches out across political divide to promote 'First World by 2055' agenda

Prior to Odinga's passing, Ruto [announced](#) on 12 October that he had engaged key leaders including Odinga, Kenyatta, and Moi, to help "*take Kenya from a third world country to a first world country*" by 2055, framing the effort as part of his broad-based administration and drive for national unity. The remarks follow a March 2025 policy cooperation [pact](#) between Ruto's **United Democratic Alliance (UDA)** and the ODM (*see ARC Briefing Kenya Mar 2025*). Despite criticism that the pact blurred opposition and government lines, it has delivered modest gains in increasing [dialogue](#) and [health](#) service access amidst persistent grievances about cost of living.

Ruto's new 'First World by 2055' agenda emphasises economic upgrading and political stabilisation. Although to date Ruto's team has made no public comment, many [observers](#) are wondering whether the new plan means that **Vision 2030**, launched in 2008 by former president **Mwai Kibaki** (2002-2013), has been abandoned. Some of the key core aims of the new agenda are:

- Scale [electricity](#) generation from 2,300MW toward at least 10,000MW;
- Deepen domestic [capital](#) markets via a sovereign wealth fund and the introduction of a national infrastructure fund which would be partly by asset sales to finance large-scale projects;
- Accelerate [privatisation](#), starting with a **Kenya Pipeline Company** share offer targeting up to KSh 130 billion (\$1.01 billion), alongside broader asset securitisation;
- Broaden [social protection](#) and service access through universal health coverage under the **Social Health Authority (SHA)** and continued **Affordable Housing Programme** funding.
- Expand [infrastructure](#), including a minimum of 1,000km of dual carriageway highways, improved railway lines, and new airport facilities to match global standards.

Ruto views cross-party backing as essential to securing legislative action and long term reform execution. He [stated](#) that collaboration with Odinga, Moi and Kenyatta would help "*elevate the country to the next level.*" However, Ruto's outreach to Kenyatta followed a public clash that heightened political tensions at the start of the month. Kenyatta used the **Jubilee Party Special National Delegates Conference**, held on 26 September, to accuse Ruto's administration of eroding legacy programmes, [stating](#) that "*untried and untested schemes*" had replaced initiatives such as the Linda Mama policy, which offered free health insurance cover, especially for women.

Ruto [replied](#) on 30 September that his government had "*simply built something better,*" citing the shift to the Linda Jamii policy under the SHA to extend cover across the prenatal-postnatal journey and households. Media outlets [noted](#) that Kenyatta's comments mark his most direct intervention since 2022, and triggered immediate political pushback from Ruto allies in the **Kenya Kwanza** coalition. **Mwala** MP and UDA national organising secretary **Vincent Kawayo** [urged](#) Kenyatta to "*retire honourably,*" while **Kitui South** MP **Rachael Nyamai** praised Ruto's Affordable Housing Programme as transformative. However, former minister and presidential advisor to Ruto, **Moses Kuria**, publicly [defended](#) Kenyatta's right to speak as Jubilee party leader, adding that he stood with Kenyatta.

KANU's [reaction](#) has been two-sided. Ruto told a grassroots meeting in **Nakuru County** on 11 October that Moi's independence party would "*work with*" the Kenya Kwanza administration under the broad-based government banner. However within days, the **KANU National Youth Congress** [publicly](#) dissociated the party from any pact with the presidency, citing process and accountability concerns and questioning whether cooperation with the administration reflects party policy or Moi's chairmanship decision. Observers remain sceptical about whether Ruto's engagement with political leaders is driven by a desire to improve Kenya or if it is about securing alliances ahead of the 2027 general election.

Ruto demands UN reform as Haiti mission expands

Ruto used Kenya's address to the 80th **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** on 24 September to [demand UN Security Council](#) reform, arguing that **Africa's** exclusion from permanent membership is "*unacceptable, unfair and grossly unjust.*" He called for at least two permanent African seats with full rights, and two additional non-permanent seats. Ruto directly tied Kenya's call for UN reforms to operational realities in **Haiti**. He [framed](#) Kenya's role in leading the **Multinational Security Support (MSS)** mission as proof of African burden-sharing whilst also being a cautionary tale on the danger of under-resourced mandates, stating that depute being underfunded and under-equipped, Kenya stepped up to lead the mission. He added that despite operating at "*below 40%*" of authorised strength, the mission was able to [secure](#) critical infrastructure and reopen institutions.

