REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL

HONOURING HEROES, HONOURING KENYA

THE NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL

NEWS MAGAZINE & HEROES NARRATIVES



H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD, C.G.H., President of the Republic Of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hon. Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, alongside some of the National Heroes 2026 at State Lodge, Eldoret during the 2026 Mashujaa Day celebrations.

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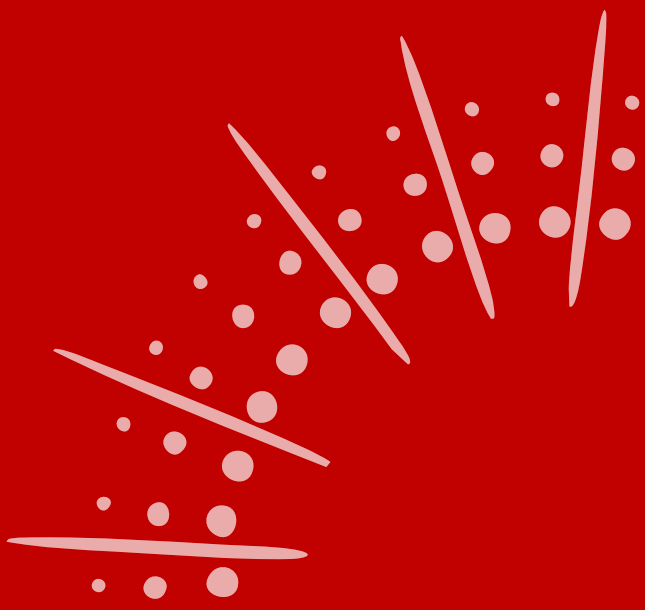
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NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL
INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Vision

Excellence in honouring heroes

Mission

To promote nationalism by identifying, honouring and supporting national heroes

Core Values

- Patriotism
- Integrity
- Innovation
- Diversity
- Professionalism

Council Members



HON. JIMMY NURU ONDIEKI ANGWENYI, MGH
Outgoing Chairman



REV. DAVID LEBARLEYIA
Member



HUSSEIN KADIDA
Member



SHEILA MAMMET, HSC
Member Alternate/Representative of the Attorney General



FAITH CHIRCHIR
Member Alternate/Representative of The Principal Secretary, The National Treasury



MR. ABDULLAH KASSIM
Member



HON. CHARFANA GUYO MOKKU
Member



BILLY KONCHELLAH
Member



GEORGE STANLEY NJOROGE
Representative of the Principal Secretary, State Department for Culture, The Arts and Heritage



JOHN KARANJA
Inspectorate of State Corporations



DR. CHARLES O. WAMBIA, OGW, CoP
CEO/Secretary



Charles Wambia, OGW

Chief Executive Officer
National Heroes Council

FOREWORD

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Our nation's history is shaped by the courage, sacrifice and unwavering dedication of countless individuals who have gone above and beyond in serving our country. Yet, among them there are many unsung heroes whose stories remain untold; whose impact is felt but not always recognised.

In this edition of our newsletter, we shine a light on these remarkable men and women from all walks of life, who have selflessly contributed to the advancement of our nation. From freedom fighters and visionary leaders to community builders and defenders of justice, their contributions have shaped our society in profound ways.

At the National Heroes Council, our mandate is to honour and preserve the legacies of these heroes. It is our collective responsibility to acknowledge their sacrifices and ensure that their efforts are not forgotten, but instead celebrated and used as a source of inspiration for future generations.

As you read through these stories, we hope you find motivation, pride and a renewed sense of patriotism. May we all draw lessons from their resilience and be inspired to play our part in building a stronger, united and prosperous nation.

Honouring the past, present and shaping the future!

Charles Wambia, OGW

Chief Executive Officer
National Heroes Council

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is with great enthusiasm and honour that I have the privilege of midwifing the first-ever National Heroes Council Newsletter and Heroes' Narratives.

It is a privilege to be a part of this journey and to help create a platform through which we can celebrate, share and preserve the stories of our national heroes.

This publication aims to communicate the Council's mandate while giving our national heroes an opportunity to share their stories, experiences and reflections. Through these narratives, we hope to showcase their contributions to changing the lives of those around them, advancing national development and inspiring others to give of themselves in service to society.

More importantly, we hope that these stories will help preserve the legacy of our national heroes, keep their memories alive and promote national cohesion. Their lives and experiences remind us of the values of service, sacrifice, courage and patriotism, and the difference each of us can make in our communities and our country.

As we begin this journey, I warmly invite you to be a part of it. We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on the newsletter, as well as the stories you would like us to tell and the experiences you believe deserve to be shared. Your contributions will help us make this publication more engaging, meaningful and reflective of the people and values that shape our nation.

Kindly share your feedback and suggestions by emailing info@heroes.go.ke

Thank you for joining us in this journey of celebrating our heroes, preserving their legacies and inspiring generations to come.

