



**Kenya Deploys Military Amid Violent Protests Over Finance Bill; Four Dead**

Kenya has deployed the military after violence escalated yesterday, resulting in the deaths of at least four protesters and injuries to many others. The protests erupted after the passage of the controversial Finance Bill, which seeks to raise taxes.

Page 18

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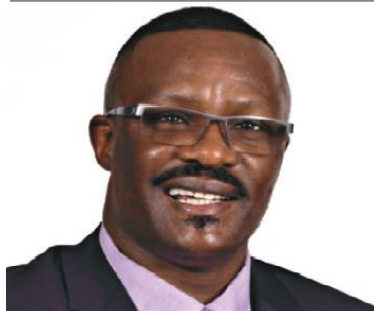
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**News >> Chief Justice Martha Koome Wants An End To Abduction Of Protesters**

P. 8. Chief Justice Martha Koome expressed deep concern yesterday abductions of protesters amid the ongoing mass protests in the country.

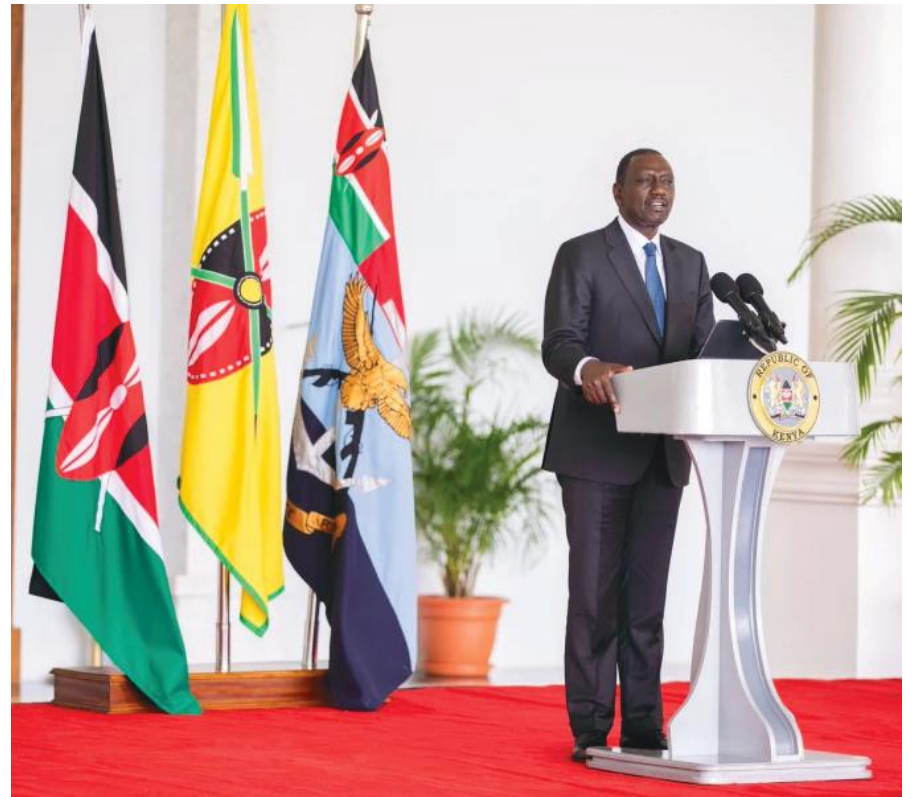


**News >> EAC On Track To Enhance Digital Transformation**

P. 12. The East African Community (EAC) Telecom Sector Statistics 2023 show that the Internet traffic within the region stands at 54%, with population penetration coverage of 2G averaging 92%, 3G at 78%, and 4G averaging 62%.

# Ruto Terms Yesterday's Events Treasonous

President William Ruto yesterday night described the breach of parliament as treasonous, vowing to crack down on the 'organisers and financiers of the protests, which entered their fifth day. President Ruto was addressing the nation after a day of protests that left at least five people dead, and over 125 others nursing injuries.



President William Ruto

STORY ON PAGE 9

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# Gen-Zs Goes On With Protests Despite A Thorough Beating By Hired Goons In Chuka

By: Mwenda Njeru  
 @themtkenyatimes



Some of the protestors in Chuka.

### Worth Noting:

- The in support of the MP addressed the media claiming that the young people had been facilitated by his political rivals and that they were set to protect their boss's political interests in all ways.
- The protestors, mainly youth from the constituency were left with no option but to run for their lives but later regrouped and with the help of police officers led by County Police Commander Mr Zacchaeus Ngeno continued with their walk around the town streets.

For the second day, anti-Finance Bill 2024 protests went on in Chuka town, Tharaka Nithi County despite facing resistance from goons reportedly hired by Chuka/Igambang'ombe Member of Parliament Patrick Munene and whom we're led by his office staff.

The National Assembly yesterday passed the bill giving it a chance for the third and final stage.

On Monday, a number of Gen-Z sustained minor injuries following the beating as they tried to pass through a road near the constituency office.

Yesterday too, the goons most of them from Moi Girls Slum in the town battled the youths who expressed disappointment with the MP who even voted in favor of the controversial bill for the second time.

The in support of the MP addressed the media claiming that the young people

had been facilitated by his political rivals and that they were set to protect their boss's political interests in all ways.

The protestors, mainly youth from the constituency were left with no option but to run for their lives but later regrouped and with the help of police officers led by County Police Commander Mr Zacchaeus Ngeno continued with their walk around the town streets.

The youths faulted MP Munene for voting in favor of the bill that they believe is unfavorable to Kenyans and has some clauses that would doom their future.

"Despite voting 'YES', the area MP Munene went on to hire goons to us despite holding very peaceful demonstrations and having notified the police. Some of us have been injured by the goons and been taken to the hospital", Ken John, a youth leader in Tharaka Nithi County.

The Gen-Z also dismissed claims that they were hired to hold protests by the MPs political rivals and maintained that they were fighting for their rights and would not be silenced by the beats or threats.

The MP supporters accused the protestors of conducting protests only in Chuka/Igambang'ombe Constituency. At the same time, it was peaceful in Tharaka and Maara where the lawmakers, Mr Gitonga Murugara and Mr Kareke Mbiuki also voted YES.

On Monday evening, Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki made it clear that demonstrations are constitutional but must remain peaceful.


He asked police to provide security to the demonstrators while ensuring that none of the protesters interfered with the constitutional rights of the other Kenyans or destroyed public property.

The CS added that the protests must end before sunset as provided for in the constitution and warned that any person who takes advantage of the constitutional provision to break the law will dealt with firmly.

Over the weekend, President William Ruto seemed to soften his ground after stating that he was ready to engage the Gen-Z and congratulated them for holding peaceful protests not influenced by politicians or tribal lines.

"You have done a democratic duty to stand and be recognized. The youths are our children. I want to tell them thank you for coming out and engaging on the affairs of the country we will have a conversation with you," Said Ruto during a Sunday service at ACK Nyahururu town.

Editor's Desk



**The Mt. Kenya Times**

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**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson

**Our Contacts**  
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262  
**Editorial Desk:** editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,  
**News Desk:** news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** [www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

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# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

# The Mount Kenya Times

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



The Maasai Mara Game Reserve has completed the renovation of most lodges and campsites that were damaged by floods, ahead of the peak tourist season starting next month. The park is popular with tourists seeking to see the Big 5 and the wildebeest migration. 12 lodges and tented campsites were destroyed by floods after rivers burst their banks. The Pride Inn Mara Camp hotel, which was destroyed by floods, has resumed operations and is now registering bookings. The hotel's manager, Fiaz Ahmed, regrets the over Sh20 million loss due to flooding and plans to add more accommodation units by mid next month. Front office supervisor Joseph Kaleku expressed gratitude to the camp management and the government for helping the community during the flooding disaster.



Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu said the government has allocated Sh658 billion towards education for the 2024–2025 financial year, compared to the Sh628 billion allocated for the 2023–2024 financial year. The government has already released over Sh36 billion in capitation to primary, secondary, and Junior Secondary schools, with primary schools receiving Sh2.7 billion, secondary schools receiving Sh18.8 billion, and the JSS receiving Sh14 billion. Machogu emphasised the need for the Finance Bill 2024, saying it would cover new funding models introduced in universities. On his part, Member of Parliament for Kigumo, Joseph Munyoro, called on the government to ensure the area receives additional JSS teachers for quality education, stating that there is a gap of 370 teachers required in the next financial year, 2024-2025.



Kakamega Law Court Senior Principal Magistrate Joseph Nduriri has announced a review of security measures to enhance security for all court users. Gate 1 of the court will be exclusively used by Judges, Magistrates, and prison vehicles transporting remandees in and out of the court. Advocates and other court users using motor vehicles will be required to use Gate 2, where they will undergo mandatory security checks and screening. Gate C will be closed, and Gate 4 will be used as the entrance and exit for all judicial staff using motor vehicles and pedestrian court users, including those using motorcycles and bicycles. Every person using this gate will be screened and required to produce their identification documents. Clear signage within the court buildings will guide users, and customer service staff will be available to assist users.



Kwale County has rolled out a free medical camp in partnership with the Kuwait Embassy in Nairobi and Safe Surgical Aid to address cataract-related complications among its residents. At least 500 people have undergone free cataract surgery and other related eye problems at health facilities in Matuga, Msambweni, Lungu Lungu, and Kinango subcounties. Cataracts are a reversible cause of visual impairment and a common disease among the rural poor, but the high cost of surgery prevents many low-income earners from accessing treatment. The camp aims to protect the ageing population and residents from blindness, as eye care is one of the greatest public health challenges in Kenya. The camp will not be a one-off exercise, and subsequent eye screening and surgical operations will be organised by the county with other stakeholders. The initiative aims to combat cataracts and other eye-related ailments in their early stages before they become complicated and more difficult to remedy. The outreach medical camp provides eye services to those who may not be able to afford specialised eye hospitals in big towns due to the high cost of cataract surgery.

# Statement By Fourth President Of The Republic Of Kenya.

## My fellow Kenyans,

I come to you with a heavy heart. Saddened by the loss of lives occasioned by the current situation prevailing in our country. it is the right of every Kenyan to protest as determined as determined by the constitution we all promulgated in 2010. It is also the duty of leader sto listen to those they lead.

At this trying time for our Country I want to remind all leaders that they were elected by the people. Listening to the people is not a choice but a mandate enshrined in the principles of our constitution and in the very basis and philosophy of democracy.

Leaders must know that power and authority they have is donated to them by the people.

I therefore call for calm and for the leadership to show restraint and do the right thing by listening to the people and not be antagonistic to them. Violence on either side is not the answer.

