



**Reforming Public Finance Management in Kenya: A Comprehensive Approach To Deficit Reduction**  
 The persistent and escalating budget deficit in Kenya has become a matter of grave concern for policymakers, economists, and citizens alike. This fiscal imbalance, characterized by government expenditures consistently outpacing revenues, poses a significant threat to the nation's economic stability

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**News >> CS Miano Optimistic Kenya Will Achieve Three Million Tourists This Year**

P. 8. Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano has expressed confidence that her Ministry will achieve a target of three million tourists by the end of the year.



**News >> Thousands Of Students Undergo Equity Bank Sponsored Mentorship Programme**

P. 12. Thousands of Form 1 and 2 beneficiaries of the Equity bank wings to fly and elimu scholarship programs drawn from Nairobi, Central, Eastern, North Eastern and Coast regions have been taken through a mentorship program that is meant to motivate them

# New Coalition To Take Up Role Of Official Opposition

Constituent parties of the Azimio Coalition are reorganizing themselves to take up the role of the official opposition after members of one of their parties joined the government.

Officials of the Wiper Democratic Party, Jubilee and the Democratic Action Party (DAP) who addressed the media in Embu yesterday morning said they had to reorganise to provide the country with a viable official opposition to prevent the country from sliding into a dictatorship.



Officials of the Wiper Democratic Party, Jubilee and the DAP-K who addressing media in Embu yesterday

STORY ON PAGE 9

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# Gachagua Says Caveat In Parts Of Nakuru County To Be Lifted

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, his spouse Pastor Dorcas, Njoro MP Charity Kathambi among other leaders join dancers during the launch of Kathambi Chepkwony Foundation on Saturday..

**Worth Noting:**

- “The pieces of paper you have do not add value to wealth creation. The title deeds (once issued upon lifting of the caveat), will enable you to borrow loans for businesses,” Mr Gachagua.
- He acknowledged the work of the National Government Administration Officers for working with the communities in Njoro and the surrounding areas in sustaining peace, he said, adding that the Ruto Administration will not allow any form of incitement against other communities.

President William Ruto’s administration is working on lifting the caveat for residents of Mauche and other neighbouring areas to receive Title Deeds for their land, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said.

Speaking during the memorial service of the husband of the Njoro MP Charity Kathambi and the launch of the Kathambi Chepkwony Foundation in Mauche, Nakuru County, the Deputy President said the hundreds of families in this region deserve title deeds for ownership, to spur economic growth.

The caveat was put in place by the East African Court of Justice stopping subdivision of land, which was part of the Mau Forest, in a legal battle between the government of Kenya and the Ogiek Community, which calls the forest home.

“We (the Kenya Kwanza Administration) promised to remove the caveat. I want to give the commitment of President William Ruto that this issue will be sorted once and for all,” he said.

The Deputy President said a meeting will be held bringing together leaders in the areas affected by the caveat to form part of the resolution of the matter, adding that economic prosperity will be realised when squatters receive title deeds.

“The pieces of paper you have do not add value to wealth creation. The title deeds (once issued upon lifting of the caveat), will enable you to borrow loans for businesses,” Mr Gachagua.

He acknowledged the work of the National Government Administration Officers for working with the communities in Njoro and the surrounding areas in

sustaining peace, he said, adding that the Ruto Administration will not allow any form of incitement against other communities.

“I want to encourage our security teams to continue remaining vigilant in ensuring that communities live in peace,” Mr Gachagua said.

The Deputy President said the war on illicit brew has been going on well. It will not stop.

“We are restoring homes and families. Chiefs and Commissioners have clear instructions from the President not to entertain illicit brews. Those making and selling such, are merchants of death. They hate me. But I do not need them to like me. My focus is to see happy families,” he said.

Mr Gachagua, who was accompanied

by his Spouse Pastor Dorcas Rigathi and other leaders, assured Kenyans that the economy is on its recovery path.

While responding to Kathambi’s remarks on betrayal, the Deputy President said that is part of politics and one needs a bigger heart to make it.

The Deputy President praised Kathambi for launching the foundation, saying it will help vulnerable members of the Constituency to live better lives, as per the legacy of the late David Chepkwony.

Nakuru Deputy Governor David Kones, Nakuru Woman Rep Liza Chelule her counterparts Esther Passaris(Nairobi), Elizabeth Kailemia (Meru), MP Jayne Kihara (Naivasha) Area MCA Moses Koros, among other leaders accompanied the Deputy President.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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Mama Judith Ongoro



# MEDICAL APPEAL

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



A family from Mbuvari Location in Manyatta Constituency, Embu, is appealing for financial support from well-wishers to enable their mother get discharged from hospital after undergoing successful cancer treatment. Cecily Njoka, 65, who was diagnosed with esophageal cancer two years ago underwent a successful surgery in July this year at Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital and was discharged on Sunday, August 10. However, her family has been unable to clear the balance of Sh314, 000 left from her total treatment cost of Sh764, 000 after NHIF paid Sh450, 000 leading to her detainment. The family is now worried that the burden of hospital

bill accumulating at the rate of Sh4, 000 daily may become too much for them to handle as she continues being detained in hospital.

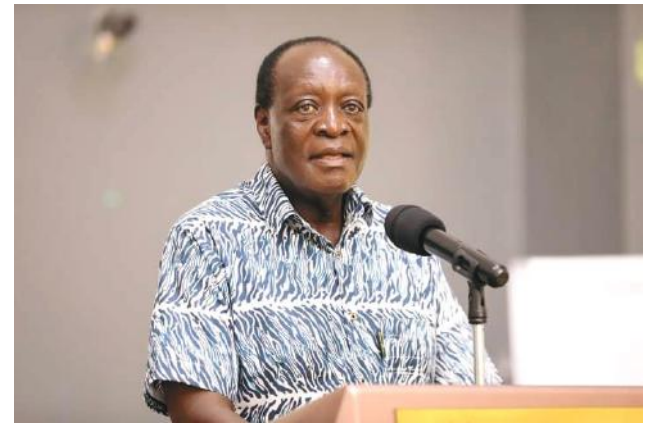
Financial support can be sent via Mpesa to mobile phone number 0725150462 (John Njeru) or through Paybill, Business Number 874950 Account 060511.

PCEA Kiamwathi Church Service was yesterday disrupted by youth who were protesting over a move by local elders to their priest. The young faithful occupied and locked the church gate in the early morning. The protest began early in the morning by chanting slogans while carrying placards criticizing the elders. Hundreds of worshippers from several congregations within the Nyeri Parish, who had gone for a parish event marking the retirement of one of their elders, were left stranded outside for over five hours. They waited for more than five hours before normalcy was restored. The protesting youth with one of the youths, Peter Kinyua saying the disruption was necessary to make their concerns heard. After deliberation with Nyeri Presbytery Moderator Patrick Kimathi and Nyeri Joy Parish Reverend Lucy Kiriungi, an agreement was reached to allow the parish event to proceed and to address the issues raised by the youth.



Makueni County Commissioner Henry Wafula has announced plans to increase security in Emali Municipality to prevent future property destruction and the busy Nairobi-Mombasa highway. The measures were taken following recent demonstrations by youth over the 2024-2025 Finance Bill. Wafula emphasised the importance of improving security on the Nairobi-Mombasa highway, which is a lifeline for Kenya, East Africa, and Central African countries in the region. He held a meeting with Emali Municipal Board officials, agreeing to beef up security to prevent future destruction of business people's property. The County Commissioner also agreed to collaborate with the security team and governor of Kajiado to improve security along the common border, especially in Emali Municipality.

Vihiga county government has concluded a two-day consultative workshop on the preparation of the County Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2025-2026. Speaking while closing the forum, Governor Dr. Wilber Ottichilo said the document has prioritized projects and programmes that would have a great impact to the masses. The Governor explained that the ADP has highlighted among others the realization of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), promoting of agricultural activities, providing credit to small entrepreneurs and improvement of the transport network in the county. He also noted that ADP is a blueprint that is actualizing the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027 on a yearly basis in line with the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2012. Stating that the document has outlined the resources required to implement the prioritized projects and how the implementation would be monitored to ensure optimal delivery of goods and services to the citizens.



## CS Ndung'u Urges Technical To Leverage On Technology

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Margaret Ndung'u, has urged Technical staff to utilise the investments made in ICT over the past decade to enhance inclusive, open, and secure digital access in Kenya.

She stressed the importance of digital access, noting that it should be inclusive and consider the needs of all citizens.

Dr. Ndung'u underscored the role of public servants in implementing the Digital Superhighway, aligning with government priorities and Kenya Vision 2030.

She emphasised the need to leverage emerging technologies, foster tech-enabled innovations, and expand new sectors like software engineering, e-commerce, and manufacturing to expand the digital economy.

She also emphasised the need to proactively mitigate risks by strengthening cybersecurity and data management practices in line with global norms. Ministry of Information, Communications & The Digital Economy KE



Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Margaret Ndung'u

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# Parliamentary Committee Takes IPOA To Task Over Police Oversight Role

By: MKT Reporters  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The committee, chaired by Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba, expressed alarm over several issues, including the infiltration of the police payroll by unscrupulous companies, the challenges in harmonizing the Administration Police with the Kenya Police Service, and the increasing reports of public attacks on police officers.
- However, the most pressing concerns were related to the authority's accountability for the extreme use of force during peaceful protests, the raiding of homes by hooded officers, and the abduction of citizens.



Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba chairing the committee meeting.

Top officials of the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) found themselves on the defensive when they appeared before the Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee (CIOC) to respond to critical questions regarding the authority's role in overseeing the National Police Service.

The session revealed deep concerns among legislators on the state of policing in Kenya, with IPOA's efficacy in protecting public rights coming under intense scrutiny.

The committee, chaired by Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba, expressed alarm over several issues, including the infiltration of the police payroll by unscrupulous companies, the challenges in harmonizing the

Administration Police with the Kenya Police Service, and the increasing reports of public attacks on police officers.

However, the most pressing concerns were related to the authority's accountability for the extreme use of force during peaceful protests, the raiding of homes by hooded officers, and the abduction of citizens.

"We have 61 deaths recorded from the Gen Z protests," Wamuchomba highlighted during the session.

"You haven't been able to arrest or convict those responsible for the abductions, deaths, and violations of human rights. What has IPOA done?"

IPOA's response that they have only nine regional offices and numerous cases to investigate was met with

scepticism from the legislators.

The committee also took issue with IPOA's communication strategy, particularly during the Gen Z protests and the abduction of various individuals.

Members were especially troubled by reports of hooded police officers raiding homes, an action deemed illegal.

IPOA defended itself, stating that such cases often fall under the 'Multi-Agency approach,' which obscures the identities of the officers involved, making it difficult to take action.

IPOA's CEO admitted that these operations were not legal and expressed hope that the police service would abide by a High Court ruling that seeks to end such practices.

Further concerns were raised by

Wamuchomba regarding the integrity of the police payroll, which has reportedly been infiltrated by two companies, leaving 6,860 officers in debt due to exploitation by entities posing as micro-financiers. IPOA, however, distanced itself from the issue, stating that payroll matters fall under the mandate of the National Police Service Commission (NPSC).

IPOA did make one notable recommendation during the session, advocating for the establishment of an independent forensics lab to prevent the tampering of evidence or biased results.

