



Freedom Of Expression In Kenya: Constitutional Ideals And Judicial Realities Through Historical And Comparative Lenses

Kenya's relationship with freedom of expression begins with colonial silencing. The British colonial administration (1895-1963) implemented systematic legal mechanisms to curtail indigenous voices, particularly those advocating for self-determination.

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News>>Lawmakers Question Nyayo Tea Zone Officials Over Staff Dismissal And Unrecoverable Debts

P. 8. The Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA), which is chaired by Nabakholo Constituency MP Emmanuel Wangwe questioned Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation



News>>Nyeri National Polytechnic Hosts TVET Trainers for Skills Recognition Programme

P. 13. The Nyeri National Polytechnic (NNP) is currently hosting a cohort of 30 trainers drawn from various Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions across Mt Kenya East and West regions.

United Against President Ruto

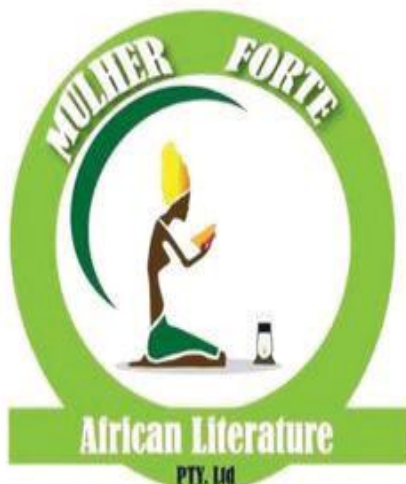
Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i has joined the opposition outfits leaders for talks in what has been perceived as initial steps to unseat President William Ruto in the 2027 general elections.

This is the Former Interior Cabinet Secretary's first public meeting. He jetted into the country silently weeks ago, and talks are rife that he has returned to hit the ground running following his endorsement as Jubilee's party presidential flagbearer.



Loyal opposition leaders group photo

STORY ON PAGE 7



Let the pen flow.



President Chairs Cabinet Meeting, Various Resolutions Passed

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatices

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday chaired a cabinet meeting at State House Nairobi that saw among other things, approval of Finance Bill 2025 that targets loopholes in tax refunds, avoids new taxes, aims to boost efficiency in revenue collection and cut disputes.

Other issues discussed included; approval of the Judges Retirement Benefits Bill, 2025, that will be introducing a defined Benefit scheme for serving judges and a Defined Contribution plan for future ones.

The Cabinet okayed two new referral hospitals in Bungoma and Kericho counties which will be funded by AfDB in a bid by the government to boost access to quality healthcare under UHC.

The meeting also approved the Pest Control Products Bill 2024 which aligns with international standards, thereby ensuring food safety, environmental protection and public health.

Further, the Cabinet backed Capital Markets Act changes that among other things addresses shareholder limits in regulated firms are scrapped, with Cabinet Secretary given power to reinstate them when needed.

Moreover, the Cabinet directed employers to apply PAYE tax reliefs automatically in a move that is aimed at addressing delayed refunds caused by non-compliance and ensures accurate tax calculations.

The sitting also approved PFM (Amendment) Bill 2024 that conditions counties to set up emergency funds for addressing and making sure they are fully prepared to handle disasters.

The cabinet resolved that Gratuity payments in public and private pensions be fully tax-exempt so as to protect retirees' income and enhance dignity in their retirement.

Under the diplomatic circles, the Cabinet approved the establishment of a Consulate General in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; consulate to provide strategic support to Kenya's peace restoration efforts.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr. Ouma Oluga yesterday hosted a delegation from the IGAD Secretariat to discuss strategic collaboration on health financing and reproductive health in the region. The meeting focused on the Africa Demographic Dividend and Sexual and Reproductive Health Program, supported by AUDA-NEPAD, which aims to strengthen access to Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services and empower women and girls. Also discussed was the establishment of a Regional Health Financing Hub (RHFH) to help IGAD member states scale up domestic health financing in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The IGAD delegation included Dr. Ahmed Hassan, Senior Program Coordinator; Mr. Tesfaye Mesele, Health Financing Expert; and Ms. Sharon Kuku, Information and Communication Officer. Also in attendance were Dr. Isaack Bashir, Director of Family Health; Dr. Edward Serem, Head of the RMNCAH Division; and Dr. Christine Wambugu, Head of the Adolescent Health Section.



The Principal Secretary of the State Department for Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Dr Esther Thaara Muoria yesterday officially launched the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Practitioners Level 2 Training at The Nyeri National Polytechnic. The training that kicked off on Monday and ends on Saturday is an initiative by the State Department for TVET targeting all TVET institutions across the Mt. Kenya West region. Expert trainers from various trade areas are on-site, working to support skills development and capacity building across the country.

The International Court of Justice said Tuesday it would issue its ruling in Sudan's case against the United Arab Emirates on May 5. Khartoum has dragged the UAE before the ICJ, accusing it of complicity in genocide by backing the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) battling the Sudanese army since 2023.

The UAE denies supporting the rebels and has dismissed Sudan's case as "political theatre" distracting from efforts to end the war that has killed tens of thousands. Sudan wants ICJ judges to force the UAE to stop its alleged support for the RSF and make "full reparations", including compensation to victims of the war. Legal experts say Sudan's case may founder on jurisdictional issues. When the UAE signed up to the Genocide Convention, it entered a "reservation" to a key clause enabling countries to drag each other before the ICJ over disputes. As robed lawyers wrestle over legal interpretations of jurisdiction in the panelled hall of the Peace Palace, the human cost of the conflict has continued to mount. Nearly 500 civilians have been confirmed killed in Sudan's North Darfur in recent weeks, the United Nations said last week, condemning "horrifying" numbers of deaths and widespread sexual violence. The UN human rights office said it had listed at least 481 civilians killed in North Darfur since April 10 and that the "actual number is likely much higher". The state has become a key battleground in the war that erupted on April 15, 2023 between the regular army, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, headed by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. The war has left tens of thousands dead and triggered what aid agencies describe as the world's largest displacement and hunger crises. Famine has officially hit five areas across Sudan, according to a UN-backed assessment.



The Ministry of Health will post the next cohort of Medical interns with effect from 1st July 2025. To facilitate a smooth posting process, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) will conduct balloting for pre-interns graduates today. The placement list generated from the balloting exercise will guide the posting of interns to their respective internship centres. Interns are expected to receive the outcome of their individual balloting results immediately after the online balloting process on 30th April, 2025 and the Ministry will receive the outcome of the balloting by Friday. The Ministry remains committed to supporting the growth of health workers and strengthening healthcare service delivery across the country.



The National Gender and Equality Commission yesterday condemned the appalling incident in Witeithie, Juja, Kiambu County, where four young girls were allegedly subjected to prolonged sexual abuse and exploitation by their father. In a statement, the Commission said the incident heinous act is a grave violation of the rights and dignity of children and an affront to the values of our society and commended the swift action taken by the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture, the Arts, and Heritage, law enforcement agencies, and the Affecto Foundation in rescuing the victims and ensuring their immediate safety and access to psychological and medical care.





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Chuka Community Petitions National Assembly For Recognition As A Tribe

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mr. Oswald Mwen- da, a Chuka elder who accompanied the petitioner, highlighted the challenges faced by the community, stating, "The Chuka people are forced to learn other languages such as Kikuyu and Meru to access education, practice religion and partici- pate fully in society."
- The petition further details the historical gov- ernance and leadership systems within the Chuka community, including the Kiama gia Nkome and Kia- ma kia Mugongo councils of elders, which have histori- cally played a significant role in community leadership and conflict resolution.



Chuka/Igambang'ombe MP Patrick Ntwiga making a point during yesterday's sitting.



Committee chairman Kawai Kagesi during yesterday's session.

Parliamentary Public Petitions Com- mittee that headed by Vihiga MP, Ka- vai Kagesi met yesterday to receive a petition seeking the official recog- nition of the Chuka community as a distinct tribe in the country.

The petition was presented by the Chuka/Igambang'ombe MP, Pat- rick Ntwiga on behalf of the Chuka community residing in Tharaka Nithi County.

It highlights the community's unique historical, cultural, social, and eco- nomic characteristics.

In his petition, Ntwiga asserts that the Constitution of Kenya recognizes the importance of Culture and as such em- phasizes on the recognition of cultural and linguistic diversity as a source of national pride and unity.

"Article 44 of the Constitution rec- ognizes that every person has the right to choose their language and to

participate in cultural life. A person belonging to a cultural or linguistic community also has the right, with other members of their community, to enjoy their culture and use their language," the petition stated, further emphasizing the importance of iden- tity, noting, "The biggest inheritance you can leave for your children is an identity," he said.

Ntwiga informed the Committee that the Chuka community numbers over 117,000 individuals, primarily located in Tharaka Nithi County. He argued that despite maintaining distinct gov- ernance structures, economic activi- ties, and cultural practices, the Chuka people are compelled to identify as Meru to access essential services, a situation that disadvantages them.

Mr. Oswald Mwenda, a Chuka el- der who accompanied the petitioner, highlighted the challenges faced by

the community, stating, "The Chuka people are forced to learn other lan- guages such as Kikuyu and Meru to access education, practice religion and participate fully in society."

The petition further details the his- torical governance and leadership systems within the Chuka commu- nity, including the Kiama gia Nkome and Kiama kia Mugongo councils of elders, which have historically played a significant role in community leader- ship and conflict resolution.

Drawing a comparison with neigh- bouring Tanzania, which recognizes approximately 180 distinct tribes, the petitioners urged the Committee to investigate the matter with the aim of securing the urgent recognition of the Chuka community as a distinct tribe.

Members of the Committee wel- comed the petition, describing it as "timely and of great importance."

However, they also encouraged the petitioners to focus their arguments on potential socio-economic gains along- side tribal recognition.

Dagoretti North MP Beatrice Elachi remarked, "This petition is commend- able as it highlights the challenges faced by many other small commu- nities. It could pave the way for mar- ginalized communities to also receive their deserved recognition."

The Committee is now scheduled to proceed with its consideration of the petition by inviting relevant stakeholders to provide submissions. Thereafter the Committee will prepare a report to be debated in on the floor of the House.

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Matiangi Joins Kalonzo And Gachagua For Talks As Opposition Outfit Consolidates Support

By: Irene Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i has joined the opposition outfits leaders for talks in what has been perceived as initial steps to unseat President William Ruto in the 2027 general elections.

This is the Former Interior Cabinet Secretary's first public meeting. He jetted into the country silently weeks ago, and talks are rife that he has returned to hit the ground running following his endorsement as Jubilee's party presidential flagbearer.

Matiangi attended the strategic meeting with opposition figures including Wiper Party Leader Kalonzo Musyoka, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, People's Liberation Party Leader Martha Karua and DAP-Kenya Leader Eugene Wamalwa.

Other leaders who attended include Former CSs Mithika Linturi, Justin Muturi and Former UNCTAD Secretary General Mukhisa Kituyi among

others.

Insiders claim the meeting is part of the initial plan to build a mega political outfit ahead of the 2027 general elections with two years to the general elections.

Over the past week, he has held closed-door meetings with key regional and national leaders, with insiders suggesting he prefers private engagements over public appearances.

Opposition leaders in Kenya are actively strategizing to form a unified political front aimed at unseating President William Ruto in the 2027 general election. This movement has gained momentum with the involvement of key political figures and the reorganization of existing political parties.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has declared his intention to run for the presidency in 2027. Gachagua emphasized the goal of consolidating support to secure a decisive victory in the first round of the Presidential vote.

Gachagua clarified that he is aware all other opposition politicians also



have their eyes on the country's top seat but insisted the focus now is to consolidate the votes from Kenyans.

The Former Deputy President asserted that should he not be picked, he will fully support the candidate the opposition will have settled on.

"I am vying for presidency, so is Martha Karua, Kalonzo Musyoka, Fred Matiang'i, Eugene Wamalwa

and we continue to look for votes, in the end we shall talk and agree to back one candidate. Even if it is not me, I will support whoever we agree on," Gachagua stated.

"I was not impeached by the people. I was impeached by MPs who did not elect me. Impeached or not, I am still a leader and that is why people listen to me everywhere I go. I am in the

politics of saving Kenya," he added.

He is expected to launch his political party in May.

While the opposition's efforts to form a grand coalition are gaining traction, they face significant challenges, including aligning diverse political interests and presenting a unified policy platform.



Lawmakers Question Nyayo Tea Zone Officials Over Staff Dismissal And Unrecoverable Debts

By: MKT Correspondents
@themkenyaintimes

The Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration, and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA), which is chaired by Nabakholo Constituency MP Emmanuel Wangwe questioned Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation over its decision to dismiss staff following an unexplained loss of stocks.

During the Committee’s review of the Corporation’s audited financial statements for the financial years 1996/1997 to 2023/2024, the lawmakers expressed concerns about the disciplinary actions taken without conclusive evidence of wrongdoing.

Appearing before the Committee, the Corporation’s CEO, Mr. David Chepkony, admitted that investigations into the missing stocks were inconclusive. Although the staff in charge of the store reported a break-in and theft, further inquiries suggested it could have been an inside job. Insurance compensation was not possible, as there was no evidence of forced entry.

“When this matter was reported to the police, investigations showed

that the stores were not broken into. There were no signs of forceful entry, but items were missing, suggesting that they could have been taken over time,” the Corporation’s Director of Human Resources told the Committee on Monday.

“The insurance would only compensate if there was proof of forceful entry. As a result, all staff involved were subjected to disciplinary measures, leading to dismissal,” he added.

The Committee also raised concerns over the Corporation’s long-standing issues with outstanding trade debtors. Management explained that it has been a persistent challenge spanning several years.

“The nature of our operations often requires staff to clear their debts with the Corporation when leaving,” the Finance Officer explained. “Some managed to settle their debts fully, but others, unfortunately, were unable to do so.”

