



### How Trump's Tariffs Could Wreak Havoc On North America's Auto Supply Chains

Ford CEO Jim Farley warned at a recent investor conference in New York that levying steep tariffs on imported goods "would blow a hole in the U.S. industry that we've never seen." For years, the U.S. auto supply chains have been deeply integrated with its two neighboring countries. Before a car is assembled, its parts may take multiple trips between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

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### News>> Kenya On The Right Track In Transforming Its Food Systems

P. 8. Experts in the agriculture space will in the next two days participate in a summit on the Kenya National Food Systems Stocktaking moment.



### News>> A Sh1.3 Billion Research Facility To Bolster Breeding Of Wheat Varieties Unveiled

P. 12. Wheat production in Kenya is set to increase after the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), in partnership with the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), inaugurated a Sh1.3 billion rust research greenhouse facility at the KALRO Center

# Dr Thuo Mathenge: Why Kikuyus Must Unite

⚡ Nyeri county based industrialist and philanthropist Dr Thuo Mathenge has called on members of the Kikuyu community to tame political emotions and hysteria as the country approaches the 2027 General Elections.

In the 2022 elections, he noted, the community went to the voting booths full of emotions, whose results saw them start lamentations a few months after results were out.

To curb this, Dr Mathenge said they should be ready to analyse, scrutinise, and explore the kind of leadership they want to have.



Dr Thuo Mathenge

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# Ruto Meets Leaders Of Faith-Based Health Facilities, Religious Leaders From Kiambu County

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures At State House, Nairobi*

The Social Health Authority has significantly changed the provision and delivery of healthcare across the country in the past six months. More Kenyans are registering for SHA, more services are increasingly being offered and efficiency in the payment of services has remarkably improved.

Yesterday, President William Ruto met religious leaders where they discussed ways of enhancing the efficiency of SHA at faith-based health facilities. They included Maseno North Anglican Bishop Charles Asilutwa, Machakos Catholic Bishop Norman King'oo Wambua, Africa Inland Church Presiding Bishop Abraham Mulwa and Supkem National Chairman Hassan ole Naado. Earlier, the Head of State had a meeting with a section of religious leaders from Kiambaa, Kabete and Thika in Kiambu County.

He noted that the transformation of the country calls for concerted efforts from all sections of leadership including political and religious leaders.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday at his Nairobi residence held a consultative meeting with a section of leaders from Turkana county. They were led by Anarlet Lemuya who is an MCA for Lobei/Kotaruk ward. Others included; Samuel Lomodo, an MCA for Lokichar Ward, Peter Akono, a former CEC in Turkana County government and youth leader Julius Nakiru. Their discussions focused on several pressing issues that impact the community and their future as a people. One of the key challenges that came out was the issue of crude oil extraction in the area and the benefits to the locals and Kenya as a whole.



A Vietnamese national, Duh Hung, and a Kenyan, Dennis Ng'ang'a, when they appeared before Senior Magistrate Njeri Thuku at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) Law Courts following their arrest for the possession of approximately 300 garden ants concealed in 140 syringes. The ants, with an estimated street value of KSh200,000, were intended for illegal trafficking. The duo and two others not in this picture pleaded guilty will be sentenced today. Photo/Text, courtesy of Kenya Wildlife Service.



Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, CS Dr. Deborah Barasa has launched a new initiative aimed at addressing environmental challenges in Lake Naivasha Basin. Speaking during the launch, the CS emphasized the vital role of Lake Naivasha in supporting agriculture and fishing for local communities. However, she noted that the ecosystem is increasingly under threat due to pollution, wetland degradation, deforestation and biodiversity loss mainly due to unsustainable farming, chemical runoff, hotel waste, and human encroachment on riparian areas. The 3-year ecosystem restoration initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through WWF-US and executed by The National Environment Trust Fund seeks to promote sustainable management through enhanced collaboration and integrated landscape approaches among stakeholders. The newly launched initiative aligns with key national strategies such as the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the 15 Billion Tree Initiative, the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy (2023–2032), and the National Climate Change Action Plan (2023–2027), while also supporting Africa Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the other hand, Environment and Climate Change Principal Secretary Dr. Eng. Festus K Ng'eno acknowledged the concerns raised by the various stakeholders present and assured them of the government's commitment to implementing the project. Present during the event included Nakuru Deputy Governor, David Kones, Governor Nyandarua County, Moses Kiarie Badilisha, National Environment Trust Fund CEO Mr. Samson Toniok, WTRI CEO Dr. Patrick Omondi, Kenya Forest Service, Nema Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service, WWF USA, Global Environment Facility, among others

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The session centered on a petition submitted by the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), highlighting concerns over non-compliance with the 2017 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and the non-remittance of the 2.75% statutory deductions by the Social Health Authority (SHA) intended for public health insurance coverage. The CS underscored the critical role of human resources for health in the successful implementation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), reiterating the Ministry of Health's commitment to engaging all relevant stakeholders in addressing the issues raised. He affirmed the Ministry's resolve to drive sustainable reforms within the fiscal limits of the national budget. In the presence of KMPDU leadership, the Cabinet Secretary expressed his firm commitment to decisive, structured action—including intensified enforcement against unqualified health practitioners operating illegally in the sector. He informed the Committee that the Ministry will, beginning next month, roll out sensitisation programmes across counties to enhance public awareness on SHA and its role in the new health financing model. The CS was accompanied by Principal Secretaries Ms. Mary Muthoni (Public Health and Professional Standards) and Mr. Harry Kimtai (Medical Services), Director General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth, and a delegation from the Council of Governors (CoG) led by Nyeri Governor and CoG Vice Chairperson Mutahi Kahiga. Also present was Mr. Richard Obiga, Assistant Director, State Department for Social Protection and Citizen Affairs.



Irrigation Principal Secretary, Ephantus Kimotho yesterday chaired a meeting on the soon-to-be-launched Management Information System (MIS)—a transformative tool set to enhance data accuracy and support more informed, timely decision-making in irrigation, water harvesting and storage. The data generated by the system will play a vital role in project monitoring and evaluation. It will offer valuable insights to policymakers, contract implementation teams, farmers, and other stakeholders, enabling more effective planning, execution, and decision-making at all levels. The MIS will streamline data collection, analysis, and reporting, significantly reducing errors, eliminating redundancies, and enabling real-time, evidence-based responses. Beyond improving efficiency, the system is expected to strengthen accountability and transparency across operations—ultimately delivering better outcomes to citizens. This marks a major milestone in the Department's journey toward harnessing technology to improve service delivery through data management.

Budinessman Dennis Waweru has declared interest in the Nairobi gubernatorial seat in 2027. Waweru is a former Dagoretti South MP and also former chairman of the Kenya investment authority. With over 20 years of experience as an investment banker, Waweru has played a crucial role in the growth of Kenya's financial sector. His leadership has helped implement key stock market initiatives, contributing to the sustainable development of Kenya's capital markets. As a key player in Kenya's investment landscape, Waweru's contributions to the financial and political spheres continue to shape the future of investment banking in East Africa.





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# Council Of Governors, Health CS Duale Pledge Joint Efforts To Boost Universal Health Coverage

By: Alex Njeru

@themkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki, who chairs the Council's Health Committee, emphasized the importance of regular engagements between national and county governments in achieving the country's health goals.

"Such meetings are crucial in bridging information gaps that have often led to poor services and public confusion. We need a unified, whole-of-government approach to ensure UHC is not just a policy on paper but a lived reality for every Kenyan," said Governor Njuki.

The Council of Governors (CoG) has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through continuous consultations and joint efforts with the national government.

In a familiarisation meeting hosted by the Council, newly appointed Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale met with county leaders to deliberate on strategies aimed at improving access to quality healthcare across the country.

The meeting also sought to address long-standing bottlenecks hindering effective healthcare delivery under the new Social Health Authority framework.

These include issues of staffing, misinformation, and coordination between different levels of government.

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"Such meetings are crucial in bridging information gaps that have often led to poor services and public confusion. We need a unified, whole-of-government approach to ensure UHC is not just a policy on paper but a lived reality for every Kenyan," said Governor Njuki.

The committee further urged the national government to fast-track the formal absorption of UHC staff and ensure they are seconded to counties with appropriate terms that reflect their professional cadres.

Governor Njuki also stressed the importance of mass registration under the Social Health Authority to enable Kenyans to access reliable and afford-



From left: Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga and Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale walking into the meeting venue yesterday.

able healthcare services.

In his remarks, CS Duale reaffirmed the national government's commitment to working closely with counties to strengthen healthcare systems, recognizing health as a fully devolved function.

"The county governments are key players in delivering healthcare at the grassroots. We must work together to remove the barriers that stand in the way of access and equity," said CS Duale.

The meeting concluded with a joint resolution to deepen intergovernmental collaboration in a bid to realize



Kenya's UHC aspirations.

The meeting was also attended by several other governors, deputy gov-

ernors and senior ministry of health officials.

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# Kenya On The Right Track In Transforming Its Food Systems

By: Wangari Ndirangu  
@themtkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- The food systems focus on achieving healthy and nutritious food, inclusive livelihoods, environmental sustainability, and resilience and are anchored in international commitments such as the UN Food Systems Summit. They are designed to facilitate a transition towards more sustainable and inclusive food systems, including agro ecology.
- Through the youth program, the PS said that they have engaged 9,450 youth across 1,335 wards to strengthen extension service through the Youth agri-preneurs Program and through the 2,308 4-K clubs and 158,685 learner members to promote food and nutrition as well as agribusiness mindset change in schools.
- “We are also strengthening the participation of youth, women, and marginalized communities in decision-making through the Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project (KeLCoP),” he added.

Experts in the agriculture space will in the next two days participate in a summit on the Kenya National Food Systems Stocktaking moment.

The meeting comes ahead of the second United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) that will be taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27-29 July 2025.

Speaking yesterday during a media breakfast briefing ahead of the two meetings, State Department of Agriculture Principal Secretary, Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh said Kenya has been working towards five pathways in transforming its food systems.

The PS gave the status and achievements of the five pathways, namely increasing youth/women in profitable agri-food systems, digitalization of agri-food systems, improving dietary diversity, climate action, and financing agri-food systems through partnerships and collaborations.

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“We are also strengthening the participation of youth, women, and marginalized communities in decision-making through the Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project (KeLCoP),” he added.

