



The Pyrrhic Victory Of Data Privacy: A Critique Of Compensatory Shortcomings In ODPC Complaint No. 1085 Of 2023

In their seminal work "Privacy's Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies," Woodrow Hartzog and Neil Richards argue that "privacy law should focus on the power relationships between people and the companies that control their data" (Hartzog & Richards, 2018). Page 18

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News>> Waiguru Wins Admiration From Leaders For Her Impressive Development Scorecard

P. 12. Kirinyaga county governor Anne Waiguru has won widespread admiration from leaders for her impressive development scorecard.


Gachagua: Allow Me To Perform My Duties

 Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua over the weekend toured Kirinyaga, Embu and Meru counties where he engaged small-scale traders, farmers and the public on improving the environment for better returns in the hustles. During the engagements, the Deputy President asked his detractors to allow him to perform his duties and stop intimidating him. The DP was in the region for a two-day working trip engaging the public on agriculture reforms in coffee and tea as well as Miraa and Muguka trade.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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Kenya Reaffirms Commitment To Shared Vision With China

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya is committed to facilitating Chinese private sector investment in key areas of its economy, according to Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

Mudavadi highlighted that China is Kenya's leading bilateral development partner and aims to invest in sectors beyond the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects.

He noted that China has significantly contributed to Kenya's long-term socio-economic transformation, particularly over the past two decades under the BRI.

"This is a deliberate move aimed at enhancing Kenya-China strategic partnership and, most crucially, ensures that every aspect of bilateral cooperation will bring our peoples together through people-to-people contact and collaboration," said Mudavadi.

Sectors such as ICT, Renewable Energy, Education, joint research, Retail, Hospitality, and Housing have also benefited from the support of the Government of China and the involvement of the Chinese private sector.

Mudavadi made these remarks during the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of National Foundation Day for China at the Chinese embassy in Nairobi.

As the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary, he emphasized that Kenya is currently investing substantial resources into infrastructure development to unlock previously underutilized opportunities aimed at creating jobs and alleviating poverty, especially in rural areas.

"Kenya acknowledges and appreciates the support of the Government of China, without which Kenya would not be one of the key Belt and Road Initiative partners. Further, Kenya appreciates the Government of China for encouraging the Chinese private sector to invest in Kenya in Belt and Road Initiative projects as well as other sectors," he added.

He assured that the government remains committed to the Kenya-China Joint Vision and advancing modernisation, in line with the outcomes of the 2024 FO-CAC Summit while promoting the four



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi delivering his remarks during the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Chinese Embassy in Kenya. Photo/Courtesy

Worth Noting:

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Initiatives on national, regional, continental, and global levels.

At the multilateral level, he noted Kenya's historical collaboration with China on South-South cooperation. Mudavadi described China as a strong advocate for Kenya and other developing countries, focusing on reforming the international financial architecture to create a fair, just, and rules-based system.

This, he articulated, will facilitate access to affordable financing for sustainable socio-economic development in the long term.

Another important area of Kenya-China multilateral cooperation is the reform of the UN Security Council, ensuring it is inclusive and reflects the current realities of global political and security affairs.

"China leads by example on climate change mitigation and sustainable economic development support," he stated.

At the same time, the CS highlighted that China is the world's second-largest economy, the largest manufacturer, a leading trader in goods, a major consumer of commodities, and the largest holder of foreign exchange reserves.

He asserted that China plays a significant role in global political and economic affairs, serving as a key stabiliser in an unstable global economy.

Mudavadi pointed out that China has consistently demonstrated strong governance, discipline, and a commitment to implementing national development priorities that are people-centered, long-term, and focused on inclusive sustain-

able modernization.

On a global scale, he recognized China's best practices that contribute to peace and stability, as well as enhanced South-South cooperation. These practices include five principles: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. "China continues to be the "north star" and a firm voice for many developing countries in an international system that is unfair, unjust and insensitive to the peculiar needs of developing countries," he said.

Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Makueni County Deputy Governor Lucy Mulili has praised Superior Homes Kenya for establishing a stopover centre for long-distance truck drivers at Sultan Hamud. She believes the “Supastop” could significantly reduce road accidents along the Northern Corridor (Mombasa-Nairobi-Malaba highway) by providing a unique opportunity for tired drivers to rest and replenish before driving. Mulili called upon truck drivers and businesspeople to take advantage of the space and take breaks before continuing their journeys. “The one stop for truck drivers will offer them the opportunity to rest, eat, and pray, which is one of its kind and unique as drivers will replenish and avoid driving while they are dizzy and tired,” she said. The county government has equipped trauma centres at Sultan Hamud and Makindu Hospitals with adequate infrastructure to cater for patients from the accident-prone Mombasa-Nairobi Highway.



Juja Municipal Manager, Joseph Muraya leads Kiambu County workers and volunteers in a clean up exercise in Witeithie Ward on Saturday. The Kiambu Government conducts monthly such activities in each Ward.



Principal secretary for Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Geoffrey Kaituko (center) cuts cake celebratory cake, joined by Kilifi Women Representative, Getrude Mbeyu (2nd Right) and MKU university officials.



East African Community Affairs (EAC), the ASAL, and Regional Development, Cabinet Secretary Beatrice Moe engages with Ugandan Minister for Security, Office of the President, Major General Jim Muhwezi, at the Weston Hotel Nairobi, during the official closing of a bilateral engagement between the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uganda. The theme of the three-day workshop was free, safe, and orderly cross-border mobility for peaceful coexistence.



Some of the 2600 graduates were awarded with Certificates and Diplomas march to the graduation square during the fifth graduation ceremony of the Mathenge Technical Training Institute in Othaya, Nyeri county. In the picture, Mathenge Technical Training Institute board members join Director of Projects and Partnership at the State Department, John Tuwei and the institute’s Principal Michael Njungu (holding microphone) during the ceremony.

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YALIFest 2024 Nairobi Edition: A Celebration of Young African Leaders



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

“We are the generation that must act now, not tomorrow. Africa’s future depends on us tackling the challenges of today—environmental degradation, unemployment, and inequality—by embracing innovative solutions and collaboration,” Dr. Ndungu urged.

In addition to the keynote speeches, the festival featured thought-provoking panel discussions on various pressing issues facing Africa today. Topics ranged from economic empowerment and entrepreneurship to governance and social justice. The panels included experts from different sectors, including successful entrepreneurs, government officials, and civil society leaders, who shared their insights and experiences with the young audience.

On Saturday, the Kenya Museum played host to the vibrant YALIFest 2024 Nairobi Edition, a dynamic event showcasing the passion, innovation, and leadership of Africa’s youth. Organized by the Mandela Washington Fellows Kenya Alumni, a chapter of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), the event marked the final stop of a three-city tour that had already captivated Kisumu and Mombasa earlier this year.

The event celebrated the achievements of young African leaders from across the continent, emphasizing their dedication to driving positive change and shaping a prosperous future for Africa. YALI, a prestigious program that empowers and connects young African leaders, leveraged this occasion to highlight the strides made by its members and foster meaningful connections within the network.

YALIFest in Nairobi brought together over 500 participants, including young leaders, mentors, and supporters from various sectors such as governance, entrepreneurship, and civil society. Attendees engaged in a full day of activities that featured inspiring keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, networking sessions, and cultural performances. The energy and excitement in the air were palpable as the event lived up to its billing as a celebration of Africa’s bright future.

The festival kicked off with powerful keynote addresses from prominent African leaders, including alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship. Their stories of perseverance and leadership resonated with the audience, inspiring young attendees to remain committed to their causes and ambitions. One of the highlights of the event was the speech delivered by Dr.



CS Murkomen issuing his address at Yali Festival at the Nairobi National Museum

Linda Ndungu, a YALI alumna and climate activist, who spoke passionately about the role of youth in combating climate change in Africa.

“We are the generation that must act now, not tomorrow. Africa’s future depends on us tackling the challenges of today—environmental degradation, unemployment, and inequality—by embracing innovative solutions and collaboration,” Dr. Ndungu urged.

In addition to the keynote speeches, the festival featured thought-provoking panel discussions on various pressing issues facing Africa today. Topics ranged from economic empowerment and entrepreneurship to governance and social justice. The panels included experts from different sectors, including successful entrepreneurs, government officials, and civil society leaders, who shared their insights and experiences with the young audience.

Workshops focusing on leadership, career development, and digital litera-

cy were also held, providing attendees with practical tools and resources to enhance their skills and advance their careers. Participants took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions, seek mentorship, and form valuable connections with fellow attendees and facilitators.

Adding to the vibrancy of the day, YALIFest also showcased a series of cultural performances that highlighted Africa’s rich diversity. From traditional dances to contemporary music, the performances energized the crowd and served as a reminder of the continent’s unique cultural heritage.

Networking sessions offered attendees the chance to interact with their peers, mentors, and potential collaborators, creating a space for building lasting relationships and exploring opportunities for future partnerships. The festival’s informal yet engaging atmosphere allowed young leaders to connect with one another, exchange ideas,

and explore solutions to the challenges they face in their communities.

