



**The Facade Of Public Participation: Examining The Illusory Involvement Of Kenyan Citizens In Governance**

In the intricate web of political rhetoric that often entangles Kenya's governance landscape, one term has been increasingly invoked by politicians: public participation.

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The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Creative Rewards  
Daily ePAPER

Monday, September 2, 2024

No. 01122 [www.mountkenyentimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyentimes.co.ke)

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**News>> Kalonzo Declares 2027 A Two-Horse Race Between Him And Ruto**

P. 8. Wiper Democratic Party leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka has declared that the 2027 Presidential Race will be a "two-horse race" between him and the incumbent, President William Ruto.



**News>> Government To Address Nithi Bridge Menace - DP**

P. 12. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured residents of Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties that the Nithi Bridge Blackspot will be redesigned to curb frequent deaths that have been experienced in the area.

# EACC To Grill Officials From Three Rift Valley Counties

 The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) South Rift Regional Office in Nakuru is preparing for an intensive week of interrogations. Officials from three counties are scheduled to be questioned over alleged fraudulent schemes that resulted in the loss of millions of public funds.



## Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission

EACC

STORY ON PAGE 9



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# Embu County And Beyond Zero Foundation Partners To Fight Cervical And Breast Cancer

By: Samuel Waititu  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking on Saturday during the signing of the MOU at the facility, Jamal said they also aimed at building the capacity of health care providers for them to get the skills to offer screening and treatment services.
- Additionally, the CEC said they also wanted them to be equipped to offer continuous education, sensitization of Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and the community on prevention and control.



Beyond Zero officials.



Embu County and Beyond Zero Foundation officials display partnership documents after signing an MOU in the fight against cervical and breast cancer

Embu County Government has entered into a three-year partnership programme with Beyond Zero Foundation in the fight against cervical and breast cancer.

Through the programme dubbed 'Beyond Zero Cervical Cancer Management Project,' the county plans to conduct extensive cervical and breast screening awareness as well as treatment outreaches.

County CEC for Health Jamal Runyenje said during the first year, the focus would be in Ruguru Ngadori, Nginda and Gaturi North Wards of Mbeere North Sub-County where they target to reach 5,000 women.

The programme, he said, would be centered at Kairuri Level Three Hospital from where they would offer screening services, treatment, referral and linkage services as appropriate to the target population.

Speaking on Saturday during the signing of the MOU at the facility, Jamal said they also aimed at building the capacity of health care providers for them to get the skills to offer screening and treatment services.

Additionally, the CEC said they also wanted them to be equipped to offer continuous education, sensitization of Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and the community on prevention and control.

"Through the acceleration of these activities and with support from partners, our ultimate goal is to eliminate cervical cancer in Embu by 2030," he said.

Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo who was the chief guest during the event termed the initiative as timely and critical as it would go a long way in addressing the devastating effects cervical cancer has had on women in the county.

He said the burden of cervical cancer,

the second most prevalent cancer among women, was particularly heavy in rural areas where access to screening and treatment remained limited.

"This is why today's launch is very critical. It is about saving lives, preserving families, and ensuring that no woman in Embu County has to face this battle alone," he said.

He further said the county would also work towards ensuring women have access to the HPV vaccine which was the most effective tool in preventing cervical cancer.

As of July 2024, 68 percent of girls aged between 9-15 years had received the HPV vaccine according to county statistics.

During the same period, 26.8 percent of women aged 25-49 years screened and 32.3 percent of those found with precancerous lesions treated.

Beyond Zero Foundation Represent-

tative Jane Kiragu noted that CHPs would be very instrumental in this project in reaching out to women at the grassroots with messages on the importance of prevention and regular screening.

One of the partners, Kilelesh Health Association, has been running a similar programme dubbed "Thamani Yetu" in the county.

The organization Executive Director Benda Kithaka said the disease was 100 percent preventable if detected early and thus there was need to do more advocacy to make families aware of risk factors, prevention elements, access to screening and treatment.

The director added that they also hoped to build a team of survivors to act as navigators to people in need of further treatment and follow-ups as well as inspire hope and engage communities for cancer prevention.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

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Mama Judith Ongoro



# MEDICAL APPEAL

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



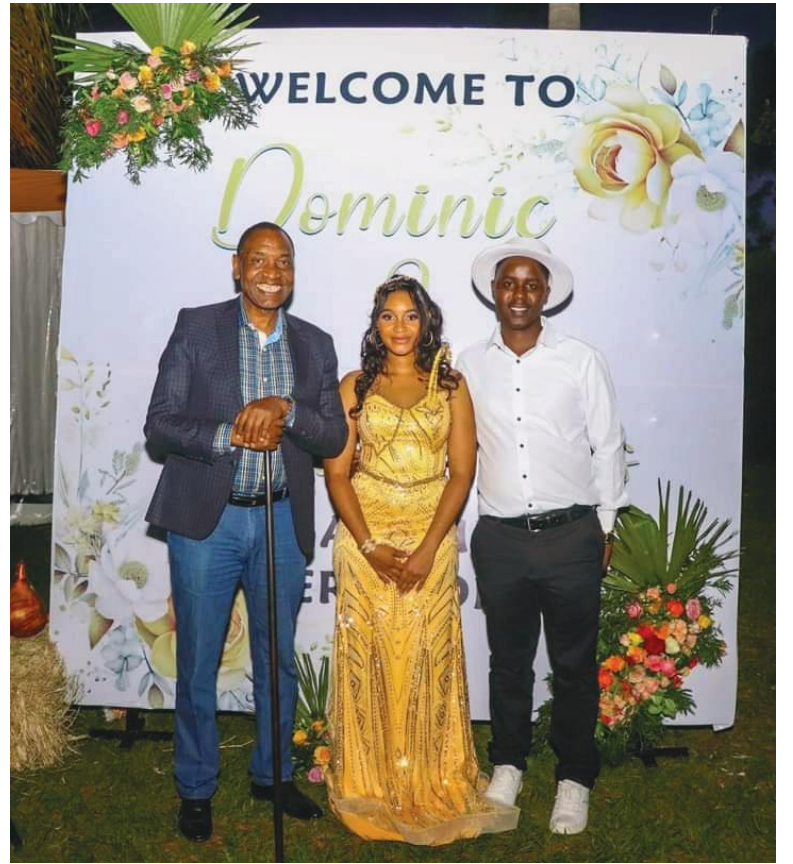
Nyeri County governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga (3rd left), Nyeri business mogul cum politician Dr Thuo Mathenge (right), comedian Churchill Ndambuki (2nd right) and comedian Thuita Ngo-ni (left) when they attended the thanks giving ceremony of Karwimbo Mùkùrino (in green suit) at Dedan Kimathi grounds in Nyeri town yesterday. Dozens of artists and other leaders attended the event that was graced by thousands of people.



Kwale County has shifted focus from building new health facilities to revitalizing and upgrading existing ones. Governor Fatuma Achani stated that the devolved government will provide equipment, drugs, and personnel to existing health facilities to ensure they function optimally. Before devolution in 2013, Kwale had only 35 health centres, but now it has 162 spread across six subcounties: Matuga, Msambweni, Kinango, Samburu, Shimba Hills, and Lunga Lunga.



Director General for Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth, has said the Ministry of Health has so far screened a total of 582,847 travellers at 26 designated ports of entry across the country, and assured members of the public not to panic as health facilities across the country are fully prepared to diagnose and manage the Mpox disease. “The rapid response teams are in place to support affected counties with thorough investigations and appropriate response measures to any new cases,” he assured, adding that public health emergency operation centres have also been activated nationwide to enhance coordination of response efforts. “Incident management teams have been established to oversee coordination activities at both the national and county level,” stated Dr. Amoth. “Active surveillance for suspected cases is ongoing in the country to ensure the spread of the disease is controlled,” said Dr. Amoth.



Nyeri County Senator William Wahome Wamatinga on Saturday joined Mathira constituency philanthropist cum politician Dominic Muraya alias Mathira Finest during a visit to his In-Laws home in Runyenjes area, Embu County for a dowry ceremony. The youthful Maraya who was accompanied by dozens of his relatives and friends has declared interest for the Mathira Parliamentary seat during the 2027 General Elections.

Nyalore Impact Company, based in Homa Bay, is promoting the use of electric pressure cookers in homes to save the environment. Sales executive Charles Mwangi explains that these cookers are time-saving, safe, and can cook various foods, including deep frying. They use limited energy, making them cost-effective and faster, clean, and quiet. The cookers, which cost between sh10,000 to sh12,600, are ideal for big institutions and are worth the investment. “The cookers are faster, safer, and cook virtually every type of food, including deep frying. It uses only one unit of electricity to cook for one hour because it doesn’t use electricity continuously because of the thermostat therein, thus saving 79 per cent of the cost of energy,” he says.



