



The Unraveling Promise: A Critical Examination Of Kenya's Social Health Authority Scheme

In his seminal work "Things Fall Apart," Chinua Achebe wrote, "The white man is very clever. He came quietly and peaceably with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers, and our clan can no longer act like one."

Page 18

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US

For any news you would wish us to publish, email us: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

For Adverts & Sponsorship

email us: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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

Monday, October 7, 2024

No. 01147 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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



News>> Dr. Kinity: Impeachment Shouldn't Obscure The Real Challenges Facing Kenyans

P. 8. The ongoing political crisis in the country has laid bare the failures of the current administration, with many calling into question the priorities of the political leaders and other duty bearers.



News>> The Hidden Legal Maze: What Kenyans Constitution Says About Impeaching A Deputy President

P. 12. Kenya is on the brink of a constitutional test as its Parliament and Citizens embark on the impeachment of the Deputy President.

Forgive Me

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday sought forgiveness from the President, Members Of Parliament, Leaders and Kenyans From Any wrongdoings He Could Have Committed Since Assuming Office As The Second Most Senior Political Leader In The Country



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing faithful yesterday

STORY ON PAGE 9

KETEPA PRIDE
SPICED BLACK TEA

Cinnamon
A spicy delight

Cardamom
Spice of life

Masala Tea
Blend of delicious spices

Ginger Tea
A zesty and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Machakos County Government Visits Kirinyaga For Healthcare Service Delivery Benchmarking

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

A delegation from Machakos County Government visited Kirinyaga County for a benchmarking tour on healthcare service delivery.

The visit by a team comprised of senior officers from Machakos department of Health and Medical Services came a week after Governor Wavinya Ndeti, alongside other governors, toured Kerugoya Medical Complex during the G7 Kirinyaga Chapter Activation.

Wavinya had said that she was committed to leveraging successful healthcare model from Kirinyaga County to foster health system improvement for the benefit of Machakos residents.

“I shall also built a public hospital that has the same standards as some of our biggest private hospitals. I am going to send a team here to learn one or two things from Kirinyaga,” she said.

Led by the acting County Executive Committee for Health, Justus Kasivo, the Machakos team visited various departments at the state-of-the-art medical facility that was opened last year.

“Our visit comes as result of the impression that our governor got when she visited the county last week. We are here to learn and pick some of the best practices that we can replicate in our county in order to improve on the services we are offering to our people.” said the CEC.

The county’s Chief Officer of Health Facilities and Infrastructure, Rashid Kara, noted that Kirinyaga has significantly improved on its healthcare service delivery and infrastructure hence making it an ideal destination for benchmarking. “We also wanted to understand on matters concerning revenue collection and we have picked great ideas that we will implement back at home” said Rashid. The team was also interested in Kirinyaga’s digitized healthcare management system, which has streamlined operations and improved patient care efficiency.

Kirinyaga County is among the counties leading in the journey towards the achievement of Universal Healthcare and has been lauded for its innovative approaches to healthcare which include the Hospital Management Integrated System



Governors Anne Waiguru-Kirinyaga, Wavinya Ndeti-Machakos, Fatuma Achani-Kwale and Gladys Wanga-Homabay, unveil a commemoration plaque during a visit at Kerugoya Level Five medical complex during the recent G7 Kirinyaga County Activation..

which ensures accountability, monitoring and evaluation of the healthcare system.

Speaking during the visit, the Kirinyaga Chief Officer of Medical Services, Dr. Mureithi Nyaga said that the County Government was pleased to host the delegation from Machakos County and share insights that can help the delegation in improving their healthcare systems.

“Since the official opening of the Kerugoya Complex, we have seen a huge increase in the patients we see daily, recording up to 600 patients in the outpatient department,” said Dr. Mureithi.

Since the opening of the Kerugoya Medical Complex, delegations from various counties have been visiting the facility with the aim of borrowing some of the best practices to implement in their counties.



Machakos County Ag. CEC for Health Justus Kasivo (Left) and Kirinyaga Chief Officer of Health, Dr. Muriithi Nyaga (Right) and other county government officials during a benchmarking tour to Kerugoya Level Fiver Hospital.

Worth Noting:

- Led by the acting County Executive Committee for Health, Justus Kasivo, the Machakos team visited various departments at the state-of-the-art medical facility that was opened last year.
- “Our visit comes as result of the impression that our governor got when she visited the county last week. We are here to learn and pick some of the best practices that we can replicate in our county in order to improve on the services we are offering to our people.” said the CEC.

The Mt. Kenya Times

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

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

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

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

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

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

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

NEWS IN BRIEF



The Country Director of the Turing Trust Organisation Koome Kiragu has urged schools to fully embrace digital learning. Kiragu underscored the importance of leveraging on technological resources in schools, to equip students with the necessary skills to tackle modern education challenges and prepare them for the future. “The computer centres in your schools don’t just belong to the institution; they belong to you,” he noted, encouraging teachers and students to explore new ideas with the available technology. He emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge, stating, “One of the virtues we must learn is giving and we should be ready to share what we know with others.” Speaking during the conclusion of a three-day accelerated digital literacy training programme for teachers at a Nairobi hotel, the Director highlighted the transformative impact of the initiative, saying it has equipped educators with essential digital skills to enhance their teaching capabilities.



Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Wisley Rotich has underscored the urgent need for mental health awareness across the board. The governor observed that mental health has long been neglected and called for increased efforts to reduce stigma and promote access to healthcare. He was speaking during a youth mental health drive at Kapcherop primary grounds in Marakwet West Sub-County Saturday. “Mental health often goes unnoticed and has been neglected over the years. Creating awareness and reaching out to those affected will go a long way in reducing stigma and promoting access to healthcare services,” Governor Rotich said. He emphasized that such initiatives were vital in addressing the challenges faced by many, particularly the youth, in seeking help for mental health issues. The event was organized by Unireproc, a local organization founded by Velicient Jebet.

In a move aimed at boosting the war against corruption, Chief Justice Martha Koome has appointed 100 Magistrates to oversee graft and economic crimes.

In a gazette notice dated October 4th, CJ Koome said the magistrates will continue serving in their current court stations.

She said the move is part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the judicial capacity to handle cases related to corruption and economic crimes, a significant area of concern for the country.

The appointments, which take effect from Tuesday 8th, are aimed at enhancing effectiveness in tackling corruption and ensuring economic crimes are addressed in a timely manner.

The Magistrates will operate in different regions, ensuring comprehensive jurisdictional coverage to deal with the offenses more effectively.



Education Cabinet Secretary Mr Julius Ogamba has reassured teachers that the government would continue improving the welfare of teachers by addressing all the challenges they are facing. Ogamba reiterated the State’s commitment to addressing teachers’ concerns over salaries and allowances. The Cabinet Secretary said structures had been put in place for meaningful engagement with the teachers’ union officials. Ogamba praised the members of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) for suspending a work boycott that was scheduled to kick off on August 26 and giving dialogue a chance.



Konoin Constituency Member of Parliament (MP) Brighton Yegon has advised parents to be careful with their parenting tactics to be assured of nurturing a responsible and emotionally stable future generation. He gave this advice while attending the burial of a form four student who committed suicide at her school, Sironga Girls High school in Nyamira on September 28, 2024. “Parents have become too busy for their children. They think that by providing children with food shelter and clothing, their role is done. They have gotten it all wrong. Children need more than just your basic provisions. They need someone close to talk to them and advise them on life matters and issues because they are emotional beings who want true love and not just mechanical presence of parents,” he observed.



AGITECH GRAND EXPO

FREE ENTRY

MUTITHI, MWEA
KIRINYAGA COUNTY

OCT 11TH & 12TH 2024

TO EXHIBIT CALL : 0759 214 921 / 0110 522 398



Partners I



"The Use Of Smart Technologies In
Scaling Up Agricultural Value Chains
From Seed To Market"



Knowledge grows

agitech-expo.com

Powered by : Yara MICROP

Ruto, CSs Makes New Appointments In State Corporations And Agencies

The Appointees Include Members Of The Selection Panel For Recruitment Of PSC Vice Chair, Members And Officials In Various Government Institutions

By: PERPETUA ETYANG

President William Ruto has made several appointments in different state corporations and agencies.

Through multiple gazette notices, the President made appointments in the Public Service Commission, the State Corporations, the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority, Water Resources Authority, the National Mining Corporation and the Anti-Doping Agency.

In the notice dated October 4, Ruto appointed seven members of the Selection Panel for the recruitment of nominees for appointment as the vice chairperson and members of the Public Service Commission.

He appointed Arthur Osiya, Oscar Eredi, Nura Mohammed, Grace Kamau, Ruth Ruraa, Nancy Butama and Elizabeth Chesang as members of the panel.

The President also appointed Victor Munyaka, chairperson of the Kenya Animal Genetic Resource for three years effective October 4, 2024.

Ruto has also appointed James Mureu the chairperson of the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority for three years effective October 4, 2024.

In a gazette notice dated October 3, 2024, the President appointed Donald Murgor chairperson of the Water Resources Authority for three years effective October 4, 2024.

Ruto further appointed Silas Jonyo chairperson of the Council to the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication for three years effective October 4, 2024.

The President also appointed Joseph

Lagat the chairperson of the National Mining Corporation for three years effective October 4, 2024.

In a separate gazette notice dated October 3, Ruto appointed Bishop Joseph Kagunda chairperson of the Board of the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya for three years.

Besides the President, Chief Justice Martha Koome has also appointed magistrates to preside over cases relating to corruption and economic crimes.

They will serve in the areas of jurisdiction of their current court stations and in future stations they will be deployed to from time to time with effect from the October 8, 2024.

At the same time, Cabinet Secretaries made appointments in their ministries. National Treasury and Economic Planning CS John Mbadi appointed Muchiri Ngatia a member of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) for three years.

Information, Communications and the Digital Economy CS Margaret Ngundu, appointed Daniel Rono a member of the Board of the Communications Authority of Kenya for three years.

CS Ndungu further appointed Sella Ayimba and Ibrahim Sane as members of the Board of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) for three years.

Health CS Deborah Barasa appointed Stephen Namusyule a member of the Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority for three years.



President William Ruto.

CS Barasa further appointed Ibrahim Matende a member of the Social Health Authority for three years effective October 4, 2024.

She further appointed Irine Njenga a member of the Board of Directors of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) for three years, effective October 4, 2024.

Water, Sanitation and Irrigation CS Eric Muuga appointed Abraham Cheruiyot a member of the Board of Directors of Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency.

Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs CS Hassan Joho appointed Jawahira Hussein Haji and David Pkeu Kapelishwa as members of the National Mining Corporation effective October 4, 2024.