Jacqueline Marita

Editor In Chief and Deputy Director Public Education Awareness and Corporate Communication, National Heroes Council

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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4. Ms. Elizabeth Mwende
Heroes Officer, National Heroes Rewards, Sanctions and State Assistance

5. Mr. James Muritu
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6. Ms. Darmi Hussein
Heroes Officer, National Heroes Square, Monuments and Research

DISCLAIMER

The National Heroes Council News Magazine and Heroes Narrative publication is intended to inform, educate and preserve the legacy of National Heroes. The views and opinions expressed in the articles, narratives and contributions are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the National Heroes Council. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity, therefore, the Council accepts no liability for inadvertent errors or omissions. All rights are reserved.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES, 2025–2026

The National Heroes Council is mandated to identify, recognise, honour and preserve the legacy of Kenya's National Heroes. In implementing this mandate, the Council undertakes its work through key functional areas, including National Heroes Rewards, Sanctions and State Assistance, Public Education Awareness and Corporate Communication and National Heroes Square, Monuments and Research, which collectively contribute to the effective delivery of its programmes and services.

Recognising National Heroes' contributions ensures that their sacrifices and achievements are preserved for future generations, fostering core values like patriotism, integrity, resilience and service that strengthen national identity and inspire civic responsibility.

During the 2025–2026 financial year, the Council executed strategic initiatives and partnerships with National and County Governments, educational institutions, cultural organisations and other key stakeholders. These engagements facilitated the identification of heroes, public education, research, dialogue and public participation, deepening societal understanding of national heroism and reinforcing the Council's pivotal role in preserving Kenya's shared history.



The National Heroes Council CEO, Dr. Charles Wambia, OGW, CoP, alongside Deputy Directors Zubeida Sheikh and Liston Koskei, paid a courtesy call to the leadership of the Kenya Prisons Service at Magereza House.

Mashujaa Day 2026 and 2025

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010, established October 20 as Mashujaa Day, a national day dedicated to recognising and celebrating the contributions of Kenya's heroes.

The celebrations provide an annual opportunity for the country to reflect on the sacrifices, achievements and contributions of individuals who have played a significant role in Kenya's development and the well-being of its people. In keeping with this national tradition, the 2026 Mashujaa day celebrations were jointly cohosted by Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet counties while the 2025 Mashujaa Day celebrations were held in Kitui County, bringing together Kenyans from across the country to celebrate heroism and reaffirm the values that continue to shape the nation.

The celebrations provided an important national platform for celebrating and honouring individuals whose exceptional contributions, selfless service and commitment have made a meaningful difference to the country and its people. The occasions underscored that heroism is not confined to a particular profession, generation or form of service, but is demonstrated through diverse acts of courage, sacrifice, excellence, leadership and service to humanity.

MASHUJAA DAY 2026



Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hon. Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, with National Heroes Council members, CEO Dr. Charles Wambia OGW, CoP and a section of national heroes 2026.

National Heroes 2026 at State Lodge, Eldoret





Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hon. Hannah Wendot Cheptumo (centre), with 2026 national heroes.



National heroes 2026 at Kipchoge Keino Stadium, Eldoret, Uasin Gishu county



H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD, C.G.H., President of the Republic Of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hon. Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, alongside some of the National Heroes 2026 at State Lodge, Eldoret during the 2026 Mashujaa Day celebrations.

2026 National Heroes



MASHUJAA DAY 2025 - KITUI COUNTY



ITHOOKWE STADIUM, MASHUJAA DAY 2025



MASHUJAA DAY 2025 Heroes and Heroines seated at Ithookwe Stadium, Kitui County, awaiting H.E. William Samoei Ruto, PhD, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya, **to preside over the celebrations.**



From left, Shujaas Nancy Wangechi Ndegwa (Human Rights), Fatuma Abubakar Abdalla Elmaawy (Entrepreneurship and innovation), Mwanahamisi Hamadi (Scholarship Professionalism and Research) and Paul Julius Nunda (Arts) aka Jua Kali at Ithookwe Stadium in Kitui County during Mashujaa Day celebrations in 2025.



Shujaa Githaiga wa Githaibi receives his Medal of Honour and Certificate from the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children's Services, Hon. Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, in recognition of his distinguished contribution to Kenya's liberation struggle.

Shujaa Judy Mwende Mutunga receives her Medal of Honour and Certificate from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Gender and The Arts, Hon. Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, in recognition of her distinguished contribution to Entrepreneurship and Industry.



Historical Moment



Launch Of The First Ever National Heroes Council Strategic Plan 2023/ 2024 - 2027/2028 At The Bomas Of Kenya on July 10th 2024

MASHUJAA DAY 2024
KWALE COUNTY



Mashujaa seated at Kwale Stadium during the 2024 Mashujaa Day celebrations as they joined the nation in commemorating and honouring the remarkable contributions, sacrifices and service of Kenyan heroes and heroines.



Shujaa Faith Jeruto Waningu receives her Medal of Honour from H.E. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, in recognition of her distinguished service and contribution to Environmental Conservation On Mashujaa Day 2024.

Shujaa Faith Mbusi with her Medal of Honour and Certificate of Recognition, symbols of distinguished service, dedication and exceptional contribution to the nation during Mashujaa Day 2024 celebrations.