In cases where debtors had passed away, the Corporation maintained a cautious approach.

“In such cases, we don’t write off the debt immediately. We hold on to the claim and explore whether it can be offset against any benefits due,” the Finance Officer noted.

For former employees who moved to other institutions, the Corporation



The committee chairman Emmanuel Wangwe addressing the members and Nyayo Tea Zone officials.

said it actively pursues repayments. Currently, a provision for doubtful debts amounting to KSh 3.3 million has been made to cover amounts owed by former staff who have left the organization. The Committee is expected to issue further recommendations following its ongoing review of the Corporation’s financial and operational practices.



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina who is a member of the committee making his contribution.



Corporation CEO David Chepkwony when he appeared before the committee on Monday.

Pressure Mounts To Probe Kenya Police And Army After BBC Exposé

By: BBC

Worth Noting:

- ‘They aimed to kill’ – BBC identifies security forces who shot Kenya anti-tax protesters
- BBC Africa Eye’s Blood Parliament documentary revealed how security forces brutally responded to youthful protesters who breached Kenya’s parliament on 25 June 2024, the day lawmakers voted to approve the proposed tax hikes.
- The controversial finance bill was aimed at raising \$2.7bn (£2bn) the government said it needed to cut its reliance on external borrowing – but had sparked widespread.
- Using open-source data and user-generated content, the BBC’s analysis of more than 5,000 images identified uniformed security personnel – a policeman and soldier – who opened fire killing three unarmed protesters at parliament.



Leading human rights organisations have renewed calls for investigations into the killing of protesters by Kenya’s security forces during demonstrations against a rise in taxes last June.

It follows a BBC Africa Eye investigation, exposing members of the security forces who shot dead three protesters at Kenya’s parliament, igniting public outrage and demands for justice.

Amnesty International and the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) said the officers identified in the documentary should “face the law”.

The BBC said it had cancelled a private screening of the documentary in Kenya’s capital Nairobi on Monday “due to pressure from the authorities”.

“We are very disappointed not to have been able to share the documentary and panel discussion as planned,” a BBC spokesperson said. “In the meantime, audiences can watch the film on BBC Africa’s YouTube channel,” the spokesperson added.

- ‘They aimed to kill’ – BBC identifies security forces who shot Kenya anti-tax protesters

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posed tax hikes.

The controversial finance bill was aimed at raising \$2.7bn (£2bn) the government said it needed to cut its reliance on external borrowing – but had sparked widespread.

Using open-source data and user-generated content, the BBC’s analysis of more than 5,000 images identified uniformed security personnel – a policeman and soldier – who opened fire killing three unarmed protesters at parliament.

The wider clampdown by the security forces on a series of protests against the finance bill left at least 65 people dead, resulted in the forcible disappearance of 89 others and the arrest of thousands, according to Amnesty International. The Kenyan government put the death toll at 42.

Amnesty said the documentary corroborated the group’s earlier report that “unnecessary and excessive lethal force was used against protesters”.

It demanded both the police and the Kenya army to “act and publicly state the actions being taken with regard to the findings of the BBC exposé”.

The rights group urged Kenyans to sign a petition calling for a public inquiry into the killings during what were dubbed the #OccupyParliament protests.

The KHRC said the BBC documentary revealed how “organised criminals in police and military uniforms”

were deployed “to murder innocent Kenyans”.

It said the “responsibility rests with [President William] Ruto, who must be held accountable for these deaths”.

Kenyans expressed their anger online, pressing the government to hold security officers accountable for the killings and injuries of peaceful protesters.

Ruto has previously defended police against accusations of brutality and recently warned Kenyans against commenting on military matters.

Police have also repeatedly denied involvement in the abductions and killings. No officers have been charged.

In response to the BBC documentary, the police service said the force could not investigate itself, adding that the Kenya’s Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) was responsible for investigating alleged misconduct.

The Kenyan Defence Forces (KDF) told the BBC the IPOA had not forwarded any request to look into any of its personnel involved in the operations at parliament.

On Monday, following the release of the BBC Africa Eye documentary, the IPOA gave an update on the investigations into police brutality witnessed during the anti-tax protests.

The authority revealed that so far,

of the 60 deaths under investigation, 41 involved gunshot wounds. IPOA said it had completed 22 investigations, while it was actively pursuing 36, and that two cases were currently before the courts.

The investigating agency said it had recorded 233 injury cases during the demonstrations.

In a statement, the main opposition coalition said the “execution of peaceful protesters was premeditated and sanctioned at the highest levels”.

“We strongly warn the Ruto regime on further bloodshed,” a joint statement said, reacting to the BBC documentary.

The Kenyan government is yet to officially respond to the BBC documentary but one legislator has called for the BBC to be banned in Kenya.

George Peter Kaluma said that the 37-minute-long documentary risked “destabilising” the country.

But a senator, Edwin Sifuna, defended the documentary saying there were no “fabrications” in it.

“We must encourage these stories to be told from all angles for the sake of truth and justice. Those who are uncomfortable with this are wrestling with their own consciences and we cannot help them with that,” Sifuna posted on X.

MSF Releases Report To Help In Sustaining Program That Helps People Who Use Drugs

By: Felix Njenga
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- Jean de Cambry MSF country director Kenya, said that since handing over the project to the kiambu county government the MAY clinics have been running helping people who use drugs and major achievement is that a community based organisation was formed which is helping the addicts to recover and take care of themselves.
- "A CBO was formed and the addicts are helping out themselves as they also get help from the established MAT clinics,"he said.
- He said that MSF has since engaged themselves in medical emergencies such as the current cholera outbreak in Nairobi county with two units set up in Mbagathi and Mama Lucy hospitals, finished measles vaccination in Laisamis, communicable diseases in Homabay, sexual violence, drug addiction in adolescents and emergency cases in Dadaab.



Jean de Cambry Medicin Sans Frontiers/ Doctors Without Borders (MSF) poses a photo with Kiambu county government Health officials and stakeholders, NASCOP and LVTC representatives including Haven Center Kiambu (HACK) members during a capitalisation report handover by MSF to Kiambu county government..

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), has released a report to Kiambu county government health department that will help in sustainability of Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT) clinics established in the county for people who use drugs to recover.

According to Dr. Hillary Kagwa County Director for Health Services, the report highlights the milestones achieved by MSF in the five years they operated the program in the county and way forward in ensuring the program is sustained.

"MSF Belgium were in the county since 2019 on a program that is helping people who used drugs and handed over the project to the county health department which we are running now. The presented report will help in running the program efficiently and effectively,"Kagwa said.

He said that the program is still going on at Karuri level 4 hospital, Ruiru G.K prisons, satellite stations such as Kihara level 4 hospital, Lusigetti hospital where the MAT services are available.

"As a county we are intentional in providing services and ensure we address the health needs including harm reduction of people who use drugs,"he said.

He said that the human resource of 50 health personnel were absorbed by the county government to help

in running the program and are offering methadone free of charge and NASCOP and LVTC are providing support.

Jean de Cambry MSF country director Kenya, said that since handing over the project to the kiambu county government the MAY clinics have been running helping people who use drugs and major achievement is that a community based organisation was formed which is helping the addicts to recover and take care of themselves.

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Angela Thiongo former project manager of the people who use drugs on Kiambu county said that the report being released is meant to enlighten stakeholders both local and international of what worked well and what did not work and what can be done so that the program is sustainable.

She said that despite its successes, the project encountered several chal-

lenges That included gender disparity in enrolment, with only 7.7% of participants being women.

"This highlighted the need for more gender-sensitive engagement strategies to address the unique challenges faced by women who use drugs (WWUD),"She said.

She added that a significant challenge was recruiting counsellors with the appropriate qualifications for addiction counselling, as they needed six months of specialized training after recruitment, which MSF supported.

"This highlighted the importance of ensuring that MAT staff are adequately trained and equipped to handle addiction management,"she said.

She said that establishing such a programme required having a programme leader with prior experience in harm reduction.

"People who use drugs are a socially marginalized group, and many lack a steady income, which hampers their ability to access services. This highlights the need to offer free services and to include people who use drugs as a vulnerable population in various support programmes,"she said.

She said community stigma against people who use drugs remained a significant challenge. Overcoming this societal bias required continuous community education and sensitization, which should have begun early,

even before the project was launched.

She said engaging with stakeholders at all levels, from the county to the grassroots, is critical.

"Mapping these stakeholders and involving them from the very beginning ensures effective collaboration and a more supportive environment for People who use drugs"she said.

Maurice Kariuki director Haven addiction center Kiambu (HACK) a community based organisation formed with the help of MSF helping people who use drugs said that they have successful testimonies of people who have recovered from addiction and there are those in recovery process.

"We have 250 of our people who have undergone recovery process and have been reintegrated back to the society and reunited back with their families and have economic activities that are sustaining their lives,"Kariuki said.

He said that they have worries since the harm reduction program comes with a lot of resources intensity, the government may not be well equipped to fully fund and support people who use drugs.

"We request the Kiambu government and national government to intensify the program as the drug problem is ailing the nation,"he said.

Ministry Committed To Assisting Occupational Accident Victims

By: KNA

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has reaffirmed its commitment to assisting occupational accident victims and dependents of deceased victims in getting a commensurate redress Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua has said.

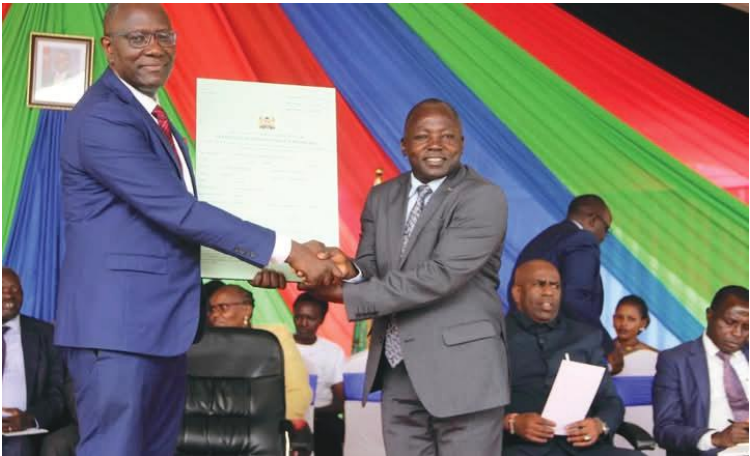
In a speech read on his behalf by the Secretary of Administration at the Ministry Herman Shambi, during the commemoration of the 2025 World Day for Safety and Health at Work places held in Nanyuki town on Monday, the CS raised concerns that the Ministry may not be able to provide the requisite redress if it has no knowledge about the workplace accidents, most of which go unreported. “The incidents of occupational accidents that go unreported hamper the Ministry’s plans that relate to the development of workplace accident preventive strategies and promotion of occupational safety and health at workplaces,” Mutua noted. The CS further urged all employers to be prompt in reporting occupational accidents and diseases for early investigations, possible compensa-



Mr Herman Shambi in Nanyuki.

tory remedies, and planning by the government. “The reporting of occupational accidents is a legal requirement that must be obeyed and adhered to. But again as employers, let us also work towards ensuring the number of injuries at our workplaces reduces,” he added. The CS also noted with concern that since the beginning of financial year, 5914 workers have been involved in accidents at various workplaces in the country, according to statistics at the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services. “Arising from these accidents, some

workers end up with lifelong disabilities and others are incapacitated and unable to work for some time,” he said. The theme of this year’s commemoration is ‘Impacts of Digitization and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Workers’ Safety and Health’ where the CS outlined that the Ministry was in the process of reviewing the legal instruments, setting up adequate policies, guidelines, laws and regulations that will be in place to address inherent concerns. “It has now become a norm that many workspaces in our country workers execute work activities on-



Laikipia County Governor Joshua Irungu receiving a document during the event..

line, virtually, from home, by way of distant work and through digital platforms. And of course, Artificial Intelligence goes alongside digitization. Telecommuting or Teleworking or Remote Work, Online jobs are turning out to be the order of the day,” Mutua observed. He added that the government would expedite the reform of this Regulatory and Policy Framework to ensure the digitalisation and AI information. Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu who also graced the function said that the county government was committed to ensuring workplace safety and health of all its employees by provid-

ing training, conducting risk assessments, providing protective equipment, and medical severance. “We must go beyond compliance, but we must also embrace a culture of care and reflect deeply on challenges that undermine working spaces such as alcoholism and substance abuse,” Irungu said. During the function, several organisations were feted with trophies and certificates for adhering to occupational safety and health standards at their respective workplaces.

Kiambu MCA Calls For Policy On Fire Management Due To Increased Fire Outbreaks In The County

By: Felix Njenga
@themkenyetimes

Increased fire outbreaks in Kiambu county has led to call for formulation of a fire rescue and services policy and also formulate policies to govern Fire disaster and emergency management in the County. Mwaura Napoleon, Member of County Assembly representing Ting’ang’a Ward in Kiambu Sub-County who moved a motion noted that there has been an alarming spate of fire outbreaks within the County citing informal settlements as the most hard hit areas in the recent past. “The County has recently been experiencing fire disasters especially in

the informal settlements, which fires cause considerable property damage and immense suffering to citizens,” he said. He said that the functions of fire-fighting services and disaster management are vested in the County Governments pursuant to provisions of Part Two of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution of Kenya. The MCA called on the county government to also conduct an assessment on the number of water hydrants in the County and conduct continuous routine inspection, repairs and installation of new ones where need be. “Most firefighting equipment such as fire engines and personnel are stationed within the urban areas and where the water hydrants are located but majority of these water hydrants

are inaccessible, have low water pressure or not functioning,” he said. He added that it is difficult for timely response to fire disasters since the urban areas are usually congested with heavy traffic while the informal settlements are characterized by poor infrastructural development including lack of proper roads to ensure efficient movement of the fire-engines whenever the fire disasters happen. He also raised a concern on the general ideal ratio of firefighters to population noting that one fire fighter currently covers 1,500 residents depending on various factors such as the size and density of the population, the risk of fire and the availability of resources. He, however called upon the County Executive to prioritize purchase of specialized firefighting equipment



Mwaura Napoleon, the Ting’ang’a Ward MCA in Kiambu sub-county.

such as high rise rescue equipment as well as hire of additional trained personnel. “The County lacks adequate trained personnel to deal with fire emergen-

cies while the existing ones need continuous education training,” he said.