As your former president, I have felt the weight and the difficulty of leading Kenya. I therefore pray for wisdom and civility to be established and for peace and progress to belong to

all of us as children of Kenya.

Dear Kenyans, I stand with you and I ask our leadership to embrace dialogue and SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE AND NOT AT THE PEOPLE. I pray for peace and understanding on the part of each and every Kenyan and for all of us to remember that Kenya is bigger than one of us; there is nothing cast in stone that cannot be changed.

*God bless Kenya*

**H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, C.G.H**  
**4th President of the Republic of Kenya**



*Uhuru Kenyatta Fourth President Of The Republic Of Kenya.*



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**MAISHA NI kuchungana.**

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# How Gen Z Literally Occupied Parliament

By: IRENE MWANGI



At least six people were shot dead on June 25, 2024 during day-long protests against the Finance Bill. The deaths were reported in Nairobi and Kisumu.

## Worth Noting:

- One group targeted the Senate Chambers, causing widespread damage by shattering windows, destroying furniture, and removing decorative fixtures. Although they attempted to gain access to the house, the locked doors thwarted their efforts.
- Another group managed to enter the National Assembly Chambers, which were open at the time. "Mr. Speaker Sir, I am here to address you. You must go, Ruto must go, we are here, and we are going nowhere. We are actually going to sleep here. We don't fear you guys, you are hypocrites," one protester shouted from the Speaker's seat.
- A third group raided the dining area, helping themselves to the arranged buffet for MPs who had just exited the chambers after passing the Finance Bill 2024.

When Generation Z dubbed their demonstration as #OccupyParliament, many did not anticipate the literal occupation of Parliament precincts, one of the most protected zones in the country.

The youth, demonstrating against the Finance Bill 2024, managed to breach security and gain entry into the bicameral house, leading to chaotic and unprecedented scenes.

At least four protesters were shot dead as police struggled to disperse rioters who had stormed Parliament following the passage of the controversial Finance Bill.

Several others sustained serious bullet wounds during the violent confrontations. "I have seen four bodies of the protesters who were shot dead," a witness reported. "They are lying in a pool of blood outside Parliament."

## Protesters Storm Parliament

The demonstrators, initially gathered along City Hall Way, charged towards Parliament Road, raising concerns about how they managed to overpower the police and gain access to the highly secured area. Within minutes, the youth breached the exterior gate adjacent to the Jomo Kenyatta Mausoleum and divided into groups, wreaking havoc inside Parliament.

## Vandalism and Chaos

One group targeted the Senate Chambers, causing widespread damage by shattering windows, destroying furniture, and removing decorative fixtures. Although they attempted to gain access to the house, the locked doors thwarted their efforts.

Another group managed to enter the National Assembly Chambers, which were open at the time. "Mr. Speaker Sir, I am here to address you. You must go, Ruto must go, we are here, and we

are going nowhere. We are actually going to sleep here. We don't fear you guys, you are hypocrites," one protester shouted from the Speaker's seat.

## Dining Area Raided

A third group raided the dining area, helping themselves to the arranged buffet for MPs who had just exited the chambers after passing the Finance Bill 2024. The demonstrators, lacking cutlery, ate with their hands as parliamentary staff fled for safety. "We don't fear you, we will eat because these are our taxes. We told you we would be here no matter what," one protester was heard shouting.

## Fires and Destruction

The situation escalated further as protesters vandalized windows and set fire to the new wing of the Parliament building, causing significant damage. MPs and parliamentary staff scrambled for safety, questioning how the demonstrators managed to breach such a secure zone.

## Violent Clashes with Police

Thousands of protesters engaged in running battles with the police, who fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the crowds. Similar chaos erupted in major towns, including Nakuru, Mombasa, Eldoret, and Nyeri. Businesses were shut, and transport was paralyzed as police clashed with demonstrators calling for MPs to reject the proposed tax increases.

Our crew covering the youth-led protests counted more than 10 people being rushed to hospitals by ambulances, while others remained on the ground, writhing in pain. "People have been shot, it is very bad," one protester

yelled while fleeing from a thick cloud of tear gas.

## International Attention and Legal Concerns

The protests attracted international attention, with support from Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine and South Africa's Julius Malema. Even former President Barack Obama's sister, Auma, was teargassed during her participation in the protests, which were broadcast live on television.

Lawyers and human rights groups have expressed concern over the use of live ammunition to quell the riots and reports of arbitrary arrests and intimidation of activists. Reports emerged of at least five prominent social media users, including Gabriel Oguda, being abducted at dawn hours before the demonstrations.

## Government Response

The government has defended the taxes as necessary to raise additional revenue to reduce Kenya's debt. However, in response to public outcry, it scrapped some contentious taxes, including those on bread, cooking oil, and motor vehicle ownership. Despite this, protesters have demanded the complete withdrawal of the bill.

Despite ongoing protests, a majority of MPs passed the controversial bill during its second reading. On Tuesday, they debated various amendments to remove some contentious clauses. At least two people died, and hundreds were injured in last week's largely peaceful demonstrations. President William Ruto acknowledged the protests and promised to hold talks to address the concerns of the youth leading the demonstrations.

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# Chief Justice Martha Koome Wants An End To Abduction Of Protesters

By:Eric Biegon

Chief Justice Martha Koome expressed deep concern yesterday abductions of protesters amid the ongoing mass protests in the country.

Koome says such actions, executed by persons not identifying themselves and without presenting the abducted individuals before a court of law, amount to a direct assault on the rule of law, human rights, and constitutionalism.

“Our Transformative Constitution mandates that law enforcement operates strictly within the confines of the Bill of Rights and the law,”

“Article 49 specifies the rights of arrested persons, including the right to be informed of the reason for the arrest, to communicate with an advocate and others whose assistance is necessary, and to be presented before a court as soon as reasonably possible-but no later than twenty-four hours after the arrest,” she said

The CJ said all state agencies within the justice sector should uphold their

constitutional duties and ensure that their actions are compliant with both the Constitution and the law.

“Any deviation from the stipulations of the Bill of Rights and the law not only invites anarchy and lawlessness in our country but also constitutes a severe assault on the value-order of governance stipulated in Article 10 of the Constitution,” she said in a statement

Koome indicated that agencies within the justice sector have in the past committed to working towards ensuring a human rights-based criminal justice system that adheres to the Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights, and the law.

“I urge all agencies in the justice sector to process any criminal actions lawfully and to investigate and address the allegations regarding abductions related to the ongoing protests with utmost urgency,” said the Chief Justice

She said Kenya should continue on the path of the rule of law and constitutionalism and to guarantee that all state and non-state actors operate within the strict boundaries erected by our Bill of Rights



Chief Justice Martha Koome.

# Uasin Gishu Inaugurates Committee To Combat AMR Scourge

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has established a County Antimicrobial Stewardship Inter Agency Committee (CASIC) to implement a two-year project on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in collaboration with Uasin Gishu County.

The committee, led by the County Commissioner, Department of Health Services, veterinary services, and learning institutions, aims to strengthen the capacities of four East African countries, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia, to prevent and respond to the growing scourge of AMR.

The project’s objectives include community engagement, capacity building, and effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

The committee’s inception meeting in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, highlighted the need for collaboration among key stakeholders and partners to achieve the project’s goals.

The project’s key objectives include governance and coordination through national and county AMR steering groups, knowledge and evidence through surveillance and research, improving awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective communication, education, and training, reducing infection incidence through effective sanitation, hygiene, and infection prevention and control measures, and developing an economic case study for sustainable investment.



# President Ruto Terms Yesterday's Events Treasonous, Vows Expeditious Response

By: **Tonny Ndungu**

President William Ruto yesterday night described the breach of parliament as treasonous, vowing to crack down on the 'organisers and financiers of the protests, which entered their fifth day.

President Ruto was addressing the nation after a day of protests that left at least five people dead, and over 125 others nursing injuries.

According to the Head of State, a crucial conversation was hijacked by criminals who visited mayhem on the country and desecrated the August House.

"I hereby put on notice the planners, financiers, orchestrators, and abettors of violence and anarchy that the security infrastructure established to protect our republic and its sovereignty will be to deployed secure the country and restore order and normalcy," President Ruto said.

According to President Ruto, it is

inconceivable that criminals pretending to be peaceful protesters can reign terror against people and their elected representatives, as well as institutions, and expect to go scot free.

"We must isolate crime from democratic expression and separate criminals from people exercising their freedom of expression and divergent opinion," he added.

A tough-speaking Ruto vowed there would be a full, expeditious response to the events of Tuesday to ensure such an event does not re-occur.

"I assure Kenyans that we shall provide a full, effective, and expeditious response to today's treasonous events," President Ruto said.

Kenyan protesters broke through parliament barricades on Tuesday and entered the complex, where lawmakers were debating contentious tax hike proposals that have sparked widespread outrage.

According to Amnesty International Kenya, hundreds of protesters broke through police barriers outside parliament in Nairobi, with police firing live rounds and injuring "many" people.



President William Ruto

A section of parliament that houses offices was also set on fire as protesters stormed the buildings, accompanied by heavy gunfire from police officers battling the defiant mob.

Protesters who have rallied against the contentious Bill, which was passed by the House yesterday, have been picketing for the past week, arguing that if passed, the Bill will bur-

den an already burdened population.

The United States of America, the United Kingdom and a host of other countries have condemned the abduction and killing of protesters in Kenya during the ongoing anti-Finance Bill protests that have been witnessed across the country.

In a joint statement, Ambassadors & High Commissioners from 13 coun-

tries expressed concern over the violence witnessed across the country and the resultant deaths.

"We are deeply concerned by the violence witnessed in many parts of the country during the recent protests, and are especially shocked by the scenes witnessed outside the Kenyan Parliament," reads the statement.

# Finance Bill Protests: America, United Kingdom Condemn Abductions, Killing Of Protesters

By: **Philip Mwaniki**

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In a joint statement, Ambassadors & High Commissioners from 13 countries expressed concern over the violence witnessed across the country and the resultant deaths.

"We are deeply concerned by the violence witnessed in many parts of the country during the recent protests, and are especially shocked by the scenes witnessed outside the Kenyan Parliament," reads the statement.

"We regret the tragic loss of life and injuries sustained including by the use of live fire."

Amnesty International reported that

five people have been shot dead and 31 people injured. Amnesty revealed that 13 people were shot with live bullets, 4 with rubber bullets and 3 people hit with launcher canisters.

Calling themselves "friends and partners to Kenya", the ambassadors and High Commissioners said protesting is a constitutional right.

