



The Delicate Balance: Navigating the Interplay between the Right to Assembly and Constitutional Limitations in Kenya's Legal Framework

Within the domain of constitutional law, few issues are as contentious and nuanced as the balance between fundamental rights and their necessary limitations. Page 18

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MT. KENYA TIMES

Daily ePAPER

Thursday, July 4, 2024 No. 01081 www.mountkenyentimes.co.ke f i t themtkenyentimes



News>> State Embraces Cooperatives As The New Growth Frontier For Kenya's Artisanal Mining Sector

P. 8. At 70, Mama Eunice Mbuwa's speech is slow and measured. Each word carries the self-assured conviction of ancient sages.



News>> NCKK To Integrate Youths In Leadership And Decision Making

P. 12. NCKK an umbrella body which brings together a family of churches of Christian communion has said they are engaging the leadership structures of the churches to integrate the youth in governance and decision-making structures and processes.

Gachagua Asks Youth To Call Off Protests

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked young people to call off planned peaceful protests to guard against infiltration by criminals whose mission is to cause mayhem in the country.

The Deputy President said cessation of the protests will give room to security officers to crackdown on and deal firmly with criminals who on Tuesday meted violence on other Kenyans, besides looting and destroying property.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his spouse Pastor Dorcas laying wreath at eldest Sister Leah Wangari Muriuki grave at Mirera in Nanyuki

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Memorial Service For James Maina Wanjigi: A Tribute To A Dedicated Public Servant

By: Cynthia Masibo and Aoma Keziah

@themtkenyatimes



Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, former Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu, Narc Kenya leader Martha Karua, Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti, Jubilee Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni and former Defence CS Eugene Wamalwa at the memorial service of former politician James Maina Wanjigi at the All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi on July 3, 2024. Photo | Courtesy

Worth Noting:

- James Maina Wanjigi's journey began in the pre-independence era when he served as an assistant agricultural extension officer in the Nyeri district. His commitment to public service was evident early on and continued throughout his life. Wanjigi's entry into politics was marked by a significant event in Kenya's history. Following the assassination of Tom Mboya, Wanjigi won the Kamukunji parliamentary seat in a by-election, a position he would hold for 25 years. During his tenure, he held various ministerial roles, including Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Public Works, before retiring from active politics.
- The memorial service saw a remarkable turnout from Kenya's political elite, reflecting the respect and admiration Wanjigi commanded across the political spectrum.

The All Saints Cathedral was filled with somber reflection and heartfelt tributes as several leaders, family members, and friends gathered to honor the life and legacy of former politician James Maina Wanjigi. The 92-year-old former MP and Minister, who passed away on June 28 at Nairobi Hospital, was remembered for his significant contributions to Kenya's political and agricultural landscape.

A Life of Service

James Maina Wanjigi's journey began in the pre-independence era when he served as an assistant agricultural extension officer in the Nyeri district. His commitment to public service was evident early on and continued throughout his life. Wanjigi's entry into politics was marked by a significant event in Kenya's history. Following the assassination of Tom Mboya, Wanjigi won the Kamukunji parliamentary seat in a by-election, a position he would hold for 25 years. During his

tenure, he held various ministerial roles, including Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Public Works, before retiring from active politics.

Notable Attendees

The memorial service saw a remarkable turnout from Kenya's political elite, reflecting the respect and admiration Wanjigi commanded across the political spectrum. Among those in attendance were:

- Kalonzo Musyoka:** Wiper leader and former vice president, who spoke fondly of Wanjigi's dedication to Kenya's agricultural development and his role in shaping the country's policies.
- Charity Ngilu:** Former Kitui Governor, who highlighted Wanjigi's unwavering commitment to public service.
- Martha Karua:** Narc Kenya leader, who praised Wanjigi's integrity and his efforts in championing agricultural reforms.
- Wavinya Ndeti:** Machakos Governor, who remembered Wanjigi as a mentor

and a visionary leader.

Jeremiah Kioni: Jubilee Secretary General, who acknowledged Wanjigi's contributions to the party and his influence in shaping Kenya's political landscape.

Eugene Wamalwa: Former Defence CS and DAP-K leader, who spoke on Wanjigi's impact on national security policies during his tenure.

James Orengo: Siaya Governor, who shared personal anecdotes about Wanjigi's mentorship and guidance.

Opiyo Wandayi: National Assembly minority leader, who emphasized Wanjigi's role in parliamentary reforms.

Peter Kenneth: Former Gatanga MP, who reflected on Wanjigi's role in advancing infrastructural projects.

Peter Munya: Former Agriculture CS, who acknowledged Wanjigi's foundational work in the agriculture sector.

Paul Muite: Lawyer, who shared insights on Wanjigi's legal and political acumen.

Amos Wako: Former Busia Senator,

who reminisced about Wanjigi's legislative contributions.

Tributes and Reflections

The service was punctuated by moving tributes that painted a picture of Wanjigi not only as a politician but as a devoted family man and mentor. Businessman Jimi Wanjigi, the late Wanjigi's son, shared heartfelt memories of his father's guidance and influence, both in personal and public spheres. He spoke of his father's passion for agriculture and his dedication to improving the livelihoods of Kenyan farmers.

Kalonzo Musyoka, in his eulogy, emphasized Wanjigi's role in the agricultural sector, noting, "His policies and initiatives laid the groundwork for modern agricultural practices in Kenya. His vision transformed the lives of many, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations."

Martha Karua highlighted Wanjigi's integrity, stating, "James Maina Wanjigi was a man of principle and conviction. His unwavering commitment to justice and equity set a standard for us all."

A Lasting Legacy

Wanjigi's impact on Kenya's development, particularly in the agricultural sector, was a recurrent theme throughout the service. His tenure as Minister for Agriculture saw significant reforms that boosted food security and farmers' welfare. His role in public works also left an indelible mark, with numerous infrastructural projects attributed to his leadership.

As the service concluded, it was evident that James Maina Wanjigi's legacy would endure. His contributions to Kenya's political and agricultural sectors, his mentorship to young leaders, and his unwavering commitment to public service were celebrated by all in attendance.

The memorial service was not just a farewell but a celebration of a life well-lived and a legacy that will continue to shape Kenya's future.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Global Fund HIV Grant Program, managed by the Kenya Red Cross society, has made significant strides in HIV prevention in Kilifi over the past three years. As the program comes to a close, partners are celebrating the notable reduction in HIV prevalence, which has dropped from 4% three years ago to 2.5% this year. In a press briefing as the partners were celebrating this milestone, Kenya Red Cross Regional Program Coordinator Salim Ahmed highlighted the program's achievements. He emphasized that the initiative targeted specific high-risk groups in line with the Kenya AIDS Strategic Framework's goals, which include reducing HIV prevalence and mortality rates and combating stigma.



The MauMau road -Kamahindu- Matimbei section in Lari sub-county, Kiambu County has temporarily been closed to pave the way for the construction of a concrete pavement along this route. The 500-meter permanent concrete pavement will take a period of two months for the construction works to be completed. It is designed to withstand road traffic and weathering actions while ensuring comfortable and safe riding conditions as well as low costs and damage to the environment. Lari MP Joseph Mburu Kahangara advised Vehicles to use the Kagwe girls road to join the Matimbei – Githunguri road near Gaturaini junction. The road construction and several others are taking place concurrently after the recent launch by area MP.



More than 30 families in Blue Valley estate in Nyeri were on Tuesday night forced to spend the night in the cold after a night fire razed down their wooden houses. According to the sub-county police commander, Charles Chacha, police have already launched investigations to establish the actual cause of the fire which broke out at around 7 pm in one of the wooden houses before it spread to the neighbouring houses. "We received a call from the landlord informing us that his timber houses were on fire. The police, fire department, the Kenya Power and Lighting Company intervened and with the help of members of the public, we were able to contain the situation," said Chacha. Speaking to KNA, Chacha confirmed that no injuries were reported during the incident. However, he said property valued at Sh900,000 was destroyed in the fire. "The fire department managed to put out the fire but nothing was salvaged. The landlord says that the total value of damage is approximately Sh 900,000," said Chacha.



TenschoolsinLodwartownhavebeenselectedtopilottheDigitalLiteracyProject,aimedatintroducing younglearnersstocreativecodingandroboticsinsupportoftheCompetency-BasedCurriculum(CBC). The eight-month pilot, funded by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and implemented by the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) and M-Lugha Foundation, will establish ICT clubs where learners in Grades 4-8 will be guided to use "Scratch" – a tool approved by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development. While opening the two-day training for the ten ICT teachers from the selected primary schools, the Chief Officer for Education, Social Protection, and Administration, Moses Korea, emphasized the importance of digital literacy in the current age, especially given the significant gap noted in the arid and semi-arid land counties. "In the education stakeholders' trilogy of digital devices, teachers, and content, the child should be at the center," he said.