He further appointed Micah Lore and Stephen Labarakwe as members of the Board of the Kenya Fisheries Service for three years.

The writer works for The Star Newspaper, from whose website this publication got the story from

Worth Noting:

- In the notice dated October 4, Ruto appointed seven members of the Selection Panel for the recruitment of nominees for appointment as the vice chairperson and members of the Public Service Commission.
- He appointed Arthur Osiya, Oscar Eredi, Nura Mohammed, Grace Kamau, Ruth Ruraa, Nancy Butama and Elizabeth Chesang as members of the panel.

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

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



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

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Dr. Kinity: Impeachment Shouldn't Obscure The Real Challenges Facing Kenyans

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The political tension reached a new threshold on Tuesday when National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula sanctioned the initiation of impeachment proceedings against Gachagua. This decision came after a striking show of support from 291 Members of Parliament (MPs)—well above the 117 required to move forward with such a significant political process.
- Gachagua now faces 11 charges, encompassing allegations of economic crimes, abuse of office, and severe violations of the Constitution. Speaker Wetangula announced that Gachagua would be invited to Parliament to respond to these charges on October 8, marking a crucial moment in this unfolding political drama.
- In a statement issued to media outlets, Dr. Kinity articulated concerns regarding the deepening rift between President Ruto and his deputy.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing the faithful

The ongoing political crisis in the country has laid bare the failures of the current administration, with many calling into question the priorities of the political leaders and other duty bearers.

Dr. Isaac Newton Kinity, a seasoned unionist and former Secretary General of the Kenya Civil Servants Union, contends that the impeachment of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua should not take precedence over more pressing national issues.

In Dr. Kinity's view, the impeachment process is poised to serve only the interests of either President William Ruto or Deputy President Gachagua, while doing little to address the dire challenges facing ordinary Kenyans.

"The people of Kenya need to see tangible benefits from their leaders, and this administration has yet to deliver on that promise," he stated, underscoring a growing frustration on the ruling Kenya Kwanza administration across the country, even in President Ruto's strongholds.

Dr. Kinity, who also serves on the Presidential Advisory Board of the Republican National Committee in the United States, believes that the current focus on political maneuvering detracts from substantive solution and people-centered governance.

The political tension reached a new threshold on Tuesday when National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula sanctioned the initiation of impeachment proceedings against Gachagua. This decision came after a striking show of support from 291 Members of Parliament (MPs)—well above the 117 required to move forward with such a significant political process.

Gachagua now faces 11 charges, encompassing allegations of economic crimes, abuse of office, and severe violations of the Constitution. Speaker Wetangula announced that Gachagua would be invited to Parliament to respond to these charges on October 8, marking a crucial moment in this unfolding political drama.

In a statement issued to media outlets, Dr. Kinity articulated concerns regarding the deepening rift between President Ruto and his deputy. He noted that their divergent political and personal agendas could worsen tensions should the impeachment proceed, regardless of its outcome.

"This issue transcends mere political rivalry; it carries the potential to undermine and destabilize the very foundations of governance in our country. Such political discord threatens not only the stability of the current administration but also the trust and confidence that citizens place in their leaders and institutions," he warned.

Reflecting on past political crises, Dr. Kinity recalled the May 2022 deadlock during the selection of Ruto's running mate, which culminated in a grueling 17-hour standoff between supporters of Gachagua and those favoring Kindiki Kithure for the position within the Kenya Kwanza alliance.

As Kenyans grapple with escalating economic hardships, health and education funding model crisis, rampant corruption, and other urgent issues, Dr. Kinity expressed profound frustration with the current political climate.

"Kenyans deserve a Parliament that is focused on passing bills that create

jobs, improve public services, and uplift living standards for all—not one consumed by endless political wrangling," he asserted. He further suggested that if MPs are keen on impeachment, they should also consider addressing the actions of President Ruto himself.

Dr. Kinity also highlighted the role of Opposition Leader Raila Odinga in the current political landscape, suggesting that his recent alliance with President Ruto has contributed to the ongoing crisis. This collaboration, which resulted in the formation of a so-called "broad-based government," raised eyebrows among the public and political analysts alike.

He pointed to the very public fallout between Deputy President Gachagua and President Ruto, which has intensified over the past five months. During this period, discussions between Ruto and Odinga reportedly intensified – beyond 2027, further complicating the political landscape.

"History has shown us that cracks within governments often emerge, creating divisions and discord among members, particularly whenever Mr. Odinga joins a government. This tendency can lead to the sidelining and undermining of certain individuals," Dr. Kinity concluded.



Dr. Isaac Newton Kinity

Forgive Me

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday sought forgiveness from the President, Members Of Parliament, Leaders and Kenyans From Any wrongdoings He Could Have Committed Since Assuming Office As The Second Most Senior Political Leader In The Country

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday hosted several political, religious, relatives and friends for an interdenominational Sunday service at his official residence at Karen area, Nairobi.

At the same time, the DP sought forgiveness from various quarters over his and his family's misdeeds.

The Deputy President also asked Kenyans to remain united and peaceful as Parliament considers the impeachment proceedings against him starting tomorrow.

Speaking during the Sunday service at the National Prayer Altar at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi, the Deputy President said a political process should not cause tension and disharmony.

"I want to call upon the people of Kenya to remain peaceful and love one another. Despite all these happenings, the people of Kenya must remain peaceful, united and loving one another. Specifically, I want to appeal to our brothers in the Rift Valley - where we have many communities- to leave this contest to leaders. Our people must continue living together; they must continue doing business together. The politics of the day should not threaten peace in any way. Kenya is bigger than all of us," he said.

The Deputy President added that Kenya is founded on the rule of law and expressed faith in the Judiciary in promoting and protecting the constitution and the will of the people of Kenya. Mr Gachagua said the will of the people is supreme and Parliament must exercise the delegated power within the confines of the law.

"I appeal to our independent institutions to uphold the rule of law and to remain true to the Constitution so that we don't get to situations where we have a country that feels that the rule of the jungle is in application. So far, it is my observation that we have a very patriotic Judiciary, a Judiciary that upholds the supremacy of our Constitution," the Deputy President said.

The Deputy President asked President William Ruto, Parliament and the people of Kenya to forgive him alongside his Spouse Pastor Dorcas Rigathi if they wronged anyone in the course of execution of their duties.

"In our zeal to work, in our commitment to work, probably, in one way or another, I may have wronged



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing faithful yesterday

somebody, I want to say to my brother President William Ruto, please find it in your heart to forgive me. If my Spouse (Pastor Dorcas Rigathi), in her duties for the boychild and her programmes has wronged you in any way, please find it in your heart to forgive her," he said.

The Deputy President also extended his apology to the Members of Parliament and Kenyans.

"To our Members of Parliament; if in the course of duty through my utterances and action, I have, in one way or another, upset you or

wronged you, find it in your heart to forgive me. If our brothers, who did not support the President and myself in my region (Mt Kenya) and Rift Valley, find that in appreciating our people, probably our utterances made you feel uncomfortable, we did not mean to offend you. We were simply appreciating the people who voted for us. If you feel that I rubbed you in the wrong way, please find it in your heart to forgive me. To the people of Kenya, in our service to the country, if there is anything I have done or said that you find un-

palatable, that you find unacceptable, please find it in your heart to forgive me," the Deputy President said.

He was joined by the Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Kirinyaga Woman Representative Njeri Maina, Senators Joe Nyutu (Murang'a), Hon Karungo wa Thang'wa (Kiambu), Joseph Githuku (Lamu), MPs James Gakuya (Embakasi North), Gathoni Wamuchomba (Githunguri), Wanjiku Muhia (Kipipiri), former Kakamega Senator Cleophas Malala, among others.



Some of the faithful who attended yesterday's service yesterday.



Worth Noting:

The Deputy President added that Kenya is founded on the rule of law and expressed faith in the Judiciary in promoting and protecting the constitution and the will of the people of Kenya. Mr Gachagua said the will of the people is supreme and Parliament must exercise the delegated power within the confines of the law.

"I appeal to our independent institutions to uphold the rule of law and to remain true to the Constitution so that we don't get to situations where we have a country that feels that the rule of the jungle is in application. So far, it is my observation that we have a very patriotic Judiciary, a Judiciary that upholds the supremacy of our Constitution," the Deputy President said.

Professional Group Asks Lawyer Ahmednasir To Stop Insults Against KRA Chairman

By: Morris Githenya
@themkenyentimes

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) chairman Antony Mwaura and city lawyer Ahmednasir Abdullahi are engaged in a bitter row.

In a month-long row, KRA Chairman Antony Mwaura gets sour with a professional group defending him against the malicious accusations leveled against him.

Chairman of Murang'a Professional Community Mr Ibrahim Adam accused Ahmednasir for use of unsubstantiated claims to discredit the KRA chairman.

Ibrahim said the association was concerned over the spirited attack to Mwaura by the lawyer through a bimonthly media platform meant to implicate him with awarding himself tax waivers amounting to Sh380.8 million.

He waged an attack against Mwaura using the X Platform alleging that he ordered the sack of KRA Manager



KRA Chairman Antony Mwaura



City lawyer Ahmednasir Abdullahi

Rosemary Mureithi after she failed to award a tender to his children to auction vehicles and tires last year at the Mombasa port.

“The media is the most powerful avenue that has the power to make the innocent guilty because it controls the minds of the masses,” said Ibrahim.

He said, Mwaura has been a victim of vicious media bullying mounted

by Ahmednasir to settle scores with innocent persons.

“It is instructive to inform the public that Ahmednasir is a business mogul who has interest shares in banks, malls, and real estate properties,” said Ibrahim.

Ibrahim said that following President William Ruto’s government tax reforms to spur socio-economic growth, KRA intensified tax collec-

tion amongst Kenyans and ensured compliance with tax and customs laws.

“We reliably learnt that he approached the KRA through Mwaura’s office to seek tax favours accrued to a financial institution which according to an impeccable source he has a sizeable shares.

The KRA management remained firm in tax collection that prompted the renowned lawyer to pursue a revenge mission by contriving falla-

cious assertions in the media,” said Ibrahim.

Mwaura disputed the claims fronted by the lawyer challenging him to table the alleged evidence through the requisite legal mechanism.

“Those are wild allegations out to malign my reputation and that of my family,” said Mwaura.

Ahmednasir said has watertight information on the corrupt deals at KRA.