"We note that Kenya's constitution guarantees the right to peaceful protest. All actors have the responsibility to respect, uphold, promote and fulfil the principles of democracy and the rule of law, particularly by ensuring a proportionate security response."

"We welcome the statement released by the Hon Chief Justice Martha Koome and are deeply concerned by allegations of abductions of protesters."

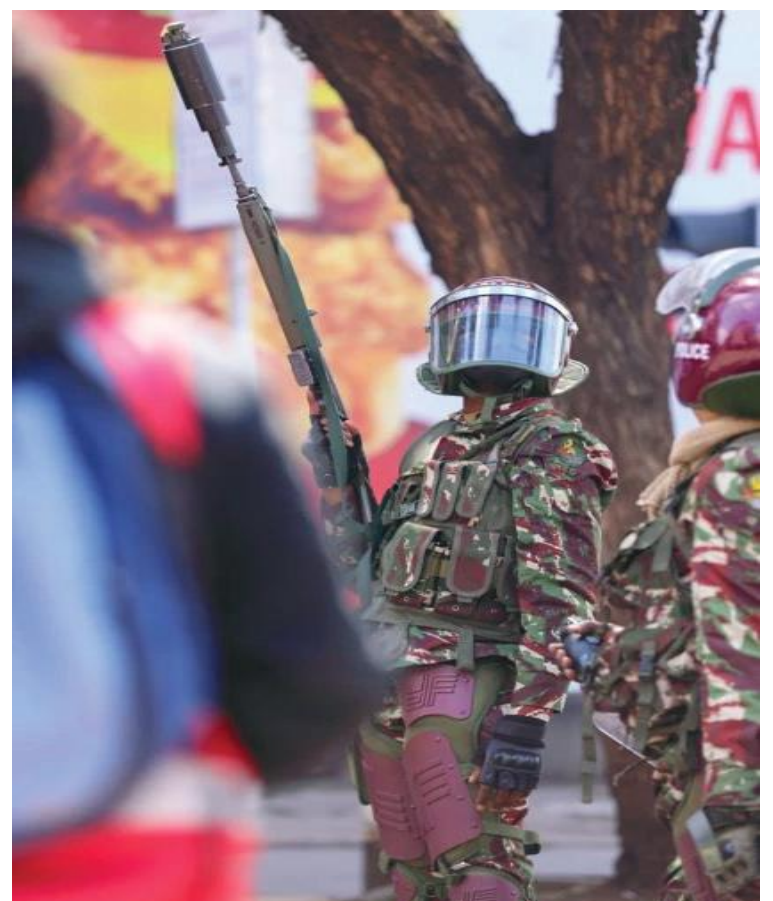
They also called for civic engagement by all Kenyans "in addressing issues of vital public concern.

"We call for restraint on all sides, and encourage all leaders to find peaceful solutions through constructive dialogue," reads the joint state-

ment.

The ambassadors and High Commissioners are drawn from Canadian High Commission, the Royal Danish Embassy, Embassy of Finland, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Embassy of Ireland, Embassy of the Netherlands, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia, Embassy of Norway, Embassy of Sweden, Embassy of Romania, Embassy of Belgium, British High Commission and the Embassy of the United States of America.

An armed police officer during the Tuesday, June 25, 2024 anti-Finance Bill protests in Nairobi. Photo I Jason Mwangi.



# Continuous Power Over Satan



By: Eric Musa  
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

There are certain things you must do to stay strong: worshipping in truth and in the Spirit (John 4: 23); praising the Lord, reading the Bible, and fervent prayers, and so on. If you are going to be a warrior and a servant of God, you cannot go around doing your own thing. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4)."

The kind of faith that Abraham had can get you what you want from heaven. God can use you to minister to others, and you will be a blessing to many. He will give you orders of certain things to do. And, if you are

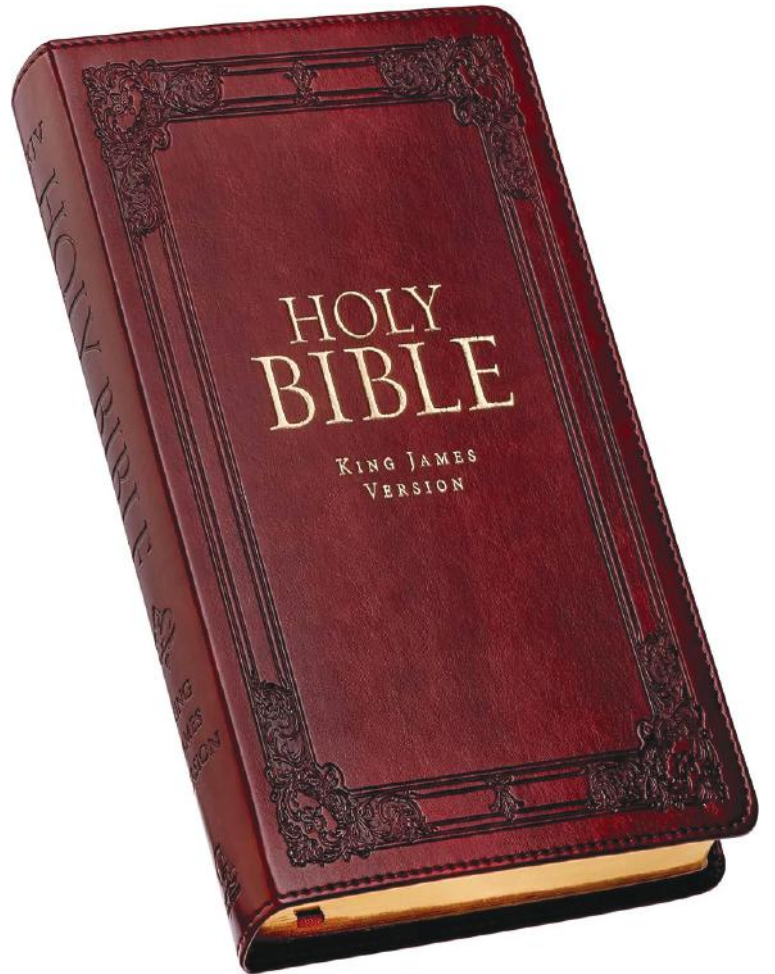
obedient, you will be blessed. It is written, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure (Hebrews 11:17-19).

Note, to keep your mind full of peace and joy, do not get involved in abnormal sex acts. Keep everything normal between a husband and wife, even. THE CLEANER YOU KEEP YOUR SEX LIFE, THE MORE PEACE OF MIND YOU WILL HAVE. What you do with your body affects your mind. Many times, the things that happened with the bodies began at a very young age. Satan cannot steal your peace; or mentally afflict you, if you do not give him the power. James 5:15 says that the prayer of faith will save the sick, and Mark 11:24 tells me to believe when I pray and I will receive. The prayer of faith is important to you in dealing with demons.

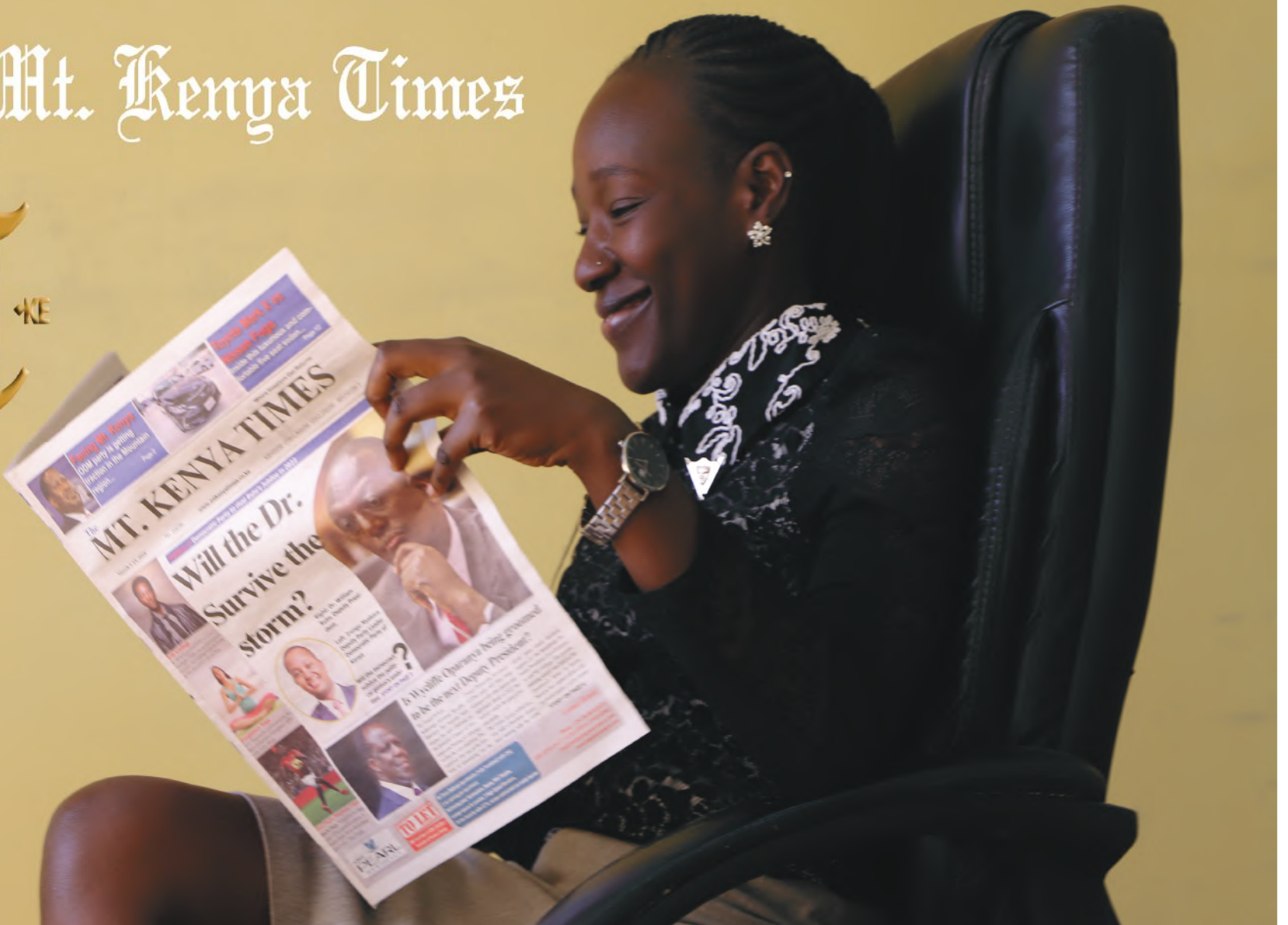
**SELAH! MAY YOU ENJOY OVERWHELMING VICTORY.**

**Evangelist Eric Musa:**

*(My message continuously: The best decision in this earthly life is to receive Christ Jesus as your personal Saviour: Believe and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit: AMEN). As it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion; to support Evangelism contact Ev. Eric Musa on +254722157300 ( Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember; God Loves you unconditionally, perfectly and forever.*



## The Mt. Kenya Times



# President Ruto Agrees To Meet Gen-Z, Promises To Address The Issues They Have Raised



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Hundreds of protesters have paralysed businesses in Nyeri town. PHOTOS BY JAMES MURIMI

## Worth Noting:

- It is worth to note some protestors were armed with smartphones and according to some politicians some had been dropped by Uber taxis. The church service in Nyahuru was presided by ACK archbishop who was quoted in a post on social media as saying that his son was taking part in these protests.
- A renowned political analyst had alleged the protests were being sponsored behind these protests. He did name this power and what it intended to achieve.
- The organizers were quick to dismiss these claims. By then, the protests had been held in 18 counties. Ask yourself. Gen-Z posed. Is it possible to bankroll all these young people?