Dr. Ogon from IPOA mentioned that this recommendation had received support from the the National Task-force on Police Reforms led by former Chief Justice David Maraga and emphasized that the lab would operate independently from IPOA to maintain credibility.

The session also touched on the poor state of housing for police officers, with members describing their living conditions as "pathetic" and in urgent need of improvement.

Despite IPOA's explanations and recommendations, the Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the authority's perceived lack of accountability and proactivity in addressing the issues facing the Kenyan public.

Wamuchomba's final question encapsulated the frustrations of many present: "Is IPOA toothless, powerless? Are you not able to solve this?"

As the session concluded, the committee noted that the National Assembly expects IPOA to step up its efforts in holding the police accountable and ensuring the protection of Kenyan citizens.

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Mugwongo Family

# CS Miano Optimistic Kenya Will Achieve Three Million Tourists This Year

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano has expressed confidence that her Ministry will achieve a target of three million tourists by the end of the year.

Miano who spoke at Maasai Mara National Reserve on Saturday noted that already tourists have started flocking the country as all hotels and camps at the Mara were fully booked.

Going forward, she said, the Ministry in collaboration with county governments will strategise to diversify what the country has to offer, saying for a long time, Kenya has sold only her fauna and beaches as tourism attraction sites.

“There are many other things that we can offer because Kenya is endowed with many natural resources that can attract tourists like agritourism, med-



Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano and other guests on tour of Masai Mara on Saturday

ical, cultural and many others,” she observed.

She committed to work with all stakeholders including the county governments to grow the tourism industry for the benefit of the local communities and satisfaction of tourists.

“We are on course to surpass the three million target. This is a big achievement for the communities and

the country at large,” she added.

The CS reiterated the need to bring athletes on board to market the country saying the performance at the just concluded Paris Olympic games was amazing and attracted world attention.

“We got 50 per cent of all the gold medals that went to Africa and we were number two after the USA.



Narok County governor Patrick Ole Ntutu with other guests after touring Masai Mara on Saturday

Being the best in Africa, we want to promote and showcase our abilities hence we will put a deliberate strategy to promote Kenya as a home of athletics,” Miano said.

The CS was accompanied by Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu who underscored the need for the county and national governments to work in unison to promote tourism and wildlife in the country.

Ntutu observed that this year, the number of wildebeest migrating from

Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to the Mara had increased from one million to three million, making the spectacular phenomenon memorable.

“This year, we have had enough rain for the animals, hence the animals became very healthy and grew in numbers. Since I was born, I have not seen such a huge number of wildebeest crossing the Mara like this year,” observed governor Ntutu.

# It Is All Systems Go As Meru Governor Faces Senate

By: MKT Correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

The Senate is today set to begin hearings on the charges leading to the proposed impeachment of Meru County Governor Kawira Mwangaza.

At the sitting of the Senate held last Wednesday, the Motion for the establishment of a Special Committee was defeated paving way for the hearing of the impeachment charges against Governor Kawira to be heard in Plenary.

The Senate invited both the Governor and the County Assembly to appear and be represented before the Senate during its investigation.

The Senate further sent Invitations to appear to both parties. The parties were required to submit their documentation to the Office of the Clerk of the Senate by 5:00 pm last Saturday.

Mt Kenya Times learnt that both parties complied by the directives is-



Meru County Governor Kawira Mwangaza

sued by the Senate Speaker Amason Kingi and had filed their respective documentation on time.

Pursuant to Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure when considering the proposed removal of a Governor in Plenary of the Senate Standing Orders, on Saturday, August 17, 2024, the

Clerk of the Senate furnished each party with the documentation filed by the other party in accordance with Rules 6 and 7 of the Rules of Procedure.

From the documentation submitted to the Office of the Clerk of the Senate, the County Assembly shall ap-



Senate

pear in person and be represented by 2 Members of the County Assembly namely Zipporah Kinyua who moved the motion at the Meru County Assembly and Aurelio Murangiri Kiramana who seconded it.

Further, the Assembly will be represented by advocates Ndegwa Njiru (Lead Counsel), Mwangi Ndegwa, Mwirigi Eric Muriuki, Mwereru Boniface Mawira, Antony Mwendu, Ngure Benson Kinyua, Baptista

Muriuki Kanyaru and Linda Nkirote Kithinji.

Governor Kawira Mwangaza will appear in person and also be represented by advocates, Elisha Ongoya, Elias Mutuma, Bridah Kimathi, Robert Mutembei, Edgar Busienga and Collins Mwenda.

The hearing will take place today and tomorrow.

# New Coalition To Take Up Role Of Official Opposition

By: KNA

Constituent parties of the Azimio Coalition are reorganizing themselves to take up the role of the official opposition after members of one of their parties joined the government.

Officials of the Wiper Democratic Party, Jubilee and the Democratic Action Party (DAP) who addressed the media in Embu yesterday morning said they had to reorganise to provide the country with a viable official opposition to prevent the country from sliding into a dictatorship.

Azimio luminaries led by Wiper Democratic Movement Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka, Jubilee Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni and Eugene Wamalwa of DAP said each of their parties had held their national executive council meetings and resolved to remain with the people of Kenya who were opposed to the imposition of higher taxes.

The leaders were joined by former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu who said he represented a section of the United Democratic Alliance

(UDA) who were unhappy with the way the ruling party was running the country and had decided to team up with the opposition to press for better governance.

Kalonzo, who is the designated leader of the reorganized coalition, said they had chosen to be on the side of the youth who successfully pressed for the nullification of the 2024 Finance Bill and said they will resist any attempts to increase taxes that had been proposed in the impugned Bill.

“We have seen the government sneak in new taxes such as the revised Road Maintenance Levy and increased electricity charges and these are things we cannot allow,” Kalonzo said.

Kalonzo also said they were opposed to the introduction of toll charges on old highways as proposed by the Government.

They rallied Kenyans to be vigilant to prevent the country from sliding into a dictatorship saying that with Parliament virtually captured by the executive, it was easy for the government to pass laws that were oppressive to the citizens.

Saying they wished ODM leader, Raila Odinga, well in his quest to become African Union Commission



Officials of the Wiper Democratic Party, Jubilee and the DAP-K who addressing media in Embu yesterday

Chair, the leaders said it was untenable that he remained the opposition coalition’s leader after some members of his party joined the government.

Kalonzo said the coalition’s governing council will be meeting tomorrow to determine who will be the official opposition leader in Parliament as members of the ODM party cannot be in Government and hold the posi-

tion at the same time.

Accusing the Kenya Kwanza government of losing the plot in the country’s development agenda, Kalonzo asked Kenyans to continue pressing the government to stop the culture of deceit in the country’s politics where leaders promise things on the stumps then they do the opposite while in power.

He cited the education sector which

he said was in a shambles “with a new funding model that has brought confusion and uncertainty.”

Kalonzo said Kenya had a blueprint for development called Vision 2030 that appeared to have been abandoned.

“They do not talk about that anymore,” he said.

# Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki during a church service at PCEA Imani-Nkio church in Chuka

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

Council of Governors’ Health Committee chairperson Muthomi Njuki has asked the devolved governments to be vigilant to ensure that suspected cases of Mpox disease are handled well to avoid spread.

Speaking during a church service at Presbyterian Church of East Africa Imani-Nkio in Chuka/Igambang’ombe Constituency, the Tharaka-Nithi Governor said the disease is deadly and the country must remain vigilant.

“We urge the members of public to report to their nearest health facility or even authorities any suspected case of MPox which was initially known as Monkey Pox,” said Mr Njuki.

Already Kiambu and Kisii counties are investigating suspected MPox (Monkey Pox).

The viral disease is caused by monkey pox virus which is spread through contact with an infected person.

The disease presents almost similar symptoms to those of measles including rash, fever, exhaustion, swollen lymph nodes, muscle aches and sore throat.

The Ministry of Health has recommended preventive measures to the public in order to prevent the spread of the disease including quarantining suspects to avoid spread.

The other preventive measures include frequent handwashing with soap and water, or using alcohol-based sanitiser.

On Friday last week, Health Cabinet Secretary Debora Barasa assured the country that there was no active Mpox case in Kenya, and that all the contacts of the first positive case had been traced, tested, and had turned negative.

Dr Barasa added that the Ministry had also tested six different suspected cases, who also tested negative for the disease leaving the only con-



Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki during a church service at PCEA Imani-Nkio church in Chuka/Igambang’ombe Constituency yesterday

firmed case of Mpox in the country as the truck driver who was transiting from Uganda to Rwanda, through Kenya, about two weeks ago and who has since recovered.

Njuki said the county and national governments continues to work closely to ensure that any suspected case is handled appropriately and the right measures are taken to avoid

spread of the disease.

“Just like we dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic, we are vigilant and I urge members of the public to be keen too,” he said.

# Man-Eating Hyenas Of Juja Estates To Driven Out - Gachagua

By: DPCS

Residents of Juja, Kiambu County, can breathe a sigh of relief following government's intervention to address cases of human-wildlife conflicts concerning hyenas that have been prowling the area mauling people and causing anxiety.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Saturday said the government will deploy a team of Wildlife and Security personnel to the area to track and drive out the wild animals.

He said the government will address the menace and the anxiety caused by increased cases of hyena attacks.

Mr Gachagua, however, blamed the increased hyena attacks in Juja on abandoned quarries, which could be providing hiding places for the animals to hide before launching attacks on the residents.

He spoke at the wedding ceremony

of Paul Wetosi and Jacinta Wanjiru, daughter of Juja constituency MP George Koimburi, at the Juja Preparatory School grounds.

"We have gathered from KWS Director-General that the problem of hyenas in Juja is also the abandoned quarry sites. The death incidents are worrisome. We are sending a team to capture the hyenas and relocate them so that they do not become a menace. The quarries are also a security threat and can be breeding area for mosquitoes," said Gachagua.

He was responding to the Juja MP's plea for the government's intervention after a 52-year-old woman was mauled to death by a hyena recently.

Koimburi said that in the past five months the wild animals have killed several people, including children.

At the wedding ceremony, the Deputy President was accompanied by his spouse Pastor Dorcas, MPs Gathoni Wamuchomba (Githunguri), Jayne Kihara (Naivasha) and James Gakuya (Embakasi North) among other leaders.

MCA's led by Juja Kalimoni Ward Representative Godfrey Muccheke, who is also the Leader of the Majority Party in Kiambu County Assembly, among other leaders were also present.

The Deputy President further asked the residents to be vigilant and support the government's fight against illicit brews and drugs and substance abuse.

"On the fight illicit brews, we are reclaiming broken families. Some young men and women had abandoned their families because of illicit brews and drugs abuse," he said.

To the newly-weds, Gachagua urged them to anchor their belief in God and protect the family unit since it is the foundation of the nation.

"We are happy to be in this occasion. Paul and Shiru have done their parents proud by starting their own family and having a wedding. This is the real way to fight tribalism and create national cohesion. Kenya is one and we are all Kenyans. But that does not mean we forget our origin and iden-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his spouse, Juja MP George Koimburi and his wife, join newly wed Paul Wetosi and Jacinta Wanjiru in a jig during their wedding at Juja Preparatory grounds on Saturday

beliefs. Much as we come together as one people, we must remember our origin," he said.