Shujaas Andrew Lokitambaa (Environmental Conservation) and Gen. Augustine Kipsongoh Arap Cheruiyot, CBS, MGH,EBS, (Scholarship, Professionalism and Research) with their Medals of Honour and Certificates of Recognition, awarded in recognition of their distinguished service, dedication and exceptional contributions to the nation.

Shujaa Dr. Agnes Salome Awour with her Medal of Honour and Certificate of Recognition, symbols of distinguished service, dedication and exceptional contribution in the field of Scholarship, Professionalism and Research during Mashujaa Day 2024 celebrations.



MASHUJAA DAY 2023
KERICHO COUNTY



H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces with national heroes during Mashujaa Day 2023 celebrations in Kericho County.

Historical



Council Members and stakeholders during the development of the Council's first Strategic Plan covering the period 2023/2024-2027/2028

Stakeholder Engagements and Public Outreach

The Council utilises strategic communication, stakeholder engagements, public forums, media outreach and institutional partnerships to create awareness of its mandate and role in identifying, honouring, celebrating and preserving the legacy of Kenya's heroes.

Devolution Conference 2025

The National Heroes Council participated in the Devolution Conference 2025, a platform that brought together National and County Governments institutions, development partners, civil society and other stakeholders to deliberate on issues central to Kenya's development and governance.

The Council's participation provided an opportunity to position national heroism within the broader devolution and development discourse and to create awareness of its mandate among stakeholders.

The conference provided an avenue for the Council to advance the mainstreaming of heroism at the county and grassroots levels.

The engagement also highlighted the potential of county structures to serve as important platforms for public education, civic engagement, heritage preservation and intergenerational knowledge transfer.



The National Heroes Council team at DEVCON2025. From Left, standing, Elizabeth Mwende Heroes Officer, Maisy Muhando (Attache) and Jacqueline Marita, Deputy Director Public Education Awareness and Corporate Communication. With them is Dr. David Mbuthia, Deputy Director Heroes Squares, Monuments and Research.

The conference provided an avenue for the Council to advance the mainstreaming of heroism at the county and grassroots levels.

Working closely with County Governments, County Assemblies, educational institutions, communities and other local stakeholders enables the Council to reach wider audiences and ensure that stories of heroism are not confined to national platforms, but are appreciated and celebrated within the communities where these contributions have been made.

During the conference, the Council engaged the public and sensitised them on the legacy of national heroes including their values such as courage, resilience, patriotism, innovation, leadership and community service.



Dr. David Mbuthia (second left), Deputy Director Heroes Squares, Monuments and Research at a panel discussion, on the place of heroism in nation-building, during the 2025 Devolution Conference in Homa Bay County.

Energy Week - Kitui County

The National Heroes Council participated in the Kitui Energy Week as part of the activities leading up to the 2025 Mashujaa Day national celebrations. Held under the theme, “Transforming Lives through Sustainable Energy Solutions,” the event provided the Council with an opportunity to engage the public on the connection between national heroism and Kenya’s broader socio-economic development agenda.

Through its exhibition and public engagement, the Council highlighted the contributions of national heroes, whose efforts in diverse sectors continue to drive positive change and improve lives. The participation also enabled the Council to advance public awareness of its mandate, strengthen stakeholder engagement, exchange knowledge and explore partnerships that support the recognition and promotion of contributions to Kenya’s development.



National Heroes Council officers James Muritu and Maisy Muhando engage a member of the public during the Kitui Energy Week exhibition in 2025.

The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD)

The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) plays a pivotal role in shaping Kenya's education system through the evaluation, vetting and approval of curricula and curriculum support materials.

The Council engaged the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to explore ways of mainstreaming national heroism and values espoused by National Heroes and the legacies into Kenya's education system. In particular, the collaboration sought to strengthen the integration of national heroism within the Competency-Based Education (CBE), ensuring that learners are introduced to the stories, sacrifices and contributions of individuals, who have played significant roles in shaping the nation.

Through the partnership, the Council and KICD continue to explore opportunities to incorporate relevant stories, values and lessons from Kenya's heroes into learning materials and age-appropriate educational content. This approach is intended to make national history and heroism more relatable to learners while nurturing values such as patriotism, selflessness, service, resilience, courage, integrity and responsibility to society.



The National Heroes Council Team led by CEO, Dr. Charles Onyango Wambia OGW CoP, with The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development officials led by Senior Deputy Director Curriculum Development, Dr. Jacqueline Onyango (3rd left) during a strategic partnership engagement on mainstreaming matters of heroism into the curriculum.

Huduma Kenya

The Council engaged Huduma Kenya to leverage its extensive strategic national network and established platforms consisting of Huduma Centres in all 47 counties, Huduma Mashinani outreach channel, a call centre and cyber cafes to expand public awareness and access to information on National Heroes and its programmes.

Through this engagement, the Council explored opportunities to leverage the extensive reach and accessibility of Huduma Centres to enhance public education and awareness on national heroism, the identification of national heroes and the importance of preserving the history of Kenya's heroes and their heritage.



