



### Runway To Controversy: Examining The Proposed JKIA-Adani Partnership

In the sweltering heat of Nairobi, where the tarmac shimmers like a mirage and the air thrums with the distant roar of jet engines, a storm is brewing - not in the skies, but in the corridors of power and the whispered conversations of concerned citizens.

Page 18

**THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US**

For any news you would wish us to publish,

email us: [news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

**For Adverts & Sponsorship**

email us: [ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

# The MT. KENYA TIMES

Creative Rewards

## Daily ePAPER

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 No. 01134 [www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [thentkenyatimes](#)



### News>> Kihika Unveils Initiative To Boost Service Delivery Efficiency, Accountability


P. 8. Results-based management is key in transforming public sector service delivery by promoting a culture of accountability, enhancing operational efficiency, and driving performance-based outcomes.



### News>> How Betting Craze Is Catching Up In Rural Areas

P. 12. Betting is growing in leaps and bounds in Kenya, embedding itself deeply into the drill of everyday life of thousands of its fans.

# IG Position: Kanja To Know His Fate Today

 The National Assembly is expected to consider the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on vetting of Douglas Kanja Kirocho as the Inspector-General of the National Police Service.

In a communication to the House, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Moses Wetang'ula informed members of the Senate's decision to approve Mr. Douglas Kanja Kirocho for the top police position.



Douglas Kanja Kirocho

STORY ON PAGE 9



MAGICAL KENYA  
**Travel expo**

**WELCOME TO MKTE 2024 EDITION**

Powered by

# National Conference On Electoral Reforms: Kalonzo Musyoka Calls For Urgent Action Ahead Of 2027 Elections



By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themtkenyatimes



Wiper Leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka at the National Conference on the Finalization of the Electoral Reforms before the 2027 General Elections with IEBC Kenya and ELGIA Africa

**Worth Noting:**

- Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, who co-chaired the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO), emphasized the significance of electoral reforms, stating, "This conference is more than another political gathering; it marks a watershed moment in our path to enhance democracy and ensure the people's will is honoured via a transparent and legitimate election process."
- During his speech, Musyoka underscored the critical role of the Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa (ELGIA) in advancing Kenya's electoral reforms.

The National Conference on Electoral Reforms was officially launched in Nairobi, setting the stage for crucial discussions on Kenya's electoral future ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

Bringing together political leaders, civil society representatives, and electoral stakeholders, the conference kicked off with contributions from several stakeholders, including Ali Abdullahi Surraw, Deputy Registrar of Political Parties, and Mr. Marjan H. Marjan, Commission Secretary of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, who co-chaired the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO), emphasized the significance of electoral reforms, stating, "This conference is more than another political gathering; it marks a watershed moment in our path to enhance democracy and ensure the people's will is honoured via

a transparent and legitimate election process."

During his speech, Musyoka underscored the critical role of the Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa (ELGIA) in advancing Kenya's electoral reforms.

He lauded their efforts in advocating for increased transparency and strengthening election standards.

"As we prepare for the 2027 General Elections," Musyoka noted, "ELGIA will continue to play an important role in maintaining the integrity of our electoral process."

Musyoka further detailed the findings of the NADCO report, which he co-led, explaining that one of its central recommendations was the reconstitution and restructuring of the IEBC. He criticized the delay in reconstituting the electoral body, citing how the lack of commis-

sioners had hindered essential operations such as border delimitation and the handling of by-elections. He pointed to the urgent need for political goodwill to address the institutional roadblocks delaying the reforms.

The former Vice President also drew attention to constituencies and wards left without representation due to deaths and appointments, stressing how delays in reconstituting the IEBC continue to deny citizens their rightful representation.

He highlighted specific cases such as Banisa Constituency and Kisa East Ward, which have been without a Member of Parliament and a Member of the County Assembly (MCA), respectively.

On the topic of inclusivity, Musyoka strongly advocated for greater participation of women, youth, and people with disabilities in the electoral process. He remarked that women, in particular, re-

main underrepresented in elective positions despite making up the majority of Kenya's population.

Musyoka stressed the need for measures to improve women's participation and leadership as part of the ongoing electoral reforms.

Technological reforms were also a major point in his speech, with Musyoka emphasizing the need for secure, transparent, and tamper-proof systems in future elections. He called for a comprehensive audit of Kenya's electronic voting system to restore public trust in the voting process.

In conclusion, Musyoka urged political leaders, civil society, and government bodies to work collectively towards implementing the NADCO recommendations.

Editor's Desk

**The Mt. Kenya Times**

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

**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson

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

**Facebook:** facebook.com/themtkenyatimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/, **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenyatimes  
**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>



# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

# The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

## NEWS IN BRIEF



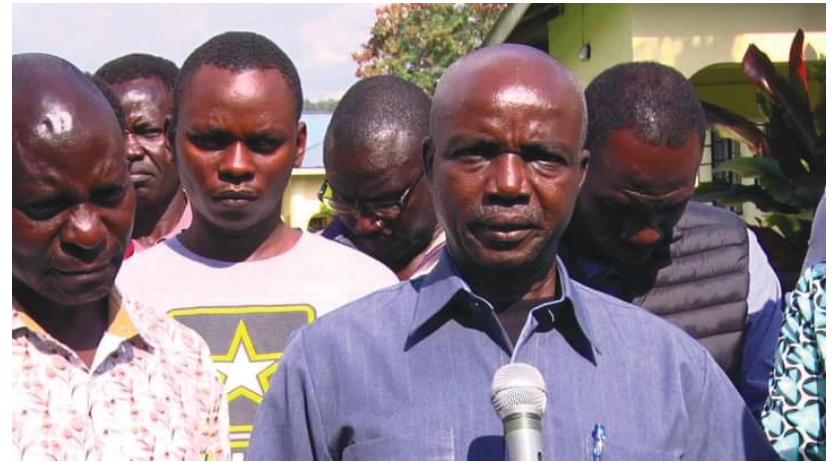
Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Executive Secretary, Dr. Masinde Bwire, said the joint efforts to conserve the Mara River spanning over a decade have contributed immensely to the conservation of the delicate the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem, which is home to the 8th wonder of the world—the Wildebeest migration. However, he said increased human activity has resulted in pollution of the Mara River, which is at the heart of the ecosystem, threatening the existence of wildlife and livelihoods of communities which depend on the water body. Dr. Bwire said some of the areas considered for legislation include the regulation of pesticide use and land use in the riparian areas to control pollution.



Head of the Tanzanian delegation, Colonel Evans Mtambi, said climate change posed a big threat to the existence of the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem, calling for the development of local-led solutions to combat the menace. He urged the community to plant trees friendly to the environment to attract rain and address drought, which, if not addressed, will lead to the extinction of wildlife, which is the lifeline of the ecosystem.



In a bid to enhance Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the counties of Siaya and Busia, journalists from vernacular radio stations were recently equipped with crucial knowledge on nurturing care for children aged 0-3 years. The training, organized by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in partnership with the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya, aimed to empower media professionals to become advocates of early childhood care. Judith Atieno, the lead trainer from CRS, emphasized the importance of the first three years of a child’s life, noting that the brain’s rapid development during this period requires critical care and parental involvement. “The period of childhood is a crucial period for shaping the child’s future.” Atieno said. “The interactions and experiences during these formative years lay the foundation for a child’s physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development, setting the stage for their lifelong well-being,” she stated. The initiative aims to use the power and influence of both religious leaders and the media to strengthen advocacy efforts. Through their reach, they hope to educate the public on the significance of nurturing care, which involves good health, adequate nutrition, responsive care, safety, and early learning opportunities for children.



Artisanal and Small Scale Miners in Migori, Kenya, have welcomed the move to gazette the Migori Artisan Mining Committee (AMC) mandated to issue mining licenses. National Chairperson of the Artisan and Small Scaler Miners Association of Kenya (ASMAK), Dan Omondi, said that the gazetted committee will help cure some of the issues affecting the mining sector in the county. He said that the gazetting of Artisanal Mining Committees will be a long-term reform strategy that will improve inter-governmental collaborations in the mining sector. The AMC members drawn from the two levels of government, the National Environment Management Authority (Nema), Mining Department, Artisanal miners, and security agencies will play a fundamental role in advising and offering guidance to the representatives of the Director of Mines on granting, renewing, and revoking artisanal miners’ permits.



Former Nairobi governor Dr. Evans Kidero says President William Ruto is committed to ensuring every corner of the country develops to the highest possible level. “President Ruto has brought all Kenyans on board through the broad-based government; therefore, we should all support his development agenda,” the former governor said. Speaking during a press briefing in Homa Bay Town on Monday, Dr. Kidero said the UDA Party manifesto was the best bet for the countries’ economic transformation. He said the UDA County Executive Council was fully in support of President Ruto’s vision of uniting the country.



The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Board Chairman, Mr. David Kariuki Njeru; on his right, the NSSF Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. David Koros; on his left, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) Commissioner, John Ogallo; and the Deputy Director of Corruption Prevention, CPA Neema Makori OGW (extreme right), on the extreme left is the NSSF Corporation Secretary and Legal Services Kellen Njue during the launch of the examinations of the Fund’s systems, policies, procedures, and practice. This exercise will help the Fund improve its service delivery to the public and optimize its operational efficiency. The Commission will provide counsel to the Fund for collaborative working, enhance transparency, and consolidate its effort in corruption prevention.



# Cancer Awareness

*Presented By Hope Allies Powered by the Mugwongo Family in Collaboration with:*

- › WE CHOOSE YOU
- › KIANJA FESTIVAL
- › YOUTH & POWER MOVEMENT
- › THE MOUNT KENYA TIMES

**SAT 05TH OCT, 2024**  
STARTING FROM 8:00 AM

**MC - MAWIRA M'TUAMWARI**  
**ENT BY: KIANJA ENTERTAINMENT**

### ACTIVITIES

WALK FROM NKUBU TOWN TO SHABAHA GROUNDS || STORIES OF SURVIVORS  
INTERACTING WITH MERU HOSPICE || MEN WELLNESS CLINIC

**PAYBILL 522522**  
**ACCOUNT: 1287146848**

## SHABAHA GROUNDS

NKUBU, MERU COUNTY

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL : WYNCATE NTINYARI 0799 410 450 OR KELVIN - 0741 567 811 OR KIANJA FESTIVAL - 0732 281 840 DR.CAROL MUGWONGO - 0788 109 328



# How Peace Initiatives In Kerio Valley Region Is Showing Promising Results

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyentimes

A series of community-led peace initiatives in the Kerio Valley, which straddles the borders of Elgeyo Marakwet West Pokot and Baringo counties, is showing promising results.

This success comes after concerted efforts by Midrift Hurinet, with support from the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya and Somalia through Act Change Transform initiative.

The region has faced challenges for years due to inter-communal tensions and banditry, but recent developments indicated a significant shift.

The Pokot and Marakwet communities, once locked in long-standing conflict, are now preparing to hold a peace meeting in the coming week.

The community-led inter-communal dialogue aims to build consensus on reopening vital transport routes, serving as a lifeline for local business activities and economic growth in the Kerio Valley.

Midrift Hurinet officials have praised the progress, noting that the talks were the culmination of several outreach programmes targeting local herders and community leaders.

“This collaboration between herders, local leaders, and peace actors is yielding significant milestones,” said Walter Mwanja Programmes Coordinator at Midrift Hurinet.

“Our direct engagements are paving the way for peaceful coexistence and socio-economic development,” he said.



How Peace Initiatives In Kerio Valley Region Is Showing Promising Results..

One of the key outcomes of these discussions has been the call for the reintroduction of livestock branding, which was initially introduced in 1992 under the 31D livestock branding system.

The herders pointed out that the system had been successful in deterring thefts and facilitating easy identification of livestock.

“The branding of livestock was a crucial step in curbing theft in the region,” said Shadrack Cheboi, a Marakwet herder.

“We believe reintroducing it will help prevent future thefts and ease tensions between communities,” Cheboi said.

Another notable shift has been the changing mindset among herders regarding education. Traditionally, herders in these communities have been reluctant to prioritize formal education, but the recent peace efforts have sparked a change in attitudes.

Herders from both the Pokot and Marakwet communities have committed to sending their children to

school, recognizing the importance of education in securing a better future for the region.

“We have come to realise that education is key to improving our lives and the future of our children,” Longiroi Lokwang’ a Pokot elder shared.

“Our communities will now support education for all, especially for our girls,” he added.

While peace talks have led to positive developments, herders are also voicing concerns about security operations in the region.

Many have questioned the lack of full recovery of stolen livestock, despite the presence of multiple security agencies such as the Nyumba Kumi initiative, National Police Reservists, Chiefs, and the Anti-Stock Theft Unit.