On her part, Pastor Dorcas advised the new couple to support and take

care of each other in life for the prosper-

ity of their family. "Marriages work. Some say they do not work because they entail a lot of work, tolerance and commitment. You must be truthful," she said.

# Collaboration Between Police And Boda Boda Riders Promotes Safety And Professionalism



By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themtkenyentimes

In a move to address ongoing concerns, the Digital Boda Drivers and Deliveries Association held a consultative meeting on Sunday with the police at Kileleshwa Police Station. The meeting, hosted by Officer Commanding Station (OCS) Mr. Jeremiah Mwenda, was convened to address growing complaints from members of the association regarding alleged harassment by certain police officers on patrol. The officers in question were accused of unprofessional conduct, which had strained the relationship between law enforcement and boda boda operators.

During the meeting, OCS Mwenda reassured the association's leadership of the police's commitment to fostering a collaborative working environment, in line with the principles of community policing. He

acknowledged the legitimacy of the complaints and confirmed that the officers implicated in the misconduct had been transferred. In their place, a new team of officers has been deployed to work closely with the boda boda riders to ensure the safety and security of the area.

"The police are here to serve and protect the community, including the boda boda riders who play a crucial role in our transport sector," said Mr. Mwenda. "We are committed to maintaining professionalism in all our operations and ensuring that every citizen, including boda boda operators, can carry out their activities without fear of harassment."

This commitment was warmly received by the association members, who had long sought redress for what they described as persistent and unwarranted targeting by certain police officers. The OCS further clarified that honest and law-abiding boda boda riders have nothing to fear, as the police are focused on ensuring a fair and conducive environment for everyone. He emphasized that the new team of officers is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of professionalism in their interactions

with the public.

The association also took this opportunity to address the issue of documentation, which has been a recurring challenge for many boda boda riders. It was agreed that in instances where riders are found without the necessary documentation, the association will assist them in acquiring the proper papers. This approach aims to ensure that riders comply with the law while avoiding unnecessary confrontations with law enforcement.

Mr. Thomas, the Chairperson of the United Boda Association of Kenya (UBAK), highlighted the importance of a strong partnership between boda boda operators and the police. He noted that such collaboration is essential for the growth and development of the industry, as well as for the safety of both riders and the general public. Mr. Innocent from Nameri Sacco echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that a united front is key to overcoming the challenges facing the boda boda sector.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides expressing optimism about the future of their partnership. The association's National Chairperson, Mr. Calvince Okumu,



The Digital Boda Drivers and Deliveries Association held a consultative meeting on Sunday which was hosted by Officer Commanding Station (OCS) Mr. Jeremiah Mwenda.

expressed gratitude for the police's responsiveness and reaffirmed the association's commitment to working closely with law enforcement. He emphasized that the Digital Boda Drivers and Deliveries Association is dedicated to promoting compliance with the law and enhancing the professionalism of its members.

"This meeting marks a significant step toward creating a safer and more professional environment for boda boda riders," said Mr. Okumu. "We appreciate the efforts of Kileleshwa

Police Station, and we encourage other stations to adopt a similar collaborative approach."

The outcome of this meeting is seen as a milestone in the ongoing efforts to improve relations between boda boda operators and the police. It is hoped that this model of cooperation will be replicated across other regions, leading to a more secure and harmonious environment for all stakeholders in the boda boda industry.

# Did IMF Fuel Generation-Z Protests?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandong@gmail.com



Generation-Z Protests

## Worth Noting:

- If the Finance Bill 2024 sailed through, we intended to raise Sh346 billion more. We are going to find a way of bridging this gap.
- So, Mbadi reaffirmed that the National Treasury will present the revised Bill to parliament for consideration and we are hopeful that the members will approve it.
- At this juncture, allow me to ask this question. Did IMF fuelled the Generation-Z protests? Well, the critics of President William Ruto would want Kenyans to believe this.
- I disagree. Allow me to explain why. Bretton Wood institutions do not invite themselves into a country. But once invited, each was at liberty to come up with terms of engagement.

The latest media reports have indicated that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had fuelled the recent Generation-Z protests.

This comes just a few days after the new National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi held talks with visiting IMF top official.

The agenda focussed on the board meeting between IMF and the government of Kenya scheduled to be held in September.

CS Mbadi had some days earlier announced that he has set up a team to review the controversial Finance Bill 2024.

President William Ruto did not reject this Bill because it was bad. But as you know the political temperature had been polluted by toxic politics.

Gen-zees had been made to believe that the Bill was punitive and oppressive and that it had been 'drafted by the IMF'.

One thing remained clear. Those inciting them would not furnish them with tangible evidence. They would only want the young people to believe that President Ruto was being held hostage by IMF.

According to Mbadi, his team will draft a new financial blueprint that contains non-controversial and non-contentious proposals.

As you know, the government needs money to implement a raft of development projects and programmes.

If the Finance Bill 2024 sailed through, we intended to raise Sh346 billion more. We are going to find a way of bridging this gap.

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At this juncture, allow me to ask this question. Did IMF fuelled the Generation-Z protests? Well, the critics of President William Ruto would want

Kenyans to believe this.

I disagree. Allow me to explain why. Bretton Wood institutions do not invite themselves into a country. But once invited, each was at liberty to come up with terms of engagement.

Failure to live up to the terms of agreement is the main reason why many African countries have been grappling with the conditionalities.

During their respective tenures, Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta faced public back-rashes.

For President Ruto, he has been assuring Kenyans that his main goal was to safe guard their economic interests.

Therefore, we are not going to embrace these conditionalities blindly.

We will only implement what is good for our country in terms of uplifting the living standards of our people. He is walking the talk.

Being a global financial institution, IMF engages both the developing countries and developed/industrialized nations.

For me, GenZ protests were a blessing in disguise for President William Ruto.

The writing was already on wall that the President was uncomfortable with several things that were happening in the country.

To avoid a political back rash, he knew that he needed to undertake some of these reforms with caution.

A case in point is the push to remove Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi.

Despite his name being adversely mentioned in procurement and supply of the fake fertilizer, he survived bid to oust him through impeachment.

This is because the MPs from Mount Kenya region blindly rallied behind him.

For them, the issue of integrity and other qualities of a good leader will not matter.

Hon Linturi is one of our own. So we cannot abandon him in this hour of need.

This is the reasoning even in other parts of the country.

You would hear elected leaders defending top government officials who hails from their tribe and region.

So, the Gen-Z protests were timely trigger. Going by his latest pronouncements, President Ruto is committed to address this recurring problem.

In the initial stages the protests were peaceful. The President was happy to see young people coming out in big numbers to speak their mind. He in particular admired these protests because they were tribe less and party less.

Their message is clear. Kenya belongs to all of us. As your President, I have been reiterating this. So, when he dissolved the entire cabinet, he minced no word in stating.

As he promised, President Ruto has since unveiled a new-look cabinet that is broad based, all-inclusive and composed of experts.

Unlike his predecessors, President Ruto is running the country in the era of advanced digital technology. This explains why the mobilization of Gen-Z protesters happened very fast. As President Ruto noted, the issue of youth bulge also came into play.

On IMF prescriptions, there was no doubt that he was opposed to some of them.

On reconstitution of his cabinet, the President had earlier read several riot acts to his cabinet secretaries (CSs).

In the eyes of the public, your performance is below expectation.

Some of you are totally clueless about what you are supposed to do.

I even know more than you regarding the mandate of your respective ministries.

So, I don't see the point of having you in my cabinet.

With this, the President had drawn the line and it was only a matter of time before he cracked the whip and sent them home.

As per the constitution, the prerogative to hire and fire members of the cabinet lies squarely with the President. The role bestowed on them is delegated. The President is the CEO of Kenya and he hires them to help him discharge the constitutional mandate of his office.

Since he assumed office, the President curves a niche of being a strong believer in the tenet of democracy and rule of law.

President Ruto followed the footsteps of former President Mwai Kibaki.

In the aftermath of 2007/2008 post election violence, Kibaki caved in to pressure and agreed to form a unity government with ODM leader Raila Odinga.

The only difference at the time was that the pressure came from the international community.

For President Ruto, he has so far managed to use his wisdom to contain pockets of violence and prevent Kenya from sliding into a full blown anarchy.

The other key demand raised by Generation-Z and millennials touched on re-constitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

A few days ago, the President signed the IEBC Bill into law paving the way for the recruitment of the commissioners.

The Bill emanated from the talks held at the Bomas of Kenya.

The 10-member national dialogue committee (NADCO) was co-chaired by national assembly majority leader Kimani Ichungwah and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka.

The President was flanked opposition leaders led by Raila Odinga during the signing ceremony held at KICC.

The new law to reform the IEBC is a product of the views and memoranda presented by the people of Kenya during the public hearings.

So, we have no reason to doubt that this process will lead to formation of a truly independent commission.

We want to assure Kenyans that the commissioners will conduct a free, fair and credible polls in 2027, the opposition leaders reiterated.

I have heard some members of Gen-Z expressing reservations to the steps that President Ruto has so far made.

A friend of mine told me. Those were extremists who had coined a Hastag of 'RutoandGachaguaMustGoNow'.

We know their ultimate goal was to attempt to overthrow President Ruto through popular uprisings.

So, they won't see anything good that the President was doing.

Why their bid won't see the light of day? Majority of Kenyans abhor use of unconstitutional means to remove a democratically government from power.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a Writer and Political Analyst based in Nairobi

# Thousands Of Students Undergo Equity Bank Sponsored Mentorship Programme

By: Felix Njenga  
 @themkenyatimes



Dr James Mwangi Executive chairman, Equity Group Foundation addressing scholars of Equity Wings To Fly program

you keep focused on the dreams you had where you were applying for this program,” he said.

He encouraged the scholars to be the agents of transforming their families. “Each of you belong to individual families, and that is why we are interested in you as an individual because we want to make a difference in each and every family and village that you come from,” he said.

He called on the scholars to embrace humility so that they can be well grounded, empathetic so that they can also help others as they have been assisted,

He said education goes beyond textbooks and classrooms, describing it as a journey that opens doors, broadens horizons and empowers individuals to navigate the complexities of the world confidently.

“Education allows us to acquire the capability to lead others and it helps us to unlock our potential but it needs to be enhanced with values so that our character formation and our personality matches our capabilities,” he said.

In a speech read on behalf of Belio Kipsang Principal Secretary Education by Gichuhi Ndegwa, director of education, said that as a ministry they have developed guidance and counselling and mentorship policies which aid the teachers to guide the learners to make informed life choices.

The curriculum contains a component on life skills and value based education which are mainstreamed in all the subjects. This has enhanced knowledge on responsibility, integrity and problem solving which are

key to the development of learners and not just focus on academic performance.

James Kungu, the Kenyatta University Deputy Vice Chancellor said that the Wings To Fly program has helped many who were economically disadvantaged to achieve an opportunity to be what they want to be in life.

He called on the scholars to make Kenyatta University their first choice while selecting the university of choice since it offers almost all courses they would think of pursuing once they clear with form four.

He said that the university is looking forward to strengthening their collaboration with equity bank and other partners in the noble assignment of moulding and curving the future of the scholars.

Several other speakers offered mentorship to the scholars, the scholars who have completed high school education also gave their education journey and where they are positioned currently.

Scholars completing four years of secondary education can seamlessly transition into the Equity Leaders Program (ELP), empowering them with access to local and global universities while nurturing leadership skills.

