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UDA-ODM deal: Key figures ahead of March 7 deadline

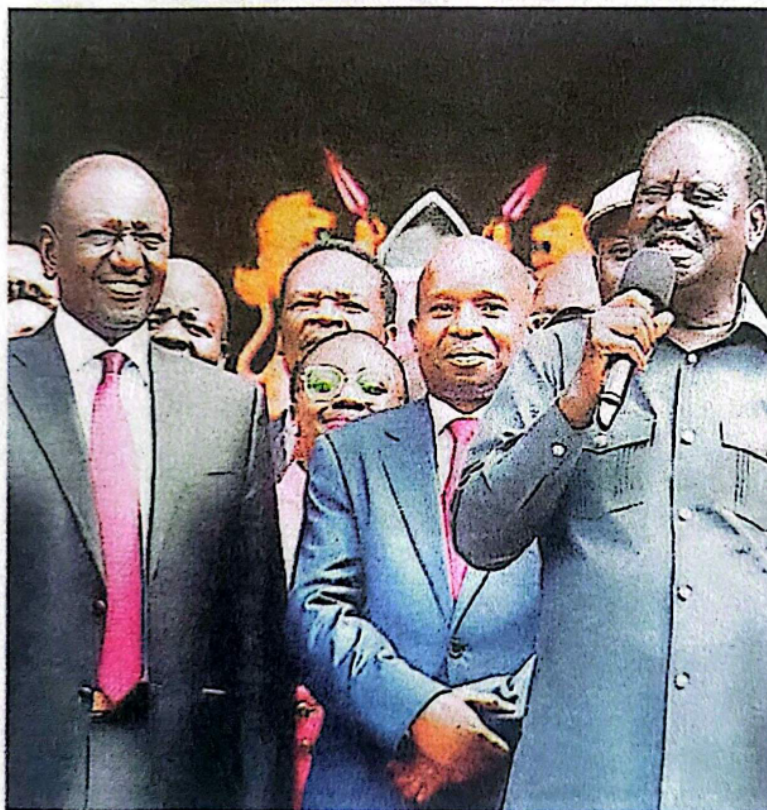
The deal came months after the youth-led Gen Z protests had rattled the political establishment, forcing leaders across the divide to reconsider the costs of prolonged confrontation.

BY MOSES NYAMORI
& DANIEL OGETTA

As the March 7 deadline for the implementation of the 10-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between President William Ruto and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga draws near, a major political clash has erupted.

Rival camps in the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) are giving different interpretations on the deadline. Critics feel it is the end of the broad-based government arrangement.

ODM leader Dr Oburu Oginga and proponents of the broad-based arrangement say the date only signifies the



Raila Odinga (right) makes his remarks after the signing of an MoU between ODM and UDA at KICC in Nairobi, Kenya, on March 07, 2025. PHOTO/FILE

first anniversary since the signing of the pact on the footsteps of the Kenyatta International Convention Centre on March 7, 2025.

In the deal, President Ruto and former ODM leader Raila Odinga agreed to make the final report detailing the status of the MoU's implementation public.

"Some people are misleading our supporters that on March 7, we will part ways with the government. But on that day, we will receive an interim report on the 10-point agenda and celebrate the first anniversary," Dr Odinga said at the weekend.

But ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna — speaking during an interview on a local TV station — said the agreement had no provision for extension.

He said the deal was that the 10-point agenda be implemented in one year.

"I have said this before, if anybody wants to extend this MoU, they must go to Bondo and get Baba's signature. No other signature can be appended to extend the MoU because Baba, in his wisdom, did not ask for a provision for extension," said Mr Sifuna.

ODM co-deputy party leader Godfrey Osotsi, who is another critic of President

Ruto's re-election campaign, accused the Kenya Kwanza Alliance of frustrating the implementation of the deal.

The Vihiha senator said: "The MoU on the 10-point agenda expires on March 7 and has no room for extension. President Ruto and his pro-Ruto group in ODM are responsible for its non-implementation. Mr Osotsi told *Daily Nation* that the broad-based government was anchored on full implementation of the MoU, and non-compliance means the arrangement collapses.

"Ruto and his support cast in ODM led by Oburu have betrayed Raila in death," he said.

The deal between ODM and UDA came months after the youth-led Gen Z protests had rattled the political establishment, forcing leaders across the divide to reconsider the costs of prolonged confrontation. The agreement was meant to ease hostilities, advance reforms and create structured dialogue.

In the arrangement, ODM donated some of its members to the government. They joined Mr Ruto's Cabinet. But as the clock ticks down, questions linger about what the MoU truly achieved and whether its promises were realised, diluted or deferred. But what even complicates the math is the absence of Raila Odinga who stood at the heart of the accord. But he did not live to see the end of the pact. Raila died on October 15, 2025 while receiving treatment in India.

Governance expert Prof Gitile Naituli said the 10-point agenda "has achieved nothing because it wasn't intended to achieve anything."

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POINTS FOR
ACTION