The Turkana County Department of Health and Sanitation has commenced its cross-border tuberculosis (TB) screening outreaches, in conjunction with the Centre for Health Solutions (CHS), targeting the migratory populations along the Kenyan-Ugandan border. Using the One Health approach, the first integrated outreach was conducted in Lokipoto, Letea Ward – Turkana West Sub-county. This outreach marked the first one under the USAID-funded Tuberculosis Implementation Framework Agreement (TIFA); with CHS as the implementer. During the three-day outreach held at Lokipoto Dispensary, TB screening was provided using X-ray and sputum samples. Other medical services included outpatient care, antenatal care (ANC), and immunization services. By the end of the outreach, 540 individuals sought human health services, with 264 screened for TB. Some of the ailments treated malaria, skin diseases, and common infections while the lab services were able to conduct ANC profiles. Additionally, 29,098 livestock were vaccinated and dewormed. Director of Preventive and Promotive, Dr Bonventure Ameyo, stated that community-level screening would increase case notifications, assisting in reducing TB cases in the county.



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Kirinyaga County Government Acquires Legal Ownership Of Assets Previously Held By Defunct Local Authority

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Though this exercise is taking place almost 12 years after the establishment of the devolved units, we want to thank the 10th Intergovernmental Relations Summit for its directive to have the transfer of assets finalized,” said the DG.
- He said that the exercise was a significant milestone towards the county’s path to full autonomy and effective governance and will help the County Government in updating its asset inventories for safe keeping and transparency.



Deputy Governor David Githanda receives logbooks for 147 moveable assets from IGRTC Board member Dr. Perminus Ndimitu. The assets were inherited from the defunct local authority.

The County Government of Kirinyaga has officially acquired legal ownership of movable assets previously owned by the defunct Local Authorities.

Documentation for the assets that include motor vehicles, motorcycles, tractors and graders was handed over by the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) after the signing of documents to facilitate the county’s ownership and management of inherited resources.

While receiving ownership documents and valuation reports for 147 moveable assets at the Public Works yard in Kerugoya, Deputy Governor, David Githanda who represented Governor Anne Waiguru said that the County Government has been holding

on the public assets worth billions of shillings without possessing all the necessary documentation.

“Though this exercise is taking place almost 12 years after the establishment of the devolved units, we want to thank the 10th Intergovernmental Relations Summit for its directive to have the transfer of assets finalized,” said the DG.

He said that the exercise was a significant milestone towards the county’s path to full autonomy and effective governance and will help the County Government in updating its asset inventories for safe keeping and transparency.

Githanda said from the list of vehicles whose log books were handed over, 14 are still in use, while 10 are

serviceable. The rest, together with a big chunk of the motor cycles are un-serviceable.

“We will ensure the transferred assets are updated in the asset register and utilized effectively. Necessary steps will be taken to repair those that can be of use to the county,” he said, adding that those that are un-serviceable will be disposed in accordance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act.

Githanda said that the County will also quickly embark on the process of ownership transfers, re-registration, de-registration with the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) so as to get their logbooks.

He added that transfer of the assets to the counties is a crucial step in the

transition to devolution and a show of commitment to ensure Intergovernmental Relations Summit resolutions are fully implemented and devolution fully supported to benefit citizens.

Other assets that will subsequently be transferred to the County Government include land, buildings, plant and equipment among others. The land hosts schools, markets, medical facilities, access roads, and social amenities like stadiums and recreational grounds among others.

The County Government has committed to continue safeguarding all public assets.

Dr. Perminus Ndimitu, a member of the board of IGRTC stated that the County Government of Kirinyaga took possession of the assets from the defunct local authorities but they did not have the legal mandate until the legal handover.

“This marks the beginning of legal ownership, because we have given the legal ownership by ensuring that the title deeds, in terms of logbooks have been passed to the County,” he added.

Dr. Ndimitu stressed that with the legal ownership established, the County Government can now manage the assets as it sees fit. “The county can maintain, dispose of, or repair the assets based on their needs,” he said.

He pointed out that following the handover, the County Department of Finance must now incorporate the valued items into their balance sheets, as required by the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act.

The Director disclosed that the process of identifying, verifying and validating other assets like land and buildings for the County is ongoing and once complete, ownership documents will also be handed over.

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State Embraces Cooperatives As The New Growth Frontier For Kenya's Artisanal Mining Sector

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

At 70, Mama Eunice Mbuwa's speech is slow and measured. Each word carries the self-assured conviction of ancient sages. With over two-decade experience in a long and relentless quest for precious stones like tsavorites in the sprawling wind-swept mining fields of Kasighau ranch in far-flung regions of Voi sub-county, the septuagenarian, one of the few veteran women miners in the region, knows a few secrets the earth holds.

Her stay in the sector has given her a unique perspective on the nature of devastating poverty and perils besetting artisanal miners. Since her induction into the craft of gemstone hunting in the 90s, she has seen fortune and disaster visit miners. She has witnessed the cruel hand of fate deal brutal blows on young miners' dreams by turning their soaring hopes into deep despair.

Miners, bursting with optimism of success, have many a time arrived only to leave many years later, broken old men staggering under unbearable weight of disappointment, shattered lifetime dreams and aborted hopes. "This sector is never for the faint-hearted. It tests the limits of your endurance. You need unwaver-

ing faith that in the end, you will find what we seek. Some of us have been mining for over twenty years and still hope to get our big break lurking a few meters away," she explains with a wry smile.

Mama Mbuwa's conviction that the fortune miners seek lurk within reach is the quintessential driving force that attracts and keeps thousands toiling in the mines amid crippling levels of poverty. Occasionally, when fate relents and grants a lucky few their long hoped-for breakthrough, such miners are transformed into instant millionaires. This new status pushes others to believe that they too will make it someday.

Such instances, rare and far-apart, are attributed more to sheer luck than any strategic intervention.

Still the reality is never far away. Majority of artisanal miners live in constant terror of being permanently trapped in destitution despite their perennial struggle in the gemstone tunnels.

Mr. David Zowe, Taita-Taveta County Chair of Artisanal Miners Association, says the high levels of poverty and formidable challenges facing the miners are as a result of lack of adequate resources including modern equipment, finances and an apt market that leaves the miners at the mercy of brutal brokers and predatory buyers.

He adds that when the government



tackles such impediments, the sector will recover and regain operational equilibrium favoring all players; the artisanal miners, the buyers, the market and the country.

"The latent potential in the sector has not been tapped because of major hindrances facing the artisanal miners. If lack of equipment, money and specific mining zones are addressed, this sector will soar" he explains.

The artisanal miners are the majority in Kenya's mining ecosystem. Estimates by the Ministry of Mining shows Kenya has over one million artisanal miners scattered across all the 47 counties. They deal with a wide

range of mineral types including gemstones, gypsum, gold, limestone, quartz and building blocks amongst others.

The unregulated and unstructured nature of their operations have made this sub-sector exist in an amorphous state, making it impossible to offer targeted support. The lack of official data on the actual numbers, locations and minerals mined by the artisanal compounded any effort to extend structured support to the miners.

Mining Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi says lack of formal recognition of artisanal mining as a legitimate occupation in the past has

adversely affected the sector and its players. He notes that the first step towards acknowledging the critical role artisanal mining plays in job creation and community development was to adopt policies that recognized the sub-sector as a key plank in Kenya's economic transformation.

"Aware of the vast potential and transformational effect the artisanal mining sector has for communities, we moved to decriminalize artisanal mining to give it formal recognition and occupational legitimacy," he explains.

Introduction Of Late Blight Resistant Potatoes

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

Farmers and stakeholders in the potato value chain today shared their views on the proposed introduction of Late Blight resistant potatoes, which has been developed through modern technology.

The event was held at the Agricultural Training Center, (ATC) Soilo, and discussed the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study conducted by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Organization (KALRO), International Potato Center (CIP), and African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)

The farmers were informed that a study is being conducted in all major potato growing counties, to collect data from potato crop value chain

stakeholders. The feedback collected will be reviewed before final approvals, to ensure that the introduction of this new variety aligns with the needs and concerns of all stakeholders.

Nakuru County Director for Agriculture, Charles Githiri emphasized the importance of this new variety in addressing potato crop losses to Late Blight disease. He further noted that increased production is expected to combat hunger and poverty as well as ensure food security with a reduced need for fungicides.

Githiri stated that farmers typically spend a lot of fungicides to control late blight, and with resistant potatoes, the need for these chemicals is reduced, lowering production costs and potentially increasing profit margins.

He noted that reduced use of fungicides is not only cost-effective but also environmentally friendly, because it minimizes chemical run-



off into the soil and water systems. Hence, promoting a healthier ecosystem.

Additionally, he said resistant varieties tend to have better overall health and can produce higher yields since they are not as affected by the disease, which means more production for the same size of land.

Moreover, the director said by relying on resistant varieties, farming practices become more sustainable, reducing the impact on the environment. And, preserving resources for future generations.

He also underscored the importance of higher and quality yields as a gateway for international markets

that might enable farmers to fetch higher prices, further boosting their incomes.

Overall, the introduction of late blight resistant potatoes can lead to economic, environmental, and social benefits for potato farmers, contributing to a more resilient agricultural sector and food security.