ELP has facilitated university entry for 18,735 scholars, with 8,337 benefiting from paid internships at Equity Bank. Notably, 891 ELP scholars secured fully-funded scholarships at 209 global universities across 56 countries, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia and Cornell.

**Worth Noting:**

- “A Form 1 and 2 have more years to make any corrections needed to be done and that is the reason we hold these workshops. we realized that it was not enough to pay school fees for the scholars, you are young, you are children and could easily be distracted by peer pressure and they can easily forget as a child that this program is an opportunity for the scholars to change their cause and to ensure that their past doesn’t continue to influence their future,” he said.
- He added that the program is an opportunity for the scholars to redefine themselves and it takes devotion, commitment and dedication to the ambition and dream of the change they want to see in their lives.

Thousands of Form 1 and 2 beneficiaries of the Equity bank wings to fly and elimu scholarship programs drawn from Nairobi, Central, Eastern, North Eastern and Coast regions have been taken through a mentorship program that is meant to motivate and prepare them for their future success.

In the Annual Education and Leadership Congress, the 15th cohort scholars numbering 3,153 underwent a week long intensive, inspiring and educative forum at the Kenyatta University where they got mentored by role models in society such as successful professionals, government officials, entrepreneurs and community leaders under the theme; ‘Educate, Empower, Lead: The Trial to Success’.

The program has remarkably expanded to oversee 60,009 scholarships for the academically gifted but economically disadvantaged students giving them a shot of rewriting their destiny.

The Chief Guest at the congress Dr. James Mwangi, the Executive chairman, Equity Group Foundation (EGF) said that due to the increased number of scholars the EGF is grateful to have found partners to walk with them such as KFW from the German cooperation without looking back as they are united by a common purpose to change lives and empowering people to change their lives through education.

“It is for this reason that it is fulfilling and gratifying to see people’s lives change,’ Mwangi said.

He said that the journey is fulfilling since they have inspired and encouraged the students so that if there are any amendments or corrections in the way they do things they may have time to do so.

“A Form 1 and 2 have more years to make any corrections needed to be

done and that is the reason we hold these workshops. we realized that it was not enough to pay school fees for the scholars, you are young, you are children and could easily be distracted by peer pressure and they can easily forget as a child that this program is an opportunity for the scholars to change their cause and to ensure that their past doesn’t continue to influence their future,” he said.

He added that the program is an opportunity for the scholars to redefine themselves and it takes devotion, commitment and dedication to the ambition and dream of the change they want to see in their lives.

“You have been given a path out of your circumstances and there is no better gift that would have never been given that could change the cause and your destiny. This congress is to help



Some of the Wings To Fly program beneficiaries during the 15th education and leadership congress at the Kenyatta University amphitheatre.

# Hundreds Benefit From Keylife Medical Camp

By: Rugendo Anthony  
@themkenyatimes

Keylife Medical Center held a free medical camp at Kauthene in Meru County as part of the hospital's efforts to ease access to quality medical care in the country.

The medical camp that took place on hospital grounds saw over 1000 people benefit from free consultations, diagnosis, medical tests and treatment.

It benefited patients suffering from diabetes, Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori), eye cataracts, tract infections, upper respiratory conditions as well as musculoskeletal and other ailments in Kauthene, Chugu, Kaithe and the vast Meru region.

Mr Antony Mbaya Muriira, the founder and director of Keylife Medical Center shared his heartfelt reasons for opening the facility.

"My decision to open Keylife Medical Hospital was driven by a deep desire to help our residents achieve maximum health care. "Growing up here, I witnessed firsthand the struggles many faced in accessing quality medical services with some patients dying on their way to the hospital,"



Mr. Antony Mbaya Muriira, founder and director of Keylife Medical Center (Second from right) speaks at media outside the facility

Mbaya noted

The hospital director added that the free medical camp, which provided services ranging from general health check-ups to specialized consultations, was a testament to the hospital's commitment to community health.

"This is our third Medical camp and its working miracles to the community. My mission is to ensure that no one in Meru has to travel long distances or face financial barriers to receive medical care. We are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and a dedicated

team of professionals ready to serve.

We are offering various services including dental services, minor surgeries, eye clinics, and mother and child health clinics and lab services among many others," Mbaya added

He rallied the residents to take advantage of the medical drive and the hospital.

Dennis Kithinji, a mental health advocate, highlighted the pressing issues of stress and depression in the community.

"Stress and depression have been



causing a lot of illness. Alcoholism has resulted in countless deaths, and over 800 people have taken their lives through suicide due to depression," Kithinji noted.

Kithinji lauded the efforts of Keylife Medical Center, particularly praising the establishment of a consultation room dedicated to mental health.

"Keylife Medical Center has set a great example by providing a space where people with depression can seek help. I urge residents to take advantage of the newly opened hospital and its resources," he said.

Residents expressed their gratitude for the initiative, with many highlighting the positive impact of having such a resource within their reach.

"This hospital is a blessing for us. The free medical camp has already

made a huge difference, and I am confident that the hospital will continue to improve our lives." said Grace Gakii, a local resident.

Hosea Kinyua, a resident, also praised the hospital director, noting that the hospital will greatly benefit the people in the region.

"This hospital is a much-needed addition to our community. It will provide essential healthcare services that many of us have struggled to access. I believe it will improve the overall health and well-being of our residents." Kinyua said.

The one-year-old hospital is located three kilometers from Meru town along Meru-town-Chugu-Kaithe road.

# Embu Residents Warned To Be Vigilant Over Land Fraud

By: Kenya News Agency

Embu residents have been cautioned against falling prey to fraudsters conning people in the name of enlisting them for land allocation in the controversial 44, 000-acres Mwea Settlement Scheme in Mbeere South Constituency.

The alert was issued by Nyangi Ndiriri Council of Elders who claimed the conmen were asking unsuspecting locals to give between Sh6, 000 and Sh14, 000 to get registered as beneficiaries.

They said the fraudsters were duping innocent people to hurry up to register as the process of subdivision was almost complete and allocation will be done on a first come, first serve basis.

Council Chair Andrew Ireri said it had come to their notice that the scam was widespread and had extended as far as the neighboring Ki-

rinyaga County.

He said those involved in the scam were using the council's name to swindle people of their money and asked residents to be wary of the ongoing fraud.

Irerri clarified that registration of all beneficiaries was long done and the names submitted to the Ministry of Lands.

Besides Nyangi, other groups claiming ownership of the disputed scheme include Ngome Clan and communities already in occupation.

The government in 2018 suspended subdivision of the land after fatal clashes erupted over ownership leading to the death of one person while scores were injured.

County Commissioner Jack Obuo early this year said the Government was working to solve the land tussle through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

He said the talks will include residents, interest groups and the political leadership in an all-inclusive process.



## Mother, Did Your Child Forget?



By: Berdiboyev Khushnud Ilhom  
Uzbekistan

Mother, did your child forget?  
The nights that God told you?  
Crying all night  
The days I didn't sleep?

Mother, did your child forget?  
Did you eat without eating?  
The bitter cold of winter  
Did you dress me warm?

Mother, did your child forget?  
Are you hungry baby?  
Without complaining about your fate,  
Are you sad in your heart?

Mother, did your child forget?  
You are sad because of my child.  
Put on your own rags,  
Go to him, you who have caught him.

Mother, did your child forget?  
Those of you who pray awake.  
If he says oh, a thousand and one lights  
up,  
Did you have your heart's desire?

Mom, did you forget too?  
You don't remember this time.  
For all your hard work,  
Why don't you ask? contribution

## The Real Wealth Of Life



By: Anthony Savio Herminio da Piedade Fernandes  
INTRODUCTION

The concept of wealth is often misunderstood as being synonymous with material possessions and financial riches. However, the real wealth of life extends far beyond these tangible assets. It encompasses intangible aspects such as relationships, experiences, personal growth, and contributions to society. In this article, we will explore the various dimensions of real wealth and why they are essential for a fulfilling life.

### RELATIONSHIPS: THE FOUNDATION OF REAL WEALTH

Positive relationships with family, friends, and community provide emotional support, practical help, and a sense of belonging (Maslow, 1943). They are essential for our emotional and mental well-being, and play a critical role in shaping our experiences and worldviews. Nurturing relationships through effective communication, quality time, and shared experiences is vital for building strong, supportive networks.

### EXPERIENCES: THE SPICE OF LIFE

Experiences, such as traveling, learning new

skills, and engaging in hobbies, enrich our lives and broaden our perspectives (Csikszentmihalyi, 1990). They provide opportunities for personal growth, skill-building, and enjoyment, and help us develop emotional intelligence, resilience, and adaptability. Pursuing experiences that bring joy and fulfillment is essential for living a meaningful life.

**PERSONAL GROWTH: THE KEY TO SELF**  
Personal growth, including self-awareness, self-improvement, and self-actualization, is essential for a fulfilling life (Rogers, 1961). It enables us to realize our potential, develop emotional intelligence, and cultivate mindfulness. Through personal growth, we can overcome challenges, build resilience, and develop a sense of purpose and direction.

### CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY: LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

Contributing to society through volunteering, philanthropy, and community service provides a sense of purpose and fulfillment (Damasio, 2004). It enables us to make a positive impact, leave a lasting legacy, and connect with others. Giving back to the community fosters a sense of responsibility, empathy, and compassion, and helps us develop a broader perspective on life.

### CONCLUSION

Real wealth encompasses relationships, experiences, personal growth, and contributions to society. By focusing on these aspects, we can cultivate a truly fulfilling life. As the ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle, said, "Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants." By prioritizing real wealth, we can live a life of purpose, meaning, and joy.

## May My Child Live Long



By: Elmurodova Rukshona, Uzbekistan

There are days in life,  
Even your friend is buying  
Turning the face of your loved ones

But your father insisted.

True, sometimes he swears  
After all, understand that he thinks of  
you.  
May my child live long  
He speaks wisdom like the great ones.

When the doors of fortune unlock,  
When the pocket is full of money  
While everyone is jealous,  
Your father is patting your shoulder.

Well let this world of lies burn  
Let him forget it.  
But let my father try for once,  
Let the pain fly to the sky.

Let them enter 100 years old,  
Let them open their hands to prayers.  
Let them spend time with my mother  
May they be safe to us

## My Country Is In My Heart...



By: Mahzuna Habibova A'zam

When you die - my happiness is inevitable,  
Memories are bright inside - your history.  
I sing in your arms, my words are  
triumphant,  
Say "oh" every time you take your  
medicine.

Your height is higher than I value,  
The whole world is one world.  
Be a light, my country, with my body -  
Let's say saffron to the poor.

If you are told to die with longing -  
He is the figure of Babur. - "dodi" in the  
language.  
With the "pen" that conquered the world,  
Your prayers will never fade away.

Take care of yourself, shield your freedom,  
The beasts are the prey of my sword.  
A clot of blood swirled around his chest.  
Don't let it go like that - the sasi of  
ghanim.

Put a word in the heart - pain from  
clutching,  
Stay intoxicated with freedom.  
- Until I stay in your arms forever..  
- May I find luck in your arms...