Generation Z is not relenting in pushing members of parliament (MPs) to reject the Finance Bill 2024.

They have also listed a raft of demands that they want President Ruto to address. Speaking during a church service in Nyahuru, the President pleaded for dialogue with the Gen Z demonstrators.

We have heard you the young people. "These are our children. We gave birth to these children. Their action has demonstrated they are truly patriotic and democratic. As a government, we are ready to engage them. When we listen to them, we will be able to grasp the issues. I promise to fully address their concerns".

In my earlier article in this column, I had argued. In the past few days we the people of Kenya have witnessed the new form of demonstration.

For the first time, the protests were digitally driven. Besides, thousands of young people under the banner of Gen Z demonstrated a high level courage and boldness.

The youths who had turned up to oppose the Finance Bill 2024 were aged between 18-34 years.

It is worth to note some protestors were armed with smartphones and according to some politicians some had been dropped by Uber taxis. The church service in Nyahuru was presided by ACK archbishop who was quoted in a post on social media as saying that his son was taking part in these protests.

A renowned political analyst had alleged the protests were being sponsored behind these protests. He did name this power and what it intended to achieve.

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It is worth noting these protests started on a day that a financial report prepared by the chairpersons of the two powerful committees of the National Assembly namely Budget and Appropriation and Finance and National Planning was ta-

bled in parliament.

The report had taken into consideration the views of Kenyans opposed to the Finance Bill 2024 collected during the public participation.

While tabling the report in parliament, the chairpersons listed a raft of proposed taxes and levies that had been termed as punitive.

As you can see in our report, we have clustered taxes in contention into three categories. We have removed some and we have proposed zero rating and exemptions on others.

Noting that the priority of this house is to safeguard the interests of Kenyans, we have no doubt our report will be adopted.

The Chairman of Budget and Appropriation Committee Ndindi Nyoro had a few days earlier set the ball rolling when he unveiled a list of some of the taxes that would be dropped.

They included proposed 16 percent VAT on bread; 2.5 percent motor vehicle tax. Eco levy will also be adjusted with baby pampers, sanitary towels and other products being zero-rated.

Ndindi, the Kiharu MP, further stated: We have also listened to parents, guardians and other stakeholders in education sector. So, we have reinstated the school feeding programme. We have also allocated enough funds to employ Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers on permanent and pensionable terms.

But Generation-Z and millennial would hear none of this. They have since maintained that Kenyans were being taken for a ride. The government gives with one hand and takes away with the other.

The protestors who carried placards and flyers with inscription 'Occupy Parliament' chanted anti-President William Ruto slogans.

This is not the first time we are witnessing this. Similar protests had rocked the country during the tenures of former Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

During the public participation, many

Kenyans reasoned; Yes, we agree paying taxes is a legal civic duty. However, some of the taxes contained in Finance Bill 2024 are very high. The burden will be too heavy particularly to the low income earners.

So, we recommend they should be reduced.

The Finance Bill 2024 has so far gone through the first reading and second reading.

It is now waiting to go through the third reading on Tuesday. The second and final voting for the Bill will take place on that day.

President William Ruto had earlier revisited the topic of taxation.

My critics were peddling a false narrative that Kenyans were paying highest taxes.

In the contrary, they were paying the lowest tax in the continent of Africa. It is currently capped at 14 percent.

In other countries of Africa, the tax ranges between 22 to 25 percent.

In Europe, he gave an example of France where the tax is capped at 45.

President Ruto further reiterated that he intended to increase the taxes. My plan is to leave the tax at 22 percent when my two terms come to an end in 2032.

President Ruto however noted. Constitutionally, the mandate to enact the Finance Bill is vested in Parliament. I hope the House will support me.

Turning to his critics, he noted that they would want Kenyans to believe that this would make them more poorer.

The opposite is the true position. Dr Ruto said his interventions are designed to ensure a faster growth of our economy.

This will herald in creation of more jobs in both formal and informal sectors. As such, Kenyans will put more money into their pockets and smile all the way to the bank.

Everyone of us has a duty to develop our country.

When I assumed office, the economy was in bad shape.

I said the pain of tightening your belt will be for a short time.

Today the cost of living is coming down. You are buying a 2kg packet of maize flour (Unga) at Sh100. When I took over, the price of the same packet was Sh230.

The prices of other essential commodities have also drastically come down.

In an article I had earlier written in this column, I zeroed in on a President Ruto's speech during the ceremony organized by Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to celebrate and reward Kenyans who were paying their taxes in full and within the timelines stipulated in law.

The President minced no word in praising them for being a key pillar of enabling his government to deliver services to Kenyans.

The government does not have monies of its own and it majorly relies on these revenues.

With this in mind, the President not-

ed. Without you, we will not be able to do the implementation. So, I salute and commend you. Indeed, you are our Mashujaa.

The previous government's appetite of borrowing foreign loans was very high. This was hampering the growth of our economy. As such, I told you I will not follow that route. A time has come for us to live within our means.

I urge those who were not paying taxes to emulate these patriotic Kenyans, Mashujaa.

In the meantime he asked KRA to expand the scope of tax collection. This is by ensuring that all Kenyans were brought on board.

Having set the targets, you have a duty to meet them.

He however cautioned KRA against harassing Kenyans when collecting the taxes. You should handle this matter in a humane and respectable manner.

If a Kenyan is not willing to pay taxes, explain to them why it is important to pay and the gains they would reap.

Dr Ruto further noted. I know some of you fear that monies would be stolen by some greedy and corrupt state officials. This is because the previous administrations were associated with mega corruption scandals. Mark my words.

Under my watch, this will not happen.

Early this year, President Ruto became the first Kenyan head of state to personally file his tax returns at Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) headquarters in Nairobi.

At the time, he challenged KRA to pull up their socks.

As a country, we are facing a serious financial crisis and this has incapacitated our job of delivering services to the people of Kenya.

He vowed to deal firmly with KRA rogue officials.

Your days are numbered. I know some of you do not mean well for the country. You are out to sabotage my administration.

At the time the president fall short of saying some of KRA officials owed loyalties to his political opponents and they were serving their interests.

If you don't meet the targets, the message is clear. You want me (President) to resort to imposing more taxes to Kenyans and borrowing foreign loans. In so doing, you hand my opponents political fodder to fight me.

President Ruto is facing challenges similar to those encountered by his predecessors- Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

For President William Ruto, I have no reason to doubt his commitment to slay the dragon of corruption.

*Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a writer and political analyst based in Nairobi*

# EAC On Track To Enhance Digital Transformation

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The East African Community (EAC) Telecom Sector Statistics 2023 show that the Internet traffic within the region stands at 54%, with population penetration coverage of 2G averaging 92%, 3G at 78%, and 4G averaging 62%.

Mobile internet subscriptions stand at 61%, with 122.3 million subscribers. Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, Eliud Owalo, highlighted the region's progress in affordable digital devices through the local assembly of mobile phones.

He thanked the East African Communication Organisation (EACO) for its efforts in spearheading digital transformation within the EAC, highlighting the importance of harmonising legal and regulatory regimes to leverage the full benefits of the digital economy.

The EACO statistics show that mobile telephony in the EAC region stands at 199.7 million subscribers, which is 100 percent penetration, while the world has 8.6 billion subscribers with 111 percent penetration.

Owalo urged member states to embrace One Network Area (ONA) for increased interaction and integration. Other areas of focus include cyber security, SIM card registration, and the standardisation of ICT equipment and services, e-waste, and green ICTs.

ICT Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo, Communication Authority Director General David Mugonyi with other stakeholders.



# Youths In Mombasa Take Part In Anti-Finance Bill Protests As Mps Vote

By: Capital Correspondent

Thousands of young people in Mombasa have joined their counterparts countrywide to protest against the Finance Bill 2024.

Clad mostly in black and holding antigovernmental placards, the demonstrators arrived in Mombasa town as early as 6am.

The demonstrations have caused significant traffic disruptions on major roads in Mombasa.

Police officers have been deployed, but have allowed the protests without interference.

The demonstrations take place even as Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Members of Parliament withdrew their amendments to the Finance Bill 2024.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula disclosed he had received 37 amendments to the bill but 13 MPs from Azimio La Umoja have



Several people were shot by police after storming Parliament on June 25, 2024 when MPs passed the controversial Finance Bill.

written to him seeking withdrawals of the amendments proposals.

Three more amendments which include those of Minority Whip Junet Mohammed, Ruaraka MP T.J

Kajwang and Nominated MP John Mbadi were withdrawn on the floor of the house.

“Out of the 37 amendments,13 have been withdrawn. I have been asked

by Hon Kajwang that he wishes to withdraw the amendments. The rest I rule them out because they want to make reckless political statement in the guise of amendments,” Wetangu-

la stated.

“Any members who wants to withdraw the amendment, write a letter to the Speaker and the clerk of the table will be notified,” he added.

Minority Leader Opiyo Wandayi told the House that the amendments were withdrawn after extensive deliberation saying it would be futile to propose their amendments since they are handicapped when it comes to numbers.

“We had extensive deliberation yesterday as Azimio we withdrew the amendments because would have been an exercise futility and a means to sanitize the Finance Bill process,” Wandayi said.

Rarieda MP Otiende Amollo added,“Mr Speaker thank you for your guidance.I have no amendments because I took the position you cannot amend a bad bill.”

Minority Whip Junet Mohammed insisted that lawmakers should be accorded an opportunity to withdraw their amendments on the floor of the house.