Top Students Land Mathematics Scholarships

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Four top students have earned prestigious three-year mathematics scholarships at the African Olympiad Academy (AOA) in Kigali, Rwanda. The students managed to excel in the Pan-African Rising Stars Mathematics Contest held at the Centre for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) in Karen, Nairobi. The drive, which is part of the AOA's talent recruitment camp tour, seeks to identify and nurture the brightest young mathematicians from across the continent. The Four Stars are Gilbert Ogoro and Shawn Tunai from Alliance Boys High School, Tumi Imani from Lukenya High School, and Baraka Mulwa from Mangu High School. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA), Jacinta Akatsa, underscored the power of mathematics in solving everyday problems in a speech delivered on her behalf by Gladys Masai, Deputy Director of STEM Research and Innovation. "Mathematics is not just about solving problems, it is about nurturing creativity, critical thinking and a love for lifelong learning," she said, adding, "These skills are essential for building a better future, not only for Kenya but for Africa and the world." The intensive contest is specifically designed to prepare them for major global competitions such as the Pan-African Mathematics Olympiad (PAMO) and the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). Selected students will be awarded full scholarships to attend AOA, inclusive of tuition, boarding, uniform, and travel expenses. Describing the camp as "life-changing," the CEO noted that it represents a significant step in nurturing young talent and advancing scientific innovation in Kenya. "This opportunity is a call for a bigger dream, to keep questioning, imagining, and pushing for your limits," she said, adding that "Our young talents are not just the future — they are creators and leaders." She encouraged the students to keep striving for excellence, follow their passions, and remain committed to making a positive impact. Throughout the camp, participants engage in advanced problem-solving sessions and receive mentorship

from top Olympiad coaches. The students were selected from across Kenya based on their performance at the Kenya Math Olympiad (KMO), which is organized by CEMASTE, the University of Nairobi and the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) based at the University of Waterloo. KMO reaches over 17,000 students from more than 250 schools. The Camps recently took place in Johannesburg, Kigali, and Arusha and will continue on to Kampala, followed by Gaborone for PAMO 2025. The Co-founder and Executive Director of the African Olympiad Academy, Arun Shanmuganathan, said that the Academy chose to conduct recruitment in Kenya because they have multitalented students who have the potential to tackle some of the world's toughest challenges. Senior Lecturer at The University of Nairobi, Mathematics Department, Dr. James Katende makes remarks at the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa on April 27, 2025, during the closing of Rising Stars 2025 Maths Camp. Photos by Bonface Malinda He divulged that the students have the creativity and intellect to excel in fields such as research, artificial intelligence development, and disease cure innovation. Shanmuganathan explained that the Math Olympiad programme provides young students with early opportunities to nurture their dreams and sharpen their problem-solving skills. "The Math Olympiad program challenges young stars to think critically, generate innovative ideas, and develop practical solutions to real-world problems." He further said, "the students we have selected and given a three-year offer showed remarkable potential, and we believe they will compete at the highest global levels. Our hope is that, after completing the programme, they return with open minds, rich ideas, and a passion for solving complex problems." He also encouraged young, passionate math students who did not make it to the global stage to stay motivated, assuring them that the Academy will present more opportunities in the near future. Shanmuganathan urged other talented youngsters to consider joining the Math Olympiad programme, promising that the Academy will continue investing in Kenya to tap and nurture emerging talent. While answering the common fear



The students, in green Tshirts during the ceremony



An official addressing the forum...

of mathematics among learners, he dispelled the myth that the subject is inherently difficult or reserved for a select few. He emphasized that mathematics is about creativity, logical thinking, innovation, and problem-solving — not just memorizing formulas and theories. "Here at the Olympiad, students find mathematics as fun and engaging as any other subject," he said, adding, "We are giving students the chance to be open-minded, to have fun, to think creatively, and to explore new ways of solving real problems." Deputy Coordinator for STEM, Martin Mungai, on his part said the initiative is an exciting step towards developing a deeper appreciation for mathematics, particularly among students with exceptional talent. He added that while the program emphasizes promoting mathematical excellence, it also plays a crucial role in cultivating a strong mathematical culture and discipline. He said, "The goal is to nurture talented students in specific areas, helping them expand their potential and apply their skills on a global stage." "The students in this programme were selected from a pool of over 16,000, with a special focus on promoting mathematics. He said they have been coached and supported by top Olympiad Coaches to hone their talents and enhance their skills to compete at the highest levels. Senior Lecturer Dr. James Katende from the University of Nairobi's Department of Mathematics said problem-solving skills are highly relevant in today's job market, with many industries seeking innovative thinkers and solution-driven individuals to drive change and promote growth. He challenged the successful students to become Africa's torchbearers by pushing their limits and aspiring to be future tech leaders, citing global innovators like Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg as examples. "Keep practicing to perfect your skills," he told them. "We will support you with plenty of materials — if you need help, reach out. This program will add great value to your portfolio. Take advantage of it and, most importantly, don't underestimate yourself." The successful students pledged to fully utilize the program as a tool to create meaningful change in Kenya and beyond.

Nyeri National Polytechnic Hosts TVET Trainers for Skills Recognition Programme

By: James Wanjiku
@themtkenyatimes

The Nyeri National Polytechnic (NNP) is currently hosting a cohort of 30 trainers drawn from various Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions across Mt Kenya East and West regions.

The trainers are undergoing a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) training programme, a national initiative aimed at equipping educators with the necessary skills to certify learners based on their existing technical competencies.

Speaking to the Mt Kenya Times, NNP Chief Principal Dr David Mwangi said the training is in line with a directive from the Office of Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, which seeks to enhance the reach and effectiveness of technical training in Kenya.

As part of the event, NNP is signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the trainers and issuing them with certificates to formalize their capacity to assess and certify learners.

Dr Mwangi emphasized that the

polytechnic is playing a pivotal role in empowering smaller institutions by offering them an opportunity to scale up their training efforts.

“We are opening doors for smaller institutions that will now serve as key players in the dissemination of technical skills in the region. This initiative is about empowering them to become practitioner-trainers, so they can further pass on these skills to their learners,” Dr Mwangi said.

The trainers, having completed the RPL programme, will not only support training within their own institutions but also contribute significantly to the national development agenda.

They will be instrumental in certifying skilled workers, especially those involved in major government projects such as the Affordable Housing Programme.

“We are encouraging as many institutions and individuals as possible to be part of this ambitious training model,” Dr Mwangi added.

“Through our RPL system, we issue certificates every three months. So, if a learner trains here for a full year, they can earn up to three certificates, validating their skills across different disciplines.”

Currently, Kenya boasts 223 technical training institutions and 24 na-



The Nyeri National Polytechnic (NNP) hosting a cohort of trainers drawn from various Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions across Mt Kenya East and West regions. PHOTOS BY JAMES WANJIKU.

tional polytechnics.

The government has prioritized the TVET sector as a catalyst for economic transformation, urging the youth to take full advantage of the training and certification opportunities available.

President William Ruto recently reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to youth empowerment through vocational training.

“I want to tell TVET students across the country that, within the framework of the development plan we are implementing, there are opportunities in every sector. These

opportunities—both local and international—are designed for them to play their rightful role in driving the economy of our country,” President Ruto stated.

The RPL initiative reflects a broader push to recognize informal skills and integrate them into the formal economy.

Many Kenyans have acquired technical competencies through hands-on experience, and the government, through institutions like NNP, is providing pathways to certify these skills and boost employability.

As the country seeks to bridge the

skills gap and align its workforce with the demands of the job market, the role of TVET institutions continues to grow in importance.

The RPL programme is not only a milestone in the professional development of trainers but also a strategic move to ensure inclusive access to education and certification for all Kenyans.

With more institutions set to join the initiative, NNP is positioning itself as a regional hub for technical excellence and a model for partnerships aimed at enhancing workforce development.

Kikuyu Elders Perform Sacred Rituals After Mugumo Tree Falls in Nyeri

By: James Wanjiku
@themtkenyatimes

A group of Kikuyu traditional elders have performed sacred cleansing rituals following the fall of a revered mugumo (fig) tree in Nyeri town two weeks ago.

In Kikuyu tradition, the falling of a mugumo tree is seen as a spiritual sign, often believed to carry a significant message—either a warning or a blessing from God.

The incident occurred on the evening of April 11, when the massive tree collapsed, blocking a busy road leading into Nyeri town.

Although no injuries were reported, the fall caused significant disruption.

On Monday, members of the Kiama Kiama, a council of Kikuyu elders, gathered at the site to conduct ritu-

als, including the slaughtering of a goat and the offering of a burnt sacrifice to their deity, Mwene Nyaga, as part of traditional appeasement practices.

According to Wachira Ndei, the Kiama Kiama Organizing Secretary for Nyeri County and the head of programs for the group, the fall of the tree was no ordinary event.

“A mugumo tree never truly falls—it sleeps after many years of existence,” Ndei explained. “When a mugumo tree sleeps, it signifies that God has a message for His people. This particular tree slept peacefully, without causing harm. However, some individuals cut it into pieces before the appropriate rituals were performed, which is against our customs.”

Ndei added that although the individuals likely acted with the intention of clearing the road, elders were later forced to conduct special

cleansing ceremonies at their homes to protect them from potential curses.

“We have now performed the necessary rituals and burnt a goat as a sacrifice to cushion the community from any spiritual consequences,” he said.

The event also attracted interest from younger generations, who were eager to reconnect with their cultural heritage.

Mathenge Wang’ombe, a youth from Muthia-ini in Kamakwa-Mukaro Ward, said he attended the ceremony to learn about traditional practices.

“As a young person, I felt it was important to witness this significant cultural ritual. I have learned a lot today.”

Veronica Muthoni, another attendee, shared some of the cultural lessons she picked up during the ceremony.



“I learned that during such rituals, women must not raise their hands but instead fold them while facing Mt Kenya. We are also not allowed to approach or touch the altar, as doing so could bring a curse upon our

families.”

The rituals marked a moment of cultural reflection and spiritual grounding for the Nyeri community, reinforcing the significance of the mugumo tree in Kikuyu cosmology.

Writer, Playwright, Poet Elchin Maharram



Writer, playwright, poet Elchin Maharram was born in the Azerbaijani city of Mingachevir. His creativity is rich in stories, poems and plays. He currently works as the head of the literary section at the Mingachevir State Drama Theater. He has been a member of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union since 2023. His articles are regularly published in the press. He is also the chairman of the Youth Council of Mingachevir Writers.

His plays "Memory, Calendar, Doll", "Pigeon Language", "Apples, Bread, Wine", "In Search of the Lost Deer" have been staged. His stories "Code of Cactuses -64", "Abadistan Does Not Hear the Screams", "The Curse of Sidon" have been read with interest in the press.

TAXI

I put the small sum of money
I had earned the day before
on the toughened palm
of a pale-faced taxi driver.

Taxi, take me,
Deliver me
to the silent yesterdays
to the happy yesterdays
on the wings of the butterfly.
I have a letter to the dead ones.

Elchin Maharram

1. This is neither the first nor the last

The order was given
The sharp axe of the executioner time
Was raised slowly.
This is neither the first nor the last .

It has a number of scaffolds
The place of execution: in front of the
cashpoint
From which you withdraw the pension.

Or the soft and comfortable seat of a
plane,
The side of the bedding
Once you slept with your lover.

The other day I counted
At least thirty two heads
Were thrown into the black hollow
Of the emptiness.
The black hollow shouted
In thirty two languages:
'It is enough, I don't have place anymore,
I want the heart of a poet or a hand of an
artist,
I want a tongue of a philosopher,
Send them to me, tell them
I have enough places for them.'

The order was given,
The sharp axe of executioner time
Was lowered.
A poet had a heart attack
While writing his new poem.
A little bit of an artist
Was found
When the dust of cannon projectile
Disappeared.
A philosopher was hung
By his tongue
From the hand of the familiar clock tower.

It is neither the first nor the last.

2. I am such an unhappy man

I am such an unhappy man
I tossed the cigarette butt on the asphalt
road
The shining cars rushing forward didn't
trample down it.

I am such an unhappy man
I want to hang myself like Yesenin
But the price of hotel is more expensive
than museum's price

I am such an unhappy man

I need to confer with Hidayetli Sadiq
But he is unavailable, his number is out of
range.

I am such an unhappy man.

Translated from Azerbaijani into English by
Sevil Gulden

Lumbwe A Physician And An Author



1. Who are you?

Chishimba M. Lumbwe. My day job is that of a physician specialized in diabetes and hormone problems. My first love was sciences. But as I grew older and wiser, I realised that science was empty without art. Then when the HIV/AIDS tsunami hit Zambia in the late 80s, I was right in the frontline. The psychological trauma of seeing so many agetmates dying in my hands everyday made me turn to writing as a succour and a catharsis. That's how I wrote my first book TOO YOUNG TO DIE.

Then, I realised I was losing touch with my mother tongue, Bemba. So, I wrote and produced a 13 part Bemba quiz program on Radio 2, called KALAPASHI wa CIBEMBA. I then followed this up with a 400 page book in Bemba titled UKULI NSOKE TAKUFWA MUNTU. This was a patients' and health carers' guide on symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the 63 commonest diseases, all in Bemba. Then followed a literal Fiction book on slavery (NOT MY BROTHERS KEEPER), an allegory on colonialism (SUNDU!) and a satire on African political shenanigans (RUMINATIONS). The latest book is a collection of short stories and plays titled ALBERT EINSTEIN IN THE BELGIAN CONGO.