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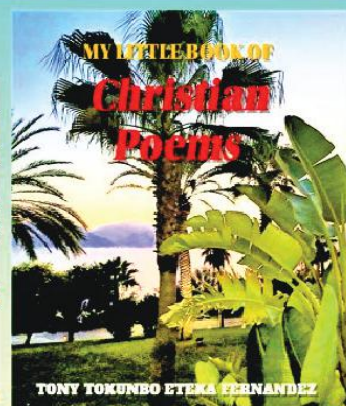
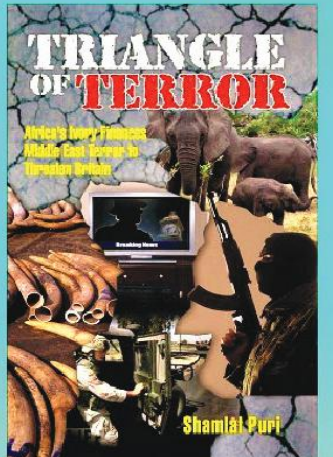
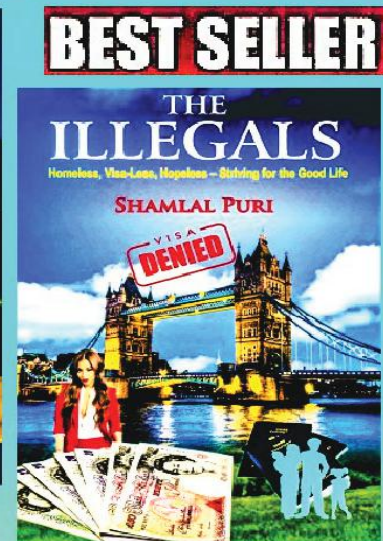
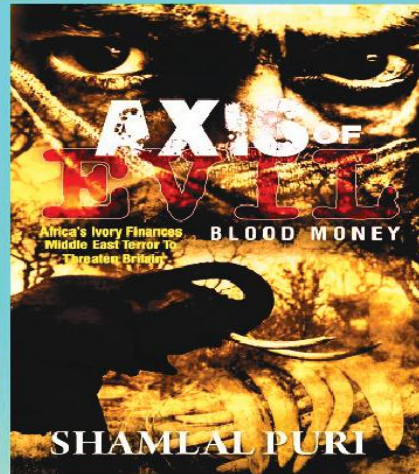
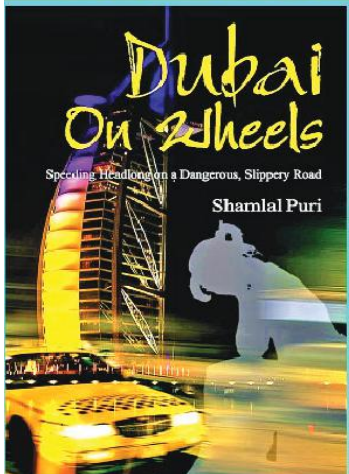
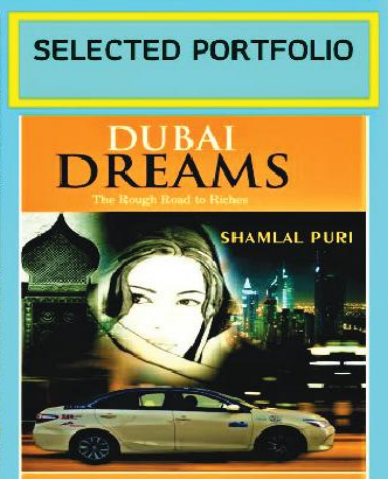
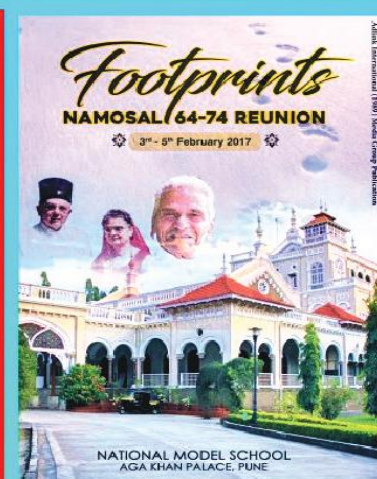
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## BUSINESS

## KCB In KSh178 Billion Loan To Women-Led MSMEs

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- “Consequently, we came up with products that are unique to women-led enterprises in order to help them grow since women form more than 50 per cent of the population,” she stated.
- The MD was speaking in Naivasha, during the East Africa Business Network International (BNI) conference in which she had been invited as a Chief Guest to discuss ways in which the organization can work with the bank to support the members’ businesses.
- Business Network International (BNI) is the world’s largest business networking and business referral organization with over 300,000 members in 10,000 chapters worldwide.
- Kimtai underscored the importance of MSMEs to the economy of the country, saying their contribution to economic growth and employment cannot be ignored.



BNI Kenya Chapter National Director Elizaphan Muraguri (centre) with KCB MD Anastasia Kimtai and Diana Ninsiima of BNI Uganda during the Naivasha forum.

Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) has the last few years advanced a total of Sh178 billion loans to women-led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in order to help grow these enterprises in the country.

KCB Managing Director Anastasia Kimtai said seven years ago, the bank set up a Sh250 billion fund to support women-led enterprises.

She disclosed that the idea came after a realization that women were receiving only 10 per cent of funding from financial institutions.

“We then sought to find what the challenge was and found out that the women lack assets such as land, which financial institutions require as collateral in order to advance loans to them, we then became very intentional in our entire to help them and came with the fund” Kimtai said.

She said they also discovered women need training, networking and forums so that they can learn from each other in order to grow and the bank has been working with the women entrepreneurs in these areas in order to grow their businesses.

“Consequently, we came up with products that are unique to women-led enterprises in order to help them grow since women form more than

50 per cent of the population,” she stated.

The MD was speaking in Naivasha, during the East Africa Business Network International (BNI) conference in which she had been invited as a Chief Guest to discuss ways in which the organization can work with the bank to support the members’ businesses.

Business Network International (BNI) is the world’s largest business networking and business referral organization with over 300,000 members in 10,000 chapters worldwide.

Kimtai underscored the importance of MSMEs to the economy of the country, saying their contribution to economic growth and employment cannot be ignored.

To this end, she said KCB bank has also formed a Biashara Club for MSMEs in which they are taught financial literacy and taken for benchmarking in other countries so that they can learn best practices in businesses and grow their networks.

Mutai said in these clubs, they have also been training the MSMEs, coaching and mentoring them.

“In this club, we help them identify opportunities for growth, for instance, we recently took a team to

United States and realized there is a huge market for Kenyan products there and all we need to do is to train the businessmen and women to understand this market and meet this huge demand,” she said.

The MD noted that Kenya has been faced with disasters such as drought and floods in the recent past and her bank has decided to give the affected business people who have taken their loans moratorium period by adjusting their payment periods depending on the agreement with the individual business man or woman.

“For those who insured their businesses, we are talking to the insurers to hasten processing of the compensation,” Kimtai observed.

She said BNI approached them to attend their meeting in Naivasha to chat out ways on how we they can collaborate and also train their members, enlighten them on best business practices and opportunities within and outside the country and help them find solutions to various challenges facing them.

BNI Kenya Chapter National Director Elizaphan Muraguri said in the last 15 years, they have processed over 42,000 business referrals valued at over Sh.1.7Billion.

“This has had huge impact on the economy and the general population, considering MSMEs employ millions of Kenyans,” Muraguri said.

He said in BNI they focus on training business people, making referrals and building relationships through trust as a way of supporting the growth of businesses.

Muraguri also stated that his organization is seeking to grow membership from all over the country and is currently investing in technology and will soon turn to using Artificial intelligence (AI), known as BNI Connect away from the traditional technologies for communication.

“Coming together as business people is the only way to revolutionize how we do business and technology is of major importance in this,” he said.

Uganda BNI Chapter National Director Diana Ninsiima said their aim of coming together is to share experiences and learn from each other as they seek ways of collaboration.

The BNI East Africa is plugged to the over 300,000 other BNI members in 79 countries all over the world.

BNI worldwide membership has generated \$16.2 billion (about KSh2.1 Trillion) in revenue in business referrals.

# Government To Start Compensation For Sh20 B Mwache Dam Project

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The government has kicked off the compensation exercise of Project Affected Persons (PAP) for the Mwache dam project following the release of Sh500 million by the National Treasury.

The construction that stalled in July was disrupted by compensation and livelihood restoration demands by the local community in Kinango constituency, Kwale County.

Irrigation PS Ephantus Kimotho said that Sh500 million was released to compensate the first batch, except for a few who don't have proper documents with the local leaders promising to help and resolve the conflict.

Kimotho announced that the Treasury and Ministry of Irrigation will release another Sh500 million next week, and the National Land Commission will award awards for Mwavumbo and Bofu areas.

He noted that the compensation amounts to Sh4.4 billion with the

government having already paid Sh. 1.6 billion for priority area one.

Furthermore, the plan, which is estimated to cost Sh. 2.8 billion, has been developed in collaboration with local leaders to ensure compensation for affected individuals.

In January 2025, another Sh538 million will be released which will go towards completing the whole area of the lower check-dam.

"The other balance of Sh1.3 million will be released in the year 2025/2026," he added.

The PS said that the project has a little bit of uniqueness as there will be a component of livelihood whereby the government will restore the livelihood of the project affected persons to where they were before they were relocated.

Moreover, the government has negotiated with the World Bank, which is the financier of the project and they have agreed to set aside Sh1.9 billion with Sh500 million going to community projects with the involvement of respective elders.

He added that for the balance of Sh1.4 billion, they have already en-

gaged a consultant who has started work and in three months he will come with a detailed programme to tell on how the respective parts will benefit.

Unfortunately, the PS said that three schools in the area will also be affected for a very short period of time, with few adjustments and renovation made once relocated.

"The Mwache dam project is in Kwale County, but the neighboring counties of Mombasa and Kilifi will also benefit. There is a project called Kwale urban which is going to generate 9,000 cubic liters in the county and another 1000 acres of irrigation," he said.

Mombasa County will get 186,000 cubic liters of water per day, and as a result, they will no longer need water in Kilifi.

Hence, Kimotho assured locals that every one of them, who has been affected will be fairly compensated as a lawyer and a surveyor have worked on the project for three years and adjudication of the land and issues of succession have been tackled.

Kinango Member of Parliament



Principal Secretary for Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho addressing journalists in Kwale County

Gonzi Rai said that residents of Kinango had stopped work, demanding compensation, but added that once he took the issue to the assembly, the commission, ministry, and the treasury agreed to sort out the challenge in due course.

Rai said that the only problem holding back the construction of the dam is a dispute between the contractor and employees, who are demanding

salary for July, when the project had been stopped.

The Mwache dam, located in Kwale County, requires Sh4.4 billion for land acquisition, impacting 4,000 Project Affected Persons, after the construction commenced in March 2023, with the completion said to be by December 2027.

# KenGen Joins Global Frontier Markets, Elevating Kenya's Investment Profile

By: MKT Reporter

@themkenyatimes

Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (KenGen) has been inducted into the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Frontier Markets Small Cap Index, signalling a potential surge in foreign direct investments for the NSE-listed firm.

This strategic capital investment milestone enhances KenGen's visibility and attractiveness to global investors, positioning it as a key player in the frontier markets landscape.

Eng. Peter Njenga, KenGen's Managing Director and CEO, said that this development is expected to enhance shareholder value by attracting more international investment, increasing liquidity, and potentially driving up share prices.