# UoN, UNHCR Unveils Refugee Information Centre

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) has established a County Antimicrobial Stewardship Inter Agency Committee (CASIC) to implement a two-year project on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in collaboration with Uasin Gishu County.

The committee, led by the County Commissioner, Department of Health Services, veterinary services, and learning institutions, aims to strengthen the capacities of four East African countries, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia, to prevent and respond to the growing scourge of AMR.

The project's objectives include community engagement, capacity building, and effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

The committee's inception meeting in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, highlighted the need for collaboration among key stakeholders and partners

to achieve the project's goals.

The project's key objectives include governance and coordination through national and county AMR steering groups, knowledge and evidence through surveillance and research, improving awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective communication, education, and training, reducing infection incidence through effective sanitation, hygiene, and infection prevention and control measures, and developing an economic case study for sustainable investment.

Filippo Grandi



# City Hall To Complete Kihumbuini Stadium Construction In 18 Months

By: Capital Correspondent

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has assured residents of Westlands that the construction of Kihumbuini Stadium will be completed within 18 months.

The stadium, with an estimated cost of Sh277 million, is designed to accommodate 5,000 spectators.

"After 18 months from now, we shall be able to go back there and officially open the stadium," Governor Sakaja confirmed.

This addition will provide the Kenya Premier League with more options for venues.

Talents, Skill Development and Social Care CEC Member Rosemary Kariuki said the stadium will take KPL closer to area residents.

"The Kenya Premier League will have an opportunity to use the said stadium once it is complete, and people from the area will have an

opportunity to experience the premier league at home."

City Hall generates Sh1 million monthly from Dandora Stadium.

Governor Sakaja noted that similar projects across all 17 sub-counties will be beneficial for the county's income from sports.

"Plans to construct additional stadiums across the county are underway, with some already under construction and others scheduled for the next financial year," he mentioned.

Planned stadiums include: Kawangware BP, Jericho, Ziwani, Woodley, Umoja Tena Complex, Highrise and Joe Kadenge.

CECM Kariuki emphasized the economic benefits, saying these stadiums have created numerous business opportunities in their vicinities, thus fostering local business growth.

"The more stadiums we construct, the more opportunities will be created for mwananchi businesses," she confirmed.



Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja .

**14 POEMS**

# I Passed Away



A day from the street named Armon  
Fate knew my walk

Look today, you are not with me  
I don't remember you at all.  
Desperate hope  
You will never come back once

You don't know my situation, bear  
You will never grow old  
It's okay, my soul is gone  
I hope that I will not be from you anymore

If you love, you would come once  
You asked me where  
You in your heart of stone  
You used to tell me about my love

You can't get enough  
You can't wait all the way  
Look, I missed you today  
Now you can't sleep either

Mirishkor District, Kashkadarya Region,  
Republic of Uzbekistan  
Author: Shirin Ismailova  
Translator: Semuzar Manzarova

Now the heart does not beat because of you  
Today, I'm dreaming  
Looking forward to your journey  
My expectations have been canceled

My dreams were with you  
My body was soaked  
Maybe one day he will come  
The heart hoped from you

I'm tired of being away from you  
I completely lost my independence  
The heart that beats for you today  
I fantasized that he should stop

I wanted to hold your hands  
I wanted to go to the house of happiness

# Uzbekistan



Grasses call the homeland place home  
The swallow calls the place where it came home  
I also call my wonderful country my homeland  
We will not give my country to anyone  
Uzbekistan, which belongs to Uzbeks!

I rub the soil on my eyes  
It always fascinated the world  
Such a place does not exist in any other world  
We will not give my country to anyone  
Uzbekistan, which belongs to Uzbeks!

The mornings will light up chasing the darkness  
The moon embraces the shining star

The nightingale dances in the gardens, laughing  
We will not give my country to anyone  
Uzbekistan, which belongs to Uzbeks!

Happy is the person who lived here  
Every day is meaningful, every moment is joyful  
You want to live here forever  
We will not give my country to anyone  
Uzbekistan, which belongs to Uzbeks!

The four seasons are always new  
After sleep ends, spring begins  
You will not find sadness in summer, autumn and winter  
We will not give my country to anyone  
Uzbekistan, which belongs to Uzbeks!

If you put a piece of wood in the soil  
The next day you will receive many blessings  
You will not find anything in the world equal to my country  
We will not give my country to anyone  
Uzbekistan, which belongs to Uzbeks!

Author: Daniyol Ikramov, Khatirchi District,  
Navoi Region, Republic of Uzbekistan

# I Will Be A Poet



I sing poems in flowers,  
Moon and stars encourage writing,  
Sometimes I go blue in my poems.

Even the sun holds a pen in my hand,  
He forces me to write more poems.  
Inspiration always comes at that moment,  
A butterfly slowly landed on my pen.

I will put everything in my heart into a poem,  
When inspiration clicks, my heart breaks,  
I will confide in spring flowers,  
I will follow Zulfiyakhanim!

**ZEBO RAKHMONBERDIYEVA**

I was born to create  
I have to live for creativity,  
After my first poem I knew for sure,  
Now I have to write a lot of poems.

I can no longer live without writing poetry,  
I have to put my heart into a poem,  
I was given such ability,  
Of course, I should be a poet.

Nature is my source of inspiration,

I am an 8th grade student of 70-DIUM, Chust district, Namangan region. I am very interested in literature and poetry. In my spare time, I also write poems, stories, and articles on various topics. I want to become a Lingua in the future.

# They Glorified Names



They glorified names  
Even if we do you all the best,  
The things we have done for your labor will be few  
you are priceless, your heart is a river  
great teachers like father

Loving his profession with all his heart,  
He gave knowledge and spread knowledge.  
Every boy took the girl by the hand,  
The height has gone all the way.  
Selfless, kind,  
Such great teachers!

Alisher Navoi, Babur, Ibn Sinalar,  
Great people because of you.

Even Ulugbek, who conquered the sky,  
Ustazin was a great teacher.  
All the worlds that acknowledge you,  
So many great teachers!

May God make your life long,  
Don't be sad in the bright world.  
They bow before their teacher  
The sun that illuminates the path of a teacher and a student.  
You are precious rivers of heart,  
So many great teachers!

Jasmina Zariboyeva, a 7th-grade student of the creative school named after Ogahi

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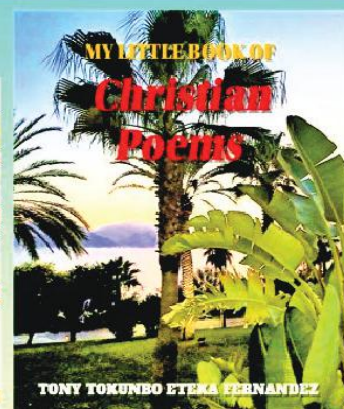
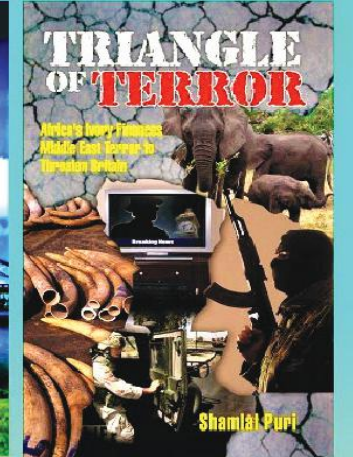
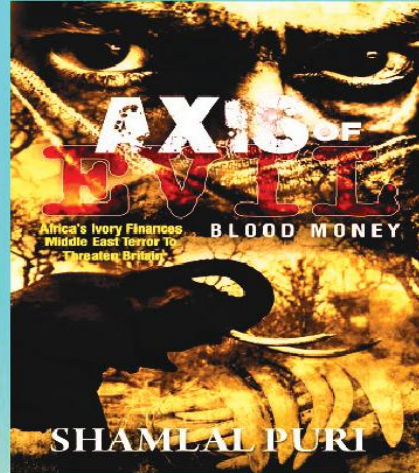
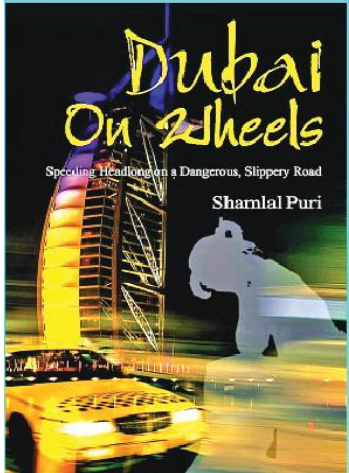
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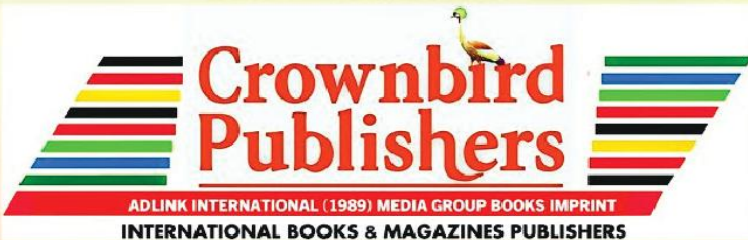
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# The Kenya Kwisha Administration: Disconnected Leaders, Disgruntled Citizens



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themkenyatimes



President William Ruto

## Worth Noting:

- Echoes from historical epochs reverberate ominously within the current regime's actions, reminiscent of a time when dissenting voices were suppressed with unyielding force.

- The specter of authoritarianism looms large, as echoes of past injustices against civil liberties resonate in the contemporary political discourse. Such echoes serve as a stark reminder of the perilous path towards curtailing fundamental freedoms under the guise of maintaining order and stability. The government's responses to dissent evoke a chilling parallel to an era when dissent was perceived as a threat to the status quo, compelling harsh measures to quell any hint of opposition.

- In their zeal to assert control, the current leadership's strategies often betray a troubling inclination towards tactics that mirror those of autocratic regimes.

Kenya, a land of breathtaking beauty and rich cultural heritage, now finds itself caught in the grip of a government that seems to have forgotten the struggles that birthed this nation. The Kenya Kwisha administration, a term that painfully twists the once-hopeful "Kenya Kwanza" slogan, has become a shadow of the promises it once made to its people.

From the days of colonial oppression to the fight for independence, Kenyans have always shown resilience in the face of adversity. Our forefathers fought with unwavering determination to secure a future where their children could live free from tyranny and injustice. Yet today, we find ourselves asking: Was their sacrifice in vain?

In the labyrinthine corridors of governance, the present administration finds itself entangled in a complex web of challenges, reminiscent of a bygone era marked by authoritarian tendencies. Akin to a maze constructed by its own policies and decisions, the government navigates through a landscape fraught with pitfalls and uncertainties, seemingly devoid of a clear exit strategy. This predicament underscores a governance model characterized by a lack of foresight and strategic coherence, where each turn risks further entrenching the state machinery in a cycle of reactive measures rather than proactive governance.