On the digitalization of Agri-food systems, Dr. Ronoh confirmed that through KiAMIS, 6.45 million farmers have been registered with the e-vouchers, digital platform tools that provide weather forecasts, market prices, and agronomic advice have been put up, and that digital soil mapping is ongoing.

“With FAO collaboration, land digitalization for precision agriculture is ongoing while AI and data analytics is being used for market trends, production optimization, and food safety traceability,” the PS said.

On improving dietary diversity through the Homegrown School Meal Programme, Dr. Ronoh said that 2.3 million children are being fed but the government’s target is the number to rise to 10 million by 2030.

In Nairobi City County, the Dish na

County program is reaching 500,000 learners while the kitchen gardens are being promoted in households and schools for nutritious food production, the PS said.

“There has been the establishment of demonstration farms in schools and government institutions for technology transfer in food production for improved diets in ASALs,” he added.

On climate action, PS Rono said that the National Agro ecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024–2033) is in place to promote sustainable farming practices and enhance soil health.

“There has been rangeland reseeded in ASALs to restore native plant diversity; the National Irrigation Authority is promoting climate-resilient systems; and through the Land Commercialization Initiative, we are targeting 2.5 million acres of idle arable land and 1.3 million acres of irrigated land by 2030,” he said.

On post-harvest tech, the PS noted that there has been improved storage, drying, and warehouses to reduce losses, and so far, 100-grain dryers have been distributed across NCPB depots.

“Through KALRO, drought-tolerant and nutrient-fortified seed varieties are under development, and the Nyota bean variety, rich in iron, is in the market for farmers, and we are also advancing feedlot strategies in ASAL Counties,” the PS noted.

On the fifth pathway of financing agri-food systems through partnerships and collaborations, the PS said the government is collaborating and partnering under the Public-Private Partnerships to improve infrastructure, production, value addition, and market access.

“We are implementing the establish-



Principal Secretary Dr Paul Rono.

ment of aggregation centres in all the counties; through the 1,023 registered SACCOs we have mobilized Sh259 million in savings and disbursed Sh165 million loans,” he added.

In collaboration with IFAD and the World Bank, the PS said they had piloted the tracking of financial flows to food systems (3FS) tool to ensure efficient resource allocation.

He added that the policy on the Agriculture Development Fund is underway to establish an agricultural bank for farmers to fulfill the CAADP requirement of financing the agriculture sector sustainably.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Kenya Country Director, Ruth Okowa said one of Kenya’s key UN Food Systems pathways focuses on promoting diverse, nutritious, and culturally appropriate diets to reduce malnutrition and non-communicable diseases.

Towards this end, she added that GAIN has been collaborating with the Ministry of Health and other partners to increase public awareness, strengthen value chains for nutrient-rich foods, strengthen food fortification & biofortification, and

catalyze implementation of nutrition-related policies.

“Nutrition literacy and social behaviour change (SBC) are critical levers to shift consumer preferences, and GAIN, alongside other stakeholders, is committed to advancing efforts through partnerships and innovation to ensure all Kenyans can access healthier diets,” Okowa said.

As the country prepares for the National UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment tomorrow and Wednesday, April 16th, 2025, the Country Director called on all to advocate for policies and actions that promote the production and consumption of diverse diets and ensure that healthy food is a right, not a privilege, for every Kenyan.

Kenya has made commendable strides in improving nutrition, with stunting rates dropping from 26 percent in 2014 to 18 percent in 2022 (KDHS 2022). However, we still face a triple burden of malnutrition—undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and rising rates of overweight and obesity.



Principal Secretary State department of Agriculture together with stakeholders in the agriculture field during the media breakfast on Kenyans national food system stocktaking moment—UNFSS+4.

# Dr Thuo Mathenge: Why Kikuyus Must Unite

*The Industrialist Who Tripples As Chairman Of The New Democrats (TND) Political Party, Chairman Of Kenya Agricultural And Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) And Patron Of The Kikuyu Community Is Proposing That Key And Respected Religious Leaders Convene A Meeting For All Political Leaders From The Most Populous Tribe To Chart A Way Forward*

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- On disunity among community leaders with several political parties under their wings, Dr Mathenge said although the issue was a true reflection of democracy, there was need for the community to decide which party had the best bargaining traits for them.
- He said that his party, which has roots in different regions in the country was best bet for the mountain region as he had made it public that he would not trade it with anything.
- “If I am asked between folding TND and leaving the chairmanship of KALRO, I would better remain in TND,” he retorted in response to whether he would succumb to dissolving his political party.

Nyeri county based industrialist and philanthropist Dr Thuo Mathenge has called on members of the Kikuyu community to tame political emotions and hysteria as the country approaches the 2027 General Elections.

In the 2022 elections, he noted, the community went to the voting booths full of emotions, whose results saw them start lamentations a few months after results were out.

To curb this, Dr Mathenge said they should be ready to analyse, scrutinise, and explore the kind of leadership they want to have.

“Emotions and hysteria are dangerous diseases that have long under-served consequences. People must stop acting emotionally,” he said.

He made the remarks while speaking during an Inooro TV morning show on Politics and Peace In Building the Nation, where he was hosted by veteran journalist Kamau Kang’ethe yesterday.

On disunity among community leaders with several political parties under their wings, Dr Mathenge said although the issue was a true reflection of democracy, there was need for the community to decide which party had the best bargaining traits for them.

He said that his party, which has roots in different regions in the country was best bet for the mountain region as he had made it public that he would not trade it with anything.

“If I am asked between folding TND and leaving the chairmanship of KALRO, I would better remain in TND,” he retorted in response to whether he would succumb to dissolving his political party.

He proposed that senior religious leaders like Archbishop Anthony Muheria, Archbishop Wang’ombe and others should be implored upon to convene a meeting of all leaders in the region with the aim of uniting them saying pulling strings in different directions would only cost the community.

He said through their leadership, the political leaders, though in different political camps, could have a common front for the whole community.



Dr Thuo Mathenge at Inooro TV studio yesterday morning.

He reminded the Central region residents that during the Moi era, the area lost heavily as most of the leaders joined the opposition and the then administration segregated them.

He thus justified his acceptance to join the government recently, saying him and other leaders serving in

President William Ruto’s administration were there to ensure the region received its deserved share of the national cake.

Without mentioning names, he hit out at some leaders who were critical of the Uhuru Kenyatta administration and development records simply because they wanted certain

leaders elected saying that was one of the perfect hysterical decisions that some are still regretting.

Dr Mathenge called on the youth to make good use of Social Media and not to allow themselves to be mis-used by selfish leaders.



Dr Thuo Mathenge with his host, Kamau Wa Kang’ethe at the Inooro TV studio yesterday

# Time For Action Against Apostle Ng'ang'a's Conduct In Church



By: Alex Njeru  
@themtkenyatimes

A disturbing video circulating online shows Apostle James Ng'ang'a of Neno Evangelism slapping a male congregant three times during a church service, hurling insults, and physically throwing him to the back of the sanctuary for allegedly dozing off during a sermon.

Such violent behavior—under the guise of spiritual leadership—is not only unacceptable but raises serious concerns about the preacher's conduct and the psychological state of his followers.

This is not merely a case of misconduct; it is a red flag indicating a dan-

gerous dynamic between religious leaders and their followers.

When a man is humiliated and assaulted publicly without protest or resistance, it speaks volumes about the possibility of mental manipulation and spiritual coercion within the congregation.

These are characteristics often associated with cult-like environments where individuals are conditioned to surrender personal agency in favor of absolute obedience.

The Registrar of Societies, in collaboration with other government oversight bodies, must urgently investigate this church.

It is critical to determine whether Neno Evangelism is operating within the bounds of lawful religious practice or veering into the territory of a cult.

The horror of the Shakahola Massacre remains vivid in the minds of Kenyans.

Led by Paul Nthenge Mackenzie of Good News International Ministries, over 200 people died in the Shakahola Forest after allegedly being instructed to fast to death to reach the "Kingdom



Apostle James Ng'ang'a of Neno Evangelism

of Heaven."

That tragedy is a stark reminder of how unchecked religious extremism can spiral into catastrophe.

Religious freedom is protected in Kenya, but it must never be a shield for violence, exploitation, or psycho-

logical control.

It is time for the government to act decisively, not only to protect vulnerable worshippers but also to uphold the dignity and integrity of religious spaces.

*The author is a Journalist and Director of Alena Communications Consultancy Company*



# Nakuru County Government Affirms Its Commitment To Harmonization Of Levies

By: Anne Mwale  
@themkenyaintimes

**Worth Noting:**

- “We are committed to creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive. Some of the barriers can be well addressed through policy interventions. A key initiative in this effort is the harmonization of the business licensing system,” Kones added.
- Speaking when officiating the opening of Dama Mobile Spares Shop’s Nakuru branch, the Deputy Governor further noted that the devolved unit was in the process of establishing the County Aggregation Centres and Industrial Parks and asked the private sector to take advantage of opportunities available.
- He highlighted Governor Susan Kihika’s commitment to reviewing the multiplicity of levies and taxes affecting the devolved unit’s intra-county and inter-county trade thereby discouraging investments while raising prices for the end consumer.



The County Government of Nakuru has affirmed its commitment to harmonization of levies affecting the ease and cost of doing business in the devolved unit.

Deputy Governor Mr David Kones disclosed that they will partner with the national government and the private sector to come up with standard charges, (levies, fees and taxes) so as to encourage investments.

While pledging the devolved unit’s willingness to partner with the private sector in developing policies that will help remove trade barriers, Kones said plans were in the pipeline to put in place legislation for a single business permit to ease the process of acquiring trade licenses and help attract more investors. “The County government is in the process of amending the Finance Act that will birth the issuing of a single business permit to reduce the number of requirements for businesses. This will in turn enable traders to concentrate with their core business instead of spending their time looking for permits,” he explained.

“We are committed to creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive. Some of the barriers can be well addressed through policy interventions. A key initiative in this effort is the harmonization of the business licensing system,” Kones added.

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and asked the private sector to take advantage of opportunities available.

He highlighted Governor Susan Kihika’s commitment to reviewing the multiplicity of levies and taxes affecting the devolved unit’s intra-county and inter-county trade thereby discouraging investments while raising prices for the end consumer.