As the Nairobi edition came to a close, the overarching message was clear: Africa’s young leaders are ready to take charge of the continent’s future. YALIFest 2024 successfully provided a platform for these leaders to share their stories, learn from each other, and inspire one another to continue making a difference.

“This is just the beginning,” said one participant. “The energy and passion we’ve seen here today show that Africa’s future is bright, and we, the youth, have the power to shape it.”

With its mix of inspiration, collaboration, and celebration, YALIFest 2024 Nairobi Edition was a resounding success, reaffirming the immense potential of young Africans to drive positive change across the continent.

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State Plans To Put Up Tile Factory In Murang'a

By: Kenya News Agency

The government through the Ministry of Mining and Blue Economy plans to establish a tile making factory in Gaturi area of Murang'a County.

The factory is earmarked to utilize the clay soil being mined in the area and currently being transported to factories located in other counties to manufacture tiles among other construction materials.

Mining Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi on Saturday said his ministry is in talks with the local county government to get land where the factory will be built.

Speaking in Gaturi primary school, Mwangi said they are also looking for a private partner to establish the facility that will offer employment to thousands of local young people.

"Gaturi has been a source of clay soil mainly used to manufacture tiles among other earthen construction materials and having a factory, it will greatly benefit the local community in terms of employment opportuni-

ties as well as returns from the mined soil," said the PS.

Mwangi further said that the factory will play a crucial role in reviving the local construction sector noting that many workers have abandoned quarrying activities due to the shortage of essential materials like sand and stone.

The tile making factory, the PS observed, will absorb those who were engaged in mining construction stones and sand since the clay is sourced locally and is in plenty creating many employment opportunities. "There is high demand for tiles in the construction industry and we are upbeat the factory will revive the local construction sector and create employment for the local community," he added.

He continued "the ministry is at an advanced stage to have an agreement with Murang'a county administration to allocate land for the project. Once the land is identified and handed over, construction of the factory will commence."

On his part, Gaturi MCA, Gathe wa Njeri underscored the County Assembly's full support of the project, and said that the factory will be a game-changer to the community and



Mining Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi

the country.

"This initiative to have a factory here has the full support of the local County Assembly, and we are committed to see it through its comple-

tion," Njeri said.

Once operational, the factory is expected to lower construction costs and boost the supply of essential materials in the construction industry

while also improving livelihoods of local residents by creating job opportunities and fostering economic growth in the region.

Governor Urges Residents To Appreciate The Disciplined Forces

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti has called on residents to appreciate the Men and Women in uniform who have sacrificed their lives to keep them safe.

The Governor was speaking during the annual joint thanksgiving service for uniformed officers and their families, from the Lower Eastern region, that was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Cathedral in Machakos where she emphasized the importance of gratitude towards the uniformed officers.

"They work very hard and sometimes we do not appreciate what they do yet they are human beings just like us," said the Governor.

Additionally, she highlighted the importance of citizens embracing the uniformed forces and encouraging a peaceful coexistence with them thus improving security in the country.

She hailed the men and women in

uniform drawn from the Lower Eastern region of Makeni, Kitui, Machakos and Kajado, for their sacrifice and dedication to ensure citizens are safe and their embodiment of the noblest qualities of service and selflessness.

Wavinya implored the disciplined forces to integrate with the community and foster strong relationships that will help in breaking any barriers or misunderstanding thus easing their work in gathering information within the communities.

"For the Disciplined Forces, working with the community makes work easy for them," added Wavinya.

Senior Assistant Director of Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), Selina Mwangangi on her part recognized the sacrifices made by the families of the Men and women in uniform, who by standing behind their loved ones, provide love and encouragement that keeps them going.

Machakos Deputy County Commissioner David Rotich consequently asked for prayers for the officers who perform their duties under difficult circumstances while recognizing



Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti (c entre)

those who have died in the line of duty.

He also encouraged citizens to make work easy for the uniformed officers

by abiding by the rules.

The officers that were present were the National Youth service, Kenya Police, Kenya Prison service, Admin-

istration Police and the Kenya Wildlife officers among other National government and County officials.

Allow Me To Perform My Duties, Gachagua Tells Detractors

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in Meru

Worth Noting:

- To members of the National Assembly and Senators that he said are unjustifiably criticizing him, Mr Gachagua asked them to work towards initiating pieces of legislation that will improve public welfare.
- Asking political leaders to get their priorities right, the Deputy President also asked the legislatures to keep off issues concerning the Executive.
- “We are asking our detractors to allow us to work for Kenyans. Leave me alone. Let us work for Kenyans and stop the high temperature politics. We were given a five-year contract by Kenyans. There are many stalled projects that need attention and completion,” said Mr Gachagua.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua over the weekend toured Kirinyaga, Embu and Meru counties where he engaged small-scale traders, farmers and the public on improving the environment for better returns in the hustles.

During the engagements, the Deputy President asked his detractors to allow him to perform his duties and stop intimidating him.

The DP was in the region for a two-day working trip engaging the public on agriculture reforms in coffee and tea as well as Miraa and Muguka trade.

In his remarks, Mr Gachagua, who was in company of various political leaders led by Kirinyaga Woman Rep Njeri Maina, Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji and Murang’a Senator Joe Nyutu, said that he will not give in to intimidation aimed at forcing him to resign.

To members of the National Assembly and Senators that he said are unjustifiably criticizing him, Mr Gachagua asked them to work towards initiating pieces of legislation that will improve public welfare.

Asking political leaders to get their priorities right, the Deputy President

also asked the legislatures to keep off issues concerning the Executive.

“We are asking our detractors to allow us to work for Kenyans. Leave me alone. Let us work for Kenyans and stop the high temperature politics. We were given a five-year contract by Kenyans. There are many stalled projects that need attention and completion,” said Mr Gachagua. He added that “this is not time for politicking, but working for Kenyans”.

“MPs should do their work on legislation and stop interfering with the Executive. They should concentrate on passing of laws that will benefit people not politics,” he stated.

During the visit, Gachagua engaged with thousands of Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) traders in Wang’uru town, Embu Market, Runyenjes Town, Chuka Town and Meru Town on Government policies and programmes touching on their trade.

At Embu Town, the Deputy President also joined the Kenya Red Cross Society at Moi Stadium for a special fundraising event to help rebuild the Jomo Kenyatta Center for Children with Physical Disabilities.

The facility was destroyed by fire in June this year.

Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire, Kenya Red Cross Secretary-General Dr. Ahmed Idris, Kirinyaga Woman Rep Njeri Maina, Murang’a Senator Joe Nyutu, Juja MP George Koim-buri, MCAs among leaders were also present.

Mr Gachagua also addressed residents of Difathas township, who had blocked the Embu-Mwea highway protesting over a road accident that killed a five-year-old child, Elius Linus Mugendi, recently.

He comforted the family over the loss and promised to follow up on the issue.

“I have spoken to the police boss and agreed that action will be taken against the officers that caused the accident. I will follow up on the issue and ensure the family gets justice,” he said. The protestors accepted his plea, opened the road and call off the demonstration.

On agriculture reforms, the Deputy President said the changes are also focusing on miraa and muguka farming. Muguka is a legal crop under the Crops Act 2013 and the Miraa Regulations 2023, he said.

“Muguka is a cash crop and I will continue advocating for their issues that will improve the welfare of Muguka farmers and traders. We will continue doing the work that the people gave us in 2022,” said Gachagua.

Murang’a Senator Joe Nyutu, MPs Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga), George Koim-buri (Juja), Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta) and tens of MCAs accompanied the Deputy President in the working tour.

“As MPs, our duty is to make laws. We, the Mt Kenya region people are behind the Deputy President; we won’t allow coercion or intimidation,” said Mr Njeri Maina.

The leaders said they will not allow attempts to divide the Mt Kenya region into political camps.

On Sunday the Deputy President is expected in Meru County, where he will attend Church service at Kinoru Methodist Church in Imenti North.

Government To Renovate Olopito Dam

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyetimes

The state has commenced the renovation of Olopito dam irrigation project that is expected to benefit 200 farmers, Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eric Muriithi Mugaa has said.

Mugaa who spoke when he toured the 200 acres' project confirmed that already the main piping of 5.6 kilometers had been completed, awaiting the individual piping in the farmers' gardens.

He wondered why the project that was financed by Japan International Corporation Authority (JICA) and the government of Kenya at a tune of Sh. 26 million in 2012 was stalled.

"I wonder why the project was not completed on time to benefit the farmers. I promise that the government will inject more funds in this project to help farmers in piping the water in their farms," he said.

He asked the residents to take advantage of the project to farm fast grow-

ing crops like cabbage, kale, carrots, potatoes and beans that do well in the area.

"Do not let the water be wasted by allowing it to flow without being used the right way. We want all the water to be used for irrigation so that we can improve food production in our country.

CS Mugaa reiterated that the project will have multiple benefits to residents, observing that apart from fostering irrigation the dam is a mega project to control perennial floods in Narok town and boost water requirements.

"The water will be piped through gravity hence reducing operational costs," he said, adding that the project will greatly contribute to the food and nutrition security in the country.