SHA, SHIF Rollout, Govt Is Committed To Address Teething Problems



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- During the launch of SHA in Kakamega, Cabinet Secretary for Health Dr Debras Barasa congratulated President Ruto for providing leadership that has enabled the dream of the provision and accessibility of quality and affordable health care to all Kenyans become a reality. In a simple language, SHA is a large house hosting three funds: Primary Healthcare Fund, Social Health Insurance Fund and Emergency, Chronic and Critical Illness Fund.
- The CS termed the transition a key milestone that marked the exit of corrupt-riddled National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF)
- From today, every Kenyan will be required to register and become a member of SHIF.



Ministry of Health Cabinet Secretary Dr Debra Barasa

President William Ruto's administration is a listening government.

Therefore, I have no doubt it has been taking note of every teething problem that stood in the way of the rollout of Social Health Authority (SHA) and Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

The Ministry of Health led by Cabinet Secretary Dr Debra Barasa has so far moved with speed to address these challenges.

Kidney and cancer patients were among those affected.

The Ministry is moving with speed to assure the Dialysis Centers and Private Hospitals that SHIF fund will clear their bills on time.

It is worth noting that the provision of affordable and quality health services to Kenyans was one of the key pillar of the Kenya Kwanza's manifesto.

During the campaigns the coalition presidential candidate William Ruto, now the President of the Republic of Kenya, minced no word in assuring Kenyans that this will become a reality. If elected, I will strive to build a legacy that will be remembered by current generation and next generations.

The provision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) will be one of them.

Ever since he assumed office, Dr Ruto has been walking the talk.

During the launch of SHA in Kakamega, Cabinet Secretary for Health Dr Debras Barasa congratulated President

Ruto for providing leadership that has enabled the dream of the provision and accessibility of quality and affordable health care to all Kenyans become a reality. In a simple language, SHA is a large house hosting three funds: Primary Healthcare Fund, Social Health Insurance Fund and Emergency, Chronic and Critical Illness Fund.

The CS termed the transition a key milestone that marked the exit of corrupt-riddled National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF)

From today, every Kenyan will be required to register and become a member of SHIF.

We have established registration desks in all health facilities across the country to register those who have not registered.

She also unveiled the link for those who opt to register online.

During the launch Debra also disclosed that more than 12 million Kenyans had so far registered. 400,000 new members registered on that day.

It emerged that the process of transferring the details of NHIF members to the new Fund had started earlier.

The CS also took this opportunity to allay fears of any disruption during the transition period.

We have reactivated our systems and so the bills of Kenyans who were currently hospitalized and undergoing certain medical procedures will continue

being cleared.

But the critics of President William Ruto would not see this as a key milestone and this would not come up as a surprise.

They have all along been trying to derail and sabotage the mega projects initiated by President Ruto.

Reason? They were envious of seeing Dr Ruto building his legacy.

Some of them had employed similar tricks during the reigns of President Mwai Kibaki and his successor President Uhuru Kenyatta.

President Ruto has since stood his ground. He would not give them a hearing and that is why he has succeeded in rolling out a number of projects that will transform the life of current generation and the generations to come.

The enactment of SHA and SHIF opens a new page in our history.

No Kenyan will be denied medical attention.

The government will pay the monthly contributions of the poor and vulnerable members of the Kenyan society.

SHA and SHIF is looking forward to generate Sh148 billion annually.

The fund apart from catering for medical expenses of Kenyans will be used to modernize and equip the hospitals/medical facilities to ensure they were at par with those in developed countries.

The story of raising fund to airlift those suffering from life threatening ailments

such as cancer that could not be treated in Kenya to India or Europe will now become a thing of the past.

The cost will now be reduced drastically as Kenyans will access the treatment locally.

The critics wanted Kenyans to believe that they will dig deeper into their pockets to sustain the SHIF fund.

So far, they have not produced tangible evidence to support their claims.

Kenyans have no problem paying the monthly contributions.

The only assurance they want from the government is that they will get the quality service and SHIF will be shielded from being infiltrated by corruption cartels.

The new law to operationalize SHA and SHIF recommends punitive measures.

Whoever found guilty of stealing the fund-money set aside for patients- you will face the full force of law.

President Ruto has been reiterating that there will be no sacred cows.

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

The Hidden Legal Maze: What Kenyans Constitution Says About Impeaching A Deputy President



By: Prof. Kibutha Kibwana
@themkenyatimes

INTRODUCTION

Kenya is on the brink of a constitutional test as its Parliament and Citizens embark on the impeachment of the Deputy President. I hereby offer some thoughts on the constitutional and legal parameters that should shape this momentous undertaking.

THE PERTINENT ISSUES

1. Article 150 of the Constitution as read together with Articles 144 and 145 provide for the removal (impeachment) procedure of the Deputy President which duplicates the modus operandi for impeachment of President under the said Articles 144 and 145. Article 150 (2) states: “The provisions of Article 144 and 145 relating to the removal of the President shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the removal of the Deputy President.”

2. The grounds for the removal of both the President and Deputy President by impeachment are identical as per Article 145(1)(a)(b)(c) and Article 150(1)(b)(i)(ii)(iii).

3. Removal of both by impeachment is premised on:

- a) The ground of gross violation of a provision of (the) Constitution or any other law;
- b) Where there are serious reasons to believe the President/Deputy President has committed a crime under national or international law; or
- c) Gross misconduct.

4. The Impeachment Procedure Bill (Senate Bill No. 15 of 2018) which subsequently underwent its First Reading in the National Assembly on 26/6/2019 and approved for tabling in the House on 01/10/2020.

5. The Impeachment Procedure Bill once passed as an Act of Parliament was to realize two key objectives:

a) To provide a general legal framework for procedure of the removal from office by impeachment of the President, the Deputy President, Cabinet Secretary, Governor, Deputy Governor, and Member of a County Executive Committee.

b) To give further effect to the constitutional principles of democracy and participation of the people in impeachment proceedings.

6. Up to date, the Impeachment Procedure Bill has not been passed by Parliament. At some point in the parliamentary debate, it was decided that the Bill be split into two, one Bill covering impeachment for national executive officers and a second for county executive officers.

7. Similarly, the Public Participation Bill, 2023 has not been passed by Parliament.

8. Therefore, the impeachment procedure for the Deputy President will rely on the constitutional provisions on impeachment and public participation including any relevant Standing Orders of both the National Assembly and Senate as well as any appropriate County public participation law.

9. If the Impeachment Procedure Bill had been passed, several constitutional provisions and concerns would have been amplified. These include:

a) What is the meaning of ‘The Deputy President may be removed from office’ upon satisfaction of the grounds contained in the Article 150 that I have cited above? Does it mean that Senate has discretion even after finding any of the grounds has been substantiated? If so, what is the criteria for exercising the discretion? Does the Preamble of Article 150(1) of the Constitution and Article 145(7) contradict each other?

b) Since the impeachment of a President or a Deputy President who face an election on a joint ticket is tantamount to “de-election,” does it require a higher standard public participation than under other circumstances?

c) What are the elements anticipated under Article 150(2) to differentiate the impeachment of the President from that of the Deputy President since the latter’s removal is subject to “with necessary modifications” of the procedure for presidential impeachment?

d) Providing detail for the two procedures of impeachment before Senate, that is,

i. By a special committee of Senate and Senate as a full House

ii. By Senate alone as a full House.

In the first instance it is clear the President/Deputy President have the right of representation (see 145(5) (b)). However when Senate on its own hears the matter under Article 145(3) (a), such a right of representation is not explicitly provided for. Possibly Article 50 on fair hearing becomes relevant.

e) Article 145(3)(a) characterizes the impeachment grounds as “charges”. Hence the Senate during impeachment of a Deputy President is a quasi-judicial body. The Impeachment Procedure Bill would have fleshed out the steps Senate must undertake to execute such quasi-judicial authority.

f) A legislative enactment would

have broken down the meaning of gross misconduct.

Can the argument be validly made that in the absence of a facilitative impeachment law, the impeachment of the second ranking public official cannot be legal?

10. As indicated earlier, in the absence of a national public participation law, the guiding law on public participation is the Constitution and judicial interpretation of the same.

11. Although the Constitution does not explicitly provide for the Deputy President facing an impeachment charge to exercise a right to be heard before the National Assembly, it would appear the National Assembly has offered the Deputy President such an opportunity. What advantages does he have in the exercise of such a window?

a. He will lay bare his defence and as consequence may convince some of the 349 (minus from the 4 constituencies without MPs) members of the full House of his innocence in relation to all or some of the charges. (But it is to be noted if found guilty of even one of the eleven grounds, that satisfies impeachment charge at the tail end of the process).

b. He will possibly influence the public court.

c. He may begin to sway the 67 Senators who are the final arbiters of his fate.

d. He may begin to lay ground for future court action.

12. The disadvantages in relation to appearance before the National Assembly include:

a. Many of those who signed the initial Special Motion may have formed their opinion. It requires 233 votes at the National Assembly to convey the impeachment charges to the Senate.

b. Evidence that the Deputy President presents to the National Assembly will become public property which can be used by those who oppose him at Senate for better preparation.

13. After one day of public participation on 04/10/2024 at the 47 counties, the court was moved to find and declare that further public participation was necessary at the constituency level. The National Assembly conceded another day 05/10/2024 for public participation at the 290 constituencies.

14. The public participation standards developed by the Kenyan courts are extremely stringent.

15. For judicial treatment of adequacy of public participation. See BBI Case (Supreme Court Petition No.12 of 2021) in which the BAT Case (Su-

preme Court Petition No 5 of 2017) was cited as the leading authority on public participation especially Pg 248, 249.250 of the BBI judgement.

The following principles regarding public participation were enunciated:

“Public participation and consultation is a living constitutional principle that goes to the constitutional tenet of the sovereignty of the people. It is through public participation that the people continue to find their sovereign place in the governance they have delegated to both the National and County Governments. Consequently, while Courts have pronounced themselves on this issue, in line with this Court’s mandate under Section 3 of the Supreme Court Act, we would like to delimit the following framework for public participation.”

And further:

i. “As a constitutional principle under Article 10(2) of the Constitution, public participation applies to all aspects of governance.

ii. The public officer and or entity charged with the performance of a particular duty bears the onus of ensuring and facilitating public participation.

iii. The lack of a prescribed legal framework for public participation is no excuse for not conducting public participation; the onus is on the public entity to give effect to this constitutional principle using reasonable means.

iv. Public participation must be real and not illusory. It is not a cosmetic or a public relations act. It is not a mere formality to be undertaken as a matter of course just to ‘fulfill’ a constitutional requirement. There is need for both quantitative and qualitative components in public participation.

v. Public participation is not an abstract notion; it must be purposive and meaningful.

vi. Public participation must be accompanied by reasonable notice and reasonable opportunity. Reasonableness will be determined on a case to case basis.

vii. Public participation is not necessarily a process consisting of oral hearings, written submissions can also be made. The fact that someone was not heard is not enough to annul the process.