Echoes from historical epochs reverberate ominously within the current regime's actions, reminiscent of a time when dissenting voices were suppressed with unyielding force. The specter of authoritarianism

looms large, as echoes of past injustices against civil liberties resonate in the contemporary political discourse. Such echoes serve as a stark reminder of the perilous path towards curtailing fundamental freedoms under the guise of maintaining order and stability. The government's responses to dissent evoke a chilling parallel to an era when dissent was perceived as a threat to the status quo, compelling harsh measures to quell any hint of opposition.

In their zeal to assert control, the current leadership's strategies often betray a troubling inclination towards tactics that mirror those of autocratic regimes. The deployment of coercive measures, including intimidation and selective application of legal frameworks, serves to stifle dissenting voices and discourage public discourse. This approach risks alienating segments of the populace and eroding trust in democratic institutions, fostering an atmosphere of apprehension and apprehension.

As the government fumbles through the corridors of power, its actions not only betray a lack of strategic direction but also underscore a fundamental disconnect between leadership and the governed. The erosion of democratic norms, coupled with a growing perception of impunity among those in authority, threatens to undermine the very foundation of a pluralistic society. In this intricate maze of governance, the challenges are compounded by a reluctance to engage in meaningful dialogue and a propensity for unilateral decision-making, further exacerbating social divisions and institutional distrust.

In the streets where our ancestors once marched for freedom, young Kenyans now raise their voices against corruption and mismanagement. These brave souls, many belonging to Generation Z, carry the torch of hope for a better Kenya. They speak truth to power, unafraid and unyielding, embodying the spirit that has always defined our nation.

But instead of listening to these voices of change, the government responds with tactics reminiscent of the oppressive Nyayo era. They fail to realize that the world has changed, that the youth of today are more informed, more connected, and more determined than ever before.

The abduction of young activists, a despicable act that harks back to the darkest chapters of our history, serves only to fuel the flames of resistance. Each disappearance, each act of intimidation, only strengthens the resolve of a generation that refuses to be silenced.

This government, in its desperation to cling to power, seems to have forgotten the lessons of our past. They fail to see that the spirit of Kenyans cannot be broken by force. From the Mau Mau uprising to the second liberation movement, our history is filled with examples of triumph over oppression.

The Kenya Kwisha administration stands on the wrong side of history, fighting against the very people they swore to serve and protect. Their actions betray not only the trust of the citizens but also the memory of those who sacrificed everything for our freedom.

As we witness this betrayal of our national values, we are reminded of the words of Tom Mboya, who said, "The African is not a proletarian in the world system. He is not the serf of the world order. He is not a slave of the world economy. He is the victim of oppression, injustice, and exploitation." Today, it is our own government that perpetuates this injustice.

But let it be known that the spirit of Kenya is not easily extinguished. The same fire that burned in the hearts of our freedom fighters now ignites the passion of a new generation. They stand united, armed with knowledge, empowered by technology, and driven by an unshakeable belief in a better future.

To the Kenya Kwisha government, we say this: Your tactics are outdated, your methods are futile. The youth of Kenya are awake, and they will not rest until they see the change they deserve. Your attempts to silence them will only amplify their voices.

As we look to the future, our hearts

are torn between seething anger and unwavering hope. The anger stems from witnessing the betrayal of our nation's promise, the squandering of our resources, and the erosion of our democratic values. We are enraged by the blatant disregard for the rule of law, the silencing of dissenting voices, and the perpetuation of systemic corruption that has robbed generations of Kenyans of their rightful opportunities. This anger burns fiercely, fueled by each new revelation of government excess and each act of injustice against ordinary citizens.

Yet, alongside this anger burns an equally powerful flame of hope. This hope is kindled by the indomitable spirit of Kenya's youth, who refuse to accept the status quo. It is nourished by the countless acts of courage we witness daily - from the street vendor who speaks out against police harassment to the student activist organizing peaceful protests. This hope grows stronger with every social media post that exposes corruption, every community initiative that fills the gaps left by failed governance, and every small victory won in the courts of law and public opinion. We are hopeful because we see a generation rising that is more educated, more connected, and more determined to create change than any before it.

The story of Kenya is indeed far from over. It is being written anew in the hearts and minds of brave young men and women who dare to envision a different future. These are the dreamers who see beyond the present chaos to a Kenya that lives up to its founding ideals. They dream of a nation where corruption is not just frowned upon but is effectively eradicated. They imagine a society where justice is not a privilege for the wealthy but a right for all. They work tirelessly towards a Kenya free from the shackles of tribalism, where opportunity is based on merit rather than connections. Through their actions, their voices, and their unwavering commitment, they are not just dreaming of this new Kenya - they are actively creating it, one courageous step at a time.

*The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer.*



# PROJECT CATALOG

Malindi Phase 7	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.129,000	Kithimani Springs	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.50M
Great Oasis Gardens	NANYUKI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.399,000	Ocean View Ridge Vipingo	VIPINGO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.750M
Wema Gardens	NARO MORU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.439,000	Vuyanzi Gardens	KITALE	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Love Gardens	KAJIADO	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.950,000	Achievers Paradise Phase 2	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.995M
Ushindi Gardens	NAKURU	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.095M	Achievers Business Park	NGONG	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.3.95M
Shalom Gardens	MACHAKOS	FROM AS LOW AS Kes.1.450M	Joy Lovers Club	MALINDI	FROM AS LOW AS Kes. 3.95M

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# Kenya Deploys Military Amid Violent Protests Over Finance Bill; Four Dead

By: Capital Editorial Desk



Kenya Defence Forces .

## Worth Noting:

- Yesterday night, Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale issued a Gazette Notice authorizing the deployment of the military, as police appeared overwhelmed in many parts of the country, particularly in Nairobi. Protesters had stormed Parliament following the bill's passage.
- "The Kenya Defence Forces is deployed on June 25, 2024, in support of the National Police Service in response to the security emergency caused by ongoing violent protests in various parts of the country, resulting in the destruction and breaching of critical infrastructure," Duale stated.
- Among critical infrastructure affected include the Supreme Court and City Hall- the Nairobi County Headquarters which was also set ablaze by protesters.

Kenya has deployed the military after violence escalated yesterday, resulting in the deaths of at least four protesters and injuries to many others. The protests erupted after the passage of the controversial Finance Bill, which seeks to raise taxes.

The chaotic scenes unfolded as police struggled to disperse rioters who stormed Parliament. The confrontations were marked by live bullets and tear gas moments after Members of Parliament approved the bill. Several protesters sustained serious bullet wounds during the clashes.

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"The Kenya Defence Forces is deployed on June 25, 2024, in support of the National Police Service in response to the security emergency caused by ongoing violent protests in various parts of the country, resulting in the destruction and breaching of critical infrastructure," Duale stated.

Among critical infrastructure affected include the Supreme Court and

City Hall- the Nairobi County Headquarters which was also set ablaze by protesters.

President William Ruto addressed the nation at 9 pm terming the events as treasonable

"I have seen four bodies of the protesters who were shot dead," reported a witness. "They are lying in a pool of blood outside Parliament."

Our crew covering the youth-led protests counted more than 10 people being rushed to hospitals by ambulances, while others remained on the ground, writhing in pain. "People have been shot, it is very bad," one protester yelled while fleeing from a thick cloud of tear gas.

In the chaos, a section of Parliament and a truck parked outside the fence were set ablaze. "We have never seen this before, God save Kenya," an elderly man screamed while running.

Thousands of protesters engaged in running battles with the police throughout the day, with security officers firing rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the crowds. The protests were not limited to Nairobi; similar unrest was reported in about 30 of the country's 47 counties.

Businesses were shut, and transport was paralyzed in the city as police

clashed with demonstrators. The youth-led protests have been calling on MPs to reject the proposed tax increases. The government, which has backtracked on some of the most controversial measures, insists that new taxes are needed to fund spending programs and reduce the debt burden.

Earlier, an AFP journalist reported hearing a police officer instructing colleagues to "get the rubber bullets from the box." The police then reportedly started firing in the air and at the protesters. Officers have been deployed to protect various key government installations, including Parliament.

Television news channels broadcast split-screen live images from around the country, showing crowds in different cities. Lawyers and human rights groups expressed concern about arbitrary arrests and the intimidation of activists during earlier protests.

Reports emerged of at least five prominent social media users being abducted at dawn, hours before the demonstrations. The protests have attracted international attention, with Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine and South Africa's Julius Malema expressing their support.

The government has defended the

taxes as necessary for raising additional revenue to reduce Kenya's debt. However, in response to public outcry, it scrapped some contentious taxes, including those on bread, cooking oil, and motor vehicle ownership. Despite this, protesters have demanded the complete withdrawal of the bill.

Despite the ongoing protests, a majority of MPs passed the controversial bill during its second reading. On Tuesday, they debated various amendments to remove some clauses deemed contentious by the government.

At least two people died, and hundreds were injured in last week's largely peaceful demonstrations. President William Ruto acknowledged the protests and promised to hold talks to address the concerns of the youth leading the demonstrations.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Urgent Measures To Curb Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a threat to the nation that results to malnutrition to the people. Ensuring food security require efforts from both end ,from the people , government and private sectors implementing effective policies and programs that facilitate sustainable agricultural practices .This collaboration can build food security that serve the present and the future.

Climate change is the main problem affecting food in security in the country. Extreme weather conditions like drought and floods affect agricultural activities leading to low yield. This can be improved by implementing climate and planting drought resistant

crops. Another factor is poverty that leads to food insecurity due to low income .Marginalised community and rural farmers lack resources to access nutritious food. This can be improved by distributing income generation initiatives to the low income farmers to improve security.

Agricultural diversification can also improve food security as this involve planting different crops in piece of land, this helps to reduce the number of crops that the farmer relief on. Encouraging the growth of variety of crops will helps to ensure food supply and improve diversity of crops resulting to increase food supply hence ensure

food security in the country?

Using organic farming increase food security as this reduces environmental pollution. Organic farming is beneficial in that it reduces the risk of environmental pollution and this can improve security by allowing crops to grow healthy without any harm or harsh surrounding. Irrigation in these areas will also increase crop growth by ensuring adequate supply of water to the crops.

Utilization of resources by maximizing the use of food and avoiding waste can also improve food security in the region. Preservation methods should be applied to avoid waste of

excess food. Using enough or ordering enough food can be of good help also as this reduces the leftovers thus increasing food security.