The MSCI Frontier Markets Small Cap Index serves as a crucial benchmark for institutional investors seek-

ing exposure to emerging economies with high growth potential.

"This inclusion reaffirms KenGen's commitment to delivering affordable and reliable energy solutions to the nation, fostering economic growth, and contributing to Kenya's vision for a green energy future," he said.

KenGen's inclusion in the index underscores its robust financial performance, innovative energy solutions, and commitment to powering Kenya's future sustainably.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) said being part of the MSCI Frontier Markets Small Cap Index provides investors with a unique opportunity to invest in companies like KenGen with strong growth prospects, solid governance, and a proven track record in the energy sector.

The broader impact of KenGen's inclusion in the MSCI Frontier Markets Small Cap Index extends beyond the company, contributing to the overall growth and stability of Kenya's financial markets.



Eng. Peter Njenga, KenGen's Managing Director and CEO.

# Reforming Public Finance Management In Kenya: A Comprehensive Approach To Deficit Reduction



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- The tertiary pillar in this tripartite paradigm of fiscal rectification is the imperative to confront and mitigate the pervasive specter of corruption, a phenomenon that has long plagued the socioeconomic fabric of numerous developing nations.

- This pernicious practice, characterized by the systematic misappropriation and maladaptive allocation of public resources, serves as a significant contributory factor to the exacerbation of budgetary deficits, thereby undermining the fiscal integrity of the state apparatus. The ramifications of such malfeasance extend far beyond mere monetary losses, permeating the very foundations of governance and eroding public trust in institutional frameworks.

- To effectively combat this deeply entrenched malaise, a multidimensional strategy that encompasses legal, institutional, and societal spheres must be meticulously crafted and rigorously implemented.

The persistent and escalating budget deficit in Kenya has become a matter of grave concern for policymakers, economists, and citizens alike. This fiscal imbalance, characterized by government expenditures consistently outpacing revenues, poses a significant threat to the nation's economic stability and long-term growth prospects. In light of this predicament, it is imperative to explore and implement efficacious strategies aimed at ameliorating the budgetary shortfall. A multifaceted approach, encompassing the reduction of government spending, the elimination of wastage, and the aggressive addressing of corruption, emerges as a viable and potentially transformative solution to this pressing issue. By adopting and rigorously implementing these measures, Kenya stands to accrue substantial financial savings, thereby diminishing the deficit and fostering a more robust fiscal environment.

The reduction of government spending stands as a cornerstone in the effort to curtail the budget deficit. This entails a comprehensive review and rationalization of expenditures across all sectors and levels of government. Policymakers must engage in a meticulous process of prioritization, distinguishing between essential and non-essential spending. This necessitates a paradigm shift in fiscal management, moving away from profligate practices towards a more austere and judicious allocation of resources. The implementation of zero-based budgeting techniques can prove instrumental in this regard, compelling government agencies to justify every expenditure from the ground up. Furthermore, the adoption of performance-based budgeting can ensure that funds are channeled towards programs and initiatives that demon-

strate tangible results and align with national development objectives.

In tandem with reduced spending, the elimination of wastage presents another avenue for significant cost savings. Wastage, in this context, refers to the inefficient or unnecessary utilization of resources within the public sector. This phenomenon manifests in various forms, including redundant administrative processes, underutilized assets, and ineffective programs. To combat this issue, a comprehensive audit of government operations is essential, aimed at identifying areas of inefficiency and redundancy. The implementation of lean management principles can streamline processes and eliminate non-value-adding activities. Additionally, the adoption of advanced technologies and digital solutions can automate routine tasks, reducing human error and associated costs. The consolidation of government agencies with overlapping mandates can further contribute to efficiency gains and cost reductions.

The tertiary pillar in this tripartite paradigm of fiscal rectification is the imperative to confront and mitigate the pervasive specter of corruption, a phenomenon that has long plagued the socioeconomic fabric of numerous developing nations. This pernicious practice, characterized by the systematic misappropriation and maladaptive allocation of public resources, serves as a significant contributory factor to the exacerbation of budgetary deficits, thereby undermining the fiscal integrity of the state apparatus. The ramifications of such malfeasance extend far beyond mere monetary losses, permeating the very foundations of governance and eroding public trust in institutional frameworks.

To effectively combat this deeply entrenched malaise, a multidimensional strategy that encompasses legal, institutional, and societal spheres must be meticulously crafted and rigorously implemented. This holistic approach necessitates a synergistic confluence of legislative reforms, structural reconfigurations, and societal paradigm shifts. The reinforcement and augmentation of anti-corruption statutes and their concomitant enforcement mechanisms stand as a cornerstone of this strategy, ensuring that transgressors are subject to expeditious and stringent punitive measures. Such legislative fortification serves not only as a deterrent but also as a clear articulation of the state's commitment to upholding the principles of fiscal probity and ethical governance.

In tandem with legal reforms, institutional metamorphosis aimed at fostering enhanced transparency and accountability in the realm of public financial management is of paramount importance. This transformative process may encompass the implementation of sophisticated and tamper-resistant procurement systems, leveraging cutting-edge technologies to ensure fairness, efficiency, and value optimization in public expenditure. The digitization of financial transactions across all echelons of government represents another crucial component of this institutional overhaul, facilitating real-time monitoring, reducing opportunities for clandestine malfeasance, and enhancing overall fiscal transparency.

The establishment of autonomous oversight entities, vested with requisite authority and insulated from political interference, constitutes a vital safeguard against corrupt practices. These watchdog institutions, operat-

ing with a mandate of vigilant scrutiny and uncompromising integrity, serve as bulwarks against the misuse of public funds and the abuse of power. Their role in conducting forensic audits, investigating allegations of impropriety, and recommending corrective actions is instrumental in fostering a culture of accountability and deterring potential malfeasance.

The efficacy of these anti-corruption measures is contingent upon the cultivation of a societal ethos that is intrinsically averse to corrupt practices. This necessitates a concerted effort to inculcate ethical values and civic responsibility through educational initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and the promotion of transparency in all spheres of public life. By fostering a collective consciousness that views corruption not merely as a legal transgression but as a fundamental betrayal of public trust, a more robust and resilient safeguard against fiscal impropriety can be erected. This multifaceted approach, encompassing legal, institutional, and societal dimensions, holds the potential to significantly mitigate the corrosive effects of corruption on the national exchequer, thereby contributing substantively to the overarching objective of deficit reduction and fiscal consolidation.

The potential for cost savings through these measures is substantial and multifaceted. By trimming unnecessary expenditures, the government can redirect funds towards critical areas such as infrastructure development, healthcare, and education, without exacerbating the deficit. The elimination of wastage not only results in direct cost savings but also enhances overall government efficiency, potentially leading to improved service delivery at lower costs. Addressing corruption can recover misappropriated funds and prevent future losses, while also fostering a climate of trust and integrity that is conducive to economic growth and foreign investment.

To implement these deficit-reduction strategies effectively, a comprehensive and coordinated approach is essential. This necessitates the involvement of multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners. The establishment of a dedicated task force or commission, empowered to oversee and coordinate these efforts across different



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### An Open Letter To Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Dear Deputy President Gachagua,

Your recent remarks regarding the 2027 elections have reverberated throughout the Mount Kenya region, signaling a pivotal moment for our political landscape. As a leader deeply rooted in our community, your words resonate with the aspirations and concerns of many Kenyans, not just those from Mount Kenya.

Your warning about the silence of voters is a crucial reminder of the growing discontent stemming from unmet promises and the escalating cost of living. This silence should not be mistaken for complacency; it reflects a popu-

lace that is increasingly discerning and aware of the actions of their elected representatives. The emergence of rival factions within our region adds complexity to the political dynamics, underscoring the need for unity and alignment with voter expectations.

The upcoming elections present an opportunity for all leaders to reflect on their commitments to the electorate. Your assertion that significant decisions will be made by December emphasizes the urgency for politicians to engage meaningfully with their constituents. The electorate's silence may indeed signal a final judgment for those who fail to deliver on their promises.

As the political landscape shifts, your leadership will be put to the test. Your ability to navigate internal divisions and rebuild trust among voters will be pivotal. The stakes are high, and the next few months will determine whether Mount Kenya's political future aligns with the aspirations of its people or falls into disillusionment.

We, the citizens of Kenya, look to you as a beacon of hope and a champion of our collective interests. Your commitment to the principles of accountability and inclusivity resonates beyond regional boundaries. However, it is imperative that you not only listen to the voices of the electorate but also take

decisive action to address their grievances, particularly concerning healthcare, unemployment, and the rising cost of education.

In this critical juncture, we urge you to continue being a voice of reason and a unifying force within our nation. Your dedication to truth and your refusal to succumb to sycophancy is commendable and sets you apart in a political landscape often marred by betrayal and deceit.

As we approach the 2027 elections, we call upon you to remain steadfast in your principles and to be a bridge that connects our communities to the national stage. Your ability to champi-

on the interests of all Kenyans will be crucial in determining the future of our nation.

We stand with you, Deputy President Gachagua, confident that together, we can navigate the challenges ahead and secure a brighter future for all Kenyans.

Sincerely,  
Concerned Citizens of Kenya  
James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication student at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology kakamega.

## Upholding Article 33: The Cornerstone Of Freedom Of Expression In Kenya

By: James Kilonzo Bwire

Article 33 of the Kenyan Constitution is a vital pillar that guarantees the right to freedom of expression, a fundamental component of any thriving democracy. This article not only enshrines the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information but also emphasizes the importance of artistic creativity and academic freedom. In a country where the media plays a crucial role in shaping public discourse, the protection afforded by Article 33 is essential for fostering an informed citizenry.

However, the provisions of Article 33 are not without limitations. The article explicitly states that the right to freedom of expression does not extend to propaganda for war, incitement to

violence, hate speech, or any advocacy that constitutes ethnic incitement. While these restrictions are necessary to maintain public order and protect individuals from harm, they must be applied judiciously to avoid stifling legitimate discourse. The challenge lies in ensuring that these exceptions do not become tools for censorship or repression.

The importance of access to information is also highlighted in Article 33, as it empowers citizens to seek information held by the state. This provision is crucial for promoting transparency and accountability within government institutions. In an era where misinformation can spread rapidly, the ability to access accurate information is par-

amount for citizens to make informed decisions and hold their leaders accountable.

Despite the strong protections outlined in Article 33, there are ongoing concerns regarding the practical implementation of these rights. Content-based restrictions that do not comply with international human rights standards remain embedded in Kenyan law, particularly within the Penal Code. Provisions that criminalize defamation and incitement can be misused by state officials to silence dissent and intimidate critics. This reality poses a significant threat to the freedoms guaranteed under Article 33 and undermines the democratic principles that the Constitution seeks to uphold.

Moreover, the safety of journalists and media practitioners is a pressing issue in Kenya. Reports of harassment and violence against those exercising their right to free expression highlight the need for stronger protections. The government must take proactive measures to ensure that journalists can operate without fear of reprisal, fostering an environment where diverse voices can be heard and respected.

As citizens, we must remain vigilant in advocating for the rights enshrined in Article 33. This includes demanding accountability from our leaders and challenging any attempts to curtail freedom of expression. Public awareness campaigns can play a vital role in educating citizens about their rights

and the importance of protecting these freedoms for future generations.

