

THE GUILD

Editorial Excellence

Stories by Wendy Mangale, AnnJoy Mwathi, Brian Kamau, Josh Gitonga and Joan Musyoka

From the President's desk

Dear Members and Partners,

The second quarter of 2026 has been marked by purposeful engagements, strategic partnerships and a renewed commitment to strengthening journalism in Kenya and across Africa. Every initiative we have undertaken reflects our shared vision of advancing press freedom, professional excellence and media innovation.

A key milestone was the launch of the inaugural Pan-African Media Summit, held in partnership with the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), the Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ) and the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK). The summit brought together media leaders from across the continent to shape the future of African journalism. We also participated in the inaugural Broadcasters Convention 2026, contributing to conversations on the evolving media landscape.

Partnerships continue to be at the heart of our work. During the quarter, KEG hosted a Partners' Breakfast to appreciate our collaborators and strengthen existing relationships.

We also engaged the Judiciary, Safaricom PLC, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA),



Zubeidah Kananu, President

the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF), Radio Africa Group and other stakeholders on issues affecting journalism and public interest.

As Kenya prepares for the 2027 General Election, we strengthened collaboration with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and worked with the Media Council of Kenya to review the Election Reporting Guidelines for journalists and Media Practitioners.

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We also continued investing in the next-generation through engagements with academia, including mentoring journalism students at the Technical University of Kenya, while expanding partnerships with AMWIK, WAN-IFRA and international partners to advance media development and newsroom safety.

The quarter also featured engagements with the Office of the Ombudsman, sensitisation forums with partners including the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA), and our ongoing Press Club conversations. As we look ahead, we are excited about the upcoming launch of the KEG Podcast, which will create a new platform for dialogue on journalism, leadership and innovation.

Thank you to our members and partners for your continued support as we build a stronger, more resilient media sector together.

Zubeidah Kananu
President, Kenya Editors Guild

The Guild holds its 2026 AGM, presents 2025 Annual Report



The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) convened its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 18, 2026, at Daystar University, Nairobi campus, bringing together members to reflect on the state of the media and chart the Guild's future direction.



A key highlight of the AGM was the presentation of the Guild's 2025 Annual Report by President Zubeidah Kananu, who underscored a year marked by resilience, institutional growth, and sustained advocacy.

"Throughout the year, we remained resolute in defending press freedom, advancing media sustainability, and equipping journalists with the skills necessary to navigate an increasingly dynamic and evolving media landscape," Kananu said.

The report details a period defined by intensified efforts to safeguard journalists' rights amid rising threats, including harassment, injuries, and destruction of equipment during coverage of public events.

Editors sound alarm over rising threats to Anti-Corruption reporting in Kenya

The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) has raised concern over growing threats facing journalists investigating corruption, warning that intimidation, costly lawsuits, digital harassment and emerging artificial intelligence-driven attacks are increasingly being used to undermine public interest reporting.

The concerns emerged during an Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) workshop for media practitioners in Nairobi that brought together journalists, editors, media executives, governance experts and anti-corruption stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in the fight against corruption.

KEG President Zubeidah Kananu said the partnership between the Guild and EACC reflects a shared commitment to strengthening accountability and protecting the public's right to know.

"When KEG and EACC signed that MoU, we did not just sign a piece of paper, we signed a pact to protect the soul of this nation from the cancer of corruption," she said.

Kananu argued that corruption has become increasingly sophisticated, requiring closer collaboration between journalists and accountability institutions. She warned that Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), online intimidation and coordinated disinformation campaigns are being deployed to silence scrutiny and frustrate investigations.

"We are witnessing a rise in SLAPPs, where wealthy individuals and entities use the courts to tie up newsrooms in endless, expensive litigation," she said.

She also cautioned that artificial intelligence is creating new challenges for journalists through deepfakes, bot networks and digital smear campaigns designed to discredit reporters and erode public trust before investigations are even published.



From left: CEO MCK, David Omwoyo, KEG President Zubeidah Kananu, EACC CEO Abdi Mohamud, Justice Kiage, EACC Chairperson Dr Oginde, Commissioner Alfred Mshimba, TAEF's Churchill Otieno, and CJAK's Joseph Muraya.

"No journalist should ever have to choose between their life and the truth," Kananu added, calling for stronger protections for journalists and whistleblowers.

Court of Appeal Judge Patrick Kiage challenged the media to keep corruption at the centre of public discourse, describing journalism as a critical pillar of accountability.

"The media sets the national agenda and must keep corruption and its impact on wananchi in everyday conversation," Justice Kiage said.

EACC Chairperson David Oginde echoed the call for sustained scrutiny, noting that "corruption fears exposure more than punishment."

Tax reform needs better storytelling, editors tell KRA

The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) has challenged the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to deepen transparency and public engagement, arguing that tax reforms can only succeed if citizens understand them.



During a high-level editors' roundtable convened by KEG and KRA in Nairobi, editors and tax officials explored how digital transformation is reshaping revenue collection and the media's role in helping the public navigate increasingly complex tax policies.

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The meeting, attended by KRA Board Chair Ndiritu Murithi and Acting Commissioner General Lillian Nyawanda, came against the backdrop of sobering figures that illustrate the scale of Kenya's tax compliance challenge.



KRA Board Chairman Ndiritu Murithi speaking during the editors' roundtable.

According to data shared by KRA, only 8.1 million taxpayers are active out of more than 20.2 million registered, meaning just 40 per cent of registered taxpayers are currently contributing to government revenue.

The authority said the tax burden remains heavily concentrated among salaried workers. While Pay As You Earn (PAYE) records about 70 per cent active participation because taxes are deducted at source, compliance for Personal Income Tax (PIT) and Corporate Income Tax (CIT) stands at just 12 per cent each.