Kiambu County has partnered with the Nation Media Foundation and Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) to construct a state-of-the-art public library in the county. The project is part of the foundation’s initiative to establish public libraries in 14 counties lacking educational resources, aiming to enhance education and literacy across Kenya. The Nation Media Library Kiambu will be built in Ngewa Ward, Githunguri Sub-County, and is expected to take 24 weeks to complete. The library will serve as a prototype for the other 14 libraries planned for the region. The library aims to accommodate a minimum of 500 users daily. The Kiambu Governor, Kimani Wamatangi, announced that the county government had allocated land to support the project.

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# Youth Asked To Exploit Digital Space To Create Employment

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Tessie Mudavadi also highlighted the potential of collaborations with digital hubs to transform critical value chains in Kenya, driving productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness.
- While acknowledging that the government is improving Internet connectivity across the country as a way of creating an environment conducive to e-commerce, Tessie Mudavadi said the youth should take advantage of the infrastructure to create livelihoods and improve their lives.



Tessie Mudavadi with other guests during the event

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi's spouse, Tessie Mudavadi, has called on the youth to leverage the digital space to create jobs and boost Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) growth.

She encouraged collaboration with digital hubs across Kenya to adopt technologies that can boost MSMEs' growth.

Tessie Mudavadi also highlighted the potential of collaborations with digital hubs to transform critical value chains in Kenya, driving productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness.

While acknowledging that the government is improving Internet connectivity across the country as a way

of creating an environment conducive to e-commerce, Tessie Mudavadi said the youth should take advantage of the infrastructure to create livelihoods and improve their lives.

"We are aware that the government has been equipping young people with digital skills to enable them to tap into the unlimited opportunities available in the digital world. It has been working with various partners to provide connectivity, such as the laying of fibre and data centres, providing the infrastructure required even by mobile network operators, and training young people in online work," she added.

Tessie Mudavadi urged university students and graduates to be innova-

tive with technology to earn a living by exploiting the digital space.

"I beseech you today to make use of the established Wi-Fi hotspots in the country where you can grow your knowledge through online courses, monetise your content on the social media platforms, and even create employment opportunities for others," she pointed out.

She underscored the importance of responsible digital citizenship and ethical use of technology, emphasising the need to understand the ethical implications of digital actions.

"Therefore, students must be tech-savvy, innovative, and entrepreneurial to remain competitive. They

should exploit those government initiatives and earn money so as to beat unemployment," she added.

She added, "The Internet offers a plethora of opportunities for individuals to showcase their skills and talents. From freelancing to creating online content, there are numerous ways to turn your passion into a source of income."

She also asked the youth to stay away from social evils such as alcoholism and drug abuse, which continue to claim lives and ruin the future of many youths in the country.

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Mugwongo Family

# Kalonzo Declares 2027 A Two-Horse Race Between Him And Ruto

By: Cynthia Masibo  
 @themkenyatimes

Wiper Democratic Party leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka has declared that the 2027 Presidential Race will be a “two-horse race” between him and the incumbent, President William Ruto.

Musyoka made the claims yesterday after attending a Sunday Mass at the historic Holy Ghost Cathedral, the oldest Catholic Cathedral in Kenya, located in Mombasa.

Addressing the media outside the cathedral, Musyoka confidently stated, “The people of Kenya have said, ‘Okoa Katiba - Okoa Kenya.’ We are with the people, as simple as that.”

His words signaled a strong intent to challenge the current administration, suggesting that the opposition is rallying behind his leadership for the 2027 General Elections.

Dr. Musyoka’s visit to Mombasa County, which began on Friday, has drawn significant attention, particularly due to the prominent political figures accompanying him.

Among those present were DAP-K Party Leader Eugene Wamalwa, Jubilee Party Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni, former Kiambu County Governor Ferdinand Waititu, Kitui County Senator Enoch Wambua, Machakos County Women Representative Joyce Kamene, and Makueni MP Susan Kiama.

During his address, Musyoka reiterated his commitment to the opposition, vowing to hold the Kenya Kwanza regime accountable at every opportunity.

“We are firmly in the opposition, and as its leader, I will ensure that the government is held accountable for its actions,” he said.

The political landscape in Mombasa took an interesting turn during the Akamba Cultural Festival, held on Saturday when former Bahati MP Kimani Ngunjiri made a surprise appearance. His unexpected entrance has sparked speculation that he may soon join Dr. Musyoka’s “People’s Team,” further strengthening the opposition’s ranks.

Following the Mass at Holy Ghost Cathedral, Dr. Musyoka attended a funeral service at the Shree Cutchi Leva Patel Samaj in Nyali, where he



Dr. Musyoka attending a Mass at the historic Holy Ghost Cathedral, the oldest Catholic cathedral in Kenya, located in Mombasa

joined friends and family in mourning the late Hasmukh “Hassu” Patel.

In his eulogy, Musyoka paid tribute to Patel, describing him as a man who “inspired and empowered innumerable and vulnerable members of our society, not because he wanted their votes, but because he had a servant’s heart.”

Musyoka also drew a contrast between Patel and contemporary leaders, stating, “While Hassu spent millions of his hard-earned money on helping the needy and transforming Mombasa, he did not show off—unlike today’s leaders who go to harambees with stolen public money.”

His remarks were met with nods of

agreement from those in attendance, highlighting the deep respect Patel commanded within the community.

As the 2027 elections draw closer, Dr. Musyoka’s statements and actions in Mombasa are likely to fuel further political discourse, particularly regarding his potential candidacy and the growing opposition alliance.

# Murang’a County Opens First Lactation Station For Working Mothers

By: KNA

Murang’a County has opened the first lactation station for working mothers at Kirwara sub-county hospital during World Breastfeeding Week 2024.

The Kandara sub-county director of Education, Philomena Githire, highlighted the importance of breastfeeding for the lifelong health and wellbeing of women and children.

She emphasised that the Health Act 2017 requires employers to establish lactation stations at work places with necessary equipment and flexible working hours for breastfeeding women.

“The act requires support for breastfeeding women at work, the establishment of lactation stations within

the workplace, and the provision of flexible working hours for breastfeeding women, thus promoting the health and welfare of female breastfeeding workers.” Githire said.

Githire called on mothers to breastfeed their children as advised, because breastfeeding supports a healthy and productive society.

County Nutrition Coordinator Nancy Waitherero called upon all members of the society to support breastfeeding mothers to ensure they are able to breastfeed their children as required.

She also cautioned mothers against introducing animal milk to children below the age of two years.

“Even after breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months, mothers should continue breastfeeding until about two years without introducing animal milk,” she said.



# EACC To Grill Officials From Three Rift Valley Counties

By: Suleiman Mbatiah  
@themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Today, the EACC will begin questioning the first group of suspects, starting with officials from Nakuru County.
- These officials are implicated in a KSh27 million procurement fraud related to the acquisition of Sports Kits and Equipment.
- They include Abel Mungai, Newton Karanja, and Catherine Macharia, who will appear at different times.
- Tomorrow, Ivy Kinyanjui, Moses Bii, and Dominic Sigei are expected to face the panel.
- On Wednesday, Caroline Nulu, Teresiah Wanjiru, and Githaiga Macharia are slated to meet with the EACC.
- Beth Wacuka and Edwin Okello are scheduled for Thursday, while Chief Officer for Sports Alex Maina and Procurement Director Annmarie Kuria will conclude the interrogations on Friday.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) South Rift Regional Office in Nakuru is preparing for an intensive week of interrogations.

Officials from three counties are scheduled to be questioned over alleged fraudulent schemes that resulted in the loss of millions of public funds.

EACC South Rift Regional Manager, Mr Ignatius Wekesa confirmed that the interrogations will take place from today to Friday, marking the initial phase of what could be a broader crackdown on corruption in the region.

The involvement of high-ranking officials in these cases has intensified demands for greater accountability in county governments.

Citizens are calling for stronger oversight mechanisms to prevent similar incidents in the future.

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It is alleged that companies owned by senior county officials were unlawfully awarded contracts and received payments for delivering sub-standard Sports gear.

This case has raised serious concerns about the integrity of Public Procurement Processes in the county.

From the Nakuru group, officials from Bomet County will be questioned regarding a larger case of alleged embezzlement.

The suspects are accused of diverting funds during the procurement of road construction equipment valued at KSh373 million. The investigation aims to uncover the extent of the financial misconduct and identify those responsible.

The final group of suspects consists



Chief Officer Alex Maina who is one of the Nakuru County officials who will be grilled by EACC this week.

of senior officials from the County Assembly of Baringo, who are being investigated for allegedly misappropriating public funds through the illegal payment of allowances. According to Mr. Wekesa, these payments were reportedly linked to the irregular creation of additional Assembly Committees, raising questions about the legitimacy of

these committees and the allowances they generated.

“The EACC remains committed to ensuring that those responsible for misusing public funds are held accountable,” said Wekesa.

“This week’s activities are just the beginning of our efforts to restore integrity and transparency in the management of public resources.”

As the investigations progress, public attention is increasingly fixed on the outcomes, with widespread anticipation that the commission’s efforts will not only bring justice but also set a powerful precedent to deter future acts of corruption in devolved governance.



EACC HQ.

# Women Have A Role In Shaping The Society, Pastor Dorcas Says

By: ODP

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has challenged women to take up leadership roles in the society.