Improving agricultural production by using modern techniques can also improve food security .This can be done by providing high yield crops or certified seeds to farmers , providing them with fertilizers Will also improve crop growth resulting to high yield. Machine harvesting will also Easy the work of the farmers and ensure that crops are harvested in time without the delay or being affected in the field due to human labour and this increases food security to the country.

Report from World Health Organization show that fifty percent of the population die of hunger, others malnourish resulting to poor health especially in children. Improving food security to the most affected parts will be beneficial as this will help increase the living standards to the people thus promoting good health to children and to the people as whole. This can only be done by making an efforts from the people and the government.

*Tuti Micah and Sharon Omondi , Rongo*

## Sedentary Lifestyles And Poor Dietary Habits Leading To Diseases

Every day, hospitals around the world are inundated with patients suffering from preventable diseases. Heart attacks, strokes, diabetes complications - these are just a few of the ailments that could be significantly reduced if more people embraced regular exercise. It's time to recognize the immense power of physical activity in saving lives and alleviating the burden on our healthcare systems.

The benefits of exercise are well-documented and indisputable. Not only does it strengthen our bodies, but it also boosts our mental well-being and overall quality of life. Yet, despite the overwhelming evidence supporting its importance, far too many individuals remain seden-

tary, unwittingly putting themselves at risk of chronic illnesses that could have been avoided.

One of the most pressing issues we face today is the obesity epidemic. Sedentary lifestyles and poor dietary habits have led to a sharp rise in obesity rates, which in turn contribute to a myriad of health problems, including heart disease, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes.

The tragic irony is that these conditions are largely preventable through regular physical activity and healthy eating. It's time for a paradigm shift in how we approach healthcare. Instead of focusing solely on treating diseases after they've manifested, we must prioritize prevention through proactive measures such as exercise

promotion.

This means investing in community programs, educational initiatives, and infrastructure that make it easier for people to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives. Governments, healthcare organizations, and communities all have a role to play in promoting a culture of fitness.

This includes providing access to safe recreational spaces, implementing policies that encourage active transportation, and integrating physical activity into school curricula from an early age. By creating environments that support and encourage exercise, we can empower individuals to take control of their health and well-being.

But the responsibility doesn't solely

rest on the shoulders of policymakers and institutions. As individuals, we must also recognize the importance of exercise and prioritize it in our own lives. It doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming – even small changes like taking the stairs instead of the elevator or going for a brisk walk during lunch breaks can make a significant difference in our health outcomes.

Furthermore, we must challenge the pervasive culture of sedentary behavior that has become normalized in modern society. Instead of spending hours glued to screens or sitting in front of desks, we should strive to incorporate movement into our daily routines. Whether it's dancing, gardening, or playing sports, there are

countless ways to stay active and enjoy the benefits of physical fitness. In conclusion, exercise is not just about looking good or fitting into a certain size jeans – it's about saving lives. By embracing physical activity as a fundamental aspect of a healthy lifestyle, we can prevent countless unnecessary deaths and alleviate the strain on our healthcare systems. It's time to prioritize exercise as a public health imperative and empower individuals to take charge of their own well-being. The choice is ours – let's choose life.

*Fiona Peres, Migori.*

## Empowering Youth To Combat Drug Abuse: A Call To Action

Drug abuse continues to be a pervasive issue affecting communities worldwide, with devastating consequences on individuals, families, and society as a whole. Among those most vulnerable to the allure of drugs are our youth, who face unique challenges and pressures in navigating this complex landscape. However, with education, support, and empowerment, young people can become powerful agents of change in the fight against drug abuse.

One of the most effective tools in preventing drug abuse among youth is education. By providing comprehensive and age-appropriate information about the dangers of drugs,

schools and communities can equip young people with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions. This education should go beyond simply listing the negative effects of drugs; it should also address underlying factors such as peer pressure, stress, and mental health issues that may contribute to substance use.

Furthermore, empowering youth to resist peer pressure and make healthy choices is essential in preventing drug abuse. This can be achieved through the promotion of positive peer influence, building resilience, and teaching refusal skills. Peer-led initiatives and support groups can provide a safe space for young peo-

ple to discuss their experiences, seek advice, and support one another in staying drug-free.

Moreover, fostering strong connections between youth and their families, schools, and communities is crucial in preventing drug abuse. Supportive relationships and a sense of belonging can serve as protective factors against substance use. Parents and caregivers play a pivotal role in this process by maintaining open communication, setting clear boundaries, and being positive role models for their children.

In addition to education and support, access to resources and treatment options is essential for youth

struggling with drug abuse. Communities must invest in accessible and youth-friendly prevention and intervention programs, including counseling, treatment centers, and peer support groups. Removing barriers to accessing these services, such as stigma and cost, is vital in ensuring that all young people receive the help they need. Beyond individual efforts, addressing the root causes of drug abuse requires a concerted effort from society as a whole. This includes advocating for policies that promote prevention, treatment, and harm reduction, as well as addressing social and economic factors that contribute to substance abuse, such

as poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity.

In conclusion, empowering youth to combat drug abuse is a collective responsibility that requires action at all levels of society. By providing education, support, and resources, we can equip young people with the tools they need to make healthy choices and resist the pressures of drug use. Together, we can create a future where our youth are empowered to lead fulfilling lives free from the grip of addiction.

*Jane Wanjiru and Saumu Pili Rongo University*

# Strengthen E-commerce Sector For Robust MSME Growth In Kenya

By: Our Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes



*Celebrating the successful conclusion of the E-Biz Kwa Vijana E-Commerce Upskilling project for young entrepreneurs and MSMEs. From the Left is Sylvia Mbaabu, Partnerships Lead, Brighter Monday Kenya, Michael Mandu, the Acting Secretary for Trade, State Department for Trade and Lilian Wairimu, Co-Director, Jegos Enterprises an E-Biz Kwa Vijana Beneficiary. From right is David Rodgers, Deputy Office Director, Office of Economic Growth and Integration (OEGI) at USAID, Chris Otundo, Chief Executive Officer BrighterMonday Kenya and Victor Waliaula, Founder and Owner, Jekins Computer Solutions, also an E-Biz Kwa Vijana Beneficiary..*

## Worth Noting:

- After one year the program that also intended to support and on-board 600 MSMEs onto e-commerce platforms, concluded in June 2024 having imparted e-commerce and digital marketing skills to over 2,000 beneficiaries while successfully on-boarding 632 onto online trading platforms.
- “Through the training in digital strategies, I can now develop my own online advertisements and product promotions on social media. Before I joined the e-Biz Kwa Vijana program, I did everything manually including data entry and sourced for customers through direct selling and personal interactions. Now, I am well equipped to position my brand, products and services online, to reach millions of potential customers all over the country”, said Victor Waliaula, a budding entrepreneur and proprietor Jekins Computer Solutions, based in Nairobi.

The symbiotic relationship between the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and e-commerce sector in Kenya is a powerful force in driving economic growth. This emerged during a recent stakeholder forum called to review the Kenya E-commerce Strategy that was launched in December 2023.

While appreciating the role of small businesses in opening up income opportunities and supporting the economy, the ambitious Kenya E-commerce Strategy’s vision is to foster innovation, inclusive participation, and economic growth through digital commerce for all Kenyans regardless of location, age, gender, or abilities.

The Kenya MSME sector remains a vibrant landscape that boasts over 7.4 million MSMEs, mainly young entrepreneurs. Spanning various sectors, from farming and agribusiness to logistics, general trade, merchandising and even services, they collectively contribute about 40 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product.

Looking to empower and partner with MSMEs, which play a crucial role in sustaining local economies across the country, BrighterMonday Kenya launched the e-Biz Kwa Vijana program in May 2023, a ground-breaking e-commerce development initiative with the goal to train 1,000 MSMEs in E-commerce

and digital marketing skills.

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“Through the training in digital strategies, I can now develop my own online advertisements and product promotions on social media. Before I joined the e-Biz Kwa Vijana program, I did everything manually including data entry and sourced for customers through direct selling and personal interactions. Now, I am well equipped to position my brand, products and services online, to reach millions of potential customers all over the country”, said Victor Waliaula, a budding entrepreneur and proprietor Jekins Computer Solutions, based in Nairobi.

According to Waliaula, a university graduate in information and communication technologies his business has since seen a 30 percent rise in revenues and he is not looking back, keen to harness even more training in business strategy and marketing to help grow his business.

Funded by USAID through the e-Trade Alliance, E-Biz Kwa Vijana, also covered women entrepreneurs and people with disabilities. Accord-

ing to Chris Otundo, the Chief Executive Officer BrighterMonday Kenya, the E-Biz Kwa Vijana program represents the firm’s commitment to bridging the talent gap in Africa while helping to unlock opportunities for economic empowerment of young entrepreneurs and MSMEs.

“The success of this program, indicates the strong entrepreneurial spirit in young people in Kenya today. We recognize and acknowledge the potential of E-Commerce to help revolutionise the local entrepreneurial landscape by equipping young people like Victor and Lilian with the necessary knowledge and tools to expand their market opportunities”, said Otundo.

Lilian Wairimu, Co-Director, Jegos Enterprises, also an E-Biz Kwa Vijana beneficiary explained how she has witnessed a 50 percent rise in sales revenues over the last one year, thanks to having an online presence with a growing customer base on social media platforms including Instagram, TikTok and facebook.

“I happened to enrol in the e-Biz Kwa Vijana program right in the nick of time. Previously, I would just sit in my shop waiting for walk-in customers and relying on corporate or government tenders for opportunities which I admit are very hard to come by because of their many requirements such as huge working capital reserves which in

some cases were out of our reach being an MSME”, she said.

According to Michael Mandu, the Acting Secretary for Trade in the State Department for Trade, Kenya has witnessed a steady growth of the E-Commerce in recent years and is currently established as a leader in digital trade within the African continent and globally with combined revenues in the sector projected to grow to USD2,928.00 bn in 2023.

“A large share of this revenue is attributable to MSMEs, and youth run enterprises, that provide jobs and sustainable livelihoods while also nurturing digital talents in the country. The Kenya National E-commerce Strategy is therefore not just a policy document but a testament to our commitment to creating an environment where businesses can thrive, where entrepreneurs can innovate, and where every citizen can participate in the digital economy”, said Mandu.

Following the E-Biz Kwa Vijana Program, 95 per cent of the MSMEs said they gained new ideas for their online businesses, with 86 per cent achieving their first ever online sale after the training. 61 persons with disabilities received business coaching with 15 getting on-boarded onto different E-Commerce platforms.

Additionally 28 per cent reported an increase in the number of employees to help support increased on-line business activities while another 95 percent of participants were willing to set aside a monthly E-Commerce expense after determining the return on investment.

