Eastleigh: Hope dwindles for trapped victims

▸ Sixteen people are believed trapped beneath the rubble, leaving families anxiously waiting for a breakthrough.

▸ Despite assurances that the operation is progressing well, relatives say the prolonged wait is becoming unbearable.

OKUMU MODACHI, NAIROBI

For seven days, Lavender Juma has returned to the scene of a collapsed building in Eastleigh, Nairobi, clinging to the hope that her two cousins, who were working inside the structure when it came down, will be found.

But as rescue operations drag on, that hope is giving way to anguish, frustration and the growing fear that they may never be found alive.

Juma's two cousins were plasterers working inside the building when it collapsed last Friday. Since then, the family has been waiting for news, with each passing day bringing more questions than answers.

According to authorities, Lavender's cousins are among 16 people believed to be trapped beneath the rubble.

By Wednesday evening, the family was still holding on to hope despite the lack of a clear breakthrough in the search, even as authorities maintained that the operation was 80 per cent complete. "We have been here since the building collapsed on Friday. I have two cousins who were inside when it came down," Lavender told The Standard.



A rescue team at the site of the collapsed building in Eastleigh, as efforts to reach those trapped beneath the rubble continued. [Benard Orwongo, Standard]

She said relatives had repeatedly been urged to remain patient as rescuers worked to reach those believed to be trapped beneath the rubble.

On Tuesday, their hopes were briefly raised when they were informed that a specialist had arrived at the scene and detected two people inside the building.

However, the family said it had yet to receive confirmation of their identities or any indication that rescuers had reached them. "Since that day, we have only been told to wait. Yesterday, we were told an expert had arrived and detected two people inside. But up to now, we have not been shown these people," she said.

Lavender said the slow pace of the operation was taking a heavy emotional toll on families who had spent days waiting for news of their missing relatives. "As we see it, the operation is dragging on. If today is Wednesday and they have still not been found, we are asking the government to make every effort to help us see our people," she said.

The family was told on Wednesday that rescuers were still removing soil and debris before they could reach those believed to be trapped.

For Lavender, however, the delay has made it increasingly difficult to believe that her cousins could still be alive. "I have little hope that they will be found alive because they have no water, no food, and even breathing must now be difficult," she said.

Besides Lavender, The Standard observed a sense of unease and anxiety among relatives of those missing as they waited in a tent set up near the site.

John Irungu said his family was also anxiously awaiting news of his sister, Jacinta Jerry, and cousin, Lelia Wanjiku, who are believed to be trapped inside the collapsed building.

Irungu said the rescue operation appeared to be progressing too slowly, leaving relatives struggling to understand when they would receive answers about the fate of their loved ones.

"Every day, we come here to ask about our loved ones. We were told that experts from China had arrived and detected people trapped inside," he said.

According to Irungu, the information given to families about the number of people detected beneath the rubble had varied, further deepening their uncertainty.

He said rescuers had explained that debris and soil first needed to be cleared before they could safely reach the areas where the victims were believed to be. "We can see that the operation is moving slowly because the soil has to be removed carefully before they can reach anyone inside," he said.

Despite their frustration, Irungu acknowledged that officials had been communicating with families about the progress of the operation. "The government is communicating with us. They tell us step by step what has been done each day," he said.

However, the families want more direct engagement with government representatives who can explain the operation and clarify what assistance is available.

Irungu appealed to representatives of the national and county governments to visit the scene, provide regular updates and explain how additional resources could support the rescue efforts. "We want someone from the national government and the Governor's office to come and explain what the government is doing and how we are being assisted," he said.

He also called for additional support, including machinery and personnel, to help speed up the operation.

The relatives' anguish comes as rescuers continue the difficult task of clearing debris from the collapsed structure, leaving families waiting at the scene for any sign that their missing loved ones have been reached.

Authorities maintained that the rescue operation was "progressing well", adding that the government had deployed more sophisticated technology and experts to help accelerate the mission.

For Juma and Irungu, every update offers a brief reprieve from the uncertainty, but no reassurance that the people they came looking for will return home. The families are demanding urgent action, clearer communication and a sustained rescue effort, hoping that those still missing will be accounted for.

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

BUNGOMA MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITIZENS' FORA MEETING

Bungoma Municipality hereby invites all residents, stakeholders, business community members, and other interested parties to attend a Citizens' Fora Meeting to discuss matters concerning municipal development, service delivery, and the welfare of Bungoma residents.

MEETING DETAILS

Date	Friday, 6th November 2026
Time	9:00 AM
Venue	Bungoma Baptist Church, along the road to Bungoma Main Prison.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

All residents are encouraged to attend and actively participate in shaping the development agenda of Bungoma Municipality. This is an opportunity to share ideas, raise concerns, and contribute to improving municipal services.

Let us work together for a better, cleaner, and more developed Bungoma Municipality.

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

PUBLIC NOTICE

PREPARATION OF KISUMU COUNTY DRAFT VALUATION ROLL
APPOINTMENT OF VALUERS

PURSUANT TO Section 22(2) of the National Rating Act, 2024, the County Government of Kisumu hereby notifies the public that the following duly qualified and registered valuers have been appointed to prepare the Kisumu County Draft Valuation Roll, undertake inspections, collect valuation data, and perform all lawful acts incidental to the preparation of the Roll in accordance with the Act:

(i) Wycliffe Okeyo Ong'onge, MISK, MVSK, Registered Valuer
(ii) Dr. Victor Otieno Olonde, PhD, MRICS, MISK, Registered Valuer
(iii) Moses Omondi Owuor, MISK, Registered Valuer
(iv) Luke Okeyo Madende, MISK, Registered Valuer

Members of the public are requested to accord the appointed valuers reasonable access to the rateable properties, subject to production of official identification and compliance with the National Rating Act, 2024 and other applicable laws.

DATED at Kisumu this __30th day of ____October_____ 2026.

DR. KONYANGO CHARLES OTIENO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR LANDS
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

PUBLIC NOTICE

PREPARATION OF KISUMU COUNTY DRAFT VALUATION ROLL
DECLARATION OF RATABLE AREAS

PURSUANT TO Section 28 of the **National Rating Act, 2024**, and all other enabling provisions of the law, the County Government of Kisumu hereby gives notice that all rateable land and buildings situated within the boundaries of the urban areas specified hereunder shall, for the purposes of rating and **Preparation of The Draft Valuation Roll (2027),** be deemed to be within ratable areas, save for properties that are exempt from rates under **Sections 5, 38** and any other applicable provisions of the **National Rating Act, 2024:**

(i) Kisumu City
(ii) Ahero – Awasi Municipality
(iii) Katito – Pap Onditi Municipality
(iv) Maseno – Holo Municipality
(v) Kombewa – Bodi Municipality
(vi) Muhoroni – Chemelil Municipality
(vii) Market centres including:
  a. Rabuor Market
  b. Daraja Mbili Market
  c. Chulaimbo Market
  d. Ombeyi Market
  e. Ayweyo Market
  f. Harambee Market
  g. Kusa Market
  h. Kolweny Market
  i. Kong'ou Market
  j. Nyakwere Market
  k. Sondu Miriu Market
  l. Nyabondo Market
  m. Obambo Market
  n. Miwani Market, among others.
(viii) All agricultural leasehold properties
(ix) Satellite commercial and industrial properties

For avoidance of doubt, liability to rates shall be subject to the classification, valuation, exemptions and other applicable provisions of the National Rating Act, 2024.

DATED at Kisumu this __30th_ day of ____October ____ 2026.

DR. KONYANGO CHARLES OTIENO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR LANDS
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU