



**'It Will Kill Tourism': Shaken Tourists Say After Pinewood Beach Resort Attack**

"I have never seen anything like that," those were the words of a tourist from the United Kingdom, after he was caught up in the attack staged by armed goons at the Pinewood Beach Resort and Spa.

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**News>>Nyeri Catholic Priest Celebrate A Decade Of Priesthood**

P. 8. Hundreds of Christians yesterday gathered at Kiamuiru Primary School along Nyeri-Karatina highway for a thanksgiving Mass of a Catholic priest who was celebrating a decade in priesthood.



**News>>Muthama Decries "Discriminatory" Distribution Of Road Projects By State Agency**

P. 12. Former Machakos Senator says President William Ruto promised to serve all Kenyans equally regardless of their political affiliation hence senior government officials shouldn't depart from the pledge.

# Ruto Pledges To Implement NADCO Report

*Ruto described the report as 'good' for the country*

Speaking at the Priesthood Fellowship Church in Kahawa West, Nairobi, President Ruto thanked the team for coming up with a practical report.

"All the recommendations made by the bipartisan dialogue team are practical and good for the country," said President Ruto.

Dr Ruto noted that he will not hesitate to implement issues in the report touching on the executive.



President William Ruto and other leaders during a church service at Priesthood Fellowship Church, Nairobi

STORY ON PAGE 9

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# KCPE Results: Form One Placement Starts Today Amid Protests And Appeals

By: Margaret Kalekye



The parents are also demanding today's planned launch of Form One placement to be stopped

### Worth Noting:

- The affected parents from a private school in Kitengela Sunday stormed Kenya National Examination Council's (KNEC) Miti-hani house headquarters in Nairobi, protesting the alleged irregular awarding of results.
- They accused KNEC of dishonesty and demanded that Monday's planned launch of Form One placement be stopped failure to which they will seek legal redress.

Form one placement exercise kicks off today, November 27 amid protests from disgruntled parents and candidates over alleged errors in the 2023 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination results.

During the release of the results last week, Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu said the selection exercise will take place for two weeks to allow parents time to plan for admissions.

However, the exercise may be derailed if a section of parents and some school administrators make good their threat to move to court to stop the process if their

concerns are not addressed.

The affected parents from a private school in Kitengela Sunday stormed Kenya National Examination Council's (KNEC) Miti-hani house headquarters in Nairobi, protesting the alleged irregular awarding of results.

They accused KNEC of dishonesty and demanded that Monday's planned launch of Form One placement be stopped failure to which they will seek legal redress.

Their quest to be addressed by KNEC CEO Dr. David Njengere bore no fruit.

A top private school has reportedly written a protest letter to the council express-

ing dissatisfaction with the results.

The institution renowned for its sterling performance over the years is seeking a review after posting poor results.

In a statement issued on Saturday KNEC issued a one-month period to all those aggrieved by their results to officially present their appeals.

Dr. Njengere Saturday admitted that the exam body had received appeals over some errors in results obtained through the shortcode 40054 that was provided by the Ministry of Education.

"The error affected only the SMS results due to configuration issues, as the results



in the KNEC portal are accurate. KNEC notified the SMS service provider and the error in the text messages was resolved immediately" he said.

The CEO who ruled out malpractices revealed that KNEC has received queries from candidates with low marks in some of the subjects, mainly in English and Kiswahili.

He added that they had so far reviewed and resolved 133 appeals.

*Additional reporting by Wakhungu*

Editor's Desk

**The Mt Kenya Times** is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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# NEWS IN BRIEF



The Athi Water Works Development Agency (AWWDA) is seeking Sh 1.1 billion in land compensation for Gatundu residents who have ceded their land to build a fence around the Karemenu II dam. The agency claims that despite the project being operational, the agency has not secured the 30-meter buffer zone surrounding the water reservoir, hindering the construction of a Sh 50 million fence around the dam. The delay in land acquisition and fence construction has exposed residents to potential danger if water from the dam spills over due to El-nino rains. Engineer Kiprono Rop, AWWDA resident engineer, said that the delay in compensation has exposed the residents to looming danger if water from the dam spills over. The Karimenu II dam, which was jointly funded by the Kenyan government and the China Exim Bank, is expected to boost water supply in Thika, Juja, Ruiru, and parts of Nairobi.



Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) has indefinitely closed the Modogo – Garissa stretch of the Nairobi – Garissa highway due to floods. The highway is the entry point to North Eastern and a major supply route to the region. Trucks supplying groceries and foodstuffs are stuck in the Tula area as they cannot cross the flooded road. The Garissa – Hola – Mombasa Road and two sections of Dokanotu and Bilbil were also swept away by floods. Residents have called on the national government to redesign the two major roads and construct bridges to allow flood water to pass through without cutting off the roads. Alex Njeru, a community leader and businessman, warned that Garissa town would run out of food supplies and fuel if the highway is not urgently opened up to traffic. Bus companies plying the Garissa – Nairobi and Garissa – Mombasa routes have also suspended their services.



Orphan Reach Network, a non-governmental organization in Nyeri County, has called on the National and County governments to support efforts to uplift the welfare of men and boys. The organization, which supports orphans and rehabilitates street children, has highlighted the social imbalance caused by affirmative action favoring girls. Pastor Alice Theuri, founder of Orphan Reach Network, called on both levels of government to work together to ensure equal opportunities for both boys and girls. The organization launched a boys' empowerment forum, where eight teenage boys from needy backgrounds were selected to join a program.



The Murang'a government has appointed 11 members to the county budget and economic council, which advises the governor on county budgeting and economic development. The council, led by Governor Irungu Kang'ata, will provide advice and directives to spearhead investments, marketing, and businesses in the county, aiming to provide employment opportunities for young people. The council will also advise on priority development areas for the benefit of county residents. The council will also assist in the establishment of an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) on land acquired from fruit processing company Delmonte Ltd., with the aim of creating employment and supporting economic growth in the county.



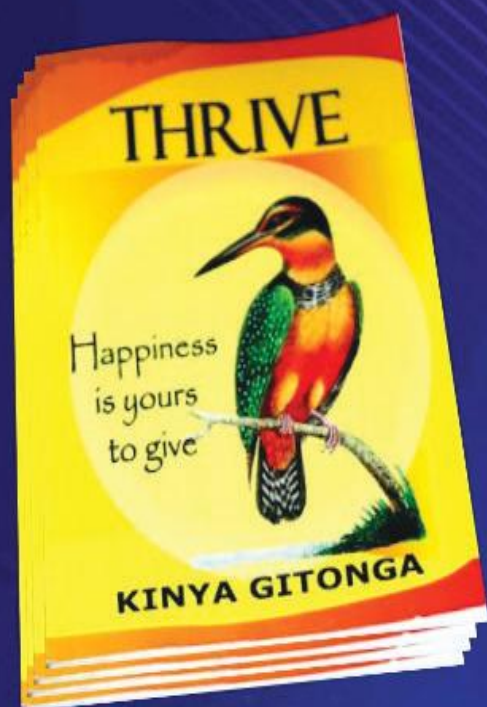
The Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) is developing an app to make it easier for the public to file complaints about dissatisfactory service in the public sector from their homes. The Commission is working in partnership with the Ministry of Public Service to strengthen the complaints management system, which will be launched as the PASHA Ombudsman platform. Since its inception in 2011, the Commission has made significant strides in resolving complaints, improving efficiency, and fostering a responsive culture in public service. The Commission has helped restructure complaint-handling mechanisms by Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and County Governments (MDACs) through capacity-building seminars for public officers and institutions. The majority of grievances related to delays in services sought by Kenyans at 22.6%, while unlawful official conduct constitutes 18%.



The National Land Commission, in collaboration with stakeholders like the Law Society of Kenya, Pamoja Trust, and Habitat for Humanity, has presented a set of recommended land policies to the Cabinet Secretary for Land, Housing, and Physical Planning. The recommendations cover land governance, land tenure, land administration, land use planning, environmental conservation, climate change, land and food security, and conflict resolution. The recommendations will serve as the foundation for the government's review of the land policy, aligning it with current and future dynamics in the sector.

# Kingya N. Gitonga

PSYCHOLOGIST, AUTHOR, MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE  
& FOUNDER SOUND MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION  
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Kingya N. Gitonga

## Kenya Women Parliamentarians Aim To Influence Gender-Responsive Legislation



KEWOPA Chairperson & Kajiado Woman Representative Leah Sankaire

By: John Kariuki  
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) has initiated discussions to drive strategies aimed at influencing gender-responsive legislation in Kenya. In collaboration with key partners including the African Women's Development & Communication Network (FEMNET), Mzalendo Trust, and IDEA International,

Women legislators today convened to exchange experiences garnered from their tenure in the 13th Parliament. The primary objective of the meeting was to ensure that women leaders gain access to essential skills, tools, and resources necessary to realize their political ambitions. Led by KEWOPA's Chairperson, Leah Sankaire (Kajiado), the Parliamentarians highlighted instances of discrimination against women in committee assignments and leadership roles.

