



**The Price Of Critique: Analyzing Kenya's Descent Into Extrajudicial Intimidation**  
 Recent reports of abductions allegedly carried out by Kenyan police have raised grave concerns about the state of civil liberties and the rule of law in the country. These incidents, targeting individuals perceived as critical of government policies, represent a troubling trend that appears to contravene fundamental rights enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution. Page 18

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**News>> Nakuru County Moves To Promote Cultural, Creative Industries**

P. 8. As the creative industry continues to grow and make a significant contribution to the Kenyan economy, plans have been put in place to map out existing cultural heritage and creative industries.

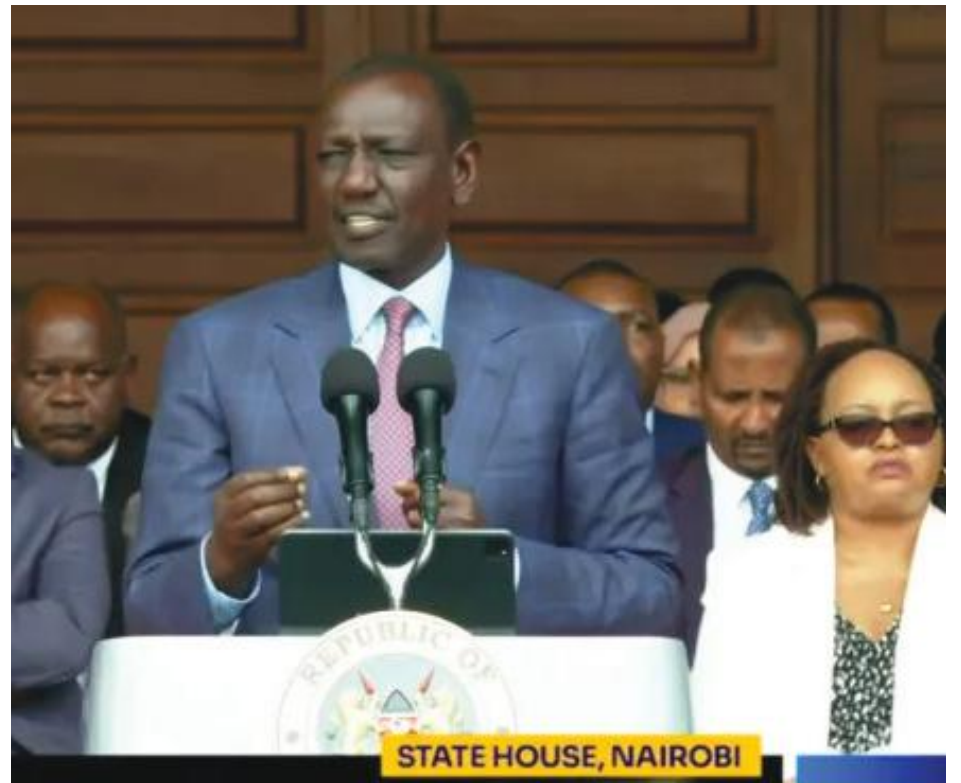


**News>> Pioneer Child Development Programme Launches A Project For Improving Dairy Farming**

P. 12. A Non-Governmental Organisation has launched a special project aimed at animal nutrition and dairy farming.

# Ruto Withdraws Finance Bill After Deadly Protests

**President William Ruto has withdrawn the contentious finance bill 2024 that sparked deadly nationwide protests.**  
 In an address to the nation yesterday, Ruto regretted the widespread expression of dissatisfaction with the passage of the bill triggering demos that resulted in the loss of lives and destruction of property. He said it was the unfolding events that informed his decision.



President William Ruto

STORY ON PAGE 9

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# Gachagua Demands NIS Director Haji's Resignation Over Intelligence Failures Amid Finance Bill Protests

By: Bashir Mbuthia



A side by side image of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and NIS Director General Noordin Haji

Worth Noting:

- “Noordin Haji must take responsibility for the deaths that have occurred, the mayhem witnessed and for failing Ruto, the government and Kenya by not doing his job and advising correctly. He must not just take responsibility but resign from that office and allow the president to pick a competent DG”
- According to Gachagua, had Haji properly briefed Ruto on the widespread public opposition to the Bill, Ruto would not have forwarded it to Parliament, thus averting the nationwide protests that escalated on Tuesday, culminating in protesters storming Parliament.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has called for the resignation of National Intelligence Service (NIS) Director General Noordin Haji, faulting him for overseeing what he described as a decline in the agency's effectiveness under his stewardship.

Speaking from Mombasa yesterday, Gachagua lamented that since Haji succeeded Major General (Rtd) Philip Wachira Kimeru in June 2023 the NIS has become dysfunctional, failing to adequately assess public sentiment, particularly concerning the now withdrawn Finance Bill 2024.

“I sympathise with President Ruto because this information was not available to him. NIS is mandated to provide such

information and that is where the problem is; we have a dysfunctional NIS that has exposed the President, the government and the people of Kenya,” said Gachagua.

“Noordin Haji must take responsibility for the deaths that have occurred, the mayhem witnessed and for failing Ruto, the government and Kenya by not doing his job and advising correctly. He must not just take responsibility but resign from that office and allow the president to pick a competent DG”

According to Gachagua, had Haji properly briefed Ruto on the widespread public opposition to the Bill, Ruto would not have forwarded it to Parliament, thus averting the nationwide protests that es-

calated on Tuesday, culminating in protesters storming Parliament.

“People had to die, property destroyed and protests for the President to know what Kenyans felt, yet there is an organisation funded by Kenyans to brief the president and the public about the sentiments of Kenyans.”

“Officers from the National Police Service (NPS) have told me in confidence that they did not receive advance intelligence briefs about the magnitude of the protests. Never have protesters invaded Parliament.”

Gachagua persisted in his tirade, vehemently criticizing Haji, alleging that he was unfit and lacked the qualifications for the top position in the NIS.

“When he (Haji) was appointed to the office of the Director General, he chased away all the people who were senior to him when he was in the service because of an inferiority complex, crippling NIS and making it dysfunctional,” he said.

“Three directors were chased away and reassigned to desk jobs across the government. 13 assistant directors, men and women with proven track records of intelligence and analysis, were removed from the NIS leaving a shell under a clueless Director General with no capacity to run the organisation. That is why the security sector was caught off guard by the intensity of the protests. Had Noordin Haji done his job; we would not be where we are today.

Editor's Desk

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# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

# The Mount Kenya Times

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Bungoma County is conducting a 21-day data collection exercise to register vulnerable members of society, culminating in an Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) entity. The exercise, targeting 130,894 households, aims to collect accurate and adequate data on the elderly and People Living with Disability. The ESR aims to store information for vulnerable households, establishing a database for potential beneficiaries and those existing for social protection. The data will facilitate linkages to more services for greater social and economic inclusion for the vulnerable in the community. The exercise is taking place in all 13 sub-counties in Bungoma, including Mt. Elgon Forest. 866 enumerators and 87 supervisors have been recruited to carry out the exercise.



Machakos County Government has sacked 121 staff members for using fake Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) certificates to secure employment. County Secretary Muya Ndambuki revealed that the fake certificates were discovered during a verification exercise for 5,018 employees. The Kenya National Examination Council found 121 certificates invalid, and the county government will initiate a process to recover funds paid to the officers. A validation process for diploma and degree certificates is also underway. Additionally, 14 revenue officers have been interdicted for malpractices related to revenue collection in Mwala Subcounty, including cash collection, processing fake licenses, and colluding with business owners to evade permit payment. The cases have been forwarded to the police for further investigation and prosecution.



The government has launched and operationalised the artisanal mining committee for West Pokot County to help fight illegal mining operations. Speaking during the launch of the committee in Kapenguria town, Director of Mines in the State Department for Mining Gregory Kituku stated that the committee serves as an advisory body to the representative of the director of mines on permit grant, renewal and revocation at the county level. He expressed his satisfaction with the operationalization of the committee, stating that it will contribute to economic growth and help combat illegal mining activities in the region, which are prevalent in the County. "The establishment of the artisanal committee also aims to create employment opportunities," Kituku said. Kituku stressed launch of artisan mining committee was part of the Ministry's efforts to formalize artisanal mining cooperatives.



Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, Eliud Owalo, said the government is set to digitise at least 80% of public services and make them available on the E-Citizen platform. The state has so far digitised 17,000 services, allowing citizens to access these services wherever they are, coupled with internet connectivity and device affordability. The Digital Transformation Agenda aims to ensure citizens have access to broadband services, ICT devices, and the skills to participate meaningfully in the digital economy. The Kenyan government is on course to deploy 100,000 km of fibre and establish 25,000 public WIFI hotspots and 1,450 ICT hubs across the country in the next five years. The establishment of 1,450 ICT hubs and 25,000 WIFI hotspots is geared towards creating digital marketplaces and boosting connectivity for traders and entrepreneurs, particularly the youth, to get gainful employment in the digital ecosystem.

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kuchungana.



**USALAMA**  
BARABARA!



# Boda Ni Life

Chagua usalama, chagua  
kuwa hapo kwa ajili ya  
familia yako



# Protecting Our Kids In A Changing Society: Safe Touch Versus Unsafe Touch



By: Ezekiel Muriithi  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- On the other hand, unsafe touch makes a child feel uncomfortable, scared, or confused. It is important for a child to know that their body is their own, and they have the right to protect it, regardless of who is approaching them.
- Teach them to protect their private parts, physical forms of affection should be limited to certain individuals and done with the child's consent. Any touch that is intended to cause harm, or is done in secrecy should be stopped immediately.

In today's society, where values are rapidly changing, it is increasingly crucial to teach children about personal safety. Unfortunately, the rise in concerns about the safety of children, cuts across those they trust such as family members, or close friends as well as strangers.

This brings about the need to educate children on the difference between

safe touch and unsafe touch, regardless of who it is. The need to speak out immediately and not keep it a secret to safe guard the prey.

A safe touch makes a child feel comfortable, safe and cared for. They come in the form of hugs from parents and close family members, a pat on the back as a sign of encouragement, or support, holding hands while walk-

ing with a trusted guardian, just but to mention a few.

On the other hand, unsafe touch makes a child feel uncomfortable, scared, or confused. It is important for a child to know that their body is their own, and they have the right to protect it, regardless of who is approaching them. Teach them to protect their private parts, physical forms of affection should be limited to certain individuals and done with the child's consent. Any touch that is intended to cause harm, or is done in secrecy should be stopped immediately.

The best way to prevent unsafe touching is through early childhood education. The internet and social circle expose children to a lot of information, some of it maybe misleading. It is best taught by a parent, or guardian who has the child's best interest at heart. Start teaching children about personal safe space, personal boundaries, importance consent and whom to report to in the event of the unforeseen.

Use simple language in regards to their age and their levels of understanding to explain that some parts of their body are private and should not be touched by others. Discuss the consequences in the event of their bodies being violated. Disclose to them what should be their immediate reaction for help. This should be a discussion had in learning institutions as well to create a steady drum beat. Families and schools should normalise conversations around safe and unsafe touch to ensure that children understand the importance.

Children need to know that it is okay to say no to any touch that makes them uncomfortable, even if it is from a family member, or friend. Reinforce

that their comfort and feelings are valid and important. Reassure them that there will be no negative consequences when they say no, and no simply means no.