Gachagua Asks Youth To Call Off Protests

By: DPCS and MKT Correspondent



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other mourners carrying the casket bearing the remains of his sister Leah during her burial in Laikipia County yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- “Our country faces difficult moments and as the Deputy President and a leader in this country, I want to call for peace and calm. This is our only country. We have no other. I ask all Kenyans to make and observe peace and keep off violence,” said Mr Gachagua.

- He spoke during the funeral of his eldest sister, Leah Wangari Muriuki. President Ruto sent a message of condolence to the family which the DP read.

- Accompanied by his Spouse Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, and over 30 political leaders, and Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi, Mr Gachagua said it was unfortunate that peaceful protests have turned violent.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked young people to call off planned peaceful protests to guard against infiltration by criminals whose mission is to cause mayhem in the country.

The Deputy President said cessation of the protests will give room to security officers to crackdown on and deal firmly with criminals who on Tuesday meted violence on other Kenyans, besides looting and destroying property.

Speaking in Mirera village, in Laikipia County, Mr Gachagua appealed to young people to call off the protests given that President William Ruto has acceded to their demands and dropped the Finance Bill 2024.

He said it is important for all to give peace a chance.

“Our country faces difficult moments and as the Deputy President and a leader in this country, I want to call for peace and calm. This is our only country. We have no other. I ask all Kenyans to make and observe peace and keep off violence,” said Mr Gachagua.

He spoke during the funeral of his eldest sister, Leah Wangari Muriuki. President Ruto sent a message of condolence to the family which the DP read.

Accompanied by his Spouse Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, and over 30 political leaders, and Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi, Mr Gachagua said it was unfortunate that peaceful protests have turned violent.

He explained that a mechanism

of addressing their issues is being worked on and they should trust the process.

“Now that you have been heard, mechanism is being worked on on how the issues will be addressed. Once you call off your protests, our security agencies will be in a position to deal firmly and decisively with the criminal elements who have been breaking into shops and destroying properties,” said Mr Gachagua.

He continued; “To the Generation-Z, as your father we have heard you. You spoke clearly and the message is home. What you started as peaceful protests has unfortunately been infiltrated and hijacked by criminals, who are looting and creating mayhem. As a father and a parent, listen to us, as your parents, I plead with you to call off the protests.”

“The President has acceded to your pleas to be heard; you will be heard. As our children you owe this country peace. Please do not allow the criminals to take advantage of what you started in good faith with a message to the country to be infiltrated and hijacked and cause chaos and mayhem in the country.”

The Deputy President further asked political leaders to tone down on high octane politics and embark on peaceful national coexistence.

Tens of leaders led by Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi, Governors Joshua Irungu (Laikipia), Mutahi Kahiga (Nyeri) Kiarie Badilisha (Nyandarua), Senate Deputy

Speaker and Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi and over 30 MPs were present.

“Let us bring down political temperatures. Let us all build our country together. We have one country and one leader. Let us embark on peaceful coexistence among people so that we can enjoy fruits of our labour. A situation of chaos and mayhem is not conducive for people to carry on with their lives.

That is my plea to all leaders in the country, young generation and everybody to understand and appreciate that we do not have another Kenya. We have one country and we must do so to make sure there is peace and harmony,” said Mr Gachagua.

Eulogising his sister, the Deputy President described her as a unifying figure and that she has been his pillar and source of strength and spiritual support.

“When our parents died she became the matriarch. She has put us together as a family and showed us how to pray and united us. She has been my big source of strength and spiritual support. She has left a big gap in our larger Gachagua family,” he said.

He also delivered President William Ruto’s condolence message to the family and friends of Wangari.

The President eulogised Wangari, 82, and a retired teacher, as a hardworking and selfless person who served the community with dedication.

“Our country has lost a selfless and hardworking woman. Mama Leah

was progressive, responsible and caring. She a selfless and devoured figure who served her community with distinction. She was abundant with fresh ideas and thoughts that transformed the lives of many people that she taught. She was prayerful philanthropist and industrious agripreneuer and a great lover of education,” the President said in the message read on his behalf by the Deputy President.

Pastor Dorcas eulogised Mama Leah as a mother who knew how to direct, guide and protect her family.

In addition, the Deputy President said the National Government is keen on implementing its development agenda in Laikipia County and across the country.

He highlighted deployment of 250 National Police Reservists to enhance security in the region and installation of electric fence to prevent wild animals encroachment as some of the achievements.

Some of the other leaders present included Deputy Governors Reuben Kamuri (Laikipia), David Kinaniri (Nyeri), MPs Wachira Karani (Laikipia West), Benjamin Gathiru Mejja Donk (Embakasi Central), James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri), Jayne Kihara (Naivasha), John Kaguchia (Mukurwe-ini), John Waluke (Sirisia), Julius Taitumu (Igembe North), Charity Kathambi (Njoro), Mary Wamaua (Maragua), Samuel Parashina (Kajiado South), Teresiah Wanjiru (Nominated), Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated), Senators John Kinyua (Laikipia), John Methu (Nyandarua), Wahome Wamatinga (Nyeri), Kathuri Murungi (Meru), Joseph Kamau (Lamu), Karungo Thang’wa (Kiambu), Woman Representatives Elizabeth Kailemia (Meru), Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga), County Assembly Speakers James Gichuhi (Nyeri), Wachira Waiganjo (Nyandarua) Karuri Maina (Nakuru), former MPs Anthony Kiai (Mukurwe-ini), Kimani Ngunjiri (Bahati), Charles Kanyi Njagua (Starehe), Eng. Muriuki Karue (Ol-Kalou), Wambugu Ngunjiri (Nyeri Town), former Laikipia Woman Representative Cate Waruguru, former Kiambu Governor Waititu Baba Yao, former Laikipia County Assembly Speaker Patrick Waigwa and MCAs, led by Thingiru Ward Representative Stephen Nderitu.

Others were dozens of MCAs from Laikipia, Nyeri, Nyandarua and Meru counties.

Farmers Urged To Join Cooperatives For Maximum Proceeds

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

The market opportunity for potato processing in the East African Community (EAC) is estimated to represent up to Ksh 120 billion by next year.

According to the National Potato Council, Potato is the second most important crop in Kenya employing about 2.5 million Kenyans and an industry therefore that needs to be protected expanded and value added for food security.

Nyandarua and Narok County potato farmers have come out to form cooperatives in order to meet the rapidly growing consumer demand and also in an organized way be able to have a bargain power in terms of prices and markets.

The Cooperative University of Kenya (CUK) has now taken a major step in transforming the agriculture landscape in four value chains that includes the potato.

Through a programme they are run-

ning dubbed “Kenya Rural Transformation Centers Digital Platform (KRTC DP)”, a pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing farmer connectivity, combating market cartels, and bolstering farmer incomes, the University is set to leverage infrastructure to facilitate seamless interactions between farmers and stakeholders across the agriculture value chain

CUK Vice-Chancellor Prof Kamau Ngamau says through KRTC DP project, small holder farmers will gain unprecedented access to vital services, including input suppliers, agro-dealers, and pertinent public resources.

He affirmed ongoing collaborations with numerous cooperatives, poised to support farmers engaged in key value chains targeted by this project in areas of Irish potatoes, maize and dairy.

The KRTC DP project is in line with the Nation’s development plan, which is, to revive and make the agriculture sector profitable and sustainable for better livelihoods and resonates well with new National Government’s Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strate-



CUK Vice-Chancellor Prof Kamau Ngamau.

gy (ASTGS) 2019-2029 which lays out the Special Economic Processing Zones to implement in Kenya to harness agricultural development.

David Kimotho, chairman of Green Silver Cooperative said when they started in 2016 coming from a self-help group known as Good Times with a membership of only 56 members, they did not know that forming the cooperative was the best thing that would have happened for potato

farmers in Dundori area, “Our numbers have now increased to 500 members. We have been producing potatoes in our farms and looking for a good market collectively and also doing contract farming for different potato varieties depending on the market preference”, he said.

Kimotho said accessing quality and affordable fertilizer is becoming a challenge despite the government selling to them subsidized fertilizer

which all farmers cannot access due to long distance from the farmers to the distribution areas.

Beth Wangari, a potato farmer in Dundori, Nyandarua County and who has been producing potatoes for the last 15 years says that the sector has been dwindling as the cost of production has been going up year in, year out.



If True, The Motion To Impeach DP Gachagua Will Be An Exercise In Futility



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- I heard earlier listened to the remarks by Kiambu Senator Karungo Wa Thangwa. He seemed to confirm that President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua were not reading the same script.
- We the people of the Mountain are asking President William Ruto to engage DP Gachagua in dialogue the same way he is engaging Generation-Z and millennials.
- The senator, who spoke in presence of the Deputy President in Maragwa, stated. We have heard that the President has initiated a process of reaching out to the young people.
- This is after they took to the streets to register their strong reservations with the way the country is being governed.