Officials also noted that structural changes in Kenya's labour market have made tax collection increasingly difficult. Citing the 2025 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Economic Survey,

KRA said more than 19 million Kenyans now work in the informal sector compared with about 3 million in formal employment, placing much of the country's workforce outside traditional tax collection mechanisms.

Against this backdrop, KEG President Zubeidah Kananu said the media has a responsibility to move beyond reporting tax disputes and help citizens understand how taxation affects their daily lives.

"When taxes are understood, compliance improves, and the nation works for everyone," Kananu said, adding that "transparency in taxation must go hand-in-hand with transparency in storytelling."

Kananu noted that editors also discussed challenges within the media industry, including tax literacy gaps, misinformation and the need for stronger investigative reporting on public finance. She further called for greater protection of journalists covering sensitive financial matters, warning that many face legal and physical risks.

The engagement concluded with a commitment by KEG and KRA to strengthen collaboration in promoting public understanding of tax reforms, improving transparency and accountability, and building greater trust in Kenya's revenue system.



Truth under pressure: Defending press freedom in an era of misinformation

Press freedom is under mounting strain as misinformation spreads faster, trust in media weakens, and journalists face increasing pressure in an evolving digital landscape.

These concerns dominated this year's World Press Freedom Day commemorations in Nairobi, where media leaders, policymakers, academics, civil society and development partners gathered under the theme "Shaping a Future at Peace."

The event was convened by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) in partnership with Strathmore University and brought together key institutions, including the Kenya Editors Guild (KEG), to examine the future of journalism in an increasingly contested information environment.

The commemoration came against the backdrop of the latest World Press Freedom Index, which shows global press freedom has fallen to its lowest level in over two decades, raising concerns over shrinking civic space, growing political intolerance and escalating attacks on journalists.

KEG President Zubeidah Kananu said journalism remains one of democracy's strongest safeguards but warned that its future depends on the industry's ability to defend truth in an era of misinformation and rapidly evolving technology.

Together, we defend journalism and strengthen democracy by ensuring accurate information, countering falsehoods, promoting peace, and holding leaders accountable," she said.

Kananu said journalists must move beyond simply reporting events to protecting the integrity of information itself, warning that misinformation, manipulated content and digital amplification are eroding public trust. She also called for stronger protection of journalists from intimidation, greater professional accountability and the responsible adoption of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to strengthen fact-based journalism.

Delivering the keynote address, Supreme Court Judge Justice Isaac Lenaola warned that attacks on media freedom ultimately weaken democracy and social cohesion. "Undermining media freedom isn't just an attack on journalists; it's an attack on democracy itself."



Justice Lenaola cautioned that the rapid spread of digital misinformation has amplified intolerance and polarisation, urging journalists to report in ways that inform without inflaming, particularly as Kenya approaches future electoral cycles.

The event also saw the launch of the State of the Media 2025 Report, presented by MCK CEO David Omwoyo. The report shows digital platforms have overtaken traditional media as the primary source of news for many Kenyans, while concerns over misinformation, biased reporting and declining public trust continue to grow

Representing the government, Temesi Mukani, Secretary for Information and Broadcasting in the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunication, urged the media industry to embrace emerging technologies while safeguarding editorial independence and strengthening accountability in a rapidly changing communications landscape.

For Strathmore University, the discussions reflected a broader commitment to preparing future communicators for an increasingly complex media environment. Dr. Magdalene Dimba, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, said journalism education must continue producing ethical communicators capable of promoting justice, accountability and peace.

Participants examined a range of challenges facing journalism, including shrinking civic space, political intolerance, manipulated content, digital literacy, newsroom sustainability and the ethical implications of artificial intelligence. They also highlighted the need to strengthen local-language journalism, protect local narratives and invest in newsroom capacity to respond to rapidly changing technologies.

The Guild rallies partners behind stronger journalism ahead of 2027

The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) has renewed its call for stronger partnerships to protect press freedom, improve journalist safety and strengthen ethical journalism as the country prepares for the 2027 General Election.

Speaking during the KEG Partners' Breakfast Forum, the Guild brought together representatives from key partner organisations to review ongoing collaborations and identify new ways of supporting journalism at a time when Kenya is facing growing political, economic and technological challenges.



KEG President Zubeidah Kananu

Not government. Not civil society. Not the private sector. We need each other now more than ever," she said. Kananu said journalism remains central to promoting accountability, combating misinformation and helping citizens make informed decisions.

"Together, we defend journalism and strengthen democracy by ensuring accurate information, countering falsehoods, promoting peace, and holding leaders accountable," she added.

The forum reflected on the growing pressures facing newsrooms, including financial sustainability, digital disruption, misinformation, artificial intelligence and increasing threats to journalists. Participants agreed that stronger partnerships will be critical in helping news organisations adapt while



A group photo of members of the Kenya Editors Guild with representatives from partner organisations during the partners' breakfast meeting.

KEG President Zubeidah Kananu said no single institution could address the country's challenges alone, stressing that collaboration between the media, government, civil society and the private sector was essential to protecting democracy.

"No single institution can solve the challenges facing this country alone. Not the media.

safeguarding editorial independence and public trust.

Discussions also focused on election preparedness, media innovation and expanding training opportunities for journalists and editors to strengthen ethical, factual and balanced reporting ahead of the 2027 polls.

Partners noted that misinformation and disinformation continue to undermine public confidence across many sectors and called for sustained investment in newsroom capacity-building to equip journalists with the skills needed to navigate an increasingly complex information environment.

The meeting also reviewed the impact of partnerships established through the Annual Editors Convention, with participants reaffirming their commitment to supporting media professionalism, press freedom and quality journalism.

The forum concluded with a renewed pledge to deepen collaboration between the media, public institutions, civil society and the private sector, recognising that supporting independent journalism is essential to strengthening democratic governance, promoting accountability and ensuring Kenyans have access to credible and reliable information.