"When aiming to change the global economy, involving women is crucial as they possess a unique strength and determination to address issues more effectively than men," noted Sankaire. In a proactive move to claim their rightful place, the female leaders vowed to take deliberate steps to contribute significantly to various legislative proposals presented on the floor of the House. Kewopa Kenya.

## Thoughts From Janet Mbugua On Bettering The Education System



Janet Mbugua is a renowned media personality and founder of Inua Dada.

By: John Kariuki  
@themkenyatimes

Social Justice Activist and renowned media personality Janet Mbugua has taken a moment to share with us her thoughts "How do we supplement our current education system, to address evolving needs of students, teachers, parents? Here are some ideas that came out of the BIC Edu Talk sessions yesterday: Keep children's dreams alive Harness the power of the internet by platforms like Tik Tok to find children where

they are Enhance awareness for parents, scale their knowledge of trends especially in New Media Platforms like puppet shows, community dialogue, EdTech and more, need to be integrated

This narrows down what the sentiments were and I have to say, each year, the takeaways from the BIC Edu Talk always leave us with much to think about. And while some of the above might be stating the obvious, unless we truly rethink education in a critical way, we're failing to harness the potential of generations to come.

Think Pop Culture, think Innovation, think Arts. S.T.E.M. So many varied platforms! But before all this, we must ensure access to education, equitably, consistently. And we MUST push for resourcing education as well. Our children deserve this! Thank you to BIC Kenya, @millocomms and the amazing panelists from both sessions, many of whom I've tagged And to you, the public - I'm thanking you in advance, for joining us in pushing for better policies and resourcing towards strengthening our education system(s)."

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# Nyeri Catholic Priest Celebrate A Decade Of Priesthood

By: William Muchiri  
 @themtkenyatimes

Hundreds of Christians yesterday gathered at Kiamuiru Primary School along Nyeri-Karatina highway for a thanksgiving Mass of a Catholic priest who was celebrating a decade in priesthood.

The Christians, from various denominations were hosted by Rev. Fr. Paul Kimani during the colourful event that was also attended by scores of political and business community leaders.

More than a dozen colleagues of Fr. Kimani also graced the ceremony.

“I want to thank God for his kindness in giving me good health and strength to work for Him and the ability to serve his people for all those years. I know He will continue being with us as servants of God,” Fr. Paul prayed.

Fr. Kimani has served several parishes in Kieni, Othaya, Nyeri Town constituencies since he was ordained



Kanini Kega congratulating Fr Paul Kimani yesterday.

as a priest on November 23, 2013.

Nyeri leaders who also joined the congregation Tana Water Works Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka, his New KCC colleague Maina Kamiru,

Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Nyeri Woman Rep Rahab Mukami, Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi, EALA MP Kanini Kega, Speaker of Nyeri County Assembly Gichuhi Mwangi and Former Nyeri Town MP Esther



Nyeri County Women Representative Rahab Mukami having a word with Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka during the thanksgiving mass yesterday..

Murugi.

The leaders present called upon Christians to pray for the elected leaders and for the country.

They also thanked Fr. Kimani for his service to humanity and prayed for his long life.

# Othaya MP To Sponsor Boys From Disadvantaged Families Undergo Initiation

By: Our Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

Othaya Constituency Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina has volunteered to cater the cost of undergoing circumcision for boys in his area who are yet to take the initiation

Those targeted through his personal charity organisation; Wambugu Wainaina Foundation, are the boys who undertook the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) last month and whose results were released last week.

The boys, most of them from financially disadvantaged families, will this week undergo the cut so as, as has been the tradition in the region, can join secondary schools next year, having been circumcised.

The concerned boys, their parents, or guardians are expected to inform the office of the MP by the close of business tomorrow.

In a public notice, those concerned are supposed to pass the information through the Wards Administrators or National Government Administration Officials like Chiefs and their assistants.

The MP, who is popularly known as Mount Kenya in the area said he decided to chip in, in the process of transiting boys to young men after he realised that some were yet to undergo the all important Initiation process due to lack of finances.

Apart from this initiative, the first time MP has for years, even before he was elected been involved in various charity work in the constituency.

These include settling hospital bills, clearing school fees for students in secondaries, tertiary institutions as well as universities and of late building decent houses for hundreds of vulnerable families in the area.

Othaya residents have hailed the charity works the MP does using his personal resources.



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima addressing a public meeting in the past..

# Ruto Pledges To Implement National Dialogue Committee Report

By: Margaret Kalekye



Sunday service at Priesthood Fellowship, Kahawa West, Nairobi County.

## Worth Noting:

- “When we reduced the cost of subsidised fertiliser from Sh 7,000 to Sh 2,500, farmers engaged in serious farming leading to increased production. This is why the price of unga has reduced from Sh 230 to Sh 135,” said President Ruto.
- The Head of State argued that countries like Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore have gone far in terms of development because of leadership, which implemented the right policies for the respective countries.
- “We are categorical, we have a plan and we will change Kenya,” said Dr Ruto.
- The President said Sh 1 billion has been allocated to Nairobi County to construct more classrooms, saying it was disgusting that there were only 200 schools in 15 constituencies.

President William Ruto has assured Kenyans that recommendations by the bipartisan dialogue team will be implemented.

He described the report as ‘good’ for the country.

Speaking at the Priesthood Fellowship Church in Kahawa West, Nairobi, President Ruto thanked the team for coming up with a practical report.

“All the recommendations made by the bipartisan dialogue team are practical and good for the country,” said President Ruto.

Dr Ruto noted that he will not hesitate to implement issues in the report touching on the executive.

He said it was upon MPs to deliberate on the report touching on the legislature.

“For instance, in the report, there is a recommendation that travel be cut by 50 percent and that’s what I have already done,” said the President.

At the same time, the Head of State urged Kenyans to be patient and support the Government in fixing the country’s economy.

He said the implementation of Government policies were starting to bear fruits.

“When we reduced the cost of subsidised fertiliser from Sh 7,000 to Sh 2,500, farmers engaged in serious farming leading to increased production. This is why the price of unga has reduced from Sh 230 to Sh 135,” said President Ruto.

The Head of State argued that coun-

tries like Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore have gone far in terms of development because of leadership, which implemented the right policies for the respective countries.

“We are categorical, we have a plan and we will change Kenya,” said Dr Ruto.

The President said Sh 1 billion has been allocated to Nairobi County to construct more classrooms, saying it was disgusting that there were only 200 schools in 15 constituencies.

“It is discouraging that there are many children in Nairobi especially in informal settlements who are not in schools. We are constructing 3,500 classrooms to ensure all children get access to education,” said

President Ruto.

He said efforts were being made to settle squatters in Kamae, noting that genuine people were being identified.

“We are going through the list of the squatters to identify the genuine people to be settled and given title deeds. There is no way someone with a V-8 can claim to be a squatter,” said President Ruto.

MPs Kamande Mwafrika (Roysambu), Mwangi Kiunjuri (Laikipia East), John Kiarie (Dagoretti South), David Gikaria (Nakuru Town East), Japeth Nyakundi (Kitutu Chache North), Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri), Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo) and Nairobi deputy governor James Njoro

were present.

The MPs urged Kenyans to be patient and allow President Ruto to implement his development agenda for the country.

“President Ruto is working hard to implement his agenda for Kenyans. He has good plans for our country. Let’s give him time and support him to fix our economy,” said Mr Kiunjuri.

MPs Munyoro and Kiarie said the reduction of prices of unga from 230 to 135 was a clear demonstration that the President’s policies are yielding fruits.

“Our President has a plan and we trust the plan,” said Mr Munyoro.



National Dialogue committee co-chairs Kimani Ichungwa and Kalonzo Musyoka during the unveiling of the committee report in Nairobi.

# Machogu: New Funding Model Will Free Varsities From Debt

By: Margaret Kalekye

The new Higher Education Funding Model the government introduced seeks to give students more access to quality education and free universities from the financial challenges they have faced, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Ezekiel Machogu has said.

Machogu said the old funding model had led the universities to incur a pending bill of up to Ksh70.7 billion. He said the government had disbursed Ksh5.2 billion in loans to first-year students, saying this demonstrated the Government's commitment to ensuring that the New Funding Model is implemented without hitches.

"The Ministry will do all it can to ensure that the scholarship kitty of the New Funding Model is disbursed in time to allow universities to run their programmes smoothly," Machogu said.

He made the remarks during the 6th

graduation ceremony of Taita Taveta University.

The Minister, who had just been awarded an Honorary Degree in Humane Letters by the University pledged to champion policies that ensure our educational system is robust, inclusive, and forward-looking.

"Our focus will be on nurturing critical thinking, innovation, and skills development to prepare our youth for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century," he added.

The Cabinet Secretary asked the leadership of higher education institutions to explore ways of adjusting their programmes costs, curricula, and models of delivering training in the context of rising cost of offering quality education and the diversified training needs of the job market.

Machogu said it was important to review the costs, the curricula and models of instruction in order to equip graduates with on-demand skills in this highly competitive marketplace.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Fred Barasa said the Uni-



Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu

versity was providing high-quality education and training to its students, saying it had some of the best faculty members for this.

Present included the Chancellor of the University, Dr. Sally Kosgey, the Chairman of the Council, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Vice-chancellors from pub-

lic universities among other dignitaries.



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# Gachagua's Trip To Equatorial Guinea Was Part Of His Constitutional Mandate



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

**Worth Noting:**

- On agricultural reforms, he has made great strides and progress in terms of addressing the plight of the Kenyan farmers. In coffee, tea, milk, macademia sub- sectors, the impact was mostly being felt.
- On the sidelines of the summit, he met a number of leaders and managed to convince them to buy our produce.
- During his previous foreign travels, he had also secured lucrative markets for some of these products.
- In Belgium, he struck a deal and signed an agreement with Java Coffee limited.
- The company agreed to buy the Kenyan coffee in large quantity and good prices. This will happen after we have roasted our coffee to boost its value addition.

Deputy President Ragathi Gachagua has just wrapped up his two-day visit to Equatorial Guinea where he had represented President William Ruto at a high-level meeting of the African heads of state.

Dubbed C-10, Kenya is part of the Committee of Ten that is exploring ways of reforming United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Historically, one thing had remained clear. Africa was under represented and hence its voice was given little attention and at times completely ignored.

So, one of the key highlights of the reforms is for Africa to push for expanded membership and permanent seats at the high table of UNSC.

The DP Gachagua would ably represent his boss by mincing no word in articulating this agenda and rewording it to fit in the bigger picture of pan Africanism.

He would also take the opportunity to perform other duties assigned to him by President William Ruto.

On agricultural reforms, he has made great strides and progress in terms of addressing the plight of the Kenyan farmers. In coffee, tea, milk, macademia sub- sectors, the impact was mostly being felt.

On the sidelines of the summit, he met a number of leaders and managed to convince them to buy our produce.

During his previous foreign travels, he had also secured lucrative markets for some of these products.

In Belgium, he struck a deal and signed an agreement with Java Coffee limited.

The company agreed to buy the Kenyan coffee in large quantity and good prices. This will happen after we have roasted our coffee to boost its value addition.

This was a major breakthrough given that Java coffee is the world's leading buyer of coffee.

Recently, officials of this company and other companies visited Kenya to assess and test the quality of Kenyan coffee.

Besides visiting the coffee growing counties, they attended an international coffee Expo in Nyeri. We have tasted your coffee and it is one of the best.

We are here to conceptualize the agreements we signed with your top leaders, they stated.

This time, I would not expect Gachagua's critics to stoop that low. Whereas it is true Nyeri is the home county of DP, the organisers did not settle on it because of political considerations.

We know Nyeri county is a leading producer of coffee in Kenya and it is endowed with all varieties of cherries.

I had been listening to the previous narratives of the critics of President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua.

They wanted Kenyans to believe that the trips were not bearing any fruits.

To me, this reeked of malice and envy. We have seen a lot of gains. The funding of the ongoing flagship development projects had been secured from



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua Friday joined AUC 10 In Equatorial Guinea

foreign partners.

DP reiterated this recently when he spoke during the launch of a Sh2 billion project in Mombasa. He had accompanied the President during which he took that opportunity to defend Dr Ruto's trips.

Mr President, you are the father of this nation. When you fly out, you come back with bags full of goodies. This showed you truly cared for your children, the people of Kenya. Continue making these trips. You have our full blessings.

At juncture, allow me to say this, many Kenyans were ignorant and hence lacked knowledge on matters of public affairs.

Those who had been brainwashed by DP critics, I want to share this with them.

In contrast to the impression created, Gachagua's foreign trips were part of his constitutional mandate.

The provisions of Article 147 of the constitution are very clear.

Clause 1 which underlines his key mandate states: The Deputy President shall be the principal assistant of the President and shall deputise for the President in execution of the President's functions.

Clause 2 states: The Deputy President shall perform the functions conferred by this Constitution and any other functions of the President as the President

may assign.

With this, I would expect Kenyans who had been brainwashed to change their mind.

Gachagua means well for the country. I have never heard President William Ruto complaining. This means he trusts and admires his work. Let us support the vision and the work of the two leaders.

*Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Political Analyst Based In Nairobi*

# Muthama Decries “Discriminatory” Distribution Of Road Projects By State Agency

*Former Machakos Senator says President William Ruto promised to serve all Kenyans equally regardless of their political affiliation hence senior government officials shouldn't depart from the pledge.*

By: KBC Digital

Immediate former United Democratic Alliance (UDA) chairperson Johnson Muthama wants Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen to cancel the latest Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) tender list over what he termed as inequality in road allocations.

In a press release on Saturday, Mr Muthama, who is also Commissioner at the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), claimed the agency has discriminated against other regions in terms of road allocations arguing that it goes against the ideals of Kenya Kwanza.

According to the outspoken former Machakos Senator, President William Ruto promised to serve all

Kenyans equally regardless of their political affiliation hence senior government officials shouldn't depart from the pledge.

“I urge Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen to reconsider the KeRRA list, ensuring a fair re-allocation that genuinely mirrors our commitment to serving every corner of the country equally, as President William Ruto pledged. This step would reinforce our campaign's core values of equity and inclusivity,” said Mr Muthama.

He added: “In our Kenya Kwanza campaign, we championed equity and fairness, a departure from the previous Jubilee administration. It's disheartening to observe a deviation from these principles among some government officials.”

Mr Muthama also wants KeRRA to elucidate the criteria it used in allocating roads whereby some counties got more kilometers while others got

zero.

“The recent Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) tender notice for various roads nationwide fails to align with the ideals of our administration. The Ministry of Roads and Transport must clarify the criteria used to allocate kilometers to specific counties, especially the disparity, such as Bungoma receiving less than a kilometer,” said Commissioner Muthama.

From the KeRRA tender list on improvement of roads and construction of drainage structures, around 16 counties were left out while 31 which were captured, got different kilometers raising eyebrows in the political class.

“It's crucial for Kenyans to understand why 15 counties are absent from KeRRA's list. Is it indicative of a lack of roads requiring improvement or drainage structures needing attention?,” posed Mr Muthama.



Johnstone Muthama is a Commissioner at the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC). PHOTO/COURTESY.

But in a quick rejoinder on Mr Muthama's post on Facebook, CS Murkomen asked the founding UDA chairperson to desist from peddling what he termed as propaganda.

“Stop spreading propaganda Honorable Commissioner, that's not a true reflection of road projects in the country,” charged Mr Murkomen

## No To Gender Based Violence

By: Rebecca Nyakoboke

To the editor,

As we embark on the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, I urge all women journalists to actively participate in this crucial movement. The media plays a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and raising awareness about social issues. Therefore, it is imperative for women journalists to use their platforms to say no to gender-based violence and advocate for change.

Gender-based violence is a pervasive issue that affects millions of women worldwide. It takes various forms, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination. Women journalists have a unique opportunity to shed light on these issues through their reporting, investigative journalism, and opinion pieces. By participating in the 16 days of activism, they can amplify the voices of survivors, challenge societal norms, and hold perpetra-

tors and enablers accountable.

The power of storytelling cannot be underestimated. Women journalists have the ability to humanize the experiences of survivors, debunk myths surrounding gender-based violence, and foster empathy among their audience. By sharing stories of resilience and empowerment, they can inspire others to take a stand against gender-based violence and contribute to creating a safer and more equitable society.

Furthermore, women journalists can leverage their professional networks and platforms to collaborate with organizations working to end gender-based violence. They can facilitate discussions, organize events, and produce in-depth features that delve into the root causes of gender-based violence and highlight effective interventions.

It is also essential for media organizations to provide a supportive environment for women journalists who choose to participate in the 16 days of activism. This may include offering resources for mental health support, ensuring editorial backing for sensitive stories, and fostering a



The call comes even as the international 16 days of activism against GBV started this weekend till 10th of December this year, with as governments, lobby groups and humanitarian organisations around the world seek to accelerate actions to end GBV and femicide/COURTESY.

workplace culture that values diversity and inclusivity.

In conclusion, the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence present an opportunity for women journalists to make a meaningful impact through their work. By us-

ing their platforms to advocate for change, challenge stereotypes, and elevate the voices of survivors, they can contribute significantly to the global movement to end gender-based violence.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nyakoboke

# Set Green Academy Parents Petition KNEC for Urgent Review of 2023 KCPE Results

By: Our Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

Parents of Set Green Academy in Kisii County have submitted a petition to the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC), urging a thorough review and reexamination of the 2023 KCPE results.

Expressing their grievances during a peaceful demonstration, the parents conveyed deep disappointment over the reported outcomes of their children.

According to the protesting parents, there have been instances of inaccuracies in the marking process, with some candidates allegedly receiving incorrect marks and being assigned grades for subjects they did not actually sit for.

One particularly troubling situation highlighted by the parents involves candidates being credited with marks for the Kenya Sign Language, a subject that was reportedly not examined at the school, instead of Kiswahili.

The school's head teacher Benard Kogolla confirmed that they have already submitted a formal petition to

KNEC and are currently awaiting a response, hopeful that the examination council will take prompt action to rectify the discrepancies.

The parents, in turn, emphasized the urgency of the situation, urging KNEC to expedite the review process before the commencement of school selection for Form One placements.

The affected parents are anxiously awaiting a resolution from KNEC to ensure a fair and accurate representation of their children's academic achievements in the recently concluded KCPE examinations.

According to KNEC this year the highest score was 428 marks, 8523 candidates got 400 marks and above compared to last year where 9443 candidates got above 400.

Learners who scored between 300 and 399 represented 24.94 per cent of the total candidature population.

This was 352,782 learners while the number was 307,756 candidates in 2022, between 200 and 299 marks.

Between 100 and 199 marks, there were 383,025 candidates. While between 1 mark and 99 marks, there were 2060 candidates.

9354 candidates failed to sit KCPE 2023.



Parents of Set Green Academy hold peaceful demonstration over disappointment of the KCPE 2023 results.  
 Photo | Elizabeth Angira.

# KCA University Has Unveiled A Scheme To Support Needy Students To Pursue Their Studies At The Institution Of Higher Learning

By: John Kariuki  
 @themtkenyatimes

Student enrollment has dropped slightly by two percent due to the new university model and inflation according to the university management.

Prof Isaiah Wakindiki vice chancellor said that to cope with this, the university has launched the KCA University Foundation to support needy students through higher education. So far more than 12 students have benefited through the scheme.

He said that the rising costs of tuition and the cost of living have made it increasingly difficult for students to afford university education. This financial burden not only affects individual students but also limits access to education for many talented individuals who are unable to secure the necessary funds.

The don also stated that they have also initiated the work-study and student engagement programs where



Prof. Isaiah Wakindiki is the Vice Chancellor of KCA University.

students work and their dues are remitted to tuition fees.

"The university analyzed the enrollment trends and established that approximately 2.5 percent of our current enrollment drops out of school due to a lack of tuition fees every year," said the vice chancellor

during the 15th graduation ceremony on November 16, 2023.

A total of 4,051 students graduated with different disciplines, one doctorate of philosophy, 223 master's, 2444 bachelor's degrees, 78 post-graduate diplomas, and 1252 diplomas.

Deputy Executive Director UN-Habitat Dr Michal Mlynar was awarded an honorary degree for his contribution to tackling climate change and education issues.

He said that the institution of higher learning had established the Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation

Fund with a seed capital of Sh 10 million.

"This fund aims to empower our faculty and students to engage in groundbreaking research projects, pushing the boundaries of knowledge and contributing to societal advancements. We believe that investing in research is investing in the future, and this fund will serve as a catalyst for transformative discoveries within our academic community," said Prof Wakindiki.

Prof Olive Mugenda, the institution's chancellor urged graduates to be confident and innovative in the job market.

"Our graduates have demonstrated resilience, intellectual prowess, and a thirst for knowledge that will undoubtedly fuel their future endeavors. You are transitioning from KCA University not just with academic knowledge but with the skills, values, and innovative competencies that will help you thrive in an ever-changing world," said the chancellor.

**14 POEMS**

# Summary



Before the end of the year, I diligently reviewed my goal book. "What have I achieved this year and what other ideas should I think about" did not give me peace. In fact, every moment is a time for new opportunities. I have achieved more than half of what I wrote.

Among them, I was involuntarily happy to see the inscription "strengthening my knowledge of English and Russian". I also managed to admire the part about learning an additional language.

Now I have an international certificate of Korean language proficiency. Not only can I speak this language, but I have also started short translations.

My intention to publish my articles in regional, republican newspapers and magazines, international anthologies has also come true.

My goal of making a lot of friends from peers who are as educated as myself has

also been achieved to a great extent. Based on the competition, I went to study at the Muhammad Yusuf creative school as part of the experience-exchange program.

That's not all. I successfully participated in the Science Olympiad in Mother Language. I felt an increase in my important thoughts, outlook, and goals. The services of my mother, who has always inspired me, were very great. Looking back, I can easily say that the year that is coming to an end has been a year of success and knowledge.

In the coming year, I want to walk with bigger goals. I always intend to teach others what I have learned. Therefore, in the new year 2024, I want to regularly teach my brothers and sisters in our school in English and Korean. After all, having a generous mind is the key to success, isn't it?!

I also pay particular attention to lessons on personal development and financial independence. Among my plans is to spend the summer of 2024 by the sea in Istanbul. I am grateful for my mother and books, who taught me not to put limits on my dreams and goals.

Shakhzoda ABDULLAYEVA,  
9th grade student of Ishaqkhan Ibrat creative school in Turakurgan district, Namangan region

# Devotions Of Our Nation



Strict like a father, dear like a mother,  
There is another great man in the world  
Science is the gardener of the garden  
A teacher is an educator, a teacher is  
kind.

The trust of the people, the support of  
the nation  
He is the support of the young generation  
The future is in his hands  
A teacher is an educator, a teacher is

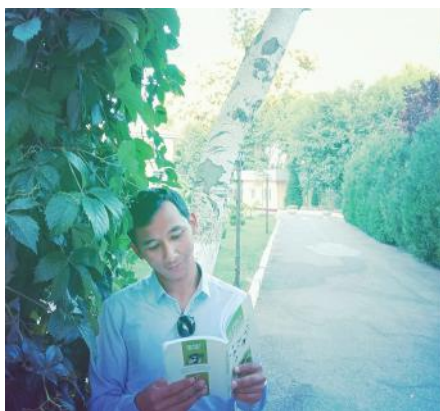
kind.

We always bow down to you teachers  
Your presence is a blessing, good luck to  
us

Dear heavens, loving oceans  
Dear teachers, dear Masters.

Maxamadov Abduhashim student of  
Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute

# When musician winds played their music



When musician winds played their music,  
The rains had also sung their quiet song.  
Until the moon had done make up in the sky,  
Woken up from its heavy sleep the Sun.

The alarm clock is ringing "Wake up!" and "Wake up",

Someone is awake, others are in slumber.  
If only you knew that cage is home, but sadness,  
Come here! You too join this life, dear...

Tear away the sadness lying in your eyes,  
Banish the sad voices from your heart and soul.  
Do take steady pace with firm confidence,  
Fill your every day with a miracle, be full...

My devotion to you weighed heavily,  
My love cost me a lot, what should I do then?  
"I found true happiness in your heart, my love,  
Did you become happy by letting me down?"

I was lost, by losing reached my own soul,  
These frauds and cunning have opened my eyes.  
Whose heart are you now getting slowly in?  
And someone is leaving your heart, say good  
byes.

I got wet without getting in water,  
Slanders poured down like rain.

I went back without starting my way,  
I was defeated without having fought.

Sprinkling dust with my tears,  
I sweep them with my eyelashes.

Don't you consider me a human?  
As if you are a human yourself!

Learned from the devils yesterday,  
Became their teacher she today.

Jakhongir NOMOZOV  
He is a student of the University of Journalism  
and Mass Communications

**PAULA O.M. OTUKILE**  
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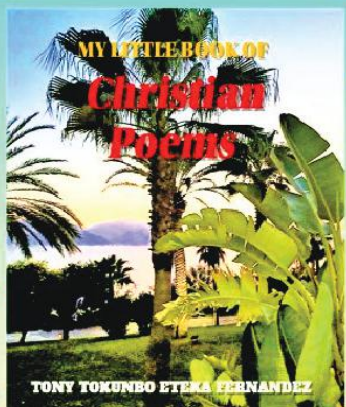
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## BUSINESS

## I&amp;M Group Delivers 14% Growth In Profit After Tax

By: Business Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- The loan portfolio grew by 24% to reach KES 287 billion despite the challenging macro-economic conditions across most of its markets. I&M's targeted approach towards retail lending through its digital platforms was one of the key drivers contributing to this loan book growth.
- Operating income recorded a growth of 19% to close at 29.9 billion up from 25 billion in Q3 2022 while loan loss provision closed at KES 4.6 billion up from KES 3.6 billion as the Group maintained prudence in asset quality management. The growth in total operating income was driven by a 18% and 21% growth in Net Interest Income and Non-Interest Income respectively for the period under review

I&M Group increased its profit after tax by 14% to KES 8.2 billion for the 9-month period ending 30 September 2023, up from KES 7.2 billion in the same period in 2022. The operating income was supported by growth in both corporate and retail segments as the Group saw its revenue diversification strategy yield fruit.

The Tier 1 banking Group recorded strong operating revenues across its markets, with regional businesses contributing 29% of its operating income.

The Group continues to successfully execute its iMara strategy, which is now in its 3rd and final year, focusing on business growth, operational efficiencies, customer centricity and digital transformation.

#### Key Financial Performance Highlights

##### Balance sheet highlights

The Group's balance sheet grew steadily, with total assets increasing by 27% over the same period in 2022 to close at KES 544 billion.

The loan portfolio grew by 24% to reach KES 287 billion despite the challenging macro-economic conditions across most of its markets. I&M's targeted approach towards retail lending through its digital platforms was one of the key drivers contributing to this loan book growth.

Customer deposits closed at KES 402 billion, reflecting a 31% increase year on year, with both Current & Savings Accounts (CASA) as well as Term Deposits showing strong growth during the period as the Group continued to focus on product innovation and digitalization.

#### Income statement highlights

Operating income recorded a growth of 19% to close at 29.9 billion up from 25 billion in Q3 2022 while loan loss provision closed at KES 4.6 billion up from KES 3.6 billion as the Group maintained prudence in asset quality management. The growth in total operating income was driven by a 18% and 21% growth in Net Interest Income and Non-Interest Income respectively for the period under review

The Group's operating expenses, exclusive of loan loss provisions recorded an increase of 29% year on year to close at KES 14.6 billion driven by continued investment in technology and people across all jurisdictions.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Sarit Raja-Shah, Group Executive Director, I&M Group PLC, noted: "I am pleased to report that the business responded resiliently to the challenges in the operating environment. There is an overall positive growth across all our businesses and geographies and underlines our commitment as a bank to finance the recovery of all our countries of presence."

#### I&M Bank Kenya

I&M Bank Kenya posted an operating income growth of 13% year on year, 6% increase in operating profit and a 1% increase in profit before tax. The successful implementation of the iMara strategy resulted in growth in deposits, primarily Current and Savings Accounts, Customer assets and New-to-Bank relationships.

As part of the strategy, the Bank has also seen a significant growth in the

adoption of its digital services, with over 90% of customers initiating their transactions through digital channels. Commenting on I&M Bank Kenya's performance, I&M Bank's CEO Mr. Gul Khan said, "Our performance today is reflective of our continued focus on providing solutions that are relevant to all Kenyans. We are especially keen to support our people as they navigate the tough macroeconomic environment. Through our Ni Sare and Largest campaigns, we have proven that there is still an opportunity for us to lead in the financial services sector by challenging the status quo. We remain committed and agile to our customers' needs in providing relevant financial solutions and bringing our services closer to our customers."

#### Regional growth

Regional subsidiaries of the Group continued to grow steadily, with operating income contribution increasing to 29% from 25% in 2022. For the period ending 30th September 2023, over 75% of I&M Group's customers across the region were digitally active.

I&M Rwanda reported a 18% increase in operating income for the period under review. The Bank's strong performance was driven by increased economic activity in the region, with loans and deposits growing by 20% and 32% respectively, which led to growth in net interest income and non-funded income.

In Tanzania, I&M recorded a 51% increase in operating income to close at KES 2.2 billion and 102% increase in operating profit on the back of

strong growth in total assets of 22%. Asset growth was supported by loans growth of 19% while deposits increased by 24%.

I&M Uganda posted strong growth in operating income of 52% and an operating profit of 222%, as it continues integrating into the Group. Total assets reported a 30% year on year growth to close at KES 35 billion, with growth in the loan and deposit book at 57% and 23% respectively.

Bank One, the Group's Joint Venture investment in Mauritius, recorded a growth of 54% in operating income year on year, driven by the growth of the loan portfolio as well as higher Non-Interest Income.

#### Group Strategy & Outlook for 2023

As I&M Group concludes the second phase of its iMara strategy and embarks on its new chapter (2024-2026), Regional CEO, Mr. Kihara Maina remarked on the performance projection for the last quarter of 2023 positively. "We are now almost at the end of our iMara 2.0 strategy, and despite the macroeconomic challenges we have faced in 2023, we have remained on track to achieving our strategic ambition as Eastern Africa's leading financial partner for growth. This is evidenced by the strong performance of all our subsidiaries. For the next phase of our iMara 3.0 strategy, the focus will be to shore up growth by leveraging the capacity built over the last few years. We shall continue this journey through relevant, efficient, and seamless financial solutions that meet our customers' needs across all our markets."

I&M Group's active membership in the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) reaffirms its dedication to green initiatives in alignment with the Group's strategy which is anchored in a sustainability agenda. Enshrined in the agenda is a robust Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) policy which acts as a guide for the institution in establishing resilient businesses across its subsidiaries.

Beyond this, The Group has taken a proactive approach in identifying investment opportunities to achieve net-zero impact. These include a focus on digital banking, transitioning to green energy, green financing products, and partnerships for sustainable production and consumption within the circular economy.



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# 'It Will Kill Tourism': Shaken Tourists Say After Pinewood Beach Resort Attack

By: Our Reporter  
@themkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- Cartwright was in the company of his wife Deborah when the incident, which many guests termed as “scary and horrendous” happened. Goons armed with sticks and machetes were seen forcefully gaining access from the entrance and the beach side, attacking everyone they found their way.
- “It will kill tourism if it continues like that,” Cartwright said, sentiments shared by his wife.
- His wife Deborah called on authorities to protect the tourism sector, a key factor in the country’s GDP.
- Deborah, who is also a practicing nurse, helped in attending to injured staff, including one who had a deep cut on the head.

“I have never seen anything like that,” those were the words of a tourist from the United Kingdom, after he was caught up in the attack staged by armed goons at the Pinewood Beach Resort and Spa.

The Resort, one of the best in Kenya, is based in Diani, within Kwale County.

For several instances, armed goons have launched what the owners of the facility say is a well coordinated attack, leaving scores with injuries.

In the latest incident, tourists from across the world lost valuables worth an unknown amount.

“I have never seen something like this before,” Steven Cartwright, a UK citizen who is a guest at the hotel said. “We’ve been here 8 times and at no time did we ever feel threatened.”

Cartwright was in the company of his wife Deborah when the incident, which many guests termed as “scary and horrendous” happened. Goons armed with sticks and machetes were seen forcefully gaining access from the entrance and the beach side, attacking everyone they found their way.

“It will kill tourism if it continues like that,” Cartwright said, sentiments shared by his wife.

His wife Deborah called on authorities to protect the tourism sector, a key factor in the country’s GDP.

Deborah, who is also a practicing nurse, helped in attending to injured staff, including one who had a deep cut on the head.

Staff at the facility said they lost their valuables like phones when the incident occurred.

At that point, the hotel was hosting 60 tourists from the United Kingdom. Several goons were arrested, and are

due in court on Monday.

“We have now been attacked three times by armed goons,” Ali Jama, a staff member, said.

He has been a staff member at the hotel since 2000.

“We need peace. Even if it is about debts, it should be reclaimed peacefully.”

Another said, “the goons were threatening guests and destroying property.” Of the three incidents, the November 17 attack is the worst, the hotel owners and staff said.

Police were forced to fire in the air to restore peace and order, as the goons carried on with chaos.

The hotel owner and Managing Di-

rector Alnoor Kanji linked the incident to a receiver manager appointed by KCB to take over the hotel, despite an existing restraining court order.

The matter is expected to be mentioned on January 9, 2024 at the Mombasa High Court.

Kanji alleged that some of the attackers were security guards from a local security firm used by the receiver manager.

“Their goal was to destroy, pillage and kill,” he said of the November 17 incident.

“The attackers overwhelmed us from the main gate and beach. They beat our staff and robbed our guests in broad daylight.”

A similar incident had occurred in early August at the facility.

“We are grateful that no one was killed,” he said.

He is now calling on security officers to apprehend the armed goons and bring to book those behind their illegal actions.

Further, he has asked tourism stakeholders “to speak up against rogue acts of terror that aim to destabilize our industries.”

“This is just a case of impunity. Why can’t they just follow the rule of law? Can’t they respect the court orders?” one of the hotel officials, who did not want to be named, asked.





## LOVE CORNER



# Baby Bump Myths And Superstitions



By: Virginia Mule  
@themtkenyatimes

The baby bump is a sensation that has intrigued people for ages. It's a visible sign that a woman is pregnant and is often the subject of much attention and speculation. Unfortunately, there are many myths and misconceptions about baby bumps that can create unnecessary stress and anxiety for expectant mothers. Some people believe that the size and shape of a woman's bump can predict the gender of her baby, while others think that the way a woman carries her baby can indicate whether she's having a boy or a girl.

However, these beliefs are not supported by science. The truth is that every woman's body is different, and the size and shape of a baby bump can vary greatly depending on factors such as the mother's height, weight, and muscle tone, as well as

the position of the baby in the womb. So, while it's natural to be curious about a woman's baby bump, it's important to remember that it's not a reliable indicator of anything other than the fact that she's pregnant.

In some cultures, there are old wives' tales about how to tell if a woman is pregnant before she reveals it herself. Some believe that if a woman craves sweet or sour foods, she is likely pregnant. Others say that if a woman's skin becomes more oily or she experiences more acne than usual, it may be a sign of pregnancy. However, it's important to remember that these tales are not scientifically proven and the only way to confirm a pregnancy is through a medical test.

There are many different African superstitions and myths surrounding pregnancy. Such superstitions include that if a woman eats certain foods during pregnancy it can influence the gender of the baby. For example, eating more red meat is believed to increase the chances of having a boy. It is believed that pregnant women should avoid looking at or touching monkeys, as it can lead to giving birth to a child that looks like a monk. Black magic is often as-



sociated with causing harm to others and pregnant women are particularly most targeted. There is no scientific evidence to support these claims. It's crucial to rely on scientific evidence and not give in to fear or superstition. In essence, pregnant women should focus on staying healthy and positive and not worry about unfounded claims.

There are myths surrounding pregnancy reveal. It is believed that early pregnancy reveal can cause bad omen or curses from the ancestors. While sharing the news with loved

ones can bring joy and emotional support, revealing the pregnancy can be more challenging. It's important to consider the potential risks and benefits before making such a decision. Women who choose to share the news publicly are believed they may face the risk of stillbirth or birthing strange creatures. Ultimately, the decision to reveal a pregnancy early or not should be based on individual circumstances and preferences. It's important to weigh the potential consequences carefully and make the choice that's right for you.

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## 16 Days Of Activism Against Gender Based Violence: A Call To Action

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that takes place from November 25th to December 10th. This period includes International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25th and Human Rights Day on December 10th. The campaign aims to raise awareness and take action to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as other marginalized groups.

End Violence against Women

Now!" and focuses on the need to mobilize individuals, organizations, and governments to take action to prevent and end violence against women and girls. The color orange is used to symbolize the campaign, representing the hope for a future free from violence and the need for urgent action.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign includes a wide range of events and activities, such as marches, rallies, panel discussions, and social media campaigns. These events aim to raise awareness about the issue

of gender-based violence, provide support to survivors, and advocate for policies and laws that protect the rights of women and girls.

Gender-based violence is a pervasive and persistent problem worldwide, affecting women and girls of all ages, backgrounds, and socio-economic statuses. According to the United Nations, one in three women and girls experience physical or sexual violence, and the majority of these cases are perpetrated by intimate partners or family members.

The impact of gender-based violence can be devastating, causing physical and emotional harm, social isolation, and economic loss. It can also perpetuate cycles of poverty and limit the potential of individuals, communities, and societies as a whole.

To address the issue of gender-based violence, it is important to take a comprehensive approach that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution. This can include education and awareness-raising campaigns, support services for survi-

vors, and legal frameworks that hold perpetrators accountable.

In conclusion, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an important campaign that aims to raise awareness and take action to prevent and end all forms of violence against women and girls. By mobilizing individuals, organizations, and governments, we can work together to create a future free from violence and discrimination.

Sincerely,  
**Rebecca Nyakoboke**

# Press Statement Issued By The FKE Management Board On November 24th, 2023

By: Our Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

On Friday, Federation of Kenya Employers board members held a meeting where they discussed several matters and later issued a press release covering a number of matters.

Below is the Press statement that was signed by the Federation's Dr Habil Olaka and Ms Jacqueline Mugo.

## A. THE STATE OF BUSINESS Cost of Doing Business

The cost of doing business has become unsustainable since the enactment and implementation of the Finance Act 2023. The employers' view is that the changes have had an overall negative impact on cash flows and the financial positions of enterprises in various ways:

- Direct impact on the payroll
- Impact on demand for General Wages review
- Risk of business closure and increased laying off employees.

The weakening of the shilling has aggravated the situation further and has adversely affected businesses that rely on imports, including imports of machinery and equipment necessary for our manufacturing industries.

The Kenya shilling lost 21% of its value between 13th

September 2022 and 22nd November 2023. The exchange rate of Kenya shilling against the USD has hit a high of 152.45 compared to 121.05 at the same time in 2022. This has been largely attributed to capital flight and reduced inflow of foreign currency due to the low value of exports.

### The Impact on Jobs

The employment state is still very fragile. We are not yet back on track since COVID-19. Every day we receive notifications from employers on their intent to declare redundancy. We are also conducting a survey on employers to determine the impact of the increased costs on jobs. Preliminary results show that it is significant. It shows that between October 2022 and November 2023, we have lost 3% (70,000) of the jobs in the formal private sector and 40% of employers have reported that they are planning to reduce the number of employees to meet the increasing costs of operating in Kenya. We will be launching the full survey report on Jobs Trends in the month of December 2023.

### Cost of Capital

The cost of capital in the country remains high making it hard for the private sector to operate.

The cost of capital is affected by various factors such as interest rates, inflation, market conditions, and government policies.

On 26th June 2023, the Central Bank of Kenya raised its benchmark rate by 100 basis points to 10.5% 2023, bringing borrowing costs to their highest since August 2016. This has

made the cost of credit to businesses to go beyond reach thus affecting business growth.

The overall year on year inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 6.9 per cent, in October 2023.

Credit risk remains elevated with Gross Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) to Gross Loans Ratio standing at 15 percent at the end of the third quarter of 2023, an increase from 13.3 percent recorded at the beginning of 2023.

### Drivers of High Costs

The increase in business costs has largely been driven by tax measures, global geopolitical developments, and climate change. The country may not be able to have much control on global geopolitical developments and climate change, but we can work on our tax measures to reduce the cost of doing business in the country.

The government needs to put in place measures that improve the purchasing power of citizens and the cashflow in enterprises. This should specifically target reviewing at taxes that have high adverse impact on individuals and businesses. The key taxes that need to be reviewed are the VAT on Petrol, PAYE and Corporate tax. We propose that the VAT on petrol revert to 8% as it was before the enactment of the Finance Act 2023. The increase in VAT on petrol has a regressive effect on the economy.

We also appeal to policymakers to consider reducing the PAYE to a maximum of 25%. This is because food inflation remains the highest contributor to the cost of living. With households spending about 60% of their income on food, it is prudent that households are supported to increase their disposable income. If not, important basic needs like healthcare, education and savings for old age will grossly suffer. You cannot improve on the savings culture of your citizens and increase capital for investment if the people do not have adequate disposable income that enables them to cover their basic needs.

We are also requesting a review of corporation tax. Our desire is for the corporation tax to be reverted to 25%. This will help in attracting investment and allowing the corporates to have money to plough back into their business to create more employment. The additional investment will result into more tax revenue. In addition, we seek the removal of the minimum turnover tax. This tax is going to exacerbate informality and destroy microbusinesses that employ 84% of wage employees in Kenya.

On taxes, we lastly urge that the Affordable Housing Levy be capped at Ksh. 5000 per month as it was originally proposed. Businesses are closing down, and we are seeing employees increasingly becoming working

poor.

We are currently in a situation where businesses are not able to meet their operational costs and at the same time employees are not able to make ends meet.

With the high energy costs, Kenya continues to lose its attractiveness as an investment destination leading to lower direct foreign investment inflows. Further, electricity cost being an input cost, Kenya's goods and services prices remain comparatively higher in the region pushing up the cost of living.

We can also see from the various reports that even the tax revenues are not being collected to the targeted level. A clear indicator of the situation of the economy.

### Investor Flight

The country is experiencing a high outflow of investors from Kenya due to continued negative investor sentiment on emerging and frontier markets, high cost of doing business as well as depreciating Kenyan shilling against major world currencies.

Kenya's stock market recently suffered steep losses, making it the worst performing globally. The weak performance has persisted.

Market capitalization has declined by 5.1 percent, while equity turnover and total shares traded declined by 67.9 percent and 29.6 percent respectively.