“We find it puzzling that criminals, who are few and well-known to the authorities, have not been apprehended,” said a local herder.

“We hope the security agencies will step up efforts to address this issue, as blanket condemnation of entire com-



How Peace Initiatives In Kerio Valley Region Is Showing Promising Results..

munities will only hinder the peace process,” he added.

As part of their long-term vision for the region, community leaders and professionals from the three counties are urging both national and county governments to invest in infrastructure and follow through with development projects.

These believed that these efforts would not only open up the region but also reduce incidents of banditry by creating alternative livelihoods.

Herders have also committed to forming groups to access government affirmative funds such as the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), Uwezo Fund, Women Enterprise Fund, and Youth Fund. These funds will support livelihood diversification efforts, including farming, beekeeping, and livestock trade.

“Our communities are ready to take up these opportunities. By diversifying our livelihoods, we can reduce our dependence on livestock, which has been a source of conflict,” said Micah Lorot a Pokot.

Midrift Hurinet, a non-profit organization founded in 2008, has played a pivotal role in facilitating these conversations. The organization is committed to empowering citizens, the state, and non-state actors to promote a culture of human rights, peace, security, and good governance.

“Our collaborative approach is bearing fruit, and we are hopeful that the upcoming peace meeting will lead to long-term stability in Kerio Valley,” commented Coordinator Mwanja.

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe Advertising and Marketing representatives.**

**ADLINK INTERNATIONAL** (1989) MEDIA GROUP  
 GLOBAL PRINT, BROADCAST OUTDOOR & DIGITAL ADVERTISING  
 SERVING YOU SINCE 1989

**ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP**  
 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF  
 Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)  
 Email: media@adlinkinternational.com  
 www.adlinkinternational.com  
 Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

# People's State Of The Nation: Karua Accuses Government Of Colluding With Corruption Cartels

By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themkenyatimes

Narc-Kenya party leader Martha Karua has accused the government of colluding with what she describes as "corruption cartels" that are controlling state affairs.

Speaking yesterday at her party's headquarters in Nairobi, Karua pointed fingers at the administration of President William Ruto, asserting that his regime has failed the nation and left it teetering on the edge of a leadership crisis.

She was accompanied by several politicians led Kivutha Kibwana, Mukhisa Kituyi and Ekeru Aukot, who supported her stance on corruption and governance.

Karua expressed grave concern over the state of governance, noting that corruption has become deeply entrenched in the country's political fabric. According to the seasoned politician, graft has not only undermined public trust in the government but also eroded the integrity of national institutions, particularly the Judiciary. She accused the Ruto admin-

istration of shielding corrupt officials by manipulating the justice system to protect those in power.

"We must uproot this cancer with determination and vigor," Karua stated emphatically.

"It demands not only robust legal frameworks but a cultural shift, a collective repudiation of graft in all its forms."

She argued that the current administration cannot effectively tackle corruption because it is actively involved in undermining justice.

She also pointed out the increasing number of economic crimes cases being withdrawn from court, suggesting that these actions were deliberately orchestrated to protect the ruling elite and their associates.

Karua also raised concern over the growing number of land-grabbing incidents across the country, accusing the government of turning a blind eye to these injustices.

She claimed that both public and private land are being illegally acquired, and that the authorities are doing little to hold those responsible to account.

"Cases of land grabbing are on the rise, with both private and public land being targeted," Karua said. "The



Earlier today at NARC-Kenya HQ, Martha Karua, Mukhisa Kituyi, and Dr. Ekeru Aukot, engaged young leaders and fellow Kenyans on the state of our nation

state appears to be under the control and capture of corruption cartels."

Kibwana also addressed the issue of rising abduction cases in the country, which have sparked widespread public outcry, saying there has been little to no effort from the government to apprehend the culprits behind those acts that are perpetrated by the law enforcement officers.

This, he argued, is yet another indication of the state's inability or unwillingness to maintain law and order.

Karua was particularly critical of

what she termed the government's deliberate disregard for the rule of law, suggesting that the administration is complicit in fostering an environment where illegal activities, such as land grabbing and abductions, can thrive without consequences.

"The rising cases of abduction and the state's apparent inaction are alarming. When the custodians of the law are allegedly involved, the very foundation of justice is at risk," she stated.

The Narc-Kenya leader called for greater accountability and good gov-

ernance, emphasizing that the time for change is overdue. She stressed the need for strong, ethical leadership that would prioritize the welfare of Kenyan citizens over the interests of corrupt power brokers.

"The call for good governance has become of age. We can no longer tolerate wanton mismanagement and leadership that prioritizes the few over the many. It's time for those in power to be held accountable," she concluded.

# Captain Morgan Set To Stage An Epic Spice Takeover In Meru, Unveils Artists Line Up

By: William Craig Oloo  
@themkenyatimes

East Africa Breweries Limited's leading rum brand, Captain Morgan is set to launch a new Personalization Campaign in Meru.

The event will take place on Saturday at Ridgeways Garden in Meru and is expected to be an exceptional experience for rum enthusiasts across the mountain region.

The Personalization campaign aims to leverage on consumers personas to celebrate the flava in Captain Morgan, connect and give a personal touch to their favorite rum. Consumers will have the opportunity to get customized Captain Morgan bottles on personalized labels featuring names such as Captain Kiongoz, Captain Chill mode, Captain Vybz, Captain Turn up, Captain Selektta, and Captain Dundaah.

In preparation for the event, the brand has announced a solid line up that will unleash the ultimate expe-

rience for fans and Captain Morgans consumers in Meru.

The event will feature thrilling performances from talented artists, DJs, and MCs including Captain Morgan's lead Influencer and Amnesia hit maker, Mejja, the Kenyan Rap Queen Maandy, Lele Hitmaker YBW Smith and song writer and recording artist Jaysoul Highpitch.

The event will be hosted by Hype masters MC Gogo and Hype Ola to keep the crowd on high energy and on their feet all night. Spinning the latest hits back-to-back and bringing their unique flavour to the decks will be an ultimate DJ powerhouse including DJ Kalonje, DJ Daffy, DJ Final and DJ Starmie

The Meru Spice Takeover event launch event is part of Captain Morgan's broader 'Spice On campaign', which celebrates the brand's adventurous spirit and commitment to adding a bold twist, to your spice to life's everyday moments. The 'Spice On' campaign encourages fans to bring their creativity and individuality to the forefront, making every Captain

Morgan experience uniquely theirs.

"We understand that our consumers are looking for something easy, fun and that tastes good befitting their social connection moments and, in this regard, we are very excited to once again engage with our consumers and bring them an innovative and exciting campaign that aligns on how they engage and interact with their crew in their everyday occasion and connection moments. The campaign aims to leverage on our consumers personas to celebrate the flava in Captain Morgan that is best described as 'Spice,'" said Davis Chagalwa, Brand Manager, Captain Morgan.

"Captain Morgan has always been about fun, adventure, and bold expression. With this campaign, we're thrilled to offer our fans in Meru and beyond a chance to make their mark on our brand. Whether it's for a special occasion or to add a personal twist to your rum, this is an experience you won't want to miss," he added.

Consumers who wish to attend the event can get tickets in advance

from EABL's E-Commerce platform Ke.thebar.com or at the gate where they will purchase Captain Morgan

750ML for 3 tickets or 250ML for 1 ticket.

# Kihika Unveils Initiative To Boost Service Delivery Efficiency, Accountability

By: Suleiman Mbatiah  
 @themkenyatimes

Results-based management is key in transforming public sector service delivery by promoting a culture of accountability, enhancing operational efficiency, and driving performance-based outcomes.

According to Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika, for governments to deliver on every promise, leaders must embrace measurable, result-oriented, and institutionalized performance management systems.

The Governor was speaking at the Agricultural Training Center - Soilo during the launch of the first cycle of the Nakuru County Rapid Results Initiative (RRI), which started on September 13 and ends on December 22, 2024.

RRI is a short-term approach used by organizations or governments to achieve quick and specific goals, usually within 100 days or less, with a focus on one key problem or objective to find fast, practical solutions.

She stated that the initiative will serve as a major boost for reform efforts, enhancing project implementation capacity while focusing on the

development of people-centered policies and programs.

In late February, the Governor launched a County Integrated Development Plan under the theme "Sustained Economic Growth for Shared Prosperity." The blueprint integrated her 2022 campaign manifesto.

"It is upon this manifesto that the government and I will be measured; the public will ask what we did with the manifesto we presented when we went to ask them to give us the opportunity to lead," she noted.

She said her administration has developed policies and programmes that seek to promote social equity, economic growth, and employment opportunity creation in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

She added that her administration has come up with performance management tools that will ensure a continuous process of identifying, measuring, and developing the performance of individuals and teams alongside strategic goals.

To embrace the results-centered working culture, the Governor said all departments and agencies would have clarity on obligations while eliminating the 'silo approach' in project formulation and execution.

The silo approach in management



Governor Susan Kihika appends her signature while overseeing the signing of RRI performance contracts. Photo/Courtesy.

and service delivery refers to a situation where different departments, teams, or units within an organization operate in isolation from each other, with limited or no communication and collaboration.

"I am keen on rewarding exemplary performing staff and sanctioning poor performance within a framework that supports the objectives of attracting, nurturing, and retaining qualified and highly productive staff," she stated.

The initiative's launch saw Coun-

ty Executive Committee Members, Chief Officers, Directors, and departmental managers sign a pledge to deliver results during the initiative's timeframe, with the Governor holding them accountable.

She emphasized that the public service, particularly the civil service, plays an essential role in delivering services that are vital to the county's economic functioning and overall development.

"When the delivery of services is

constrained or becomes ineffective, it affects the quality of life of the people, whom I share their interests, and the county's development process," she added.

The governor promised and firmly committed to periodically monitor the progress of project implementation and delivery of service programmes for timely project completion and an increase in own-source revenue.

# Wajir Gearing Up Host The Pastoralist Leadership Summit (PLS), Slated For November

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themkenyatimes

The summit is expected to attract over 450 delegates, including all 14 governors from the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties and county assembly leaders.

The summit marks a pivotal moment for pastoralist communities, as leaders from across the region will converge to address pressing issues related to pastoralism, development and regional collaboration.

The event is poised to shine a spotlight on Wajir's economic potential while also discussing challenges faced by ASAL counties, such as climate change, infrastructure development and livestock management.

In preparation for the summit, set for November 28 to 30th, a delegation led by Major Bashir Abdullahi, Chairman of the Pastoralist Commit-



tees, on Monday held a meeting with Wajir's Deputy Governor and County Commissioner.

Their discussions centered on ensuring comprehensive plans are in place, with security and logistical measures high on the agenda to guarantee the success of the event.

The summit is expected to provide

a significant economic boost to Wajir, creating a unique opportunity for local businesses and showcasing the region's rich culture and hospitality.

According to local leaders, hotels, restaurants, and traders are gearing up for the influx of visitors, anticipating that the event will invigorate the local economy.



Wajir County's government, in collaboration with stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, is working around the clock to ensure that the town is ready to welcome guests.

Key areas of focus include infrastructure, security and hospitality with local authorities ensuring that the event runs smoothly.

Among the high-profile attendees are Sarah Korere, MP for Laikipia

North, Timothy Kipchumba, MP for Marakwet West, and Yussuf Adan Haji, MP for Mandera West.

The PLS aims to foster collaboration and dialogue, paving the way for sustainable solutions that will benefit not just Wajir but the entire ASAL region.

# IG Position: Douglas Kanja To Know His Fate Today

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

The National Assembly is expected to consider the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on vetting of Douglas Kanja Kirocho as the Inspector-General of the National Police Service.

In a communication to the House, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Moses Wetang'ula informed members of the Senate's decision to approve Mr. Douglas Kanja Kirocho for the top police position.

"I wish to report to the House that on 21st August 2024, I received a Message from the Senate regarding the approval of a nominee for the position of Inspector-General of the National Police Service," read the Speaker.

"The Senate, by a resolution passed on 20th August 2024, approved the appointment of Mr. Douglas Kanja Kirocho as the Inspector-General of the National Police Service,"

Wetang'ula added.

The Speaker stated that the vetting exercise, done in a joint sitting between the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security and the Senate Standing Committee on National Security and Foreign Relations, was in accordance with Article 245(2) (a) of the Constitution.

"Accordingly, the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security is expected to table the Joint Report on the vetting of the nominee this afternoon," added the Speaker.

Consequently, the debate for the said Report will be conducted today during the morning sitting.

