

Biweekly overview of information manipulation & interference in Kenya

*This **PULSE Report** is a biweekly analysis of coordinated online hate speech, cyberbullying and trolling, information manipulation and other online harms, as well as deliberate abuse of artificial information (AI) technologies to target vulnerable communities in Kenya, or alternatively subvert public discourse. It also identifies weaponised narratives and the key actors who are undermining Kenya's information integrity, and analyses the tactics or techniques used to subvert or polarise local audiences.*

1. Executive summary

This report examines recent developments in Kenya's political landscape, focusing on government surveillance allegations, AI-generated political content, and divisive narratives on social media.

Allegations surfaced on 25 November 2024 regarding the Kenyan government's purchase of Ksh.120 million worth of surveillance software to monitor opposition figures ahead of the 2027 elections. On 26 November 2024, Chris Kiptoo, the Principal Secretary of the Treasury, denied these claims made by entrepreneur Mary Wachuka Maina.

The report also highlights the rise of AI-generated political content, including fabricated videos of international figures and local politicians, used to manipulate public opinion and push political agendas. Campaigns like #AskofuWachapaSiasa, aimed at countering criticism from religious bodies, reflects the growing use of digital platforms to shape political discourse. Furthermore, Raila Odinga's remarks on 01 December 2024, coupled with the subsequent attack on Rigathi Gachagua, have intensified tribal divisions in Kenya, escalating political tensions and sparking speculation about their potential impact on the 2027 elections.

Notable narratives

A narrative is a technique for presenting or understanding a situation or series of events promoting a particular viewpoint. Information manipulators develop 'persistent' narratives that play on emotions, fears, or pre-existing beliefs to inject an ideological spin on the facts, manipulate public perceptions, and exploit cognitive biases that shape public opinion.

- 1. Government officials accused of purchasing a 'spying software':** A [lawsuit](#) filed at Milimani Law Courts accused government officials, including President Ruto, of misusing public funds for a software project to counter criticism, but failing to honor financial commitments.
- 2. Malicious use of AI-generated videos:** Two AI-generated videos surfaced in November 2024; [One](#) falsely depicted global figures criticizing Ruto and [another](#) manipulated a kissing scene involving Okiya Omtatah and Karen Nyamu
- 3. Coordinated ethnic division through faith desecration.:** The hashtag #AskofuWachapaSiasa was used to discredit Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishop's (KCCB) statement, accusing church leaders of politicizing and fueling tribalism.

Key actors

An actor is a person, group company or nation-state that acts with deliberate purpose. Information manipulators are viewed as bad actors who purposely and repeatedly engage in manipulative or disruptive behaviour, usually to radicalise, polarise or subvert the public.

1. **Individual actors:** We identified an [X](#) and a [TikTok](#) account sharing AI-generated videos implying 'Ruto Must Go' and an inappropriate fake video of Senators Okiya Omtatah and Karen Nyamu created from still images.

Noteworthy tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs):

TTPs describe the behaviour and strategies used by threat actors, with a focus on the structured frameworks or infrastructure they use for executing cyberattacks. Using TTPs to diagnose information manipulation allows investigators to develop early warning systems. It also allows watchdogs to identify vulnerabilities in influence operations that can be used to disrupt the attack.

1. **Develop AI-Generated Videos (Deepfakes):** The [tactic](#) uses AI-generated falsified photos, videos, or soundbites to depict an inauthentic situation by synthetically recreating an individual's face, body, voice, and physical gestures. In this case, a manipulated video was created, falsely depicting prominent figures such as Donald Trump, Barack Obama, and Elon Musk expressing support for Kenyans involved in the 'Ruto Must Go' movement.
2. **Deceptively Edit Video (Cheap fakes):** This [tactic](#) uses less sophisticated measures of altering an image, video, or audio to create a false context surrounding an image or event. A video created from a photo of Senators Okiya Omtatah and Karen Nyamu was shared, depicting the two in an alleged intimate moment.
3. **Create hashtags and search artifacts:** This [tactic](#) involves the creation of hashtags to shape perceptions and amplify stories. The hashtag #AskofuWachapaSiasa was used to counter the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops' criticism of the government.
4. **Dismiss:** This [tactic](#) involved pushback against criticism by dismissing the critics. It is evident in the use of #AskofuWachapaSiasa, whereby the clerics were criticised for their critical remarks about the current government.