Use age-appropriate words to teach the difference between healthy and unhealthy secrets. An example is that a surprise party is an okay secret to keep, because it will make people happy and will be told at the right time. Secret touching is not okay, or keeping it a secret from their parent, or caregiver will work against them and the prey will do it to someone else.

In the event of an unsafe touch they should react immediately. They should be encouraged to say "No" loudly, move away from the person, and seek help from a trusted adult such as a teacher, or parent. They should seek safety first and disclose full details of the unfortunate event.

To help children better understand the process use role-playing scenarios to practice how to respond in situations where someone crosses their boundaries. This can help them feel more confident in asserting themselves.

When a child comes to you with concerns about inappropriate touch, listen actively and reassure them that they did the right thing by telling you. Validate their feelings and provide comfort without any form of judgement.

Let them in on your intended action, explain the steps you will take to ensure their safety. Contact relevant authorities and seek professional help. This reinforces that their safety is your top priority.

*The writer is the Crawford International School Head of Marketing and Communications*

The

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# Nakuru County Moves To Promote Cultural, Creative Industries

By: Kenya News Agency

As the creative industry continues to grow and make a significant contribution to the Kenyan economy, plans have been put in place to map out existing cultural heritage and creative industries.

In this regard, Nakuru has been selected as a pilot City to spearhead the initiative aimed at mapping the contribution of the industry to the local economy.

This effort is part of a larger collaboration between the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) to leverage the UNESCO 2030 Culture Indicators Framework.

The joint collaboration led by Emily Njeru, Deputy Director Culture, KNATCOM, recently organised a capacity-building workshop attended by experts in the urban creative space and the Nakuru City Creative Sector Working Group to enlighten the stakeholders on the process of conducting a baseline survey.

Speaking during the workshop, the



Chief Officer of Culture and Tourism, John Koech, highlighted the importance of evidence-based culture policy making, noting that reliable cultural data is crucial for positioning culture as a driver of a sustainable city.

In his address, the City Manager Mr. Gitau Thabanja, noted that Nakuru's successful implementation of the pilot project would set a precedent for other cities in Kenya by highlighting the role of culture in sustainable development and urban planning.

"As a UNESCO Creative City of Folk Arts, it is important for Nakuru to adopt evidence-based culture policymaking and a multi-stakeholder

approach in designing programmes that foster creativity for sustainable development," Thabanja said.

The selection of Nakuru as a pilot City to spearhead the mapping initiative is an affirmation of the influence of culture in the multi-cultural city.

The streets of Nakuru are a constant reminder of the vibrancy of culture, as seen on its streets and estates, which are adorned with vibrant murals, graffiti, and street art, adding a creative and visually appealing touch to the city.

The city occasionally showcases the cultural heritage and traditions of the region through exhibitions, performances, and interactive experiences.

The Nakuru Players Theatre is another contributor to the bustling cultural growth with a vibrant performing arts centre that hosts various plays, musicals, and cultural performances throughout the year, thereby promoting artistic expression in the city.

Another hallmark of the City is the popular Nakuru's street food festival, which is a delight for food lovers. From mouthwatering samosas to delicious grilled meats, the city offers a wide range of delightful street food options from different communities at affordable rates.

The selection of Nakuru to pilot the project is an extra cap for the city, which takes pride in its cultural diversity, which earned it the recognition of UNESCO as a UNESCO Creative City under the folk and craft category.

This recognition serves as a beacon for the county's commitment to preserving and promoting its unique heritage.

A policy brief on the promotion of creative industries in Kenya was launched at a workshop organised by the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO in October last year.

In a significant stride towards fostering the growth of Kenya's cultur-

al and creative industries, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO convened the workshop during which a policy brief entitled "Towards the Promotion of Inclusive, Dynamic Culture and Creative Industries in Kenya." was launched.

This was as a result of a series of extensive consultative meetings with a diverse array of stakeholders, including the UNESCO Regional Office's culture sector, central and county government officials, civil society, the private sector, and creative practitioners.

It underscored the important role played by culture in promoting as well as affirming the critical role played by the creative economy in boosting financial growth.

This recognition further affirmed the rising prominence of the creative economy, which is emerging as one of the fastest-growing sectors in the Kenyan economy, serving not only as a source of employment but also as a catalyst for national innovation and cohesion.

It is in this regard that stakeholders are putting in place mechanisms to craft policies that will help shape the sector into a beacon of innovation and unity in the future.

# MCK Calls On Media To Exercise Discretion When Covering Conflicts

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) has urged the media to exercise discretion and adhere to international ethical standards on live coverage when covering demonstrations and conflicts in the country.

In a press statement sent to newsrooms, the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary to the Council David Omwoyo told the media to ensure that discussions with government on such coverage should be amicable and respectful.

Mr Omwoyo noted that the Council condemns the harming of journalists and media personnel during Tuesday's demonstrations against the Finance Bill 2024 in several parts of the country.

He said the Council calls upon the Independent Police Oversight Authority and other constitutionally

mandated institutions to carry out investigations and ensure those responsible are brought to justice.

"It is regrettable that journalists continue paying a heavy price during these demonstrations, yet their only role is to protect Kenyan's right to accurate information on the happenings in their country," said Omwoyo in a press statement sent to newsrooms.

The CEO on behalf of the Council congratulated the media for their sacrifice to document and relay to Kenyans the important moments in the country's history despite the grave dangers they were exposing themselves to.

He said the coverage by media is their contribution to democracy and urged journalists and media workers to exercise caution and ensure personal safety during these difficult moments

"This is media's contribution to democracy," said Omwoyo.



David Omwoyo.

# President Ruto Withdraws Finance Bill After Deadly Protests

By: KBC

President William Ruto has withdrawn the contentious finance bill 2024 that sparked deadly country-wide protests.

In an address to the nation yesterday, Ruto regretted the widespread expression of dissatisfaction with the passage of the bill triggering demos that resulted in the loss of lives and destruction of property.

He said it was the unfolding events that informed his decision.

“Following the passage of the bill, the country witnessed widespread expression of dissatisfaction with the bill as passed, regrettably resulting in the loss of life, destruction of property and desecration of constitutional institutions... Consequently, having reflected on the continuing conversation around the content of the finance bill of 2024, I will decline to assent to the bill.” “I concede and therefore I will not sign the 2024 finance bill and it shall subsequently be withdrawn.”

While outlining the reasons behind

his relentless push for the proposed additional tax measures contained in the bill, the Head of State said he had backed down to listen to the people.

“Notwithstanding all these concessions, it became evident that members of the public were still insisting on the need for us to make more concessions. I am grateful to all the members of the National Assembly who voted yesterday affirmatively for the Finance Bill 2024 as amended on the floor of the House to incorporate the views generated in the public participation process” he stated.

He went on to convey his deepest condolences to the families of the youths who died during the protests.

“I send condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones in this unfortunate manner. Six people lost their lives yesterday, it’s a very unfortunate situation that I wish would not have happened. There’s a framework that will ensure those six Kenyans will be accounted for “ he told the nation.

Going forward, the President committed to engage the young people on matters of national importance.

“I propose an engagement with



Reject Finance Bill protests.

young people of our nation to listen to their issues and agree with them on their priority areas of concern. I also propose that within the next 14 days, a multi-sectoral, multistakeholder engagement be held with a view to charting the way forward on matters” he announced.

The additional tax measures proposed in this year’s Finance Bill he explained were for raising money to employ permanently all the 46,000 JSS interns, increase NG-CDF by

Kshs 10B, increase the allocation to county governments by Kshs 15 billion, allocate 14.5 billion for rural electrification, provide an additional Kshs 6 billion for UHC, paying debts owed to coffee and sugarcane farmers, and Kshs 2 billion to support the stabilization of milk prices among other interventions.

“As we hold this important conversation, I remind us that we should proceed within the foundational principles upon which our nation is

founded, namely; constitutionalism, adherence to the rule of law and respect for constitutional institutions” he observed.

On the latest spate of mysterious abductions and kidnappings, he said “Ever since I came into office, there is not one incident of extra judicial killing. Those said to be abducted have since been found in police custody, and those already processed were released”.

## Explainer: What Happens Next After Ruto Withdraws The Finance Bill?

By: Brian Kimani

President William Ruto declined to sign the Finance Bill 2024 yesterday, citing public pressure that had grown over the previous week and resulted in anti-bill demonstrations.

Ruto conceded to Kenyans’ will during a press briefing and agreed to withdraw the bill in its entirety, confirming a unanimous agreement among the lawmakers present at State House.

Ruto’s remarks sparked debate about whether the president can withdraw the bill and the fallout, especially given that parliament went on recess on Wednesday and will resume regular sittings on Tuesday, July 23.

Azimio MPs also chastised Ruto’s remarks, questioning what would happen to the bill given that the MPs will return in a month, after the 14-day period has expired.

“Ati Withdrawn and Sent Back To Parliament?! Wakenya Mnabwebwa Mafala Kweli. Read For Yourselves



President William Ruto speaks at State House, Nairobi, when he met KTDA factory chairmen and directors on May 14, 2024.

PHOTO | PCS

The Simple & Clear Wording of Article 115. Meantime, National Assembly Went On Recess This Morning, Till 23rd July,” Amollo said.

### What the law says

According to Article 115 of the Constitution, the president has two options 14 days after receiving the bill: sign it into law or refer it back to Parliament for amendments.

If the head of state returns the bill to Parliament, MPs must either amend it

after adopting the president’s recommendations or pass it again without amendments. This should be done with a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly.

### What happens if the President declines to sign a bill?

### clines to sign a bill?

Clause 6 of the Constitution states that if the president refuses to sign the bill and fails to return it to Parliament within 14 days, the bill will be considered law.

This means that Ruto must write a letter to parliament within 14 days recommending that the bill be rejected in its entirety; otherwise, the bill will become law.

### What a Constitutional lawyer says

Constitutional lawyer Charles Kanjama confirmed to Citizen Digital that Ruto’s recommendation must be presented to Parliament and passed with a two-thirds majority for the entire bill to be withdrawn.

“If the president takes the bill back to parliament and his recommendation is to reject the bill what we call veto power, unless you can get a two-thirds majority, then the veto expires,” he said.

“He has three options; assent the bill, return to parliament with reservations or do nothing. If he does nothing within 14 days, then it becomes law.”

# Embrace Public Participation Forums, Kiambu Residents Urged

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themtkenyatimes

Kiambu County residents have been urged to embrace public participation forums to enhance democratic governance, ensure transparency, accountability and foster community engagement.

Salome Wainaina, the County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning, Municipal Administration, and Urban Development said that by getting involved, their voices will be heard and their development needs prioritized.

Speaking in Kikuyu town during a consultative forum to deliberate and make proposals for the Municipal Plans FY 2024/2025, she emphasised that it is a constitutional right for every Kenyan to participate in public engagement forums.

The CECM stressed the importance of active participation by residents and noted that the consultation forums, set to run throughout this week, are designed to provide a platform for stakeholders and the public to voice



Some of Kiambu residents during on of the public participation forums.

their opinions, discuss critical issues, and propose innovative solutions.

“In line with constitutional requirements, the municipal plans FY 2024/2025 are being prepared through wide consultation from residents, stakeholders, and any other interested parties, this aims to cover various aspects of municipal planning, includ-

ing infrastructure development, social services, environmental sustainability, and economic growth,” said Ms Wainaina.

She explained that the forums will outline a comprehensive framework designed to address the various needs and priorities of the municipalities over the coming year and also provide

a long-term development blueprint for the twelve municipalities by outlining goals, initiatives, and strategies.