The local people led by Simon Kuyioni appreciated the government for the initiative and urged for finalization of the project so that it would benefit them fully.

He also asked the government to construct the road leading to the project and install electricity so as to boost the livelihood of the people in the area.



Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eric Muriithi Mugaa .

The Mt. Kenya Times



Is Ruto Behind The Motion Of Impeachment Of DP?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- They believe Ruto had endeared himself to the masses and so he was poised to win no matter who he picked from this vote-rich region as his running mate.
- Back to DP's tour of the East. While echoing Gachagua words, Kirinyaga women representative vowed that Gachagua will not go down alone.
- We will ensure the President suffers the same fate. Gachagua further told the charged crowd in Kirinyaga county. I'm here to confirm to you that President Ruto is mobilizing his troops in parliament to impeach me.
- I have not committed any crime but they want me impeached because of speaking the truth and fighting for your interests.



President William Ruto and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has escalated political war between him and his boss President William Ruto.

Speaking during his latest forays in Mount Kenya East, the DP minced no word in claiming that President William Ruto was behind his woes.

As a result, he challenged Dr Ruto to come out and tell the people of the Mountain whether he will need their votes.

Dr Ruto got majority of votes from this region that catapulted him to the seat of power.

Gachagua believes he is one who mobilized and convinced the locals to vote for him.

But there are leaders from this region who do not share this position.

They believe Ruto had endeared himself to the masses and so he was poised to win no matter who he picked from this vote-rich region as his running mate.

Back to DP's tour of the East. While echoing Gachagua words, Kirinyaga women representative vowed that Gachagua will not go down alone.

We will ensure the President suffers the same fate.

Gachagua further told the charged crowd in Kirinyaga county.

I'm here to confirm to you that President Ruto is mobilizing his troops in parliament to impeach me.

I have not committed any crime but they want me impeached because of speaking the truth and fighting for your interests.

It is worth noting that since the talk of impeaching Gachagua started, President Ruto have never commented about this matter.

This means we have only heard one side of the story.

Many Kenyans averred that Gachagua believe he is a heartbeat away from the presidency.

He was therefore leaving nothing to chance in ensuring his high-level ambitions to succeed President Ruto in 2032 polls bear the fruits.

In light of this, one could argue that this is the main reason why he was targeting his Boss. As such, his remarks and statements were mainly informed by politics.

We know this fight started to rear an ugly head after President Ruto extended an olive branch to Raila Odinga, the leader of opposition Orange Democratic Movement (ODM).

It is worth noting that Gachagua was fiercely opposed to this political union that saw five senior ODM leaders incorporated into the Kenya Kwanza government.

The DP's fear is that Ruto-Raila camaraderie would shut down his dreams.

The DP has been employing a cocktail of strategies and one of them is to create a wedge between the President and the

people of Mount Kenya region.

He hopes this will force the President to rethink his stand and cut links with Raila.

This will heralded in arm twisting President Ruto to return him (DP) back to the inner circle of the government.

Notably, the President has nothing to do with the impeachment of the Deputy President.

The provisions of the constitution of 2010 were very clear. Parliament is exclusively vested with this power. Any member of the house was free to move a motion of impeachment against DP. The onus to prove whether the grounds met the requisite thresholds lies with him.

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

Waiguru Wins Admiration From Leaders For Her Impressive Development Scorecard

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Her commitment to healthcare reforms has led to the county having one of the largest referral hospitals whose standards can only be matched with those found in some of the largest private facilities in the country.
- Machakos County Governor Wavinya Ndeti said that the people of Kirinyaga got the full value for their votes through the transformation brought about by their governor. "I am particularly impressed by Kerugoya Level Five Hospital whose standards can only be equated to those at Nairobi or Agakhan hospitals. I have borrowed a lot from the project which I am going to implement back home" said Wavinya, adding that she was also impressed by the ECDE uniform project in which the county government has distributed free uniforms to learners.

Kirinyaga county governor Anne Waiguru has won widespread admiration from leaders for her impressive development scorecard.

Governors, MPs, County Woman Representatives, members of various county assemblies and Mrs. Idah Odinga, wife of former prime minister Raila Odinga, all showered praises on the governor after touring some of her projects in the field and at the exhibition at Kianyaga stadium.

During the G7 Strategy activation in Kirinyaga, Waiguru showcased key achievements across multiple sectors including health, agriculture, trade, infrastructure and education among others.

Her commitment to healthcare reforms has led to the county having one of the largest referral hospitals whose standards can only be matched with those found in some of the largest private facilities in the country.

Machakos County Governor Wavinya Ndeti said that the people of Kirinyaga got the full value for their votes through the transformation brought about by their governor. "I am particularly impressed by Kerugoya Level Five Hospital whose standards can only be equated to those at Nairobi or Agakhan hospitals. I have borrowed a lot from the project which I am going to implement back home" said Wavinya, adding that she was also impressed by the ECDE uniform project in which the county government has distributed free uniforms to learners.

Governor Irungu Kang'ata from Murang'a said that his administration had replicated some of the projects in Kirinyaga to improve on healthcare delivery and town infrastructure, with his Wajir counterpart and Deputy Council of Governors Deputy Chair Ahmed Abdullahi noting that Waiguru's transformative agenda and service delivery has exceeded expectations.

"Waiguru has done a lot of work but what has touched me the most is health sector. If I were a resident of Kirinyaga, I would have suggested that Kerugoya Level Five Hospital be renamed Anne Waiguru Hospital, because that will be her legacy in the county" said Idah Odinga amidst cheers from the crowd. She said governor Waiguru has set very high standards and her successor must sustain the same.

Idah's sentiments were echoed by Homabay Governor Gladys Wanga who noted that the maternity wing at the Kerugoya hospital can only match the one at Nairobi hospital. "You have dignified the women of Kirinyaga and you have left a legacy that will live beyond a 100 years" she said.



Governor Ann Waiguru with Mama Idah Odinga during the meeting.

Former Kirinyaga Woman Representative, Wangui Ngirici, said that Waiguru has managed to achieve what the previous governments had not achieved for years and even though she was her close contender in the last general elections, Waiguru has lived to her promise to the people of Kirinyaga. "We all agree that what Waiguru has done can be seen by everyone in this country," she said.

"We must tell it as it is, Governor Waiguru's work is out for all to see. She is a performer and has taught us a lot as far as consistency and service delivery is concerned. We must give her the accolades now," said former Nyeri deputy governor Dr. Caroline Karugu

Governor Waiguru said that among the strategies that the G7 is employing to achieve its goals in having more women elected in leadership involved showcasing the good work that the current women governors are doing.

She said that Kirinyaga has undergone tremendous transformation in all sectors despite its development budget being the sixth bottom with only Ksh. 1.2 billion. She said that the scorecard had been achieved through prudent management and prioritization of the available resources. "When we took over, the county did

not have a Level five hospital, our hospitals had been run down, we did not have an ICU, a HDU, a Cancer Center, a CT scan center or an eye unit. Now we have all these facilities." Said the governor, noting the upgrading of Kerugoya Hospital was a fulfilment of the county's Mountain Cities Blueprint 2032 that designates Kirinyaga Central as the Wellness City. She added that upgrading of Kimbimbi, Kianyaga and Sagana Level 3 hospitals to level 4 facilities is ongoing while the county has also constructed 20 dispensaries.

Waiguru added that her administration has also managed to increase agricultural production by supporting farmers through issuance of farm inputs, value addition equipment as well as enhancing marketing systems. Her administration has also made major investments in roads rehabilitation, laying of cabros in all the major towns and construction of 18 markets to provide farmers with a conducive environment to aggregate and sell their produce.

"We have now partnered with the national government to develop an EPZ at the Sagana Industrial Park which will enable farmers earn more income from value addition and export" she added.

Some of the project which Waiguru

took the delegation to include the upcoming Kimbimbi hospital complex, County Fish Aggregation Center at Kiaga and the Kerugoya Level Five Medical Complex.

The delegation also visited the exhibition at Kianyaga Stadium where innovative projects such as agricultural machinery were displayed. Among them were combined rice harvester, motorized sprayers, motorized weeders and planters, potable fertilizer dispensers. Rice driers, feed mixers, poultry cages and incubators.

Speaker after speaker emphasized that Waiguru's excellent performance that focuses on sustainable growth has positioned her as a leader who prioritizes the needs of her constituents and could bolster her for an election to a higher office come 2027 elections.

Waiguru pledged to continue working towards the achievement of the county's development goals and ensure that every county resident has the opportunity to thrive.

Graduates Advised To Embrace Digital Era

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “I’m aware that you are working very hard to impact health outcomes in the community by offering free diagnostics and treatment. I thank you for this and I encourage you to the scope of this work,” she noted
- The experts being released today in software, computer systems, and the engineers will definitely advance the government’s agenda of the digital economy. In an era of accountability and science-based decision-making in the justice system, we also appreciate the experts that will advance forensic science.
- She affirmed the government’s commitment to supporting universities to deliver on their mission by providing a conducive policy environment to facilitate university operations and relying on research evidence from universities to continuously improve on policies and programs.