2. What does award nomination means to you?
It's both a validation and a big boost for me to continue writing.

3. What do you think of Mulher Forte African literature?
This is a great initiative that will spur African writers. I particularly like the emphasis on writing in the local languages.

4. How is the book sales in Zambia?
Not great, but this has improved with the use of social media sites

5. How do you feel about writing in Africa?
It's very challenging because local sales are not great and getting international recognition and publication is pretty difficult.

6. What can be done to improve book sales?
More engagement with social media to target younger readers.

7. Are Zambians a reading nation?

No. To get most Zambians to part with even \$3 for a book is not easy.

8. Digital literacy how is it in your country?
I would say it's picking up

9. *Do you plan to make ebooks?
Yes I do.
Any plans of audio books?*

10. What category have you been nominated so far?
Fiction - Collection of short stories and plays

11. Who is your local role model?
Stephen Mposhi

12. Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?
My aim is to promote more writing in the local languages. This is one way of preserving our cultural heritage. Our African culture is in the process of being effaced. Retaining our indigenous culture/identity is not mutually exclusive with development.
In this regard, I am all for entry requirements for tertiary education to include proficiency in English AND a local language for Zambians

13. The concept of Unity, what can Unity do to authors?
Unity to me means, writers, publishers, government agencies and private entities pulling in one direction.

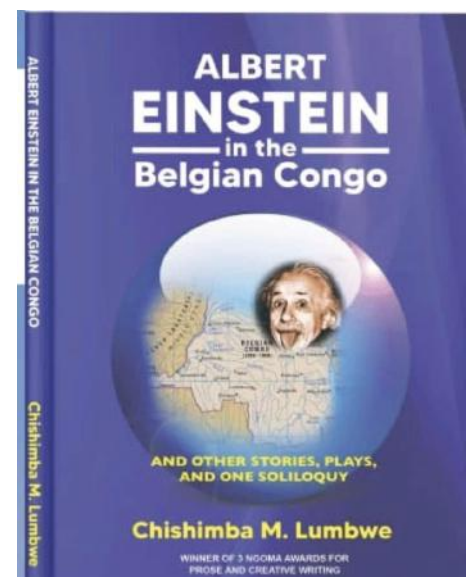
14. Do you have background training in writing?
No.

15. What do you understand by copyrights?
A way of ensuring one's work is legally protected

16. Have you protected your books?
Only my latest book

17. Your advice to upcoming authors.
To produce a work of quality, read widely and research. Hard slogging and perseverance are also cardinal. If you're not satisfied, redo the piece even a hundred times!

18. Your last word.
Thank you MFAL for this initiative .



DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

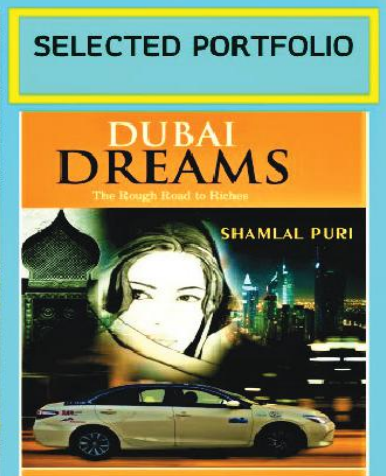
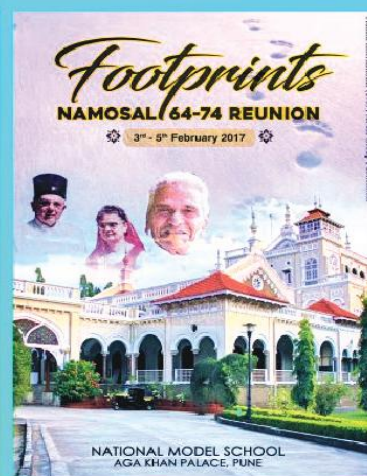
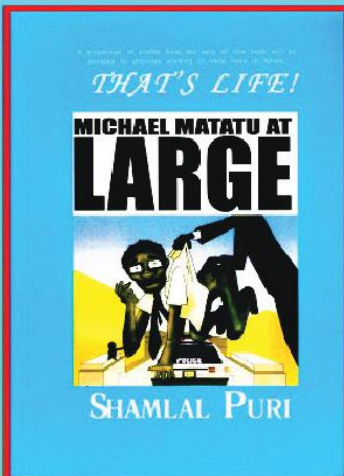
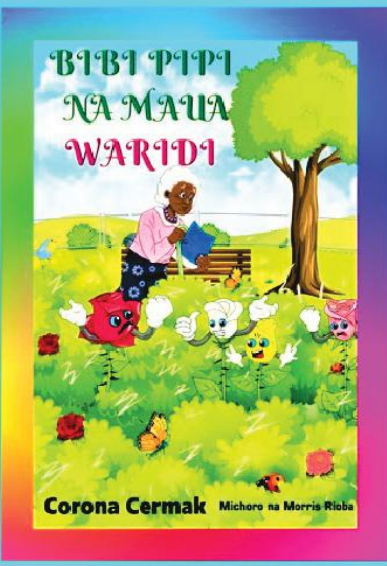
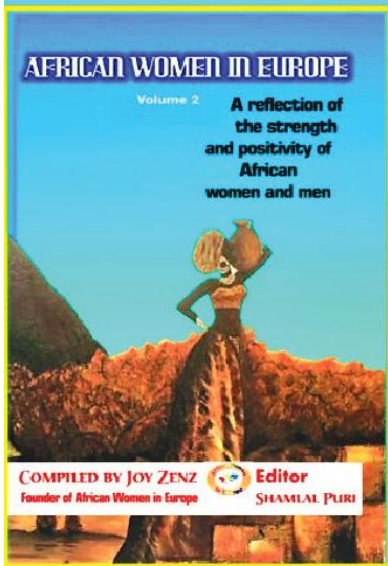
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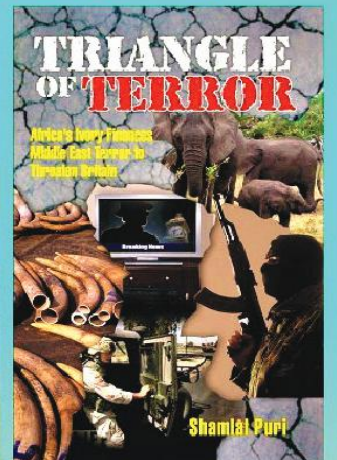
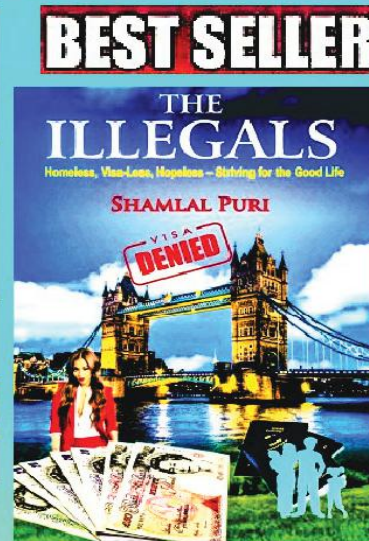
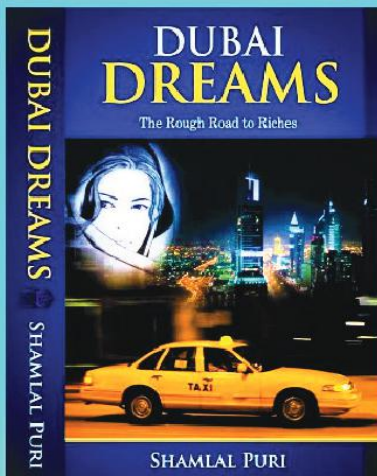
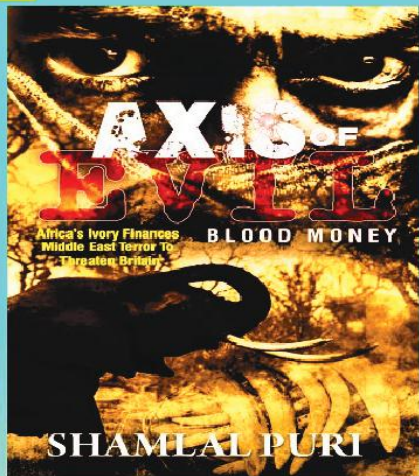
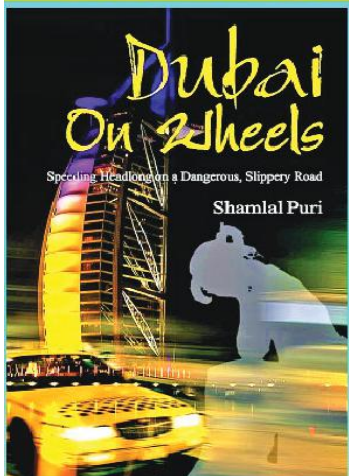
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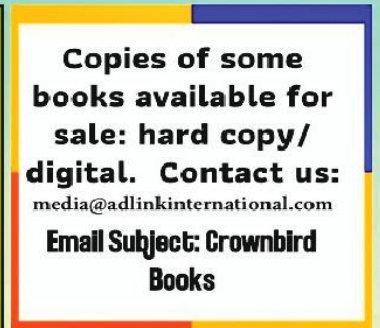
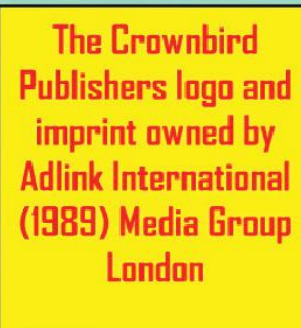
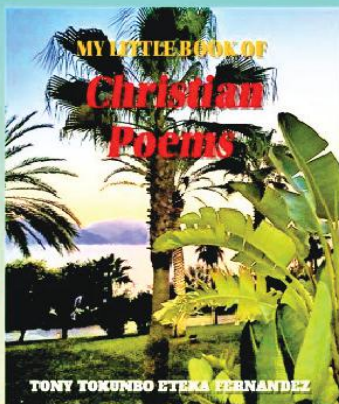
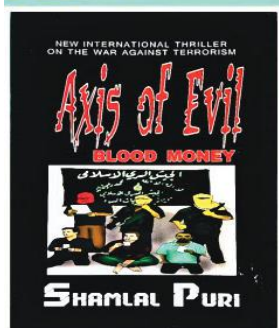
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EDUCATION

PS Mworia Launches AfDB-Backed Youth Employment Innovation Grant Project



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The project aims to build the capacity of TVET trainees, preparing them not only for employment but also for entrepreneurship. Through targeted mentorship, job readiness training, and enhanced TVET-industry linkages, the initiative seeks to ensure that young people are well-positioned to contribute to the growth, stability, and sustainability of youth-owned enterprises in Kenya.
- In his remarks, PS Mworia lauded the African Development Bank for its unwavering support to Kenya's TVET sector over the past 15 years. "On behalf of the Government, I applaud the AfDB for the extensive support it has offered to the TVET sector, which has been instrumental in equipping our youth with employable and entrepreneurial skills," he stated.



Principal Secretary Mworia issuing her address.

In a significant boost to youth empowerment and job creation, Principal Secretary State department of TVET Esther Mworia, officially launched the Youth Employment Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund (YEI-MDTF) Grant Project, a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). The event marks a new chapter in Kenya's ongoing efforts to address youth unemployment through skills development, entrepreneurship, and stronger industry linkages.

The YEI-MDTF Grant Project is a flagship component of the broader "Support to TVET and Entrepreneurship (TVETE) Phase III" programme, jointly implemented by the Government of Kenya and the AfDB. The project will be executed by the State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), in partnership with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), reflecting a multi-sectoral approach to tackling youth unemployment and fostering sustainable economic growth.

At the heart of the YEI-MDTF is a

commitment to nurturing the entrepreneurship ecosystem and creating sustainable jobs for Africa's youth. The Trust Fund, managed by the AfDB's Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department, mobilizes resources from international donors to support youth-led start-ups and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across the continent. It places a strong emphasis on equipping young people with the skills, business development support, and financial tools necessary to build viable enterprises and secure meaningful employment.

The project aims to build the capacity of TVET trainees, preparing them not only for employment but also for entrepreneurship. Through targeted mentorship, job readiness training, and enhanced TVET-industry linkages, the initiative seeks to ensure that young people are well-positioned to contribute to the growth, stability, and sustainability of youth-owned enterprises in Kenya.

In his remarks, PS Mworia lauded the African Development Bank for its unwavering support to Kenya's

TVET sector over the past 15 years. "On behalf of the Government, I applaud the AfDB for the extensive support it has offered to the TVET sector, which has been instrumental in equipping our youth with employable and entrepreneurial skills," he stated.

He also extended his appreciation to KEPSA for joining hands with the government to advance the TVET agenda. The involvement of KEPSA is expected to strengthen the link between training institutions and industry, ensuring that curricula and mentorship programmes are aligned with market needs and that graduates are better prepared for the workforce.

The YEI-MDTF is the principal grant facility supporting the AfDB's Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy (2016-2025), which seeks to create 25 million jobs and equip 50 million youth with employable and entrepreneurial skills by 2025. Since its inception, the Trust Fund has mobilized over \$42 million from donors including Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Italy, and has supported transformative projects across Africa.

The Fund's interventions focus on business development services, policy and regulatory support, and research to inform evidence-based project design. By targeting both formal and informal sectors and prioritizing women entrepreneurs, the YEI-MDTF aims to address gender disparities and promote inclusive economic growth.