Worth Noting:

- In the first instance it is clear the President/Deputy President have the right of representation (see 145(5)(b)). However when Senate on its own hears the matter under Article 145(3)(a), such a right of representation is not explicitly provided for. Possibly Article 50 on fair hearing becomes relevant.
- e) Article 145(3) (a) characterizes the impeachment grounds as “charges”. Hence the Senate during impeachment of a Deputy President is a quasi-judicial body. The Impeachment Procedure Bill would have fleshed out the steps Senate must undertake to execute such quasi-judicial authority.
- f) A legislative enactment would have broken down the meaning of gross misconduct.

The Hidden Legal Maze: What Kenyans Constitution Says About Impeaching A Deputy President

Contd from page 12

viii. Allegation of lack of public participation does not automatically vitiate the process. The allegations must be considered within the peculiar circumstances of each case: the mode, degree, scope and extent of public participation is to be determined on a case to case basis.

ix. Components of meaningful public participation include the following:

a. clarity of the subject matter for the public to understand;
b. structures and processes (medium of engagement) of participation that are clear and simple;
c. opportunity for balanced influence from the public in general;
d. commitment to the process;
e. inclusive and effective representation;
f. integrity and transparency of the process;

g. capacity to engage on the part of the public, including that the public must be first sensitized on the subject matter.”

16. Ultimately the following questions will be critical in determining the adequacy of public participation at both the National Assembly and Senate levels. These include:

i. Did those who voted for the President/Deputy President and those who voted against them in 2022 have ample opportunity in equal measure to make a decision on whether the Deputy President should be impeached or not?

ii. Did MPs who voted for the motion to impeach the Deputy President preside over the impeachment public participation process in an impartial and fair manner giving opportunity to all including those with differing opinion to present their views? Or is this a special public participation which should have been conducted by, for example, the IEBC to avoid possible bias?

iii. Did the National Assembly/Senate use reasonable means to carry out public participation even in the absence of a legislative framework?

iv. Where county public participation laws, practises and democratic cultures exist, were these factored at the county and constituency levels?

v. Was there reasonable notice prior public participation engagement?

vi. Was there reasonable opportunity for citizens to participate in terms of access to physical venues

and other means/sites of public participation?

vii. Did the National Assembly and those who presided over the public participation events/spaces explain the meaning and impact of impeachment; legal process; as well as the entirety of the grounds so that the citizens could make an informed judgement? Significant civic education in relation to the cited laws within the eleven (11) grounds such as Articles 3,6,10,27,75,129,131,144,145,147, 148, 150, 152, 160, 174, 186, 189, Fourth Schedule of the Constitution and Sections 13 & 62 of the National Cohesion and Integration Act, Sections 45, 46, 47A & 48 of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, Sections 2,3,4 & 7 of the Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering Act, Section 132 of the Penal Code and Section 29 of the Leadership and Integrity Act becomes key to securing effective public participation

viii. Peaceful environment in physical sites for public participation to ensure inclusive and effective representation.

ix. Genuine commitment to the process and attendant integrity and transparency.

x. Recording oral proceedings through Hansard.

xi. Avoiding double attendance during second day.

xii. Determination of adequate time in each venue and sizeable number of citizens.

17. The public views template provided by the National Assembly in a situation where charges are being preferred against the Deputy President should have been the charges themselves instead of merely a summary of the grounds of impeachment/charges. The grounds for impeachment are analogous to a charge sheet.

18. It would have been helpful for the National Assembly to explain to the citizens the functions of the Deputy President as laid down in Article 147 of the Constitution and any other law as well as in the Executive Order on the Organization of the Government of Republic of Kenya so that they can analyze the impeachment grounds in vis a vis the Deputy President's functions and role.

19. Whereas I don't intend to examine the impeachment grounds since that is the province of the National Assembly, Senate and the Courts, however I will, in passing, raise the following pertinent technical issues:

a. Ground 1: Itemize the inflammatory and inciteful utterances



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

b. Ground 2: Itemize unilateral public statements inconsistent with government policy & contradictory statements made against the President

c. Ground 3: Itemize inciting statement against Nairobi City County Government

d. Ground 4: Name judge in question and statement uttered against him/her

e. Ground 6: Itemize statements which constitute crimes under the said law

f. Ground 7: Make public the Wealth Declaration by the Deputy President which he filled before 2022 election.

g. For grounds 9,10, 11, indicate the laws which support them.

h. Where it is alleged the Deputy President was aided to commit crimes by proxies, name them.

20. Necessary detail in the framing of the impeachment charges allows citizens to understand better the reasons for impeachment and the Deputy President to prepare for his defense as required by the natural justice dictate.

21. In Section B Views on the Proposed Impeachment Motion No. 6 the third option of "Other (Specify)" can potentially provide a problem if an 'Impeach both the Deputy President and President' answer is proffered. Will such a response be considered as a positive reply for impeaching the Deputy President?

22. Since the current public par-

ticipation has a voting/quantitative element, has the public participation process followed the procedures of a free, fair and transparent election? For example, the public views template is not serialized nor does it have security features; double voting using another person's identity card could be an unwelcome factor etc.

23. The grounds associated with commitment of crimes should also have shown why the EACC, DCI, ODPP had not earlier moved to charge the Deputy President. If he obstructed justice, that is a further ground for impeachment.

24. In late 2022 the Director of Public Prosecution moved a Kenyan Court to withdraw a 7.4 Billion Kshs corruption case against Deputy President. Further the Deputy President had 202 Million Kshs refunded to him being monies initially associated with proceeds of corruption. Did he influence the court so that such activity could also become further grounds of impeachment?

25. In the public domain, the Deputy President was accused of funding some disruptive elements during the recent Gen Z Revolution which led to unprecedented loss of lives, disappearances, abductions, other human rights violations and destruction of property. These are crimes under both national and international law. Unless the above accusation was unfounded, it should have been included as a ground for impeachment.

CONCLUSION

26. As should be clear from the above narration, I am not interested in discussing the merits or demerits of the Deputy President's impeachment case or its socio-political, cultural and economic ramifications.

27. My interest is that Kenya establishes a proper procedure for this first impeachment of a top executive member right so as to guarantee a sound precedent for subsequent impeachments in keeping with principles of good governance, rule of law, constitutionalism and observance of human rights.

28. I reiterate again the Constitution, subsidiary law and judicial precedents establish how an impeachment of a Deputy President and President should occur and when an impeachment occurs within the confines of the above legal framework, Kenyans must accept the accused has violated the law and we are better off without him or her in such esteemed office.

Life Is A Test Given To Us



That is why no one's life passes smoothly.
If everything went the way we wanted, there would be no purpose in living. The reason Allah gives us everything with difficulty is so that in the end, we learn to be grateful. When you see the happiness of those around you, don't think that only your life is filled with problems. You are only seeing them from the

outside.
Only Allah knows what is happening within their inner world.
If you knew what they were going through, you would be thankful for your own life.
The problems and difficulties you are experiencing in life may be lessons for you.
The problem that seems impossible to solve today, once overcome, will not cause any difficulty for you in the future.
No matter what happens, even in the hardest times, be patient.
The solution to everything is patience. Allah resides in the hearts of His patient servants and will never abandon you.
Ask Allah for ease in everything. Believe that at the end of the test that Allah has sent you, there is surely goodness.
One day, when everything falls into place, you will realize that every trial Allah gave you was actually a reward for you.

Jurakulova Gulzira Ikromjon

My Son, I Forgive You



By: Ziyokulova Ziyoda

My son, I forgive you, and I hope you forgive me too.
With these words, she passed away.
The son, who hadn't visited his mother for many years, was finally called to the nursing home. The nurses said to him:
– Your mother prayed for you every night. She would tell us stories about you every day. She always said she came here by choice so her son wouldn't suffer and could be happy.
– Honestly, no one deserves a child like you. Not even animals. Don't you fear the

judgment of this world? One day...
Before the nurse could finish, Umidjon waved her off:
– Enough already.
He left without looking back.

Years passed, and eventually, Umidjon's son also took him and his wife, Nurziya, to a nursing home.
Only then did Umidjon realize the mistakes he had made, and he wept bitterly, reflecting on what he had done for his mother.
As you can see, the poor mother, till her last breath, prayed for her son's happiness, not her own. But the son never once thought of his mother. May no one ever have such a child.
Remember this: however you treat your parents now, the same treatment awaits you in the future!
The moral of the story is to cherish your mother while you have her, because eventually, it may be too late.

It's Raining

Reformation Of The Heart



"Always keeping the heart pure is the most difficult task." –Chingiz Aitmatov.
It was a moonlit night. The leaves of the tree were slowly rustling. It brought tears to my eyes when I remembered the hardships I went through in such wonderful moments, because I saw many difficulties in life. Sometimes there were days when I was my own

teacher. I entered My parents told me to finish my studies, so they did everything for me. Months chased years, and four years went by as fast as water. Because I was a straight and simple person who was brought up in the village, it was very difficult for me to join my colleagues when it came to work. They are cunning like snake oil, and he was a liar. As life went by, I became like him. I realized in the last moments of my life that I painted my white heart black. Our history encourages us to be perfect, and I forgot my history and did not even look at it. I wish I could not find a close friend in this world. I wish I had thought of all this earlier. I would not be sitting on the edge of a dark room by myself. Now how do I answer my heart...

Avazbekova Ominakhan



When it rains,
I have a lot of questions.
Changed inside,
Gentle winds.

The rain doesn't stop,
There is no sleep.
Excitement in my mind,
It hurts like hell.

I wish he would stop now
Rustling voices.
Lek did not stop crying,
Cry like a baby.

These noises will stop,
Chehra Khan puts flowers.
Smallpox, tulip, rubella,
Like flowers want.

Ilhomova Mohichehra is a student of the 8th grade of the 9th general secondary school of Zarafshan city, Navoi region.

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
Books Division
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)
Tel: 44 330 606 1438
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com

YOUTH

6,000 Youth Graduate From IYF Weekend Academy As CS Murkomen Champions Skills Validation



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

At the heart of Kenya's youth empowerment initiatives, 6,000 students from the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) Weekend Academy graduated this weekend in a ceremony graced by Kipchumba Murkomen, Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports. The event, held at an indoor arena, marked the successful completion of the academy's sixth cohort, which has been instrumental in providing academic and practical skills to disadvantaged youth across the country.