Principal Secretary for the State Department for Higher Education and Research, Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, wants fresh graduates to embrace technology as they join their areas of specialization in the industry.

Speaking during 8th graduation ceremony at Kirinyaga University, the PS said the Kirinyaga University motto “innovative technology for a dynamic world” resonates with the realities of our time, expressing confidence that the graduates were adequately prepared to embrace the digital era.

“Joining education, business, health sciences, engineering, all of those are great opportunities in drawing onto technology to uncover infinite possibilities. I commend the university for this focus on science, technology and innovation,” PS said.

The university that received its charter in 2016 has transformed from a small technical institution of less than 200 students to a full-fledged university with more than 13,000 students, 300 staff and over 100 academic programs.

Dr Inyangala further emphasized the role of the University for training our health practitioners which is contributing to the government’s agenda of universal health coverage.

“I’m aware that you are working very hard to impact health outcomes in the community by offering free diagnostics and treatment. I thank you for this and I encourage you to the scope of this work,” she noted

The experts being released today in software, computer systems, and the engineers will definitely advance the government’s agenda of the digital economy. In an era of accountability and science-based decision-making in the justice system, we also appreciate the experts that will advance forensic science.

She affirmed the government’s commitment to supporting universities to deliver on their mission by providing a conducive policy environment to facilitate university operations and relying on research evidence from universities to continuously improve on policies and programs.

The PS added that the government continues to fund universities even in this present constrained physical space. She assured the university, students and parents, that through the new funding model for universities the institution will receive resources as opposed to the past system where it used to increase by just about 5% every year.

“With the current model, we are almost doubling resources to the universities. And this is really what we need to ensure that our students get the quality education that can only be realized if we fund quality input,



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Higher Education and Research, Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala.

if we employ additional staff, if we can improve on your infrastructure. We also recognize that all other inputs into the education space will not produce the desired results if our staff do not organize them to deliver the desired outputs”

She challenged the graduates to seize every opportunity to refine their skills, to upskill, to multi-skill and to broaden their horizons to fit a fast-changing world in the fourth industrial revolution.

“I will add my voice to what has been said before and say, impress curiosity, challenge assumptions and seek out knowledge with an open mind. When called to serve, do so

with diligence, with empathy for the less fortunate in society and with love for those around you”

Kirinyaga University Vice Chancellor, Professor Mary Ndung’u, said the university programs are consciously developed to address and to effectively contribute to the achievement of Kenya Vision 2030 and the Better Agenda of Government, BETA.

The VC said development of high-quality teaching and research programs naturally comes with a requirement for excellent facilities which the university council and management has continued to mobilize resources to ensure students are adequately equipped with innovative

technology and skills.

“It is our hope that the government funding will be enhanced in order to enable Kirinyaga University to realize the roadmap as set out in our strategic plan 2022-2027. We embrace a holistic approach in equipping our students for the workplace including academic, social and ethical skills.”

Professor Ndung’u added to create an enabling environment for the learners, the university has invested in ultra-modern facilities: laboratories, workshop, ICT infrastructure, including high-speed internet, and attendance support services.



Graduates during graduation ceremony at Kirinyaga University

"What People Say"—This Is The Sentence That Has Killed Many Dreams



Our dreams give us a purpose to live and push us forward when the going gets tough; they are what keep us alive at certain points. They make us stronger along the way if we follow them to the end. Dreams demand sacrifices, take us to places we never thought we'd reach, and bring us happiness, satisfaction, and the chance to experiment. They help us build resilience and can even transform who we are.

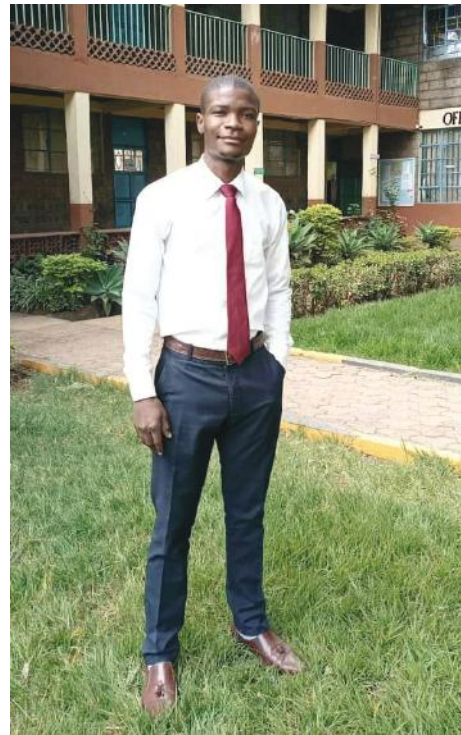
If we quit pursuing our dreams because they don't seem ideal to those around us, or we have doubts, or others call them ridiculous, it's likely we'll be left with nothing but darkness, uncertainty, and regret. You may lose your vision for the future, or have no clear direction, and the regret you feel in later years can be excruciatingly painful.

One of the main reasons we stop chasing our dreams is because we fear what others will think or say. But remember, everyone on this planet has a different worldview, outlook, and opinion on various topics. They criticize you in the beginning but when you make it they put you as an example for their children.

So never give up on your dreams.

Sevinch Nodirova

Evans Asikoyo, the poet



But in the beating of one heart.

Elected not by tribe or creed,
But for the vision of our need.
The future calls with every dawn,
And in your hands, new hope is born.

Oh tribal talks kill,
The future crashes in it.
Tears still fresh, of what transpired in the recent year.
Take us out from the fresh memories.

Your works of care, we celebrate,
The paths you've paved, the walls you break.

In every town, on every land,
We see your mark, your guiding hand.

So, carry forth this noble call,
And lead with justice for us all.
Be kind, be firm, be ever true,
For Kenya's heart beats strong with you.

Mr Deputy remember,
the word of our anthem,
Justice be our shield and defender,
In unity we should dwell.

(Evans Asikoyo, the poet)

O leader bold, with vision clear,
The people's voice, you chose to hear.
From valleys low to mountains high.
In you, Kenya placed its cry

You rise to lead in times of need,
To plant the truth, to grow the seed.
A nation calls for unity,
For peace, for hope, for purpose, for dignity

Tribal lines, we must transcend,
For broken walls, you're here to mend.
For Kenya's strength is not in part,

There Is A Person With A Radiant Face



You are the one who shared without eating or drinking
You are my wealth in my head
My love, my soul and world
My whole existence is you, my father
He will be my father

When I say dad, I mean daddy
Happily flies into the sky
And the moon in the sky
They share it with me
He will be my father

Madaminova Ogiloy
She was born in 2002 in Koshkopir district of Khorezm region. 3rd stage student of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University. His work has been published in the German magazine Raven Cage Zine. She is a poet. Likes to write poetry. She is currently studying English and Turkish. In her free time, she enjoys reading and baking.

Love is embodied in his eyes
A man has many words
He opened his heart to everyone
He will be my father

Calm Breathing



Leaving aside the sorrows of the world,
I want to stay in my fantasy world.
Everyone spits the job, good or bad.
I also want to take a peaceful breath

Sometimes I stop moving,
I want to give everything to God.
God's refuge is there for me,
I also want to take a peaceful breath.

I am looking for justice in the world,
I want to say that.
The feeling of knowing that you are not there,
I want to breathe again...

Bobojonova Guli Kuvandik

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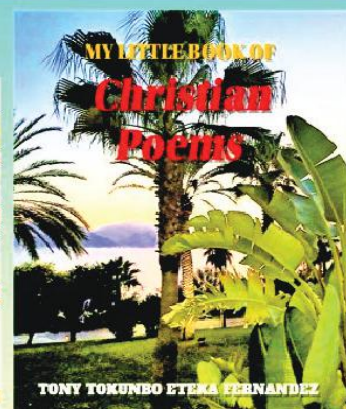
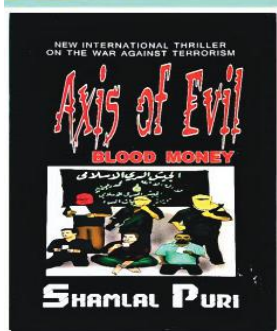
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POLITICS

Respect Kenyans' Decision In 2022 Elections; The Will Of The People Is Supreme

By: DPCS

Worth Noting:

- Urging politicians to refrain from high-octane politics and respect elected leaders, Mr Gachagua highlighted that the “the will of the people is supreme” and should not be overturned through other methods.
- “As we do whatever we are doing in the political space, it is my prayer that we should respect the will of the people. The will of the people is supreme. Elections were done and President and I were elected in the joint ticket for five years; that was the will of the people. Let us not fall into the temptation of overturning the will of the people through other methods because Kenya’s will not be happy for overturning their will,” he said.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders in church

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has urged political leaders to tone down on politics of witch-hunt, respect the will of Kenyans in the 2022 General Election and focus on serving them.

At the same time, Gachagua asked Kenyans to pray for the country, President William Ruto and all leaders to lower down the political temperatures and shift their focus to work.