In conclusion, Article 33 of the Kenyan Constitution is a cornerstone of democracy that must be upheld and protected. While the provisions within this article offer robust protections for freedom of expression, it is crucial to ensure that they are not undermined by restrictive laws or practices. By fostering a culture of open dialogue and accountability, Kenya can continue to build a democratic society where all voices are valued and heard.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication student at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology kakamega.

## Governor Bii's Bold Move: A Stand Against Employment Scams in Uasin Gishu

By: James Kilonzo Bwire

Uasin Gishu County Governor Jonathan Bii's recent crackdown on fraudulent employment agencies marks a significant step towards protecting job seekers in the region. In response to alarming media reports that have portrayed Eldoret as a hub for scammers, Bii's decisive action reflects a commitment to safeguarding the livelihoods of his constituents. This initiative is not just timely; it is essential in a landscape where vulnerable individuals are often exploited by unscrupulous agencies.

The decision to revoke the licenses of agencies found to be engaging in fraudulent practices is a powerful statement against exploitation. Many residents have fallen victim to scams promising lucrative job placements

abroad, only to be left empty-handed and financially devastated. By targeting these fraudulent operations, Governor Bii aims to restore trust in legitimate employment services and ensure that the people of Uasin Gishu can pursue genuine opportunities without fear of being defrauded.

Eldoret's reputation has suffered due to the actions of a few dishonest agencies, which have tarnished the image of a city that should be celebrated for its vibrancy and potential. Governor Bii's crackdown serves as a reminder that while challenges exist, they do not define the community. His assertion that Eldoret is a "beacon of growth, opportunity, and innovation" is a call to action for all stakeholders to work together in fostering a positive environment for job

seekers and investors alike.

Moreover, this initiative aligns with broader efforts to enhance good governance and accountability within the county. By taking a firm stance against fraud, Governor Bii demonstrates his commitment to protecting the rights and welfare of Uasin Gishu residents. This proactive approach not only addresses immediate concerns but also emphasizes the importance of public awareness and education regarding employment opportunities, empowering individuals to make informed decisions.

As the crackdown unfolds, collaboration with law enforcement agencies will be crucial. Investigating and prosecuting those involved in fraudulent practices will send a clear message that such behavior will not be

tolerated. Transparency and accountability are key to restoring public confidence in employment services and preventing future scams. Governor Bii's administration must ensure that this initiative leads to meaningful change and not just temporary measures.

The governor's empathy for the victims of these scams is also noteworthy. By acknowledging the pain and frustration experienced by affected families, he humanizes the issue and reinforces the need for collective action. His call for residents to exercise caution and conduct due diligence before committing to job opportunities is a vital reminder in an era where information is readily available yet often misleading.

In conclusion, Governor Bii's de-

cisive measures to combat employment scams in Uasin Gishu County are commendable. By prioritizing the protection of job seekers and holding fraudulent agencies accountable, he is fostering a safer and more trustworthy environment for employment opportunities. This initiative not only safeguards the interests of residents but also reinforces the principles of good governance and ethical practices in the recruitment sector. As Uasin Gishu moves forward, it is imperative that all stakeholders work together to ensure that the county remains a place of opportunity, integrity, and hope for its citizens.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication student at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology kakamega.

# Reforming Public Finance Management In Kenya: A Comprehensive Approach To Deficit Reduction

Contd from page 18



## Worth Noting:

- It is imperative to acknowledge, however, that the journey towards fiscal consolidation and economic rejuvenation is likely to be fraught with myriad challenges, obstacles, and potential setbacks.
- The entrenched nature of certain inefficiencies, the complexity of bureaucratic structures, and the resistance from vested interests may present formidable hurdles in the path of reform.
- Nevertheless, it is equally crucial to recognize and emphasize that the potential benefits accruing from such a comprehensive overhaul far outweigh the temporary discomforts and difficulties that may be encountered during the implementation phase.

sectors and levels of government, can ensure coherence and momentum in implementation. This body should be mandated to set clear targets, monitor progress, and report regularly to the public on achievements and challenges.

The process of reducing government spending must be approached with caution to avoid unintended negative consequences. While fiscal consolidation is necessary, it should not come at the expense of essential public services or vulnerable populations. A nuanced approach that distinguishes between productive and unproductive expenditures is crucial. Investments in areas that promote long-term economic growth, such as education, research and development, and critical infrastructure, should be preserved or even enhanced. Conversely, areas of excessive or inefficient spending, such as bloated public sector wage bills or poorly targeted subsidies, should be subject to rigorous scrutiny and reform.

The elimination of wastage requires a cultural shift within the public sector towards greater efficiency and resource consciousness. This can be facilitated through comprehensive training programs for public servants, focusing on principles of lean management and resource optimization. The introduction of performance metrics and incentives tied to efficiency gains can motivate civil servants to identify and eliminate wasteful practices. Furthermore, leveraging technology to automate and streamline processes can yield significant efficiency improvements. The implementation of integrated financial management systems, for instance, can enhance budgetary control and reduce leakages.

Addressing corruption demands a holistic approach that goes beyond punitive measures to address the root causes of the problem. This includes reforms in political financing, strengthening the independence and

capacity of anti-corruption agencies, and enhancing the role of civil society in monitoring government activities. The use of technology, such as blockchain for public procurement or artificial intelligence for detecting anomalies in financial transactions, can provide powerful tools in the fight against corruption. Additionally, fostering a culture of integrity through ethics education and whistleblower protection mechanisms can contribute to long-term reductions in corrupt practices.

The implementation of these deficit-reduction measures is likely to face significant challenges and resistance from vested interests. Overcoming these obstacles requires strong political will, effective communication strategies, and broad-based public support. Transparent communication of the need for and benefits of these reforms is crucial in building public understanding and buy-in. Engaging civil society organizations, media, and academia in the reform process can help to build a coalition for change and enhance accountability.

While the focus on reducing expenditures and eliminating wastage and corruption is critical, it should be complemented by efforts to enhance revenue generation. This may include measures such as broadening the tax base, improving tax administration, and exploring innovative financing mechanisms. The combination of expenditure reduction and revenue enhancement can accelerate the pace of deficit reduction and create fiscal space for priority investments.

The impact of these deficit-reduction measures extends beyond immediate cost savings. By demonstrating fiscal discipline and commitment to good governance, Kenya can enhance its creditworthiness in international financial markets, potentially leading to lower borrowing costs. This can create a virtuous cycle of reduced debt servicing costs, further contrib-

uting to deficit reduction. Moreover, a more efficient and transparent public sector can improve the business environment, attracting both domestic and foreign investment and stimulating economic growth.

In summation, the formulation and subsequent implementation of an all-encompassing, multifaceted strategy aimed at curtailing government expenditures, eradicating systemic wastage, and confronting the pervasive issue of corruption presents itself as a formidable yet potentially transformative opportunity for the nation of Kenya to effectively address and ameliorate its persistent budget deficit conundrum. This comprehensive approach, rooted in fiscal prudence and good governance principles, offers a beacon of hope for a country grappling with financial imbalances and economic instability. The proposed measures, when executed with precision and commitment, hold the promise of not only alleviating the immediate fiscal pressures but also instigating a paradigm shift in public financial management and institutional efficacy.

It is imperative to acknowledge, however, that the journey towards fiscal consolidation and economic rejuvenation is likely to be fraught with myriad challenges, obstacles, and potential setbacks. The entrenched nature of certain inefficiencies, the complexity of bureaucratic structures, and the resistance from vested interests may present formidable hurdles in the path of reform. Nevertheless, it is equally crucial to recognize and emphasize that the potential benefits accruing from such a comprehensive overhaul far outweigh the temporary discomforts and difficulties that may be encountered during the implementation phase. The prospect of achieving enhanced economic stability, marked by reduced volatility and improved resilience to external shocks, stands as a compelling argument in favor of pursuing these reforms with

vigor and determination.

The anticipated improvements in public service delivery, stemming from more efficient resource allocation and reduced leakages, promise to elevate the quality of life for Kenyan citizens across various socio-economic strata. The ripple effects of enhanced governance structures, characterized by greater transparency, accountability, and integrity, are likely to permeate through various sectors of the economy and society, fostering a climate conducive to innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. These far-reaching benefits underscore the transformative potential of the proposed fiscal and administrative reforms, positioning them as catalysts for comprehensive national progress.

The realization of these ambitious objectives and the successful navigation of the complex terrain of fiscal reform necessitate an unwavering commitment from all echelons of government, civil society, and the private sector. This commitment must be underpinned by meticulous planning, encompassing detailed feasibility studies, risk assessments, and the formulation of contingency measures to address unforeseen challenges. The importance of broad-based collaboration among diverse stakeholders cannot be overstated, as it is through the synergistic efforts of government agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and international partners that the full potential of these reforms can be unlocked and actualized.

By wholeheartedly embracing and diligently implementing this comprehensive suite of reforms, Kenya positions itself not merely to address the pressing fiscal challenges of the present but to lay a robust foundation for sustained economic growth and holistic national development in the decades to come. This forward-looking approach, rooted in fiscal responsibility and good governance, has the potential to catalyze a virtuous cycle of economic prosperity, social progress, and enhanced global competitiveness. As Kenya stands at this critical juncture, the choices made and actions taken in pursuit of fiscal consolidation and economic reform will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of the nation's development, influencing the well-being and opportunities available to current and future generations of Kenyans.

*The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher*

# The True Crisis in University Debt: Where Did the Money Go?



By: Midmark Onsongo  
@themkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- The new funding model has been praised by these vice chancellors, but their praise is disingenuous. They see the model as a way to ensure a steady cash flow, even if it means pushing more of the financial responsibility onto parents.
- The tactic of barring students from sitting exams until their fees are fully paid is a clear indication of this approach. This strategy is ruthless, as it fails to consider the financial difficulties that many families face.
- The result is that more students may be forced to drop out of university or accumulate unsustainable levels of debt. Instead of finding ways to make education more accessible and affordable, universities are exacerbating the very problems they are supposed to solve.

President William Ruto might argue that Kenyan universities were drowning in debt, struggling to stay afloat, and desperately needed intervention through the introduction of a new funding model. However, this narrative raises significant concerns. How did these institutions, which were once financially stable, accumulate such massive debts? What happened to the funds that were borrowed with the intention of improving the educational landscape? These are not just questions of financial oversight but of accountability and integrity within our higher education system.

For years, Kenyan universities enjoyed substantial income streams from multiple sources. Government allocations, tuition fees from regular students, and more notably, the booming self-sponsored programs provided robust financial inflows. These self-sponsored programs, in particular, were lucrative ventures. They attracted thousands of students who were willing to pay premium fees for the opportunity to pursue higher education. Universities were effectively minting money, and with these substantial revenues, they should have been able to manage their operations without resorting to unsustainable borrowing. Yet, despite these significant financial inflows, universities found themselves mired in debt. This situation points to a deeper problem—mismanagement of resources. The funds that were supposed to enhance learning environments, build infrastructure, and improve the quality of education were instead either misappropriated or poorly invested. The loans that universities took out, which should have been channeled into productive investments, ended up exacerbating their financial woes. Instead of cre-

ating value, these funds created liabilities, leaving the institutions in worse financial health than before.