County radar: The notable emerging incidents or campaigns from county level

This section provides a concise overview of notable incidents, campaigns and insights into emerging trends and issues in the information landscape within the focus counties (Busia, Homa Bay, Lamu, Mombasa, Nairobi and Nakuru) in Kenya. It aims to inform readers about the emerging conversations shaping public discourse in these counties.

1. **Lamu:** Human rights activist, Khelef Khalifa's controversial speech during a meeting in Wanati wa Lamu, fueled divisions, particularly regarding political representation and marginalization of local communities
2. **Mombasa:** Bruce Khajira's court case, involving allegations of sexual assault linked to his criticism of Mombasa Governor, sparked claims of local government interference. Additionally, events during the 16 Days of Activism focused on combating femicide and Gender Based Violence (GBV), including university forums, USAID initiatives, and a civil society march.
3. **Nakuru:** Rigathi Gachagua canceled his visit to Nakuru's Molo funeral and Pipeline church event on 30 November due to security concerns following an attack on him in Limuru.
4. **Nairobi:** Discussions on femicide and GBV included President Ruto's Sh. 100 million commitment, a march on 25 November dispersed by police, and the launch of initiatives like the Gender Protection Committee.

2. Weaponised words: The narratives shaping public discourse

This section highlights the 'meta' narratives amplified, citing specific examples. The section lists a selection of the most noteworthy incidents or narratives.

A. Government officials accused of purchasing a 'spying software' (Nirali)

Some Kenyan government officials are facing [allegations](#) of attempting to acquire a Ksh.120 million (USD 923,346) software to manage President William Ruto's social media platforms, monitor opposition figures, and [manipulate](#) public sentiment, including monitor and influence [trending hashtags](#), ahead of the 2027 elections. The accusations were [raised](#) by Mary Wachuka Maina, a Kenyan-Canadian entrepreneur and owner of [Jipe Inc.](#), the company that developed the software. In a lawsuit filed on 25 November 2024 at Milimani Law Courts, Wachuka claims that public funds were allocated to finance the project, intended to counter criticism of the Ruto administration. The deal allegedly involved several senior government officials, including Treasury Principal Secretary [Chris Kiptoo](#), Head of Public Service [Felix Koskei](#), the Attorney General Dorcas Oduor, Ruto's speechwriter [Eric Ng'eno](#), and entrepreneur [Jayesh Saini](#). The lawsuit details discussions that began on 22 November 2023, with Wachuka claiming informal agreements to secure government funding. However, after a significant payment to subcontractor firm Texas, she alleges the government failed to honor its commitments, leading to financial losses and fines, and seeks over Ksh. 172 million in compensation.

In response, on 26 November 2024 Chris Kiptoo, publicly [denied](#) any involvement in the alleged scheme, calling the claims 'absolutely unfounded.' He rejected the idea that public funds were allocated for the software, asserting that no confidential accounts existed within the National Treasury to finance such a project. Kiptoo also condemned the Daily Nation for publishing what he termed a misleading and defamatory article, further demanding a retraction. He emphasized that no formal agreements were ever reached regarding the software, and that the accusations lacked any substantial evidence.

The allegations have sparked outrage online, with many people on X questioning the government's priorities and transparency. There have been 10,149 mentions of this on X between 25 and 27 November 2024, leading to 43,806 engagements and 1.26 millions views. There has been widespread condemnation of the government's apparent focus on [misuse](#) of taxpayer money on a surveillance project, arguing that the funds could be better spent on vital public services such as [schools](#) and [hospitals](#). One tweet [suggested](#) that the accused officials may evade accountability due to alleged influence over the judiciary. Another [tweet](#) questioned the motivations behind such a surveillance initiative, referencing the actions of former Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) leader Wilson Sossion, who was accused of supporting such surveillance. The tweet questioned whether Sossion's support was influenced by his past personal experiences, citing his alleged history of spying on his former wife.

On the other hand, pro-government accounts defending the Kenyan government in the lawsuit have dismissed these claims terming them as baseless and [unfounded](#). One account [claimed](#) that the supposed whistleblower, Mary Wachuka, was a 'con woman' whose claims were swiftly dismissed by government officials. These accounts also accused the media, particularly Nation Media Group, of intentionally mischaracterizing President William Ruto and his administration. They argued that such stories were fabricated to [tarnish Ruto's image](#), with some suggesting that the accusations were either the result of poor research or deliberate misinformation. One account emphasized that any government has the [legal authority](#) to monitor suspicious activities, defending the government's actions as legitimate.

The history of surveillance on Kenyan citizens spans over a decade and has raised concerns about privacy and civil liberties.