“Continue praying for the country, Government, the President and all leaders. It is my hope that sanity will prevail and we tone down on politics of division, politics of pulling others down and focus on working for Kenyans because we were elected just two years ago and we are yet to do the work that we were given by Kenyans,” said the DP.

Addressing Christian faithful at Methodist Church in Kenya All Saints Church - Kinoru, Meru County after the Sunday service, the Deputy President called on the politicians to give serve the people with adequate attention and be resolute. The Church was presided over by Kaaga Synod Bishop Nicholas Mutwiri Nteere.

“Let us lower political temperatures

and work together for Kenyans. They elected us with a lot of hope that we will turnaround the situation for the better. They did not elect us to fight, humiliate or pull each other down. That is my prayer,” he stated.

Urging politicians to refrain from high-octane politics and respect elected leaders, Mr Gachagua highlighted that the “the will of the people is supreme” and should not be overturned through other methods.

“As we do whatever we are doing in the political space, it is my prayer that we should respect the will of the people. The will of the people is supreme. Elections were done and President and I were elected in the joint ticket for five years; that was the will of the people. Let us not fall into the temptation of overturning the will of the people through other methods because Kenya’s will not be happy for overturning their will,” he said.

“Let us all agree that the tenets of democracy says that we respect the will of the people because is supreme”.

The Deputy President further stated that he will continue being truthful and asked other leaders to do the same.

“At all times let us we pray God to give us wisdom and courage to be able to do good all the time especially courage to speak the truth. All the political troubles you may see me going through is because of speaking the truth. I did not know many people have a problem with the truth. We will continue standing with the truth because that is what God wants,” he added.

On the fight against illicit brews and drugs abuse, the Deputy President asked the Meru County security team to ensure the menace is eradicated.

“We we doing well on eradication of illicit brews and drugs in Meru because of our children and there have been great success but of late it has started to return. I ask security officers to make sure the gains we have made do not go to waste because it was a big effort,” he said.

He thanked the Meru people for their achievements in the agricultural sector including dairy, tea and coffee industries.

He said the Government will continue with the reforms to sustain it’s plan to boost the rural economy.

“There is a lot of work we have done

here in Meru County and other parts of the country on tea, coffee and dairy sectors. I thank Meru people for being hard working. The Meru Dairy Cooperative Society is the best in Kenya. It produces a lot of milk and pays it’s farmers before fifth day of every months. I invite other societies to emulate the Meru Dairy Cooperative Society,” he said.

The Deputy President was in the company of various leaders including Kiambu Senator Karungo Wa Thang’wa, Murang’a Senator Joe Nyutu, Kirinyaga Woman Njeri Maina, Kangema Mp Peter Kihungi, Juja MP George Koimburi, former Laikipia County Woman Representative Cate Waruguru, MCAs, among others.

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KENYA



The Pyrrhic Victory Of Data Privacy: A Critique Of Compensatory Shortcomings In ODPC Complaint No. 1085 Of 2023



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Data Privacy

Worth Noting:

- The facts of the case are as clear as a cloudless African sky. Ms. Gatambu, a patient at AAR Healthcare's Roysambu clinic, had her confidential medical information shared with a third-party insurance agent without her consent. This unauthorized disclosure led to the unsolicited marketing of insurance products to Ms. Gatambu, a violation of her privacy that cuts as deep as Okot p'Bitek's Song of Lawino cuts into the heart of cultural conflict.

- The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) found AAR Healthcare liable for violating several principles of data protection. The healthcare provider failed to process data lawfully and fairly, violated the purpose limitation principle, and neglected its duty to notify the data subject of her rights.

In their seminal work "Privacy's Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies," Woodrow Hartzog and Neil Richards argue that "privacy law should focus on the power relationships between people and the companies that control their data" (Hartzog & Richards, 2018). This principle lies at the heart of the case between Grace Gatambu and AAR Healthcare Kenya Limited, a decision that, while groundbreaking in its recognition of data privacy rights, falls short in providing meaningful redress to the aggrieved party.

The facts of the case are as clear as a cloudless African sky. Ms. Gatambu, a patient at AAR Healthcare's Roysambu clinic, had her confidential medical information shared with a third-party insurance agent without her consent. This unauthorized disclosure led to the unsolicited marketing of insurance products to Ms. Gatambu, a violation of her privacy that cuts as deep as Okot p'Bitek's Song of Lawino cuts into the heart of cultural conflict.

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) found AAR Healthcare liable for violating several principles of data protection. The healthcare provider failed to process data lawfully and fairly, violated the purpose limitation principle, and neglected its duty to notify the data subject of her rights. Furthermore,

AAR Healthcare did not report the data breach within the stipulated 72-hour window, a lapse as egregious as failing to report a bush fire in the dry season.

The decision rightly acknowledges the violation of Ms. Gatambu's constitutional right to privacy, as enshrined in Article 31(c) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. It also recognizes the infringement of her rights as a data subject under the Data Protection Act, 2019, including her right to be informed, to object to data processing, and to have her data erased. This recognition is a step in the right direction, as solid as the foundations of the Great Zimbabwe ruins.

However, the decision's failure to award compensation to Ms. Gatambu is a glaring omission that threatens to render the entire judgment a Pyrrhic victory. As the Swahili proverb goes, "Haba na haba hujaza kibaba" (Little by little fills the measure), but in this case, the measure of justice remains woefully empty. The lack of monetary compensation fails to acknowledge the tangible and intangible harms suffered by Ms. Gatambu, including potential emotional distress and loss of control over her personal information.

The ODPC's decision to issue only an Enforcement Notice to AAR Healthcare, without any punitive measures or compensatory awards, is

akin to slapping a lion with a feather. It fails to create a strong deterrent effect that would compel data controllers and processors to take their obligations seriously. As Chinua Achebe might say, "When we gather together in the moonlit village ground it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so." Similarly, the enforcement of data protection laws should bring together the interests of individuals and organizations, creating a harmonious balance that respects privacy rights.

Moreover, the decision's silence on compensation overlooks the broader implications of data privacy violations in the digital age. In an era where personal data is often referred to as "the new oil," the unauthorized sharing of sensitive medical information can have far-reaching consequences beyond immediate privacy concerns. It can affect an individual's insurability, employability, and social standing. By not addressing these potential ramifications through compensatory measures, the decision fails to fully grasp the gravity of modern data privacy breaches.

The ODPC's approach also misses an opportunity to set a precedent for robust enforcement of data protection laws in Kenya. As the country positions itself as a tech hub in Africa,

known colloquially as the "Silicon Savannah," it is crucial to establish a legal framework that not only protects individual privacy rights but also provides meaningful remedies when those rights are violated. The lack of compensation in this case sends a troubling message that violations of data privacy, while recognized, are not treated with the seriousness they deserve.

In conclusion, while the ODPC's decision marks a significant milestone in recognizing data privacy rights in Kenya, its failure to award compensation to Ms. Gatambu is a shortcoming that cannot be overlooked. It is reminiscent of the hollow victory described in Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's "A Grain of Wheat," where the achievement of independence is marred by unresolved issues. For Kenya's data protection regime to truly serve its purpose, it must evolve to include robust compensatory mechanisms that provide tangible redress to individuals whose privacy rights have been violated. Only then can we say, in the words of Ayi Kwei Armah, that "the beautiful ones are [truly] born" in the realm of data privacy protection.

The Writer is a lawyer and legal researcher.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kericho Governor's Impeachment Saga: A Test Of Accountability And Leadership

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The recent developments surrounding Kericho Governor Eric Mutai's impending impeachment have once again shaken the political landscape in Kenya. The motion, spearheaded by Sigowet MCA Kiprotich Rogony and supported by a significant majority of the County Assembly, accuses Mutai of serious misconduct, including the misappropriation of funds intended for victims of the Londiani tragedy and gross violations of both national and county laws. As the governor pleads for mercy, this situation raises critical questions about accountability, governance, and the political dynamics at play in Kericho County.

Governor Mutai's emotional appeal to the MCAs during a recent funeral service highlights the gravity of his predicament. In a rare moment of vulnerability, he implored the assembly members to reconsider their decision, reminding them of his contributions to their political careers and invoking his role as a father. This display of emotion is significant in a political culture often characterized by bravado and detachment. It underscores the human element in governance, where leaders are not just figures of authority but individuals with families and personal stakes in their roles.

The allegations against Mutai are serious and multifaceted. They include claims of mismanagement of funds intended for disaster relief, illegal tender awards, and creating a hostile work environment for county officials. The accusations paint a picture of a leader who has not only failed to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability but has also allegedly enriched himself at the expense of public trust. Such allegations are not merely personal attacks; they reflect broader systemic issues within Kenya's gov-

ernance framework, where corruption and mismanagement frequently undermine public confidence in elected officials.

The support for the impeachment motion—37 out of 47 MCAs—indicates a significant loss of confidence in Mutai's leadership. This level of dissent among assembly members suggests that his administration may have alienated key political allies, exacerbating an already precarious situation. The underlying tensions between Mutai and his deputy further complicate matters, revealing fractures within the leadership that could have contributed to the current crisis. The fallout from these internal conflicts not only jeopardizes Mutai's position but also raises concerns about effective governance in Kericho County.