Speaking at ACK Cathedral of Mbeere, Embu County St. Peter's 2024 Annual Diocesan Women Prayers and Investment rally Pastor Dorcas said women have a huge responsibility in shaping the characters and dignity of their family by giving counsel and teaching their children the right ways.

She added that women are entrusted with instilling M morality, family values, justice for all, defender of the poor and the needy, voice of the voiceless, charitable and are investors.

"At times, we have viewed women as housewives, but there is more to that she has been entrusted with. She

has to take care of her family, but God has given her more responsibilities even to assist in redirecting my boys who have been hooked into alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse," Pastor Dorcas said.

"I know when a woman speaks to her sons they can listen," she added. She further said that her rehabilitation program to addicts of alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse is still on.

Pastor Dorcas said her program has been offering technical skills to men and boys who have been rehabilitated and urged religious leaders to welcome them.

There are more than 600 who have been undergoing technical skills in Olkalou Nyandarua County after successful rehabilitation in various centers across the country.

The service was presided over by Rev. Moses Masamba Nthukah, the Dean of The Province and Diocesan Bishop and assisted by Rev. John Kimani Nthigah, Diocesan Clergy and Women Ministry Leadership.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi with church officials in Embu yesterday.

# The Mt. Kenya Times



# The Critics of Gachagua Got Ashamed In President Ruto's Just-Concluded Tour of Luo Nyanza



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

**Worth Noting:**

- After the tour, majority of people in the Mountain hit out at the critics of Gachagua. We were shocked to see them washing their dirty lenin in public while visiting another region. To us, this was indeed the lowest moment.
- By virtue of being the Second-In-Command, we want to tell the critics that Gachagua is not only the senior-most leader in our region but we also love him so much.
- His critics were behaving badly. They were being given small money by the outsiders who felt threatened by Gachagua's rising influence and popularity.
- The outsiders were out to divide us with a view to weakening our political bargain come 2027 polls. We are now more wiser. We will not allow DP's critics to have their way.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in Nyanza

The wish of the critics of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua particularly those drawn from the Mount Kenya region was to see him being heckled and humiliated in the just-concluded four-day tour of President William Ruto in Luo Nyanza.

But to utter shock and dismay, their prayer fell flat. The DP was accorded a rousing welcome in the entire trip that covered the region's four counties.

Just like the President, Gachagua showered the ODM leader Raila Odinga will praises.

In one of the stopovers, he told the residents. Thank you for welcoming me. You are good people. I have realized the secret of keeping friendship is to love and embrace Baba (Raila).

A few days earlier, you saw me exactly doing this in Nairobi during the unveiling of Hon Raila Odinga's candidacy for Africa Union Commission chairmanship.

Pastor Dorcas Gachagua, the spouse of DP also attended the launch.

She is one who led the prayer of committing Raila Odinga to God after being invited by the President.

We pray God to hold your hands. With God, everything is possible. You will definitely clinch that seat.

After the tour, majority of people in the Mountain hit out at the critics of Gachagua. We were shocked to see them washing their dirty lenin in public while visiting another region. To us, this was indeed the lowest moment.

By virtue of being the Second-In-Command, we want to tell the critics that Gachagua is not only the senior-most leader in our region but we also love him so much.

His critics were behaving badly. They were being given small money by the outsiders who felt threatened by Gach-

agua's rising influence and popularity.

The outsiders were out to divide us with a view to weakening our political bargain come 2027 polls. We are now more wiser. We will not allow DP's critics to have their way.

I had written an article in this column. I observed that President started his trip in Migori county where he launched a raft of development projects.

In all the public gatherings, the Deputy President received a heroic welcome when the President invited him to address the locals.

This was unprecedented given the sour relationship between him and ODM leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

As we know, Luo Nyanza is the bedroom of Raila.

With this, Gachagua once again demonstrated that he is a well schooled and experienced politician.

Therefore, you can only ignore him at your own peril.

He had read the political mood and he knew what the people of Luo Nyanza wanted to hear.

While espousing his credentials as a reformer and gallant fighter for democracy and social justice in Kenya, the DP stated that he is highly qualified and best suited for AU seat. For Raila, serving the continent of Africa is not a job. It is calling.

We are praying for him and I'm sure he will clinch it.

The DP added: As you can see, I'm here with my boss, the President.

The President is here for development. He will be around for four days and I'm going to be with him.

As a deputy, my work is to help the President in ensuring the projects he rolls out are completed.

During the launch of Raila Odinga's

campaigns for AU top seat, the DP described Raila as his close friend.

You had previously heard a lot of stories. This did not mean I hate Raila.

But as a deputy, you know what my job entails.

The DP also received thunderous applause when he conveyed the greetings from the people of the Mountain.

I hoped the critics of DP particularly those drawn from the Mountain will not politicize and misinterpret the warm reception that Gachagua received to mean outshining the President. The DP was powerless. This was a mammoth crowd. The only thing he could have done is to cut short his speech and this is exactly what he would do.

I was wrong. In day two, some of Gachagua's fierce critics from the Mountain showed up and we saw them engaging him in a bare knuckled attacks. The ultimate goal was to deflate DP's growing popularity in Nyanza.

One of them stated: Don't listen to the leader who is here to lecture you about village politics.

He never believed in Baba (Raila). Remember there was a time he had declared that he had set traps around State House and hired spies. This was in a bid to stop Raila from accessing President Ruto. This leader is out 'to sow seeds of ethnic hatred and disharmony'.

We in the Mountain are fully behind President William Ruto's vision and agenda of building a united and harmonious Kenya for all of us.

I'm not holding brief for DP but I want to make one thing very clear.

The position of DP does not in any way contradict that of the President.

We know Kenya's politics is tribal and regional based. So, DP's push for unity of Mount Kenya first is geared towards the realization of that same noble

course.

Today we have four notable ethnic kingpins-President William Ruto (Kalenjin), Raila Odinga (Luo), Kalonzo Musyoka (Kamba) and Musalia Mudavadi/Moses Wetangula (Luhya).

The point here is clear. These leaders rose to national fame after consolidating support of their respective communities.

Perhaps this explains why the Luos had little time for that Kikuyu leader as he trained his gun on Gachagua.

Putting the ongoing Nyanza tour aside, a friend of mine told me the other day that he does not believe in the rumors doing round that President William Ruto has abandoned his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua.

We all know that Gachagua was the team leader of Mount Kenya political machinery that catapulted Dr William Ruto, then Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate, to the seat of power.

Besides being ready to pay the ultimate price and committing all his energy and time to this course, the second-in-command bankrolled Ruto's from his own pocket.

My friend added: If the rumors turn out to be true, this would be a betrayal of the highest order. He however exonerated President from having originated and hatched this plot (if it is real) and instead pointed an accusing at his "kitchen cabinet".

In the recent past, we have been hearing the DP complaining that some of the key confidantes and allies of the head of state were belittling and disrespecting him.

President Ruto is not however coming out strongly to reprimand them and throw his full weight behind the DP.

So, in the event that the threat to oust Gachagua is actualized, it will be hard for the President to convince the people of the Mountain that he did not have a hand.

It is worth noting my friend spoke with me on a day that President Ruto was attending the homecoming and thanksgiving ceremony for new cabinet secretary for Cooperatives and small business enterprises Wycliffe Oparanya in Kakamega.

In his speech, Dr Ruto hinted at the possibility of a merger of UDA and ODM parties to form a formidable political vehicle for 2027 general election.

Tellingly, DP Gachagua was conspicuously absent.

A few days earlier I had written an article in this column and these were my observations. In the run-up to 2022 General Election, the political opinions of the allies and confidantes of President William Ruto then Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate drawn from Mount Kenya region were divided on who should become his running mate.

# Government To Address Nithi Bridge Menace - DP

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing Methodist Church of Kenya faithful at Mikumbune in Meru..

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking at Mikumbune in Meru, the DP said that he had a discussion with Roads Principal Secretary Joseph Mbugua and confirmed that the designs for the same are almost complete, to review the design of the killer bridge which is marked by sharp curves that have turned it into a blackspot.
- “We have lost very many lives on Nithi Bridge. Unfortunately, yesterday, we lost another 12 people at the same place that has now become notorious. I have called Roads PS Eng. Mbugua and he has told me that the designs are almost complete. We will solve this problem once and for all, he said.”
- The 50-metre-long bridge was constructed in 1983.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has assured residents of Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties that the Nithi Bridge Blackspot will be redesigned to curb frequent deaths that have been experienced in the area.

Following Saturday’s tragedy where 12 people were killed in a gruesome accident involving a van and a pick-up truck at the infamous blackspot on the notorious Nithi Bridge, Gachagua gave the government’s firm commitment to address the matter with urgency.

Speaking at Mikumbune in Meru, the DP said that he had a discussion with Roads Principal Secretary Joseph Mbugua and confirmed that the designs for the same are almost complete, to review the design of the killer bridge which is marked by sharp curves that have turned it into a blackspot.