“We are taking deliberate steps to reduce the cost of doing business and position Nakuru as an essential destination for local and foreign investments. As a county government, we are committed to actively pursuing interventions that will make Nakuru the economic powerhouse of the region, thereby making it the destination of choice where trade and investment thrives,” said the Deputy Governor.

He indicated that the county had identified its trade and investment prospects through pursuing active partnerships to unlock its potential and would provide support in value addition, trade and investments to help achieve the objective of transforming Nakuru into a middle-income economy.

Dama Mobile Spares Shop specializes in mobile phone spare parts. Kones stated that the shop’s new branch will significantly improve access to essential components within the local mobile phone industry in the region.

He acknowledged that double taxation and multiplicity of licenses and permits in the counties are still an impediment that make business across the devolved units a painstaking job.

He added that paying for multiple licenses and permits to operate in a sin-

gle county is unsustainable and deters investors.

“A single county license that encompasses all permits and is acknowledged by other county governments will spur economic activities across counties and in turn increase revenue collection,” he said.

Kones was accompanied by County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives Mr Stephen Kuria, County Secretary and Head of Public Service Dr Samuel Mwaura, City manager Gitau Thabanja, Chief Officer Edward Gitau (Public participation) and Trade Director John Macharia.

Kuria indicated that they have digitized their business-related services such as license applications noting that to attract foreign direct investments (FDI) into Nakuru investors should be able to interact with county services from wherever they are.

Attracting and retaining investments, Kuria said, entailed businesses partnering with the county government to enhance development through building infrastructure, restoration of natural resources and offering productive jobs in order to raise the living standards for every resident throughout the devolved unit.

Kuria said they had embarked on various plans to boost the region’s attractiveness to investors, starting with reforms in the tax regime through harmonization of fees and elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade.

According to the CECM Nakuru, regarded as a key food basket in Rift

Valley, also seeks to lure investors to its vibrant agricultural sector to add value to its products and gain direct sales of its farm produce to foreign markets including East African countries.

The county is one of the leading producers of potatoes, carrots, milk and vegetables among other crops.

Economic survey findings by various institutions show Nakuru is fast rising to become the most preferred investment destination for local and international investors.

It is projected that the county has an economic potential worth Sh200 billion in agricultural value addition, manufacturing, geothermal exploration, tourism, and real estate.

Results of a survey released by the Institute of Economic Affairs show it is easier to start a business in Nakuru town compared to five other populous urban areas.

Economists attributed this to mainly reduced tax burden that has made it more attractive to investors.

The study gave the county an overall score of 89 in the tax sub-cluster followed by Eldoret (78) and Machakos (67). The bottom three in the category were Kisumu (64), Nairobi and Mombasa at 56 and 54 respectively.

# A Sh1.3 Billion Research Facility To Bolster Breeding Of Wheat Varieties Unveiled

By: Wangari Ndirangu and  
Douglas Namunane  
@themtkenyatimes

Wheat production in Kenya is set to increase after the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), in partnership with the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), inaugurated a Sh1.3 billion rust research greenhouse facility at the KALRO Center in Njoro, Nakuru County.

CIMMYT Director General Dr. Bram Govaerts said the facility will enhance screening of wheat varieties to help establish the latest diseases.

“What we are doing is to accelerate and improve the capacity of CIMMYT and KALRO collaboration. We have screening facilities where we can test our wheat varieties for the latest diseases so that farmers can receive wheat seed that is resistant to diseases,” Govaerts stated.

He announced this at KALRO Njoro, where they also launched a cold room to store seeds and facilitate the multiplication process.

Acknowledging the enormous challenges facing the wheat sector, Dr. Govaerts said there is hope considering that there are multiple challenges not only because of climate change and accelerated diseases but also because of soil degradation.

“The wheat here is the new wheat varieties that are going to go around the globe. It is one of the spots in the world where we test the wheat varieties for new diseases,” he stated.

KALRO Deputy Director (Crops) Dr. Felister Makini lauded the KALRO-CIMMYT partnership, saying it gears towards escalating wheat production in the country.

“The capacity that they are building, both in terms of the infrastructure now and even the scientists, is very impressive, and this is going to go a long way in increasing the production of wheat in our country,” stated Dr. Makini.

She said although Kenya produces wheat, 80 percent of the product is imported to enable the industry to meet the required quantity.

“As you are aware, we are importing almost 80 percent of our wheat into the country, so we are looking at how we can increase productivity, especially in this day and age where climate change is a serious problem and therefore these facilities are going to help us increase our capacity,” she explained.

Dr. Makini termed the facility vital. “As we refine and accelerate the variety, development, and identification of these diseases, having a foresight on pests and diseases is going to help impact positively in terms of identifying lines or varieties that actually can



CIMMYT Director General Dr. Bram Govaerts speaking during the launch of a Sh1.3 billion rust research greenhouse facility at the KALRO Center in Njoro, Nakuru County. The facility is expected to support increase of wheat production in Kenya.

be resistant,” she added.

The Deputy Director said KALRO has developed new varieties that have been released and urged wheat farmers to embrace them.

“If you keep on using and recycling the same seed, the disease pressure will increase. The farmer will likely have even more diseased crops, which will reduce the yields. Our advice to farmers has been, at most, to use the seeds for two or three seasons. But after that, go for the certified seeds,” she explained.

In Njoro, Dr. Makini said they are making great efforts to produce more seeds, especially of these new varieties, and that KALRO has set up a Mkulima shop to enable farmers to buy the certified seeds.

She further allayed fears of genetically modified seeds, clarifying that the wheat disease outbreaks were as a result of traditional breeding.

“There is no GMO here yet. So, even if you see that the crops are dying or you see that the crops have diseases, it is not because of GMOs. It is because of the traditional breeding,” Dr. Makini reiterated.

CIMMYT Principal Scientist and Wheat Improvement Lead, East Africa, Dr. Sridhar Bhavani, said through research, they have developed at least 250 varieties in the past 15 years.

“We have already released over 250 odd varieties; we are staying ahead of the game by releasing varieties even before the pathogen moves to cause devastating diseases,” Dr. Bhavani noted.

The principal scientist said the rust research facility will also serve as a breeding hub to enrich resistance and build future resilience for pests and diseases for newer varieties that are to be deployed not only in Kenya but the rest of Africa as well.

Dr. Bhavani further said that breeding products developed at the Njoro facility will be exchanged through a partnership called the Wheat Improvement Network for Africa, wherein over 16 countries will receive the high-yielding varieties combining disease resistance and also climate resilience to be tested, advanced, and deployed in other target environments.

He stated the partnership was further targeting to assist smallholder farmers in increasing their yields by educating them not only on how to apply fungicides but also on how to make it profitable for them through conventional breeding.

“The current varieties can have a yield potential anywhere between 6 and 8 tonnes per hectare, which is almost a 50 percent increase or doubling of what used to be with the older varieties,” Dr. Bhavani stated.



## Worth Noting:

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- She said although Kenya produces wheat, 80 percent of the product is imported to enable the industry to meet the required quantity.
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# Nominees For Cabinet Secretary Positions Face Scrutiny In National Assembly Approval Hearings

By: PSCU

The Committee on Appointments, led by Speaker of the National Assembly Moses Wetang'ula yesterday held intense approval hearings for two nominees appointed by President William Ruto.

Geoffrey Kiringa Ruku, the current Member of Parliament for Mbeere North Constituency, has been nominated for the position of Cabinet Secretary in Public Service, Human Capital Development, and Special Programmes.

Ms. Hanna Wendot Cheptumo has been nominated for the Cabinet Secretary position in Gender, Culture, The Arts, and Heritage.

Both nominees faced rigorous questioning as Members of the National Assembly probed their qualifications, views, and commitment to addressing critical national issues.

Ruku, who was the first nominee to appear before the Committee, shared his deep commitment to public service, particularly in safeguarding the interests of his constituents in Mbeere North.

"If approved, I will extend my dedication to all Kenyans. Whether in Turkana, Mandera, or any other part of the country, I'll ensure efficient service delivery without fear or favor," he said.

Ruku's passion for reform was evident as he spoke about addressing corruption, a pressing issue he believes undermines the country's development.

"Kenya loses billions through corruption, not just from theft, but also from lengthy investigations and prosecutions," he said, advocating for stronger laws to expedite justice.

"The Corruption and Economic Crimes Act needs revision to ensure swifter prosecution and more effective resource management," Ruku added.

On the topic of the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), Ruku raised concerns about bribery within the system, which he claimed hinders deserving teachers from receiving promotions.

He further vowed to tackle corruption and implement reforms to address wage bill concerns, delayed salaries, and ghost workers in the public service.

On tackling the issues of ghost workers within the civil service, Ruku promised to set up digital systems to track work attendance and delivery of service.

"It's true we are experiencing ghost workers in public service. We have cases where Doctors or Nurses appear in a facility & within 10 minutes they disappear, we have Procurement Officers who are supposed to dispose utilities but make government loose money, they are all ghost workers", noted Ruku.

He further indicated that institutions need to report to each other. Time sheet to be digitized so that staff are monitored through a unified digital government framework which he said will enable us to solve some of these challenges in cutting cost & ensuring time bound delivery of services.

"We need a unified digital system to track attendance and improve efficiency," Ruku proposed.

Ms. Cheptumo spoke passionately about her commitment to combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and promoting Kenya's cultural heritage.

Hailing from a region with a high prevalence of GBV, Cheptumo emphasized her focus on creating comprehensive support systems for survivors.

"I want to see more programs for survivors and ensure that GBV education is included in school curricula to promote respect and equality from a young age," she affirmed.

In response to questions about harmful traditional practices like FGM and early marriages, Cheptumo committed to working with community leaders, including religious figures, to address these issues.

She proposed the establishment of gender desks at police stations, which would offer support to GBV survivors, and recommended relocating these desks to hospitals to provide a safe and compassionate environment for medical and psychosocial assistance.

Cheptumo also addressed the role of Kenya's diverse cultural heritage in a rapidly globalizing world.

"Kenya's cultural diversity is a treasure that needs to be celebrated and preserved for future generations and stressing the importance of protecting traditional practices like the Bukusu circumcision rites.

She also proposed initiatives to repatriate cultural artifacts currently held in foreign museums, ensuring that Kenya's cultural history is safeguarded.