Ruto [urged](#) the council to consolidate these "*hard-won gains*" asking what might have been achieved with full operational capabilities. It is important to note that while the MSS was able to secure the seaport, airport and reopen a hospital, success was severely [limited](#) and troops were largely confined to areas surrounding their **Port-au-Prince** barracks. On 30 September, the UNSC [adopted Resolution 2793 \(2025\)](#), co-sponsored by the **United States (US)** and **Panama**, authorising transitioning the MSS into a more militarised **Gang Suppression Force** with a 12-month mandate and a ceiling of 5,550 uniformed personnel. However, this comes against the reality of the UN having to reduce the numbers of its peacekeeping forces and operations by as much as [25%](#) in light of US funding cuts.

Kenya's foreign affairs ministry publicly [welcomed](#) the resolution, calling it a stronger, better-resourced arrangement to tame gangs. Credit was given to Kenya's leadership and the ministry stated that Kenya is open to continued engagement provided the successor mission is properly funded and equipped. Principal Secretary (PS) **Korir Sing'oei** [stated](#) that the decision:

"Reflects the impact of Kenya's leadership in mobilising international attention, forging consensus, and catalysing collective action when others hesitated."

However, Sing'oei's comments were later scrutinised after Russia's deputy permanent representative Dmitry Polyanskiy corrected his description of the UNSC vote as unanimous - **China**, Russia and **Pakistan** abstained.

Operationally, police inspector general **Douglas Kanja** [said](#) Kenya's **National Police Service** had not yet received formal directives on changes to the deployment and was awaiting information from the **National Security Council**. Additionally, domestic contestation persists; former minister **Moses Kuria** [termed](#) the Haiti engagement a "*misadventure*" and urged the redeployment of returning officers to **Nairobi** to address local insecurity.

Although institutional reforms to the UNSC are likely to be gradual, Ruto's stance at UNGA sought to consolidate Kenya's profile as an African reform advocate, potentially elevating the country's diplomatic profile with the **African Union (AU)**, US and **European Union (EU)** and reinforcing the importance of international burden sharing.

Ride-hailing platforms enter Kenya's safari market, reigniting cost concerns

US-headquartered **Uber** [launched Uber Safari](#) in **Nairobi National Park** on 15 September, enabling in-app booking of three to four hour guided drives. This announcement was followed by **Estonian** rideshare app **Bolt's** [announcement](#) on 26 September that it would also enter the Kenyan safari market by late 2025, [hinting](#) at pricing that could undercut Uber's rates. Uber lists day safaris at KSh 25,000 (\$192) per vehicle and night safaris at KSh 40,000 (\$307), with park entry paid separately to **Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)**.

During the launch, Uber's **East Africa** general manager **Imran Manji** [noted](#) the crucial role that tourism plays in the Kenyan economy - the **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)** [forecasts](#) that the sector could grow its annual gross domestic product (GDP) contribution to KSh 1.7 trillion (\$13 billion) by 2034, representing 7.4% of Kenya's economy. While also speaking at the launch, US embassy Chargé d'Affaires **Susan Burns** [framed](#) the launch as part of a broader US-Kenya commercial relationship and highlighted the importance of investment aligned with conservation responsibility.

However, local tour company reactions are split. Manji stated that tour operators can sign up in-app as providers for the safari experience, and established [firms](#) see the project's potential to formalise short urban safaris and access Uber's international demand. However, [others](#) caution that 'Uber-style' models in parks could weaken safety, guiding standards, and community-linked value chains amid wider fears of price-cut dynamics and "*checklist tourism*." On social media, many noted the increased convenience for time-pressed visitors.

Price uncertainty and availability remain high risks as Kenya has seen recurrent strike action by platform drivers which could interfere with safari partnerships. Despite the July 2022 transport ministry [ordering](#) Bolt and Uber to cap their commission fee at 18%, during a five-day national [strike](#) in July 2024 drivers petitioned the **National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA)** for fair pay and involvement in setting prices. Drivers [questioned](#) why they were shouldering all the operational costs of their businesses including parking fees and insurance while the app companies took their guaranteed income.