National Heroes Council and Huduma Kenya Secretariat staff. during a strategic partnership engagement at Huduma Centre.

Baringo County Engagement

The National Heroes Council strengthened its engagement with county governments through a visit by a delegation from Baringo County led by the Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Vincent Kemboi. The engagement provided an opportunity to review the County Honours and Awards Bill as well as promote greater awareness of the Council's mandate and the role of County Governments in advancing the national heroism agenda at the grassroots where many acts of selfless service and outstanding heroism often originate.

Discussions highlighted opportunities for identification of heroes, collaboration in public education, research, documentation and preservation of local histories and heritage with the County Government. The engagement underscored the importance of involving communities in identifying and celebrating individuals whose courage, service and contributions have positively impacted society and Kenya's development.



Baringo County officials, led by the County Speaker, Hon. Vincent Kemboi and CECM for Culture, Maurine Limashep, who engaged with the National Heroes Council to explore a collaborative framework for honouring and celebrating the county's local heroes.

Honouring Mekatilili wa Menza in Shakahola, Kilifi County

The National Heroes Council undertook field engagements in Kilifi County to document and preserve the legacy of Mekatilili wa Menza, one of Kenya's prominent figures in the struggle against colonial rule and a leading figure in the Giriama resistance of the early 20th Century. The activity involved consultations with community members and relevant stakeholders, as well as a visit to Shakahola, which is associated with her life and resistance. These engagements enabled the Council to gather historical accounts and community perspectives that contribute to preserving and strengthening the national narrative of heroism.

Mekatilili wa Menza is remembered for her courageous leadership in mobilising the Giriama community against colonial policies that threatened their livelihoods, land, cultural practices and traditional institutions. Working alongside other community leaders, she used traditional cultural practices and community gatherings to build solidarity and resistance. Her arrest and exile, and her subsequent return to the Coast, further demonstrate the courage and determination associated with her struggle. Her story also highlights the important role of women and communities in Kenya's history of resistance and the preservation of cultural identity.

Through this activity, the Council fulfilled its mandate of preserving and promoting Kenya's heritage and stories of heroism. The information and community knowledge gathered will support construction of a monument in honour of Mekatilili, public education, exhibitions, publications and other initiatives aimed at ensuring that the contributions of Kenya's heroes remains accessible and meaningful to present and future generations.



The National Heroes Council Chairman Hon. Jimmy Angwenyi (seated, left), H.E. Governor Gideon Mung'aro (right) and representatives of the Mijikenda Association for Development and Cultural Advancement (MADCA), led by Senior Council Joseph Karisa Mwarandu (third right) during a visit aimed at honouring Mekatilili wa Menza.



Mijikenda Association for Development and Cultural Advancement (MADCA) Senior Council Joseph Karisa Mwarandu leads the National Heroes Council team and community members in prayers at the historic Mekatilili wa Menza pillar in Shakahola, Kilifi County, a site associated with the beginning of her resistance against the colonial administration.



6 HEROES NARRATIVES

01

SHUJAA COMMISSIONER HADIJA NGANYI JUMA

Year of Honour: 2023
Category: Statesmanship

Impact:
Championing sustainable revenue collection for counties development. Enhancing County Own-Source Revenue: A Path to Financial Sustainability



Shujaa Commissioner Hadija Nganyi Juma during a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Andrew Mwadime, Wakujaa, E.G.H, Governor of Taita Taveta County, during an engagement on sustainable county revenue collection and strategies for enhancing Own Source Revenue (OSR).

SUSTAINABLE COUNTY REVENUE COLLECTION: ENHANCING COUNTY OWN SOURCE REVENUE AS A PATH TO FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Counties play a vital role in Kenya's development and their ability to generate own source revenue (OSR) is key to financial independence and provision of service delivery such as health and education. For years, heavy reliance on national Exchequer allocations limited local development.

Strengthening revenue collection reduces reliance on National Government transfers, enabling counties to fund critical development projects and enhance infrastructure. Despite progress, many counties still struggle to maximise their revenue potential, highlighting the need for stronger financial strategies and streamlined revenue collection mechanisms. Additionally, challenges such as inefficient taxpayer databases and revenue leakages continue to hinder full revenue potential.

In recognition of the above challenges, Commissioner Hadija Nganyi has championed innovative revenue collection strategies that have empowered counties towards financial resilience and self-sufficiency. Under her guidance, counties such as Narok, Mombasa, Laikipia, Makueni, Homa Bay and Bungoma have made remarkable strides in increasing their OSR collection, setting a model for others to follow.

Driving sustainable revenue growth to address these challenges, Commissioner Nganyi has spearheaded the development of OSR mapping guidelines to help counties identify revenue sources, track taxpayer compliance and strengthen collection systems.
These guidelines have also provided strategies for digitalising revenue administration, enhancing enforcement measures and promoting transparency in financial management as crucial steps towards financial sustainability.

Through advocating for counties to adopt global best practices and leverage technology towards counties generating own source revenue, Commissioner Hadija has helped devolved units build public trust, improve revenue collection and ensure long-term economic growth and development in counties.