“We have lost very many lives on Nithi Bridge. Unfortunately, yesterday, we lost another 12 people at the same place that has now become notorious. I have called Roads PS Eng. Mbugua and he has told me that the designs are almost complete. We will solve this problem once and for all, he said.”

The 50-metre-long bridge was constructed in 1983.

Several tragic accidents have occurred on the bridge including a Mombasa-bound bus accident that killed 36 passengers in July 2022.

Mr Gachagua added that due to the terrain, the road has been unfavorable making it prone to accidents.

“Emotions are very high. The frequent accidents have also caused trauma to the residents, who witness gory scenes when they respond to accidents. I will personally take up the matter and ensure that we stop further accidents,” said Gachagua about the Saturday accident.

DP Gachagua was speaking at the Methodist Church of Kenya in Mikumbune, Imenti South, Meru County during the centenary celebrations service.

On matters of security in Meru County, DP Gachagua commended the county commissioner for his dedication to ensuring that cattle rustlers do not evade residents in the county. He also asked the security officers in Meru County to continue with the security operations and weed out criminals in the area.

Gachagua also promised tea farmers that the issue of unsold tea at the Mombasa Auction after tonnes of remains unsold in Mombasa Warehouses accruing charges, will be addressed.

“I will go to Mombasa on Friday to find out what exactly is happening at the Mombasa Auction. We are working hard to improve on the Subsector. We are also looking for new markets in Pakistan and Iran and in different parts of the country,” he said.

On the political realignments in the country, Gachagua called on leaders to continue unity of purpose, adding that it’s the only solution to bringing cohesion among communities in the country. He commended the people

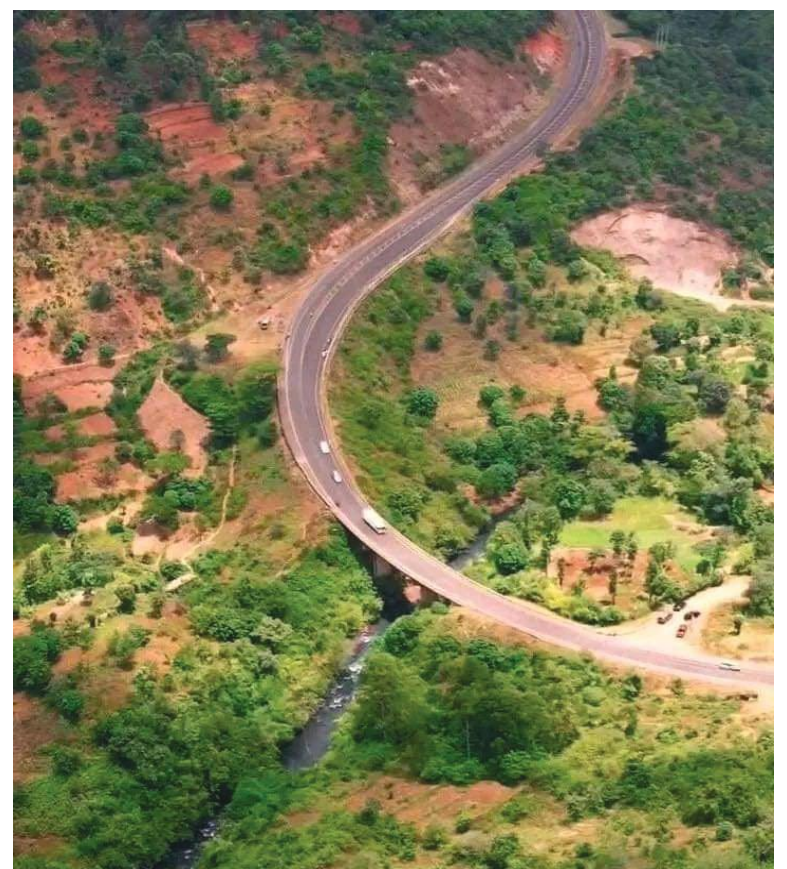
good and hardworking people. I have promised before and I repeat here that I will continue looking for friends across the country in the spirit of the broad-based government.

He refuted claims that the central region has not shown gratitude to President William Ruto after he gave over six cabinet positions to the region saying that the Mt. Kenya region supported the Ruto presidency to a man.

“We have shown the highest form of gratitude to the president. We stood with him when he was campaigning for the presidency. It’s now his responsibility to show us gratitude by doing developments across the region and the country at large, he added.”

The DP urged young leaders to be careful when expressing opinions and stop belittling a community, adding that the Mt. Kenya region will continue supporting President William Ruto and his administration.

He was accompanied by the area MP Shadrack Mwiti, Murang’a Senator Joe Nyutu, Meru Woman Representative Elizabeth Kailemia, Tharaka Nithi Woman Representative Susan Ngugi, Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki, Nominated MP Muthoni Ikiara, Commissioner Florence Kajuju, Former Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi, former Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi and host Member of County Assembly, Martin Makasi, among other leaders.



Airel view of Nithi bridge...

# The Critics of Gachagua Got Ashamed In President Ruto's Just-Concluded Tour of Luo Nyanza

Contd from page 11



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in Nyanza

## Worth Noting:

- While espousing his credentials as a reformer and gallant fighter for democracy and social justice in Kenya, the DP stated that he is highly qualified and best suited for AU seat. For Raila, serving the continent of Africa is not a job. It is calling.
- We are praying for him and I'm sure he will clinch it.
- The DP added: As you can see, I'm here with my boss, the President.
- The President is here for development. He will be around for four days and I'm going to be with him.
- As a deputy, my work is to help the President in ensuring the projects he rolls out are completed.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki were the front-runners.

Initially and in a move that demonstrated he was a true democrat, Dr Ruto did not interfere with this exercise.

He wanted them to freely choose and give him the name of the candidate.

He only intervened after they failed to agree.

President Ruto settled on Gachagua, a move that drew admiration from majority of people in Mount Kenya.

Apart from being courageous and having deep pocket, Gachagua's prowess in communicating in local dialect was immeasurable.

Whenever he hosted Dr Ruto in the Mountain during the campaigns, he always electrified the crowds.

I'm hear with William Ruto. You said this is man that you want to succeed the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta. Isn't it?

While referring Uhuru's remarks that he would run the country for 10 years and then pass the baton to Ruto to do his 10 years, he would tell Dr Ruto.

We the people of Mountain what we hate is betrayal. We are truthful people and we are going to keep our word. We will vote for you to the last man and woman.

The argument that the kikuyus had already decided they will vote for Ruto with or without one of their own being a running mate does not hold any water. I highly doubt this could have hap-

pened. Majority of Kikuyus wanted to see one of their own being at the top.

Gachagua never feared or shied away from taking on the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta head-on.

I'm ready to pay ultimate price while pushing Dr Ruto's agenda.

Going by the latest media reports that President Ruto have fallen out with him, majority of the people in the mountain are asking. How soon and why?

Reports indicate that a section of members of parliament from Rift Valley have hatched a plot to impeach DP Gachagua. The critics of Gachagua from Mount Kenya region were also behind this plot.

Whenever I read these stories, two questions would come to my mind. Were they enjoying the blessing of the President? Did they stand a chance of having their way?

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

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

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

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

He had also reached out to Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka.

The duo's remarks and body language during the consecration of Bishop Ben-

son Kamau (Kiengei) would attest to this.

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

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

One of the reasons is because he has up to date maintained his position that he is a truthful man. As such, his popularity in the Mountain is going up.

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

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

Why abandon him so soon? This demonstrates no one is safe in Ruto's government.

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

One of them touched on his relationship with his deputy Rigathi Gachagua.

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

While roundly condemning the police for using excessive force against the protesters resulting to snuffing out of the lives of innocent youths, the DP observed. These are our children and had not broken any law.

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

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

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

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

President Ruto's interview came at a time when Weekly Citizen newspaper had featured a screaming headline: Gachagua was being blocked from accessing State House.

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

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

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

In Mount Kenya, Gachagua helped President Ruto to garner 87 percent and these are the votes that catapulted him to the seat of power.

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

# A Book Is A Means Of Spiritual Nourishment



By: Shahlo Solijonova

A book is a ship of wisdom that travels in the sea of time and carries its precious cargo from generation to generation. (Francis Bacon)

A book is a source of knowledge, whether they are modern or historical, scientific or artistic, their role in the formation of human spirituality is incomparable.

When we pick up a book, at first we see nothing but small letters. As we read through the pages, we seem to fall into the life inside the book. When the characters in it laugh, we laugh, when they cry, we cry together. This book has such a powerful power. Books are our friends, advisors and confidants. They will never betray us, they will certainly serve us gratefully as long as we leave them for years and pick them up again. These books are our close advisors and confidants even when we are struggling in life.

It is not for nothing that the book is likened to the sun. Books fill our hearts with the light of knowledge and serve for the formation of our worldview, just as the sun illuminates the world

without sacrificing its light.

A person who reads a book will never do bad things.

He does not engage in bad vices, he wants to share the knowledge he has with others. The more books we read, the more things we don't know. The more a person reads a book, the more he looks at life with different eyes, everything seems more beautiful to his eyes.