CS Murkomen highlighted the government's commitment to empowering young people through skill validation and entrepreneurial support. The Cabinet Secretary reiterated the importance of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) program, designed to align young people with opportunities for wealth creation. "The government's Recognition of Prior Learning policy means you have every opportunity to validate your skills and obtain a National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) certificate. This certification will open doors to new employment and entrepreneurship opportunities," said Murkomen.

The IYF Weekend Academy has become a beacon of hope for youth, especially Form 4 leavers unable to pursue further education due to financial constraints. The academy's three-month training program provides essential skills in various fields, equipping graduates to become key contributors to the economy. Hon. Murkomen commended the academy's alignment with government initiatives such as the Hustler Fund, Talanta Hela, and the NYOTA program, all designed to foster entrepreneurship and provide financial support to the country's youth.

"The ministry stands ready to support you, whether through skills development or entrepreneurial initiatives. We are committed to ensuring you have the tools you need to succeed," Murkomen stated, encouraging graduates to seize the opportunities available to them.

In addition to his praise for the Weekend Academy, Murkomen celebrated IYF's recent success on the global stage. In July, 30 youths from the academy represented Kenya in a world dance competition held in Seoul, South Korea, where they clinched the grand prize. "We are proud of IYF and the dance team that



Kipchumba Murkomen, Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports gracing the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) Weekend Academy graduation ceremony

won the grand prize in Seoul. Truly, IYF is our good partner, and we look forward to strengthening our partnership," he remarked.

The event was attended by senior officials, including Ismail Maalim, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Sports. Maalim underscored the positive impact of the ministry's collaboration with IYF, which has led to the training of regional coordinators from the State Department of Youth Affairs. "The ripple effect is evident not only in the expansion of IYF Academy classes across 50 branches but, more importantly, in the lives

of young people across the country," Maalim said.

The program's founder, Rev. Dr. Ock Soo Park, also addressed the graduates, emphasizing the importance of building a hopeful future despite the challenges young people face. "IYF is teaching young people to live bright and blessed lives, and I hope that many in Kenya will live bright lives through the grace of God," Park said.

The graduation ceremony underscores IYF's commitment to addressing the educational gaps that many disadvantaged youth face. It comes

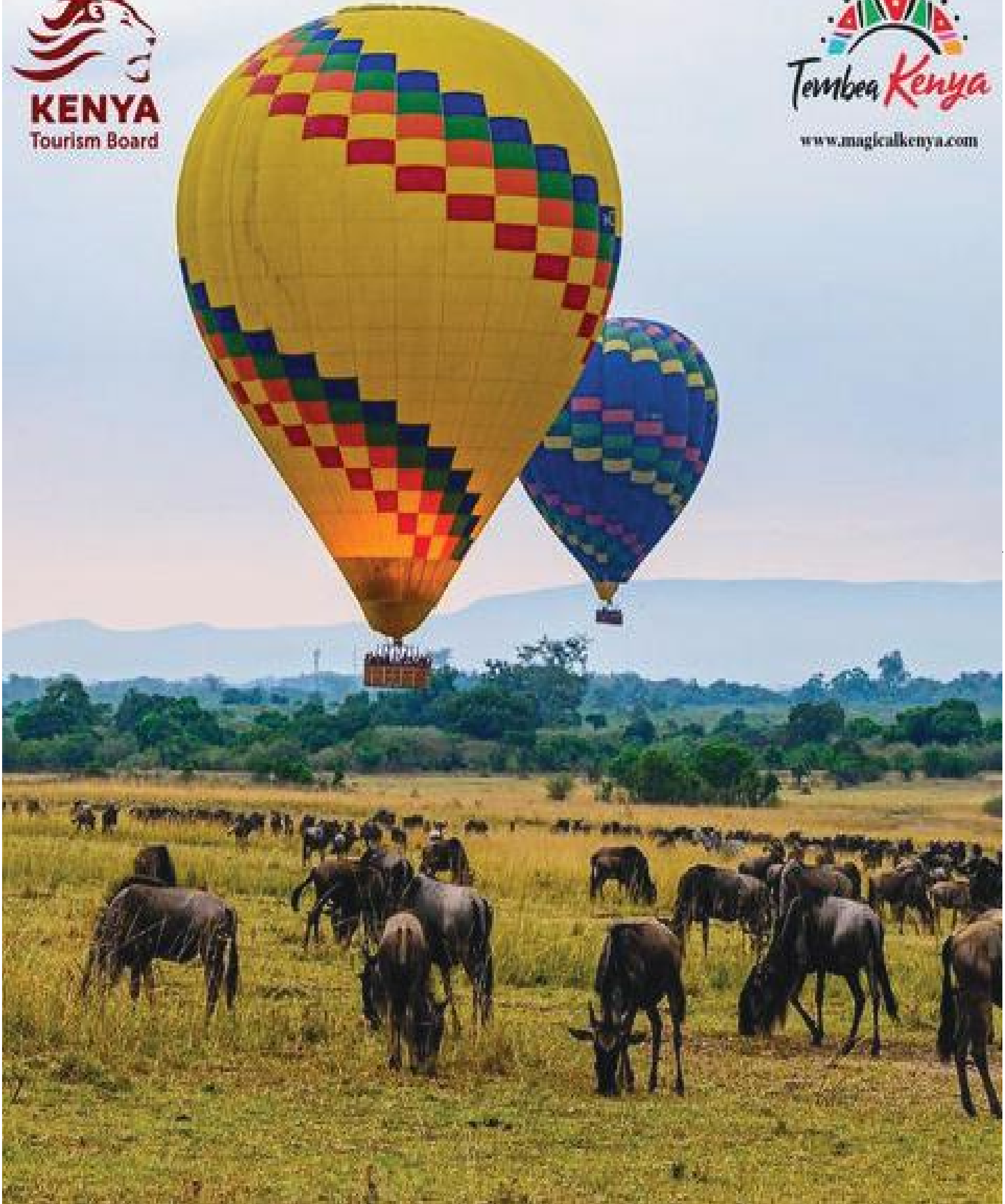
on the heels of the government's Recognition of Prior Learning Policy, a move that has been lauded for acknowledging the skills and knowledge acquired outside traditional educational settings. This policy ensures that individuals who have missed out on formal education can still receive national certification, opening new pathways to employment and entrepreneurship.

As IYF celebrates its 6,000 graduates, the organization and the government continue to play pivotal roles in transforming the futures of Kenya's youth.

Worth Noting:

- The IYF Weekend Academy has become a beacon of hope for youth, especially Form 4 leavers unable to pursue further education due to financial constraints. The academy's three-month training program provides essential skills in various fields, equipping graduates to become key contributors to the economy. Hon. Murkomen commended the academy's alignment with government initiatives such as the Hustler Fund, Talanta Hela, and the NYOTA program, all designed to foster entrepreneurship and provide financial support to the country's youth.

- "The ministry stands ready to support you, whether through skills development or entrepreneurial initiatives. We are committed to ensuring you have the tools you need to succeed," Murkomen stated, encouraging graduates to seize the opportunities available to them.



The Unraveling Promise: A Critical Examination Of Kenya's Social Health Authority Scheme



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The roots of this misalignment can be traced to what appears to be a lack of robust market analysis. Prof. XN Iraki from the University of Nairobi raises a pertinent point when he questions whether proper stakeholder consultations were conducted. The absence of a clear, data-driven rationale for the set tariffs undermines confidence in the scheme's design and raises suspicions about the motivations behind its structure.

- Paradoxically, a scheme designed to reduce catastrophic health expenditures may end up increasing out-of-pocket spending for many Kenyans. As health economist John Juma warns, individuals may need to pay additional costs once their cover is exhausted or if the actual cost exceeds SHA's limits.

In his seminal work "Things Fall Apart," Chinua Achebe wrote, "The white man is very clever. He came quietly and peaceably with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers, and our clan can no longer act like one." While Achebe was addressing colonialism, his words resonate with the current situation in Kenya's healthcare system. The Social Health Authority (SHA) scheme, introduced with promises of universal coverage and improved health outcomes, may be unraveling the very fabric of healthcare it aimed to strengthen.

Kenya's journey towards universal health coverage has been marked by ambitious policies and grand visions. The Social Health Authority (SHA) scheme, that has been rolled out, stands as the latest beacon of hope in this pursuit. However, as we peel back the layers of this initiative, we find a tapestry of good intentions marred by questionable execution and potentially dire consequences for the very people it aims to serve.

At the heart of the SHA scheme lies a fundamental misalignment between contributions and benefits. The scheme requires citizens to contribute 2.75% of their income, a figure that many experts argue is disproportionate to the benefits offered. James Kamau, a respected health economist, points out glaring discrepancies in the allocations for essential services. For instance, the annual cap of Sh2,000 for dental services per household seems almost laughable when considering the actual costs of dental procedures in Kenya.

Perhaps most concerning is the scheme's approach to maternity care. With allocations of Sh11,200 for normal deliveries and Sh32,600 for Caesarean sections, SHA appears to be operating in a parallel universe, detached from the realities of healthcare costs in Kenya. At Kenyatta National Hospital, a C-section can cost up to Sh150,000 in the private wing and Sh50,000 in the general wing. This vast disparity raises a crucial question: How can SHA claim to offer meaningful financial protection when its benefits fall so short of actual healthcare costs?

The roots of this misalignment can be traced to what appears to be a lack of robust market analysis. Prof. XN Iraki from the University of Nairobi raises a pertinent point when he questions whether proper stakeholder consultations were conducted. The absence of a clear, data-driven rationale for the set tariffs undermines confidence in the scheme's design and raises suspicions about the motivations behind its structure.

Paradoxically, a scheme designed to reduce catastrophic health expenditures may end up increasing out-of-pocket spending for many Kenyans. As health economist John Juma warns, individuals may need to pay additional costs once their cover is exhausted or if the actual cost exceeds SHA's limits. This situation could negate the financial protection that universal health coverage aims to provide, leaving Kenyans in a precarious position where they are paying into a system that fails to meet their needs.

While SHA Chairman Abdi Moham-

med argues that the scheme embodies equity by having higher earners subsidize lower earners, this argument falls flat when confronted with the reality of the low benefit caps. The "one-size-fits-all" approach to benefits, while administratively simpler, fails to address the diverse health needs across different socioeconomic groups in Kenya. It's a stark reminder that equity in healthcare goes beyond mere financial contributions; it must translate into meaningful access to quality care for all.

The impact of SHA's low tariffs extends beyond individual citizens to healthcare providers themselves. An anonymous private hospital owner voices concerns about whether services included in the package will be guaranteed payment. This uncertainty could lead to a reluctance among providers to participate fully in the scheme, potentially limiting access to care and undermining the very goal of universal coverage.