Both nominees faced pointed questions about their strategies for addressing key national challenges, including the bloated wage bill, public service delivery efficiency, and the preservation of personal data, especially in Huduma Centres.



Speaker Moses Wetang'ula at yesterday's session..

Ruku promised to expand the number of Huduma Centres and enhance digital services to reduce physical interactions, thus promoting transparency and reducing corruption.

Ms. Cheptumo, on the other hand, was asked about her plans to support local artists and preserve Kenya's cultural identity.

She proposed mentorship programs for artists at the grassroots level, ensuring fair remuneration and working closely with county governments to create platforms for artistic expression.

She also stressed the importance of working with schools and communities to safeguard traditional values and prevent cultural erosion.

The Committee on Appointments is expected to retreat and write a report on the on the nominees' suitability for the positions and further table the report before the House for consideration.

If approved, Ruku and Ms. Cheptumo are expected to play pivotal roles in shaping Kenya's future in public service, gender equality, and cultural preservation.



Geoffrey Ruku taking oath before being vetted.



Ms Hanna Cheptumo taking oath before going the vetting process yesterday.

# Time



By: Abdullayeva Elnura

Time is one of the most important and constant aspects of our lives. It shapes the way we experience the world, marking the passage of moments from the past to the present and into the future. Time is often seen as a limited resource, and how we manage it can greatly influence our happiness and success. At its core, time is an abstract concept. It's a way to measure the changes that occur in the world around us. Days, hours, and minutes are divisions of time that help us organize our lives. We use time to schedule events, meet deadlines, and plan for the future. Without time, it would be difficult to coordinate our actions or

make sense of the events happening in our lives.

The way we perceive time can differ from person to person. Some people feel that time moves too quickly, especially as they grow older. Others may feel that time moves slowly, especially during moments of waiting or boredom. Despite these perceptions, time itself remains constant and unaffected by our feelings.

Time also plays a significant role in the natural world. Seasons change, plants grow, and animals evolve, all over long periods of time. The Earth's rotation and orbit around the Sun create the rhythm of days and years. In this sense, time is a force that governs much of life on our planet.

In conclusion, time is an essential element of human existence. It provides structure and order to our lives, helping us make sense of the world around us. How we use and value time can shape our experiences, reminding us to appreciate the present while planning for the future. Time may be fleeting, but it's a powerful force that continues to shape our lives in ways we often don't notice until it's gone.

# Nijat Hunalp An Azerbaijani Poet And Writer



Nijat Hunalp is an Azerbaijani poet and writer. He was born in 1996 in the city of Mingachevir. He is a member of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union and the World Young Turk Writers' Union. His poems were awarded third place in the "Fergana" literary award and were included in the long list of the "Vagif Samadoglu" award. His poems and stories have been published on the country's "Kulis.az", "Edabiyyat.az", "Literature and Art", "Partizan.az", "Manera.az, Dalidag.az", "Zerif Kögeler" portals, "525", "Edabi - Eks Seda", "Butov Azerbaijan" newspapers, Turkey's "Ya am Fanzin", "Güfte Edabiyyat", "An", "Yitik Bavul", "Bağcu", "htilal" magazines, Ta köprü, "Krym n Sesi" newspaper, "Dibace.net", "Dergizan.com" portals, Iran's Sanjak newspaper, Uzbekistan's "Ezgulik", "Adobiyyat Olami" newspapers. His poems have been translated into English and Uzbek.

grief  
For me to take the grief when I die.  
I didn't let my wishes to get older  
To be spinsters like the girls.

Nothing is higher than the death  
The body without spirit is nothing.  
The sky is the home of the spirit  
They took shelter at the God.

## WHERE DID THE HORSES TAKE THE FATHERS?

Both the sword and arrow mixed with the soil,  
Where did the horses take the fathers?  
Those screams, moaning still are ringing in my ears  
Where did the horses take the fathers?  
Those courser horses had seen a lot of fights  
The manes of the bridled horses were covered with blood  
Those horses ran towards the death  
Where did the horses take the fathers?  
They raged in the fights or battles  
They were infuriated in the battles.  
They were faster than the wind, they were like birds  
Where did the horses take the fathers?

Where are those wish horses, where are luck horses?  
Where are the khakans of properties, horses of thrones?  
The centuries turned those horses into the history  
Where did the horses take the fathers?

The sons who died leaving their swords in the scabbard,  
The sons whose fates made them let down.  
Hey, brave sons, if you know tell me too  
Where did the horses take the fathers?

The world and the horses are at the same age  
The horses were always the friends of the fighters.  
Hey, my horse memory, whisper into my ears,  
Where did the horses take the fathers?

Into which directions did these roads and path turn?  
How hard is holding the load of the history  
Hey, my crazy horse, my course horse, call  
Where did the horses take the fathers?

Their bodies are on the earth, but their spirits are on the heaven,  
There are fear and anxiety in their eyes.  
The horses followed the traces of the fathers  
Where did the fathers take the horses?  
Where did the horses take the fathers?

## DEATH MARCH

In the city of lonely people  
I am in the basement  
of the room called as  
hopelessness.  
And the apples of my eyes  
look like the mole  
which can see the light from  
the far distance  
for many miles.  
My clothes smell death  
step after step.  
I gulped the vinegar  
that I had bought yesterday.  
Like the thirsty Egyptian slave  
I fraternize with the death  
among the damp walls of the hospital.  
The beech tree blows its leaves off the sky  
in the yard.  
My sisters and brothers  
are born from my silent and lonely spirit.  
And each birth brings tears  
with itself.

## THE SKY IS THE HOME OF SPIRITS

As nobody on the earth  
The poet also wasn't lucky.  
I picked a flower from my heart  
For the bee that was left without flower.

The strings of my heart are the friend of

Nijat HUNALP,  
Translated by: Sevil GULTEN

## Education

### Beautiful and Brilliant

I walk educated,  
I smile educated,  
I talk educated,  
I eat educated.

Education what else on earth can I compare you to  
you changed me from being slave to master,  
you changed me from being tribal to good leader,  
you changed me from wearing rags to wearing decent clothes,  
you changed me from being evil doer to God fearing.

Oh! Education you're not heartless like tribalism,  
you bring people from far ends together,  
in your faith our needs are unlimited,  
u  
you turn the impossibilities to possibilities.

Wow! Education life without you is like tea without sugar.  
"Cii man de Nhialic" We can't tell how sweet your fruits are.

Kuorwel Kur

# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

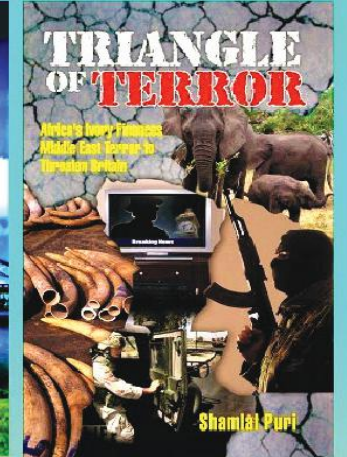
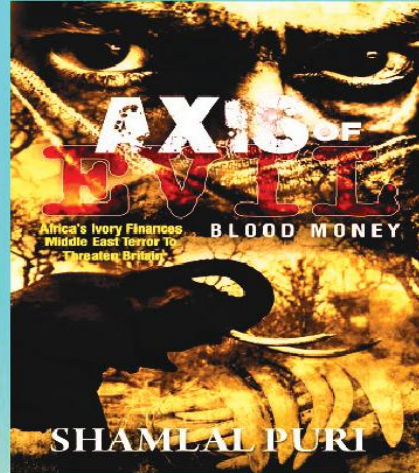
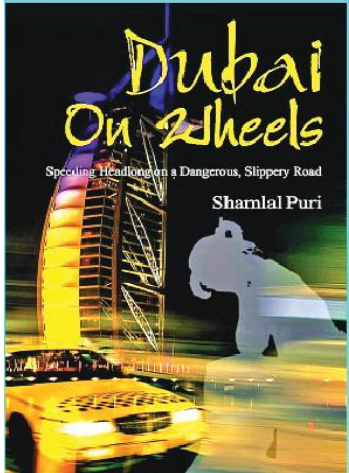
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## POLITICS

# No 2025 Finance Bill Yet, Government Spokesperson Clarifies Amid Online Speculation



By: Aoma Keziah

@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

According to him, as per established national budgetary timelines, any revenue-raising measures such as the Finance Bill are introduced only after the release of the Draft Budget, expected after April 30. Only then, the Finance Bill will be subjected to public scrutiny and debate through official channels.

He further explained that the current major intervention is the Budget Policy Statement (BPS), which outlines strategic priorities for the government across both the national and county levels. This BPS the third under the Kenya Kwanza administration places emphasis on fiscal consolidation and responsible spending rather than increasing taxes.

Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura has dismissed claims circulating on social media regarding the existence of a 2025 Finance Bill, urging Kenyans to ignore what he termed as “deliberate misinformation.”

Speaking during a press briefing, Mwaura emphasized that the 2025/2026 Budget process is still ongoing and that no Finance Bill has been proposed, drafted, or tabled before Parliament.

“Let it be clear that there is no Finance Bill 2025 before Parliament or anywhere else. Any information suggesting otherwise is simply not true and is meant to mislead the public,” he stated.

According to him, as per established national budgetary timelines, any revenue-raising measures such as the Finance Bill are introduced only after the release of the Draft Budget, expected after April 30. Only then, the Finance Bill will be subjected to public scrutiny and debate through official channels.

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“We’re focusing on boosting revenue through administrative reforms and better policy alignment, not by hiking taxes as some have suggested,” Mwaura said.

Shifting the attention to agriculture, he outlined the successes of the Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMR) program under the Kenya Kwanza Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, noting that this initiative has brought real change to farmers across the country, shielding them from market volatility and securing stable incomes.

“Macadamia prices jumped from KES 24 to KES 100 per kilo, coffee farmers are now earning KES 130 per kilo, up from KES 50, with payments directly sent via M-Pesa, milk prices increased from KES 37 to KES 50 per litre, sugarcane earnings rose to KES 5,300 per metric ton, with some farmers receiving bonuses for the first time and miraa prices saw significant hikes across all grades. Kenya has cemented its position as Africa’s top avocado exporter, with renewed



Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura addressing the media during a press briefing at KICC Nairobi

investment in leather, tea, and other sectors showing signs of strong returns,” explained Mwaura.