The latest media reports indicate that a section of politicians from Rift Valley have hatched a plot to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

These politicians were allegedly coalescing around President William Ruto.

When I read this story, two questions came to my mind. Were they enjoying the blessing of the President? Did they stand a chance of having their way?

In my view, it was hard to impeach DP Gachagua because of changing political dynamics.

DP Gachagua's strategy of mending fences with opposition leaders was already bearing fruits.

ODM leader Raila Odinga had already thrown his full weight behind DP's push for one-man, one-vote, one-shilling.

Reliable reports also indicate he had made tremendous progress in reaching out former President Uhuru Kenyatta.

He had also reached out to Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka.

The duo's remarks and body language during the consecration of Bishop Kiengi would attest to this.

This means the anti-Gachagua motion was bound to receive a strong opposition from members of the three parties-Jubilee, Wiper and ODM.

It is also worth noting that the DP had managed to change the narrative of Mount Kenya region.

We recall that in the countdown to 2022 general election he had rallied the Mountain behind Dr William Ruto candidature.

Today, Gachagua is enjoying the same popularity.

Given this scenario, you would expect the MPs from the Mountain to shoot down the motion.

Besides, if it turns out the President supported the motion, many members were bound to interpret this as a big betrayal.

The DP bankrolled and supported his candidature with all his heart. Why abandon him so soon? This demonstrates no one is safe in Ruto's government.

I had earlier watched and listened to how President William Ruto responded to the questions posed by top editors of three mainstream media houses during a live interview at State House Nairobi.

One of them touched on his relationship with his deputy Rigathi Gachagua. Joe Ageyo of Nation Media Group (NMG) wanted to know whether they were really reading from same script.

Ageyo referred him to a statement that the Deputy President had released while in Mombasa. Mr President, a few minutes earlier you had addressed a televised press conference at State House Nairobi.

Both of you focussed on the same subject matter of Generation-Z protests.

The DP contradicted you by distancing himself from sentiments that some of youths involved in these protests were criminal gangs.

While roundly condemning the police for using excessive force against the

protesters resulting to snuffing out of the lives of innocent youths, the DP observed. These are our children and had not broken any law.

During the interview President Ruto avoided responding to the question and told Ageyo.

I'm not aware of this story of fallout between me and my deputy.

He is my deputy. He is not here and he is the one supposed to respond to that question.

I cannot speak for him. You are free to look for him and engage him if there is something else you want to know.

President Ruto's interview came at a time when a headline story appearing on Weekly Citizen newspaper further stated the DP had been blocked from accessing State House.

The constitution provides that the motion to impeach a sitting DP can only sail through if it garners two-third majority or above in parliament.

There is also the issue of whether the grounds cited by his accusers meet the requisite threshold of law.

The motion of the impeachment can only be allowed if the mover manages to convince the house that the actions of DP amount to gross violation of the constitution and the international treaties. The DP has never committed or linked to such gross misconduct.

I heard earlier listened to the remarks by Kiambu Senator Karungo Wa Thangwa. He seemed to confirm that President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua were not reading the same script.

We the people of the Mountain are asking President William Ruto to engage DP Gachagua in dialogue the same way he is engaging Generation-Z and millennials.

The senator, who spoke in presence of the Deputy President in Maragwa, stated. We have heard that the President has initiated a process of reaching out to the young people.

This is after they took to the streets to register their strong reservations with the way the country is being governed.

We want the President to use the same template to engage the DP.

While fondly referring Gachagua as Riggy-G, the senator further noted that Generation-Z and Riggy-G share one thing in common "letter G".

You can therefore ignore Riggy-G at your own peril.

He added: DP Gachagua is our kingpin in the Mountain. I'm therefore answerable to him. So this is what I want to tell the President. You cannot reach me without going through him.

The DP was also accompanied by a host of elected leaders from this region.

To me, Karungo's sentiments which were echoed by all the speakers including area MP Mary Wa maua, were weighty.

As we know, the people of Mount Kenya region voted for President Ruto to the last man and woman during 2022 polls. He garnered 87 percent and these are the votes that catapulted him to the



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

seat of president.

Kiambu senator's point was therefore clear. The DP was a force to reckon with. He helped the President to get those votes.

So, If the President opts to ignore him he was bound to lose this critical support base.

We recall that President Ruto made a raft of promises to the voters in this region during campaign.

The position of the DP is that most of these promises have not been fulfilled. As a community, what we hate is betrayal, he was once quoted as saying.

I'm therefore sure the issue of unfulfilled promises would feature prominently if President agree to engage him in a formal and structured manner.

Besides the DP would demand to be respected and recognized as the senior most leader in the Mountain

In Mombasa, the DP emphasized. During the campaign and when we assumed office I and President Ruto said we will be listening to what the people of Kenya are telling us. So, the youths had a right to air their views. These madness of killing our youths should never happen again in our country.

I'm happy to note that 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.

The DP also conveyed 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.

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.

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

NCCCK To Integrate Youths In Leadership And Decision Making

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) an umbrella body which brings together a family of churches of Christian communion has said they are engaging the leadership structures of the churches to integrate the youth in governance and decision-making structures and processes.

During a two-day induction workshop for officials elected to NCCCK committees in Embu, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Nyeri, Nyandarua and Laikipia counties, held at Bethany House, Sagana, Kirinyaga County, the leaders recognized that Kenya is at a critical moment of redefining and reshaping her character and future hence every Kenyan has a chance and responsibility to make their contribution.

Led by their regional treasurer Rev. David Njoroge, they said it's unfor-



Youths.

fortunate that the young people of Kenya are getting into a second week of demonstrations without their issues being heard or addressed comprehensively.

"On our part as NCCCK, we are work-

ing with our member churches to develop youth led, youth owned and youth focused programs of action, in addition to enhancing the budgets allocated to youth departments," Njoroge said.

The clergy further noted that Kenya is a very youthful country, with those aged below 35 years constituting over 70% of the total population. He pointed out that it is therefore a major concern that the youth are highly

deprived with regard to education, life skills and employment, and if this status is not remedied, the risk of sinking into social chaos is very high.

"We call upon all leaders and institutions to focus more than 80 per cent of their efforts and resources on empowering the youth to have dignified livelihoods and to be equipped for leadership. The first step in this process is listening to the youth and creating platforms for them to shape the nation they desire to live in"

However, they asked youths to stand by their peaceful demonstrations and refrain from destroying public and private property warning them that we have only one country to live in.

The NCCCK started a 7-day mourning to remember those who lost their lives which will end with Sunday services across all churches.

"We appreciate the contributions of all Kenyans, and especially the youth, for peaceful conduct as we all journey together in reshaping and redefining our nation", said Rev Njoroge.

Nyeri County Government To Conduct Balloting On Business Stalls On July 17

By: Kenya News Agency

Nyeri County Government has floated balloting for 600 stalls at the Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima bus terminus.

A public notice has slated July 17 this year as the date for the balloting.

The county administration says it arrived at the decision after the public presented this as the most ideal method of allocating the stalls. A total of 2,000 businesspersons had applied for the spaces on July 21 2023.

"After wide consultations with the majority of stakeholders, it was found that the best method of allocation of these trading spaces is through open balloting which is fair and transparent. This is therefore to notify all traders who applied for the trading spaces that balloting will be conducted on Wednesday 21, July 2024 at Nyeri, Kamukunji grounds along temple road from 8.00 am to 5pm," reads part of the notice by the Department of Trade, Co-operatives,



President William Ruto while officially opening the Field Marshall Muthoni Kirima Terminus last year.

Culture and Tourism.

Applicants have also been directed to cross check their details at the Department of Trade offices during working hours from last Monday to Tuesday next week.

One can also log into the county's website www.nyeri.go.ke or check their details at the Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima bus terminus notice-board.

Lands and Physical Planning CEC Ndirangu Gachunia told KNA that

once the balloting is complete, successful candidates will be given two weeks to paint their stalls before they can open them for business.

The officer also clarified that the long awaited relocation of Public Service Vehicles will also be carried out once the issue of balloting has been settled.

"We had almost 2,000 applicants who wanted to be allocated stalls at the Field Marshall Muthoni Kirima. Unfortunately, only a fraction of them

can get these stalls. We also want to embark on moving Public Service Vehicles from the main stage in the town CBD to the new market since it is more spacious and will therefore help address the challenge of traffic gridlocked that has been the eyesore at our current terminus" he said.

"Nevertheless, to avoid a fall out while undertaking relocation, we shall have to talk and negotiate with stakeholders in the transport sector and come up with an agreement on how to move forward," he said.

The Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima bus terminus was expected to address the challenge of endless traffic gridlocks in Nyeri town that end up inconveniencing commuters in wasted man-hours.

While announcing a mini-reshuffle in his government in 2022 Governor Mutahi Kahiga had directed the then Lands Chief Officer Ms Beatrice Koech to ensure there was a speedy relocation of traders and PSV matatus from the old terminal to the new bus park.

Kahiga had pointed out that the relocation to the new bus park was a critical project that needed to be un-

dertaken as a matter of urgency.

