

TODAY'S LEAD

Ruto promises full university funding as students battle KUCCPS, HELB glitches

President William Ruto has pledged that the government will fully fund every student who qualifies for higher education, starting with the 2026 cohort and regardless of...



PICTURE: CITIZEN DIGITAL

President William Ruto has pledged that the government will fully fund every student who qualifies for higher education, starting with the 2026 cohort and regardless of their parents' means - a significant promise following turbulence over the previous student-funding model. The assurance came as students reported technical disruptions on the KUCCPS and HELB portals during course transfers and funding applications, adding stress to an already anxious placement season. Officials said applications would continue under the existing framework until new legislation takes effect. That

legislation - the Tertiary Placement and Funding Bill, 2026 - would merge HELB and the Universities Fund into a single Tertiary Education Funding Authority (TEFA), a restructuring the government argues will streamline support. Its passage through Parliament is now pivotal to delivering on the funding promise. For families across Kenya, including many in Kibra sending their first child to university, the stakes are deeply personal. A workable, transparent funding system can open doors that would otherwise stay shut - but only if the portals work and the money actually arrives when students need it.

REPORTED WITH MATERIAL FROM CITIZEN DIGITAL

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- Ruto rejects Public Procurement Bill, sends it back to Parliament
- Harambee Starlets open WAFCON 2026 against hosts Morocco
- 'Sex for water': Kibera women speak out against vendor cartels as campaign fights back



Ruto rejects Public Procurement Bill, sends it back to Parliament

THE STAR

President William Ruto has declined to assent to the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill, returning it to Parliament with reservations on more than 20 clauses. National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula announced the referral back to the House. At the heart of the President's objection is the bill's definition of local versus foreign firms, which he argued was "impractical" and could undermine Kenya's investment climate and its goals for attracting foreign direct investment. His memorandum raised concerns spanning clauses on eligibility, thresholds and enforcement. The National Assembly's Finance and National Planning Committee now has 21 days to examine the objections. Parliament can either accommodate the President's reservations or move to override them, after which the Senate would need to concur. Procurement reform is a sensitive subject in Kenya, where public tendering has long been a flashpoint for corruption allegations, and lawmakers had cast the bill as a way to...



Harambee Starlets open WAFCON 2026 against hosts Morocco

PULSE SPORTS KENYA

Kenya's Harambee Starlets returned to the continental stage as they opened their Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) 2026 campaign against co-hosts Morocco at the Moulay El Hassan Stadium in Rabat. The match, played before a partisan home crowd, marked only Kenya's second appearance at the tournament - their first since 2016, when they exited without a point. Coached by Beldine Odemba, the Starlets were drawn in a demanding group that also features Senegal and Algeria,



'Sex for water': Kibera women speak out against vendor cartels as campaign fights back

NPR

A troubling picture of daily survival in Kibera has drawn fresh national and international attention: reports that some women are pressured into "sex for water" by vendors who control access to a basic necessity. Investigators describe roughly 30 water cartels operating across the settlement, distributing tens of thousands of litres each week to households with few other options. The problem sits within a wider crisis. Aid groups estimate that around a third of Kenyans lack reliable access to clean water, and in dense settlements like Kibera that scarcity hands vendors enormous power. Advocates say that power is sometimes abused. Pushing back is the "Stop Sex for Water" campaign led by the Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET), working with WaterAid and the UN Human Rights Office. Campaigners are supporting survivors, documenting abuses and demanding that water access be treated as a right rather than a bargaining chip. Community...

NEWS IN BRIEF

DCI dismisses claims by Rigathi Gachagua that he receives intelligence from security officers

NATION.CO.KE

Kenya vs Algeria: Harambee Starlets' WAFCON wait for first point and win continues after 2026 exit

SPORTPESA BLOG

Bodycam video shows firefighters battling blaze in Spokane, US

AL JAZEERA

Bodycam footage from firefighters shows the speed needed to put out the blaze sweeping through the northwestern US.

France wildfires reveal hundreds of WW2 shells in village

BBC NEWS

Explosions heard in Le Porge as the wildfires raged are believed to have been the old munitions.

Kenyans protesting nuclear facility face terrorism investigation - news

MONGABAY

Bomet Residents to Benefit from Community-Based Justice System

NEWS - CAPITAL FM KENYA

Launching the Bomet County Alternative Justice Systems County Action Plan and related initiatives, Koome said justice should be accessible to every Kenyan regardless of where they live.

Colombia's Petro repeats vote fraud claims days before handing over power

AL JAZEERA

Petro accuses programmers of altering vote counts and claims metadata tied to election results was hidden from review.