As the assembly prepares for a hearing on October 2, it is essential to consider the implications of this impeachment motion beyond Mutai's fate. Should he be removed from office, it would set a precedent for how similar cases are handled in the future. The outcome could embolden other MCAs to pursue impeachment motions against governors who fail to meet their expectations or adhere to ethical standards. Conversely, if Mutai successfully defends himself against these allegations, it may reinforce perceptions of impunity among political leaders, further eroding public trust in governance.

The situation also reflects broader societal issues regarding accountability and transparency in Kenyan politics. Citizens are increasingly demanding that their leaders be held accountable for their actions, particularly when public resources are involved. The public outcry surrounding this case demonstrates a growing awareness among constituents about the importance of ethical leadership and responsible governance. As such, this impeachment



Kericho Governor Eric Mutai.

motion could serve as a litmus test for how seriously Kenya's political institutions take these demands.

Moreover, Governor Mutai's plea for compassion resonates with many Kenyans who recognize that leadership is fraught with challenges and mistakes are inevitable. His call for understanding reflects a desire for a more empathetic political culture—one that acknowledges human fallibility while holding leaders accountable for their actions. This perspective is crucial as Kenya navigates its complex political landscape, where power struggles often overshadow substantive governance.

In conclusion, the impending im-

peachment motion against Governor Eric Mutai is not merely an isolated incident; it encapsulates broader themes of accountability, leadership challenges, and political dynamics within Kenya. As he faces this critical juncture in his career, it remains to be seen whether he can effectively counter these serious allegations and restore confidence among his supporters and constituents. Regardless of the outcome, this situation serves as a reminder that effective governance requires not only adherence to legal frameworks but also a commitment to ethical leadership that prioritizes public trust above personal ambition.

The title "Kericho Governor's Im-

peachment Saga: A Test of Accountability and Leadership" effectively captures the essence of this complex situation. It highlights the gravity of the allegations against Mutai, the political dynamics at play, and the broader implications for governance in Kenya. The title also suggests that this impeachment motion is more than just a personal battle for Mutai; it is a test of the country's commitment to holding its leaders accountable and promoting ethical leadership.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Breaking Barriers At Katito Polytechnic: Youth Empowerment Through Health And Awareness

By: **Carolove Oyola**

For 21-year-old Janet Atieno, a student at Katito Vocational Training Centre, the issues of HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, and gender-based violence hit close to home. She's witnessed her friends drop out of school due to early pregnancies, and others face stigma because of HIV. But to-

day, she stands hopeful, part of a transformative event that is challenging these very issues head-on.

At yesterday's outreach, Health and Economic Development Strategy Organisation (HEDSO) has provided vital services such as free HIV testing, counseling, and awareness campaigns addressing teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence. For Jan-

et, this isn't just another awareness talk—it's an opportunity for change. "In the past, we only heard about these issues, but today we're receiving the help we need," she says. "It's empowering to know that we can take control of our health and our futures."

As part of the event, Janet and her peers participated in interactive

games, which acted as both an ice-breaker and a way to foster unity. "The games made it easier to talk to people we didn't know. It helped us open up about serious issues in a fun and relaxed way," she notes.

Janet is just one of many students benefiting from the initiative. The turnout has been impressive, with young people from all over Katito

coming together to learn, engage, and act. Through these efforts, HEDSO is building a generation of empowered youth who are ready to tackle the triple threat of HIV, teenage pregnancy, and gender-based violence with confidence and knowledge.

The Illusion Of Wisdom: The Tragic Stupidity Of Voters



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Voters are often lured by charismatic politicians who manipulate their emotions. One common tactic is the use of sympathetic terms, such as when Silvanus Osoro used the word “entakana,” a Kisii word meaning orphan, to invoke pity. Politicians like Osoro tap into voters’ sense of compassion, making themselves appear as underdogs, fighting for justice for the downtrodden.
- Another irrational element that drives voter stupidity is tribalism. Despite Kenya’s progress, tribal alliances remain strong, and politicians skillfully use this to their advantage. It is astonishing to think that in the 21st century, a voter would choose their candidate based on tribal affiliation rather than competence. Yet, this remains a reality in Kenyan politics. The reasoning behind it is deeply rooted in the fear of “the other,” a fear politician’s fuel to divide and rule.



Kenyan Voters.

“There is no worse fool than the man who thinks he knows what he does not.” This old saying aptly describes the state of many voters across Kenya, and indeed the world. In every election, we witness men and women, educated and uneducated, marching confidently to the ballot box, convinced they are making informed decisions about their future. They trust their chosen candidates to be their saviors, to deliver on promises that often sound too good to be true. But how often are these voters aware that they are, in fact, pawns in a grand political game?

Politics, they say, is the art of deception. It’s about making empty promises, offering quick fixes, and providing just enough sympathy to gain public favor. Kenyan voters, like many others globally, fall victim to this deception. They allow politicians to exploit their ignorance and insecurities, promising miracles where only hard work and integrity could produce real change. And yet, election after election, they repeat the same mistake—voting for individuals who appeal to their emotions rather than their reason. Let us now examine this phenomenon in more detail.

The Emotional Trap

Voters are often lured by charismatic politicians who manipulate their emotions. One common tactic is the use of sympathetic terms, such as when Silvanus Osoro used the word

“entakana,” a Kisii word meaning orphan, to invoke pity. Politicians like Osoro tap into voters’ sense of compassion, making themselves appear as underdogs, fighting for justice for the downtrodden. It’s an effective strategy, especially in communities where historical injustices still haunt the collective memory. The sympathy vote is dangerous, for it blinds people to the actual capacity of the candidate to lead.

In reality, how often do we see these politicians living up to their emotional promises? They speak of unity and justice before elections but immediately forget the voters who put them in power once the votes are counted. As a Kenyan proverb says, “The path to power is long and winding, but the destination is often betrayal.” Once elected, many of these individuals enrich themselves and perpetuate corruption, leaving the very voters who believed in them poorer and more disillusioned.

The Tribe Factor

Another irrational element that drives voter stupidity is tribalism. Despite Kenya’s progress, tribal alliances remain strong, and politicians skillfully use this to their advantage. It is astonishing to think that in the 21st century, a voter would choose their candidate based on tribal affiliation rather than competence. Yet, this remains a reality in Kenyan politics. The reasoning behind it is deeply rooted in the fear of “the other,” a fear politician’s fuel to divide

and rule.

Political leaders will gather voters and make them feel that electing someone from a different tribe is akin to inviting an enemy into the family. The strategy is clear: divide the population so that they never unite against the real oppressor—the incompetent and corrupt politician. The result? Voters elect leaders not based on their track record or vision for the future, but purely out of fear of losing tribal supremacy. The Swahili proverb “Mjinga hujua mtu kwa sura, mwenye hekima hujua mtu kwa tabia,” meaning “A fool knows a person by their face; a wise person knows them by their character,” holds true in this context. Tribal loyalty leads to a failure to scrutinize character, which is where real leadership is born.

Empty Promises and Public Amnesia

Let’s talk about promises—big, bold promises that never come to pass. Every election cycle, politicians dangle carrots in front of voters, promising everything from free education to free healthcare, new roads, and jobs for everyone. They claim to have solutions to all of the nation’s problems, painting a picture of an impending utopia. Yet, once in power, many of them become unreachable, disconnected from the very people who elected them.

This happens not because these leaders suddenly forget their promises, but because they never intend-

ed to keep them in the first place. They were aware that voters would fall for these empty words, just as they have done time and time again. Why? Because voters are too often blinded by short-term thinking, failing to question how these promises would realistically be achieved. A wise person questions the how and why of promises, but too many voters prefer to bask in the fantasy of a bright future, however unrealistic. As another African proverb goes, “Promises are like clouds; they disappear when the wind blows.”

Public amnesia is another tragedy in this cycle. Politicians who have failed to deliver are somehow re-elected by the same voters who suffered under their previous terms. Corrupt officials who have been exposed, or who are embroiled in scandals, still manage to garner massive support. How can this be explained other than as a deliberate act of forgetfulness on the part of the voters? It seems as though people are content to forget the past as long as new promises are made.

The Power of Slogans

Politicians also rely heavily on catchy slogans to appeal to the masses. A simple phrase like “Tuko Pamoja” or “Uchumi Bora” can galvanize support, even when there is no clear strategy behind it. Voters hear these slogans repeated over and over, creating an illusion that the candidate has a well-thought-out plan. These slogans are like the seasoning in a meal—they add flavor without substance. A Kikuyu proverb fittingly states, “Mti wenye kivuli haufai kula matunda yake,” meaning, “A tree that provides shade is not always the best for its fruit.” Slogans provide shade, but they rarely deliver the promised fruit.

In the end, voters get caught up in the excitement of the election season. They attend rallies, chant slogans, and enjoy the drama that comes with politics, often forgetting that this is their future they are playing with. By the time the reality sets in—that their chosen leaders are not delivering—it is often too late, and they are forced to wait until the next election to repeat the same mistakes.