On healthcare Transformation, he also took time to highlight progress under the government’s new healthcare program Taifa Care, which was introduced in October 2024 to replace the defunct NHIF, describing it as a critical pillar in the government’s push for Universal Health Coverage.

“Over 19 million Kenyans have already registered under Taifa Care, up from 8 million under NHIF. This is not just a number it reflects access,

hope, and dignity,” he remarked.

The government Spokesperson stated that so far, more than 8.5 million Kenyans have gone for medical checkups through the program, with hundreds of thousands referred for diabetes and hypertension care.

For example, Amina, a single mother whose son is undergoing cancer treatment. For her, the upgraded Taifa Care system with faster claims processing and enhanced coverage for ICU and cancer care has made a life-altering difference. Families like Amina’s no longer have to choose

between survival and bankruptcy,” he said.

In conclusion, he pointed out that the government is also preparing to roll out a daily payment plan to accommodate those who cannot afford one-time premiums, ensuring broader access to healthcare for all. He urged Kenyans to stay informed through verified government channels and to register for Taifa Care to enjoy its full benefits.



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# How Trump's Tariffs Could Wreak Havoc On North America's Auto Supply Chains

By: Xinhua

BEIJING, Xinhua) -- Ford CEO Jim Farley warned at a recent investor conference in New York that levying steep tariffs on imported goods "would blow a hole in the U.S. industry that we've never seen."

For years, the U.S. auto supply chains have been deeply integrated with its two neighboring countries. Before a car is assembled, its parts may take multiple trips between the United States, Mexico and Canada. U.S. tariffs on Mexico and Canada are driving fears of disrupted supply chains across North America and higher car prices. "What we're seeing is a lot of cost, a lot of chaos," said Farley. **MORE U.S. CONSUMERS CAN'T AFFORD NEW CAR** In the workshop of Alian Plastics in Monterrey, northern Mexico, molten plastic from the United States is injected into the mold cavity to make plastic car parts such as headlight shells.

Felipe Villarreal, the company's general manager, told Xinhua that after the production of these plastic parts is completed, they will be shipped to the United States for component assembly and then returned to Mexico for the assembly of the whole vehicle. Finally, the vehicle will be exported to the United States. "This process is the epitome of close collaboration across the North American automotive industry chain," Villarreal said. "Instead of paying for materials and processing costs, companies could now be subject to tariffs of 15 to 25 percent at every step, with cumulative rates of up to 70 percent," Villarreal said. Despite Washington's claim that added tariffs protect American-made cars, a purely American-made car simply doesn't exist.

Today, automakers draw on global resources to make cars. Even Ford's F-150 pickup truck, which has remained the best-selling truck in the United States for over 40 years, gets less than half of its parts from American factories. Ford has a Chihuahua engine plant and two stamping and assembly plants in Cautitlan and Hermosillo, Mexico, and an assembly plant in Oakville, Canada. Last year, around 8 million cars were imported to the United States.

Mexico led the pack as the top U.S. car import partner, shipping some 3 million vehicles. Canada ranked fourth, exporting some 1.1 million units to the United States. Michigan-based Anderson Economic Group estimates that tariffs would add 2,500 to 5,000 U.S. dollars to the cheapest cars in the United States, while prices of some imported cars might go up by 20,000 dollars.



U.S. President Donald Trump

## Worth Noting:

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Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told Xinhua that auto prices will go up by 4,000 dollars per vehicle, while many firms are expected to report low profits or losses. The higher costs would take a toll. A decade ago, the lowest-earning 20 percent of American consumers couldn't afford a new car.

Today, it's the bottom 40 percent, said Venkatesh Prasad, senior vice president of research at the Center for Automotive Research. **JOB CUTS "WOULD BE INEVITABLE"** U.S. auto production has been steadily declining over the past decade. U.S. Commerce Department data shows that last year, the United States produced only 1.7 million finished vehicles, down from over 4 million in 2014. Because the drop stems from a variety of factors, including rising costs, tougher global competition and a slow transition to electric cars, tariffs to revive domestic manufacturing are likely to backfire. Even if global automakers shift more production to the United States under the threat of tariffs -- as Washington desires -- plenty of steel and aluminum would be needed. But the United States began imposing 25 percent tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum on March 12.

Gimme Credit's analyst Jay Cushing warns that added tariffs on steel and aluminum could increase U.S. vehicle costs by up to 1,500 dollars.

The Anderson Economic Group estimates that the tariffs slapped on aluminum and steel could increase electric vehicle prices by up to 2,500 dollars. If car prices rise further, production and job cuts in the U.S. auto industry "would be inevitable," the group said. Flavio Volpe, president of Canada's Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, warns North America's deeply integrated auto industry could collapse. "We all know that you can't make a car without all of the parts arriving in time, and so if you create a tariff that is at 25 percent ... somebody, either the carmaker, the parts supplier or ultimately the consumer, will have to pay," Volpe said. Canadian auto suppliers operate 156 factories across 18 U.S. states, employing 50,000 American workers, he said. "We're American investors and American employers; don't cut off your nose to spite your face."

## AUTOMAKERS STRUGGLE TO KEEP UP

As concerns over U.S. tariff policy uncertainty grow in the auto industry, both small manufacturers and global giants are crafting their "Plan B" to navigate potential disruptions and safeguard their operations. "We are meeting to define strategies, just as we did during the COVID-19 pandemic. We discussed everything from technical stoppages to employee management in case tariff threats materialize," said Manuel Montoya,

general director of the Automotive Cluster of Nuevo Leon.

General Motors CFO Paul Jacobson recently said the company is ready to adjust for short-term tariffs but will face greater challenges if tariffs remain in place longer term. "If they become permanent, then there's a whole bunch of different things that you have to think about, in terms of where do you allocate plants, do you move plants, etc.," he said. Typically, automakers start designing and testing next-year models early each year. However, many North American companies remain hesitant this year, with the development of 2026 models still on hold.

Tariff uncertainties are likely to delay vehicle investment, development and production decisions, according to S&P Global Mobility. The U.S. automotive market could become further fractured from other global markets. In a global context, U.S. protectionism stands in stark contrast to the growing trend of regional cooperation, Montoya said. "We are seeing regions like Europe and Asia strengthen their value chains because it is the most efficient. Isolating oneself is a setback."

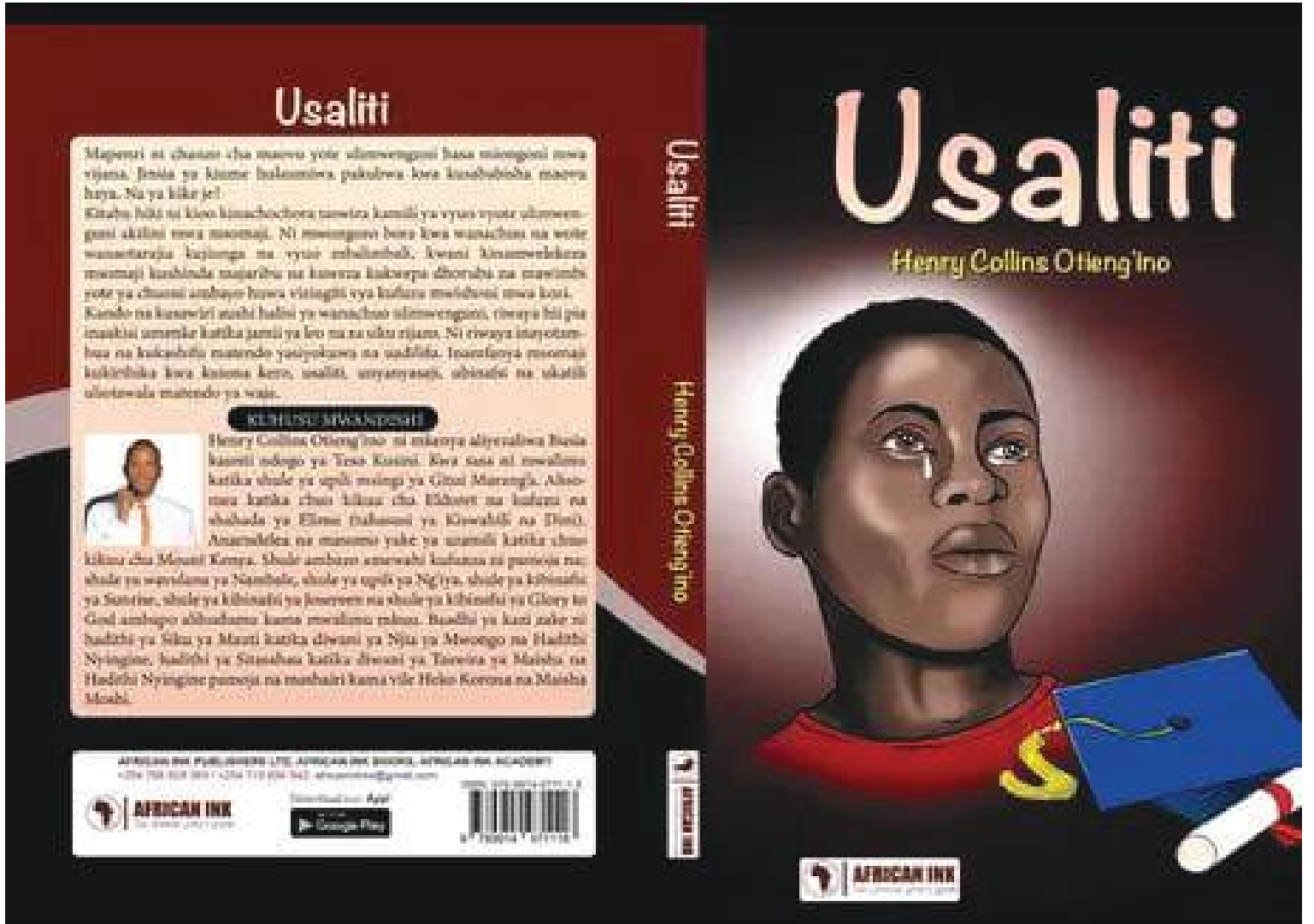
# Tahakiki Yariwaya "Usaliti."