A person who has not read a book does not develop spirituality and has a low worldview. All crimes and thefts in the world are the result of ignorance and lack of reading. You need to read books to understand the world. As Alisher Navoi, the great scholar, wrote: "Books are the main source of learning, mastery, and spiritual growth."

It is difficult to find a person who has not learned by reading books. But there are also those who do not take advantage of these opportunities. Of course, it is important to read a lot of books and understand their meaning. At this point, it is permissible to mention the opinion of our president Shavkat Mirziyoyev about the book: "This book is a means of changing people's consciousness, worldview, and raising their spiritual level. Without a book, development and high spirituality cannot be achieved. The future of the nation and the person who does not read books is good."

Today, books have their place in the lives of young people. Because books form a person's love for the Motherland and respect for national values. When we read a book, we don't have to be afraid, and the future of a person who reads a book is prosperous

# The Luster Of My Pearl



By: Ergasheva Gulrukh

When we talk about mother, the first thing that comes to our mind is the pearl that brought us into the world. Our closest person in the world, our confidant, our pain friend is our mother...

When we come into the world, first of all we are born in our mother's womb. We pray to our mother. We smell our mother. The greatest human being given to earth by God is a mother, that is, a woman. When we say mother, we think of a very handsome person. Mother is our greatest treasure. I think all mothers love basil. Have you noticed? When you walk into the yard, the smell of basil spreads. People really like these. All because of our mothers. Our mothers love not only basil, roses, and tulips, but our mothers are the best of all flowers. If you pay attention, the first thing you do when you enter the house is ask your mother. There is a mother - there is life. There is a mother - there is a person. There is a mother, you and we. Life goes on if there is a mother. Mothers are the greatest people on earth.

Mother... if we are sick, there is a butterfly around us.

Mother...the person who fed us when we were hungry.

A mother is a person who wears the same clothes every year and brings new clothes to her child. Can a person be so kind? A person who cheers us up when we are in a bad mood. A person who blesses us. Our mother teaches us to be patient. Especially in the month of Ramadan, we need our mother's fields and patience. Mother cannot be compared to anyone! She is the only one who needs no other comparison. Mother is a carefree person. Even if she is upset, she doesn't want you to be upset. When I talk about mothers, even words are not enough. There are not enough pages to write about my mother.

When we go somewhere, we receive blessings from our mother, and when we return, if our mother is not at home, the house will be empty and without grace.

The line "mothers brought up by scientists" has all the meaning, for example, scientists have reached this level by receiving mother's blessing. There is a lot to say in prayer. Let me tell you a story about a scorpion. What an unpleasant situation.

A scorpion carries its born children on its shoulders and feeds them. She was exhausted, endured all the sufferings, and died by eating meat with children. Here, the symbol of children who killed their parents was given. Even a scorpion gives its life for its children. Mothers, why are you so kind? You are the most precious treasure.

My mother is my pearl from the sea

# Clicks In Her Fate



By: Tajalla Qureshi

All were fated to find her roads to glory  
All were picturized to pick her up with a story

Yelling becomes dwelling deeper with delight  
Ashes arch into golden pearls in ages of night

Rarely jingles of rejoice and recoil, keep her ride

She senses the melody and might, seat at her side

Chosen to choke the intellectual sublimates  
Praised by the Heavenly Power to create rhymes

Certainly, a levander that desires a delightful sight

From the ground of vultures, she shifts towards light

One that is aware of her transparency, creates her

Right between the twilight, she emerges as a flur

Yet! Fate finds her innocence and immense urges

Knitted knots assume her to deem the submerge

Her stream of slashes evokes her above-love

Destiny decors her promenades to provoke the dove

Wisdom she hauls, Beauty she applauds  
Blow the blaze, Beat the bubbles to make her broad

She, a dove from Heaventh, a soul from the seventh

Rise and revise the glimpses of warm hearth.

# Slanderers



By: Marjona Jorajeva Bakhtiyorovna

The word "slander" is truly evil,  
It breeds hatred in the heart and suspicion in the eyes.

The slanderers' words,  
Quickly tarnish pure hearts.

Through their speech, relationships are ruined,

Even friendship and love retreat.

In life, those who leave a bad name  
Are, in my opinion, definitely "slanderers".

Let's always be cautious of them,  
They never think of others,  
Quietly forgetting the truth,  
Slowly spreading accusations

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# MCAs Demand Fair Disbursement Of Education Bursary

By: Raphael Kerimi  
@themkenyatimes

Members of County Assembly from Isiolo have appealed for just and expeditious disbursement of education bursary as the third term of the institutions of education calendar commences.

A section of the MCAs led by Education committee chairman David Waithaka (Bulapesa Ward), Nicholas Lorot (Burat) and Salesio Kiambi (Wabera) said they were going to lobby for fair distribution of the bursary fund allocated to their Wards which represent majority of population in the County.

They claimed that the Ward Bursary Distribution Committee which was responsible for the allocation of the funds was obscure and withheld some money that was allocated for disbursement alleging the fund was set aside for expenditure to oversee the payouts.

“The committee must fairly give out the money according to the guiding

law that explains the money was meant for the neediest beneficiaries from the 10 Wards and ensure students get their studies uninterrupted,” said Waithaka.

He expressed his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the bursary funds were being handled saying MCAs have been sidelined in the process.

The MCAs said they had received many complaints from parents whose children were yet to report to school for lack of fees after they were left out of the beneficiaries’ list yet they had applied for the bursary support.

Lorot said there were many needy students who had not reported back either due to omission or late disbursement of bursaries in his area.

He added that the County Assembly had already approved bursary funds in this financial year budget and the distribution board should have no excuse.

“We approved a budget of KSh75 million for bursaries which was meant to be shared equitably and no one was to be left out,” Lorot said.

He noted that the first disbursement



MCAs David Waithaka (Bulapesa Ward), Nicholas Lorot (Burat) and Salesio Kiambi (Wabera) addressing the media

of KSh35 million was released in June where each of the 10 Wards was supposed to receive KSh3 million.

He however noted that the fund was not disbursed in full saying he received only KSh1.8 million for his ward. Lorot further said that the second disbursement of KSh40 million

was to be done this week according to the finance chief officer.

He noted with regret that the amount has since been reduced to KSh12.5 million without clear explanation to the Assembly while the MCAs anticipated increasing the bursary funds from KSh3 million to KSh6 million per Ward.

The political leaders are therefore calling on the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of Finance Mr. Abdullahi Banticha and Isiolo Governor Ibrahim Guyo to swiftly come out and shed light on the sensitive bursary matter.

# Embrace Dialogue, TSC And Striking Teachers Urged

By: Samuel Waititu  
@themkenyatimes

Head of Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Mbeere Diocese, in Embu, Bishop Moses Masamba has called on Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and striking KUPPET teachers to drop their hardline positions and embrace dialogue.

He said supremacy wars between the two was going to worsen the situation to the detriment of learners, some of whom would be sitting their national exams later in term.

He said the grievances by teachers emanating from the signed CBA could be handled through a genuine discourse where each party comes to the table with clean hands.

Speaking on Saturday at Gachoka area in Mbeere South Constituency when he presided over the recognition ceremony of pioneers of the diocese, Bishop Masamba called on the employer to keep her part of the bargain with regard to the CBA.

He said if the implementation proved difficult, TSC should come out and explain it to the teachers to avert such industrial actions.

“If for one reason or another you are unable or you don’t want to fulfil your pledge, it is only fair that you come out and give an explanation to the other party,” he said.

Former Mbeere South MP Geoffrey King’ang’i who is also a retired Army Officer said even in a moment of war, a truce could only be found when warring factions agree to talk.

“As a country, we must learn to talk to each other to end such differences and quarrels,” he said.

The teachers have been on strike since Monday last week agitating among other things, promotion of teachers who have stagnated, delay in employment of 20, 000 new teachers and conversion of 46, 000 JSS and primary teachers to permanent and pensionable terms.



Bishop Moses Masamba addressing the media.



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# The Facade Of Public Participation: Examining The Illusory Involvement Of Kenyan Citizens In Governance



By: Midmark Onsongo  
@themkenyatimes



Public Participation.

## Worth Noting:

- Even when citizens manage to participate in these forums, their contributions are often disregarded or manipulated to fit pre-determined outcomes. A common tactic used by authorities is to present highly technical documents or proposals that the average citizen cannot easily comprehend, thereby limiting meaningful engagement.
- The jargon-laden presentations serve to intimidate and confuse rather than to inform and empower. In some cases, feedback from the public is simply ignored or selectively included in official reports to create the illusion of consensus. This cynical approach not only undermines the spirit of public participation but also erodes public trust in the government.
- The media, which plays a crucial role in facilitating public discourse, has also been complicit in perpetuating the facade of public participation.

In the intricate web of political rhetoric that often entangles Kenya's governance landscape, one term has been increasingly invoked by politicians: public participation. This phrase, seemingly simple and noble in intent, is heralded as the cornerstone of democracy, promising that the voices of the ordinary citizens will be heard and considered in the decision-making processes that govern their lives. However, beneath the surface of this lofty ideal lies a troubling reality—public participation, as practiced in Kenya, has often become a mere facade, a symbolic gesture that lacks true substance or impact.