## B. REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Unpredictability in Regulatory Environment

1. It is becoming more expensive to operate in Kenya due to the frequent and unplanned introduction of taxes, fees, levies, and charges. The

2. Frequent changes in government policies and regulations create uncertainty for businesses.

3. The unpredictable fiscal and regulatory policies significantly threaten the Made in Kenya goal and give an upper hand to cheaper imports from other countries.

4. If private sector growth fails to happen, then economic development shall remain stunted because of the numerous taxes they have to pay. Kenya needs to focus on long-term prosperity, as opposed to short term ambitious revenue collection targets. As a country, it is critical that we stop gauging our revenue Authority's performance and efficiency, based on their record-breaking rates of tax collection.

5. We call upon the government to stabilize the business environment through better coordination in the formulation, introduction, and implementation of new policies.

## C. THE LABOUR SECTOR

### Risk of Social Unrest

Kenya has enjoyed a relatively calm Labour environment, however if the high cost of living is not addressed, we see heightened agitation for wage increases. This will cripple the enterprises.

Dwindling Employee Productivity  
Productivity and performance are key factors directly linked to the country's national goals.

A stressed worker cannot be productive. The current cost of living coupled with recent additional taxes on the employees has resulted in shrinking pay slips. This kind of environment compels workers to seek alternative sources of income and therefore leads to low productivity.

Kenya's productivity is not only low, (but) it is also decreasing while in Tanzania and Uganda, Labour productivity grew by 8.4 per cent and 13 per cent respectively, and that of Kenya stands at 6.77 %. We cannot effectively compete with this level and type of productivity.

Tripartism and social dialogue is under threat in Kenya.

a) We are losing the spirit of tripartism. Tripartism has been and is at the heart of the proper functioning of the Labour sector and is even protected by the International Labour Convention Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144). Kenya ratified this convention, and it came into force on 6th June 1990. These are gains that were even fought for by very prominent labour sector leaders like Tom Mboya. It is alarming that the current trend in the country is undermining this and even disregarding the international commitments we have made as a country. The law is clear, Constitution of Kenya Article 2(6) states "any treaty or convention ratified by Kenya shall form part of the law of Kenya under this Constitution."

b) Employers play a significant role towards maintaining peaceful Labour relations and governance of tripartite boards. This should not be disrupted. There is need to respect the rights of Social Partners and strengthen tripartite institutions to play their role effectively. We are facing some challenges regarding our right to representation on tripartite boards arising.

c) The system of Labour administration should encourage consultation, co-operation, and social dialogue with the most representative organisations of employers and workers.

d) The changes in Law should not target weakening tripartism for example by removing employers from Tripartite boards, committees, and forums.



### Worth Noting:

- The employment state is still very fragile. We are not yet back on track since COVID-19. Every day we receive notifications from employers on their intent to declare redundancy. We are also conducting a survey on employers to determine the impact of the increased costs on jobs. Preliminary results show that it is significant.
- It shows that between October 2022 and November 2023, we have lost 3% (70,000) of the jobs in the formal private sector and 40% of employers have reported that they are planning to reduce the number of employees to meet the increasing costs of operating in Kenya. We will be launching the full survey report on Jobs Trends in the month of December 2023.

# The Sun Of Hearts

Contd from BackPage



## Worth Noting:

- America's first president, George Washington, said: "My mother is the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. Mothers are the sacred creation of God and the source of our life. She is a holy statue of selfless love, forgiveness and patience. I am my mother. I am always indebted to him." A mother is a person in the heart of every person who can never be replaced by another person. She is like Mother Nature, only she can give without getting anything in return.

- We love him from the first moment of our life. When we open our eyes, the first figure we see is mother! Every time we start talking, the first word becomes "Mother".



peace: "To whom shall we do good, O Messenger of God?"

He said: "Do good to your mother, your mother, and again to your mother, and then do good to your dear father." In fact, in our religion, attention and respect for mothers is unlimited. After all, heaven is under the feet of mothers! In addition, the role of mothers in the development of a child in terms of education and training is incomparable. In this place, the story about the famous inventor Thomas Edison and his mother touched many people: "One day, Thomas Edison came home from school and held a letter that his teacher had given to his mother. Her mother had tears in her eyes as she read it. "My child, your teacher wrote: "Your son's knowledge is very strong, there is no qualified teacher in our school who can teach him.

Teach him yourself at home," said the mother, hugging her child. That's what the mother did: she educated him at home, she taught her child as much as she could. Years later, when his mother died, Thomas had already become one of the most famous and great people. One day he saw the boxes in the house. while looking through it, he finds an old letter in which he says:

"Ma'am, your son is delirious - always talking about strange things.

We don't want such an illiterate child to study in our school" was written. It was a letter sent by Edison's teacher. Thomas, who read the letter, cried for hours and wrote in his diary: is an "illiterate" child turned into a genius..." We all are like that, if our mothers didn't hold our hands, we wouldn't have reached the current level.

At this point, a question arises that torments everyone: "How many graces can we repay our mothers? How many apologies can wash away our guilt and sins in front of them?" In fact, along with millions of thanks, we owe billions of apologies to mothers... I'm sorry, my mother, I'm sorry for every bad thing I've done. I'm sorry, my mushfiq, for every drop of tears that flowed from your eyes.

Forgive me, my mother, because I was having fun in the street while you were worried about me at home. Forgive me, mother, for accusing you of not understanding anything when I was young, when you gave me good advice.

I'm sorry, my love, for not giving you enough love by being kind to the "good" people on the street, for not saying a single sweet word to

you after being tired of others. I'm sorry mom, I can't live up to the white milk you gave me. Forgive me for not mentioning you at least once in every prayer. Every time you start saying "my child" you say "Oiiii, I'm not a young child!" I'm sorry for hurting your heart.

Forgive me for not being a child that fills your eyes and heart with pride. Forgive me for bothering you for two minutes, when I spent hours on the phone with my friends. Mom, I'm sorry that I can't be a child worthy of you. Mother, every time my heart is filled with pain, I turn to you, like a bird in need of love. I poured out all my pains to you. I cried, I made you cry too.

But once in a while, "How are you, mom?" I didn't ask. I didn't think of you. After all, you believed in me, you expected love from me. But I can't sympathize with you, I can't confide in you. I'm sorry, mom, I'm sorry for every strand of white hair... Mother - dear! What a great miracle is this? Is it possible to contain so much love, kindness, forgiveness, care, patience, perseverance, love... so many divine feelings? Munisim, you are the sun of my heart, my soulmate! Mother, there are many words that I wanted to say to you in my heart, but I did

not say them because of my stupid pride...

When I was young, I longed for your heart, I'm sorry, your child like me, As I grew up, I appreciated you, How would you describe your mother?

I will serve you for a lifetime My life is not enough to pay off my debt.

Thank you for your hard work You are my existence, without you my life!

In short, the more good we do to these great beings, the less. What have we done for our mother, when a companion carried her mother on his shoulder and circumambulated the Kaaba without even being able to repay her for the one night she spent awake for her? It is better to put your hands on your eyes and receive their prayers once during your lifetime than to cry a thousand times after their death. Don't forget, mothers are precious creatures! Leave the worries of this world; are they worth a single strand of your mother's hair? Appreciate it...

*Umirzakova Barno*

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*Enos Kales from Kapenguria and Winnie Jepkosgei from Elgeyo Marakwet are the winners of the inaugural Lake Ol'Bolossat Half Marathon held on Sunday in Nyandarua County.

## Kales, Jepkosgei Triumph At The Inaugural Ol'Bolossat Half Marathon



Enos Kales Winnie, crosses the finish line at the inaugural Lake Ol'Bolossat Half Marathon held in Nyandarua County, on Sunday 26, 2023. Photo, Courtesy..

### By Agencies

Enos Kales from Kapenguria and Winnie Jepkosgei from Elgeyo Marakwet are the winners of the inaugural Lake Ol'Bolossat Half Marathon held on Sunday in Nyandarua County.

Kales braved the chilly weather to take the top honours in the men's race after clocking 1:06:15. Hot on his heels were Amos Mitei and Nicholas Kiplimo, who finished second and third in 1:06:43 and 1:06:54, respectively.

"I have been training for this race and today I am happy to go on records as the first winner of the inaugural Ol'Bolossat Half marathon. I want to believe the organizers are going to expand it and make it a full marathon and more competitive to attract more professional athletes," said Kales.

Jepkosgei triumphed in the

women's race, clocking 1:14:39, ahead of Vivian Jerotich, who finished second in 1:14:55, while Beatrice Chepkemai settled for the third position in 1:16:44.

"This is my first time competing here and the chilly weather made the running more comfortable. I thank the organizers and sponsors like Safaricom for supporting this race not just for athletes but also for promoting sports tourism in this region," said Jepkosgei.

Kales and Jepkosgei each went home with a cash prize of Sh. 200,000 while the first and second runners-up in the 21km categories pocketed Sh. 150,000 and Sh. 100,000, respectively.