Paul Kimanzi , Principal officer Communications, KenGen speaking during the partners breakfast forum.

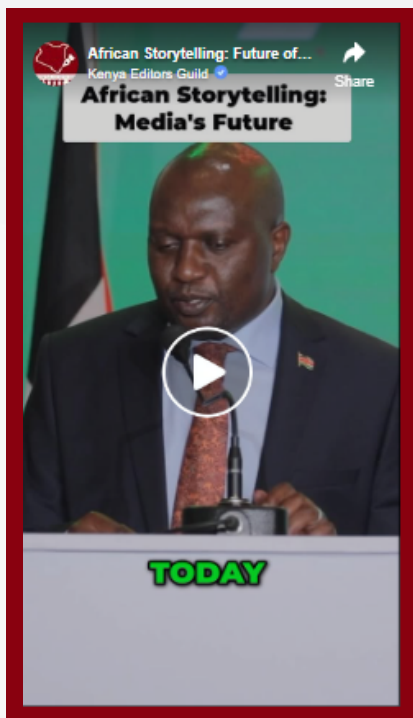


Judie Kaberia Senior Project Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation speaking during the partners breakfast forum.

Pan-African summit drives continental push for Africa's media

The inaugural Pan-African Media Summit held in Nairobi from May 13 to 15, 2026, concluded with delegates agreeing to make it an annual forum to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing journalism across the continent, including media sustainability, information integrity and digital governance.

The summit was organised by the Media Council of Kenya in partnership with the Kenya Editors Guild (KEG), the Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ), the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It brought together policymakers, editors, journalists, regulators, technology companies and civil society representatives from more than 20 African countries.



MCK CEO David Omwoyo

The Chief Guest, Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Stephen Isaboke said Africa should play a bigger role in shaping the future of the digital space. "Africa has an opportunity not merely to participate in the global digital transformation, but to shape it in ways that reflect our values, aspirations and democratic principles," he said,

adding that Kenya remains committed to supporting a free, responsible and innovative media environment.



Kenyan media stakeholders pose together with Broadcasting & Telecommunications PS Stephen Isaboke during the official opening of the summit.

Media Council of Kenya Chief Executive Officer David Omwoyo said the meeting came at a time when the media industry is facing profound change.

"The media ecosystem has evolved rapidly, and the integrity of information is at stake. We are gathered here for accountability; to chart a credible path forward and build trusted information systems," he said.

Throughout the three-day meeting, delegates discussed how digital technologies, artificial intelligence and online platforms are changing the way news is produced, shared and consumed. While these technologies have expanded access to information, participants said they have also fuelled misinformation, coordinated online manipulation, cyber harassment and growing public distrust in news.

In the communiqué issued at the close of the summit, delegates reaffirmed that access to "reliable, timely, evidence-based, plural, and accurate information" is essential for democratic governance and sustainable development. They also underscored the importance of a "free, independent, pluralistic, and sustainable media" in protecting democratic values across Africa.

One of the key decisions was to establish the Pan-African Media Summit as an annual gathering. Delegates also supported the creation of a representative mechanism to coordinate future meetings and called for closer engagement with technology companies to improve transparency around algorithms, content moderation and the use of data.

The communiqué also raised concern over the financial health of news organisations, noting that many traditional business models are struggling to survive in the digital era. It called for policy reforms, innovation, partnerships and sustainable financing models to help strengthen independent journalism.

KUJ Secretary General Eric Oduor said improving journalists' working conditions should remain a priority, arguing that decent pay, quality healthcare and safe working environments are necessary to support professional and independent reporting.

Delegates further expressed concern about growing concentration of media ownership, the decline of local journalism and the need to equip young people with media and information literacy skills as they navigate increasingly complex digital spaces.



Participants at the Annual Pan-African Media Summit in Nairobi on May 14, 2026.

Ambassador Henk Jan Bakker of the Netherlands said protecting information integrity is essential to protecting democratic societies.

"Protecting information integrity means protecting the integrity of democracy itself," he said.

The Nairobi meeting ended with a shared commitment to deepen collaboration across African countries and develop common approaches to issues affecting journalism, digital platforms and the future of independent media. KEG was among the organisations leading the effort to bring together media stakeholders from across the continent around these shared priorities.

Breaking the silence: The Guild leads African media drive to end sexual harassment in newsrooms

Sexual harassment in African newsrooms is no longer being treated as a side conversation. It is now being confronted as a structural crisis threatening press freedom, newsroom credibility, and the safety of journalists across the continent.

That was the tone at a high-level side event convened by the Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) during the Pan-African Media Summit in Nairobi, on 14 May where editors, journalists, media executives, gender advocates, and development partners gathered for a rare and candid reckoning with the industry's internal failings.

The session, held in partnership with WAN-IFRA Women in News, focused on one central question: how the media industry can clean its own house while continuing to hold others accountable.



KEG President Zubeidah Kananu
delivering remarks during the forum

Opening the discussion, KEG President Zubeidah Kananu said the burden of unsafe workplaces continues to fall disproportionately on women



WAN-IFRA Women in News Deputy Director Jane Godia, making a presentation during the forum.

journalists, many of whom navigate discrimination alongside threats to their professional growth and personal safety.

“Female journalists bear the greatest burden of inequality, exclusion, discrimination, sexual harassment, and growing safety and security threats,” she said.

Kananu warned that while awareness has improved, implementation of safeguards remains weak across many media institutions. She urged newsroom leaders to move beyond statements of intent and adopt enforceable policies that protect journalists at all levels.

Evidence presented by WAN-IFRA Women in News Deputy Director Jane Godia painted a broader picture of persistent gender inequality in the media sector.

She revealed that women's representation in Kenyan media leadership has declined from 22 per cent in 2022 to 18 per cent in 2024, highlighting stagnation and, in some areas, reversal of progress.