By: Winjoy Gacheri  
@themkenyetimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Katika uk39 Tunapata pale chumbani Cha mhadhara, Monteni walipokuwa wakiwasilisha kazi zao za makundi walipokuwa wakiwasilisha kazi zao za makundi walipofikiwa anasema kuwa aliwaita wenzake zaidi ya mara moja lakini hakuna aliyejitokeza isipokua Tukiwa ambaye ndiye aliyekuwa karani wa kundi wengine Kumi na watatu waliwasaliti baada ya kususia kufikia kwenye chumbani Cha mhadhara.
- Ambapo ilibidi Monteni na Rukia wawasilishe kazi yote. Tunaendelea kupata kuwa baada ya kuwasilisha kazi Yao Bi. Kaza aliwapongeza akawapa alama nzuri huku akiwanyima wenzao waliosusia muhadhara. Hivyo wenzake wakahitaji kazi nyingine tofauti na kuwasilisha kabla ya kupewa alama.
- Pili Tunapata katika UK 57 uhusiano Kati ya Monteni na Leila. Uhusiano wao ulikua nzuri lakini muda ulipokuwa wasonga tunaambiwa katika UK 70 tunaambiwa kuwa Leila alimsaliti mpenzi wake Monteni ambapo Leila alipatwa na Monteni wakiwa na mwanaume mwingine kitandani ambapo Monteni aliwafumania wakifanya tendo lenyewe suala hili liliwafanya wapenzi Hawa wawili kuachana.



**Kitabu:** Usaliti  
**Mchapishaji:** African ink  
**Kurasa:** 181  
**Mhakiki:** Winjoy Gacheri

Usaliti ni riwaya iliyoandikwa na Henry Collins Otieng'ino mkenya aliyezaliwa Busia kaunti ndogo ya Teso kusini. Usaliti ni Riwaya inayosisimua na yenye mafunzo chungu mzima. Ina wahusika wafuatao: Monteni, Mamake wema Bahati, Gabriel Ogamba, John juma, Mzee kinga, Bi Mapenzi, Maxy, Pastor Sin, Bi. Kaza, Rukia, Mzee lewa, Askofu Tanu, Mike, Leila, Lilian, Joe, Maua, Rosa, Peter, Paul, Mercy, Bi Jane, Bi. Takasa, Tambua, Maria, Philo, Fato, Slyvan na wengine ambao sijataja.

Usaliti ni Riwaya ambayo huezi kuiweka chini Hadi umekisoma hadi tamati. Kitabu hiki kinawasisimua wasomaji hasa wanarika manake kimejaa mafunzo. Usaliti ni mojaya kazi maarufu ya Mwandishi Collins Otieng'ino ambaye ni maarufu Kwa uandishi wa hadithi zenye uzito wa kijamii hasa masuala ibuka. Katika Riwaya hii ya Usaliti mwandishi anachambua maisha ya wahusika mbalimbali katika muktadha wa maisha ya kisasa akilenga

Usaliti hasa katika mahusiano uaminifu na athari za maamuzi binafsi juu ya maisha ya watu. Mwandishi anatumia wahusika wenye nguvu na Hali ngumu kuonyesha jinsi Usaliti unavyoweza kuathiri mahusiano familia na pia jamii nzima.

Katika uk39 Tunapata pale chumbani Cha mhadhara, Monteni walipokuwa wakiwasilisha kazi zao za makundi walipokuwa wakiwasilisha kazi zao za makundi walipofikiwa anasema kuwa aliwaita wenzake zaidi ya mara moja lakini hakuna aliyejitokeza isipokua Tukiwa ambaye ndiye aliyekuwa karani wa kundi wengine Kumi na watatu waliwasaliti baada ya kususia kufikia kwenye chumbani Cha mhadhara. Ambapo ilibidi Monteni na Rukia wawasilishe kazi yote. Tunaendelea kupata kuwa baada ya kuwasilisha kazi Yao Bi. Kaza aliwapongeza akawapa alama nzuri huku akiwanyima wenzao waliosusia muhadhara. Hivyo wenzake wakahitaji kazi nyingine tofauti na kuwasilisha kabla ya kupewa alama.

Pili Tunapata katika UK 57 uhusiano Kati ya Monteni na Leila. Uhusiano wao ulikua nzuri lakini muda ulipokuwa wasonga tunaambiwa katika UK 70 tunaambiwa kuwa Lei-

la alimsaliti mpenzi wake Monteni ambapo Leila alipatwa na Monteni wakiwa na mwanaume mwingine kitandani ambapo Monteni aliwafumania wakifanya tendo lenyewe suala hili liliwafanya wapenzi Hawa wawili kuachana.

Tatu Tunapata hathari ya Usaliti UK 82 ambapo sifi aliuawa na ogamba chanzo Cha mauwaji ya sifi ilikuwa Maua Binti aliyeaminika kuwa mpenzi wa Ogamba Hivyo Tunapata wapenzi wanaposalitia inaletwa hathari kama vifo wengine wanajua wenyewe. Uk86,87 tunaambiwa Rosa alipokutana na mwanaume wa kwanza deogratious Kwa sababu hakutosheka naye alianza uhusiano wa kimapenzi na Thomas ambaye alikuwa mwalimu mkuu huko Murogoro TTC, Tunaendelea kupata kuwa Rosa hakuchoka kulala na wanaume wa Kila aina ambapo mwishowe alijiua Kwa kunyua sumu sababu ya kukataliwa na mwanaume aliyempenda baada ya kugudua kuwa yeye si Bikira.

Nne tunaelezwa kuwa Monteni alipoachana na mpenzi wake wa kwanza Leila alimpata mwingine Kwa jina Arua ambaye walifaana sana lakini mwishowe pia yeye alimsaliti Monteni na kuwa kwenye mahusiano na pasta sin jambo lililomuumiza

Monteni sana.

Kitabu hiki kimetuwekea wazi maudhui ya Usaliti na hathari za Usaliti. Mwandishi anatoa hisia na mawazo yanayoambatana na Usaliti. Wahusika wanapitia changamoto za ndani wakijaribu kuelewa sababu za tabia zao na matokea Yao. Utafiti wa kina wa hisia na uaminifu na kutoeleweka unaleta uhalisia mkubwa na msomaji anajikuta akifungamana na migongano ya wahusika.

Kwa upande wa ujenzi wa hadithi Riwaya hii Ina mtiririko nzuri na misele yenye nguvu. Wakati wa ufunuo wa Kweli kuhusu Usaliti wa wahusika. Msomaji anashawiriwa na hisia za kutoamini na huzuni. Mwandishi anatumia mbinu mbalimbali za kimtindo ikiwa pamoja na mazungumzo simulizi na taswira ili kuwasilisha ujumbe wake Kwa ufanisi.

Kwa hitimisho, Usaliti ni Riwaya inayogusa hisia na inatoa nafasi ya kutafakari juu ya maadili ya uaminifu katika maisha. Ni kazi inayofas kusomwa na yeyote anayetaka kuelewa changamoto za maisha hasa katika mahusiano jinsi watu wanavyosalitiwa na umuhimu wa kufanya maamuzi yanayozingatia haki na ukweli.

# The Pharmaceutical War: How Covid-19 Unveiled A Global Struggle For Medical Supremacy Part 1



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande  
@themtkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- China's Health Silk Road emerged as a strategic initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic, leveraging vaccine diplomacy to expand its soft power across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. By developing vaccines such as Sinovac, Sinopharm, and CanSino, China positioned itself as a global health leader, offering vaccine supplies to nations with limited access.
- This outreach was framed within a narrative of solidarity and mutual assistance, reinforcing China's commitment to international cooperation while simultaneously bolstering its geopolitical influence. However, despite its outward display of generosity, China faced internal supply challenges, which were largely downplayed in its official messaging. The Health Silk Road illustrated both the opportunities and complexities of vaccine diplomacy, where humanitarian aid and strategic interests intertwine in shaping global public health policies.

## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic, which gripped the world in early 2020, was not only a global health crisis—it was also a geostrategic showdown. As the virus spread across continents, nations rushed to close borders, secure personal protective equipment (PPE), and, most critically, develop vaccines. But beneath the public health emergency lay a far deeper and more troubling reality: a global pharmaceutical war.

This war, though silent and fought behind laboratory doors, boardrooms, and international negotiations, exposed deep fissures in the global health architecture. It became a power play among technological superpowers—particularly the United States, China, Russia, and India. And as these countries raced to assert scientific dominance, Africa and the Global South found themselves sidelined, silenced, and largely excluded from vaccine development and production.

This article explores the COVID-19 vaccine race as a geopolitical and pharmaceutical war, unmasking the battle for influence, profit, recognition, and control over global health narratives.

### 1. The Beginning: A Global Race for the Vaccine

As the world reeled from the early stages of the pandemic, major scientific institutions in the U.S., China, Russia, and India launched unprecedented efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. Each country aimed not only to protect its population but to become the first to claim the political and economic capital that came with a successful vaccine.

#### 1.1 United States: Operation Warp Speed

Operation Warp Speed, launched in May 2020, was a monumental \$18 billion initiative by the United States government aimed at accelerating the development, production, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Recognizing the urgency of the pandemic, this public-private partnership engaged leading pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson, to streamline research and manufacturing efforts. Through financial backing and logistical support, the program significantly reduced the traditional timeline for vaccine development, enabling emergency use authorizations within months rather than years. This rapid progress not only mitigated the devastating impact of the virus on American lives but also showcased the potential of coordinated government intervention in medical innovation.

Following the initial vaccine rollout, Operation Warp Speed evolved



into a critical tool of U.S. vaccine diplomacy. While early distribution efforts saw the United States prioritizing domestic needs—prompting concerns over vaccine hoarding—the nation eventually committed to sharing millions of doses with global allies and vulnerable regions. This strategic shift aimed to rebuild international trust and reinforce America's leadership in global health security. The initiative demonstrated both the challenges and opportunities in balancing national interests with international cooperation during health crises, shaping future policies on pandemic preparedness and equitable vaccine access.