- In [2009](#), British intelligence intercepted communications from former President Mwai Kibaki and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, revealing the global scope of surveillance.
- In [2013](#), US whistleblower Edward Snowden exposed how the National Security Agency (NSA) was tapping phone calls in Kenya through a program called Somalget, allegedly to monitor terror threats.
- In 2017, surveillance tools like [Pegasus spyware](#) were being used by Kenyan authorities, to collect data without user consent, and the mass collection of phone metadata. This spyware is often used by governments to spy on journalists, human rights defenders, and political opponents. In the same year, the Director General of the Communications Authority [attempted](#) to instruct mobile network providers to install monitoring devices on their networks, claiming it was to detect counterfeit phones.
- In [2018](#), Kenya further ramped up its surveillance infrastructure with the introduction of facial recognition technology in urban CCTV networks, expanding the government's ability to monitor citizens' movements.
- This was followed by reports in [2023](#) of opposition figures, such as Raila Odinga's daughter, accusing the government of hacking their communications ahead of [planned protests](#).
- On 25 June 2024, during [protests](#) against the Finance Bill, when Kenya experienced a major internet disruption, Safaricom was accused of intentionally slowing down connectivity. Kenya Human Rights Commission ([KHRC](#)), accused Safaricom of collaborating with security agencies by sharing user data without court orders. Additionally, Shad Khalif, a released activist, [claimed](#) that Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) helped authorities track and abduct protesters by providing location coordinates, further fueling criticism of state surveillance.
- On [5 November 2024](#), the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) announced a new policy requiring passengers entering Kenya to declare the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers of any mobile devices they plan to use, starting 01 January 2025. The KRA stated that the policy is part of an initiative to improve tax compliance. However, many users on X [expressed](#) concerns about the potential for unwanted surveillance this policy could lead to.

These developments, coupled with revelations of government-backed surveillance through telecommunications providers, reflect the growing use of digital tools to monitor, control, and suppress dissent in Kenya, raising serious concerns about the erosion of privacy and the safety of activists.

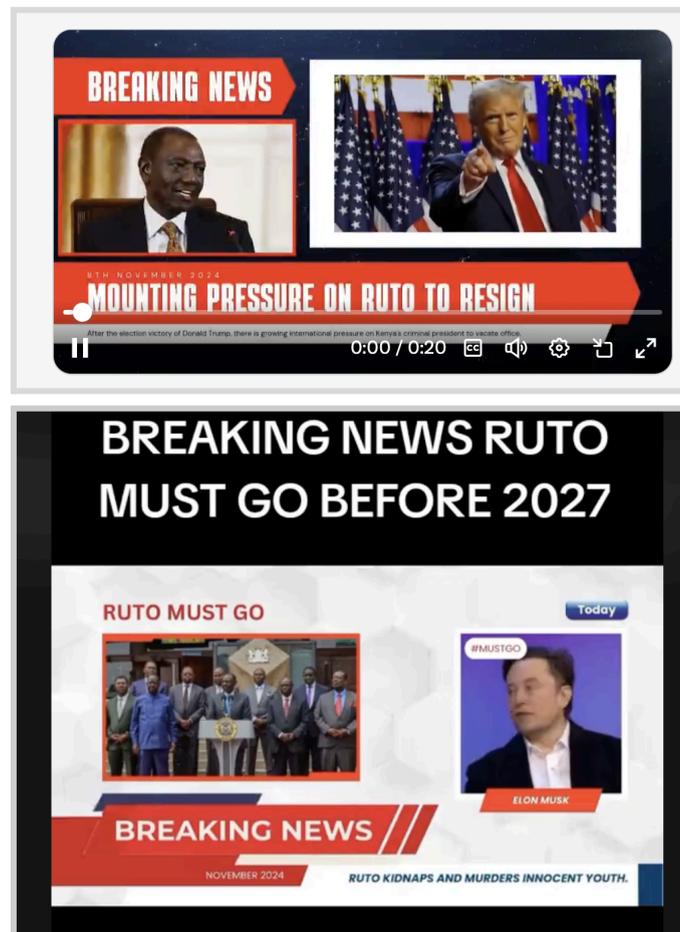
B. Malicious Use of AI generated videos (*Agape*)

- **A video of prominent figures saying Ruto must go**

On 08 November 2024, [@Wuonyagem1](#) and [@abbytracy12](#) posted a [video on X](#) and [TikTok](#) respectively, claiming to be president Donald Trump, Barack Obama, the C.E.O. of X, and social media personality Andrew Tate, referring to Ruto as 'corrupt', a 'liar' and calling for his resignation before 2027. The video was designed to resemble a news broadcast, mimicking the format and style associated with credible news outlets. It had a breaking news headline that read 'Mounting pressure on Ruto to resign.' In the post, the user alleged that Donald Trump had spoken in agreement with the rest of the world that Ruto must go before 2027.