Moreover, the discrepancy between contributions and benefits raises serious questions about SHA's long-term financial sustainability. If the scheme consistently pays out more in benefits than it collects in contributions, it may face financial strain over time, potentially leading to benefit reductions or increased contribution rates – a lose-lose situation for Kenyan citizens.

While SHA does introduce coverage for services like dental and optical care that were previously unavailable to many Kenyans, the low caps on these services may limit their practical value. This highlights a broader concern about whether the scheme

truly offers comprehensive coverage that meets the population's health needs or merely provides the illusion of coverage.

As with any major health system reform, SHA faces significant implementation challenges. The success of the scheme will depend heavily on effective management, efficient claims processing, and the ability to adapt to emerging issues. These operational aspects are crucial but often overlooked in policy discussions, leaving room for potential systemic failures.

Perhaps most insidiously, there's a risk that the low benefit caps could inadvertently incentivize healthcare providers to prioritize quantity over quality of care, or to focus on services with higher margins. This could lead to suboptimal health outcomes and reduced patient satisfaction, further eroding trust in the healthcare system.

The concerns raised by various experts and stakeholders may erode public trust in SHA before it's fully implemented. Without strong public buy-in and participation, the scheme may struggle to achieve its goals of universal coverage and improved health outcomes.

In conclusion, while the intention behind SHA to provide universal health coverage is commendable, the current structure of the scheme raises significant concerns about its effectiveness and value for Kenyan citizens. The misalignment between contributions and benefits, coupled with questions about market research and stakeholder engagement, suggests that substantial revisions may be necessary to make SHA a truly worthwhile initiative for improving healthcare access and outcomes in Kenya.

As we stand at this crossroads in Kenya's healthcare journey, we must heed Achebe's implicit warning about the dangers of accepting seemingly benevolent systems without critical examination. The SHA scheme, introduced quietly and peaceably with promises of universal coverage, may be winning over some brothers and sisters. But as a clan – as a nation – we must act as one to demand a healthcare system that truly serves all Kenyans. The clever promises of SHA must be met with even cleverer scrutiny, lest our healthcare system fall apart under the weight of well-intentioned but poorly executed policies.

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SDG Goal 5: Breaking The Chains Of Gender-Based Violence For A Gender-Equal World

By: **Daisy Moraa**

Gender equality, encapsulated in Goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), seeks to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls worldwide. A crucial part of achieving gender equality is addressing the pervasive issue of gender-based violence (GBV), which affects millions globally, regardless of age, social status, or geographical location. GBV includes physical, sexual, emotional, and economic violence and can occur in public or private life.

While strides have been made toward achieving gender equality, particularly in areas like education and political representation, gender-based violence remains a persistent challenge. In 2024, both global and Kenyan statistics reveal alarming trends that call for heightened awareness and stronger policy interventions.

Globally, one in three women experiences physical or sexual violence in her lifetime, often at the hands of an intimate partner. According to a 2023 report by the World Health Organization (WHO), over 730 million women and girls were victims of violence, and many cases went unreported due to fear, shame, or the lack of adequate support systems.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a notable increase in cases of GBV worldwide. This surge was attributed to lockdown measures, which confined many victims to spaces with their abusers while simultaneously limiting access to support services. The United Nations Women's 2023 report

highlighted that domestic violence reports rose by up to 30% in some countries during the height of the pandemic. As the world recovers, the long-term impacts of this increase remain to be fully addressed.

In Kenya, GBV remains a significant barrier to gender equality, affecting women, girls, men, and boys. According to a report by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in 2023, 45% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 had experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives. The data revealed that the prevalence of GBV varied by region, with rural areas and informal settlements like Kibera and Mathare reporting higher rates.

In 2022, the Ministry of Public Service and Gender Affairs reported over 5,000 cases of GBV in Kenya. While this figure reflects an increased willingness to report cases, experts believe the actual number is much higher due to underreporting and lack of access to justice, particularly for women in marginalized communities. The situation is especially dire in counties like Nairobi, Kisumu, and Kakamega, where cultural norms and poverty exacerbate the vulnerability of women and girls to violence.

In response, the Kenyan government has made efforts to combat GBV, including launching the National Policy on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence 2022, which aims to eliminate all forms of violence by 2030. Key initiatives include improving legal frameworks, establishing gender desks in police stations, and setting up GBV recovery centers across the country.

GBV manifests in various forms, and understanding these is critical to tackling the problem effectively. Physical violence, such as assault, is one of the most visible forms, but sexual violence, including rape and sexual harassment, is equally damaging. Emotional and psychological abuse, which can range from threats and verbal insults to isolation and manipulation, often goes unnoticed but has long-lasting effects on victims' mental health.

In Kenya, early and forced marriages continue to subject girls to violence, particularly in rural areas where traditional practices still hold sway. According to a 2022 UNICEF report, 23% of Kenyan girls are married before their 18th birthday, exposing them to heightened risks of domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and reproductive health complications.

Economic violence is another less recognized form of GBV that involves withholding financial resources or controlling a partner's access to income, which renders many women financially dependent on their abusers. This issue is particularly prevalent in Kenya's informal settlements, where unemployment and economic disparity leave women vulnerable to exploitation.

Raising awareness about GBV is a crucial step toward achieving gender equality. In Kenya, several campaigns have been launched to shine a spotlight on the issue and empower survivors. The 'Keeping the Promise' campaign by UN Women Kenya and the Ministry of Gender seeks to hold stakeholders accountable in their commitment to ending GBV by 2026. It has helped

foster partnerships between the government, civil society organizations, and international agencies to create safe spaces and advocate for policy changes.

Another key campaign is the "HeForShe" initiative, a global solidarity movement led by UN Women that encourages men and boys to stand against GBV. In Kenya, HeForShe has gained significant traction, particularly among university students and young professionals. Engaging men in the fight against GBV is essential, as they are often the primary perpetrators of violence, and their involvement in prevention efforts can help shift societal norms.

Media also plays a critical role in raising awareness about GBV. Through storytelling, news reporting, and advocacy programs, Kenyan media houses have been instrumental in amplifying the voices of survivors and highlighting the gaps in the justice system. This increased visibility has led to a broader public discourse on GBV, contributing to policy reforms and societal attitude changes.

While awareness campaigns have helped reduce the stigma surrounding GBV, more needs to be done to support survivors. Access to medical care, psychosocial support, and legal aid remains a challenge for many victims. In Kenya, survivors often face bureaucratic hurdles when seeking justice. For instance, a lack of trained personnel at police stations and healthcare facilities can result in delayed or inadequate responses to GBV cases.

To address these gaps, various orga-

nizations are working to provide comprehensive services to GBV survivors. The Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC) in Nairobi is one such facility that offers free medical treatment, counseling, and legal support. However, there is a need for more such centers, especially in rural areas.

The Kenyan government, in collaboration with international donors and NGOs, has also piloted mobile clinics to provide GBV services to remote and underserved communities. These clinics offer a lifeline to women who would otherwise have no access to support.

Achieving gender equality requires addressing the deep-seated issue of gender-based violence. While progress has been made globally and in Kenya, GBV remains a barrier to the realization of women's rights. Raising awareness, improving access to services, and engaging men and boys are critical steps toward creating a safer and more equal society.

Kenya's efforts to end GBV by 2026 are promising, but sustained investment in education, policy enforcement, and grassroots campaigns is essential. Gender equality can only be achieved when all forms of violence against women and girls are eliminated, and society as a whole works together to protect the dignity and rights of every individual.

Daisy Moraa
Rongo University

Suba North Sub County Becomes Seventh Sub County To Be Open Defecation Free In Homabay County

'Open defecation free' (ODF) is a term referred to communities that have shifted to using toilets instead of open defecation.

Suba North Sub County becomes the Seventh Sub County in Homabay County to achieve the ODF status after Homabay town, Rangwe, Rachuonyo South, Rachuonyo East, Rachuonyo North and Suba South.

The Event took place today at Waondo Primary School in Gembe Ward, Suba North Sub County on 2nd October 2024.

In attendance were Public Health Officers, Community Health Officers, Community Health Promot-

ers, Teachers, Pupils, Local Administration, Community Leaders, Homawasco team led by Water services Manager, Sub County Health Management Team for Suba North led by the Sub County Medical officer of Health Mr Samwel Oyuga, County Health Management Team led by Mr Paul Agwanda-The County Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Coordinator, UNICEF Team, County WASH Hub Operations Officer Mr Abok, County Sanitation Extender Miss Gillian Okeyo.

In December 2023, Homabay County won an Award in Best County in Rural Sanitation.

Homabay have so far have 4 Trophies and 5 certificates.

Homabay County is currently in full transition from ordinary pit latrines to improved Sanitation systems commonly known as Sanitation Marketing, where by all Sub Counties in Homabay County are implementing both Sanitation products and improved Sanitation facilities with Support from UNICEF, Amref/ Finish Ink and WKSP (Western Kenya Sanitation Project).

Homabay County through support of Amref/Finish Ink has piloted the intergrated CLTs/ Sanitation Marketing in Ndhiwa Sub County as



role model learning site. Ndhiwa Sub County will also be declared ODF in November 2024.

The National Government will de-

clare Homabay County Open Defecation Free by December 2024.

Ruto's Political Chess: The Quiet Calculations Behind Gachagua's Impeachment



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Worth Noting:

- What has caught many off-guard is Ruto's conspicuous silence on the impeachment process. As President, his direct involvement or vocal opposition to the motion would be expected, considering the gravity of removing a sitting deputy. However, Ruto has remained tight-lipped, refraining from any public statement on the matter. His reticence has been viewed as either a shrewd political strategy or a sign of growing tensions between the two leaders.
- Gachagua, for his part, has not taken the impeachment lightly. He has consistently denied the accusations, portraying them as politically motivated attacks aimed at derailing his efforts to reform government structures. He has doubled down on his public persona, continuing to position himself as the voice of the "hustler nation" and framing the impeachment as an attempt by corrupt elites to silence his anti-corruption crusade.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's political future hangs in the balance as his impeachment motion garners widespread attention and support. The silence from President William Ruto on the matter has sparked intense speculation, leaving many wondering if Ruto is covertly supporting or distancing himself from his embattled deputy. This article explores the intricate political landscape surrounding the impeachment and the possible strategic motivations behind Ruto's decisions—or lack thereof.

The Grounds for Impeachment

The impeachment motion against Gachagua, led by Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse, cites 11 charges, including corruption, abuse of office, and undermining the presidency. Gachagua has been accused of amassing immense wealth through dubious means, with allegations pointing to his use of proxies, including family members, to acquire properties worth billions. Among the charges are accusations that the deputy president used his influence to secure lucrative contracts and defraud public institutions, all while concealing these dealings under layers of corporate entities controlled by his close associates.