Public participation is enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution, particularly under Article 10, which lists it as one of the national values and principles of governance. It is meant to ensure that the government remains accountable to its people, fostering a culture of transparency and inclusivity. The concept is also embedded in various statutory provisions, including the County Governments Act, which mandates that county governments involve the public in the formulation and implementation of policies. Yet, despite these legal frameworks, the actual practice of public participation in Kenya is frequently characterized by superficial engagements that fail to capture the true sentiments and needs of the people.

One of the primary issues with public participation in Kenya is the lack of genuine inclusivity. Often, public forums and consultative meetings are organized in a manner that excludes significant portions of the population. These gatherings are typically held in urban centers, inaccessible to rural residents who may lack the means to travel. Moreover, the timing of these meetings is often inconvenient for working citizens, who cannot afford to take time off from their jobs to attend. As a result, the voices of the marginalized and the economically disadvantaged—who arguably have

the most to gain or lose from government decisions—are frequently absent from the conversation. Instead, these forums are dominated by political elites, well-connected individuals, and interest groups who may not represent the broader public interest.

Even when citizens manage to participate in these forums, their contributions are often disregarded or manipulated to fit pre-determined outcomes. A common tactic used by authorities is to present highly technical documents or proposals that the average citizen cannot easily comprehend, thereby limiting meaningful engagement. The jargon-laden presentations serve to intimidate and confuse rather than to inform and empower. In some cases, feedback from the public is simply ignored or selectively included in official reports to create the illusion of consensus. This cynical approach not only undermines the spirit of public participation but also erodes public trust in the government.

The media, which plays a crucial role in facilitating public discourse, has also been complicit in perpetuating the facade of public participation. While the press is supposed to act as a watchdog, holding the government accountable and providing a platform for diverse voices, it often falls short of these expectations. Media coverage of public participation exercises tends to be superficial, focusing on the spectacle of the event rather than the substance of the discussions. In some instances, media outlets, especially those with close ties to political interests, may downplay or completely ignore dissenting opinions, further stifling the democratic process. The lack of critical journalism on this issue has allowed the government to continue with tokenistic public participation efforts without facing significant scrutiny.

Moreover, the influence of money and power in Kenya's political landscape cannot be ignored. Public participation forums are sometimes

hijacked by wealthy individuals or organizations with vested interests, who use their resources to sway decisions in their favor. This phenomenon, known as “elite capture,” distorts the process and ensures that the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by those with the means to buy influence. The result is a skewed policy-making process that reflects the interests of a few at the expense of the many, further entrenching inequality and social injustice.

The consequences of this hollow approach to public participation are far-reaching. Policies and projects that are formulated without genuine public input are more likely to fail, as they do not reflect the real needs and priorities of the people. For instance, numerous development projects in Kenya have stalled or been abandoned due to resistance from local communities who were not adequately consulted during the planning stages. These failures not only waste public resources but also exacerbate social tensions and undermine the legitimacy of the government.

Furthermore, the disillusionment caused by the lack of meaningful public participation can lead to apathy and disengagement among the citizenry. When people feel that their voices do not matter, they are less likely to participate in future engagements, including voting in elections. This creates a vicious cycle in which the government becomes increasingly unaccountable to its people, leading to poor governance and a weakened democracy.

To restore the integrity of public participation in Kenya, several steps must be taken. First, there needs to be a concerted effort to make public participation more inclusive. This could involve holding consultations in rural areas, using local languages, and scheduling meetings at times that are convenient for all citizens. Additionally, the government should provide simplified versions of technical docu-

ments to ensure that everyone can understand and contribute meaningfully to the discussions.

Second, there must be a genuine commitment to transparency. Authorities should be required to provide clear and honest feedback on how public input has been incorporated into final decisions. This could be achieved through the publication of detailed reports that outline the specific contributions made by the public and explain how they influenced the outcome. Such transparency would go a long way in building public trust and ensuring that participation is not merely a formality.

The role of the media in enhancing public participation cannot be overstated. Journalists must be encouraged to engage in investigative reporting that critically examines the effectiveness of public participation exercises. By shining a light on the shortcomings of the current system, the media can play a pivotal role in driving reforms and holding the government accountable.

Moreover, civil society organizations should be empowered to act as intermediaries between the government and the public. These organizations can help to mobilize communities, facilitate discussions, and ensure that the voices of marginalized groups are heard. By providing resources and training to these organizations, the government can enhance their capacity to contribute to the public participation process.

Lastly, the government must take a firm stand against the influence of money and power in public participation exercises. This could involve stricter regulations on lobbying and campaign financing, as well as penalties for individuals or organizations that attempt to unduly influence the process. By safeguarding the integrity of public participation, the government can ensure that the process remains true to its intended purpose—empowering the people to shape the policies that affect their lives.

While public participation is a laudable ideal, its practice in Kenya has often been reduced to a mere facade. To realize the true potential of this democratic principle, there must be a renewed commitment to inclusivity, transparency, and accountability. Only then can public participation serve as a genuine tool for empowering citizens and fostering good governance. The future of Kenya's democracy depends on it.

*This article was scripted by:*  
**MIDMARK ONSONGO**  
(Sustainable economist, Geopolitics strategist)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# The Resilience Of Governor Kawira Mwangaza: A Beacon Of Hope For Meru County

By: James Kilonzo Bwire  
 @themkenyatimes



Governor Kawira Mwangaza

### Worth Noting:

- The political landscape in Kenya has often been tumultuous, marked by frequent shifts in allegiance and leadership challenges. However, Makarina's comments suggest a departure from this norm, indicating that the people of Meru are rallying behind their governor. This unity is crucial for the county's development, as it allows for more effective implementation of policies and projects. Mwangaza's ability to maintain peace and cohesion in the face of political opposition is a testament to her leadership skills.
- Makarina's confidence in Kawira's tenure also underscores the importance of grassroots support in Kenyan politics. The ability of a leader to connect with their constituents and address their needs is vital for sustained governance.

Mike Makarina's statement regarding Meru County's peace under Governor Kawira Mwangaza highlights a growing sentiment of stability and confidence in local leadership. Makarina's assertion that Kawira will serve a full ten-year term, regardless of opposition, reflects a strong belief in her governance and the support she has garnered from the community. This endorsement is particularly significant given the turbulent political landscape in Kenya, where leadership is often challenged by shifting allegiances and power struggles.

Kawira Mwangaza's leadership has been characterized by efforts to foster unity and development in Meru County. Her administration has prioritized community engagement and transparency, which has resonated well with the residents. This approach has not only improved public trust but has also facilitated collaborative efforts in addressing local issues. Mwangaza's focus on grassroots development initiatives, such as empowering local youth and supporting agricultural projects, has contributed to her popularity among constituents.

The political landscape in Kenya has often been tumultuous, marked by frequent shifts in allegiance and lead-

ership challenges. However, Makarina's comments suggest a departure from this norm, indicating that the people of Meru are rallying behind their governor. This unity is crucial for the county's development, as it allows for more effective implementation of policies and projects. Mwangaza's ability to maintain peace and cohesion in the face of political opposition is a testament to her leadership skills.

Makarina's confidence in Kawira's tenure also underscores the importance of grassroots support in Kenyan politics. The ability of a leader to connect with their constituents and address their needs is vital for sustained governance. Kawira's focus on local issues, such as education, health, and infrastructure, has likely contributed to her popularity and the perception of stability in the county. Her administration has introduced various programs aimed at improving the quality of life for Meru residents, which has further solidified her support base.

However, challenges remain. The political environment in Kenya is dynamic, and opposition to Kawira's leadership could emerge as elections approach. Her recent defection to the ruling United Democratic Alliance

(UDA) party was seen as a strategic move to strengthen her position, yet it has also sparked fresh tensions among local leaders. Critics argue that the secrecy surrounding her defection has compounded existing leadership wrangles, highlighting the need for greater transparency and collaboration among Meru's political elite.

Additionally, the success of Kawira's governance will depend on her ability to deliver tangible results. The people of Meru will expect improvements in their quality of life, and failure to meet these expectations could lead to disillusionment. Therefore, it is crucial for her administration to remain accountable and responsive to the needs of the community. Mwangaza's commitment to community empowerment is evident in her initiatives, which include providing sports equipment to local teams and financial support for agricultural groups.

Moreover, the political opposition has not been entirely silent. Makarina's endorsement comes amid ongoing impeachment attempts against Mwangaza, which reflect the contentious nature of local politics. Despite surviving two impeachment bids, the specter of a third attempt looms large, underscoring the precariousness of

her position. The political maneuvering by her opponents serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by women leaders in a male-dominated political landscape.

In this context, Makarina's remarks can be seen as a call to other political leaders to recognize the will of the people. In an era where political maneuvering often overshadows genuine leadership, it is refreshing to see a focus on community-driven governance. This perspective aligns with the broader need for politicians to prioritize the interests of their constituents over personal or party ambitions.