The planning process is part of the second phase of the Kenya Urban Support Programme, a project funded by the government of Kenya and International Development Association and the French Development Agency.

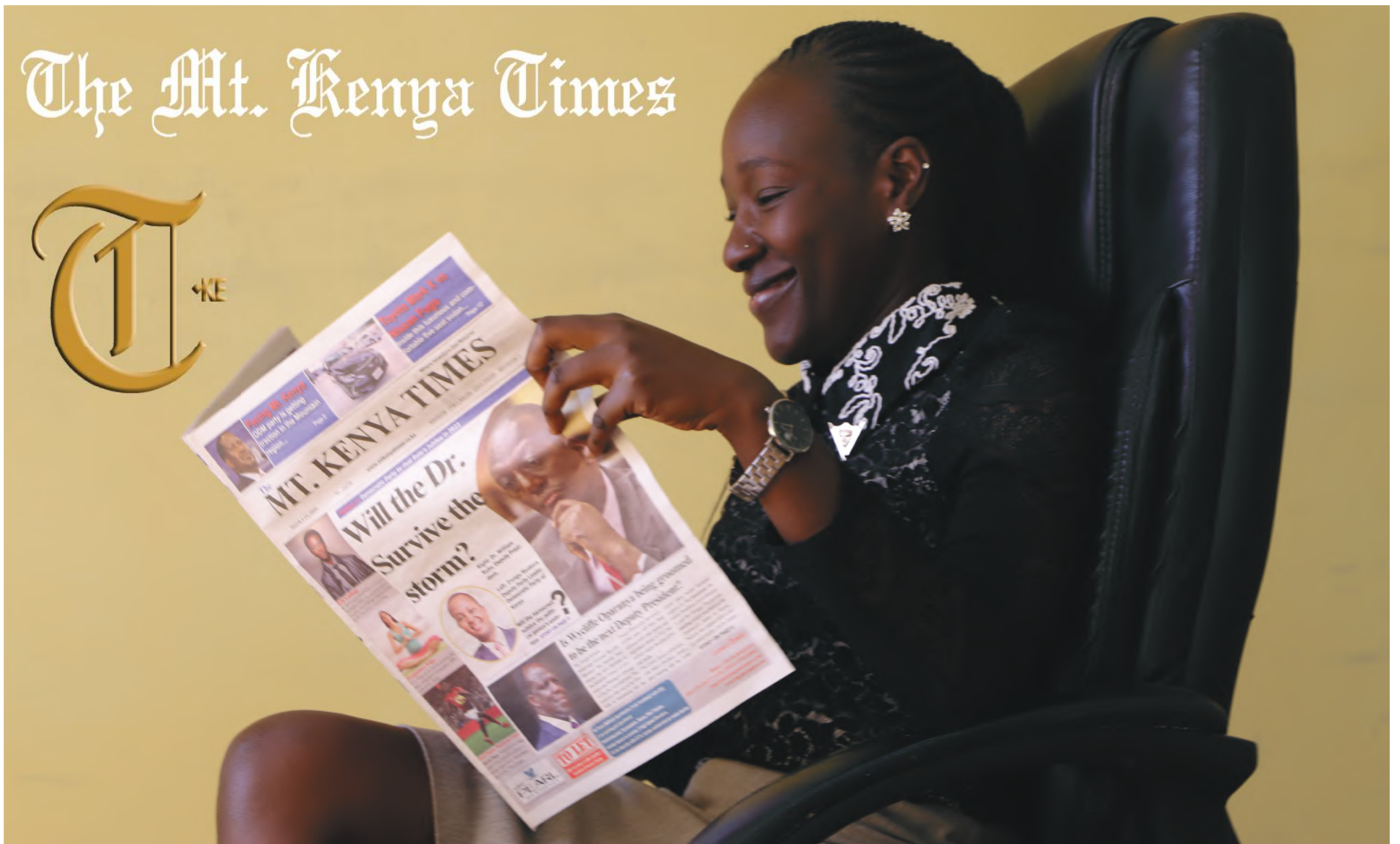
The initiative seeks to transform the economy, create wealth and employment, reduce poverty and inequality, and create a conducive environment for investment in the municipalities.

Acting Chief Officer for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning, Municipal Administration, and Urban Development, Martin Kangiri emphasised the necessity of public engagement to ensure that government projects align with the public’s needs and expectations.

“Public participation is key in government planning to ensure that the projects implemented are what the public truly needs and will benefit them directly,” he said.

Kangiri called on the public to heed this call and participate actively in these forums.

The exercise that began yesterday covered Thika, Githurai, and Kikuyu. It will also be held in Juja, Ruiru, and Kiambu, followed by Karuri, Kabete, Limuru Gatundu, Lari, and Githunguri, covering all twelve municipalities in Kiambu County.



# Why Many Kenyans Were Anxious To Hear DP Gachagua's Statement On Gen-Z Protests?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

**Worth Noting:**

- During the campaign and when we assumed we said we will be listening to what the people of Kenya are telling us. So the youth had a right to air their views. This should never happen again in our country. I'm happy the President has listened to the young people. This by refusing to sign the Finance Bill.
- The DP laid the blame squarely on the doorsteps of the Director General of National Intelligence Service Nordin Haji.
- He had totally failed the President and misled him. If he gave the President the correct advice, this bloodshed could have been avoided. The President could have moved with speed to preempt the killings. Therefore, I call upon the head of NIS to resign with immediate effect.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

As I write this, the media reports indicated that the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is due to address a press conference in Mombasa.

The second-in-command lived up to his word by releasing his first public statement since Generation-Z and millennials commenced their protests.

There were two other reasons why Kenyans were anxious to hear DP's response.

This came just one day after the protests which were initially peaceful turned chaotic and bloody.

A number of the young protestors lost their lives in the ensuing street battles with the Kenyan Police.

Hundreds of others also suffered injuries and were admitted in different hospitals across the country.

The DP's presser also came one day after President released a hard hitting statement. He minced no word in condemning hired and organized criminal gangs for infiltration of otherwise peaceful demonstrations.

The DP did not attend President Ruto's first and second press conferences. The second presser coincided with Gachagua's. In this presser, the President has made it very clear that he will not sign Finance Bill 2024. Besides while consoling the bereaved families, he reiterated his readiness to hold dialogue with young protestors.

To me, this was a wise move.

A day earlier he had reiterated.

Were it not for criminal gangs, we could not have lost the lives.

In his press conference, DP Gachagua minced no in roundly condemning the shooting and killings of our young people.

During the campaign and when we assumed we said we will be listening to what the people of Kenya are telling

us. So the youth had a right to air their views. This should never happen again in our country. I'm happy the President has listened to the young people. This by refusing to sign the Finance Bill.

The DP laid the blame squarely on the doorsteps of the Director General of National Intelligence Service Nordin Haji.

He had totally failed the President and misled him. If he gave the President the correct advice, this bloodshed could have been avoided. The President could have moved with speed to preempt the killings. Therefore, I call upon the head of NIS to resign with immediate effect.

I would also expect him to convey messages of condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones.

Some days earlier, the President had attended a church service in Nyahururu. He reiterated: "I have listened to what the young people are saying. These are our children and we have to listen to them. I'm going to engage them and I want to assure them of my commitment to address the concerns they had raised"

He spoke as Generation Z piled pressure on 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.

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 Nyahururu 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 by a foreign power. He did name this power and what it intended to achieve.

But organizers were quick to dismiss these claims. By then, the protests had been held in 18 counties.

The protests started on a day the chairpersons of the two powerful committees of the National Assembly namely Budget and Appropriation and Finance and National Planning tabled their financial report in parliament.

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

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 maintained that the budget should be more leaner.

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. During the third and final reading, chaos and bloodshed rocked parliament as the police tried to stop the protestors from accessing it.

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.

# Pioneer Child Development Programme Launches A Project For Improving Dairy Farming

By: MKT Reporters  
 @themtkenyatimes

A Non-Governmental Organisation has launched a special project aimed at animal nutrition and dairy farming.

The organisation; Pioneer Child Development Programme was joined by several other stakeholders in kick-starting the initiative which is based on impacts of climate during the ceremony that was held at Karikor area of Kiini East Sub-County in Nyeri County.

The project, dubbed, "Lishe Bora na Mama Silage" will see farmers in the area trained on several areas like; how to prepare silage from different crops, how to properly store the silage to avoid contamination and where to get the tools needed for silage making.

Some of the partners include ChildFund, Hand-In-Hand Eastern Africa and DOW Chemicals. During yesterday's event, several other organisations which indirectly deals with stakeholders in dairy farming like Nanyuki town headquartered Unison Sacco which was represented by among others their Naromoru Branch Manager Ms Elizabeth Mureithi who explained several financial products that they offer customers, more so farmers.

Others were biogas experts; SISTEMIA.bio whose sales representative Fredrick Ndumia took the guests through what it takes to have the biogas installed.

Mr John King'ori, the Pioneer CDP Executive Director who hosted the teams took farmers through various issues that they need to critically look at so as to benefit more in their farming activities, as effects of climate change continue to the world.

These include harvesting water, planting trees and adopting new farming techniques and farm management.

Child Fund officials; Steve Omware and Caroline Ngonge also took the farmers through benefits adopting and adapting the new trends in farming saying it was the only sure way of being able to address various economic and social challenges facing many Kenyans.

The farmers were informed of how climate change has negatively impacted on farmers with shortage of feed resources, and reducing feed and fodder quality whose net effect is ruminants growth, milk production, reproduction, metabolic activity, disease occurrence and control.

King'ori told the gathering that his organisation and other stakeholders promote efficient production systems, to reduce feed and fodder loss, appropriate technology adoption including of re-usable Mama Silage bags as well as proper manure management and use with the aim of reducing carbon footprint for sustainable dairy industry.

Further, the farmers were informed that Pioneer CDP aims to achieve climate smart feed production, increased feed digestibility, enhanced manure storage, treatment and use, appropriate supplementation, shrink the carbon footprint and inspire and empower farmer champions to become agents of change amongst their colleagues.

For the farmers to rip maximum benefits in dairy farming, Pioneer CDP plans to train them on sustainable production systems.

This will be through adoption of different plant varieties including legumes, mixed forages, alternate forages, and by-products in silage making so as to improve the quality of feeds for better animal health and production. They will also initiate climate smart approach to fixing soil nitrogen thus, improving soil health for regeneration.

The Chief Guest, Nyeri County Senior Livestock Production Officer David Githieya noted that the new initiative that he launched would improve the economic welfare of farmers.

Githieya who represented the County MCEC in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Aquaculture James Wachihi also presented different gifts from various stakeholders to dozens of farmers.



Pioneer CDP Executive Director John King'ori addressing journalists after the launch of 'Lishe Bora na Mama Silage' project at Kariokor in Kiini East Sub-County. With him is among others, Ms Caroline Ngonge (right) from ChildFund. Photo/PAUL WANJIRU

**Worth Noting:**

- Mr John King'ori, the Pioneer CDP Executive Director who hosted the teams took farmers through various issues that they need to critically look at so as to benefit more in their farming activities, as effects of climate change continue to the world.
- These include harvesting water, planting trees and adopting new farming techniques and farm management.
- Child Fund officials; Steve Omware and Caroline Ngonge also took the farmers through benefits adopting and adapting the new trends in farming saying it was the only sure way of being able to address various economic and social challenges facing many Kenyans.