His family, particularly his wife and sons, have been implicated in using front companies to engage in money laundering, benefitting from state resources through influence ped-

dling. Properties such as Outspan Hotel, Treetops Lodge, and other significant assets in Nairobi and Nyeri are highlighted as being acquired through these alleged corrupt activities. This extensive network of questionable dealings forms the foundation of the motion, supported by over 290 MPs—well above the 117 needed to proceed with the impeachment.

Ruto's Calculated Silence

What has caught many off-guard is Ruto's conspicuous silence on the impeachment process. As President, his direct involvement or vocal opposition to the motion would be expected, considering the gravity of removing a sitting deputy. However, Ruto has remained tight-lipped, refraining from any public statement on the matter. His reticence has been viewed as either a shrewd political strategy or a sign of growing tensions between the two leaders.

Political observers have noted that the impeachment could serve as an opportunity for Ruto to realign his political interests ahead of the 2027 elections. While Gachagua's support was crucial in securing the Mount Kenya vote during the 2022 elections, his growing influence and independent political base may now pose a threat to Ruto's control of the government. By allowing the impeachment to proceed without overt resistance, Ruto could be attempting to remove a potential rival while

maintaining plausible deniability.

Moreover, Gachagua's image has been increasingly marred by controversies, especially during the government's response to anti-government protests earlier in 2024. His handling of the situation distanced him from some key political allies, providing further grounds for Ruto to consider whether continuing their partnership remains beneficial.

Gachagua's Political Maneuvering

Gachagua, for his part, has not taken the impeachment lightly. He has consistently denied the accusations, portraying them as politically motivated attacks aimed at derailing his efforts to reform government structures. He has doubled down on his public persona, continuing to position himself as the voice of the "hustler nation" and framing the impeachment as an attempt by corrupt elites to silence his anti-corruption crusade.

However, his defense has been complicated by the sheer scale of the accusations against him. The economic crimes and abuse of office charges are not easy to dismiss, especially given the detailed documentation and the involvement of high-profile business dealings. Gachagua's wealth and its rapid accumulation during his time in office have drawn attention not only from MPs but also from the public, fueling discontent among those already

critical of government corruption

The Implications for Ruto's Administration

The outcome of Gachagua's impeachment will have significant repercussions for Ruto's administration. On one hand, removing his deputy could be seen as a commitment to upholding transparency and accountability, distancing the presidency from corruption. On the other, it risks alienating a crucial voter base in Mount Kenya, where Gachagua still enjoys considerable influence. If Ruto is perceived as abandoning his deputy, it could open a rift within the ruling coalition, weakening the president's grip on power.

There is also the question of who would replace Gachagua if the impeachment succeeds. Speculation has been rife about potential candidates, with names like Kiharu MP Ndingi Nyoro being floated as possible successors. Whoever takes the position would need to balance maintaining support in Mount Kenya with consolidating power within Ruto's broader political strategy.

The Path Forward

As the impeachment process unfolds, the political stakes continue to rise. Ruto's ultimate decision—whether to support or oppose Gachagua's removal—will define the trajectory of his presidency. His silence thus far could indicate a wait-and-see approach, allowing the motion to gather momentum before making a calculated move. In any case, Gachagua's fate is set to become a major litmus test for Kenya's political landscape. With public hearings on the impeachment expected to continue, the coming weeks will be critical in determining not just the future of the deputy president, but also the stability of the entire government. Ruto's quiet calculations in the face of Gachagua's impeachment suggest a complex balancing act. The president's next steps could either solidify his authority or fracture the unity of his administration, with far-reaching consequences for Kenyan politics. As this drama unfolds, one thing is certain: the political landscape in Kenya is in for a major shift, and the ripples will be felt long after the impeachment vote is cast.

This article was scripted by:
MIDMARK ONSONGO
(Socio-Geographic Scholar)

The Israel-Palestine Conflict: A Focus On Loss Of Life And Paths To Peace



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has long been a source of suffering, death, and devastation, with its roots stretching back to the early 20th century. Over the years, the war has caused unimaginable human loss of life, especially among vulnerable populations such as women, children, the elderly, and young professionals who were meant to shape the future of both nations. These tragedies have not only torn apart families but also diminished the potential for economic and social development in both regions. This article will analyze the immense human cost of the conflict, particularly the loss of civilian lives, and suggest pathways for a peaceful resolution that can replace the seemingly endless cycle of violence.

The Tragic Loss of Civilian Lives

In almost every war, civilians bear the heaviest burden, and the Israel-Palestine conflict is no exception. The devastation is most acute among those who are unable to defend themselves; unarmed women, children, and the elderly whose deaths are a reflection of the gross humanitarian crisis perpetuated by the conflict.

Impact on Women and Children

The destruction of homes, schools, and hospitals during armed strikes has left women and children especially vulnerable. In Palestine, many women are left as widows, struggling to provide for their families after their husbands and sons are killed or imprisoned. Children, often innocent victims of the violence, have been subjected to lifelong trauma, with limited access to healthcare, education, and basic necessities. Reports from both Israeli and Palestinian territories speak of mothers weeping over the lifeless bodies of their children—victims of airstrikes, bombings, or crossfire. The loss of children, who should have represented the hope and future of the nation, is a particularly devastating aspect of this conflict.

Elderly Victims of the War

Elderly civilians, too, have not been spared the horrors of war between Palestine and Israel. Many elderly Palestinians and Israelis are refugees in their own land, displaced multiple times over the decades. Often, these older individuals cannot escape quickly when fighting breaks out due to their physical ability. They are left behind to endure the worst of the violence. Their deaths are just personal tragedies but represent a loss of historical memory and wisdom that these generations carry.

The Death of Young Professionals

One of the most overlooked consequences of the conflict is the loss of young professionals such as doctors, engineers, educators, and others who represent the economic and intellectual potential needed to rebuild both Israel and Palestine. In war-torn areas, like in any war, these individuals, who could be contributing to national development and peace, are often caught in the crossfire or forced to flee, leaving both sides without the skilled workforce necessary for recovery. As a result, not only are lives lost, but the prospects for long-term stability and growth are further diminished.

The Endless Cycle of Retaliation and War

For decades, the conflict has followed a predictable pattern of attacks and retaliations, with brief lulls giving way to renewed violence. Peace efforts have been overshadowed by political agendas, military strategies, and deep-seated mistrust. This cycle has contributed to the suffering of civilians, while fostering a culture of fear and hatred on both sides.

Many ceasefires have been brokered in the past, only to collapse soon after, leading to more loss of life. The lack of a durable peace agreement has meant that both Palestinians and Israelis live under the constant threat of violence. Without a viable peace plan, the human toll of the conflict will only continue to rise.

Pathways to a Peaceful Ceasefire

The need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict is more urgent than ever, not just to stop the immediate loss of life, but to allow for the healing and rebuilding of both nations. To achieve this, several steps could be considered:

1. Immediate Ceasefire Negotiations

The first step towards peace must be an immediate, unconditional ceasefire. This ceasefire should be brokered by neutral parties and be monitored by international observers to ensure compliance. This will provide a window of opportunity for negotiations without the backdrop of ongoing violence.

2. Humanitarian Assistance and Safe Zones

Both Israel and Palestine must agree to establish humanitarian corridors that allow aid to reach civilians caught in the crossfire. Safe zones, protected by international peacekeeping forces,

should be established to shelter vulnerable populations such as women, children, and the elderly. These zones would give civilians much-needed protection from military operations and provide a foundation for future reconciliation efforts.

3. Economic Cooperation and Development Initiatives

A key to lasting peace is the economic development of Palestine and improved economic relations between Israel and its neighbors. Investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare can help create a more stable environment, which is less susceptible to extremism and violence. Collaborative projects in technology, agriculture, and trade between the two nations could build trust and provide mutual benefits.

The Role of International Mediation and the United Nations

The international community has long been involved in attempts to mediate the Israel-Palestine conflict, but these efforts have often been fragmented or short-lived. To truly bring about a peaceful resolution, a unified, sustained effort is required from multiple global players.

Role of the United Nations (UN)

The UN must take a more assertive role in the mediation process. Rather than merely calling for ceasefires or resolutions, the UN should deploy peacekeeping forces to monitor the situation on the ground and ensure that any ceasefire is respected. Furthermore, the UN should push for more inclusive peace talks, involving not just political leaders, but representatives from civil society, including women's groups, religious leaders, and young professionals from both sides.

The UN can also establish a long-term peace commission that focuses on disarmament, transitional justice, and reconciliation programs. This commission could oversee the dismantling of militant groups, while supporting both governments in creating fair legal processes for handling crimes committed during the conflict.

Countries that Can Mediate

To ensure impartiality and success in mediation, countries that have maintained good relations with both Israel and Palestine are crucial. Nations such as Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, countries with a history of neutrality and successful peace brokering can play a vital role. Additionally, Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan, all of which have political and geographi-

cal ties to the region, could help facilitate discussions. Qatar and Oman have also played mediating roles in the past, particularly due to their regional influence.

Recommendations for Other Countries

Other countries can also play an important role in supporting a peaceful resolution in the following ways:

Diplomatic Pressure: Nations around the world, particularly the United States, European Union members, and key Arab states, must place diplomatic pressure on both Israeli and Palestinian leaders to return to the negotiating table and senses. Sustained diplomatic efforts can prevent escalations and foster an environment conducive to peace talks.

Sanctions and Incentives: Countries can use targeted sanctions against individuals or groups perpetuating violence on both sides while offering economic incentives for peace, such as development aid or favorable trade agreements.

Support for Civil Society: Foreign governments should provide support for civil society organizations working towards peace and reconciliation in Israel and Palestine. These groups often work under challenging conditions, but their efforts to foster understanding, promote human rights, and advocate for peace are essential for long-term conflict resolution.

Conclusion

The Israel-Palestine conflict continues to devastate lives, particularly among the most vulnerable. Women, children, the elderly, and young professionals are being lost to a war that offers no future. The international community must rally to support a peaceful ceasefire and bring both nations back to the negotiating table. Mediation from neutral countries, supported by the UN, offers a pathway forward. Only through sustained, inclusive dialogue, backed by international pressure and humanitarian support, can the endless cycle of violence be broken, and a new chapter of peace and reconciliation begin for Israel and Palestine.

Worth Noting:

- In almost every war, civilians bear the heaviest burden, and the Israel-Palestine conflict is no exception. The devastation is most acute among those who are unable to defend themselves; unarmed women, children, and the elderly whose deaths are a reflection of the gross humanitarian crisis perpetuated by the conflict.
- The destruction of homes, schools, and hospitals during armed strikes has left women and children especially vulnerable. In Palestine, many women are left as widows, struggling to provide for their families after their husbands and sons are killed or imprisoned.
- One of the most overlooked consequences of the conflict is the loss of young professionals such as doctors, engineers, educators, and others who represent the economic and intellectual potential needed to rebuild both Israel and Palestine.