Douglas Kanja Kirocho



# Parliamentary Trade Committee Demands Detailed Report From Kenya Breweries On Transport And Logistics Providers

By: PSCU

The committee on Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives has instructed the management of Kenya Breweries Limited (KBL) to provide a detailed breakdown of its logistics service providers.

This directive was issued by committee chairperson James Gakuya of Embakasi North constituency yesterday during a meeting with KBL Managing Director Mark Ocitti.

The meeting was convened to investigate allegations that KBL does not engage local firms for its logistics services.

Mr. Ocitti, in response, refuted the claims, stating that KBL has contracted four Kenyan-owned companies: Ponty Pride, DHL, Agility, and Acceler.

However, the committee members



Mark Ocitti.



James Gakuya

led by the chairperson expressed reservations about the actual ownership of the logistics firms.

"We want to be furnished with more details about the four logistics service providers. We need to know who owns them and the percentage

of business each company was allocated," said Gakuya.

The committee also requested information on warehousing and security service providers, which will be crucial for their final report.

On March 6, the committee met

with officials from the Kenya Transporters Association (KTA) Limited. KTA Chairman Newton Wang'oo had requested the MPs' intervention to resolve a dispute between local and international transport firms.

Mr. Wang'oo alleged that multi-

national companies prefer to work with other international firms, which he described as unfair business practices.

# Establishing Godly Deep Rooted Values And Disciplines



By: Eric Musa  
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

I am in a period in my life where I need to establish DEEP ROOTED VALUES AND DISCIPLINES in order to certainly achieve my dreams and Vision. I have realised it is very hard, but POSSIBLE, and thus decided to lean on God; particularly THE HOLY SPIRIT for DIVINE HELP. The following are the particular prayers points, and which I hope will also be of great help to you, as they will be answered; by putting our faith into practice/ actions in Christ Jesus mighty name:

ü Father, make me to hunger and thirst for righteousness, in Jesus' name.

ü Lord, help me to be ready to do your work without expecting any recognition from others, in the name of

Christ Jesus.

ü Lord, give me victory over emphasizing the weaknesses and sins of other people while ignoring my own, in the name of Jesus.

ü Lord, give me depth and foothold in my faith, in the name of Jesus.

ü Lord, heal every dot of backsliding in my spiritual life, in the name of Jesus.

ü Lord, help me to be WILLING TO SERVE OTHERS RATHER THAN WANTING TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY, in Jesus' name.

ü Lord, open my understanding concerning scriptures, in Jesus' name.

ü Lord, help me to live each day recognizing that the day will come when you will judge secret lives and innermost thoughts, in Jesus' name.

ü Lord, let me be willing to be the clay in your hands ready to be moulded as you desire, in Jesus' name.

ü Lord, wake me up out of any form of spiritual sleep and help me to put on the amour of light, in the name of Jesus.

ü Lord, give me victory over all carnality and help me to be in the centre of your will, in the name of Jesus.

ü I stand against anything in my life that will cause others to stumble, in Jesus' name.

ü Lord, help me to put away childish things and put on maturity, in Jesus' name.

ü Lord, empower me to stand firm against all the schemes and techniques of the devil, in Jesus' name.

ü Lord, give me a big appetite for the pure milk and solid food in the Word, in the name of Jesus.

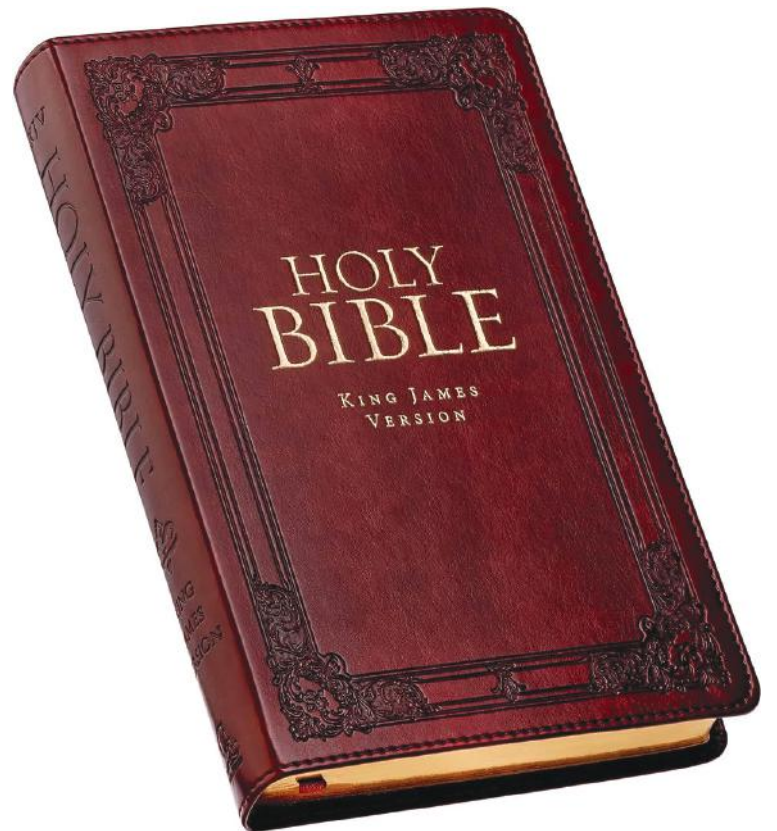
ü Lord, empower me to stay away from anything or anybody that might take God's place in my heart, in Jesus' name.

HALELUJAH, AMEN IN JESUS CHRIST MIGHTY NAME.

References:

The Living Holy Bible  
Book by Pastor Dr. D.K Olukeya  
"Power Must Change Hands."

Evangelist Eric Musa:  
(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2



Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 ( Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Re-

member, God LOVES ❤️❤️❤️ you unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

## The Mt. Kenya Times



# Those Dragging The Name Of President Ruto Into Masengeli's 'Failure' To Obey A Court Order Should Prove Their Claims

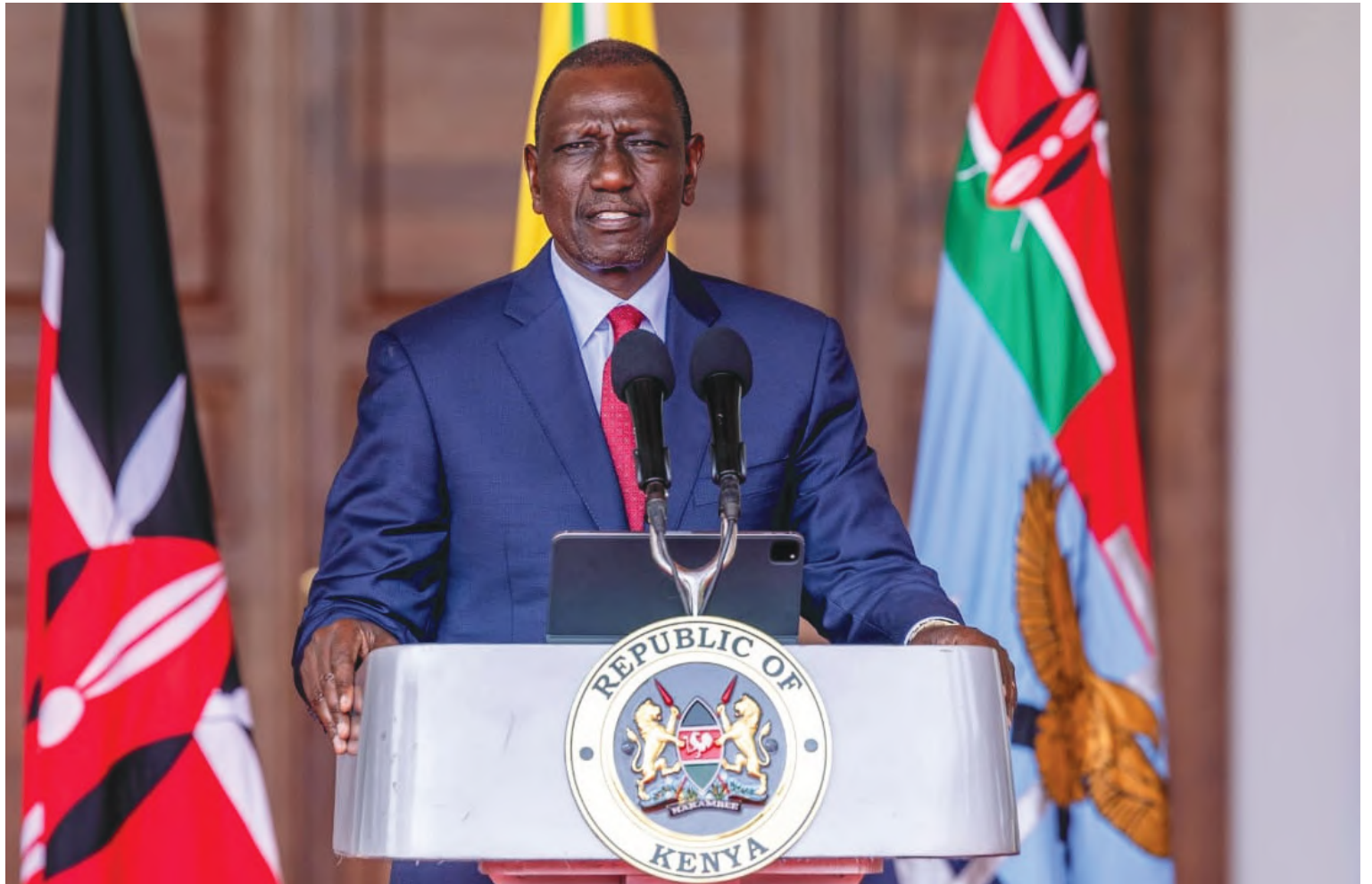


By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



## Worth Noting:

- Though the IG used to send top legal officers in National Police Service (NPS) and at one time the Deputy IG to represent him, the judge would not allow them to give the reasons why IG had failed to show up in person.
- The judge averred I have previously told you that I will never entertain explanation that the acting IG is busy in the field doing his job of security assessment and coordinating security operations.
- My instructions remain very clear. He must present himself to this court in person.
- As Inspector General of Police, he also has a duty to shed light on this matter before this court touching on the abduction of two brothers and their friend.



President William Ruto.

The story of the acting Inspector General of Police Gilbert Masengeli's alleged failure to obey court order is currently dominating the headlines of the mainstream media.

The opinion of the leaders and members of the public was divided on whether Masengeli's actions amount to contempt of court.

It is worth noting the acting IG landed in trouble after he failed to appear in court six times.

Though the IG used to send top legal officers in National Police Service (NPS) and at one time the Deputy IG to represent him, the judge would not allow them to give the reasons why IG had failed to show up in person.

The judge averred I have previously told you that I will never entertain explanation that the acting IG is busy in the field doing his job of security assessment and coordinating security operations.

My instructions remain very clear. He must present himself to this court in person.

As Inspector General of Police, he also has a duty to shed light on this matter before this court touching on the abduction of two brothers and their friend.

Media reports indicated the incident took place in Kitengela and the three activists were allegedly abducted by people believed to be police officers. The

police have since denied these reports.

Well, this matter escalated a few days ago when Judge Lawrence Mugambi went ahead and sentenced Masengeli to six month imprisonment.

He however gave the acting IG seven days to present himself in his court. If he do this, he will redeem and save himself. If fails to appear, he will have to present to commissioner of National Prison Service (NPS) to be allocated the prison. The sentence will commence immediately.

The IG have since filed an appeal.

Meanwhile, the matter took a new turn when the judge reported that his security detail-a body guard and police driver-had been withdrawn.

This caused uproar within file and rank of the judiciary.

But in a swift rejoinder, the acting IG while referring to the relevant provisions of the law stated that it is only the President, Deputy President and retired President who legally entitled to be given security.

He however assured the honorable judge that he had no reason to worry. We will ensure his security is beefed up.

The IG added: The judge's bodyguard and driver had been recalled to give them a chance to go for training.

He seemed to suggest they had been replaced by other police officers who had already gone through this training.

I have been listening to the narratives of the critics of President William Ruto since this push and pull started.

They wanted Kenyans to believe that President William Ruto have a hand in Masengeli's refusal to obey court order. How? Where is evidence?

The law governing Kenya police is very clear. The National Police Service Commission (NPSC) is in charge of recruitment, vetting and appointment of

the police officers.

So, following the resignation of substantive IGP Japheth Koome, the commission forwarded the name of Masengeli to the President to appoint him as acting IG.

*Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator Based In Nairobi*



Acting Inspector General of Police Gilbert Masengeli

# How Betting Craze Is Catching Up In Rural Areas

By: Samuel Maina and Kipkorir Ian @themtkenyatimes



A gambler at 'work'.