"The Asian quarter's bus park (now Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima) is the next major thing on the desk. The completion and transfer of the existing bus stages and traders to the new park must be given priority and dealt with expeditiously while ensuring a smooth and efficient roll over," he had told reporters.

The terminus whose construction began in 2019 at a cost of Sh 700 million was implemented in two phases by the Nyeri Town Municipality Board.

It was financed under the Kenya Urban Support Programme; a World Bank initiative whose objective is to spur economic development in counties through improved physical infrastructure development.

The facility features 240 matatu, bus, taxi and tuk-tuk bays, 1,000 booking offices, 40 parking bays and 98 passenger waiting bays.

In addition, the park hosts 1,000 business stalls, five sanitation blocks, high level water tanks and a modern solid waste chamber.

Murang'a Assembly Calls For Resolving Of Hitches Facing The County Health Care Programme

By: Kenya News Agency

Murang'a county assembly has passed a motion compelling the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for health to iron out challenges facing implementation of the county health care programme.

The MCAs on Tuesday said some challenges like delayed remittance of funds to the programme dubbed Kang'ata care need to be resolved immediately so as to ensure beneficiaries listed in the health cover scheme don't miss medical care.

In a report tabled by the chairperson of the assembly's committee for health services Boniface Mbau, it was revealed that beneficiaries of the programme have been complaining that their cards have no funds thus being turned away from health facilities.

Mbau highlighted that as of February this year, some residents included in the Kang'ata care programme complained they could not access afford-

able medical care since their cards had no funds and some of their names were missing from the list.

He added that use of the cards is causing delays in referrals to patients who seek specialized treatment to facilities out of the county.

"Mr. Speaker, the last expense funds which is one of the components of the programme has been delayed for up to six months before disbursement leading to extra expenses to the family affected," said Mbau who is also MCA for Muthithi ward.

The Kang'ata care programme was established by the county government at the beginning of last year to provide Universal Health coverage for indigent and vulnerable households in the county.

The programme with more than 20,000 beneficiaries covers outpatient and inpatient services, optical and dental treatment and last expense.

According to Chairperson, the CECM for health should have a clear list of the beneficiaries as per ward.

Seconding the motion, Kangari MCA Moses Mirara said there is need to create a structure of management on



the roles and responsibilities on running the programme.

"Currently, the programme is not independent. The people running the Kang'ata care are not defined. There are no structures of management. We want the roles of various officers running the programme to be made clear," Added Mirara.

On her part, nominated MCA Sharleen Wambui said that hospitals benefiting from Kang'ata Care should

provide an audit on quarterly basis so as to ensure funds utilized are accounted for and residents benefit from the healthcare scheme without challenges.

"Performance reports of all the four areas covered by the medical scheme should be submitted quarterly so as to monitor the implementation of the programme," remarked Wambui.

To improve its effectiveness, Gaturi ward MCA, Gathe wa Njeri

recommended that the youth especially those who are vulnerable and with disabilities be included in the Kang'ata Care programme as majority of the beneficiaries are the elderly.

"The programme should also consider including youth who are from poor backgrounds and who need support to access affordable medical care. This will ensure inclusivity," he noted.

Kalenjin Elders Root For Urgent Dialogue To Address Government – Gen Z Stalemate

By: MKT Reporter

@themkenyaintimes

The Kalenjin Mioot Council of Elders in Nandi has called for urgent dialogue structures to be set up to address issues youths have raised with government.

Elders drawn from various Kalenjin clans said President William Ruto has paved way for the talks after declining to sign the controversial 2024 Finance Bill.

They said the President's call for a public conversation to deliberate on the pertinent issues affecting the Gen Z is good for the country's stability.

Kalenjin elders urged President William Ruto to reach out to establish interactive avenues to avert further destruction of properties and violent demonstrations that are detrimental to the development of the country.

Benjamin Kitur, the Council chair besought the Gen Z groups to call off their demonstrations across the country and formally present their grievances on the table with the government.



"The ongoing protestation is uncalled for and we cannot stand watching our children dying, we have to tell them it's enough and government has heeded to their demand," he stated.

Speaking in Kapsabet, the elders drawn from various Kalenjin clans claimed that the recent unmatched incidents including the youths breaking into Parliament chambers was tantamount to treasonous acts.

The Kalenjin top elders' council re-

gretted that a section of the protesting youths were shot dead and many sustained critical injuries.

"We have to be careful on how we approach the issues affecting the nation, we don't have another country to run to rather than rising to occasion and urging Gen Z to hold on, we have a country to safeguard," said Benjamin.

President Ruto dropped the punitive Finance Bill 2024 last week, the President declined to sign the

Bill that was passed by the National Assembly but that did not seem to appease the Gen Z aggression but instead they raised more demands including calling for his resignation and disbandment of the National Assembly for endorsing punitive high tax measures.

They also want the President to resign for what they claimed that he has failed to meet their expectation barely two years after assuming the high office in the land.

But retired Rev James Bassy stated that resignation or disbandment of Kenya's parliament is not a solution to what ails the country.

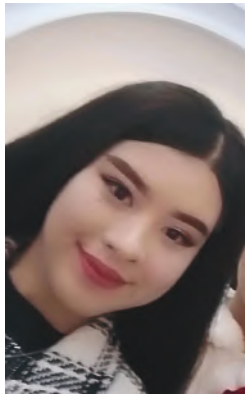
"We have a country to be proud of with a progressive democratic development. We cannot allow those with selfish interest to push us to anarchy. Sanity must be restored and bring to book the gangs that are taking advantage of peaceful demonstrations to loot and vandalise public structures," he said.

He further urged parents to assume their responsibility in nurturing and shaping up patriotic young generation to dissuade them from engaging in retrogressive activities.

However, John Kemboi called upon political leaders and churches to support the government to bring lasting peace and stability in the country.

Kemboi asked the civil society and human rights' organisations to fast-track initiatives that will address security issues in our country adding that they should proactively mobilise youths into public participation to air their grievances and possible roadmap to the government.

I Miss You Classmate



How many secrets we have
The light are on
None of us would stay
I miss you classmate .

My eyes are flowing like a river
Let's go to those beautiful ones
It was as if he would return for a
moment
I miss you classmate.

Well this is a test
In a fairy tale of life
But when Barin realized
I miss you classmate.

👉 Nurullayeva Mashhura

Nurullayeva Mashhura was born on December 12, 2006 in Sariosia district of Surkhandaryu region. In the same year she graduated from the 11th grade of the 3rd general education school days he took pride of place in many science olympiads and competitions. The owner of several international certificates his stories and poems have been published in international newspapers and magazines. There are many goals in the future.

We are leaving with wet eyes
Growing up is not easy for us
But it's heart-wrenching pain
I miss you classmate.

The last call is ringing
She has been doing it since childhood
But we say it's fate
I miss you classmate.

How many roads we walked together
What days of snow and rain
I miss those moments now
I miss you classmate.

My first love is flowers
All the children were laughing
Rooms that witness our love
I miss you classmate.

Murodova Muslima Kadyrovna

Murodova Muslima Kadyrovna was born on June 29, 2010 in Jondar district of Bukhara region.

Currently, she is a 7th grade student of school No. 30 in this district.

Her first book of poetry was published in 2024 under the name "Come beautiful spring".

Winner of many achievements.

She 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.

Her first anthology was published by the UK publisher Justfiction Edition.

Founder of "Muslima's" blog.

A young teacher who was able to develop about 250 artists.

Owner of more than 50 international certificates.



Dad...

One person like you, dad

When your hair turns white
I don't know where my eyes are.
I couldn't find it anywhere
An ocean of love like you, dad

Chasing my worries
Forgetting yourself completely.
Even if I hurt you, you will laugh.
There is no such person as you, dad

Slowly forgetting in pain,
You are sick from worries.
Today my tongue hurts
A person like you is lonely, dad...

You are the best person I know
The language is beautiful and bright.
God bless you,
My lonely world, dad...

AUTHOR: MUNISA AMINBOYEVA

Nature



expression

Even a butterfly doesn't know how to rest.

Both on the mountain and in the garden
my face is beautiful
Gently swaying tulips
The swallow builds its nest in a quiet place
Please be upon you.

Sun dew horizon with clouds
It's such a beautiful morning,
Spring with flowers mountains and birds
Beautiful nature fills the heart with enthusiasm.

Gulchehra Iskandarova was born in Gallaoral district of Jizzakh region a member of Young penmanship circle of Barkamol avlod children's School.

The purpose of nature is to grow in the grass
A gentle breeze gives peace.
A wonderful king spread around
The sound of nightingales is pleasing to the heart.

Non-stop roaring rivers
It's like making a deal with a loud rustle.
Flowerbeds covered in a strange



My tongue burned with pain and sorrow,
I found comfort in a lonely pen.
I couldn't find it, I searched

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Simba Corporation Delivers The First All-Electric Mahindra XUV400 to Kenya Power

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Simba Corporation, a trusted name in Kenya's automotive manufacturing and sales industry has delivered the first of the all-electric Mahindra XUV400 Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) to Kenya Power.