The launch of the YEI-MDTF Grant Project in Kenya signals renewed momentum in the fight against youth unemployment. Through strategic partnerships, targeted training, and enterprise support, the initiative is poised to empower a new generation of Kenyan youth to drive innovation, create jobs, and contribute meaningfully to the nation's economic development.

As the project rolls out, stakeholders remain optimistic that this collaborative approach will yield lasting benefits for Kenya's young people and serve as a model for youth employment initiatives across the continent.

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Freedom Of Expression In Kenya: Constitutional Ideals And Judicial Realities Through Historical And Comparative Lenses



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevin Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Introduction: The Colonial Foundations of Expressive Repression

Kenya's relationship with freedom of expression begins with colonial silencing. The British colonial administration (1895-1963) implemented systematic legal mechanisms to curtail indigenous voices, particularly those advocating for self-determination. The 1930 Penal Code introduced provisions criminalizing seditious publications, wielded as instruments against emerging nationalist discourse. As constitutional scholar Githu Muigai observes in *Towards a Theory of Constitutional Interpretation*, these legal restrictions were designed "not to protect public order in any meaningful sense, but to insulate the colonial administration from criticism and accountability." Colonial authorities routinely banned publications like *Muigwithania*, edited by Jomo Kenyatta, and indigenous-language newspapers promoting nationalist ideals. The 1922 arrest of Harry Thuku for distributing anti-colonial pamphlets exemplifies this pattern of suppression. According to historian Wambui Mwangi's *The Colonial Legacy and Constitutional Traditions in Kenya*, this period established a precedent where "expression was conceived not as a right but as a privilege conditionally granted by authority," a conceptual framework that would prove difficult to dislodge in post-independence governance structures. The colonial experience created a template of restrictive legal mechanisms that would persist long after independence, shaping Kenya's troubled relationship with free expression.

Post-Independence Continuities: From Colonial Control to Presidential Authoritarianism

The post-independence era (1963-2010) witnessed troubling continuities in restrictions on expression, despite constitutional guarantees. As Elisha Ongoya argues in *Constitutional Implementation in Kenya: Challenges and Prospects*, successive regimes "appropriated

colonial-era legislation, particularly the Penal Code, to suppress political opposition and critical media." President Kenyatta's government (1963-1978) maintained sedition laws, while President Moi's administration (1978-2002) extended censorship across media platforms. A particularly telling example occurred in 1977, when author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o was detained without trial for his play *Ngaahika Ndeenda* (*I Will Marry When I Want*), which criticized post-colonial inequalities. Okoth Okombo's 2001 study *Language Policy and Political Development in Kenya* documents how Moi's government systematically dismantled independent media, culminating in the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation's monopoly that served as a "presidential mouthpiece rather than a public information service." The judiciary, lacking independence and often subservient to executive power, frequently upheld these restrictions. Patrick Lumumba's analysis in *Constitutionalism in East Africa* demonstrates how courts consistently validated restrictions based on "vague notions of public order and national security." This pattern reached its zenith during the 1986 Mwakenya crackdown, when dozens of academics and journalists were detained for allegedly seditious publications, signaling what Makau Mutua termed "the judicialization of repression" in his 1994 article in the *Harvard Human Rights Journal*. This historical context reveals that Kenya's independence did not immediately translate into expanded expressive freedom, but rather continued a tradition of governmental control over public discourse.

Constitutional Transformation: Article 33 and the Promise of Expressive Freedom

The promulgation of the 2010 Constitution marked a watershed moment for freedom of expression in Kenya, creating a robust framework for protecting this fundamental right. Article 33(1) explicitly guarantees every person's "right to freedom of expression, which includes: (a) freedom to seek, receive or impart information or ideas; (b) freedom of artistic creativity; and (c) academic freedom and freedom of scientific research." Drawing inspiration from international human rights instruments, the provision represents what is described in *The Constitution of Kenya: Contemporary Readings* as "a deliberate rejection of the historical stranglehold on expression that characterized both colonial and



post-colonial governance." The constitutional drafters anchored freedom of expression within a broader rights framework, recognizing its symbiotic relationship with other rights such as freedom of assembly (Article 37) and access to information (Article 35). Charles Fombad's 2016 comparative analysis in the *African Human Rights Law Journal* notes how Kenya's constitutional reforms reflect a broader continental trend toward entrenching expressive freedoms, but with distinctive features reflecting its unique historical context. The language of Article 33 itself, protecting not just traditional speech but also artistic creativity and academic freedom, demonstrates what Yash Ghai and Jill Cottrell Ghai describe as a "comprehensive conception of expression that extends beyond mere political speech to encompass cultural and intellectual dimensions." This textual expansion represents a critical historical correction, acknowledging how colonial and post-colonial authorities had suppressed not just political dissent but also cultural expression and intellectual inquiry that challenged prevailing narratives. However, this robust protection was deliberately balanced by internal limitations in Article 33(2), which excludes protection for propaganda for war, incitement to violence, hate speech, or discrimination exceptions that would prove significant in subsequent judicial interpretation.

The Limiting Principle: Article 24 and the Boundaries of Expression

Despite the expansive protection offered by Article 33, Kenya's constitutional framework establishes clear parameters for limiting fundamental rights through Article 24, which provides a general limitation clause. According to Emmanuel's

analysis in *Constitutional Theory and Interpretation in Kenya* (2017), this provision creates "a structured framework for balancing competing rights and societal interests rather than allowing arbitrary restrictions." Article 24(1) establishes that rights may only be limited by "law, and then only to the extent that the limitation is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom." This language imports what Mutakha Kangu terms the "proportionality test" in his 2019 study, *Balancing Rights in Kenya's Constitutional Jurisprudence*. The test requires courts to consider several factors: (a) the nature of the right; (b) the importance of the limitation's purpose; (c) the relationship between the limitation and its purpose; and (d) whether less restrictive means could achieve the same purpose. This framework parallels South Africa's limitations clause in Section 36 of its Constitution, which has been instrumental in that country's jurisprudential development. Duncan Okubasu's 2015 comparative analysis in the *East African Law Journal* notes how Kenya's Article 24 "draws heavily from South African constitutional jurisprudence, particularly cases like *S v. Makwanyane* (1995) that established proportionality as a central principle in rights adjudication." However, as Winnie Kamau argues in *Comparative Constitutional Law in Africa*, Kenya's application of this test has been inconsistent, with courts sometimes deferring to executive assertions of public interest without rigorous scrutiny. The implementation of Article 24 thus represents what Wachira Maina describes as "the central tension in Kenya's constitutional experiment"

balancing robust rights protections against legitimate societal concerns while avoiding the historical pattern of using "public interest" as a pretext for suppression.

Judicial Interpretation: Navigating the Tension Between Rights and Limitations

Kenya's courts have grappled with balancing expressive freedom against Article 24's limitation principles, producing an evolving jurisprudence that reveals both progress and persistent challenges. In *Jacqueline Okuta & Another v. Attorney General & 2 Others* [2017] eKLR, the High Court struck down Section 194 of the Penal Code criminalizing defamation, finding it disproportionate under Article 24's framework. Justice Mumbi Ngugi's reasoning emphasized that less restrictive civil remedies could adequately protect reputation, demonstrating what Muthomi Thiankolu calls "a new judicial willingness to scrutinize statutory limitations on expression." Similarly, in *Robert Alai v. Attorney General* [2017] eKLR, the court invalidated Section 132 of the Penal Code, which criminalized "undermining the authority of public officers," finding it failed the proportionality test. Justice Mativo's judgment explicitly drew on South Africa's precedent in *S v. Mamabolo* (2001), where the Constitutional Court narrowed a similar provision to protect legitimate criticism of public officials. However, judicial protection has been inconsistent. In *Cyprian Andama v. Director of Public Prosecutions* [2019] eKLR, the

Freedom Of Expression In Kenya: Constitutional Ideals And Judicial Realities Through Historical And Comparative Lenses

By: MKT Reporter
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court upheld parts of the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act despite significant concerns about its impact on digital expression. Perhaps most contentiously, in *Wanuri Kahiu & Another v. CEO, Kenya Film Classification Board & 2 Others* eKLR, the court upheld the ban on the film “Rafiki” based on its homosexual content, accepting government arguments about protecting public morals without adequately scrutinizing less restrictive alternatives. This decision contrasts sharply with South Africa’s approach in *Print Media South Africa v. Minister of Home Affairs*, where the Constitutional Court rejected broad censorship in favor of targeted restrictions. Wanjiku Githae argues in *Jurisprudential Trends in Freedom of Expression Cases* that this inconsistency reflects “a judiciary still finding its voice in articulating a coherent doctrine of freedom of expression,” often reverting to “pre-2010 judicial deference when confronted with executive assertions of public morality or security.”

Comparative Insights: South African Jurisprudence as a Constitutional Mirror

South Africa’s constitutional jurisprudence offers valuable comparative insights for Kenya’s evolving approach to freedom of expression. Both countries emerged from histories of repression to embrace transformative constitutionalism, but South Africa’s courts have developed a more robust doctrine protecting expression. In the landmark case *South African National Defence Union v. Minister of Defence*, the Constitutional Court established that limitations on expression must be narrowly tailored to achieve legitimate objectives a principle Kenya’s courts have inconsistently applied. As Patricia Kameri-Mbote and Migai Akech note, South Africa’s Constitutional Court has consistently emphasized that “in a constitutional democracy, restrictions on speech must be exceptional and carefully circumscribed.” This approach is exemplified in *Laugh It Off Promotions v. South African Breweries* (2005), where the Court protected satirical expression against trademark claims, establishing what Justice Sachs called “a constitutional imperative to protect even offensive speech.” Even more instructively, in *De Reuck v. Director of Public Prosecutions*

(2004), the Court upheld restrictions on child pornography but carefully balanced them against artistic and scientific expression, requiring evidence-based justification rather than moral assertions. This contrasts with Kenya’s approach in *Kahiu*, where morality claims received less scrutiny. Willis Otieno’s suggests that “South Africa’s jurisprudence benefits from a more established constitutional tradition and greater judicial independence,” allowing courts to develop a coherent doctrine where “limitations on expression are treated with skepticism and subjected to rigorous scrutiny.” The South African Constitutional Court’s decision in *Islamic Unity Convention v. Independent Broadcasting Authority* particularly illustrates this approach, carefully parsing hate speech regulations to preserve maximum expressive freedom. This comparative perspective highlights both the potential and limitations of Kenya’s constitutional framework, suggesting that the text of Articles 33 and 24 could support a more robust protection of expression if coupled with greater judicial willingness to scrutinize limitations critically.

Digital Frontiers: New Technologies and Emerging Challenges

Kenya’s digital landscape presents novel challenges for freedom of expression, requiring courts to apply constitutional principles to rapidly evolving technologies. As Grace Mutung’u documents in *Digital Rights in Kenya*, Kenya’s internet penetration reached 60% by 2018, creating new platforms for expression but also new mechanisms for restriction. The Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (2018) exemplifies this tension, containing provisions on false publication and cyberbullying that critics argue could chill legitimate expression. In *Bloggers Association of Kenya v. Attorney General* [2018] eKLR, the High Court initially suspended several provisions of the Act, reflecting what Waigwa Wachira terms in “Internet Freedom in Kenya” (2020) as “judicial recognition of the distinctive nature of digital expression.” However, these suspensions were later lifted, raising concerns about online freedom. The controversial case of blogger Cyprian Nyakundi, arrested multiple times for alleged cybercrimes based on government criticism, illustrates the practical impact of these provisions. According to research by Article 19 East Africa, documented in *State of Internet Freedom in Kenya* (2021), such prosecutions have created a “chilling effect on digital journalism



and activism.” The courts have struggled to develop a coherent approach to these cases, with some judges applying Article 24’s proportionality test rigorously while others defer to executive assertions about digital harms. This inconsistency contrasts with South Africa’s approach in *amabhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism v. Minister of Justice*, where the Constitutional Court invalidated provisions of the Regulation of Interception of Communications Act that enabled state surveillance of journalists, establishing robust protection for digital expression. A particularly instructive anecdote comes from Kenya’s 2017 election, when the Communications Authority threatened to shut down social media platforms during the tense post-election period, prompting the Kenya Human Rights Commission to challenge the directive under Article 33. Though the shutdown was ultimately averted, the incident highlighted what Mercy Muendo calls “the fragility of digital expression rights when faced with assertions of national security” in her 2018 study of internet freedom in East Africa. These cases reveal how Kenya’s constitutional framework for expression must evolve to address the unique characteristics of digital communication, where restrictions can be implemented rapidly and with widespread impact.

Cultural Contexts and Competing Values: Reconciling Expression with Other Constitutional Imperatives

Kenya’s cultural diversity creates unique challenges for freedom of expression, particularly when expressive rights intersect with cultural values protected elsewhere in the Constitution. Article 11 recognizes

culture as “the foundation of the nation,” while Article 44 protects the right to use one’s language and participate in cultural life. As Karuti Kanyinga observes in *Ethnicity and Political Pluralism in Kenya*, these provisions create what he terms “potential constitutional collision points” when expression challenges cultural norms. The judiciary has struggled to navigate these tensions, often failing to articulate clear principles for resolving such conflicts. In *EG & 7 Others v. Attorney General* [2019] eKLR, concerning LGBT rights, the court acknowledged expressive and associational rights but hesitated to overturn provisions criminalizing same-sex relations, citing cultural values—a decision criticized by Waikwa Wanyoike in *Cultural Rights and Constitutional Interpretation* as “sacrificing minority expression to majoritarian cultural claims.” This approach contrasts with South Africa’s in *National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality v. Minister of Justice*, where the Constitutional Court prioritized dignity and equality over cultural objections. An illustrative anecdote comes from 2015, when the Kenya Film Classification Board banned several music videos for “promoting homosexuality,” prompting a constitutional challenge from artists citing Article 33’s protection of artistic expression. The court’s divided ruling reflected broader societal tensions about balancing expression with cultural values. Betty Murungi’s analysis in *Cultural Rights and Constitutional Democracy* suggests that Kenya’s courts have yet to develop “a coherent framework for reconciling expression with cultural rights,” often retreating to vague invoca-

tions of public morality that echo colonial-era restrictions. This challenge is particularly acute because, as Yash Pal Ghai notes in *Ethnicity, Nationhood and Pluralism* (2013), Kenya’s Constitution “simultaneously embraces liberal individualism and communal cultural rights,” creating an inherent tension requiring nuanced judicial resolution. Developing a jurisprudence that respects both expressive freedom and cultural diversity remains a central challenge for Kenya’s constitutional implementation.