Godia also noted that women remain underrepresented in news content itself, accounting for only 28 percent of news sources quoted in coverage, a gap that continues to shape public narratives and visibility.



On workplace safety, she presented alarming findings on harassment prevalence. “Globally, 50 per cent of women in media experience sexual harassment. In Kenya, that figure rises to an alarming 80 per cent,” she said.

She added that men's lower reporting rates should not be misread as absence of experience, but rather as evidence of underreporting and stigma around workplace abuse across the industry.

The Executive Director of the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK), Queenter Mbori, said the persistence of sexual harassment reflects deeper power imbalances in media organisations, where authority is often unchecked, and complaint systems are either weak or unsafe for survivors.

“Sexual harassment is fundamentally an issue of power,” she said, noting that many journalists fear reporting misconduct due to retaliation or exposure.

“When reporting mechanisms fail to protect complainants, they inadvertently protect perpetrators,” Mbori added, calling for confidential, survivor-centred reporting systems and the adoption of tested institutional frameworks such as AMWIK's model sexual harassment policy.

Kenya Union of Journalists Secretary General Eric Oduor confronted newsroom culture directly, warning that harmful stereotypes continue to shape how women journalists are perceived and treated.

Beyond legal reform, speakers emphasized that real change will depend on enforcement, leadership commitment, and cultural transformation within media institutions.

As the discussions concluded, KEG and its partners framed the moment as a turning point for the industry, one where awareness must finally translate into accountability.

The side event ended with a shared recognition that newsroom safety is not separate from press freedom, but central to it. For KEG and its partners, the message was unambiguous: a media industry that cannot protect its own journalists cannot fully claim the moral authority to hold others to account.

Budget debate shifts online as KEG X Space sparks fiscal scrutiny

Even after the passage of the Finance Bill 2026, the debate over Kenya's fiscal direction remains unsettled, with questions around taxation, borrowing, and spending priorities continuing to dominate public discourse.

The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) brought those discussions into a live X Space forum on June 10, convening editors, policy voices and financial experts before the Bill's passage, to reflect on what the proposed budget would mean for households, businesses and the wider economy.

The conversation revisited key concerns raised during the budget cycle, particularly the government's approach to widening the tax base versus increasing pressure on consumption and digital services.

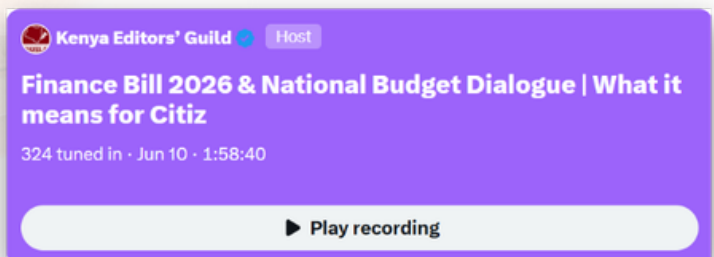
Banking and finance expert Bernard Mwonyonyo criticized what he termed a missed opportunity to expand the economy through digitisation and inclusion rather than heavier taxation.

"This is a lazy man's budget because the government is not doing enough to bring more people into the tax bracket," he said, arguing that overtaxing smartphones, internet access and basic services risks slowing economic participation.

He added that taxes on essentials such as fuel, rent and banking services continue to

weigh heavily on ordinary citizens, reducing disposable income at the household level.

Advocate of the High Court Philomena Mbaye noted that while some provisions in the Finance Bill, such as exemptions on gratuity and retirement benefits, offer relief, broader concerns remain about affordability and cumulative taxation.



A recording of the X space

"Although some charges may seem small, over time they accumulate and become costly, especially for low-income earners and regular users of digital financial services," she said.

KEG member and moderator Paul Wafula unpacked the approved budget framework, highlighting the tension between revenue targets and rising public debt. He noted that the government expects to raise about 3.5 trillion shillings while borrowing an estimated 1.1 trillion shillings.

"This raises a fundamental question about our priorities and whether our budgeting approach is practical and sustainable in the long term," he said.

Wafula also pointed to persistent inefficiencies in public spending across critical sectors including health, education, ICT, agriculture and devolution, warning that weak accountability continues to strain fiscal sustainability.

Mwonyonyo echoed these concerns, arguing that improved efficiency in public expenditure could significantly reduce reliance on borrowing.

“If public resources were efficiently utilised and wastage reduced, we may not need to borrow as much as 1.1 trillion shillings,” he said.

Rather than closing the conversation with conclusions, the KEG-hosted discussion positioned the Finance Bill as part of a continuing public accountability process, one that does not end with legislation, but extends into scrutiny of how policy choices shape everyday economic realities.

For KEG, the X Space reinforced its expanding role as a convenor of public dialogue, increasingly shifting fiscal conversations from formal institutions into open digital spaces where citizens, experts and media actors interrogate decisions in real time.

KEG pushes stronger court-reporting standards

The Kenya Editors Guild joined senior Judiciary officials, media leaders, court reporters, and other stakeholders at a Media Editors' Roundtable convened by the Judiciary and led by Chief Justice Martha Koome on June 11, 2026.

The engagement highlighted the increasing role of the Kenya Editors Guild in setting the tone for professional standards in journalism, particularly around court reporting ethical practice, and public trust

in the media. Held under the theme "Judiciary-Media Relations for Transparency, Accountability and Public Trust," the forum brought together key actors to discuss judicial integrity, ethical reporting, media freedom, access to court information, SLAPP suits, misinformation and disinformation, and responsible reporting on judicial matters.

Chief Justice Koome highlighted the need for closer cooperation between the Judiciary and the media in strengthening public trust, especially as the country gears up to the 2027 General Election. "Elections are a sovereign right; we cannot feel endangered by it. We need to work together to make it peaceful, legitimate, and credible," she said.