#### 1.2 China: Health Silk Road

China's Health Silk Road emerged as a strategic initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic, leveraging vaccine diplomacy to expand its soft power across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. By developing vaccines such as Sinovac, Sinopharm, and CanSino, China positioned itself as a global health leader, offering vaccine supplies to nations with limited access. This outreach was framed within a narrative of solidarity and mutual assistance, reinforcing China's commitment to international cooperation while simultaneously bolstering its geopolitical influence. However, despite its outward display of generosity, China faced internal supply challenges, which were largely downplayed in its official messaging. The Health Silk Road illustrated both the opportunities and complexities of vaccine diplomacy, where humanitarian aid and strategic interests intertwine in shaping global public health policies.

#### 1.3 Russia: The Sputnik V Gambit

Russia's Sputnik V Gambit was a bold move in the global vaccine race, as the country launched Sputnik V while claiming it was the world's

first registered COVID-19 vaccine. However, Russia bypassed standard Phase III trials, leading to skepticism and criticism from Western nations regarding its safety and efficacy. Despite these concerns, Russia pursued an aggressive international vaccine export strategy, particularly targeting Africa and Eastern Europe. By distributing Sputnik V to various nations, Russia sought to strengthen its geopolitical influence and position itself as a key player in global health efforts, despite lingering doubts over the transparency of its approval process.

#### 1.4 India: The Pharmacy of the World

India solidified its reputation as The Pharmacy of the World during the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to its formidable vaccine manufacturing capacity. At the heart of this effort was the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine producer, which played a crucial role in mass-producing the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine under the name Covishield. This allowed India to supply millions of doses to low- and middle-income countries, reinforcing its position as a global health leader. However, India faced a significant dilemma when severe domestic COVID-19 waves forced the government to prioritize local vaccination efforts, disrupting its ambitious export programs. The challenge highlighted the complexities of balancing domestic health needs with international commitments, underscoring the fragile nature of global vaccine supply chains.

## 2. WHO's Role and Alleged Bias

### 2.1 The WHO's Mandate

The World Health Organization (WHO) is supposed to be an impartial guardian of global health. But during the vaccine race, accusations mounted that the WHO was biased

towards Western pharmaceutical frameworks and partners.

### 2.2 Allegations of U.S. Influence

During the Trump administration, the United States temporarily withdrew from the World Health Organization (WHO), citing concerns over its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and alleged bias toward China. Despite this withdrawal, American scientific and corporate influence within the organization remained significant. U.S.-based pharmaceutical companies and research institutions continued to play a pivotal role in shaping global health policies and vaccine development. This influence was evident in the widespread adoption of U.S.-backed vaccines, such as those developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, which became benchmarks for efficacy and innovation. The situation highlighted the enduring power of American expertise and resources in the global health arena, even amidst political tensions.

Critics, however, raised concerns about the perceived preference for U.S.-backed vaccines and regulatory models within the WHO. They argued that this bias undermined the organization's commitment to equitable access and diversity in vaccine options. The dominance of American vaccines was seen as sidelining alternatives from other nations, potentially limiting the scope of global collaboration. These allegations sparked debates about the balance between scientific merit and geopolitical influence in shaping international health responses. The controversy underscored the complexities of navigating global health governance in a politically charged

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environment, where national interests often intersect with humanitarian goals.

## 2.3 Africa's Exclusion

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, African nations demonstrated a strong commitment to contributing to global vaccine production. Countries such as Senegal, Egypt, and South Africa signaled their readiness to develop manufacturing capabilities, seeking to reduce dependency on external suppliers and bolster regional health security. Despite this proactive stance, their involvement faced significant barriers, particularly in securing early approval and engagement from the World Health Organization (WHO). While global health institutions emphasized equitable vaccine distribution, African nations encountered bureaucratic hurdles that delayed their ability to participate meaningfully in the vaccine supply chain. This lack of early recognition hindered opportunities to develop sustainable local production, prolonging reliance on Western pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Beyond manufacturing, African scientists and traditional medicine experts sought to bring forward homegrown solutions, utilizing indigenous knowledge and alternative treatment methods. However, many of these efforts were marginalized or outright ignored by global health authorities, reinforcing an established Western-centric health paradigm. Instead of fostering collaborative research that incorporated diverse medical perspectives, the pandemic response was dominated by approaches rooted in Western pharmaceutical models. African researchers advocating for local solutions faced difficulties in obtaining recognition and funding, limiting the visibility of their contributions despite their potential to address specific regional challenges.

The exclusion of African countries in early vaccine production and research underscored broader systemic inequalities in global health governance. The pandemic revealed the need for more inclusive policy-making, where emerging economies are empowered to contribute meaningfully to scientific advancements. Moving forward, strengthening Africa's role in medical research and production requires a shift toward equitable partnerships, increased investment in regional health infrastructure, and greater recognition of African scientific expertise. Without such reforms, global health responses risk perpetuating disparities, lim-

iting long-term sustainability in addressing future crises.

## 3. Pharmaceutical Nationalism and Hoarding

### 3.1 Rich Nations First

By late 2020, high-income nations had secured the vast majority of the global vaccine supply through pre-orders, with over 80% of available doses allocated before mass distribution began. Wealthy countries leveraged their financial power to negotiate early agreements with pharmaceutical companies, ensuring priority access while lower-income nations struggled to obtain sufficient doses. Canada, in particular, purchased enough vaccines to inoculate its population five times over, reflecting a broader trend in which affluent nations stockpiled supplies beyond immediate need. While these pre-orders were framed as precautionary measures, they contributed to stark inequities in global vaccine accessibility, leaving many developing regions vulnerable to prolonged outbreaks.

The unequal distribution of vaccines was widely criticized, with activists and global health experts labeling the situation as "vaccine apartheid." This term highlighted the stark divide between privileged nations securing excess doses and underserved communities facing delays and shortages. As wealthy countries swiftly vaccinated their populations and debated booster doses, many developing nations had yet to receive initial shipments. Despite initiatives like COVAX - designed to promote equitable distribution - structural inequalities persisted, exacerbated by supply chain constraints and the reluctance of certain governments to share surplus doses. The prioritization of national interests over global solidarity underscored deep flaws in international health governance.

The consequences of this imbalance extended beyond immediate health risks, influencing economic recovery and geopolitical relations. Nations left behind in vaccination efforts faced prolonged lockdowns, weaker economic rebounds, and heightened public health crises. Meanwhile, vaccine diplomacy became a tool for powerful countries to strengthen political alliances, as nations with surplus doses engaged in strategic distribution. The COVID-19 pandemic ultimately exposed the limitations of global cooperation in health crises, emphasizing the urgent need for stronger frameworks to ensure fair and timely access to medical resources in future emergencies. Addressing these disparities requires reforming international health policies, fostering collaborative solutions, and prioritizing humanitarian considerations over



economic advantages.

### 3.2 Export Bans and Protectionism

During the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine export bans and protectionist policies by major producers significantly shaped global distribution dynamics. The European Union, the United States, and India all implemented forms of vaccine export controls, prioritizing domestic inoculation before allowing international shipments. These restrictions were driven by concerns over supply shortages, political pressure, and the urgency to protect their own populations. India, home to the Serum Institute of India (SII), temporarily halted vaccine exports to fulfill local demand amidst surging cases. Similarly, the European Union placed limits on the export of vaccines manufactured within its borders, citing the need for equitable distribution within member states. While these policies aimed to strengthen national health security, they exacerbated disparities in global access, leaving lower-income nations struggling to secure adequate supplies.

African and Latin American countries bore the brunt of these export restrictions, finding themselves at the back of the global vaccine queue. Many nations within these regions relied on international procurement mechanisms such as COVAX, which faced delays due to limited supply and blocked shipments. With wealthier nations securing contracts early and restricting exports, African and Latin American governments had fewer bargaining chips in negotiations with pharmaceutical companies. This imbalance prolonged vaccination efforts in these regions, delaying economic recovery and amplifying vulnerabilities to new virus variants. The situation underscored the urgent need for more equitable global health policies, as protectionist measures during health crises risk deepening existing in-

equalities and weakening collective pandemic response efforts.

## 4. Vaccine Diplomacy: Power through Health

During the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccines emerged as powerful diplomatic tools, allowing nations to expand their global influence through health assistance. As demand for vaccines outpaced supply, countries with the capacity to manufacture and distribute doses leveraged them to strengthen diplomatic ties and secure strategic advantages. While vaccine diplomacy was framed as humanitarian aid, it often carried deeper geopolitical motivations. Nations used vaccine donations and exports to negotiate bilateral agreements, enhance trade relations, and bolster their international reputation. The crisis underscored how public health interventions could intersect with soft power strategies, reshaping global alliances in unprecedented ways.

### 4.1 China

China actively promoted its vaccines—Sinovac, Sinopharm, and CanSino—as symbols of friendship, emphasizing solidarity and mutual assistance with developing nations. Through its Health Silk Road initiative, China distributed vaccines to countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, presenting itself as a reliable global health partner. Beyond goodwill, these donations played a crucial role in securing bilateral deals, trade concessions, and infrastructure contracts. In regions with strong Chinese investment, vaccine diplomacy reinforced Beijing's economic influence, ensuring continued collaboration on projects such as roads, ports, and telecommunications networks. By merging health aid with broader geopolitical and economic objectives, China strengthened its foothold in key emerging markets.

### 4.2 Russia

Russia took a strategic approach with Sputnik V, offering it at low cost or through favorable loan agreements to nations in need. This enabled Moscow to deepen its ties with countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, where access to Western vaccines was limited. Sputnik V became a gateway for Russia to expand its influence, positioning itself as an alternative health partner to Western powers. In some cases, vaccine agreements led to broader security and economic discussions, helping Russia forge alliances in regions where it previously had a limited presence. While questions remained over Sputnik V's approval process and efficacy, Russia's proactive distribution efforts underscored how global health crises could serve as leverage for geopolitical maneuvers.

### 4.3 U.S.

Initially, the United States faced criticism for vaccine hoarding, as early doses were reserved for domestic use while developing nations struggled with shortages. However, as the global vaccine rollout progressed, the U.S. took a leading role in COVAX, donating millions of doses to lower-income countries. This shift in approach was reinforced through high-profile announcements at G7 summits, where the U.S. pledged billions of dollars to support global vaccine equity and bolster international health security. By repositioning itself as a champion of equitable distribution, the U.S. sought to repair its early image and reaffirm its leadership in global health governance. Vaccine diplomacy ultimately reflected broader struggles between national interests and collective humanitarian goals, highlighting the tensions between power and health in the modern geopolitical landscape.

# SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> \*Thomas Muller appeared to relish his familiar role as a media favorite, effortlessly transitioning from one interview to another after Bayern Munich's 2-2 draw with Borussia Dortmund in the German Der Klassiker.

## Thomas Muller Turns Into Bayern's Mood Maker Ahead Of Duel Against Inter



**BERLIN, (Xinhua)** -- Thomas Muller appeared to relish his familiar role as a media favorite, effortlessly transitioning from one interview to another after Bayern Munich's 2-2 draw with Borussia Dortmund in the German Der Klassiker.

The match itself took a backseat as Muller, in his element, turned post-match discussions into a lighthearted side attraction with his trademark wit and charm. Ahead of Bayern Munich's delicate second leg of the UEFA Champions League quarterfinal against Inter on the upcoming Tuesday evening, it seemed effortless for the 35-year-old Bavarian icon to command the spotlight with his trademark charisma and media mastery.

The Bayern striker, in good humor, gave an honest assessment of the team's situation, delivering his thoughts with a mix of smiles and lighthearted remarks. "Miracle? We don't need a miracle in Milan; we need to

win," the two-time Champions League winner said. As the full contingent of TV reporters hung on his every word, the veteran forward, with 131 caps to his name, backed his assessment with stats: "We create chances in abundance. We need a good game at Inter and maybe more efficiency, but no miracle." The 12-time German champion remained confident they could turn things around after their narrow 2-1 first-leg defeat, insisting they have what it takes to advance to the semifinals.

Muller radiated confidence as he assured reporters: "We are doing good despite our injury losses. It's entirely in our hands." Optimism appears to be the guiding philosophy for the German record champions, as Bayern coach Vincent Kompany highlighted that his team unleashed 55 shots across two matches, creating 10 to 15 clear scoring opportunities. "We remain dangerous and are a threat," the

39-year-old added, choosing to focus on the team's attacking prowess rather than dwelling on vulnerabilities like their leaky defense or the absence of key players -- Manuel Neuer, Dayot Upamecano, Alphonso Davies, and Jamal Musiala.

The remaining squad has discovered their fighting spirit, Muller said and added: "So have I." He declined to discuss his future following the controversial decision to end his 25-year tenure with Bayern at season's close. "I still have targets to head for, I am a competitive footballer, and all I think about is Tuesday," he said. His impending career milestone -- 745 games in a Bayern shirt -- weighs lightly on him. "Things happen as they happen," he reflected with characteristic humor. "This moment comes for everyone; they may sack you next year," he told a reporter, drawing roaring laughter from the room.

Muller instead talked about

his ambitions to reach the 2025 Champions League final on May 31 in the Munich arena. With the 2025 Bundesliga title all but secured -- thanks to a six-point lead over second-place Leverkusen and just five matchdays remaining -- Muller has fully embraced his role as Bayern's chief morale booster. "We need to score at Inter, and that is one of my jobs next to others," Bayern's first-leg scorer said. After beginning the first leg on the bench, the Bavarian icon now appears certain to start -- with Bayern unlikely to risk leaving their chief motivator out for such a decisive clash in Italy, both for his on-field quality and infectious presence.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Liverpool moved closer to the Premier League title on Sunday with a 2-1 victory at home against a resilient West Ham United.

# Liverpool Edges Closer To Premier League Title, Newcastle Thrashes Man Utd



LONDON, (Xinhua) --

Liverpool moved closer to the Premier League title on Sunday with a 2-1 victory at home against a resilient West Ham United.

Liverpool entered the game knowing Arsenal had dropped two points at home to Brentford on Saturday and quickly took the lead through Luis Diaz after a pass from Mohamed Salah. West Ham pressed hard in the second half, seeking an equalizer. Although there was an element of luck when Virgil van Dijk's clearance rebounded into the net off Andy Robertson, the goal was well de-

served.

However, Liverpool secured all three points when Van Dijk headed home a goal in the 89th minute. With six games remaining, Liverpool leads the table by 13 points. Newcastle United returned to fourth place in the table after a 4-1 win at home against Manchester United. Newcastle coach Eddie Howe was taken to the hospital on Friday, and his assistants took charge for the game. The home side secured victory with an impressive second-half performance. Sandro Tonali and Alejandro Garnacho left the score tied at 1-1 at halftime, but Newcastle dom-

inated the second half. Harvey Barnes scored twice before Bruno Guimaraes added the fourth goal with 13 minutes left to play. Chelsea dropped two vital points in the race to qualify for next season's UEFA Champions League after a 2-2 draw at home against struggling Ipswich. Although Ipswich is almost certain to be relegated, Julio Enciso and Ben Johnson put the away side 2-0 up before Axel Tuanzebe's own goal got Chelsea back into the match.

Jadon Sancho's excellent finish then secured a point for the home side. Wolverhampton Wanderers took advantage of some tired Tot-

tenham legs and poor defending to win 4-2 and virtually assure its place in the top-flight next season. Rayan Ait-Nouri opened the scoring after just two minutes before Djed Spence's own goal. Jorgen Strand Larsen and Matheus Cunha also scored for Wolves, while Mathys Tel and Richarlison scored for the visitors.

# SPORTS NEWS



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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Caroline Wakio Muthike A Determined Dream-Chaser

By: Alfred Lobawoi  
@themkenyaintimes

## Briefly tell us who you are and more about you

My name is Caroline Wakio Muthike born in Kirinyaga county, in Ndia Kanyekini ward in the year 1998. I began my journey at Kianjege East Primary School up to class eight where my teachers found great potential in me. My primary school life was fun and I loved football, netball and volleyball. I worked hard in studies to improve the environment at home. I joined my secondary school at Kirimunge Secondary school and after completion I began teaching private academies which gave me understanding and grew myself. After around eight years, the idea of moving to the next level of life came in and I joined Nibs Technical College in January 2024. I am a communicator, and a determined dream-chaser currently pursuing my goals in the field of media. Life has taken me through different phases — from being a dedicated teacher to now becoming a student once again. This journey has reshaped my understanding of growth, resilience, and purpose.

As a mother, I wear many hats daily — caregiver, student, dreamer, and nurturer. Balancing these roles has only deepened my resolve to become the best version of myself, not only for my daughter but also for the community I serve and inspire.

## 2. What motivated you to become who you are?

I am now in my second year, pursuing a Diploma in Journalism and Media Studies as well as a Diploma in Public Relations. What keeps me going is the vision I have of myself becoming a voice for others, influencing narratives, and building bridges through information and communication.

## 3. What does your ideal day look like?

My days are intense, but they are filled with purpose. I start my day as early as 3:00 a.m., when the world

is still quiet. From 3:00 to 5:00 a.m., I study — it's my most productive and focused time. After that, I prepare breakfast, get my daughter ready, and take her to school. Then I head to class.

My lectures can run from early morning until 6:00 p.m., and on some days, they extend up to 8:00 p.m. After class, I go home, cook supper, help my daughter with any tasks, and then take care of a few household chores. I finally sleep around 11:00 p.m., ready to repeat the cycle the next day.

It's a demanding routine, but every minute is a step toward a future I believe in.

## 4. What is your favorite aspect of your work?

My favorite aspect of my work is storytelling and the ability to impact lives through communication. I enjoy being able to amplify voices that would otherwise go unheard. Through journalism and public relations, I can create meaningful connections between people, messages, and communities.

Whether it's writing an article, recording an interview, or crafting a public message — I find joy in the power of words and the potential they hold to inform, educate, and transform.

## 5. What is the hardest part of what you do?

The hardest part is balancing everything — being a student, a mother, and an aspiring media professional. There are days when exhaustion tries to wear me down, and moments when the weight of responsibilities becomes almost too much. Time management is a constant challenge.

Juggling late nights, early mornings, class deadlines, and parenting duties without dropping the ball takes a lot of strength. But with purpose and proper planning, I push through. It's tough, but it's worth it.

## 6. Have you ever incurred challenges in your work? Please tell us about it.

Yes, I've encountered several challenges. One of the biggest ones is financial constraints — pursuing two diplomas while raising a child

requires sacrifices. Sometimes I've had to skip certain things to prioritize tuition, school materials, or daily necessities.

There's also the emotional strain. As a young mother and student, I've faced judgment, burnout, and moments of doubt. But every challenge has refined me and reminded me why I started this journey. I've learned to embrace obstacles as opportunities for growth.

## 7. How do you foster yourself to keep moving?

I stay grounded by constantly reminding myself of my "why" — my daughter, my future, and my passion for media. I also surround myself with positive influences: mentors, classmates, friends, and people who believe in me.

I celebrate small wins and reflect on how far I've come. Prayer, journaling, and motivational readings help me stay mentally strong. Most importantly, I give myself grace. I'm not perfect, but I'm progressing — and that's what matters most.

## 8. Do you advertise your work? If yes, tell us how it has helped you.

Yes, I've begun advertising my work, especially on social media platforms. I use my online presence to share insights, snippets of school projects, and reflections from my journey.

This has helped me connect with like-minded individuals, build a network, and receive support and encouragement. It also gives me a space to showcase my growth and the impact I hope to make in the media world. Visibility has become a tool for learning, networking, and personal branding.

## 9. What advice would you like to give someone who wants to be you?

Believe in your path, even if it doesn't make sense to others. Start where you are, use what you have, and stay focused. Being a mother, student, or career switcher shouldn't limit your potential — it should fuel it.

Don't wait for perfect timing. The courage to pursue your passion will open doors you never imagined.



Caroline Wakio Muthike

Embrace the grind, remain consistent, and never lose sight of your "why." And most of all, don't be afraid to redefine yourself.

## 10. Given a chance, what impact would you bring to the world, nation, and to yourself?

To the world, I would bring stories of resilience, especially from young women and mothers who are re-writing their narratives. I would use media to highlight untold stories, promote education, and drive social change.

To the nation, I would advocate for accessible education, especially for young mothers and underrepresented youth. I believe in the power

of inclusive narratives and would work to ensure all voices are heard. To myself, I would give the gift of fulfillment — knowing that I didn't just dream, but acted. That I broke barriers and paved a way for others behind me.

## 11. If someone wants to check your work and what you do, where can they find you? Your handles?

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Facebook Caroline Wakio  
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