Media Freedom and Democratic Governance: The Fourth Estate Under Article 33

Media freedom represents a critical dimension of Kenya’s expressive landscape, serving as what Linus Githahi terms “the institutional embodiment of Article 33” in his 2017 study “Media and Democracy in Kenya”. The 2010 Constitution significantly strengthened protections for media independence, with Article 34 explicitly guaranteeing media freedom and prohibiting state interference. However, practical implementation has revealed persistent challenges. David Makali’s comprehensive analysis in *Media Law and Practice in Kenya* documents how official harassment of journalists continued even after constitutional reform, with 23 journalists reporting physical intimidation while covering the 2013 election. A particularly telling incident occurred during the 2017 election, when the government temporarily shut down three television

Beyond The Classroom: 20 Life Skills Every Child Must Master To Survive The Jungle And The Diaspora



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
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In a world where academic knowledge is no longer enough, schools and parents must prepare children and students with real-world survival skills for both the jungle of life and the diaspora.

In a rapidly evolving world where survival extends beyond the walls of our hometowns to the complex terrains of foreign lands, the jungle of life demands more than academic excellence. It demands practical life skills, skills that ensure not only survival but also thriving, whether deep in a physical wilderness or in the bustling cities across the globe.

Schools and parents are custodians of the future. They must go beyond standardized curricula to equip children with the essential tools needed to navigate the uncertainties of both the jungle and the diaspora. This article outlines twenty critical life skills that every child should learn, explained within two contexts: survival in harsh, unpredictable natural environments and survival in the complex social, economic, and political structures abroad.

1. Basic Survival Skills (Shelter, Fire, Food, and Water)

Understanding how to find or build shelter, make fire, source clean water, and find edible food are primal skills that are still relevant. In emergencies or while traveling, these skills can make the difference between life and death.

Teach children how to purify water, build a temporary shelter with minimal tools, identify edible plants, and start a fire safely.

2. Financial Literacy

In the diaspora, money management is survival. Many immigrants suffer due to poor financial choices. Children and students must be taught budgeting, saving, investing, avoiding debt, and understanding taxes.

Early lessons on needs versus wants, credit, interest rates, and financial goal setting are indispensable.

3. Critical Thinking and Problem

Solving

Life is unpredictable. Teaching children and students how to analyze situations, think critically, and solve problems creatively can help them adapt quickly to new environments, whether facing a wild animal or an unexpected job loss abroad.

Schools must design curricula that focus less on rote learning and more on encouraging curiosity and questioning.

4. Emotional Intelligence (EQ)

Understanding one's emotions and managing them effectively is vital. Emotional intelligence helps in handling interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically, a crucial survival skill whether facing cultural shocks in foreign lands or managing isolation in the jungle.

Children should learn about self-awareness, empathy, resilience, and how to maintain emotional balance.

5. Self-defense Skills

Whether navigating the jungle or an urban alley in an unfamiliar city, knowing how to defend oneself can be lifesaving. Basic martial arts, situational awareness, and conflict avoidance should be taught.

Parents and schools can integrate practical self-defense workshops and role-playing exercises into physical education programs.

6. Communication Skills

The ability to express oneself clearly, listen actively, and negotiate effectively is essential for building trust and surviving in community settings abroad and even while dealing with tribes or strangers in remote areas.

Teach children and students public speaking, negotiation, writing, and active listening skills.

7. Cultural Sensitivity and Adaptability

In the diaspora, cultural ignorance can isolate an individual or create conflict. Teaching respect for diverse traditions, languages, and religions fosters smoother integration and acceptance.

Children and students should study world cultures and practice cross-cultural communication skills.

8. First Aid and Basic Healthcare Knowledge

Accidents and illnesses are inevitable. Knowing how to treat a wound, recognize symptoms, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and manage basic health needs saves



lives in emergencies.

Schools should mandate first aid certification courses for all children and students before graduation.

9. Time Management

Time is a valuable currency, especially abroad where labor laws, appointments, and deadlines rule life. Good time management skills ensure productivity and reduce stress.

Introduce planners, schedules, and priority-setting exercises early in school life.

10. Basic Legal Knowledge

Understanding basic rights and legal obligations (local and international) is key, especially for migrants. Many people unknowingly violate laws in foreign countries due to ignorance.

Teach children and students about fundamental rights, labor laws, immigration rules, and how to access legal assistance.

11. Adaptability and Flexibility

The ability to quickly adapt to new environments, new foods, languages, climates, and systems, is vital for survival in both the jungle and diaspora.

Schools should create experiential learning programs and encourage children and students to step outside their comfort zones regularly.

12. Entrepreneurship and Innovation

In many parts of the world, job scarcity demands creativity and enterprise. Children and students must learn how to identify opportunities, manage resources, and innovate solutions.

Entrepreneurship education, business plan writing, pitching ideas,

and understanding market needs, should be normalized.

13. Networking and Relationship Building

Survival is often about who you know. Building a network can open doors to jobs, partnerships, or even safe shelter during a crisis.

Children should be taught how to form genuine relationships, maintain contacts, and collaborate effectively.

14. Cooking and Nutrition

Whether camping in the wild or living in a distant country with unfamiliar foods, being able to prepare nutritious meals ensures health and independence.

Basic cooking classes should be incorporated into school curricula for all boys and, emphasizing simple, healthy, and diverse cuisines.

15. Stress Management and Mental Health Awareness

The diaspora can be lonely and stressful. The jungle can be terrifying. Managing mental health is key to resilience.

Children and students should be taught meditation, breathing techniques, journaling, and where to seek help when overwhelmed.

16. Survival Navigation Skills

Without Google Maps in a jungle or during a crisis, one must know how to navigate using a compass, natural signs, and manual maps.

Outdoor education should include map-reading, orienteering, and basic astronomy navigation (using stars).

17. Digital Literacy and Cybersecurity

Today's world is heavily digital. Knowing how to use technology safely and responsibly is crucial for

survival in any environment.

Children and students must understand internet safety, digital identity protection, online etiquette, and how to use essential software tools.

18. Work Ethic and Integrity

In diaspora communities, individuals often represent entire countries or ethnicities. A strong work ethic and uncompromising integrity open doors and create sustainable success.

Role models and real-life case studies of ethical leaders and successful hard workers should be highlighted.

19. DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Skills

Fixing things, sewing clothes, repairing a broken chair, or assembling a shelter can be crucial survival skills. Over-reliance on paid services can be a handicap abroad.

Practical DIY workshops, wood-working, plumbing basics, tailoring, should become common extracurricular activities.

20. Leadership and Community Involvement

Survivors are often those who can lead others or contribute meaningfully to a group. Leadership is not about titles, but about service, vision, and responsibility.

Schools must cultivate student leadership opportunities, community service, and collaborative projects.

Conclusion

The true measure of education is not in the number of degrees collected, but in the capacity to survive, adapt, and thrive in any environment life presents.

Freedom Of Expression In Kenya: Constitutional Ideals And Judicial Realities Through Historical And Comparative Lenses

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stations broadcasting opposition leader Raila Odinga’s symbolic inauguration—an action the High Court later ruled unconstitutional in *Okiya Omtatah Okiiti v. Communications Authority of Kenya* [2018] eKLR. This case illustrates what Marianne Maina calls “the gap between constitutional promise and political reality” in her 2019 study of media freedom in East Africa. Despite these challenges, Kenya’s media landscape has witnessed significant diversification, with independent outlets like The Star, Nation Media Group, and multiple vernacular radio stations creating what George Nyabuga describes as “a pluralistic media environment essential for democratic discourse.” The courts have occasionally provided robust protection, as in *Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD) v. Republic of Kenya* eKLR, where provisions of the Security Laws Amendment Act restricting media reporting on terrorism were struck down as disproportionate limitations under Article 24. The Media Council of Kenya, established under Article 34(5), has developed ethical guidelines that Henry Maina argues “balance responsible journalism with expressive freedom” in his 2018 analysis of media regulation. However, as Njoki Wamai documents in *Protecting the Fourth Estate*, the independent regulator has struggled to resist political pressure, particu-

larly during election periods. This institutional weakness highlights a broader challenge: while Kenya’s constitutional framework provides strong textual protection for media freedom, effective implementation requires both judicial courage and institutional independence—qualities that continue to develop unevenly in Kenya’s evolving democracy.

Conclusion: Toward a Contextual Doctrine of Freedom of Expression

Freedom of expression in Kenya remains a work in progress, evolving through the dynamic interaction of constitutional text, judicial interpretation, and sociopolitical context. This analysis suggests that while Articles 33 and 24 provide a robust framework for protecting expression, their implementation has been uneven, with courts sometimes retreating to pre-2010 deference when confronted with executive assertions of public morality or security. Drawing on comparative insights from South Africa, this article proposes a “contextual proportionality” approach that would honor Kenya’s unique historical and cultural context while maintaining rigorous scrutiny of limitations. This approach would require courts to recognize expression’s central role in Kenya’s democratic transformation while acknowledging legitimate countervailing interests, particularly in a diverse society with painful histories of hate speech and incitement. As Mutuma Ruteere argues in *Hate Speech and the Challenges of Post-Election Democracy*, Kenya needs “a balanced jurisprudence that protects robust



debate while addressing the genuine harms of unregulated speech in a fragile democracy.” Institutional reforms could support this development, including specialized judicial training on freedom of expression and the establishment of an independent expression rights commission to complement the judiciary’s role. The experience of Kenya’s 2007-2008 post-election violence, where media platforms were implicated in spreading ethnic hatred, offers a sobering reminder of expression’s power to both strengthen and undermine

democratic governance. Kenya’s path forward requires what Willy Mutunga, former Chief Justice, describes as “constitutional courage” the willingness to protect unpopular expression while carefully distinguishing it from speech that genuinely threatens constitutional values. As Kenya continues its democratic journey, developing a coherent doctrine of freedom of expression that balances these competing imperatives remains essential to realizing the transformative promise of the 2010 Constitution. The ongoing dialogue

between constitutional text, judicial interpretation, and lived experience will determine whether Kenya fully transcends its history of expressive repression to embrace the robust freedom of expression envisioned by its constitutional framers.

The writer is a legal writer and researcher

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A generation prepared only for exams will be swept away by the floods of real-world problems. A generation equipped with survival life skills will navigate the jungles of poverty, racism, xenophobia, loneliness, economic challenges, and personal crises with strength, wisdom, and courage.

Parents and schools must embrace a holistic, practical, and future-ready education philosophy, one that respects tradition but innovates boldly; one that roots children in their identities but also wings them to fly and succeed wherever they go.

Preparing our children with these 20 critical life skills is no longer a luxury. It is a duty, a lifeline to their dignity, resilience, and humanity in the great wilds of this world.



Urgent Action Needed To Reform Global Food Systems

By: Wangari Ndirangu
@themkenyetimes

World Animal Protection (WAP) has officially launched a campaign advocating for a just transition away from industrial animal agriculture. During a webinar yesterday, the organization announced its active participation in the upcoming 30th Conference of the Parties (COP 30) in Belém Brazil, where it will be calling for urgent action to reform global food systems in alignment with climate, biodiversity, and human rights goals. The new campaign presents a compelling case for phasing out industrial factory farming and transitioning to equitable, humane, and sustainable food systems. The External Affairs Lead at World Animal Protection Sally Kahiu said the move was essential to meeting international climate commitments, including the Paris Agreement, and safeguarding public health and planetary boundaries. “Our global food system, especially industrial animal agriculture, not only accelerates biodiversity loss,

depletes water resources, and contributes to rural poverty and public health crises but also compromises animal welfare on a massive scale,” she said. Kahiu added that as the journey of mobilizing like-minded stakeholders starts, their rallying call is just one: “We’re calling on world leaders at this year’s COP 30 to recognize the urgent need for a global food system that places people, animals, and the planet over profit. It’s about rebuilding food systems that are just, resilient, and climate safe”. Based on their previous research, World Animal Protection highlights that food system emissions alone could derail efforts to stay below the critical 1.5°C warming target even if fossil fuel use is eliminated. It calls for a 50% reduction in global emissions from animal production by 2030, alongside a strong shift toward plant-rich diets and agro-ecological practices, especially in high-consuming and high-producing countries. The expansion of industrial animal agriculture has led to poor living conditions for billions of animals, increased risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks, and the overuse of anti-



biotics, contributing to antimicrobial resistance. Additionally, the destruction of natural habitats for agricultural expansion for animal feed and production threatens wild animal populations, driving species to the brink of extinction and further destabilizing ecosystems. World Animal Protection’s campaign emphasizes phasing out industrial animal farming in favour of small- and medium-scale diversified farms and protecting and empower-

ing smallholder farmers and marginalized communities. It also calls for accountability for corporations driving social and environmental harm and the need for inclusive governance and an indigenous rights-based approach to food and climate policy. According to WAP, they will continue to mobilize public support and collaborate with allies across civil society, indigenous groups, youth, and sustainable farming networks in the lead-up to COP30 in Belém, Bra-

zil, to advocate for a just transition. World Animal Protection (WAP) is the global voice for animal welfare and is working on their global strategy to end factory farming and create a humane and sustainable food system that puts animals first. Brazil will host COP30 in November 2025 in Belém, which is a key event for global climate negotiations, marking the 20th anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol and the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement.