As the political climate evolves, it is essential for Mwangaza to engage with all stakeholders, including those who oppose her. Open dialogue and collaboration can help mitigate tensions and foster a more inclusive political environment. By reaching out to her critics and demonstrating a willingness to work together, she can strengthen her leadership and enhance the county's governance.

In conclusion, Hon. Mike Makarina's endorsement of Governor Kawira Mwangaza's leadership reflects a positive outlook for Meru County. As long as Kawira continues to prioritize the needs of her constituents and foster unity, she stands a strong chance of fulfilling her ten-year term. This situation serves as a reminder of the power of grassroots support in shaping the future of Kenyan politics, emphasizing the importance of leaders who are committed to serving their communities.

Ultimately, the resilience of Governor Kawira Mwangaza amidst political challenges offers a beacon of hope for Meru County. Her commitment to development, transparency, and community engagement positions her as a transformative leader capable of navigating the complexities of Kenyan politics while delivering meaningful change for her constituents.

*James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication practitioner.*

# Mathare North United Clinches Nairobi Tujiamini Cheza Dimba Tournament Title



By: Aoma Keziah  
@themtkenyatimes



Mathare North United players pose with the cheque led by the team's Top scorer Michael Itiyeng (centre)

**Worth Noting:**

- “The boys displayed great team spirit hence the good results. This win and support by the Tujiamini initiative will go a long way in easing some of our resources challenges in addition to providing the much needed exposure to the players,” he said.
- SportPesa Communication and Advertising Executive, Mercy Kabui, emphasized the company’s commitment to community investment through sports and talent.
- “At SportPesa, we take pride in giving back to the community, for meaningful change and impact in the lives of young people. Our aim is to help create opportunities for excellence and growth in talent at the grassroots level, eventually boosting the talent pipeline for elite football in the country,” Kabui Remarkd

Mathare North United emerged victorious at the Nairobi Region Tujiamini Cheza Dimba Tournament, maintaining a flawless record throughout the competition, securing the championship title after defeating The Planes FC in a thrilling final held at Dandora Stadium. The match saw Mathare North United dominate their opponents with a resounding 3-0 victory, showcasing their superior skills and teamwork. The win earned them a lucrative 3-year sponsorship deal worth Kes 250,000 annually.

The champions first encountered Zimmerman All Stars, against whom they established an early 2-0 lead courtesy of Ramadhan Otieno and George Ochieng. They then went ahead to make a statement when they met the runner's up in the final group stage match, claiming another 2-0 win before a close 2-1 semi final encounter against Indomitable FC which ushered them into the final clash of the day.

Speaking after the tournament, Michael Itiyeng who was instrumental in spearheading Mathare North United's win scoring five out of nine goals in a show of impressive footballing talent, expressed joy at

the win and lauded his colleagues for the great teamwork that secured them the coveted title.

“Our positive mentality was the biggest factor in the win based on our initial preparation for the tournament. We were able to also maximize on our opponent's shortcomings which gave us competitive advantage in each stage of the game. SportPesa's support at the grassroots level has been motivating, giving us an opportunity to showcase our talents. We will use this sponsorship to work hard in order to secure a place in the National Super League,” said Itiyeng.

Coach David Onyango echoed Itiyang's sentiments, praising the team for its resilience.

“The boys displayed great team spirit hence the good results. This win and support by the Tujiamini initiative will go a long way in easing some of our resources challenges in addition to providing the much needed exposure to the players,” he said.

SportPesa Communication and Advertising Executive, Mercy Kabui, emphasized the company's commitment to community investment through sports and talent.

“At SportPesa, we take pride in giving back to the community, for meaningful change and impact in the lives of young people. Our aim is to help create opportunities for excellence and growth in talent at the grassroots level, eventually boosting the talent pipeline for elite football in the country,” Kabui Remarkd  
Susanne Hallergard, Founder of

DBA Africa, reinforced the importance of Tujiamini initiative's long-term talent nurturing and development goals.

“It's been really exciting to uncover diverse talents across different sports in recent months. We've seen different skills and natural gifts on display and with more investment and support driven at the community level we are certain they will reach the stars,” she stated.

Despite missing out on the title, The Planes FC Captain, Daniel Lusweti maintained the team's steadfast commitment in pursuit of glory days.

“We were targeting a win but as we have seen the unexpected can happen. All the same we appreciate the outcomes, we have picked up our learnings and we'll go back to the drawing board to come back with renewed vigour in our future matches,” said Lusweti.

Coach Matthias Ocholi lauded his players for the effort displayed against Mathare North United acknowledging the player's promising potential.

“This is a young team and the players are improving. We shall work on our mistakes and the tables will definitely turn in our favour next time,” he said.

This victory for Mathare North United not only solidifies their status as a formidable force in Nairobi's football scene but also provides them with the resources to continue their development and success in future competition.

The Tujiamini initiative by SportPesa now heads to Nyanza region as it nears the culmination in three months time.



Mathare North United celebrating after winning the Nairobi Region Tujiamini Cheza Dimba Tournament.

# Koskei Urges Striking Kuppet Teachers To Return To Classrooms

By: Linet Wafula  
 @themkenyatimes

The Head of Public Service Felix Koskei has called on striking members of the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) to end their industrial action and resume teaching.

Koskei assured the teachers that the government is fully implementing the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that was negotiated between the union and the government.

Speaking during an inspection tour at Kaimosi Farmers' Training Centre (FTC) ahead of the upcoming World Food Day celebrations in October, Koskei emphasized the government's commitment to addressing the concerns raised by teachers, particularly those related to the Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers.

"Regarding the issue of JSS teachers, the government has allocated funds to ensure the recruitment and deployment of more teachers to ease

the burden and improve the quality of education," Koskei stated.

He urged the teachers to reconsider their stance and return to classrooms, noting that the ongoing strike was detrimental to the students' academic progress.

His remarks come amid growing tension between the government and the teaching fraternity, with KUPPET members citing unmet promises as the primary reason for the strike.

As preparations for World Food Day proceed, Koskei also took the opportunity to inspect the facilities at Kaimosi FTC, expressing satisfaction with the level of preparedness for the event.

He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring that key public services, including education, continued to run smoothly despite the ongoing challenges.

The World Food Day, celebrated annually on October 16th, is expected to bring together various stakeholders to discuss and promote strategies for achieving food security in the country.



Felix Koskei (left) addressing journalists at Kaimosi Farmers Training Centre

## If The World Would Were A Garden



Name : Somdatta Mitra  
 Country : India

Idiosyncrasies over fantasies often leave me in an oblivion ,  
 Tenacity to dream about a beautiful garden season.

There I integrate the world to rejoice ,  
 People from around the world would have a choice.

To connect and enjoy a community ,  
 Where each person can enjoy their passion

in a diversity.

Where flowers of different breeds will be planted ,  
 Where languages of all countries will be spoken and enchanted.  
 The acceptance to each culture would enrich the hearts ,  
 The beautiful fragrances of flowers would soothe the minds.

Where embracing each other won't leave any suspicion ,  
 Where the cheerleaders won't hesitate to smile in a station.  
 Life should be easy to understand ,  
 Expressions will instil love and affection.  
 Like butterflies and the fireflies ,  
 The morning and the night will be romantic to idealise.

Grasses will be a comforter to sit like a cushion ,  
 The ponds would seem like an ocean .  
 Ducks and peacocks will be the major attractions ,  
 The kites will instigate more enthusiasm.  
 There the wind will tingle our spirits ,  
 To hold hands and get lost in springs.

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Sports >> \*Luis Diaz starred as Liverpool routed arch rivals Manchester United 3-0 to extend their perfect start under new boss Arne Slot

## Liverpool Rout Woeful Man Utd, Chelsea Held By Palace

Luis Diaz starred as Liverpool routed arch rivals Manchester United 3-0 to extend their perfect start under new boss Arne Slot, while Chelsea suffered fresh frustration in a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace yesterday.

Hired from Feyenoord to succeed Jurgen Klopp in the close-season, Slot has overseen three successive wins in a flying start to the new era at Liverpool.

The Reds sit second in the Premier League, behind champions Manchester City on goals scored, after handing United an embarrassing loss that finished with thousands of empty seats at Old Trafford.

Diaz and Mohamed Salah were United's chief tormentors as the Liverpool forwards tore Erik ten Hag's side to pieces with their pace and predatory finishing.

Diaz put Liverpool ahead with a 35th-minute header from Salah's cross after United midfielder Casemiro carelessly conceded possession.

Casemiro was guilty of surrendering the ball too easily again when Diaz converted another Salah assist with a cool finish seven minutes later.

Salah put the result beyond doubt in the 52nd minute, netting for the third time this season with a fierce strike from Dominik Szoboszlai's pass.

The Egypt star has scored 10 goals in nine appearances at Old Trafford for Liverpool in all competitions.

Slot is the first permanent Liverpool manager to win his first league game against United since Bob Paisley in 1975.