The Role of Media and Misinformation

Voters’ stupidity is also exacerbated by the media, which often acts as an

The Launch Of ASEZ: New Era For Kenya's Economic Growth

By: MKT Correspondent

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In a vibrant ceremony filled with anticipation, the Association of Special Economic Zones (ASEZ) was officially launched, heralding a new chapter for Kenya's industrial landscape.

The establishment of ASEZ brings together a coalition of SEZ developers, operators, investors, and service providers, all united by a shared vision: to transform Kenya into a leading destination for local and foreign investment.

Among the prominent SEZs are Tatu City and Konza Technopolis, sprawling across 5,000 acres, offering favourable economic regulations such as tax incentives and lower tariffs. These zones are designed to stimulate positive economic growth and create jobs, serving as the backbone of the nation's industrial ambitions.

Principal Secretary, State Depart-

ment for Investment Promotion, Abubakar Hassan Abubakar, emphasized during his address the critical role SEZs play in the government's economic strategy.

"They are champions of Kenya's journey towards becoming a globally competitive investment hub," he declared, reinforcing President Ruto's vision for a thriving, industrialised nation.

Dr. David Langat, Chairman of ASEZ, echoed this sentiment, spotlighting the manufacturing sector's potential.

He stated, "Manufacturing within SEZs has a ripple effect across the economy, creating jobs for our youth and positioning Kenya as a regional powerhouse." This commitment to strengthening the manufacturing sector promises long-term, sustainable growth.

Solomon Mahinda, Vice Chairman of Tatu City, highlighted the importance of a unified voice for SEZ stakeholders, advocating for policies that will maximise the zones' potential.



The event attracted industry leaders like Dr. Kenneth Chelule and Madam Florence Were, who underscored the importance of ASEZ in shaping the future of Kenya's economic zones.

As ASEZ embarks on its mission, it pledges to focus on advocacy, networking, and capacity building,

connecting developers and investors with global partners.

Members will benefit from favourable investment support and collaboration with government entities, enhancing their ability to navigate the SEZ landscape.

With numerous enterprises eager

to join, ASEZ signifies widespread support for the vision of a prosperous Kenya, where Special Economic Zones flourish, driving job creation and economic vitality.

The Illusion Of Wisdom: The Tragic Stupidity Of Voters

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accomplice in spreading misinformation and sensationalism. During election periods, news outlets and social media platforms focus on controversies, gaffes, and personality clashes, rather than substantive issues. They give airtime to politicians who are adept at spinning stories, while failing to hold them accountable for their actual performance.

In Kenya, radio shows and social media are especially notorious for fueling political misinformation. Through memes, manipulated videos, and biased reporting, voters are fed a diet of half-truths and outright lies. Politicians are quick to exploit this, spreading false narratives to smear opponents or inflate their own achievements. Voters, in turn, do little to verify what they hear, often taking this information at face value. As the Kikuyu proverb goes, "Uongo una miguu mirefu lakini ukweli unatembea polepole," which means

"Lies have long legs, but the truth walks slowly." In the fast-paced environment of election season, lies often win the race.

Breaking the Cycle

Is there a way out of this cycle of stupidity? The answer is education and civic engagement. Voters must be encouraged to think critically, to question their leaders, and to scrutinize political promises. Civic education programs that teach people about their rights, the role of government, and how to hold leaders accountable can go a long way in breaking this cycle.

Moreover, voters must reject the politics of tribalism and emotional manipulation. They must demand transparency and integrity from their leaders and refuse to be swayed by empty rhetoric. The Swahili proverb, "Kidole kimoja hakiwezi kuponda chawa," meaning "One finger cannot kill a louse," reminds us that change requires collective action. If voters unite in demanding real accountability, they can dismantle the system that has kept them in



Kenyan Voters

ignorance for so long. The stupidity of voters is not inevitable. It is a result of manipulation, ignorance, and emotional decision-making. By fostering a culture of critical thinking and active citizenship, we can help voters see through the deception that

has held them captive for so long. Until then, the proverb "Samaki mkunje angali mbichi," meaning "Bend a fish while it is still fresh," applies—voters must change their ways early, before they are hardened by bad choices.

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

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Sports >> *Kenya's 800m sensation has earned a mouth-watering move to the United States of America after securing a prestigious scholarship at the University of Oregon months after his successful debut at the 2024 Paris Olympics in France.

From The Rural Village Of Kajiado To The World.

Koitatoi Kidali Earns A Scholarship To The University Of Oregon



Koitatoi Kidali

Kenya's 800m sensation has earned a mouth-watering move to the United States of America after securing a prestigious scholarship at the University of Oregon months after his successful debut at the 2024 Paris Olympics in France.

The 22 year old who left the country on Thursday night was full of praise for his coach and athletics consultant Sylvester Nakeel for playing an integral role in his journey that has seen him encounter numerous challenges in his pursuit of athletics and professional glory.

"Without coach Nakeel's mentorship, I wouldn't have reached this level. He believed in me when others didn't, and I'm proud to carry his lessons forward. He has been more than just a coach to me; besides progressive counselling, he has been a motivator, and a constant source of support," the ever smiling Kidali shared, reflecting on his journey and the future ahead.

"Getting the scholarship to Oregon was a dream come true. It will open so many doors not only for me but also my community and the rest of Kenya's athletics fraternity. I know for sure I wouldn't have gotten there without the foundation that my senior brother Nakeel laid for me. He taught me the value of perseverance and resilience," he added.

The budding athlete made first time appearance at the Olympics stage which was a great redemption for him having missed to represent Kenya at the World U-20 Championship in 2022 in Cali, Colombia despite finishing second in the trials.

Kidali who was introduced to the game by his late father and former 400m runner Likiok in 2012 while still in primary school despite a good showing in France while competing against the heavyweights including compatriot and eventual Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi alongside Canadian marvel Mar-

co Arop was eliminated at the repechage round finishing sixth.

"I thank God for the opportunity to compete at the Paris Olympics. I am satisfied with what I managed to achieve considering it was my first time as an Olympian. It is something for which I worked hard for. Stepping onto that Olympic track was surreal, it was something I had dreamed of for years, and to be finally there knowing all the hard work had paid off, was an unforgettable moment," noted Kidali who was Born in Namanga, Kajiado County.

His coach Nakeel on the other part urged the athlete to consistently maintain high level of hardwork and discipline in realisation of his athletic goals and achievements

"It has been an honor and a privilege to coach you and witness your journey from a promising athlete to the remarkable individual you are today. Your hard work, determination, and

unbreakable spirit have set you apart and opened the doors to this exciting opportunity at Oregon University. As you head to the USA, remember that this is just the beginning of a new chapter in your story. Stay focused, remain humble, and never forget the values and discipline that have brought you this far. Challenges will come, but I know you have the strength to overcome them. Trust yourself and your abilities, just as I have always trusted in you." read part of his statement

Kidali's journey to the International podium was not without its obstacles. Training in harsh conditions and balancing school-work with his sporting career was challenging, but he remained focused, spurred on by the belief that he could achieve greatness. His hard work has finally paid off when he earned a scholarship to the University of Oregon, one of the top institutions in the world for track and field.

The pinnacle of his young career came when he was selected to represent Kenya at the 2024 Olympics. Despite the pressure of competing on the big stage, Kidali remained composed, delivering an impressive performance.

USA has been a temporary home for several Kenyan athletes on the scholarship capacity. The 2022 New York City Marathon champion Sharon Lokedi graduated in 2019 after joining University of Kansas in 2015 to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Business Logistics and Supply Chain.

Others are 1500m specialist Susan Ejore who was at both Monroe College and Oregon State University for a degree study in Psychology. The 28-year-old 3000m participant Edwin Kurgat was at the Boston University.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *FIFA has confirmed the 12 stadiums in the United States that will stage matches at the new FIFA Club World Cup 2025™ when the 32 best clubs in the world play for the only official title of FIFA Club World Champions.

FIFA Confirms 12 Stadiums For Club World Cup



NEW YORK, UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 28: A general view during the Global Citizen Festival 2024 & FIFA Club World Cup (FCWC25) venue announcement in Central Park on September 28, 2024 in New York, United States. (Photo by Adam Hunger - FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images)

FIFA has confirmed the 12 stadiums in the United States that will stage matches at the new FIFA Club World Cup 2025™ when the 32 best clubs in the world play for the only official title of FIFA Club World Champions.

The tournament kicks off on Sunday, 15 June 2025, with all roads leading to the MetLife Stadium in New York New Jersey on Sunday, 13 July 2025 where the FIFA Club World Cup 2025™ final will be played, just over a year before the venue stages the FIFA World Cup 26™ final.

This venue is joined by 11 more – Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Atlanta), Bank of America Stadium (Charlotte), TQL Stadium (Cincinnati), Rose Bowl Stadium (Los Angeles), Hard Rock Stadium (Miami), GEODIS Park (Nashville), Camping World Stadium (Orlando), Inter&Co Stadium

(Orlando), Lincoln Financial Field (Philadelphia), Lumen Field (Seattle), and Audi Field (Washington, D.C.).