Unison Sacco, Naromoru branch manager Ms Elizabeth Mureithi (left) taking guests through their products during the launch of 'Lishe Bora na Mama Silage' project at Kariokor area in Kiini constituency.

# LSK Responds To Ruto's Presidential Address On Tuesday And Sues Duale, National Assembly Over Military Deployment

By: Aoma Keziah and Cynthia Masibo

@themtkenyatimes



LSK President Faith Odhiambo and other LSK members addressing the press at the law society of Kenya Headquarters

## Worth Noting:

- “Mr. President, your address to the nation last night was not presidential at all, you failed to wear the face of the prayerful man of God who was elected in August 2022. Your words lacked consoling taste of remorse from a father who has lost his family members. The young men and women killed yesterday are children of this great nation to which you are constitutionally mandated father.” Remarked Ms Odhiambo

- The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has further filed a legal suit against Defence Ministry Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and Chief of Defence Forces Charles Kahariri. The case stems from the government's controversial decision to deploy military forces to manage ongoing protests against the Finance Bill 2024.

In a fervent address to the nation today, the President of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), Ms. Faith Odhiambo, voiced her concerns regarding the ongoing protests against the Finance Bill. She delivered a compelling message directed at President William Ruto, who addressed the nation yesterday.

Ms. Odhiambo expressed the LSK's solidarity with Kenyans who have taken to the streets to oppose the Finance Bill, which has been a subject of intense debate and controversy. The bill, which aims to introduce new taxes and revise existing ones, has sparked widespread dissent among citizens who fear it will exacerbate the economic burden on already struggling households.

“The voices of Kenyans must be heard and respected, it's sad that in the last 24hrs later, local hospitals are still overwhelmed by the number of injured persons with gun shot wounds. Bodies of young Kenyans lying in Nairobi and Nakuru morgues, yet no one from the government has offered help or answers.” She noted.

In her address she critiqued President Ruto's speech from the previous day, in which he defended the Finance Bill as a necessary measure for economic stability and development. She called for greater transparency and inclusivity in the decision-making process, urging the President to engage in open dialogue with all

stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the general public.

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The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has further filed a legal suit against Defence Ministry Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and Chief of Defence Forces Charles Kahariri. The case stems from the government's controversial decision to deploy military forces to manage ongoing protests against the Finance Bill 2024.

In the legal documents presented to the High Court, the LSK accuses Duale of unilaterally deploying military personnel without adhering to the legal procedures required for such an action. According to the LSK, Duale's decision bypassed necessary legislative and procedural safeguards, which undermines democratic principles and the rule of law in Kenya.

The protests, which have been largely peaceful, were sparked by widespread dissatisfaction with the proposed Finance Bill 2024. The bill,

which seeks to introduce new taxes and increase existing ones, has faced strong opposition from various civil society groups, businesses, and the general public. Protestors argue that the bill will exacerbate the economic hardships faced by many Kenyans, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living.

Faith Odhiambo, President of the LSK, asserted that the protestors have remained unarmed and peaceful, negating any justification for military intervention. “The protests are a legitimate expression of dissent in a democratic society. The use of military force is both excessive and unwarranted,” Odhiambo stated.

In the lawsuit, LSK lawyer Chrysostom Xavier Akhaabi argued that Duale's notice to deploy the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) was hastily prepared and lacked a detailed justification. Akhaabi emphasized that there was no indication of an emergency situation that would necessitate military involvement. “The deployment of the KDF to manage unarmed civilians is a disproportionate response that violates both national and international legal standards,” Akhaabi added.

The case, which has been filed before newly appointed High Court Judge Andrew Bahati Mwamuye, seeks to challenge the legality of the Defence Ministry's actions. The

LSK contends that the deployment not only breaches the Kenyan Constitution but also international human rights laws that protect the right to peaceful assembly.

Article 241(3)(c) of the Kenyan Constitution stipulates that the deployment of the KDF in situations of civil disorder can only occur with the approval of the National Assembly. The LSK argues that this constitutional requirement was not met, rendering the deployment unlawful. Furthermore, the society claims that the government has not demonstrated that the protests posed a threat that the police could not manage.

The LSK's move has garnered significant public support, with many Kenyans expressing concern over the increasing militarization of civil matters. Human rights organizations have also weighed in, warning that such actions set a dangerous precedent for the use of military force in civilian affairs.

In response to the lawsuit, the Defence Ministry has defended its actions, claiming that the deployment was necessary to maintain public order and protect property. However, critics argue that this rationale is insufficient and fails to address the core issue of legal compliance.

She also highlighted the role of the LSK in advocating for justice and upholding the rule of law. She reassured Kenyans that the society would continue to provide legal support to those participating in peaceful protests and ensure their rights are protected citing that they will stand firm in their commitment to uphold justice and protect the rights of all Kenyans and they will not waver in their duty to advocate for policies that promote fairness and equity.

The LSK President concluded her address by calling on the government to reconsider the provisions of the Finance Bill and work towards finding a solution that balances economic growth with the needs of the people. She emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration in overcoming the current challenges and building a prosperous future for all Kenyans.

The LSK's lawsuit represents a pivotal moment in Kenya's ongoing struggle to balance security and democratic freedoms. As the High Court deliberates on the case, the eyes of the nation remain fixed on the outcome, hoping for a verdict that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of peaceful protestors.

## Good Boy



Once there is, once there is no. At one time, there was a grandmother and grandchildren.

Grandma went to the market one day. When he was buying bread, he saw that his wallet was missing. Grandma was very upset. He had received his allowance only yesterday. He had 3 sons who survived him. Then he put the bread in its place and as he left the market gate, his eyes fell on a place where people were sitting. When he went there, a boy grabbed his wallet and asked people whose wallet it was. Grandmother was happy: "This is my wallet," he said. He gave the boy some money. The boy denied and said:

"I don't need your money, all you have to do is bless me," he said. The grandmother was happy and blessed the child for a long time. This is the end of our story!

Dear reader, through this story, I would like to inform you that there are such good and kind-hearted people in our nation. Although the tale is short, it has a deep meaning!

Murodova Muslima Kadyrovna was born on June 29, 2010 in Jondar district of Bukhara region. Currently, he is a 7th grade student of school No. 30 in this district. His first book of poetry was published in 2024 under the name "Come beautiful spring". Winner of many achievements. He won the 2nd place at the festival held in the district. She won the 1st place in the district stage and the 2nd place in the regional stage of the "Bakhtim Shul: Zulfiyasiman Uzbek" contest. His first anthology was published by the UK publisher JustFictionEdition. Founder of "Muslima's" blog. A young teacher who was able to develop about 250 artists. Owner of more than 50 international certificates.

## My Impression To Lermantov's 'Hero Of Our Time'



what kind of pain it is, and how to heal it knows." Whether or not you want to read a book depicting the people of Lermantov's time, the Russian society of that time, is up to you.

I bring to your attention these excerpts from the language of the hero of the work, the conclusion is from yourself: "What is pride itself? - a phrase that means striving to be superior to everyone else. My greatest source of pleasure is to subjugate those around me to my will; isn't it a sign and the greatest celebration of this superiority, to create a feeling of love, loyalty and fear in others towards me? No right isn't it the sweetest part of our pride to cause someone else's pain or joy without having it? What is satiated pride?"

"Hero of our time" is a prose work of M. Y. Lermantov.

The main character of the work is a young Russian officer, Grigory Alexandrovich Pechorin. In the 1st part of the work, Pechorin is presented in the imagination of Maxim Maksimovich, in the 2nd part, we hear Pechorin's description in his own language (side notebook).

The character of Pechorin was selfish, always thinking about himself, who could pretend to be very happy, very lonely and unhappy.

He wants to be loved, but he himself is not truly lovable, he did not want to sacrifice anything for anyone. He was looking for news, he found it, but he quickly got bored and started looking for it again...

The work describes a society of people, not people.

And the fact that the author of the work gives this name is a bitter irony.

I found it permissible to quote what the author said about the work: "You say that morality does not benefit from this? I'm sorry. It's enough that we feed people with so many sweet things; it upsets their stomachs; they need bitter medicine, sharp truths. But after what I said, the author of this book once told people Don't think that he is a proud dreamer of a cure. He only took pleasure in describing the person of the present time whom he met so much against his happiness. It is enough to show him

In the first and second picture, Lermantov's book, In the second photo, the author of the article is Aziza Saparbaeva.

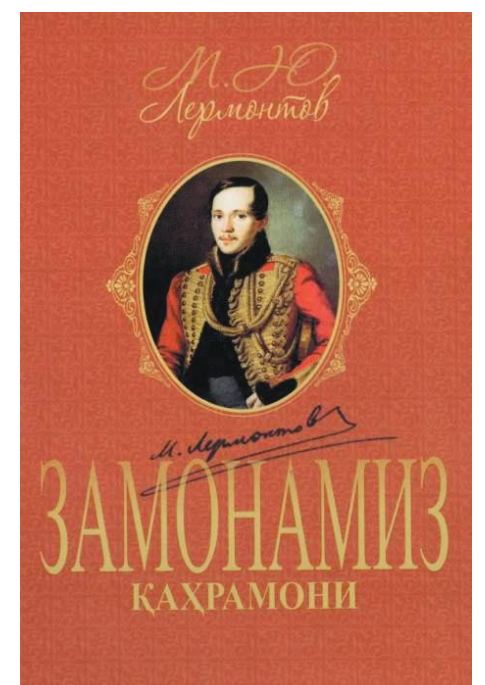
Aziza Saparbaeva, student of the 3rd stage of history education, Urganch State University, Faculty of Socio-Economic Sciences, winner of the state scholarship named after Navoi.

## Poets Of Uzbekistan's Kalem

Khudaiberganova Mehrinisa, a student of the 6th IDUM of the Tuproqkala district of the Khorezm region of the Republic of Uzbekistan, published the international collection "Poets of Uzbekistan's Kalem". The collection includes the works of Uzbek, Kazakh, Turkish, Karakalpak and Korean artists. The collection was published in cooperation with "Alfraganus" University.

The book was submitted for publication in 2023 and was released in full in February 2024. The presentation was held for 3 days in the Turkish cities of Alanya and Istanbul. The collection was rated as "The Best Collection of the Five Months" and was among the top twenty bestselling books of the five months.

Currently, it is expected to establish cooperation with universities and new publishers of Turkey.



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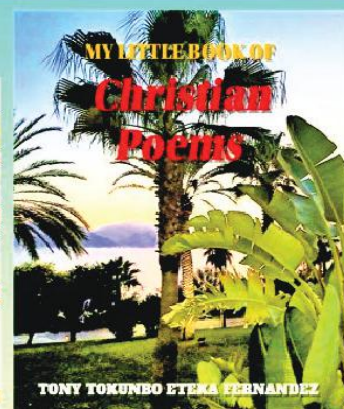
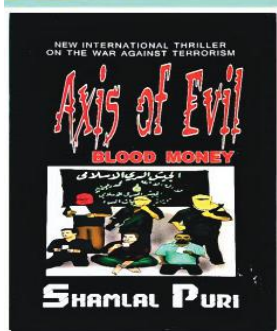
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## BUSINESS

# Huawei Launches AI Network Access “Open City Plan” To Enable Network Productivity To Leap Forward

By: Mike Omuodo  
@themtkenyatimes



Zhao Dong - Vice President of Huawei Wireless Network Product Line and Chief Marketing Officer

## Worth Noting:

- Reshape O&M and enable engineers to work in a simple and efficient manner. Huawei has launched the world's first intelligent assistant for site engineers. Based on massive professional knowledge and experience, it can autonomously generate problem-solving strategies, significantly improving the O&M efficiency of engineers.
- For example, in optical path troubleshooting, the repair efficiency can be increased by 10 times. Reshape the experience and take over the network to achieve autonomous optimization of both experience and energy saving. The wireless intelligent body realizes an autonomous closed loop of daily network optimization through multi-dimensional high-precision real-time perception, as well as the generation and distribution of optimal experience and energy saving strategies.