It also included four scrolling headlines reading; 'his government is the most corrupt globally,' 'Ruto kidnaps and murders innocent youth,' 'his government is full of murderers and thieves,' and 'Ruto plans to kill all youth who oppose him.'

The general sentiment in this video was neutral, with approximately 2,330 users (96.7%) in the comments lauding its [creativity](#) and [execution](#), acknowledging it as an AI-generated video. They emphasized that its [underlying message](#) resonated deeply with them, emphatically stating that Ruto must step down. One [user](#) insinuated that this kind of propaganda is a good addition to the movement (#RutoMustGo). During our scan period between 08 November and 04 December 2024, this video amassed about 476,937 views with 2,405 mentions on X and 592 views with 29 interactions on TikTok.



Screenshots of the broadcasting video ([top](#), [bottom](#)) (Source: CFA using X and TikTok)

- **A video showing Okiya Omtatah and Karen Nyamu kissing**

On 28 November 2024, a TikTok [video](#) posted by @dougjjer on 27 November 2024 showing Senators Okiya Omtatah and Karen Nyamu showing public display of affection (kissing) [resurfaced on X](#), shared by user @MrKifaki. The same video was shared on Facebook by 11 different accounts, with the most viewed post being a [snippet of the video](#) uploaded by @Hon Kipkoech C Manu.

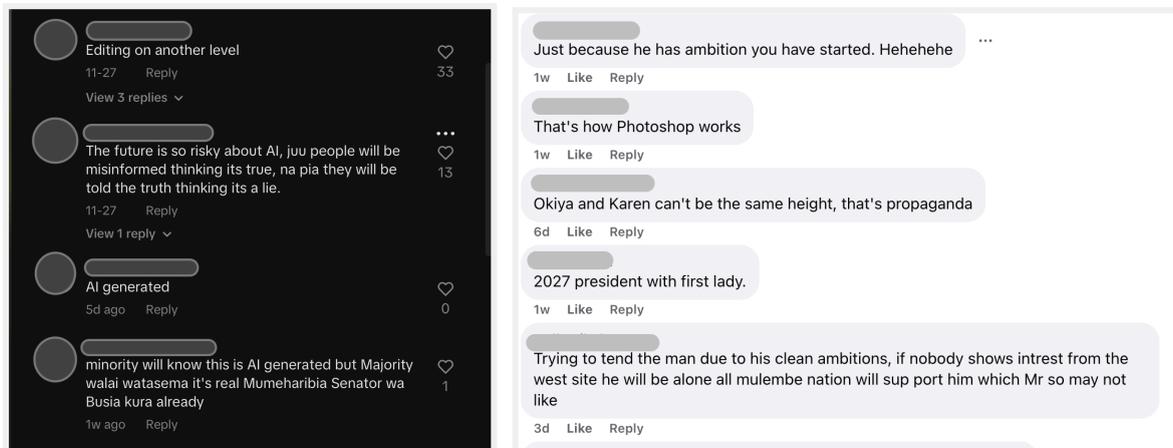
Senator Omtatah, member of the senate for Busia county, formally [launched](#) his presidential ambition on 27 November 2024 by [setting up](#) a 10-member exploratory and research committee to [guide](#) him on how to address pressing national challenges through bold and innovative leadership.

The [video](#) is an AI edit from a [photo](#) of the two senators shared by Nyamu [on her X account](#). Some users expressed concerns that the video could potentially harm Omtatah's presidential bid, particularly among viewers unable to recognize it as AI-generated, given his aspirations to run for the presidency

in 2027. While some comments quickly identified and criticized the AI manipulation, others praised the editing skills behind the video.



Screengrabs of the original [photo](#) and the AI-generated [video](#) derived from it (Source:CfA using X and TikTok)



Screenshots of concerns and comments on Omtatah and Nyamu's AI video ([left](#), [right](#)) (Source:CfA using TikTok and Facebook)

The overall sentiment in this was neutral, with approximately 1,130 users (74%) expressing neutral opinions. On TikTok, the [video](#) garnered about 68,100 views with an engagement of 2,560, on X, the [post](#) accumulated 711 views and one mention and on Facebook, the posts altogether got around 1,526,400 views and approximately 7,669 interactions.