## Worth Noting:

- One of the bodaboda riders who requested for anonymity narrated to us how he started betting in 2005 while he was still 19 years of age and has never looked back since then.
- "I started betting while I was still young and I don't see myself coming out of this anytime soon. Last year I won around 60,000. In a month I would place bets three times a week with a stake of not more than KSh100. From my wins, I would be in a position to take care of my family," he told KNA.
- He went on to defend his decision to keep placing bets by terming gambling as an innocent activity that can pay big.

Betting is growing in leaps and bounds in Kenya, embedding itself deeply into the drill of everyday life of thousands of its fans.

A recent study from GeoPoll, (a mobile surveying platform) paints a shocking picture where 83.9 per cent of Kenyans have at least tried betting and 3 out of 4 people are doing so on a regular basis.

This statistic is not just a number but a reflection of a growing cultural shift, underscoring how betting has become more than a mere pastime and to a widespread social crisis that threatens to ruin an entire generation.

A report by the National Assembly on Sports and Culture tabled before the National Assembly in November last year put the amount of money gobbled through gambling at Sh 820.07 billion between 2018 and 2022.

Kenya is currently ranked third in Africa in terms of the number of people falling prey to betting coming behind Nigeria and South Africa respectively.

Between July 2022 and June 2023 at least KSh88.5 billion was sunk into online gaming with betting companies paying Sh6.64 billion as excise duty to the taxman.

On average KSh2,806 is spent on online betting every passing second in the country with one out of 10 adults transforming gaming into a full income generating activity.

Back home in Nyeri, a spot check by KNA has revealed that a large chunk of young people have taken up betting hoping against hope that sooner than later they will strike it real big.

As we were having a walk around town, we approached a group of bodaboda riders and decided to get their views on this craze which has mesmerized thousands like a magic spell.

But what we did discover was that most of these riders were already hooked into gambling.

One of the bodaboda riders who requested for anonymity narrated to us how he started betting in 2005 while he was still 19 years of age and has never looked back since then.

"I started betting while I was still young and I don't see myself coming out of this anytime soon. Last year I won around 60,000. In a month I would place bets three times a week with a stake of not more than KSh100. From my wins, I would be in a position to take care of my family," he told KNA.

He went on to defend his decision to keep placing bets by terming gambling as an innocent activity that can pay big.

He nevertheless cautions peers from turning into a full-time occupation saying gambling is not a source of income.

"I would advise people to work and take betting as an entertainment but not as a source of income. You shouldn't just sit and hope to earn from stakes. Make sure as you bet you have something that you are doing to earn some money," he advises.

Joy Wanderi, a businesswoman, shared a deeply personal story about her husband's struggle with betting and his journey to recovery.

She recounted how his involvement in gambling took the better part of him to the extent of absconding his family responsibilities.

"I'm truly grateful that with the support of our local church minister, my husband was able to turn his life around," Wanderi said.

"For a long time, his only focus was betting. His work became secondary, and unfortunately, he would often lose more than he won. This

pattern of loss led to a spiral of depression, to the point where he was unable to contribute anything to our household," she said.

Wanderi has warned the youth against taking up the practice owing to its bewitching addiction.

"I strongly advise young people to steer clear of gambling. It's a destructive habit that can quickly become all-consuming. From my own experience, I've seen first-hand how gambling can lead to severe personal and financial problems, and I wouldn't want anyone else to go through what my family had to endure. It's therefore important to recognize the risks and avoid getting entangled in the practice in the first place," she warns.

Dr Fabio Ogachi, a lecturer of Psychology at Kenyatta University says people hooked into gaming need help and not condemnation.

The don says majority of people who take to gambling do not do it out of fun but due to other underlying challenges such as financial problems.

He said that he got several cases where he helped some of the gambling addicts but the major problem he encountered was convincing such persons to change their attitude towards vice.

"The biggest challenge is the change of attitude for someone to shift since such victims usually find themselves boxed into some financial crisis. With money being an essential part of our day to day living, many believe that the only alternative is to make quick money through gambling," said Dr Fabio.

Some of the adverse challenges that dog many gamblers include depression, insomnia and other stress related health disorders.

"If left unchecked, such challenges can push one into criminal activities

but with the help of a professional counselling anyone can be helped to overcome this gambling addiction," states Dr Fabio who revealed he has helped a number of gamblers make a complete turnaround from the grip of gaming.

Dr. Erastus Njoroge, ArchBishop Foursquare Gospel Church in Nyeri says the only panacea to the gambling mania sweeping across the country is to have stringent rules to regulate betting companies.

The cleric has equated online gaming to a malignant cancerous tumour that threatens to consume up every fabric of our society including our school going children.

Dr Njoroge also challenges religious organizations to take a central role in sensitising their followers about the dangers of this practice caution that any complacency on the side of the churches will only worsen the situation.

"Many youths have drowned into the slavery of betting and the government should address the issue before it's too late. I also urge family members to support those addicted by opening up to religious leaders in order to get spiritual guidance," he says.

Mwaniki Kung'u, acting Central Regional Director of Children's Services, says his office has noted an increase in betting cases among school-going children.

He, however says they are working with relevant stakeholders to address the challenge before it gets out of hand.

Mr Mwaniki said that they have various interventions for affected children, including referring them to agencies such as the Kenya Counsellors Association, Community Service Organizations (CSOs), and other supportive organizations that can assist these children.

"There are very many betting dens in Nyeri, some disguised as casino's majority of which are not even registered or known by authorities. When the police go for raids, they find children there who they refer to us. Most of such children are often addicted to gambling and therefore need therapy for them to continue with their normal classes," he says.

"Guardians should also be aware of their children's whereabouts and activities at all times. If they discover their children are betting, it is their responsibility to admonish them, explain that it is wrong, put an end to it, and ensure that the behaviour stops," he concludes.

# Judiciary Focuses On Green Justice

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themkenyatimes

Chief Justice Martha Koome has highlighted Green Justice as one of the strategic priorities the Judiciary is implementing in order to achieve the ultimate goal of attaining a people-centred justice system in the country.

The CJ revealed that the Judiciary has launched the ‘Strategic Guiding Framework for Greening Kenya’s Justice System’, to guide efforts to incorporate environmental sustainability into the operations and decisions of agencies within the justice sector.

“We are aligning the operations of court stations, particularly in remote areas, with sustainable practices, such as getting them alternative off-grid sources of power, including solar power,” Koome observed.

She cited digitisation as one of the

areas the institution will require collaboration with development partners to enhance access to justice.

Koome further highlighted achievements such as the rollout of e-filing countrywide, virtual courts, digitising of court records, and the piloting of a National Transcription Centre as being the game changers in leveraging technology to enhance access to justice while cutting the cost and inconvenience on the part of justice seekers.

However, the CJ decried the reduction of the Judiciary budget, which in turn reduces the ICT budget, particularly during a critical time for the Judiciary where these revolutionary ICT gains need to be secured, strengthened, and expanded to benefit all Kenyans.

“We remain engaged with the other arms of government, emphasising the importance of adequate funding for the Judiciary to enable optimal functioning and ensure that all Kenyans can access justice, a right enshrined in our Constitution,” she maintained.



Chief Justice Martha Koome

Other judicial initiatives highlighted during the meeting include the establishment of 12 Gender Justice Courts

in areas identified as SGBV hotspots to ensure trauma-responsive and efficient justice for victims of SGBV

and Children Courts to ensure a child-friendly justice system has been established and expanded.

# Nakuru County Launches Electric Motorbikes In A Bid To Reduce The Carbon Footprint

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themkenyatimes

Nakuru County government has indicated that it is keen to support the national government’s plan to phase out over two million fuel-powered motorcycles as Kenya ushers in the era of electric motorcycles.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Roads, Transport, and Public Works Engineer Michael Kamau disclosed that with eight charging stations operational and two others under construction, Nakuru is firmly on the path to embrace eco-friendly mobility.

“For Kenya to achieve low carbon emissions, we need efficient technologies in the transport industry. The electric motorcycles will help in curbing indiscipline and improve safety in the transport system as they have speed limits,” stated Engineer Kamau.

He added, “This e-boda boda cannot exceed 90 kilometres per hour. This

is to tame reckless drivers and save lives”.

Engineer Kamau added that the county has partnered with various stakeholders to shape policies around e-mobility, further solidifying Nakuru’s dedication to sustainable transport solutions.

The CECM, who was accompanied by City Manager Gitau Thabanja, Chief Officers Samwel Ndegwa (Infrastructure), Benard Sang (Trade), and Nakuru Boda Boda Association spokesman Stephen Mwanda, said the motorcycles cannot be stolen because they can be monitored from a remote location and can be switched off remotely if stolen.

“The e-mobility sector that we are introducing in Nakuru will have traceability. If somebody tries to steal this motorcycle, it can be switched off,” he said.

Engineer Kamau said that the e-mobility bikes will be affordable to bodaboda operators, saying a bike will cost around Sh160,000.

He said the bodaboda operators have been charged exorbitantly in the past by players in the industry, with some



Electric Motorbikes .

paying as much as Sh300,000 for the fuel-powered motorcycles.

The CECM further said the operators will save on fuel costs as the charging costs will not be as high as the cost of fuel.

Engineer Kamau noted that the sec-

tor, despite being a major last-mile transportation of cargo and people, is riddled with over 3,000 deaths annually.

He said the e-mobility motorbikes are equipped with speed governors and dash cameras to monitor and reg-

ulate speeding.

“The bodaboda sector has been a sector with a lot of accidents, recording 3,000 deaths annually. We shall regulate the speed to ensure the safety of riders and their passengers,” he added.

## Demon Called Love



By: Shyrah Wanjira

Love, for many, is an enchanting promise, a comforting companion in the best of times. But it is also unpredictable, hiding complexities beneath its seemingly flawless surface. Love isn't always gentle; it has a darker side, one that can pull us into situations that test our deepest emotions, forcing us to question ourselves and those we care about.

There's a certain myth we tend to believe: that once love is found, everything falls into place. But what happens when love is no longer just about two people? When outside forces, long buried or ignored, emerge from the shadows to challenge what you thought was secure? Suddenly, love transforms from a sanctuary into something else, something far more difficult to control.

In the quiet corners of relationships, unresolved ties and unspoken obligations can surface unexpectedly, like echoes from another time. These are the unseen chains that can bind us, not to the person we're with, but to a past we thought we had left behind. When these old ties reappear, they do so with startling intensity, pulling at the seams of the present, and unravelling the delicate fabric of the future.

This is where love can take on an almost demonic nature, not in the sense of evil, but in how it overwhelms, confuses, and disrupts. A force that once seemed to provide clarity now leads to a spiral of indecision. Suddenly, what was once a simple path forward becomes a complicated web of choices, where no direction seems free from heartache. The real challenge, then, lies not in love itself, but in navigating the external pressures that seek to shape it. Family expectations, past commitments, and societal norms can all quietly influence the course of a relationship. For some,

this influence is benign, perhaps even helpful. But for others, it arrives like an unwelcome guest, demanding attention, stirring conflict, and forcing decisions that shouldn't have to be made. When love becomes entangled in these external forces, it stops being just about two hearts and becomes a tug-of-war between what is wanted and what is expected. It's in this tension that love starts to feel less like a gift and more like a burden. The weight of someone else's past, whether it's family obligations or unresolved relationships, . This can feel like an invisible shadow, constantly lurking, never allowing the present to unfold freely.

In these moments, it becomes clear that love alone is not always enough to conquer everything. The "demon" in love isn't always an internal flaw, but rather the external forces that push and pull at the relationship, leaving both partners emotionally drained, unsure of what to do next.

For those caught in this struggle, the question becomes one of endurance.

How long can you fight against the pressures closing in? How long can you hold on to something that feels like it's slipping away, not because of a lack of love, but because of circumstances beyond your control?

And yet, there is strength in recognizing that these battles, while painful, offer clarity in time. They reveal the truths we may not want to confront but are necessary for growth. Sometimes, the fight against love's darker forces is what ultimately leads us to a deeper understanding of ourselves—and of what we truly want.

As love tests our limits, the most important lesson is knowing when to stay and fight, and when to step away.

Sometimes, choosing yourself over the complications love can bring is the bravest act of all. Love, after all, is meant to elevate us, not break us.

So, as we navigate the unpredictable nature of love, it's essential to remember that while it can feel demonic at times, it's not love itself that harms us. It's the weight of the expectations, the pressure of competing interests, and the ghosts of the past that threaten to undo what we've built. To truly love, one must be willing to face these forces head-on, without losing sight of oneself in the process.