During the 2024 MWC Shanghai, Zhao Dong, Vice President of Huawei Wireless Network Product Line and Chief Marketing Officer, released the AI Network Opening Plan at the 5G-A & AI Roundtable. The plan aims to cooperate with global operators to comprehensively improve network productivity by building a wireless intelligent ecosystem of co-creation, co-existence and co-growth. The first phase of the plan will empower 1,000 site engineers within half a year to manage more than 10,000 sites, covering five cities including Hangzhou, Guangzhou, Bangkok, Jinan and Shenzhen.

After three years of continuous innovation and efforts in the industry, 5G-A has gone from vision to reality, and the first year of commercial use has officially begun. So far, 5G-A has achieved remarkable results in the commercial use of networks, services, and terminals. In response to the increasing complexity of network operation and maintenance, the diversification of network characteristics, and the need for multi-dimensional experience management, Huawei proposed the “Intelligent Network”

strategy to build a wireless intelligent body, reshape operation and maintenance, experience, and services, inject intelligence into the 5G-A network, and improve the quality and efficiency of operators. At the same time, the wireless intelligent body is role-oriented, providing an intelligent assistant that supports intelligent question-and-answer assistance; it is scenario-oriented, providing an intelligent agent that supports autonomous closed loops.

Reshape O&M and enable engineers to work in a simple and efficient manner. Huawei has launched the world's first intelligent assistant for site engineers. Based on massive professional knowledge and experience, it can autonomously generate problem-solving strategies, significantly improving the O&M efficiency of engineers. For example, in optical path troubleshooting, the repair efficiency can be increased by 10 times. Reshape the experience and take over the network to achieve autonomous optimization of both experience and energy saving. The wireless intelligent body realizes an autonomous closed loop of daily network opti-

mization through multi-dimensional high-precision real-time perception, as well as the generation and distribution of optimal experience and energy saving strategies. Huawei and operators have carried out the world's first wireless intelligent body on-duty pilot, which has currently achieved unmanned operation in 223 cells and has run smoothly for thousands of hours.

Reshape the business and enable diversified business experience management. Real-time evaluation of network resources based on wireless intelligent bodies helps operators achieve zero-wait activation of new services and deterministic experience guarantee, significantly improving user experience. The 5G-A super live package pilot currently underway provides users with deterministic uplink experience rates, accelerating the innovation of operators' business models such as experience monetization.

Zhao Dong said: “In the AI Network Opening Plan, Huawei will transform from a solution provider to a co-creator of operators' intelligent networks. Through the symbiosis of

intelligent entities and networks, we will provide operators with more extensive business value, accelerate the intelligent transformation of networks, and lead the wireless communications industry into a new intelligent era.”

2024 MWC Shanghai was held in Shanghai, China from June 26 to June 28. Huawei's exhibition area is located in the E10 and E50 exhibition areas of Hall N1 of the Shanghai New International Expo Center (SNIEC). 2024 is the first year of 5G-A commercialization; F5G-A, marked by 10G optical networks, has set sail; the coordinated development of “network, cloud and intelligence” is stimulating richer digital experiences and more ubiquitous intelligent applications. Huawei, together with global operators, industry elites, opinion leaders, etc., have in-depth discussions on how to move from a prosperous 5G to a more prosperous 5G-A era, expand new space for operators' revenue growth, and accelerate the move towards an intelligent world.



# 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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# The Price Of Critique: Analyzing Kenya's Descent Into Extrajudicial Intimidation



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

Kenyan literature has long grappled with themes of state oppression and the struggle for individual rights. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's seminal work "Petals of Blood" serves as a poignant reminder of the dangers of unchecked state power and the importance of citizen activism. The current situation echoes the themes explored in such works, highlighting the ongoing relevance of these concerns in contemporary Kenyan society.

The alleged abductions also contravene international law and Kenya's obligations under various human rights treaties. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Kenya is a signatory, prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights similarly protects the right to liberty and security of the person.

Recent reports of abductions allegedly carried out by Kenyan police have raised grave concerns about the state of civil liberties and the rule of law in the country. These incidents, targeting individuals perceived as critical of government policies, represent a troubling trend that appears to contravene fundamental rights enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 explicitly guarantees the right to freedom of expression under Article 33, which includes the freedom to seek, receive, or impart information or ideas. Furthermore, Article 29 protects the freedom and security of the person, including the right not to be deprived of freedom arbitrarily or without just cause. The reported abductions seem to be in direct violation of these constitutional provisions.

In the landmark case of *Boniface Mwangi v Inspector General of Police & 5 others* [2017] eKLR, the High Court emphasized the importance of protecting human rights defenders and activists from state intimidation. Justice Mwita stated, "The Constitution gives rights and fundamental freedoms to every person including human rights defenders and activists." This ruling underscores the legal protections that should shield critics of government policies from persecution.

The principle of separation of powers, a cornerstone of Kenya's constitutional democracy, is also at stake. By apparently using extrajudicial means to silence dissent, the executive branch may be overstepping its authority and infringing upon the judiciary's role in administering justice. This erosion of checks and balances poses a significant threat to Kenya's

democratic institutions.

Kenyan literature has long grappled with themes of state oppression and the struggle for individual rights. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's seminal work "Petals of Blood" serves as a poignant reminder of the dangers of unchecked state power and the importance of citizen activism. The current situation echoes the themes explored in such works, highlighting the ongoing relevance of these concerns in contemporary Kenyan society.

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From a legal perspective, these actions, if proven, would constitute a form of enforced disappearance. In the case of *Hassan and Another v Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and Others* [2012] eKLR, the Court of Appeal of Kenya recognized enforced disappearance as a violation of multiple constitutional rights, including the right to life, liberty, and security of the person.

The impact of these abductions extends beyond the immediate victims. They create a climate of fear that can lead to self-censorship and a chilling effect on public discourse. This atmosphere of intimidation undermines the vibrant civil society that is essential for a healthy democracy and goes against the spirit of Article 36 of the Constitution, which protects the freedom of association.

It is worth noting that the National

Police Service Act of 2011 outlines clear procedures for arrests and detentions. Any actions taken outside these legal frameworks not only violate the rights of individuals but also undermine public trust in law enforcement institutions. This erosion of trust can have far-reaching consequences for the effectiveness of policing and the maintenance of public order.

The judiciary holds a pivotal role in safeguarding human rights and ensuring accountability within a legal framework. This is exemplified in *Petition 628 of 2014 consolidated with Petition 630 of 2014 and Petition 12 of 2015*, where the High Court highlighted the critical importance of judicial oversight in cases involving alleged human rights abuses by state actors. This landmark decision underscores the judiciary's duty to intervene decisively to uphold the rights of citizens, even in the face of state power. By providing a mechanism for legal redress and accountability, the judiciary not only protects individual freedoms but also strengthens the rule of law, ensuring that no one is above scrutiny and that justice is accessible to all.

The precedent set by these cases underscores the judiciary's role as a check on government authority and a defender of constitutional rights. Judicial intervention serves to balance the scales of power, offering a means for individuals to challenge abuses and seek remedies when their rights are violated. In doing so, the judiciary reinforces public trust in democratic institutions and fosters a culture of accountability among state agents. This proactive stance by the courts is essential in promoting a society where the rights and dignity of every

individual are respected, and where justice prevails regardless of one's position or influence. Thus, the judiciary's commitment to robust oversight not only corrects past wrongs but also prevents future abuses, making it a cornerstone of a just and equitable society.

Civil society organizations and human rights defenders play a vital role in documenting and challenging such abuses. Their work, protected under Article 37 of the Constitution on the right to assembly, demonstration, picketing, and petition, is essential for maintaining government accountability and protecting democratic values.

In conclusion, the reported abductions in Kenya constitute a grave threat to the country's constitutional framework and democratic values. These incidents undermine the rule of law by violating the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in Kenya's constitution. The abductions not only perpetrate fear and uncertainty among the populace but also erode trust in government institutions tasked with safeguarding citizen rights. Addressing this issue requires immediate and coordinated action from all sectors of society.

To effectively tackle this challenge, it is imperative for Kenya's government to prioritize upholding the rule of law and ensuring that constitutional rights are respected without compromise. This entails thorough investigations into each reported abduction, holding perpetrators accountable through fair judicial processes, and providing transparency in the outcomes. Moreover, strengthening legal protections and mechanisms to prevent such occurrences in the future is essential to restore public confidence and safeguard democratic principles.

Beyond domestic efforts, the international community must also play a supportive role by monitoring the situation closely and advocating for human rights and due process in Kenya. International pressure and scrutiny can serve as a catalyst for positive change, encouraging the Kenyan government to take decisive actions towards resolving these abductions and preventing their recurrence. By collectively addressing this crisis, Kenya can reaffirm its commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, demonstrating to its citizens and the world its resilience and dedication to upholding fundamental freedoms.

*The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



# Alarming Rise Of Road Accidents In Kenya

Kenya is currently facing a concerning issue of increased road accidents, causing a significant number of fatalities and injuries each year. The country's roads are becoming more dangerous; with a rising trend of accidents that is causing widespread concern.

In the past year, data from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) shows a 10% increase in road accidents, with over 3,000 deaths and 15,000 injuries reported. This is a worrying trend that is affecting the lives of many Kenyan families and communities.

The causes of these accidents are varied, but some of the most common factors include speeding, reckless driving, drunk driving, and poor road conditions. Many drivers in Kenya are not following the rules of the road, leading to dangerous situations and accidents.

The impact of these accidents is far-reaching, affecting not only the victims and their families but also the economy. The cost of medical treatment, property damage, and lost productivity due to accidents is estimated to be billions of shillings each year.

The government is taking steps to

address this crisis, with the NTSA implementing measures such as increased traffic enforcement and road safety campaigns. However, more needs to be done to ensure that Kenya's roads are safe for all users.

One solution is to improve road infrastructure, including the construction of pedestrian walkways, cycle lanes, and proper signage. This will help to reduce the number of accidents caused by poor road conditions and ensure that all road users have a safe space to travel.

Another solution is to improve driv-

er education and training, ensuring that drivers are aware of the rules of the road and the importance of safe driving. This can be achieved through mandatory driver training programs and regular refresher courses.

In addition, there is a need for increased public awareness of road safety, with campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of reckless driving and the importance of following traffic rules.

The rising trend of road accidents in Kenya is a crisis that requires urgent attention. The government, private sec-

tor, and civil society must work together to address this issue and ensure that Kenya's roads are safe for all users. By taking action now, we can prevent needless deaths and injuries and build a safer future for all Kenyans.

*By Athanus Muindi  
Rongo university.*

## Health Is Wealth

By: **Irfan Khan**

Illustrating reality, and stipulating a sort of negligence, I wish to shed light on one of the priceless gifts that Almighty Allah has provided to us freely. Thanks gratefulness to Almighty Allah who has bestowed numerous gifts upon human beings, and good health is one of them. It is undoubtedly true that exhibiting least care in eating and drinking menu devises large health related issues in the later. In the adoption of overeating and overindulgence habits, there remains no hope to maintain good health and vigorous body.