Kenya Makes Strides In Strengthening Legal And Regulatory Framework For Mining

By: Joseph Ng’ang’a
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Kenya is steadily advancing in the implementation of the six tools and the regional initiatives responsible for combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources. Mining Principal Secretary Harry Kimtai said that the six tools include Regional Certification Mechanism, Harmonization of National Legislations, Regional Database on Mineral Flows, Formalization of Artisanal Mining Sector, Extractive Initiative Transparency Initiative, and Whistleblowing Mechanism. Speaking during the convening of the secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Kimtai said that Kenya has made significant strides in strengthening its legal and regulatory framework and has commenced the targeted efforts to formalize the artisanal and small-scale mining sector. “Illegal exploitation of natural re-

sources has long been recognized as a major factor fueling conflicts, undermining governance, and impeding economic growth across the region,” said Kimtai. According to the PS, the six tools against the illegal exploitation of natural resources provide a comprehensive framework for addressing these challenges. “As a region our commitment must be to fully operationalize the six tools and ensure their integrity and strengthen their impact,” said the PS. He continued: “As a country, we are actively aligning ourselves with the standards and remain firmly committed to developing robust systems for monitoring and tracing mineral flows across the value chain.” The PS said that Kenya is keen to take immediate steps towards initiating the implementation of the regional certification mechanism which is a cornerstone among the six tools and a critical measure to strengthen transparency, traceability and accountability in the country’s mineral sector. “In this regard we shall be seeking

technical support from the ICGLR secretariat whenever necessary to ensure the effective and timely roll-out of these initiatives,” said Kimtai. ICGLR Executive Secretary Amb. Joao Samuel Caholo said that one of the root causes of cyclic conflict in the Great Lakes Region is the access to land and resources. “Heads of states from the Great Lakes Region in their own wisdom met in 2010 in an extraordinary summit in Lusaka and declared the regional initiative and the protocol to address the challenges associated with the access to minerals,” said Caholo. He said that of the six tools against the illegal exploitation of natural resources, so far the regional certification mechanism has been implemented. “So far only five member states that is the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania have implemented the regional certification mechanism and as the secretariat we are impressing on critical member states like the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo,



PS Harry Kimtai

South Sudan and Zambia to come on board and if they do so probably by next year, we will have nine member states because the rest it is work in progress,” said Amb Caholo. He stressed on the importance of creating a mineral database and to allow for traceability and transparent management which enables them to know which mineral is being mined where. “We have revamped the minerals database program and it is up and

going,” he said, adding that so far of the six tools, the above two are being implemented with modest satisfaction among the member states. According to Amb. Caholo, as a secretariat they have taken deliberate efforts to promote the formalization of artisanal small-scale miners in the Great Lakes Region.

MP Donates Cash Towards Empowering GBV And FGM Survivors

By: Agneta Chebet and Anthony Melly
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The Women Rep praised the initiative, highlighting the role of economic empowerment in social transformation.
- She urged the women to be role models in teaching girls that female genital mutilation was an outdated and corrupt tradition that has no place in a modern, progressive society.
- In addition, Aleotum emphasized her ongoing commitment to grassroots empowerment efforts across West Pokot, saying they were building capacity one community at a time, and “we must continue building momentum in every corner of this county until every woman and girl can live in dignity, safety, and opportunity”.
- “So far, I have supported initiatives in at least 20 wards across West Pokot County. These have included training programmes for women’s groups, provision of start-up capital for small businesses, and anti-FGM education forums,” she said.



A total of 400 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM) have received critical support of Sh510,000 donations from West Pokot Women Representative Rael Aleotum.

The funds, channeled through the community-based organization (CBO) Kelpo Tamas, aimed to aid the survivors in rebuilding their lives through economic empowerment, trauma recovery, and access to essential services.

Speaking during the event held at Kacheliba Constituency in Suam ward, Aleotum commended Kelpo Tamas for their initiative, emphasizing the significance of women’s empowerment in fostering development.

“Empowering women is not just about social justice, it is a key driver of sustainable development. I commend Kelpo Tamas for their foresight and commitment to positive change,” Aleotum said.

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West Pokot, saying they were building capacity one community at a time, and “we must continue building momentum in every corner of this county until every woman and girl can live in dignity, safety, and opportunity”.

“So far, I have supported initiatives in at least 20 wards across West Pokot County. These have included training programmes for women’s groups, provision of start-up capital for small businesses, and anti-FGM education forums,” she said.

Kapenguria Constituency Member of County Assembly (MCA) Richard Masterluke, promised to collaborate with other leaders to ensure that development goals, particularly those related to women’s empowerment, are achieved across the county.

“I am committed to working hand in hand with other leaders to ensure the success of development projects, especially those aimed at uplifting women’s groups. Our collective effort will be key in achieving lasting change for women and girls,” Luke said.

Nominated Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Suam Ward Mary Mulee extended her appreciation to the Women Representative’s office for supporting the Kelpo Tamas group and other local women’s initiatives.

“I sincerely thank Aleotum’s office for uplifting women at the grassroots. These are the kinds of inter-

ventions that change lives,” Mulee said.

She encouraged men to follow suit by organizing themselves for support, saying empowerment was not only for women but men too could benefit when they work together for a common purpose.

Mulee also highlighted the challenges faced by Kacheliba Constituency, a region often left behind due to the persistence of FGM.

“Kacheliba has long struggled due to the prevalence of FGM, which has kept the area from advancing. However, with continued support from the Women Representative’s office, we believe we can make significant progress and create lasting change,” Mulee stated.

Nominated Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Seker Ward Paulina Cheptoyo commended Aleotum for her continued efforts in empowering women’s groups across the county, saying she has empowered many women’s groups, and the people of Central Pokot could attest to the positive impact she has made in uplifting women.

“Her dedication to empowering women is evident in the changes we are seeing across our communities,” Cheptoyo said.

Group Coordinator Abraham Meriongiro shared his perspective on the group’s work and its significance in addressing the challenges faced by local communities.

“We appointed the group because

we have a lot of money and 17 self-help groups, all dedicated to improving our community. I kindly ask Aleotum and other leaders to help women in our ward, as they are going through a lot of challenges,” Meriongiro said.

Kelpo Tamas women were also not left behind; they proudly shared their accomplishments, including their ability to purchase land, and their ambitious plans to build a hotel with rooms for rent to support their growing community.

They said the project reflects their resilience and determination to create sustainable income for themselves and their families.

West Pokot County, which has faced challenges related to gender-based violence (GBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM), is seeing a shift as grassroots groups like Kelpo Tamas step up to drive positive change in their communities.

By focusing on empowerment and sustainable projects, these women are transforming their lives and setting a powerful example for others to follow.

MKU Students Leave For Germany As A New Innovation Exchange Programme Takes Off

By: James Wakahiu
@themkenyaintimes

Three students from Mount Kenya University (MKU) have been selected to participate in a prestigious two-and-a-half-month innovation exchange programme in Munich, Germany.

The fully-funded initiative is part of the “Africa Meet” programme by UnternehmerTUM, Germany’s leading centre for innovation and business creation.

Joy Watiti, Clifford Musyoka and Mark Kiarie’s selection follows the successful completion of a five-month intensive training that began in December 2024, involving 30 students drawn from various university campuses.

The programme, delivered in partnership with trainers from MKU and the Technical University of Munich, equipped students with cutting-edge skills in design thinking and agile methodologies.

Working in diverse teams of five, the participants assumed various roles and collaboratively developed digital product prototypes, turning innovative ideas into potential start-ups. Their hard work culminated in April 2025, marking the end of a transformative journey in entrepreneurship and product development.

All 30 students received certificates from the Technical University of Munich, which were formally presented yesterday by Prof Peter Kirira, the University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Planning and Institutional Advancement.

The occasion marked a proud moment for both the students and the institution, celebrating the achievements of the programme’s first cohort. The project, led by Dr Henry Yatich, Principal, College of Graduate Studies and Research, with trainers Mr. Donatus Njoroge and Ms. Margaret Mwinji, is scheduled to run until 2026, expanding students’ global outlook and entrepreneurial skills.

Recognizing their achievement, MKU Vice-Chancellor, Prof Deogratius Jaganyi, applauded the students for leveraging the university’s Innovation and Incubation Centre to transform entrepreneurial ideas into viable ventures. In a celebratory gesture, the VC also presented a symbolic flight ticket to the three selected students, who will soon join Germany’s vibrant startup ecosystem.

Prof Jaganyi encouraged them to

be excellent ambassadors for MKU, urging them to seize opportunities during their exchange visits to innovation hubs in Bavaria between May and July 2025.

“This exchange is more than just a learning experience — it’s an opportunity for our students to engage with the global innovation landscape,” said Mr Donatus Njoroge, Head of Innovation,

Intellectual Property and Community Engagement at MKU.”

We’re proud to be one of only two Kenyan institutions participating, alongside partners from Ghana and Ethiopia,” he added.

The initiative is fully supported by the Bavarian State Chancellery, aiming to strengthen innovation and knowledge exchange between African and Bavarian ecosystems. The current cohort marks the beginning of a long-term partnership, with the next group of participants expected to join later in 2025.

The university has also unveiled the second edition of its Annual Research Bulletin (2024), showcasing MKU’s expanding research portfolio.

Dr Henry Yatich, Principal of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, noted that MKU is intensifying efforts to support research across all campuses and disciplines, including strengthening collaborations and enhancing research support structures.

He particularly recognized the contributions of postdoctoral fellows, technical staff, research assistants, and support staff in achieving the university’s research objectives.

During the event, Prof Jaganyi announced that MKU, through the College of Graduate Studies and Research, is collaborating with the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) to pursue the Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) Gold Certification in 2025.

He said APHRC has committed to supporting MKU by paying the initial subscription fee.

Achieving GFGP certification will elevate MKU’s capacity for international grant management and further establish its reputation as a leading research-driven institution.

MKU also officially launched the second cycle of the Vice-Chancellor’s Research and Innovation Grant 2024/2025.

This milestone follows a competitive and rigorous internal and external review process involving researchers from all 13 schools across the university.



MKU Vice chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi presents travel documents to students who are going to Germany for international exposure through the Africa Meets Bavaria Project as other officials look on. The project emphasizes MKU's global partnerships and opportunities for students. The project is an exchange programme offering MKU students an opportunity to tour and study in Germany.

Following careful evaluation, seven schools successfully secured grant.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Research Affairs, Dr. Mercyline Kamande, congratulated the winners and emphasized that the grant is intended as a seed fund.

She urged the researchers to demonstrate prudent financial management, tangible project outputs and active involvement of postgraduate students, noting that building

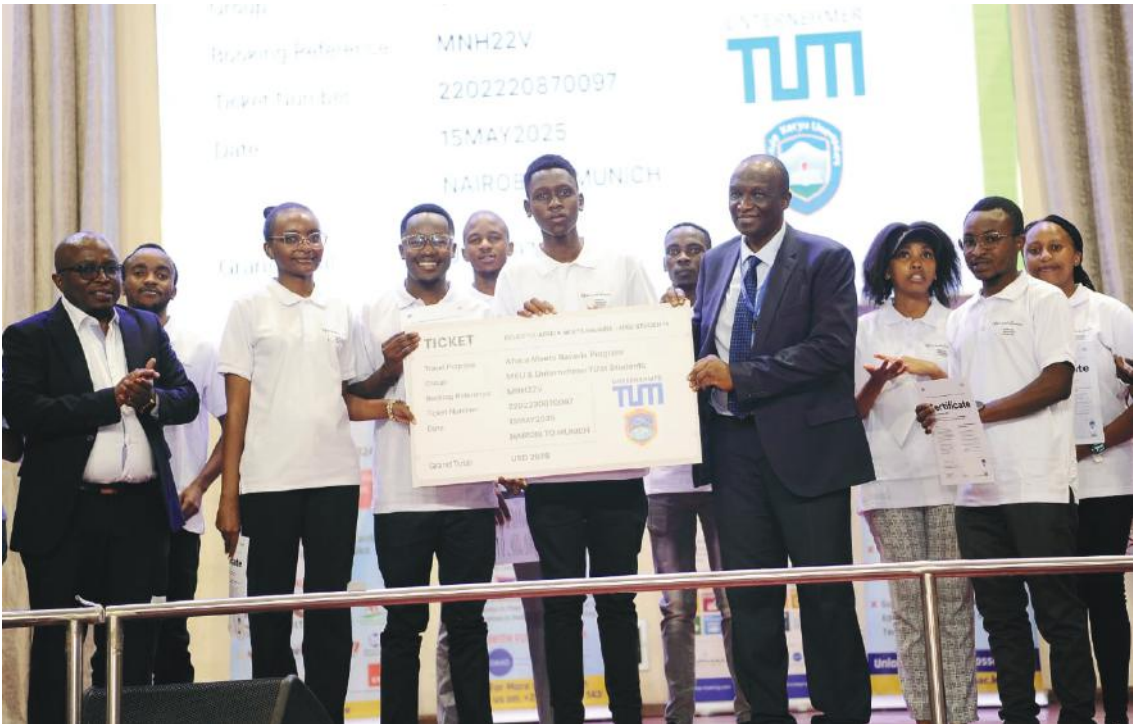
research capacity among students is key to nurturing the next generation of scholars.

As MKU serves as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Hub for Sustainable Development Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), the Vice-Chancellor emphasized that current and future research initiatives must align with and contribute to the SDGs.

He called upon all faculty and staff to embrace research and innovation

as central to the university’s mission of promoting sustainable development and positively impacting communities.