Sports >> *Arsenal came from behind to maintain their unbeaten start to the season against winless Southampton at Emirates Stadium.

Saka Stars As Arsenal Come From Behind To Beat Southampton



Bukayo Saka celebrates Arsenal's win over Southampton. PHOTO/Arsenal/X

Arsenal came from behind to maintain their unbeaten start to the season against winless Southampton at Emirates Stadium.

Two goals in 10 second-half minutes from Kai Havertz and Gabriel Martinelli ensured the Gunners made a full recovery after being stunned by Cameron Archer's opener for the visitors, before Bukayo Saka confirmed the three points late on.

It meant Arsenal became only the second club in Premier League history to record 400 home wins, and they remain within one point of Premier League pace-setters Liverpool before the international break.

Southampton, who still only have one point after seven games, had struggled amid incessant Arsenal pressure from the outset but, albeit at times unconvincingly, the visitors suc-

cessfully held out until half-time. Saints took an unexpected lead 10 minutes after the restart, Archer providing a neat finish on the counter attack after Raheem Sterling, making his first league start for the Gunners, was dispossessed by Mateus Fernandes. That only served to spark Arsenal into life, however, and the hosts responded just three minutes later when Havertz curved an excellent finish in off the post, before Martinelli timed his run perfectly to meet Saka's cross at the back post.

With Arsenal unable to put the game out of reach, Southampton produced a spirited response but were twice denied by the woodwork when Dibling's effort deflected on to the post and Adam Armstrong hit the crossbar from the resulting corner.

But Saka, provider of his side's

first two goals, scored the third in the closing stages with a clinical finish, as Arsenal extended their unbeaten run in all competitions to 16 matches.

Saka stars in Arsenal fightback Arsenal required a dramatic late show to rescue three points against Leicester last weekend and, for a long period, their latest meeting with one of the promoted clubs again threatened to prove complicated.

It took Southampton's opener to animate Arsenal, until then bordering on complacent in their dominance and infuriatingly wasteful in pursuit of a breakthrough.

But the response is what will matter most to Arteta, enjoying his longest unbeaten streak as Arsenal boss, with five wins from seven – along with two draws achieved with 10 men

– representing a very promising start to their latest Premier League title challenge.

Saka once again proved invaluable to the Gunners' cause, with his involvement in all three goals taking his tally to three goals and seven assists after 10 games in all competitions this season.

The England international kick-started the comeback by dispossessing Flynn Downes and teeing up Havertz, then lofting a wonderful cross to Martinelli before getting the goal his performance deserved.

With his equaliser, Havertz became the first Arsenal player to score in seven consecutive home appearances in all competitions since Robin van Persie in March 2012, as he continues to flourish as the Gunners' frontman.

It appeared set to be a long afternoon for Southampton as they weathered wave after wave of Arsenal attacks in the early stages, but Russell Martin's side grew in belief as they restricted Arsenal to just one first-half shot on target.

That saw Thomas Partey, deployed at right-back in the absence of the injured Jurrien Timber, denied by former Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale before Jan Bednarek denied Sterling on the rebound.

But Saints' joy was short-lived following Archer's shock opener and the visitors were ultimately overrun in the closing stages, following a triple change by Arteta which saw Martinelli, Leandro Trossard and summer signing Mikel Merino inject much-needed energy.

Despite positives for Martin to take, not least their resilience, they have now matched their worst ever top-flight run, going a 20th match without a win for the first time since 1969.

BBC

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Vincent Kibet Langat and Sheila Chelangat were crowned the winners of the 10km race in this year's edition of the Kericho Cross Country held on Saturday

Kibet And Chelangat Crowned Kericho Cross Country Champions



Vincent Kibet Langat and Sheila Chelangat were crowned the winners of the 10km race in this year's edition of the Kericho Cross Country held on Saturday.

36-year-old Langat sustained a gruelling contest to cut the tape in 30 minutes and four seconds, ahead of Nicholas Kipkorir and Mathew Koech, who wound up the podium places in 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

Chelangat claimed victory in the women's 10km race, clocking 33:18 minutes, followed by Diana Chepkorir and Maurine Jepkoech in 2nd and 3rd places in that order.

Both Langat and Chelangat were rewarded with Ksh 150,000 each for their victories from the event sponsor Betika under their Betika na Community Corporate Social Programme.

"This was one of the toughest courses I've run, but the energy from the crowd and the beauty of the Kericho landscape kept me going. I'm truly honoured to have won this race," said Chelangat. Chelangat was also excited fol-



lowing her victory. "It was a great experience running here in Kericho. The terrain was challenging, but it pushed me to give my best. I'm grateful to the organisers for such a fantastic race and supporting athletes like us."

Francis Bowen won the master's category after he completed the 4km race in 12:55, while in the women's category, Joyce Kirui

crossed the finish line in eight minutes.

Eric Mwiti, Betika brand emphasised on their commitment to supporting sports development at all levels. "We are thrilled with the overwhelming success of this cross-country event. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated; this achievement is just the beginning of even

greater things to come for our brand."

The cross country attracted over 800 amateur and professional athletes from across the country, kicking off in the county's iconic tea farms in a thrilling 10-kilometre event and 4-kilometre race for senior athletes.

KBC

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



State To Address Teachers' Welfare

By: Dennis Rasto
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- "I praise teachers for letting examinations be done without interruption. We are looking for solutions for the issues they have raised," he said
- He disclosed that this year 1,313,913 candidates will sit for KPSEA examination while 965,501 will write their KCSE examination. Last year 1,282,574 and 903,260 candidates sat for KPSEA and KCSE examinations respectively
- Speaking during celebration to mark World Teachers Day at Kunste Hotel in Nakuru, the Cabinet Secretary acknowledged the crucial role that teachers are playing for the development of the country adding that since teachers are a fundamental condition to guarantee quality education, they and educators should be empowered, adequately recruited and remunerated, and more importantly, motivated.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has reassured teachers that the government will continue improving the welfare of teachers by addressing all the challenges they are facing.

Ogamba reiterated the State's commitment to addressing teachers' concerns over salaries and allowances.

The Cabinet Secretary said structures had been put in place for meaningful engagement with the teachers' union officials.

CS Ogamba praised the members of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) for suspending a work boycott that was scheduled to kick off on August 26 and giving dialogue a chance. He said the strike would have disrupted Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations which kick off this month.

"I praise teachers for letting examinations be done without interruption. We are looking for solutions for the issues they have raised," he said

He disclosed that this year 1,313,913 candidates will sit for KPSEA examination while 965,501 will write their KCSE examination. Last year 1,282,574 and 903,260 candidates sat for KPSEA and KCSE examinations respectively

Speaking during celebration to mark World Teachers Day at Kunste Hotel in Nakuru, the Cabinet Secretary acknowledged the crucial role that teachers are playing for the development of the country adding that since teachers are a fundamental condition to guarantee quality education, they and educators should be empowered, adequately recruited and remunerated, and more importantly, motivated.

To carry out successful education reforms, he assured that the government was investing heavily in the capacity of teachers and educators and teaching as a profession was being made attractive to the top high school candidates.

Ogamba who was flanked by KNUT Secretary General Collins Oyuu stated that the government had recognized that the success of the Education 2030 agenda requires sound policies and planning as well as sufficient and properly trained teachers.

The Cabinet Secretary affirmed that the State was committed to quality education and to improve learning

and the mechanism to measure progress.

He vowed to ensure that teachers and educators are empowered, adequately recruited, well trained, professionally qualified, motivated and supported.

The right to education, noted the Cabinet Secretary, makes it necessary to recruit and retain qualified and motivated teachers who should work in a safe environment, have access to appropriate tools and resources and enjoy adequate working conditions and remuneration.

"We are putting in place proper incentives which include appropriate remuneration and a clear career progression path. The government is working round the clock to ensure teachers are empowered through provision of decent working condition," Mr Ogamba stated

He added "The teachers are being well resourced and their working environment being made safe and healthy,"

Ogamba indicated that to achieve the Education 2030 agenda every school in the country needs to be staffed with qualified teachers.

The Cabinet Secretary hailed KNUT leadership for putting in place alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve their grievances in an amicable manner. This he said had successfully yielded industrial peace in the education sub sector

The World Teachers Day which is celebrated on October 5 annually, marks the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Recommendation – concerning the status of teachers.

The UNESCO recommendation helped set benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions.

According to UNESCO, the recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel was adopted in 1997 to complement the 1966 recommendation by covering teaching personnel in higher education.

The KNUT Secretary General said the Presidential Working Party



Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba.

on Education Reforms (PWPER), which looked at several areas in the sector and gave recommendations that will lay critical grounds for review of several laws affecting education, was a welcome move.

This he said was an indicator that the current regime values, respects and holds education and educators in high regard.

He indicated that a well remunerated teacher is a well-motivated teacher.

"Even if we trained, tooled and re-tooled, caused an impactful and modern teacher; we need to pay them well. In the CBA 2017-2021; teachers got a salary award that cushioned them against inflation. We thereafter signed a cashless CBA 2021-2023 and later managed to review it in respect to the clause 24 of the same to address the salary component," stated the official

Oyuu said the seven to 10 per cent salary award they secured from the employer was welcome though they had made a demand of 60 per cent.

While disclosing that the union had held deliberations with the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) over the implementation of the second phase of the CBA, Oyuu praised the commission for hiring 56,000 teachers with a further 20,000 set to be employed in January next year.

"A section of P1 teachers were caused to upgrade. We appeal to TSC to consider employing them

among the 20,000 who will be hired as they now qualify to teach grades 7,8 and 9," the official petitioned.

The unionist noted that the education sector the country needs is one that will grow learners holistically and that Kenya needs a modernized education that will make it compete favourably with other countries.

"This calls on the government to invest heavily on infrastructure development in the education sector, such as classrooms, laboratories, dormitories, libraries, electricity and internet connectivity. We want education that will impact and cause relevance for the professionals we produce in the growing world labour market. It is only then that we shall meet global standards," he added

The Secretary General stated that the need to continuously review education policies that injure the education sector is imperative adding that policy development procedures should be in such a way that they serve the purpose of improving service delivery.

"Policies such as delocalization, deployment of teachers to administrative positions and identification and deployment of teachers to Junior Secondary School were hurriedly done and ended up punishing educators and their families instead of improving their productivity," observed the official.