Annat Ambani, the son of Mukaiish Ambani (South Asia's richest man) is incessantly grappling with heavy physical weight restraints since last few years. During wedding, in a video on Social Media, it came to light that his father seemed weeping and with eyes shedding tears just because of Annat's untreated disease. The latter's recovery has almost become impossible. Mukaiish's hard earned and great riches did not assist in providing good health to Annat. It is an indicative that a human is helpless and incapable to largely facilitate his life.

"Life without health is not a life, but is a state of languor and hunger, an image of death", said by Mahatma Buddha, hovering light and informing individuals about the utmost significance of health. Undeniably, it is true that poverty unleashes and death emanates when one loses this gift. What surely manifests extremely imperative and dedicated effort for each and every individual is to pay full attention towards building a healthy life, free of fatal diseases, and physical weakness. This is en-

visaged as the fundamental duty. It should be remembered that 'one can buy a doctor, and not good health', underscoring health the most precious and worthy blessing.

After his arrival and settling on this planet (earth), human commenced endeavour in search of finding bread and butter in order to satisfy hunger, and make food available for offsprings.

With the passage of time, he emerged financially more stable and made an easy access to food through hardwork and great efforts. Today, it is sure that a human is the richest specie, and enjoys a facilitated life as compared with other existing species. It is staggering that, after getting advanced in technology, machinery and the availability of employees have further facilitated

our lives, and we have no work to do.

Ostensibly, on one hand, we are embarking endeavours to earn more facilities to make life more comfortable, but on the other side of coin we ourselves are inflicting damage to it in various ways. Over ambition, the biggest cause of unhappiness, has harmed us mentally, while the abundance of facilities has dwindled us physically, leaving no physical work.

Overeating unquestionably plagues physical health on the account of spawning a number of compulsions, including bodily weight-concerned compulsions. According to health experts, it is determined that 1Kg weight increases inside the body from the collection of 7000 calories. In the age before 30, a body holds the ability to digest large chunk of ingested food, and further convert it into energy which is eventually supplied to cells. This ability debilitates



after the passage of aforementioned age, thus the digested food in the body is mostly stored, in the form of proteins, glucose, carbohydrates and lipids (calories). These all operate and play role in mounting the body weight. In this regard, fostering awareness to take adequate amount of food on daily basis, at the mentioned age, is sublimely indispensable in order to enable and aware individuals to abstain from overeating, which is harmful to good health.

Taking spicy or added sugar products inflict monstrous demolition to body. This can surely trigger out diabetes and blood pressure compulsions after a long period, and both's exits from the body are almost unfeasible. In addition, it is observed that we perennially take oily, added sugar and spicy meals (prepared in bazaars) which are extremely damaging to body as they contain high levels of carbohydrates, lipids, glucose and sometimes contaminated and stale ingredients. This, without any doubt, is a full blown mischief that we perpetrate in daily life just to appease tongue-taste, but what manifests re-

ally unfortunate is that we forget the greatest bane we perform.

Additionally, giving up the eating of fruits and vegetables shows down our recklessness. The use of these naturally produced meals is highly beneficial. Likewise, with placing large obligations on our head, we lack time for physical exercise which is fruitful and quietly inevitable for keeping a vigorous body. This is really our dullness and carelessness that we display every day, and what looms venerable is to cut out little time for sports activities and physical exercises. This is the best panacea to maintain a healthy life, liberated from diseases.

In brief, as health is the precious gift, what appears really significant and imperious is to refrain from all unhygienic meals and show great care in eating and drinking menu. Eschewing outside prepared dishes, and heading off cool drinks are requisite. Taking participation and immense interest in sports activities is compulsory to strengthen physical growth and deplete inertness. The sole transit towards enjoying prosperous and

healthy life is to adopt the above mentioned habits.

Apart from these elaborated efforts, earning more and more riches is not bad, but wrestling to earn more facilities and restricting one self to bed (no work and task to do) is reprehensible. 'Self done, well done' an English proverb, truly entails and places emphasis to forge self working habit. The latter not only gleans physical reinforcement, but also provides assistance in keeping one mentally thrived.

Leading life in a beautiful manner is necessary, but facilitating life to a very great extent is not worthy as Allah himself has not made life easy in this world.

Let us all remember and comprehend that 'happiness lies only in good health, but not in the delicious meals', and necessitate physical work as the part and parcel of life.

*The writer is a student. He can be reached at: irfankhantareen10@gmail.com*

# Court To Rule On Legality Of KDF Deployment Today

By: Dzuya Walter

The High Court will rule on a petition filed by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) challenging the deployment of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) amid the ongoing anti-Finance Bill protests today.

The court ordered parties in the case to appear virtually for a brief hearing in the petition pitting the LSK against the State and the Defence Cabinet Secretary.

In documents filed in court, LSK says that no state of emergency under Article 58 of the Constitution has been declared by President William Ruto in exercising his constitutional mandate under Article 132 (4) (d) of the Constitution.

“No emergency, disaster, insecurity, unrest or instability has been officially declared to exist in Kenya, and to be outside the mandate, scope or capacity of the National Police or any

other authority to warrant the deployment of the KDF to provide support to the National Police in the manner envisaged in the Impugned Gazette Notice,” reads the petition.

They say that the Tuesday Gazette notice by Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale is contrary to the Constitution and poses a huge threat of violation of the fundamental rights and freedoms of many Kenyans who may wish to exercise their right to peacefully protest within the confines of the Constitution and the law.

“Indeed, many Kenyans, especially youth between the ages of 18 to 35 are outraged by the current state of public finance management in the country and the government’s proclivity towards increasing taxes to fund its spending.

“As such, the youth have organised themselves and hundreds of thousands across the Country have turned up to carry out peaceful protests calling for the rejection of the Finance Bill 2024 is a demonstration of their frustration with the Government,”



LSK President Faith Odhiambo in a Citizen TV interview on June 16, 2024..

they argue.

It is their argument that the deployment is illegal and unconstitutional.

“What makes the move illegal and unconstitutional move clearly un-

precedented is that save for the military coup in the year 1982, no other time in the history of our Republic

has there ever been a carte blanche deployment of the military for pur-

poses of supporting the National Police during civilian demonstrations,”

LSK says.

# Julius Malema’s EFF Party Condemns Kenyan Police Brutality In Anti-Finance Bill Demos

By: Citizen Reporter

South African opposition leader Julius Malema’s Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party has condemned the Kenya Police’s violent quelling of protesters in Tuesday’s demonstrations against the Finance Bill 2024.

In a statement on Wednesday, EFF termed the use of live ammunition on unarmed citizens by Kenyan police as unacceptable and a violation of human rights.

“Instead of de-escalating the conflict, the Kenyan government chose to exacerbate it by deploying police, and have also chosen to deploy the army under the guise of addressing a ‘security emergency’,” EFF said.

The party criticised President William Ruto’s comments that “organised criminals” had hijacked discourse on the unpopular proposed law, through which his government seeks to hike taxes.

Ruto in a televised address in the evening termed Tuesday’s events a

threat to national security and vowed to crack down on the “planners, financiers, orchestrators and abettors of violence and anarchy.”

He deployed the military to back the police force’s security enforcement.

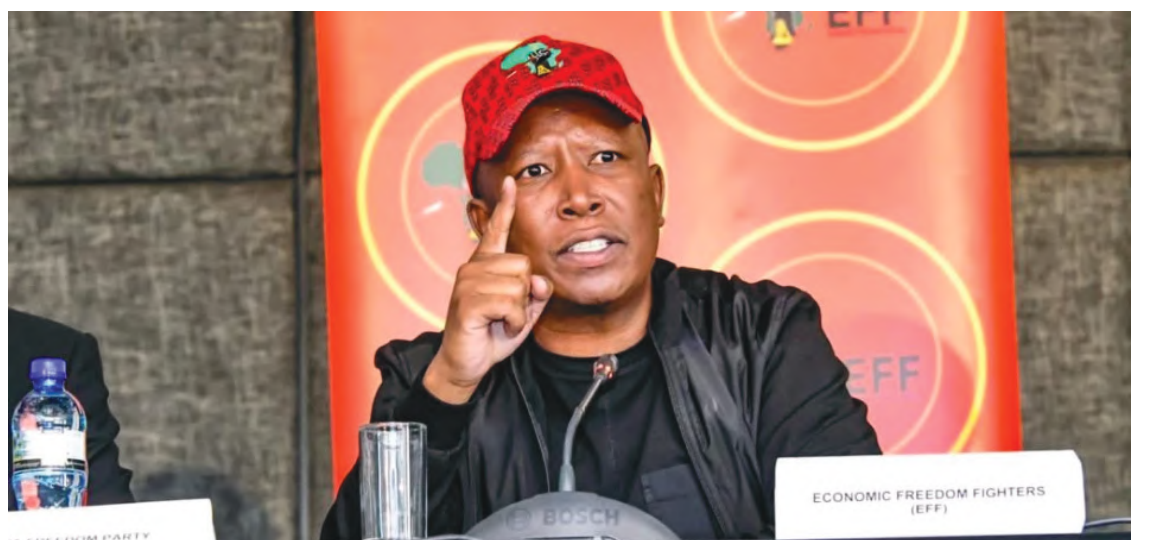
But EFF sees Ruto’s language as a demonstration of disregard for Kenyans’ grievances.

“This oppressive response highlights the President’s willingness to resort to deadly force to push through his Finance Bill, which clearly serves the interests of Western powers at the expense of his own citizens,” reads the statement.

“Deploying the military against your own people is simply unethical. The role of the military is to protect the nation, not to confront unarmed protesters with legitimate grievances.”

The party urged President Ruto to stop “the violent suppression of protesters, withdraw the military and police from the streets, and engage in meaningful dialogue with the citizens of Kenya.”

“The EFF stands in solidarity with the people of Kenya in their struggle against oppressive governance and economic exploitation,” Malema’s



South African opposition leader Julius Malema. | FILE.

party said.

Tuesday’s demonstrations culminated in violent scenes as crowds broke through police lines and breached Parliament buildings in Nairobi after legislators passed the bill, which now awaits presidential assent to become law.

The ceremonial mace, which symbolizes the authority of the legisla-

ture, was stolen, some parts of the parliament building vandalised and a section of it set on fire.

Police fired live ammunition at the mob, killing at least five people and injuring over 30 others, according to Amnesty International.

Over 125 people were injured in the day’s events, the human rights organisation HAKI Africa said.

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday urged Kenyan authorities to restrain from violence and pave the way for peaceful demonstrations.

Moussa Faki, the African Union Commission chairperson, urged stakeholders to exercise calm and welcome constructive dialogue.

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# Digital Certification System To Reduce Transaction Costs For Traders

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themtkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Congratulating KEPHIS for this innovative achievement, the PS singled out the IEICS as an example on how state agencies, with the support of partners such as Denmark and TradeMark Africa, are facilitating initiatives to improve the business environment through automation of systems for trade agencies.
- “The launch of IEICS is in line with government’s initiatives to digitise processes, thus facilitating the ease of doing business,” he said.
- Previously, there were two systems: the Export Certification System used to facilitate plant exports to market destinations and the Import Certification System that KEPHIS used to facilitate imports.



Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) has officially launched the Integrated Export and Import Certification System (IEICS).

The innovative digital platform is designed to slash the time and cost associated with obtaining trade plant health certificates, licenses and permits for plant and plant materials.

State Department for Agriculture Principal Secretary Paul Rono who unveiled the platform on Tuesday termed it as an important milestone for traders of plants and plant products.

“The new System is a game-changer in how traders dealing in the import and export of plants or plant materials can engage more efficiently and seamlessly with KEPHIS and other agencies through integrated modules,” Dr Rono added.

The PS noted that noble initiatives such as this are aligned with the Government’s efforts to improve the environment for doing business and positioning the country as an attractive destination to invest in.

Congratulating KEPHIS for this innovative achievement, the PS sin-

gled out the IEICS as an example on how state agencies, with the support of partners such as Denmark and TradeMark Africa, are facilitating initiatives to improve the business environment through automation of systems for trade agencies.

“The launch of IEICS is in line with government’s initiatives to digitise processes, thus facilitating the ease of doing business,” he said.

Previously, there were two systems: the Export Certification System used to facilitate plant exports to market destinations and the Import Certification System that KEPHIS used to facilitate imports.

KEPHIS Managing Director, Prof Theophilus Mutui, said the innovative system will streamline the certification process, thereby saving traders time and money, while improving overall efficiency of regulatory work as far as the certification process is concerned.

“The system has also enabled government to government exchange of trade information and data through electronic phytosanitary certification platform (ePhyto), thereby reducing forgeries of permits and certificates

issued or received by international trading partners,” he added.

By automating the certification process, KEPHIS is promoting a more business-friendly environment and the IEICS system will reduce paperwork, physical interaction and effectively map regional offices for clients’ access.

According to KEPHIS, this has also reduced the administrative burden and transaction cost for traders or their appointed agents by up to 15 percent in that all processes are carried out in real time, and the status communicated to the trader.

Acting Senior Director, Trade Environment at TradeMark Africa, Benedict Musengele said the system will provide a user-friendly online-based automated system for submitting applications, paying the requisite fees, tracking the approval process, and receiving certificates.

Additionally, he added that there is more transparency in the certification process as traders can now track the progress of their applications through the system without having to contact anyone for updates.

The launch of the Integrated Export

and Import Certification System (IEICS) comes even as KEPHIS is preparing to host the first International Seed Conference in August 2024 on seed quality assurance.

KEPHIS is the government agency whose mandate is to assure the quality of agricultural inputs and produce to promote food security and economic growth through three key areas: seed certification, protection of plant varieties, phytosanitary services and analyses of agricultural inputs and produce through globally accredited laboratories.

TradeMark Africa (TMA) formerly TradeMark East Africa, is a leading African aid-for-trade organisation that was established with an aim to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa’s share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable.

# Kwale Begins Upgrading Tourism Infrastructure At A Cost Of Sh20 Million

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes



Governor Fatuma Achani

## Worth Noting:

- Achani spoke when she launched the commencement of works for the upgrade of Watatu Watano and Mvureni beach access roads and street lighting projects in Diani area of Msambweni Sub County.
- She underscored her administration's commitment to improving infrastructure projects throughout Kwale to drive economic growth for both tourists and residents.
- "Upon completion of these roads and street lights the increased traffic volume to and from the beaches will experience fewer delays in travel time," she said, noting that Kwale's economic strengths lies in tourism.
- Governor Achani says the tourism infrastructure upgrade will ensure tourists visit attraction sites in a safe, comfortable and accessible manner.

Kwale county government has announced infrastructure plans to develop beach access roads and street lighting projects at a cost of Sh20 million to promote the tourism sector.

Governor Fatuma Achani says the beaches are great resources for coastal tourism development as they attract a large number of domestic and international tourists annually and called for the transformative enhancement of the tourism infrastructure.

The plans also include upgrading transportation infrastructure and creating new tourist attraction sites to offer innovative tourism experiences and in line with the county's vision of improving the road network.

She says the improvements of beachfronts will make streets along the shores safer and brighter around the evenings while beach access roads will provide more convenient access to the famous tourism destinations.

Achani spoke when she launched the commencement of works for the upgrade of Watatu Watano and

Mvureni beach access roads and street lighting projects in Diani area of Msambweni Sub County.

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"Upon completion of these roads and street lights the increased traffic volume to and from the beaches will experience fewer delays in travel time," she said, noting that Kwale's economic strengths lies in tourism.

Governor Achani says the tourism infrastructure upgrade will ensure tourists visit attraction sites in a safe, comfortable and accessible manner.

Achani says the beach roads and street lighting infrastructure in Diani, a paradise of sand, sea and culture will transform the county's tourism landscape.

"The installation of streetlights will enhance the safety and security for beachgoers and serve the buzzing 24-hour tourism businesses," she said.

The stunning stretch of sand and sea in Diani beach offers something for everyone, from swimming, sun-

bathing and relaxation.

Diani beach is the preferred holiday destination for both domestic and foreign tourists and each year it receives a record number of holiday-makers arriving to savour its beautiful scenery.

The resort town of Diani with its clear blue water and white sandy beaches have seen the South Coast town voted the best destination beach in Africa for seven years in a row by the World Travel Awards.

Achani says Diani with its accessibility and diverse offerings makes it a popular choice for those looking to unwind by the sea.

She says with significant potential to drive economic growth and job creation, the tourism sector is increasingly an area of focus for investment by the devolved government.

The coastal county boss who was accompanied by County Trade and Tourism Executive Michael Mutua and his Social Services and Talent Management counterpart Francisca Kilonzo says her administration is out to promote Kwale's potential as a beach and holiday destination.

Achani has reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring the timely completion of ongoing projects across the county.

"My dedication to improving and making the beach accessible is expected to have a significant impact, enhancing the tourism experience, attracting more visitors, and stimulating economic growth in Diani and the entire county," said Achani.

Meanwhile, Achani who has been awarded the Woman of Excellence in Tourism 2024 by Kenya Association of Women in Tourism for her immense contribution to the massive growth of the tourism industry in Kwale.

Achani says the reward is also recognition for Diani Beach being voted the best beach destination in Africa for 7 years consecutively and the country's efforts in promoting leisure tourism.

# Startimes Launches DTT Services in Kwale and Kilifi Counties

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Startimes, a leading digital TV service provider, has expanded its Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) services to Kwale and Kilifi counties.

This expansion aims to provide enhanced television services to customers in these regions, who will now be able to access Startimes channels through aerial decoders.

In Kwale County, the areas that will benefit from the new DTT services include Tiwi, Ukunda, Msambweni, Shimoni, Vistagalaweni, Lunga-Lunga, Romisi, Geazi, Mbegani, Mwadimu, Muliloni, Gifyonzo, and Ndaweya.

In Kilifi County, the areas that will benefit from the new DTT services include Watamu, Matsangoni, Kilifi, Barane, Jaribuni, Thuva, Takaungo, Dindiri, Bomani, Chasimbi Hills, Kibaoni, Kaloleni, Mbuyuni, Kikambala, and Mtwapa.

According to Myke Mwai, the head of PR and Content Syndicate at Star-

times, the recent launch signifies a significant milestone in the company's mission to bring digital TV to more households across Kenya.

He said that the expansion of DTT services to the two Counties will provide a range of Startimes channels to new customers, enhancing their viewing experience with a variety of entertainment, news, and educational content.

"Startimes customers with Aerial Decoders in Kwale and Kilifi counties can now watch Startimes channels and access PANG as well," Mwai stated.

He noted that this initiative is part of Startimes' broader strategy to increase its market presence and improve digital TV accessibility in underserved regions.

"Residents in these areas will now have access to a wide range of digital channels, which promises to enhance their television viewing experience significantly. The introduction of DTT services in these regions is expected to boost local entertainment options and provide a more diversified media landscape," Mwai added.

This development follows closely on



the heels of PANG's recent expansion of its broadcasting capacity in Kenya, marked by the acquisition of four additional television frequencies.

This acquisition increased PANG's total assigned frequencies from 125

to 129, solidifying its position as the broadcaster with the most frequencies in the country.

The new frequencies were secured from the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), the regulatory body

responsible for overseeing the allocation and use of broadcasting frequencies in the nation.

# Why Many Kenyans Were Anxious To Hear DP Gachagua's Statement On Gen-Z Protests?

Contd from Page 11.

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 noted. 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.

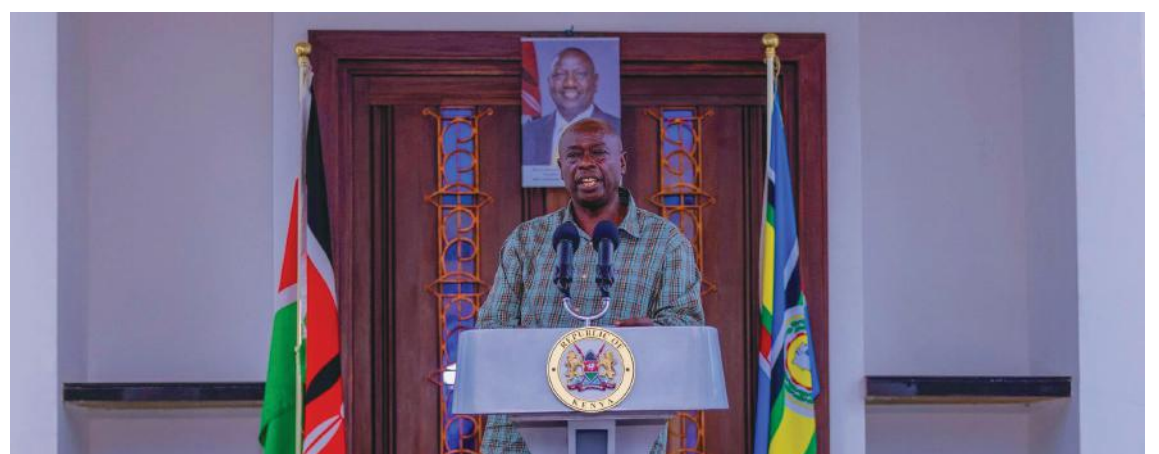
He however cautioned KRA against harassing Kenyans when collecting the taxes. You should handle this matter in a humane and respectable manner.

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



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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

# Azimio Threatens Court Action If Government Excesses On Demonstrators Continue

By: WANGECHI PURITY



Azimio La Umoja coalition leader Co-Principal Kalonzo Musyoka.

Azimio La Umoja coalition has threatened to move to court if government excesses against demonstrators continue.

Co-Principal Kalonzo Musyoka claimed that over 200 Kenyans lost their lives while protesting across the country but we have not independently verified his claims.

According to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), 22 people were killed in Nairobi, Isiolo, Mombasa and Kakamega while 300 were injured and 50 others were arrested.

The military was deployed to assist the police in restoring order on Tuesday evening, following reports of extensive shooting in several city estates, particularly Juja and Githurai.

“We demand an end to the Gestapo/SS-like abductions, killings, and the immediate release of all abductees. As Azimio, we will fight to defend the Constitution of Kenya. We shall also be challenging the unlawful actions of William Ruto and his murderous regime,” Musyoka stated.

The young Kenyans were demonstrating against the Finance Bill

2024, forcing President William Ruto to drop it.

The Wiper Leader criticized President Ruto’s national address, where he described Tuesday’s violent chaos as treasonous and vowed a firm response to restore normalcy. Ruto asserted that the chaos was orchestrated and funded by unnamed individuals aiming to destabilize the country.