## In Order Not To Hurt Anyone's Heart



Some people thought I was arrogant  
without being able to read,  
without being able to understand the real  
truth,  
without being able to read the  
"I" inside me,  
They were in a hurry to make a decision.

In order not to hurt anyone's heart,  
I kept that moment of silence,  
and many people attributed it to  
arrogance,  
not being able to read the "I" in me, maybe  
everyone thinks of me as arrogant,

because I didn't say anything,  
This silence is the right of education given  
by my father,  
You cannot know my situation like this.  
Like I said, you can't read the "I" in me.

Bobonazarova Yulduz was born in 2006 in Gurlan district of Khorezm region. 1st year student of Urganch State Pedagogical Institute.

## H.E. Amb. J B Worlanjo Nana-Ato



Executive Chairman

The EL-Ecojaj Financial holdings for Ghana, Africa is Economic is a results-oriented result that aims to

lead to the signing of cooperation agreements, investments and economic and trade partnerships.

The event also aims to highlight Africa's investment opportunities in the sectors of Mining, Energy, Agriculture, infrastructure, health, Finance, trade, tourism, cultural industries, tech and more.

Africa Economic aims to become a permanent platform for dialogue and networking between African governments and global investors and partners.

please kindly add this particular story as super of the Award

# Maturation And Learning In Children



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi  
@themkenyentimes

Maturation is an orderly sequence of events determined by the growth of the neuro-muscular structure. Learning, on the other hand, is acquisition of new skills etc., due to environmental stimulation. Often the question arises whether the development of the child is due to maturation, that is due to the growth of the neuro-muscular structure, or whether it is due to learning, that is due to the influence of the parents, the stimulation that is given by them, the equipment that is provided by them and the practice given to the child.

At the outset it must be realised that this is a very tricky question. No child ever grows up in a vacuum. All children grow up in the environment that is provided by the parents. It is needless to point out that the poor child in India may be brought up in a one-room mud hut whether it is in the village or in the slum in the metropolis.

On the other hand, the child born to the rich parents has a wholly different atmosphere. It may have a huge room for itself in a large house which is constructed in a huge compound. Studies reported in the next chapter show that there is a noticeable difference in the rate of growth among the rural, industrial and urban children with respect to skills like jumping, climbing, tricycling, ball throwing, etc.

It is obvious that there must be a tricycle in the house, or in the nursery school, for the child to learn tricycling. There must be a ball and there must be enough space for the child to learn throwing a ball; the parent must provide such equipment. Even more important, the parent must promote the development of the skill by stimulating the child to practice.

One recalls the story of an experiment that is said to have been conducted by Akbar, Emperor of India. It appears there was a controversy in his court whether God spoke in Arabic or Persian. It is said that Akbar, a very practical man, was tired of the controversy and wanted to settle, once and for all, the question by a practical experiment. He asked his minister to gather a few newborn children and see that they are brought up in a room without any contact with human beings.

They were to be properly nourished but nobody was to speak to them. It was found that though the children grew up will they could not speak any language at all. Thus he discovered that one has to learn even one's mother tongue. But all the attempts made to teach language to an ape have yielded no results whatever



since the ape does not have the vocal apparatus which the human child has. Thus language learning is due both to the neuro-muscular structure as well as to the environmental stimulation and practice.

Some studies regarding this problem have been made on rats as well as on children. For example, Hebb (1949) reported that the rats from an ordinary strain of laboratory species, reared at home as 'pets' performed in a significantly superior manner on a learning task as compared with the rats from the same strain which were reared in a normal laboratory environment. In the last few years there have been several studies to determine the effects of "enrichment" of environment and "deprivation". When the environment is rich and stimulating during the first five years of a child's life, his development proceeds in a rapid fashion. On the other hand, if the environment is poor and unstimulating there may be retardation in his growth. Studies have been made on identical twins who are born with the same heredity but who were separated early and brought up in different environments due to several reasons.

The studies have shown that when the twins were separated before they were one year old there was a difference of five IQ points and when they were separated one year or later the differences between the twins averaged about ten IQ points. These studies show how differences in environment can lead to differences in test performance though the identical twins starts with the same heredity.

Long back Gesell (1929), the famous child psychologist of America, reported his study on identical twins. The experimental twin T was trained to climb stairs while the control twin C was given no such training. After T had learnt to climb stairs both twins were tested on staircase climbing ability. It was found that both were able to climb. Thus, the control twin C could climb as well as the trained

twin T by merely growing older and becoming more developed, though he was not given any training whatever to climb stairs. Thus training given before the child has properly developed is a sheer waste. The child could do as well by merely growing up.

Another study was made by McGraw (1949) to find the effect of bladder training. Twin I was initiated into bladder training at the age of 30 days. The bladder training of twin C was started when he was 700 days old. Yet both the twins showed the same level of control when they were 800 days old, the time at which the experiment was stopped. These and similar other studies have shown that with respect to skills such as walking, climbing, toilet control etc., early training is no value since these skills require a certain amount of maturation. Training has a value when the child has completed the growth necessary for the performance of that skill.

These studies suggest that an age of readiness exists for the appearance of many kinds of behaviour and that before this age such a behaviour can be learned only with difficulty, if at all. This concept of readiness is used with respect to the academic skill of reading. It is obvious that reading skill is not like the walking skill or the climbing skill. It is not common to all children. Reading is a cultural acquisition. But it depends on the ability to discriminate symbols. This facility may be maturational.

According to Gates (1973) and others the age of readiness to read is 6—5 years. However, it is true that

some children learn to read by the time they are four years old. It is also true that reading readiness is facilitated by books, newspapers and magazines at home and the advertisements in the urban areas. Still, by and large, children before the age of six need not be trained specifically to read. Of course, studies are needed here to determine what proportion of children, with what results for the future development, can be trained to read before they are six years old.

Finally, attention may be drawn to the studies which report the influence of environmental factors on the growth of intelligence. Results have clearly shown that the IQ remains fairly constant after six years of age. Environmental changes after six years do not alter significantly scores on intelligence tests. Several studies report that environmental enrichment is of great significance in improving, within limits, the scores on intelligence tests among children below six years of age.

In other words, it looks as if intelligence is more plastic at the earlier age and can be improved significantly by enriching the experiences of children. Results of recent studies in India clearly show that there are significant differences in the various aspects of child development between rural children and urban children and between the children of industrial workers and those coming from middle class homes. These results clearly indicate the influence of the environmental factors.

## Worth Noting:

- One recalls the story of an experiment that is said to have been conducted by Akbar, Emperor of India. It appears there was a controversy in his court whether God spoke in Arabic or Persian. It is said that Akbar, a very practical man, was tired of the controversy and wanted to settle, once and for all, the question by a practical experiment. He asked his minister to gather a few newborn children and see that they are brought up in a room without any contact with human beings.
- They were to be properly nourished but nobody was to speak to them. It was found that though the children grew up will they could not speak any language at all.



# Gov't Secures Green Shipping Deal with Maersk, Boosting Sea-Time Training For Kenyan Cadets

By: Aoma Keziah  
@themkenyatimes

Kenyan cadets are set to gain valuable sea-time training aboard Maersk vessels following successful negotiations.

Principal Secretary, State Department of Shipping and Maritime Affairs Geoffrey Kaituko led the talks during a visit to Copenhagen, Denmark. The visit, which also sought to foster collaboration in green shipping and maritime decarbonization, marked a significant step forward for Kenya's maritime sector.

At the Maersk Headquarters, the PS met with Vice President Camilla Jain Hohse where he secured sea-time training opportunities for Kenyan cadets.

Starting next year, Maersk will provide sea-time training for 10 Kenyan cadets annually, each for a period of 12 months. This training is crucial for cadets to meet mandatory qualifications required for employment aboard vessels.

Kenya, which currently lacks its own shipping company, has faced challenges in providing cadets with the necessary sea-time training.

The agreement also opens the door for the employment of Kenyan seafarers, with Maersk considering hiring Kenyan cadets and engineers to serve on their ships.

This partnership is expected to boost Kenya's maritime workforce and enhance the country's global standing in the shipping industry.

Strengthening Kenya's Maritime Education and Green Shipping Initiatives Kaituko's visit also included discussions with the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA), focusing on the implementation of the Denmark-Kenya Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2021.

Key areas of collaboration include maritime education and training, where Denmark will work with Kenya's Bandari Maritime Academy to strengthen the country's maritime education sector.

Furthermore, the DMA and Kenya Maritime Authority will collaborate on enhancing Kenya's flag state and port state control through improved ship inspection services.

This will help build the capacity of Kenya's ship surveyors and inspectors.

A key highlight of the visit was the focus on green shipping. The DMA committed to sharing knowledge



Principal Secretary State Department For Shipping and Maritime Affairs addressing the media in his office

and technology to help Kenya reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its maritime industry.

This includes exploring the use of alternative fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia, with the goal of achieving zero GHG emissions by 2050.

Participation in High-Level Green Shipping Conference, the PS was a panellist at a high-level green shipping and decarbonization conference in Copenhagen, where discussions centred on the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) strategy for reducing carbon emissions in the shipping industry.

The conference explored the adop-

tion of new regulations, which are set to come into force by 2025.

In line with these efforts, Kenya will host the African Region Conference on Green Shipping on February 6 and 7 next year. The conference, which will feature participation from the IMO and Denmark, underscores Kenya's leadership on climate change issues in Africa. President William Ruto has been a vocal advocate for climate action, further solidifying Kenya's commitment to addressing climate-related challenges.

Collaboration with Maritime Institutions In addition to his meetings with Maersk and the DMA, PS Kaituko visited the Danish Mari-

time Academy (SIMAC), a leading maritime training institution, which has been collaborating with Kenya's Navy Training College, providing expertise in various maritime courses. Moving forward, SIMAC will formalize its partnership with the Bandari Maritime Academy to offer advanced training programs, further enhancing Kenya's maritime education capabilities.

Kaituko's visit to Copenhagen has set the stage for stronger ties between Kenya and Denmark in maritime affairs, paving the way for increased opportunities for Kenyan seafarers and advancements in green shipping.

# KUSCCO Hosts National SACCO Leaders For Strategic Consultative Meeting In Nairobi

By: Aoma Keziah  
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives (KUSCCO) held a National SACCO Leaders Consultative meeting in Nairobi, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss pressing issues within the cooperative sector. The meeting focused on enhancing the operational efficiency of SACCOs across the country, strengthening regulatory compliance, and addressing challenges in access to credit.

The consultative session, attended by SACCO leaders from all counties, sought to review the sector's performance, propose policy reforms, and explore strategies to support the continued growth of the cooperative movement in Kenya.

Speaking at the event, KUSCCO National Chairman David Mate-

gwa, emphasized the importance of SACCOs in driving financial inclusion and economic empowerment, especially among underserved populations.

"Today's gathering is crucial as we aim to foster a collaborative approach in addressing the challenges facing our SACCOs, including regulatory changes, digital transformation, and enhancing member services," Mategwa noted.

The meeting also featured discussions on the impact of the recent legislative changes on SACCOs, with leaders expressing concerns over the proposed tax reforms and how they may affect SACCO profitability and member savings. Participants explored solutions to ensure SACCOs remain competitive in the evolving financial landscape while continuing to offer affordable credit to their members.

In addition, delegates discussed the role of technology in transforming SACCO operations, with an empha-



KUSCCO National Chairman David Mategwa and other National Sacco leaders during the Consultative Meeting in Nairobi.

sis on digital platforms that could streamline member services and increase financial transparency.

The outcomes of the consultative meeting will be compiled into a report to be presented to the govern-

ment, with hopes that the recommendations will influence policy direction to support SACCO growth and sustainability.

According to its members, KUSCCO remains at the forefront of advo-

catating for the cooperative sector, and today's consultative meeting reflects its commitment to driving progressive policies and innovation within SACCOs.

# ICCASA And CEMIRIDE To Establish A Continental Alliance Of Women With Disabilities

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA) and the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) will today and tomorrow host a workshop in Nairobi to establish an Alliance of Women with Disabilities in Climate Change Action in Africa.

The two-day workshop will bring together women with disabilities, policymakers, climate experts, and advocacy organizations from across Africa to strategize them on ways to amplify the participation of women with disabilities in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The workshop is part of the 'Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations' (STREVOW) project, that aims at empowering women with disabilities in East Africa and small

Island developing states to actively participate in climate change policy and negotiations.

STREVOW Project Communications Officer Faith Gikunda said the workshop marks a transformative moment to establish a continental Alliance of Women with Disabilities to ensure their voices are included in shaping inclusive climate solutions across Africa.