The Dutchman is also the first manager to win each of his first three Premier League games without conceding a single goal since Sven-Goran Eriksson at Manchester City in 2007.

While Slot soaks up his dream start, United boss Erik ten Hag is under pressure after a woeful display that came hot on the heels of their 2-1 defeat at Brigh-



Liverpool's Colombian midfielder Luis Diaz celebrates scoring the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Liverpool at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on September 1, 2024. (Photo by Paul ELLIS / AFP).

ton last weekend.

Ten Hag survived a close-season review into his job, which included United speaking to former Bayern Munich boss Thomas Tuchel about potentially replacing him.

But while last season's surprise FA Cup final win over Manchester City saved his job, he cannot afford another poor league campaign after finishing eighth in 2023/24.

Enzo Maresca's Chelsea have won only once in the first three league games of the Italian's reign after a chaotic close-season.

Beaten by Manchester City on the opening weekend, Chelsea powered to a 6-2 win at Wolves last weekend before scraping into the UEFA Conference League group stage after a 2-1 loss at Servette on Thursday.

Former Leicester boss Maresca insists his expensive Chelsea rebuild, featuring a host of new signings, is ahead of schedule despite their inconsistent start.

Maresca Fumes

But Chelsea failed to kill off Palace after Noni Madueke picked out Cole Palmer and his pass was slotted home by Nicolas Jackson in the 25th minute.

Maresca was furious after Palace midfielder Will Hughes avoided a second yellow card for a foul on Palmer.

Looking for their first point this season, Palace made the most of that escape to draw level in the 53rd minute.

England midfielder Eberechi Eze unfurled a superb curling finish that flashed past Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez from 20 yards.

"If they had been with 10 I think the game would have completely changed," Maresca said of the Hughes incident.

"It was clear for all of us it was a second yellow card. The only one that thinks in a different way is the referee."

At St James' Park, Newcastle punished profligate Tottenham with a 2-1 victory.

Newcastle took the lead in spectacular fashion in the 37th min-

ute when Lloyd Kelly pulled the ball back to Harvey Barnes, who unleashed a sublime volley into the far corner from 10 yards.

Tottenham equalised in the 56th minute as Newcastle defender Dan Burn accidentally diverted the ball into his own net while trying to clear after Brennan Johnson's cross eluded Nick Pope.

The Magpies went back in front in the 78th minute when Jacob Murphy ran onto Joelinton's defence-splitting pass and laid on a tap-in for Alexander Isak.

Unbeaten Newcastle's second win in three league games condemned Tottenham to a first defeat this term.

"It's massive, isn't it?" Newcastle boss Eddie Howe said. "You need to win at any stage but I think when there's difficult moments - and this transfer window has been tough for us - then it's even more important."

AFP

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> \*Harambee Stars coach Engin Firat believes the national team is more than capable of qualifying for next year's Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco

# Firat Talks Up Stars Chances At Making Afcon 2025



Harambee Stars head coach Engin Firat. PHOTO/Timothy Olobulu

Harambee Stars coach Engin Firat believes the national team is more than capable of qualifying for next year's Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.

Firat says that Group J, in which they play Cameroon, Namibia and Zimbabwe, is an open one for the taking of any of the teams.

"All of the teams have their own weakness...all of them struggle, honestly, when they are playing with teams that sit so deep. So until the last match, the group will remain open and that's why it is important for us to be mentally

ready," the Turk said.

Stars open their campaign on Tuesday against Zimbabwe at the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Uganda before facing Namibia in Durban, South Africa.

They also have to face the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon in their other Group J tie.

Each of the team's weaknesses notwithstanding, the gaffer promises that Stars will shed their blood, sweat and tears for the country.

"For us we have to be mentally ready for the problems. No matter

rain or sunshine, we have to go out and play for ourselves and for the country," Firat said.

He added: "I am a realistic person...it would be a dream start (win against Zimbabwe) but we have to respect the opponent. I know they are strong so we will do our best."

The 28-man team are currently going through their paces at the Police Sacco Stadium, Nairobi ahead of their departure.

Firat reveals they are still sweating over the readiness of captain Michael Olunga who is set for a

late fitness test.

"He will undergo an MRI to see if there's a chance he will be able to feature. We have already lost a lot of players so we need to find solutions," he said.

The top two finishers from the 12 groups will qualify for the continental showpiece in North Africa with Kenya seeking their first appearance since 2019.

Capital Sport

# SPORTS NEWS



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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# A New Era For Fundraising In Kenya: The Public Fundraising Appeals Bill, 2024

By: James Kilonzo Bwire  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The bill also establishes stringent penalties for non-compliance, with fines reaching up to five million shillings. This sends a clear message that fraudulent activities will not be tolerated. The legislative framework not only protects the public from potential scams but also encourages genuine philanthropy by ensuring that contributions are used appropriately. This is particularly important in a country where trust in public figures has been eroded by repeated scandals.
- Furthermore, the establishment of national and county registers to track fundraising activities marks a significant step towards accountability. By requiring detailed disclosures regarding the purpose and use of funds, the bill fosters a culture of transparency that is essential for rebuilding public trust.



The introduction of the Public Fundraising Appeals Bill, 2024, by Senator Aaron Cheruiyot represents a crucial step towards addressing the long-standing issues of corruption and mismanagement in fundraising activities in Kenya, commonly referred to as harambees. This legislation not only aims to restore integrity to a practice that has often been exploited for political gain but also seeks to enhance transparency and accountability in public fundraising.

Historically, harambees have been marred by allegations of fraud and coercion, with many politicians leveraging these events to secure votes and manipulate public sentiment. The new bill directly addresses these concerns by mandating permits for all public fundraising appeals. This requirement introduces a necessary layer of oversight that has been sorely lacking, ensuring that all fundraising activities are conducted within a regulated framework.

One of the most significant provisions of the bill is the prohibition on state officers and political aspirants from participating in fundraising activities during critical election periods. This measure is commendable as it seeks to eliminate undue influence and the coercive nature of fundraising appeals. By restricting the involvement of public officials, the bill aims to level the playing field

and foster a more equitable political environment.

The bill also establishes stringent penalties for non-compliance, with fines reaching up to five million shillings. This sends a clear message that fraudulent activities will not be tolerated. The legislative framework not only protects the public from potential scams but also encourages genuine philanthropy by ensuring that contributions are used appropriately. This is particularly important in a country where trust in public figures has been eroded by repeated scandals.

Furthermore, the establishment of national and county registers to track fundraising activities marks a significant step towards accountability. By requiring detailed disclosures regarding the purpose and use of funds, the bill fosters a culture of transparency that is essential for rebuilding public trust. This level of scrutiny will help ensure that funds raised are directed towards their intended causes, rather than being siphoned off for personal gain.

In addition to these measures, the bill mandates the maintenance of detailed financial records by those conducting fundraising activities. This includes information on contributors, amounts raised, and expenditure details. Such requirements are crucial for ensuring that fundraising

efforts are not only transparent but also accountable to the public.

The bill also recognizes the need for public literacy regarding fundraising activities. It aims to educate citizens about their rights and responsibilities when participating in harambees, empowering them to make informed decisions about their contributions. This proactive approach is essential for fostering a culture of responsible giving and discouraging coercive practices.

Moreover, the bill introduces new requirements related to income tax for individuals and organizations involved in fundraising. Contributors will be required to declare their donations to the Kenya Revenue Authority, further promoting transparency and accountability in the management of funds. This aligns with global best practices in fundraising and ensures that all financial activities are subject to scrutiny.

The proposed legislation also includes specific exemptions, recognizing that not all fundraising activities require the same level of regulation. Private fundraising appeals, religious collections, and lotteries are exempted from the stringent requirements of the bill, allowing for flexibility in how these activities are conducted. This balance is crucial for encouraging community-driven initiatives while still

maintaining oversight where necessary.

As the bill progresses through the Senate, it is essential for public participation to be prioritized. Engaging citizens in the legislative process will not only enhance the bill's effectiveness but also ensure that it reflects the needs and concerns of the Kenyan populace. The Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare is tasked with facilitating this public participation, allowing for a diverse range of voices to be heard.

The timing of this bill is particularly significant, coming on the heels of President William Ruto's directive banning public servants from participating in harambees. This move reflects a broader commitment to combat corruption and restore public confidence in government institutions. The alignment of the bill with presidential initiatives indicates a unified approach to tackling the challenges associated with fundraising in Kenya.

In conclusion, the Public Fundraising Appeals Bill, 2024, is a vital legislative effort that promises to reshape the landscape of fundraising in Kenya. By promoting ethical practices, enhancing transparency, and safeguarding the interests of the public, this bill represents a significant victory for accountability and integrity in public life. Its passage would signal a new era in fundraising practices, one that prioritizes the welfare of the community and fosters a culture of responsible giving.

As Kenyans look towards the future, the successful implementation of this bill could serve as a model for other nations grappling with similar challenges in fundraising and governance. The commitment to ethical fundraising practices is not just a legislative necessity but a moral imperative that can lead to sustainable development and social cohesion in society.

*JAMES KILONZO BWIRE is a Media and Communication practitioner.*