> ***Strengthening revenue collection reduces reliance on National Government transfers, enabling counties to fund critical development projects and enhance infrastructure.***

02

SHUJAA JOHN KAMAU

Year of Honour: 2023
Category: Environmental Conservation

Impact:
Environmental conservation and restoration



Shujaa John Kamau, together with his comrades, takes part in tree planting symbolising the enduring spirit of service, unity and commitment to Kenya.

Restoring Ecosystems and Mobilising Communities for Conservation

In the heart of Murang'a County, John Kamau is leading a green revolution through his tireless efforts in environmental conservation. As the co-founder of Green Hearts Organisation, he has dedicated himself to restoring ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and advocating sustainable environmental practices. Through partnerships with schools, communities and key stakeholders, his organisation has successfully championed tree-planting initiatives, waste management programmes and conservation efforts within the Aberdare ecosystem.

John's passion for nature was exemplified in the reclamation of Kangema Nature Park, a once-neglected space that he transformed into a thriving green oasis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he led efforts to restore the park through campaigns such as "Plant Your Age" and "Occupy Kangema Nature Park", rallying the community to take part in tree planting and environmental restoration. With support from conservation groups, the park now stands as a living ecosystem that protects local biodiversity and provides a peaceful haven for the community. Further, it offers a serene retreat for youth groups, women's organisations and local residents.

03

SHUJAA SHEE KUPI SHEE

Year of Honour: 2023
Category: National cohesion and integration

Impact:
Saving lives and rebuilding trust between security forces and local communities in Boni Forest.



Shujaa Shee Kupi receiving the prestigious Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction presented by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Restoring Trust and Rebuilding Communities

In the dense terrain of Lamu County's Boni Forest region, security challenges have often disrupted lives and economic stability. Some of the security challenges arise from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted in the dense Boni Forest. Shujaa Shee Kupi Shee stepped into this high-risk environment and undertook research and stakeholder engagement, to understand the deployment patterns and operational risks of IEDs.

His findings provided actionable insights to security agencies, shaping strategies that reduced casualties and cleared transit corridors.

Shee's efforts go beyond dismantling the threats cause by IEDs. Recognising that lasting security requires social stability, Shee has advocated for peace and has become a unifying figure among communities living around Boni Forest thus fostering trust between residents, security agencies, and government actors.

By building trust between local residents, Government bodies, and security institutions, he helped transform Boni Forest from a zone of fear into a space of recovery. His advocacy work has earned him international recognition including the prestigious UN Sasakawa Award.

04

SHUJAA ABEL ROTICH

Year of Honour: 2023
Category: Arts

Impact:
Advancing peace, education, community resilience, and inclusive development across communities.



Shujaa Abel Rotich taking part in a radio talk show, sharing his inspiring journey, experiences and the values that define his contribution to society.

Empowering Communities Through Peace and Education

In Pokot Central, Abel Rotich has emerged as a strong advocate for peace, education and social transformation. For Abel, peacebuilding is more than dialogue; it is about creating opportunities, restoring hope and strengthening communities. His years of service to the people of Pokot Central and neighbouring communities have focused on education, social cohesion and inclusive development.

As a facilitator with Finn Church Aid's Operesheni Rudi Shuleni initiative, Abel has helped children who have dropped out of school return to the classroom. While mobilising support for vulnerable learners facing financial hardship, he has championed education as a powerful pathway out of poverty and insecurity.

Through the KAMATUSA Elders Initiative, he has also supported peacebuilding among the Kalenjin, Turkana, Maasai and Samburu communities, facilitating dialogue, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. He has amplified these efforts through radio, television and community forums, advocating for peace, youth empowerment, environmental conservation and civic responsibility.

Abel has further contributed community perspectives to discussions on Kenya's counter-terrorism policy, promoting approaches that strengthen resilience, inclusion and sustainable peace.

05

SHUJAA ANTHONY SAYIANKA SANKAINE

Year of Honour: 2023
Category: Cultural Values and Practices

Impact:
Empowering communities through education, inclusion, and sustainable livelihoods.



Shujaa Sayianka taking part in equality initiative aimed at empowering women and girls.

Championing Education, Dignity and Inclusion

Lasting transformation begins when communities are empowered to shape their own future. For Anthony, this belief has guided more than a decade of service to the people of Kajiado County, where he has championed education, mentorship and social inclusion.

As Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Maasai Transformation Organisation, Anthony has worked with communities to expand educational opportunities,

strengthen livelihoods and address challenges affecting women, girls and young people.

Education remains central to his work. Through mentorship and youth programmes, he has encouraged young people to remain in school, pursue their aspirations and become active contributors to their communities.

He has also championed alternative rite of passage as a culturally respectful alternative to harmful traditional practices. Through community sensitisation, more than 1,500 girls have been supported to continue their education while protecting their health, dignity and cultural identity.

His work in menstrual health has further supported girls and young mothers, with more than 5,000 sanitary pads and 3,000 menstrual cups distributed through community partnerships, helping reduce barriers to education.