"The disproportionate vulnerabilities faced by women with disabilities, exacerbated by the intersections of gender, disability, and socioeconomic inequalities, often go unaddressed in climate action dialogues and policy-making," said Gikunda.

She said climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges, impacting communities worldwide and that the event would ensure the voices of women with disabilities are included in shaping inclusive climate solutions across Africa.

"We are committed to amplifying the voices of women with disabilities, ensuring that they have the right tools,

knowledge and information to be part of climate change programs designing and implementation," she said.

She said some of the key highlights would be discussions on integrating disability inclusion into national and regional climate change frameworks and sharing lived experiences and leadership strategies from with disabilities across Africa.

The event will also see the launch of the formal Alliance of Women with Disabilities in Climate Change Action in Africa.

Funded by the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) of the African Development Bank (AFDB), the STREVOW project is engaging women with disabilities from several countries, including Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Seychelles, and Uganda.



STREVOW Project Communications Officer Faith Gikunda.

# EPRA Launches The 2024 Energy Benchmarking Report

By: Rebecca Kibegwa and Manu Mumba

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has held its energy benchmarking engagement meeting to analyze the performance of various fields of production in the economic sector as well as improve energy efficiency standards in Kenya.

Speaking during the launch in Nairobi, the Manager for Energy Efficiency Mr. Ronald Keter revealed that the workshop targeted seven sectors namely sugar, tea, cement, Fast Moving Consumer Goods, dairy, hotel, industries and flowers.

"Kenya has committed to improving its energy efficiency both in the industry and this is in regard to its global commitment under the Paris Agreement where Kenya committed to reduce the greenhouse gas emission by 30 percent," added Keter.

He said that to achieve a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, EPRA utilized the Energy Act of 2019 which gives clear provisions for the

implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programs.

"Some of the key provisions in the sections dealing with energy efficiency and conservation programs are issues to do with energy auditing for industries and development of standards and labeling programs for household appliances and EPRA has already implemented this for appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners," he emphasized.

Keter further revealed that EPRA only managed to set three benchmarks in sectors namely sugar, cement and tea since for the other four sectors, the available data was not consistent, nevertheless he assured the stakeholders that further study would be taken to evaluate the findings of the remaining sectors.

Further, the Manager announced that in terms of energy benchmarking for cement, EPRA is among the best-performing organizations across the world.

"For the tea sector, if EPRA attains the benchmarks agreed, we foresee that we are going to save about 30 megawatts of electricity," he disclosed.

At the same time, the Manager



Manager for Energy Efficiency Mr. Ronald Keter.

for Renewable Energy Caroline Kimathi revealed that they had already agreed on a benchmark with the sugar and tea industry and would soon get one for the cement industry.

"For those who are unable to meet the benchmark, EPRA allows you to buy credits just like the way we buy

carbon credits thus you can meet the benchmarks that have been set," she explained.

Kimathi said that renewable energy normally comes out as one of the key measures in energy audits.

"Once an auditor visits your facility and looks at your energy consump-

tion, they can recommend that maybe as part of supplementing what you have or making your factory greener, they can recommend that you put up a Renewable Energy Plant," she advised.

# Runway To Controversy: Examining The Proposed JKIA-Adani Partnership



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- To begin with, where fortunes rise and fall like the tide and reputations are as fragile as spun sugar, Gautam Adani stands like a colossus - or perhaps, as his detractors would argue, a house of cards waiting to collapse.
- The head of the sprawling Adani Group, with its tentacles reaching into everything from ports to power plants, Adani has become a lightning rod for controversy, his name whispered in boardrooms and barrooms alike with equal parts awe and suspicion.
- It's as if he's walked out of the pages of a financial thriller, his rise to power as meteoric as it is mysterious, leaving a trail of unanswered questions and raised eyebrows in his wake.

In the sweltering heat of Nairobi, where the tarmac shimmers like a mirage and the air thrums with the distant roar of jet engines, a storm is brewing - not in the skies, but in the corridors of power and the whispered conversations of concerned citizens. The Kenyan government, like a desperate gambler pushing all their chips to the center of the table, has proposed a staggering \$1.85 billion deal with Adani Airport Holdings Ltd., a move that has set tongues wagging and nerves jangling across the nation. On the surface, it's a simple proposition: hand over the reins of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, that bustling hub of East African commerce and travel, to the Indian conglomerate, all in the name of progress and modernization. But scratch beneath that shiny veneer, and you'll find a tangled web of legal quandaries, economic uncertainties, and ethical dilemmas that would make even the most seasoned bureaucrat's head spin. The government, with its silver-tongued promises of a gleaming new future for JKIA, paints a picture of prosperity and innovation. Yet, in the shadows lurk whispers of corruption, fears of foreign control over a national asset, and the gnawing doubt that this deal might be a Trojan horse, wheeled into the heart of Kenya's aviation sector with consequences that could echo for generations. As the debate rages on, one can't help but wonder: in this high-stakes game of airport poker, who really holds the winning hand - and at what cost to the Kenyan people?

To begin with, where fortunes rise and fall like the tide and reputations are as fragile as spun sugar, Gautam Adani stands like a colossus - or perhaps, as his detractors would argue, a house of cards waiting to collapse. The head of the sprawling Adani Group, with its tentacles reaching into everything from ports to power plants, Adani has become a lightning rod for controversy, his name whispered in boardrooms and barrooms alike with equal parts awe and suspi-

cion. It's as if he's walked out of the pages of a financial thriller, his rise to power as meteoric as it is mysterious, leaving a trail of unanswered questions and raised eyebrows in his wake. The latest chapter in this saga of high finance and higher stakes comes courtesy of Hindenburg Research, those modern-day sleuths of Wall Street, who lobbed a grenade into the carefully constructed narrative of Adani's success. Their allegations of financial chicanery and stock market sleight-of-hand hit the business world like a thunderclap, sending shockwaves through stock exchanges from Mumbai to New York. Suddenly, the man who would be king of Kenya's skies found himself under a microscope, his every move scrutinized, his every deal questioned. And as the dust settled and the smoke cleared, a chorus of voices began to rise, asking the question that now hangs over Nairobi's airport like a storm cloud: Is this really the partner Kenya needs? In a world where reputation is currency and trust is the most valuable commodity of all, the Adani Group's limited experience in international aviation feels like a drop in the bucket compared to the ocean of doubt surrounding their ethical practices. Critics, their voices growing louder by the day, argue that Kenya deserves better - a partner with a track record as clean as a freshly scrubbed runway, with experience that soars as high as the planes they hope to manage. As the debate rages on, one can't help but wonder if this deal is destined to be a triumphant takeoff or a catastrophic crash landing for Kenya's aviation dreams.

From a legal standpoint, the proposed transaction has encountered formidable legal impediments that warrant meticulous scrutiny. The Kenyan High Court's injunction, predicated on cogent arguments proffered by esteemed entities such as the Kenya Human Rights Commission and the Law Society of Kenya, has effectively suspended the progression of the agreement. These august bod-

ies have articulated grave concerns regarding the potential contravention of fundamental principles of good governance, accountability, and transparency inherent in the proposition to lease Jomo Kenyatta International Airport—an asset of paramount national significance—to a private entity. The court's adjudication serves to illuminate the intricate legal labyrinth surrounding Public-Private Partnerships within the Kenyan jurisdiction, particularly when such arrangements impinge upon matters of national import. Moreover, the opposition's contentions vis-à-vis the alleged circumvention of due process, specifically the purported absence of comprehensive public consultation and competitive tendering procedures, introduce additional layers of complexity to the legal discourse surrounding the legitimacy and enforceability of the agreement. These multifaceted legal challenges necessitate a thorough examination of the constitutional, administrative, and public interest dimensions of the proposed transaction, potentially setting a precedent for future public-private collaborations in Kenya's infrastructure development landscape.

Economically, the deal is fraught with potential pitfalls. Critics contend that leasing JKIA to Adani could impose an undue financial burden on the Kenyan taxpayer. Faith Odhiambo, president of the Law Society of Kenya, expressed concerns that the deal threatens job losses and offers no tangible benefits to the public. The long-term lease could expose the government to significant fiscal risks, particularly if Adani fails to deliver on its promises of investment and development. This raises questions about the viability of relying on foreign private entities to manage critical infrastructure, especially when local capabilities exist to fund such projects independently.

Moreover, the Adani deal does not adequately address the pressing needs of Kenya's aviation sector. While the government argues that private

investment is necessary to upgrade JKIA, critics assert that Kenya has the capacity to finance airport expansions without resorting to long-term leases. This sentiment is echoed by various stakeholders who believe that the government should prioritize local funding mechanisms and partnerships that align more closely with national interests.

The skepticism surrounding the Adani deal is further compounded by the broader context of international investment in Africa. As countries like China and India vie for influence on the continent, the terms of such deals often reflect a power imbalance that favors foreign investors over local populations. The Adani deal exemplifies this dynamic, as it places a significant national asset in the hands of a foreign conglomerate with questionable ethical standing. This raises fundamental questions about sovereignty and the long-term implications of allowing foreign entities to control critical infrastructure.

In light of these concerns, it is essential to explore alternative strategies for refurbishing JKIA or developing new airports. One viable option is to enhance public funding for airport upgrades, ensuring that taxpayer money is used transparently and effectively. Another alternative could involve forming partnerships with reputable international firms that have a proven track record in airport management, thereby ensuring that Kenya benefits from expertise without relinquishing control of its assets. Additionally, the government could consider developing new airports similar to those being constructed in Dubai, Rwanda, and Ethiopia, which would not only alleviate congestion at JKIA but also stimulate economic growth through increased connectivity and tourism.

In conclusion, the Adani deal poses significant legal, economic, and ethical challenges that could ultimately hinder Kenya's development. As the saying goes, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." Kenya must prioritize its national interests and seek partnerships that align with its long-term goals rather than succumb to the allure of foreign investment that may not deliver the promised benefits. By exploring alternative funding mechanisms and partnerships, Kenya can ensure that its aviation sector thrives without compromising its sovereignty or the welfare of its citizens.

*The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher*



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Discouraging Beggarism

By Irfan Khan

Islam strictly condemns the unfavourable trend of begging, and assuredly the latter's condemnation every religion demonstrates. Apart from Quranic verses, reprehending the begging hand, the well renowned and impressive personality of world, the prophet (PBUH) clearly negated and disliked this undesirable trend in practical life, and perennially advised his companions (commonly known as Sahabas) to abstain.

To exert such adamant recrimination on begging, the leading incentive behind this was all to cultivate and strengthen the working potential in people, and to decrease working dependence on one another. No doubt, in the persistence of begging norms, most individuals' ability to work harder and deal with ups and downs of life slowly and gradually flows to the bottom of ladder, but in the long run, deteriorates the hope and courage to exhibit self working in life. Unsurprisingly, the other reprehensible malpractices such as cheating others, stealing, grabbing and so on, start slowly increasing, suppose when beggars with keeping begging trend from long period are scolded and continuously kept bereft from begging coins.

Once addressing a gathering of some Sahabas, the holy Prophet PBUH urged and exhorted them 'Never ask anything from anyone'. Elaborating the deep fruitful influence of this expressed Hadith (The sayings of Muhammad PBUH),

Abdurrahman-Bin-Auf claims that the individuals who attentively listened to this sentence, always seemed extremely at a distance from asking any

physical help from others, even in the time riding horse, if something had to fall. Great thankfulness to the undying endeavours of Prophet PBUH for the sake of scattering real enlightenment and moral beauty in the life of people, and halting and discouraging the begging trend among Muslims in fact manifests his unimaginable love with people.

Besides representing this Hadith, as the holy Prophet PBUH always thought beggary one of the worst evils that devise moral distortions in people, so similarly he advised 'He who works hard, and earns by his own hands is undoubtedly best among people and is at a stone's throw to the real pleasure of Almighty Allah'. No deniability in what he said, as this aims and incentivises to elevate the fair means of earning and intercepts foul means of earning in people's daily life.

In the same way, 'The one who runs and expects other's alms and coins inspite of holding access to lunch or dinner food, no doubt searches Jahannam, the Hell, for himself.', he wholeheartedly said to his companions. Likewise, there are numerous Hadith that accentuate the ugly implications of begging, no doubt, as a reference and proof, quite enough these are to exemplify and clearly admonish others.

Unfortunately and regrettably, beggary this miserable trend has profoundly entrenched and ripened its roots particularly in many Muslim societies. Undoubtedly, one can encounter and meet such beggars who possess capability to 6 to 8 months assembled food items, but still appear in wretched conditions, extending their hands to passing vehicles on roads and in the streets knocking at the doors. What is crucial

to apprehend that even requesting others to accomplish ones own self tasks is a bare reflection of ones lethargy and beggary.