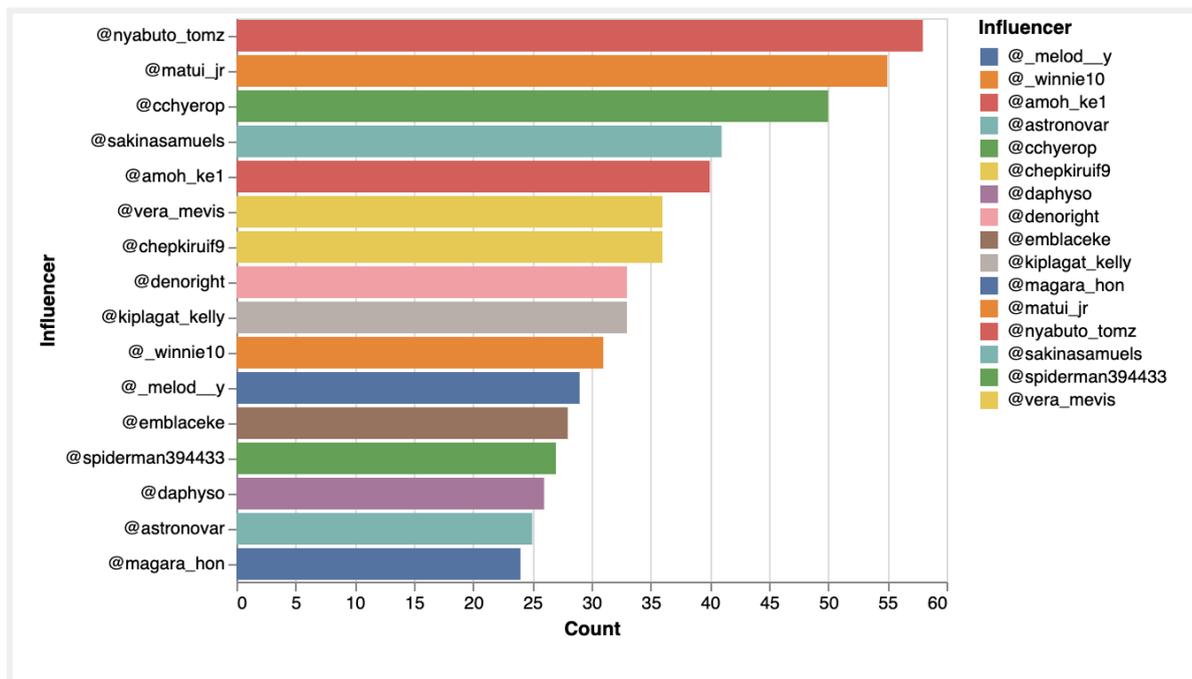
C. Coordinated ethnic division through faith desecration. (Solonka)

On 15 November 2024, CfA observed a trending hashtag #AskofuWachapaSiasa on X which continued to gain traction until 22 November 2024. However, 99.21% of posts using it were published

on 15 November. This hashtag emerged as a counter-narrative to the [press statement](#) issued by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) on 14 November 2024. In the statement, the KCCB criticized the government for issues such as [lies/unkept promises](#), [killings, abductions, high taxes, and corruption](#). Many posts associated with the hashtag attempted to discredit the church by accusing the leaders of engaging in politics which is [not their responsibility](#). Some posts further accused the church of ‘[fueling tribal tensions](#)’ and playing ‘[tribal politics](#)’ through Nyeri’s Archbishop Anthony Muheria. Similarly, on 14 November 2024, Kapseret member of parliament, Oscar Sudi [accused](#) Bishop Muheria of fanning tribalism.

The hashtag has so far received 3,559 mentions, ~2,700 interactions and ~37,500 views. Of these mentions, only 235 had mentioned Bishop Muheria. The hashtag was also used alongside the keywords ‘Rosary Of Lies’ and ‘Cross Of Politics’.

CfA mapped out seven accounts that were central in this hashtag campaign. Five of these accounts retweeted more than 40 posts using this hashtag on the premiere day, 15 November 2024, while the remaining two made 30 or more original posts bearing the hashtag on the same day.



Graph showing the top amplifiers in the #AskofuWachapaSiasa campaign (source: CfA using Python)

The accusation of tribalism against Bishop Muheria received backlash from online users, as some pointed out that Sudi was [singling out](#) Muheria given that the statement was read by [Bishop Dominic Kimengich](#), his fellow tribesman and KCCB chairman [Bishop Maurice Muhatia](#). Furthermore, the statement had been signed by [26 bishops from other tribes](#) in Kenya including Kikuyu where Bishop Muheria hails from.