“Ruto never condoled the fallen and their families and instead congratulated the brute police for killing innocent and unarmed protesters. This was in the same fashion he did last year where 75 Kenyans were killed during the Maandamano, and he

congratulated the police for ‘a job well done,’” Musyoka stated.

Musyoka pushed for the withdrawal of the Finance Bill 2024 until conclusive dialogue is held to address the grievances raised by Kenyans. Demonstrations against the Finance Bill began last week, led by Generation Z activists, who planned a week-long series of protests. These started with an Occupy Parliament event and included intentions to march to State House later in the week.

Ruto dropped the Bill following mounting pressure from leaders including former President Uhuru Kenyatta and Opposition Leader Raila Odinga who called for consul-

tations.

“Without these first steps, nobody should imagine that the current situation is going away any time soon, and nobody must imagine that Kenyans will sit back and watch police butcher their children in defense of policies whose consequences are pervasive,” Odinga said.

In his address to the nation, President Ruto described Tuesday’s chaos as treasonous and vowed a tough response to restore normalcy in the country. He asserted that the events were orchestrated and funded by unnamed individuals aiming to destabilize the country. “We shall provide a full and expeditious response to the treasonous events,” Ruto stated, assuring the nation of the government’s determination to secure the country. He also issued a stern warning: “I hereby put on notice the financiers of violence and anarchy.”

The protests, which began last week, reached a climax on Tuesday when demonstrators stormed Parliament following the bill’s passage. The violent scenes resulted in several deaths and injuries, prompting widespread condemnation and calls for restraint from both local and international leaders.

By Wednesday, businesses in Nairobi and other parts of the country

were counting their losses, with many shops looted or burnt. In Nairobi, City Hall and the Supreme Court were set on fire before the blazes were extinguished, but many businesses in the Central Business District were not as fortunate, as mobs descended on them.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also expressed concerns about the violence in Kenya and urged restraint. “He is saddened by the reports of deaths and injuries, including those of journalists and medical personnel,” a statement from his office said.

Guterres emphasized the importance of upholding the right to peaceful demonstrations. “The Secretary-General urges the Kenyan authorities to exercise restraint and calls for all demonstrations to remain peaceful,” the statement added.

The unfolding events highlight the significant tension and unrest in Kenya as citizens voice their discontent with the controversial Finance Bill. The call for dialogue and peaceful resolution from international figures underscores the need for a measured approach to address the grievances and restore calm in the country.

# US Senator Chris Coons Warns Kenya Against Violence Amid Finance Bill Protests

By: WANGECHI PURITY



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

United States Senator Chris Coons has voiced concerns over the violence witnessed during the anti-Finance Bill protests held on Tuesday.

The senator, who commended Kenya for its democratic values, urged for a peaceful resolution and an end to the violence.

The police have been accused of brutality during Tuesday’s protests, which were held by youths both in the capital and across various parts of the country.

The unrest left more than 20 people dead and hundreds injured, with at least 50 others arrested. The protests, which began last week, culminated on Tuesday when demonstrators stormed Parliament following the

bill’s passage, resulting in violent scenes unprecedented in independent Kenya.

By yesterday, businesses in Nairobi and other parts of the country were counting their losses, with many shops looted or burnt. In Nairobi, City Hall and the Supreme Court

were set on fire before the blazes were extinguished, but many businesses in the Central Business District were not as fortunate, as mobs descended on them.

“The police must exercise restraint when managing demonstrations and uphold basic human rights. Kenya

has worked hard to build its democracy. I encourage all sides to restore peace and respect the rule of law,” Senator Coons urged.

Coons emphasized that violence should not be entertained during a country’s democratic processes. “I’m heartsick about developments in Kenya. Of course, the Kenyan people have the right to peacefully protest government policies that directly impact their well-being, but violence has no place in the democratic process,” he said.

Since Tuesday, there has been mounting pressure from leaders, including former President Uhuru Kenyatta and Azimio coalition leader Raila Odinga, urging President William Ruto not to sign the bill and to listen to the people instead. On Wednesday, President Ruto heeded these calls and announced that he was sending the bill back to Parlia-

ment for further amendments.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also expressed concerns about the violence in Kenya and urged restraint. “He is saddened by the reports of deaths and injuries, including those of journalists and medical personnel,” a statement from his office said.

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**Sports >>** \*Legendary former Arsenal and France striker Thierry Henry is one of the names being considered to succeed Rob Page as Wales manager.

# SPORTS NEWS

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## Arsenal Legend Henry Considered To Be Next Wales Boss



Thierry Henry. Photo/GETTY IMAGES

Legendary former Arsenal and France striker Thierry Henry is one of the names being considered to succeed Rob Page as Wales manager.

Henry, who has managed Monaco and Montreal Impact, is in charge of France's Under-21 side and is preparing to lead his country's Olympic team in the Games in Paris next month.

The 46-year-old has a connection to Wales, having studied for his coaching badges with the Football Association of Wales (FAW).

The FAW sacked Page last Friday after three-and-a-half years in charge following Wales' failure to qualify for Euro 2024.

The governing body plans to take its time in appointing a successor, with no fixture for

Wales until they begin their Nations League campaign at home against Turkey in September.

Some FAW bosses are keen to hire a big name, as they did when they appointed former Wales and Manchester United captain Ryan Giggs in 2018.

Henry would be an even higher-profile appointment, given he is one of his generation's greatest players and remains prominent as a television pundit as well as France's Under-21 coach.

The FAW would not be able to offer Henry as large a salary as some other national associations but, as he would be able to maintain his lucrative media and sponsorship work if he was Wales manager, the governing body believes its financial constraints would not necessarily

prevent a deal from happening.

It was a similar case when Giggs was in charge, with the former winger dividing his time between various business and commercial interests as well as his managerial duties.

Henry had a stellar playing career, winning two Premier League titles, two FA Cups and a host of individual honours during a prolific period at Arsenal that saw him become the club's all-time leading scorer.

He also won two La Liga titles and the Champions League with Barcelona before embarking on a coaching career that has seen him serve as an assistant to teams such as Belgium as well as managing in his own right.

Speaking on BBC Wales' Elis James' Feast of Football pod-

cast, former Wales striker Robert Earnshaw said: "I spent some time with Thierry on the coaching course a couple of years ago because he was on the Welsh FA course.

"He knows [FAW chief football officer] David Adams and the set-up, and he understands Welsh football. The one thing that stood out when I was sat with Thierry was his football brain is brilliant. "With France Under-21s and the Olympic team, he understands young players. He would raise the bar and the level. I don't know whether he would want it. I could see someone like Thierry doing it. His football brain is brilliant, he's so sharp, advanced and has got great ideas."

BBC

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**Sports >>>** \*Athletics Kenya (AK) have informed athletes that they will have to have a set personal best (PB) times if they are to compete in the marathon and half marathon for this year's Nairobi Marathon

# What Athletes Need To Do To Compete In Nairobi City Marathon



Robert Kipkemboi crosses the finish line to win the men's 42km race at the Nairobi City Marathon. PHOTO/NAIROBI CITY MARATHON.

Athletics Kenya (AK) have informed athletes that they will have to have a set personal best (PB) times if they are to compete in the marathon and half marathon for this year's Nairobi Marathon.

In a statement, the federation said all male marathoners must have a PB of under 2:20 whereas their female counterparts must have run a PB of under 2:32.

On the other hand, those interested in competing in the half marathon must have PBs of under 1:05 (men) and under 1:15 (women).

“Interested athletes will be required to provide proof of where their respective PBs were attained,” the federation said.

They added: “Please ensure you provide your identification and registration details when reaching out. This will facilitate the verification process and ensure a smooth experience.”

This year's edition of the road race is slated for July 7 in Nairobi, with majority of the competition being run on the scenic Nairobi Expressway.

Hundreds of runners are expected to compete across four categories, including 42km, 21km, 11.7km and the 4km family fun run.

Last year's edition was won by Robert Kipkemboi who clocked 2:08:30 in the men's marathon as the 2020 Sofia Marathon champion Naom Chebet triumphed in the women's race in 2:24.33.

In the half marathon, Ugandan Maxwell clocked 1:00:10 to clinch the men's race whereas the 2022 Napoli City Half Marathon champion Gladys Chepkurui won

the women's race in 1:09:06.

*Capital Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



## Water Pollution And Sources Of Pollution

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Water Pollution .

### Worth Noting:

- One of the most polluted rivers is the Rhine, which is the largest water artery in Europe. Waste water from industrial enterprises located on the banks of this river is poured directly into the river. The volume of these waters is approximately 60 million cubic meters per year.

- Therefore, even fish cannot live in this river, and bathing is strictly prohibited. The same can be said about the Mississippi River. This river, which once flowed with clear water, has now become the "Old Man of America". The total length of highly polluted rivers is 1.5 thousand km in England, and more than 2 thousand km in the USA.

The main reason for the shortage of fresh water is not only the increase in water consumption in agriculture, industry and life, but also the increase of industrial and domestic waste water into open water bodies, that is, the increasing amount of water.

Especially in developed capitalist countries, the level of water pollution is high, and in some places, the issue of water purification is becoming a real "national issue". In Germany, more than half of the wastewater, and in the USA, a third, are discharged into rivers and lakes without complete treatment. In many regions of Japan, England, the Netherlands, Belgium and France, as well as in Scandinavian countries, the waters of rivers and lakes are very polluted.

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waters is approximately 60 million cubic meters per year.

Therefore, even fish cannot live in this river, and bathing is strictly prohibited. The same can be said about the Mississippi River. This river, which once flowed with clear water, has now become the "Old Man of America". The total length of highly polluted rivers is 1.5 thousand km in England, and more than 2 thousand km in the USA.

The thickness of the dirty sediment layer at the bottom of the Potomac River, which flows near Washington, is more than 3 meters.

Currently, ocean and sea water pollution is also increasing. Because the amount of various salts, heavy metals, and radioactive substances entering them with river water is increasing. In addition, the burial of toxic substances in the oceans and seas, the explosion of nuclear weapons under water, the spilling of oil and oil products into the water seriously pollute the hydrosphere. For example, 60 years ago, 7,000

tons of arsenic were placed in strong vessels and buried under the Baltic Sea. However, this small amount of arsenic is enough to poison the entire world population.

In recent years, the phenomenon of anthropogenic eutrophication in lake water has been spreading widely. The essence of this phenomenon is that biogenic substances, especially nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, in the wastewater from everyday life accumulate in the lake waters with low activity, disrupting the hydrochemical and hydrobiological regime in it.

As a result, blue-green algae increase in the water content and oxygen decreases. Because most of the oxygen is used by bacteria to decompose organic residues, that is, to rot algae. The amount of humus in the water increases, the oxidation-regeneration process is disturbed and an anaerobic condition occurs. In this case, the color of the water turns blue, and when it gets wet, a smell appears. Because toxic substances

such as sulfur, ammonia, phenol, indole, scotol accumulate in it. Such waters are unfit for use, even fish cannot live in them.

According to the results of monitoring, the number and quality of infectious diseases among the population is increasing due to water pollution. According to medical statistics, 30% of human diseases are caused by poor quality drinking water.

In developing countries, this figure is up to 80%. According to the United Nations, 50 million people get sick from water pollution, and a fifth of them die. In order to prevent and prevent the development of such an unpleasant process, the United Nations declared 2003 as the "Year of Freshwater" in the world.

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