As compared to other nations, unluckily in this vicious and untenable cycle, Muslims can always be seen at peak as no doubt they have left and neglected the teachings of Holy Quran and the Prophet PBUH. One of key reasons behind triggering out poverty is mendicity. To deal with putting an end to this odious ingrained trend, there is the need of dedicated leadership having a visionary future. In addition, mutual collaboration is necessary to foster awareness, and to give a concerted pushback to this evil slowly and steadily.

Unquestionably, this despicable trend too inflicts harm to socio-economic of any country through extending and prevailing unlimited laziness, disappointment and sluggishness in people's daily routine, indeed leading to the disruption of peace and their moral debilitation. Real contribution to society is to discourage individuals and kith and kins from adopting this degradable habit. Next, what is inevitable is to undertake collective practical steps against this increasing trend, beggary, no doubt which is not less adverse than poison, bashing out even the potentials of industrious souls.

Moreover, it is mendicity that puts encroachment to the fundamental rights of deserved ones, including orphans, destitute, and widows. For instance, ones assistance of gleaning a few coins to undeserved beggar is a bare indicative of usurping the deserved ones rights as mentioned above.

A little self scrutiny is indispensable to underscore the broken cycles,



we have to take with full concentration and deep observations. Do we compell or supplicate others to carry out our own tasks? Do we off and on exhibit ourselves financially fragile despite of being financially stronger and do we expect or believe in others assistance, are essential queries, we have to ask. Great likelihood is there to intercept and mitigate the begging nature in people, if first we strive to abstain from this ourselves.

In the same way, what comes up requisite is to make people familiar with the significance of hardworking and harmful consequences of begging. Is this not true, that we are too good in providing coins to undeserved ones, but we are always unfamiliar to whom we should provide relief and help?

Today, disappointingly, with a putting a bird's eye view on the current situation of our streets, cities and shopping markets, all these appear ostensibly full of beggars. Many may ask that poverty takes one to such exploitative conditions, yes this is true, but fighting against poverty surely needs true leadership and true commitments. No

doubt, a country's government can do better by utilising sufficient resources in providing decent healthcare, decent education and financial assistance to unfortunate ones, we see everywhere and all the time, such sort of help does not fall in begging category.

In brief, your kind assistance to those destitute whose financial conditions are well known to you is a great virtue. On the other hand, your financial assistance to a economically stable beggar leads to infringing on the rights of deserved people. Be vigilant and sharp, dear readers. Always, be grateful to God who has gifted you good health, so strive to earn through fair means and avoid illicit methods. Refrain from every single act of begging and elevate selfworking as 'selfdone is well done.' Be good in spreading the teachings of Prophet PBUH in order to create and flourish real enlightenment and prosperity in the lives of people.

*The writer is contributing columnist, and can be reached at irfankhantareen10@gmail.com*

## The Climate Crisis: Urgency And Action

The growing climate crisis demands more than just acknowledgment; it requires immediate and decisive action. Recent reports highlight that extreme weather events, from catastrophic wildfires to unprecedented floods, are becoming increasingly frequent and severe. These events are not isolated incidents but a direct consequence of our changing climate, driven largely by human activities such as deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels.

It's clear that the cost of inaction is far greater than the investment required for meaningful change. Gov-

ernments must enact and enforce stricter environmental regulations, and businesses must transition towards sustainable practices. However, policy and corporate changes alone are insufficient. Individuals also have a critical role to play. Simple actions like reducing waste, conserving energy, and supporting green technologies can collectively make a significant impact.

The science is unequivocal, and the consequences of ignoring it are too dire to contemplate. As global citizens, we must embrace the urgency of this moment and act decisively.

Our commitment to combating climate change today will shape the world for generations to come. It is time for a unified, global response to secure a sustainable future for all.

By Mary Mwenze  
Rongo writers club



# The Emperor With No Clothes: President Ruto's Two Years Of Travel, Talk, And Triviality



By: Midmark Onsongo  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- It is estimated that Ruto's international escapades have cost Kenyan taxpayers over KSh 2 billion in travel expenses alone. This includes hefty allowances for his entourage, luxury accommodations, and chartered flights that could make even the most frugal of leaders blush.
- A man cannot hide behind a shadow forever, and Ruto's lavish spending abroad is casting a long one. "The sun that shines on a rich man's house also shines on the poor," but in this case, it seems the poor have been left in the cold while the sun of luxury shines on Ruto's government.
- What's more, these trips have yielded little to no meaningful returns. The so-called "trade agreements" and "bilateral deals" that Ruto often boasts about remain vague, nebulous ideas that have yet to be concretized.

In a country where the cock crows at dawn, Kenyans are left wondering if the rooster even knows what time it is. President William Ruto, our self-proclaimed "hustler-in-chief," has crisscrossed the globe like a hummingbird on a sugar high, while the very people he swore to uplift are being trampled underfoot by a tidal wave of broken promises. A proverb comes to mind: "The person who dances with a hyena should be ready to lose their flesh." It seems that Ruto has been dancing not with one, but with many hyenas—gluttonous international trips, half-hearted policies, and hollow rhetoric. Is the king pranking around naked.

When Ruto campaigned in 2022, he promised the moon. He vowed to end poverty, tackle unemployment, stabilize the economy, and fight corruption. But two years down the line, his achievements have been like a tongue twister—tricky to comprehend, impossible to articulate, and utterly confusing. "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled promises, but where, oh where, are the pickled promises Peter Piper picked?" The answer lies in the scattered ruins of unfulfilled agendas and a government preoccupied with foreign travels that do little to address the Kenyan people's struggles.

Let us begin with the issue of Ruto's unrelenting globe-trotting. "He who chases two rabbits catches none," and Ruto, in his zeal to bolster Kenya's international standing, seems to have forgotten the rabbits at home. His first two years in office have seen him visit over 50 countries, from Europe to the Americas, Asia to the Middle East. But ask the ordinary mwananchi about the tangible benefits of these trips, and you'll hear silence as deafening as a drumbeat in an empty hall. If travel miles were achievements, perhaps Ruto would have a chest full of medals by now. Instead, what we are left with is a ballooning government expenditure on travel costs, reported to be in the billions of Kenyan shillings.

It is estimated that Ruto's international escapades have cost Kenyan taxpayers over KSh 2 billion in travel expenses alone. This includes hefty allowances for his entourage, luxury accommodations, and chartered flights that could make even the most frugal of leaders blush. A man cannot hide behind a shadow forever, and Ruto's lavish spending abroad is casting a long one. "The sun that shines on a rich man's house also shines on the poor," but

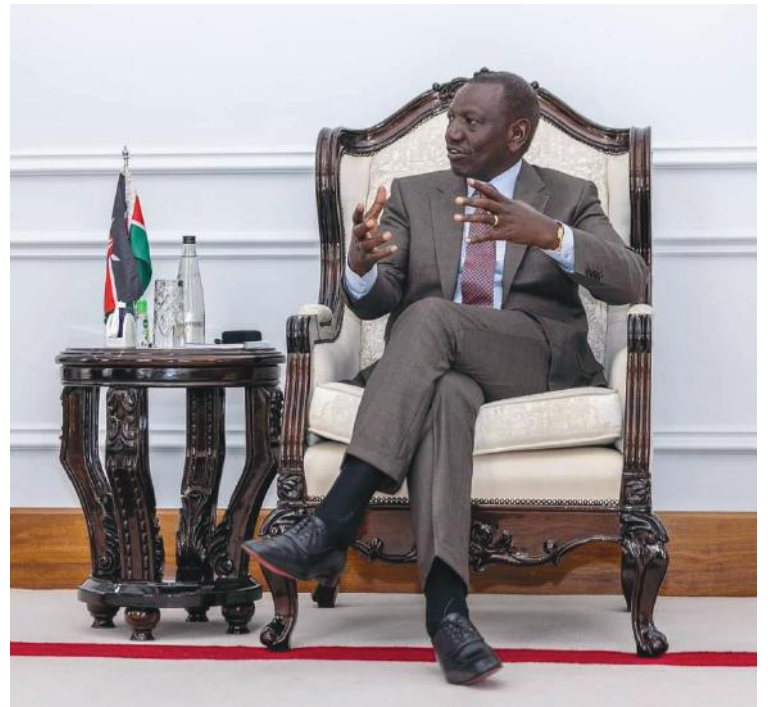
in this case, it seems the poor have been left in the cold while the sun of luxury shines on Ruto's government.

What's more, these trips have yielded little to no meaningful returns. The so-called "trade agreements" and "bilateral deals" that Ruto often boasts about remain vague, nebulous ideas that have yet to be concretized. One could say Ruto is "selling air at the market." For instance, his much-touted Africa Climate Summit in 2023 was meant to galvanize Africa into action against climate change. But ask any Kenyan farmer whose crops have withered under the scorching sun if they've seen the fruits of that summit. The rain has not fallen, and neither have the promises.

Perhaps the most glaring failure of Ruto's presidency is his lack of action on the economy. When he took office, he promised to lower the cost of living. "A promise is a cloud, fulfillment is rain," and Ruto's clouds seem to have drifted far away from the Kenyan soil. Inflation has skyrocketed, with the price of essential goods such as maize flour, cooking oil, and fuel spiraling out of control. A bag of maize flour, which Ruto had promised would drop to KSh 70, now costs close to KSh 200. The cost of fuel has surged beyond the KSh 200 mark, and Kenyans are left wondering, "If the shepherd cannot protect the sheep from wolves, who will?"

Ruto's grandstanding on the economy is akin to the fable of the emperor with no clothes. He speaks of "bottom-up economics," but the only thing that seems to be bottoming out is the people's faith in his leadership. Unemployment remains a cancer that gnaws at the youth, and instead of creating jobs, Ruto has been busy constructing castles in the air. "A man who builds his house on sand should not be surprised when the walls come tumbling down." His government has introduced new taxes—like the controversial Finance Bill of 2023—further strangling the very people he claimed to support.

The Finance Bill, particularly the Housing Levy, drew sharp criticism from across the country. It was presented as a solution to Kenya's housing crisis but has instead become a "pungent thorn in the foot of the common man." Ruto's administration argues that the levy will create jobs, but critics rightly ask, "What jobs?" As unemployment figures hover dangerously close to 40%, even the most patient Kenyans are



President William Ruto.

losing hope. "A tree with no fruits invites the axe," and the patience of the Kenyan people is wearing thin.

When it comes to fighting corruption, Ruto has also fallen short. During his campaign, he boldly declared that no one, including his allies, would be spared in the war against graft. But two years in, what do we see? More empty speeches and minimal action. The infamous sugar scandal, the KEMSA COVID-19 heist, and questionable appointments of cronies to government positions are just a few examples of corruption that has continued unabated. "A goat does not bleat in the absence of grass," and the Kenyan people are acutely aware that Ruto's silence on corruption speaks volumes.

The president's cabinet appointments have also been a cause for concern. The government has been filled with old faces and recycled politicians who seem more interested in lining their pockets than serving the public. "A hungry hyena cannot guard meat," and it is clear that many of Ruto's appointees have been busy guarding the proverbial meat for themselves. His pledge to bring new faces into leadership has been nothing more than smoke and mirrors.

On the international stage, Ruto talks a big game about positioning Kenya as a regional leader, but at home, his administration seems paralyzed by indecision and incompetence. He has focused on making Kenya a hub for foreign investment, but this strategy has overlooked the

basic needs of Kenyans. Foreign investors may come with promises, but they are unlikely to stick around if the country's economy remains in tatters. "You cannot eat foreign promises while your own house is on fire."

Ruto's presidency thus far has been a riddle wrapped in a conundrum and presented with a bow of ambiguity. "The man who blows his trumpet too loudly may not hear the warning cries of his people," and it appears that Ruto is deaf to the cries of the suffering masses. Instead of focusing on grand international summits and expensive foreign deals, he should be paying attention to the local issues that are crippling his nation.

In conclusion, the first two years of Ruto's presidency have been marked by high-flying rhetoric, endless travel, and a dearth of concrete achievements. His promises have been like dust in the wind—"a tale full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." If Ruto wants to salvage the remainder of his presidency, he must come back down to earth and start addressing the real issues that Kenyans face: the economy, unemployment, corruption, and the skyrocketing cost of living. Only then can he hope to escape the fate of the emperor who had no clothes. As the saying goes, "A leader who ignores the cries of his people will eventually find himself alone."