According to David Mugambi, Head of Transport at Kenya Power the delivery marks a significant step forward in Kenya's journey towards sustainable mobility and environmental responsibility. The two electric vehicles (EV), are part of six that have been acquired by the electricity utility firm this year. Kenya Power plans to further expand its fleet to 9 electric vehicles and 25 electric motorcycles by December 2024.

"At over 92 percent green generation, Kenya Power has one of the cleanest energy distributions on the planet. In light of environmental concerns and our need to be carbon neutral, reducing emissions within the transport space is crucial. This therefore marks an important mile-



Naresh Leekha & David Mugambi Admire the interiors of the XUV400 EV.

stone in our EV journey, which started close to eight years ago with the transition to electric material handling equipment at our yards and warehouses," said Mugambi.

With Kenya rapidly emerging as a leader in EV adoption in Africa, the country has seen a significant increase in the number of EVs on

the road currently estimated at about 2,100 ranging from two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers.

Naresh Leekha, Group Managing Director of Simba Corporation's Motors Division, expressed the firm's commitment to Kenya's EV Journey with the introduction of Mahindra electric vehicles in Kenya

with a positive outlook into the future.

"Simba Corporation has always been at the forefront of bringing innovative products to the Kenyan auto-mobile market. The whole world today is talking about bringing in environment-friendly vehicles and today we have delivered the first two

Mahindra XUV400 SUVs to Kenya Power, one of the first customers to embrace the Mahindra Electric SUVs in Kenya," said Leekha.

Speaking of Kenya's readiness to transition to EV, Mugambi explained that the country has enough energy to support significant EV growth over the next five years with the current installed capacity of 3, 246 Megawatts (MW) way above peak demand at 2300MW, and an off-peak load of 1,100 MW as of December 2023.

"Kenya's readiness for EV mobility is underscored by a substantial clean energy capacity. We have adequate energy to power the the electric mobility space for the next five years when we expect at the current rate to outstrip our current demand. This transition could also help reduce energy costs and improve the quality of life in Kenya by utilizing local energy sources," he noted.

This initiative not only aligns with global environmental goals but also promises economic benefits by reducing reliance on imported fuel and enhancing energy security.

Kenya's Pioneering AI-Driven And Influencer-Powered Social Commerce Platform Celebrates Accolades

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Twiva Ltd, Kenya's pioneering AI-driven and influencer-powered social commerce platform, is celebrating a significant milestone after winning two prestigious accolades at the Kenya E-commerce Awards held at the Movenpick Hotel. Twiva proudly announces its victories in the E-commerce awards, bagging at 1st place, the Top Rising Star, E-commerce Award and at first runner-up position, for the Best Social Commerce Platform; categories.

This recognition is a game changer, marking the first official entry of the growing social commerce category into the coveted E-commerce Awards, which have been running for five years. The Kenya E-commerce Awards aims to honor excellence in shopping, retail, and customer success, spotlighting businesses that excel in creating exceptional shopping experiences.



"What an honor to know that Twiva continues to garner the vote of confidence from the Kenyan citizens, as we also acknowledge the immense support we are receiving from our merchants (SMEs), influencers/resellers and our stakeholders. Our drive continues to be led by the desire to deliver a great shopping experience for our users on the platform," says Grace Gikonyo, Head of Marketing & Public Relations.

Peter N. Kironji, CEO and Co-founder of Twiva, added, "I celebrate the toil entrepreneurs put in, to growing their businesses, and these awards are a great way to honor that commitment. We are dedicated to

revolutionizing the social commerce landscape in Kenya and beyond. By leveraging AI and the power of social media influencers, we are creating a new way for brands to connect with consumers, and realize actual conversion in their sales efforts."

Twiva's recognition comes amid significant growth in the social commerce sector in Kenya. There were 22.71 million internet users in Kenya at the start of 2024, when internet penetration stood at 40.8 percent. Kenya was home to 13.05 million social media users in January 2024, equating to 23.5 percent of the total population.

Recent statistics highlight that 49% of Kenyans have made purchases through social media platforms like WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and Twitter, underscoring the vital role of social commerce in the country's retail landscape. With the market projected to grow by 23.5% annually, Twiva's innovative approach in utilizing AI and influencers positions it as a key player in this booming industry.

By connecting brands with influenc-

ers who authentically promote products, Twiva has created a seamless and engaging shopping experience. This success illustrates the powerful synergy between technology and human influence in driving business growth and consumer engagement.

As the social commerce landscape in Kenya evolves, with micro and small businesses increasingly leveraging social media as virtual storefronts, Twiva remains at the forefront of this transformation. Boasting a network of over 11,000 influencers, Twiva is empowering businesses to tap into the vast potential of social commerce.

Twiva's achievements at the Kenya E-commerce Awards solidify its leadership in Kenya's social commerce sector. The platform continues to set new standards for shopping experiences, fostering meaningful connections between brands and consumers. As social commerce continues to expand, Twiva is poised to drive further innovation and support the digital transformation of retail in Kenya.



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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
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The Delicate Balance: Navigating the Interplay between the Right to Assembly and Constitutional Limitations in Kenya's Legal Framework



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The tension between these two articles has been the subject of numerous legal battles and scholarly debates. In the case of *Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD) & 2 others v Republic of Kenya & 10 others* [2015] eKLR, the High Court grappled with the constitutionality of certain provisions in the Security Laws (Amendment) Act that restricted the right to assembly.
- The court, in its wisdom, struck down several provisions as unconstitutional, emphasizing that any limitation on the right to assembly must be narrowly tailored and serve a compelling state interest.
- This ruling underscores the judiciary's role in safeguarding constitutional rights while recognizing the state's legitimate security concerns.

Within the domain of constitutional law, few issues are as contentious and nuanced as the balance between fundamental rights and their necessary limitations. The Kenyan Constitution of 2010, hailed as one of the most progressive in Africa, enshrines a robust Bill of Rights that includes the freedom of assembly, demonstration, picketing, and petition under Article 37. However, this right is not absolute and must be considered in light of Article 24, which provides for the limitation of rights under certain circumstances. This paper aims to explore the intricate relationship between these two constitutional provisions, examining their implementation, interpretation, and the challenges that arise in their practical application within the Kenyan legal and social context.

Article 37 of the Kenyan Constitution guarantees that "every person has the right, peaceably and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket, and to present petitions to public authorities." This provision is a cornerstone of democratic participation, enabling citizens to express their grievances, advocate for change, and hold their government accountable. As noted by constitutional scholar Yash Ghai in his seminal work "Kenya's Constitution: An Instrument for Change" (2018), this right is "essential for the functioning of a vibrant democracy and the protection of minority interests." The inclusion of this right in the Constitution reflects Kenya's commitment to international human rights standards, aligning with Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to

which Kenya is a signatory.

However, the exercise of this right is not without boundaries. Article 24 of the Constitution provides a framework for the limitation of rights and fundamental freedoms. It stipulates that a right or fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights shall not be limited except by law, and only to the extent that the limitation is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society. This provision sets out specific criteria that must be met for any limitation to be considered valid, including the nature of the right, the importance of the purpose of the limitation, and the relation between the limitation and its purpose. As Justice Willy Mutunga opined in the landmark case of *Satrose Ayuma & 11 others v Registered Trustees of the Kenya Railways Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme & 3 others* [2013] eKLR, "The limitations clause in Article 24 is not a carte blanche for the state to restrict rights but a carefully calibrated mechanism to ensure that any restrictions serve legitimate aims and are proportionate."

The tension between these two articles has been the subject of numerous legal battles and scholarly debates. In the case of *Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD) & 2 others v Republic of Kenya & 10 others* [2015] eKLR, the High Court grappled with the constitutionality of certain provisions in the Security Laws (Amendment) Act that restricted the right to assembly. The court, in its wisdom, struck down several provisions as unconstitutional, emphasizing that any limitation on the right to assembly must be narrowly tailored and serve

a compelling state interest. This ruling underscores the judiciary's role in safeguarding constitutional rights while recognizing the state's legitimate security concerns.

The implementation of Article 37 in practice has often been fraught with challenges. Despite its constitutional protection, the right to assembly has frequently been curtailed through various means, including the use of excessive force by law enforcement, arbitrary arrests, and the invocation of colonial-era public order laws. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, in its 2017 report "The Right to Peaceful Assembly: A Checklist for Kenya," documented numerous instances where the right to assembly was infringed upon, highlighting the gap between constitutional guarantees and their practical realization. This discrepancy raises critical questions about the effectiveness of constitutional protections and the need for comprehensive legislative and policy reforms to ensure full compliance with Article 37.

