

National News

Unshakable? With unifying figure gone, party faces its greatest test since its founding following 2025 referendum

ODM moves to stem succession fallout

Move by the party comes in the wake of intense political jostling, within and outside ODM, to succeed the veteran politician



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MARSABIT



In Partnership With



INVITATION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION FOR SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA

Pursuant to Articles 1, 10(2), 43(1)(b) & (d), 232(1) (d) & (f), and the Fourth Schedule Part 2 (14) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Section 87 of County Government Act, 2012, Section 139 of Water Act 2016 and the National Climate Fund Act (Amendment) 2023, the County Government of Marsabit wishes to notify the general public, stakeholders, and interested parties that the Marsabit County Water Policy; Marsabit County Water Act 2018, Marsabit County Climate Change Fund Act, 2020 and Natural Resources Management (NRM) Policy have been amended and are now scheduled for public participation and stakeholders engagement.

The purpose of the amendment to Water Policy and Act 2018 is to strengthen Water Governance by clarifying institutional mandate, roles and responsibilities of the key players and improve accountability in water resources management. The amendments in the Climate Fund Act 2020 are aimed at guiding and sustaining adaptation efforts within the County, and to strengthen locally led climate actions aimed at building community resilience while the aim of the Natural Resource Management Policy is provide a structured approach for the sustainable use, conservation, and management of natural resources by establishing guidelines, strategic planning and legal/regulatory structures.

The Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resource Management therefore invite the public, Civil Society Organizations (CBOs, NGOs, FBOs), professional Associations, Conservancies and all other interested stakeholders to participate in the dates and venues outlined below:

SNO	Sub-County	Date	Venue	Time
1	Laisamis	12 th –14 th November 2025	Laisamis Catholic Guesthouse	9.00am -4.00pm
2	Moyale	17 th – 19 th November 2025	Tulla Regency	9.00am- 4.00pm
3	Saku	20 th –22 nd November, 2025	Jirime Hotel and Resort	9.00am- 4.00pm
4	North Horr	24 th –26 th November 2025	Catholic Guesthouse	9.00am- 4.00pm

Submit Written Memoranda and Comments on the proposed amendments to the Marsabit County Water Policy; Water Act 2018, Climate Change Fund Act, 2020 and Natural Resources Management (NRM) Policy, which can be accessed and downloaded from the County Government of Marsabit website: www.marsabit.go.ke For those with no internet connection, copies of the documents can be accessed through the Sub County Water Offices in your respective Sub County water office. In your submissions, kindly indicate the specific policy or ACT, clause, page number and paragraph you propose to amend or improve. Also, provide any additional input, rationale, or recommendations.

The Draft policies and bills can be accessed on the County website: <http://www.marsabit.go.ke> and for those with no internet connection, copies of the documents can be accessed through the Sub County Water Offices in your respective Sub County water office. In your submissions, kindly indicate the specific policy or ACT, clause, page number and paragraph you propose to amend or improve. Also, provide any additional input, rationale, or recommendations.

Memoranda or comments should be sent via email to gbhalakhe@gmail.com with copy to marleni81@gmail.com, katelostephen@gmail.com OR in writing to the undersigned between 27th October 2025 and 10th November 2025, both dates inclusive. For those submitting hard copies, the memoranda can be deposited at the nearest sub-County Water Office. The Sub County water officer will register the memoranda and submit the same to the County Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resource Management for consideration along those inputs received online.

The CECM

Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resource Management

County Government of Marsabit

P.O. Box 348-60509, Marsabit



ODM Party leader and Siaya Senator Oburu Oginga (second right), Secretary General Edwin Sifuna (speaking), and other party members in Nairobi during a media briefing yesterday. DENNIS ONSONGO | NATION

BY MOSES NYAMORI

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) on Monday sought to forestall a looming succession fallout by calling on party officials and members to rally behind its newly-installed party leader, Dr Oburu Oginga.

In the first meeting of the Central Management Committee since the death of party leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, ODM warned its members against instigating internal political conflicts in pursuit of inheriting Mr Odinga's political bastions.

The move by the 20-year-old party comes in the wake of intense political jostling – within and outside ODM – to succeed the veteran politician, who since 1997 has remained a consequential political player in the country. Key political figures – within and outside ODM – have launched behind-the-scenes machinations to inherit his support bases of Nyanza, Western and Coast, potentially threatening to split the outfit. Some of the interested players were already eyeing the control of the ODM party as a way of inheriting Mr Odinga's backyards, while others were seeking to plant themselves as the new regional kingpins.

“Baba (Mr Odinga) built this movement on the foundation of values; democracy, equity, inclusion, and truth. ODM is not just a political party; it is a covenant. Let us resist the temptation to scatter in despair, or to fight over his political inheritance as leaders often do when giants fall,” the party said in a statement read by its secretary-general Edwin Sifuna.

“Raila's true inheritance is not a name or a position, but a mission. That mission is to continue the struggle for a Kenya that works for all its children, regard-

less of tribe, class, or creed. We commit here in unison, as we did during the funeral, that we will not be responsible for any breakup in the party, or any unnecessary political turbulence that runs counter to Jakom's dream.”

Since entering the broad-based government in 2024, the party has been caught up in vicious internal wrangles pitting pro-system politicians and an emerging group of radical youthful MPs opposed to the arrangement.

There are fears within the party that if the wrangles are not contained, ODM could follow in the footsteps of Ford-Kenya that was consumed by an internal firestorm following the death of its leader Jaramogi Oginga Odinga. Raila held ODM together for nearly two decades, masking factional rivalries beneath the unifying banner of his name. With that unifying figure gone, the party faces its greatest existential test since its founding in the aftermath of the 2025 referendum.

“Whatever ideological and political competitions within the movement must remain healthy, as Raila himself desired, while seeking to lay a strong foundation for the next election and beyond, so that ODM as a national party and the most consequential one in the last 20 years, does not fade from the scene,” said,

...We commit here in unison, as we did during the funeral, that we will not be responsible for any breakup in the party...

Edwin Sifuna



Mr Sifuna. The Central Management Committee – the party's topmost organ – unanimously endorsed Dr Oburu as the new party leader. The 82-year-old Siaya Senator was appointed acting party leader on October 16, 2025, by the National Executive Council (NEC), a day after the death of Raila in India.

The party further announced its commitment to the broad-based government until 2027. This, even as the party indicated plans to pursue implementation of the 10-point agenda contained in the March 2025 Memorandum of Understanding between ODM and the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) of President William Ruto.

Sharp differences

“As the top leadership of this party, we shall pursue all causes he dedicated his life to, do everything within our power to uphold the unity of the party and apply lessons learnt from our departed leader and comrade in the service of the nation and a people he loved and fought for.”

“We reiterate the commitment of the Party to the broad-based government until 2027, a relationship guided by the 10-point agenda entered into for the sake of peace and stability of the Country.”

The deal with President Ruto has been at the heart of sharp differences within the party, which played out during the burial of Raila on October 19, 2025.

Top party officials publicly clashed over Raila's position on whether ODM should back Dr Ruto's re-election bid in 2027.

While some of the officials said the party is under firm instructions from Raila to remain in the broad-based government, Mr Sifuna said it was the veteran politician's wish for the party to front a candidate in the next presidential election.