A key concern raised was the growing skills gap among journalists covering the courts, with participants noting that legal reporting requires technical understanding, speed, and accuracy in interpreting complex proceedings.



Chief Justice Martha Koome delivering the keynote address during the editors' roundtable.

The Guild took a leading role in pushing for structured solutions, including sustained training, stronger newsroom capacity, and improved standards in court reporting. KEG President Zubeidah Kananu called for a renewed framework for collaboration aimed at

strengthening accuracy and public understanding of justice reporting. She proposed the revival of structured court reporting training programmes, development of an updated Court Reporting Handbook, and partnerships with academic institutions to embed justice reporting in journalism training.

"With younger journalists increasingly entering complex news environments, this will help improve accuracy, reduce misinterpretation of court decisions and strengthen public understanding of the law," she said.



KEG member Paul Nabiswa poses a question during the plenary discussion at the editors roundtable.

Participants agreed on the need for stronger Judiciary-media collaboration, improved access to court information, and continuous professional development to counter misinformation and improve public discourse.

The Kenya Editors Guild welcomed the Judiciary's willingness to deepen engagement and reiterated its commitment to strengthening professional journalism standards and improving public understanding of the justice system.

KEG strengthens access to information partnership with the Ombudsman

The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) has stepped up efforts to improve access to public information through a new partnership with the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ), reinforcing the media's role in promoting accountability and transparent governance.

During a consultative meeting held on 11 June 2026, the two institutions agreed to strengthen collaboration aimed at addressing barriers that journalists face when seeking information from public institutions and improving compliance with Kenya's Access to Information laws.

The discussions focused on practical ways of making government information more accessible to the public, recognising that timely access to credible information is essential for investigative journalism, public oversight and informed citizen participation.

KEG highlighted the challenges journalists continue to encounter, including delayed responses, limited disclosure of public information and inconsistent implementation of legal obligations by some public institutions. The Guild reiterated that a free and informed press remains a critical pillar of democratic governance and effective public accountability.

The Commission on Administrative Justice reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the media to promote openness, responsiveness and greater compliance with access to information obligations across government institutions.

The meeting also explored opportunities for joint public awareness initiatives, capacity building and regular engagement between journalists and public agencies to improve communication and strengthen understanding of the legal framework governing access to information.

For KEG, the engagement forms part of its broader efforts to create an enabling environment for quality journalism by advocating for policies and partnerships that allow journalists to access information in the public interest without unnecessary barriers.

By bringing together the country's media leadership and the institution mandated to enforce the right to information, the consultative meeting laid the foundation for closer cooperation in advancing transparency, strengthening accountability and enabling citizens to make informed decisions based on accurate and accessible public information.



A delegation from the Kenya Editors Guild poses for a group photo with CAJ Chairperson Charles Dulo(centre) and the Vice Chairperson Dorothy Kimengech during the courtesy visit to the commission's office.

The Guild joins Safaricom dialogue on journalism sustainability amid digital disruption

For many Kenyan newsrooms, financial pressure is no longer a future concern but a present reality. Declining advertising revenues, rising operational costs, and the rapid rise of artificial intelligence are reshaping how journalism is funded and practised.

On June 16, 2026, the Kenya Editors Guild, led by President Zubeidah Kananu, participated in a strategic engagement with Safaricom leadership led by its Chief Executive Officer Dr. Peter Ndegwa, to discuss the future of journalism in a fast-changing digital ecosystem.

Rather than a convening role, KEG participated as a key industry voice, contributing to discussions on sustainability, technology adoption, and newsroom resilience in the digital age.

A shared concern running through the conversation was how newsrooms can remain financially viable without compromising editorial independence. The discussions explored new revenue pathways, including mobile-led monetisation models, micro-payments through M-Pesa, and premium digital subscription frameworks aimed at helping media houses build stable income streams.



From left: Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Editor-in-Chief Samuel Maina, Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa, Kenya Editors Guild President Zubeidah Kananu and Royal Media Services Editorial Director Linus Kaikai during the Safaricom media engagement forum in Nairobi on June 16, 2026.

Technology disruption and information integrity also featured strongly, particularly the impact of artificial intelligence on news production and the rising threat of misinformation ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Speaking during the engagement, Ms. Kananu said journalism is undergoing a fundamental transformation that demands urgent adaptation. “Artificial Intelligence is no longer a future concept; it is already integral to our newsrooms and workflows,” she said. “While it offers opportunities to improve storytelling and efficiency, it also poses serious risks through misinformation and deepfakes that can undermine public trust and democratic processes.”

Kananu emphasized the need for Kenya to move beyond being a consumer of technology and begin shaping tools that reflect local realities, including language diversity and newsroom needs.

The engagement highlighted KEG’s continued influence in industry conversations on sustainability, digital safety, and the future of journalism in Kenya’s evolving media economy.

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Equipping editors to strengthen scrutiny of Kenya's public debt

The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG), in partnership with the International Republican Institute (IRI), brought together editors and civil society leaders for a two-day workshop aimed at strengthening public understanding and oversight of Kenya's growing public debt.

Held from June 17–18, the forum focused on how the media and civil society can improve reporting on public finance, promote fiscal accountability and help citizens better understand how public borrowing affects the economy and their daily lives.

The discussions were led by economist Ndiritu Muriithi, Chairman of the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Partner at Ecocapp Capital and former Laikipia Governor. Drawing on his experience in public finance management, Muriithi examined the drivers of Kenya's public debt, the balance between domestic and external borrowing, the risks associated with poor debt management and the importance of ensuring borrowed funds are invested in projects that generate economic growth and strengthen the country's revenue base.

Participants also explored how responsible borrowing, when backed by transparency, accountability and sound fiscal planning, can support long-term development. The sessions challenged journalists and civil society actors to move beyond reporting debt figures

and instead interrogate how loans are negotiated, spent and monitored.