The judiciary has played a crucial role in interpreting the scope and limitations of the right to assembly. In the case of *Seventh Day Adventist Church (East Africa) Limited v Minister for Education & 3 others* [2014] eKLR, the Court of Appeal emphasized that any limitation on constitutional rights must be proportionate and narrowly tailored to achieve a legitimate aim. This principle of proportionality, derived from international human rights jurisprudence, has become a key test in assessing the validity of restrictions on the right to assembly. As noted by legal scholar Migai Akech in his article "Administrative Law and Judicial Review in Kenya" (2016), "The proportionality test provides a structured approach to balancing competing rights and interests, ensuring that limitations on rights are not arbitrary or excessive."

The intersection of Article 37 and Article 24 raises important questions about the role of the state in facilitating and regulating public assemblies. While the state has a positive obligation to protect and enable the exercise of the right to assembly, it also has a duty to maintain public order and protect the rights of others. This dual responsibility requires a delicate balancing act, as highlighted by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association in his 2016 report on Kenya. The report emphasized the need for clear guidelines and training for law enforcement officials to ensure that any restrictions on assemblies are applied in a manner consistent with international human rights standards and Kenya's constitutional framework.

The ongoing debate surrounding these constitutional provisions re-

fects broader societal tensions and the evolving nature of democratic participation in Kenya. As the country continues to grapple with issues of governance, corruption, and social inequality, the right to assembly remains a vital tool for civic engagement and political expression. However, the frequent invocation of security concerns and public order as justifications for limiting this right highlights the ongoing challenges in striking the right balance. Scholar Karuti Kanyinga, in his book "Kenya: Democracy and Political Participation" (2014), argues that "the realization of the right to assembly is a litmus test for Kenya's democratic maturity and the government's commitment to constitutionalism."

Looking forward, several key issues require attention to ensure the effective implementation of Article 37 while respecting the limitations clause in Article 24. First, there is a need for comprehensive legislative reform to align existing laws with the Constitution's progressive spirit. This includes revisiting colonial-era public order laws that are often used to restrict assemblies. Second, there is a pressing need for enhanced training and accountability mechanisms for law enforcement officials to ensure that they respect and protect the right to assembly. Third, the judiciary must continue to play a proactive role in interpreting these constitutional provisions, developing a robust jurisprudence that provides clear guidance on the permissible scope of limitations.

In conclusion, the interplay between Article 37 and Article 24 of the Kenyan Constitution exemplifies the complex challenges inherent in balancing fundamental rights with necessary limitations in a democratic society. As Kenya continues its journey towards consolidating its democratic gains, the interpretation and implementation of these constitutional provisions will remain crucial in shaping the country's political and social landscape. The ongoing dialogue between the legislature, judiciary, executive, and civil society on these issues is essential for fostering a vibrant democracy that respects both the right to assembly and the need for reasonable limitations. As Former Justice Jackton Ojwang aptly stated in his concurring opinion in the CORD case, "The Constitution is a living instrument, and its interpretation must evolve to meet the changing needs of society while safeguarding its fundamental principles." It is through this evolving interpretation and implementation that Kenya can hope to achieve the delicate balance between freedom and order enshrined in its constitutional framework.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Kenya's Tax Protest: A Struggle For Economic Equity

In recent weeks, Kenya has witnessed widespread protests against proposed tax reforms, igniting a contentious debate over economic policy and social justice. The demonstrations, organized by various civil society groups and opposition parties, have brought thousands to the streets of major cities like Nairobi and Mombasa, reflecting growing discontent among the populace.

Background of the Tax Reforms

The Kenyan government, facing economic challenges exacerbated by the global pandemic, has proposed several tax adjustments aimed at increasing revenue. These include adjustments to income tax brackets, new levies on digital transactions, and changes in VAT rates. Proponents argue that these measures are necessary to fund essen-

tial services and infrastructure projects, crucial for Kenya's development.

Voices of Dissent

However, critics of the reforms argue that they disproportionately burden the lower and middle-income earners, exacerbating inequality. They point to the already high cost of living in Kenya, compounded by inflationary pressures and unemployment, which have disproportionately affected vulnerable communities. The proposed taxes on digital transactions, for instance, are seen as particularly regressive, affecting small businesses and consumers alike.

Civil Society and Opposition Response

Civil society organizations, along with opposition parties, have been vo-

cal in their opposition to the reforms. They argue for alternative approaches to revenue generation, such as tackling corruption and broadening the tax base to include wealthier individuals and corporations. These groups have called for dialogue with the government to address concerns about the fairness and impact of the proposed tax changes on ordinary Kenyans.

Government's Position and Public Perception

In response to the protests, the Kenyan government has defended the reforms as necessary for fiscal sustainability and economic recovery. They emphasize the need to meet international debt obligations and maintain macro-economic stability. However, public sentiment remains divided, with many expressing skepticism about the gov-

ernment's ability to manage public finances effectively and transparently.

Path Forward: Dialogue and Resolution

As Kenya navigates these turbulent times, finding a balance between fiscal responsibility and social equity is paramount. The ongoing protests underscore the urgency of inclusive policymaking and the need for transparent governance. Dialogue between stakeholders — government, civil society, and the private sector — will be crucial in forging a consensus on sustainable fiscal policies that promote economic growth while safeguarding the welfare of all citizens.

In conclusion, Kenya's tax protests reflect deeper socio-economic challenges and disparities. They highlight the pressing need for equitable economic

policies that prioritize the interests of all Kenyans, particularly the most vulnerable. As the country continues to grapple with these issues, fostering a constructive dialogue and pursuing inclusive reforms will be essential in charting a path towards a more prosperous and equitable future for all.

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2024 Protests So Far: How Kenyan Youth Are Redefining Civic Engagement

Kenya has recently emerged as a beacon of civic and political activism, driven by a historic wave of protests addressing various social and economic grievances. The powerful EndFemicideKe protests called for gender justice, while demonstrations against forced evictions and demolitions in informal settlements during the flood season highlighted the plight of marginalized communities. Yet, it is the widespread outrage over the contentious Finance Bill 2024 that truly galvanized the nation, drawing intense scrutiny and support both domestically and globally.

These protests have made history with their groundbreaking use of technology to rally and unite citizens beyond traditional tribal divisions. The innovativeness, boldness, and resilience of Kenyan Gen Zs and millennials in activism tactics are noteworthy. Technology and social media played crucial roles in enabling broader participation in political discourse, increasing scrutiny of government actions, and empowering a demographic that challenged traditional power structures.

Scores of citizens voiced their frustration, anger, disappointment, opposition, and demands online and organized nationwide protests using hashtags like #EndFemicideKe, #TotalShutdownKenya, #RejectFinance-Bill2024, and #OccupyParliament on social media platforms such as TikTok and X. Online petition platforms like Change.org (against the Finance

Bill) and Avaaz.org (against Femicide) were also used to rally wider public support.

Femicide Protests: A Cry for Gender Justice

The year began with massive demonstrations against femicide, driven by alarming statistics and a demand for stronger legal protections and enforcement. January and February saw some of the largest protests in Kenya's history, with women and allies marching to demand justice for victims and stricter laws to protect women. Led predominantly by young women and feminists, including many Nguvu Change Leaders playing different roles, these protests highlighted systemic gender-based violence and the need for legislative reforms to ensure women's safety and equality.

Flood Protests Against Unfair Demolitions and Evacuations

In April, protests erupted over unfair demolitions and evictions following severe flooding, which disproportionately affected vulnerable communities. The evictions were deemed inhumane as many felt brutalised and were left without an alternative place to relocate to, no fair compensation, sufficient notice, or proper consultation. The government's response was criticized as selective and punitive, prompting calls for fairer environmental policies and better disaster management. Like the peaceful mass

marches against femicide, young people, driven by a desire to secure a safer and more resilient future, were at the forefront of these demonstrations, including women.

Finance Bill Protests: Economic Justice and Accountability

The most recent wave of protests has been driven by opposition to the Finance Bill 2024, which proposed significant tax hikes. These demonstrations, marked by a diverse demographic including millennials and mostly Gen Z participants, showcased widespread economic discontent. The proposed tax increases were seen as burdensome, especially for the younger population struggling with unemployment and economic instability.

The outcome, which saw President Ruto conceding, underscores the growing influence of young people and women in national affairs, though their voices and concerns are often excluded from top decision-making. This has widened the gap between the government and disillusioned citizens who have lost faith and trust in leadership.

A New Era of Bold Collective Action

These protests mark a turning point for Kenya, heralding a new era of collective action and political and social accountability in Kenya that has reshaped public discourse and policy direction. They reflect deep-seated



discontent and growing disillusionment among young Kenyans with existing policies that overlook public participation and fail to address urgent national issues. It's a clear demand for youth and women to have a meaningful role in shaping the country's future, not just demanding change but actively steering its course.

In supporting and amplifying these transformative movements, the younger generation and women, civil society organizations (CSOs), the media, and the government have pivotal roles to play. CSOs can provide the necessary organizational infrastructure, resources, and advocacy training to sustain the momentum of these protests, ensuring that young voices are heard and their demands are met. The media, as a powerful tool for

shaping public opinion, can continue to spotlight these movements, foster informed debate, and hold those in power accountable. Meanwhile, the government must embrace a collaborative approach, engaging in constructive dialogue with these young activists and stakeholders to co-create policies and solutions that reflect the diverse interests of all Kenyans. Together, these efforts can pave the way for long-term solutions, fostering a more equitable and just society where every Kenyan, especially the youth and women, can thrive and participate meaningfully in shaping the nation's future.