3. Actor spotlight: The people and organisations amplifying toxic content

This section highlights the key accounts, entities or actors involved in amplifying toxic online content in Kenya and provides an in-depth assessment of their identities and motivations.

a. Individual actors

During this scan period, we identified a TikTok and an X account sharing AI-generated videos criticizing President Ruto and manipulating images of Senators Omtatah and Karen Nyamu.

- **@Wuonyagem1**

This [X account](#) created in May 2022, with 325 followers recently posted an AI generated [video](#) with statements attributed to notable individuals like Donald Trump and Barack Obama arguing that Ruto is not an effective leader and suggesting that he should not run for office in 2027. The account posts content centered around [kenyan politics](#) and [sports](#). Notably, the account has made at least three original [posts](#), including this [video](#), that are explicitly anti-government, [expressing](#) sentiments such as '[Ruto must go](#).' It also reposts content on self-improvement, and artificial intelligence, among others. Recently, however, its reposts have increasingly focused on the current political landscape in Kenya.

- **@dougner**

A [TikTok account](#) made its first post on 27 July 2024 and has 353 followers. This account has four posts and its content includes a mix of AI-edited videos, a highlight from a summit they likely attended, and community stories, like a musician's shout-out to business for replacing his car keys. Recently, an AI-edited [video](#) from a still [picture](#) of Senators Omtatah and Nyamu, which Nyamu shared on her X account, was posted.

4. Tactics and techniques: Unveiling the actors' modus operandi

This section outlines tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) used by information manipulation and interference actors in the identified narratives. It focuses on the strategic dissemination of content and coordination of their online presence.

1. Develop AI-Generated Videos

The DISARM framework's '[Develop AI-Generated Videos \(Deepfakes\)](#)' tactic refers to AI-generated falsified media to depict an inauthentic situation by synthetically recreating an individual's face, body, and physical gestures. This was evident from the X [user](#) @Wuonyagem1, who shared a fabricated [video](#) featuring figures such as Donald Trump, Elon Musk, Barack Obama, and Andrew Tate expressing support for the 'Ruto Must Go' movement.

2. Deceptively Edit Video

The DISARM framework's '[Deceptively Edit Video \(Cheap fakes\)](#)' tactic utilizes less sophisticated measures of altering media to misrepresent facts or create a false context surrounding an image. This tactic is also observed from the TikTok [user](#) @dougner, who posted an AI-edited [video](#) originating from a still [picture](#) of senators Omtatah and Nyamu.

3. Create hashtags and search artifacts

The [DISARM Framework](#) defines this tactic as the creation of one or more hashtags and/or hashtag groups. The creation of hashtags for a specific incident can have two important effects: creating a perception of reality about an event or publicising a story more widely through trending lists and search behaviour. On 15 November 2024, the hashtag #AskofuWachapaSiasa was used to amplify counternarratives against Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) following their press statement calling out the government on 14 November 2024.

4. Dismiss

According to the [DISARM framework](#), this tactic is defined as when there's pushback against criticism by dismissing the critics. This was employed in the hashtag #AskofuWachapaSiasa when the clerics, particularly, received criticism for being critical about the performance of the current Kenyan government. Some of the posts accompanying the hashtag sought to disqualify the clerics from having an opinion about the government, citing politics isn't their responsibility.

5. County radar: Notable emerging incidents or campaigns from the county level

This section provides a concise overview of notable incidents, campaigns and insights into emerging trends and issues in the information landscape within the focus counties (Busia, Homa Bay, Lamu, Mombasa, Nairobi and Nakuru) in Kenya. It aims to inform readers about the emerging conversations shaping public discourse in these counties.

(Moffin)

Lamu

A. Divisive sentiments by Khelef Khalifa

On 06 October 2024, Khalifa posted a [thread](#) on his [X handle](#) about the challenges facing Lamu County, highlighting how Kenya's unity is complicated by tribal divisions and the legacy of colonial borders. He suggested that each tribe should have more autonomy in electing their political leaders, and that people from outside Lamu should not hold political positions there. Khalifa also criticized the imbalance in land ownership, with outsiders acquiring more land than locals, and called for a land audit to address these concerns. The thread did not gain much traction, all the posts on the thread garnered a total of 163 views.