The workshop underscored the media's role in translating complex economic issues into clear, accessible reporting that enables citizens to participate meaningfully in public finance debates. Editors discussed the importance of following the full lifecycle of public debt, from borrowing and budgeting to procurement, implementation and impact, to strengthen public accountability.



Economist Ndiritu Muriithi leading a session during the workshop held in Nairobi from June 17-18 (photo: courtesy)



KEG Vice President Francis Openda speaking during the workshop. (Photo: courtesy)

Civil society organisations shared perspectives on citizen engagement and the need for greater openness in government borrowing and expenditure, while participants identified opportunities for closer collaboration in promoting evidence-based public discourse.

For KEG, the engagement forms part of its broader commitment to building newsroom capacity on specialised reporting that supports transparency, good governance and informed public participation. By equipping editors with practical knowledge on public debt and fiscal justice, the Guild is helping strengthen the media's ability to hold public institutions accountable and ensure that public borrowing delivers value for Kenyan citizens rather than becoming a burden for future generations.

Experts push for Climate-Smart Agriculture as Kenya faces growing food security threats

Kenya already has much of the science, technology and innovation needed to help farmers withstand climate change. The challenge now is ensuring those solutions reach farmers before increasingly unpredictable weather undermines the country's food security.

That was the overriding message from a high-level dialogue convened on June 24, by the Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) Press Club, which brought together journalists, scientists, policymakers, innovators, development partners and farmers to explore how Kenya can build more resilient food systems.

Held under the theme Resilient Harvests: Building Climate-Smart Agriculture for Kenya's Future, the forum examined how science, financing,

technology, policy and communication can help farmers adapt to changing weather patterns while improving productivity and livelihoods.

Participants agreed that climate change is no longer a future threat but a present reality already reshaping agricultural production, rural livelihoods and the country's economy. They called for stronger partnerships, greater investment in climate-smart agriculture and better communication to ensure farmers receive practical information they can use.

Opening the forum, Kenya Editors Guild Executive Council Member Agnes Mwangangi said the country does not suffer from a shortage of solutions but from the slow pace at which proven innovations reach farming communities.

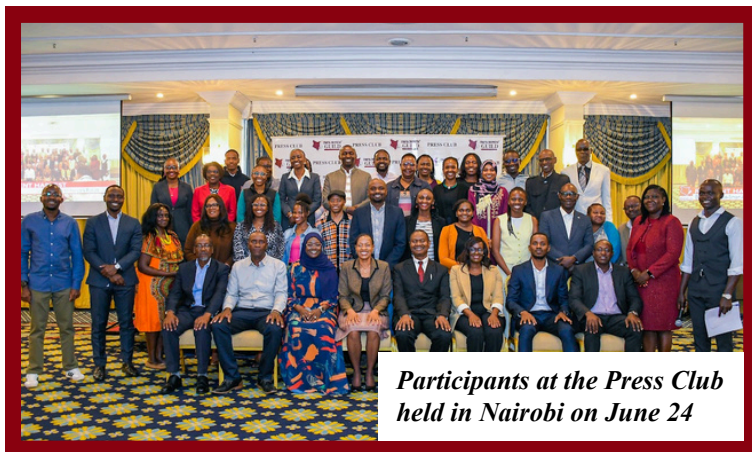


Davis Muthini, Country Director, AGRA, giving remarks during the Press Club.

help communities adapt. "Climate reporting must move beyond documenting disasters alone. Our audiences need to understand not only what is going wrong, but also what is working."

For Davis Muthini, Country Director of Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), agriculture remains the foundation of economic transformation across Africa. He argued that while research institutions continue generating valuable knowledge, far too little of it reaches farmers in forms they can easily apply.

"The gap is not in knowledge generation. The challenge is converting science into something a farmer in Kitui or Kakamega can actually use on their farm," he said. Warning that climate change is already disrupting farming systems, Muthini urged policymakers to treat climate-smart agriculture as an economic investment rather than an environmental programme.



"The challenge before us is not a lack of solutions. It is how to accelerate adoption, strengthen coordination, mobilize investments, and ensure that successful approaches reach the communities that need them most," she said.

Mwangangi challenged journalists to shift climate reporting beyond disasters and tell more stories about practical solutions that can

"Climate-smart agriculture, if done right, is not just about protecting the environment; it is about creating jobs, building businesses and strengthening entire economies."

Access to reliable climate information also emerged as a recurring concern. Paul Murage, Assistant Director at the Institute of Meteorological Training and Research, said farmers increasingly need location-specific weather information that helps them make practical decisions rather than broad forecasts.



From left: Lavenda Birike, CEO and Co-founder, Kilimo 360, Peter Juma, CEO, Kickstart International and KEG member Pyhills Nyambura during a panel discussion at the Press Club.

"The challenge is not generating forecasts. The challenge is translating climate information into decisions that farmers can use," he said, calling on the media to help bridge the communication gap between scientists and farming communities.

Researchers echoed that message, arguing that climate science must be translated into simple, actionable advice. John Recha, a Climate Smart Agriculture Scientist at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), warned that climate change is already influencing what farmers can grow and how much they harvest.

"Climate change is no longer just a future threat to Kenya. It is shaping what farmers can plant, how much they harvest, and ultimately what ends up on our plates," he said.

Dr. Hilda Manzi from TomorrowNow demonstrated how scientists are combining climate forecasts with crop models to provide farmers with weekly advice throughout the growing season. Rather than presenting technical data, farmers receive practical recommendations, such as when to plant, irrigate or mulch based on expected weather conditions.

Dr. Annah Indeché Lecturer and researcher, Department of Horticulture and Food Security, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) urged researchers to involve farmers and extension officers from the beginning of the research process instead of producing findings that remain on library shelves. "We have very good research results sitting on shelves, but we must find ways of getting that knowledge to the people who need it most," she said.