Environmentalists also worry that increased tourism could negatively affect Kenya's wildlife. Although KWS prohibits off-road driving, alighting outside designated areas, littering, loud music and smoking, incidents often occur. Increased visitor volume would necessitate increased rule-enforcement and penalties. The development also comes amid a rebound in domestic visitation - free entry on **World Tourism Day** on 27 September drew [6,431](#) Kenyans to the national park- and evolving conservation fee rules. The **Milimani** high court on 3 October blocked KWS from enforcing increased park entry fees after granting an interdict sought by the **Kenya Tourism Federation (KTF)**. Operator groups warn that steep conservation fee increases risk outpricing Kenyan residents and endangering local visitation and school trips that underpin public support for conservation.

A July [poll](#) found that 93% of respondents believed Kenya risked pricing itself out with the proposed hikes. Under the [proposed](#) fee structure access to Nairobi National Park would cost \$7.69 for East African citizens ([increased](#) from \$3.30), \$10 for residents, \$80 for non-residents (increased from \$43), and \$40 for African citizens, amplifying worries that the fee structure favours higher spending international visitors over citizens and **East African Community (EAC)** travellers. KTF [wants](#) KWS to postpone implementation of the new conservation fees to 1 January 2026 to give tour operators a chance to fairly implement the new pricing; the matter is scheduled to be heard on 25 November.

Planner

25 Oct 2025	(India) Kenya-India Investment Forum
28-31 Oct 2025	Nairobi (Kenya) Africa International Agricultural Expo
27 Nov 2025	(Kenya) Nationwide by-elections
8-12 Dec 2025	Nairobi (Kenya) United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)
22 Jan 2026	Nairobi (Kenya) United Kingdom-Kenya Business Forum
11-12 Feb 2026	Nairobi (Kenya) Africa Tech Summit
24 Feb 2026	Nairobi (Kenya) World Financial Innovation Series (WFIS) Kenya 2026
25 Mar 2026	Nairobi (Kenya) Kenya International Investment Conference (KIICO 2026)
Mar 2026	Nairobi (Kenya) 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC)
11-12 May 2026	Nairobi (Kenya) Africa-France Summit 2026
10 Aug 2027	(Kenya) General election

Chronology

- 14 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** enrolls in a master's degree programme in Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the **Open University of Kenya**, the country's first fully digital university;
- 13 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Senators raise concern over significant inequalities in tea bonus payments across the country with farmers in some regions earning as high as KSh 50 (\$0.38) per kilogramme, while others receive as little as KSh 12 (\$0.09);
- 13 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Opposition leaders, including **Kalonzo Musyoka** and former deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua**, accuse the government of conspiring with foreign actors to rig the 2027 election;
- 13 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Parliament passes a bill to create a supervisory regime for crypto asset issuers in a move aimed at providing legal clarity for the industry as it seeks to boost investments into the sector;
- 13 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. The recent **Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** report projects inflation will remain at 5.25% until the end of the current economic cycle;
- 12 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. The 2025 **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** reports that 36.8% of Kenyans - approximately 20 million people - lack sufficient food, reaching the highest level in 25 years;
- 9 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. The government sets a 31 March 2026 deadline for the listing of **Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC)** shares on the **Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE)**;
- 8 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. The **World Bank** asks Kenya to consider additional consumption taxes like excise duty and value added tax (VAT) to clear mounting supplier arrears;
- 7 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. **National Assembly's** committee on trade, industry, and cooperatives uncovers alarming irregularities in the proposed sale of a substantial stake in **East Africa Portland Cement (EAPC)**, primarily surrounding a massive share discount and critical regulatory omissions;
- 7 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. **Central Bank of Kenya (CBK)** reports inflation rose to 4.6% in September from 4.5% in August;
- 7 Oct 2025 **New Delhi (India)** *People Daily*. Following a high-level meeting between the **Kenya Navy** and the **Indian Navy**, Kenya and India reaffirm their joint commitment to strengthen maritime security and regional cooperation within the **Indian Ocean**;
- 6 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Techcabal*. Parliament passes Kenya's first cryptocurrency law - **Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASP) Bill, 2025** and awaits approval from President **William Ruto**;
- 6 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)**. *Capital FM*. During the **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Horticulture Connect Forum** in **Nairobi**, trade cabinet secretary (CS) **Lee Kinyanjui** says the government is collaborating with COMESA and the **European Union (EU)** to enhance market access for horticultural exports, noting that his ministry has banned over 200 pesticides that fail to meet global standards and is working with regional partners to harmonise sanitary and phytosanitary measures to ease cross-border trade;
- 6 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Following a cabinet reshuffle, education cabinet secretary (CS) **Julius Ogamba** announces a major overhaul of its parastatals, revealing a plan to merge and dissolve 10 state corporations;