Anthony has also empowered women through livelihood and capacity-building programmes, supporting more than 30 groups to strengthen household incomes and economic resilience.

“

Through mentorship and youth programmes, he has encouraged young people to remain in school, pursue their aspirations and become active contributors to their communities.

06

SHUJAA DIBA KOSI BILINGA

Year of Honour: 2023
Category: National Cohesion and Integration

Impact:
Championing Peace, Equality and Education



SHUJAA DIBA KOSI BILINGA

A Beacon of Hope for Peace, Inclusion and Education in Marsabit

In northern Kenya, where inter-community tensions have at times threatened lives, livelihoods and development, dialogue has helped replace division, overcome fear and restore hope. Marsabit County, located in the northern part of the country, has experienced its share of these challenges. Against this backdrop, Diba has distinguished himself as an advocate for peace and gender equality working with religious leaders and other stakeholders to encourage reconciliation.

At a time when Marsabit was experiencing serious ethno-political conflict, Diba used his voice to challenge ethnic divisions and advocate for peace. His article, “Marsabit conflict has worrying traits of genocide in the making”, drew national attention and contributed to a high-level security response, which helped to restore peace in the northern region.

Diba has equally made contribution to education by co-founding an annual fundraising initiative that led to the establishment of the Saku Education Fund, which has enabled more than 1,000 students in Saku Constituency to access higher education.

Diba's journey demonstrates the courage required to speak for justice and reconciliation even in difficult circumstances promotes dialogue, strengthens social cohesion and encourages peaceful coexistence among diverse communities.

07

SHUJAA NAOMI NANCY NAKHUMICHA

Year of Honour: 2023
Category: Environmental Conservation

Impact:
Clean energy briquette production and women's economic empowerment.



Shujaa Naomi participates in tree planting, demonstrating a commitment to environmental conservation and promoting sustainable development for present and future generations.

Clean Energy and Protecting the Environment

Growing up in Chekulo village, Naomi Nancy Nakhumicha learned resilience early in life. Overcoming financial hardships through academic excellence, she earned a place at Lugulu Girls High School and later Moi University, where she trained as an educator.

However, her true calling expanded beyond classroom walls to meet an urgent environmental challenge: severe deforestation and energy poverty in rural communities. Witnessing the health hazards and environmental loss caused by traditional firewood reliance, Naomi pioneered grassroots briquette-making workshops. She trained local women's groups to convert organic waste into affordable, smokeless cooking fuel.

This initiative achieved two major outcomes: it provided a sustainable, clean alternative to charcoal, reducing tree cutting in fragile ecosystems, while giving rural women a steady source of household income. Her service has also earned her the Head of State Commendation (HSC) and the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW).,

Naomi has additionally mentored underprivileged children and led environmental initiatives.

08

SHUJAA ADITYA BOBBY KAMANI

Year of Honour: 2023
Category: Entrepreneurship and Industry

Impact:
Employment creation and skills development



Shujaa Aditya Bobby Kamani

Driving Jobs, Innovation and Inclusive Economic Growth

Shujaa Aditya Bobby Kamani has built a distinguished entrepreneurial legacy through investments in Kenya's hospitality and horticulture sectors, creating employment opportunities while contributing to national economic growth.

In hospitality and tourism, Kamani has developed high-quality establishments that showcase Kenya to local and international visitors. His ventures have created hundreds of jobs across hotel management, culinary arts, operations and other professional fields, providing livelihoods and career opportunities for Kenyan families and young people.

His contribution to horticulture has further strengthened Kenya's agricultural value chain. Through investment in modern and sustainable farming practices and international market access, his enterprises have supported growers, transporters, packers and exporters.

Beyond business, Kamani's story reflects a commitment to Kenyan talent, skills development and inclusive opportunity. His work demonstrates how responsible entrepreneurship can create jobs, empower communities and contribute to shared prosperity.

09

SHUJAA DR. ARUNA VARSANI

Year of Honour: 2024
Category: Human Rights

Impact:
Keeping girls in school through provision of sanitary products and championing a culture of reading through book donations.



SHUJAA DR. ARUNA VARSANI

Championing Girls' Rights and Literacy Through Compassion and Action

Access to basic health and education remains out of reach for many in marginalised areas. However, Dr. Aruna Varsani stands as a beacon of hope. Through her Together for Better Foundation (T4BF), she tirelessly advocates for girls' reproductive rights, menstrual hygiene, mental wellness, and literacy.

Dr. Varsani has made it her mission to ensure that girls and young women have access to critical reproductive health information and resources, through empowering vulnerable girls and women with better menstrual health management through provision of sustainable sanitary kits, hence fostering a better quality of life.

Recognising the stigma and lack of education surrounding menstruation, she has distributed comfortable reusable pads for regular use for over two years, aiming to reduce absenteeism in schoolgoing girls residing in underserved areas.

Beyond health, Dr. Varsani has founded a community library. Through her books drives, over 27 libraries have been equipped, thousands of books and materials have been donated with literacy levels for many being boosted.