During the ceremony, 14 principal investigators and seven co-investigators were formally recognized for their outstanding contributions and leadership in driving MKU’s research agenda forward.



MKU Vice chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi presents travel documents to students who are going to Germany for international exposure through the Africa Meets Bavaria Project.

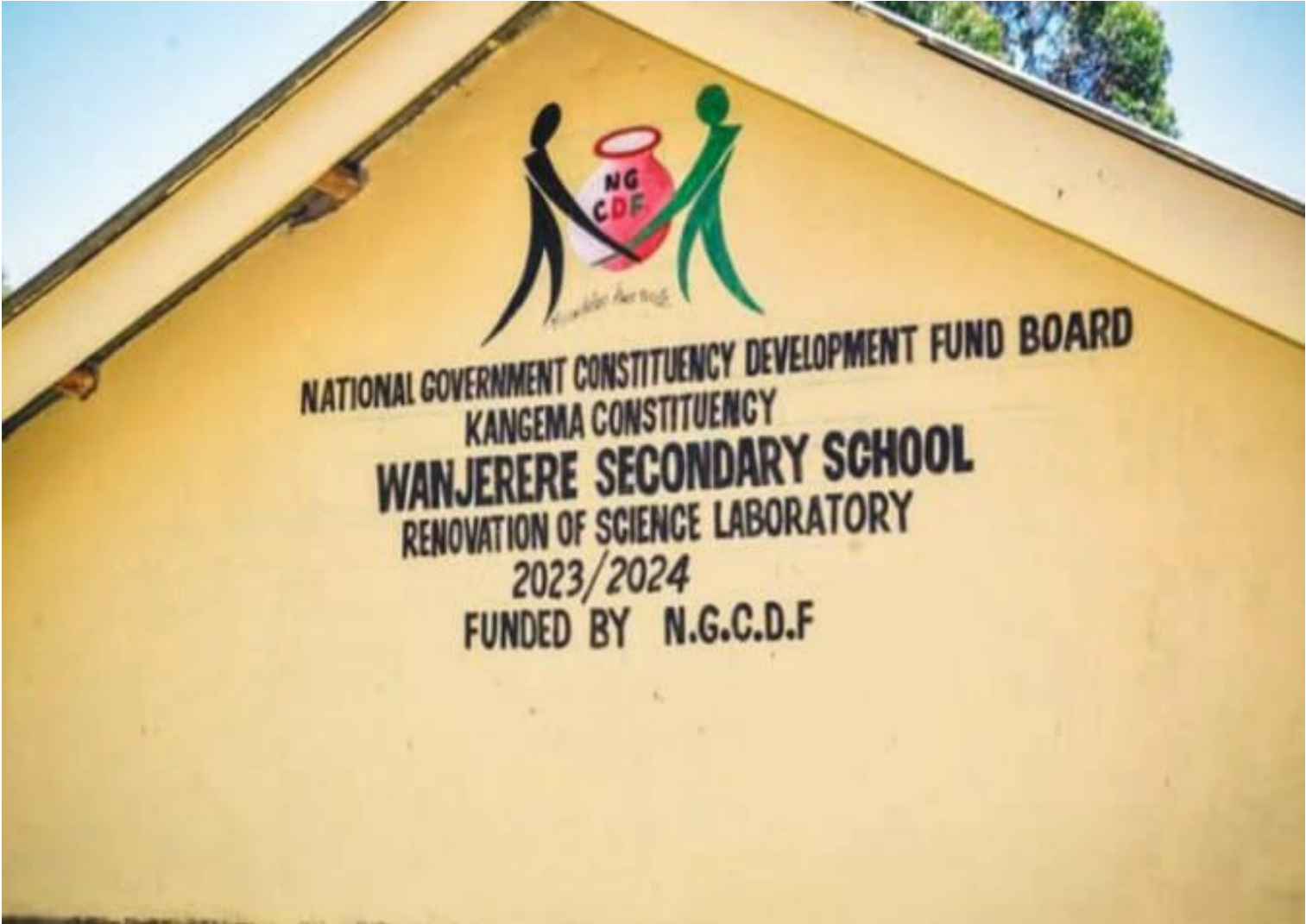
Residents Oppose Proposal To Scrap NG-CDF Fund Amid Intensifying Debate

By: Florence Kinyua
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- Notably, enhanced road networks, the modernization of public learning institutions such as primary and secondary schools, and improved security services are some of the infrastructural development projects achieved through the NG-CDF.
- “Through the NG-CDF, we have seen the building and transformation of our Kiharu Technical Training College here in Kiambu which has been very critical in equipping the youth with skills, knowledge and technical expertise for the work place,” noted Johnson Kibe, a trainer at the Kiharu TTC
- He added that if the NG-CDF was properly utilized, it would ensure infrastructural developments are carried out thus impacting on the common mwananchi’s daily life.



As the debate over the potential scrapping of the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) heats up, a section of Kenyans, particularly residents of Murang’a County, have voiced their strong opposition to the proposal. They have pointed out that eliminating the fund would be a significant step backward, considering the numerous development projects that have been successfully implemented through it. In Kiharu, the residents highlighted various infrastructure improvements made possible by the NG-CDF. Notably, enhanced road networks, the modernization of public learning institutions such as primary and secondary schools, and improved security services are some of the infrastructural development projects achieved through the NG-CDF. “Through the NG-CDF, we have seen the building and transformation of our Kiharu Technical Training College here in Kiambu which has been very critical in equipping the youth with skills, knowledge and technical expertise for the work place,” noted Johnson Kibe, a trainer at the Kiharu TTC. He added that if the NG-CDF was properly utilized, it would ensure

infrastructural developments are carried out thus impacting on the common mwananchi’s daily life. “Local administration offices have also been upgraded, equipped with modern facilities that facilitate efficient government service delivery to the community,” he noted. Echoing similar sentiments, Kiharu CDF Chairman Peter Manyeki noted that NG-CDF fund has made it possible to modernize learning institutions so as to provide a habitable learning environment for all students and pupils giving them an equal chance to education. The modernization, he said, has also promoted 100 per cent transition from primary to tertiary institutions. “During the landscaping and tiling of the schools, we ensure we use the labour based model which not only oversees quality work but also cuts costs ensuring the fund is put into its intended use,” he said. Another critical aspect that residents emphasized is the bursary allocation provided by the NG-CDF. “Many bright but financially disadvantaged students rely on these funds to pursue their education and achieve their academic goals, so if it’s scrapped, what will happen to

these children?” poses Kamau Mutuota. “The support has proven invaluable in enabling countless young people to access quality education and better future opportunities,” he adds. Defending the fund, some Members of Parliament including Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro and his Kangema counterpart Peter Kihungi, argued that scrapping the NG-CDF would create more opportunities for corruption. “The NG-CDF fund handles functions that are national government functions in nature like education and security but not county government functions,” argues Ndindi Nyoro adding that, “If the fund is scrapped, a parent in dire need of a bursary for their child will be required to travel to the Ministry of Education offices to apply for the same and as such, residents would not see the necessary development projects that align with their priorities,” he urged. On his part, the Kangema MP observed that NG-CDF has been supporting and assisting Kenyans right from the grass roots level and scrapping it was ill informed. He stressed that the NG-CDF played a crucial role in ensuring that

local needs and functions were met effectively. The Constituency Development Fund was established in Kenya in 2003 following the passage of the CDF Act by the 9th Parliament. This initiative was championed by Muriuki Karue, the then Member of Parliament for Ol Kalou Constituency, who introduced the concept through a private member’s bill aimed at enhancing local development. Opponents of the proposed scrapping argue that the NG-CDF has been a vital tool for grassroots development, empowering communities to address their unique challenges directly. They contended that cutting off this funding would undermine progress made over the years and hinder future development initiatives. As the discussion continues, it remains to be seen how this debate will unfold and what implications it may have for the future of community development in Kenya. Importantly, voices of residents and their elected representatives would undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping the outcome of this significant issue.

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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Athletics Kenya will select a strong team for this year's Africa Under-20 championships set for Oran, Algeria, as well as next year's Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal.

AK To Select A Formidable Team For Africa U20 And Dakar Youth Olympics



Athletics Kenya will select a strong team for this year's Africa Under-20 championships set for Oran, Algeria, as well as next year's Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal.

Speaking on Sunday at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport while receiving the triumphant under-18 and under-20 teams from the just concluded Eastern Africa Championships in Zanzibar, AK director of youth Barnaba Korir, said they will focus and invest more funds in the youth programmes and conduct competitive trials to select the best athletes.

"And the structures and the plans that this team has can be seen now through the camps and partnerships with the schools

that we have very closely worked together to ensure that the continuity will help them in the future as they prepare for competitions. 2028 is not far. It's about three and a half years, almost four years, to the 2028 Olympics," said Korir.

Head coach John Ilovi hailed the team's performance, adding that they are shifting their focus to the Africa Under athletics championships set for Oran, Algeria, in July.

"We have even spoken to these athletes, and we want the majority of them to be in our team for the African Championship in Algeria. Despite taking a lean team, we are impressed that every athlete won a medal." Said Ilovi

Korir also challenged athletes to

embrace education by taking up available scholarship opportunities to further their education as well as sports.

"I am a product of the US scholarship system through sports, and that's why I am urging athletes and parents to ensure they invest also in education. For instance, Dorica Isoe, who was part of the U18, has secured a scholarship in the USA, and that's what we want to continue with for many of our young athletes," Korir added

The team of 14 athletes emerged as overall champions in Zanzibar with a total of 21 medals: 12 gold, 4 silver, and 5 bronze.

The under-18 team also emerged champions with 7 gold, 3 silver, and a bronze, while their

under-20 counterparts took 2nd position behind Uganda with 5 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals.

Uganda finished overall 2nd with 9 gold medals, 11 silver, and 6 bronze, with host Zanzibar finishing 3rd with 6 gold, 6 silver, and 5 bronze.

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Sports >>> *The High Court has stopped the election of Cricket Kenya officials and barred them from conducting any Annual General Meeting (AGM) or related meetings or initiating any disciplinary proceedings against the Applicant.

Blow As High Court Halts Cricket Kenya Elections



Kenya celebrates win against Nepal in the Five-Match T20 Series at the Nairobi Gymkhana Cricket Grounds on Friday. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

The High Court has stopped the election of Cricket Kenya officials and barred them from conducting any Annual General Meeting (AGM) or related meetings or initiating any disciplinary proceedings against the Applicant. This order remains in effect pending the determination of the substantive suit, which is scheduled for judgment in May 2025. The matter will also be mentioned the same day before the Hearing Panel, during which the panel is expected to deliver its de-

cision and issue further directions regarding the application. The orders were issued following a suit filed by Kalpesh Solanki, who moved to court and sued the board members of Cricket Kenya. Solanki states that he filed the case to challenge his suspension as Treasurer. The matter was fully heard and is now awaiting judgment next month. He asserts that despite the pending decision, the respondents have gone ahead to schedule an Annual General Meeting for Wednesday

at the Cricket Kenya offices located at Ruaraka Sports Club. “The respondent’s continued actions, despite knowledge of the pending proceedings, constitute an attempt to preempt the tribunal’s decision and render the judgment of 6th May ineffective,” reads part of the ruling. Through his lawyer, Danstan Omari, the applicant claims he stands to suffer irreparable harm, including the risk of removal, if the AGM proceeds with deliberations on his suspension and re-

moval.
Capital Sport

SPORTS NEWS



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Chibesakunda An Octogenarian Author



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

Worth Noting:

• My name is Harry Nkuka Chibesakunda, and I am 83 years old. I was born in my village, which was once part of Northern Rhodesia. During my time in college, I became a freedom fighter. After Zambia gained independence, I worked in management and marketing. Now retired, I focus on sharing my experiences through writing books and spending time with my grandchildren.

• This award has come at a time when I was beginning to slow down in my writing. It means a great deal to me, and it's reassuring to know that my literary contributions will be passed on to future generations

1. Who are you?

My name is Harry Nkuka Chibesakunda, and I am 83 years old. I was born in my village, which was once part of Northern Rhodesia. During my time in college, I became a freedom fighter. After Zambia gained independence, I worked in management and marketing. Now retired, I focus on sharing my experiences through writing books and spending time with my grandchildren.

2 What does award nomination means to you?

This award has come at a time when I was beginning to slow down in my writing. It means a great deal to me, and it's reassuring to know that my literary contributions will be passed on to future generations

3. What do you think of Mulher Forte African literature?

It promotes African writers and helps preserve our African culture.

4. How is the book sales in Zambia?

Book sales are moderate. One challenge is that books focusing on tradition and culture tend to sell less, largely due to the diversity of tribes in the region. Public support is also average, partly because of the strong presence of books by well-known foreign authors, especially from the U.S. and the U.K.

5. How do you feel about writing in Africa?

It's a challenge due to financial constraints and lack of support from governments.

6. What can be done to improve book sales?

- Lobbying governments to support ingenious authors by purchasing their books for schools.
- To re-introduce libraries in populated residential areas

7. Are Zambians a reading nation?
No. It's not a reading nation.

8. Digital literacy how is it in your country?
It's low

9. *Do you plan to make ebooks?

- yes. I do.

Any plans of audio books?*

Yes.

10 What category have you been nominated so far?

Non-fiction

11. Who is your local role model?

Stephen Mpashi

12 Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?

- I plan to write 5 more non-fiction books

13. The concept of Unity, what can Unity do to authors?

Unity can help lobby governments to act on our challenges.

Unity can help us exchange ideas and elevate the African voices

14. Do you have background training in writing?

No. I'm self-trained.

15. What do you understand by copyrights?

Have your books protected

16. Have you protected your books?
Yes.

17. Your advice to upcoming authors.

Research before you write.

18. Your last word.

I wish to thank the Founder of these awards. Thank you for giving African authors a platform to be heard.