Technology and financing were also identified as critical pillars of climate resilience. KickStart International Chief Executive Peter Juma described irrigation as one of the most effective ways to reduce farmers' dependence on erratic rainfall but stressed that affordability remains the biggest barrier to adoption.

"Farmers will not adopt technology because it is innovative.

Farmers adopt technology because they can afford it, because it solves a problem, and because it pays for itself," he said, calling for stronger financing through cooperatives and microfinance institutions.

Digital innovation is equally important, according to Lavenda Birike, CEO and Co-founder of Kilimo 360, who argued that agricultural data should ultimately help farmers prepare for climate shocks, improve production, access finance and secure better markets.



"Agriculture has to make money. If agriculture is not profitable, we are going to see more farmland converted to other uses," she said. Participants also called for climate-smart solutions that better address the needs of women farmers, who continue to face barriers in accessing finance despite playing a central role in household food systems.

As the discussions concluded, participants agreed that Kenya already possesses many of the tools needed to build resilient food systems. The task ahead is ensuring that scientific research, weather information, financing and innovation reach farmers at scale. For the media, the challenge is equally clear: to tell not only the story of climate change, but also the story of the solutions that can help farmers adapt and thrive.

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Advancing pension reporting and financial resilience for journalists

The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG), in partnership with the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) and the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA), continued investing in quality journalism through the RBA Reporting Grants Programme, bringing together journalists for a mentorship and capacity-building retreat in Naivasha on June 25.

The programme combined practical newsroom training with financial literacy, equipping journalists to produce stronger, evidence-based reporting on pensions and retirement while encouraging them to plan for their own financial futures.

The retreat challenged participants to rethink how pension stories are reported by moving beyond technical language and focusing on the real-life experiences of workers, retirees and families. Journalists refined their reporting projects, explored ways of making complex financial issues more

accessible to audiences and strengthened their storytelling skills.

Addressing the participants, financial expert Charles Machira urged journalists to begin preparing for retirement long before leaving active employment.

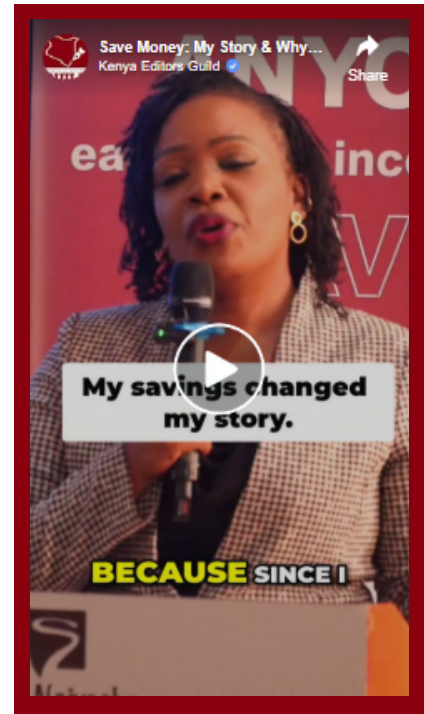
He encouraged media professionals to join pension schemes, understand their retirement benefits and take personal responsibility for building financial security. He also challenged journalists to simplify pension reporting and produce stories that help the public better understand retirement planning, particularly among workers in the informal sector.



Financial expert Charles Machira addressing the forum held at Lake Naivasha Resort on June 25.

KEG President Zubeidah Kananu called on journalists to embrace digital innovation without losing sight of people-centred storytelling. She encouraged participants to produce stories grounded in lived experiences and reminded them that impactful journalism is built on curiosity, observation and credibility.

Kananu also urged journalists to take retirement planning seriously by monitoring their savings and preparing early for life beyond the newsroom.



KEG President Zubeidah Kananu

Representing the Media Council of Kenya, Victor Bwire reaffirmed the importance of ethical, factual and balanced reporting, noting that public trust depends on journalism that is accurate, responsible and evidence-based.

The retreat reflects KEG's broader commitment to strengthening specialised reporting while supporting the professional wellbeing of journalists. By investing in journalists' professional skills and personal financial resilience, KEG continues to strengthen the quality, credibility and long-term sustainability of Kenya's media sector.

What a day with Kenya's top journalists taught me about the future of media



By AnnJoy Mwathi

When I walked into the Technical University of Kenya on June 17, 2026, for an industry-based learning symposium organized by the Department of Creative Arts and Media, I expected to spend the day listening to experienced journalists talk about the media industry, brag about their stories and big headlines.

I left with something far more valuable than simply listening to decades of newsroom experience.

For me, as a student journalist, the forum was more than just an academic event. It was an opportunity to hear firsthand from editors, reporters, and media leaders who have witnessed journalism evolve, adapted to its changes, and continue to shape its future.

The symposium, themed "Nurturing Multimedia Skills for the Digital Era: Opportunities and Challenges," brought together media practitioners, editors, lecturers, alumni, and students to discuss the future of journalism in an increasingly digital world. It was also a practical experience that showed the growing

efforts by industry players such as the Kenya Editors Guild, through its Next-Gen Initiative, to bridge the gap between the classroom and the newsroom by creating opportunities for young journalists to interact directly with professionals shaping the future of media.

For me, as a student journalist, the forum was more than just an academic event. It was an opportunity to hear firsthand from editors, reporters, and media leaders who have witnessed journalism evolve, adapted to its changes, and continue to shape its future.

As speaker after speaker took to the podium, a common messaging emerged around how journalism is changing rapidly, while its core purpose remains the same.



Students at the TUK industry-based learning symposium held on June 17, at the university's lecture theatre.

The conversation began with Mary Claire, Chairperson of the Department of Creative Arts and Media at TUK, who challenged students to prepare for a media landscape that demands far more than traditional reporting skills.

"The media professional of today must therefore be versatile, adaptable, ethical, innovative, and technologically competent."

Listening to her, I realized how much the profession now demands.