Dr. Varsani's regularly organises donation drives, providing food, clothing and essential supplies to families in need. Dr. Aruna Varsani's work reminds us that real change starts with action.

DR. Varsani has made it her mission to ensure that girls and young women have access to critical reproductive health information and resources, through empowering vulnerable girls and women with better menstrual health management through provision of sustainable sanitary kits, hence fostering a better quality of life.

10

SHUJAA JONATHAN CHERUIYOT METET

Year of Honour: 2024
Category: Human Rights

Impact:
Advancing Disability Inclusion in Higher Education



Shujaa Jonathan Cheruiyot Metet at the ***Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,*** in December 2023, during the ***International Conference on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.***

Advancing Disability Inclusion in Higher Education

For more than 14 years, Jonathan has worked to promote and advocate for disability rights to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully participate in education, employment and leadership. His advocacy has focused on ensuring that inclusion moves beyond policies and becomes a reality within institutions and communities.

One of his significant contributions has been his role in advancing disability mainstreaming at the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM), where he serves as a Disability Inclusion Champion.

Through strategic engagement with university leadership, Jonathan has championed the establishment of an independent Disability Mainstreaming Department, an important milestone in embedding disability inclusion within institutional structures.

The Department represents a shift from viewing disability inclusion as an additional programme to recognising it as a fundamental component of governance, accessibility and institutional excellence. Its establishment provides a framework for strengthening support systems, improving accessibility and ensuring that persons with disabilities can participate fully in academic and professional spaces.

11

SHUJAA ALPHA KENNEDY SANYA

Year of Honour: 2024
Category: Philanthropy

Impact:
Saving Lives Through a Lifelong Commitment to Blood Donation



SHUJAA ALPHA KENNEDY SANYA

Saving Lives Through a Lifelong Commitment to Blood Donation

Every three months, Alpha Kennedy Sanya makes a personal commitment that has helped save lives across Kenya - he donates blood. With more than 111 donations recorded by July 2025, his journey began in 1983 as a Form Three student at Pumwani Boys High School in Nairobi. What started as a first-time donation became a lifelong commitment, strengthened by his experience of the urgent need for blood during national emergencies.

Kennedy has consistently donated blood to support patients in need, including accident victims, mothers experiencing complications during childbirth and those undergoing medical procedures. Beyond his personal donations, he has championed voluntary blood donation through outreach programmes in schools, churches, workplaces and community groups, encouraging Kenyans to embrace blood donation as a civic responsibility.

Despite his demanding career as a prosecutor, Kennedy has remained dedicated to promoting a culture of voluntary blood donation, particularly among young people. His sustained service to humanity has earned him national recognition, including the Head of State Commendation (HSC), and recognition for his contribution to saving lives and strengthening Kenya's blood donation efforts.

12

SHUJAA CAPT. ARMSTRONG J. W. MALEMO

Year of Honour: 2025
Category: Scholarship, Professionalism and Research

Impact:
Exemplifying professionalism, inspiring excellence, and mentoring future aviators.



Shujaa Captain Armstrong J.W. Malemo

Captain Armstrong J.W. Malemo: From Turkana to the Skies

For many children growing up in remote parts of Kenya, certain dreams may appear beyond reach. For Captain Armstrong J.W. Malemo, however, a childhood fascination with aircraft became the beginning of a remarkable journey that would take him from the vast landscapes of Turkana to the skies of the world.

Captain Malemo's fascination with aviation began when he watched crop-spraying aircraft flying above his village in Turkana. Those early moments sparked a curiosity that would eventually develop into a lifelong passion for flight.

Growing up in a region where aviation careers were rarely seen as achievable, he pursued his education with determination. At Lodwar High School, he developed the discipline, academic foundation and resilience that would shape his future. His strong performance in Mathematics and Physics helped open the door to aviation training.

Through commitment and hard work, Captain Malemo became the first student from Turkana to qualify as a pilot, a milestone that demonstrated that talent and ambition could rise from every corner of Kenya.

Over a career spanning decades, Captain Malemo served with distinction in Kenya's aviation sector, accumulating more than 20,400 flight hours by 2018 and operating international routes across Africa, Europe, Asia and North America.

However, his greatest contribution extends beyond the cockpit. After retiring from active flying, Captain Malemo has dedicated himself to mentoring young Kenyans and opening their minds to possibilities within aviation and other professional fields. Through school visits, career talks and practical demonstrations, he has encouraged students to pursue excellence and believe that their background does not determine the limits of their future.

After retiring from active flying, Captain Malemo has dedicated himself to mentoring young Kenyans and opening their minds to possibilities within aviation and other professional fields.

13

SHUJAA ANNE MASAKHWE NAMUNGUBA

Year of Honour: 2025
Category: Scholarship, Professionalism and Research

Impact:
Championing literacy, adult education and Ccmmunity opportunity



SHUJAA ANNE MASAKHWE NAMUNGUBA

Empowering Communities Through Literacy and Lifelong Learning

In Kakamega County, Western Kenya, Anne has devoted her life to advancing literacy, adult education and community empowerment. With training in Adult Education, Community Development and Education Management, Anne has focused her knowledge on empowering learners at the grassroots. Since 2016, she has supported activities marking International Literacy Day, raising awareness of the importance of literacy and lifelong learning.