By Ajra Mohamed, Partnership Specialist with Nguvu Collective

Role Of Private Security On Protests

By: Mr. Cosmas Mutava

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Role Of Private Security On Protests

During ongoing demonstrations, private security companies have a critical role in ensuring the safety of people and property. Here are some guidelines and advice for private security companies to follow:

1. Prioritize Safety

- Ensure the safety of personnel: Security officers should be well-trained to handle confrontational situations calmly and should be equipped with the necessary protective gear.

- Avoid confrontation: Security personnel should avoid direct confrontation with demonstrators. Their role is to protect, not to engage.

2. Coordination with Law Enforcement

- Liaise with local authorities: Establish and maintain communication with local law enforcement agencies to stay updated on the situation and to coordinate efforts.

- Follow legal protocols: Ensure all actions taken are within the legal framework and guidelines provided by local authorities.

- Information Sharing: Sharing of reports of abductions and other activities as they happen.

3. Secure Property

- Protect key assets: Focus on securing buildings, infrastructure, and other critical assets. This may involve increased patrols, securing entrances, and monitoring for potential breaches.

- Implement access control: Restrict access to buildings and sensitive areas to authorized personnel only. Use ID checks and other verification methods.

4. Use Technology

- Surveillance: Utilize CCTV cameras and other surveillance technology to monitor the situation and provide real-time information to authorities.

- Communication tools: Equip security personnel with reliable communication devices to ensure they can stay in touch with each other and with the control center.

5. Emergency Preparedness

- Develop an emergency plan: Have a clear, well-documented plan for different emergency scenarios, including evacuation procedures and emergency contacts.

- Conduct drills: Regularly train and conduct drills so that security personnel are prepared to act quickly and effectively in an emergency.

6. Public Relations

- Maintain a professional demeanor: Security personnel should remain calm, professional, and respectful at all times to avoid escalating the situation.

- Engage with the community: Where possible, engage with community leaders and demonstrators in a respectful manner to build trust and gather information that might help in managing the situation.

7. Mental Health Support

- Support for personnel: Provide psychological support and counseling for security staff who may be affected by the stress and challenges of managing security during demonstrations.

8. Legal Considerations

- Know the laws: Ensure that all security personnel are aware of their legal rights and limitations in the context of demonstrations.

- Document incidents: Keep detailed records of any incidents that occur, including dates, times, actions taken, and outcomes, to protect against potential legal issues.

9. Get Essential Services Status in case of emergency

By following these guidelines, private security companies can play a crucial role in maintaining safety and security during demonstrations while respecting the rights of demonstrators.

*By: Mr. Cosmas Mutava
Chairman Protective Security Industry Association*

CHALLENGES FACED BY SECURITY FIRMS DURING PROTESTS

During the Finance Bill protests in Kenya, private security firms are facing several challenges. These challenges are significantly impacting their operations and effectiveness. They include;

1. Increased Risk of Violence

- Escalation of Violence: Protests are quickly escalating into violent confrontations, posing significant risks to security personnel.

- Vandalism and Looting: Protecting properties from vandalism and looting becomes challenging, especially in high-tension areas.

2. Coordination with Law Enforcement



Mr. Cosmas Mutava Chairman Protective Security Industry Association.

ment

- Lack of Coordination: There may be difficulties in coordinating with local law enforcement, leading to gaps in security coverage.

- Jurisdictional Issues: Private security firms must navigate the complexities of their legal authority versus that of the police.

3. Public Perception and Trust

- Negative Perception: Security personnel may be perceived as adversarial by protesters, which can exacerbate tensions.

- Community Relations: Building and maintaining trust with the community during protests is challenging but essential.

4. Operational Challenges

- Resource Allocation: Managing limited resources effectively to cover all critical areas can be difficult.

- Logistics: Ensuring security personnel are adequately equipped and deployed in the right locations requires meticulous planning.

5. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

- Legal Constraints: Operating within the legal framework and ensuring compliance with local regulations can be challenging, especially under rapidly changing

circumstances.

- Liability Issues: There is a risk of legal liability if security personnel overstep their bounds or if incidents occur on their watch.

6. Communication Barriers

- Information Flow: Ensuring timely and accurate communication between security personnel and their control centers is crucial but can be hampered by infrastructure issues.

- Public Communication: Effectively communicating with the public and managing misinformation is a persistent challenge.

7. Personnel Safety and Welfare

- Personnel Safety: Ensuring the safety and well-being of security personnel who are often on the front lines of volatile situations.

- Mental Health: The stress and potential trauma associated with dealing with protests can affect the mental health of security staff.

8. Technological Challenges

- Surveillance Systems: Maintaining and utilizing surveillance systems effectively in chaotic environments can be difficult.

- Cybersecurity: Protecting digital infrastructure from potential cyber-attacks or data breaches.

9. Mobility and Access

- Restricted Movement:

Roadblocks and large crowds can restrict the movement of security personnel, making it difficult to respond quickly to incidents.

- Access Control: Managing access to buildings and sensitive areas when there are large numbers of people moving through them.

10. Emergency Response

- Response Time: Ensuring rapid response to emergencies when roads and access points are blocked.

- Medical Emergencies: Providing immediate medical assistance to injured personnel or civilians during violent outbreaks.

By understanding these challenges, private security firms can better prepare and adapt their strategies to effectively manage the risks associated with protests, ensuring the safety of both their personnel and the public.

*By: Mr. Cosmas Mutava
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Sports >> *Brazil will face Uruguay in the Copa America quarter-finals after being held 1-1 by Colombia in their final group-stage match.

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- STATISTICS
- SCHEDULES
- BREAKING NEWS



Copa America: Brazil Face Uruguay In Quarters After Colombia Draw



Brazil will face Uruguay in the Copa America quarter-finals after being held 1-1 by Colombia in their final group-stage match. Brazil, five-time World Cup winners, knew victory in California would ensure they finished top of the group and they started brightly as Barcelona winger Raphinha scored a stunning free-kick to put his side ahead. But Colombia, unbeaten since February 2022, responded emphatically and equalised just before half-time when Crystal

Palace defender Daniel Munoz struck from close range. Colombia, who have won the competition once, came closest to winning it when striker Rafael Borre fired over at the back post after being found by Johan Mojica's cross with six minutes left. The draw means Colombia win Group D and earn a favourable tie against Panama in the last eight, while runners-up Brazil will face 15-time winners Uruguay. Real Madrid winger Vinicius Jr

will miss Brazil's quarter-final after picking up his second yellow card of the tournament. In the group's other match, Costa Rica beat Paraguay 2-1 thanks to goals from Francisco Calvo and Josimar Alcocer. But Costa Rica needed results elsewhere to go their way in order to progress, and finished a point behind Brazil to miss out. The tournament's last eight commences on Friday, when holders Argentina play Ecuador.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Turkey defender Merih Demiral is under investigation by Uefa after appearing to make an ultra-nationalist salute during his country's victory against Austria.

Uefa Investigating Turkey's Demiral Over Goal Celebration



Turkey defender Merih Demiral is under investigation by Uefa after appearing to make an ultra-nationalist salute during his country's victory against Austria.

Demiral, 26, scored twice as Turkey booked their place in the Euro 2024 quarter-finals to face Netherlands with a 2-1 win against Austria.

The Al-Ahli defender celebrated his second goal with a 'wolf salute', a gesture associated with the far-right extremist group Grey Wolves that are linked with Tur-

key's ruling coalition party the National Movement Party.

Demiral said the salute, which is banned in Austria and France, was pre-planned in case he scored.

"I had a goal celebration in mind, which I did," said Demiral.

"I am very proud because I am a Turk, therefore after the goal I felt it deeply and I wanted to do it, and I am very happy about doing it."

Demiral posted a photo of the celebration on his X account with the caption: "How happy is the one who says I am a Turk!"

Uefa's investigation has been opened in accordance with Article 31(4) in relation to the "alleged inappropriate behaviour" of Demiral.

If found guilty, Demiral could be fined or face a suspension as Turkey prepare to take on Netherlands in Saturday's quarter-final.

England midfielder Jude Bellingham is under investigation for a gesture he made during the last-16 win against Slovakia on Sunday.

Bellingham was seen making a crotch-grabbing gesture towards

the Slovakian bench after scoring an overhead kick in stoppage time.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Rasmlar Arts



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Yakubova Dinara is a student at Samarkand state institute of foreign languages, who participate in several forums, summits and festivals as a volunteer. She won in the "Spelling bee contest", "Global youth parliamentarianism" and she was a delegate of WYF organized in Sochi and Uzbekistan in 2024.

Moreover, she is a member of Young Eurasian Scholars Network, Youth union, UzLIDEP and also coordinator of Development and Research academy