6 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. State-owned **Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK)** seeks approval from the **National Treasury** to sell part of its dormant assets to clear liabilities amounting to KSh 7.2 billion (\$55.27m) and attract a strategic investor to revive operations;

5 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenya Bankers Association** calls on the **Central Bank of Kenya** to cut interest rates to enable cheaper loans and stimulate economic growth;

2 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. President **William Ruto** welcomes Kenyan athletes returning from the **2025 World Athletics Championships** in **Japan** with financial rewards in line with the government's new sports reward scheme;

2 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. **Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA)** chairman **Chege Kirundi** says that the agency is intensifying efforts to expand value addition and increase exports to China and other global destinations, targeting to have at least 40% of exports processed and value-added under the agency's **ChaiGold** brand by 2028;

2 Oct 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenya Aviation Workers Union** reaches a partial deal with the **Kenya Airports Authority** following disputes over airport management and employment of aviation workers, averting a planned strike;

1 Oct 2025 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *People Daily*. **Kenya** high commission in **Maputo** issues a public advisory urging Kenyan nationals to comply with Mozambican immigration regulations, particularly regarding the permitted duration of stay;

30 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. The government projects KSh 2.7 billion (\$20.7m) savings in reforestation costs as it moves to open public forests to private investors;

30 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Former president **Uhuru Kenyatta** publicly challenges President **William Ruto's** leadership for the first time since leaving office, creating political tension within Kenya;

24 Sep 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **Ethiopia** and **Kenya** sign a new defence cooperation agreement, covering intelligence sharing, military training, defence industry collaboration, border security and counterterrorism;

24 Sep 2025 **Mandera (Kenya)** *Capital FM*. Interior cabinet secretary (CS) **Kipchumba Murkomen** announces plans to arm chiefs in Kenya's border regions and other high-risk frontier after undertaking security vetting, training, and standard licensing procedures;

23 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. The **Kenya Aviation workers Union** issues a seven day strike notice citing board incompetence, failure to confirm contract staff, and other grievances;

23 Sep 2025 **New York (United States)** *Capital FM*. President **William Ruto** tells participants at the **United States-Kenya Business and Investment Roundtable** meeting that Kenya's macro-economic fundamentals make it the ideal investment destination for American corporations seeking business opportunities in **Africa**;

22 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Opposition leader **Raila Odinga** states there is no deal regarding President **William Ruto's** potential 2027 re-election, despite some opposition party **Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)** officials publicly endorsing Ruto;

21 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Insurance Regulatory Authority** reports the insurance sector is facing a surge in fraudulent claims, with the motor vehicle segment being the hardest hit;

19 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. Government declares the **Muslim Brotherhood** and **Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT)** terrorist groups under the **Prevention of Terrorism Act**;

18 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital FM*. Interior cabinet secretary (CS) **Kipchumba Murkomen** announces plans to revamp security operations on **Lake Victoria** in a bid to address ongoing challenges faced by Kenyan fishermen;

18 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. **Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)** discloses that it lacks sufficient funds to conduct all 24 by-elections scheduled for 27 November;

18 Sept 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. The **Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA)** launches a KSh17 billion (\$130.6m) five-year strategic plan aimed at strengthening police accountability, but with only 21% of the required funding and operations limited to nine regions, IPOA admits that the plan's success will depend heavily on adequate resources;

17 Sep 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto**, alongside **African Export-Import Bank** chairman **Benedict Okey Oramah**, highlights the government's plans to leverage **Special Economic Zones** to drive economic growth and create jobs;

16 Sept 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. Data by the **Agricultural and Food Authority (AFA)** show a 12% dip in Kenya's flower export volumes due in part to elevated airfreight costs and stricter **European Union (EU)** phytosanitary regulations;

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