With the internet penetration rate currently at above 74 percent, the country finds itself in an ideal environment for e-commerce growth. The growing middle class who make up a greater percentage of E-commerce customers rely on this convenience and speed, allowing them to shop from the comfort of their homes.

With market access widely enabled through connectivity many budding entrepreneurs like Victor and Lilian, can now boast of a broader customer base and new markets through E-commerce and which opens up a world of limitless potential for expansion and growth in the local and global economy.

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Sports >> \*The Kenyan Under-23 team last assembled and tasted competitive football in 2021 during a CECAFA tournament held in Ethiopia.

# SPORTS NEWS

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## Wanzala, Otieno Thrilled After Securing Call Ups To National Team Ahead Of COSAFA Tournament



The Kenyan Under-23 team last assembled and tasted competitive football in 2021 during a CECAFA tournament held in Ethiopia.

Since then, the team, that is supposed to serve as a reservoir of talents to the senior team, the Harambee Stars, hasn't been active due to several factors.

The long wait for the team to return to action is over after landing an invite to grace this year's COSAFA tournament to be staged in South Africa.

The tournament will run through June 26 to July 7 with this year's edition being the second for the Kenyan team to participate having debuted in 2013.

The return of the national U23 team to the picture has seemingly thrilled football enthusiasts so are some of the players who have been considered for the tournament ahead.

### —Rise from U15 to U23 team source of joy for Wanzala—

Fast-rising goalkeeper Ibrahim Wanzala was included in the provisional squad named by Coach Ken Odhiambo last Tuesday, marking yet a new high for the youngster.

The goalkeeper is already a household name in Kenyan and regional football despite his

young age.

Wanzala earned himself significant plaudits during the U18 CECAFA tournament held in Kenya in December last year where he won the 'Golden Glove' besides helping the team to a second-place finish.

This year, he graduated to the U20 after he was included in the team that featured in a Four Nations tournament in Malawi, again, reaching the final with the team.

Before the U18 and U20 call ups, the Kakamega Homeboyz custodian had played for the national U15 and U17 teams in CECAFA tournaments.

Wanzala was in the U15 team that sought regional glory in Eritrea back in 2019 and had been called to the U17 outfit that was to Rwanda in 2020 but the tournament was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Wanzala says the call to represent the U23 team is a testament to his growth and will head to South Africa with hopes of winning the main title as well as that of the best goalkeeper.

"I am excited to be included in the U23 team. I am satisfied with the progress I have made over the years. Rising from the U15 team to the U23 one shows that I am on the right path career-wise,"

the goalkeeper told SportsBoom.com.

Wanzala Unfazed by Competition From His Seniors

Wanzala is not assured to start in the tournament given the competition he will face from the trio of Bryne Omondi, Brian Bwire and Sébastien Wekesa who are all in the team and angling for the starting role.

Both Omondi and Bwire have played for senior teams with the latter having the privilege of captaining the U20 and being the first choice for the U23 in their last tournament.

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However, the 18-year-old believes he is good enough to start ahead of the trio and nothing will stop him from achieving his plans in South Africa.

"There are pretty good goalkeepers in the team, but I believe through hard work I will get playing time. The ultimate goal is to win the title and the best goal keeper's award," he said.

—Calls up reward for hard work— Otieno—

Patrick Otieno also considers the return to the national team as a reward to the hard work he has been putting in at Posta Rangers. Otieno had a solid debut in the

U20 team that finished second in the CECAFA tournament held in Jinja, Uganda.

The forward was progressing well to the point of being touted as good enough to play for the senior team thanks to his form at club level.

However, a knee injury suffered in 2020 derailed his pursuit for success both at club and the national team, as he was sidelined for close to a year.

Otieno, who has since transitioned from a winger to a centre forward, is delighted to have been summoned for national duty after regaining his form.

"I have worked hard throughout the season to regain my form. I am glad to be scoring again after struggling last season. This call up will definitely inspire me to work harder. I hope to be in the final team and at least taste football in the last age-group national team," he told SportsBoom.com.

The Kenyan squad is not purely made up of players in the U23 age bracket as coach Odhiambo handed slots to a few senior players.

Some of the senior players include seasoned midfielder Anthony Akumu and Portugal based defender Johnstone Omurwa.

—By SportsBoom—

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*The national women's volleyball team, Malkia Strikers, has been handed a sponsorship boost of Sh2mn as they step up preparation for the Olympic Games.

# Malkia Strikers Land Bumper Financial Boost In Olympics Preparations



Malkia Strikers receive a Sh2mn sponsorship from MozzartBet. PHOTO/Timothy Olobulu

The national women's volleyball team, Malkia Strikers, has been handed a sponsorship boost of Sh2mn as they step up preparation for the Olympic Games.

Kenya Volleyball Federation boss Charles Nyaberi says the token from betting firm MozzartBet will help clear training allowances for the players.

This is an addition to the Sh15mn sponsorship the company had given the Malkia Strikers at the start of the year.

"This is just a top up to what Mozzart had given us at the start of the year. The entire amount (Sh2mn) is going to the team and will offset their allowances and as a Federation we will also top up something," said KVF boss Charles Nyaberi.

The team has been in camp for the last two weeks at the Moi Sports Centre Kasarani.

They are expected to leave for the Philippines this Saturday, where they will compete in the FIVB Challenger Cup, before moving to the Olympics training camp in Miramas, France.

### Huge boost for team

"It is a huge boost to have this kind of support to the team and it gives us lots of motivation moving forward," said team captain Trizah Atuka.

The team will compete in the Challenger Cup where they are set to play against Costa Rica, and the Federation says they have planned for several friendly matches with the goal being the Olympic Games.

The team in camp currently has 16 players, and three will be dropped on Friday for 16 to travel to Philippines and then Miramas, for the pre-Olympic training



Malkia Strikers players pose for a group photo. PHOTO/Timothy Olobulu

camp.

After Miramas, the training camp in Miramas, the team will be further whittled from 16 to 13, for the final group that gets into the Olympics village.

Capital Sport

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# Proper Garbage Disposal To Save Environment

By: Daisy Cheronu  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Kenya generates an estimated 22,000 tons of waste per day calculated by assuming an average of per capita waste generation of 0.5 kilogrammes for a current population of 45 million translating to 8million tonnes annually. It is estimated that 40% of the waste is generated in urban areas.
- Given that urbanization is increasing by 10%, by 2030, the Kenya urban population will be generating an estimate of about 5.5million tonnes of waste every year, which is three times more the amount of waste generated in 2009. Past inventories estimate that 60% to 70% of waste generated is organic, 20% plastic, 10% paper, 1% medical waste and 2% metal.



*Proper Garbage Disposal .*

A garbage-shrewn Street of Kitere, Rongo subcounty Migori County. Garbage has been a problem for market centers, causing negative effects on the environment and health of the residents. In Kitere, Migori, this problem is not an exception.

The accumulation and improper disposal of waste within the market centers are causing more harm than good. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) Article 42 provides that “Every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment,” that the State will “Eliminate processes and activities that are likely to endanger the environment.”

Additionally, the Constitution devolved responsibilities over waste management to the 47 counties. Market centers are vital places where people come to buy and sell goods. However, the problem of garbage in these centers has become acute.

The waste that accumulates in the market center not only makes it less attractive but also causes environmental hazards. The piles of garbage can be a breeding ground for disease-carrying pests. The smell emanating from the waste can be irritating to the residents and potential customers.

According to NEMA, population

increases and rates of production and consumption increase, the estimated volumes of waste generated from households, industries, agricultural services, construction, health care facilities will triple between 2009 and 2030.

Kenya generates an estimated 22,000 tons of waste per day calculated by assuming an average of per capita waste generation of 0.5 kilogrammes for a current population of 45 million translating to 8million tonnes annually. It is estimated that 40% of the waste is generated in urban areas.

Given that urbanization is increasing by 10%, by 2030, the Kenya urban population will be generating an estimate of about 5.5million tonnes of waste every year, which is three times more the amount of waste generated in 2009. Past inventories estimate that 60% to 70% of waste generated is organic, 20% plastic, 10% paper, 1% medical waste and 2% metal.

Inefficient production processes, low durability of goods, unsustainable consumption and production patterns lead to excessive generation of waste. On encounter with Cynthia Achieng a businesslady in Kitere and a resident of Kitere, Migori, or

a local vendor.

“The garbage has become unbearable in this market center. Sometimes, the waste is left to decay and produce a repugnant smell. It affects our health and that of our customers. It’s not good for business.” she says.

The poor waste management practices within the market center has led to soil pollution and degradation.

It has also led to the contamination of water sources as the waste seeps its way into the water table. These environmental hazards are not only dangerous but also costly to remedy. On encounter with Mr. Simon Otieno, a local environmentalist. “Garbage disposal brings about environmental pollution that affects human health, marine life, and livestock,” he said. “When we dispose of waste improperly, it causes soil pollution, which negatively affects agriculture and subsequently the economy.

It’s therefore imperative that everyone takes responsibility for proper waste disposal.” He said. Cynthia says that the problem of garbage in the market centers requires the intervention of the county council.

They should enforce regulations that govern the disposal of waste. They should also engage in education campaigns that encourage res-

idents to be responsible for proper waste disposal. Additionally, the council could invest in proper waste disposal facilities to ensure that all garbage is disposed of accordingly. Such facilities could include waste transfer stations, recycling centers, or waste to energy plants. “The pollution caused by garbage is a serious issue that affects the environment, especially the air, water, and soil. The effects of this pollution are far-reaching and detrimental to not only the market center’s inhabitants but also for those living outside the center.

Many of the items which are often dumped in the market centers, such as plastics and chemical waste, take a long time to decompose and can be a problem for years to come. The city council should work hand in hand with residents to ensure there are recycling and waste management programs that aim to reduce the amount of waste generated in the market centers,” he says.

Citizens are key players in the management of waste. They are consumers of goods and services, generators of waste, main players of waste minimisation and sorting at source. Their participation, or lack of participation thereof, determines the success or failure of the adoption and implementation of waste management initiatives.

The shift from mixed disposal at household level to “sorting of waste at source” of recyclable materials, organic and other waste recoverable streams will be key in the realisation of sustainable waste management.

Citizens are also key stakeholders to monitor compliance and reporting illegal waste dumping. To mitigate this challenge, the county council, in collaboration with residents, should take a proactive role in waste management.

They should invest in proper waste disposal systems and enforce regulations to ensure that garbage is disposed of appropriately. Through this concerted effort, we can ensure a cleaner and healthier market centers and environment.