Her impact extends to youth and adults who missed opportunities for formal education. Through mentorship, sensitisation and community-based programmes, particularly in Vihiga County and surrounding areas, she has encouraged learners to return to education, prepare for national examinations and pursue their goals.

Anne has also worked with community learning centres to strengthen participation in adult education. Her efforts have earned recognition for promoting literacy, improving learner participation and building community support for education.

14

SHUJAA JAMES NGARARIGA KAGAMBI

Year of Honour: 2025
Category: Sports

Impact:
Pioneering mountaineering, advancing mountain safety and rescue, and inspiring future generations.



SHUJAA JAMES NGARARIGA KAGAMBI

A Life Above The Clouds

From Mount Kenya to the summit of Everest, James Ngarariga Kagambi's journey reflects resilience, leadership and service.

James Ngarariga Kagambi made Kenyan history in May 2022 when he became the first Kenyan citizen to summit Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain. The achievement capped nearly four decades of mountaineering, leadership and mentorship.

His journey began in 1983 with his first ascent of Point Lenana on Mount Kenya. He went on to develop his expertise through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and the Mountain Club of Kenya, establishing himself as a respected mountaineer and outdoor instructor.

Kagambi broke barriers on the world's peaks, becoming the first Black African to summit Denali in Alaska and Aconcagua in South America. His achievements helped expand the visibility of Africans in international mountaineering.

Beyond climbing, he has dedicated his experience to building safer mountains and developing others. He played a key role in training the Mount Kenya Rescue Team and trained guides and park rangers across East Africa in leadership, navigation and wilderness safety. Through his work with NOLS, he has also mentored climbers and outdoor leaders across the world.

His historic Everest ascent was, therefore, more than a personal milestone. It represented the culmination of a lifetime of discipline and perseverance, while inspiring a new generation of African climbers. Today, Kagambi continues to train rescue teams, promote outdoor leadership and mentor aspiring mountaineers.

> ***He has dedicated his experience to building safer mountains and developing others. He played a key role in training the Mount Kenya Rescue Team and trained guides and park rangers across East Africa in leadership, navigation and wilderness safety.***

APPENDIX: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL

What is the mandate of the National Heroes Council?

The National Heroes Council is established under the Kenya Heroes Act No. 5 of 2014 with the responsibility of identifying, selecting and honouring individuals who have made exceptional and selfless contributions to Kenya.
The Council also works to preserve and promote the stories, values and legacies of national heroes so that current and future generations can learn from their contributions to the nation.

How does one become a hero?

A member of the public, an organisation, a group or an institution may nominate a person they believe has made an exceptional contribution to the country for consideration as a national hero. On receipt of the nomination, the Council evaluates it in accordance to a criteria provided for in the First Schedule of the Kenya Heroes Act, No. 5 of 2014.

The names of all proposed persons are then published in at least two newspapers of national circulation for members of the public to provide any objections or representations. The representations are considered and a final list of names of persons confirmed as qualified to be declared as heroes is forwarded to the President for declaration in the Kenya Gazette as one being a national hero.

Who are heroes?

A national hero is an individual who has demonstrated exceptional service, sacrifice and positive contribution to the country.

National Heroes may come from all backgrounds, including men, women,young people, children as well as persons with disability.

Under the Kenya Heroes Act No. 5 of 2014, individuals may be recognised for contributions from the following areas:

1.Liberation struggle
2. Spiritual leadership
3. Indigenous knowledge
4. Cultural values and practices
5. Arts
6. Sports
7. Scholarship, professionalism and research
8. Peacemaking
9. Statesmanship
10. Entrepreneurship and industry
11. Philanthropy
12. Human rights
13. National cohesion and integration
14. Environmental conservation

What is the National Heroes Fund?

The National Heroes Fund is established by the Kenya Heroes Act No.5 of 2014 and is used for the benefit of National Heroes and their dependents who need financial assistance. The Fund is awaiting development of regulations necessary to operationalise it.

APPENDIX: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL

What happens to heroes who are declared?

Persons who are declared as heroes: Shall be invested with that honour by the President on Mashujaa Day celebrated on October 20 each year.

They:

a. Shall be awarded commendation certificates and medal.
b. May have symbolic tombs, monuments and statues build in their honour where necessary.
c. May have books published that depict their respective roles in the Country's history or social life.
d. May be accorded financial assistance from the National Heroes Fund where their economic circumstances warrant such.

Can the national hero honour be withdrawn?

The Council may withdraw an honour with all its privileges, caution or censure a person who engages in misconduct that includes, but is not limited to conviction by a court of law for an offence and sentence to a term of imprisonment or any violation of Chapter Six of the Kenyan Constitution.

Are there age restrictions for being identified as a national hero?

No, there are no age restrictions to persons who can be declared as National Heroes. Children who have undertaken heroic acts can also be declared as National Heroes.

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL

HONOURING HEROES, HONOURING KENYA

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