Samuel Njihia claimed the men's 10km title in 28:43 with Faith Chepkoech claiming the women's title in 32:31, each taking home Sh.100,000.

Ernest Kiprotich and Naomi Chepng'eno, the first runners-up,

as well as Kipyegon Nehemiah and Virginia Nyambura, the second runners-up in the 10km race, each took home Sh. 75,000 and Sh. 50,000, respectively. The 5km race was won by Zacharia Mwangi and Maria Andoti.

The winners in all categories received Neon Ultra the first locally assembled 4G smartphone in Kenya courtesy of Safaricom. Additionally, those in the second position in the 21 km and 10 km races also received phones of the same type from Safaricom.

The race attracted over 1,000 participants with the 21km and 10km featuring elite athletes, a 5km veteran race, a 2km fun race, Corporate, Government Agencies and the PLWDs 5km race.

It was geared towards raising funds for the restoration and conservation of the only lake in the Mount Kenya region.

Elsewhere, in Nairobi, Nichola

Chelule and Diana Chepkorir were crowned the Ghetto Run – Nairobi edition winners after claiming the 15km race held at Gatina Primary School, in Dagoretti North Constituency.

Chelule clocked 48:50 as Chepkorir clocked 54:28 to reign in the men's and women's races, respectively. Kariuki Karanja and Sheila Ambaku won in the 5km race.

Both the Ol'Bolossat Half Marathon and Ghetto Run-Nairobi edition received Sh 1.6 million sponsorship from Safaricom

Ol'Bolossat received in-kind support amounting to Sh. 1 million (a direct contribution of Sh. 500,000 to support the event, as well as the provision of running t-shirts valued at Sh. 500,000, whereas Ghetto Run received Sh.600,000

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Wayne Rooney finally secured his first win as Birmingham boss with a 2-1 victory against Championship strugglers Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

# Rooney Finally Earns First Win As Birmingham Boss



Wayne Rooney

By AFP

Wayne Rooney finally secured his first win as Birmingham boss with a 2-1 victory against Championship strugglers Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

George Byers put bottom of the table Wednesday ahead in the first half at St Andrew's.

But the lead was quickly wiped out by Juninho Bacuna moments later.

Substitute Jordan James grabbed the 81st-minute winner, to the immense relief of former Manchester United and England striker Rooney, who managed just a single point from his opening five fixtures.

Wednesday's 13th defeat this term leaves them 10 points from safety, while Birmingham moved into mid-table.

Jamie Vardy scored twice as leaders Leicester beat Watford 2-0 at the King Power Stadium, ending their run of two successive defeats.

Substitute Vardy broke the deadlock in the 76th minute and then added a second from the penalty spot deep into stoppage-time after being brought down by Hornets goalkeeper Daniel Bachmann, who was sent off for a second yellow card.

West Bromwich Albion inflicted second placed Ipswich's second defeat of the season as Darnell

Furlong and Grady Diangana secured a 2-0 victory at the Hawthorns.

Fourth-placed Southampton had to settle for a 1-1 draw at lowly Huddersfield.

Ben Jackson salvaged a point for the Terriers with an 87th-minute equaliser after Adam Armstrong opened the scoring with his 10th goal this term.

In a dramatic late twist at Deepdale, Karlan Grant and Ike Ugbo scored in stoppage time as Cardiff snatched a 2-1 victory over 10-man Preston.

Ugbo struck the winner nine minutes into stoppage-time, three minutes after Grant cancelled out Milutin Osmajic's opener.

Preston had Robbie Brady sent off shortly after taking the lead.

Mark Sykes' strike earned Bristol City a 3-2 success over Middlesbrough in Liam Manning's first home game as head coach.

Sammie Szmodics' 11th goal of the season helped Blackburn to a 3-0 victory at Stoke.

Elsewhere, Plymouth beat Sunderland 2-0, Swansea and Hull drew 2-2 and Coventry triumphed 3-0 at Millwall to register a first victory in seven outings.

Second bottom QPR's winless run was stretched to 12 matches by a 1-0 loss at Norwich.

# SPORTS NEWS



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## The Sun Of Hearts



By: Umirzakova Barno  
@themkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

America's first president, George Washington, said: "My mother is the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. Mothers are the sacred creation of God and the source of our life. She is a holy statue of selfless love, forgiveness and patience. I am my mother. I am always indebted to him." A mother is a person in the heart of every person who can never be replaced by another person. She is like Mother Nature, only she can give without getting anything in return.

We love him from the first moment of our life. When we open our eyes, the first figure we see is mother! Every time we start talking, the first word becomes "Mother".



The nature of the human race is interesting: it always appreciates the blessings it has been given only after it has been lost. Wealth, health, loved ones... The saddest thing is that mothers, who are the greatest blessing given to man by God, during their lifetime, their two mouths are full of sweet words, and after they die, they say "Oh my mum, mum" But it cannot help them...

Mother! This one word, which contains the meaning of the whole existence, sometimes acquires a tone that makes the human heart tremble. Mother - what a beautiful word! No matter what language it is spoken, it is a word that always evokes the most optimistic feelings in the human heart... When we say "Mother", affection and love appeared in our blood, in our hearts. Is it easy to be a mother?

Who can love like a mother? Who looks like a mother? They may raise their voices, get angry, say things that seem bitter to you, but their love for their children is a wellspring of example boiling in their hearts. A mother is such a breed that gives joy and life to everyone with her motherly nature.

No matter how old the child is, mothers do not change, they do not

forget their children, they do everything in their power to make their children happy. A mother is an example of a candle: even if she burns out, she will not stop lighting up her child's life. Mother is the one who is told without sleeping at night, the cradle that is constantly rocked during the day, the eyes that look at you with loving eyes...

Mother is the wrinkled hands that gently caress your head, the white hair that has been whitened by the wind of years. Humans are born always striving for excellence. He constantly studies, searches, works - he achieves success. At that moment, he feels pride in his heart - "I did it!"

He does not understand that he did not reach this level by his own efforts. After every prayer, "O Allah, keep my child in your shelter, make his work prosperous, make his path smooth, and make his face bright!" Two palm prayers are the reason for noble achievements. Only mothers can love us unconditionally, for who we are.

America's first president, George Washington, said: "My mother is the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. Mothers are the sacred creation of God and the source of our

life. She is a holy statue of selfless love, forgiveness and patience. I am my mother. I am always indebted to him." A mother is a person in the heart of every person who can never be replaced by another person. She is like Mother Nature, only she can give without getting anything in return.

We love him from the first moment of our life. When we open our eyes, the first figure we see is mother! Every time we start talking, the first word becomes "Mother". He is our first love, our first teacher and our first friend in this world. When we were born, we were a weak baby that couldn't even feed itself, and he raised us in his arms, and for once he didn't thank us for it, and we, as if we had grown up, forgot everything. Mothers give us our identity.

They are ready to give up everything for their children. They never think about themselves, and we don't think about them either. It is enough for us to have our own dreams, our shiny future painted in bright colors!

We owe a lot to our mothers: we got their beautiful figures before we were born, their night sleep after we were born, their daytime pleasures with various harshashes when we got a little older, and their dark

hair with our own problems after we started a family.

Instead, mother did not demand anything from us. He always tried to give us his best, but all he heard was this: "You don't understand me!" We broke the heart of our mother, who always took care of us, cared about our trivial problems more than us, listened to our every pain, even in insignificant situations, saying "You will never understand me." What did the mother do? He wiped his tears on the end of his handkerchief.

"I couldn't be a cure for this child's pain," he said. But he didn't say. He prayed and loved us. Sometimes the bitter words we said, our rudeness, and our rude behavior became a thorn in the heart of our mother. What happened to our mother when she slammed the door after a word of sweet words? We didn't think... we didn't think! If a person takes a loan from someone, his head is always bowed next to him. If someone does him a great favor, he is ready to be at his service for a lifetime, thanks a thousand times and bows a thousand times. But he does not have time to thank his mother, who gave birth to him, gave him life by risking her life, introduced him to God, taught him religion, and gave up his dreams and goals for his child. In fact, didn't we owe the most to our mother? After all, when a person comes to life, he is a piece of flesh that is weak and does not know anything. God gives him life and puts him in the arms of the so-called mother angel.

The mother takes care of him, feeds him, educates him. In the Holy Quran, which was revealed to our prophet Muhammad, the Lord of the Universe, it is emphasized that "Obey Allah and do good to your parents." You see, the next deed after praying to God is doing good to parents and being in their service. This is both a duty and a debt to us. In particular, when talking about mothers, the hadith narrated by Abu Huraira, may Allah be pleased with them, is often remembered. It is said that a person asked the leader of mankind, may God bless him and grant him

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