He recently expressed similar sentiments during a Wanati wa Lamu [meeting](#) in Lamu on 22 November 2024, where he suggested that Kikuyus should be denied a right to vote. His speech, which focused on sensitive issues like land ownership, the marginalization of local communities in terms of security and development, and what he described as the unfairness in governance and political representation of the 'indigenous' people of Lamu, has deeply divided opinions, particularly across the Coast region. There have been 486 mentions of this on [X](#), accumulating to 278,165 views from 25 November 2024 till 04 December 2024. We identified four [\(1,2,3,4\)](#) TikTok videos mentioning Khalifa's utterances through manual searches. The videos have so far received 67,843 views. We also identified three [\(1,2,3\)](#) videos on YouTube mentioning Khalifa's utterances. The videos have so far received 10,505 views. There were 12 Facebook [posts](#) mentioning Khalifa's utterances on Facebook during the scan period. While some [comments](#) criticised Khalifa's utterances, other comments praised him for having the courage to speak out criticising the Kikuyus in Lamu and other parts of the country such as Rift Valley.

Mombasa

A. Proceedings of Bruce Khajira's court case

During the scan period, there was an increase in mentions of blogger Bruce John Khajira aka Chawa - 001 who was sexually [assaulted](#) and defiled by a group of men for allegedly [insulting](#) Mombasa governor Abdullswamad Sherrif Nassir. The increase was as a result of the ongoing court case with the lead detective in the case, Irene Karuga asking for the main suspect Omar Ali Mohamed alias Nyanya to be denied bail. The prosecution argues that Omar was a [flight risk and capable of interfering with the ongoing investigations](#) as he was [arrested](#) in Lunga Lunga while trying to flee to Tanzania. Blogger Cyprian Nyakundi also [reported](#) on 13 November 2024 that Bruce had been moved to a safer location by the police amid claims of interference by the County government of Mombasa. The [post](#) further alleges that the blogger's family had previously requested additional protection, citing alleged surveillance and interference by the governor and senior county officials in an attempt to influence the case.

B. Anti femicide and anti GBV events in Mombasa

Stakeholders in Mombasa including the county government, academic institutions, CSOs and activists conducted a number of events to call against femicide and GBV in the county. The events were part of the commemoration of the 2024 16 days of activism which were being held globally. These events include:

- [The Inter University Dialogue Forum to Combat Femicide and SGBV](#) on 25 November 2024 at the University Nairobi, Mombasa campus. The event organised by Muslim women Advancement of Rights and Protection ([MWARP](#)), [Kujenga Amani](#) and [SambaSports Youth Agenda](#) was aimed to address the alarming surge in femicide cases in the country and brought together student leaders from higher education institutions, religious leaders, GBV survivors and youth leaders.
- Promotion of the [USAID Jitegemee program](#) in Mombasa and Kilifi through USAID Kenya X account on 29 November 2024 during the 16 days of activism. The [program](#) funded by USAID and PEPFAR [provides](#) supportive safe spaces, counseling, and reporting for GBV survivors. The program is implemented by [AMURT](#) as the Prime partner, and its Consortium partners: Healthcare For Generations ([HFG](#)), Women Fighting Aids in Kenya ([WOFAK](#)), the Council of Imams and Preachers in Kenya ([CIPK](#)), and KWETU Training Centre for Sustainable Development ([KWETU](#))
- Meeting organized by Mombasa County Department of Health and Gender Violence Recovery Centre ([GVRC](#)) enlightening men on GBV held on 03 December. The [dialogue](#) involved destigmatizing GBV, empowering male allies, and addressing the barriers male survivors face.
- Launching of a [partnership](#) between Technical University of Mombasa ([TUM](#)) and [Search for Common Ground](#) to raise awareness against femicide and Technologically-Facilitated Gender based Violence (TFGBV) on 04 December 2024.
- 16 days of activism march in Mombasa on 02 December. The march was organised by [Together 4 Society](#) alongside other civil society stakeholders.

Nakuru

A. Rigathi Gachagua cancels visit to a funeral in Molo and church event in Pipeline, Nakuru, following an attack in Limuru

On 30 November, there was an increase in mentions of the cancellation of a [visit](#) to Nakuru by former deputy president Rigathi Gachagua. It was reported that Gachagua was meant to attend a funeral in Molo and a church event in Pipeline both in Nakuru, but according to former Bahati MP Kimani Ngunjiri, Gachagua's [attendance](#) to both events was cancelled due to security concerns after the chaos that erupted at a funeral in [Limuru](#) where Gachagua and his entourage were attacked. There were 12 mentions of the cancelled visit on [X](#) receiving an engagement of 20 and 191 views. There were 10 mentions of the cancelled Nakuru visit on [Facebook](#). We also identified four Tik Tok videos ([1,2,3,4](#)) mentioning the cancelled visit, receiving a combined 113,740 views. A majority of comments criticised the violence witnessed in Limuru while calling for peace.