“Football is the most popular sport on the planet, and in 2025 a new era for club football will kick off when FIFA stages the greatest, most inclusive and merit-based global club competition right here in the United States,” said FIFA President Gianni Infantino, who made the announcement at the Global Citizen Festival in Central Park, New York while simultaneously announcing FIFA’s new four-year partnership with Global Citizen to mobilise football fans globally to help end extreme poverty and provide access to education for millions of children.

“The FIFA Club World Cup 2025 will feature 12 fantastic stadiums where a new chapter in football’s global history will be written by

great players from the 32 best clubs in the world,” Mr Infantino continued. “This new FIFA competition is the only true example in worldwide club football of real solidarity and inclusivity, allowing the best clubs from Africa, Asia, Central and North America and Oceania to play the powerhouses of Europe and South America in an incredible new World Cup which will impact enormously the growth of club football and talent globally.

“This is about opportunity and hope for those who need it most, and also about prestige and true football for those who make our sport shine. My thanks go to all. We never discriminate; we include everyone. This is the true spirit of the brand new FIFA Club World Cup.

“It has been an honour to make this significant tournament an-

nouncement before an enormous, energetic crowd at the Global Citizen Festival here in New York. The fans of the 32 competing clubs will create a similar buzz at the FIFA Club World Cup next year when we take it to the world,” the FIFA President concluded.

With the draw set for December, just two of the 32 teams are yet to be confirmed: one from South America, the other representing the host country. Further information regarding the draw, which will see the 32 best clubs in the world divided into eight exciting groups of four, will be released in due course. The tournament match schedule will be published shortly after the draw.

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Poetry As A Universal Tonic And Borders Of The Heart': Transnational Poets And Their Universal Echoes



By: Muhammad Adnan Gujjar
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Homer, the first renowned epic poet, artistically unfolds the suffering of human beings. His legendary epic, *The Odyssey*, reflects the vulnerability of the world-famous hero, Odysseus of Ithaca—a man of action and crises.
- His sufferings are similar to those of Derek Walcott's hero in *Omeros*. Walcott, a legendary poet from St. Lucia, vividly portrays the lives of the people of the Caribbean islands and their struggles. These sufferings, like those of Odysseus, are internal as well as external. Both poets use the medium of poetry to convey the inner turmoil and challenges they experience in their lives.

"Poetry is a universal tonic"—this becomes clear when we observe poets from diverse cultural backgrounds. Their core themes are inherently universal, reflecting what they perceive in their surroundings. These themes are often shared across different cultures.

I believe poetry is the language of the heart, and its artistic value can be measured by its sensitivity and sharpness. It's a language of the senses, as even the deaf can dance to its rhythm and the mute can feel its beat and warmth. Poetry encapsulates emotionality, critical insight, and poetic expression so profoundly that it is rightfully called a universal tonic. Great poets such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Tagore, Basho, Pushkin, W.B. Yeats, Homer, Dante, Jalal Uddin Rumi, Lorca, Pablo Neruda, Seamus Heaney, Muhammad Iqbal, Virgil, Whitman, Hughes, Pessoa, Agha Shahid Ali, and Derek Walcott all sing of mixed emotions and universal griefs. Their poetry is filled with human suffering, sadness, loss, fear, horror, terror, and the many forms of grief they perceive and portray in their poetic language.

Homer, the first renowned epic poet, artistically unfolds the suffering of human beings. His legendary epic, *The Odyssey*, reflects the vulnerability of the world-famous hero, Odysseus of Ithaca—a man of action and crises.

His sufferings are similar to those of Derek Walcott's hero in *Omeros*. Walcott, a legendary poet from St. Lucia, vividly portrays the lives of the people of the Caribbean islands and their struggles. These sufferings, like those of Odysseus, are internal as well as external. Both poets use the medium of poetry to convey the inner turmoil and challenges they experience in their lives.

In addition, Waris Shah, another legend of the subcontinent, also shares themes of grief and sadness. His heroine, Heer—often referred to by Amrita Pritam in her famous poem, where she says, "Today, I call Waris Shah, speak from inside your grave," and urges him to "turn the next affectionate page in the book of love"—is the beauty of East and West Punjab. Heer is quite similar to Penelope, the beloved of Odysseus. Both women wait, but their waiting is filled with pathos, loss, and trauma. They live in memories and hope for happier times. Their emotions are

strikingly similar. Waris Shah, often referred to as the Shakespeare of the Punjabi language, soulfully captures Heer's complex emotional character, just as Homer portrays the heartbroken Penelope. Both heroines share similar emotional depths.

Here, it's the tonic of poetry that beautifully bridges these characters from different cultures and backgrounds. It's evident that Homer, Derek Walcott, Usman Ali, and Waris Shah use poetry as a medium to express the full spectrum of human emotions. Their poetic styles are unique, yet they resonate with a shared understanding of the human condition. They read and reach into the human heart with artistic precision. These poets belong to different times and places, yet their focus is on humanity. They are artists who paint the human experience with their words.

This clearly reveals that poetry is a universal tonic. Its universality is vivid and transparent—so clear that one can see it with the naked eye.

Moreover, Pablo Neruda also highlights thirst and quest of human. He is one of the popular in contemporary generation.

You start dying slowly,
if you do not travel,

if you do not read,
If you do not listen to the sounds of life,

If you do not appreciate yourself.
You start dying slowly.

When you kill your self-esteem.
When you do not let others help you.

You start dying slowly.
If you become a slave of your habits,

Walking everyday on the same paths...

If you do not change your routine,
If you do not wear different colors
Or you do not speak to those you don't know.

You start dying slowly
If you avoid to feel passion
And their turbulent emotions;
Those which make your eyes glisten
And your heart beat fast.

You start dying slowly
If you do not change your life when you are not satisfied with your job, or with your love,

If you do not risk what is safe for the uncertain,

If you do not go after a dream,
If you do not allow yourself,
At least once in your lifetime,

To run away from sensible advice...

This piece of poetry is filled with a universal theme. It's not just for the Chilean people; it's for all ages, speaking to all races and tribes of humanity. Its setting and tone resonate with everyone. As it speaks to "you," the "you" represents all people, but it also reflects something deeper—it highlights the innermost part of yourself. It crosses borders, it rises above oceans. Though universal, it's an ongoing rehearsal of life, where you start to die slowly, a slowness shared by people of every generation.

I am deeply impressed by the message and didacticism of Neruda. He engages all of humanity with simplicity and encouragement. His style and delivery are fluent and deeply touching. He speaks like a persuasive orator, and his words flow into the oratories of the heart. His aura captivates the senses, as the very beginning of his work is so impactful.

These are million-dollar lines. These lines speak to you, but we can only understand them if we are truly alive. Most of us are living dead bodies. We eat, drink, walk, and talk, but inwardly, we are fickle, hollow, and shallow. We breathe, but we don't truly breathe. We walk, but we are dragged by various commotions. We are like T.S. Eliot's hollow men. We resemble Athena's words to Odysseus: "These mortals understand so little." If we can grasp even a little, it is enough.

Pablo Neruda, too, chooses the language of the heart, the language of beats, the language of heat, and the language of Keats. Poetry's lounge is shared by all poets. It transcends race, religion, ethnicity, and cultural shackles. Sometimes, I think of it as a bridge that connects different islands, a sturdy tree that provides shade in the hectic summer, or a warm sun in the cold winter. It is a garden where all poetic minds gather to cherish their wit.

It's quite clear that "poetry is a universal tonic," prescribed by all physicians of the mind and heart. It juxtaposes black and white, as we see how diverse, transcultural poets' express human emotion beyond boundaries and across seas. As I express in one of my poems, I regard my continent as borderless. It is universally acknowledged that man is free and cannot be confined by ideological or rational boundaries. My poem con-

cludes with the thesis that poetry is a universal tonic. As a transnational poet, I aspire to this vision:

A Vision of Borderless Asia

I wish Indians to peep into Lahore,
I wish Pakistanis to sleep in Amritsar,

I wish Lankans to visit Karachi through Bombay,

I wish Bengalis to ring bells in Chennai;

I wish East Punjab and West Punjab to be just Punjab,

I wish the mingling of Ganga and Chenab,

I wish Delhi and Lahore as twins,
Threading their hearts with a common pin;

I wish for the land to be like Europe,
Where you wander like an unidentified troop,

I wish for the commoners before the partition,

Not facing a divisional commission;
I wish for the bright face of the Asian economy;

Where laymen enjoy autonomy,
I wish for love as the remedy,

And mercy and peace as policy;
I wish for the richness of Pakistani-

ness
I wish to be valued as Indianness,

I wish for Lankans to beat around the continent,

And for Bengali rice and fish to be permanent;

I wish to cherish the echoes in vegetable markets,

I wish to relish the laughter of old folks in the streets,

I wish for commoners to sing the songs of joy,

I wish for teenagers to play with nostalgic toys;

I wish for the integrity of Asians around the globe,

Standing tall and still in colorful robe,

I wish for humanity to be its religion
And, I wish for the gravity of all regions.

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