MIDMARK ONSONGO  
(Sustainable economist, Geopolitics strategist)

# Murang'a: Tomato Farmers Count Losses As Prices Plummet

By: KNA

Tomato farmers in the leading tomato-producing counties are counting losses as an oversupply continues to hit the market for the second month in row.

The glut has occasioned a sharp drop in prices of the highly perishable vegetable, with a kilo of tomatoes selling for as little as Sh15 in some markets.

Consequently, a 100 kilogrammes' crate of tomato is going for as low as Sh 2000 from Sh 8000, recording a low of up to 70 per cent.

At Murang'a's main market, Mukuyu, a spot check by KNA revealed this sharp contrast where consumers are overjoyed at the price drop whereas farmers are counting losses.

The tomatoes are sourced from the neighbouring Kirinyaga, Nyeri, and Laikipia counties.

One of the farmers, John Muthii

from PI, Kirinyaga County, noted that in all his 10 years growing tomatoes, he has never experienced such a sharp drop in prices.

He adds that the cost of production far surpasses the returns in investment for his one-acre piece of land.

"The oversupply has seen me sell the tomatoes at a throwaway price so as to avoid post-harvest losses, even though it is impossible to recover even half of the production cost," he said.

The cost of quality seeds, labour, and pesticides for an acre of land is relatively high and would go up to Sh 100,000, yet now I'm selling a 50-kilogramme' crate of tomatoes, which is not going beyond Sh500 due to the oversupply."

Consumers on the other side, particularly kachumbari lovers, have a sigh of relief at the low prices of tomatoes and most basic commodities.

They have noted that the cost of life has been high, and any drop in the price of basic commodities is welcome.

"I have just bought three kilo-



grammes of tomatoes at Sh60; this will take my family more than two weeks, and I am happy," says Jane Njeri, as she hands a Sh100 note to the trader.

"Initially, Sh60 would give me just a kilo or a half of this, so let me bask in the glory of low prices before they shoot and I will be unable to afford

tomatoes for every meal," she adds.

Joseph Njane echoes her sentiments, noting that, as an egg and smokies seller, the drop in prices have made him make more sales as he is able to serve his customers with more kachumbari.

"This is a jungle, as the consumers, we are happy, the farmers are count-

ing losses, but what do we do? He poses, adding that, "We are the same people who buy a kilo of tomatoes at Sh150, so let us enjoy the low prices as we give our customers the best so that when prices skyrocket, they will also bear with the situation."

# Nyeri Town Traders Gets Water Storage Tanks, Courtesy Area MCA

By: Paul Wanjiru  
@themtkenyatimes

Hundreds of traders at Nyeri town open air market have benefited from a water storage tank donation from their local Member of County Assembly (MCA) so as to enhance hygiene while operating their business.

The traders, operating near the bustling town's Central Business District (CBD) received a 3,000 liters water storage tank from Rware ward MCA Simon Mbogo Kiragu yesterday.

Ms Charity Nyawira, a trader, said they were previously experiencing problems in accessing clean water in case of rationing.

"We did not have a water storage tank and that is why we highly appreciate the intervention of our MCA for delivering this tank to us. Moving forward, we will not be ex-

periencing such problems of water scarcity," Ms Nyawira told the media.

The market's chairperson, Mr Earnest Kuria, said the tank will serve a population of about 300 traders.

"We thank our MCA because this tank will assist us to store enough water which we will use to clean our products as well as enhance hygiene while serving our customers. We are about 300 traders who use this facility for our business," Mr Kuria said.

Mr Mbogo said he opted to donate the tank after the market's leadership approached him at his office with the request.

"This is what leadership entails. We should be focused on serving our people at the grassroots instead of politicking. This is a great milestone to traders of this market that is located near Nyeri town's main bus terminus," the MCA said.



Rware MCA Simon Mbogo (in brown jacket) handing over a water storage tank to Nyeri town open air market's chairman Earnest Kuria as other traders cheer. The 3,000 liters tank will help the traders maintain hygiene while serving their customers. Photo/ PAUL MWANGI

Sports >> \*Manchester City midfielder Rodri says players are close to going on strike in protest at an increase in games.

# SPORTS NEWS

- PHOTOS
- SCORES
- OPINIONS
- STATISTICS
- SCHEDULES
- BREAKING NEWS



## Players 'Close' To Striking Over Schedule, Says Man City's Rodri



Rodri celebrates his goal for Man City as they won the English Premier League. PHOTO/Man City/Twitter

Manchester City midfielder Rodri says players are close to going on strike in protest at an increase in games.

City face Inter Milan on Wednesday in the Champions League, with a new format adding at least two extra games before the knockout stage.

The Club World Cup – which Pep Guardiola's side are also involved in – has also expanded

to 32 teams and will be held next summer.

"I think we are close to that," said Rodri when asked whether players will strike.

"It's easy to understand something general, you ask any player, he will say the same.

"If it keeps this way, it will be a moment that we have no other option, but let's see."

The new Champions League

and Club World Cup formats mean City will play at least four extra matches compared to last season's guaranteed fixtures.

They played just two games to win the Club World Cup in December, but next summer would need to play three group games and four knockout matches if they were to go all the way.

Across the past two full seasons, City played 120 times across all

competitions.

BBC

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag says Brazil winger Antony has to "earn the right" to play for the club.

# Antony Must Earn Right To Play For Man Utd – Ten Hag



Manchester United's Antony

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag says Brazil winger Antony has to "earn the right" to play for the club.

An £82m signing from Ajax in 2022, Antony is the second-most expensive player in United's history behind Paul Pogba.

But he scored just five goals and three assists in 55 Premier League appearances, and last season contributed a single goal and one assist as United finished eighth.

The 24-year-old has only had a single minute of competitive ac-

tion this season, at Brighton last month, as Marcus Rashford, Alejandro Garnacho and Amad Diallo have been chosen ahead of him.

Antony will hope to have more involvement in Tuesday's Carabao Cup third-round tie with Barnsley, but Ten Hag says the player is in charge of his own destiny.

"He's impatient," said the United manager. "He wants to play."

"But in top football there are laws. You pick the team that has most chance to win the game, the one with the best dynamic, the

best chemistry. Players have to fight for their positions."

Rashford, Garnacho and Amad have all scored this season, which has increased the pressure on Antony, who was linked with Turkish club Fenerbahce before the transfer window closed.

"The other players are doing so well – they're contributing," said Ten Hag. "He has to get over them. He has to earn the right in training."

On Tuesday's cup game against Barnsley at Old Trafford, Ten Hag

added: "You will see what the line-up will be."

"We have every day training and the players have to earn the right to play."

"When players do the right thing in training, when the attitude is good, when they show performance in training, they will earn the right to play."

**BBC**

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



## Love Story



By: Aytuvova Khurshida  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- I'm distracted from reading, let's stop talking, don't write anymore, he said goodbye. He didn't write back to you either. It's been 3 months since they met. In that short period of time, he felt that he was in love. He went out and it was a quiet night. It seemed to Laila that this period had passed like a dream.
- The only full moon in the sky was looking at Laylo. Laylo took a deep breath, a drop of tears fell from her eyes, she felt relieved. He thought that he did the right thing and now everything will be fine. He went in and lay down. But he couldn't sleep until morning and came out full. He had a severe headache when he stood up.

"O Allah, make all my dreams and goals come true as soon as possible, I still want to be a great person, I have a lot of work to do, a career... please don't get distracted from studying, don't fall in love..."

But for some reason, Laylo writes these words in her diary, and "she" does not leave her imagination.

He always kept a diary and wrote about his plans and goals. He never wanted to fall in love. Because he knew well what a person he loved would fall into, he had seen it in the person of his sister. But something happened and he met her on the way to study. They met and talked twice. On the third date, the young man asks Laylo for her phone number. Normally, Laylo didn't talk to anyone and didn't trust guys, but she gave her number to this guy with some feeling. In this way, correspondence and talks continued. The guy was not that handsome, just an ordinary boy. Both studied at the same university. That's what love is, but somehow he won Laylo's heart. There were no scheduled meetings, they only communicated virtually. Laylo felt that she was becoming more and more attached to him. Should he stop talking, but he couldn't.

He was waiting for her to call him. The guy is also good, he also loved Laylo, but not from Laylo. He seemed different to Laylo, good, sincere, kind, as if there was no better person in the world than him. Their characters also liked each other. But they haven't told each other that they love each other yet. Their love was like unconditional love. But Laylo found it necessary to put an end to everything one night.

I'm distracted from reading, let's stop talking, don't write anymore, he said goodbye. He didn't write back to you either. It's been 3 months since they met. In that short period of time, he felt that he was in love. He went out and it was a quiet night. It seemed to Laila that this period had passed like a dream. The only full moon in the sky was looking at Laylo. Laylo took a deep breath, a drop of tears fell from her eyes, she felt relieved. He thought that he did the right thing and now everything will be fine. He went in and lay down. But he couldn't sleep until morning and came out full. He had a severe headache when he stood up. He didn't drink tea, he had no appetite. Yesterday's incident did not go away from his imagination. His heart hurt, he was very depressed, he even cried for 3-4 days without regaining consciousness. Her mother consoled her by saying, "My daughter, what's wrong with you, come to yourself" and said that first love is not always true. However, Laylo really fell in love, she became different. He also thought that this situation would pass, and said that he would be fine if he went to university. And while studying, when her friends talked about her boyfriends, she remembered "him" again. The guy didn't write back either, he was waiting for her calls.

So, a month passed in agony, crying and thinking. At the beginning of March, while watching social networks, he noticed that he had written it.

He was so happy, so happy, as if he had found what he had lost like a young child. He answered immediately.

Those correspondences and conversations continued.

This time a real love story began. Both are happy. They even went to study together. But he had never met before studying. The young man begged to come around, but Laylo did not give in. Gradually their relationship deepened. They also helped each other in university textbooks. Laylo's mother was worried about this. He did not trust his daughter to anyone. To be sure, his mother did not like the young man very much.. "Daughter, you don't know what kind of boy he is, keep your promise to us, you still need to study, develop, and travel the world, that's what your father dreams of," he advised.

Laylo really felt that she did not think about studying. He also saw that there were many plans left in his diary.

Gradually, the young man began to talk about marriage. According to him, his mother died without him. Only the two brothers lived in the house where the sisters got married. His father is abroad. Because of this, the relatives are getting involved in the wedding movement this year because a woman should come to the family.

Laylo felt sad again. He does not plan to get married yet. Not even ready for family life. She thought that it would be appropriate to talk with the guy for a couple of years, understand each other, and then get married. If he marries her, his goals will definitely remain. Because there is no woman, household chores and raising children fall on her. Now he was realizing that he had made a mistake. His mother was right. But how does he refuse it? After all, he convinced her and made so many promises. He said he loved...

Laylo is thinking whether to choose love or study?!

And if he didn't say no, he would not want to lose her like before, and he would be crushed thinking that he would miss her. He thought a lot why lovers can never be together.

He told the guy to wait and explained. But he also said that he could not wait without help. He said that it was hard for him to do all the work. And he asked her for the last time, "Will you marry me?"

After a long hesitation, Laylo an-

swered him "No". He wanted her to be happy because she loved him from the bottom of her heart. Laylo was afraid to make him unhappy because she did not believe in herself.

He prayed that he would get married, have a family, have children, and be happy.

At the end of the summer, they broke up without any reason. Now for life. The young man has been calling a lot lately, but Laylo did not answer, she was holding on to her heartache. Then the guy stopped calling Laylo realizing his purpose. Thus their love ended.

Laylo's love could not be said to have ended, hers continued secretly. After that, she didn't meet another guy. Maybe he is married, maybe he is happy now, it was unclear to Laylo.

No matter how many years have passed, when he listens to the music that is related to him or when it rains, he remembers the words he said and the sweet memories he had with him. After that incident, Laylo never loved anyone as much as she loved him. He became the first love of his life. She met a lot of guys, but she didn't like any of them. He also graduated. He developed in every way, in every field, his dreams came true one after another, he learned languages, went to the international arena, got a job. At present, he received the prayers of his parents and devoted himself to them. But he hasn't started a family yet.

*Aytuvova Khurshida was born on June 5, 2002 in Saykhunabad district of Syrdarya region. He graduated from Gulistan State University, Faculty of Philology, majoring in Russian. Official delegate of several forums, member of international organizations, Global Education Ambassador, SPSC ambassador. He is a member of the "Juntos por las Letras" international writer's association of Argentina. His creative works have appeared in international newspapers and magazines. His stories were also published in the national anthology "Languages to creativity" and in the republican magazine "Izhodovlar". Currently, he is a Russian language teacher at school No. 4 in the district.*