What is even more perplexing is the failure of universities to liquidate assets to offset these growing debts. Over the years, many universities acquired significant assets, including land, buildings, and other properties. These assets, if strategically managed, could have been sold to alleviate financial pressures. However, rather than taking this pragmatic approach, university administrations allowed their debts to snowball. The question remains: why were these assets not leveraged to prevent the current crisis? The lack of financial prudence in managing these resources is glaring and has led to a situation where universities are on the brink of financial collapse.

Adding to this financial mismanagement is the concerning role of university leadership. President Ruto, in his bid to address the financial crisis in universities, appears to be listening more to Vice Chancellors than to other stakeholders in the education sector. This selective attention is troubling, especially considering the vested interests of Vice Chancellors. Their enthusiasm for the new university funding model is not born out of a desire to improve the education system but rather to shift the financial burden onto parents. The Vice Chancellors are more concerned with maintaining their institutions' solvency and securing their positions than advocating for a sustainable and equitable solution to the funding crisis.

The new funding model has been praised by these vice chancellors, but their praise is disingenuous. They see the model as a way to ensure a steady cash flow, even if it

means pushing more of the financial responsibility onto parents. The tactic of barring students from sitting exams until their fees are fully paid is a clear indication of this approach. This strategy is ruthless, as it fails to consider the financial difficulties that many families face. The result is that more students may be forced to drop out of university or accumulate unsustainable levels of debt. Instead of finding ways to make education more accessible and affordable, universities are exacerbating the very problems they are supposed to solve.

The real issue that these Vice Chancellors are avoiding is the fact that the current system is not working. They are reluctant to admit this to President Ruto, possibly out of fear of losing their positions or the funding that their institutions so desperately need. However, this failure to confront the truth has broader implications for the education sector. The new funding model, while it may provide a temporary solution to the universities' financial woes, could lead to a surge in corruption, particularly in the allocation of loans and scholarships. As with many things in Kenya, these allocations could become a matter of who you know rather than what you deserve, further entrenching inequality in the education system.

Recently, the growing discontent within the education sector culminated in a meeting of student leaders from various universities. The atmosphere in the room was charged, and it wasn't long before chaos erupted. Chants filled the air as student leaders unanimously rejected the new funding model. Their frustration was evident, as they voiced concerns about the future of higher education in Kenya. The leaders declared that protests would ensue as soon as universities resumed their activities. This strong stance from student leadership highlights the broader dissatisfaction within the education sector, which has reached a boiling point.

The rejection of the funding model by student leaders is not an isolated event. It reflects a broader sense of betrayal felt by many within the education community. Students, who are already struggling to meet the rising costs of education, see the new model as another barrier to their academic success. The fear is that the model will create a two-tier system, where only those with financial means can afford to pursue higher education, while others are left behind. This sentiment is echoed by teachers, who have also promised

to strike in response to the lack of resources and support from the government. They argue that the new funding model does little to address the root causes of the crisis in the education sector and instead places an unfair burden on students and their families.

Adding to the unrest, lecturers are also planning to join the protests. Their frustration stems from delayed payments and worsening working conditions. Many lecturers have gone months without receiving their salaries, and the new funding model offers no solutions to these problems. Instead, it threatens to further destabilize an already fragile system. The prospect of widespread strikes by both teachers and lecturers poses a significant threat to the functioning of universities. If these strikes go ahead, it could lead to the complete shutdown of higher education institutions across the country, leaving thousands of students in limbo.

The question that looms large is: where is this leading the education sector? The situation is rapidly deteriorating, and the consequences could be dire. The financial mismanagement, rising costs, and lack of clear leadership from both the government and university administrations have created a perfect storm. If these issues are not addressed promptly and effectively, Kenya's higher education system could face an unprecedented crisis. The potential for widespread protests, strikes, and institutional shutdowns is very real, and the impact on students, parents, and educators could be devastating.

The education sector in Kenya is at a critical juncture. The decisions made in the coming months will determine the future of higher education in the country. It is essential that all stakeholders—students, teachers, lecturers, university administrators, and the government—come together to find a sustainable solution. This solution must prioritize the needs of students, ensure financial transparency, and create a system that is equitable and accessible to all. Without such a commitment, the future of Kenya's education sector remains uncertain, and the consequences could be felt for generations to come.

*This article was scripted by;  
MIDMARK ONSONGO  
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# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti says the club are considering giving players holidays during the season to cope with fixture congestion.

## Real Madrid Players May Get Holidays In Between Season – Ancelotti



Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti heads a training session at the Ciudad Real Madrid training complex in Valdebebas.

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti says the club are considering giving players holidays during the season to cope with fixture congestion.

Ancelotti's comments come amid the Professional Footballers' Association announcing in June that it, with the support of players' union Fifpro, has joined a legal action against Fifa over the "overloaded and unworkable" football calendar.

"The players need rest, they need holidays and we are thinking about giving individual holidays to the players during the season," said Ancelotti.

"We are thinking about giving in-season breaks, give a week off for a player so he can go and stay with his family, especially international players, who have very little rest because they usually

don't get even a day's holiday in international breaks.

"We are assessing it with the medical staff and the physical preparation."

Real Madrid won the La Liga title and Champions League last season before a number of their squad were involved in Euro 2024 or the Copa America during the summer.

This season, all three European club competitions will be expanded to 36 teams. The Champions League and Europa League will have eight first-phase games compared to the six in the 2023-24 campaign.

### Madrid to play in new Club World Cup

Real will play in a new Fifa Intercontinental Cup competition in December 2024, which will

involve the winners of the Champions League facing a team that comes through intercontinental play-offs.

The La Liga campaign finishes on 25 May, 2025 before the Champions League final on 31 May.

There will then be a window of international games from 2-10 June before the start of the extended Fifa Club World Cup.

"At the moment we still don't even know the date [of the Club World Cup], same with the Intercontinental Cup," added Ancelotti, who side beat Atalanta to win the Uefa Super Cup on Wednesday.

"We are bidding for seven titles but we still don't know when or how.

"The 2025-26 season might start earlier because of the [2026]

World Cup, so we have to plan accordingly starting this season.

"For example, when Vinicius Jr comes back after playing with Brazil, instead of playing in La Liga, he rests for three or four days, he goes on holiday and then he comes back.

"That's the only way. Normally those players train, even if they don't play. But we're going to take that away, let them do what they want on those days. That's what we're going to do."

BBC

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**Sports >>>** \*FKF Cup Champions Kenya Police FC were held to a barren draw by Ethiopia's Coffee, in the first leg of their CAF Confederation Cup first preliminary round at the Nyayo National Stadium yesterday evening.

# Police Held To Frustrating Draw By Ethiopia's Coffee In Continental Debut



Kenya Police FC winger Jaffari Owiti battles for the ball with Ethiopia's Coffee's Woldeamanuel Lonka. PHOTO/raymond Makhaya

FKF Cup Champions Kenya Police FC were held to a barren draw by Ethiopia's Coffee, in the first leg of their CAF Confederation Cup first preliminary round at the Nyayo National Stadium yesterday evening.

The law enforcers, making their debut in Continental football, had some good chances to score, but couldn't utilize and will now have their work cut out heading to the return fixture in Addis Ababa next weekend.

A scoring draw would be enough to take them through, while defeat would spell the end of their African sojourn after just a single round.

The Ethiopian side was comfortable with the score at 0-0 and slowed down the pace of the game greatly, attacking only when they knew they had a good shot at a goal.

Police had the first sniff at goal after 10 minutes when new signing Eric Zakayo picked the ball

from distance and dragged a low shot which went inches wide.

The home side suffered a setback barely a minute later when another new signing, midfielder Brian Musa was stretchered off injured with a nasty ankle sprain and was replaced by Charles Ouma.

Already missing Kenneth Munguna who is serving a past Continental suspension from his time at Azam FC, Police's starting two at the heart of midfield was out.

With the visitors playing a com-

pact block, Police couldn't manage to find a way to open them up and have an effort at goal.

Coffee had their first real sniff at goal in the 26th minute when Anteneh Beyene struck from distance, but the ball flew inches wide.

*Capital Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS

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## Making Learning Mathematics Fashionable And Fun With Manaka Mabolola



By: Mulamuleli Tshitangano  
@themkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

- As a multi-talented and passionate academic, apart from writing, Manaka spend some of his free time tutoring mathematics to students; develop educational resources and volunteering for initiatives promoting STEM education. For his recent craft, he wants to naje education fashionable and accessible to everyone nationwide. "My dream is to make mathematics enjoyable and understandable by all learners.
- I hope to expand my book's reach nationwide and internationally, develop more educational resources, and collaborate with educators and organizations to promote STEM education", he said.
- Just like any industry that has it's pros and cons, Manaka also faced some challenges including balancing writing with other responsibilities, ensuring the content's accuracy and relevance as well as overcoming self-doubt.

Manaka Mabolola hails from Limpopo Bochum in a small village called Devrede based in South Africa. He is a university student, mathematics and science coach, and a recently published author of a book titled 'Mathematics made easy with Manaka'. Growing up Manaka has been fascinated by the mathematics world. "My fascination with mathematics began when I was still a primary pupil at the age of 10. I found it intriguing and enjoyable, and then my passion grew stronger as time goes on".

However, Manaka saw the gap within the space of academics whereby learners struggle to fully understand Mathematics which ignited the sparks in him and idea to compile a study guide. "I wanted to share my understanding and make math more accessible. What keeps me motivated is the positive impact my book has on learners and the desire to continue making a difference", he added.

As a multi-talented and passionate academic, apart from writing, Manaka spend some of his free time tutoring mathematics to students; develop educational resources and volunteering for initiatives promoting STEM education. For his recent craft, he wants to naje education fashionable and accessible to everyone nationwide. "My dream is to make mathematics enjoyable and understandable by all learners. I hope to expand my book's reach nationwide and internationally, develop more educational resources, and collaborate with educators and organizations to promote STEM education", he said.

Just like any industry that has it's pros and cons, Manaka also faced some challenges including balancing writing with other responsibilities, ensuring the content's accuracy and relevance as well as overcoming self-doubt. "I overcome my challenges by setting goals and deadlines, seeking feedback from experts and peers and staying focused on my purpose", he added. He further expressed an interest in collaboration with renowned mathematicians and educators, educational institutions and organizations and fellow authors

and poets within the STEM field.

### About the book

"Mathematics Made Easy with Manaka" is a comprehensive study guide for Grade 11 and 12 students, covering both Paper 1 and Paper 2 content. It features detailed notes, secrets, techniques, and practice questions to simplify mathematics and empower learners.

My study guide caters to Grade 11 and 12 students, covering both Paper 1 and Paper 2 content, and features:

- Detailed notes: Comprehensive explanations of key concepts, formulas, and theorems to provide a solid foundation for understanding.
- Valuable secrets and tips: Proven strategies and techniques to help learners tackle challenging problems, manage exam stress, and build confidence.
- Clever techniques for problem-solving: Step-by-step methods and shortcuts to simplify complex calculations, saving time and effort.
- Practice questions with solutions: A wide range of exercises, including past exam questions, to help learners apply their knowledge, track progress, and identify areas for improvement.

"We offer nationwide delivery, ensuring that learners across the country can benefit from this valuable resource. To get your copy, simply contact me at +27715520107 (calls and WhatsApp)", he concluded.