Being a journalist today is no longer just about writing a good story. It requires creativity, flexibility, adaptability, and the ability to navigate multiple platforms and technologies.

She also reminded us that the classroom alone cannot prepare us for the realities of the profession. "Academic knowledge alone is not sufficient. Industry engagement is critical in bridging the gap between classroom learning and professional practice."

As a student currently preparing for the industry, that message resonated deeply. It reinforced the importance of internships, mentorship, and learning directly from those already doing the work.

Her advice extended beyond skills. "The connections you make and the lessons you learn today may very well shape your future career paths."

Additionally, before concluding, she left us with a challenge: "Let us remain committed to excellence, innovation, professionalism, and ethical journalism."

If her remarks set the tone for the day, the next speaker opened a window and transported the audience into an era before smartphones, laptops, and instant publishing transformed newsrooms – when journalists filed stories from telephone booths and typed copy on heavy typewriters.



KEG Executive Council member Andy Kagwa addressing students at the symposium.

Maina Ndolo of the Media Council of Kenya reminded us that today's digital newsroom stands on the shoulders of generations who worked under vastly different circumstances, shaped by discipline, speed, and sheer ingenuity long before today's digital tools existed. There were no smartphones, no artificial intelligence tools, and no instant publishing platforms. Journalists relied on notebooks, shorthand, and typewriters.

"You could not be a journalist if you could not type." The room chuckled, but his point was serious.

He described how journalists trained on heavy Remington and Olivetti typewriters and mastered typing without looking at the keyboard. Shorthand was equally important, allowing reporters to capture interviews quickly and accurately.

Then came a detail many of us had never considered. "The QWERTY keyboard on your phone today came from the typewriter."

His reflections offered a thought-provoking reminder that while technology keeps changing, the timeless values behind journalism, such as discipline, accuracy, and professionalism, remain remarkably constant.

News is dead. Journalism is not dead." At first, it sounded provocative. But as he unpacked the idea, his point became clear. Platforms, formats, and audiences may change, but society's need for credible information and thoughtful storytelling remains.

He encouraged students to embrace patience and continuous learning. "There is something good about starting small, because it gives you a lot of time to learn." Then came a lesson that lingered with me long after the symposium ended. "The journalist who will survive the next decade will not be the best writer; they will be the best thinker."

In an era where technology can generate content within seconds, critical thinking may indeed become journalism's most valuable skill. His final words captured something many aspiring journalists like myself often struggle to explain. "Journalism gives you something that money cannot buy, and that is perspective."

For me, that was one of the defining lessons of the symposium. Journalism is not simply a career. It is a way of understanding people, societies, and the world around us.

The discussion then shifted to opportunities beyond the traditional newsroom.

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Andy Kagwa, Executive Council member of the Kenya Editors Guild encouraged students to think beyond conventional career paths.

"There are very many opportunities beyond the newsroom; you must broaden your mind."

He spoke about filmmaking, documentary production, script writing, video editing, and digital content creation as growing areas where journalists can thrive.

But he also issued a warning. "AI is here to help us do our work, but it will drive out those who are not AI savvy."

His message was clear that embracing technology was no longer optional. He also reminded us that many journalism careers begin with freelancing.

"All of us started as freelance writers, and freelance writing remains a key entry point into journalism."

Veteran editor Ken Bosire brought the conversation back to mindset. "The future of journalism belongs to those who are curious enough to question, critical enough to verify, and creative enough to build their own truth."

He described curiosity as the fuel that keeps journalism alive. "



Media industry experts at the symposium

"The moment you stop asking what is happening around you, you stop being a journalist and start becoming a spectator of life." His words highlighted that journalism begins with paying attention, staying curious about everyday realities, and asking the kind of questions that often go unnoticed.

Bosire also emphasized preparation and relationships. "Results are very important, but credentials alone are not enough."

"Networking creates opportunities because we all have to find one another."

Other speakers reinforced similar themes. TUK lecturer Mr. Okoth reflected on how a single opportunity changed the course of his life.

"This internship changed my life. It gave me my career, and today I stand before you as a journalist and a lecturer because of the opportunities that were created."

Veteran editor Ochieng Rapuro brought the discussion back to journalism's enduring mission. "At the heart of journalism is the pursuit of truth and accountability in society." And as technology continues to reshape the profession, he reminded us of what should never change. "Journalism must be guided by accuracy, ethics, and verification."

As the symposium drew to a close, I found myself reflecting on everything I had heard throughout the day.

The speakers came from different generations, organizations, and professional experiences. Yet their message was remarkably consistent. The future belongs to journalists who remain curious, adaptable, ethical, technologically skilled, and committed to learning.

I arrived expecting a symposium about multimedia skills. I left with a deeper understanding of what it means to be a journalist.

More importantly, I left convinced that while technology will continue to transform the industry, the values that define great journalism such as truth, curiosity, integrity, and accountability, remain as relevant today as they have ever been.

Anne Joy Mwathi is a media student at Chuka University currently undertaking her industrial attachment at the Kenya Editors Guild.

The forum was part of the Kenya Editors Guild's Next-Gen Initiative, a programme designed to mentor, inspire, and equip young journalists with the skills and insights needed to thrive in the evolving media landscape.



CELEBRATING MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS

The Kenya Editors Guild celebrates the following members, who were honoured at the *14th Annual Media Excellence Awards*, held by the Media Council of Kenya on May 15, 2026.

1. Yvonne Okwara, Jamila Mohammed, Joseph Bonyo, and Linus Kaikai, of Citizen TV's News Gang, received the **Media Freedom Award**.
2. Rosemary Okello-Orlale (right) received the **Media Lifetime Achievement Award**.
3. Toepista Nabusoba (right) received the **Media Lifetime Achievement Award**.
4. Veteran editor Macharia Gaitho (right) received the **Media Freedom Award**.



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