Nairobi

A. Calls against femicide and Gender Based Violence

In Nairobi, the most significant mentions and events during the scan period involved femicide and Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV). These events included forums, marches and discussions between government, citizens, civil society, foreign missions and international organisations.

On 20 November 2024, Ruto met with women leaders at State House Nairobi to discuss the troubling [rise in femicide cases and Gender Based Violence](#) in Kenya. In a press conference following the discussions, President William Ruto [committed to providing](#) Sh. 100 million to combat femicide through the 'Safe Home, Safe Space Campaign' which was announced by Ruto's advisor on women's rights Harriette Chiggai on 05 November 2024, during [the launch](#) of the Strategic Direction of the Office of Women Rights Advisor (ORWA) to the president in Nairobi. The funds were also to be used in support of the [#16DaysOfActivism](#) an initiative of UN Women that seeks revitalize commitments, call for accountability and action from decision-makers, as the world approaches the 30th anniversary

of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2025](#). [The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign](#) begins on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November and runs through International Human Rights Day on 10 December – to raise awareness and inspire action to combat gender-based violence.

Similarly, a march was organised in Nairobi on 25 November 2024 commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The march by peaceful protesters including activists and members of the civil society was however [dispersed](#) when police lobbed teargas at protesters who were convening in the Nairobi Central Business District.

Other activities and events relating to femicide and GBV cases in Nairobi included:

- A [courtesy call](#) by PS State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Ms. Anne Wang'ombe on 18 November 2024 to the Catholic Archbishop of Nairobi archdiocese Phillip Anyolo to deliberate on ways the church and the government can work together to curb the rising cases of femicide and other forms of Gender Based Violence.
- The launch of [the Gender Protection and Implementation Committee](#) on 25 November by Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen. The committee was created [to champion](#) the fight against GBV in sports.
- A [national conversation](#) to create awareness on GBV on a breakfast show on 27 November 2024. The conversation was organised in collaboration between the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) in Nairobi and Citizen TV.

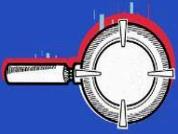
Conclusion

The dynamics within Kenya's digital space are increasingly influenced by political manipulation, with growing concerns over government surveillance and the strategic use of AI-generated content to sway public opinion. The allegations of surveillance on opposition figures and the rise of fabricated content highlight the urgent need for transparency, accountability, and robust regulations in managing digital platforms. The spread of these politically charged narratives not only fuels polarization but also threatens the integrity of democratic discourse ahead of the 2027 elections.

As the digital landscape continues to evolve, it is critical to implement measures that can effectively detect and mitigate disinformation campaigns, protect users' privacy, and safeguard free expression. The roles played by influencers and the spread of AI-generated content demonstrate the power of online narratives in shaping public perception and influencing political outcomes. Moving forward, stakeholders should prioritize the development of ethical frameworks and technological solutions to curb the rise of manipulative influence operations and ensure the stability of Kenya's digital democracy.

*This report was written by Cfa iLAB investigative data analysts **Nirali Patel, Dorcas Solonka, Moffin Njoroge, Agape Karashi and Ivy Masese**. The report was edited and reviewed by iLAB investigations manager **Jacktone Momanyi**, iLAB insights manager **Mwende Mukwanyaga** and iLab systems manager **Mitchelle Awuor**. The research was overseen by Cfa iLAB managing editor **Athandiwe Saba** and commissioned by Cfa editor-in-chief **Justin Arenstein**.*

Do you know of incidents of suspected information manipulation, coordinated influence operations or other forms of disinformation or weaponised toxic content that you think we should investigate? Share your leads with us, securely, on ilab@codeforafrica.org.



*This report contributes to a growing knowledge base that documents African-focused information manipulation, influence operations and weaponised disinformation. The knowledge base is curated by the **African Digital Democracy Observatory (ADDO)**. The research in this specific report was produced by analysts attached to ADDO member **Code for Africa (CfA)**, including CfA's **CivicSignal** media monitoring lab, its **iLAB** forensic investigation unit and its **PesaCheck** fact-checking team.*

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